

Nunivak: Classify Musk Ox Domestic

The Nunivak Island community of Mekoryuk under the leadership of its council president, George King, has sent a petition to the Alaska state legislature, Governor of Alaska and the Secretary of the Interior, to formally classify the musk ox in Alaska as a domestic animal.

The petition also asked that overaged musk ox bulls be hunted as trophy and game animals with the stipulation that Mekoryuk people share in the responsibility for conduct of hunts and share in the benefits of any fees collected.

"We the native people of Nunivak Island, Alaska," the petition declares, "after a careful

study of possible use of musk ox and after weighing the advantages and disadvantages of domestic versus game animal classification, do hereby petition the Alaska State Legislature, the Governor of Alaska, the U.S. Department of the Interior, and all other interested parties, to formally classify the musk ox in Alaska as a domestic animal, and that provisions be made for their propagation and economic development under that classification with right ownership and management by private citizens, corporations and community governments, so that we who live in rural Alaska may gain

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maximum benefit and livelihood of the government's research and development programs.

"We further petition that law and regulation permit that over-aged musk ox bulls be hunted as trophy and game animals with the local people sharing in responsibility for conduct of hunts and in the benefits of any fees collected.

"We further petition that a training program for the continual benefit of village people be

initiated through the Department of Education designed to further the intent and spirit of this petition."

The petition was formally presented and approved on Dec. 6, 1968 and signed by the seven-member village council and 69 local citizens.

Village council members are: George King, president; Edward Shavings, vice president; Larson King, secretary; Harry Wesley, member; Harold Weston, member; Fred Don, member; and Edward Kiokun, member.