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FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE BOARD

WORK SESSION

U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE BUILDING  
Anchorage, Alaska  
February 7, 2024

MEMBERS PRESENT:

- Rhonda Pitka, Acting Chair
- Anthony Christianson
- Charles Brower, Public Member
- Sara Boario, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- Eva Patton, National Park Service
- Steve Cohn, Bureau of Land Management
- Jolene John, Bureau of Indian Affairs
- Chad VanOrmer, U.S. Forest Service

Ken Lord, Solicitor's Office

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P R O C E E D I N G S

(Anchorage, Alaska - 2/7/2024)

(On record - 9:00 a.m.)

MS. LAVINE: Good morning everyone.  
Anthony Christian, are you on the line?

AUTOMATED VOICE: To unmute yourself  
press star 6.

REPORTER: Tony, are you online.

(No comments)

REPORTER: If you are online you need  
to star 6 so we can hear you.

(No comments)

REPORTER: Do you think he's on?

MS. LAVINE: Orville, is Tony online?

MR. LIND: Yeah.

REPORTER: He is, he's not answering.  
So, Tony, are you online, can you let me know you're  
online, this is Tina.

(No comments)

REPORTER: If you're muted, you need to  
star 6 to unmute yourself.

(Pause)

MR. LIND: Did you get him?

REPORTER: No. Are you texting him?

MR. LIND: I'm texting him right now.

REPORTER: Okay.

(Pause)

REPORTER: He needs to star, 6, or

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1 unmute his phone or something because I can't hear him.

2

3 (Off record comments regarding  
4 mute/unmute)

5

6 MR. CHRISTIANSON: Hello, can you guys  
7 hear me now?

8

9 REPORTER: Tony, is that you?

10

11 MR. CHRISTIANSON: Hello.

12

13 REPORTER: All right, this is Tina, so,  
14 okay, thanks.

15

16 MR. CHRISTIANSON: Can you hear me now,  
17 Orville, Tina?

18

19 MR. LIND: Yeah.

20

21 REPORTER: Orville can hear you, yeah.  
22 I can hear you, everyone can hear you.

23

24 MS. LAVINE: All right everyone in the  
25 room we are ready to begin. I'm going to make a couple  
26 of housekeeping comments.

27

28 Good morning everyone, this is Robbin  
29 LaVine, Subsistence Policy Coordinator and before we  
30 begin the call I wanted to make a couple of  
31 housekeeping comments. For those of you who are  
32 participating.....

33

34 MR. CHRISTIANSON: Hello.

35

36 MS. LAVINE: .....on Teams, online, you  
37 don't need to mute your computer, it's in your own  
38 enclosed space. Audio will be shared via your  
39 computer. Mute your mic when you are not speaking.

40

41 For those of you that are in the room  
42 it's really important that you.....

43

44 MR. CHRISTIANSON: Hello.

45

46 MS. LAVINE: .....keep your mics muted.

47

48 MR. CHRISTIANSON: Can you guys hear  
49 me, I can't hear anybody.

50

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1 MR. LORD: Okay, Tony, I can hear you  
2 but nobody else.

3  
4 MR. CHRISTIANSON: Okay, Ken, thank  
5 you. I guess they're having technical difficulties.

6  
7 REPORTER: Tony, can you hear us or  
8 not?

9  
10 (No comments)

11  
12 REPORTER: Do you have this line muted,  
13 Robbin, the main line?

14  
15 MS. LAVINE: No. Oh.....

16  
17 REPORTER: Because it's the main line;  
18 is it muted?

19  
20 MS. LAVINE: It might be, and I did not  
21 mute it. Just one.....

22  
23 REPORTER: Could you unmute it?

24  
25 MS. LAVINE: Which one is your.....

26  
27 REPORTER: I don't know, it's this  
28 building's phone number.

29  
30 MS. LAVINE: Okay, just a moment.

31  
32 REPORTER: Okay.

33  
34 (Pause)

35  
36 (Off record comments regarding  
37 mute/unmute)

38  
39 REPORTER: So, Tony, this is Tina, can  
40 you hear me?

41  
42 MR. CHRISTIANSON: Yeah, I can hear you  
43 Tina.

44  
45 MS. ROGERS: Hi, Tina.

46  
47 REPORTER: Hi, Alissa. Okay, we're  
48 just trying to figure out how to keep the main line  
49 unmuted, but I can keep it unmuted this way so do you  
50

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1 want to begin?

2

3 MS. LAVINE: Yes.

4

5 REPORTER: All right, go ahead, Robbin.

6

7 MS. LAVINE: Hello, everyone this is  
8 Robbin LaVine with the Office of Subsistence  
9 Management, can you hear me?

10

11 MR. CHRISTIANSON: Yeah, we got you  
12 Robbin, yep.

13

14 MR. LORD: Yeah.

15

16 MS. LAVINE: Excellent. Thank you  
17 everyone for your patience. I want to make a few  
18 housekeeping comments before we begin.

19

20 For those of you in the room please  
21 keep your computers muted, your mics and your speakers.  
22 There's a -- the bathroom -- women's bathroom is  
23 immediately outside to your left right next to the  
24 watering station. Around the corner, also on your  
25 left, on your way out, is the men's restrooms. If  
26 there is an emergency we will be departing the building  
27 using the entrance that you came in.

28

29 I'm grateful that you're all here today  
30 through all of the shifts and changes and I am going to  
31 pass the mic to Ameer Howard to begin roll call.

32

33 Thanks.

34

35 MS. HOWARD: Good morning everyone.  
36 First we're going to hear from Tony Christianson, he is  
37 on the telephone and I believe Tony is going to pass  
38 the Chairmanship to Rhonda Pitka. So good morning,  
39 Tony.

40

41 MR. CHRISTIANSON: Yeah, good morning  
42 everybody, welcome to the work session here. Yeah,  
43 just because I'm not in person I thought it would be  
44 better for business and flow of operations if Rhonda  
45 gavel the meeting and Chair's it so I appreciate her  
46 willingness. And welcome to the meeting and hope  
47 everything is productive. So with that I'll go ahead  
48 and turn it back over for roll call.

49

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1 Thank you.

2

3

4 ACTING MADAME CHAIR PITKA: Good  
5 morning everybody and thank you Tony. I'd just like to  
6 welcome everybody to the meeting today, and at this  
7 time I'd like to ask Orville Lind to begin us in a good  
8 way with a prayer.

8

9

Thank you, Orville.

10

11

12

MR. LIND: Thank you, Rhonda. If  
everybody could please stand and bow our heads.

13

14

(Prayer)

15

16

17

ACTING MADAME CHAIR PITKA: Thank you,  
Orville. I really appreciate that.

18

19

Amee.

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

27

MS. HOWARD: Thank you, Madame Chair.  
I will go -- first I will go through the roll call for  
the Federal Subsistence Board to establish a quorum and  
then after that, with your permission, I would like to  
also do a quick roll call of folks participating, Team  
members, and also make sure we have everyone online we  
need online.

28

29

30

ACTING MADAME CHAIR PITKA: Yes, thank  
you.

31

32

33

MS. HOWARD: For National Park Service,  
Eva Patton.

34

35

36

MS. PATTON: Present.

37

38

MS. HOWARD: For BLM, Steve Cohn.

39

40

MR. COHN: I'm present. I'm here on  
Teams today. Thank you.

41

42

MS. HOWARD: Thank you, Steve.

43

44

For Fish and Wildlife Service, Sara  
Boario.

45

46

47

MS. BOARIO: Present.

48

49

MS. HOWARD: For Forest Service, Chad

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1 VanOrmer.

2

3 MR. VANORMER: Present.

4

5 MS. HOWARD: For Bureau of Indian  
6 Affairs, Jolene John.

7

8 MS. JOHN: Present.

9

10 MS. HOWARD: Public Member Charlie  
11 Brower.

12

13 MR. BROWER: Present.

14

15 MS. HOWARD: Public Member Rhonda  
16 Pitka, and Chairwoman.

17

18 ACTING MADAME CHAIR PITKA: Here.

19

20 MS. HOWARD: And Chairman Anthony  
21 Christianson.

22

23 MR. CHRISTIANSON: Present, thank you.

24

25 MS. HOWARD: Madame Chair, we have a  
26 quorum. For -- I'm going to go through to see who's  
27 online and available and also in the room.

28

29 From the Department of Interior,  
30 Solicitor's Office, Ken Lord.

31

32 MR. LORD: I'm here, thank you. Good  
33 morning everyone.

34

35 MS. HOWARD: Good morning, Ken, thank  
36 you.

37

38 Mike Routhier.

39

40 MR. LORD: Mike won't be joining us.

41

42 MS. HOWARD: Okay. From the USDA's  
43 Office of General Counsel, I wanted to see if Jim  
44 Ustasiewski -- apologies, Jim, if I completely hammered  
45 that. Jim, are you available?

46

47 MS. LUCAS: Hi, this is Boykin Lucas  
48 from USDA OGC, Jim might potentially be signing on  
49 later this afternoon as well.

50

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1 MS. HOWARD: Thank you, Boykin, you  
2 were next on my list. Good morning.

3  
4 Next is liaisons to the Board from the  
5 Alaska Department of Fish and Game.

6  
7 Ben Mulligan.

8  
9 (No comments)

10  
11 MS. HOWARD: I believe Ben may be  
12 joining us later.

13  
14 Also from the Alaska Department of Fish  
15 and Game, Mark Burch, are you on the line.

16  
17 (No comments)

18  
19 MS. HOWARD: All right. And then I  
20 wanted to check and see if there were any Regional  
21 Advisory Council Chairs on the line or their  
22 representatives.

23  
24 (No comments)

25  
26 MS. HOWARD: Okay. Hearing none, and  
27 then just to make a mention, Madame Chair, of OSM and  
28 Subsistence Staff that will be participating and  
29 presenting today, we have Robbin LaVine, Orville Lind,  
30 Scott Ayers, Brent Vickers, and Rob Cross.

31  
32 You have a quorum, I pass the gavel to  
33 you.

34  
35 ACTING MADAME CHAIR PITKA: Thank you  
36 very much. So at this time I'd like to ask for any  
37 additions or changes to the agenda.

