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Summary of Project: Scientific Research on Ellesmere Island

We seek collaboration to perform our scientific studies on Ellesmere Island in July of 2020. We are sending this communication now to tell you more about what we want to do in Ellesmere Island in July of 2020.

We understand that the land and wildlife of Ellesmere Island are very sensitive. In our previous work on Ellesmere Island in 1999-2014 we have treated the land with great respect. We hope that we can continue to work with the Hunters and Trappers Association and Hamlet to minimize any impacts to the land or the wildlife in your region. We would also like to explore ways that our work could be of use to your community.

Who are we?

Our field team will include four American researchers. We have worked in the Arctic since 1987 and have spent eight seasons studying the rocks in East Greenland (north of the Scoresbysund settlement) and eight in Nunavut (Southern Ellesmere Island, Mellville Island). In addition we have worked in Antarctica for two summers.

Our scientific expertise is in the discovery of fossils. We are trained as biologists and geologists and have led expeditions to Canada, Greenland, Africa, Asia, South America, and the USA.

Our work often involves working with local communities. Our previous work has led to the discovery of some of the earliest mammals, crocodiles, turtles, dinosaurs, and amphibians.

What are our scientific goals?

Our goals in 2020 are to find fish and other fossils that tell us about the history of life. The fossils we are searching for are small, no more than a few inches long. Our work will involve finding rock that looks right to hold fossils, then to scan the surface looking for them. The fossils we find will be solidified with glues to allow us to study them back home.

Where do we propose to work?

We would like to set a camp on the northwestern side of Goose Fiord. It would be for three weeks. We would walk the rocks of the area looking for fossils.

How can we reduce our impact on the environment?

We could work with the community to plot known wildlife sites over geological maps, and choose only sites that reduce impacts on sensitive areas. We could hire a local individual who could assist us in minimizing impacts.

Our respect for the land means that our camps are small and that garbage is removed. Our camp contains nine small nylon tents. We remove all paper and plastic garbage with us when we leave. We do not camp on tundra. We do not work on tundra—fossils are found in the rocks of gravel beds and cliffs.

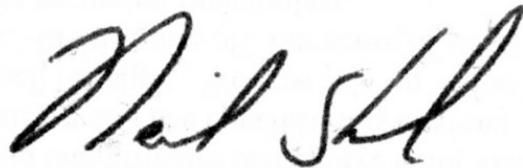
How can our work be of benefit to the Grise Fiord community?

For most of the year, we are teachers. We would be happy to lead classes and give lectures on our research, geology, and the history of the earth. We could also construct a small display on our research for setup in a community center. This display could show our research and the new things that it tells us about the earth.

We have been in contact with the school and community organizations and have sent display items, samples and pictures of our discoveries, and books to the Ummimak school in Grise Fiord. A cast of the fossils we discovered, *Tiktaalik roseae* was donated to the school and we were excited to see it displayed there when we visited Grise Fiord in 2014.

I look forward to talking with you more about us, our research, and the ways that we can work with the Grise Fiord community and Hunter Trapper Association.

Best wishes,



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