

Good Afternoon,

RC 29

My name is Gordon Carlson a tribal member with the Native Village of Cantwell, I have live my entire life in Cantwell, other than a short stretch in the Military, my ancestor have been traveling from Cantwell to Gulkana/Tyrone lakes area for 1000s of years, way before they had Non – Natives names, if fact Cantwell area is call Yedatene Na, which means “river behind the mountain” as of now I have 5 generations bury in Cantwell,

Where the community hunt is concern, I was not a big support of it in the beginning because I felt it was going to end up where it is today ... but I want to believe that it could work, believing that only taken 100 any bull moose spread out through the Ahtna region was not going to be that many and the people from the rest of the state would understand that the people of the Ahtna region was trying to hold on to their cultural and tradition way of life... the first year of it went well many of our elders getting to have meat for the first time in many years through the designated hunter part of the community hunt.. But as the year progressed and the community hunt has change in to something else now, now the amount of people involved in the community hunt is making near impossible to hunt areas that we have hunt for years, this pass hunting season only 3 any bulls were taken in the Cantwell area, and I was one of the fortune ones to get one, I split the moose that I shot with 4 families ,which is feeding 14 people this winter, after we got the moose home and cut up I had my daughter do the delivers to the other families as I was taught many years ago by my dad, she also deliver the choice pieces to the elders , they like the ribs, heart, liver, kidneys and moose nose, they were very happy to get that and really like the fact

that I had my daughter do that as way of passing on our cultural and tradition way of life..

What you are see at the start of season is people showing up in their 50,000 dollar motor homes, 50,000 dollars hunting rigs saying they need meat..... But what I see when I go out on the Denali Hwy is camp after camp, all or most fill with guys hiding out from their wife, sitting around drink beer and having locker room talks, some of the things that I notice or heard about this year was: talk to a couple of guys on the Denali Hwy on how it was going, could not believe my ears when I was told that they were hunting under the community hunt with locking tags but could not find any big bulls, they had spot couple of smaller bulls but were to small .... What a waste of locking tags.... Are they not supposed to be hunting for any bulls....If my father knew I passed up an animal giving itself up to me there would be consequences. Also my brother in law came out of Jake Creek area this year with a 55 gal drum full of empty small propane bottles just liting the trail ... people are not having any respect for the land and just leaving trash behind... Also some friends ran across couple of guys that were up for the weekend and they were playing designated hunters, they had 3 or 4 moose sitting in the back of trailer and they were still hunting for more, my question when something like this is going on how much of that meat goes to waste because it starts spoiling and rotten,.. There is too many people showing up in the middle of August instead of the first of September

While I know the community is probable going way, I would like know what is going to take it place, lot of people sign up for 2 years and gave up the right to applied for other hunts, like myself, I look at this like Obama care, you just cannot take way without something to replace it

or better yet try to come up with a fix for it, I am not sure what I am going to do if the community hunt goes away , I have never hunt for moose or caribou anywhere else in the State, and most likely will not hunt anywhere else, I don't feel it is right to go in to someone else house and take meat off there table... I hope that the board of game can fix the community huntbutifnot maybe look at bring back Tier 2 or something like that, if something is not done I feel that cultural and tradition way of life for the Ahtna people is in peril, it seems like it is coming to point of ether starving or break the law to continue to live the way that my dad, grandma, great grandma many before them had live ... if we have to keep compete with 1000 & 1000 of people from the city that can afford to spend up to \$10,000 to go hunting we don't stand a chance to pass on to our kids what was pass on to us.....

I have all ways had one question about the community hunt, What does the word "community" mean to the Board of Game, I myself thought the mean of word was a small town or village ,very close ties to each other possible relate through family ties as with the Ahtna people ... but it seems like the word community to the Board of Game means you can find 25 people all over the State and create a group and call yourself the " Swamp Things" or "The Bad boy on Bicycles" and you are issue tags for your weekend warrior party to hide from your wife... before you get rid of community hunt it would be good to find out what meaning of the word community means and how it is being used..... Is it being used legal or being Manipulate to mean something else...

Thank you