38  
39 (No comments)

40  
41 ACTING MADAME CHAIR PITKA: If not,  
42 then I'd like to entertain a motion to approve the  
43 agenda.

44  
45 MR. BROWER: Madame Chair.

46  
47 ACTING MADAME CHAIR PITKA: Uh-huh.

48  
49 MR. BROWER: Move to approve the agenda

50



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1 as presented.

2

3 ACTING MADAME CHAIR PITKA: Thank you  
4 very much, Charlie. Can I get a second for that  
5 motion.

6

7 MS. BOARIO: Second. Fish and Wildlife  
8 Service, second.

9

10 ACTING MADAME CHAIR PITKA: Thank you  
11 very much. Can we -- do we need a roll call for that  
12 or is it okay if we just do a voice vote?

13

14 MS. HOWARD: However you want.

15

16 ACTING MADAME CHAIR PITKA: Okay. So  
17 at this time, all in favor of adopting the agenda as  
18 presented say aye.

19

20 IN UNISON: Aye.

21

22 ACTING MADAME CHAIR PITKA: Okay. Any  
23 objections say no.

24

25 (No opposing votes)

26

27 ACTING MADAME CHAIR PITKA: Hearing  
28 none the motion passes, thank you. So right now we  
29 have the information exchange. Tony, would you like to  
30 go first.

31

32 MR. CHRISTIANSON: Thank you, Rhonda.  
33 No, I'd just like to thank everybody for getting  
34 together to work, especially today, and just, yeah, I'm  
35 glad I'm not catching all the snow north and southeast  
36 is catching so -- and fortunate this winter it's mild,  
37 and -- besides the big storms, it's just been a mild  
38 winter so glad to get back to a work season and look  
39 forward to another harvest season.

40

41 Thank you.

42

43 ACTING MADAME CHAIR PITKA: Thank you,  
44 Tony. Okay at this time I'd like to open the floor to  
45 anybody else online, Steve, would you like to share  
46 some information.

47

48 MR. COHN: No, I'll pass at this time  
49 -- well, I'll just share that, you know, we're

50

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1 continuing to make progress on our -- some of our  
2 larger projects in the state, including Central Yukon  
3 Resource Management Plan in the upper Yukon River  
4 drainage; our 17D1 public land order withdrawal  
5 environmental impact statement, which includes five  
6 land use planning areas in Western and Southwest  
7 Alaska; working on the leasing plan -- leasing program  
8 for the Coastal Plain, the Arctic National Wildlife  
9 Refuge in partnership with Fish and Wildlife Service  
10 and we're also working on the Ambler Access Road  
11 supplemental EIS working towards a record of decision.  
12 All four of those projects we're working towards trying  
13 to have a decision -- records of decision by this  
14 summer, or early fall. And in addition we're also --  
15 with the Department's Leadership, working on rulemaking  
16 for the National Petroleum Reserve.

17

18                   And, yeah, that's -- that's kind of a  
19 synopsis of a lot of the big projects we're working on.

20

21                   Also for folks awareness, just a few --  
22 a couple weeks ago the Assistant Secretary for Policy  
23 Management and Budget, Joan Mooney, signed the record  
24 of decision for the reclamation plan for the Red Devil  
25 Mine and that's on the Kuskokwim River, it's a project  
26 that's been under consideration now for more than a  
27 decade. It's an old cinnabar mine with a legacy of  
28 contaminated mine tailings, arsenic, mercury, other  
29 metals. It's been a longstanding concern for the  
30 adjacent community of Red Devil and Sleetmute and other  
31 communities in the vicinity on the Yukon -- on the  
32 Kuskokwim drainage and so this is many years in the  
33 making, a lot of partnership with DEC and EPA and other  
34 agencies involved in the project. Still a long way to  
35 go with expensive clean up proposal and so the next  
36 step will be trying to develop a plan for identifying  
37 funding for the project but it is a significant step  
38 forward and, again, it represents well over a decade of  
39 work to get to that point. So thank you to everyone  
40 involved in helping to get to that point.

41

42                   And, lastly, I think -- and this is  
43 something that my colleagues certainly from the  
44 Interior agencies can speak to as well, we're awaiting  
45 the final announcement for what we refer to as Phase  
46 III funding for the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law. We  
47 are in consideration for additional funding for the  
48 Gravel-to-Gravel Project on the Yukon, Kuskokwim and  
49 Arctic Rivers and so we're very hopeful we can get  
50

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1 additional funding and that we can really start to  
2 implement that project, that landscape scale project.  
3 So I'll stop there and certainly I would ask if my  
4 colleague, Sara, or (indiscernible - garbled) could  
5 speak more to that if they choose to because it is a  
6 DOI level partnership and we're excited about that  
7 work.

8

9 So thank you very much, appreciate it.

10

11 ACTING MADAME CHAIR PITKA: Thank you,  
12 Steve, I appreciate it and I hope you feel better soon.

13

14 Sara, go ahead.

15

16 MS. BOARIO: Thank you, Madame Chair.  
17 Well, Steve, I think you covered it well in terms of  
18 Gravel-to-Gravel. We're really hopeful to hear later  
19 this week about some additional investments about that  
20 Keystone Initiative. In the meantime our teams have  
21 been working with tribal leaders in the region to help  
22 develop a MOU about how we're going to work together  
23 and move this initiative forward in the years to come,  
24 even beyond the Bipartisan Infrastructure funding,  
25 which has been a great catalyst, but we know it's  
26 bigger than that funding, so more to come we both hope  
27 very soon.

28

29 Other updates from our end, I guess  
30 most notable is the recent departure of Sue Detwiler as  
31 our Assistant Regional Director for the Office of  
32 Subsistence Management, and I know everyone in this  
33 room wishes her well in her retirement and she is  
34 definitely missed and we're very happy to have Ameer  
35 Howard stepping in to the acting position behind her  
36 and to Scott Ayers in the back who is serving as  
37 Deputy, we really appreciate the work and the  
38 commitment you have to this team and to the Board,  
39 thank you.

40

41 Also this last summer our Assistant  
42 Regional Director for Refuges departed and we  
43 advertised for that position and this last -- in the  
44 last couple weeks we have announced and are pleased to  
45 announce the hiring of Karlin Itchoak as the Assistant  
46 Regional Director for the Alaska Regions National  
47 Wildlife Refuges. Karlin is coming from the Service,  
48 most recently from, as the Alaska Director for the  
49 Wilderness Society where he worked closely on a range  
50

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1 of issues across public lands and homelands and Refuges  
2 like Arctic, Izembek and, of course, Interior lands  
3 associated with the Ambler -- ongoing Ambler Road SEIS.  
4 He has many wide-ranging experiences and we welcome him  
5 to the Service. He starts next week. And I also want  
6 to really thank our team, we've had so many actings in  
7 our National Wildlife Refuge Program over the past year  
8 and so many positions so a big thank you to our Refuge  
9 Staff out there and Ronnie Sanchez, in particular, who  
10 has been acting as the Assistant Regional Director  
11 these past many months.

12

13 I also want to mention the hiring of  
14 Brittany Sweeney as our Deputy Refuge Manager of the  
15 Selawik National Wildlife Refuge out of Kotzebue. You  
16 might recognize her name. She's been with the Refuge  
17 since 2010 and has been instrumental in so much of our  
18 village and community outreach work in that region. So  
19 welcome to Brittany to her new role.

20

21 And then I just want to give a big  
22 thanks to all of our tribal partners, Bureau partners,  
23 everyone who made a contribution to the Co-stewardship  
24 Symposium that happened this last January up in  
25 Fairbanks. It was really an incredible event with so  
26 much, I think, connection and learning and opportunity  
27 and so many people gave their time, funding, heart to  
28 that work and just a huge thank you to everybody.

29

30 ACTING MADAME CHAIR PITKA: Thank you  
31 very much, Sara. Anybody else -- I don't want to call  
32 on people so, please, just jump in.

33

34 MR. VANORMER: All right, thank you,  
35 Madame Chair. This is Chad VanOrmer. I am here with  
36 the Forest Service and new to the table and happy and  
37 excited to be here and working with the Federal  
38 Subsistence Board in this capacity while we fill behind  
39 Dave Schmid who retired at the end of September. Right  
40 now my role in Alaska, working with the Forest Service,  
41 I'm the Deputy Regional Forester, so I had worked for  
42 the past four or five years with Dave while he was in  
43 the capacity of Regional Forester and I've been with  
44 the Forest Service for about 23 years and most of my  
45 time has been up here in Alaska in different capacities  
46 working in Southeast Alaska primarily on Prince of  
47 Wales Island and also as the District Ranger for  
48 Admiralty National Monument in the Hoonah Ranger  
49 District, which have been recipients of a number of

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1 these Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program funds over  
2 the years. So I'm really excited to be here and  
3 engaging with you all.

4

5 Just a couple quick updates.

6

7 We do have our Acting Regional  
8 Forester, is Janelle Crocker, and she's been in the  
9 seat here since right after Dave retired, so she  
10 started in early October. She comes from Milwaukee,  
11 Wisconsin. She's also a Deputy Regional Forester in  
12 her normal job for Region 9, but she's no stranger to  
13 Alaska either. She, as well, worked up here in the  
14 past as our Information Resource Management Director  
15 for the region, so it's great to have her back and her  
16 knowledge, and the two of us have been working really  
17 well together and I get to do this role. We're kind of  
18 dividing and conquering in a number of ways here.

19

20 It's been an exciting year for us in  
21 the Forest Service in Alaska. We've, through the  
22 Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, as well as the Inflation  
23 Reduction Act, we've been on a hiring spree. We've  
24 been really converting a lot of our temporary positions  
25 to permanent positions and I would say we've added  
26 about 120 permanent positions to our work force here  
27 over the past 18 months, which is about a 27 percent  
28 increase in our Staffing, which is really exciting.  
29 But it's not a record level, that really takes us back  
30 to fiscal year 2016, and what our numbers were there.  
31 So you can see there's been an erosion in our capacity  
32 and we've been able to rebuild here fortunately with  
33 some of the recent investments made through Congress  
34 and those statues that have passed.

