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From: **Nikki Hoblet** <nicaloos@gmail.com>

Date: Mon, Jan 31, 2011 at 11:10 AM

Subject: Unimak Caribou Herd Management

To: fw7_izembek_planning@fws.gov

GAP Solutions, Inc.

Unimak Caribou Herd Environmental Assessment

P.O. Box 2026

Pocatello, ID 83206-2026

Jan. 31, 2011

Dear U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service,

My name is Nikki Hoblet. I'm 29 years old, and I have lived in False Pass, Alaska on Unimak Island all of my life. I would like to submit my comments to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service about which alternative for managing the Unimak Island caribou herd would be the most effective and the preferred option.

It's important to point out that it has always been a part of my culture and my family's tradition to go subsistence hunting for caribou. Unfortunately, because the herd's number has experienced such a dramatic decline within the last decade, subsistence hunting has not been allowed. I can remember when I was younger and my dad used to hunt for caribou. But now, we must stock up with other subsistence foods and buy from the local store, which is very expensive in rural Alaska. This makes it more difficult to make ends meet.

The safety of my children and that of other people in False Pass is another concern I have. I have three children, ages 12, 7 and 1 ½. Because there are more wolves roaming through town, our children cannot go outside to play without constant supervision. I'm always worried about my children's safety when they are outdoors.

I would like to request that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service select **Alternative B** (to selectively shoot wolves that are preying on caribou calves from the air using helicopters). I believe that option would be the most effective to manage the Unimak Island caribou herd. **Alternative C and D** would also be acceptable. However, **Alternative A** (the No Action alternative without predator control) is unacceptable to me. Something has to be done in order to get a handle on this situation. It's crucial to control the growing number of wolves in this area; otherwise our children's safety is at stake. It's also important so that we may continue to subsistence hunt the Unimak Island caribou, once their numbers increase to an acceptable level.

Thank you for your consideration. Please contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Nikki Hoblet

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False Pass, AK

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