

Hunter Ethics Education & Outreach Initiative

Update to the Federal Subsistence Board
February 2, 2023

Background – The Issues

1. Cultural misunderstandings between rural subsistence hunters and urban/sport hunters
2. Poor meat handling/meat left in the field
3. Increasing competition and safety concerns in crowded road hunting zones
4. Trespassing on private property



Background – Past Actions

Summer 2016	Board supported the concept of the initiative
Summer 2017	Board approved OSM action plan for the initiative
Fall 2017	Brainstorming Workshop (23 participants); pilot projects developed
Fall 2018	Second Workshop (40 participants); pilot projects refined and working groups identified. Community Hunter Liaison pilot project started.

Participating Stakeholders

- EIRAC Council members
- Office of Subsistence Management
- Eielson Air Force Base
- Fort Wainwright Army Base
- Denali NPP
- Wrangell-St. Elias NPP
- Yukon-Charley NP
- BLM Eastern Interior Field Office
- BLM Central Yukon Field Office
- Kanuti NWR
- Yukon Flats NWR
- USFWS External Affairs
- USFWS Visitor Services
- ADF&G Division of Subsistence
- ADF&G Hunter Information and Training Program
- AK Dept Natural Resources
- UAF Dept. of Tribal Governance
- UAF International Arctic Research Center
- AK Chapter of Safari Club International
- AK Outdoor Council
- AK Wild Sheep Foundation
- Tanana Chiefs Conferer
- Council of Athabascan Governments
- Doyon
- Arctic Village Council
- Nenana Native Association
- Manley Traditional Cou
- Native Village of Veneti
- Ahtna Intertribal Resou Commission

Overarching Goals of the Initiative

Reduce user conflicts by:

1. Promoting understanding and tolerance for different cultural hunting values
2. Encouraging respect for the resource, land, and fellow users in the field
3. Reducing meat spoilage and waste



***Not a substitute for the State of Alaska hunter education program*



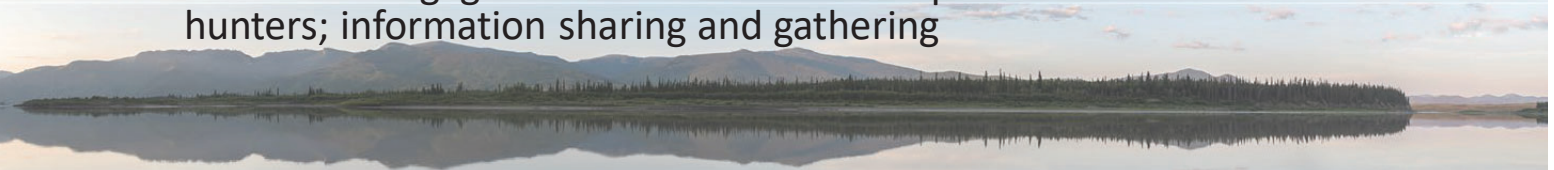
Pilot Project 1: **Community Hunter Liaisons**

Goal:

- Facilitate direct communication between local community representatives and non-local hunters; inform non-local hunters of meat donation options and cultural values/practices

Achievements:

- Hunter Liaison Positions active in Fort Yukon and Circle 2018-2022
- Funding provided by Yukon Flats NWR with help from Arctic NWR and Yukon-Charley Rivers NP through an annual funding agreement with Council of Athabascan Tribal Governments (CATG)
- Increased engagement between local representatives and non-local hunters; information sharing and gathering



Pilot Project 1: **Community Hunter Liaisons**

Desired next steps:

1. Continue to fund current Community Hunter Liaison positions
2. Evaluate Community Hunter Liaison project and explore expansion of project into other areas of the region



Pilot Project 2: **Hunt Like An Alaskan**

Goal:

- Engage directly with military personnel new to Alaska at bases in the Eastern Interior region (Fort Wainwright and Eielson) to promote safe and ethical hunting practices

Achievements:

- Two working group meetings in 2019
- Eielson and Ft. Wainwright representatives helped identify potential opportunities for outreach with military personnel
- Unfortunately, OSM staff changes and then the COVID-19 stalled progress



Pilot Project 2: **Hunt Like An Alaskan**

Desired next steps:

1. Refine the pilot project “Hunt Like an Alaskan” hunter ethics outreach strategy
2. Develop and distribute “Hunt Like and Alaskan” printed and video outreach products
3. Hold outreach events on Fort Wainwright Army and Eielson Air Force bases



Fall 2022 EIRAC Request for Support

Council sent letter to the Board asking the Board to:

1. reaffirm support for the initiative
2. discuss funding options for the pilot projects to move forward



Questions?

LOVE ALASKA

A photograph of a winter landscape. In the foreground, there is a snow-covered field with some small, snow-laden bushes. In the middle ground, a large, white, three-dimensional sign reads "LOVE ALASKA". A person is standing near the base of the sign. The background consists of a dense forest of tall, thin, bare trees, likely evergreens, covered in snow. The sky is a clear, pale blue.