

SB

160

<TARGET><BILL>SB 160</BILL><SUBJECT>SB
160</SUBJECT><COMM>SRES28</COMM></TARGET>

SENATE COMMITTEE REPORT

First Committee of Referral

DATE: 2/7/14

FURTHER: Finance

Date of 5-Day Notice: _____
 (in accordance with Uniform Rule 23)

DATE TURNED
 IN TO OFFICE: 3/21/14

Resources Committee considered SENATE BILL NO. 160

SB 160-DNR HUNTING CONCESSIONS

"An Act authorizing the commissioner of natural resources to implement a hunting guide concession program or otherwise limit the number of individuals authorized to conduct big game commercial guiding on state land."

and recommends:

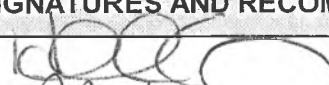
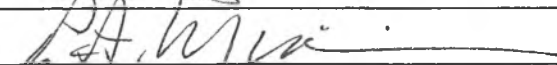
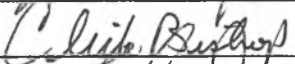

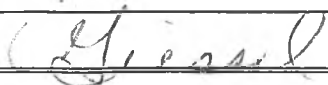
- be replaced with CS _____ (_____) Same Title New Title
- adopt previous CS _____ (_____) Same Title New Title
- attached amendment(s)
- adopt _____ Letter of Intent
- further referral to _____ Committee

Dept Abbr.	
ADM	LWF
CED	LAW
COR	LEG
CRT	MVA
EED	DNR
DEC	DPS
DFG	REV
GOV	DOT
DHS	UA

NEW FISCAL NOTE(S)				
Dept.	Fiscal	Indet.	Zero	FN #
DFG	✓			1
DNR	✓			2

PREVIOUS FISCAL NOTE(S)				
Dept.	Fiscal	Indet.	Zero	FN #

APPROPRIATION - no fiscal note

SIGNATURES AND RECOMMENDATIONS:	PRINTED LAST NAME	DO PASS	DO NOT PASS	NO REC	AMEND
	Michael			✓	
	MICCICHE			✓	
	BISHOP				✓
	Dussel	✓			
CHAIR: 	Dussel	✓			

ALASKA STATE SENATE

Interim:
1292 Sadler Way, Ste. 340
Fairbanks, Alaska 99701
Phone: (907) 451-2157
Fax: (907) 452-3401



Session:
State Capitol, Room 119
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182
Phone: (907) 465-3719
Fax: (907) 465-3258

SENATOR JOHN COGHILL

To: Senator Cathy Giessel
Senate Resources Committee

From: Senator John Coghill

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "JBD", written over a horizontal line.

Date: March 6, 2014

Re: Hearing Request Memorandum for Senate Bill 160 – Hunting Guide Concession Program

Senator Giessel:

This office formally requests a hearing on SB 160. The e-mail version of this request shall be sent to: Senate.Resources@akleg.gov.

1. We anticipate that introduction of the bill shall take approximately 5-15 minutes. Further proceedings shall depend on the direction recommended by the committee.
2. Senate Resources is the first committee of referral.
3. Our preference is to have the hearing scheduled ASAP.
4. Chad Hutchison from Sen. Coghill's office shall be the primary point of contact. His direct line is: 907-465-6858. His e-mail is chad.hutchison@akleg.gov.

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SENATOR JOHN COGHILL

SPONSOR STATEMENT

SB 160: "An Act authorizing the commissioner of natural resources to implement a hunting guide concession program or otherwise limit the number of individuals authorized to conduct big game commercial guiding on state land."

Senate Bill 160 ("SB 160") provides statutory authority to the commissioner of the Department of Natural Resources to establish a guide concession program.

A guide concession program would allow the Department of Natural Resources ("DNR") to restrict the number of professional guides that can operate in particular areas. Currently, the department cannot place any restrictions. As a result: certain high-demand hunting areas suffer from over-harvest. These scenarios lead to increased drawing hunts and fewer hunting opportunities for Alaskan residents.

A guide concession program would enable the department to ensure a more suitable distribution of guide operations across state lands. Additionally, the program would improve state land and game management for the benefit of all Alaskans.

Please join Senator Coghill in supporting SB 160.

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SENATOR JOHN COGHILL

BACK-UP INFORMATION

SB 160: "An Act authorizing the commissioner of natural resources to implement a hunting guide concession program or otherwise limit the number of individuals authorized to conduct big game commercial guiding on state land."

Please see the following:

1. Support letter from Brad Dennison dated February 8, 2014.
 2. Support letter from Cabot Pitts dated February 10, 2014.
 3. Support letter from Joey Klutsch (undated).
-

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SENATOR JOHN COGHILL

SECTIONAL

SB 160: "An Act authorizing the commissioner of natural resources to implement a hunting guide concession program or otherwise limit the number of individuals authorized to conduct big game commercial guiding on state land."

Section 1: AS 38.05.020(b) is amended to read:

The commissioner may:

...

(11) implement a hunting guide concession program or otherwise limit the number of big game commercial guides on state land.

FISCAL NOTE

STATE OF ALASKA
2014 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Bill Version SB 160
 Fiscal Note Number _____
 () Publish Date _____

Identifier (file name) SB160-DFG-WCD-03-14-14 Dept. Affected Fish and Game
 Title DNR: HUNTING GUIDES, CONCESSION PROGRAM Appropriation Wildlife Conservation
 Allocation Wildlife Conservation Special Projects
 Sponsor SENATOR(S) COGHILL, Stevens
 Requester Senate Resources Committee OMB Component Number 474

Expenditures/Revenues (Thousands of Dollars)

Note: Amounts do not include inflation unless otherwise noted below.

	FY15 Appropriation Requested	Included in Governor's FY15 Request	Out-Year Cost Estimates					
			FY15	FY16	FY17	FY18	FY19	FY20
OPERATING EXPENDITURES								
Personal Services	94.6		94.6	94.6	94.6	94.6	94.6	94.6
Travel	8.6		8.6	8.6	8.6	8.6	8.6	8.6
Services	1.0		1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0
Commodities	1.0		1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0
Capital Outlay								
Grants, Benefits								
Miscellaneous								
TOTAL OPERATING	105.2	0.0	105.2	105.2	105.2	105.2	105.2	105.2

FUND SOURCE		(Thousands of Dollars)						
1002	Federal Receipts							
1003	GF Match							
1004	GF							
1005	GF/Prgm (DGF)							
1007	I/A Rcpts (Other)	105.2		105.2	105.2	105.2	105.2	105.2
1156	Rcpt Svcs (DGF)							
	TOTAL	105.2	0.0	105.2	105.2	105.2	105.2	105.2

POSITIONS								
Full-time		1		1	1	1	1	1
Part-time								
Temporary								

CHANGE IN REVENUES

Estimated SUPPLEMENTAL (FY14) operating costs _____ (separate supplemental appropriation required)
 (discuss reasons and fund source(s) in analysis section)

Estimated CAPITAL (FY15) costs _____ (separate capital appropriation required)
 (discuss reasons and fund source(s) in analysis section)

ASSOCIATED REGULATIONS
 Does the bill direct, or will the bill result in, regulation changes adopted by your agency? _____ No
 If yes, by what date are the regulations to be adopted, amended, or repealed? _____ Discuss details in analysis section.

Why this fiscal note differs from previous version (if initial version, please note as such)
 Initial version.

Prepared by Doug Vincent-Lang, Director Phone 907-267-2339
 Division Wildlife Conservation Date/Time 3/7/14 6:15PM
 Approved by Kevin Brooks, Deputy Commissioner Date 3/10/2014
 Division Commissioner's Office

FISCAL NOTE ANALYSIS

STATE OF ALASKA
2014 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

BILL NO. SB 160

Analysis

Senate Bill 160 adds specific language to the duties of the commissioner of the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to be able to implement a hunting guide concession program or otherwise limit the number of individuals authorized to conduct big game commercial guiding on state land.

The Department of Fish and Game will be providing support for DNR in the implementation and operation of the guide concession with a full time wildlife biologist that will assist DNR in developing and implementing the program. The position funded by this program will assist in evaluating and scoring submitted applications for area concessions. This is needed to ensure biological perspectives are brought into these analyses. The position will also evaluate guide performance for awarded concessions, specifically those performance measures associated with biological guidelines.

This position will be funded through a Reimbursable Services Agreement with DNR.

FISCAL NOTE

STATE OF ALASKA
2014 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Bill Version SB 160
 Fiscal Note Number _____
 () Publish Date _____

Identifier (file name) SB160-DNR-MLW-3-08-14 Dept. Affected Natural Resources
 Title DNR: HUNTING GUIDES, CONCESSION PROGRAM Appropriation Land & Water Resources
 Allocation Mining, Land and Water
 Sponsor Senator(s) Coghill, Stevens
 Requester Senate Resources Committee OMB Component Number 3002

Expenditures/Revenues (Thousands of Dollars)

Note: Amounts do not include inflation unless otherwise noted below.

	FY15 Appropriation Requested	Included in Governor's FY15 Request	Out-Year Cost Estimates				
			FY16	FY17	FY18	FY19	FY20
OPERATING EXPENDITURES	FY15	FY15	FY16	FY17	FY18	FY19	FY20
Personal Services	960.2		960.2	960.2	960.2	960.2	960.2
Travel	85.0		85.0	85.0	85.0	85.0	85.0
Services	350.2		350.2	350.2	350.2	350.2	350.2
Commodities	35.0		35.0	35.0	35.0	35.0	35.0
Capital Outlay							
Grants, Benefits							
Miscellaneous							
TOTAL OPERATING	1,430.4	0.0	1,430.4	1,430.4	1,430.4	1,430.4	1,430.4

FUND SOURCE		(Thousands of Dollars)					
1002	Federal Receipts						
1003	GF Match						
1004	GF	1,430.4		1,430.4	1,430.4		
1005	GF/Prgm (DGF)				1,430.4	1,430.4	1,430.4
1007	I/A Rcpts (Other)						
1156	Rcpt Svcs (DGF)						
		1,430.4	0.0	1,430.4	1,430.4	1,430.4	1,430.4

POSITIONS							
Full-time		11		11	11	11	11
Part-time							
Temporary							

CHANGE IN REVENUES

Estimated SUPPLEMENTAL (FY14) operating costs 0.0 (separate supplemental appropriation required)
 (discuss reasons and fund source(s) in analysis section)

Estimated CAPITAL (FY15) costs 0.0 (separate capital appropriation required)
 (discuss reasons and fund source(s) in analysis section)

ASSOCIATED REGULATIONS

Does the bill direct, or will the bill result in, regulation changes adopted by your agency? Yes
 If yes, by what date are the regulations to be adopted, amended, or repealed? 12/31/2015 Discuss details in analysis section.

Why this fiscal note differs from previous version (if initial version, please note as such)

Initial Version

Prepared by Brent Goodrum, Director
 Division Mining, Land and Water
 Approved by Joe Balash, Commissioner
 Division Department of Natural Resources

Phone 269-8600
 Date/Time 3/8/14 12:00 PM
 Date 3/8/2014

FISCAL NOTE ANALYSIS

STATE OF ALASKA
2014 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

BILL NO. SB 160

Analysis

SB160 amends AS 38.05.020(b), which lists out the duties of the commissioner of the Department of Natural Resources, and specifies that the commissioner may implement a hunting guide concession program or otherwise limit the number of individuals authorized to conduct big game commercial guiding on state land.

Specific Spending Detail:

The Division of Mining, Land, and Water anticipates a significant effort will be required for the completion of the development, regulation adoption and implementation of a hunting guide concession program. While the division anticipates using existing staff to the extent practicable, this effort will require new staff in the division as the program is developed and fully implemented.

The Division of Mining, Land, and Water will need:

- 3 Natural Resource Specialist III (Range 18) per year = \$295.8 (\$98.6 ea)
- 3 Natural Resource Specialist II (Range 16) per year = \$263.4 (\$87.8 ea)
- 1 Natural Resource Manager I (Range 18) per year = \$102.2
- 2 Natural Resource Specialist I (Range 14) per year = \$157.0 (\$78.5 ea)
- 2 Natural Resource Technician II (Range 12) per year = \$141.8 (\$70.9 ea)

These positions will require support costs of: Travel = \$85.0, Services \$126.0, and Commodities \$35.0. Services include other costs associated with new positions and are budgeted in the services line for telecommunications/phones, computer services, DOA Core and Direct Service charges, etc. (\$5.5 x 11 new positions = \$60.5) as well as contractual costs of \$65.5.

Additionally, DNR will have \$224.2 in contractual costs to fund, through a Reimbursable Services Agreement, the functions of the following positions in the Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation, the Department of Fish & Game, and the Department of Law:

- 1 Natural Resource Specialist III (Range 18) for 6 months = \$49.3
- 1 Wildlife Biologist III (Range 18) for 1 year = \$98.6
- 1 Assistant Attorney General for 3 months = \$56.3
- Travel Services and Commodities = \$20.0

For FY2018 and beyond, the department anticipates that the program will be self-supporting through program receipts and assumes that DNR will request a funding change to receive program receipt authority.

DNR must adopt regulations prior to the implementation of a hunting guide concession program addressed in this legislation. DNR anticipates that, once initiated, the regulations adoption/filing process will take between eight and 12 months. DNR anticipates the program can be fully implemented, through regulations by December 31, 2015 if the proposed legislation becoming law.

LEGAL SERVICES

DIVISION OF LEGAL AND RESEARCH SERVICES
LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS AGENCY
STATE OF ALASKA

(907) 465-3867 or 465-2450
FAX (907) 465-2029
Mail Stop 3101

State Capitol
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182
Deliveries to: 129 6th St., Rm. 329

MEMORANDUM

February 12, 2014

SUBJECT: Questions relating to transporters licensed under AS 08.54
(Work Order No. 28-LS1447)

TO: Representative Mia Costello
Attn: Charles Guinchard

FROM: Alpheus Bullard *AB*
Legislative Counsel

Charles Guinchard asked that I clarify how the transporter license requirement under AS 08.54 applies to air taxi operations.

AS 08.54 relates to the regulation of persons who provide services to big game hunters. Under the chapter, persons who provide transportation services to big game hunters must obtain a transporter license. AS 08.54.650. The transporter license requirement is intended to achieve several goals, including allowing the state to determine who is in the business of transporting big game hunters, collecting information on the take of big game by hunters who use transporters, and recovery of economic rent by the state for the direct commercial benefit that transporters receive from the use of big game. It is unlawful for a person to provide transportation services to big game hunters for compensation without obtaining a transporter license. AS 08.54.720(a)(12). "Transportation services" are defined for the purposes of AS 08.54 at AS 08.54.790(12):

(12) "transportation services" means the carriage for compensation of big game hunters, their equipment, or big game animals harvested by hunters to, from, or in the field;¹ "transportation services" does not include the carriage by aircraft of big game hunters, their equipment, or big game animals harvested by hunters

(A) on nonstop flights between airports listed in the Alaska supplement to the Airmen's Guide published by the Federal Aviation Administration; or

(B) by an air taxi operator or air carrier for which the carriage of big game hunters, their equipment, or big game animals harvested by hunters is only an incidental portion of its business; in this subparagraph, "incidental" means

¹ Under AS 08.54.790(7), "field means an area outside of established year-round dwellings, businesses, or other developments associated with a city, town, or village;" "field" does not include permanent hotels or roadhouses on the state road system or state or federally maintained airports[.]

Representative Mia Costello

February 12, 2014

Page 2

transportation provided to a big game hunter by an air taxi operator or air carrier who does not

(i) charge more than the usual tariff or charter rate for the carriage of big game hunters, their equipment, or big game animals harvested by hunters; or

(ii) advertise transportation services or big game hunting services to the public; in this sub-subparagraph, "advertise" means soliciting big game hunters to be customers of an air taxi operator or air carrier for the purpose of providing air transportation to, from, or in the field through the use of print or electronic media, including advertising at trade shows, or the use of hunt broker services or other promotional services.

Accordingly, an air-taxi operator who has a transporter license may, for compensation, provide all lawful means of aerial transportation to big game hunters, their equipment, or animals harvested by hunters. Such air taxi operators (licensed as transporters) may charge hunters more than the usual tariff or charter rate for their services and may solicit big game hunters as customers of the transporter's operation.

An air taxi operator who is not licensed as a "transporter" under AS 08.54 may transport big game hunters, their equipment, or big game animals harvested by hunters on nonstop flights between certain airports. These air taxi operators, who are not licensed as transporters, may also transport big game hunters, their equipment, or big game animals harvested by hunters to or from the field if the carriage of big game hunters, their equipment, or big game animals harvested by hunters is only an incidental portion of the operator's business.

I hope the above is helpful. if you have further questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

ALB:lnd

14-054.lnd

STATE OF ALASKA

DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

BOARD of GAME

SEAN PARNELL,
GOVERNOR

P.O. BOX 115526
JUNEAU, AK 99811-5526
PHONE: (907) 465-4110
FAX: (907) 465-6094

May 7, 2012

Dan Sullivan, Commissioner
Alaska Department of Natural Resources
550 W. 7th Avenue, Suite 1400
Anchorage, AK 99501

Dear Commissioner Sullivan,

The Alaska Board of Game (BOG) thanks you for the opportunity to address the proposed development and administration of the Guide Concession Program (GCP) here in Alaska. As you are aware, the BOG has previously written two letters of support requesting the development of this Guide Concession Program to be administered by the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) on state lands to address our concerns related to wildlife and habitat conservation issues, industry stewardship, social considerations, and public safety considerations. We recognize that this is a new field of oversight that your department is moving into and that there are many challenges in creating a system that can comprehensively address our concerns in these areas, as well as the concerns of the big Game Commercial Services Board, public concerns, and the industry itself.

The stated DNR mission of the GCP program is to encourage land stewardship, support wildlife conservation, and to promote a healthy guiding industry to benefit the people of Alaska. The Board of Game is supportive of these goals as we believe they will benefit all Alaskans while recognizing that the development of a comprehensive program to address these concerns has the potential to both impact and be affected by the decisions we make as a board. During our review of this most recent draft version of the proposed program, and through public and industry comment to our board, we have noted a number of areas that we feel the need to address and offer suggestions to improve the administration of this program as well as how this program will ultimately address our concerns and the final utilization of the resources themselves.

The DNR GCP program more specifically attempts to address overcrowding of guide operations, land and wildlife conservation concerns, user conflict concerns, and to provide a measure of economic remuneration to the State from both professional hunters and their clients. Many of these areas of concern are directly linked to our responsibilities at the Board of Game and, in some cases, are issues that our board has the sole authority to manage. The development of this program will have much bearing on our work and decisions in future years. We believe it is in the interest of the board to again offer our input where it is appropriate to ensure that our concerns regarding user conflicts and conservation issues are being met, while also ensuring that

non-resident access is not unduly restricted or relegated to very limited guided hunt opportunities. The guiding industry has historically provided important valuable returns to our state through a variety of economic benefits to the state economy, seasonal employment opportunities for both rural and urban Alaskans alike, substantial meat sharing opportunities in rural communities, the value-added harvest of wildlife itself, and the expectation of a high level of ethics and professionalism while providing hunting services to visitors to our state.

DNR has so far released two draft versions of this proposed program and scoring criteria and both times the proposed administration of this program appears to have not been well received by the Industry and the public itself, while broad general support for the need for this program itself continues. At a number of our meetings in various parts of the state we received testimony from both the public and members and representatives of the guide industry that there was widespread concern for what appeared to be a lack of in-depth understanding on DNR's part, concerning the various elements involved with viably running a successful guide business in Alaska. If true, this should not be surprising, since DNR is moving into a new arena entirely and consequentially dealing with issues that have never been part of its administrative responsibility before (such as determining appropriate levels of wildlife harvest on state lands, addressing hunter conflicts, and defining what resource dependent stewardship means as it relates to the guiding industry). We believe that many of these concerns could have been reduced or eliminated had there been opportunity provided for advance review of these efforts by the appropriate boards most directly affected by these developments. Both the Big Game Commercial Services board and the Board of Game have long experience with this industry. We both create regulations that very substantially impact this industry, have created regulations in response to industry related concerns, and will continue to do so for years to come.

Some of the following comments address topics that do not appear directly related to the areas of authority for our board but, in a number of areas, the current draft of the GCP has the potential for unintended or secondary consequences that will ultimately have the effect of prompting or even directing future BOG action. The economic viability of this industry, for example, is an important consideration for our board when you consider that, beyond the more recognized roles this industry has in our state, the guiding industry has historically been used as a management tool by this board. Non-resident harvest of predators plays an important role in conservation goals throughout most of the state, and this board has often encouraged the participation of guided hunters to aid in maintaining population objectives in areas affected by ungulate overpopulation as well. The important role that non-resident hunters, many of which are required to be guide accompanied, have in providing the majority of funding for our wildlife management programs is often understated.

While it is clear that the Board of Game does not have regulatory oversight of the guiding industry we recognize BOG decisions have for years essentially shaped it through regulation to ensure that it is conducting itself in alignment with our management objectives. In most cases we have limited guided use through drawing permits, shortened nonresident seasons, and created specific trophy harvest limits such as the 50 inch minimum or specific brow tine requirements for non-resident moose harvest across most of the state, and the industry has responded by adjusting the type, quantity, and quality of services it provides clients.

The following list outlines some of the most widely recognized issues with the currently proposed program;

The anticipated annual budget of \$1,000,000 for administration of this program:

DNR has built into the proposed budget the concept of remuneration to the State, per addressing the Owsichuk decision, anticipated loss of revenue from existing permits, among other important factors, with DNR and / or the General Fund being the sole recipients of these funds. The proposed fee structure relies on a substantial annual concession fee and differing client fees for guide-required and non-guide required clients in addition to maintaining existing fees for base camp permits, etc.

The currently proposed fees will be from 2 to 4 times what many guides are currently paying for land use fees, with DNR being the primary recipient of funds. Many guides have expressed a willingness to pay more for use, but at the currently proposed levels that they would find it hard to stay economically viable.

It seems prudent that a guide operation be charged for a moderate annual Guide Concession fee, and a secondary tier of fees based on either client numbers and/or harvested animals and that camp related fees be included as part of this program. We recognize the need for DNR to be fiscally responsible and self sustaining in the administration of this program, yet believe that any funds in excess of actual administrative needs should be applied directly toward the conservation and enhancement of the affected resources rather than submitted to the state General fund.

Financial remuneration expectations:

We recommend that the GCP should be administered pay for its own functions, with an appropriate buffer on top for unanticipated financial burdens, and the remaining funds go directly into wildlife research programs identified by the BOG and administered by the Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G).

Reinvesting in these resources through this program will help us maintain the viability of these wildlife populations and provide an opportunity for the guiding industry to directly contribute to important conservation concerns in a meaningful manner. Dall sheep research would be a fitting example, as it is an area that has needed additional funding for research for many years and is important to both resident and nonresident hunters alike. All Alaskans will benefit from such programs, and seems the most appropriate manner to provide remuneration to the state since the funds generated will benefit the very resources that are being harvested.

These programs should be administered by ADF&G, rather than a staff DNR biologist, for several reasons; the most important of which being that the funds will be more fully utilized in existing research projects, which are currently limited by funding issues, and also by avoiding the creation of repetitive research and administrative burdens. ADF&G has identified a number of important areas of concern and needed research related to Dall sheep populations, and our board has often been frustrated by the lack of funding opportunity for this important work.

Multiple Land Ownership Patterns:

We understand that there has been discussion with the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and other agencies for potential cooperation through a MOU for incorporating BLM lands into the administration of this program. It is also our understanding BLM will very likely need to continue to charge their annual land use fees, regardless of whether or not they cooperatively work with DNR administration of hunts on their lands. DNR has not addressed this resulting "double charging" aspect, nor addressed the potential benefit of funding and staff that might be provided by BLM if they do choose to work with DNR on the program through a MOU. We understand that these more detailed discussions are pending BLM approval of this program.

We encourage the further development of the DNR / BLM MOU regarding this program since, in its absence, it very likely will develop that substantially concentrated wildlife conservation and user conflict issues will develop on BLM lands and some of the initial goals of this program will be negated from the start. If a MOU is reached with BLM and other agencies, we recommend that a concession permit holder be permitted to conduct their hunts on all lands within each concession area that are to be offered as part of the Concession Program. Land ownership patterns in much of Alaska are at times random in regards to the actual lay of the land, and oftentimes do not readily lend themselves to use by a guide operation without multiple land use authorizations. Wherever possible, these authorizations should be consolidated into one program and administered through one permit.

Additionally, if a MOU is reached with BLM and other agencies, we would advise that part of DNR's administrative responsibility should be to allocate these funds to the appropriate agency according to the actual land use during each hunt; if a guide and client are hunting on both State and BLM lands, for example, the guide would continue pay the appropriate payments to BLM for client use days and the State would then retain the client use and harvest fees for animals taken on these lands. DNR should initially gather all funds as part of this program and then make the appropriate payment to BLM for client use days on BLM lands in each concession. It unnecessarily burdens these small businesses to add one more level of permitting requirements to an already extensive paperwork load when operating on more than one agency's lands. If DNR is able to reduce the extensive administrative burden that guides have in regards to permitting and reporting when operating on lands in mixed ownership scenarios, they will very likely find the program to be a welcome help.

