

Game		Nathan D Turner
General Information		
Board/Commission and seat you are seeking: Game, public seat		
Additional Boards/Commissions of interest: None		
State Boards/Commissions on which you have served: Board of Game		
First Name Nathan	Middle Name D	Last Name Turner
Mailing Address	City	State & Zip
<div style="background-color: black; height: 100px; width: 100%;"></div>		
Military Service		
Conflict of Interest		
Full disclosure of personal financial data under AS 39.50.010 is required for certain boards and commissions. Are you willing to provide this information if required for the board or commission which you are applying? Yes		
Service in a public office is a public trust. The Ethics Act (AS 39.52.110) prohibits substantial and material conflicts of interest. Is it possible that you or any member of your family will benefit financially by decisions to be made by the board or commission for which you are applying? If you answer 'yes' to this question you MUST explain the potential financial benefit. Yes		
<p>Please explain the potential financial benefit</p> <p>Yes During past Legislative interviews, it has been indicated that anyone who traps or guides should indicate yes to this question since the Board of Game sets both seasons and bag limits and determines methods and means for all wildlife harvests in our state.</p> <p>I have trapped with my family each season for the last 26 years the central and western Interior, and consider this as being my primary occupation since I have devoted the greater part of each of my working years and efforts to sustaining this way of life. I have also guided Big Game hunters for the past 19 years and annually earn enough from this to support my family. I am the only active licensed big game guide on the Board of Game (another member holds an assistant guide license, but has not guided for nearly 15 years), and am the only Registered or Master hunting guide to serve on this board since March 2006.</p> <p>During the last 6 years that I have served on this board I have consistently recused myself from any deliberations or votes that would or could provide benefit or loss to my own, my family's, or any business associates economic welfare. I have at times recused myself from votes that would have the appearance of conflict, despite legal counsel that I was not in conflict, out of respect for public perception of the integrity of our processes.</p>		
Employment History		

Employment work history including paid, unpaid, or voluntary.
Through 1989: raised on our family dairy farm in upstate New York

1989 through present:

- actively trapping 5 to 6 months of each season since 1989
- seasonally guiding big game guiding hunters (2 to 3 months each year) since 1996
- I and my family have built 21 structures (mostly log) along several rivers of the Interior, a number of these for hire during the summer months. For several summers I also worked intermittently as a carpenter's helper for a local contractor in Fairbanks.
- We have built numerous fish wheels, dogsleds, snowshoes, and boats over the years for our own needs.
- subsistence fishing for our annual needs

Education, Training, Experience & Qualifications

List both formal and informal education and training experiences:

I am a highschool graduate of the Yukon Koyukuk School District (Northwind), and homeschooled myself for the last two years. I had the choice to pursue higher education or to work with my family to build our traplines and live in the woods together. I chose the latter and have no regrets for this decision, as the land has rewarded our efforts over the years.

As noted above, I have lived a life entirely dependent on harvesting Alaska's wild resources for both my direct sustenance and financial income. Other than several weeks of employment as a carpenter's helper in my early 20's and my work related to the Board of Game, my entire work history and livelihood has been earned through hunting and trapping. I am the currently only BOG member who earns their living directly from harvesting the wildlife resources the land provides.

List any professional licenses, certifications, or registrations and dates obtained that may be used as qualifying criteria:

Alaska Registered Big Game Guide 1036 (since May 2000)

Captain - Inland Freshwaters of Alaska - 6 pack licence - since 2004

Private Pilot - land and sea ratings - since 2000

Numerous certifications in wilderness first Aid, remote care, etc.

Permit Holder for 2 USFWS guide concessions - starting in 2003

Have BLM permitted guiding camps since 2005

I have both USFWS and BLM permitted trapping camps for over 25 years

Have State of Alaska permitted guide camps and trap extensively on both state and federal lands

I am a State of Alaska license vendor - since 2000

List any community service, municipal government, and state positions held, and any awards received.

I served on my church's pastoral search committee several years ago, interviewing potential candidates and selecting a candidate for hire. Otherwise, my life has been in remote Alaska where community service opportunities are limited. The nearest neighbor to my home is 47 air miles away.

Conviction Record

Have you ever been convicted of a misdemeanor within the past five years or a felony within the past ten years?

