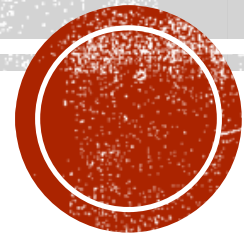
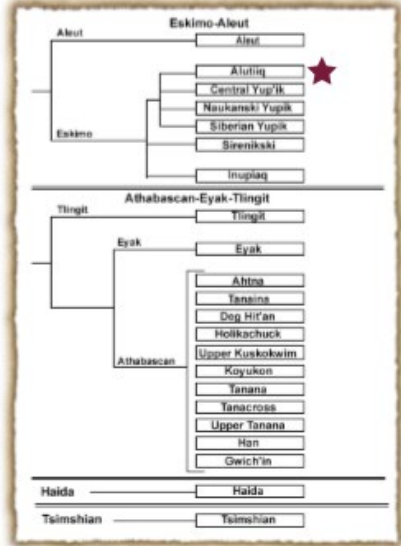


Melissa Berns, Herd Manager

Old Harbor Alliance Inc.



Alutiiq / Sugpiaq



- Approx. 13,913 population (6,334) - 17.6% Alaska Native
- Kodiak Alutiiq Nation: 10 Alutiiq Tribal Councils



ALUTIIQ PEOPLE

- Inhabited Kodiak Island for over 8,000 years
- Maritime Dwellers
- Over 200 settlements w/10,000 people
- Heavily impacted by western colonization late 1700 into early 1900's
- 1784 Refuge Rock Massacre
- Sea Otter Slavery
- Epidemics
- Christianity & Assimilation

Baptism of Citizens

Historical traumas faced by the people today





TODAY'S PEOPLE

7 villages on the island

Revitalization in language & cultural arts

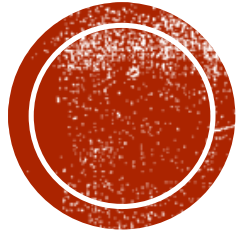
Subsistence is foundation of living

Strong respect and care for elders & youth

Stewardship of our lands & ocean is important as they are our life sources

Community Unity – Strength working towards similar goals

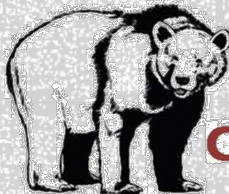




OLD HARBOR ALLIANCE, INC.

NOT FOR PROFIT ENTITY

Bringing our people together to build a healthy community with strong leaders for all generations



**ALUTIIQ TRIBE
OF OLD HARBOR**



OLD HARBOR
NATIVE CORPORATION



City of Old Harbor

PO Box 109
Old Harbor, Alaska
99143
(907) 286-2203 CR 286-2204
Fax (907) 286-2278

City of Three Saints





OUTREACH & PROJECTS

Culture Camps

- Subsistence
- Arts
- Dance
- Plant & Animal Education
- Bridging Generational Gap
- Suicide Prevention
- Subsistence Abuse Prevention