Limiting the number of GCP concessions to two per guide:

Registered guides have long been allowed to register for use in three Guide Use Areas (GUA) per year in the State. This has been the primary means by which the State has limited the size and scope of individual guide operations, and the industry has adjusted itself to this limitation over the years. The proposed limit to holding only two GCP concessions statewide would very likely have the effect of cutting a number of existing guide operations to 2/3 of their traditional use, regardless of the problems or lack of problems in each area. It seems the intent here is in part to provide more opportunity for all existing guides to stay in operation, with the assumption being

that there aren't enough concessions to go around. The numbers used to assess guide activity have been partly based on the number of guides who have registered to operate in an area on an annual basis. A guide is allowed to register for three GUAs on an annual basis, without cost, and often utilize all three registrations regardless of actual usage each year. These numbers do not necessarily indicate guide usage for this reason, but could indicate relative usage or interest compared to other areas.

The current level of licensed registered guides is a rather recent development, having resulted from the double impact of reduced licensing standards and the loss of the original guide board and area system that resulted from the Owsichuk decision. A number of these registered guides are operating on an infrequent basis, as a pastime secondary to regular employment, or under another guide who uses them for "sub-contracting" purposes – which is contrary to the original intent of the limit to three GUAs per registered guide system - and forbidden in relation to federal concessions. It is possible that a number of currently licensed guides will not meet the minimum qualifications for obtaining an area or not be interested in the increased work load related to competing for and maintaining these areas. Natural attrition to the ranks of contracting guides through retirement or other reasons, the relatively low number of newly licensed registered guides, and the return of increasingly more stringent standards for becoming and staying a hunting guide in Alaska may additionally limit the number of guides competing for GCP areas.

There are a number of factors that have yet to be seen in how the implementation of this program will affect the guiding industry, and some of these effects will only be apparent after implementation. Currently it appears that there will continue to be a variety of opportunities available for who are serious about being active in the guiding industry through the proposed number of State concessions, the various federal concession offerings on National Park Service and US Fish and Wildlife Service, and Forest Service lands, and private land hunting opportunities. If this program develops into an effective model, there is also the potential for further private land opportunities as well.

The potential for administrative difficulty in handling a certain number of applications should not justify making this type substantial change to this industry. It is our understanding that the most recent federal USF&WS offerings has had notably fewer applicants than the previous offerings, and it is possible that this program will see a similar results once it is in place.

We recommend that concession holders be allowed to apply for a minimum of five concession offerings, and to be allowed to obtain three GCP areas statewide without consideration of other land use authorizations held. In addition, we recommend DNR provide for reopening or a walk in bid process that will allow guides to apply for any unused areas. This will reduce the potential for underutilization of the resource as well as provide some additional opportunity.

Limiting the number of employed assistant guides in each concession to three per area, statewide:

This idea seems to be an attempt to reduce user conflict in the field, and potentially limit harvest in areas of concern. These two areas of concern have much bearing on our work within the Board

of Game process, and we suggest that concession area sizes and the final number of concession holders allowed to operate within these areas would be the most appropriate means to address these issues. Guides will be required to propose their maximum levels of use, along with a detailed *Plan of Operations* for a number of years (5-10), in advance of the selection process. They will be required to abide by this plan in the field, and harvest levels and hunter numbers will be known in advance.

Our primary concerns with the proposed assistant guide limitation is that it has the potential to needlessly harm existing operations in areas where there are currently no identified conservation or user conflict issues related to the guide industry, effectively limit non-resident hunting opportunity statewide, reduce all guide operations to being small part-time businesses, and eliminate the traditional training methods by which guides become experienced and competent in the industry. This would also directly oppose another GCP goal of providing opportunity for new entry into the guiding profession since all guides are required to be experienced assistant guides before testing to become a registered guide. It is also very likely that both conservation and quality of service issues would result from this limitation, by creating the incentive to provide short duration two on one (or more) hunt scenarios, and to harvest any 'legal' animal for a client due to the new pressure to have assistants handle as many clients as possible during a limited season. This limitation has the potential to lower the stewardship aspect of guide operations as well as lower professional standards within the industry. It is important to recognize that large regions of this state do not have any identified conflict or conservation concerns related to the guiding industry.

These proposed restrictions should only be used in areas of high conflict or conservation concern after being identified by the Board of Game and with consultation and concurrence of the BGCSB.

Mapping Issues and Limited Concession concerns:

In 2008 the guiding industry had opportunity to review and adjust the Guide Concession boundaries from the old guide area system, as well as the current Guide Use Area boundaries. During this process, the participants were advised to draw these boundaries in such a manner to allow for one and possibly two guides to operate within each area, maintaining "economically viable" opportunities for the concession holders.

DNR personnel then reviewed the maps and adjusted the boundaries to clean up confusing lines and address several other issues. The decision was made at that time that economic viability for each area was not to be considered, and each area was given at least two concession offerings and a number of them were additionally given a "limited concession" opportunity.

The "limited concession" concept appears to be largely based on the desire to provide new opportunity into the industry. This concept is somewhat problematic as proposed since it introduces additional harvest burdens to areas that were drawn without anticipation of this additional harvest and operating limitations for these additional concession offerings are not well defined in regards to user conflicts. Additionally, the potential that some of these limited

concession offerings may be allocated by lottery seems contrary to basing this system on stewardship principles and the need to reward good conduct by opportunity for advancement. The traditional means by which young guides have acquired valuable experience within the industry, and also within a specific region, is through employment by existing operations. This is an important historical aspect of guide recruitment that has proven to effectively allow less experienced guides to become competent, in both guiding skills and knowledge of a region, to competitively apply for and obtain areas through existing federal offerings. It is very likely that this will prove true for state concessions as well.

The primary problem with these additional concessions, including the limited concessions, is that the maps were drawn in many cases with the idea that only one concession would be available in an area. As it stands now, some areas have potential competition built into them from the start by having a "limited concession" squeezed into an area where one or two guides may have historically operated in a viable manner or, alternately, where these two guides may be competing for two concessions: One full concession and one limited concession. This needlessly jeopardizes one guide's ability to stay in business in areas that may not have conservation or user conflict concerns. The maps may need to be reassessed or concession numbers readjusted entirely, or on a case by case basis.

Board of Game and Big Game Commercial Services Board participation:

The currently proposed administration of this proposed Guide Concession Program will involve decisions and actions that have much bearing on the nature of guided hunt opportunity in Alaska as well as the final allocation and utilization of the resource itself. Limiting guide activity through predetermined concession numbers and requiring stewardship based guided hunt opportunities on DNR administered lands will only address a portion of the broader concerns related to user conflicts and maintaining conservation goals in parts of this state, yet we believe these are important first steps to take. Our board will continue to be faced with these challenges in the broader arena, and view this program development as an additional element to be incorporated into our more comprehensive goals of wildlife management.

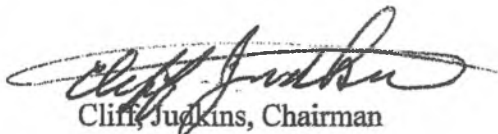
- We are requesting that our board be allowed opportunity to more directly have input into the development of this program and to be provided opportunity to address aspects of this program that directly have bearing on our management requirements and authority. We are requesting specifically that we be provided opportunity for advance review of the final version of this program before it being released. We suggest that both BOG and BGCSB participation be considered for participation in the selection process for concession areas, through having one or more members of each board sitting on each panel.
- We believe it is important to develop this program in such a manner to allow for participation of a sub-committee made up jointly of Board of Game and Big Game Commercial Services Board members to address specific administrative plans or areas of special concern that relate directly to the authorities vested in these boards. The BOG and BGCSB sub-committee, for example, may be then asked to identify problem areas that may require special limitations to the guide concessions (adjusted number of concessionaires, limited number of clients per concession, etc.) at a future date, if the GCP fails to adequately address the issues it has been

developed for. This could be a standing subcommittee, appointed by the chair of each Board, or alternately be open to any Board member who was interested.

The members of our two Boards are uniquely qualified to address these issues when you consider the areas of oversight that we respectively have and that members of both Boards are made up of a cross section of Alaskan interests, are chosen by the Governor, and approved by the Legislature. It seems prudent that both of these Boards take on the burden of some of these decisions, since the proposed program will potentially have a large impact on both wildlife related issues and the guiding industry itself in many ways. The careful development of this program is important to aid our efforts in maintaining many wildlife management objectives, the continued opportunity for rural employment and meat sharing opportunities, reducing user conflicts associated with certain Big Game populations, and assuring the viability of an historic and valuable industry to our state.

We thank you for providing extended opportunity to gather and submit our comments addressing this important work.

Sincerely,



Cliff Judkins, Chairman
Alaska Board of Game

cc: Cora Campbell, Commissioner, Alaska Department of Fish and Game
Jeff Jones, Special Assistant, Office of the Governor
Paul Johnson, Chairman, Big Game Commercial Services Board



NEWS RELEASE

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
February 14, 2014**

**Contact: Steven E. Skrocki
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INTERNATIONAL WILDLIFE INVESTIGATION RESULTS IN CONVICTION AGAINST HAINES BIG GAME GUIDE

Anchorage, Alaska- U.S. Attorney Karen L. Loeffler announced today that a joint United States-Canadian wildlife investigation has resulted in the conviction after a jury trial against Haines, Alaska, big game guide John Katzeek. Katzeek, who has been a big game guide for over twenty years, was convicted by a Juneau jury for a felony violation of the Lacey Act in connection with a guided hunt with two Canadian citizens. The jury convicted Katzeek of making a false record concerning his guide hunt records which are provided to the state of Alaska. The indictment alleged that Katzeek, age 64, filed false paperwork concerning the amount of meat taken from the field, most of which was left to waste, and that he failed to accurately report the date of the hunt and the identify of the assistant guide who participated on the hunt, instead, falsely using another assistant guide's name who did not participate on the particular guided hunt in question. Sentencing for Katzeek has been set for June 23, 2014, in Juneau, Alaska. The maximum penalty for violating the Lacey Act is 5 years imprisonment and a \$250,000 fine.

Also charged with Katzeek were Alberta, Canada, residents Brian Hicken, age 54, Kenneth Cox, 49, and Tyler Antal, 22. All three were acquitted by the jury for conspiracy and filing false documents in connection with a different hunt with Katzeek which occurred in October, 2010. Katzeek was also acquitted of two other violations alleging smuggling of dall sheep horns and the failure to truthfully report the specific location of a dall sheep killed in the Yukon Wildlife Sanctuary, near Kluane National Park.

The guided hunt for which Katzeek stands convicted occurred in October, 2011 near Haines, Alaska. The prosecution leading to this conviction is the result of a large scale and joint United States, State of Alaska and Canadian investigation known as "Operation Bruin." Starting in January, 2013, Canada Crown prosecutors in Alberta, and Yukon Territory Canada charged approximately seventeen (17) subjects with fifty-five (55) violations under the Canadian Wild Animal and Plant Protection and Regulation of International and Interprovincial Trade Act (WAPPRIITA). These charges were in relation to the illegal guided hunts and the illegal import of unlawful wildlife from the United States into Canada. All of the hunts under investigation took place near Haines, Alaska and involved Alaska big game guides Ron Martin and John Katzeek. The Canadian trials are scheduled to begin in late Spring, 2014.

On January 13, 2014, two defendants that were charged by the state of Alaska as part of Operation Bruin were sentenced in Haines District Court. Wallace "Scott" Keele, age 53, and Melvin Price, age 54, both of Heber City, UT pled guilty to charges stemming from the illegal take of brown bear over bait.

Keele pled guilty to taking a brown bear over bait and to unlawful possession and transportation of game. He was fined \$10,000 with \$5,000 suspended, his hunting license is revoked for two years, must forfeit the brown bear and pay restitution to the State of Alaska in the amount of \$1,300.

Price pled guilty to taking a mountain goat without an appropriate tag and to unlawful possession and transportation of game. He was fined \$6,000 with \$2,500 suspended, his hunting license is revoked for two years, must forfeit the mountain goat and pay restitution to the State of Alaska in the amount of \$2,000. Additionally, as part of his agreement with the government, Price will forfeit three taxidermy trophies, to include a life size brown bear and black bear, and a shoulder mount Yukon moose which illegally harvested and transported in foreign or interstate commerce. Both Keele and Price were Ron Martin clients.

In October, 2013, Ronald L. Martin, 72, of Haines, Alaska, a big game guide in Haines for over 30 years, pled guilty and was sentenced before U.S. District Court Judge Timothy M. Burgess, after admitting to multiple illegal hunts, falsification of numerous documents related to those illegal hunts and the importation of illegal wildlife from Canada into the United States. Martin was sentenced to pay a \$40,000 fine and was placed on probation for four years. During the term of probation, Martin cannot hunt in the United States and is banned from hunting anywhere in the world for two years. Additionally, the plea agreement bars Martin from providing any guiding related services as part of his federal probation conditions. Martin was also ordered to forfeit all illegal wildlife seized in the investigation and a 27' enclosed trailer used in illegally importing wildlife into the U.S.

Prior to Martin pleading guilty in federal court, he also pled guilty and was sentenced in Alaska State court on one count of guiding clients for brown bear over bait, and one count of guiding clients over an unregistered bear bait site. As part of that State conviction, Martin was fined \$40,000 with \$30,000 suspended, and forfeited the following items to the State of Alaska: a PA-18 Piper Supercub airplane, a F250 Ford pickup truck, a Honda ATV - Foreman, and a Kimber .338 Caliber rifle with a Leopold Scope. Martin's hunting license was also revoked until May 2016 and he is prohibited from guiding, outfitting, or transporting hunters, to include not accompanying or assisting hunters in the field. Martin is further prohibited from acting as consultant, expediting, booking, or renting hunting equipment, and cannot apply for a hunting license until 2018. Martin was also required to surrender his guide license for life.

The investigation as to Martin documented 10 illegal brown bear hunts, three illegal black bear hunts, and four illegal mountain goat hunts totaling a value of approximately \$189,000. The violations which occurred during the hunts involved Martin allowing his Canadian and U.S. clients to take brown bears over bait, hunting without the required licenses or tags, and the failure to have a licensed guide with the non-resident alien clients during guided hunts. The investigation revealed that Martin's clients and Martin would file false documents to conceal the illegal nature of the guided hunts and would then smuggle the wildlife from the U.S. to Canada, all of which violated the Lacey Act and Canada's Wild Animal and Plant Protection and Regulation of International and Interprovincial Trade Act (WAPPRIITA). The investigation showed the violations occurred between May 2002 through November 2011, in and around the Haines, Alaska area.

The investigation also documented that Martin illegally imported dall sheep from Yukon, Canada, into the U.S. during the fall of 2011 by failing to obtain a Yukon Wildlife Export permit and illegally smuggled the sheep horns from Canada into the U.S. by concealing the horns and meat in his

trailer. Martin has been charged by Environment Canada, with thirty-three WAPPRIITA violations all stemming from illegal wildlife including two dall sheep, one grizzly bear from the Yukon and two brown bears and one black bear from Alaska. Martin is scheduled for his court appearance in Whitehorse, Yukon, Canada on February 17, 2014.

In the Katzeek trial, four individuals testified against Katzeek, all of whom have plead guilty to wildlife violations in connection with either Katzeek or Martin. Jason Hjesvold, a Canadian hunter who participated in the hunt which generated Katzeek's count of conviction, is scheduled to plead guilty in Haines district court for violations stemming from removing the trophy before meat, and waste of game meat. Hjesvold is also facing WAPRIITA charges in Canada. Luke Johnson, from Burwash Landing, has plead guilty in the Yukon for assisting Katzeek in the smuggling of dall sheep horns from the Yukon into the United States. Stuart Dewitt, of Haines, Alaska, is pleading guilty to state of Alaska charges for illegal guiding undertaken with Katzeek and Martin. Part of Dewitt's sentence includes Dewitt forfeiting his big game guide license for life. Colton Baker, 23, formerly of Juneau, Alaska, also pled guilty to wildlife violations in the Yukon undertaken with Ron Martin.

On March 22, 2013, Lyle Whitmarsh, a client of Martin, was convicted in Alberta provincial court of one count of illegally possessing and importing a brown bear into Canada. Whitmarsh was sentenced to pay a penalty of \$4,000 for violating section 6(1) of the Wild Animal and Plant Protection and Regulation of International and Interprovincial Trade Act. In addition to the \$4,000 penalty, Lyle Whitmarsh is prohibited for two years of importing wildlife into Canada and is also required to forfeit the brown bear hide and skull seized during the investigation. \$3,600 of the penalty will go into the Environmental Damages Fund (EDF).

On October 16, 2013, John (Jack) Whitmarsh, brother of Lyle and a client of Martin's, was also convicted in Canada of two counts of illegally possessing and importing into Canada a brown bear. John Whitmarsh was sentenced to pay a penalty of \$15,000 for violating section 6(1) and 8(a) of the Wild Animal and Plant Protection and Regulation of International and Interprovincial Trade Act. In addition to the \$15,000 penalty, John Whitmarsh is prohibited for two years of importing wildlife into Canada and traveling outside of Alberta and Canada for the purposes of hunting. He is also required to forfeit the brown bear hide and skull seized during the investigation. \$13,500 of the penalty will go into the Candian Environmental Damages Fund (EDF).

Stanley Pruszenski, Special Agent in Charge of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in Alaska, said "Alaska's wildlife is one of its most precious resources. Big game guiding for Alaska's wildlife, no matter what the species, is a lure to hunters all over the world. Guiding for Alaska's big game commands big money, and even bigger responsibilities. It's a serious business which must be done right. Operation Bruin has revealed the illegal guiding activities of two established big game guides operating in the Chilkat Valley, and the extent to which they concealed their illegal guiding activity for literally years. This international investigation and the cooperation between nations, along with these felony convictions should send the message that no guide is above the law."

The investigation remains ongoing.

Kevin Feldis, First Assistant United States Attorney, emphasized that "the United States is committed to protecting the wildlife and natural resources of the state and ensuring that big game guides and hunters follow federal law. Illegal guiding and hunting activities destroy resources for everyone and we are fortunate to have dedicated investigators both in the United States and in Canada who work together to bring violators to justice."

United States Attorney Karen Loeffler commends the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, Alaska Wildlife Troopers, Environment Canada, Yukon Conservation Officer Service, Alberta Fish and

Game, Parks Canada, British Columbia Conservation Officer Service and the Public Prosecution Service of Canada for the international cooperation extended in the investigation of these cases.

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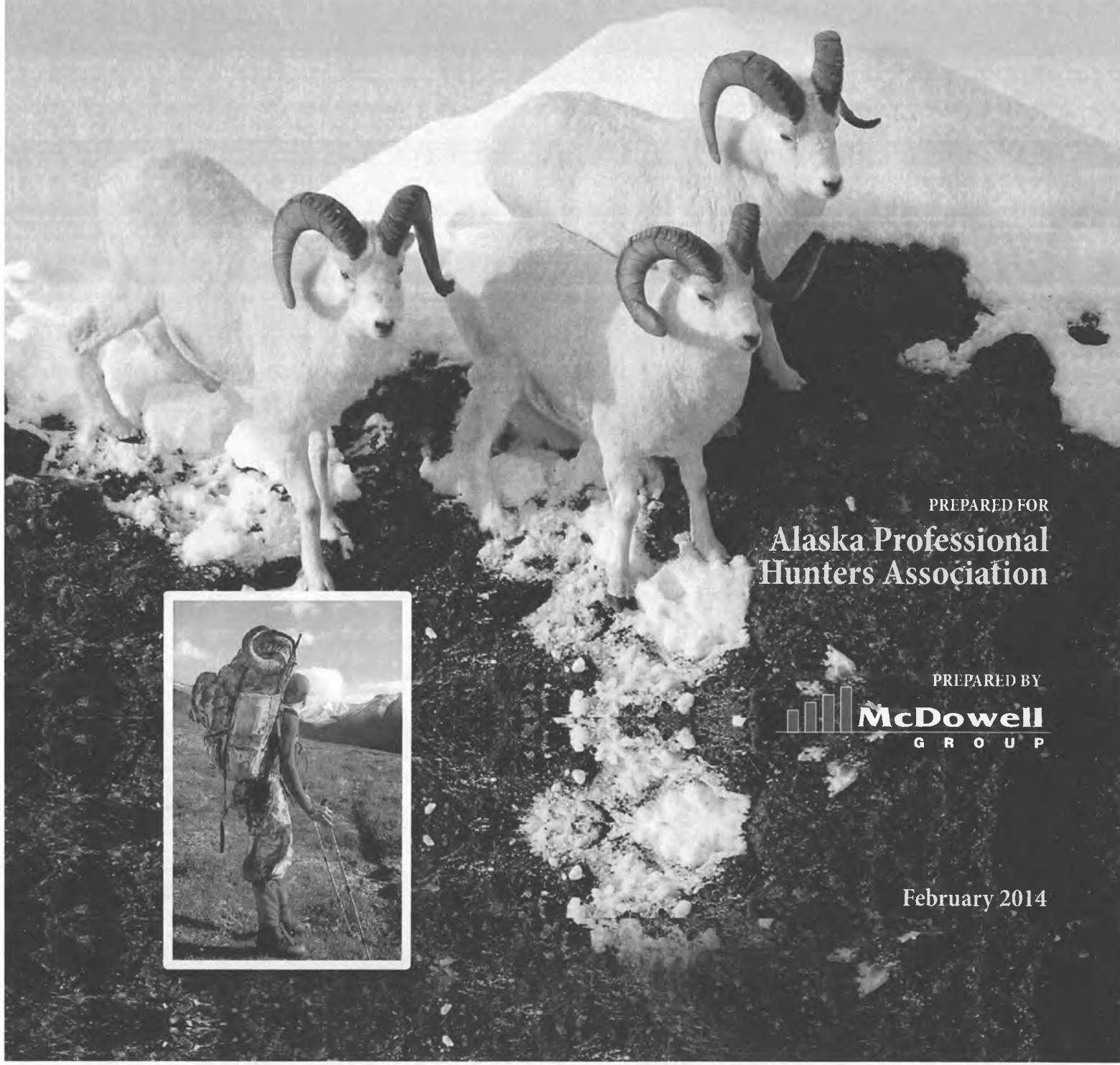
Prepared by: Brenda Spicer, 907-271-5071, USAAK.PressRelease@usdoj.gov

The Economic Impacts of
Guided Hunting
in Alaska

PREPARED FOR
**Alaska Professional
Hunters Association**

PREPARED BY
 **McDowell**
GROUP

February 2014



Economic Impacts of Guided Hunting in Alaska

Prepared for:
**Alaska Professional
Hunters Association**

Prepared by:



Juneau • Anchorage

February 2014

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Executive Summary

The Alaska Professional Hunters Association (APHA) contracted with McDowell Group to conduct a study of the economic impact of guided hunting in Alaska. Because guided hunting occurs in remote parts of the state, many Alaskans are not aware of the significant contributions that hunting guides and their clients make to the state's economy, especially the rural economy. Following are key findings from the study.

Guided hunting in Alaska accounted for a total of 2,210 jobs and \$35 million in total labor income in 2012, including all direct, indirect and induced impacts.

An estimated 1,620 people were directly employed in guiding activity in Alaska in 2012. While most of these jobs were seasonal, they provided \$21 million in direct wages and guide income. Those directly employed in the industry include registered guides, assistant guides, packers, pilots and boat captains, camp support, cooks, mechanics, and accountants. Multiplier effects generated another 590 jobs and \$14 million in wages in Alaska's support sector.

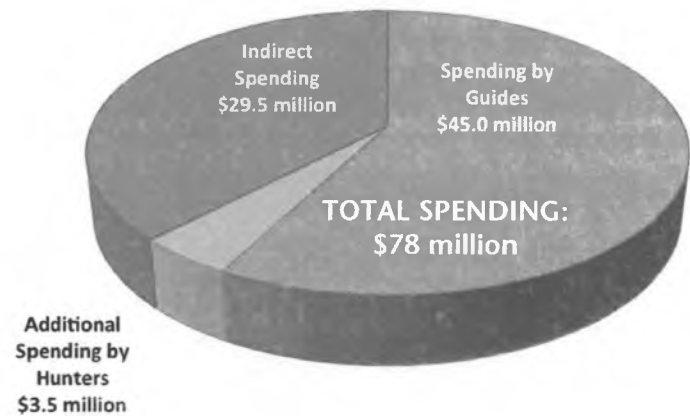
Employment Associated with Guided Hunting in Alaska, 2012



Guided hunting generated a total of \$78 million in economic activity in Alaska in 2012.

In 2012, guides contracted with 3,207 hunters, 3,055 of them nonresidents. In total, hunters spent \$51 million on guided hunts. Of the total, nonresident hunters spent an estimated \$48 million. In addition to hunting packages, non-resident hunters and their companions spent another \$3.5 million on lodging, food and beverage, clothing, souvenirs, and outdoor equipment, among other purchases while in Alaska. Dollars spent in Alaska by non-residents provides new dollars that help support the state's economy.

Spending Associated with Guided Hunting in Alaska, 2012



Including \$29.5 million in direct and indirect (multiplier effects) associated with this spending, guided hunting in Alaska accounted for \$78 million in total economic activity in 2012.

Guided hunters purchased nearly \$2 million in hunting license and game tags.

