

November 11, 2017

RE BOG Non-Resident Allocation Policy

Mr. Turner's effort to articulate Board Findings attempts to make a case that a legitimate policy position for prejudicial treatment of residents rights to common use of our resources; particularly when populations fall below the sustained yield threshold, is a defensible BOG position. However, what Mr. Turner actually articulates is his extreme bias related to his own special interests and does so overtly. There should be no doubt in anyone's mind Mr. Turner should forever be recused from participation and deliberation where non resident allocation is a subject or a part of a Board hearing or deliberation.

With respect to Alaska's Constitution Article 8 Section 3 Common Use clause applies exclusively to Alaskan residents. Section 17 Uniform Application clause; which also applies exclusively to Alaskan residents, governs the use of natural resources which must be applied equally to all residents. The founders choice of the word "use" in our constitution not 'users' is; or should be, informative to BOG members.

With respect to Section 4. Sustained Yield there should be no confusion between the word "uses" as is stated in this clause and 'users' as Mr. Turner would lead you to believe.

At the end of the day BOG regulates effort and controls harvest primarily through seasons and bag limits...for the health and well being of our wildlife resources to the benefit of and preferential use by...residents.

When a season or a bag limit is reduced or other restriction implemented Alaskan's constitutional Sustained Yield principal has been compromised or is at least threatened for one reason or another. The 'reason' to shorten a season or lower a bag limit; while relevant, should not lead BOG members down a path intended to justify continued non resident harvesting of a resource where the Sustained Yield principal has been compromised or is in jeopardy of compromise.

A recent BOG management action related to Alaskan's resources resulting in needless prejudicial treatment of residents is the Central Arctic herd. For whatever reason this herd experienced a significant population decline. Fell below the Sustained Yield constitutional mandate or was/is in jeopardy of doing so. To it's credit the BOG recognized this decline as significant management issue and took action to shorten seasons and reduce bag limits. But, absent a rational non resident allocation 'policy' the BOG decided to allocate 45% of the harvest to non residents.

Residents received no true benefit or recognition of preferential use from a reduced bag limit and shorter season with regard to the Central Arctic herd. While it is true the BOG solution provided residents a longer season and more liberal bag limit than non residents the health of this herd took a back seat to the special commercial interest of

air taxi's and guides. Furthermore there is no evidence that in the near future more restrictions may become necessary and had the BOG decided to limit non residents to 10% of the Central Arctic herd or even eliminated non resident participation last year it is at least possible no further restrictions on residents would be necessary in the near future.

What happened to the Central Arctic herd and how the BOG chose to deal with the decline is representative.

The sale of licenses and tags on an unlimited basis is not sustainable especially if non residents are included in that model. The commercial interest; special interests, in Alaskan's wildlife resources just can not continue to manipulate and dominate the BOG at every turn of the page. But that is the Turner model and it is an unsustainable model.

Just take some time to sit back in a quiet place and look at every unit that has been carved up, every season that has been shortened, every bag limit that has been reduced, every hunt that has been reduced to a draw, every area that has been closed to hunting and ponder the question...what would Alaska look like today if limits to non resident hunters actually was in the very best interest of the public. And then ask yourself what will the landscape look like if the BOG continues the practice of unlimited sale of license and tags to non residents.

Can you imagine what our hunting regs would look like if non residents never hunted a day in Alaska for the last 4 decades? I am not suggesting it should be or should have been like that BUT a new model; one that is unapologetic about reducing non resident participation, should be implemented and had it been implemented the first time a season was shortened or a bag limit reduced where would we be today?

When BOG shortens a season, reduces a bag limit or applies any restriction to decrease harvest that action must be recognition; accepted and supported by all, that the resources is in jeopardy and it is in the public interest that the very first order of business should be to eliminate or reduce non resident harvest to not more than 10% of the total harvest in the affected unit.

The significant population declines of our sheep populations over time is documented and undisputed. People can make all the arguments they want about full curl management and the value of selling our sheep to non residents being beneficial to the public. The BOG could sit back for another decade while sheep populations continue to decline and sustain non residents harvest rate of 45% of our sheep and pay tribute to the Turner model. Or not.

Respectfully, Mike McCrary

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Mike McCrary', written in a cursive style.