

Huntington - Board of Game

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

NAME: Orville H. Huntington
ADDRESS: [REDACTED]
EMPLOYER: Tanana Chiefs Conference
POSITION: Wildlife & Parks Director
EDUCATION: B.S. Wildlife Biology, University of Alaska, Fairbanks

WORK EXPERIENCE:

My early work experience primarily involved seasonal labor with Bureau of Land Management as an Emergency Fire Fighter and as a self-employed commercial fisherman. For the decade prior to my Federal employment, I worked in the Laborer's and Carpenter's Union. I have never left Alaska for more than three weeks, and I grew up living and still live a traditional Native subsistence way of life in the village of Huslia, Alaska.

I started my fish and wildlife career as a seasonal Biological Technician in the summer of 1990 at the Koyukuk/Nowitna NWR Complex (Complex) at Galena, Alaska. At Galena I assisted the refuge fish and wildlife biologists in their studies on the Complex. I participated in research involving fish contamination, moose calf mortality, duck production surveys, and wolf telemetry. In my second semester at the University of Alaska at Fairbanks (UAF), I entered the Cooperative Education (CO-OP ED) Program with the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (FWS) and UAF. Under the CO-OP ED program, I worked summers. In 1991, I worked at the Complex at Galena, then I worked in Juneau, AK at Ecological Services (1992), then in Fairbanks at the Yukon Flats NWR (1993), and finally in Anchorage at the Subsistence Division (1994). During these summer jobs, I worked closely under the guidance of fish and wildlife professionals and assisted in many fish and wildlife studies.

Highlights include: waterfowl surveys and banding, wolf telemetry, computer data analysis, marbled-murrelet surveys, maintenance and field logistics, and analyzing customary and traditional subsistence use. I completed my B.S. degree requirements at UAF and fulfilled FWS requirements under the CO-OP ED program, in fall 1994. After graduation, in the early spring of 1995, my first assignment with the FWS was with the Arctic NWR as a Refuge Operations Specialist. After thoughtful deliberation about my position and children growing up without their cultural Athabascan Indian identity, I realized our greater interests were best served in a rural community where I could learn how subsistence and the science of wildlife biology relate, rather than wildlife management in a city.

In fall 1995, I was reassigned to the Koyukuk/Nowitna NWR Complex as a Wildlife Biologist. I continued to learn as I conducted fish and wildlife inventories from the bottom up, and where my primary responsibilities were for moose and wolves, which are some of the important subsistence resources that my children and our Native people can directly relate to our traditional Native beliefs. And I worked closely and developed a good working relationship with State of Alaska

Department of Fish and Game staff, in research and writing regulatory proposals. I also was elected to sit on many Native Alaskan regional and village boards and commissions during my stay in Galena, and here at home in Huslia. In fall 1999, I was reassigned to the village of Huslia as a Refuge Information Technician, until I resigned in 2006.

I worked for the Huslia Tribal Council as their Tribal Operations Specialist for two years. My primary duties were to manage tribal roads and lands, but I did many other things to enhance our Athabascan Indian tribal members' lives in the village, as well as our non-Native residents. I am currently the Wildlife & Parks Director in Fairbanks for the Tanana Chiefs Conference, and the 42 tribes it represents in Interior Villages of Alaska. And I may one day apply to the University of Alaska at Fairbanks, and see if I get accepted into a PhD program.

In the village I also have served as a Tribal and City Council member. Outside the village I was on K'oyitl'ots'ina Ltd. Board of Directors for the villages of Huslia, Hughes, Allakaket and Alatna, BRC Board of Directors, Koyukuk Moose Hunter's Working Group, Interior Regional Housing Authority Board of Commissioners, as Chair on the Interior Athabascan Tribal College Board of Trustees, the Alaska Native Science Commission Board of Commissioners as the Vice President, and the Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) Board of Directors as Interior Village Representative, the National Science Foundation Office of Polar Programs Advisory Committee, and the University of Alaska Rural Education Panel as the AFN representative. And I currently sit on the Alaska Native Steering Committee on the Alaska Native Fund Conservation Program, the EPA Tribal Science Council and on the State of Alaska Board of Fisheries. My primary cultural responsibilities continue to be the preservation of Native subsistence hunting and fishing activities, and gathering and trapping opportunities and all the customary and traditional cultural events that surround those beliefs, and as a public servant for the village of Huslia, the residents of the State of Alaska and the 42 villages of the Tanana Chiefs Conference region.

AREAS OF PROFESSIONAL INTEREST:

Eventually, I would like greater responsibilities in the Native management of fish and wildlife populations in Interior Alaska. Ungulate/predator interactions and population dynamics, and the aquatic/terrestrial interface near salmon spawning areas impacted by climate change, interest me and provide me with valuable insight to changing life cycles in the northern ecosystem. Also, I want to better understand how rural Alaskan residents can adapt to the significant impacts of severe winter weather, wildfire, and how global climate change and warming heavily influences fish and wildlife habitat. With my traditional Native background, there may eventually be a need for me to directly manage fish and wildlife, and be a strong advocate for the sensible and sound management of resources, lands and waters in Alaska. In the future I would like to give direction to Native landowners regarding the prudent management and development of their natural resources. Above all, consistent with my Native moral responsibility, I want to continue to conserve and protect fish and wildlife, and their habitats. Wherever my career path leads me, as a credible professional, I will always uphold to my utmost, this responsibility given to me by our Native people and granted by Federal laws and the Constitution of the United States of America.

AREAS OF PERSONAL INTEREST:

Because of my close ties and all my relations from the Native indigenous community and people of America and elsewhere, and too the animals, land and water near the village of Huslia and in other places in rural Alaska, I would like to continue to work with youth and teach them the values of our traditional knowledge and wisdom of our Native Elders combined with contemporary western knowledge. I have an inherent moral interest in protecting the aboriginal rights of our Native people to continue to live a subsistence way of life and preserve the cultural beliefs associated with that way of life and that are largely consistent with State and Federal law. We have rights granted by Congress to govern ourselves and I expect people to respect those basic human rights of our people. Eventually, I would like to work for a Native organization that is also dedicated to the conservation of natural resources, and with priority to the protection of fish and wildlife, and their habitats. I would like to remain in my home village of Huslia as long as possible, but remain open to do my utmost to do good, and travel wherever to protect sacred values passed on to me by our Native elders from the Koyukuk.

CAREER GOALS:

SHORT TERM (3-5 YEARS):

My short term goals are to work closely with national and international scientists and professionals, conducting traditional knowledge studies, with emphasis on climate change. Using the data from these studies, I hope to be able to provide management organizations, committees, Tribal, State, and Federal government agencies, with sensible direction. And I will plan on going back and get my PhD at the University of Alaska Fairbanks within the next twelve years, but that depends on my family and education. I also want to help stabilize the community of Huslia as climate change impacts begin to threaten our way of life, and enhance the economic sovereignty of our people here. And I want to continue to sit on Fish and Game Boards people depend on.

LONG TERM:

The long term goals I have set are to continue to be a professional consultant and stay in a professional position where my unique experience and skills will enhance the development of studies, and wise management policies. I would like to work toward development and implementation of some practical local co-management agreements between Native Alaskans and the State and Federal agencies for the benefit of fish and wildlife and their habitats, and the Native people. And I would like to lead the fight to restore basic human rights extinguished by Congress and the aboriginal hunting and fishing rights to Alaska Natives within Native owned lands in Alaska.

Note: I can usually be reached by email or phone as listed below:



