

Northwest Arctic Subsistence Regional Advisory Council

c/o Office of Subsistence Management
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MAY 12 2020

Anthony Christianson, Chair
Federal Subsistence Board
c/o Office of Subsistence Management
1011 East Tudor Road, MS 121
Anchorage, Alaska 99503

Dear Chairman Christianson:

The Northwest Arctic Subsistence Regional Advisory Council (Council) submits this FY2019 annual report to the Federal Subsistence Board under the provisions of Section 805 (a)(3)(D) of the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA). At its public meeting in Kotzebue, Alaska, on October 28-29, 2019, the Council identified concerns and recommendations for this report. The Council finalized and approved this report at its winter 2020 meeting via teleconference. The Council wishes to share information and raise a number of concerns regarding the implementation of Title VIII of ANILCA and the continuation of subsistence uses in the Northwest Arctic Region.

1. **Impacts to Federally qualified subsistence users from the proposed Ambler Road**

The Council requested a report on the proposed Ambler Road from the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), the lead agency in the Ambler Road Environmental Impact Statement. The Council asks the Board to assist the Council on receiving the information from BLM on how they plan to reduce impacts to:

- air quality during road construction and post-construction road usage, from the release of naturally occurring asbestos known to cause cancer
- Federally qualified subsistence users resulting from disturbances to the lead migration of the Western Arctic Caribou Herd
- water quality, fisheries habitat, and important spawning areas
- Federally qualified subsistence users from disturbances to graves, cultural, archaeological, and historic sites.

The Council also would like to receive the information on evaluation of current and anticipated subsistence needs for fish and wildlife within the region and project area, including, but not limited to, moose and sheep.

2. Support for the development of a youth education program to provide training for greater participation in the Subsistence Regional Advisory Councils and the Federal regulatory process

The Council requests the Board to provide support and direction in developing an education program to provide training for youth to participate in the Subsistence Regional Advisory Councils and the Federal regulatory process. The Council believes that such training could help prepare the next generation of leaders to serve on the Councils and encourage youth leadership in each community. The Council also believes that youth education could help reinforce science, technology, engineering, and mathematics instructions in the classroom and provide for hands-on training about how to participate in the Federal regulatory process. Such an experience will provide opportunities to youth to learn traditional knowledge of hunting, fishing, and gathering from elders. At the same time, it will prepare youth for leadership position in their communities and strengthen the Councils.

The Council appreciates the Board's attention to these matters and the opportunity to assist the Federal Subsistence Management Program in meeting its charge of protecting subsistence resources and uses of these resources on Federal Public lands and waters. The Council looks forward to continuing discussions about the issues and concerns of subsistence users from the Northwest Arctic Region. If you have questions about this report, please contact me via Zach Stevenson, Subsistence Council Coordinator, Office of Subsistence Management, at zachary_stevenson@fws.gov, or 1-800-478-1456, or 907-786-3676.

Sincerely,



Michael Kramer
Chair

cc: Federal Subsistence Board
Northwest Arctic Subsistence Regional Advisory Council
Susan Detwiler, Assistant Regional Director, Office of Subsistence Management
Tom Doolittle, Deputy Assistant Regional Director, Office of Subsistence Management
Suzanne Worker, Acting Policy Coordinator, Office of Subsistence Management
Greg Risdahl, Fisheries Division Supervisor, Office of Subsistence Management
Chris McKee, Wildlife Division Supervisor, Office of Subsistence Management
Tom Kron, Acting Council Coordination Division Supervisor, Office of Subsistence Management
Lisa Maas, Wildlife Biologist, Office of Subsistence Management
Hannah Voorhees, Anthropologist, Office of Subsistence Management
Zachary Stevenson, Subsistence Council Coordinator, Office of Subsistence Management
George Pappas, State Liaison, Office of Subsistence Management
Benjamin Mulligan, Deputy Commissioner, Alaska Department of Fish & Game
Mark Burch, Special Projects Coordinator, Alaska Department of Fish & Game
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