

1                   SOUTHEAST ALASKA FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE  
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3                   REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING  
4  
5                   PUBLIC MEETING  
6  
7                   VOLUME II  
8  
9                   Juneau, Alaska  
10                  March 21, 2012  
11                  9:00 a.m.  
12  
13

14 COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:  
15

- 16 Bertrand Adams, Chairman
- 17 Timothy Ackerman
- 18 Michael Bangs
- 19 Michael Douville
- 20 Merle Hawkins
- 21 Donald Hernandez
- 22 Harvey Kitka
- 23 Floyd Kookesh
- 24 Frederick Nielsen
- 25 Cathy Needham
- 26 Patricia Phillips
- 27 Frank Wright
- 28 John Yeager
- 29
- 30
- 31 Regional Council Coordinator, Robert Larson
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P R O C E E D I N G S

(Juneau, Alaska - 3/21/2012)

(On record)

CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Would everyone please take their seats. We're about ready to get started with our meeting this morning. Gunalcheesh. (In Tlingit) It means thank you and good morning. We will now call this meeting to order or back into session.

I want to recognize one of our Federal Subsistence Board members, Beth Pendleton. Would you please stand up and let everyone see you? A member of our Board. She represents the Forest Service. So we're happy to have you here, Beth.

MS. PENDLETON: Good to be here.

CHAIRMAN ADAMS: I also want to recognize some students who are here. And is Jack Lorrigan here? Would you like to come up and introduce them, Jack. Jack has been doing a real good job with bringing some of these students to our meetings. And we just want to recognize them and let them know we appreciate their participation and being here.

Go ahead, Jack.

MS. LORRIGAN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have Cassandra Eubanks Littlefield and Zack Heathman from the University of Alaska Southeast. They're here to attend the meetings, and they're taking a class off of you guys, watching you do your deliberations. They're here for the whole meeting. And we had some students come up in January to the Federal Subsistence Board meeting, so we're trying to make this a regular thing, trying to get some young people involved with the process so that recruitment will happen. Terry Suminski had this great idea to do this, so he put me in charge of trying to get it together.

CHAIRMAN ADAMS: That's great. Thank you, Jack. What I'd like to do, if it's okay with you, is have them both give us an impression of what they have seen so far, because I did see them at the Board meeting and I welcomed them.

(Laughter)

1 MR. LORRIGAN: Absolutely.  
2  
3 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you.  
4  
5 MR. HEATHMAN: Hi. My name is Zack  
6 Heathman. I'm from Sitka.  
7  
8 And just a general impression so far, I  
9 haven't been to, you know, this type of thing before, so  
10 I'm just kind of learning how the process works. And I  
11 guess it's necessary for these meetings to take place so  
12 everyone can get a better understanding of what's going  
13 on with subsistence issues. And, you know, it's  
14 important, because I'm a subsistence user, and so --  
15 yeah, thanks for having me here.  
16  
17 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you. And, you  
18 know, one of the things that I like about your program is  
19 being able to see this body in action, and this afternoon  
20 you're going to see something historical, and that is  
21 when the Regional Advisory Council and the Federal  
22 Subsistence Board is going to meet together.  
23  
24 MR. HEATHMAN: Yeah.  
25  
26 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: And we're going to be  
27 talking about, you know, territorial jurisdiction of  
28 Angoon. So this has never happened before. So, you  
29 know, keep notes.  
30  
31 MR. HEATHMAN: Yeah.  
32  
33 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: And we look forward to  
34 many of you, you know, it might take years and years, you  
35 know, to fill the seats that are going to be around these  
36 tables here in the future. So keep up the good work.  
37 Gunalcheesh.  
38  
39 MR. HEATHMAN: Okay. Thank you.  
40  
41 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Gunalcheesh. Next.  
42  
43 MS. LITTLEFIELD: It's really cool to be  
44 here. I remember hearing my dad talked about the  
45 meetings a lot when I was younger. And I find it really  
46 interesting to hear what you guys have to say and what  
47 the public has to say in their testimonies. Gunalcheesh.  
48  
49  
50 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you, Cassandra.

1 Gunalcheesh. And this young lady's father is, of course,  
2 John Littlefield who used to sit here and did a great  
3 job. Thank you. Gunalcheesh.

4

5 MR. LORRIGAN: Thank you for your time  
6 this morning, Mr. Chairman.

7

8 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Yeah. And the latest  
9 word from John is, you know, he has been going through,  
10 you know, a real tough battle with cancer. And we  
11 received some good news that he is cancer free and in  
12 good health now. So we're happy for him.

13

14 Okay. Is there anyone else that we need  
15 to recognize in the room. Any new people. It doesn't  
16 look like it. Okay.

17

18 Carrie, would you like to come up here  
19 and explain, you know, what you have on your table there,  
20 please.

21

22 MS. SYKES: Good morning.

23

24 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Good morning.

25

26 MS. SYKES: So did you want me to report,  
27 Bert? I'm sorry.

28

29 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Yeah, I just wanted you  
30 to explain, you know, the information you have on the  
31 table there.

32

33 MS. SYKES: Oh, okay. Very well. Well,  
34 as I mentioned yesterday Central Council has a customary  
35 and traditional work group. And we've been working on  
36 subsistence issues for at least three years now I  
37 believe. But it's quite an extensive group. It includes  
38 tribal members and different -- well, the Southeast  
39 tribes and tribal members who are interested in  
40 advocating for subsistence rights.

41

42 As a part of that, we've been working  
43 with Kootznoowoo on this extra-territorial jurisdiction  
44 petition, and looking to see where we could provide  
45 support.

46

47 So I do have information on the table.  
48 There's folders that contain just information about the  
49 ETJ, and so you could get a whole packet of that.

50

1                   And in addition to that, we also have  
2 some information over there about ETJ process that I just  
3 received yesterday. And there's also some information  
4 about the program and the status of the subsistence  
5 review, and also some information about sea otters. So  
6 I have a lot of information over there, and you're  
7 welcome to help yourself to it. There's also some cool  
8 magnets and other stuff over there.

9  
10                   But I just want to make sure that we  
11 could provide both the Council and anybody that's  
12 participating through the public process to have  
13 information so they'll know more about what is going on.

14  
15                   CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay. Gunalcheesh.  
16 Thank you.

17  
18                   MS. SYKES: In addition to that, I just  
19 also want to mention to you that we are going to sign up  
20 to provide testimony, so we'll be preparing for that. I  
21 will sign up right now.

22  
23                   CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you. Gunalcheesh.  
24 Okay. Sometime this morning the Deputy Under Secretary  
25 of Agriculture will make his presence in the room. And  
26 we'll have an opportunity to have him, you know, make a  
27 presentation here. And we'll also have an opportunity to  
28 ask him any questions. So if you have any -- if the  
29 Council has any questions that they would like to ask  
30 him, you know, kind of have that prepared beforehand.

31  
32                   I'm going to talk with him about two  
33 things so that you don't, you know, plan on repeating it,  
34 and that's the budget and C&T. Okay.

35  
36                   So we look forward to that this morning,  
37 and we're going to continue on with where we left off on  
38 the agenda yesterday.

39  
40                   And that was Pete Probasco, I don't know  
41 where he was yesterday. I guess he was sitting in  
42 meetings all day, but he was supposed to have given a  
43 presentation, and we, of course, you know, delayed it  
44 until this morning. Unless he was playing hookey, I hope  
45 he was busy.

46  
47                   (Laughter)

48  
49                   CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Pete. But it's always  
50 a pleasure to have you here so that we can give you a bad

1 time.

2

3 (Laughter)

4

5 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: So please go ahead and  
6 give your report on the subsistence management program,  
7 please.