Revenues from the sales of license and tags are an important source of funding for Alaska Department of Fish & Game (ADF&G) and sales are part of the funding formula used to allocate Pittman-Robertson Act funds. ADF&G's Fish and Game fund provides a source of matching funds for wildlife management-related projects. In addition to the total economic activity mentioned above, guided hunters spent **\$361,500** on hunting licenses and **\$1.6 million** on game tags in 2012.

Guided hunting operations provided \$13 million in wages and guide income and \$12 million in spending for goods and services in areas outside urban Alaska.

Nearly nine out of ten guides are Alaska residents. They live in communities throughout the state, with about half living outside urban communities. A significant portion of the assistant guides, packers, camp staff, pilots and boat captains also reside in the state, many in small communities. Guides spent **\$12 million** for goods and services and accounted for **\$13 million** in wages and income in outlying areas of the state. This **\$25 million** in economic activity is especially important in rural areas where opportunity for cash income is limited.

Guides provide significant non-monetary support to rural communities in the form of donated meat and other contributions.

In addition to the economic impact associated with jobs, payroll, and spending for goods and services, hunting guides provide a significant level of non-monetary support to residents of rural Alaska including distributing tens of thousands of pounds of game meat each year.

The table on the following page summarizes the highlights of guided hunting impacts.

Summary of Guided Hunting Economic Impacts in Alaska, 2012

	Impacts
Guided Hunting Industry Related Employment	
Direct employment	1,620 jobs
Indirect and induced employment	590 jobs
Total employment (direct, indirect, and induced)	2,210 jobs
Guided Hunting Industry Related Labor Income	
Direct labor income (payroll and guide income)	\$21 million
Indirect and induced labor income	\$14 million
Total labor income (direct, indirect, and induced)	\$35 million
Guided Hunting Industry Direct Spending for Goods and Services	
Guide spending on goods and services with Alaska-based vendors	\$24 million
Hunter and companion pre/post hunt spending	\$3.5 million
Indirect and induced spending	\$15.5 million
Total direct, indirect, and induced non-payroll spending	\$43 million
Total Guide Industry-Related Output	\$78 million
Guided Hunter License and Game Tag Spending	
License sales	\$361,500
Game tag sales	\$1.6 million
Guided Hunters	
Alaska residents	152
Nonresident US citizen	2,599
Foreign nationals	456
Total Hunters	3,207

Sources: Registered Guide Survey, ADF&G, and McDowell Group Estimates.

Introduction and Methodology

Introduction

The Alaska Professional Hunters Association hired McDowell Group to conduct a study of the economic impacts of the guided hunting industry in Alaska. The purpose of this study is to measure the economic contribution of guided hunting, including employment, payroll, and spending on goods and services (by both the hunter and the guide), as well as “multiplier effects” resulting from guide industry-related spending circulating through the Alaska economy.

Methodology

Data Sources

Two primary sources of data were used to analyze the economic impacts of guided hunting in Alaska, a detailed analysis of guided hunt records maintained by the State of Alaska, and a survey conducted with registered hunting guides.

DCCED HUNT RECORDS

The Alaska Commercial Big Game Services Board regulates the big game commercial services industry in Alaska. The Board is staffed by the Division of Corporations, Business and Professional Licensing within the State of Alaska, Department of Commerce, Community, and Economic Development (DCCED). The guided hunting industry is governed by a myriad of statutes and regulations which, among other things, require detailed reporting of hunt activities to the state.^[1]

For every guided hunter, DCCED requires a hunt record be submitted following completion of the hunt. The record includes information on the hunter’s place of residence, hunt dates, hunt location, number and types of game tags acquired, as well as the names and status of all guides associated with the hunt. While hunt record data was used, confidentiality restrictions and database management limitations prohibited detailed analysis of hunt record data.

REGISTERED GUIDE SURVEY

In consultation with the Alaska Professional Hunters Association, an online survey was designed and administered by McDowell Group. Survey content included species hunted, duration and price of hunts, number of hunters, number of employees, and business revenues and expenses (by type and location), among other questions. Each licensed guide was sent a letter in late November 2013 inviting them to participate in the survey, using their own secure unique password to access the online survey. The survey was conducted between late November 2013 and mid-January 2014.

^[1] Guide industry statutes and regulations can be found at: <http://commerce.alaska.gov/dnn/Portals/5/pub/BGCSStatutes.pdf>.

Of the 566 licensed guides who received the survey (having valid mailing addresses), 111 accessed the survey website for a response rate of 20 percent. Of the 111 respondents, 75 were a contracting guide for at least one hunt in 2012. Respondents guided 1,167 hunters, or 36 percent of all guided hunters in 2012.

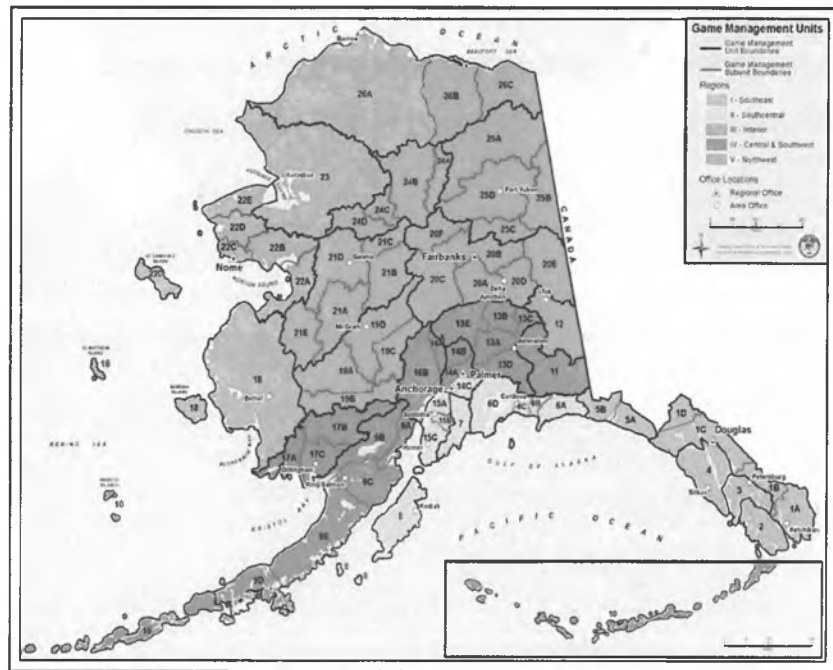
Additional Sources of Data

- Alaska Visitor Statistics Program VI (AVSP VI) data for **pre and post-hunt expenditures by nonresident hunters and companions**. Hunter spending in Alaska that occurs before or after the actual hunt, such as spending on lodging, food and beverage, clothing, souvenirs, gifts, equipment, and other items, are not part of the purchased hunting package. To estimate hunters' (and their companions') non-package spending, AVSP VI data was analyzed. AVSP is an intercept survey conducted for the State of Alaska, most recently in 2011; McDowell Group surveyed 6,700 visitors as they exited Alaska. A small sample of those visitors were hunters and their companions who had been on a guided hunting trip, and their spending in Alaska was captured in the AVSP data.
- **Alaska Department of Fish & Game (ADF&G) game tag and license sales data**. A list of all 2012 game tag sales was purchased from ADF&G. The list included hunter residency and type of tags purchased. Hunting license sales data is made publicly available annually by ADF&G.
- **Executive interviews with licensed guides**. Telephone interviews were conducted with guides to gain better insight into various aspects of guided hunting activity in Alaska.

This report includes a brief overview of guided hunting activity in Alaska, a profile of guided hunters, license and game tag sales and revenue, guide business expenses and revenue, and an economic analysis of how employment, payroll, and spending around guided hunting activities impacts Alaska's economy.

Regions

For this study, the state was split into five regions (Southcentral, Interior, Central/Southwest, Southeast and Northwest) to describe where hunting and spending took place, and where guides live. The regions are defined by Game Management Units (GMU) and Guide Use Areas (GUA), which are roughly equivalent. The accompanying map shows the GMU regional borders and can be found on the ADF&G website in the general information section of the 2012-2013 hunting regulations.¹



¹ <http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=wildliferegulations.hunting>

Profile of Alaska's Guided Hunting Industry

This section provides a profile of Alaska's guided hunting industry, including the number and types of guides working in Alaska, their place of residence, number of clients served, facilities and equipment used, lands on which they guide, and other information.

Guided Hunting in Alaska

Guided hunting is one of the oldest renewable resource industries in Alaska. Regulations require guides for nonresident hunting of three game species; mountain goats, Dall sheep, and brown/grizzly bear.² Many nonresident hunters choose to hire a guide for other species, especially moose, caribou, and black bear. Because of the inherent risks and logistics of hunting in remote Alaska, hunters are often willing to pay for professional assistance from someone able to provide a higher-quality hunt through extensive knowledge of the land and the target species.

Types of Hunting Guides

Alaska's professional guides consist of registered guide-outfitters (including master guides) and assistant guides, as described below.

- An "assistant guide" is required to be 18 years of age, and to either take an assistant guide training course or have a recommendation from a registered guide who intends to hire them. A class "A" assistant guide must be 21 years of age or older, been employed as a guide for at least three years in the game management unit where the endorsement is sought, and have at least 10 years of hunting experience.
- A "registered guide-outfitter" license may be obtained by a person 21 years of age or older, who has significant field experience related to hunting in Alaska, has hunted in the state for at least five years, passed an written and oral exam, has been an active licensed assistant guide for at least three years, and has positive recommendations from previous clients. They must be present and in close proximity of the hunter while in the field.
- "Master guide" status can be obtained by a registered guide after 12 years of guiding and with significant favorable recommendations from previous clients.
- A "contracting guide" is a registered or master guide who contracts with the hunter and is responsible for completing hunt records and other paperwork. Only master and registered guides can function as contracting guides. Some master and registered guides choose to work for other contracting guides. Assistant guides may not contract hunts.

Other positions such as packers and support staff are not currently licensed by the state. However, there are detailed limitations on what packers and camp support staff can and cannot do to assist guides.

² US citizens with first degree kindred may hunt these species with a relative who is a resident of the state. Foreign nationals must use a guide for these species.

Number and Type of Guides

As of August 2012, there were 575 registered guides in Alaska.³ Of these, 128 were classified as master guides. In addition, there were 930 licensed assistant guides; 130 had class "A" licenses.

Registered Guides and Assistant Guides, 2012

	# of Guides
Registered Guides	
All registered guides	575
Contracting guides	299
Master guides	128
Assistant Guides	
All assistant guides	930
Class A assistant guides	130
Total Registered and Assistant Guides	1,505

Source: Division of Corporations, Business and Professional Licensing, DCCED, and McDowell Group estimates.

Number of Guided Hunters

Between 2007 and 2012, the number of guided hunters in Alaska ranged from 3,764 to 3,207 (resident and nonresident hunting clients). A dip in the number of hunters in 2009 and 2010 is likely the result of the recession. Preliminary estimates for 2013 show a 7 percent increase, to 3,443 guided hunters.

Number of Guided Hunters, 2007-2013

Year	Guided Hunters	% Annual Change
2007	3,623	
2008	3,764	4%
2009	3,337	-11
2010	3,260	-2
2011	3,301	1
2012	3,207	-3
2013*	3,443	7

Source: Hunt record data, Division of Corporations, Business and Professional Licensing, DCCED.

*Preliminary data.

In 2012, 152 guided hunters were Alaska residents, or 4.7 percent of all guided hunters. Approximately one out of five nonresidents (3,055 hunters) that bought an Alaska hunting license hired a registered guide.

³ Division of Corporations, Business and Professional Licensing, DCCED.

Non-Hunting Companions

In addition to 3,207 hunters guided in 2012, an estimated 500 non-hunting companions accompanied these hunters in the field.⁴ Many guide operations host non-hunting companions, charging a daily fee for lodging, transportation, and food expenses.

Number of Hunters by Geographic Region

In 2012, the most popular regions for guided hunting were Central/Southwest Alaska, with 1,018 guided hunters, and Interior Alaska, with 915 guided hunters. In Southeast and Southcentral Alaska, there were 505 and 471 guided hunters, respectively. The fewest number of guided hunters hunted in Northwest Alaska (298).

Number of Guided Hunters, by Geographic Region of Hunt, 2012

	# of Hunters	% of Total
Central/Southwest	1,018	32%
Interior	915	29
Southeast	505	16
Southcentral	471	15
Northwest	298	9
Total	3,207	100%

Source: Hunt record data, Division of Corporations, Business and Professional Licensing, DCCED.

Due to rounding, percentage column does not equal 100 percent.

Size of Alaska Guiding Operations

Over the last three years there have been roughly 300 guides each year that contracted hunts. Most contracting guides (about 80 percent) serve 15 or fewer hunting clients each year. In fact, many (40 percent) contracted with five or fewer clients. In 2012, 18 contracting guides guided more than 25 hunters; the largest operator guided about 50.

Contracting Guides, by Number of Clients Served, 2010-2012

# of Hunters Served	2010 # of Guides	2011 # of Guides	2012 # of Guides
1 – 5	120	107	119
6 – 10	67	77	67
11 – 15	51	51	52
16 – 20	33	26	24
21 – 25	22	26	19
26+	22	20	18
Total	315	307	299

Source: Hunt record data, Division of Corporations, Business and Professional Licensing, DCCED.

⁴ McDowell Group estimates, Registered guide survey data.

Land Use

Guides must obtain permits from the State of Alaska to guide in specific Guide Use Areas (GUA). They may apply to guide in a maximum of three GUAs. If predator hunting, guides can apply for permits for more than three GUAs. A complex matrix of land ownership/management underlies Alaska's GUA system. Land can be managed by the State, federal government (Bureau of Land Management, US Fish and Wildlife Service, US Forest Service, National Park Service), or by private landowners (including Alaska Native Corporations).

Guides pay fees to, and must have signed agreements with, relevant land managers prior to applying for a GUA permit where they wish to guide. Permits are often limited to specific species. Some land managers (through limited concessions) restrict the number of guides that may hunt in a specific area, or the overall number of hunts each year, to assure game sustainability and quality hunts.

Contracting guides reported that 46 percent of their 2012 revenues came from hunts conducted on land managed by the State of Alaska. Almost half of revenue was earned hunting on federal lands, including US Fish and Wildlife Service (22 percent), US Forest Service (11 percent), NPS (9 percent), and BLM (4 percent). Eight percent was derived from private land (including Alaska Native Corporation land).

Guide Revenue by Land Hunted, 2012

Land Manager	% of Guide Revenue
State of Alaska	46%
US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)	22
US Forest Service (USFS)	11
National Park Service (NPS)	9
Private land owners (including Alaska Native Corps)	8
Bureau of Land Management (BLM)	4

Source: Registered guide survey.

Alaska Guides' Place of Residency

Among Alaska's 575 registered guides in 2012, 89 percent (510) were Alaska residents, while 11 percent (65) were nonresidents. Guides' place of residence is dispersed throughout the state with more than half (52 percent) living outside Alaska's major urban areas (areas with populations of less than 30,000). The largest concentration of guides was in Southcentral, with 43 percent (217 guides). Central/Southwest was home to 28 percent (141 guides), the Interior 14 percent (73 guides), Southeast 13 percent (64 guides), and Northwest 4 percent (15 guides).

(see table next page)

Registered Hunting Guide Place of Residence, 2012

	# of Guides
Southcentral	219 (43% of Total)
Anchorage/Chugiak/Eagle River	118
Kodiak	24
Soldotna	21
Homer	8
Kenai (7), Kasilof (6), Girdwood (4), Sutton (4), Anchor Point (3), Nikolai (3), Ninilchik (3), Cordova (2), Nikiski (2), Port Lions (2), Seward (2), Sterling (2), Valdez (2), Alexander Creek (1), Cooper Landing (1), Ft. Richardson (1), Moose Pass (1), Old Harbor (1), Seldovia (1)	
Central/Southwest	140 (28% of Total)
Palmer/Wasilla	71
Dillingham	8
Talkeetna	8
Gakona (6), King Salmon (6), Port Alsworth (6), Willow (6), Chickaloon (5), Pedro Bay (4), Iliamna (3), Cantwell (2), Chitina (2), Cooper Center (2), Ekwok (2), Trapper Creek (2), Chignik (1), Cold Bay (1), Glennallen (1), Kokhanok (1), Nondalton (1), Port Moller (1), Skwentna (1)	
Interior	72 (14% of Total)
Fairbanks/North Pole	35
Delta Junction	9
Tok (6), Healy (5), Ester (4), Aniak (2), Manley Hot Springs (2), Salcha (2), Sleetmute (2), Betties (1), McGrath (1), Nenana (1), Tanana (1), Two Rivers (1)	
Southeast	64 (13% of Total)
Juneau/Auke Bay/Douglas	18
Sitka	13
Haines (5), Hoonah (5), Ketchikan (5), Petersburg (5), Gustavus (4), Klawock (2), Elfin Cove (1), Throne Bay (2), Yakutat (2), Wrangell (2)	
Northwest	15 (3% of Total)
Huslia (2), Mekoryuk (2), Nome (2), Bethel (1), Galena (1), Holy Cross (1), Kaltag (1), Kobuk (1), Kotzebue (1), Red Devil (1), Two Rivers (1) Unalakleet (1)	

Source: DCCED, Division of Corporations, Business & Professional Licensing.

Economic Impact of Guided Hunting

This chapter describes the economic impact of guided hunting activity in Alaska. Economic impacts are measured in terms of guide business-related revenues and expenditures, employment and income for guides and their employees, and all related multiplier effects.

Guide Business Revenues and Expenditures

Revenues

In 2012, purchases of guided hunting packages in Alaska generated an estimated \$51 million in total gross revenue, including an estimated \$1.3 million in non-hunting companion package sales. Approximately, 95 percent of the total revenue (or \$48 million), and all of the \$1.3 million in pre and post-hunt spending, was generated by nonresident hunters (U.S. and alien) and their non-hunting companions. These estimates are based primarily on the results of the registered guide survey.

Non-Payroll Expenditures in Support of Guiding Operations

Guides spend money on a wide variety of goods and services, including transportation (aircraft, boats, ATVs, other vehicles, and fuel), groceries, and a variety of outdoor equipment and gear. They also pay access fees to land managers (federal agencies and Alaska Native Corporations). The survey of registered guides indicated that non-payroll spending by contracting guides in support of guiding operations totaled about \$30 million in 2012. Approximately 81 percent (slightly more than \$24 million) of this spending was with Alaska vendors.

Where in Alaska spending occurs is largely determined by two factors; where the guide lives and where the hunting occurs. Often, the guide's hunt locations are far removed from their place of residence, and in many cases, they hunt two or three different remote locations. The net effect is that most guides have significant spending in their home community, the nearest hub community if they live in a remote rural area, and in communities near their hunt locations, most of which are in rural areas.

Southcentral had the highest level of guide spending for goods and services in 2012 at \$8.3 million. The Interior and Central/Southwest regions received roughly \$5 million in spending, while Southeast received \$3.4 million, and Northwest \$2.4 million.

Guide Spending in Alaska by Region, Guide Place of Residence by Region, and Number of Hunts by Region, 2012

Region	Guides Residing in Region	% of Hunts in Region	Guide Spending in Region
Southcentral	217	15%	\$8.3 million
Interior	73	29	\$5.4 million
Central/Southwest	141	32	\$4.9 million
Northwest	15	9	\$2.4 million
Southeast	64	16	\$3.4 million
Total	510	100%	\$24.4 million

Source: Registered guide survey and McDowell Group estimates.

Guiding-Related Employment, Payroll, and Spending in Alaska

Employment

Guiding related jobs include registered guides, assistant guides, packers, and camp/office support staff. Nine out of 10 contracting guides hired at least one person in 2012. Due to the seasonal nature of guiding, most of these jobs are seasonal.⁵

Registered and Contracting Guides: As described previously, there were 575 registered guides in 2012. Not all of those were active, however. According to the registered guide survey, 6 percent of registered guides (about 35 guides) did not guide in 2012. Therefore, it is estimated there were approximately 540 active guides that year. Just over half of the active registered guides in 2012 were contracting guides (299). Contracting guides market their businesses, communicate with clients, and sign contracts. Nearly half (46 percent) of contracting guides reported working at their business more than 8 months of the year. When not in the field, guides are engaged in logistics management, equipment and facility maintenance, marketing (such as attending trade shows), sales, and client relations.

Assistant Guides: There were 930 licensed assistant guides in 2012. The number of active assistant guides employed is unknown. Some assistant guides work for more than one contracting guide and some assistants maintain their license but no longer guide for a variety of reasons. Based on analysis of registered guide survey data and guide interviews, it is estimated that about 600 assistant guides were employed in 2012. On average, each assistant guide worked a little less than three months. Of all registered assistant guides, 54 percent are Alaska residents.

Packers: Based on the registered guide survey data and guide interviews, slightly less than half of contracting guides reported hiring packers. Total employment is estimated at about 180 packers in 2012. According to guides interviewed for this study, the vast majority of packers are Alaska residents and many are hired from small communities near the guide's hunting areas. Packers averaged slightly less than two months of employment in 2012.

Support Staff: About 60 percent of contracting guides reported hiring support staff. Total employment is estimated at about 300 support staff in 2012. Undoubtedly, some staff are employed year-round but the majority of support staff average two to four months of employment per year. An estimated three-quarters of support staff (or 225 people) are Alaska residents.

In summary, approximately 1,620 people were directly employed in Alaska's guided hunting sector in 2012.

⁵ Many guides hunt in the spring and/or the fall seasons; typically four to six weeks in the spring and six to eight weeks in the fall. Hunts catering to sea duck and deer hunters in more temperate areas of Alaska, as well as those hunting predators, tend to have extended seasons.

Alaska Hunting Guide Industry Employment, 2012

	Employment
Active master/registered guides	540
Assistant guides	600
Packers	180
Support staff	300
Total Employment	1,620

Source: Hunt record data, Division of Corporations, Business and Professional Licensing, DCCED, Registered guide survey, and McDowell Group estimates.

Wages/Income

Registered guides are either paid by a contracting guide on a per hunt basis or earn income from their own guiding business. Most of the 1,080 assistant guides, packers, and support staff are paid on a per day basis. Some administrative support staff are likely paid hourly and a small number of those working year-round may be salaried. Based on registered guide survey data, total industry payroll and business-owner net income (before taxes) is estimated to be \$21 million in 2012.

Pre and Post-Hunt Expenditures

Typically, hunters (and their companions) spend an average of about 2.5 nights per trip (pre and post-hunt combined) in addition to their time spent in the field. Expenditures related to this extra time in Alaska are usually not included in the hunting package. This additional spending may include transportation, lodging, food and beverages, clothing, souvenirs, and other goods and services.

Based on AVSP VI data, it is estimated that hunters and their companions spent an average of \$970 each for their pre and post-hunt stays, or about \$3.5 million for all nonresident guided hunting pre and post-hunt visits.

Nonresident Guided Hunters and Companion Pre and Post-Hunt Expenditures, 2012

	Count	Average Trip Expenditures	Total Spending
Hunters	3,055	\$970	\$3.0 million
Companions	500	\$970	\$0.5 million
Total	3,555		\$3.5 million

Source: Registered guide survey, AVSP VI, and McDowell Group estimates.

BED TAXES PAID

Of the \$970 spent on pre- and post-hunt stays, about one-third (\$1.2 million) of spending was on lodging. Many of Alaska's communities where nonresident hunters fly into, particularly the larger centers of Anchorage, Fairbanks, Juneau, and Kodiak, have a bed tax. Bed tax revenues are used for a wide variety of purposes, including funding destination marketing programs and local governments. These bed taxes can range from 5 percent (Kodiak) to 12 percent (Anchorage). It can reasonably be assumed that guiding hunting parties generate about \$70,000 in bed tax revenue statewide (assuming an average tax rate of 6 percent).

Multiplier Effects of Alaska's Guided Hunting Industry

The guided hunting industry's direct impact of 1,620 jobs and \$21 million in annual wages and owner's income is only part of the industry's impact on the Alaska economy. The guided hunting industry, much like the mining, tourism, and seafood industries, brings new dollars to the Alaska economy. As these new dollars circulate through the economy, additional jobs and income are created.

A full accounting of economic impacts, including direct, indirect and induced effects, includes:

- **Direct impacts:** jobs held by guides and their employees, and the income they earn.
- **Indirect impacts:** Jobs and income in businesses providing goods and services to guiding operations. This includes jobs with, for example, air taxi/charter operators, independent lodge operator, sporting goods stores, and grocery stores.
- **Induced impacts:** Jobs and income created as a result of guide operation employees spending their payroll dollars in the Alaska economy.

The economic impact estimates below are based on a widely used input/output model, IMPLAN, which provides multipliers for determining the indirect and induced impacts. IMPLAN multipliers are adjusted to account for nonresident workers in the guiding industry.

Indirect and Induced Impacts

Annual in-state spending of \$24 million in support of guiding operations, coupled with in-state spending of \$21 million in guiding industry wages and income, is estimated to account for approximately 590 jobs in Alaska's support sector. Therefore total direct, indirect, and induced employment associated with the Alaska guided hunting industry is estimate at 2,210 jobs.

Total direct, indirect, and induced income associated with the Alaska guided hunting industry is estimate at \$35 million, including \$21 million in direct wages and owners' income, and \$14 million in indirect and induced wages and income.

