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Hello my name is Dorothy Shinn

Moose and caribou meat is important to me because its our traditional foods, its something we always ate.

At my age young people share with me. It is important that younger people get moose so they can share with me because I cannot hunt for myself.

I am frustrated with the community hunt as it is now. It is not working out the way it was supposed to.

The board created the community hunt to meet the needs of our community. It no longer meets those needs.

This year I hear that 83 groups have signed up with more than 3,000 people.

There needs to be a closer look at who qualifies for the community hunt.

I have lived in this community the Copper River Basin almost my whole life. I went to elementary and high school here. I have involved in this community as a Tazlina Council Member, Ahtna Heritage Board Member, Ahtna Inc. Board of Director and on the board of both KCAM, our local radio association, and Crossroads medical center. I have served this community for 40 plus years. I pay my electric, heating, and fuel bills here and do my grocery shopping here. I buy my gasoline for my car here.

To me a community is a group of people who have a longstanding relationship with one another, who practice a way of life together, who live and die together. I am not a so called transient hunt member.

Last year I only got very little moose meat to sustain me for the year.

I understand that our people got about 15 moose last year there was not enough to share with an elder like me who unable to go hunt for myself.

I think there needs to be a remedy for this.

Both my mom and dad hunted. I remember back when I was a young kid they harvested three moose in order to provide for at family of ten. My mom and dad always shared moose meat with elders. For example, they shared heart, kidney, liver and moose heart, with elders because they were considered a delicacy. We hung the animals whole and cut off pieces of meat when we wanted to cook. We had no freezers so the meat was smoked and hung out. That was a really good site, to see all that moose meat hanging up.

My mom ate the meat, tanned the skin to make clothing, moccasins and mukluks for the family. We cannot do that today because people have to go to work. We have to work now.

My mom and dad pushed me to learn English, to get married and have children. But I believe we are going to have to continue to our follow our traditional ways in order to survive and if we don't keep our traditional ways we won't survive.