

Alugaaq Luther

RC 067

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Date: 2/26/15

Dear Board of Game,

Hello, my name is Alu Luther; I am a sophomore at Noatak Alaska. I am 16 years old and I didn't get my first caribou yet. For couple years I been trying to get one, but we don't see as much anymore. Hunting caribou is the reason why our ancestors move to this place called Noatak; because it's where the caribou cross, and all through the seasons we live mostly off of caribou.

Caribou is very important in our tradition; we don't waste anything of it. Now days we don't see as much and don't have enough caribou for the winter, because the non-local hunters are getting most of them. Scientist said there are about 500 non-local hunters coming around here during our caribou-hunting season. To catch a caribou we have to go way up to Sapun to get not enough. Sapun is way far from Noatak and we have to have a lot of gas to get up there and come back to Noatak. Some people don't even catch any, or see any caribou when they go up there. Since Elders can't hunt anymore, we have to hunt for them and our family, enough for the winter. Today there are no restrictions on the transporter, and no limits on who could go on our river. There should be a restriction on the transporters because there are a lot of planes coming in and going out, and that is scaring the caribou away. I think there should be limits for people who could hunt on our river because there aren't as much caribou anymore, and in Alaska there are only 33 herds in the state of Alaska. Our herd is the Western Arctic Caribou Herd but it doesn't feel like it is ours anymore. Some people say that the herd isn't coming here anymore because the weather is changing, but I think it is a man made problem. I think so, because there are a lot of non-local hunters. The village of Noatak should have a rule there are no camping on migration routes and corridors on Eli River, Aggi River, and the Squirrel River, and Limit the non-local hunters going to the Noatak River.

Sincerely,

Alu Luther



Hello, my name is Justine Sherman and I'm from Noatak Alaska. I am currently a sophomore at Napaaqtugmiut High School. I am writing to you concerning about our caribou population, and why it's declining. All of us people that live in Noatak really love getting caribou. Caribou meat feed many families here all year round. We really want to pass proposal #1 and #2.

Proposal #1 is no camping on the migration routes, which include Eli River, Aggie River, and Squirrel River. That's where our caribou herd goes through to come up here to Noatak. Lately, the last few years we haven't gotten any caribou. Some years we don't even get to see them here in Noatak. You need to put a stop to camping on these migration routes now. There are way too many people camping on the migration routes. There are currently 33 herds in Alaska. When we get caribou, we use everything from the carcass. We use the meat, liver, bible, and tongue to eat. We don't waste anything; we sometimes use the antlers to draw on sometimes.

Proposal #2 is about stopping nonlocal hunters, or limit nonlocal hunters going to the Noatak River. Enoch Mitchell Sr. told us there were 500 nonlocal hunters coming to Noatak to go hunt caribou. That is way too much, probably more than our population here in Noatak. There was a time when caribou used to come right in town. When I was younger, my mom and I were going to the pit. Right across the cliff, we saw caribou running towards pit. That's how close they used to go!

I'm going to tell you a story that happened a few years back about caribou, and how close they once were without nonlocal hunters, and planes. We were going upriver fall time to go find some caribou, so we can be fed during the winter. About

maybe less than half an hour, we saw caribou crossing. We saw them from far, but waited until they got in about middle of the river where it's best to get them. When they were in the middle, we started going towards them to shoot at them. After that year, I don't think we've seen any that close. Even a few years or so, at our camp upriver they used to cross through there. Now these years we don't even see them that close, not even by Ricky's camp anymore.

I really hope these laws get passed. We need caribou to feed us during the winter when it's very cold and harsh with animals. These two proposals are important because we don't waste caribou; we use everything from the animal. We use the fur for warmth at our camps, and meat for food. One day, if we don't have a store anymore, what are we going to eat? We won't have anything to buy; there will be no caribou near if nonlocal hunters are scaring them away.

Justine Sherman

Davidann Mills

3-3-15

Board of Game

Dear Fish and Game,

My name is Davidann Mills, I am writing to you about the changing of the caribou migration. Hunting caribou has been a tradition for the Iñupiaq people in Noatak for generations. Our grandparents passed it down to our parents, who passed it down to us. Subsistence hunting had kept our ancestors alive and they depended on the caribou to provide food for our family and village. Today, caribou is scarce in our village and non-local hunters have been getting more caribou than Natives who grew up hunting animals.

Proposal 1 is to stop non-local hunters from camping on migration routes and corridors (Eli, Aggi, and Squirrel River). For the past 3-4 years, no caribou has come close to town like they use to. If we wanted to get caribou to store into our freezers, we'd have to travel a long ways upriver with boat. It costs a lot of money to buy gas to hunt for caribou between Sapun and Ricky's camp. Sometimes, hunters would come back with no caribou at all or not seeing any. Caribou have been so scarce for the past few years that we'd pay for others to hunt for us or be disappointed and not have any caribou to eat.

