

Senator Cathy Giessel
State Capitol Room 427
Juneau AK, 99801
Phone: 907-465-4843

19 March, 2014

Subject: sb160 - DNR: HUNTING GUIDES, CONCESSION PROGRAM

Dear Senator Giessel,

The following concerns are generated sb160:

- cedes to guides resource control that should be retained by the BOG
- fails to address issues relating the appeals process such as costs to both the State of Alaska and applicants;
- the DNR already has the authority to spatially distribute guiding operations via their permit system;
- the BOG already has the authority to distribute hunting pressure (*note: ≈50% of the dall sheep harvest occurs during the first ten days of a forty day season*);
- the BGCSB already has the authority to spatially distribute guides.

Though there is support within the guiding industry for implementing a concession program that certainly is not the same, as some have inferred, that the proposed program is “supported by the guiding industry”.

What has not been done since this program started to be developed this go-round are:

- quantify to what extent and locations the potential problem areas exist;
 - *fig.1 page 2* - illustrates the distribution of guides x GUAs in 2011, this map should be updated to reflect current situation,
 - harvest x species x GUA needs to be determined to accurately assess resource impact, past and present; (a possible problem with accessing this information is depicted in *fig.2-page 3.*) (*The UCU data has been re-coded to reflect define GUAs*)
- develop possible alternative to the program presented by the DNR.

This legislation has the potential of have a tremendous impact on the guiding industry. If the legislation is in fact needed, it should be developed using the best information available. Given the downward trend in the sale metal locking tags for some species (*graph 1, page 2*) and more importantly, the potential negative impact on the lifestyle and dreams of so many in the guiding industry, it is important the Legislature request and review available data before proceeding with this legislation.

Thank you for the opportunity to present this testimony.

Respectfully

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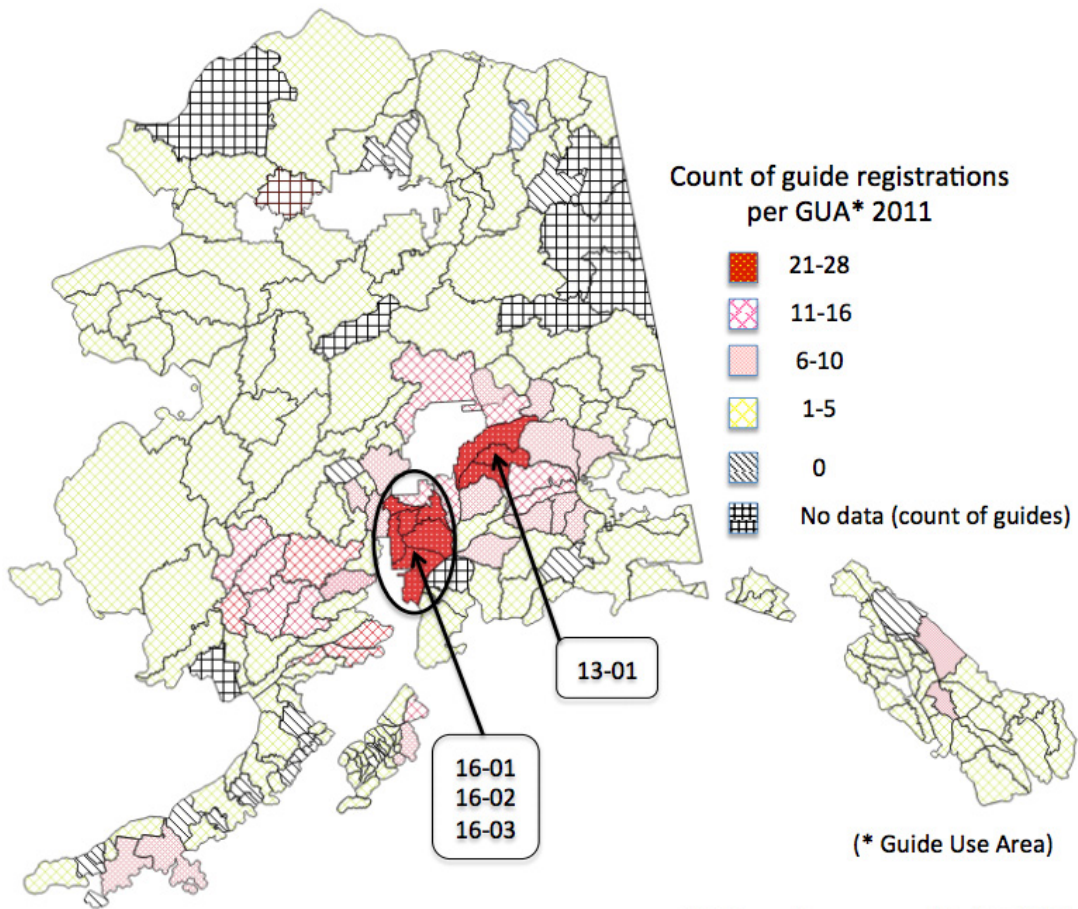
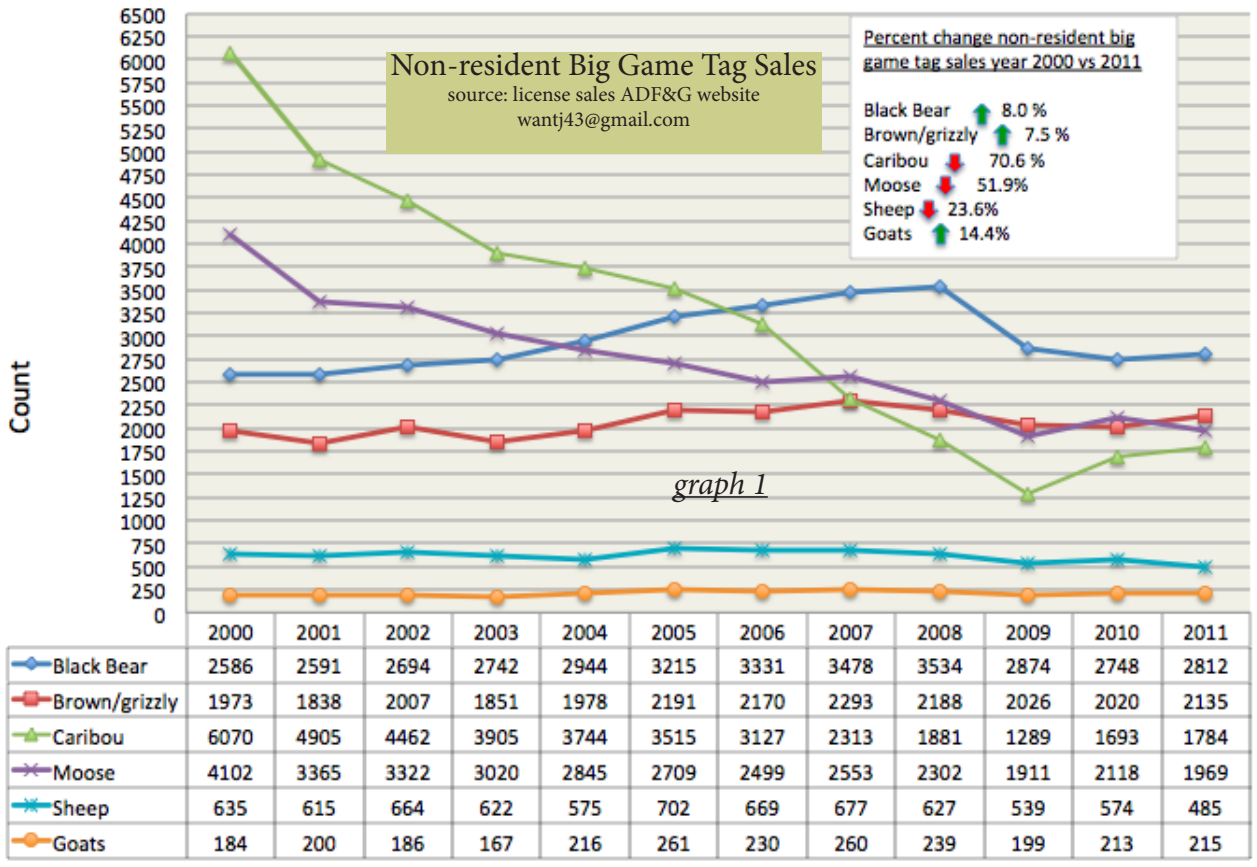


