From: David Tonkin
To: MakahDEIS.nwr@noaa.gov;
Subject: Reject Makah tribe"s request to resume whaling
Date: Wednesday, August 13, 2008 9:48:38 PM

Normally I am a great defender of Native American Tribes and their treaties, which have been broken time and time again by many US government administrations. However, the 19th century treaty with the Makah tribe that guarantees them the right to continue whaling was agreed to before humans learned about the high level of intelligence, social structure and emotional life that whales have. We must abrogate the whaling provisions of the treaty and deny the Makah's request. Not only would killing whales merely for the sake of tradition and religion be tantamount to murder, but it adversely affects entire families and pods of whales. What is even worse, in order to kill some, the Makah would be allowed to wound and chase hundreds over just a five year period. What kind of civilization can we claim to be if we allow that? The rights of the Makah to practice their religion and pursue their treaty rights do not outweigh the rights those poor whales should have to survive without harassment and violence. We cannot be hypocritical in our efforts to stop the Japanese and others who hunt whales only to let our own Native Americans do it. The only valid reason we could possibly have for killing whales is to cull pods that are overfeeding their feeding areas and are starving to death or likely to starve to death as a result. Let the Makah wait for those opportunities if they ever present themselves. Until then, they can hunt whales with a camera.

Please deny the Makah tribe's request.

Sincerely,
David Tonkin
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