


RC 18

NATIVE VILLAGE OF MEKORYUK

Indian Reorganization Act Council
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MEMORANDUM**TO:** Alaska State Board of Game**FROM:**  Albert R. Williams, President, Native Village of Mekoryuk**SUBJECT:** Subsistence Need for Nunivak Island Musk-ox**DATE:** January 9, 2014

Thank you for your consideration of this very important topic and need for the tribal members of the Native Village of Mekoryuk, a federally recognized tribe.

The tribal members of Mekoryuk are proposing to the State Game Board to implement an **EMERGENCY ORDER** for the subsistence needs for the community of Mekoryuk. Your immediate **action** on the regulations is important for the well-being of the tribal members.

The cost of living at this community is probably the highest in the Yukon-Kuskokwim delta. Mekoryuk is located on an island off the western coast of Alaska, about 150 air miles away from the nearest hub, Bethel, Alaska. Round-trip airfare to this community is in excess of \$500.00 for a one hour flight one way. A can of coffee costs over \$25.00, a pound of pork is close to \$10.00, beef, a staple common in urban areas is also around \$10.00 per pound, a can of evaporated milk is over \$2.00, a five pound bag of sugar is about \$10.00, a can of vegetables (small) is over \$2.00, and these costs are just samples of the cost of living at this remote site.

Less than a quarter of the tribal members have jobs here but still have to make ends meet from their other relations. The ones lucky enough to have these jobs still have costs such as heating fuel which is over \$300.00 for a 50 gallon supply. Each housing unit of course averages 100 gallons per month. The cost of gasoline is well over \$5.00 per gallon. Gasoline is needed to do fishing and hunting for subsistence needs, very few are lucky to be able to afford this.

I would like to reiterate the fact that to the outside people that Boone and Crocket hunters have priority over the subsistence needs of our tribal members. This should not be! The Board of Game needs to be educated to the **subsistence way of living**. The big sport hunters can afford to go to the local supermarket to obtain their diet needs and these people who really don't have need of the dollar seem to take priority over the subsistence needs of the Native Alaskan.

PAST PRESIDENTS

Moses Nayiruk • Peter Smith, Sr. • Tom Dotomain • Jesse Moses • Walter Amos • George K. Whitman, Sr.
 Edward J. Shavings, Sr. • George King, Sr. • Henry J. Shavings • Joseph David, Sr. • Jerry David, Sr.
 Fred Don • Howard T. Amos • Samson Weston • Hultman Kiokun
 Tom Amos • Solomon Williams • Daniel Olrun, Sr.

The majority of the tribal members for the **NATIVE VILLAGE OF MEKORYUK** have signed a petition to have the Alaska State Game Board to implement an **EMERGENCY ORDER** to set aside 30 bull permits for the subsistence needs of the community of Mekoryuk. Currently the present allocated number of permits for subsistence are just not enough for the sustainability of the tribal members even when the ones lucky enough to get the permits share their catch.

Reindeer and musk-ox been been the diet of our younger generation of the tribal members of the Native Village of Mekoryuk. The reindeer subsistence has been on hold recently due to the male/female ratio, the bulls outnumber the females. The community is trying to address this and hopefully within the next five years will be able to provide subsistence butchers.

Musk-ox and reindeer are also the diet of the younger generation of the tribal members and they prefer this over the beef and pork bought in an urban setting where it is available for an affordable cost just down the block from where you live.

We are hopeful that the Alaska State Game Board will implement an **EMERGENCY ORDER** by designating 30 bull permits to be taken for subsistence by the tribal members of the community of Mekoryuk, this along with the allocated five (female) permits designated for subsistence.