One additional measure of economic impact is output, or total spending activity. Including all direct, indirect, and induced wages and income, and all direct and indirect business non-payroll spending, guided hunting related economic activity in Alaska totals approximately \$78 million annually, based on 2012 data.

Total Guide Industry Employment and Income Impacts in Alaska, 2012

	Direct	Indirect & Induced	Total
Employment	1,620	590	2,210
Wages/income	\$21 million	\$14 million	\$35 million
Non-payroll spending	\$24 million	\$13 million	\$37 million
Pre and post-hunt spending	\$3.5 million	\$2.5 million	\$6 million
Total Output	\$48.5 million	\$29.5 million	\$78 million

Source: McDowell Group estimates.

Distribution of Economic Impacts Within Alaska

It is beyond the scope of this study to measure all of the regional indirect and induced economic impacts of the guiding industry in Alaska. However, it is evident from available data that the industry has an important impact in areas outside the state's primary centers of commerce.

GUIDE PLACE OF RESIDENCE

Revenues from guided hunting are distributed widely throughout the state in the form of payroll and owner's income as well as spending on goods and services. About half (52 percent) of registered guides live in areas outside Alaska's largest urban areas (Anchorage, Fairbanks, and Juneau). A significant portion of their annual expenditures take place outside the urban centers. Additionally, many of the people employed by hunting guides (regardless of where the guides live) also live in rural and smaller communities.

Hunting Guide Area of Residence, 2012

Residence	# of Guides	% of Total
Urban centers	242	47%
All other areas of Alaska	264	52
Guides Living in Alaska	510	100%

Source: Division of Corporations, Business, and Professional Licensing, DCCED.

GUIDE SPENDING

In 2012, half of all guide spending in Alaska on goods and services (an estimated \$12 million) took place in areas outside urban Alaska. At least an additional \$13 million was distributed in payroll and income to guides and their employees living in these areas. In many of these communities, especially the remote rural locations, the opportunities to earn cash income are limited.

Impacts Outside Urban Alaska, 2012

	Expenditures
Purchases of goods and services	\$12 million
Payroll and guide income	\$13 million
Total	\$25 million

Source: Registered guide survey data and McDowell Group estimates.

RURAL COMMUNITY SUPPORT

In addition to the impacts of jobs, payroll, and spending for goods and services, hunting guides provide a significant level of voluntary support to residents of rural Alaska. The most important of these is the distribution of meat donated by hunters. Because of the expense and logistics of taking meat home from Alaska, the majority of all game meat harvested in the state is donated. While the total amount of meat distributed is unknown, it could reasonably be assumed to be tens of thousands of pounds annually. Guides also often provide in-kind assistance such as monitoring remote cabins, and moving people and materials.

License and Game Tag Sales and Revenue

Following is a detailed look at revenue generated by all hunters (guided and unguided) through the purchase of hunting licenses and game tags. License and tag revenues accrue to the State's Fish and Game Fund and are used as matching funds for additional Pittman/Robertson funding. Combined, these sources of revenue fund a significant portion of ADF&G Wildlife Division research and other activities related to wildlife and habitat in Alaska. A brief discussion of these funding sources is provided in the appendix.

License and Tag Sales and Revenue from Nonresident Hunters (Guided and Unguided)

In 2012, 15,952 nonresidents (including U.S. residents living outside of Alaska and non-U.S. residents) purchased hunting licenses and 13,383 purchased game tags. This was the highest number of licenses sold to nonresidents since 2007. Tag sales in 2012 were well below the 16,218 sold in 2007, but sales were up about 10 percent from a low of 12,180 in 2009.

Total Nonresident Hunter License and Tag Sales and Revenue (in millions), 2007-2012*

	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Tags						
Tag sales	16,218	14,857	12,180	12,829	12,970	13,383
Tag revenue	\$4.3	\$4.0	\$3.3	\$3.5	\$3.6	\$3.7
Licenses						
Hunting license sales	15,091	14,266	13,390	14,504	15,278	15,952
Hunting license revenue	\$1.2	\$1.1	\$1.0	\$1.0	\$1.0	\$1.1
Total combined revenue	\$5.5	\$5.1	\$4.3	\$4.5	\$4.6	\$4.8

Source: ADF&G.

*Includes all nonresident (guided and unguided) and foreign (alien) hunters. Also, includes combination hunting, sportfishing, and trapping licenses.

License and Tag Sales and Revenue from Nonresident Hunters (Guided Only)

In 2012, 3,207 guided hunters generated \$361,500 in hunting license revenue and \$1.6 million in game tag revenues (41 percent of all nonresident tag and license revenue). Guided hunters contribute approximately 39 percent of all ADF&G nonresident license and tag sales revenue.

(see table next page)

Guided Hunter License and Tags Sales and Revenue, 2012

Licenses	
Hunting license sales	3,207
Hunting license revenue	\$361,500
Tags	
Tag sales	4,513
Tag revenue	\$1,593,000
Total combined revenue	\$1,954,500

Source: ADF&G, Division of Corporations, Business and Professional Licensing, DCCED.

Of all 2012 nonresident guided hunters, 2,599 were nonresidents living elsewhere in the US and 456 were foreigners (referred to as "aliens"). Non-Alaska residents living in the U.S. paid a total of \$220,900 in license fees, aliens \$136,800, and Alaska residents \$3,800. Combined, nonresidents and aliens generated 99 percent of guided hunter license and tag revenue in 2012.

Guided Hunter License Revenue, by Hunter Residency, 2012

	Hunters	Revenue	% of Guided Hunters
Total Alaska resident	152	\$3,800	1%
Total nonresident (U.S.)	2,599	\$220,900	61
Total alien	456	\$136,800	38
Total Guided Hunters	3,207	\$361,500	100%

Source: Hunt record data, Division of Corporations, Business and Professional Licensing, DCCED, and McDowell Group estimates.

In 2012, nonresident guided hunters purchased an average of about 1.4 tags per hunter. About 2,300 hunters bought only one tag in 2012, while the remainder purchase 2 or more with a handful of hunters purchasing as many as six tags.

Tags Purchased by Guided Hunters, by Species and Geographic Region Hunted

The table below highlights tags purchased by guided hunters and provides a general measure of interest in each species. Some hunters plan multi-species hunts, paying higher package prices up front. Other hunters focus on a single species with “trophy fees” paid if an opportunity to harvest an incidental species arises.

In 2012, guided hunters purchased approximately 4,513 tags, including big game, wolf, and wolverine. By far, a brown/grizzly bear tag was the most popular tag purchased by guided hunters (1,598 tags in 2012). brown/grizzly bear tags represented about 35 percent of all guided hunter tags purchased and 51 percent of all guided hunter tag revenue. Other popular tags included black bear (655), moose (590), wolf (482), Dall sheep (429), and caribou (349).

Guided Hunter Tag Purchases and Revenue, By Species, 2012

	Resident			Nonresident			Alien			Total Revenue by Species
	#Tags	\$ Per Tag	Total Tag Fees	#Tags	\$ Per Tag	Total Tag Fees	#Tags	\$ Per Tag	Total Tag Fees	
Brown/G. Bear	33	\$25	\$825	1,402	\$500	\$701,000	163	\$650	\$106,000	\$807,800
Black Bear	35	\$0	\$0	571	\$225	\$128,500	49	\$300	\$14,700	\$143,200
Moose	32	\$0	\$0	495	\$400	\$198,000	63	\$500	\$31,500	\$229,500
Wolf	2	\$0	\$0	408	\$30	\$12,200	72	\$50	\$3,600	\$15,800
Dall Sheep	6	\$0	\$0	390	\$425	\$165,800	33	\$550	\$18,200	\$183,900
Caribou	35	\$0	\$0	281	\$325	\$91,300	33	\$425	\$14,000	\$105,400
Mtn Goat	6	\$0	\$0	157	\$300	\$47,100	9	\$400	\$3,600	\$50,700
Deer	5	\$0	\$0	141	\$150	\$21,200	20	\$200	\$4,000	\$25,200
Muskox	29	\$500	\$14,500	8	\$1,100	\$8,800	1	\$1,500	\$1,500	\$24,800
Wolverine	0	\$0	\$0	18	\$175	\$3,200	13	\$250	\$3,300	\$6,400
Bison	1	\$0	\$0	1	\$450	\$450	0	\$650	\$0	\$450
Elk	1	\$0	\$0	0	\$300	\$0	0	\$400	\$0	\$0
Total	185		\$15,300	3,872		\$1,377,000	456		\$200,300	\$1,593,000

Source: ADF&G and McDowell Group estimates.

Tags Purchased by Region Hunted

The most tags were purchased by hunters who hunted in Interior (1,441) and Central/Southwest (1,333) Alaska. Southeast and Southcentral Alaska hunters purchased 633 and 566 tags, respectively. The Northwest region saw the fewest number of tags purchased (383).

Guided Hunter Tags Purchased, by Geographic Region Hunted and Species, 2012*

	Northwest	Interior	South-central	Central/Southwest	Southeast	Total
Brown/G. Bear	111	304	212	728	188	1,543
Black Bear	5	138	98	153	237	631
Moose	49	328	20	173	0	570
Wolf	38	133	21	182	92	466
Dall Sheep	6	323	9	77	0	415
Caribou	134	193	4	5	0	336
Mtn. Goat	0	3	104	7	53	167
Deer	0	0	98	0	61	159
Muskox	37	0	0	0	0	37
Wolverine	3	17	0	8	1	29
Bison	0	2	0	0	0	2
Elk	0	0	0	0	1	1
Total	383	1,441	566	1,333	633	4,356

Source: Division of Corporations, Business, and Professional Licensing, DCCED, and McDowell Group estimates.

*Total count and by species counts are slightly different than in the previous table due to incomplete information in the DCCED data base.

Pittman-Robertson Act/Fish and Game Fund

The Pittman-Robertson Act was passed in 1937. Revenue generated from excise taxes on sporting goods is apportioned to state wildlife agencies for hunter education, shooting ranges, and wildlife conservation programs. Funds can be specifically used for the following:⁶

Wildlife Restoration

- Surveys and inventories of wildlife
- To acquire, manage and improve habitat
- Wildlife relocation
- To improve public access and enjoyment of wildlife

Hunter Education

- Develop hunter education programs
- Develop and manage shooting and archery ranges

Taxes are levied on the wholesale price of some sporting goods (long guns, ammunition, and archery equipment at 11 percent and handguns at 10 percent). The taxes are collected by the federal government and distributed according to a set formula. Some funds are set aside for specific programs, such as hunter education and grants for specific projects. The remaining funds are distributed to states based on population, land area and number of paid hunting license holders. There are minimum and maximum adjustments to assure that no state receives an unreasonably large portion of the annual funding. States must provide 25 percent matching (non-federal) funds for projects. Typically these matching funds come from the ADF&G's Fish and Game Fund. Fish and Game Fund revenues are received primarily from the sale of hunting licensees, big game tags, and drawing permit fees.

In 2012, 38 percent of ADF&G's Division of Wildlife expenditures were paid by Pittman Robertson Funds and 20 percent from the Fish and Game Fund.

Pittman-Robertson Fund and Fish and Game Fund Expenditures by ADF&G, \$Million, FY2007-FY2013

	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Pittman-Robertson	\$9.1	\$10.0	\$10.9	\$11.7	\$14.9	\$14.9	\$15.7
Fish and Game Fund	7.5	7.7	8.2	8.4	7.8	7.9	8.3

Source: ADF&G

⁶ For Alaska, approximately 95 percent of funding received is allocated to wildlife restoration projects.

ALASKA

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Dear Alaska Air Carriers,

I'm writing to request your support to empower the Commissioner of DNR to implement *concessions* for "Big Game Commercial Services." This issue is currently before the legislature in the form of HB158 and SB160. The impetus for this legislation is the Alaska Professional Hunters Associations' (APHA) advocacy for *hunting guide concessions*. That is: the APHA as a professional organization, representing hunting guides, is requesting that the State regulate and limit our numbers to ultimately insure the long term survival of our historic profession and industry. Limiting the number and type of commercial uses of Alaska's renewable resources is not a new concept but this legislation will, in the long-term, affect the *status quo* for your members that hold "Transporters licenses." Because the support and understanding of this issue by the Air Carriers is critical to getting it passed in the legislature, I'm willing to do anything I can to educate and reach out to your membership to raise their understanding of positive effects of the *Big Game Commercial Services Concessions*.

Transporters are defined in AS 08.54.720 (10):

(10) "transportation services" means the carriage for compensation of big game hunters, their equipment, or big game animals harvested by hunters to, from, or in the field; "transportation services" does not include the carriage by aircraft of big game hunters, their equipment, or big game animals harvested by hunters

(A) on nonstop flights between airports listed in the Alaska supplement to the Airmen's Guide published by the Federal Aviation Administration; or

(B) by an air taxi operator or air carrier for which the carriage of big game hunters, their equipment, or big game animals harvested by hunters is only an incidental portion of its business; in this subparagraph, "incidental" means transportation provided to a big game hunter by an air taxi operator or air carrier who does not

(i) charge more than the usual tariff or charter rate for the carriage of big game hunters, their equipment, or big game animals harvested by hunters; or

(ii) advertise transportation services or big game hunting services to the public; in this sub-subparagraph, "advertise" means soliciting big game hunters to be customers of an air taxi operator or air carrier for the purpose of providing air transportation to, from, or in the field through the use of print or electronic media, including advertising at trade shows, or the use of hunt broker services or other promotional services.

Empowering the DNR to create "Big Game Commercial Services Concessions" will affect two types of professionals; Big Game Guides and Big Game Transporters. Even though I know that your membership is sophisticated in their understanding of regulations I want make be clear that the intention is to ONLY regulate Transports and not regular Air Taxis or Air Carriers. The powers of the DNR would be confined to creating concessions for services described in 08.54 and

NOT extend to all commercial services involving hunting or transport of hunters and their gear. Only Air Carriers that advertise big game commercial services and charge premiums for these services are required to hold a transporter license. A Part 135 operator who takes a call from a hunters who wants to go to his favorite lake or cabin, to hunt moose, and who charges the same to transport a bird watcher to the same location or fisherman would never be restricted or required to hold a Transporter Concession. However, responsible and safe Air Carriers, such as your members, would be HIGHLY advantaged should they choose to compete for a concession in the future, thus giving them more stability to operate their business and a better long term viability. Concessions will eventually eliminate the transitory, opportunistic businesses that "follow the caribou herds." This is a huge benefit in local relations for all Guides and responsible Air Carriers across Alaska not to mention animals such as Caribou and Moose that do not require a guide to hunt and can be easily over exploited by unethical Guides and Transporters.

The Alaska Professional Hunters Associations request for your support comes at a critical point on this issue. There is a real chance that one of the two versions of the concession bills (HB158 and SB160) will make it through both houses. The APHA has not supported transporters until now but because other group's support is contingent on their inclusion, we are reaching out to you. We have always agreed that transporters need to be more regulated and that they impact the resource but we have not felt comfortable "going after another business model." Now, we understand that in order to regulate ourselves, transporters must be regulated as well. Since our survival depends on having a Guide Concession Program, the choice is easy. We ask that you consider the facts, we understand that some of your members are transporters, we will do anything we can to help your board come to a quick decision on whether or not you support our legislation.

One other pertinent fact to consider, the Federal Agencies have been considering limiting Transporters for some time. If the State has the regulatory authority that HB158 and SB160 propose, the State will be able to put a program in place ahead of the Federal Agencies. Speaking from a Guide's point of view, Transporters are way better off with a State program than a Federal one. Alaska's history is full of tragic examples of the State failing to regulate because of the Legislature's unwillingness only to have the Federal Government come in instead and fill the vacuum. Transporter concessions are ultimately in the best interest of businesses with a long-term perspective.

Sincerely,

Thor Stacey



Guide Concession Program: Commercial Guiding on State Lands

Department of Natural Resources

March 17, 2014



What is a Guide Concession Program

- Area based allocation system for Big Game Guides
 - Land use/access only
 - Competitive selection process
 - Manage and distribute land use within Guide Concession Areas (GCA's)

Guide Industry History

- In 1973 the Alaska Legislature created Guide License and Control Board
- In 1974 the Board established an area system limiting guides within Exclusive Guide Areas
- By 1976 the program was extended statewide
- In 1988 the Alaska Supreme Court found the Exclusive Guide Area system unconstitutional
- Since 1988 there has been no framework for the allocation of commercial use of state land by big game hunting guides

Why Implement the GCP on State Lands

- Address the issues identified by the guide industry, the Big Game Commercial Services Board (BGCSB) and the Alaska Board of Game (BOG) related to the ongoing problems identified in the field.
 - Decreased incentive to practice wildlife conservation
 - Decreased quality of experience for guided clients
 - Conflicts between user groups
 - An overall lack of land stewardship
 - Difficulties enforcing game laws

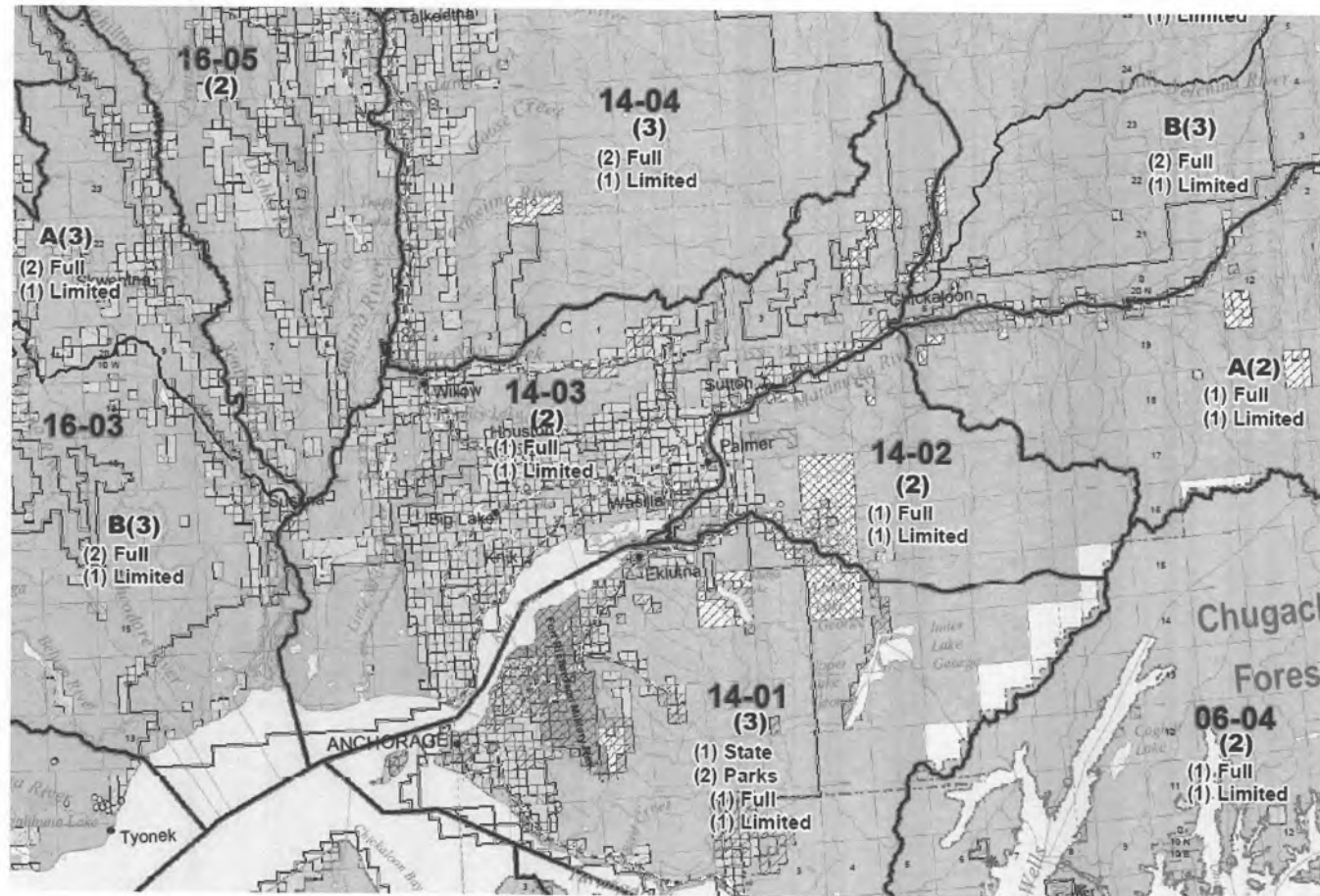
GCP Design

- GCP application has minimum requirements and four sections
- All applications will be evaluated and scored by panels comprised of agency staff
- Concessions will be offered to the highest scoring applicants within each guide concession area
- Two types of Concessions – Full (208) and Limited (90)

Aspects of the Program

- Application
- Scoring process and evaluation panel
- Fees (application, annual and per client)
- Full and limited guide concessions
- Limit on the number of assistant guides
- Apply for and be awarded a maximum number of areas
- Maps
- Duration of the permit
- Transferability and vacancies

GCA Map Close-up



Historical Information

Issue	2009 White Paper	2012 Proposed Decision	2013 Framework Doc
# of Applications	3	2	3
# of Concessions Awarded	2	2	3
Application Fee	\$250	\$250	\$250
Per client Fee	\$200	\$500/\$750	\$250/\$500 AK resident exempt
Annual Fee (Full)	Flat fee and bid	\$4000	\$2000
Annual Fee (Limited)	n/a	\$2000	\$1000
Assistant Guides (Full)	Set by operations plan	3 per concession	6 per concession
Assistant Guides (Limited)	0	1 per concession	1 per concession
Clients (Full)	No limit on clients	No limit on clients	No limit on clients
Clients (Limited)	6 – 8 annually	No limit on clients	4 annually, per GCA
Transferability	Not transferable	Not transferable	Not transferable
Transporters	Not included in program	Not included in program	Not included in program
Concession Term	5 yr term with 5 yr reissue	5 yr term with 5 yr evaluation and reissue	5 yr term with 5yr evaluation and reissue
# of Full Concessions	244	215	208
# of Limited Concessions	0	85	90



Where we are today

- Management Framework Document – January 2013
- Collected/reviewed comments and input
- Draft –Final documents created
- No staff currently working on the project

Current and Requested Statute Authority

Current Authority

- AS 38.05.020 –Duties of the Commissioner
- AS 38.05.035 – Power and duties of the Director
- AS 38.05.850 – Permits

Requested Authority

- Limited enforcement authority
- Program receipt authority
- Confidentiality

Timeline – if approved for July, 2014

- April 2014 – Legislature approves FY15 budget
- Fall 2014 – Recruit and hire staff
- Spring-fall 2015 – Regulations development
- Winter 2015 – GCP Development completed
- January 1, 2016 – Applications available
- April 1, 2016 – Deadline for applications to be submitted to DNR
- April-July, 2016 – Scoring of applications
- August-September 2016 – Notification of areas, permit sent for review and signature, payment
- January 1, 2017 – Guide concession areas effective on the ground

Additional Information

website: <http://dnr.alaska.gov/mlw/gcp/>

Questions?

- 
- Extra slides if needed

2011 Guide License by Class as of 2/11/13

**Total
Registered
Guides (548)**

**Non-Active
Registered
Guides (236)**

**Active Contracting
Minimum of 1 Hunt
(312)**

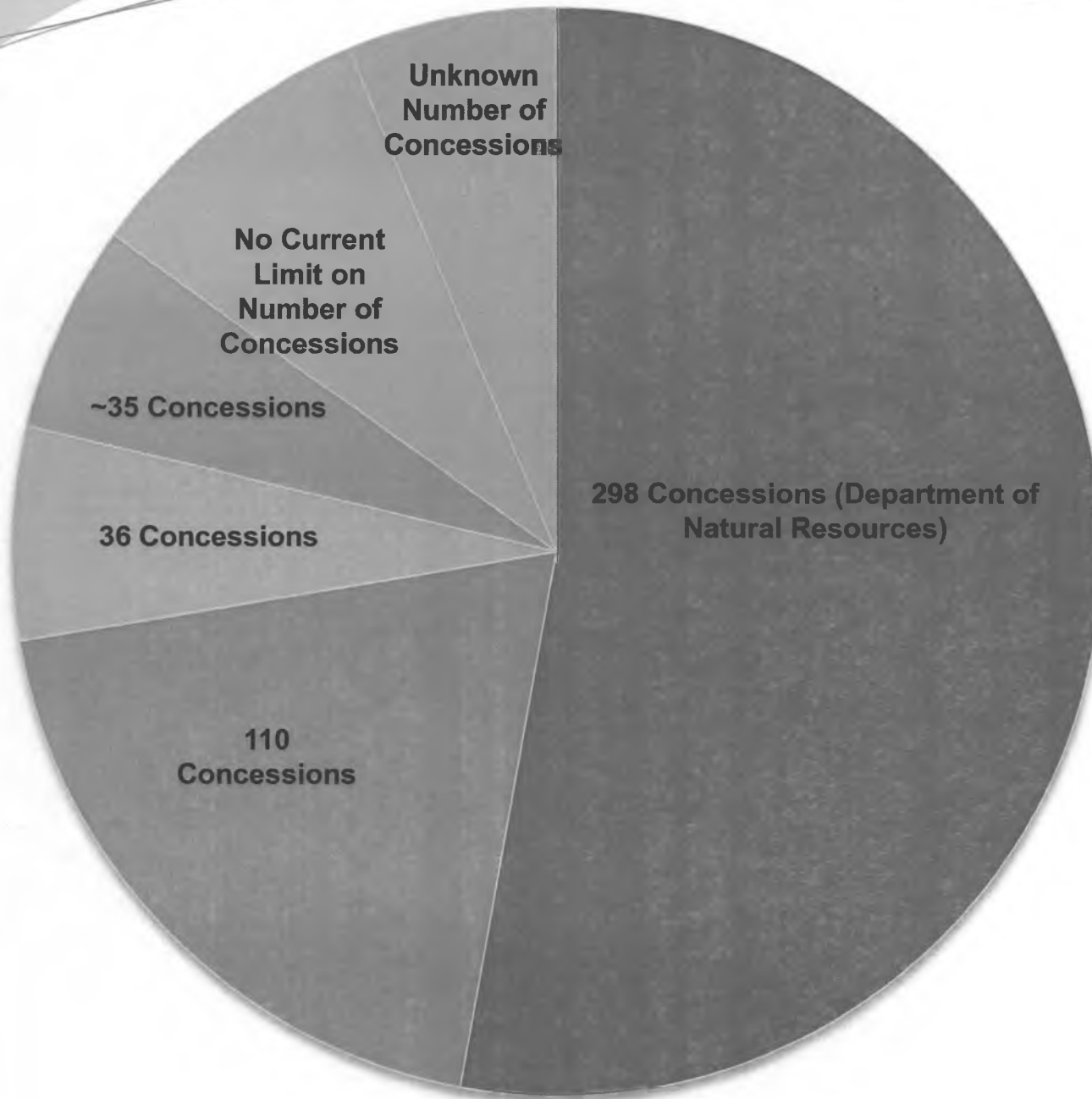
**Non-Contracting
Licensed Guides
(880)**

- **Non-Contracting Licensed Guides (Master, Registered, Class A Assistant, Assistant)**
- **Active Contracting Guides with Minimum of 1 Hunt**
- **Non-Active Registered Guides**

**Total Licensed Guides in Alaska:
1428**

*Data from Occupational Licensing, Big Game Commercial Services Board, and Alaska Department of Commerce, Community, and Economic Development. The Division of Mining, Land and Water reserves the right to waive technical defects in this publication.

