

18 March 2015

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Rep. Dave Talerico
Alaska State Legislature
Alaska State Capitol Room 104
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Dear Representative Talerico and other member of the House Resource Committee,

As a resident of the Copper River Basin and the past Area Wildlife Manager for Game Management Units 11 and 13 for the State of Alaska, I support raising Alaska fishing, hunting license and tag fees at this stage, it's time.

I would like to see the following amendments to HB0137A:

1. **Establish a single Resident Big Game tag fee. A general \$10 Resident Big Game Locking tag would allow an Alaska Resident hunter the opportunity to harvest *any* Big Game wildlife species in the state of Alaska.** If a second Big Game animal is desired, a second tag can be purchased, and so on. Different than general license funds, this allows for resident hunters to contribute additional financial assistance to the state as they hunt additional animals. Conceptually, the funds would be available for special ADF&G projects above and beyond basic management duties; specifically, funds that could go to the most pressing issues in front of the Board of Game and ADF&G at the time. This would keep the burden low for families looking to harvest a single Big Game animal, and would not be expected to discourage youth hunting. Also, opposed to a controversial IM surcharge or individual tag fees for each Big Game animal, I believe this concept would be accepted by the majority of Alaskan hunters at this time.
2. **Increase Non-Resident Big Game license and tag fees further.** Given inflation over the past 22 years, and the cost of hunts in other states, I fully expected Non-Resident license and tag fees to increase by at least 50%, if not 75-100%. There are ample Non-Resident hunters interested in pursuing the unique game in Alaska. With current support from the Alaska Professional Hunters Association (APHA), this is the time to make this change. If Commerce laws allow, please consider increasing these fees further.
3. **Eliminate all Resident grizzly/brown/black bear tag fee requirements from GMU's outside of trophy areas in Southeast and Southwest Alaska.** The law should only require resident locking tags in places where trophy brown and/or black bear hunts exist: Units 1-10, 14, 15 (areas where grizzly/brown bear locking tags are currently required; pg 24 in current state hunting regulations). This would eliminate the archaic process of reauthorizing resident tag fee exemptions across the majority of the state annually, saving time and clearing up a confusing issue for Alaska residents.

Sincerely,
Rebecca (Becky) Schwanke