

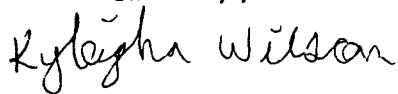
Dear fish and game,

My name is Kyleigha Wilson. I am from Kotzebue Alaska and moved to Noatak Alaska not to long ago. I am in the ninth grade and fourteen years old. Caribou hunting is important to me and my family because it feeds us. We also can use their fur for a bed or rug at camp.

The proposals we have right now aren't working anymore. Our first proposal is to move the control use area (CUA) from Sapun creek to Cutler creek. We want to move the CUA farther up because the caribou are starting to move farther down and the non-local hunters are being able to catch more than they need. We can pass the end mark of the CUA but we want to make it so that the caribou are on our side of the CUA so the non-local hunters wont be able to catch as much.

It is important for us to pass this proposal so that we can get our caribou for the winter and not have less than there usually are. And be able to to have enough food throughout the winter. We as in Inupiaq Eskimos really love our culture and do not like it when people take what's ours. Meaning our land and our food.

Sincerely yours,



Kyleigha Wilson

Tyrell Sherman

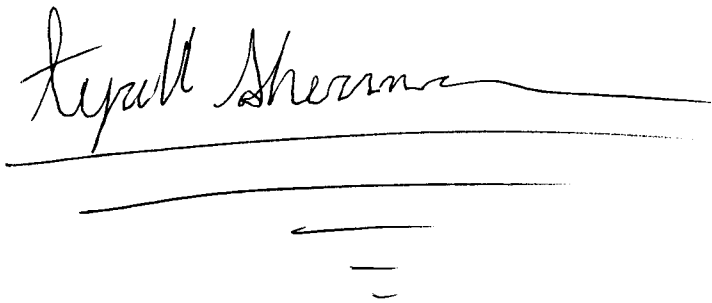
Enoch Mitchell Sr.

November 3, 2016

Dear fish and game:

Hello, my name is Tyrell Sherman and I am writing to you about a few proposals and some conflict on the sport hunters that's been letting our caribou herd take the wrong route. The sport hunters have been shooting the first herd and scaring them away from their original route, that would let the caribou cross way up our river, costing us a whole lot of money for supplies and gas, also extra parts for our boats. They disrespect our lands, leaving things like crash, dead animals at some points. Those are the stories that I heard of way up our river.

Sincerely:



A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Tyrell Sherman". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above a horizontal line. Below the line, there are several short, horizontal strokes that appear to be part of the signature or a stamp.

November 4, 2016  
Dear Fish & Game

Hi my name is Norman, and I love to go hunting. I live in Noatak AK, and I follow my dad caribou during the fall time. I have been going hunting since I was little. The caribou has stopped coming closer to Noatak because of the Sport Hunters. Now we have to go Supun or farther to be able to catch some caribou, and that is very expensive.

I would like to propose a couple of things to you. The first one would be to extend the CUA limit from Supun to Cutler River. I think this should happen because the caribou is crossing over there and that is where the caribou is crossing. This year there was about 500 Sport Hunters on our river, that is the size of our village, and not everyone in our village goes hunting, because they either cannot afford it or they physically cannot go. The people that go hunting from our village catch for their family's and elders. The second is to move all the Sport Hunters camps on the south side of the Squirrel, Eli, and Aggie Rivers. This would let the caribou through their natural migrating and they would start coming close to Noatak again. This would cost a lot less for the people who go hunting with boats from Noatak, since a gallon of gas is about \$10 a gallon, and it takes about a drum to go to Supun and back. If people cannot get caribou that is a waste of money and they would have to buy food from the store and our store is expensive.

This is important because this is our culture and we grew up. It is important to people because it feeds our family's and we learn a lot of our values when we are out hunting. I hope that one day that kids of my own would be able to go hunting on the Noatak River.

*Norman Smith*

Dear Fish & Game,

Hi, my name is Nettie Onalik and I am 17 years old. I have a huge family who loves to hunt and pursue our Inupiaq Values all year round. I have experienced hunting a few times and heard many stories of how hunting was never a hard task to do. Long ago before sport hunters came around, thousands of caribou use to pass through and they would be about 15-20 miles out of Noatak. Before they came around, the population of the caribou use to be about 490 thousand, today the population decreased to about 201 thousand. Gas prices are expensive to buy now days, today it costs about five hundred dollars to get a drum of gas and Noatak is the only region that has those high prices on gas, oil, and food. The sport hunters are not only disrespecting our land, but they are also disrespecting the caribou and our traditional ways of life. They took the caribou for granted, Inupiaq people eat the caribou for many things, we live off our land, and the land supports us to put food on the table for not only one family, but for everyone around.

