

**From:** [Jack Reakoff](#)  
**To:** [Sen. Bill Wielechowski](#); [Emma Torkelson](#); [Sen. Click Bishop](#); [Sen. James Kaufman](#); [Sen. Cathy Giessel](#); [Sen. Forrest Dunbar](#); [Sen. Matt Claman](#); [Sen. Scott Kawasaki](#)  
**Subject:** SB 253 DNR Big Game pilot  
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SB 253

Jack Reakoff individual comments to the Senate Resource Committee

Thank you members of the senate resource committee for the chance to voice my support for senate bill 253. I am sorry that my comments where too extensive to deliver orally in two minutes yesterday 4/10/2024. The chairman asked that I write them and submit.

The current guiding situation for the last 25 years on DNR and BLM Lands has been in need of limiting the number of guides in problem areas, especially in areas associated to road systems with access for large numbers resident hunters.

The current failed unlimited guide participation system is not in the best interest of the Alaskan public, Alaska resident hunters, the hunting guides, or the game resources of Alaska.

Therefore, it is imperative to move Senate bill 253 forward to address this problem.

I am very familiar with this issue. I live in one of these problem areas located in Central Brooks Range associated to the Dalton Highway. The make up of the land is predominantly DNR and BLM Lands in game management units 24A, 25A, and 26B. Both agencies use the open unlimited access guide area system administered by the state.

I am a lifelong Alaskan 66 years old. I've lived in Brooks Range and participated in guiding in this area with my dad from the time I was 13 years old. My dad held guide use areas issued by the state previous to their elimination in 1988. I held a registered guide license, but stopped guiding when guiding competition flooded in. Unlimited guiding promotes poor ethics among guides, resident hunter displacement, and resource over use. There is no incentive for competitive guides to conserve game resources.

I have always been a subsistence hunter, trapper, and fisher. 99% of the meat protein we use is from fish and wildlife.

For the last 30 years, I have been a member of the Koyukuk river in Advisory Committee, and am current chairman. I have been a member of the western interior regional advisory council for 31 years, and I'm current chairman. And I am very familiar with the Alaska fish and game management process.

I have listened to the last two senate resource committee, hearings regarding SB 253, and the comments from the public.

The positive aspects of this bill and its final form should address these issues and to meet legal mandates:

1. Developing a selection process to score applicants that have demonstrated adherence to guide ethics regulations. Applicants that have game violations, instructed clients to take

sub-legal animals, or employed unqualified, assistant guides who I have taken sub legal game, or other violations, or have client complaints for unethical conduct, should be scored low and eliminated from obtaining a guide use area on DNR and BLM Lands.

2. Guides who have demonstrated they possess the quality standards to hold a state guide concession permit should be scored high and pooled. Preference for guides who are Alaska Resident should be considered. If there are more than one of these quality applicants, they should be randomly drawn to hold a permit. Lottery drawings are used nationwide for wildlife allocation to limit participation. State guide use area permits should only be issued for five years. Longer permitting time frames would not allow adequate evaluation of the permit holders current progress.
3. Issuance of a Guide use permit should be only on merit, and not through a monetary purchase system. A highly qualified ethical guide, who is poor, should have equal opportunity to obtain a guide use area on DNR and BLM land.
4. If a Guide, who holds a use permit that can not continue to utilize the area, due to health, death, or other reasons, should have the area reassigned to the next highest pooled quality applicant who wishes to participate, or if more than one guide is in the pool they would again participate in the lottery to be drawn for the area. I do not feel that guides that receive a DNR guide use permit should be able to sell the right to another guide.

Thank you for your consideration of these comments, sincerely,

Jack Reakoff  
Wiseman, Alaska