35

36 The other exciting news about that is  
37 we really maximized the ANILCA hiring authority. So I  
38 would say of 120 or so that we've brought on board, 75  
39 of them were hired through the ANILCA hiring authority  
40 where we went out to, I think it was about 12 different  
41 communities from Fairbanks all the way through  
42 Southeast Alaska, just recruiting and collecting paper  
43 applications and really doing a lot of hiring on the  
44 spot. So it was really cool to flex that muscle and  
45 now it's really becoming part of our normal practice to  
46 really leverage that ANILCA hiring for more robustly  
47 here in Alaska.

48

49 And just a couple highlights for each

50

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1 of the National Forests. On the Chugach National  
2 Forest, their big project this year is really around  
3 supplying the Capital Holiday tree. It's our turn. So  
4 Jeff Schram and his team have been out looking around  
5 and working with the landscape architect from  
6 Washington D.C., to try and find that perfect tree to  
7 send to the Capital in Washington, D.C., this upcoming  
8 November, I believe is when it starts to make its  
9 journey. But there'll be a number of, you know, public  
10 events, you know, ornament making, all sorts of things,  
11 to be able to commemorate the tree from Alaska going to  
12 the Capital here this next holiday season.

13

14 On the Tongass National Forest, our big  
15 effort there, we are looking to revise our Tongass Land  
16 and Resource Management Plan. That management plan --  
17 well, it was recently amended in 2016 to move from old  
18 growth to young growth timber management but really the  
19 plan is about 30 years old. So we're looking to kind  
20 of tear it down and rebuild it again and get it  
21 prepared for the next 20 years. So this year is really  
22 just an assessment year where we're going to do a lot  
23 of public engagement starting in April and I'm sure  
24 subsistence will show up as a pretty strong piece that  
25 we will need to take a look at and how to work that  
26 over the next 20 years in our land and resource  
27 management plan.

28

29 So that's a lot of things, a lot of  
30 really exciting stuff going on, a lot of investments, a  
31 lot of co-stewardship on both National Forests and just  
32 really excited with the robust relationship we're  
33 developing with tribes to be able to do just some great  
34 landscape work out there.

35

36 So with that, that's the end of my  
37 report. Thank you.

38

39 ACTING MADAME CHAIR PITKA: Thank you  
40 for that Chad, I really appreciate it. And welcome to  
41 your first meeting, I guess, at the table.

42

43 MS. JOHN: Good morning, Jolene John,  
44 Bureau of Indian Affairs. I just wanted to say many  
45 thanks to our BIA Subsistence Management Staff, Glenn  
46 Chen, who has been representing the Bureau of Indian  
47 Affairs for the duration that they were trying to fill  
48 the Regional Director position. I came on board  
49 November 2023. And so I look forward to my position  
50

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1 here on the Federal Subsistence Board, will take it  
2 seriously and attempt to be here as much as I can,  
3 myself, but, thank you. I look forward to getting to  
4 know the procedures of the Federal Subsistence Board  
5 and how we can good members of the team.

6  
7                   Quyana.

8  
9                   ACTING MADAME CHAIR PITKA: Thank you,  
10 and welcome.

11  
12                   Eva.

13  
14                   MS. PATTON: Yeah, Eva Patton, acting  
15 for our National Park Service Director, Sarah  
16 Creachbaum. She had hoped to be here today and was  
17 looking forward to seeing you all, sends her regards.

18  
19                   Just a handful of updates for the Park  
20 Service. So, again, have to thank all the great work  
21 that went into the Co-Stewardship Symposium and Sarah  
22 Creachbaum was there throughout, really engaged, co-  
23 stewardship, subsistence, food security is her top  
24 priority for the region and she's been working  
25 diligently with our Washington office to secure funding  
26 to address subsistence needs and issues. Park Service  
27 Regional Office and also Parks were recipients of  
28 numerous Inflation Reduction Act grant awards so  
29 individual Parks are able to hire local hire tribal  
30 liaisons, community liaisons for the Park. One of the  
31 larger IRA grants that we received was specific to  
32 climate resilience and food security and co-stewardship  
33 so we did receive 6.2 million for co-stewardship  
34 arrangements with all of our Park communities to enter  
35 into cooperative agreements, 638 (ph) compacting  
36 agreements, so really excited about those opportunities  
37 to further engage with all our subsistence communities  
38 in relation to the Park lands that are their home  
39 lands. And that's in addition to, Park Service has  
40 400,000 a year that we work with for subsistence  
41 research and monitoring projects. So this is able to  
42 really build on that for the next few years here. And  
43 hoping to continue expanding with the Gravel-to-Gravel  
44 work as well in partnership with our other agency  
45 partners.

46  
47                   And, again, Sarah sends her regards to  
48 everyone and looking forward to meeting with you at the  
49 next meeting.  
50

0016

1 Thank you.

2

3 ACTING MADAME CHAIR PITKA: Thank you  
4 for that Eva. We really appreciate you sitting in.

5

6 Charlie.

7

8 MR. BROWER: Good morning everyone.  
9 I'm a public member from the rural out there but glad  
10 that the sun came out on the North Slope after 66 days,  
11 we can see who they are now.

12

13 (Laughter)

14

15 MR. BROWER: But it's cold, once the  
16 sun comes out it gets colder than heck.

17

18 I got nothing else, Madame Chair, thank  
19 you.

20

21 (Laughter)

22

23 ACTING MADAME CHAIR PITKA: Thank you  
24 very much. Ameen.

25

26 MS. HOWARD: Thank you, Madame Chair.  
27 Good morning again to everyone. Thank you for  
28 traveling here, for being here, being online, it's very  
29 much appreciated. The Office of Subsistence Management  
30 has been very busy. So just a couple of highlights.

31

32 We have a few meetings coming, this  
33 kicks off this -- this Federal Subsistence Board work  
34 session kicks off our winter meeting schedule. This  
35 week also we have a public hearing in Ketchikan --  
36 well, it's actually virtual, but it is for the  
37 Ketchikan non-rural determination. So we have that on  
38 Thursday. We also will be having a listening session  
39 to talk about the Western Arctic Caribou Herd coming up  
40 and that also will be virtually coming up on February  
41 22nd, that the team has been working on.

42

43 Then we'll be moving into our All  
44 Council meeting on March -- for the dates of March 5th  
45 through March 8th. That is where all 10 Regional  
46 Advisory Councils will be meeting here in Anchorage.  
47 The team has been working diligently on a plan and an  
48 agenda. We're very close to having that agenda  
49 finalized and information online and out to Board  
50



0017

1 members and ISC members but it will consist -- the  
2 first day will be a joint session where all 10 Councils  
3 will be meeting together to discuss topics that they  
4 have shared with our teams, with the people of their  
5 regions, that it's time for them to have an opportunity  
6 to speak together on it. So we always love having the  
7 first day be a joint session. So we invite, and I  
8 believe invites have gone out to all Board members  
9 about coming and participating. We welcome you  
10 throughout the entire week but I kind of wanted to kind  
11 of put that note here in the updates. It is an  
12 incredible opportunity to meet with all of the amazing  
13 people and Council members that bring their knowledge,  
14 share their wisdom and also help us make informed and  
15 better decisions. So that is occurring March 5th  
16 through the 8th.

17  
18 Then shortly after the All Council  
19 meeting we will be having our Federal Subsistence Board  
20 Wildlife Regulatory meeting. This is for the update to  
21 wildlife regulations. The OSM team, all of the  
22 analysts, wildlife, anthropology, and beyond have been  
23 working very hard throughout the past year on analysis  
24 for proposals that we received back in spring of 2022.  
25 I can't even -- the dates are all going together -- so  
26 spring 2023. My apologies everyone. The dates are  
27 definitely meshing together. But the team has been  
28 working very hard. We've had tribal consultations. Of  
29 course we've gone and presented to all of the Regional  
30 Advisory Councils on the proposals. We have held extra  
31 listening sessions on different proposals that have  
32 more interest. And it has definitely -- never a dull  
33 moment is the new motto -- well, I don't know if it's a  
34 new old motto at OSM, but.....

35  
36 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: That's always been  
37 the motto.

38  
39 MS. HOWARD: Exactly.

40  
41 (Laughter)

42  
43 MS. HOWARD: But the team has done an  
44 incredible job and that's layered in with the planning  
45 for an All Council meeting. The support that we've  
46 gotten from members across the Federal community who  
47 helps us with subsistence, so that goes further than  
48 OSM, and so I do want to thank everyone from all of the  
49 agencies who have participated in varying activities  
50

0018

1 over the last year. A lot of hard work has gone into  
2 addressing concerns from the TransBoundary Panel of the  
3 Pacific Salmon Commission, and we'll hear more about  
4 that later in the agenda from Scott Ayers and Rob  
5 Cross, and we will also be hearing about an update from  
6 Council correspondence policy so we can stream -- not  
7 streamline but so that we can make it more efficient,  
8 correspondence responses, and things so you'll be  
9 hearing that as well.

10

11 I think that really -- other than just  
12 a big thank you to the InterAgency Staff Committee as  
13 well, and all of their work on all of these items on  
14 the agenda. It takes a full community. And I just  
15 want to thank an incredible team and an incredible  
16 group of people as we are marching through the winter.  
17 And like Charlie said, it's cold, but we'll be heating  
18 things up and you all are kicking it off today.

19

20 So, thank you, Madame Chair. I  
21 appreciate the time.

22

23 ACTING MADAME CHAIR PITKA: Thank you,  
24 Ameer. And thank you to all the Staff that has stepped  
25 up in the retirement of Sue Detwiler. It always takes  
26 forever to hire a new person so there's usually at  
27 least a year of somebody acting and then maybe another  
28 year of like somebody coming in from somewhere else who  
29 doesn't know what they're doing so everything has to  
30 change for one year, and it's just -- it's a real  
31 challenge and I appreciate your leadership.

32

33 Right now at home it's finally starting  
34 to warmup. I think my sister told me it warmed up to  
35 minus 30 so everybody's pretty excited. It was down  
36 below 60 below. This summer I asked my sister should  
37 we get a new thermometer, you know, for around where  
38 our houses are at and she said, no, I don't want to  
39 know if it's colder than 60 below.

40

41 (Laughter)

42

43 ACTING MADAME CHAIR PITKA: I don't  
44 need to know that. I mean once it hits 60 that's it,  
45 it's done. And I said, okay, that's a good point.  
46 Very good point taken.

