

AVCP

ASSOCIATION OF VILLAGE COUNCIL PRESIDENTS
P.O. Box 219 • BETHEL, ALASKA 99559 • PHONE 543-3521

42ND ANNUAL CONVENTION
BETHEL, ALASKA OCTOBER 3-5, 2006

RESOLUTION 06-10-04

- TITLE:** **SUPPORT FOR THE CREATION OF A HOLITNA BASIN HUNTING, FISHING, AND TRAPPING RESERVE**
- WHEREAS** The Association of Village Council Presidents (AVCP) is the recognized tribal organization and non-profit Alaska Native regional corporation for its fifty-six member indigenous Native villages within Western Alaska and supports the endeavors of its member villages; and
- WHEREAS** AVCP fully supports its member villages in all aspects of their self-determination, health and well-being; and
- WHEREAS** The Holitna basin contains the greatest concentration of salmon spawning areas in the entire Kuskokwim drainage and the most productive moose habitat that are extremely important to subsistence harvest needs of all residents throughout the Kuskokwim Drainage; and
- WHEREAS** Recent research has shown that the Holitna Basin provides spawning and rearing habitat for up to 70% of the sockeye salmon and up to 51% Chinook salmon for the Kuskokwim Drainage, and great but at this time unknown numbers of chum and coho salmon; and
- WHEREAS** Recent surveys show that approximately 50% of the subsistence Chinook salmon harvest for the entire State of Alaska occurs in the Kuskokwim Drainage, and the Holitna River provides a large portion of those salmon for both subsistence and commercial salmon harvests; and
- WHEREAS** Recent studies have shown that several whitefish species use the Holitna Drainage for spawning and rearing, and that these Holitna River whitefish travel throughout the Kuskokwim Drainage and provide subsistence opportunity for all Kuskokwim River residents; and
- WHEREAS** For generations the Holitna Basin has maintained abundant moose populations that provided a high level of annual subsistence harvest for residents throughout the Kuskokwim Drainage; and

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- WHEREAS** In the last decade, these moose populations have substantially declined primarily due to lack of active management brought about by outside administrative and political interference, that has caused extreme hardships in meeting subsistence needs in communities throughout the Kuskokwim Drainage and resulted in the state Board of Game closing the Holitna Basin to moose hunting entirely in 2006 due these depleted numbers; and
- WHEREAS** The Holitna Basin is currently included in an active predator management plan area that is threatened with being prematurely shut down due to another lawsuit recently filed by animal welfare advocates in August, 2006; and
- WHEREAS** The magnitude and fundamental support of the Holitna River system for sustained yield and harvest of fish stocks & wildlife populations throughout the entire Kuskokwim drainage, and their importance to residents of the region cannot be over emphasized; and
- WHEREAS** The Kuskokwim Area Plan adopted by DNR in 1988 stated, "The emphasis of state land management in the Holitna management unit is protection of the fish and wildlife habitat, and support for continued subsistence, commercial, and sport use of these resources.", recommending further that the Holitna & Hoholitna be especially managed area to protect these uses "In recognition of the outstanding habitat, forestry & human use values of the area"; and
- WHEREAS** In March of 2006 the Board of Game approved the creation of The Holitna Basin Hunting and Trapping Reserve with the purpose of focusing management to protect and help moose populations recover and be maintained in the future to provide for amounts necessary for subsistence and reasonable harvest opportunities; and
- WHEREAS** A proposal is before the Board of Fisheries to create a Holitna Basin Fishing Reserve to ensure long-term protection and sustainable harvest of Kuskokwim fish populations that is scheduled to be considered at their January, 2007 meeting; and
- WHEREAS** Any action of the State Board of Game or Board of Fisheries to create a Reserve is subject to approval by the State Legislature; and
- WHEREAS** The primary intent and purpose of the creation of this Reserve is specifically to emphasize and ensure the conservation, maintenance and enhancement of healthy and abundant fish and game populations important to providing established amounts necessary for subsistence,

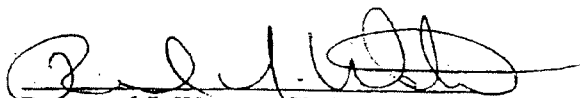
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reasonable harvest opportunity, and other identified population goals and harvest objectives that promote or maintain these populations at the high levels they have provided for generations.