8

9 MR. PROBASCO: Thank you, Mr. Chair and  
10 Council members. And I was not playing hookey. I was up  
11 at the glacier with.....

12

13 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: That's playing hookey.

14

15 MR. PROBASCO: With your fellow Board  
16 members. They were in a retreat. The purpose of the  
17 retreat had many objectives. One primary objective was  
18 we have two new Board members, and we felt it was  
19 important in the process of developing recognition and  
20 getting to know each other. We went through the process  
21 of the Federal Subsistence Management Program, the  
22 expectations of Board members. We went through numerous  
23 issues. We spent a whole day and a half in the retreat,  
24 and we talked about legal issues, et cetera. So that's  
25 where we were.

26

27 And, of course, everybody knows at 1:00  
28 o'clock today we do a combined meeting with the Federal  
29 Board and the Southeast Regional Advisory Council to deal  
30 with the extra-territorial jurisdiction. And our goal is  
31 to hopefully by Friday that we have completed that  
32 process.

33

34 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

35

36 I found out yesterday, last night, from  
37 Mr. Larson that I needed to be here this morning, and  
38 thank you, Robert.

39

40 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Oh, may I just interrupt  
41 you for a second, Pete?

42

43 MR. PROBASCO: Sure.

44

45 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Archie Nielsen has not  
46 been feeling well, so we just want the Council to know  
47 that, you know, he's been in his room the last couple  
48 days, and probably won't be here today. Mr. Larson has  
49 tried to contact him several times yesterday, and he's  
50 just, you know, not feeling well, hasn't been answering

1 the phone, you know, and knocks on the door. So we found  
2 out he was ill, and we hope he recovers.

3

4 But go ahead. I'm sorry I interrupted.  
5 Go ahead.

6

7 MR. PROBASCO: That's okay. That was a  
8 good update. And I'm glad Archie's doing well.

9

10 So, Mr. Chair, I think my briefings to  
11 you, I will make them short and concise.

12

13 And as everybody's aware of, the  
14 Secretarial review started a few years back. And part of  
15 our retreat yesterday was the Board's discussion on the  
16 charge that they were given to report back to the Board  
17 on the status of the Secretarial review.

18

19 I first will start out saying that we're  
20 still in the process of completing the recommended action  
21 items that the Secretaries have given us, both Secretary  
22 of Ag and Secretary of the Interior, but we've made good  
23 progress. And what Staff have done on Page 40 is  
24 highlighted some of those action items that specifically  
25 your Council has either commented on or provided feedback  
26 on how to proceed.

27

28 As everybody's aware of, we have two new  
29 Board members and they will be with us tomorrow. We went  
30 through that process which was required, a proposed rule  
31 and a final rule, and that has been completed, and those  
32 people have now been sworn in, and ready to serve.

33

34 The memorandum of understanding with the  
35 State, that has been provided to all of the Regional  
36 Advisory Councils. All the Regional Advisory Councils  
37 have provided their input. On the Federal side, we are  
38 now meeting with our counterparts on the State side to  
39 put into place those recommended changes and we're  
40 working on redrafting that MOU. And we're in that  
41 process, and we hope to complete that process within this  
42 year.

43

44 The rural determination process, that has  
45 had a direct impact in the recent months on this Council,  
46 particularly as it deals with the Community of Saxman.  
47 And the Federal Board went through the process which as  
48 resulted in, how we term it, in staying the decision. If  
49 you recall, that this coming May, 2012, communities that  
50 were determined to be non-rural that were formerly rural

1 would have, after a five-year grace period, would have  
2 become non-rural, and Saxman's one of those five  
3 communities. That decision has been stayed, which means  
4 that it has been postponed to allow the opportunity for  
5 the Councils and the Federal Board to go through the 2010  
6 rural determination process. And so there's another five  
7 years been added from May 2012 to allow that process to  
8 occur. So communities like Saxman will remain rural as  
9 we go through the 2010 process.

10

11                   Where are we at in the 2010 process.  
12 Well, we completed step 1, which is reviewing the prior  
13 decision resulting in the stay of the decision, and we  
14 are now in the process of working on a proposed rule that  
15 would go out to initiate the process. And the Board has  
16 not formally formulated how that proposed rule will read,  
17 but that will be coming out this year in 2012. And my  
18 hope is that we either have something before the Councils  
19 this fall and no later than this next winter meetings, so  
20 that process is on the horizon.

21

22                   Mr. Chair. As far as the Secretarial  
23 review and those three items, if there's any specific  
24 questions, I'll take them at that time.

25

26                   CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay. I saw her first.  
27 Okay. Go ahead, Patty.

28

29                   MS. PHILLIPS: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

30

31                   Through the Chair, Mr. Probasco, on the  
32 number 2 status, it says the Board proposed to the State  
33 that a joint work group be re-established. Who are the  
34 members of that joint work group?

35

36                   MR. PROBASCO: The work group consists on  
37 the Federal side, Mr. Steve Kessler, Forest Service, Mr.  
38 Jerry Berg from U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Mr. Sandy  
39 Rabinowitch from the Park Service, and myself. On the  
40 State side you have represented from the State, which is  
41 Jennifer Yuhas, and in the past we've had one member from  
42 the respective Board of Fish and Board of Game. This go  
43 around, the Board of Fish, Board of Game and the State  
44 have decided that they will -- during this initial  
45 drafting, that they would have Ms. Yuhas serve on the  
46 State's interest. So that's the group that's been  
47 reassigned the task of developing these drafts.

48

49                   Mr. Chair.

50

1 MS. PHILLIPS: Thank you.  
2  
3 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Follow-up.  
4  
5 MS. PHILLIPS: Yes, please. Thank you.  
6  
7 You said that there will be a published  
8 -- that Staff's working on a proposed rule. Will it be  
9 a draft that comes before the RAC or will we actually be  
10 looking at the proposed rule?  
11  
12 MR. PROBASCO: When we look at the  
13 process of rural determination, the actual process the  
14 Board will launch is yet to be determined. I think what  
15 your question is, Ms. Phillips, will the Board go out  
16 first to the Regional Advisory Councils and the public  
17 and seek input on, you know, what that process may  
18 entail, or they may put out the proposed rule that says  
19 that this is the determinations that were made in 2000,  
20 this is the process that was implemented, and ask the  
21 Councils and ask the public, what should change. So no  
22 specifics yet, but that's the two parameters that could  
23 be in.  
24  
25 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Done?  
26  
27 MS. PHILLIPS: Yes.  
28  
29 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Cathy.  
30  
31 MS. NEEDHAM: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
32  
33 I think Patty asked this question  
34 regarding item number 3, but it was also my same question  
35 item number 2 with the joint MOU. Is that something that  
36 will come back to the Regional Advisory Council in a  
37 draft form?  
38  
39 MR. PROBASCO: As far as the MOU, we're  
40 working on the redraft at this point. We'll work on it  
41 through the summer. let me ask some of my other workers  
42 if -- where we're going to -- your question is where will  
43 it go as far as far as back to the public.  
44  
45 Is Steve here?  
46  
47 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: That was a hard  
48 question.  
49  
50 MS. NEEDHAM: I guess.

1 MR. PROBASCO: Okay. Steve confirmed my  
2 guess. And it is that we hope to have -- and every time  
3 I say hope, because this is a process that sometimes  
4 unknowns come, but our goal is to have something before  
5 you this fall as a draft.

6  
7 MS. NEEDHAM: Okay. And can I make one  
8 other comment.

9  
10 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Sure.

11  
12 MS. NEEDHAM: When -- the status report  
13 that you've given us is on selected Secretarial  
14 recommendations, and you mentioned that those were  
15 recommendations that this body had worked on, that some  
16 work has been happening with. And I wanted to  
17 acknowledge that C&T has been left off of this, but I  
18 also know that Bert had just mentioned that that was  
19 something he's going to bring up as well. But it's not  
20 on here, and that was one of my questions coming in,  
21 because we get as preparatory materials.