The Native Village of Noatak is asking for your help to remove all sport hunters and camping areas. We have two proposals that we would like, one is to extend the upper limits from Sapun to Cutler river. Meaning to extend upper Control Use Areas, pilots and planes to 5 miles on each side from the Mouth of Noatak to Cutler River. The Control Use Area was made to separate sport hunters and local hunters. The second proposal is to move all sport hunters and camping areas on the south side of Squirrel, Eli, and Aggie rivers, so that the caribou can start passing closer to Noatak again. We are worried that the caribou's new trail will become a big problem, once they start a new trial, the Noatak hunters are going to have to go about 125

miles up the river just to get a few caribous'. The gas prices are way too expensive, many people around here cannot afford that. We need these proposals for our Inupiaq people and our traditional ways of life is being threatened. So, I as an Inupiaq, ask for your help to remove all sport hunters from our traditional hunting grounds.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Nettie Onalik". The script is cursive and fluid, with the first name "Nettie" and last name "Onalik" clearly distinguishable.

Nettie Onalik  
Noatak, AK, 99761  
November 03, 2016

Justine Sherman  
P.O. Box 74  
Noatak, Alaska 99761

November 3, 2016

Fish & Game Department  
333 Raspberry Rd  
Anchorage, AK 99518

Dear Fish & Game Department,

My name is Justine Sherman, and I am from Noatak, Alaska. Every fall here up north, we hunt caribou to feed us throughout the winter. The past few years haven't been the best caribou hunting due to sport hunters. I can't quite remember how many years ago this was, but we were on our way upriver to look for some caribou. We were lucky enough to just go about 30-40 minutes out of town when we ran into some caribou crossing the river, that's how close they got.

Now the past 3-4 years has been totally different. Many of us had to camp for a week or even longer to get some caribou, it's not the same anymore. There has been way too many sport hunters and airplanes messing up the migration route for the caribou, causing them to move to another path. Just a few months ago, a friend of mine had posted a picture on Facebook of when they saw sport hunters on the river posing for a picture with the caribou antlers they had caught. I was hoping they didn't get the caribou just for the antlers, but also got the meat along with.

I am writing this letter to you about two proposals concerning about our unit 23 and the caribou. The first I am going to talk about is the CUA; we want to extend the upper limit from Sappun Creek, to Cutler Creek. These recent years has been poor up at Sappun due to sport hunters causing trouble for us getting some caribou. They are not letting the herds cross so that more of the caribou will come, instead they wait for the caribou to come closer or scare them with the planes they have.

The second one is to move all hunters with camps on the south side of the Squirrel, Eli, and the Aggie Rivers. One year they passed this law, and the caribou came closer to town. This year I went hunting a few times in hope for some meat, but the herd was pretty far upriver. We were too late to reach them because of people so eager to finally see some close by, and wasn't successful.

This is very important to me because we need caribou in order to keep our families fed throughout the winter. The caribou not only feed us, but they provide warm fur for many things. We use the skin for the sleds, and to put under our sleeping bags at our camps upriver. It would be such a blessing to finally see some caribou close to town, I've had a few dreams of getting some caribou right in front of our church. Thank for for your time to read my letter, and I hope you consider passing these proposals.

Sincerely,

Justine Sherman

Peter Stalker-Norton

Enoch Mitchell Sr.

November 3, 2016

Caribou Loss

Dear Fish and Game,

Hi my name is Peter Stalker-Norton. I am from the Native Village of Noatak; I am 17 years of age. I have been hunting caribou since I was about 11 years old. My experience when I was 13, I caught my first caribou right above Sugar, about 15 miles outside of Noatak. We didn't have to go way upriver to get some meat. I would like to see what our elders were seeing, caribou crossing right by Noatak. I want to see that sport hunters would not be bothering our traditional grounds, and not hunting caribou on our traditional lands. We haven't been getting caribou because sport hunters would block them on the Squirrel, Aggie, and Eli rivers. Now days we have to get at least 1 ½ drums of gas to get our meat for the winter, and gas cost way too much here in Noatak.

There are ways to let you help with our traditional hunting, expanding the upper limit from Sappun Creek to Cutler Creek. We are in need of help from you, we need our traditional lands back from the sport hunters. So I ask, as an Alaska Native, ask that you remove all sport hunters and camping areas to the south side of the Eli, Squirrel, and Aggie rivers. So that caribou will cross close to the Village of Noatak. My experience of hunting on the Noatak River was just this fall, we had to go up at least 100 miles to get one lonely bull caribou. With all these sport hunters going into the area, we don't get any caribou. We were heading up early morning and saw a little herd of

caribou, I'd say about 20 or 30 so. As we got closer to them, they were just crossing the river and we heard about 5 gun shots and the caribou ran back up the hill. So we never got any caribou that early morning. We started heading back to the village early afternoon. We never caught one caribou the two days we camped up the river. So we need your help, to get these sport hunters off our traditional lands.