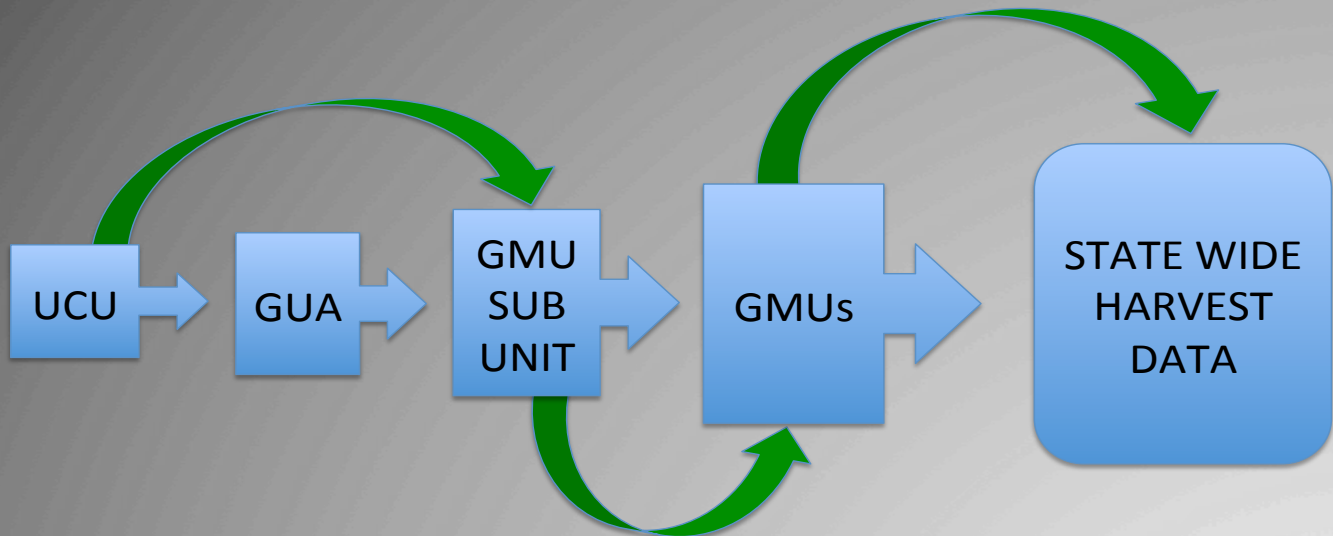
fig.1

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25 Apr. 2013



Current Coding Sequence for Big Game Harvest Data



Excluding GUAs from the coding sequence potentially causes the following concerns:

- inability to evaluate historical harvest by user group as related to GUAs
- inability to determine resource based levels of commercial operations
- inability to monitor ongoing levels of resource use by commercial and non-commercial users.

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fig.2