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Washington Post Attacks Pilgrims and Alaska

TO All Alaskans:

A story on the Pilgrims is in the Sunday Washington Post, front page (see below). Huge, lengthy story. With photos, takes up a full page on the inside, plus what is on the front page.

It is what you would expect, the usual liberal garbage - character assassination on the Pilgrims primarily, attacking their credibility. The attacks stretch all the way back to the father's childhood. Surely all provided by NPS people, to make the reporter's job easier.

Read the entire story and THINK before you react!!!!!!

HERE is what to do in order to WIN. The object here is to WIN, right?

NUMBER ONE. DO NOT make responses primarily an attack the Washington Post or the reporter, aside from saying "here is what was left out of the story," "here is the rest of the story". . . . YES, the reporter did a lousy job, but that is not the point. We want letters and possibly an op-ed published in the Washington Post on this. The more you attack the Post and the reporter, the less likely they are to print responses. YES, that is not fair, you are correct. Too bad.

NUMBER TWO. DO NOT make responses primarily a defense of the Pilgrim family, aside from if you have met or spoken with them PERSONALLY, and then keep it brief. It will not help, because the Pilgrims are too unusual for any urbanite easterner to understand, and that is the Post's readership and that is who dominates decision making in Washington, DC. YES, that is not fair. Too bad.

NUMBER THREE. Here is what to do. DO attack the National Park Service. ATTACK, ATTACK, ATTACK. The Washington Post is not the real enemy, they are just tools. Playing defense for the Pilgrims will not work, because they are too far out of the mainstream. Damaging the

credibility of the NPS is what WILL WORK. Make it more trouble than it is worth for the NPS!

ATTACK NPS for their phony boundary survey, and for the huge swath of damage it has caused in the park. ATTACK NPS for other SPECIFIC examples of how they have harassed inholders in Alaska. ATTACK NPS for grabbing land when they cannot manage the empire they already control. ATTACK NPS for how much money they have spent harassing the Pilgrims - use costs and examples of how much guns, helicopters, personnel sent in from outside Alaska have cost.

ATTACK the NPS for anything and everything they have done in that park or any other in Alaska since passage of the Alaska Lands Act. ATTACK NPS for broken promises, lies, using SPECIFIC examples. ATTACK NPS for failing to notify the public of its plans in this case or any other. ATTACK NPS for damaging private property rights, commercial businesses and jobs and recreational activities. ATTACK NPS for claiming that 14 miles with a bulldozer is a lot, because in Alaska it is nothing due to the great distances.

Also, ATTACK the personal actions and backgrounds of park employees and superintendents, damage their credibility like the Pilgrims are being damaged. ***This is nasty and personal, but it works - this is EXACTLY why the NPS had the Post reporter spend most of the article personally attacking the Pilgrims, while the critically important RS 2477 and ANILCA access issue is glossed over in a couple of sentences.

The point is, here we go again, this is nothing new from NPS.

THIS IS HOW TO DO IT:

***Responses must come from Alaska, that is what will get printed in the Post. Look at it from their point of view. Printing letters/op-eds from well outside their readership area makes them look good, makes it look like they are nationally influential.

***Letters to the editor. 250 words maximum, and that includes ALL words. Each person should pick one SPECIFIC subject and write on it. You can't properly cover many subjects in such a short letter, so be a team and do it in bitesize pieces. Also, demonstrate your credibility, such as "I've been a resident for 20 years" or "I am a park inholder" or "I'm the president of this association." ALSO - Your name, street address, home and business phone (they will call to confirm it is your letter - also, with time zone difference, they may call you outside of business hours).

***Op-ed. 800 words maximum. Less chance of getting printed, but if you are fired up enough, give it a try.

***Do it NOW. Editors are impressed by immediate responses, it shows that people are riled up. Email/fax letters in TODAY, MONDAY and TUESDAY. Send it to ALL the faxes and emails below. Send it to THESE faxes: 202-334-5269, 202-496-3883. Send it to THESE emails: letters@washpost.com, fredhiatt@washpost.com, hardenb@washpost.com.

Look at the article - the reporter was a stooge for the NPS, he focused on damaging the credibility of the Pilgrims. The best response is not to shoot the messenger, not to play defense, but to ATTACK the enemy - the National Park Service.

If you need help, contact Rick Kenyon with the Wrangell St. Elias News (907) 554-4454 or Ray Kreig (907) 276-2025 who is fully knowledgeable on the Pilgrim issue. Also call Chuck Cushman at (360) 687-3087 at American Land Rights.

For more background, pictures and much more about the Pilgrim Family and the National Park Service, go to www.landrights.org