



Megafauna Management Plan Worksheet

Predator Slayer Tribe

Student Name: _____

Class: _____

Date: _____

Welcome to the Predator Slayers Tribe. Unlike other tribes, your tribe is entrusted with protecting human safety across the Pleistocene landscape. It is an extremely dangerous and sometimes thankless job that other tribes fail to appreciate. Though you cannot control weather and disease, your flint-tipped weapons can help prevent injury and death caused by many savage Pleistocene predators. Saber-tooth cats, Dire wolves, Short-faced Bears and other ice-age predators have been mostly killing your tribe's women and children. It's almost as if predators have some mystical vendetta to wipe out your tribe. So your tribe has sworn a vendetta to kill every predator on the landscape to prevent further human killings. And even though other tribes fail to appreciate it, killing predators means there will be more prey species for all tribes to kill and consume. Although you kill predators freely, your taboos prevent you from eating them or using their body parts, other than a few teeth and claws for adornment. Your plan may consider some of the goals of the other tribes as long as it fulfills your goals.

Your tribe will conduct online research and prepare their own Pleistocene megafauna management plan that supports your tribe'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:

- What can happen to ecosystems when all large predators are removed? Consider research into keystone species and the wolves in Yellowstone Park.
- Some tribes wish to selectively kill certain species of prey megafauna without restriction. Will that reduction in larger prey species force predators to focus more on eating humans? Is that what's been happening to your tribe?
- 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?
- What creative solutions can your tribe consider to reshape your long-standing vendetta against predators?

