

May 27, 2020

Dear Yukon Fish and Wildlife Enhancement Trust,

I would first like to thank you for the grant we received to purchase our wall tent and wall tent accessories. We had a wonderful trip and the children got to experience a once in a lifetime type activity.

As always, when we have a Bison camp, we try to include new and exciting activities for the students to participate in. This year however our CAFN Elder was unable to come out to our camp and teach us about traplines, trapping animals and traditional trapping techniques as the road conditions were terrible. But! We did have an opportunity for ALL the students to be a part of field dressing an bison as we were able to harvest one not far from camp. Activities like these allow the students an opportunity to experience a different point of view from their own daily lives. It shows that even though you are taking animals, you are also respecting them and where they live.

The First Nations Outdoor Education Consultant, George Bahm, was unable to attend as well due to a new job position. He did give us the Dene games kit so although we didn't have the same traditional knowledge, were able to try some different outdoor games. This type of "on the land/hands on" knowledge sharing with the students is an amazing way to show that learning can happen without a classroom and desks.

This year, as well, we were fortunate enough to have not just a Conservation Officer along to help us navigate the terrain, but also the HEED instructor. Together their combined knowledge of the land we were on, as well as the animals we may see, provided us with many teachable moments, which we could never had planned for.

Thank you again for contributing to this project. We hope to continue on with these hunts in the future and we look forward to dealing with you again.

Thank you,

Terrie Forrest
Holy Family School

Communications

-During the trip we communicate with our school daily, either using a satellite phone, or an InReach. The school admin assistant then passes the information on and the rest of the school gets daily updates during the “announcements.”

Bison Hunt 2020

After three days of covering a lot of mountainsides we were finally able to locate and harvest a bison on our very last hunt afternoon. We were fortunate enough to be close to camp so we were able to bring the bison back for all the students and adults to see. They were even able to help in the field dressing process! We had beautiful weather and great conditions for most of the week, except the whiteout on the last day of hunting! It was a delightful camp and the experience was beneficial for all of us.

We would like to thank:

Our parent volunteers, the ones out on the land and the ones that helped at school

Conservation Officers TJ Grantham and Russel Osborne

HEED Coordinator Jim Welsh

CAFN Elder James Smith (Thank you for attempting to come see us!)

CAFN Member Harry Smith

CAFN First Nations

And anyone else I may have missed!

A special thank you also goes out to **the Yukon Fish and Wildlife Enhancement Trust** for the grant funding that enabled us to purchase a wall tent, stove, frame and sleeping bags for our annual bison hunt/outdoor Ed. Programming.



