

letters

Admiralty Island protection

Kootznoowoo, Inc.
P.O. Box 116

Angoon, Alaska 99820

January 31, 1979

The Honorable Jay S. Hammond
Governor of Alaska

Pouch A

Juneau, Alaska 99811

Dear Governor Hammond:

The people of Angoon are strongly opposed to the State of Alaska funding a lobbying effort on the Alaska National Interest Lands Issue, D-2.

We have been working for nearly 2 years now to get Admiralty Island permanently protected thru legislative action. When Congress failed to enact the D-2 Bill in the last session we wrote to President Carter urging him to take the necessary action to permanently protect this island. We were very pleased when the President proclaimed Admiralty Island a National Monument. There are many people, both inside and outside Alaska, who support the Admiralty Island National Monument. However, we know that our future still is not secure. And we are certain there will be many attempts to undo the President's action in the new D-2 legislation. We plan to continue our fight to protect Admiralty Island not only for future generations of Tlingits, but for all Alaskans and all Americans. Admiralty now has been recognized as the treasure that we have always known it to be.

Governor Hammond, we feel that it would be most unfair and unjust if the State of Alaska were to mount a lobbying campaign against us. We urge that not one cent of Alaska tax dollars be appropriated to that cause.

Sincerely,
Mr. Peter Jack, Sr.

President

cc: Tundra Times

Whale extermination

Harry John
P.O. Box 1000

Steilacoom, Washington 98388

Dear Editor:

The article about the near extinction of the bow head whales, that the Eskimo up around Barrow were causing, made me wonder just where you all were coming from, since the first coming of the Europeans these animals were wipe out to near extinction.

Buffalos, which once numbered millions roamed the great plains of our continent years ago. All that is left of them is a few hundred.

The bald headed eagle, which is the country's symbol for patriotism and justice were brought to near extinction by the white ranchers that were losing cattle or sheep to the predators of the air.

Coming from the interior of Alaska, I have seen the senseless slaughter of moose along the highway, where a tourist would

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Letters to the Editor are invited and should be addressed to 639 'I' Street, Anchorage, Alaska 99501. The Tundra Times reserves the right to edit letters which are excessively long, and to edit or omit letters which may be considered libelous.

• Our readers write

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simply shoot one, just to tell his friends over a beer and by a fireplace, that he tackled a moose bravely, from about a hundred yards and dropped him with one shot, but you never hear him going out to skin, gut and carry the meat out for its use. Another animal that I have seen dwindle is the vast caribou herds that used to migrate through the Eureka area. I can remember my dad saying, "It seems like the whole mountain was moving, because there were so many caribous." People would come in cars, get out and shoot into the herd wasting maybe a box or more of shells. They might drop one of them, but what happens to the cripples that keep moving with the herd?

I read about couple of my people in the Copper Center area, who had their fish wheel locked up and threatened to be put in jail, cause they would catch the fish that came up the river, that their fathers, grandfathers, and relatives before them depended on. Food, that would enable their family to make it through the winter.

The main problem here is the price of fish and the abundant

of fish that a commercial fisherman can catch, which is his job. Brought upon him by the society, that we live in, where if you earned a couple more dollars than your friend, your up in your standing at the neighborhood bar or your favorite bank. Maybe the word I'm looking for is prestige at the expense of the exploitation of our natural resources.

Sea otter is the last example, their fur was so valuable that it

brought hunters from all parts of the world. The government had to step in to stop the senseless slaughter of these creatures.

Therefore, I don't believe it's the Eskimos that are planning the extermination of the whales, that they have been living on for centuries past. Its cause by the civilization that you are living in, which is controlled by material wealth and greed.

Sincerely,
Harry John