

RC 027 -

THE PERRINS' RAINY PASS LODGE

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Attention: Alaska Board of Game - Prop 82

February 16, 2017

My name is Steven Perrins, Master Guide #123, owner and operator of Alaska's Oldest Hunting lodge, Rainy Pass lodge. This will be my 40th year in the guiding business and my career has primarily centered around the Rainy Pass area in unit 19c and 16B. I am unable to attend this very important meeting as our lodge is a check point for the iron dog race going through this weekend, and requires my being at our lodge.

I am writing today to oppose Proposition 82 in unit 19c that is asking for a drawing permit system for non-resident hunters. As our operation for sheep hunting places us in all of our camps on the mountains that are the borders for 16B and 19C this would be very problematic at the least. Whenever a drawing area is put into place, whether it is resident or non-resident, it immediately misplaces those hunters to put pressure on other areas. Some may be directly adjacent as would be our case with the unit border issue. The Population of sheep in Unit 19C is not the issue as fish & game numbers show it is doing quite well. This proposal then has no conservation bearing on Unit 19C itself. A drawing hunt would immediately displace hunting pressure to 16B as well as many other sheep units in the state. This may just create a domino effect that is not good for resident hunters or non-resident hunters.

There has been a slow down of aircraft activity in the mountains in these areas during sheep season, and I believe you may find data will start showing this is helpful to sheep populations even if it is not a popular solution with some hunters. I believe that the recent ruling to make that happen has helped and makes a better experience for all in the field.

This appears to be directed at non-resident guided hunts. However, I think you will find recent data will show that a much larger percentage of second degree of kindred non-resident hunters (not guided) are contributing to the harvest and activity in all areas of the state.

As the data shows that there is no conservation issue at stake here, I would strongly ask that the Board reject this proposal and leave the current system in place. The only issue that I feel we need to address in this area and all areas of the state are the larger number of transporters that move in and out of areas with only their pockets in mind. Rainy Pass lodge as well as many of the long time hunters in the area, seem to have a long term outlook on the resource and not overhunt it. This is not the case with some greedy transporters that advertise cheap drop off hunts with no concern to numbers. We are experiencing this with a few violators in unit 16 and that needs to be fixed.

Thank-You all for your time and dedication to our most important resources for our future generations to come.

Sincerely,

Steven H. Perrins