Guide Concession Area Opportunities in Alaska



- Department of Natural Resources (89.8 million acres)
- U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (78.8 million acres)
- National Park Service (52.4 million acres)
- U.S. Forest Service (22.3 million acres)
- Bureau of Land Management (82.5 million acres)
- Private Ownership (45.2 million acres)

GCP Public Involvement

- Whitepaper distributed in 2009
 - 113 day comment period; 277 comments received
- Proposed Decision released February 15, 2012
 - 68 day comment period; 190 comments received
- Framework Management Document released January 23, 2013
 - 37 day comment period; 77 comments received



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the Senate Resource Comm
Committee name

Committee on 160, dated 2/7/14
Bill/Subject

I am in support of Senate Bill 160 -
This Bill is very important to an important industry.
Alaska Guides have a great history & ^{are} a very
significant reason Alaska provides World Class
Hunting - Guides are a must ^{for} many non-resident
hunters - without a professional Guide most
non-resident ^{hunters} would have ~~to~~ little or no success.
Senate Bill 160 brings order to this important
industry. I am sure 160 will be an
important building ~~block~~ ^{block} for the industry
Most of you (or your staff) should have a copy
of a Economic Impacts of Guided Hunting in Alaska
this study is based on 2012 activities of Guides in
Alaska

Signed: Peter M. Probasco Peter M. Probasco
Testifier

Self
Representing (Optional)

P.O. Box 861 Palmer, AK 99645
Address

907-945-3182
Phone number

From: Tim Booch [<mailto:booch@ptialaska.net>]
Sent: Wednesday, March 19, 2014 12:03 PM
To: Sen. Charlie Huggins
Subject: SB 160 Public Testimony

Honorable Legislators

My name is Tim Booch. I am a 31 year resident of Alaska and I hold Master Guide/Outfitter license 176. I have been awarded a 10 year USFW joint use Commercial Big Game Guiding permit in the Izembek national Wildlife Refuge on Unimak Island in the eastern Aleutian Islands 3 separate times through the Federal competitive Prospectus process. I also have 2 Commercial Recreational Use Land (lease) permits with DNR that I have maintained since 1996. Three of the six big game species that I offer guided for are allocated through a limited drawing.

I do not support the APHA/DNR GUACP. This proposed plan will benefit a few individuals and hurt many small Alaska family guide business. Until this year I was a member of the APHA and had been since 1998. I dissolved my membership in the organization this year after the complaints that I brought to the Board of Directors of the APHA, concerning the unethical conduct of two high profile professional members during the previous fall hunting season, were ignored.

There has never been a membership wide poll conducted by the Board of Directors of the APHA that would accurately reflect the consensus of the membership on this issue. There is NO logical justification to adopt this complicated, costly, ineffectual, and unfair "taking" when the record is clear that we can alleviate the problems with a time tested, publicly endorsed, limited drawing permit allocation system and an honest and responsible BOG and BGCSB.

Even though the Kodiak brown bear sport hunting community had a long history of cooperation between all of the shareholders in the culture, and there had long been established a fair and logical percentage allocation to residents and nonresidents, there were still issues and problems that related to the application guidelines. Due to the spirit of cooperation that exists here, and as the result of fine leadership, those problems and issues were solved by this interaction of concerned parties and by the adoption and implementation of the "Kodiak Model" brown bear drawing permit guidelines that are in place here.

This action set the precedent for the allocation of the big game sport hunting species in all present and future drawing permit allocations in the state. The BOG through the open public input process took testimony from Alaska Fish and Game personnel [and their legal counsel], a broad range of other participants in the Alaska big game guide industry, Alaska residents, and the local Citizens Advisory Committees from other similarly effected areas. As a result of the adoption of the Kodiak Model and this being implemented in two other high profile areas and for a couple of other very much coveted big game sport hunting game animals, Koyukuk Alaska Yukon moose and Copper River Bison, this objective and logical system of allocation was adopted to mirror the Kodiak Model and it has provided sport hunters with same quality of the hunting experience.

Since the adoption and implementation of these precedent setting guidelines there have been a number of proposals submitted to the BOG requesting that they adopt the same limited drawing guidelines found in the "Kodiak Model" to solve the problems in their areas. The APHA/DNR GUACP has dominated the BGCSB agenda for the past 8 years. Since then nearly all of the proposals submitted to the BOG, requesting that the "Kodiak Model" of allocating drawing permits be implemented, have been denied, with the exception of the two areas mentioned earlier in this memo. The main justification given by the BOG for their refusal to adopt these proposals is that the APHA/DNR GUACP plan would solve all of the problems that are indentified in these proposals.

This statement is simply a purposeful disinformation strategy being perpetuated by the handful of proponents of this plan. Even if this plan was implemented the BOG will adopt a limited drawing permit allocation where ever multiple guides compete with residents for “guide required for nonresidents” big game species. All of my fellow guides who conduct guided sheep hunts in Alaska want a fair and equitable drawing permit allocation guideline like the Kodiak Model.

The question is this. Will the time tested, fair and equitable, fully vetted, and precedent setting “Kodiak Model” drawing permit guidelines be implemented or will the BOG continue along their current path to destroy the guide industry by implementing the potentially precedent setting “up to 10%” nonresident drawing permit allocation as they have done in the Delta sheep sport hunting area. This allocation provides away for the residents to be awarded ALL of the permits that are allocated for the area and the guides would have nothing.

DNR, and the Governor, should not have allowed themselves to be manipulated by a minority voice in the Alaska guide industry and the public at large should have not allowed them to be manipulated either. The only fair and equitable, simple, and cost effective way to immediately solve the exaggerated problems is by using the established method provided by the public input process of the BOG, implement the special distribution of camps as it has been accomplished on the Alaska Peninsula and be willing to provide a public forum that will facilitate the inclusion of ALL of the shareholders in this issue.

The BGCSB, with the support of the BOG, must regulate the transporter industry NOW! The main contributors to the highly exaggerated overcrowding problem, that actually only exists in a few easy access areas in the state, are the few under regulated, unethical, and greedy guides and transporters, and the unregulated and few in numbers, unethical and greedy resident hunters that have no ethical standards in regulation that have any real legal consequences.

Following is a synopsis of the facts that exist, and of the alternatives that are available, when considering the APHA//DNR GUACP and as you evaluate SB 160 and HB 158.

Please allow the Alaska State Troopers, the BGCSB, and the BOG to perform the critical duties that they were created and funded to do. Please recognize that all of the agencies tasked with protecting and enforcing the Public Trust, and the various commercial service providers whose duty it is to represent strong stewardship of the industry and culture, could facilitate better relations in the public and with their fellow sport hunters in the field by agreeing to dedicate themselves to the task of being public servants and enforcing the regulations and the maxims of hunting ethics that do exist now and that have existed for along time but are not being enforced or encouraged.

Eliminating the DNR 14 day Commercial Recreational statewide tent camp Permits, and requiring commercial operators to designate their camps, pay their performance bonds, and have accountability for their operations plan is a priority that should be demanded now. DNR Registered camps have historically been issued on a first come, first serve basis and should continue this way. The spatial distribution of commercial camps, and the corresponding reduction in guides operating in the area, has been the result of the precedent setting BGCSB regulation that has been implemented in all of GMU 9 (Alaska Peninsula) and that was intended to, and in fact has, preserved the quality of the sport hunting experience.

Guides who have maintained this kind of camp, and have exhibited their stewardship and their ability to be dedicated conservationist, have also helped maintain the strong ethics of the big game sport hunting culture that sport hunters should be proud of. They have helped enforcement by establishing where their camps are so

that the Troopers can economize their time in the field and not be in the unenviable position of being perceived to be disrupting the quality of the wilderness sport hunting experience by flying around looking for the few bandits with 14 day statewide permits

.Thank you for providing me with an opportunity to express the valid points that I have introduced here to you in this memo opposed to being restricted to a 2 minute sound bite. Your thoughtful consideration of these statements, and your respectful and responsible response to them, will be greatly appreciated.

Sincerely

Tim Booch

Aleutian Islands Guide Service

Alaska Chapter SCI
PO Box 770511
Eagle River, AK 99577
(907) 980-9018



March 20, 2014

Senator Cathy Giessel, Chair
Senate Resources Committee
120 4th St. Rm. 427
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Senator Giessel:

SCI Alaska Chapter supports the effort to provide the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) the authorization it needs to develop a workable solution to regulating guides . SB 160, if enacted, will provide the DNR with the tools they need to accomplish that goal.

As we understand it, SB 160 merely authorizes the DNR to proceed with developing a guide concession program on state lands and we believe that to be a necessary and proper exercise to achieve stability in this valuable sector of Alaska's economy. We look forward to seeing a proposed plan in the near future and commenting on the merits of such. In our view a well regulated industry will benefit wildlife, resident hunters and the guiding industry,

SCI Alaska Chapter is a leader in the hunter-conservationist community here in Alaska and is focused on 4 main mission areas. Those are: Hunter Advocacy, Conservation of Wildlife, Humanitarian Services and Education. The Chapter's annual Hunting Expo and Sportsman's Banquet is the largest gathering of hunters in Alaska and is privileged to be the home of the Governor's Conservationist of the Year Award. We are also particularly proud of our commitment to our military, police and firefighters on American Heroes Night which takes place in conjunction with the Hunting Expo.

We want to thank Senator Coghill for introducing this legislation and will be working with your fellow Senators to encourage its passage in the near future.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Gary Gearhart'.

Gary Gearhart
President

SCI's Top Gun Chapter

From: leif wilson
Sent: Wednesday, March 12, 2014 4:14 PM
To: Sen. Cathy Giessel
Subject: Guide concession program

40-Mile Air, Ltd.
PO Box 539
Tok, AK 99780

March 12, 2014

Dear Senator Giessel,

I am the Director of Operations for 40-Mile Air transporter, license #6, in Tok, Alaska. I also served 5 years on the Big Game Commercial Services Board dealing with guide and transporter issues.

I am writing this letter to offer my opinion on HB158 and SB160, specifically the amendment to HB158 to include transporters. I can see the benefits of a concession program for the guiding industry. I do not, however, believe that you should attempt to regulate transporters in the same manner, the transportation business is completely different than the guide business. If something needs to be done regarding transporters, I do not believe a concession program is the answer.

If there is a problem in an area it always comes down to either a social or a conservation issue. The root cause of the problem is usually too many hunters in the field in a specific area. Why not deal with that directly with registration or draw permits. These can be separated and allocated however you like, to residents and non-residents. The fact is that a lot of residents use transporters. Around 80% of our clients every year are residents. I believe that a lot of the pressure from the guide industry to include transporters in this program is simply to reduce access to the areas they are hunting in. In our case and all over the state you would be reducing access to a lot of resident hunters.

Another big problem with adding transporters to this bill is found in Alaska Statue 08.54.790. If you read this carefully, you will realize that an air taxi can haul hunters without a transporter license. As a matter of fact, one of the larger air taxis in Fairbanks that transports lots of hunters to the field every year, does not have a transporter license and legally is not required to. The transporter license allows you to "advertise", meaning to solicit big game hunters to be customers and to charge a different tariff or charter rate for the carriage of big game hunters. Those are the only two things that a transporter license allows a air taxi to do that he could not do without one.

Why create another bureaucracy in Juneau that is determining who the chosen ones are, let the free enterprise system work. If the need to restrict numbers of people in the field arises, whoever is lucky enough to get or draw a tag can chose whomever they desire to transport them into the field. It is simple, addresses the root cause of the problem and makes use of a system that we already have in place.

Sincerely,

Leif Wilson
Director of Operations

From: Henry D. Tiffany IV
Sent: Tuesday, March 11, 2014 2:48 PM
To: Sen. Cathy Giessel
Subject: Support of SB 160

Dear Senator Giessel,

As a lifelong Alaskan, Interior resident, licensed Master Big Game Guide and resident hunter, I would like to ask for your support of SB 160, which is sponsored by Senator Coghill and Senator Stevens, and its companion bill HB 158, sponsored by Representative Costello. This is a very critical issue and your understanding and support of the vital importance of the Guide Concession Program (GCP) and the long term, positive impacts it will have on our state, our wildlife resources and all user groups who enjoy time afield is paramount and would be greatly appreciated.

Again, I hope and ask for your strong support SB 160. I thank you for your time and consideration and should you have any questions, or if I may be any assistance at all, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Respectfully,

Henry D. Tiffany IV

907-223-3226

From: Vicki Faeo
Sent: Sunday, March 09, 2014 4:32 PM
To: Sen. Cathy Giessel
Subject: Big Game Guide Concession

RE: DNR Guide Concession Program – dnr.alaska.gov/mlw/gcp

I was born and raised in Alaska, and have hunted here my whole life. Following the Supreme Court ruling in 1988 (Owsichek vs State), I proceeded with my future plans of owning my own Big Game Guide Hunting Lodge. In 1996 I started as an assistant guide then in 2001 I passed the requirements of a Registered Big Game Guide-Outfitter. In 2002 I was licensed as a transporter.

I bought land and completed my first Hunting Lodge in 2001 in Game Management Unit 16. I have guided in this unit for Black Bear, Brown Bear, Moose, and Wolf. Then in 2007 I built my second lodge in Game Management Unit 19 to accommodate non resident moose hunters (due to change in the hunting regulations), Brown Bear, Black Bear, Wolf, Bison and Caribou hunters. I have made HUGE investments, in excess of \$600,000 for my guiding business. I have equipped both lodges with ATV's, snowmobiles, boats, and airplanes. I purchased land and built hunting lodges to provide clients with a professional and personal Alaskan hunting experience. I am not a big operation, and cannot afford any additional expense imposed on my business by the State.

Master/Registered Guide-Outfitters monitor the amount of wildlife harvested to protect their investments. There will always be a problem with transporters, they have made no investment, and are not trained or licensed to provide professional hunt services, (they provide services to non resident hunters) and have no reason to monitor wildlife management.

If a guide has made the commitment to accomplishing the end result of being a professional one on one hunting guide like I have, the State of Alaska should not be able to take my business away from me. I am only one example of hundreds of Registered Guides that will be affected.

The Guide Concession Program proposal will force small guides out of business and eliminate jobs such as assistant guides, camp hosts, packers, cooks, and other necessary personnel for small guide operations.

All of this to accomplish the wishes of a select few Alaska Professional Hunter Association members.

The simple low cost solution – Non Resident hunters will be selected by permit draw for Sheep, Goat and Brown Bear, since the State already monitors harvest and wildlife management and can set the number of permits.

John Faeo - License 1057

Canyon Lake Lodge – www.canyonlakelodge.com

907 376 0374

From: Thor Stacey

Sent: Monday, March 03, 2014 1:22 PM

To: Sen. Donny Olson; Sen. Cathy Giessel; Sen. Charlie Huggins; Sen. Lesil McGuire; Sen. Lyman Hoffman; Sen. Click Bishop; Sen. Fred Dyson; Sen. Peter Micciche; Sen. John Coghill; Rep. Eric Feige; Rep. Dan Saddler; Rep. Peggy Wilson; Rep. Wes Keller; Rep. Alan Austerman; Rep. Mia Costello; Rep. Bob Herron; Rep. Charisse Millett; Sen. Gary Stevens; Sen. Mike Dunleavy; Rep. Mike Hawker; Rep. Mike Chenault; Rep. Craig Johnson; Rep. Bill Stoltze; Sen. Kevin Meyer; Sen. Pete Kelly; Rep. Bryce Edgmon; Rep. Kurt Olson; Rep. Paul Seaton; Rep. Scott Kawasaki; Rep. Geran Tarr; Rep. Lance Pruitt; Rep. Cathy Munoz; Sen. Dennis Egan; Sen. Bert Stedman

Cc: David Scott; Linda Hay; Trevor Fulton; Vivian Stiver; Charles Guinchard; Chad Hutchison

Subject: SB160/HB158

Dear Legislators,

I don't often send emails addressed to more than one legislator. However I thought I would pass along some information regarding HB158 and SB160.

The Alaska Professional Hunters Association maintains strong support for the State to have the authority to limit the number of Big Game Guides on its lands.

The legislature needs to act to affirm this authority and provide funding for the drafted Guide Concession Program by passing SB160 or HB158.

If the legislature does not act, as it failed to do in the early 90's, the BLM will act to limit the number of guides on its land because of the issues identified in the attached Unit 23 working group letter.

If the BLM moves forward, Alaska will give up its authority to yet another Federal agency. The BLM has stopped their scoping process pending the outcome of this session!

Alaska's hunting guides are already suffering from "Dual Management." Most of you are aware that USFWS shutdown their refuges this fall during the middle of bear season the the Alaska Peninsula and threatened the Kodiak season as well. This was a terrible situation that caused real financial losses to Alaska's guide businesses. Federal Management of Hunting Guide Concessions has a fore-gone conclusion at the end, one that will ultimately block access to a valuable, sustainable resource for Alaskan's, especially rural Alaskans.

Had the Legislature acted at the courts request in the 90's, we wouldn't be in this mess.

http://m.newsminer.com/opinion/community_perspectives/solution-appears-in-dispute-over-guided-hunts/article_2e14d122-9b67-11e3-9c81-001a4bcf6878.html?mode=jqm

How many issues are before you where one of the main commercial interests is coming forward as saying "we are hurting the resource and the surrounding social climate, please regulate us..." I would say, not many.

There are many parallels to this issue and that of the Kenai River. Over and over responsible Kenai Guides have asked to be regulated, based on stewardship concerns, crowding,

environment and resource stress. Over and over these efforts were stopped by "free market, let the Board of Fish "manage," ADF&G says there is no resource problem" arguments. Now what? There are still plenty of guides, just no fish (especially big ones) and everybody (real estate, local businesses, fishing guides, the fish, residents fisherman, BOF, Legislators) is suffering.

The Alaska Professional Hunters Association recognizes that too many hunting guides hurt ALL users. While we are guides, we are also Alaskan Residents. While we have enough regulations and plenty of government in our lives and businesses already, we see limiting the number of guides as ultimately requiring less regulations on balance (a lot of the Board of Game's problems stem from unlimited numbers of guides on State Land and trying to draft regulations to treat the symptoms, without being able to address the problem).

A guide license should not be an entitlement to a hunting area and the ability to profit off of a commonly owned resource. Under today's status-quo, it is.

Kind Regards,

Thor

--

Thor Stacey
907 723 1494

From: David Byrd
Sent: Sunday, February 23, 2014 8:35 PM
To: Sen. Cathy Giessel
Subject: SB 160

Representatives and Senators

I am writing this letter as a concerned Alaska RESIDENT first and as a Hunting Guide Second.

HB 8 HB 158 SB160

These bills all relate to the DNR state land guide concession program, which will if passed give DNR the power to implement a program to limit the number of guides in the state and also limit the number of transporters for an area which will limit access for the resident hunter.

First I believe that we need to take a step back and look at the problems that we have in the state now that has caused the want for these bills. The number one concern is the Dall Sheep population in the state, the residents want something done because the BOG is saying that if the Guide Concession Program is not passed that is it very likely to that all the sheep hunts will go to a draw and their will be no more over the counter tags for resident hunters.

Alaska's sheep population is at the lowest point in history, hunting pressure from residents and non residents has been a factor in the decline of the population, but there are lots of other things that are going on. The Guide Concession Program will not help the population and this is already being proven in the state now.

For example the entire Eastern part of the north side of the Brooks Range in federal land, where a guide concession program has been in effect for 30 plus years, each of the areas are only allowed to have one guide and the number of sheep that can be hunted are regulated. Yet the population has been in decline for years!!!

Next the Chugach Mountains where there has been a permit system with a very limited number of hunters each year, yet again the population of sheep has been on a decline for years.

The same can be said for the TOK Management Area and the Delta Control Use Area where a permit system has been in place for thirty plus years.

Only full curl rams can be taken in 99% of these hunts, so in reality hunting should have no effect ewes and lambs, yet the population of ewes and lambs are on a drastic decline.

We as hunters need to stop fighting over Resident VS Non Resident and look and the bigger problem, if something is not done fast there will be no sheep hunting for any one!!!!!!

Yes I fully believe that residents should have hunting opportunity before non- residents, but both user groups are too busy fighting each other to look at the bigger problem!! We need to figure out what needs to be done to get the population turned around so that or kids and grandkids have the opportunity to hunt.

As for the current DNR guide concession program I am opposed to it as written. Nothing in the guide concession program is going to limit the number of non-res hunters, its just going to limit the number of guides.

There is also language in the bills that will limit transporters, which will limit the resident hunters as well as the un-guided non-resident hunter. If this happens most if not all the transporters will give up their licenses and fly as 135 air taxi. The only thing that the transporters license allows is for the air taxis to advertise and charge a flat rate for a hunt instead of charging by the hour. If they are licensed transporters than can be held accountable for there actions through the Big Game Commercial Services Board.

Guides are allowed 3 Guide Use Areas now, if the guide concession program is implemented most guides will not win 3 concessions and to stay in business they will take more hunters in the area or areas that they do win. Currently guides are able to spread out the hunters over a larger area.

Many things can be done now to regulate the guides such as making the guides register their guide use areas for a minimum of 5 years.

We already have the Board Of Game, which is supposed to manage the game populations in the state.

This is from the BOG website:

“The Board of Game’s main role is to conserve and develop Alaska's wildlife resources. This includes establishing open and closed seasons, areas for taking game, setting bag limits; and regulating methods and means. The board is also involved with setting policy and direction for the management of the state’s wildlife resources. The board is charged with making allocative decisions, and the Department of Fish and Game is responsible for management based on those decisions.”

We do not need to give DNR the power to manage the game populations in the state as we are already funding the BOG. Asking for the funds for this project while the schools do not have the funding that is needed!! The BOG needs to do their job and manage the states game populations.

If some or all of the animals need to go to drawing permit then that’s what needs to be done.

The Alaska’s Game Animals are the most important thing and this is not a battle between resident and non-resident as everyone makes it out to be. Resident hunters were not complaining when there were plenty of animals to hunt. There are more bears in the Alaska now, and you never hear a residents complaining about to many bear hunters.

Phil Byrd

Game Management Unit 23 Working Group

114 S. Franklin Street, Ste. 205
Juneau, AK 99801

February 27, 2014

Senator John Coghill
Alaska State Legislature
Alaska State Capitol, Room 119
Juneau, AK 99801
Senator.John.Coghill@akleg.gov

Representative Mia Costello
Alaska State Legislature
Alaska State Capitol, Room 501
Juneau, AK 99801
Representative.Mia.Costello@akleg.gov

SUBJECT: Senate Bill 160 / House Bill 158 - "An Act authorizing the commissioner of natural resources to implement a hunting guide concession program or otherwise limit the number of individuals authorized to conduct big game commercial guiding on state land."

Dear Senator Coghill and Representative Costello:

The Game Management Unit 23 Working Group is writing to express its support for both Senate Bill 160 and House Bill 158, each of which would authorize the Commissioner of the Alaska Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to implement a hunting guide concession program or otherwise limit the number of individuals authorized to conduct big game commercial guiding on state land.

