Alaska’s Guided Hunting Industry

Total Guide Industry Economic Output

$91.8 million in total guided hunting industry economic activity including direct spending, wages and multiplier effects in 2019

- $40.8 million Total Labor Income
- $51 million Goods & Services (Non-Payroll) Spending

New Dollars for Alaska’s Economy

The guided hunting industry circulated $57.4 million in the Alaska economy as labor income and spending for goods and services.

Guide Industry Spending with Alaska Businesses

$31.9 million was spent directly with businesses in Alaska by guides and visiting hunters. Multiplier effects generated an additional $19.1 million in economic activity for Alaska’s support sector.

- A majority (59%) of guide spending occurs in rural areas of Alaska in the form of wages, air transportation, fuel, food, and supplies.

Jobs for Alaska

- 1,380 people directly employed in the guided hunting industry.
- $25.5 million in direct wages and guide income.
- Multiplier effects generated another 510 jobs and $15.3 million in wages for Alaska’s support sector.

Guided Hunting Industry Employment, 2019

- 1,380 Direct Jobs
- 510 Indirect Jobs
- 1,890 Total Employment

85% of registered guides reside in Alaska. 70% of those live outside of Alaska’s major urban areas.
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, traditional food programs, and those who enjoy game meat but can no longer hunt. Game meat is nutritionally and culturally rich and is an important part of many Alaskans’ diet.

An estimated **223,500 pounds** of game meat was shared with Alaskans by guides and guided hunters in 2019. **167,600 pounds** with rural residents, **55,900** with urban residents.

**$2.3 million** estimated value of replacing this game meat with beef.

**$1.8 million** in rural communities and **$447,000** in urban areas.

Game meat is a renewable resource that feeds Alaskans year after year.

It’s customary in rural areas to help others when they are in need. Meat donations really help people.

-Hunting guide

I have seen patients not feeling well and grimacing in pain take a bowl of bone broth and you can see them visibly relax. It makes them feel better. Our traditional foods program is important for patients’ quality of life. It has been even more important with Covid-19 when patients have little or no access to loved ones. Eating a traditional food makes them feel better. Patients have said it tastes like home.

-Chef, Alaska Native Medical Center

Sometimes we fly significant distances to drop off meat. We typically have one contact in the village, and they distribute to the people they know need it most.

-Hunting guide

Wild meat is important for many Alaskans both urban and rural residents. It is especially important for elders in the areas we hunt, they love it. We always try to make sure that they have meat in their freezers.

-Hunting guide

We share meat with people that live in villages and in cities. People that do not or cannot hunt are very thankful to get fresh game meat.

-Hunting guide

### Estimated Meat Sharing by Guided Hunters, 2019

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Species</th>
<th>Total Shared</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Deer</td>
<td>7,600 lbs.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sheep</td>
<td>14,600 lbs.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mt. Goat</td>
<td>15,500 lbs.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Caribou</td>
<td>19,800 lbs.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Moose</td>
<td>166,000 lbs.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Total meat shared: **223,500 pounds**.
State Revenue Generated by Visiting Hunters, Guided and Unguided in 2019

$9.7 million in total ADF&G Fish and Game Wildlife Fund revenue was generated by guided and unguided visiting hunter purchases of licenses and big game tags.

13,893 visiting hunters purchased Alaska hunting licenses totaling $2.1 million.

13,272 big game tags were purchased by visiting hunters, generating $7.6 million in State revenue.

Revenue for Wildlife Conservation in Alaska

Guided nonresidents represented only 3% of total licenses, but 30% of total license/tag revenues in 2019.

Average Per-Person License/Tag Revenue, 2019

All Non-Resident Hunters $700
Guided Non-Resident Hunters $1,237
Alaska Residents $35

Nonresidents spent $700 on hunting licenses/tags on average, compared with $35 among Alaska residents. Guided nonresident hunters generated even more on average, at $1,237 per hunter.

ADF&G Division of Wildlife Funding

In 2019, through fees collected by the Fish and Game Fund, resident and non-resident hunters provided $12.8 million (27%) of the ADF&G Division of Wildlife’s $47.1 million budget.

Fish and Game funds are used to leverage Pittman-Robertson funds which totaled $20.7 million in 2019. Combined, Fish and Game Fund and Pittman-Robertson funds generated 71% of Division of Wildlife expenditures in 2019.

Note: Pittman-Robertson collects excise taxes on sporting goods that is apportioned to state wildlife agencies for hunter education, shooting ranges, and wildlife conservation programs that benefit hunters and those that view wildlife. States must provide 25% non-federal matching funds for qualified projects. Stated another way, states can generate up to $3 for every $1 in matching funds. Alaska uses Fish and Game funds generated from the sale of licenses and game tags to match Pittman-Robertson funds.
Summary of Guided Hunting Impacts in Alaska, 2019

Guided Hunters
Alaska residents 133
Nonresident US citizen 2,886
Foreign nationals 204
Total Guided Hunters 3,223
Estimated number of guided hunter traveling companions 505

Shared Meat
Pounds of meat shared by guides and their clients 223,500 lbs.
Estimated value of replacing shared game meat with beef $2.3 million

Guided Hunting Industry Related Employment
Direct employment 1,380 jobs
Indirect and induced employment 510 jobs
Total Employment (direct, indirect, and induced) 1,890 jobs

Guided Hunting Industry Related Labor Income
Direct labor income (payroll and guide income) $25.5 million
Indirect and induced labor income $15.3 million
Total Labor Income (direct, indirect, and induced) $40.8 million

Guided Hunting Industry Spending with Alaska Businesses
Guide spending with Alaska-based vendors $28.0 million
Hunter and companion pre/post hunt spending $3.9 million
Indirect and induced spending $19.1 million
Total direct, indirect, and induced non-payroll spending $51.0 million

Total Guide Industry-Related Economic Output, 2019 $91.8 million

Summary of Visiting Hunter License and Tag Expenditures, 2019

All Nonresident Hunting License and Game Tag Spending
# of hunting licenses issued (14% of all AK licenses that allow big game hunting) 13,893
License and tag revenue $2.1 million
# of tags purchased 13,272
Tag revenue $7.6 million
Fish and Game Wildlife Fund revenue generated by visiting big game hunters $9.7 million
% of ADF&G Fish and Game Fund generated by visiting hunter license and tag purchases 76%

Guided Nonresident Hunter License and Game Tag Spending
# of licenses issued (3% of all AK licenses that allow big game hunting) 3,090
License revenue $590,000
# of tags purchased 4,464
Game tag revenue $3.2 million
Fish and Game Wildlife Fund revenue generated by guided big game hunters $3.8 million
% of ADF&G Fish and Game Fund generated by guided nonresident hunters license & tag purchases 30%

*Figures have been rounded.

Information sources used in this report include: State of Alaska Department of Commerce, Community, and Economic Development, Division of Corporations, Business and Professional Licensing; The Alaska Big Game Commercial Services Board, the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Alaska Visitor Statistics Program 7, a McDowell Group survey of registered hunting guides conducted in 2020, and interviews with registered guides. The full study can be found at: www.mcdowellgroup.net/publications.

This report was sponsored by the Alaska Professional Hunters Association, the Alaska Hunting Conservation Foundation, and Dallas Safari Club.