Harvesting for Elders

- Wood, Fish, Deer, Bear, Berries

Economic Development

- Airport Project

- Arts

Sitkalidak Bison

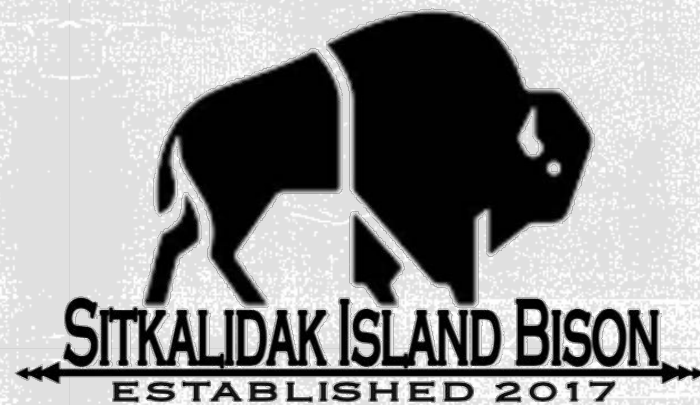


OLD HARBOR'S SITKALIDAK ISLAND



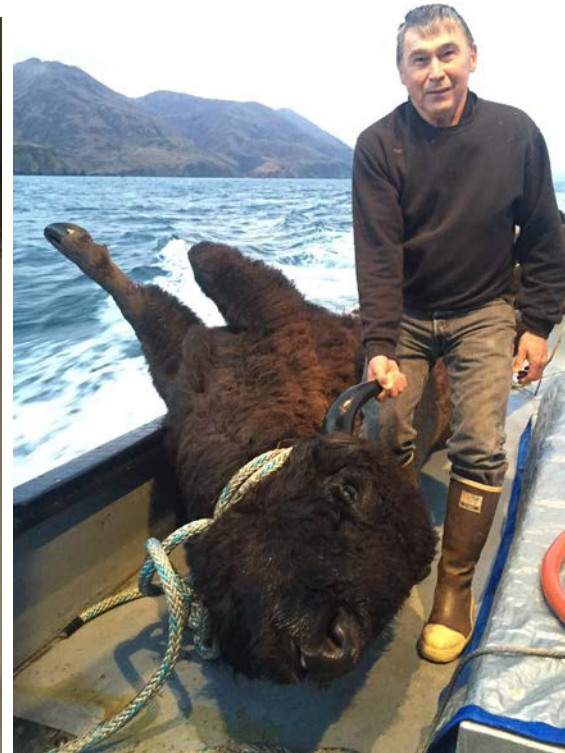
- 120 square miles – 76,800 acres
- Owned by OHNC
 - MOU for Grazing Rights
- Preserved for subsistence use by our shareholders & dependents
- Cattle Ranching by settlers early 1900's throughout archipelago. 800-1200 head on island.
- Natural lands home to wildlife
 - Kodiak Bears
 - Deer
 - Fox





- **Food Security**
 - Alternate meat source for our people
 - Clean & healthy
- **Communal Harvesting**
 - Bridging generational gaps
 - Connecting Families
 - Value of Communal Caring
- **Spiritual Connectedness**
 - Caring for the animals & land
- **Economic Development**
 - Support for camps, elders and youth programs





OLD HARBOR BISON HARVESTING

- Decrease food mile
- High cost of beef & goods from hub town
- Community harvesting
Family groups travel and harvest together. 12-20 people in hunting parties. Bridging generational gap.
- Healthy & Clean Meat
- Filling the freezers of our tribal members



HERD HISTORY

- October 2015 OHNC began looking into the purchase of a bison herd from the Dorman family.
- March 2016 Alutiiq Tribe of Old Harbor passed a resolution for membership with the Inter Tribal Buffalo Council
- February 2017 Old Harbor entered into a purchasing agreement with the Dorman Family for all remaining animals in their herd.
- February-May 2017 – Regular meetings were held with collaborators to finalize relocation logistics; including securing barge services, corresponding regularly with ITBC, NRCS, Herd Owners, Local Ranchers, Pilots, and mariners to develop a plan that will have minimize stress on the animals.



HERD HISTORY

- May 17-24, 2017 Buffalo move took place. Bio Samples were taken for the purposes of conducting a genetic study.
- June 2017 herd swam across to main island.
- Old Harbor Alliance joined Regional Rural Farm & Ranchers Program
- December 2018 Roundup and Relocation
- 2019 Fencing will be installed at identified exclusion areas to include winter pastures, culturally sensitive areas, and water access areas to the greater Kodiak Island.
- 2020 Establishment of storage and feed facility will be erected.





SUCCESS OF HERD

- **WE DID IT!**
 - Logistical Challenges with Maritime Ranching
- **Community Support**
 - Tribal and Native Corporation Support
 - Community Leadership
 - Support by Tribal Members
- **Regional & State Technical Support**
 - ANA Grant Project
 - USDA Grant Project
 - Alaska Tribal Conservation Alliance
- **Genetic Testing Completed**





CHALLENGES OF HERD

- They can SWIM
- Funding
- Logistical Challenges with Maritime Ranching
- USFWS Issues
- Community Concern
 - Local Big Game Guides concerned about impacts on native wildlife – bear & deer





