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Western Interior Alaska Subsistence Regional Advisory Council

c/o U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

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RAC WI4005.CJ

FEB 14 2014

Ted Spraker, Chair
Board of Game
Alaska Department of Fish and Game
P.O. Box 115526
Juneau, Alaska 99811-5526

Dear Mr. Spraker:

The Western Interior Alaska Subsistence Regional Advisory Council (Council) is one of ten Councils formed under the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA). The Council is authorized by Title VIII of ANILCA to provide a forum for expressing opinions and offering recommendations on any matter related to subsistence uses of fish and wildlife within the region.

The Council held a public meeting on December 11, 2013, to discuss Federal wildlife proposals and other matters related to subsistence in the Western Interior Region. During that meeting, the Council took public testimony on Alaska State Board of Game Proposals 50, 56-58, 70, and 71.

The Council provided an opportunity for public testimony on these proposals and deliberated and took final action by unanimously opposing Proposals 56, 57, and 58. The Council supports Proposals 50, 70, and 71. The reasons for opposing or supporting specific proposals are stated below.

Proposal 50: Support

There are customary and traditional uses of the Teshekpuk Lake caribou herd in Game Management Unit (GMU) 24, which should be included in the ANS analysis. The herd has been migrating into the GMU 24 around Anaktuvuk Pass and to the south of the unit.

Proposals 56, 57, and 58: Oppose

The Council feels it is important if bears are baited, the meat should be salvaged. The utilization of meat should be encouraged and waste of the resource should not occur.

Mr. Spraker

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Proposal 70: Support

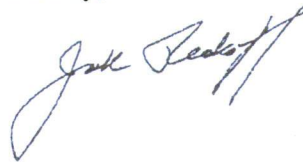
The Council is in support of retaining the winter registration hunt for GMU 24B and amend the language to include GMU 24C of the original hunt area without a sunset.

Proposal 71: Support

We support the Koyukuk River Advisory Committees proposal to reinstate the original boundaries of the controlled use area which are still in Federal regulation. There is always pressure to reduce the size of the area and the purpose for the original establishment of those areas.

Thank you for the opportunity to assist the Board in meeting its charge of protecting wildlife resources for all Alaskans and for the opportunity to comment on these State proposals. We look forward for continuing discussions about the issues and concerns of subsistence users of the Western Interior Region. If you have questions about this correspondence, please contact me via Melinda Burke, Subsistence Council Coordinator, with the Office of Subsistence Management (OSM) at 1-800-478-1456 or (907) 786-3885.

Sincerely,



Jack Reakoff, Chair

cc: Federal Subsistence Board
Western Interior Alaska Subsistence Regional Advisory Council
Geoff Haskett, Regional Director, Region 7
Eugene R. Peltola, Jr., Assistant Regional Director, OSM
Karen Hyer, Acting Assistant Regional Director, OSM
David Jenkins, Policy Coordinator, OSM
Trevor Fox, Acting Wildlife Chief, OSM
Carl Johnson, Council Coordination Division Chief, OSM
Jennifer Yuhas, Federal Subsistence Liaison Team Leader
Alaska Dept. of Fish and Game
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