NOW THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT AVCP urges support by all residents of the region that have utilized the resources of the Holitna Drainage in fulfilling their annual subsistence needs over the generations, the State Board of Fisheries, its State House and Senate representatives, the Alaska State Legislature, and State Administration for the creation of a Holitna Basin Hunting, Fishing & Trapping Reserve, and future implementations serving its primary purpose and intent.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT these management actions furthering the primary intent will not be interrupted, curtailed, over-ridden or discontinued, unless it has been first fully documented scientifically, and conclusively proven that such actions are counter-productive or ineffective in promoting, maintaining or enhancing fish and game populations for maximizing sustained yield or providing for reasonable harvest opportunity.

ADOPTED by the Association of Village Council Presidents during its Annual Convention held at Bethel, Alaska, this 4th day of October 2006 with a duly constituted quorum of delegates.



Raymond J. Watson, Chairman



Myron P. Naneng, Sr., President

Sponsor: ONC and Sleetmute Traditional Council

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SLEETMUTE TRADITIONAL COUNCIL

P.O. Box: 109, Sleetmute, AK-99668; Ph: 907-449-4205; Fax: 907-449-4203

Email: sleadmin@starband.net

RESOLUTION NO. 06-16

A RESOLUTION OF THE NATIVE VILLAGE OF SLEETMUTE TRADITIONAL COUNCIL, THE GOVERNING BODY FOR THE NATIVE VILLAGE OF SLEETMUTE TO URGE SUPPORT FOR THE CREATION OF THE HOLITNA BASIN HUNTING, FISHING, AND TRAPPING RESERVE

WHEREAS: The Native Village of Sleetmute Traditional Council is the federally recognized governing body of the Native Village of Sleetmute; and

WHEREAS: The Holitna basin contains the greatest concentration of salmon spawning areas in the entire Kuskokwim drainage and the most productive moose habitat that are extremely important to subsistence harvest needs for all residents throughout the Kuskokwim Drainage particularly the residents of Sleetmute and surrounding villages.

WHEREAS: The Upper Kuskokwim Region is one of the few regions in the State where subsistence still plays a larger role in the local economy than cash does.

WHEREAS: Recent research has shown that the Holitna Basin provides spawning and rearing habitat for up to 70% of the sockeye salmon and up to 51% Chinook salmon for the Kuskokwim Drainage above Kalskag, and great but at this time unknown numbers of chum and coho salmon.

WHEREAS: Recent surveys show that approximately 50% of the subsistence Chinook salmon harvest in the State of Alaska occurs in the Kuskokwim Drainage, and the Holitna River provides a large portion of the salmon taken by both the subsistence and commercial salmon harvest.

WHEREAS: The magnitude and fundamental support of the Holitna River system for sustained yield of fish stocks throughout the entire Kuskokwim drainage, and the importance of those fish stocks to residents of the Kuskokwim cannot be over emphasized.

WHEREAS: Recent studies have shown that highly used subsistence whitefish species humpback whitefish and least cisco, and likely as well broad whitefish use the Holitna Drainage during their fall spawning season and that these Holitna River whitefish travel throughout the Kuskokwim Drainage and provide subsistence opportunity for all Kuskokwim River residents.

WHEREAS: For generations the Holitna Basin has maintained abundant moose populations that provided a high level of annual subsistence harvest for residents throughout the Kuskokwim Drainage and across the State.

WHEREAS: In addition, these lands support concentrations of bear and waterfowl, and provide winter range for caribou and extensive habitat for furbearers.

WHEREAS: In the last decade, these moose populations have substantially declined primarily due to lack of active management brought about by outside administrative and political interference that has caused extreme hardships in meeting subsistence needs in communities throughout the Kuskokwim Drainage.