It is important that you please help us with this issue, we need our hunting grounds back. Native Village of Noatak is having to go up about 100 plus miles up the Noatak river. We don't see anymore caribou crossing across from the Village of Noatak. It is important that we need caribou meat stored for the long cold winter. Not all of the people in the village are getting caribou, some of our elders don't even have caribou meat for the cold winter. Some of the people share and gave to the elders, that means they have respect for elders one of our Inupiaq Values. We put in hard work to get all the money we need for the expensive gas.

Sincerely,  
Peter James Stalker-Noatak  
Peter Stalker  
Noatak, AK, 99761  
November 03, 2016



Fish & Game  
333 Raspberry Rd  
Anchorage, AK  
99518

Brandi Mills  
#1 Riverside Drive  
Noatak, AK 99761

Dear Fish and Game,

My name is Brandi Mills and I am a resident of Noatak. My brothers do a lot of caribou hunting for our family and they can't do much hunting if we have sports hunters taking the caribou.

The things I'd like to be seen changed are moving the CUA from Sapun to Cutler, and move the hunter camps only on the south side of Eli, Agi, Squirrel River.

There was a proposal that said sport hunters couldn't hunt on federal land. A lot of people have gotten to fill up their freezers with caribou meats. It was such a big difference considering we hardly gotten any caribou in the past couple years. Everyone was happy that the caribou was coming closer and got caribou.

I think it's important because we live off of subsistence hunting, love eating caribou, and we can't do that with the sports hunters around. Our elders passed down generations and generations of hunting and if our hunting disappears, how are we going to pass down hunting to the younger kids?

Sincerely,  
Brandi Mills

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Brandi S. Mills". The signature is written in a cursive style with a heart symbol over the letter 'i' in "Brandi".

## Board of Fish & Game

November 3, 2016

Dear: Fish & Game

Hi my name is Frank, I am a hunter from Noatak. The gas up here in Noatak is very expensive, people in Noatak are always buy gas during the fall time to go look for caribou. For the past couple of years' people haven't caught any caribou because the caribou are father up the river. The last time I caught caribou was below Abraham's place and we saw a few sport hunters walking along the mountain.

This years hunting season was pretty bad because the sport hunters moved the caribou more upper by Cutler river. People had to come back and by more gas to go further up the river. This year the people from Noatak Came back with no caribou and the people that got caribou have to share other people that didn't get any. Noatak people went 120 to 130 miles up the river to get the caribou. The Gas price In Noatak cost about 10 dollars per gallon.

This letter is important because we need to extend the upper limit from Sapun creek to Cutler creek. We also have to move to the South side of Squirrel, Eli, And Aggie river. That really helped a few years ago the caribou was crossing close to town and a lot of people got lot of caribou. A few years ago there was about 500 sport hunters up the river it was like a village of out sider.

*Frank Oralik Jr*

03 Nov 2016

# BOARD OF FISH & GAME

333 RASPBERRY RD. ANCHORAGE AK 99518

Dear Fish and Game,

Hello, I am an Inupiat hunter of Noatak, Alaska. My name is Chloe Mitchell. I have been harvesting caribou for many years with and for my family. I have faced many different issues while caribou hunting throughout the years. This fall 2016, many Noatak hunters had finally harvested many caribou which hasn't happened for maybe the past 5 years. The change I'd like to see is that We, the Noatak (subsistence) hunters are given hunting priority on our river. This can happen by not allowing sport hunters on our river.

There are ways you guys can help us as seen. The first proposal is to extend CUA from Sappun creek to Cutler. From my experiences with sport hunters, this fall, they complained about not getting their "trophies" because of the CUA from Sappun creek. They were also complaining to the Noatak hunters about not getting caribou, so, one of the Noatak hunters cruised home to Noatak and called the troopers on them about their complaints. Sport hunters not only just bother us, but they have so much disrespect toward our lands. It seems as if they take the caribou for granted, that's just my opinion. A few years back when me and my brothers were hunting up the river, all we heard were little planes flying everywhere. This was about 130 miles up the Noatak. We also took a look at the planes with binocs and we witnessed the planes diving up and down toward a big herd of caribou. Noatak hunters were really disappointed in that. We didn't catch the tail number on the plane though. These are my experiences with sport hunters and We, Noatak community, wish to see less hunters throughout the rest of fall huntings.

Subsistence hunting is an Eskimos way of life. Caribou hunting is also apart of it. From hearing past elders and their stories about caribou hunting, long ago, the caribou used to be maybe only 10-20 miles out of Noatak. Now a days, its 120-150 miles up the Noatak river just to get meat for our families. Also, gas prices are very expensive, it takes about 2 drums of gas to go up and back home. Which is worth about \$1000 for gas. Therefore, the second proposal we'd like, is to move the sport hunters on the South side of squirrel river. Why? So that the caribou can pass in through our mountains and flats to start crossing much closer on our river. Caribou don't come near often because they never get to cross the Squirrel river but turns and goes around the mountains. That's how they wind up being way up the Noatak river.

SINCERELY,

*Chloe Mitchell*

CHLOE MITCHELL