

ASNA Moves to Protect Musk Oxen

RESOLUTION NO. 67-1 ARCTIC SLOPE NATIVE ASSOCIATION WHEREAS:

1. The domestic musk ox, through planned husbandry, offers a rational utilization of Arctic resources the consequent economic and social betterment of the people living in the North, plus a cash income both from the sale of its qiviut, or underwool, and a home knitting and textile industry;

2. The musk ox historically has been unable to withstand hunting pressure of any sort, and has become extinct in all areas where hunting was permitted: no sport is involved in its hunting: and its domestic value far exceeds any fees charged for trophy hunting.

3. Transplantation of wild musk oxen into an area for sport hunting purposes where native people own herds of domestic musk oxen makes control of the herds, protection from hunters, and animal husbandry impossible, and prevent them from economic benefits to be derived therefrom:

4. Nunivak Island, whose musk oxen are exotic to Alaska, having been introduced from Greenland, serves as a pool from which animals may be captured for domestication; and similar islands, uninhabited, exist in the Aleutians where additional pools of untended musk oxen can be developed for ultimate domestic use:

5. The transplantation of wild musk oxen for sport hunting purposes contrary to the legitimate interest of the native people of Alaska, and detrimental to their economic betterment:

6. The proper use of wild musk oxen is to reserve them for domestication and distribution by an experienced organization, such as the Institute of Northern Agricultural Research, (whose breeding station is currently located in College, Alaska), for use by the people of Alaska in animal husbandry:

7. The Arctic Slope Native Association has been actively participating for the past two years in the project development of these animals in conjunction with the Institute of Northern Agricultural Research for commercial use in its tribal lands for the benefit of the indigenous peoples:

Therefore: Be it Resolved, that the Arctic Slope Native Association, acting in accordance with its rights and privileges to control its ancestral territories and their development for the betterment of its people forbids for all time the hunting of any transplanted musk oxen in the region known as the Arctic Slope, and declared the musk ox to be, for all legal purposes, a domestic animal.

The Arctic Slope Native Association, at a regular board meeting at Barrow, Alaska, at 8:00 PM, August 14, 1967, unanimously passed the above resolution.

Walton I Ahmaogak
President, ASNA

James Leavitt
Secretary, ASNA