

**Eastern Interior Alaska Subsistence Regional Advisory Council**

c/o Office of Subsistence Management  
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In Reply Refer To:  
RAC/EI.23034.BM

APR 24 2023

Anthony Christianson, Chair  
Federal Subsistence Board  
1011 East Tudor Road, MS 121  
Anchorage, Alaska 99503-6199

Dear Mr. Christianson,

I write to you on behalf of the Eastern Interior Alaska Subsistence Regional Advisory Council (Council) to recommend that the Federal Subsistence Board support the wood bison reintroduction planning efforts in the Eastern Interior Region.

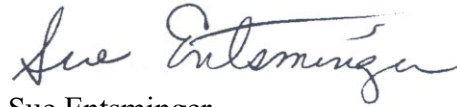
The Council held a public meeting on March 1-2, 2023, in Fairbanks. Among the items discussed were the on-going planning efforts for wood bison reintroduction in our region, which are being led by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G). Our Council was presented information that wood bison were historically present in our region but went extinct in the early 1900s due to overharvest and other factors. Their reintroduction would not cause negative impacts to other species that rural residents rely on for subsistence, such as moose and caribou, because they occupy different habitat niches. Additionally, wood bison may have positive contributions to the ecosystem.

Although there is much planning that needs to happen to determine the most suitable locations for reintroduction and how future harvest opportunity would be allocated among users, the reintroduction of wood bison could result in additional hunting opportunity for subsistence users and more food in our freezers. Given on-going concerns for food security, the Council would like to see reintroduction planning efforts continue.

Our Council recommends that the Board support the wood bison reintroduction planning efforts with the caveat that ADF&G continue to work closely with communities, Tribes, Federal agencies, and other landowners in the Eastern Interior Region to collaboratively develop plans for reintroduction and management.

The Council thanks you for your consideration of this matter. If you have any questions or would like to follow up, please contact me through our Subsistence Council Coordinator, Brooke McDavid, at (907) 891-9181 or [brooke\\_mcdavid@fws.gov](mailto:brooke_mcdavid@fws.gov).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sue Entsminger". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Sue Entsminger  
Chair, Regional Advisory Council  
Eastern Interior Region

cc: Federal Subsistence Board  
Eastern Interior Alaska Subsistence Regional Advisory Council Members  
Office of Subsistence Management  
Interagency Staff Committee  
Benjamin Mulligan, Deputy Commissioner, Alaska Department of Fish and Game  
Mark Burch, Special Projects Coordinator, Alaska Department of Fish and Game  
Administrative Record