The Unit 23 Working Group was formed in early 2008 to address fall hunting conflicts between local hunters, nonlocal hunters and commercial operators in Game Management Unit (GMU) 23 in northwest Alaska.¹ The 20-member stakeholder / interagency group works collaboratively to find ways to reduce fall hunting conflicts in GMU 23, protect subsistence uses, and provide opportunities for other hunters. The Working Group includes representatives from the regional and tribal governments and organizations, the Big Game Commercial Services Board (BGCSB), guide and transporter businesses, local Fish and Game Advisory Committees, the Northwest Arctic Subsistence Regional Advisory Council, the Alaska Board of Game, the Federal Subsistence Board, and State and federal land and wildlife management agencies.

At each of its meetings to date, the Unit 23 Working Group has consistently agreed on the importance of the State of Alaska having the right tools in place to manage big game hunting commercial services provided by guides, transporters and other businesses. These management tools are particularly important to avoid conflicts and crowding among users in areas where substantial nonlocal hunting activity coincides with local subsistence hunting, such as in GMU 23, as well as to address potential wildlife conservation issues.

At its May 2013 meeting, the Unit 23 Working Group reaffirmed by consensus its support for the Guide Concession Program that DNR has been developing to manage

¹ Unit 23 project web site: <http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=wildlifeplanning.unit23>

guided hunting on general State lands. The Working Group also recommends that the State of Alaska provide DNR the authority to expand the management program to include transporters that provide commercial services for hunters.

Thank you for this opportunity to comment.

For additional information about the Unit 23 Working Group, please contact the group's facilitator, Jan Caulfield at (907)523-4610 in Juneau.

Regards,

Unit 23 Working Group

Unit 23 Working Group Members (2014)

Phil Driver, Alaska Professional Hunters Association, Western Arctic Caribou Working Group

Cyrus Harris, Maniilaq Association

Stosh Hoffman, Alaska Board of Game

Victor Karmun, Northwest Arctic Subsistence Regional Advisory Council, Kotzebue Sound Advisory Committee

Melvin Lee, Upper Kobuk Advisory Committee (*unable to attend May 2013 WG meeting*)

Enoch Mitchell, Noatak/Kivalina Advisory Committee

Ron Moto, Sr., North Seward Peninsula Advisory Committee

Noah Naylor, Northwest Arctic Borough

Pete Schaeffer, Kotzebue Sound Advisory Committee

Joe Schuster, Alaska Professional Hunters Association

Ted Spraker, Chair, Alaska Board of Game

Julie Owen, Transporter representative

Raymond Stoney, Northwest Arctic Subsistence Regional Advisory Council, Lower Kobuk Advisory Committee

Tim Towarak, Federal Subsistence Board (*unable to attend May 2013 WG meeting*)

Alex Whiting, Kotzebue IRA

Jim Dau, Alaska Department of Fish and Game

Valerie Baxter, Alaska Department of Natural Resources

Shawn Bayless, US Fish and Wildlife Service (*at May 2013 meeting, USFWS was represented by former Refuge Supervisor Lee Anne Ayres*)

Frank Hays, National Park Service

Shelly Jacobson, Bureau of Land Management

cc: Governor Sean Parnell

Senator Donald Olson, Alaska State Legislature

Representative Benjamin Nageak, Alaska State Legislature

Commissioner Joe Balash, Alaska Department of Natural Resources

Clark Cox, Alaska Department of Natural Resources

From: Robert Mumford
Sent: Wednesday, March 19, 2014 3:19 PM
To: Sen. Cathy Giessel
Subject: SB160

Senator Giessel,

I wanted to convey my support of SB160 and the Guide Concession Program.

As you know, Alaska has a highly active guiding industry. In many areas of the state, the perception is that the industry is too active. Over-crowding issues are becoming more and more the norm in many places. Resident hunters are increasingly frustrated, especially in the non-drawing permit areas for Dall Sheep. I get many complaints from the public demanding changes to the hunting regulations that seek to reduce the in-the-field crowding issues.

That said, we also have to recognize that the resident hunters are also part of the problem and that there is evidence that non-resident "guide required" hunters are actually declining. However, many of the complaints that I have heard from non-residents also include the over-crowding issue. I have had several non-residents state that they would "no longer seek to hunt Alaska", in favor of hunting sheep in Canada, where crowding is less of an issue.

The Guide Concession Program would be an effective program to help reduce the over crowding, at least by the guides. This is not a statewide issue. Yet several high profile areas are in the spots that are the most over-crowded. This concession program is especially needed in these areas.

I have many friends in the guiding industry and although some oppose the program, most favor it, even in the knowledge that some guides will be required to change their business strategies. You'll probably hear from some guides that will say that the program will put them out of business. I personally don't see it but I do know many guides that will make the "run me out of business" statement for any regulation that they don't like. I have yet to see one actually go out of business though.

The concession program has been in the works for several years now, I sure hope it will go forward from here,

Thank You,

Respectfully,

Bob Mumford

From: Jennie Hafele
Sent: Wednesday, March 19, 2014 9:26 AM
To: Senate Resources; Senate Resources Packet
Cc: Sen. John Coghill
Subject: Testimony/SB 160

Please enter into the record the testimony below to the Senate Resources Committee on SB 160: DNR: Hunting Guides, Concession Program dated 3/19/2014.

I would like to urge the legislature it support SB 160.
We definitely need a guide concession program at this time.

Joe Letarte
PO BOX 16075
Fairbanks/Two Rivers

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

Joe Want
907-750-4736
wantj43@gmail.com

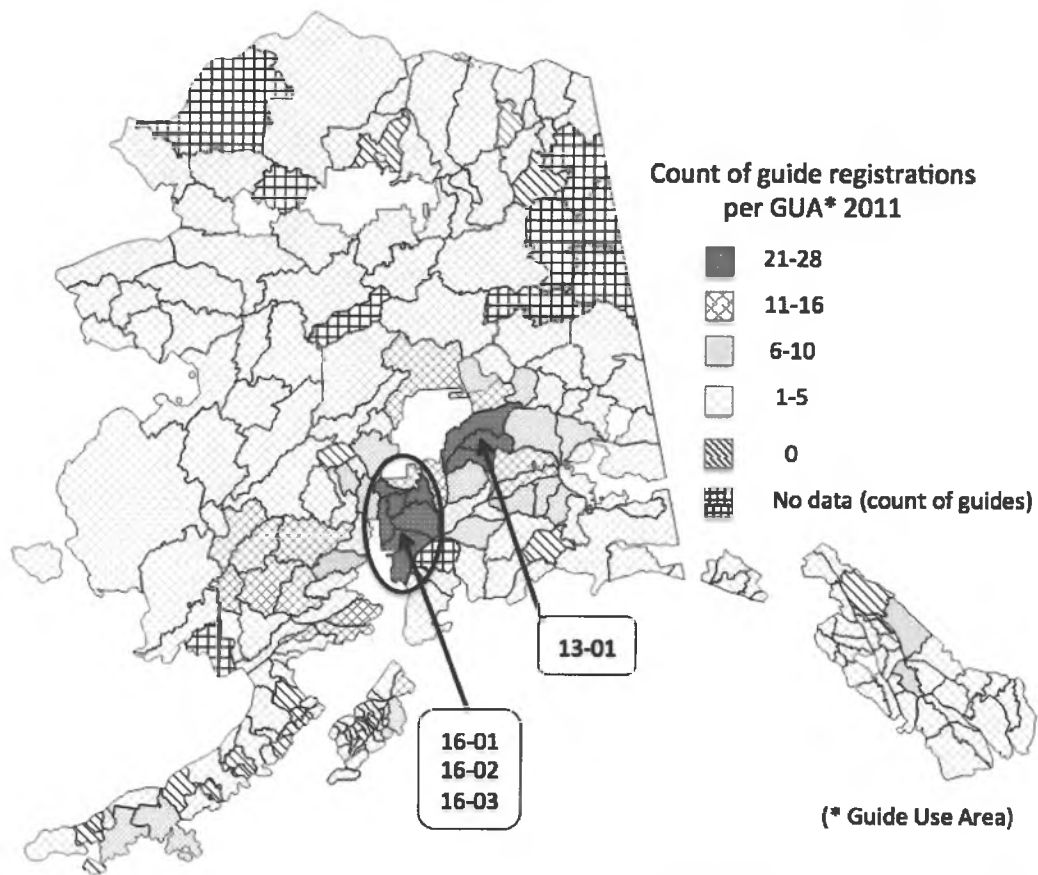
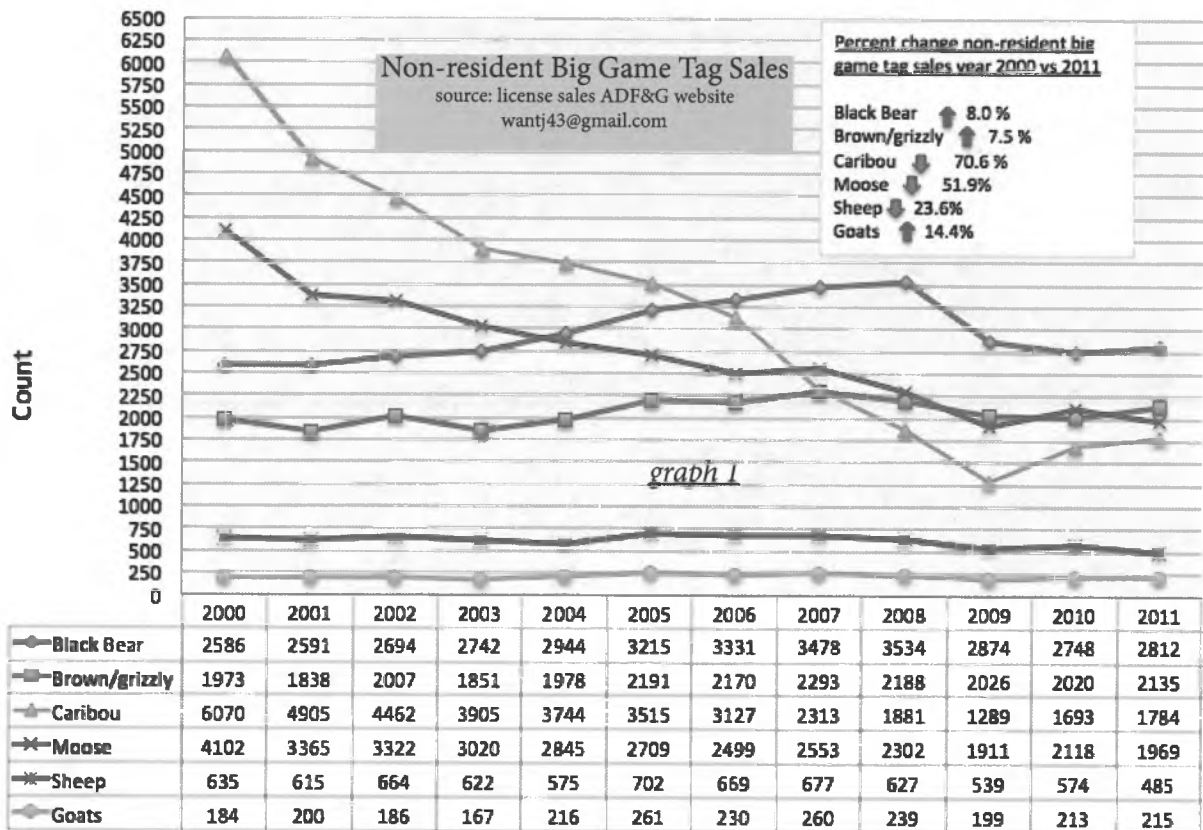


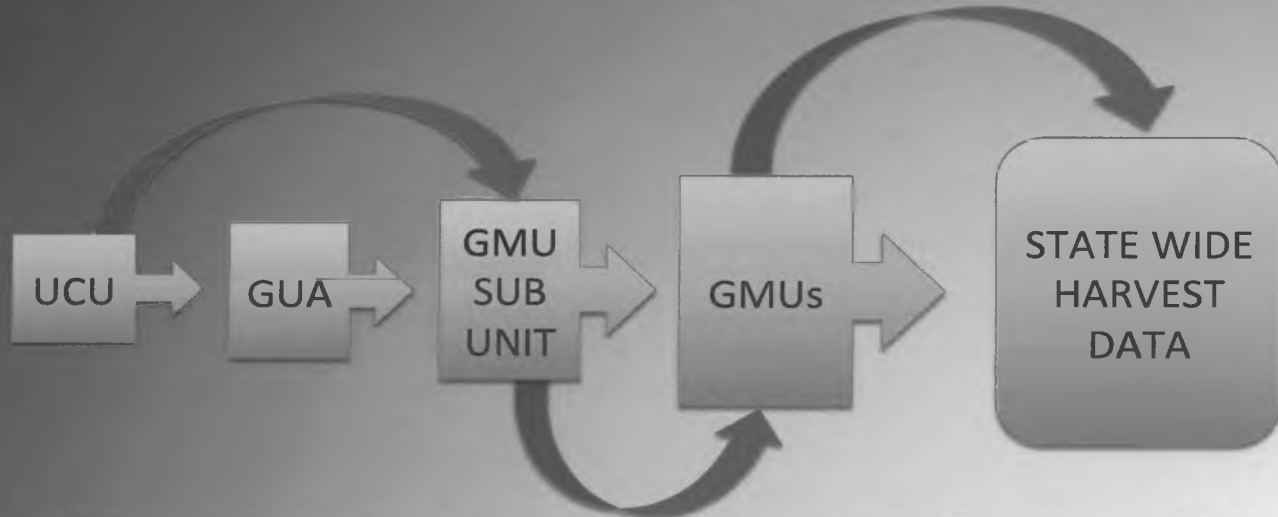
fig.1

wantj43@gmail.com

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.

wantj43@gmail.com

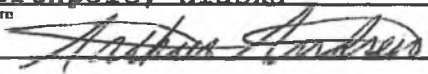
fig.2

Public Opinion Message

Please contact your local Legislative Information Office (LIO) with questions or problems.
A complete list of LIOs can be found at w3.legis.state.ak.us/misc/lios.php

This form must be completely filled out. You may phone, fax, or deliver your POM to any LIO.

From: Please PRINT the information below. This form must be signed by the sender.

Mr. / Ms. / Mrs.	First name Arthur	M.I. J.	Last name Andreis	Jr. / Sr. / III
Group affiliation (if applicable) Professional-Alaska-Masterguide.			Daytime telephone number 907-488-2352	
Mailing address 607 Old Steese, B-342, Fairbanks, Alaska			Zip code 99701	
Residence (street) address if different from mailing address 1166 Charlotte Rd, Northpole, Alaska			Zip code 99705	
Email address masterguideaa@qci.net		Signature 		Date 2/26/14

To: Put a in the appropriate box(es).

Committees	House members	Senate members																																																																																																																																																															
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Subject: Fill out the boxes below OR enter a Subject.

HB <u>or</u> SB	Bill number 160-		and check one:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Support		<u>OR</u> enter a general Subject	
SB	CXP			<input type="checkbox"/> Oppose		(LIO staff may modify):	<i>Guide-Concession-Program</i>
				<input type="checkbox"/> Amend			

Message: Your PRINTED message cannot exceed 50 words or contain any vulgar language.

STATE	MONIES	SHOULD	NOT	BE	5
APPROPRIATED	TO	FUND	A	DNR	10
GUIDE	CONCESSION	PROGRAM	THAT	ISN'T	15
FAIR	TO	"GUIDES"	CURRENTLY,	THE	20
PROGRAM	HIGHLY	FAVORS	GUIDES	THAT	25
ALREADY	HAVE	EXCLUSIVE	AREAS	ON	30
FEDERAL	LANDS.	THIS	GCP	GOES	35
CONTRARY	TO	THIS	STATES	"COMMON	40
USE	CLAUSE "	MANDATE	FOR	EQUAL	45
ACCESS	TO	OUR	GAME	RESOURCE	50

From: Wayne

Sent: Wednesday, March 19, 2014 9:25 AM

To: Sen. Cathy Giessel

Cc: Sen. Click Bishop; Sen. Fred Dyson; Sen. Peter Micciche; Sen. Lesil McGuire; Sen. Anna Fairclough; Se.Hollis.French@akleg.gov; Sen. Charlie Huggins; Sen. Mike Dunleavy

Subject: SB 160 - DNR Guide Concession Bill

Senator Giessel and Senate Resource Committee Members,

Thank you for hearing SB 160. I strongly support this bill and hope your committee is able to move it along quickly.

There are roughly 1400 licensed Alaska guides of various levels. About 550 of those are registered and master guides and can sign contracts themselves, but many of them don't. Some of them work for other guides, and some of them just keep the license in case they decide to guide again. The average number that actually sign contracts each year is about 300. You have to be a registered or master guide to be a professional member of the Alaska Professional Hunters Association (APHA). APHA's professional membership averages about 125 per year or about 40% of the guides who sign contracts each year. Further research in the past has shown that APHA professional members conduct 50 – 70% of the total number of guided hunts per year. The argument by the opposition that APHA doesn't represent the industry or that they represent less than 10% of the industry is entirely false. **APHA represents a majority of the guides that conduct the majority of the guided hunts in Alaska.**

300 or so registered and master guides are in disagreement over whether a guide concession plan will help or hurt their business, and guiding *is* a very important industry in Alaska and should be treated as such. **But - what about the health of our wild life resource? What about the multiple thousands of Alaskan Resident Hunters, and all residents?** Do you think multiple thousands of resident hunters really want the state to continue to allow unlimited guide opportunities on state land so that more and more areas go to draw? If you take a look in any recent Board of Game proposal book, I think you will agree that the answer is no. You will find multiple proposals by resident hunters to eliminate or restrict non resident hunting and guiding opportunities.

In early February 2013, APHA'S Board of Directors invited the entire professional membership to participate in a teleconference on the DNR GCP. It went on for several hours and 45 professional members were in attendance. Support for the latest version of the DNR GCP wasn't unanimous but was a very significant majority. As a result, the BOD voted unanimously to support the latest version of the DNR GCP, and subsequently supports SB 160. Many from the opposition argue that APHA's support for this is based on personal greed. I've seen nothing in the prospectus that shows where APHA members get extra points. Will the best person get chosen every time or will we? In many cases the answer will be No. Will a capable guide be chosen and when we get down the road a ways, will the game resource, resident hunting experience, and guide industry be better off? I think they will. Every guide going through this process stands to lose something, but most of APHA's professional membership, see this plan as necessary for the long term viability of the industry. For most or at least many of us who support SB 160, the desired end result is more about "guide businesses being able to provide a quality experience for their clients that reflects well on Alaska" and "the guide industry remaining viable, credible, beneficial to Alaska's economy and residents, and able to exist far into the future" than "who the players are in the short term", even if it's not us.

My reason for supporting SB160, has nothing to do with setting up a monopoly for existing guides or keeping new or young guides out. Certainly you have heard that from some of those who oppose SB 160, and the proposed GCP. I don't even oppose "part time" or "hobby guides". There are currently several federal concessions that only allow a few hunts, and with the 90 limited concessions (only 4 clients per year allowed) proposed in the GCP, there is considerable opportunity for those trying to get started or who only want to do it part time. **I do oppose letting a long time, important industry decline to the point that only "part timers" – some body who makes most of their living some other way and often uses guiding mostly to write off their boats, planes, gear and "other toys" – can afford to participate.** I feel that if "open and unlimited entry" continues on state land, that more areas will continue to go to drawing, and then large scale booking agencies will be in the driver's seat and not Alaska. The "luck of the draw" is certainly no way to run a business. Also, instead of competing for concessions based on experience and qualifications, guides will have to compete for representation by the big agencies with huge data bases to get hunters, because agency clients will get many if not most of the draw permits. The agencies will choose the guides they want to represent, and that could easily favor non resident guide-outfitters.

While it will most likely require more effort initially to be able to guide on state land for all level of guides, I strongly feel that in the long term, the GCP will benefit the new registered guide trying to establish his own business, as much or more than any other segment of guides. **The new, young guide absolutely has the most to lose if the guide industry continues to decline**, because while many older guides will leave the industry soon, the new guy still has the potential for a 30 – 50 year career. It's important for credible guides who are committed to a profession in guiding, to be able to assure potential clients that they can indeed provide them a good experience. Many operators on state land can't honestly do that now, and many have already left state lands because of that. Also, the word is certainly out to many non resident hunters and outside organizations, to "beware" on state land.

Treating state land as an entitlement to anyone with a registered guide license, encourages more guide competition than our state land wild life resources can stand, and ultimately sets many new guides up for failure. Many new guides have gotten too big too fast, and incurred numerous negative consequences. Also, there are many instances of it reflecting negatively on Alaska and the guide industry as a whole. "Open entry" on state land has impacted Alaska's game resource and the hunt quality of multiple thousands of Alaska residents that hunt on state land. **The situation will only continue to get worse if we continue with status quo.**

Some guides say they don't have problems where they operate – now. Also some people hunt mostly bear and they have fewer issues than sheep and moose hunters. So if we just deal with the hot spots and sheep, then guess where all those that don't get what they want, will end up and what animals they will be guiding for. Some that already deal with permits think everyone should have to. I spoke to this earlier and want to avoid drawing permits.

Some guides say the DNR GCP isn't needed because non resident participation has declined. Well "Go Figure"! The Mulchatna Caribou herd has collapsed from 200,000 plus animals to almost nothing, and

moose populations in as much as 75% of Alaska have also declined during much of the last decade, due in large part to over predation. Recent predator control efforts are working but it will still be a long time before we get back to where we were in many places. Also, the national economy has been poor and many outside hunters are well aware of the excessive guide pressure that currently exists on many state lands in Alaska, and are going elsewhere. Even though non resident participation may have declined some, there is still excessive pressure in almost all areas that still have good ungulate populations.

I think DNR is the proper entity to manage land use and the board of game and the big game commercial services board should be consulted in their areas of expertise. I fully support SB 160 and hope it makes it through the legislature this year. With out it, I see no long term future for an industry that has been a vital part of Alaska for a long, long time.

If you have any questions, feel free to contact me. I'll do my best to answer promptly, except that I do have spring bear hunts starting April 1st.

Sincerely,

Wayne Kubat

PO Box 874867 / Wasilla, Alaska 99687 / Ph. & fax: 907-376-9568 /

PS: I have lived in Alaska for 38 years and hold Alaska master guide-outfitter license #147. I became an assistant guide in 1981, have lived in the Mat-Su Valley since 1984, got my registered guide license in 1986, and joined Alaska Professional Hunters Association (APHA) that same year. I started my own guide business – Alaska Remote Guide Service in 1987 I served on the Mat-Su Valley Fish and Game Advisory Committee from 1998 to 2007 and as chairman the last 4 of those years. I also serve on the Board of Directors for APHA. I take between 8-12 fully guided hunts per year, split between single species and combination hunts and the average length is 11-15 days. Guided hunts account for about 70% of my total income per year.

From:**Sent:** Wednesday, March 19, 2014 1:15 AM**To:** Sen. Cathy Giessel**Cc:** steve II perrins; Sen. Lesil McGuire; senator.fred.dyson@akleg.com; senator.iohn.coghill@akleg.com; Sen. Peter Micciche**Subject:** Guide concession program

Madame Chair, -Senator Giessel.

My name is Steven H. Perrins and I am master guide #123, and currently own and operate The Perrins' Rainy Pass Lodge. The state legislature commemorated us in 2012 for 75 years as Alaska's oldest hunting lodge. I have been associated with it since 1976 when I first worked for the original owners and founder Bud Branham. I flew into town from Rainy Pass Lodge this past Friday to testify at the big game board meetings. I watched the Senate bill discussions on SB 163 yesterday and am staying in town (Anchorage) to testify today Wednesday. I am not sure how to sign up, but will call in the morning to find out. I am unclear as to how the invited guests were picked to talk this past Monday, but feel I have a dog in the fight, and would appreciate the time. I will also try and write up a letter for the record and submit it. I would hope you allow me to testify on Wednesday as I must get back home to the lodge as I have guests arriving on Friday. My wife and oldest son are at the lodge and my son Steve II would most likely want to weigh in, but we only have a Gci I-net phone that is based on a satellite and a radio telephone so he can't stay on hold very long. Any suggestions? Son Steve is a registered guide and along with 3 of his 4 brothers is licensed and works in the family business.

Thank-You for all you do in Juneau, and your time in this matter.

Sincerly

Steven H. Perrins

The Perrins' Rainy Pass Lodge LLC

Master Guide #123

907-230-6093 cell

907-770-6304 lodge

907-733-2714 radio phone lodge

From: Phil Byrd
Sent: Thursday, March 13, 2014 12:12 AM
To: Sen. Fred Dyson
Subject: SB 160

Dear Senators

I am righting this letter in reference to HB 158 and SB 160 to let you know some of the truths about what is REALLY going on. I will try to keep this to the point and to hit the high spots but there still are lots of facts that need to be addressed.

- MY BIGGEST CONCERN IS WHY THE MEETING ON FRIDAY MARCH 14TH IS BY INVITAION ONLY!!
IM SURE THAT THE ALASKA PROFESIONAL HUNTERS ASOCIATION OR THEIR LOBBIEST WILL HAVE AN INVITE TO THE HEARING AND THAT THEY WILL BE TESTIFYING THAT THEY "REPESENT THE GUIDE INDUTRY" I ALSO BET THAT NO ONE THAT WAS INVITED WILL BRING UP ANY OF THE FOLLOWING POINTS OR BE OPPOSED TO IT!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

- Neither DNR F&G or the BOG have EVER polled the guide industry to see how many people were for or against the Guide Concession Program (GCP)
The Alaska Professional Hunters Association (APAHA) is asking all its members to lie in letters testifying that ALL the guide industry wants this plan implemented, this however can not be true due the fact that there has never been a poll asking.