47

48 Pretty much, I have a lot of empathy  
49 right now for the OSM Staff and the U.S. Fish and  
50

0019

1 Wildlife Staff because everything that could freeze  
2 froze in Beaver, you know, we don't have a snow issue  
3 but, yeah, we don't have any water right now so it's  
4 been an exciting year. A lot of people have, you know,  
5 with the lack of fishing on the Yukon River there was  
6 that. Going into the fall and then the low moose  
7 numbers in the upper Yukon definitely challenged a lot  
8 of communities in our area. People weren't able to get  
9 moose that they needed, you know, and with the lack of  
10 fish we're really depending on like these random  
11 shipments from Bristol Bay of red salmon or sockeye  
12 salmon so it's really weird to get fish flown in to you  
13 when you're used to like catching fish and fishing.  
14 It's been a huge challenge. And it continues to be a  
15 challenge. It's been no harvest for the last four  
16 years. So that's definitely been a lot on our minds.

17  
18 I was also at the Co-Stewardship  
19 Symposium for a brief period until I had to go to  
20 Whitehorse to the Yukon River Panel meetings. Yeah,  
21 sometimes it's a real challenge to try to, I guess, get  
22 into meeting mode when you're like I don't even know  
23 what we're talking about, there's no fish, like what's  
24 even the point anymore and like discussing that there's  
25 no fish, like we shouldn't have anything to argue about  
26 because there's no fish to argue about but we still  
27 come up with things to argue about; it's fun. It's  
28 real interesting times right now.

29  
30 You know, the climate changing at such  
31 a rapid pace and then this year the weather has been  
32 all over the map everywhere in the state. There have  
33 been a lot of really interesting weather patterns,  
34 especially down in Anchorage with the 105 feet of snow  
35 or whatever you guys got.

36  
37 (Laughter)

38  
39 ACTING MADAME CHAIR PITKA: I don't  
40 even know what that is.

41  
42 (Laughter)

43  
44 ACTING MADAME CHAIR PITKA: But, you  
45 know, hopefully, hopefully everything starts looking a  
46 little bit more normal this spring and we don't have  
47 the normal flooding that we have or that's turned into  
48 normal. You know, it seems like -- I have one friend  
49 in Circle who works for the tribe there and she said  
50

0020

1 the minute she finishes the grant paperwork from FEMA  
2 another flood will hit her and then she has to start  
3 the process all over again so this is what she's been  
4 doing for the last 12 years while I've been going to  
5 subsistence meetings. So it's been interesting and I  
6 don't envy her at all. But, you know, hopefully this  
7 next year we'll get a little bit of, I don't know,  
8 sunshine and niceness for awhile.

9  
10 Let's see what else is going on, I'm,  
11 not even sure anymore Charlie.

12  
13 Okay. thank you guys.

14  
15 Okay, so now we're going to begin No.  
16 3, recommendations on the 2024 Fisheries Resource  
17 Monitoring Plan. Good morning Scott Ayers and Brett  
18 Vicks -- did I say that right? Sorry.

19  
20 MR. VICKERS: Brent Vickers.

21  
22 MR. AYERS: Good morning, Madame Chair,  
23 and members of the Board and everyone else in  
24 attendance. Again, my name is Scott Ayers, I'm the  
25 acting Deputy Assistant Regional Director for the  
26 Office of Subsistence Management, and with me this  
27 morning is Dr. Brent Vickers, Anthropology Division  
28 Supervisor at OSM.

29  
30 So this presentation is about the  
31 Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program and how it  
32 operates. We will also inform you about the current  
33 proposals under consideration for funding and how  
34 project selection occurs. Lastly, this is a request  
35 for this Board to approve the process so that we can  
36 move forward.

37  
38 All right, Jarred, next slide please.

39  
40 Thank you, Robbin.

41  
42 When the Federal government assumed  
43 responsibility for subsistence management on Federal  
44 public lands, the Secretaries of Interior and  
45 Agriculture made a commitment to increase the quantity  
46 and quality of information available for management of  
47 subsistence resources. The Fisheries Resource  
48 Monitoring Program was created in the year 2000 for  
49 this purpose and to comply with Section .812 of the  
50

0021

1 Alaska National Interests Lands Conservation Act which  
2 directs the Department to research fish and wildlife on  
3 Federal public lands and to seek data from, consult and  
4 make knowledge of local residents engaged in  
5 subsistence.

6  
7 Next slide Jarred.

8  
9 The Fisheries Resource Monitoring  
10 Program was designed around six regions that correspond  
11 to fish stocks, harvest patterns and community issues  
12 held in common with specific geographic regions.  
13 There's also a seventh multi-region category that we  
14 use when projects are submitted that cover more than  
15 one region.

16  
17 All right, Jarred.

18  
19 One of the main operations of the  
20 Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program is the  
21 development of the biannual Monitoring Plan. The Plan  
22 contains the needs for the regions that are identified  
23 by the Regional Advisory Councils, the projects  
24 submitted for funding and the course of action taken.

25  
26 Specifics of the Monitoring Plan have  
27 evolved a bit over the years but the overall process  
28 starts with submitted projects being evaluated and  
29 scored by the Technical Review Committee. This is  
30 followed by executive summaries of the projects being  
31 reviewed and commented on by the Regional Advisory  
32 Councils. The summaries from across the state are then  
33 compiled into a draft plan. Following the review by  
34 the ISC, the InterAgency Staff Committee, this draft  
35 monitoring plan is then presented to you for your  
36 approval. The final step is for a determination to be  
37 made by the Assistant Regional Director of OSM on  
38 projects to be funded based on available funding.

39  
40 The Technical Review Committee is  
41 foundational to the development of the monitoring plan.  
42 It ensures credibility and scientific integrity of the  
43 proposal evaluation process. It is also the only group  
44 in this process to see and evaluate all submitted  
45 proposal materials. This group of technical experts is  
46 from the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, the Bureau  
47 of Indian Affairs, the Bureau of Land Management, the  
48 Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, the National Park  
49 Service, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the  
50

1 U.S. Forest Service, and it is chaired by the  
2 Anthropology and Fishery Division Leads at the Office  
3 of Subsistence Management.

4  
5 The Technical Review Committee meets in  
6 odd years to review and score all submitted proposals  
7 using criteria set out by the Program. The Committee  
8 is composed of a balance of fisheries professionals and  
9 cultural anthropologists. The Technical Review  
10 Committee also meets in even years during some cycles  
11 to work through potential policy adjustments or other  
12 items that arose during proposal reviews.

13  
14 The Program considers projects that are  
15 up to four years in duration, that don't duplicate  
16 existing studies and that promote partnerships and  
17 capacity development, so we strive to fund the best  
18 projects that are really immediately ready to be  
19 implemented.

20  
21 There are several specific activities  
22 that are not funded by the FRMP, the Fisheries Resource  
23 Monitoring Program, as there are other agency programs  
24 in place to address these. These include habitat  
25 restoration and enhancement projects, hatchery  
26 propagation and stocking projects, contaminant sampling  
27 and monitoring projects or projects where the primary  
28 goal is outreach and education.

29  
30 There are five specific criteria used  
31 by the review committee to score proposals. Studies  
32 must have a Federal nexus and be responsive to priority  
33 information needs identified by the Regional Advisory  
34 Councils. The technical quality of the studies must  
35 meet acceptable standards, investigators must show they  
36 are capable of successfully completing the proposed  
37 study, collaborative partnerships and capacity building  
38 are priorities of the Fisheries Monitoring Program.  
39 Title VIII of ANILCA mandates that rural residents be  
40 afforded a meaningful role in management of subsistence  
41 fisheries and the Monitoring Program offers  
42 opportunities for partnership and local participation  
43 in monitoring and research. And then, lastly, the  
44 project's budget is evaluated for reasonableness.

45  
46 General spending guidelines are  
47 established by geographic region as an initial target  
48 for planning, however, these are not final allocations  
49 and may be adjusted each cycle to ensure the best  
50

0023

1 quality projects are funded. As you can see on this  
2 table here this is our starting point for how we would  
3 allocate funds during a normal cycle, and you'll notice  
4 that the Department of Interior funds, most of the  
5 northern portion of the state and then there's a divide  
6 once we get down to Southcentral and Southeast to  
7 correspond with the land that the U.S. Department of  
8 Agriculture is also managing through the Forest  
9 Service. And then, again, for multi-regional, if there  
10 are projects that are submitted into that category it  
11 is split between both Departments.

12

13 For this cycle, the 2024 Monitoring  
14 Plan, there were 25 eligible projects submitted during  
15 this call for funding with a total request of just over  
16 10 million dollars. Of those, the Technical Review  
17 Committee found 24 of them, so one less than what was  
18 submitted, to be worthy of funding pending availability  
19 of funds.

20

21 So the next 10 slides will show the  
22 eligible projects that were submitted split out by  
23 region. Additional information about each of these  
24 projects is included in your books so at this point I'm  
25 merely going to read out the titles by region and  
26 highlight the pages in your books unless there's  
27 specific questions about projects.

28

29 Information about the four projects  
30 submitted for the northern region begins on Page 13 in  
31 your books, which shows a table with the project  
32 titles, the duration in years each project would run  
33 and the total cost for each project. This is the same  
34 format information is presented for each of the  
35 regions. And just as a note, as we work through this,  
36 any project that has asterisks at the end of the title  
37 is a project that is a continuation project, in that,  
38 it was funded at least one time previously through the  
39 FRMP.

40

41 So we have Project 24-100 and these are  
42 in no particular order based on score or any other  
43 criteria, this is just simply the way that we numbered  
44 them as they came in.

45

46 24-100 is investigation of temperature  
47 and dissolved oxygen variation in perennial spring  
48 overwintering habitats used by Dolly Varden and Arctic  
49 grayling.

50

0024

1                   Project 24-101 is mixed stock analysis  
2 of Northwest Alaska Dolly Varden subsistence harvest.

3  
4                   Project 24-102 is Selawik Northern pike  
5 population dynamics, movement and habitat use.

6  
7                   Project 24-103 characterizing critical  
8 habitats, seasonal movements and examining effects of  
9 climate change related stressors on Kukpuk Arctic  
10 grayling.

11  
12                   Information about the seven projects  
13 submitted for the Yukon region begins on Page 26 of  
14 your books.

