



Aug. 21, 2014
DPS PR# 14-029

Three-Year Big Game Guide Investigation Ends in Conviction

(GLENNALLEN, Alaska) – Big game hunting guide Jim West, 60 of Copper Center and Anchorage, pleaded guilty to four misdemeanor hunting and guiding violations and was sentenced in a Glennallen Court on Wednesday, Aug. 20, 2014 . West, who is also owner and operator of the Klutina Lodge in Cooper Center, was originally charged with 17 hunting and guiding violations stemming from big game hunts he guided in the Wrangell St. Elias Park and Preserve in 2009, and on native-owned lands in 2011 and 2012. West pleaded guilty to being a guide while committing or aiding a client illegally taking a moose in 2009, taking game while guiding clients in 2011, and for not removing bear baiting stations in 2011 and 2012. The other charges he faced were dismissed as part of an agreement. West was sentenced to a total of \$40,000 with \$32,000 suspended; a two-year suspension of his guiding license with that time suspended by the court; 20 days in jail with 20 suspended; 80 hours community work service; and three years of probation. The Cessna 185 seized during the investigation will be returned to West.

Original Text (posted 11/15/2013): On Thursday, November 14, 2013, the Department of Law, Office of Special Prosecutions and Appeals, filed criminal charges in the Glennallen District Court against registered big game guide Jimmy (Jim) V. West, owner/operator of the Klutina Lodge in Copper Center, Alaska. A joint investigation by the Alaska Wildlife Troopers in Glennallen, the Wildlife Troopers Wildlife Investigations Unit in Anchorage, and the National Park Service revealed that West, while operating as a licensed big game guide, had unlawfully guided a big game hunt in 2009 on federal lands within the Wrangell St. Elias National Park and Preserve without a federal commercial use concession. In 2011 and again in 2012, West trespassed on native owned lands within the Copper River valley while conducting guided black bear hunts over his registered bear bait sites, harvested a black bear while accompanying a paying client in the field in violation of state guiding statutes, and failed to remove his bear bait stations at the end of season as required by state law. Jim West is being charged with a total of 17 violations of state game and guiding laws that occurred in 2009, 2011, and 2012. Many of the charges carry a maximum penalty of 1 year in jail and up to a \$10,000 fine. Several of the charges carry maximum penalties of up to 1 year in jail and a \$30,000 fine. As part of the investigation, Troopers seized a Cessna 185 aircraft from West in August that was used in the commission of some of the charged violations.