The Economic Importance of Hunters Visiting Alaska

Alaska’s Guided Hunting Industry 2015

Total Guide Industry Economic Output

$87.2 million in total guided hunting industry economic activity including direct spending, wages and multiplier effects in 2015.

$37.5 million
Total Labor Income

$49.7 million
Goods & Services (Non-Payroll) Spending

New Dollars for Alaska’s Economy

The guided hunting industry circulated $52.5 million in the Alaska economy as labor income and spending for goods and services.

3,242 Guided Hunters

520 Traveling Companions

Guide Industry Spending with Alaska Businesses

$29.7 million in direct guide and visiting hunter spending with businesses in Alaska. Multiplier effects generated an additional $20.0 million in economic activity for Alaska’s support sector.

Guide Industry Employment, 2015

1,550 Direct Jobs

570 Indirect Jobs

2,120 Total Employment

Jobs for Alaska

1,550 people directly employed in the guided hunting industry.

$22.5 million in direct wages and guide income.

Multiplier effects generated another 570 jobs and $15 million in wages for Alaska’s support sector.

A significant portion of guide spending occurs in rural areas of Alaska in the form of wages, air transportation, fuel, food, and supplies.
Meat Sharing is a Long-Standing Tradition in Alaska.

In addition to the impacts of jobs, wages, and goods and services spending, hunting guides and their clients share a significant volume of high-quality game meat with Alaska residents every year. Recipients include Native communities, elders, needy families with children, organizations, and those who enjoy game meat but can no longer hunt. Game meat is a renewable resource that feeds Alaskans year after year.

230,000 pounds of game meat was shared with Alaska residents in 2015.

$1.1 million is the estimated value of replacing this game meat with beef.

$760,000 is the replacement value of game meat shared with rural residents.

Recipients acknowledge the meat shared by guides and their clients provides nourishment for many families and is culturally important:

"We share a lot of meat with families that do not have a meat source. I look for people who live in the region where I guide to find those who really need it. I have flown over 100 miles to deliver meat to them when they are in need."

"The moose meat we share literally feeds a village."

"The priest at my church in Fairbanks is Yupik. He has really missed eating traditional subsistence foods since he moved from his village to Fairbanks. We share our meat with him."

"Often we share meat with elders in the villages we fly in and out of who can no longer hunt. They are tremendously appreciative."

"I just wanted to thank you for this wonderful goat meat. I am semi-retired and can no longer process game in the field, so this means a great deal to me. This meat will last me through the winter and saves me from paying the high price of meat from the grocery store."


- Deer: 4,000 lbs, <1%
- Mt. Goat: 15,000 lbs, 6%
- Sheep: 13,000 lbs, 6%
- Caribou: 20,000 lbs, 9%

180,000 lbs. Moose: 78%
Revenue for Wildlife Conservation in Alaska

Visiting hunters purchased 13% of all Alaska big game hunting licenses and generated 72% of ADF&G Fish and Game Wildlife Fund license and tag revenue in 2015.

ADF&G Fish and Game Fund License and Tag Revenue, 2015

$7.4 Million  
Total Fish and Game Fund License and Tag Revenue

$2.1 million  
Resident Hunters  
28%

$5.3 million  
Visiting Hunters  
72%

Pittman-Robertson funds are matched with ADF&G Fish and Game Funds and used for wildlife conservation projects that benefit license holders and those who view wildlife. For qualified projects, the State of Alaska receives $3 in Pittman-Robertson funds for every $1 in license and tag fees.

ADF&G implemented higher license and tag fees in 2017. If the same number of licenses and tags is sold under the new fee structure, revenue to ADF&G's Fish and Game Wildlife Fund is estimated to nearly double to about $13.7 million. These additional funds would be used to match additional Pittman-Robertson funds.

The Alaska Professional Hunters Association and Safari Club International supported legislation to increase license and tag fees to enhance wildlife conservation efforts in Alaska.
Summary of Guided Hunting Impacts in Alaska, 2015

Guided Hunters
Alaska residents 154
Nonresident US citizen 2,778
Foreign nationals 310
Total Guided Hunters 3,242
Estimated number of guided hunter traveling companions 520

Shared Meat
Pounds of meat shared by guides and their clients 230,000 lbs.
Estimated value of replacing shared game meat with beef $1.1 million

Guided Hunting Industry Related Employment
Direct employment 1,550 jobs
Indirect and induced employment 570 jobs
Total Employment (direct, indirect, and induced) 2,120 jobs

Guided Hunting Industry Related Labor Income
Direct labor income (payroll and guide income) $22.5 million
Indirect and induced labor income $15.0 million
Total Labor Income (direct, indirect, and induced) $37.5 million

Guided Hunting Industry Spending with Alaska Businesses
Guide spending with Alaska-based vendors $2.6 million
Hunter and companion pre/post hunt spending $3.7 million
Indirect and induced spending $20 million
Total direct, indirect, and induced non-payroll spending $49.7 million
Total Guide Industry-Related Economic Output, 2015 $87.2 million

Summary of Visiting Hunter License and Tag Expenditures, 2015

All Visiting Hunter License and Game Tag Spending
# of licenses sold 14,211
License revenue $1.3 million
# of tags sold 14,085
Game tag revenue $4 million
Total Fish and Game Wildlife Fund revenue generated by visiting big game hunters $5.3 million
% of ADF&G Fish and Game Wildlife Fund generated by visiting hunter license and tag purchases 72%

Guided Hunter License and Game Tag Spending
# of licenses sold 3,242
License revenue $350,000
# of tags sold 4,570
Game tag revenue $1.6 million
Total State revenue generated by guided big game hunters $2 million

*Figures have been rounded.

Information sources used in this report include: State of Alaska departments of Commerce, Community and Economic Development, Fish and Game, and McDowell Group. This report was based on The Economic Impacts of Guided Hunting in Alaska, February 2014, McDowell Group. The 2014 study was based on industry data from 2012 and a registered guide survey conducted in 2013. A copy of the 2014 study can be found at: www.mcdowellgroup.net/publications

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