15  
16                   This includes:

17  
18                   Project 24-201 application of mixed  
19 stock analysis for Yukon River chum salmon.

20  
21                   Project 24-202 Gisasa River chinook and  
22 summer chum salmon abundance and run timing assessment.

23  
24                   Project 24-204 Henshaw Creek chinook  
25 and summer chum salmon abundance and run timing  
26 assessment.

27  
28                   Project 24-250 traditional ecological  
29 knowledge and life histories of salmon in tributaries  
30 of the Yukon Coastal District.

31  
32                   Project 24-251 content analysis of  
33 Yukon area salmon stakeholder meetings.

34  
35                   Project 24-252 in-season Yukon River  
36 subsistence salmon survey program.

37  
38                   Project 24-256 Yukon River in-season  
39 salmon teleconferences.

40  
41                   There were nine projects submitted for  
42 the Kuskokwim region and this begins on Page 43 of your  
43 books.

44  
45                   Project 24-300 Goodnews River salmon  
46 escapement monitoring.

47  
48                   Project 24-301 Kuskokwim River coho  
49 salmon and whitefish abundance estimation using sonar  
50



0025

1 apportionment.

2

3 Project 24-302 Salmon River of the  
4 Pitka Fork chinook salmon escapement monitoring.

5

6 Project 24-303 Middle Kuskokwim chinook  
7 and chum salmon in-season assessment.

8

9 Project 24-304 estimating Kuskokwim  
10 River sockeye abundance using mark/recapture.

11

12 Project 24-305 monitoring salmon  
13 abundance in the Salmon River.

14

15 Project 24-308 Kwethluk River salmon  
16 run timing and abundance.

17

18 Project 24-350 local and indigenous  
19 knowledge of whitefishes including sheefish in a  
20 changing climate.

21

22 Project 24-351 climate change and  
23 impacts on subsistence fisheries in the Kuskokwim  
24 Management Area.

25

26 For the Southwest region there was a  
27 single project submitted this cycle and that is listed  
28 on Page 66 in your books. The project is:

29

30 24-400 estimation of sockeye salmon  
31 escapement at McLees Lake.

32

33 Similarly for Southcentral there was a  
34 single project submitted this cycle, that begins on  
35 Page 71 in the books. The project is:

36

37 24-501 Klutina River salmon monitoring  
38 program, estimating spawning escapement on a major  
39 salmon producing drainage of the Copper River.

40

41 For Southeast Alaska we have two  
42 projects that were submitted. This begins on Page 76  
43 in your books.

44

45 Unuk River eulachon population  
46 assessment is Project 24-600.

47

48 And then Project 24-650 documenting  
49 salmon and non-salmon fish harvest use patterns in four

50

1 central Prince of Wales Island communities.

2

3

4 And then, finally, we have projects  
5 submitted in the multi-region category and that begins  
6 on Page 84 of your books. We have Project 24-750  
7 understanding ecosystem change on traditional salmon  
8 subsistence practices and community food security in  
9 three coastal Alaska communities. And I've got a  
10 change in my notes from what I'm seeing up here, do the  
11 books say that there are two projects or just a single  
12 project -- just one, all right, perfect.

13

14

15 So taking all of those projects  
16 together we put together this table which is also found  
17 on Page 91 of your books and it shows the requested  
18 funding by region for the first year of the projects  
19 and what allocation would look like if we were able to  
20 fund all projects. That's just something for us to  
21 kind of glance at and kind of see exactly what the full  
22 ask would be for all eligible projects.

23

24

25 So before getting into this year's  
26 funding scenario I want to clarify that all projects  
27 that are funded by the Fisheries Resource Monitoring  
28 Program are incrementally funded on an annual basis  
29 rather than being funded as a single lump sum at the  
30 start of the projects. As such we are currently still  
31 paying for 18 projects from the past two cycles for  
32 just over and just under about 2 million dollars per  
33 year for the next two years. This year -- well, that  
34 we've just finished paying for, that we've just  
35 departed, there were even more projects still in play,  
36 many of which have ended and the cost to the Program  
37 was right around 3.7 million dollars.

38

39

40 During the 2022 cycle we had a unique  
41 situation where we found ourselves with additional  
42 funding on hand due to things like lack of Council  
43 travel from Covid, and numerous Staffing vacancies at  
44 the Office of Subsistence Management, however, the  
45 funding had a limited spending timeline so we opted to  
46 invest it in FRMP projects and fund as many of the  
47 projects as we were able to do so this last round we  
48 were really able to fund basically ever project that  
49 the Technical Review Committee told us was a fundable  
50 project which was fantastic.

51

52

53 For this cycle we anticipate funding  
54 challenges for new projects but like everyone else we  
55

56

0027

1 can't narrow down specifics as there's not yet an  
2 approved FY24 budget. What I can say is that we still  
3 have a great set of projects from the 2022 cycle that  
4 we're still funding, the Councils are, again, finally  
5 meeting in person which is wonderful, as a reminder  
6 I'll put another note out there that the All Council  
7 meeting will bring all 10 Councils together in  
8 Anchorage March 5th through 8th so please come. The  
9 ranks at OSM have thankfully been filled again and we  
10 have an amazing team in place and, lastly, we've  
11 encountered some unanticipated costs recently. For  
12 instance, all government employees just received a well  
13 appreciated salary bump, but that also impacts our  
14 bottom line. In addition, we're in line for the  
15 rebuild of the Federal Subsistence Board permit  
16 database used by the Federal Subsistence Program  
17 agencies to issue permits and track harvest reports and  
18 that's kind of a last minute unexpected thing that  
19 we're trying to figure out how to contend with. So I  
20 guess the takeaway is that we don't really have a good  
21 idea yet of specifics for what we can spend on this  
22 Program but we're anticipating that it's going to be  
23 lower than normal.

24  
25                   Since we don't have a list of projects  
26 that we expect to fund that I can give today, what I  
27 want to do instead is provide you with a course of  
28 action that we will use once we have the budget. And  
29 what I've provided on the screen here and I'm sorry if  
30 it's small, is, an example of how we work through the  
31 steps once we have our funding scenario in place. And  
32 so what I have here is if we were working through a  
33 funding scenario where we had 1.5 million, which is  
34 what we anticipated when we put the call for proposals  
35 out approximately a year, a little over a year ago,  
36 what we would do is we've got a wonderful spreadsheet  
37 that's put together, we break out our allocation by  
38 regions first based on the guidelines, so with this 1.5  
39 million example, 17 percent of that would be the  
40 regional allocation for the northern region, which I  
41 have up here, that is approximately \$255,000, we would  
42 take all of the projects in that region and we would  
43 order them by score so we have top score down here 85,  
44 83, 75 and 72, and once we get to the running total  
45 that puts us just below -- or just above how much we  
46 have as our allocation for that region we put in our  
47 line and stop there so we would fund, to start with,  
48 the top three projects here based on this scenario and  
49 then we would move down to the next region and we would  
50

0028

1 do the same process over and over again. And once we  
2 do that you'll note that there is still approximately  
3 \$15,000 left here, if that was the same case for other  
4 regions we would take the remaining funds and look back  
5 through the list of projects based on scores so the  
6 highest scoring project that didn't get funded, we  
7 would see if we had enough remaining funds to do that,  
8 and if we could fund one in that region for that and  
9 there were remaining funds, we would then jump to  
10 another region and find the next highest scoring  
11 project and continue on until we were -- used up all  
12 the funds that we had available.

13

14 So I just kind of wanted to work  
15 through that process, this is the inter-workings of how  
16 we go through and try and figure this plan out once we  
17 have the money in hand.

18

19 So what's next.

20

21 Today we'd like a motion from, you, the  
22 Board, in support of our process and the 2024  
23 Monitoring Plan. The next thing that we're hoping got  
24 is to soon get a budget for the year so that we know  
25 what we're working with. After that the final project  
26 selection will be made by the Assistant Regional  
27 Director and then, lastly, projects will be funded.

28

29 And, with that, that's the end of my  
30 presentation and Brent and I are happy to answer any  
31 questions that the Board members may have.

32

33 Thank you.

34

35 ACTING MADAME CHAIR PITKA: Okay, I'd  
36 like to open the floor to any questions right now.

37

38 MR. CHRISTIANSON: Hey, Rhonda, I was  
39 just checking to see if you can hear me.

40

41 ACTING MADAME CHAIR PITKA: Yeah, I can  
42 hear you, do you have any questions, Tony?

43

44 MR. CHRISTIANSON: No. I just  
45 appreciate the presentation. I switched over to Teams.  
46 Thank you.

47

48 ACTING MADAME CHAIR PITKA: Oh, I can  
49 hear you a lot better but now there's feedback -- oops.

50

0029

1 Okay. So not hearing any questions I'd  
2 like to open up the floor to a Board motion.

3

4 MR. BROWER: Madame Chair.

5

6 ACTING MADAME CHAIR PITKA: Yes, Public  
7 Member Brower.

8

9 MR. BROWER: I make a motion to approve  
10 the 2024 Monitoring Plan as presented.

11

12 ACTING MADAME CHAIR PITKA: Thank you,  
13 Charlie. Okay, at this time I'd like to ask for a  
14 second,

15

16 MS. JOHNS: BIA seconds.

17

18 ACTING MADAME CHAIR PITKA: Thank you  
19 very much BIA. And unless there's any questions or  
20 discussion, can we have a roll call vote.

21

22 MS. HOWARD: Starting with Public

23 Member Brower.

24

25 MR. BROWER: Yes.

26

27 (Laughter)

28

29 MR. BROWER: Oh -- yes.

30

31 (Laughter)

32

33 MS. HOWARD: National Park Service, Eva  
34 Patton.

35

36 MS. PATTON: Park Service supports.

37

38 MS. HOWARD: Fish and Wildlife Service,  
39 Sara Boario.

40

41 MS. BOARIO: Fish and Wildlife Service  
42 supports.

43

44 MS. HOWARD: Bureau of Indian Affairs,  
45 Jolene John.

46

47 MS. JOHN: BIA, yes.

48

49 MS. HOWARD: Bureau of Land Management,

50

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1 Steve Cohn.

