

# Sam Rohrer APHA President

---

SUPPORT FOR SENATE BILL 253



# Guiding in Alaska

## *Historical Perspective*

- Alaska's Original Value-Added Tourism Industry
- Long History of Licensure and Area Regulation
  - Original Hunting Guides
    - Indigenous Alaskans
    - Miners
    - Trappers
  - First Alaska Hunting Guide Licensing Occurred in 1909- (Taft Administration)
  - Andrew Berg (Kenai) – August 5<sup>th</sup>, 1909 First Licensed Hunting Guide
  - Guided Hunting was well established by the mid 1920s
- Guides Were Required for nonresidents to hunt ALL big game species in territorial days
- Statehood
  - Hunting Guide licensure established soon after
  - Guide Requirements put in place by legislature in 1960s
    - Dall Sheep
    - Brown/Grizzly Bears
    - Mountain Goats (1980s)

# Private Sector Economic Impacts



## New Dollars for Alaska's Economy

The guided hunting industry circulated **\$57.4 million** in the Alaska economy as labor income and spending for goods and services.

**3,090**

Guided Nonresident Hunters

**505**

Traveling Companions



## Total Guide Industry Economic Output

**\$91.8 million** in total guided hunting industry economic activity including direct spending, wages and multiplier effects in 2019

**\$40.8 million**

Total Labor Income

**\$51 million**

Goods & Services (Non-Payroll) Spending

## Guide Industry Spending with Alaska Businesses

**\$31.9 million** was spent directly with businesses in Alaska by guides and visiting hunters. Multiplier effects generated an additional **\$19.1 million** in economic activity for Alaska's support sector.



**A majority (59%) of guide spending occurs in rural areas of Alaska in the form of wages, air transportation, fuel, food, and supplies.**

## Jobs for Alaska



**1,380** people directly employed in the guided hunting industry.

**\$25.5 million** in direct wages and guide income.

Multiplier effects generated another **510 jobs** and **\$15.3 million** in wages for Alaska's support sector.

### Guided Hunting Industry Employment, 2019

**1,380** Direct Jobs

**510** Indirect Jobs

**1,890** Total Employment

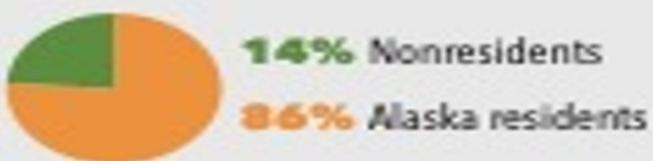
**85%** of registered guides reside in Alaska. **70%** of those live outside of Alaska's major urban areas.

# Public Sector Benefits

## Revenue for Wildlife Conservation in Alaska



### Hunting Licenses Issued



### License/Tag Revenues



Guided nonresidents represented only 3% of total licenses, but 30% of total license/tag revenues in 2019.

### Average Per-Person License/Tag Revenue, 2019



Nonresidents spent **\$700** on hunting licenses/tags on average, compared with **\$35** among Alaska residents. **Guided nonresident hunters generated even more on average, at \$1,237 per hunter.**

Source: ADF&G.

# Non-Monetary Community Benefits



An estimated **223,500 pounds** of game meat was shared with Alaskans by guides and guided hunters in 2019  
**167,600 pounds** with rural residents, **55,900** with urban residents

**\$2.3 million**

estimated value of replacing this game meat with beef

**\$1.8 million**

in rural communities and

**\$447,000** in urban areas

## Game meat is a renewable resource that feeds Alaskans year after year.

*It's customary in rural areas to help others when they are in need. Meat donations really help people.*  
-Hunting guide

*I have seen patients not feeling well and grimacing in pain take a bowl of bone broth and you can see them visibly relax. It makes them feel better. Our traditional foods program is important for patients' quality of life. It has been even more important with Covid-19 when patients have little or no access to loved ones. Eating a traditional food makes them feel better. Patients have said it tastes like home.* -Chef, Alaska Native Medical Center

*Sometimes we fly significant distances to drop off meat. We typically have one contact in the village, and they distribute to the people they know need it most.* -Hunting guide

*Wild meat is important for many Alaskans both urban and rural residents. It is especially important for elders in the areas we hunt, they love it. We always try to make sure that they have meat in their freezers.* -Hunting guide

*We share meat with people that live in villages and in cities. People that do not or cannot hunt are very thankful to get fresh game meat.* -Hunting guide



Moose meat donation to Alaska Native Medical Center traditional foods program.

### Estimated Meat Sharing by Guided Hunters, 2019

Species	Total # Shared
Deer	7,600 lbs.
Sheep	14,600 lbs.
Mt. Goat	15,500 lbs.
Caribou	19,800 lbs.

**166,000 lbs.**

Moose



Total meat shared **223,500 pounds**

# State of Alaska Guide Area Regulation

(1959-2024)

- The State of Alaska regulated the establishment of guide areas thru the 60's, 70's, and 80's.
- Congress deferred to this State regulatory scheme when ANILCA was enacted in 1980.
- During the first 8 years of ANILCA implementation, the federal agencies deferred to the State guide area program and honored those State authorizations/permits to guide on federal land units.
- In 1988, the Alaska Supreme Court declared unconstitutional the State guide area system as inconsistent with the Equal Use provisions.
- New State legislation was drafted in 1989-1990 per the Court ruling but the legislation was not passed.
- The National Park Service (NPS) and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) took regulatory steps to create a federally administered guide area program (concessions) on NPS Preserve lands and FWS Refuge lands (1992-94).

# Healthy Hunting Guide Industry Policies

- High quality, well managed wildlife populations
  - ✓ ADFG
  - ✓ Alaska Board of Game
- Strong Wildlife Enforcement
  - ✓ Wildlife Troopers
- Stewardship based partnership with land managers
  - ✓ USFWS
  - ✓ NPS
  - ✓ USFS
  - ✓ ANCs
  - ✓ Alaska Mental Health Trust
  - X DNR
  - X BLM
- Professional Licensing Regulations Promoting Ethical and Professional Standards
  - ✓ Big Game Commercial Services Board

# APHA Problem Statement SB253

## **Entitlement-**

“Alaska’s DNR lands make up approximately 50% of all lands open and available to guide hunters in Alaska. Currently any person holding a guide license is entitled to access DNR lands. Unlimited numbers of hunting guides who have multiple game violations, histories of conflict with residents or have been denied access to operate on regulated public or private lands are still allowed to set up shop on state DNR lands. Even responsible and ethical state land guides must “race for the game” to produce opportunities for their clients. Entitling commercial hunting operations to DNR lands (1988-2024) is a failed policy”

# APHA Position Statement SB253

## **Stewardship-**

“The APHA supports empowering the DNR to limit the number of hunting guides on state lands. The APHA supports the findings of the Guide Concession Program Taskforce (GCPT). We believe this program builds on the successful USFWS and NPS programs and will ultimately be more successful in promoting stewardship and fostering a professional and sustainable hunting guide industry than the federal programs. The GCPT’s focus on consultation with ADFG, the BGCSB and reliance on already existing public processes will work to keep this program focused on stewardship, professionalism and sustainability.”

# Questions

---

