From: Jennifer Parker
To: MakahDEIS.nwr@noaa.gov;
Subject: 2008 Makah DEIS
Date: Friday, August 15, 2008 8:00:19 AM

Hello and thank you for taking public comments on this very serious request from the Makah Indian Tribe. I am not an expert on the matter but I have been active in the conservation and restoration of Pacific Northwest water environments, connecting environments and the health of the marine life population for many years. I understand the basic facts that the Makah Tribe want to resume hunting Gray Whales for both financial and cultural reasons. I can not speak to the cultural reasons as I am not Makah nor Native American.

As a resident of these lands and waters however, I appreciate the opportunity to have my opinion heard on the hunt in terms of the financial concerns of the Tribe. While the US Government historically has been incredibly unfair, harsh and even cruel in the treatment of our Native Americans this does not justify the killing and/or slaughter with high-powered, large-caliber rifles of our endangered Gray Whales. I understand Japanese Whalers can profit 500K or more from one Gray Whale; however, this does not justify sanctioned killing of whales. Many countries vehemently oppose and are active in their opposition to the Japanese Whale hunting. It is an immoral act to to hunt and kill endangered animals, particularly for profit.

The Makah Tribe continue to have a very serious financial crisis coupled with high unemployment, crime and substance abuse. My response does not address the long battles the Makah tribe have faced and continue to and it not that I do not care or am not concerned. But the issue today is about the killing of an endangered animal and the negative environmental impact it has on us all. I do not see how the entire populace, humans and marine life, as well as our very fragile ecosystem in the Pacific Northwest benefit in any way from a sanctioned hunt minus a short term financial boon to the Tribe. The long term negative repercussions to our fragile ecosystem of all whale hunting is felt by us all. I do not support the issuance of limited killing of Gray Whales.

Thank you

Regards,

J. Parker