



Megafauna Management Plan Worksheet

Mother Earth Clan

Student Name: _____

Class: _____

Date: _____

Welcome to the Mother Earth Clan. Unlike other tribes, you have a special connection with all of the creatures that you share life and death with on the Pleistocene landscape. And unlike the other tribes, only you have a strong connection to the interrelationships between all of the abiotic and biotic factors that allow life to flourish on Mother Earth. Your clan understands that millions of years of evolution have achieved a nearly perfect balance of predator-prey relationships and that ecosystems naturally support the ideal biological carrying capacity of all the various species that share the landscape, especially the majestic megafauna. You understand that human populations are growing faster than other species, yet believe that humans should strive to maintain an "ecological balance" with all the living citizens of Mother Earth. Your plan considers the goals of the other tribes.

Your tribe will conduct online research and prepare their own Pleistocene megafauna management plan that supports your clan's goals. When developing your plan, consider the goals of the other tribes and how they conform or conflict with your goals. In class Session 3, all of the tribes will present their plans then have a class debate on solutions to developing an overall Pleistocene megafauna management plan that best serves the interests of the various megafauna populations (both present and future) with consideration to humans and other ecological members.

Consider these points when developing your plan and debating in class:

- Because other tribes lack your understanding of how the entire ecosystem functions to stay in balance with Mother Earth, you must speak strongly on their behalf to help all species survive. If their survival and yours depend on conservation of key species, you must convince them.
- Some tribes wish to selectively kill certain species of predators and prey megafauna without restriction. They do not comprehend the concept of species extinction or the long-term implications of that. You do. Consider researching "quotas", harvest limits, biological carrying capacity.
- Your clan understands what happens to ecosystems when the great predators are killed into extinction. Consider research into keystone species and the wolves in Yellowstone Park.
- You also see what is happening to other species as expanding human populations with different tribal goals focus on killing certain species. How can different tribes share a common goal?