2

3 MR. COHN: BLM supports.

4

5 MS. HOWARD: U.S. Forest Service, Chad  
6 VanOrmer.

7

8 MR. VANORMER: Forest Service supports.

9

10 MS. HOWARD: Chair Anthony

11 Christianson.

12

13 MR. CHRISTIANSON: Yes, I support.

14

15 MS. HOWARD: And Chair Woman Rhonda  
16 Pitka.

17

18 ACTING MADAME CHAIR PITKA: Yes, I  
19 support. Thank you.

20

21 MS. HOWARD: Unanimous.

22

23 ACTING MADAME CHAIR PITKA: The motion  
24 passes unanimously, thank you very much for that. So  
25 at this time I'd like to ask that we take a 15 minute  
26 break and I'd like to point out that refreshments are  
27 at the table right there and we'll be back in 15  
28 minutes.

29

30 Thank you.

31

32 (Off record)

33

34 (On record)

35

36 MS. HOWARD: Madame Chair. Board  
37 members. If we can reconvene.

38

39 ACTING MADAME CHAIR PITKA: Yes,  
40 let's.....

41

42 REPORTER: So, Rhonda, don't forget  
43 about Alissa.

44

45 ACTING MADAME CHAIR PITKA: Yes, at  
46 this time I would also like to recognize that Alissa  
47 Rogers is online as a Regional Advisory Council  
48 representative. I think that maybe she was on mute  
49 earlier when we went through that list?

50

0031

1 REPORTER: Yes.

2

3 ACTING MADAME CHAIR PITKA: Thank you,  
4 Alissa, for representing the Regional Advisory Council.

5

6 Robbin.

7

8 MS. LAVINE: Thank you, Madame Chair.  
9 Members of the Board. Before I begin my agenda item, I  
10 just wanted to note that in the room we have a couple  
11 of our partners for Fisheries Monitoring Program folks,  
12 and they play a really important role in the FRMP and  
13 overseeing projects that they partner with all across  
14 the state of Alaska so I thought this would be a great  
15 opportunity for them to introduce themselves to you.  
16 So I will ask them to come on up and say hello.

17

18 ACTING MADAME CHAIR PITKA: Thank you  
19 very much.

20

21 MS. LEKANOFF: Yeah, hi, everyone. My  
22 name is Rachel Lekanoff. I'm with the Qawalangin Tribe  
23 in Unalaska. I'm their Fish Biologist. I've been at  
24 the tribe since June of 2022, I believe, but it's been  
25 an excellent time working on our FRMP projects. I have  
26 been the biologist for the McLees Lake project and we  
27 work with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game as  
28 well. So, thank you, and I'm happy to be here.

29

30 MR. WASHINGTON: Good morning everyone.  
31 My name is Curtis Washington. I'm here from the ONC  
32 Tribe out of Bethel. And I also am in the Partners  
33 Program and work alongside with Fish and Wildlife and  
34 Fish and Game as well. So, thank you guys.

35

36 ACTING MADAME CHAIR PITKA: Good  
37 morning, thank you for coming today. Thank you,  
38 Robbin, for that.

39

40 MS. LAVINE: All right, thanks  
41 everyone. The meeting materials -- for those of you  
42 who are online and if you've downloaded the meeting  
43 book or you actually have one of the rare hardcopy  
44 meeting books on hand, we have a -- we have the  
45 original correspondence policy, I think, found on Page  
46 92 of your book. I've handed out, also, to folks in  
47 the room the original policy, there's a handout on the  
48 table over by Brent. Also, I've handed out the  
49 proposed update. So you should have -- and it's --

50

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1 it's available online on our website as a supplemental  
2 material. So folks on -- at home, that's where you  
3 would go to pull up the supplemental material.

4  
5 So in this update I'm going to review  
6 the recommended updates to the Council Correspondence  
7 Policy. I'm going to summarize the Council comments on  
8 the updates and I'll be requesting Board action to  
9 approve and accept the policy update. Any new language  
10 on the proposed policy update is presented in bold,  
11 although the proposed removed language is not  
12 represented. You can put the two side by side for  
13 comparison.

14  
15 So this update was initiated by Council  
16 Coordination and the ISC and it's meant to clarify the  
17 policy and, of course, with clarification comes  
18 efficiency. Specifically we hope to clarify the  
19 guidance on the official scope of Council  
20 correspondence, to whom Councils may or may not  
21 correspond directly and the process for correspondence.

22  
23 Most importantly, these changes will  
24 not prevent Council members from writing to whomever  
25 they wish as private citizens or in other capacities.

26  
27 So per direction from the Board, OSM  
28 presented the update -- updated Correspondence Policy  
29 to all Councils during their winter 2023 meeting.  
30 Ultimately all Councils expressed support for a change  
31 to the policy, most agreed the changes improved the  
32 policy and provided clarity. Many Councils had  
33 substantive discussions on the process of  
34 correspondence, particularly the length of time  
35 required to produce letters and receive replies. Some  
36 expressed concerns over what they felt were limitations  
37 to who they could write to and the subject of their  
38 communications. Those limitations, especially, is  
39 described in Element 9 on the updated policy, remain  
40 consistent from the existing policy to the draft  
41 update.

42  
43 Some Councils provided specific  
44 recommendations.

45  
46 The Eastern Interior suggested that  
47 under Element 1, eliminating the words; shall be  
48 limited to, was recommended. However, in discussion  
49 with the ISC and the Solicitor, the Council exists for  
50



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1 the purpose of addressing subsistence related issues  
2 and the changes remain as presented to the Council.

3  
4 Suggestion No. 2., the Kodiak/Aleutians  
5 Regional Advisory Council requested that a sentence be  
6 added under Element 5. Council Chairs to review draft  
7 correspondence before it's sent to the OSM ARD. That  
8 has been addressed with further edits to Bullet Point 2  
9 under Element 5.

10  
11 Finally, the Western Interior Regional  
12 Advisory Council requested that under Element 11, add  
13 the following language: Correspondence that is the  
14 result of an official Council action may be urgent and  
15 the Assistant Regional Director will aspire for a one  
16 week review. And I think that would be a very, very  
17 hard commitment to make.

18  
19 So as you review, I'm ready to answer  
20 any questions, but the ISC recommends that the Board  
21 approve the updated Correspondence Policy as presented  
22 with no further edits.

23  
24 Thank you, Madame Chair.

25  
26 MR. BROWER: Madame Chair.

27  
28 ACTING MADAME CHAIR PITKA: Yes, Public  
29 Member Brower.

30  
31 MR. BROWER: Just a question on the  
32 third paragraph, you changed the word from managing to,  
33 to take of.

34  
35 MS. LAVINE: Correct.

36  
37 MR. BROWER: And take is what, is it  
38 equivalent to harvesting or just to take species?

39  
40 MS. LAVINE: It's the -- it's the  
41 language specific to Title VIII of ANILCA and Board  
42 authority and -- and also that Council authority or  
43 Council -- the -- the Title VIII of ANILCA has  
44 delegated authority to the Federal Subsistence  
45 Management Board in matters of take, and that would  
46 include harvest or pursue or, you know, an effort to  
47 hunt and fish wildlife and fishery resources in Alaska.

48  
49 MR. BROWER: Thank you.

50

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1                   ACTING MADAME CHAIR PITKA: Thank you  
2 very much. Does anybody have any further questions at  
3 this time.

4  
5                   (No comments)

6  
7                   ACTING MADAME CHAIR PITKA: I know  
8 Steve and Tony are online and sometimes I forget the  
9 online people. Do you have questions Tony or Steve?

10  
11                   MR. CHRISTIANSON: Thank you, Rhonda.  
12 No, I think they did a good job so thank you to the  
13 Staff and appreciate the work.

14  
15                   MR. COHN: Yeah, thank you, Madame  
16 Chair. I don't have any questions at this time.

17  
18                   ACTING MADAME CHAIR PITKA: Thank you  
19 very much. So that language in Paragraph 3 was just to  
20 mirror ANILCA and so.....

21  
22                   MS. LAVINE: (Nods affirmatively)

23  
24                   ACTING MADAME CHAIR PITKA: Okay, thank  
25 you. I really appreciate all of the RAC, I guess,  
26 advice and their edits on that. Thank you very much  
27 for making that process go so smoothly. So at this  
28 time I'd like to entertain a motion to approve the  
29 Regional Advisory Council Correspondence Policy updates  
30 and revisions.

31  
32                   MR. BROWER: Madame Chair.

33  
34                   ACTING MADAME CHAIR PITKA: Yes, Public  
35 Member Brower.

36  
37                   MR. BROWER: I move to approve the  
38 updated Correspondence Policy.

39  
40                   ACTING MADAME CHAIR PITKA: Thank you.  
41 So at this time I'd like to ask for a second on the  
42 motion.

43  
44                   MR. VANORMER: Madame Chair. The  
45 Forest Service presents a second on it.

46  
47                   ACTING MADAME CHAIR PITKA: Thank you  
48 very much. Is there any further discussion or  
49 questions on the motion at this time.

50

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1 (No comments)

2

3 ACTING MADAME CHAIR PITKA: If not, can  
4 we have a roll call vote, please.

5

6 MS. HOWARD: Public Member Brower.

7

8 MR. BROWER: Move to support.

9

10 MS. HOWARD: National Park Service, Eva  
11 Patton.

12

13 MS. PATTON: Park Service supports.

14

15 MS. HOWARD: Sara Boario, Fish and  
16 Wildlife Service.

17

18 MS. BOARIO: Fish and Wildlife Service  
19 supports.

20

21 MS. HOWARD: Jolene John, Bureau of  
22 Indian Affairs.

23

24 MS. JOHN: Bureau of Indian Affairs  
25 supports.

26

27 MS. HOWARD: Bureau of Land Management,  
28 Steve Cohn.

29

30 MR. COHN: BLM supports.

31

32 MS. HOWARD: U.S. Forest Service, Chad  
33 VanOrmer.

34

35 MR. VANORMER: Forest Service supports.

36

37 MS. HOWARD: Chair Anthony

38 Christianson.

39

40 MR. CHRISTIANSON: I support.

41

42 MS. HOWARD: Chair Woman Rhonda Pitka.

43

44 ACTING MADAME CHAIR PITKA: Thank you.

45 I support.

46

47 MS. HOWARD: Passes unanimously.

48

49 ACTING MADAME CHAIR PITKA: The motion

50

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1 passes unanimously. Thank you all for that. And thank  
2 you to the Staff for all your hard work on that, I  
3 appreciate it.