No

Conviction Circumstances

Certification of Accuracy & Completeness

By submitting this online application, I swear the information I have entered on this form is true to the best of my knowledge. I understand that if I deliberately conceal or enter false information on the form my application may be rejected, I may be removed from the list of eligible candidates, or I may be removed from the position. I agree that the Office of the Governor may contact present or former employees or other persons who know me to obtain an additional information about my skills and abilities. I understand that the information on this application is public information and may be released through a legal request for such information.

Type "I certify"

"I certify"

Resume Addendum:

Please see the attached document for more details on my resume.

Press Release Wording

Nathan Turner, 43, of Kantishna River Alaska, has been a wilderness trapper for 26 years and Registered hunting guide for the last 16 years. He and his family live remotely for the greater part of each year in the Kantishna and Nowitna River areas, and earn their living from the land through gathering, gardening, subsistence hunting and fishing, and big game guiding.

Submitted: 10/27/2015 10:10:44 AM

Board of Game Application- Biography for Nate Turner

Online Application #

Nathan Turner

I was born and raised on a dairy farm in upstate New York. From an early age I learned the values and benefits of living a life close to the land, and especially the risk, hard work, and rewards that result from being dependent on the natural resources for your livelihood. I am grateful for those early years on the farm, and the important lessons that this type of life had to offer.

In 1989, at age 17, my father and I headed for Alaska with two pick-ups loaded with the essentials, the result of his lifelong dream of trapping in the Far North, and also a timely advertisement in Fur - Fish - and Game magazine; *Trapline For Sale in Alaska*. It took us 6 days to reach Alaska, and 10 additional days were spent on the road system in the Interior, preparing for our first winter on the Kantishna River. The trapline we purchased had been unused for the previous 12 years, but had been started in 1926, and few but the old timers in the country even knew where it was at that time since the rivers of the Interior had largely grown quiet by then. We were dropped off by a local bush pilot from Nenana in mid-September, and for the next ten months we learned a lot about Alaska... The winter of 1989 and 1990 was record breaking for the deep cold spells and snowfall – every winter has been an easy one since!

The next year one of my brothers joined us, we began in earnest to build our traplines into something that we hoped could support our family for the years to come. We started with the idea to treat trapping as though it were a business, working 6 days a week, with our cut-off period for trapping being 40 below. Three years later we started an additional trapline 85 miles to the west in the Nowitna country and during the next 23 years we have cleared over two hundred miles of trapline trails for our dog teams and sno-gos, operated subsistence and test fishwheels (for both Fish and Game and the National Park Service), annually grew large gardens for our winter needs, built log homes and cabins for hire in the bush, and seasonally guided big game hunters.

When we first arrived in the country, we were often told that the days of life on the trapline were gone; that this way of life wasn't possible anymore in Alaska. Thankfully, we found that those opinions were wrong. The country hadn't changed and the economics of the life hadn't changed so much as the spirit of the people seemed to have. We found that optimism, faith that our efforts would pay off in the end, hard work, and room to grow has enabled us to live a rich and rewarding life directly from the resources the country provides. Alaska has been generous to us, and the "old ways" are still there waiting for the next generation to arrive and take up the life again.

In 1996 I started working as an assistant hunting guide in the Nowitna drainages for the neighboring trapper who had a small guiding operation. We worked together for 6 years, guiding hunters in our adjoining trapping areas, before I started contracting clients on my own in 2002. Since then, I have been fortunate to share this guiding opportunity with other neighbors in my part of the Interior – nearly all of us currently live and trap close to the areas we hunt in. We have been able to meet our annual subsistence needs, while being paid to do so, much like the trapline. The harvested meat is shared among our families, and with less successful neighbors in the region. These packing and guiding jobs are the only local means of employment for most of us, other than trapping.

For 15 season I also worked as an assistant guide for Dall sheep in the Northern Brooks Range, and for Brown Bear out of Cold Bay on the Alaska Peninsula. In spite of having my own guiding business, I continued to work as an assistant guide on these hunts for many years since it allowed for me to annually visit these remote parts of the State, which have become a very important to me, and also to simply be 'a guide' and share in the daily adventure with the hunters as the experience unfolds. Since this time, I no longer work as an assistant guide, but to continue to provide hunts for coastal Brown bear on the Alaska Peninsula, Moose and grizzly in the northern and western interior, and intend to continue guiding in the Arctic if future opportunity allows.