22  
23 MR. PROBASCO: Thank you. And the  
24 question on C&T, as everybody's aware, all the Councils  
25 weighed in on the C&T process. And of the 10 Councils,  
26 9, you know, felt the process was acceptable and it  
27 should proceed. This Council had some specific comments  
28 on that C&T, and where the Board -- or the C&T process.  
29 And during the summary at the Board meeting which Mr.  
30 Adams attended, the Board decided that if there were  
31 specific changes that they would like the Board, which  
32 ultimately goes to the Secretary to review, then they  
33 were giving it back to the Council to take a look at and  
34 develop whatever they felt was appropriate to review and  
35 address.

36  
37 So in a nutshell, it's back to you to  
38 work on if you feel appropriate.

39  
40 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: You have follow up? Go  
41 ahead.

42  
43 MS. NEEDHAM: Thank you. Along those  
44 lines, I would like to point out that in the beginning  
45 when the Secretarial review came out, it asked for RAC  
46 input, but we were given very little guidance on what  
47 that really guidance on what that really meant, and we  
48 worked by subcommittee and we were allowed to access  
49 Staff on that. But if it is going to be something that  
50 comes back into our court, it would be good to have

1 preparatory materials for something of that nature, so  
2 that when we actually sit down to work together, we'll  
3 have it in front of us so that we can work from that,  
4 based on, you know, what the recommendations out of the  
5 subcommittee came from.

6

7 MR. PROBASCO: I think that's a good  
8 point. And if the Council decides at this meeting that  
9 they want to however approach it, form a work group or  
10 whatever, then I would ask, based on your comments, as  
11 specific items, what they would like, what Staff they  
12 would like to assist in that, and go from there.

13

14 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you, Cathy.

15

16 Anybody else need to -- Mr. Kookesh and  
17 then -- oh, let's take the young lady first, and then Mr.  
18 Kookesh.

19

20 MS. HAWKINS: Yeah. Good morning, Pete.  
21 On item number 3, it says status. It seems like that  
22 sentence was incomplete, but it must be to develop and  
23 review potential courses of, and it's blank, but it must  
24 be action. On my sheet it's.....

25

26 But anyway, on rural status, I know you  
27 mentioned Saxman would be reviewed and there was five  
28 communities, and Ketchikan is one of those communities  
29 that did not get recognized as rural status, so will they  
30 be reviewing Ketchikan and the other communities that  
31 were denied rural status?

32

33 MR. PROBASCO: Ms. Hawkins, in the  
34 process Ketchikan, because we launch a new process based  
35 on the census, Ketchikan will be included on the 2010,  
36 but Ketchikan's status as a result of the 2000 review did  
37 not change, so it was not included in that stay result in  
38 those communities that went from rural to non-rural.

39

40 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Follow up.

41

42 MS. HAWKINS: Yeah. But I thought the  
43 purpose was to look at regulatory changes, and certainly  
44 for m, I think the criteria for using populations has  
45 always been wrong, especially with Ketchikan Indian  
46 Community as a part of the population of Ketchikan. We  
47 never got government-to-government consultation, and it's  
48 like a community within a community, being part of a  
49 tribe. Those people that live within a tribe are totally  
50 different than other members in a community. And I think

1 that is --the criteria that they use just doesn't match  
2 tribal people.

3

4 MR. PROBASCO: Mr. Chair. Ms. Hawkins.  
5 That is correct. Whenever we start a new process, a new  
6 based off the census, everything's on the table. That  
7 doesn't mean when we launch the 2010 we'll use the same  
8 process. We could. It doesn't mean we'll use the same  
9 criteria, but we could. But all of that will be reviewed  
10 and discussed.

11

12 Also keep in mind that this Council also  
13 recommended change in the threshold based on Ketchikan,  
14 which the Board reviewed and formed a letter that was  
15 sent to the Secretaries. That's still on the Secretary's  
16 desk and hasn't been acted on at this time.

17

18 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Mr. Kookesh, please.

19

20 MR. KOOKESH: Yeah. Mr. Probasco, about  
21 a year ago I asked you about the filling of the Native  
22 liaison position, and you had told me that there was no  
23 funding for it. So what I thought of after I had asked  
24 you that question was how are we going to -- if there's  
25 no funding for the Native liaison position, how are we  
26 going to fill the two new rural seats. So can you  
27 explain to me the funding process if the Native liaison  
28 position is based on annual appropriation, or is it like  
29 in a continuing resolution? The same way with the rural,  
30 the two seats, are they subject to cuts and chops?

31

32 MR. PROBASCO: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr.  
33 Kookesh.

34

35 As it pertains to the Native liaison, at  
36 that point in time we, the Office of Subsistence  
37 Management, was up for a budget reduction. At that time  
38 I made the decision any vacancies I had, which included  
39 the Native liaison, I was not going to fill, because if  
40 that budget reduction did result, it may have possibly  
41 required me to not fill positions.

42

43 That has changed. We have actually put  
44 out a recruit notice that has closed for the Native  
45 liaison position. Actually it closed quite a while ago.  
46 And I inquired to the Human Resource Division as far as  
47 where are the certs that I hire from. And what I learned  
48 is that I have over 100 applicants for this vacancy. And  
49 of those 100 plus applicants, 80 of them have checked  
50 that they were fully qualified. And when you get into

1 that situation, each one has to be individually looked at  
2 and evaluated. They've told me that by the time I get  
3 back, next Monday, that I will have those certs and we  
4 will go through the process of filling that position.

5  
6 The two Federal Subsistence Board  
7 members, their salaries do not come out of my budget.  
8 They come out of Mr. Pat Pourchot's office. I only  
9 provide administrative support to those Board members.  
10 Travel, per diem, training, et cetera.

11  
12 Mr. Chair.

13  
14 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you. Follow up.

15  
16 MR. KOOKESH: So the funding program for  
17 the Native liaison position, is that going to stay  
18 subject to being cut? That was one of my questions.

19  
20 MR. PROBASCO: Thank you, Mr. Kookesh.  
21 All of my program is subject to cuts, my position  
22 included. Usually though when you fill a position, you  
23 don't keep it in limbo from one fiscal year to the other  
24 fiscal year if you're going to have it. When you make  
25 that decision to fill a position, you're making a  
26 decision that you're going to retain that position to the  
27 best of your ability and as long as the budget allows.

28  
29 For fiscal year 2013, not the fiscal year  
30 we're in currently, throughout the Department of Interior  
31 we are looking at some possible significant reductions to  
32 our budget, and OSM and the Federal Subsistence Program  
33 is not immune from that. The President's budget right  
34 now has on the table a reduction of 22 percent for the  
35 Federal Subsistence Program as it resides in U.S. Fish  
36 and Wildlife Service.

37  
38 Mr. Chair.

39  
40 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you. One more  
41 follow up.

42  
43 MR. KOOKESH: Yeah, I do have one more  
44 follow up. So in terms of a priority -- say, for  
45 example, when I look at OSM and the Native liaison  
46 program, I view it as priceless or valuable in the sense  
47 that it's the link between you and I. So in terms of a  
48 priority, in terms of this 22 percent reduction, would it  
49 be considered a priority if you had to -- when you did  
50 fill it?

1 MR. PROBASCO: Mr. Chair. Mr. Kookesh.  
2 A very good question. When you look at the program that  
3 I'm responsible for, you have various segments that you  
4 could pull out. And when you look at our regulatory  
5 process, which includes the Regional Advisory Council,  
6 that has been placed at the top of our list. And so that  
7 would be something that would be looked at last as far  
8 as reduction. The Native liaison is a key Staff member  
9 in that, so it would be a position that would be looked  
10 at at the end as far as priority.

11  
12 What is very vulnerable at this time is  
13 research dollars, particularly fisheries monitoring  
14 dollars. Southeast has fishery monitoring dollars; the  
15 remainder of the State does. Our partners program is  
16 also very vulnerable. And funding to other entities, be  
17 it corporations, the State of Alaska, are also very  
18 vulnerable. Those are what you would look at first  
19 before you get into our regulatory and Regional Advisory  
20 Council process.

21  
22 Mr. Chair.

23  
24 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you. Would anyone  
25 else like to question Pete while he's here.

26  
27 (No comments)

28  
29 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: It doesn't look like it,  
30 Pete. Thank you. It doesn't look like any more  
31 questions for you on that subject. So you've got some  
32 more to share with us.

33  
34 MR. PROBASCO: Well, I think we covered  
35 the rural determination process, where we're at. I think  
36 we got into the Secretarial review items that the Council  
37 is addressing.

38  
39 I think one item is that we're well on  
40 our way in the tribal consultation process. That policy  
41 has been sent out both to the corporations as well as the  
42 tribes, and we're waiting for feedback from them. Our  
43 goal is once we get that feedback, the work group which  
44 Lillian is on and others sit on will take a look at that  
45 input and take a look at a redraft. Again, that would go  
46 back out to the Councils, and again it would either be  
47 the fall or winter meeting.

48  
49 It's going to be a busy next year when we  
50 look at our list.

1 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Uh-huh.  
2  
3 MR. PROBASCO: We just, for your  
4 information, because you work so closely with my Staff,  
5 we put in -- identified our staffing changes, and at this  
6 time I'd like to introduce my new deputy. And she's  
7 sitting right back her. It's Cathy O'Reilly-Doyle. She  
8 comes to us -- she has a lot of experience. She is not  
9 new to Alaska.  
10  
11 And, Cathy, why don't you come up and  
12 just tell a little bit about yourself.  
13  
14 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: For your information,  
15 she took Polly Wheeler's place.  
16  
17 MS. O'REILLY-DOYLE: So good morning  
18 everyone. It's a pleasure to be here with you this  
19 morning. My name is Cathy O'Reilly-Doyle. And I've been  
20 with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for approximately  
21 12 years. I'm coming from our headquarters office in  
22 Virginia where I've been working with the Partners for  
23 Fish and Wildlife Program. I've also lived and worked in  
24 Alaska 15 years. I worked in Tok, Alaska with the Bureau  
25 of Land Management, and I also worked in Kotzebue as a  
26 senior city planner for the city there. And I am very  
27 much looking forward to coming back up to Alaska. I'll  
28 be arriving in mid May. I'm just here temporarily this  
29 week.  
30  
31 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: You're already here.  
32  
33 MS. O'REILLY-DOYLE: I'm temporary this  
34 week. All my goods and my husband are still back home.  
35 So we'll be moving up in May, and I look forward to  
36 working with all of you.  
37  
38 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you. Welcome.  
39  
40 MS. O'REILLY-DOYLE: Thanks.  
41  
42 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Any one have any  
43 questions for her.  
44  
45 (No comments)  
46  
47 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: No. She's like me; she  
48 doesn't answer hard questions.  
49  
50 MS. O'REILLY-DOYLE: Thanks.

1 MR. PROBASCO: Mr. Chair, that will  
2 conclude my briefing. And thank you, Cathy. And if  
3 there's some questions, I will.....  
4  
5 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay. It looks like  
6 Patty has a question for you.  
7  
8 MR. PROBASCO: Who?  
9  
10 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Patty.  
11  
12 MR. PROBASCO: Oh, Ms. Phillips. All  
13 right.  
14  
15 MS. PHILLIPS: Thank you. Through the  
16 Chair, Mr. Probasco. Did your OSM give serious  
17 consideration to our joint meeting with Southcentral?  
18 One issue of real concern is the sea otters, and it's  
19 something that we could, you know, be in a working  
20 discussion with Southcentral about.  
21  
22 MR. PROBASCO: Is the joint meeting off  
23 the table, no. And I think the sea otter issue, even  
24 though we don't have direct jurisdiction, we, the Federal  
25 Subsistence Management Program, I mean, if you listen to  
26 Mr. Lohse and Mr. Adams when they talk at the meetings,  
27 it's obvious it's a very important issue to both areas,  
28 both areas of waters. So the answer is, no, it's not off  
29 the table. It's logistics that we've got to look at and  
30 the associated cost. So I'm game. Okay.  
31  
32 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay. Follow up, Patty,  
33 and then Floyd.  
34  
35 MS. PHILLIPS: I hope it happens before  
36 my term expires. I might not get renewed.  
37  
38 (Laughter)  
39  
40 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Well, don't worry about  
41 that, Patty.  
42  
43 MR. PROBASCO: Ms. Phillips, I think what  
44 we need to do, and keep in mind what I said about fiscal  
45 year 2013, and Bert and I were having a discussion  
46 earlier in the week, I'm going to be forced to look real  
47 hard where I can save money. And, of course, Southeast  
48 as far as other areas of the State is one of the more  
49 easier areas to travel to various communities, just  
50 because of our airports and logistics. So you're not

1 going to have a lot of the constraints some of the  
2 councils will, but our ability to meet in some of the  
3 more logistically challenged communities is going to be  
4 an issue, just because of the associated cost. So if we  
5 can be frugal and make that happen with a joint meeting  
6 and justify the agenda, like I said, I'm game.

7

8 MS. PHILLIPS: Thank you.

9

10 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Mr. Kookesh.

11

12 MR. KOOKESH: Yeah, Mr. Probasco, this is  
13 not really much of an issue, when -- and I've served on  
14 councils, like city councils and school boards and  
15 corporations, village corporations, and I've seen that we  
16 made a change in our agenda, and I didn't think it was  
17 that much of a change, where we moved the election of  
18 officers up to the very beginning of our meeting. And  
19 they said that was just to make us come into line with  
20 what all of the other RACs were doing statewide. And I  
21 was wondering, in the charter, I went back to the charter  
22 and reviewed it, and the only thing I came up with was on  
23 Page 45, number 8, where it says the designated Federal  
24 officer can prepare and approve all meeting agendas,  
25 which made that change. And I thought it was -- I would  
26 have hoped that maybe it's just my quirk of mind or  
27 something, but I would hope that we would have something  
28 where we would have it in writing that these things occur  
29 along with us approving of it, or where it shows that  
30 these can occur from the Office of Subsistence  
31 Management. It wasn't much of a -- to me, it's not that  
32 big of a deal to have the meeting, but it would seem like  
33 that we would have it in here where they could make those  
34 changes, and housekeeping changes.

35

36 MR. PROBASCO: Well, you've got two  
37 issues there, Mr. Kookesh. I'll take the easy one first.  
38 As far as when you develop your agenda, the first step is  
39 Mr. Larson and Mr. Adams go through. And we purposely --  
40 because of FACA requirements, we purposely put at the  
41 beginning of the agenda review and adopt agenda. That  
42 doesn't preclude you from adding or making changes on the  
43 sequence. There's nothing set that thou shalt do it this  
44 way. It's just, you said it, that's how the other  
45 Councils have been doing it, and being, I don't want to  
46 say lazy, but grabbing the agendas, you lay it out that  
47 way. If this Council decided, well, we're going to do it  
48 a little bit different, which Southeast does a lot, you  
49 can switch that around.

50

1 Now, as far as the charter, we develop a  
2 draft, but that goes to the FACA charter experts if you  
3 will after Ken Lord and others here on the Solicitor's  
4 side review it. And they go through that draft and they  
5 finalize it. And so the charter is based on FACA rules  
6 and regulations. So something that we may develop as a  
7 draft may be tweaked. And some of the stuff that we  
8 would like to add, they're going to say, that's not  
9 appropriate for a charter. But it doesn't preclude you  
10 from doing that.