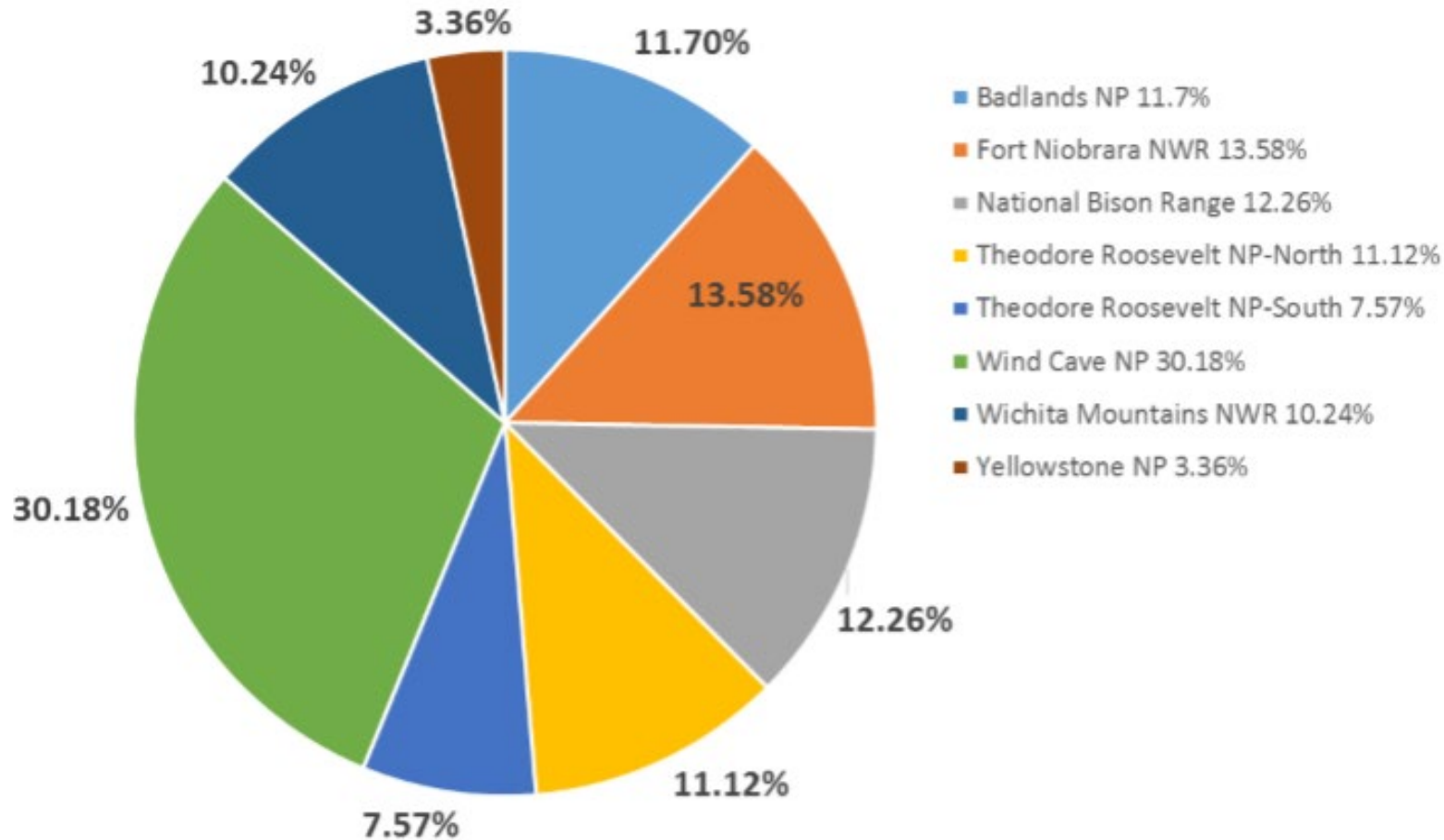
WHAT IS NEXT

- Staff & Volunteer Handling Training
- December 2018 Roundup
- Fence Building
- GPS Collaring to Track
 - Location for management
 - Resource Use
 - Bear vs Bison Conflict
- Old Harbor Alliance, Alutiiq Tribe of Old Harbor, Old Harbor Native Corporation Lands Committee will work together on long term range planning for the benefit of the herd and land management.



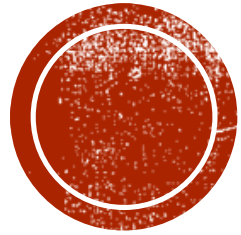
GENETIC TESTING

Sitkalidak Bison Herd



- **Mitochondrial DNA Results.** Only 26 of the 35 samples were able to be analyzed for mtDNA domestic cattle introgression, analysis indicated that none of the 26 bison samples have domestic cattle mitochondrial DNA.
- **Your 23 (out of 35) bison were found to have low levels of heterozygosity in comparison with the 8 federal herds.**
 - Need to look at bringing in animals from other herds for genetic integrity of the herd
- **With standard parentage markers (11 microsatellite markers) and an additional 29 microsatellite nuclear markers, we completed an ancestry analysis of the Sitkalidak Bison Herd.** As shown in Figure 1, the total genome of these 23 bison was derived from a mixture of bison from Wind Cave National Park (approximately 30.2%), Fort Niobrara National Wildlife Refuge (approximately 13.6%), National Bison Range (approximately 12.3%), Badlands National Park (approximately 11.7%), Theodore Roosevelt NP-North (approximately 11.1%), and Wichita Mountains National Wildlife Refuge (approximately 10.2%).





QUESTIONS



Quyannasinaq ~ Melissa Berns, Herd Manager
Old Harbor Alliance, Inc.