4  
5 Okay, so next on the agenda it looks  
6 like we have Agenda Item No. 5, a briefing on the  
7 Federal Subsistence Management Program, dialogue with  
8 the Pacific Salmon Commission. Scott, thank you.

9  
10 MR. AYERS: Okay, Madame Chair and  
11 Board members. This is Scott Ayers with the office of  
12 Subsistence Management, and with me today is the  
13 Tongass Subsistence Program Manager, Rob Cross. So  
14 this is an update for you today and not an action item.

15  
16 We've been having a fair bit of  
17 interaction with the Pacific Salmon Commission's  
18 TransBoundary Panel over the last year. But we haven't  
19 really had a lot of dialogue with this Board about that  
20 so we wanted to take an opportunity to update, you, the  
21 Board members, on what's been going on on that front.

22  
23 So the last regulatory cycle had a  
24 fisheries closure review FCR23-23 that was for the Taku  
25 River, which happens to be one of the three  
26 TransBoundary Rivers in Southeast Alaska that we deal  
27 with that also is under the Pacific Salmon Treaty. The  
28 regulatory language that was in place said there is no  
29 subsistence fishery for any salmon in the Taku River.  
30 And as we went through the closure review process there  
31 was a State personal use fishery identified that was in  
32 place on the Taku River and we recognized that that was  
33 at odds with the priority consumptive use for  
34 subsistence users, in that, it was closed to  
35 subsistence but open to other types of fishing, and  
36 neither of these fisheries were mentioned in the  
37 Pacific Salmon Treaty, the current version of it. So  
38 when this closure review came to the Board early last  
39 year, the Board voted to rescind the closure and when  
40 that happened, because there were no previous  
41 regulations in place for the Taku River it defaulted  
42 back to the area-wide Southeast regulations.

43  
44 So shortly after that happened, the  
45 U.S. Federal Commissioner of the Pacific Salmon  
46 Commission, Scott Rumsey, met with Chair Christianson,  
47 to discuss the new fishery, how it came to be and how  
48 it would move forward. We had a series of letters that  
49 kind of went back and forth requesting some  
50

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1 communication and dialogue between the two programs and  
2 then in late 2023 another meeting was held between  
3 those two individuals but also including folks from  
4 OSM, the Forest Service and the State Department's  
5 Office of Marine Conservation Director, the Department  
6 of State that is, and the outcome of that meeting was  
7 to have Staff from our Program attend several meetings  
8 of the Pacific Salmon Commission's TransBoundary River  
9 Panel to present really what's going on with this  
10 fishery and one of the big takeaways from that was how  
11 do we create a more open line of communication between  
12 these programs so that -- I think they felt a little  
13 bit off guard that we were suddenly having a fishery in  
14 this system without them being looped in on the front  
15 end, and we're very amenable to doing that. So Rob and  
16 I traveled in early December to Juneau and met -- along  
17 with George Pappas, with the U.S. TransBoundary River  
18 Panel members. We provided them with a presentation  
19 that was an overview of our regulatory process, how we  
20 had planned to engage the Pacific Salmon Commission in  
21 future cycles and then really plans for what the 2024  
22 season would look like for the Taku River. Also  
23 present at that meeting was Doug Vincent-Lang who is  
24 the Alaska Department of Fish and Game Commissioner and  
25 also one of the U.S. Commissioners for the Pacific  
26 Salmon Commission. There was a lot of questions during  
27 that meeting, there was a lot of presentation --  
28 feedback on our presentation, we had a nice open  
29 dialogue, they had constructive feedback for us and so  
30 Rob and I took that back and made some adjustments to  
31 our presentation and collected a lot of additional data  
32 on moving things forward so that we would be better off  
33 for the next meeting that we were attending with them,  
34 which happened in January of this year in Seattle. And  
35 this time Rob and I, again, traveled there, along with  
36 the Acting Regional Forester Janelle Crocker, we  
37 presented the revised presentation again to the U.S.  
38 Panel on one day, and it was the same group of  
39 individuals plus Commissioner Rumsey was there and we  
40 had another dialogue back and forth with them. It was  
41 kind of a preparation meeting for the next day, they  
42 wanted to make sure that everything sounded good and --  
43 and everyone seemed to be on board with our  
44 presentation and happy with what we were putting out  
45 there. The following day we then met with the  
46 Bilateral TransBoundary Panel, which is both U.S. and  
47 Canadian folks and, again, presented our materials, we  
48 highlighted the open lines of communications and  
49 process updates that we're hoping to put in place and,  
50

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1 really, just for your awareness what that -- what we  
2 talked about with them is when we have proposals that  
3 come in for the fisheries side there's a public process  
4 early on in the regulatory cycle where we publish the  
5 booklet of all the proposals, seeking input from the  
6 public and we would notify the Chairs of the  
7 TransBoundary Panel, both U.S. and Canadian Chairs that  
8 the booklet has been published and whether or not there  
9 were any proposals that might be relevant to the  
10 discussions that they would want to have and then to  
11 circle back around to them again following the Council  
12 recommendations in the fall to allow them to understand  
13 what had happened up to that point in time, give them  
14 our draft analysis and what the Council's  
15 recommendations were so that, if they wanted, they  
16 could provide feedback to this Board prior to the  
17 Board's action on the regulatory proposals.

18  
19                   Again, there were many questions and  
20 there was a lot of focus this time around on whether or  
21 not this was a new fishery, particularly from the  
22 Canadian folks that were present on the Panel. I think  
23 in large part because they treat, in their process, new  
24 fisheries different than they treat fisheries that are  
25 in existence that have been changed and they really had  
26 a number of concerns about the lack of guarantees of  
27 what this fishery would look like in the year 2025 and  
28 after, in part, because what we had discussed with them  
29 was managing the fishery this year, 2024 through  
30 Temporary Special Action issued by the in-season  
31 manager. Because there were so many concerns we've  
32 effectively guaranteed that the fishery would look very  
33 much like the personal use fishery as far as gear and  
34 timing and things of that nature for this first year,  
35 just to kind of alleviate a lot of the concerns and  
36 hopefully continue to move this process forward. But  
37 because we were unwilling to tell them that it's going  
38 to be the same from that point forward, they naturally  
39 had some concerns about that. I know Rob and I have  
40 talked a fair bit about -- because we have a regulatory  
41 cycle that's coming open here hopefully in line with  
42 the All Council meeting that we'll receive a proposal.  
43 I believe Rob's planning to work with the Southeast  
44 Council and see whether or not they'd be interested in  
45 submitting a proposal related to the Taku River for  
46 this cycle and I think there's some contingency plans  
47 in place if they choose not to do so.

48  
49                   With that said, they have invited us,  
50

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1 again, to participate in another meeting, this one  
2 taking place next week in Vancouver, which  
3 unfortunately none of were able to be able to attend in  
4 person given the restrictions on travel internationally  
5 and the time it takes to get approvals for that so we  
6 will be doing that virtually.

7  
8 So ultimately we are moving this  
9 process forward. There are a lot of questions but it  
10 sounds like, I think, they are on board with this  
11 fishery for the coming year as long as we can continue  
12 to kind of appease those concerns and I get the feeling  
13 that we're going to be more involved with that process  
14 for awhile, which is good. This Program has been  
15 involved with the Pacific Salmon Commission in the  
16 past. I know our Yukon Manager is involved with the  
17 Yukon Panel quite extensively and we have, in the past,  
18 been involved extensively when the Stikine subsistence  
19 fishery began and working through that process.

20  
21 So, with that, Rob and I are here if  
22 you have more questions. There's a lot of bits and  
23 pieces to this but I'm trying to give a nice clear  
24 overview of where we're at so far and kind of what the  
25 process is looking like moving forward.

26  
27 Rob, did you have anything else that  
28 you wanted to.....

29  
30 MR. CROSS: Sure, I can add something.  
31 Hi. Again, for the record my name is Rob Cross, I'm  
32 the Tongass Subsistence Program Manager. And, yeah, as  
33 Scott mentioned, once the closure was rescinded it  
34 defaulted our regulations for the Taku to the general  
35 Southeast regulations, which are extremely liberal and  
36 this is a very carefully highly allocated system. So  
37 that was sort of the first course correction when we  
38 presented what we were planning on doing for this  
39 fishery. It was, I would say, unacceptable, to a panel  
40 that, you know, determines to a, you know, a very high  
41 degree what fish are going to what country and to what  
42 fish are even domestically allocating those fish.

43  
44 And so, again, as Scott mentioned, our  
45 plan after that initial meeting was, we will be  
46 managing this through a stopgap measure using in-season  
47 management actions to try to match the fishery as  
48 closely to the personal use fishery as we can and then  
49 try to solicit proposals from the Regional Advisory  
50

0040

1 Council or the public being provided this information.  
2 You know, I'll be giving a presentation to the Regional  
3 -- to the Southeast Regional Advisory Council, and then  
4 letting the Council and the Federal Subsistence Board  
5 or yourselves determine what a meaningful priority  
6 should be on that system.

7

8 So it may seem as though, through these  
9 in-season management actions, we're not setting a  
10 subsistence priority, there are certain liberalizations  
11 if this does go through the way that we plan, such as  
12 the designated harvester and the amount of incidental  
13 harvest that can be taken, but, again, we're really  
14 just trying to back up, go through this process  
15 correctly and then solicit proposals.

16

17 It's very clear that we have an  
18 obligation to participate in the Pacific Salmon Treaty  
19 process and the TransBoundary River Panel process, so,  
20 again, if they do accept this fishery then we'll be  
21 backing up trying to get actual regulations put in  
22 place for this system and we have codified a  
23 consultation process with the TransBoundary River Panel  
24 throughout our regulatory process so we won't be in  
25 this situation again. So this was new to Scott and I  
26 and we've definitely gone in hat in hand. We should  
27 have consulted with the TransBoundary River Panel. So,  
28 yeah, it's in our process at this point and, yeah, so  
29 that's -- that's all I have to add.

