

March 5, 2020

To the Board of Game
Statewide meeting
Fairbanks

From
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I would like to offer a personal comment on statewide proposal 150, 153, and another proposal that seeks to establish a point system or increase the allowed applications for any drawing hunt permits in Alaska.

I oppose any point system in Alaska. I have discussed this with hunters from other states as well as Alaskan hunters and a couple Alaska guides. If ever established, the point system can become a monster you can never get away from. Further it makes it impossible for new or young hunters to ever have a chance at a special hunt.

I like that every year, I have a chance to be drawn. It took me over 20 years to get drawn for a Delta Bison. I cherish that I had the opportunity. This spring a friend of mine got drawn for a Raspberry Island elk. Under any point system he would never have had the chance. A new chance every year is fair as it can be in my view.

Another concern a guide friend explained to me is point systems tend to get monopolized by businesses specializing in tracking and maintaining many hunters's permit applications for numerous states. These permit services are not free and I am told may get tied to particular hunting / guiding services to the exclusion of others. It seems they extract income from both ends of the system. I don't fully understand it, but my friend explained for example Cabelas permit services end up controlling where or with which guides their hunters hunt while excluding other guide businesses. This doesn't seem right to me.

So please no point system.

Only last November did I learn of the newer system of allowing a single hunter to submit multiple applications for a single permit - like bison for example. I took advantage of the opportunity. I was not drawn. I have to wonder, given the extreme popularity of some hunts: does the multiple application option really help or is it self defeating? Does it add a paperwork management burden to ADFG? I could be comfortable going back to the one hunter one hunt application system of old.

Thank you for your attention.