4/29/2010

My name is Henry Mack. A 3rd generation Mack family resident of King Cove. I am the mayor of King Cove, a member of the King Cove Corporation and a member of the King Cove Tribe. In 1960 and again in 1980 the King Cove and Belkoski Elders and owners of trapping and subsistence homes in Kinzarof lagoon, Joshua green, down to Thin Point lagoon were not given the opportunity to speak in regards to the action that USFWS was taking, turning their place of survival into a refuge, wilderness. If our elders were given the opportunity back then to speak, we more than likely would not be having these EIS meetings today, the access to the cold bay airport would have been a given. I am in support of this land exchange, which allows for a road to be constructed from King Cove to Cold Bay airport.

I would ask that in the EIS process that you look into what the 40 plus miles of road that already criss crosses the refuge, wilderness, with the same concerns that USFWS and other groups put into the 7 miles of new road would bring. The USFWS invites people in their annual flyers they put out; to come to Cold Bay and enjoy the scenery and wildlife, 7 more miles will only improve that access, so that more can be enjoyed.

There are a lot of concerns brought forward by USFWS and others about the Black Brant. In the EIS process, when looking at how the access road will affect the migrating birds, you need to look at the current road system and activities that are allowed throughout the refuge. Moterized boats ,kayaks,airplane,to name a few. These usages have been going on for many years know, right at the concerned eel grass beds in Izembek and Kinzarof Lagoons. From the subsistence hunters from King Cove and Belkoski,s point of view we haven't seen destructive effect on the birds. This access road will be 1 to 2 miles away at its closes point from these lagoons.

We can discuss the Bears ,Caribou, Ducks, Birds and other wildlife until were blue in the face. We already see that wildlife and people have lived and enjoyed these lands and lagoons for as long as people have been here. The 11 miles of road that is already builted on the King Cove side, which we have been driving on for the past 4 years, should be looked at. We see Bears, Caribou, and Wolfs, sea otters, sea lions and whales. What we observed, the road has not had a negative effect on any of them. If anything we see more wildlife each year.

We are subsistence hunters, about 50 people from King Cove and Belkoski hunt these land and lagoons alongside the 100,s of hunters who fly in from as far away as Japan, Germany and lower 48. There is a difference, we hunt to put food on our table, not to decorate our homes or just shoot a lot of birds for the trill, cut the breast meat off and discard the remains two thirds meat, what a waste. Too many times I have seen garbage bags debrested birds dumped of the Cold Bay dock by the guided hunters.

The road to Cold Bay Airport has been a desire of the people in King Cove for as long ago some 50 years. Back in 1976 Rex Poe along with the city council of King Cove, which I was a member of at that time, stated a request for a road to be constructed to Cold Bay Airport, for Health and Safety purposes. Sad thing Rex lost a brother in-law to a plane crash on the mountain above King Cove due to bad weather in the early 80,s. Joanne Utrecht who was on the city council with Rex Poe, also lost a brother to a plane crash, due to bad weather flying from King Cove to Cold Bay. These are losses that no one wants to repeat. Would you believe it we the people of King Cove really want this land exchange to happen so that the road to the Cold Bay Airport can be constructed for our Health and safety.

Henry Mach