Non-local hunters have been more successful in hunting our caribou than us. One or two years ago, hunters from Noatak saw a plane scare the caribou back up the mountain when they were going down. That isn't fair and they have no right to scare the caribou like that. We haven't had much caribou on our river and it's because there is too much non-local hunters. We need to limit the number of non-local hunters coming to the migration routes to hunt or they will continue to get more caribou than Native people. If they keep coming here year after year, pretty soon they'll be restrictions for us to hunt and the number of animals will keep declining because of them.

Proposal 2 is to limit or stop non-local hunters going to the Noatak River. The non-local hunters don't use all of the caribou like we do. They're more interested in the antlers and the skin. Non-local hunters hunt our caribou because they want money. When we get caribou, we try to not waste any of it. We take the heart, liver, tongue, intestines, meat, bone marrow, and only leave the stomach. I bet non-local hunters only eat the meat and not the others like we do. Every time they get caribou, they most likely will waste what we want. It isn't fair that they leave good food from the caribou while we are at home craving caribou that we can't get.

In 2011, they were about 324,00 caribou and in 2013 they were about 235,000. The number of caribou is decreasing by 4-6% each year. If this keeps happening, there won't be any caribou as the years go by. There is no restriction on planes dropping off non-local hunters. Also, there are no restrictions on how many non-local hunters there

can be. We need to put restrictions before they take all of our caribou away from us. There are about 500 non-local hunters that come to hunt and waste the caribou we need. We learn to cut caribou by hands on learning and we can't do that if we don't have any caribou. We can't teach and pass it down to the younger kids if there is no caribou. Our future is depending on the caribou, it is our main source of food and we are not getting it.

In conclusion, I ask that you guys put restrictions on non-local hunters camping on migration routes and corridors. We can stop caribou from decreasing if there are more restrictions. Last year my papa didn't get any caribou and he was lucky to get 2 a few weeks ago. It felt good to cut meat again and learn from my papa by watching him cut caribou. When we didn't have caribou last year, family or people from the community would give us some. I hope that there is more restrictions for non-local hunters so we can get our caribou back and stop them from declining.

Sincerely,

Davidann Mills

Davidann Mills

Philip Booth



[Street Address] • [City], [State] [Postal Code] • Phone: [Your Phone] • Fax: [Your Fax]
E-Mail: [Your E-Mail] Web: [Web Address]

Date: 2/26/15

Board of Game

Dear Board of Game,

I am a tenth grader from Noatak; my name is Philip Booth Jr. I am writing to you because I am concerned with the caribou. They have not traveled close to town for a few years. We want you guys pass these proposals, the first one is to limit non-local hunters and the other one is to ban camping on corridors. These proposals will help the villagers get food for winter. People are struggling to get meat in their freezers. They had gone around town for food for a few families this year, because of the lack of caribou. Caribou is the food you would see in a person's freezer, but now people are buying cow meat. Food is expensive to get here so we have a higher price, and a lot of families are low-income families.

These proposals will help local hunters be successful. I went up river once this year and did not get any, so we went hunting for moose. We got a young bull. Saw some plane keep going around the hill there was caribou. The caribou would not go down the hill. That was the most meat we got this fall. People sent us meat, our relatives that went up the Kobuk River. This winter was when I finally got caribou, I got two of them. This is why I want u guys to pass these proposals.

Sincerely,

Philip Booth Jr



Philip
Booth

Norman Ashby



Date: 2-26-15

Dear: Fish and Game,

I want to propose two ideas to you, the first one is to stop people from camping on the migration routes and the second one is to limit non-local hunters from coming to the Noatak River. I want to stop people from camping on the migration routes because they are stopping the caribou from going on their natural routes. The natural routes are going to through the Eli, Agi, and Squirrel Rivers, instead they are turning around and going through the east west trend instead of the natural routes.

The first proposal is important because it is affecting our village, we have to go over a hundred miles up the river to go hunt and before this happened we use to be able to go up to five to 10 miles to get caribou. We now have to buy more gas to go hunt and most people don't want to because gas is expensive, and most of the time people don't even come back with caribou because they don't see any and that is a lot of money down the drain. The corridors by the migration route are too densely populated, people go there and wait for the caribou to hunt and when that happens it scares the caribou back and force them to go through the east west trend.

The second proposal is to limit the non-local hunters from coming to the Noatak River. Today there is no limit for the non-local hunters to come and hunt. If there are too many hunters the caribou population will continue to decline. Over the past three years the non-local hunters have been more successful than the local hunters, the reason for that is because we haven't seen much caribou since this issue has happened. The caribou is really important to us because hunting them is part of our culture. People are going to start to buy food from the store instead of going hunting because most of the time we don't see any caribou when we go hunt, and the store is expensive, and people will have to work harder to get money.