11  
12 Mr. Chair.

13  
14 MR. KOOKESH: Follow up.

15  
16 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Go ahead.

17  
18 MR. KOOKESH: Well, here's what -- did  
19 you hear clearly that when we were here at our meeting  
20 yesterday they said that it's what the other RACs are  
21 doing, so this is what we're going to do for your RAC, is  
22 make all of our agendas look the same. And I don't have  
23 any problem with that, I was just wondering where it was  
24 in our charter that we do these things.

25  
26 MR. PROBASCO: Mr. Chair, Mr. Kookesh.  
27 My only concern with the agenda, that there's  
28 consistency. In other words, issues that the RAC has to  
29 work on that is unique -- or not unique, but is identical  
30 to the other Councils, we have to have them. Of course,  
31 there's always the unique items specific to that Council.  
32 As far as how they're addressed and what order, again, we  
33 develop the agenda, but you have the ability to change  
34 that.

35  
36 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay. Any more  
37 questions.

38  
39 (No comments)

40  
41 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Any more, Pete.

42  
43 MR. PROBASCO: I'm done, Mr. Chair.

44  
45 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: You're done. Okay.  
46 Well, thank you very much. Appreciate it.

47  
48 MR. PROBASCO: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

49  
50 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: You're excused.

1                   We need to recognize Mr. Bud Cribley. He  
2 just walked in this morning, and he's the State director  
3 for the Board for the Bureau of Land Management. So,  
4 Bud, would you like to please come forward and make a  
5 statement, please, address the Council.  
6

7                   MR. CRIBLEY: Well, thank you, Chairman  
8 Adams, for this opportunity. This is my first chance to  
9 come down to sit in. And matter of fact this is my first  
10 opportunity since coming to Alaska about a year ago or a  
11 year and a half ago and serving in my role on the Federal  
12 Subsistence Board to actually attend a RAC meeting. I  
13 have not had that chance, and am looking forward to  
14 listening to and participating with the RAC on the issues  
15 that we have in front of us. It sounds like we have  
16 some stuff that's going to -- or some issues that are  
17 going to stimulate a lot of conversation, and look  
18 forward to that.  
19

20                   But I appreciate the opportunity to be  
21 here and be glad to answer any questions that your Board  
22 members may have for me, but I would like to say that of  
23 all of the new duties that I have assumed as the State  
24 Director for the Bureau of Land Management here in  
25 Alaska, I am funding that the Federal Subsistence Board  
26 to be one of the more, or most substantial of issues that  
27 I deal with, and also probably one of the most  
28 enlightening opportunities I have to be exposed to the  
29 subsistence lifestyle and also the culture of Alaska. It  
30 has been a very significant experience for me, and I'm  
31 very appreciative to have this opportunity to do that,  
32 and to be able to work with the folks in -- the rural  
33 residents in Alaska on this issue.  
34

35                   CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you, Bud.  
36 Appreciate it.  
37

38                   Any questions of the Council of Mr.  
39 Cribley. Harvey.  
40

41                   MR. KITKA: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
42

43                   CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Before we do any  
44 further, do you know all of the Council members?  
45

46                   MR. CRIBLEY: I was not able to sit in on  
47 the introductions this morning.  
48

49                   CHAIRMAN ADAMS: For your benefit, why  
50 don't we just do that, okay?

1 MR. CRIBLEY: That would be good. We'll  
2 start over here.

3  
4 (Laughter)

5  
6 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: He's a member of the  
7 Board and he needs to know us.

8  
9 MR. DOUVILLE: I'm Mike Douville, I'm  
10 from Craig on Prince of Wales Island. I'm a full-time  
11 commercial fisherman, and I'm a subsistence user. I've  
12 been a Craig Council member for probably 10 years or  
13 more. I have a seat on the local advisory committee.  
14 That's basically it.

15  
16 Thank you.

17  
18 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you. Cathy.

19  
20 MS. NEEDHAM: Good morning. My name is  
21 Cathy Needham. I live in Juneau. I'm originally from  
22 Ketchikan. I'm an environmental consultant and I  
23 represent subsistence users on this Council.

24  
25 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you.

26  
27 MR. YEAGER: I'm John Yeager. I'm from  
28 Wrangell.

29  
30 MR. WRIGHT: My name's Frank Wright from  
31 Hoonah. I'm a commercial fisherman. I seine, long line,  
32 crab and troll. And I'm also the president of the Hoonah  
33 Indian Association, and I've been on the Association for  
34 probably 10 years or so. So my name's Frank.

35  
36 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Just a note, Mr. Yeager  
37 is a man of very few words.

38  
39 (Laughter)

40  
41 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Mr. Bangs.

42  
43 MR. BANGS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My  
44 name is Michael Bangs, and I live in Petersburg, and I'm  
45 a commercial fisherman. And I'm an avid subsistence user  
46 as well. But I hold a seat that covers a perspective  
47 from the commercial fishing.

48  
49 Thank you.

50

1 MR. KITKA: Thank you, Mr. Chair. My  
2 name is Harvey Kitka and I'm from Sitka, Alaska. I'm a  
3 subsistence user. I represent subsistence in our area.  
4 I'm also a commercial fisherman. I'm also a life-time  
5 sportsman. And I have a few questions for you.

6  
7 (Laughter)

8  
9 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay. And, Bud, of  
10 course, you know, we've already met, but my name is Bert  
11 Adams. I'm from Yakutat. And I do a lot of things. If  
12 I listed them all, you know, I'd be here all day.

13  
14 Patty, please.

15  
16 MS. PHILLIPS: Thank you, Chairman Adams.  
17 I'm Patricia Phillips. I've been on the SEA RAC since  
18 inception, for 18 years. I'm from Pelican, Alaska. I'm  
19 the Fish and Game Advisory Committee Chair, and I'm also  
20 a board member on Southeast Conference, the Alaska  
21 Resource Development Organization, a Federally-recognized  
22 order. And also my husband and I have a commercial  
23 fishing business, and four sons. And we're avid  
24 subsistence users.

25  
26 Thank you.

27  
28 MR. HERNANDEZ: My name is Don Hernandez.  
29 I live in Point Baker, which is a remote, roadless  
30 community on Prince of Wales Island. I'm a commercial  
31 fisherman. And living in Point Baker, I depend a lot on  
32 subsistence, and represent subsistence users on the  
33 Council.

34  
35 MR. KOOKESH: Yes. My name is Floyd  
36 Kookesh. I'm from Angoon. I've been on the RAC for 13  
37 years. I'm a charter boat captain out of Angoon. I'm  
38 currently the chairman of Kootznoowoo, the ones that have  
39 the petition, ETJ petition in front of you.

40  
41 Thank you.

42  
43 MS. HAWKINS: Good morning. My name's  
44 Merle Nancy Hawkins. I'm from Ketchikan, Alaska. I'm a  
45 KIC, Ketchikan Indian Community tribal member. I was a  
46 tribal council member there for 11 and a half years. And  
47 I'm an urban subsistence user trapped in an urban  
48 community, but I do use subsistence.

49  
50 MR. ACKERMAN: Yeah. Tim Ackerman from

1 Dtehshuh, Chilkooot, Klukwan. I sit on the board of the  
2 Chilkooot Tribe. I'm a subsistence user from Haines area  
3 there. That's the Presbyterian name for it. And this is  
4 my second year on the RAC. And I'm also -- was involved  
5 in a gillnetter boat and a long-liner, packer. Just a  
6 bunch of -- it's all about fish.

7

8

Thanks.

