From: Teodent@comcast.net
To: MakahDEIS.nwr@noaa.gov;
Subject: 2008 Makah DEIS
Date: Tuesday, June 24, 2008 12:08:47 PM

Dear Steve Stone,

Thank you for allowing me, a resident of Washington state, to voice my opinion regarding whale hunting by the Makah tribe. I tried to make sense of your very well done website, but suppose my argument against the hunt is based on emotion and logic more than science. I do appreciate the cultural tradition of the Makahs, but have to question their need to brutally harpoon and kill a gray whale to continue their heritage. Though whaling was an important part of the tribe's past, as the sacrificed marine mammal provided much needed nutrition and resources, no one would argue that the hunt is needed in modern day to fullfil those ancient needs. Instead, it is purely ceremonial today. The story and custom of this ancient ritual could be passed on to the younger members of the tribe in many other ways that would not involve taking the life of a gray whale. Festivals, story-telling, dance, and ceremonial rituals help nati ve Americans keep their past alive in many aspects. The tradition of whaling could be included.

I strongly URGE YOU TO DENY the Makah's request for gray whale hunting. As human inhabitants of this planet, we must all evolve in our thinking as we learn and grow. The Makahs can and should be part of this human evolution, while remembering their past traditions in ceremony ritual only.

Again, thank you for allowing me to express my views.

Sincerely,
Beverly Forman
Mukilteo, WA