

Western Interior Alaska Subsistence Regional Advisory Council

c/o Office of Subsistence Management
1011 East Tudor Road, MS 121
Anchorage, Alaska 99503-6199
Phone: (907) 787-3888, Fax: (907) 786-3898
Toll Free: 1-800-478-1456

In Reply Refer To:
R26069

AUG 04 2026

Major Aaron Frenzel
Alaska Wildlife Troopers
Alaska Department of Public Safety
5700 East Tudor Road
Anchorage, Alaska 99507

Dear Major Frenzel,

The Western Interior Alaska Subsistence Regional Advisory Council (Council) writes to you to bring forward concerns shared with the Council regarding recent wanton waste issues, along with request action be taken to address these concerns.

The Council represents subsistence harvesters of fish and wildlife resources on Federal public lands and waters in the Western Interior region. It was established by the authority in Title VIII of the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA) and is chartered under the Federal Advisory Committee Act. Section 805 of ANILCA and the Council's charter establishes the Council's authority to initiate, review and evaluate proposals for regulations, policies, management plans, and other matters related to subsistence uses of fish and wildlife within the region. The Council also reviews resource management actions occurring outside their regions that may impact subsistence resources critical to communities served by the Council. The Council provides a forum for the expression of opinions and recommendations regarding any matter related to the subsistence uses of fish and wildlife within the region.

All Alaskan resident and nonresident hunters should agree that harvested meat should be respected, promptly cared for, and brought home to eat. Hunters should prioritize meat and meat care over antlers, and those who fail to do so must be held accountable.

The Council continues to receive reports from rural Alaskans of wanton waste of meat left in the field by non-local hunters visiting the region's lands and waterways. Reports submitted to the Council, along with observations from Council members, describe boats carrying multiple hunters and large racks, yet not riding low enough in the water to suggest that multiple quarters of moose are also being transported on board. Other reports describe full game bags being

discarded from boats after hunters have passed through check stations where proper meat salvage is verified before they are allowed to proceed.

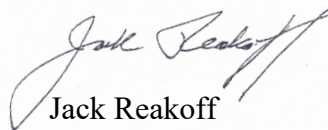
Check stations in the region are currently tasked, in part, with verifying that moose hunters properly salvage meat. These stations play a crucial role in promoting regulatory compliance, although their effectiveness is limited once hunters leave the premises. The Council recommends establishing additional check stations at the Yukon River Bridge and the Nenana boat launch by the Alaska Wildlife Troopers (AWT) to reinforce adherence to meat salvage requirements. Even if these check stations are not staffed 100% of the time, the likelihood of additional inspection should dissuade hunters from knowingly discarding meat.

Another function of the current check stations is to ensure that the trophy value of the moose antlers passing through has been destroyed if required by the hunt. The Council acknowledges that it may seem counterintuitive for hunters to both cut their harvested animals' antlers and surrender part of it at the check station to destroy the trophy value of the antlers and then not prioritize meat after departing the check station, but reports indicate otherwise.

The Council acknowledges that both State and Federal agencies are facing reduced funding and staff resources and recognizes the financial and staffing implications associated with operating check stations. An alternative approach could be for the AWT Northern Detachment to collaborate with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to identify helpful information and observations that staff working the check station could safely document from hunters. In the case of a red flag being raised, having an agreed upon methodology for gathering and passing along information would be of benefit to the resource and in prosecution if warranted.

Thank you for considering our comments. If you have any questions or would like to follow up, please contact me through our Subsistence Council Coordinator Nissa Pilcher at (907) 891-9054 or nissa_pilcher@ios.doi.gov.

Sincerely,



Jack Reakoff
Chair

cc: Federal Subsistence Board
Interagency Staff Committee
Western Interior Alaska Subsistence Regional Advisory Council
Office of Subsistence Management
Maria Fosado, Refuge Manager, Koyukuk/Nowitna/ Innoko/ Kanuti National Wildlife
Refuge Complex
Daniel Shamhart, Alaska Regional Law Enforcement Chief, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Daniel Valentine, Lieutenant Department of Public Safety Northern Detachment
Benjamin Mulligan, Deputy Commissioner, Alaska Department of Fish and Game

Aaron Poetter, Federal Subsistence Liaison, Alaska Department of Fish and Game
Glenn Stout, Wildlife Biologist, Alaska Department of Fish and Game
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