30

31 ACTING MADAME CHAIR PITKA: Thank you.  
32 Does anybody have any questions, it looked like Sara  
33 had a question.

34

35 MS. BOARIO: No.

36

37 ACTING MADAME CHAIR PITKA: Oh, no,  
38 okay.

39

40 Eva.

41

42 MS. PATTON: So just clarifying that  
43 you'll -- Forest Service will submit a special action  
44 request to engage in-season management for this summer?

45

46 MR. CROSS: Yeah, actually our plan is  
47 to use emergency special actions through the in-season  
48 manager. And so we're essentially working with the in-  
49 season manager and they'll be attending this upcoming  
50



0041

1 meeting as well because that -- that was another issue  
2 that, you know, I can't speak for the in-season manager  
3 so as we were going through these conversations there  
4 was the question like where's the in-season manager, we  
5 need to talk to them. But, anyways, we are writing out  
6 an in-season management plan that will be implemented  
7 until a point where we have actual regulations in place  
8 for this system so it will just be the in-season  
9 manager.

10

11 MS. PATTON: Thank you.

12

13 ACTING MADAME CHAIR PITKA: Thank you  
14 for that question. I hear some rustling online, is  
15 there a question from online?

16

17 MR. CHRISTIANSON: Rhonda, this is just  
18 Anthony Christianson here. I was just going to add  
19 that as we go through this and we see how this affects  
20 -- the work that we do affects other places that, you  
21 know, it might be a good idea as these guys develop a  
22 policy that we develop a policy for all the other  
23 agencies outside of our agencies that are affecting the  
24 subsistence work that we work on.

25

26 So, thank you.

27

28 ACTING MADAME CHAIR PITKA: Thank you.  
29 Thank you for that. I'm glad that there is a framework  
30 now and a way to communicate with the Pacific Salmon  
31 Commission. That's a really interesting TransBoundary  
32 issue because they have a whole different set of laws  
33 in Canada than we do around fisheries. Like their  
34 First Nations in the area they have a priority over  
35 there and then they have a personal use fishery and  
36 then they have anglers, they have a whole load of  
37 things going on. So it's definitely really interesting  
38 the more you get to know about like Canadian fishing  
39 laws and how they differ from the United States. I  
40 also sit on the Yukon River Panel so I have empathy on  
41 TransBoundary issues.

42

43 Thank you very much for that. Does  
44 anybody have any further questions for.....

45

46 (No comments)

47

48 ACTING MADAME CHAIR PITKA: No, okay.  
49 Thank you for the presentation -- go ahead.

50

0042

1 MR. CROSS: I was just going to add,  
2 also as part of this process like, again, we have  
3 integrated consultation with the TransBoundary River  
4 Panel through our regulatory process but just for the  
5 edification of the Board it may be incumbent upon the  
6 Board to defer a proposal if it gets to the Board and  
7 the consultation process hasn't been completed because  
8 we have seen in systems, like the Stikine, where a  
9 proposal was put in and I think it took about three  
10 years before the consultation process was fully  
11 executed by the TransBoundary River Panel. So just  
12 wanted to put that out there.

13  
14 ACTING MADAME CHAIR PITKA: Thank you  
15 for that. Thank you very much for your presentation, I  
16 appreciate your time.

17  
18 And now we're at No. 6.

19  
20 MS. HOWARD: Yep, future meeting.

21  
22 ACTING MADAME CHAIR PITKA: Oh, future  
23 meeting dates. Okay, so we're just confirming the  
24 future meeting dates with Robbin.

25  
26 MS. LAVINE: Thank you, Madame Chair.  
27 Members of the Board. I -- I want you just to confirm  
28 and I think we have multiple times throughout this  
29 particular meeting that the 2024 wildlife regulatory  
30 meeting will be the week of April 2nd through 4th --  
31 the 4th, that's a Tuesday through Friday. That meeting  
32 will be held at the Lakefront, former Millennium Hotel,  
33 on Spenard in Anchorage. And then I would like you to  
34 look at your calendars and do your very best right here  
35 on the record to select which week would work best for  
36 you for the work session dates; July 31st and August  
37 1st, or July 7th through the 8th.

38  
39 ACTING MADAME CHAIR PITKA: You mean  
40 August 7th through the.....

41  
42 MS. LAVINE: .....I'm -- I'm sorry.....

43  
44 ACTING MADAME CHAIR PITKA: .....8th,  
45 right?

46  
47 MS. LAVINE: I'm sorry, August 7th  
48 through 8th, yes, thank you.

49  
50

0043

1                   ACTING MADAME CHAIR PITKA: I was going  
2 to say, nope.

3  
4                   MR. CHRISTIANSON: August 7th through  
5 8th works good for me, this is Anthony Christianson.

6  
7                   MR. BROWER: Madame Chair. Robbin, do  
8 you need an answer now?

9  
10                  MS. LAVINE: Yes, please.

11  
12                  MR. BROWER: I would prefer July 31  
13 through August 1st.

14  
15                  ACTING MADAME CHAIR PITKA: This is  
16 strange but I'm open either -- either time.

17  
18                  (Laughter)

19  
20                  ACTING MADAME CHAIR PITKA: I feel like  
21 I'm probably forgetting something on my calendar.

22  
23                  (Laughter)

24  
25                  MR. COHN: This is Steve Cohn from BLM,  
26 either of those dates will work for me.

27  
28                  MR. VANORMER: Yeah, this is Chad with  
29 the Forest Service. Either of those dates work for me  
30 as well.

31  
32                  MS. JOHN: Bureau of Indian Affairs,  
33 Jolene John. Either dates work.

34  
35                  MS. PATTON: Eva Patton with the Park  
36 Service. And unfortunately Sarah's secretary is out,  
37 we were just trying to check and see if we could take a  
38 look at her calendar. So I am not sure which of those  
39 dates would be available for Sarah. I do know last  
40 summer she was very busy in the -- in the summertime  
41 with travel to the Parks. So I'm guessing, only  
42 guessing, that August might be a better time for her  
43 but can't say for certain on either of those.

44  
45                  Thanks.

46  
47                  MS. BOARIO: I'll get back very soon.

48  
49                  (Laughter)

50

0044

1                   ACTING MADAME CHAIR PITKA: Okay, Sara  
2 Boario will get back very soon. Do you have enough  
3 information or are you waiting on.....  
4

5                   MS. LAVINE: I'll wait here. We'll  
6 wait. We will not adjourn.  
7

8                   (Laughter)  
9

10                  MS. LAVINE: No, thank you, I do --  
11 I'll be in touch with you. I just -- I just needed to  
12 have you all identify first impressions on those  
13 particular options. It will be one of those two and I  
14 will reach out with you very soon with confirmation.  
15

16                  Thank you.  
17

18                  MR. BROWER: Madame Chair, just a  
19 question.  
20

21                  ACTING MADAME CHAIR PITKA: Yes, go  
22 ahead, Member Brower.  
23

24                  MR. BROWER: So I know July and August  
25 are busy tourist seasons and hotels are booked way  
26 ahead of time and it's pretty hard so you will let us  
27 know as soon as possible the dates that are being  
28 selected, at the same time July and August is our  
29 subsistence time of the year for us so just -- just  
30 wondering whether we'll have -- we'll be able to get  
31 some rooms at that time. Just curious, thank you.  
32

33                  MS. LAVINE: Thank you. Through the  
34 Chair. I think we have enough time to confirm hotel  
35 rooms and I will confirm -- I will be in touch with  
36 Park Service and Fish and Wildlife Service this week  
37 and hopefully I will confirm dates by Friday.  
38

39                  Thank you.  
40

41                  ACTING MADAME CHAIR PITKA: Oh,  
42 awesome, thank you. So before we adjourn I think --  
43 Sara, did you want to.....  
44

45                  MS. BOARIO: No.  
46

47                  ACTING MADAME CHAIR PITKA: So at this  
48 time, Ameer, she said something about a phone call with  
49 Raina Thiele, do you have something.  
50

0045

1 MS. HOWARD: We'll coordinate later on  
2 that. There was a question on whether or not there  
3 might be some updates and so we want to keep the Board  
4 updated but we'll update everyone at a later time. So  
5 lots of moving parts and pieces right now so bear with  
6 us as we are getting information in as we're waiting  
7 for the budget for FY24, as we're waiting for a lot of  
8 different answers on different questions, we will do  
9 our best to deliver that information to each Board  
10 member and ISC member as it comes in. So -- but, thank  
11 you, Madame Chair.

12  
13 ACTING MADAME CHAIR PITKA: Thank you  
14 very much. I just wanted to make sure that everybody  
15 had the time that they needed to get everything that  
16 they needed done today.

17  
18 So at this time, I think I'm looking  
19 for a motion to adjourn.

20  
21 MR. BROWER: Madame Chair. I move to  
22 adjourn at 11 -- at 10:59.

23  
24 MS. HOWARD: Member Brower.

25  
26 MR. BROWER: Oh, I move to adjourn at  
27 10:59.

28  
29 ACTING MADAME CHAIR PITKA: Thank you.  
30 Can I get a second for that motion.

31  
32 MS. PATTON: Park Service seconds.

33  
34 ACTING MADAME CHAIR PITKA: Thank you.  
35 All in favor say aye.

36  
37 IN UNISON: Aye.

38  
39 ACTING MADAME CHAIR PITKA: Thank you  
40 all so much. Thank you for your time today and thank  
41 you to the Staff for being prepared in a time of  
42 incredible change.

43  
44 (Laughter)

45  
46 (Off record)

47  
48 (END OF PROCEEDINGS)

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0046

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C E R T I F I C A T E

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA )  
 ) ss.  
STATE OF ALASKA )

I, Salena A. Hile, Notary Public in and for the state of Alaska and reporter of Computer Matrix Court Reporters, LLC, do hereby certify:

THAT the foregoing, contain a full, true and correct Transcript of the FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE BOARD MEETING taken electronically by our firm on the 7th day of February 2024;

THAT the transcript is a true and correct transcript requested to be transcribed and thereafter transcribed by under my direction and reduced to print to the best of our knowledge and ability;

THAT I am not an employee, attorney, or party interested in any way in this action.

DATED at Anchorage, Alaska, this 15th day of February 2024.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Salena A. Hile  
Notary Public, State of Alaska  
My Commission Expires: 09/16/26