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Organization:

Title:

Comments: To Petersburg District Rangers office,

I was checking a moose I harvested thru the local state fish and game check station last week and the state trooper and biologist both informed me that the area I was hunting in would have a reality show filming in it early October thru November sometime, they both quickly added they thought was a bad idea[hellip].. I would say it's worse than that it's a horrible idea and there are regulations in place to prevent exactly this. The state has rural subsistence priority laws and the federal government has the same covered under "Title VIII that gives local rural residents precedence for using fish or wildlife resources. This is commonly known as the "rural preference" and grants subsistence uses priority over other uses, such as non-local sport hunting and fishing."

I called in and spoke to Mr. Uppencamp earlier this week. This isn't a small project the production company is asking for permits for. It sounds like 8 straight line miles of beach on the lower west side of Duncan Canal, 40 plus people involved. Something that immediately stuck out to me was the forest service denied the company access to areas around existing forest service rental cabins because of the impact this activity would have on those locations. It's ironic that the forest service pushed the reality show into the highest use subsistence area I know of to avoid cabin sites and the hunters in the same area are there to avoid forest service cabins.

The location in question isn't that remote it is 8 miles from Papkes landing, the launch site for most subsistence use in this area, less than 3 miles from people's permanent residences. Close enough that on nicer days you can hear dogs barking at people homes when you are in the woods.

The amount of use this area gets for subsistence hunting October thru the deer rut in November is huge. I fish commercially at Fair Island almost every day in the fall and winter on a weekends there can be as many as 17 skiffs that go into Little Duncan looking for a place to hunt per day. Most with 2-3 people often family's with kids. Obviously they all can't hunt in there at once, but they go look[hellip] on weekdays there is normally few retired guys or other people that are seasonal workers hunting the area. The old timers often favor the old log transfer facility directly south of Little Duncan. The road is easy to walk and productive.

Something that occurs to me is maybe not everyone understands hunting ethics. It is a unwritten rule that if someone is in the place you were planing to hunt before you get there you move on giving them plenty of room. So I'm am not concerned about a reality show killing a few deer, I am concerned that a commercial entity is blocking access to subsistence hunting area by being in the way. That is where I feel that if this permit is issued it directly conflicts with state and federal law, in other words a non local commercial operation is blocking access to subsistence hunting area. The highest producing and used area I have ever seen in Alaska.

Every moose and deer my daughter and I have harvested in the past 20 years has come from this area, so it has been very important to my family over the years. To have anyone in Petersburg miss out on the opportunity to harvest deer during the rut so a reality show can film seems just flat wrong. If someone had asked me to design a project to negatively impact the most subsistence users in Petersburg I don't think I could have done better than this plan. A different place and/or time would be much better.

As I talked to people around southeast the past few days about this seems to be a problem people have been running into a lot lately. Perhaps we need to look at what is appropriate on federal lands in Alaska. In my lifetime I have watch the forest service shift from high impact commercial operations, logging, to lower impact. I'm not sure that reality shows are exactly low impact. Since this a federal issue I will be sending a copy of this to Senator Murkowski and Representative Peltola. Thanks for the time.

Lee Gilpin.

Petersburg

Sent from my iPad