I want these proposals to pass so I can go hunting with my dad and don't have to go far to catch caribou. This will be fun for me to spend some time with him and when we go hunting I learn a lot from him. This will help the whole community a lot by saving everyone some money on gas and so we can have meat in our freezer. We also hunt for elders so they can have meat also. That is why I want the proposals to pass, because it is important to our culture.

Sincerely,

Norman Ashby

Norman Ashby

By Tyrell Sherman
February 26, 2015

Dear Fish and game,

Hi, my name is Tyrell Sherman; I am the future generation of Noatak, Alaska. The caribou are very important to us because they are a part of our culture. They help our community with food; we also use the fur from the caribou for sleeping bag when we are out camping. We use a lot of the meat, liver, bible, and heart. We don't waste any part of the caribou when we get, while the sport hunters just hunt the caribou for the antlers, they leave the carcass where they got the caribou. It's not good when they leave the caribou out in the country to get stink. They always go in with planes, when they land, they scare the caribou back into the mountains. Caribou don't come close to town anymore because of the sport hunters; they started to cross way up the river. The sport/nonlocal hunters are more successful than us natives when they hunt for caribou. The caribou are decreasing each year by 4% and the sport hunters are letting the western group of caribou change their directions by scaring them and letting them go through another place. The sport hunter's camps are on the squirrel river, Agi River and the Noatak River, right where the caribou always cross to go towards our river. For that, we have to waste money on a lot of gas to get only about 5 caribou a day. I think you should pass the proposals so that we can have some caribou meat for the winter, and so that we can be successful.



Dear Board of Fish and Game,

Hello, my name is Nicole Stalker and I am the future generation of Noatak, Alaska. I am writing to you in concern about the changing caribou migration from the western arctic caribou herd. In recent years there has been a change in the caribou migration routes and corridors. Non-local hunters camping on the migration routes and corridors like the Eli, Aggi, and Squirrel River. These non-local hunters have been blocking the caribou from coming into Noatak with so many airplanes flying in and out of these corridors. The main reason Noatak's location is here is because our main source of food is Caribou and this was their migration route. Without caribou coming, all we have to rely on is the Native Store which aren't as healthy as getting the good protein from caribou. I wouldn't want to see my generation living without the subsistence way of life. Many of our elders have a deep taste for Inupiaq food, without caribou elders would have no meat to store in their freezers. I have experienced seeing airplanes landing to get the caribou when I follow my family go hunt above Sapun. Thanks for your time in reading my letter!

Sincerely,

Nicole M. Stalker



Date: 2/26/15

Dear Fish and Game,

Caribou is very important to our region; for the past few years we hardly get caribou meat, our freezer has not much caribou meat. The caribou has been taking a different trail instead of going to near Noatak, we never seen caribou near Noatak. They were too much non-local hunters hunting the caribou and they can't use the body parts like natives do. Noatak people had to go to a different village and hunt caribou that are close to them. The non-local hunters use take their head and antlers for trophy and leave the rest lying around on the ground. The sports hunters were camping on the migration route, that's why Noatak gets only a couple of caribou. The sports hunters turn the caribou around and us Noatak people had to go way up river to catch caribou.

They are to many sports hunter camping on the migration route. The sport hunters just camp on the migration route until they see the caribou and then they just shooting anywhere on the caribou until they die. They turn the caribou around and they never go on the trail towards Noatak. Sport hunters were successful because they were to many sport hunters and the caribou just started to turn around and they take different trail, we had to go up river and get caribou, then we had to back down river. It some times takes a long time to go up river and get some caribou and then go back down river to Noatak. There have been at least 500 non-local hunters hunting caribou; there are at least a little bit more people in Noatak then the sport hunters. That's why the sport hunters should wait until they let most of the caribou continue on the trail they use to go through.

There are way to many sport hunters landing on the migration route. They need to put a low limit for the sport hunters to come and hunt the caribou and we know how to hunt them and we know how to not waste parts of the caribou, its been our tradition since they were only Eskimos living in Alaska. The sport hunter population has nothing and it's almost the same as Noatak's population. They hunt them for the antlers and we hunt them for our food for survival. We don't waste most of the parts of the caribou because they taste very good when people make soup out of them. The Alaskan were forced to live off the animals when we struggle for food. The sports hunters are taking out ~~r~~ food and they just take the antlers for trophy.

This matters because it's our tradition on hunting the caribou for food. It matters because the caribou is most important and they give us a lot of energy. We want to be like our ancestors when they were living by eating caribou and other animals.

Sincerely,

Harry Onalik