WHEREAS: The Kuskokwim Area Plan adopted in 1988 stated that, "The emphasis of state land management in the Holitna management unit is protection of the fish and wildlife habitat, and support for continued subsistence, commercial, and sport use of these resources."

WHEREAS: In March of 2006 the Board of Game closed the Holitna Basin to moose hunting entirely due to the depleted numbers and a lack of sustainable surplus for harvest.

WHEREAS: In March of 2006 the Board of Game also approved the creation of The Holitna Basin Hunting and Trapping Reserve with the purpose of focusing management to help moose populations recover and be maintained to provide for amounts necessary for subsistence and reasonable harvest opportunities.

WHEREAS: A proposal is before the Board of Fisheries to create The Holitna Basin Fishing Reserve to ensure long-term protection and sustainable harvest of fish populations and their habitat.

WHEREAS: The primary intent and purpose of the creation of this reserve is to ensure the conservation, maintenance and enhancement of healthy and abundant fish and game populations important to providing established amounts necessary for subsistence, reasonable harvest opportunity, and other identified population goals and harvest objectives that promote or provide for high levels of human consumptive use

WHEREAS: Prior to the Holitna Basin being designated as an "Intensive Management Area", management actions furthering the primary intent were interrupted, curtailed, pre-empted or discontinued.

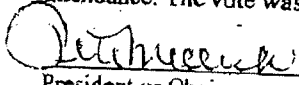
WHEREAS: These board actions are subject to formal creation and final approval by the State Legislature.

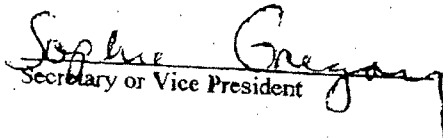
NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: That the Sleetmute Traditional Council gives its full support to the creation of The Holitna Basin Hunting, Fishing, and Trapping Reserve and requests the support of all communities in the region that utilize the Holitna Drainage to fulfill their annual subsistence needs.

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That management actions furthering the primary intent will not be interrupted, curtailed, pre-empted or discontinued, unless it has been first fully documented scientifically, and conclusively proven that such programs are counter-productive or ineffective in promoting, maintaining or enhancing fish and game populations for maximizing sustained yield or providing for reasonable harvest opportunity.

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: The Sleetmute Traditional Council urges support of its House and Senate representatives, the Alaska State Legislature, and State Administration for the creation of this reserve and active support of its primary purpose and intent.

This will certify the foregoing resolution was approved at a Native Village of Sleetmute Traditional Council meeting held this 21st day of SEPT., 2006, at which a quorum were in attendance. The vote was 5 For and 0 Against.


President or Chairman


Secretary or Vice President



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November 3, 2006

Greg Roczicka
Orutsarmiut Native Council
P.O. Box 927
Bethel, AK 99559

Re: Proposal for Holitna River Basin Hunting, Fishing and Trapping Reserve

Dear Mr. ^{Guy} Roczicka:

Thank you for allowing Calista Corporation to review and comment on the proposed legislation to establish the Holitna River Basin Reserve.

The proposed legislation focuses chiefly on fish and wildlife resource and habitat management. Passage of such legislation will be most successful if it is not complicated with side issues, such as development restrictions on non-wildlife resources, which could distract from the main purpose of the proposal.

The Kuskokwim Area Plan for Management Area 15 – Holitna River, states that all areas within Area 15 are open to leasable minerals and most areas are open to locatable minerals with the exception of certain named and identified streams designated as important for salmon spawning and rearing. These waters are already closed to new locatable mineral entry through the Kuskokwim Area Plan.

While Calista does not have a problem with the proposal as presently written, Calista would have concerns should the proposal affect our access to our land holdings in the Holitna River basin.

Please keep us informed of the status of the proposed legislation and particularly of any revisions to the proposed language.

Thank you for your consideration and attention.

Sincerely,

CALISTA CORPORATION

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Andrew J. Guy', is written over the printed name.

Andrew J. Guy
EVP General Counsel

cc: Sleetmute Traditional Council