

ALASKA BOARD OF GAME
2004-154-BOG
A RESOLUTION OF THE ALASKA BOARD OF GAME IN SUPPORT OF
INCREASING RESIDENT AND NON-RESIDENT
HUNTING LICENSE AND TAG FEES

WHEREAS, the Board of Game and the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) view hunting as a respected, traditional outdoor activity that remains a substantial and integral part of Alaska's heritage, culture, and environment; and

WHEREAS, ADF&G's Division of Wildlife Conservation (the "Division") proposes to protect and expand hunting opportunity in Alaska by maintaining existing programs and developing new initiatives specifically designed to benefit hunters; and

WHEREAS, the Division needs additional revenues to maintain adequate levels of core wildlife management services; and

WHEREAS, the Division proposes raising resident and non-resident hunting license and tag fees to generate \$3.5 million annually in order to maintain and expand hunting opportunity in the State of Alaska; and

WHEREAS, license fees have not been raised since 1993 and loss of purchasing power of license and tag revenues over this time due to inflation alone is \$3.45 million; and

WHEREAS, Alaskans pay only \$80 a year to hunt all species in Alaska, and residents in nine other western states pay on average \$679 a year to hunt all species in their states; and

WHEREAS, Alaska charges non-residents fees comparable to those paid by non-residents in nine other western states to hunt all species; and

WHEREAS, in addition to the economic input generated from resident and unguided nonresident hunters, Alaska's big game guide industry directly employs over 2,300 Alaskans as guides and indirectly employs many more Alaskans as transporters, packers, and cooks – making hunting an important element of Alaska's economy; and

WHEREAS, the Division proposes to spend any new revenues generated by this increase to maintain and increase hunting opportunity in the State of Alaska; and

WHEREAS, the Division will increase hunting opportunity through hunt management recommendations based on adequate monitoring, intensive management activities where authorized, habitat management, and expanded public services; and

WHEREAS, without new revenues, the Division will be forced to reduce its monitoring of wildlife populations, which will result in more conservative management and put hunting opportunity in jeopardy statewide; and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska Board of Game supports an increase in resident and non-resident hunting license and tag fees and pledges to work with the Division to craft an acceptable license fee proposal for consideration by the Alaska Legislature this session which assures that revenue generated by this user fee provides maximum benefit to the users.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Alaska Board of Game on this 5th day of November, 2004.

_____/s/_____
Mike Fleagle, Chair