- DNR has worked on this for 8 years and EVERYONE agrees that the last prospectus (the outline that we have to go by to write our proposals) is not even close to workable, but yet the want to push it trough even though we will not see the final draft from DNR until the GCP is implemented. APHA says, "lets push it through and if we don't like it, then we will the squash it!!"

I feel that anything worth doing is worth doing right the first time and if we are going to spend the states money it needs to be spent in the very best way possible!!

- The big question is if the GCP is implemented whom is DNR going to put on a panel to judge our proposals????

The National Park Service and United States Fish And Wildlife Service already have a Guide Concession Program on their lands, and you would not believe how flawed their system is. For example last year most of all the USFWS areas were up for new proposals, I personal know of 4 cases where a guide that had never even stepped foot in the area that he was applying for won over a guide that had been there for years. The winning guides did this by knowing what to

write and by cutting the animals they proposed to hunt WAY down because the NPS and USFW believe that "LESS is MORE" which bring me to another point.

It is not legal for DNR to allocate the number or species of animals to be harvested in ANY area, and Fish and Game said that they want NO part in the allocation of the states game.

What this means is that someone that has never stepped foot in the areas that I guide in could propose that he will walk into the area vs. fly and only take 1 caribou hunter and no bear hunters and he will score higher than I would, even though the local village has asked me to help with the bear population and to not hunt the sensitive areas for the migrating caribou. I am the only one that knows this because I work closely with the local village, but DNR has no idea.

DNR also claims that the Guide Concession Program is based on resource management, how can this be true if NO ONE will allocate the game.

Also there are no regulations for the transporters or air taxis (business's that drop off unguided hunters resident and non resident alike).

What does this mean?

Well let's say I write my proposal for an area knowing that to current moose population will allow for a sustainable harvest of 4 moose per season and all of a sudden a transporter flies into the area and drops of 25 non resident moose hunters, as a good steward of the land I would not have any moose to hunt the following season because the unregulated transporters dumped 25 hunters into an area that could only handle 4 moose being harvested.

For a program like to work EVERONE the licensed by the BIG GAME COMMERCIAL SERVICES BOARD HAS TO BE ON AN EVEN PLAYING FIELD!!

So now I bet you are asking why are the TRANSPORTERS not going to be regulated??

That is simple, they provide transportation for the RESIDENT hunters also and there is NO WAY that limiting resident access is going to fly and IT SHOULD NOT FLY the residents do come first. Everyone that is pushing the GCP knows this that is why nothing has been done to try to regulate TRANSPORTERS, but with out regulating them, the guides are the ones that are stuck holding the bag!!!!!!

This brings me to another point, the over crowding issues. I will use the North East Brooks Range for a great example, all the land is USFWS land where currently the Federal Guide Concession already exist. What that means in that all the land is currently in exclusive guide area (only one guide per area) yet you hear resident hunters crying about overcrowding but it cannot be from guides because only one guide is allowed per area. So all the HYPE about the guides being the cause of over crowding is complete BS.

I have no problem with a Guide Concession Plan but I want one that will WORK and solve the so-called issues that we have.

- Alaska already has the Board Of Game that is responsible for the game management of the Alaska's game population, why are they not already doing something to solve the problem. APHA also asked all its members to write letters in support of the 2 bills testifying that we were ALL were good STEWARWDS of the land. Well I fully believe that a lot of us are but a lot of people are saying that if these bills don't pass then some animals are going to a permit drawing with a 10% non resident allocation and there is no way we can make a living on 10 %, well that's not true and has been proven all over the state. If the people pushing this were GOOD STEWARDS of the land they would be the first ones BEGGING the BOG to limit the harvest of the animals that are in decline instead of trying to exploit the resource for financial gain.
- Have you been told that there will be appeals to from the people whom did not win a concession??? Where will the money come from that it's going to for the appeals???
- DNR said that it is going to allot 2.5 hours per proposal. How will they be able to verify the information in the proposal in that time???? Would you like for your whole lively hood to hinge on a panel of people that know nothing about your job to decide your fate in 2.5 hours???
- The Alaska Professional Hunters Association only has about 100 contracting guides as members and as of last year there were 400 contracting guides in the Alaska!!!!!! They do not represent the Whole guide industry.

This is just a few of the points that you need to be aware of!!!!

Please know all the facts before you vote on a bill that will affect so many people!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Phil Byrd Registered Guide 1291

Capt. Phil Byrd

United States Professional Guides and Outfitters Associations

February 3, 2012

The Honorable Tom Vilsack
US Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington DC 20250

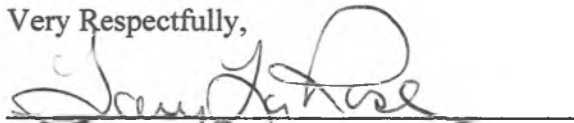
The Honorable Ken Salazar
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C Street, NW
Washington DC 20240

Dear Secretaries Vilsack and Salazar,

On behalf of the combined Professional Guide and Outfitter Associations (USPGOA) of the United States we want to thank you for your continued support of the great industry and way of life that we represent in America. USPGOA is a group of leadership representatives from the various long standing state associations which support guided hunting and outfitting services. We have been meeting in an ad-hoc manner twice a year for many years to discuss common concerns and to help each other find solutions that will help to provide long term sustainability to our significant and important rural America industry.

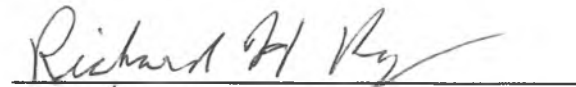
We are writing you to show our combined support for the continuation of Robert Fithian to serve on your Wildlife and Hunting Heritage Conservation Council as a representative for our industry. We also want to take this written moment to show our appreciation for this important council and your willingness for us to have a representative on it. As you know, we represent an industry that is long-term sustainable, but is also dependent upon the wildlife conservation, wilderness and industry stewardship measures to support it. We feel that Mr. Fithian will continue to work as an excellent ambassador for us on this Council.

Very Respectfully,



GARY LAROSE

Alaska Professional Hunters Association



Richard H RAY

Colorado Outfitters Association

Grant Simonds
GRANT SIMONDS

Idaho Outfitters & Guides Association

Walt Gardner
WALT GARDNER

Nevada Guides & Outfitters Association

Scorie Marcovitz
Scorie Marcovitz

Wyoming Outfitters & Guides Association

Mac Minard
MAC MINARD

Montana Outfitters & Guides Association

Gary T. Nunn
GARY T. NUNN

New Mexico Council Of Outfitters & Guides



a management and consulting firm specializing in conservation based natural resource industry support. We provide industry, governmental, regional, and community assistance in understanding, developing, and maintaining conservation based initiatives that will help sustain long term stewardship for important social/cultural atmospheres, fish, wildlife, land/water habitats, and industry developments within them.

HC60 Box 299C Copper Center, Alaska USA 99573 Phone: 1.907.822.3410
Email: taigaresources@gmail.com Web: www.taigaresources.com

February 20, 2014
Lower Tonsina, Alaska

Senator John Coghill
Senate Majority Leader
State Capitol Room 119
Juneau AK, 99801

Re. DNR Guide Concession Program SB 160

Dear Senator Coghill,

Please receive this letter as a very respectful show of support for and appreciation of your leadership effort to develop the much needed and long overdue DNR Guide Concession Program (GCP) and, that I am in full support of SB 160. Also, please consider and share as you may desire, the following comments about the program.

The following comments are provided from the background of having a deeply bedded history as a leader in professional hunting guide-outfitter industry stewardship and wildlife conservation advocacy for Alaska, the United States and countries throughout the world as well as a multi generation professional guide history in Alaska.

Additionally, this history includes leadership within Alaska's mineral industry (past member elected AMA president), long time involvement within Alaska's forestry, energy, and agriculture industries.

As well, I currently have the honor of representing America's guide-outfitter and tourism industries by appointment from the Secretaries of Interior and Agriculture on the respected bipartisan "Wildlife and Hunting Heritage Conservation Council".

Regarding Alaska's subsistence and related social/cultural heritage, I have served at the pleasure of three governors and continue work within the Wrangell-Saint Elias National Park and Preserve Subsistence Resource Commission.

I bring forward this unique history with the request that you place no respect for me personally but rather that you find respect for my knowledge, whatever limited, to the stewardship of natural resource related industry, especially, the professional guide industry.

The failure of former Legislatures to approve this initiative, in my opinion has done more to generate the nucleus of usurping State management authority by the Federal government than any other action since the passing of ANILCA. These actions include paving development of deep and dividing dual wildlife management actions, reducing mandated State/Federal cooperation and utilization of CITES actions to restrict prudent stewardship within Alaska. Adoption of the GCP program at this time will help sustain State authority within at least Bureau of Land Management lands in Alaska.

Without question, the DNR GCP will provide Alaska, our rural communities and professional guide service providers with a viable and important, long term sustainable industry. Without this development, we will see implementation of restrictions on nonresident hunter opportunity that will reduce and in many cases eliminate the viable future of this profession.

The reasoning behind this situation lies in the inability for the State of Alaska to restrict the amount of commercial enterprise from the hunting guide profession that currently impacts our revered wildlife populations, our social atmospheres relative to resident and subsistence hunters, other wilderness users and the related law enforcement/legal systems. Most of this negative impact falls into the lap of the Alaska Board of Game or the Federal Subsistence Board in proposal form from the resident public to eliminate or reduce nonresident hunter participation due to overcrowding of commercial hunting services on state lands.

As a person who attended every meeting of over eleven years of Alaska Board of Game meetings, I can assure you that the Board Of Game will have no choice but to eventually pass these proposal requests and by doing so, put the future of nonresident hunter participation into restrictive measures that closes the door on economic viability for a professional guide service provider.

Please know that I have seen this same equation play out in numerous western states throughout the U.S... In each case, resident hunters put forth initiatives which reduce the number of nonresident hunters through restrictive measures that eliminate the viability of professional hunting guide businesses. The results in each case were as follows:

- a. Elimination of many long time established guide businesses.
- b. Significantly reduced rural economies.
- c. Significant loss of important historical State generated funding for wildlife conservation through nonresident hunting license sales.
- d. Substantial loss of the Pitman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration Funding which is generated by sportsman's excise tax and distributed to each state proportionately to

their overall hunting license sales for wildlife conservation.

e. Reduced overall wildlife conservation and stewardship.

What will actually happen to Alaska if we do not establish the GCP, is that long time service providers who have established successful businesses and maintain significant overhead investment, will not be able to effectively compete through the soon to be implemented allocative games of chance that future restrictive drawing permit programs will provide. These are the same business owners who often have long established employee's and established relationships with a labyrinth of other types of rural Alaska businesses. These great service providers, many of them second and third generation will be replaced by service providers who can operate on a more part time basis without having to maintain substantial overhead. Many of these new type of service providers will be nonresidents business owners who can secure licensing in numerous states, work the drawing permit games of chance and provide limited services wherever they may draw clients.

Alaska does not need to follow this course. With the GCP established, the Board of Game can be confident and fair with their conservation based decisions regarding allocation and social atmosphere considerations. Furthermore, the stewardship based selection criteria for the GCP will help build and sustain industry professionalism which Alaska can be proud to provide.

There is a tenor of outcry that we do not need more government in our entrepreneurship world. Please know that after dealing with DNR for many years within the guiding, mining, forestry and agricultural arenas as a small business owner, that I have all of the faith needed to know that they can and will provide a GCP program that will work and only get better with time.

Please, I urge you to help encourage, carry and pass SB160 for the sustainable future of a important rural Alaska industry. If I may be of any help to you in this or in any other consideration, please feel free to contact me at any time.

Very Respectfully,



Robert R. Fithian

Senator Coghill,

I would like to thank you for sponsoring SB 160. The DNR Guide Concession Program is crucial to the future of a sustainable guiding industry in Alaska, something which is in jeopardy on state lands right now. As you know, there is much opposition to this program. What opponents of the program fail to realize is that it benefits not just guides, but all user groups, including subsistence hunters and general resident hunters. The DNR GCP will help create sustainable jobs for many Alaskans, and will ensure quality guided hunts on state lands. Most importantly, the DNR GCP will benefit the wildlife itself. As Alaskans, that should always be our number one concern.

As a year round Alaska resident in a small town who relies on guiding for all of my income and a subsistence user, I greatly appreciate your efforts in sponsoring this bill. I have seen firsthand the differences between guiding on state lands and federal lands. It is like comparing night and day. The guide area systems on federal lands (USF&W and Park Preserve) have ensured good stewardship of the land and animals, something that is so desperately missing from state lands at this time. The DNR GCP will rectify this problem.

It is sad to see the present condition of guiding on state lands, and with it the negative experiences for everyone using those lands. I know that with some solid effort, we can easily turn things around, benefiting everyone, especially our amazing wildlife resources.

Thank You again for your efforts.

With Best Regards,

Joey Klutsch

Registered Guide 1277

Sharon Clark

*Jordan -
This could
be in pocket*

From: Brad Dennison <bradford.dennison@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, February 08, 2014 4:18 AM
To: Sen. John Coghill
Subject: SB 160

Senator Goghill

I want to thank you for sponsoring SB 160 relating to the DNR's authority to implement a guide concession program on state lands. The current situation, without such a program, is extremely hard on the resource and is not in the long term best interest of the guiding industry either.

I am very much in favor of your bill and want to thank you again for your efforts.

Brad Dennison
Master Guide 138
Sitka

Sharon Clark

From: Cabot Pitts <akwildwindfisheries@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, February 10, 2014 9:58 AM
To: Sen. John Coghill
Subject: Senate Bill 160

Dear Senator Coghill -

My name is Cabot Pitts and I am a new up and coming Outfitter in Alaska. I really appreciate your support in senate bill 160 which will help create the Guide Concession Program. Creating the guide concession program will help give me more opportunity to have my own hunting outfit while protecting the future of Alaska's game populations. Thank you again.

Sincerely,

Cabot Pitts
Outfitter/Alaska Registered Guide #1299
Alaska Wild Wind Adventures
(907)414-5434
alaskawildwind@gmail.com

This letter is to show my support for SB 160 and the proposed DNR GCP.

When I first started guiding there was a guide area system that worked effectively by distributing the guide effort and limiting the amount of pressure on the resource. At that time I decided to try and make a career in guiding and followed the rules and got into the business as an apprentice to a registered guide. No one owed me a guide area just because I was able to pass the test. I worked hard and worked my way up and got my registered license in the mid-80s and started operating in the guide areas that I was trained in.

The guide area system was then thrown out in court and has been chaotic ever since, with the exception of private land and federal land. The federal land managers saw the need for an area system way back then and implemented one of their own to preserve the resources and the quality of experience for the guests visiting federal lands.

We now have an opportunity within our grasp to make important changes to our current system on State lands with SB 160. By having a program on State land that puts a limit on the number of guides that can operate in a particular hunting area, it is a huge benefit to the Alaskan resident hunter helping to control overcrowding hunting areas. The GCP will also stem the tides of more and more animals being put on a drawing system by the BOG. Imagine if Alaskans had to draw to go sheep hunting! That is what is at stake!

Of course with a Guide Concession Program, the resource itself will be managed in a more responsible way through a guide's operating plan that will greatly reduce over harvest effectively leaving more game in the field for a healthy population and resident hunters. The overall health of the industry for the long term will also benefit by creating stability for the future. The guiding industry in Alaska has been a big part of the State's economy for many years and this bill will help to keep that going far into the future. Thank you in advance for your support of the DNR GCP with SB 160.

Sincerely

Michael Litzen

Master Guide #129

March 13, 2014

Dear Senate Resources Committee Members,

My name is Israel Payton. I was born in a 12 x 12 log trapper's cabin at the base of the Alaska Range at the mouth of the Hayes River near Skwentna.

I am a Registered Big Game Hunting Guide # 1111. Like many Alaskans I do various jobs to make a living. Just a few are airplane mechanic, boat builder, welder, hunting guide, tour guide, house builder, and landlord. I am also a member of the Mat- Su Fish and Game Advisory Committee and active in the Board of Game and Fish process. With all this going on it has been very frustrating and time consuming opposing DNR's Guide Concession Program(GCP) and trying to keep more government control out of our lives and the free market system.

This letter is in opposition to **SB 160 / HB 158**. Please include this as part of my public testimony. The GCP is a very complicated issue with many different tiers. I will briefly explain why I am not for implementation of the GCP and also why, if implemented some of the many flaws and detriments of the GCP.

Reasons opposing implementation of SB 160 / HB 158 GCP

- Allocation of the guide industry, will create a monopoly/against free market values
- GCP was proposed to address *social issues*, including user conflict, on state lands associated with commercial hunting activity. This is not a conservation issue (which would clearly be the responsibility of the Department of Fish and Game)
- *"has not been well received by the industry and the public..."* Cliff Judkins as Chair of Board of Game (BOG)
- The need for the GCP is not fact based; it's based on **arbitrariness, personal preferences, blankets allegations, and antidotal information.**
- Up to 66% of guides/small business owners could be forced out of business making their current and past investments and hard work null and void.
- It is a State wide blanket program when the perceived issues it will supposedly fix are in very few areas of the State.
- The state of Alaska extracts monetary payment for the exclusive use of oil, gas, minerals, timber, fish and land. Exclusive hunting concession areas should be no different. The proposed fees cover the cost of administering the GCP and wholly separate from paying the state for exclusive use of a resource. As proposed by DNR no money will go to the general fund or even to a Fish and Game fund for harvesting an exclusive resource that we all as shareholders of the State own. This is why Exclusive Guide Areas (EGAs) were found unconstitutional in the *Owsichek* decision. *Owsichek* also stated assignments of

EGAs were not based on wildlife management concerns and that is still the case today with the GCP.

- A small segment of the guide industry, the Alaska Professional Hunters Association (APHA) has lobbied hard for the GCP. Not only have they lobbied the Legislature but also the BOG and the Big Game Commercial Services Board (BGCSB). It is important to remember that the APHA is a very small, but loud and connected segment of the guide industry with only roughly 125-140 members. That means **10%** of licensed guides.
- What this GCP SB 160/HB 158 all boils down to is to cut down competition between guides/businesses and it **will** do that. The haves vs. the have not, big vs. small. I guess you have to ask yourself if competition and free market is a good thing or not.

I apologize for the length of this letter; the GCP is a very contentious and controversial subject. Please spend your time and the States money on more important issues that concern the majority of Alaskans, do not pass SB 160 / HB 158

Thank You,

Israel Payton
7702 Stillwater Cir.
Wasilla, AK 99623
907-354-4576

March 13, 2014

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Thank You,

Israel Payton
7702 Stillwater Cir.
Wasilla, AK 99623
907-354-4576

Regarding SB 160

March 16, 2014

Dear Senator Coghill:

At one time I was supportive of the Guide Concession Program (GCP). I am now opposed to the program and would ask that no legislation move forward that would enable the program as currently proposed.

I would like to describe the evolution of the proposal as it relates to me.

In February of 2009 I attended the first meeting in Fairbanks. It was basically a brainstorming meeting between guides, the DNR and the Big Game Commercial Services Board (BGCSB). The particular group I met with was represented by nearly all the guides that were and are now operating in GMU 9E.

At that time I and one other guide operated in Guide Use Area (GUA) 09-11. We were having no conflicts whatsoever. We came to a gentlemen's agreement as to how we would cooperate in GUA 9-11. See attached Exhibit A, a map showing the original two Guide Use Areas.

Shortly after the meeting described above, someone lobbied the BGCSB to eliminate GUA 9-11 and incorporate it into GUA 9-12, which they then did. Prior to this there were two guides operating in GUA 9-12 primarily on the federal portion of the unit. They had exclusive guide use permits on USFWS lands. See Exhibit B, a map showing the newly redrawn GUA 9-12 (original units are also outlined).

After this consolidation of units 9-11 and 9-12 the DNR's GCP planners rightly (in my opinion) established subunits 9-12(A) and 9-12(B) in the newly redrawn GUA 9-12. These subunits (A) and (B) mirrored the old areas 9-11 and 9-12. DNR has since abandoned this proposal. See Exhibit C, a map showing proposed subunits (A) and (B).

The first of the three draft proposals that came out of the DNR called for two guides in subunit (A) and two guides in subunit (B). This would have fairly represented the current and historical use in the areas. As mentioned above, the DNR has abandoned this proposal.

The second draft proposal eliminated the two subunits and called for two unlimited guides and two limited guides in the entire unit. The two limited guides would be allowed a maximum of four brown bear hunters each. This would total four guides in the GUA. This also would have fairly represented the current and historical use in the area. I could have lived with this proposal since I and the other guide who had been operating in the old GUA 9-11 guide a limited number of hunts each year. The DNR has since abandoned this proposal also.

The third and most recent proposal reduced the total number of guides for the entire unit to just two guides. It is my fear that the two guides who were originally operating in the old GUA 9-12 will now be able to squeeze out us two guides who were operating in the old GUA 9-11 due to their successful lobbying efforts with the BGCSB and the DNR as well as their longtime historical guide use in the original GUA 9-12.

Last year during the legislative session I was invited to be involved in a conference call between Representative Peggy Wilson, Mr. Clark Cox of the DNR and an official of ADF&G.

During our discussion I asked Mr. Cox how he justified reducing the number of guides in my unit from four to only two. He said that after consulting the ADF&G he was told that there was little guiding effort taking place in the unit and due to the lack of demand he thought they should reduce the number of guides. I interjected that this didn't make any sense, I heard Representative Wilson agree with my sentiment (I'm sure there must be audio tapes). I suppose you could extrapolate from Mr. Cox's logic that if there are too many guides in an area, the permitted number should then be reduced, and if there are too few guides in an area then their numbers should also be reduced. I recently spoke with Mr. Cox about this. His explanation seemed a little convoluted and strained, regardless, it has no basis in managing wildlife resources nor maintaining quality guided hunting experiences.

I believe that there has been way too much lobbying going on behind closed doors. This has caused a major rift between many of us guides and the APHA, many of us have dropped our membership. The APHA only represents a small portion of the registered guides in Alaska, I wish I could give them my support, but until they get away from the "good old boys" mindset I will be uninvolved.

There are undoubtedly problems with guide overcrowding on some State lands. This current proposal to allow the DNR to take over control of guiding concessions on State lands has become much too cumbersome, unfair, subjective, and vulnerable to cronyism.

The only fair way to implement this plan would be to eliminate by attrition the number of guides in a particular area. Otherwise, how will guides be compensated for capital investment in their area as well as loss of income?

Thanks for your consideration,
Sincerely,

Mark Wagner
Registered guide #1222
Cell (907) 617-0507

EXHIBIT A



EXHIBIT B

Original
09-11

09-12

Original / Upper
09-12 / Igarkuk
Lake

Lower
Igarkuk
Lake

09-09

09-

09-17

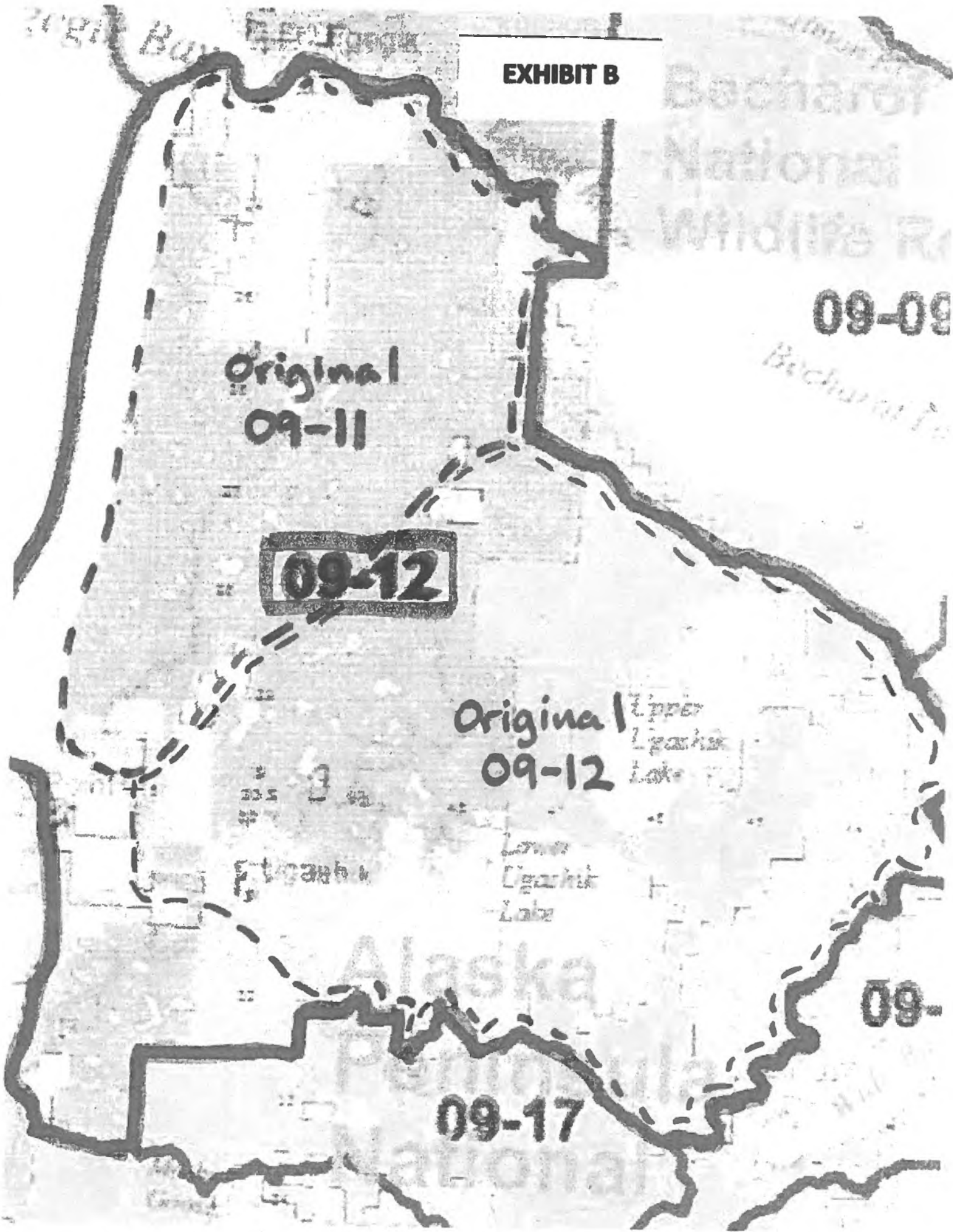


EXHIBIT C



NORTHWEST ARCTIC BOROUGH

P.O. BOX 1110

KOTZEBUE, ALASKA 99752

(907) 442-2500 / FAX (907) 442-2930

March 20, 2014

Honorable Cathy Giessel
Chair, Senate Resources Committee
State Senate

Alaska State Capitol, Room 427
Juneau, Alaska 99801

Re: Senate Bill (SB) 160: An Act authorizing the commissioner of natural resources to implement a hunting guide concession program or otherwise limit the number of individuals authorized to conduct big game commercial guiding on state land

Dear Senator Giessel:

On behalf of the Northwest Arctic Borough, I wish to express my strong support for SB 160. This bill provides authority for the commissioner of the Alaska Department of Natural Resources to develop a guide concession program. The Department has been working on a management framework for this program for a number of years, and it has incorporated public comments from meetings held throughout the state. This program would provide the Department with an important tool to manage hunting pressure on state lands.