Participation in the Public Process:

In last decade I have felt the increased need and sense of responsibility to actively take part in the public processes that have to do with my family's way of life. I have actively participated with the Board of Game process during the last 11 years, submitting proposals for consideration and volunteering to participate in side boards that I believed I could help with. I have also been actively involved in several self-reform efforts of the guiding industry, through the re-established Big Game Commercial Services Board. In 2007 I was nominated and elected to the Board of Directors of the Alaska Professional Hunters Association, the only professional association for the industry in the State, where I served until being appointed to the Board of Game in 2010.

Purpose for Applying to the Board:

In May 2010 I was appointed to the Board of Game. I had never considered applying for this position previously, but was requested to do so by several friends who were long active in public processes. Their goal, as they informed me, was to bring new voices to the table, and also to try and find a path to bring Alaskans together on issues, rather than continue to defend long hardened positions on important issues. I very much agreed with those goals, and have since tried to the best of my ability to encourage all Alaskans, regardless of their individual beliefs or needs, to listen to one another carefully, treat one another with respect, and to try and approach the bigger picture of Alaska's wildlife issues and management challenges with a new perspective – how can we find a solution to our own needs that equally addresses the needs and concerns of the others. In my view, there are no "others", only Alaskans, and we should be able to work together in unique ways because we are a unique people. As might be expected, it is not easy to change long held perspectives that prohibit people from working together, but I believe I have seen enough changes in tone and sentiment to feel encouraged for our future.

I recognize that there are many others in the State who have valuable history, skills, and perspectives that would be helpful in Board of game deliberative processes. If the Governor and Legislature is willing that I continue working with the board, I believe that my experience as a lifelong subsistence user, as a professional hunter, in Federal land management priorities, and my desire to encourage meaningful solutions that come from the people can continue to aid in the State's efforts to manage these resources for the benefit of the people. I also feel that we need to continue the focus on restoring our wildlife populations in challenged parts of the State through sound management practices, where applicable, and that these efforts will in time help ease these conflicts among our various user groups.

Personal Information:

Age: 43

Married: My wife, Cathy, and I have been married since 2004.

Children: Four sons; Josiah (8), Micah (6), Gideon (4), and Daniel (18 months)

Primary Residence: Our place on the Kantishna River is a Federal home site from the 1950's, and the center for all of our activities. Although I spend a large portion of the year on the Nowitna River, a lesser amount of time in remote camps in the Brooks Range and on The Alaska Peninsula, and 6 to 8 weeks in Fairbanks during the summer months, I consider this to be my primary residence.

Formal education:

I completed my final two years of high school through the Yukon Koyukuk School District, Northwind correspondence program based out of Nenana. A teacher visited by bush plane several times during the winter to check my work. I was twice selected for "Who's Who Among American High School Students", and also competed in the Academic Decathlon.

Work History:

Through 1989: raised on our family dairy farm

1989 through present:

- actively trapping 5 to 6 months of each season since 1989
- seasonally guiding big game guiding hunters (3 to 4 months each year) since 1996
- I and my family have built 19 structures (mostly log) along several rivers of the Interior, a number of these for hire during the summer months. For several summers I also worked intermittently as a carpenter's helper for a local contractor in Fairbanks. We have built our own fishwheels, dogsleds, snowshoes, and boats over the years.
- subsistence fishing for our annual needs

Licensing Held :

Private Pilot license - land and seaplane
Captain - Inland Freshwater Six pack license
Alaskan Registered Guide – No. 1036

Past Participation with Government Processes:

I have a held a number trapping cabin permits with both the Bureau of Land Management, and the US Fish and Wildlife Service for many years now, all in good standing.

I have several permitted hunting camps on BLM, USFWS, and State of Alaska lands, all in good standing.

For many years we operated test recovery wheels for counting salmon entering Denali National Park via the Kantishna River drainage, funded by both the State and the National Park Service.

In the early to mid- 1990's we supplied the USFWS in Galena with Lynx and Marten carcasses for their wildfire / marten studies, and continue to provide marten carcasses to the State Area Biologist in Galena to maintain the data continuity.

We volunteered salmon blood samples to an ADF&G biologist in Fairbanks to aid in his studies related to stress levels in tagged salmon we had recovered, part of his Master's thesis.

Memberships :

The Alaska Trappers Association
The Alaska Professional Hunters Association