9

10 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: We have one other  
11 member. He's been very ill the last couple of days,  
12 Archie Nielsen. But these are the individuals that  
13 really make me what I am when I come to the Board  
14 meetings. And it's a pleasure to work with them, so I  
15 wanted them to introduce themselves to you personally.  
16 So, thank you, Bud.

17

18

MR. CRIBLEY: Thank you.

19

20 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Uh-huh. Any questions  
21 of Bud, anyone. Mr. Kitka.

22

23

MR. KITKA: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

24

25

26 If I understood you right, you're head of  
27 the BLM?

27

28

MR. CRIBLEY: Yes.

29

30

31 MR. KITKA: We had one question from  
32 Sitka, and basically it had to do with a growth that's  
33 happening within our community in one of our subsistence  
34 areas. And this past year they asked us to close this  
35 area down to subsistence. And we told them that we'll  
36 never close anything down to subsistence and make it  
37 harder for subsistence without it first affecting other  
38 people. And we understand it's been an ongoing issue.  
39 The growth happened with a State permit that was issued  
40 to a person and they had the growth. And the issue had  
41 been going on for about 10 years, but nobody wants to  
42 claim water rights to the thing, to clean it up or to  
43 stop the growth. And the growth from what I understand  
44 will kill everything in its path. It will just overgrow  
45 it and kill it. And somebody's going to have to step up  
46 to the bat and do something about this. And from what we  
47 understand, BLM owns this property. It's underwater and  
48 it belongs to the government. And it seems like the  
49 government is just passing the buck back and forth and  
50 nobody wants to take the responsibility for it.

50

1                   So I just want to know where you guys  
2 stand on this, and if you guys have any stand on it at  
3 all.

4  
5                   MR. CRIBLEY: I'm familiar with the  
6 issue. I do know that it's an important issue that's in  
7 front of us. As you said, it is a -- how do you want to  
8 term it, it's an underwater issue. It is not something  
9 that -- I mean, this is, and I think we mentioned this  
10 yesterday at the Board's meeting, that this is the piece  
11 of underwater marine habitat that the Bureau of Land  
12 Management manages in the entire country, so we don't  
13 have a lot of expertise or a lot of experience in dealing  
14 with that issue. But we do -- we have identified the  
15 issue and the concerns of the issue working with the  
16 State and other entities of trying to determine how best  
17 to deal with that issue from the standpoint of stopping  
18 the spread of the invasive organisms, and then also how  
19 to get on top of that and do something about it.

20  
21                   And I know that we are working with the  
22 State to try to put actions in place to deal with that.  
23 But to say right now that I have what the solution is or  
24 how we're going to move forward, I don't know that. But  
25 it is on our radar screen, and we are trying to deal with  
26 it the best that we can.

27  
28                   And there will be more discussion on this  
29 and how that affects subsistence use, and that's going to  
30 be a critical, or a very sensitive issue I know in the  
31 future, because the subsistence use is one of those  
32 actions that can lead to the, you know, continued spread  
33 of the organism, and that's something that we don't want  
34 to do. So it's going to be difficult, but we are going  
35 to address that and work with all of the users affected  
36 by that in the future.

37  
38                   MR. KITKA: Can I follow up?

39  
40                   CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Got a follow up.

41  
42                   MR. KITKA: Well, thank you for your  
43 information. I really worry about the spread of that,  
44 because it's not just the subsistence users that are  
45 going to spread it. You've also got the seals and you've  
46 got the sea otters that are working back and forth  
47 through there and taking the organisms here and there.  
48 So we know it's going to spread, we just worry that it  
49 needs to be stopped soon.

50

1 Thank you.  
2  
3 MR. CRIBLEY: Yes, sir.  
4  
5 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Any more questions.  
6 Michael Douville.  
7 MR. DOUVILLE: Just a comment.  
8  
9 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay.  
10  
11 MR. DOUVILLE: With the amount of sea  
12 otter we have, they've eaten up virtually all -- in my  
13 area, all the sea urchins. We had millions of pounds of  
14 them. But urchins also eat algae and kelp and things on  
15 the bottom. You know, perhaps a plague like what you're  
16 having could have been addressed by urchins that are not  
17 available to eat anything like that and dispose of it,  
18 or, you know, it has upset the balance.  
19  
20 I can't over-emphasize the amount of  
21 urchins we had along the surf lines that are not there  
22 any more, and it's upset the balance of things.  
23  
24 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Do you have a response  
25 to that.  
26  
27 MR. CRIBLEY: Well, if I'm not mistaken,  
28 I believe the sea otter issue is on the agenda for the  
29 Subsistence Board to discuss. So we recognize that there  
30 is an issue there and it needs to be addressed, so we  
31 will be having a dialogue at the Board meeting.  
32  
33 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay. Any more  
34 questions or comments from the Council.  
35  
36 (No comments)  
37  
38 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: We thank you, Mr.  
39 Cribley.  
40  
41 MR. CRIBLEY: Yeah. If I could make just  
42 one departing statement.  
43  
44 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Sure.  
45  
46 MR. CRIBLEY: One thing I want to do is,  
47 all of the RAC members, I want to tell them how much I  
48 appreciate their participation in this process, and  
49 recognize that you're doing this on your own time and it  
50 is a significant commitment on your part to participate

1 in this and to provide valuable input into the overall  
2 management of the subsistence program. And I know that  
3 all of the members of the Federal Subsistence Board  
4 recognize that commitment and what it takes out of your  
5 private lives to be able to do that. But I want you to  
6 know that we recognize that and appreciate that  
7 commitment on your part and the hardship that it creates,  
8 but I think that overall participation is the only way  
9 that this is going to be a successful program in the long  
10 run, and just would like to thank you again.

11  
12 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: And we thank you for  
13 being here today.

14  
15 MR. CRIBLEY: Yes, sir. Thank you.

16  
17 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Gunalcheesh. That means  
18 thank you in my language.

19  
20 Okay. Let me see. The next thing on the  
21 -- we've got some unfinished business that we started  
22 yesterday. So we want to do that now. Endangered  
23 species petition for Southeast Alaska. Mr. Suminski, are  
24 you prepared to give your report.

25  
26 MR. SUMINSKI: Good morning, Mr.  
27 Chairman. Council members.

28  
29 I just have a fairly brief update about  
30 the petition to list the Alexander Archipelago wolf. In  
31 talking with the Fish and Wildlife Service, there was a  
32 -- they expect a decision on the 90-day finding in  
33 sometime midsummer, but there's no set date. My  
34 understanding is that the analysis has gone back to  
35 Washington, D.C. and it could -- it's in a queue with  
36 other petitions, so there's really no known time when  
37 this decision will be made. So it's not likely before  
38 midsummer.

39  
40 So if you have any questions. And just  
41 to refresh your memory, Brian Logan gave, you know, a  
42 presentation at the Wrangell meeting to, you know,  
43 describe the whole process. If you need any more  
44 information, I'd be happy to try to answer that.

45  
46 Thank you.

47  
48 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay. Cathy, you've got  
49 a question.

50

1 MS. NEEDHAM: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

2

3 At our meeting last fall when we  
4 discussed the petition for wolves, at that time there was  
5 discussion about a wolf task force being formed. Was  
6 that done? And is there a set -- so that our meeting  
7 minutes reflected there'd be a report back regarding  
8 that.

9

10 MR. SUMINSKI: Yes. And I do have a  
11 brief update for that as well. In October we did have  
12 the first task force meeting. Had a very good  
13 discussion. It was quickly realized that the size of the  
14 task force was too large. So one of the --- the thing  
15 that came out of the meeting was that each agency would  
16 go back and identify a biologist and a policy person to  
17 continue to work on the issue. Right now we're in the  
18 process of identifying those representatives.

19

20 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Follow up. Go ahead.

