

**OPPOSING THE OPENING OF TRADITIONAL SUBSISTENCE
USE HUNTING AREA TO SPORT HUNTERS IN THE ARCTIC
VILLAGE SHEEP MANAGEMENT AREA PERMANENTLY AND
CLOSING OTHER CRITICAL SUBSISTENCE AREAS IN NEED
OF PROTECTION**

WHEREAS, Tanana Chiefs Conference (TCC) is an Alaska Native tribal health and social services consortium established by the Interior Alaska tribes and tribal communities, to provide a unified voice in advancing sovereign tribal governments through the promotion of physical and mental wellness, education, socioeconomic development and culture of the Interior Alaska Native; and

WHEREAS, Alaskan Natives have stewarded their territories for over 10,000 years to ensure the health, well-being, social and cultural foundation, and spiritual existence of their peoples, as well as that of the animals, lands, and waters since time immemorial; and

WHEREAS, The Arctic Village Sheep Management Area is a critical subsistence use sheep hunting area of historical and cultural significance where our ancestors have hunted on this sacred site before us since time immemorial; and

WHEREAS, The Neets'aai Gwich'in and all Interior Tribes have managed their subsistence resources in common with their traditional laws. For the Neets'aai Gwich'in this has translated to this important subsistence use area being closed off to sport hunters, and

WHEREAS, High air traffic activity caused by sport hunting and guiding parties within our traditional hunting areas has created a high influx of hunters that compete with the Neets'aai Gwich'in subsistence hunting and the current Sheep population cannot sustain this; and

WHEREAS, Every two years sport hunters or outside interests propose to open the Arctic Village Red Sheep Creek Management Area to outside sport hunters, and the Neets'aai Gwich'in have to endlessly advocate to keep the area closed to sport hunters and stay abreast of these efforts, and

WHEREAS, While the Neets'aai Gwich'in of Arctic Village will bear the greatest impact of opening the Arctic Village Red Sheep Creek Management area these nonindigenous stressors impact our collective wildlife populations and need additional support and advocacy efforts to keep the area closed off to sport hunters permanently; and

RESOLUTION 2023 - 12
Tanana Chiefs Conference Full Board of Directors



WHEREAS, Sport and commercial hunting and fishing interests are threatening critical subsistence resources throughout the Tanana Chiefs region and have led to a drastic decline in the Chinook salmon runs in the Yukon-Kuskokwim Rivers and the Western Arctic caribou herd; and

WHEREAS, TCC and its member villages are endlessly having to advocate at Alaska Department of Fish and Game for limits on commercial and sport hunting and fishing to protect our food security and survival of our people.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Tanana Chiefs Conference Full Board of Directors does hereby support the Neets'ait Gwich'in traditional sheep management decision to maintain the Red Sheep Creek and Crane Creek closures to sport hunters within the Arctic Village Sheep Management Area permanently; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the Tanana Chiefs Board of Directors does hereby support all TCC communities to advocate and encourage permanent solutions to protecting the food security of our people; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Tanana Chiefs Board of Directors does direct the Tribal Stewardship Program to work with Arctic Village and other TCC villages to advocate for a permanent solution to closing the Arctic Village Sheep Management Area and other critical subsistence use areas to sport hunting and fishing and outside interests that negatively affect subsistence rights; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that this resolution shall be the policy of Tanana Chiefs Conference.

CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that this resolution was duly passed by the Tanana Chiefs Conference Full Board of Directors on March 16, 2023 at Fairbanks, Alaska and a quorum was duly established.





Charlie Wright
Secretary/Treasurer

Submitted by: Arctic Village Council