

# **More control needed of air hunts**

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There is one thing that the people in the state of Alaska who like to fish, hunt and go camping should know. That is this...all reports by various state and government agencies always say that there is plenty of game. One such report on the Yukon River crossing done by the Bureau of Land Management. In that report they say that the residents of the study region no longer solely rely on subsistence resources. I differ with this as I have lived in the village for a number of years and know the fruitless hunting in the fall for moose. Many of our people did not get moose for their cache in that area.

I'm from Stevens Village. In that area each year the people witness aircraft hunting. One person said he saw a float plane along the river and then heard shots fired from the aircraft. This of course is against the law. But who is going to fly along and watch for these people who are not hunters but killers of game. Maybe they do it because the Fish and Game have mismanaged our game resources over the years and have caused a great loss in game population. What I would do if I was a State Representative from our district is enact legislation that would control aircraft hunting and make the Department of Fish and Game come under an audit. This would tell the residents of our state why they need to sell outside hunters thousands of dollars worth of hunting tickets. They do not take the meat many times. I have heard of them only taking trophies.

In the Stevens Village area there is less moose now than there was five years ago. One of the reasons I believe is that persons have built a hunting lodge in the heart of moose breeding grounds in the back of Stevens Village. Our people are wise and a custom that has been handed down through the ages. We never hunt where the moose use as their breeding grounds. That is just like all the Natives in Alaska going to the stores around the state and stealing the chicken eggs before it is sold to the people. Another thing that is bad...Many times I read pamphlets about good hunting put out by various game hunting lodges and so forth. The real truth must be in print today. Or all Alaskans no matter what race you are, will have very little game resources left. It is time now to seek control of aircraft hunting even more than it has been in the past.