

Subsistence

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A controversial subject in our state. Who knows what is best for individuals who solely subsist on game resources? Surely it is not a game biologist in the Lower 48, or the conservationist or a friend of the resources. It is the people who require the game in order to live. The Native people of Alaska rely on game resources as a daily requirement of bodily needs.

As it has been in the past, government has introduced synthetic food to replace the taking of game to our race, and thus has caused great heartache upon the Native people of Alaska, in the form of tooth decay, ulcers, and a mild form of malnutrition. If you would compare the health of a Native subsistence hunter today with one fifty years ago, the Native of yesterday would no doubt win for physical stamina, etc.

The land allotted the Native people under the Alaska Native Claims Act is not big enough to support hunting, fishing and trapping. Our people need much more land now to hunt in, because the game resources are being depleted. So the d-2 land proposals that will be around each village is of vital importance to the Native people of Alaska. We have for centuries as subsistence users, managed the game and preserved our heritage until the advent of government. Like the buffalo and moose are slowly being wiped out.

Of grave concern is the unlimited hunting of all species of game with the use of aircraft. I address the public now on this type of hunting. If you continue to allow aircraft hunting without more restrictions, you the public will have little or no game left.

Now is the time for hunting lodges to print the truth in brochures about hunting and fishing in the state of Alaska. The public must know the truth about the amount of game resources that is in each hunting unit.

Back to d-2 lands, not only for Natives but for all Native Alaskans. We must be afforded the inherent right under our form of government to subsist off the land. Within the four proposals, Wildlife Refuge, National Park System, National Forest and National Wild and Scenic River Systems. There must be a clear understanding to the people of all races, as to the right for subsistence users on these lands. The act or bill, call it whatever you like. Simple plain English spelling out the rights of Alaskan citizens to live off the land we love.

I once again address all Alaskans, pray, cry, holler, demonstrate to outside big time government that we must under our constitution be treated fairly, and be afforded the right to hunt, fish and trap on federal land.

If there are hearings held on d-2 lands in the months to come, you the public are obligated to attend to insure your right to hunt, trap and fish. Please do so—we must be afforded to hunt, fish and trap on d-2 lands in the state of Alaska.