

March 18, 2016

Alaska Board of Game

RE: Proposal 92 Nonresident Harvest of Falconry Raptors

I am writing in regards to the Alaska nonresident falconry permit take. I was fortunate enough to draw one of three permits offered last year, and I was even more fortunate in that I was able to successfully trap and export a male gyrfalcon. He is doing very well, and I look forward to flying him for many years. I would like to respectfully suggest that you consider opening up nonresident take considerably. My trapping expedition took approximately two weeks. During that time I spent just over \$10,000 in food, lodging, equipment and car rental. This is all money that went into the local economy in a region that could certainly use the influx. I understand that there is some concern about falconers who want to travel into regions in the state that are likely to allow them to trap some of the more sought after birds such as white gyrfalcons. I would just like to point out that my bird cost me more than twice what I would have paid for an even lighter colored Gyrfalcon down here in Washington. If I had hired a Bush plane to go into even more remote areas my cost would have gone up significantly. There is no profit to be had for falconers to come up to trap any raptor found in Alaska even if it were legal to sell the raptor later, which it is not. The bottom line is that falconers can expect to spend considerably more money on a bird that could be easily purchased from a breeder but that extra expense allows someone to have a once-in-a-lifetime experience traveling throughout Alaska and trapping a nice hunting falcon.

Furthermore, I believe that by bringing more falconers into the state additional Data can be collected on various Alaska raptors especially if an eyass take is allowed.

I sincerely appreciate the opportunity that I was given last year, and I hope that many fellow falconers can have the same experience.

Thank you,

Joel Knutson