From: Mike
To: MakahDEIS.nwr@noaa.gov;
Subject: 2008 Makah DEIS
Date: Sunday, May 11, 2008 10:19:10 AM

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Donna Darm
Assistant Regional Administrator
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Mrs. Darm,
I read a lot about this issue and must voice my opinion at this time.
If the tribes want ancestral hunting rights they should have them, but they should be required to hunt the way there ancestors did. They should be required to paddle out with paddles made like their ancestral paddles, in dugout canoes made like their ancestral canoes and use wooden spears like their ancestors did. Then they can tow the animal back to the beach with their paddles and canoes and use the materials only for themselves, they should not be allowed to sell any part of the animal or make any kind of profit from the hunt or the animal products. After all, they want the right for religious reasons, correct?
If these people have to do the things their ancestors did, the way their ancestors did, they may not be so inclined. To me this just looks like another scheme for profit.
The native peoples hunted these animals for sustenance, not for pleasure. The religious part was in thanks for the bounty not for the hunt. If there had been an easier way for these people to survive they would have taken it.
If they want ancestral hunting rights for the correct reasons they should have them, but only using the methods used before white mans contributions.
Thank you for your time,
Mike Coffey