As I travel throughout the 11 communities of the Borough, residents emphasize the importance of user conflicts between commercial hunting operations and subsistence hunting, especially for caribou. Our residents have consistently expressed a need for greater regulation of guides and transporters.

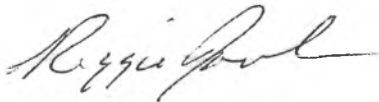
Under the current management system, there is no process to allocate the use of state lands by commercial hunting guides, and there are no limits on the number of authorizations that may be given for a specific area. As a result, some areas receive high commercial hunting pressure while other areas have little use. Providing authority for implementation of a guide concession program will go a long way to resolve user conflicts in the Borough.

While this bill will not solve all conflicts between commercial hunting operations and subsistence, it is an important first step. Because this bill does not include transporters and air taxis, user conflicts will continue because these operations are not adequately regulated and they significantly

contribute to hunting pressure in the Borough. I encourage the state to continue working with federal agencies to find a cooperative solution to management of this issue on state and federal lands.

In closing, I urge the Senate Resources Committee to pass to pass SB 160 out of committee. This bill has widespread support, and the management framework for a guide concession program developed by the Department of Natural Resources results from a comprehensive public involvement process.

Sincerely,



Reggie Joule
Mayor

cc: Honorable Fred Dyson, Vice-Chair, Senate Resources Committee
Honorable Peter Micciche, Member, Senate Resources Committee
Honorable Click Bishop, Member, Senate Resources Committee
Honorable Lesil McGuire, Member, Senate Resources Committee
Honorable Anna Fairclough, Member, Senate Resources Committee
Honorable Hollis French, Member, Senate Resources Committee
Honorable John Coghill, Alaska State Senate
Honorable Gary Stevens, Alaska State Senate
Honorable Donald Olson, Alaska State Senate
Joe Balash, Commissioner, Alaska Department of Natural Resources

From: Wayne

Date: March 20, 2014 at 6:09:31 PM AKDT

To: <Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov>

Cc: <Sen.Click.Bishop@akleg.gov>, <Sen.Fred.Dyson@akleg.gov>, <Sen.Peter.Micciche@akleg.gov>, <Sen.Lesil.McGuire@akleg.gov>, <Sen.Anna.Fairclough@akleg.gov>, <Sen.Hollis.French@akleg.gov>, <Sen.Charlie.Huggins@akleg.gov>, <Sen.Mike.Duleavy@akleg.gov>, <Sen.John.Coghill@akleg.gov>, <Sen.Gary.Stevens@akleg.gov>

Subject: SB 160 - DNR Guide Concession Bill

Senator Giessel and Senate Resource Committee Members,

I was unable to testify yesterday, but listened to it last night. I did send testimony in yesterday, in addition to my testimony now. I heard a lot of Alaska Professional Hunters Association (APHA) bashing and a lot of conflicting testimony from the two opposing sides. From where you sit, you guys need the wisdom of Solomon to figure this out. I know the young guy who has supposedly invested "millions", and who now considers himself "one of the best guides in the state", tell you to look hard for the facts and truths. I found that to be pretty humorous. Furthermore, he has set up shop in one of the more crowded river corridors and uses airboats in his operation, and he says there is no problem where he operates? I suspect the residents will tell you something different. I've heard from some of them myself.

APHA did work hard to get something like this, but I don't see anything in the prospectus that says APHA members are going to fair any better in the prospectus process than any of the other guides. Most of us realize the real risk of being down sized or put out of business by not getting an area, but feel it is worth the risk if it improves the longevity and stability of the industry and wildlife resource, and even the public perception of registered guides, who are 85% Alaska residents. Whoever the ones are who get a concession, we feel their chance of being able to stay in business will be better than it is now. To me, the opposition sounds like the woman who would rather cut the child in half than see the real mother get it (1 Kings 3:16-28). Often, many of the resident Alaskans who are so opposed to non resident participation in Alaska, are relative newcomers themselves, hunt as non residents in other states, or have no qualms about bringing non resident friends and family hunting. Also most of them are unaware that roughly 15% non resident participation pays for about 80% of Alaska's game management.

I also heard someone say that APHA represents less than 10% of the guides". The average number of registered and master guides that actually sign contracts each year is about 300. You have to be a registered or master guide to be a professional member of the Alaska Professional Hunters Association (APHA), but we also have assistant guide and sustaining members too. APHA's professional membership averages about 125 per year or about 40% of the guides who sign contracts each year. Further research in the past has shown that APHA professional members conduct 50 – 70% of the total number of guided hunts per year. The argument by the opposition that APHA doesn't represent the industry or that they represent less than 10% of the industry is entirely false. **APHA represents a majority of the guides that conduct the majority of the guided hunts in Alaska.** In early February 2013, APHA'S Board of Directors invited the entire professional membership to participate in a teleconference on the DNR GCP. It went on for several hours and 45 professional members were in attendance. Support for the latest version of the DNR GCP wasn't unanimous but was a very significant majority. As a result, the BOD voted unanimously to support the latest version of the DNR GCP, and subsequently supports SB 160. *And again, what about the multiple thousands of residents – do they really want to see unregulated commercial harvest continue on state land?*

Concerning transporters – certainly that is a big problem that needs to be dealt with soon. I think the time to start on that, is immediately after we get a guide concession plan worked out. Trying to do it now, to me would be like trying to stick 2 big passengers in a Super cub, instead of taking one at a time. I think many of those that fault the concession plan because it doesn't include transporters, do so just to make it harder to pass. Even if you include transporters now, I doubt that any of those in opposition are going to change their mind.

I know money is tight, but it seems like a 50 – 70 million dollar per year industry – with half of it going to rural Alaska, is worth a few bucks worth of start up money to preserve.

Sincerely,

Wayne Kubat - Master Guide # 47

PO Box 874867 / Wasilla, Alaska 99687 / Ph. & fax: 907-376-9568 / cell: 907-376-9568

Nathan Turner
Registered Guide #1036
Vice Chairman - Board of Game.
125 Mile Kantishna River
Nenana, Alaska 99760
March 20, 2014

Honorable Cathy Giessel
Chair, Senate Resources Committee
State Senate
Alaska State Capitol, Room 427
Juneau, Alaska 99801

Re. DNR Guide Concession Program SB 160

Dear Senator Giessel and Resource Committee Members,

Please find this letter as a statement of support your efforts to move forward Senate Bill 160. I participated in the Senate Resources Committee hearing on March 19th, and shared some of the following views there. I am writing to you from two different perspectives: first as an active Registered Guide and secondly as a member of the Alaska Board of Game.

Registered Guide perspective:

I have been working in guide camps for 17 years now, and operating as a Registered Guide for the last 14 years. I have never had a hunting violation, permit compliance issue, nor complaint filed with the troopers or state that I am aware of. I have guided hunters primarily in three diverse regions of the state: the northern Brooks Range, Western Interior and on the Alaska Peninsula. I have guided hunters primarily on Federal lands through concession programs with the US Fish and Wildlife Service, the National Park and Preserve System, and have also guided extensively on Bureau of Land Management and State of Alaska lands adjoining these federal areas for more than 15 years.

I entered the guiding profession a few years after the original guide-area system was abolished through the Owsechek decision and witnessed firsthand the rush for both obtaining guide licenses and the carving up of the old established guide areas. My own entry into the profession was accompanied by a great number of inexperienced guides, and when I think back on the training that was required for me to obtain both my Assistant and Registered guide licenses in those years, and the quality of guides that I worked with in some of the camps, I am thankful that I had older guides who provided good counsel or I could easily have been led down the wrong trail – in my opinion- on what it means to be a professional hunter in Alaska.

What has ensued over the last two decades, in my view, is that the guiding industry has seemingly grown into at least two broad factions. I suspect most of the following elements and viewpoints have always been somewhat mixed within individual operators and the profession as a whole, but it

seems clear to me that issues like the proposed Guide Concession Program help more clearly define the industry into these two major groups factions.

The first group I would identify as those who view this profession as:

- being part of the original fabric that our state was made from; an historic way of life
- a profession that requires high standards of conduct in the field,
- requiring fair and honest dealings with our clients,
- requiring the sustainable harvest of our shared wild resources,
- requiring cooperation with land management goals and law enforcement agencies,
- requiring the recognition of the right for subsistence and other resident hunters to share the hunting fields.

Members of this group typically consider themselves as being first and foremost Alaskans and secondly Professional Hunters, regardless whether they have another means of income in the off-season.

The Second group is not as easily defined since they rarely attend professional or industry-related meetings and represent a somewhat diverse group of viewpoints or positions. Their voice is heard loudly at time such as these, however, when regulatory or public discussion turns once again toward raising professional standards or placing performance or ethical limitations on our own industry.

Members of this second group include:

- Those who know that they likely will not receive a concession area due to having a history of wildlife/ guiding violations and/or permit non-compliance issues.
- Those who have built their business model upon a wide network of subordinate registered guides so that they can operate in multiple areas annually across the state – essentially subcontracting - which is contrary to the intent of the 3 Guide-Use-Area registration limitation, state and federal permit requirements, and the intent of the Commercial Services Board.
- Those who know that they have a long list of client complaints on file with the state
- Those who know that they will stand to lose any areas they gain through this program if they plan to continue to use threatening or aggressive competitive hunting tactics on resident hunters
- Those who oppose hunting, and do not want to see long term stability in the guiding industry (hoping problems will get worse, and dealt with through limited drawing permits)
- Those transporters/air-taxis who fear their industry problems will be addressed next
- Those who do not consider themselves as full time professional guides, but do take a few hunters each year as a type of hobby or tax benefit
- Those who believe the government should not meddle with anything they do, in any aspect of their lives.
- Those who are afraid, generally, that they will not be successful in obtaining an area because of their inexperience within the industry and profession

While a several of these points are spoken openly in public forums, and deserve due consideration, most of these points are not spoken openly for obvious reasons. You have had representatives of each viewpoint testify before your committee already, however.

Unfortunately it seems that the arguments against creating guide concession areas, and the need for more industry oversight in general, are not easily made without the need to cast doubt upon the intentions of those who promote the programs.

Alaska Board of Game Perspective

The second point of view I would like to bring forward is that of a member of the Alaska Board of Game. As you have heard a number of times already, the development of this type of program has been both requested and strongly supported by the Board of Game since the beginning of these discussions.

Since the Board of Game is tasked with the primary responsibility regarding most management and policy decisions regarding wildlife in Alaska, including allocation decisions between both users and types of uses, our work at the board often involves regulating the guiding industry. We have often been challenged to create very complicated permit and hunt structures as well as unique permit stipulations that are at times burdensome to the Dept. of fish game - in the attempt to both limit the extent of guided non-resident participation in areas where residents hunters or resources may be unduly affected, and at other times even creating complicated hunt structures in the attempt to provide stability for the guiding industry where external issues threaten to severely impact or even force guided hunt opportunity off from the landscape entirely. The Guide Concession Program will help the Board of Game address two goals that the Board has already established: limiting highly competitive guiding activity in areas of concern, and simultaneously providing some assurance that this historic type of hunting opportunity and experience has a place in Alaska's future.

Examples of where this program will directly help mitigate user conflicts are in sub-unit 20A Wood River drainage, sub-unit 19c sheep country, and the Chandalar country. Reducing the number of guide-operations in these areas will bring direct benefit to land use and wildlife conservation goals, resident hunter satisfaction, stability for the remaining guide operations, and their hunting guests.

The best example I am aware of how the landscape will look after the implementation of the proposed DNR guide concession program are on US Fish and Wildlife Refuges. With the aid of having a similar program in place, the Board of Game will be able to more accurately identify and specifically address the conflicts and concerns within each affected area as needed.

For example, the Board has had an increasing amount of public testimony regarding dramatically increasing Dall sheep hunting pressure and rising user conflicts within the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, which encompasses a very large geographic region of the state. These conflicts are often identified with in-the-field conflicts and the general sense that there are too many hunters for the limited amount of hunting space and sheep resources. These perceptions have contributed to the submission of a number of proposals to the Board requesting that non-resident hunters be severely

restricted or even eliminated from the landscape in the entire state. Much of the public seem unaware that the entirety of ANWR is currently under limited guide concessions, non-resident Dall sheep hunters are *required* to be guided, and that even these limited uses have been further reduced over the last 15 years through the Federal competitive process (without justification).

Since there is a concession type of program in place within ANWR, and guided hunters are already at a fixed allocation for the entire region, the Board will be able to more accurately assess what remaining factors are contributing to increasing user complaints, identify to what other hunting-related commercial services are being used on these lands, and determine the exact balance of resident vs. nonresident hunting pressure in specific areas. The Board and ADF&G are in the process of doing this at this time on a statewide level. Some commercial use data is available through the Division of occupational licensing, but individual guide and transporter hunt records are privileged and there is no established framework in place for the Board or ADF&G to access such data. Note that these identification and impact assessment difficulties are especially true in regards to transporter and air taxi drop-off service providers, a portion of which have no reporting requirements whatsoever. Neither the state nor federal land managers have developed the necessary processes that will be required to address issues that have been linked to these types of commercial operations.

- One important request that the Board has for the development of this program is that our existing Board of Game processes be required to be involved in the administration of this Guide Concession Program as it considers any potential hunting restrictions or limiting hunt opportunities for guided clients in general. Addressing these types of issues and other issues that fall under our Board authorities through the Board of Game process is important in that it will assure that the industry has an external venue to appeal to for allocation adjustments as needed, assure that broader allocation, conflict, and wildlife conservation goals are being met, and provide regular input from all affected parties through a public forum.
- We also believe that the Big Game Commercial services Board should retain its authority as to whether there should be limitations on the number of assistant guides, for example, and to address other areas of industry oversight through the authority that currently reside with that Board. It may be necessary that some form of joint board process is built into this program to address special circumstances on a case by case basis.

I thank you for taking the time to review these comments, and your service to the State. If there are any questions that require further explanations, or if I can be of service in any other way, you may contact me at any time.

Sincerely,

Nate Turner
(907) 479 7535
Alaskanate@gmail.com

From: Willie Dvorak
Sent: Friday, March 21, 2014 11:26 AM
To: Sen. Cathy Giessel
Subject: Guide Concession Program SB160

Dear Madam Giessel, Senate Resources Committee Chair,

I watched the Senate Resource Committee meeting this morning on my computer. I wish to comment on this issue and hope you will pass on my brief comments to the others on the Committee. Thanks for taking the time to read these few comments...

I am a Registered Big Game guide in Alaska for about 10 years and also run a guiding business in South Dakota. In fact I was recently voted the Number One Guide/Outfitter in South Dakota and can assure you that my conduct and business model in my Alaska business is identical. Because of my experience and track record, I am confident that I would be awarded a concession under the current criteria. However, I feel the Guide Concession Program (GCS) lacks the teeth needed to accomplish the goals of limiting over-harvest of animals/resources because it (1) does not provide even a single line to limit the number of clients/animals a guide/outfitter can take and (2) it doesn't take into account the number of animals that will be harvested by resident hunters or those non resident hunters brought into an area by air-taxi. The guides that back the program are naive to the fact that if they manage the area well, they will be inundated by air taxis causing a nearly immediate overhunting scenario. Since the popularity and advent of the internet and sport hunting shows, there is a new dimension in the sport hunting business that many people can't wrap their head around. Simply put, it has become a lot easier to research, set up, conduct and participate in an Alaskan adventure in the last 5-10-15 years.

The GCP was developed by a very small percentage of guides (not the guide industry like I've heard too many times) as a way of eliminating competition and at the same time setting the ground work for future passing of transferability. Most of guides who back this are old time guides who are finding it hard to stay competitive in a business that requires much hands on work and their family members who hope to benefit by association. Many of the guides who have testified in favor of the GCP are currently not actively guiding clients but hiring assistants/offspring to do it for them while they support the operation as a glorified booking agent. The term "land-grab" is as good of synopsis as there is and it is fueled by greed. The guiding business should be run by a person physically capable of guiding for the best client experience.

The APHA has pushed the GCP along with lobbyists and committees who spread partial truths and ignoring facts in a spin-effort to prevent people from getting a clear picture of the industry. I too have quit being a member of the APHA because I saw too many acts of poor ethics within their organization and by their representatives and a refusal to thoroughly reprimand their members' immoral conduct. The APHA does not represent the guide industry despite their insistence that it does.

I spoke out against this proposal several years ago, while it was in it's infancy. I was specifically addressed by a members of the APHA and a member of the BGCSB to stand down when it came to speaking up against the GCP. "If I ever wanted to guide in Alaska, get behind this. You don't deserve to be a guide. I'll give you some advice, if you come out against this you will not ever be able to work for anybody guiding hunters in Alaska again." were statements told to me specifically designed to intimidate me and keep me quite. I am very successful as a full time guide in Alaska and South Dakota so that kind of talk doesn't phase me. However, I saw first hand many guides who were intimidated by these guys and were afraid to speak up. This dynamic gave the proposal a clear runway to take off. I mention this because I think it is important for everyone to understand the foundation of how the GCP started. Granted, there are some good parts of the proposal but it lacks the teeth to do anything except put 1/2 to 2/3 of the guides out of business and leave the guys in business with the most seniority to conduct business unchecked as they have since the beginning of Alaska hunting.

There are few, if any conflicts in most areas of Alaska. If the abnormal outlaw guides were removed from the equation, there would be none. It is these immoral guides/outfitters who have blatantly violated major game laws who cause or run into the most conflicts. Very few other guides have overcrowding problems. The state could eliminate these problems by calling on the BGCSB to go back and revoke the guiding licenses of any and all outfitter/guides who have committed immoral acts such as same day airborne, overbagging, hunting in a closed area and any type of poaching under their contracted hunts in the last 15-20 years. If the outlaw pleaded out to avoid a citation, they should still be held accountable for their actions and be removed from the industry. By removing these abnormal guide/outfitters, it will reduce the

number of overcrowding conflicts to nearly zero and improve the State of Alaska's reputation as the best place to go hunting. THIS STEP IS ESSENTIAL. I call on you to mandate it immediately.

I am an expert on several variations of the Limited Tag Drawing System (LTDS). I've been running a successful business in that arena for 14 years. In Alaska there is a cultural fear of the LTDS due to lack of understanding. Many people see it as a first-step in outlawing hunting and others feel it limits the number of hunting licenses to the point that a guide/outfitter cannot make a living. Both of these notions are false. Let me be clear, this is not the way it works. The LTDS works by actively adjusting the number of tags available to manage the resource. If there are not enough animals to warrant a certain number of hunters, then the tags are limited to a target number. If the number of animals is enough to allow for unlimited hunting, under the LTDS the tags would not be limited. There is a subtle difference in the two ways of looking at it. The right way is accurate and the paranoid way is just that, the paranoid way. It is important to remember and worth repeating that if the game numbers allow unlimited hunting, under the LTDS, the tags would not be limited. It is also important to note that if the caribou in Unit 19 and 17 would have been put on the LTDS 10-15-20 years ago when their numbers were strong, we would be able to be selling hunts for them and their population would be excellent today. Due to overhunting and no management, nonresident hunting for caribou was eliminated. In hindsight, the LTDS would have helped a lot of guides/hunters alike. The LTDS is not perfect, but it is the proven best way to manage a renewable resource.

I keep hearing that you cannot run a guide business under the shroud of a LTDS and that is simply not true. I am proof that a guide/outfitting business can not only operate but thrive under a LTDS. If your guide business cannot operate under the LTDS, perhaps you should fire your business manager. Some guide/outfitters don't want to be held accountable by admitting their business has other issues that are not allowing them to stay profitable. They've digressed to begging for legislation to put half or 2/3 of their competitors out of business by a proposal of smoke and mirrors.

I would like to call on you to not pass the bill on the Guide Concession Program. Instead, research the request the LTDS to manage the resources. And to manage the lion's share of in-field-conflicts, write a letter insisting that the BGCSB revoke all guiding/outfitting licenses of those immoral guides who have contracted hunts where (not just received a citation for) same day airborne hunting, hunting in a closed area, over-bagging, and any type of poaching has taken place (not just received a citation for). Flagrant immoral conduct deems a big game guide/outfitter license holder immoral, abnormal and irresponsible. Remove them from the industry.

This will immediately reestablish Alaska's reputation for guided hunting, remove the outlaws who are part of an industry that deserves to be better represented and provide a better experience for all sportsmen.

Thank you for your efforts. I am always available to visit about conservation.

Sincerely,

Willie Dvorak
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From: Donald Quarberg

Sent: Thursday, March 20, 2014 4:51 PM

To: Sen. Cathy Giessel; Sen. Click Bishop; Sen. John Coghill; Sen. Fred Dyson; Sen. Anna Fairclough; Sen. Hollis French; Sen. Lesil McGuire; Sen. Peter Micciche; Sen. Gary Stevens

Subject: SB 160 SUPPORT

Dear Committee Members,

My name is Don Quarberg, a 38 year resident of Delta Junction. I am not now, nor ever have been a guide and have no aspirations of becoming a guide.

I listened to the public testimony on this bill yesterday (3/19/14). I have never had a negative encounter with a non-resident hunter in all the years I have hunted in the Interior. However, as the number of guides increases and the ever increasing competition among them to acquire game animals for their clients, I feel that we definitely need the guide concession program on State lands. I am familiar with a number of the guides that testified and in my opinion those in favor generally are the more reputable guides (less prone to the rape and pillage syndrome).

It was encouraging to hear the young guides state their support and also feel that they have an opportunity to obtain a concession. The last thing that State should do is create a welfare program out of our game resources - we do not have to provide all those folks wanting to be a guide with a concession. We can establish a fair evaluation system to award concessions to the better guides in the industry, and that is exactly what we should do.

I think one of the major faults with the DNR Guide Concession Planning Process, has been their reluctance to allow anyone with guiding experience (a retired Master guide for example) to provide practical input into the development of that program. I don't see how they can design something without the practical advice of the industry.

Two criticism that have been made numerous times over the past several years, is that there is no opportunity for a guide to pass along their guiding operation to another individual (ex: father to son, even though the son have been an integral part of that guide business). That should receive serious thought by this legislature.

Another criticism is that there is currently no restriction on air transporters or air taxi operators as to the number of clients they may deliver to a hunting area. On one occasion I flew for one minute in a Super Cub down Delta Creek and passed 9 hunting camps all flown in by our local air taxi. Fortunately, this air taxi is no longer in the area.

First of all, if an air taxi transports hunters or their provisions, including game animals, they should be required to become a transporter. Remove the incidental use provision from the current law. If I hunt for 1 minute or 1 year, I have to have a license, they should too, there's nothing incidental about it. Requiring a transporter license adds a level of ethics to the hunting industry as Transporters must meet certain requirements to be certified and report certain activities. This is useful information in the management of our game resources and not an overburden to the transporter.

Kindly pass this bill and work with the Industry to provide the best guides with the opportunity to serve the public. Thank you! Don Quarberg