21

22 MS. NEEDHAM: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

23

24 And in follow up to that, I think we also  
25 talked about being able to incorporate local knowledge  
26 from -- I don't know if it was for necessarily the wolf  
27 task force, but in response to having data on wolves on  
28 Prince of Wales Island, and whether or not that data  
29 could be actually incorporated in any kind of analysis.  
30 Has that been done?

31

32 MR. SUMINSKI: That's exactly the plan,  
33 is that this policy group would get together and then we  
34 would -- at some point to be determined we would  
35 definitely include, you know, public input, and from this  
36 Council and other interested parties.

37

38 Thank you.

39

40 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Do you have a timeline  
41 for that process to be completed?

42

43 MR. SUMINSKI: No, there's no set  
44 timeline at this point, Mr. Chairman. It's just people  
45 are working on it is the best I can tell you at this  
46 point.

47

48 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay. Anybody else have  
49 a question.

50

1 (No comments)

2

3 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you, Mr. Suminski.  
4 Do you want to take care of the next item, in-season  
5 management?

6

7 MR. SUMINSKI: Mr. Chairman. If you  
8 would indulge me, I do have some information on our  
9 research plan that the Department of Fish and Game and  
10 the Forest Service have been working on. I'd like -- Mr.  
11 Larsen from the Department is here to give you an update  
12 on that, if you'd like that.

13

14 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Mr. Larsen, would you  
15 please come forward. You are now in the hot seat.

16

17 (Laughter)

18

19 MR. LARSEN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.  
20 That's not the first time I've been in the hot seat, but  
21 frankly I appreciate being back with the Council. I've  
22 been in front of the Council in the past, but it's been  
23 a while. I had a hiatus with some other activities, and  
24 it's good to be back.

25

26 My name is Doug Larsen. I'm the regional  
27 supervisor for the Division of Wildlife Conservation in  
28 Southeast Alaska. It's a job I've had since 2003 with a  
29 short hiatus, as I said, in the interim.

30

31 So I wanted to speak a little bit about,  
32 and I appreciate the opportunity to do this, about the  
33 research that we're planning to do in Unit 2, which is,  
34 of course Prince of Wales and adjacent islands.

35

36 The petition, as you know, is the second  
37 such petition that's been brought forward to the Fish and  
38 Wildlife Service with the Alexander Archipelago wolf.  
39 The first one was in the 90s. And at that time we had  
40 pretty active research going on with wolves in Unit 2.  
41 And the individual working on wolves at that time is  
42 actually still with us. He's working out of our  
43 Ketchikan office, Dave Person.

44

45 At that time Dave's work included radio  
46 collaring wolves, which is a pretty common practice for  
47 getting information on movements and habitat use, and  
48 abundance. And at that time, because of that work, we  
49 were fairly confidently enumerate that we estimated about  
50 300 to 350 wolves in Unit 2.

1                   Subsequently, as those radio collars went  
2 off the air, and as Dave's project wound down, that  
3 information became more nebulous, more difficult to  
4 determine what the numbers actually were. And so over  
5 time that became problematic for a couple of reasons.  
6 One is certainly we want to understand what's going on  
7 with wolf populations, just as we do with other  
8 populations across the region.

9  
10                   But also the Board of Game, as you may  
11 recall, put together a regulation that requires that we  
12 allow for a harvest limit of wolves in Unit 2 that is no  
13 more than 30 percent of the estimated population. And  
14 so obviously we have to get a population estimate if  
15 we're going to make that work. Well, as I said, back  
16 when Dave was doing his work, that was -- we were  
17 relatively confident that we had a pretty good estimate,  
18 and we could use that for regulatory purposes.  
19 Subsequently we've become -- it's become less clear.

20  
21                   Last year, recognizing that there was  
22 still an interest and a need to get better information  
23 about wolves, Dave went back to the island and attempted  
24 to do a genetic-based research, which would include  
25 collecting wolf feces which we can actually collect DNA  
26 from to determine individual animals, and from that come  
27 up with a population estimate for at least the central  
28 part of Prince of Wales, which is really the area that  
29 Dave concentrated his work back in the 90s.

30  
31                   Well, he went back to the places where he  
32 had worked back in the 90s and he wasn't able to find the  
33 scats that he anticipated, or there weren't as many scats  
34 in that area as he had observed back in the 90s. And so  
35 we had to abort that effort.

36  
37                   Subsequently, recognizing that this is  
38 still a big issue, and we need to get better information,  
39 we sat down together with the Forest Service and came up  
40 with a study plan that we think will be very useful, not  
41 only with this petition issue, but also with the  
42 regulatory issues that are associated.

43  
44                   And so what we're proposing to do, and  
45 we've actually initiated the work, we've hired an  
46 individual who will be beginning the work this spring,  
47 and that is to again radio collar wolves as part of the  
48 effort, like Dave did back in the 90s. One of the  
49 benefits that we have now that we didn't have back then  
50 is that while we used VHF collars in the past, we now

1 have access to GPS collars, which allows us to get very  
2 detailed information about movements and habitat use,  
3 unlike what we did with the VHF collars, which requires  
4 flying and locating the animals individually and then,  
5 you know, putting a mark on the map associated with where  
6 they are. These GPS collars will have thousands of data  
7 locations, depending on how often we get a satellite link  
8 from the collars. So we'll have I think very good  
9 information from that, assuming we can capture wolves.  
10 And Dave's confident that we can. And actually in a  
11 conversation I had with Mr. Douville earlier today, I'm  
12 a little more confident myself that we can do that. So  
13 that's one part of the study.

14  
15           The second part is to again try and link  
16 this to some genetic work. Now, as I said, the scat work  
17 didn't pan out just because of a lack of scats. However,  
18 what Dave observed is that even though there weren't  
19 necessarily scats as many places as he had seen in the  
20 90s, there was still hair, wolf hair. And so by setting  
21 up what we call hair traps, we can actually collect hair  
22 and use that as a DNA marker to again work with  
23 population estimation. So that's two aspects.

24  
25           The third aspect comes back to what  
26 Member Needham asked about earlier, and that is local  
27 knowledge. One of the things that we recognize is that  
28 it's really expensive, and I think you can appreciate  
29 this, too, it's really expensive to do the kind of  
30 research where you're capturing and collaring animals.  
31 But what's less expensive is spending time with people  
32 who live in the area, trap the area, understand what's  
33 going on, and getting feedback from them.

34  
35           And so recognizing that we're not going  
36 to be able to do this kind of intensive research on a  
37 regular basis -- I mean, here's been, what, 20 years  
38 since we last were able to really do that, what we would  
39 like to attempt to do is come up with a biologically  
40 based estimate based on the scientific techniques that  
41 I've identified, but then also talk with trappers. Mr.  
42 Douville obviously is one of those, and there are several  
43 others on Prince of Wales that we could speak to about  
44 what they feel population numbers are, and see what that  
45 relationship is between what we find through the  
46 collaring and DNA work and how that relates to what  
47 trappers are observing.

48  
49           And even if they don't link completely,  
50 at least if we have some relationship between those

1 estimates, we can better estimate into the future, you  
2 know, sort of a sense of what's going on with wolf  
3 populations.

4

5                   Actually in my conversation with Mr.  
6 Douville this morning, I was really heartened. He  
7 indicated that they, meaning he and other members of the  
8 trapping community, have come up with some ideas about  
9 wolf numbers. And that will be great. I mean, they've  
10 already taken that upon themselves to be thinking about  
11 what may be happening with wolves.

12

13                   So with those three aspects, Mr.  
14 Chairman, I think that we've established a pretty good  
15 ground base for getting some good information about  
16 wolves that will help us in the long term, as well as in  
17 the near term with the petition for listing that Mr.  
18 Suminski's briefed you on.

19

20                   CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Great. Thank you, Mr.  
21 Larsen.

22

23                   Anyone have any questions. Okay.  
24 Donald.

25

26                   MR. HERNANDEZ: I'm wondering about the,  
27 you know, petition that's, you know, before us now. It  
28 doesn't sound like there's been a lot of really good  
29 information to go with that petition. We've got kind of  
30 -- we're well behind in our keeping up with population  
31 estimates, so what does that mean for this petition if  
32 we're still looking to do the research that's necessary  
33 for this.

34

35                   MR. LARSEN: Thank you, Mr. Hernandez.  
36 Actually, as Mr. Suminski indicated, the 90-day finding  
37 will be out from the Fish and Wildlife Service I assume  
38 fairly soon.

39

40                   MR. SUMINSKI: Midsummer.

41

42                   MR. LARSEN: Midsummer. Our guess, I  
43 mean -- and certainly we don't have a crystal ball, but  
44 our guess is that they will find that there needs to be  
45 more information collected, and it will go further. And  
46 so in the last instance, I think that took three years.  
47 So our feeling is that we will have that time to do the  
48 work that I've laid out. And actually Dave's confident  
49 that we can start to get some pretty good information  
50 even after one year of data collection, assuming we're

1 able to catch wolves, which again Dave feels relatively  
2 confident we can do. So I think we will have information  
3 that will help enlighten that process.

4

5 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Anyone else. Mr.  
6 Douville.

7

8 MR. DOUVILLE: Thank you, Chairman Adams.

9

10 You'll first have to overcome the  
11 mistrust that the trappers and the users have with your  
12 biologist. That came from information that was given to  
13 him by the local people and they felt that was used  
14 against them when it showed up in places where they were  
15 trying to do the threatened species or endangered species  
16 in the past. And that really created a mistrust between  
17 the local trappers and the biologist, which are your --  
18 the local people are your best source of information,  
19 there's no question about it. I mean, they know. In  
20 fact they even helped him to learn how to trap. And we  
21 had a very high number of wolves in that time. And there  
22 was certainly no endangered species involved. It was --  
23 the population was at least double what it is now.

24

25 The number we have now we're comfortable  
26 with, that we could live with. There's deer and there's  
27 still wolf, and everybody's getting along fine.

28

29 But to recreate that trust is going to be  
30 an interesting endeavor.

31

32 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Do you want to respond  
33 to that, and then I have a comment as well.

34

35 MR. LARSEN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

36

37 Mr. Douville, I concur completely, and I  
38 think certainly any time anybody engages in an effort  
39 where there's information sought and shared, there needs  
40 to be trust. And I certainly hope that you will help  
41 facilitate some of that. I will do my part from our side  
42 to make that happen. But you're absolutely right.  
43 That's key. It's critical to this effort.

44

45 Without that, you know, the best we can do  
46 is get a population estimate based on the techniques that  
47 I've outlined, but then we don't have anything for the  
48 future that's going to be as reliable or as cost  
49 effective. So I certainly hope we can make that work.  
50 I recognize it's a challenge. And again I'll do my part

1 to do what we can to make that work.

2

3 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay. And then my  
4 comment, Mr. Larsen, was this. Western science and TEK  
5 must really, really come together, because actually they  
6 are the same thing. And the way that I've explained this  
7 is that local knowledge, you know, is really valuable to  
8 western science today. In the olden days, you know, our  
9 elders, they learned how to live with the laws of nature.  
10 They observed and experimented, and they were able to  
11 learn from nature on how things, you know, work in their  
12 environment. And they use that in order to help them to  
13 survive, you know, in the harsh wilderness that they were  
14 engaged in. And so when it comes right down to learning,  
15 you know, what TEK really is, it's the same as western  
16 science when the conclusions are all, you know,  
17 determined and everything.

18

19 And that's why I think, you know, this  
20 mistrust idea that Mr. Douville was bringing forth, you  
21 know, needs to be remedied by listening to those elders.  
22 Listening to the people who are actually out there in the  
23 wilderness, you know, taking down this information and  
24 sharing it. So I just wanted to share that with you.  
25 It's the same thing. They coincide with the laws of  
26 nature, and it's important. Okay.

27

28 Mr. Bangs has a comment.

29

30 MR. BANGS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

31

32 Mr. Larsen, I just was curious what part  
33 of the research that's being done by the biologist, what  
34 part does he play, if any, in the petition itself? Is he  
35 a proponent of the petition or how does he fit into that  
36 process?

37

38 Thank you.

39

40 MR. LARSEN: Thank you, Mr. Bangs. No.  
41 The petition came from the Center for Biological  
42 Diversity and Greenpeace, I believe. And they're  
43 entities outside of our organization. So our State  
44 biologists will do as they always do, and that is to go  
45 out and collect information that will help inform that  
46 process and the decisionmaking, but they're not in line  
47 with or against or for it. There's no relationship with  
48 that per se.

49

50 If I may, Mr. Chairman, I'd like to

1 comment on your comment, which I agree completely with.  
2 And in fact, you know, thinking back over the years as  
3 we've talked about not only wolf populations, but others,  
4 it's become more and more clear to me, starting in  
5 Kotzebue years ago, and then, of course down here, that,  
6 yes, we would go out and we'd do our surveys, and we  
7 would get information as you said in sort of the western  
8 techniques that we have available to us. And we'd go  
9 back and we'd do surveys or public meetings or gatherings  
10 in people homes and talk about anecdotal information that  
11 they had. And I always -- I've become a very strong  
12 proponent and believer in the reliability of that  
13 information, because it invariably proved out to be  
14 consistent. That is, if we were seeing high numbers of  
15 animals through our survey, our techniques, we would hear  
16 the same thing from people who were living it every day.  
17 And I'm confident again that with that kind of --  
18 building that relationship and knowing that that is the  
19 case, that we can in fact have that kind of a  
20 relationship relative to this wolf issue as well as other  
21 issues here in the regions. So I really appreciate your  
22 observation of that, and I agree completely.

23

24 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: You know, observing  
25 that, but it needs to be broadened out to, you know,  
26 everywhere. Every manager, every biologist, every, you  
27 know, user group and so forth. That's something that  
28 really needs to be observed.

29

30 Yes, you've got a question.

31

32 MR. WRIGHT: Yeah. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

33

34 The only place I've known, you know,  
35 where those wolves was on the Home Shore side, which is  
36 the mainland side. And I was just curious of what -- is  
37 Prince of Wales the only place where you're doing  
38 studies, or is there any other places in Southeast that  
39 studies are happening?

40

41 MR. LARSEN: Thank you, Mr. Wright.  
42 Actually we did some anecdotal wolf work in conjunction  
43 with bear and wolverine work in Berner's Bay. That was  
44 more opportunistic. We really were focused on those  
45 other species, but we opportunistically captured some  
46 wolves just to get a little bit of a sense for where they  
47 were traveling within that area. And that was associated  
48 with the Juneau access project.

49

50 We've also done wolf work in Gustavus,

1 just right near Home Shore, and that work is in  
2 conjunction with the Park Service. And again in an  
3 interest of learning more about the wolves in that area  
4 relative to the colonizing moose population that's moved  
5 in there. And so we've actually collared -- to this  
6 point, we've collared one wolf. We've attempted to  
7 collar more. We've unsuccessful, but our goal is to put  
8 at least another six radio collars on packs in the  
9 Gustavus area to learn more about their movements, not  
10 only within Gustavus but as they relate to Home Shore and  
11 then up that west side of Lynn Canal.

12  
13 And then we're very interested in getting  
14 better information about wolves in Mr. Bangs' area in  
15 Unit 3 and 1B. And we're looking at possibilities for  
16 doing some work there. As, you know, you've heard from  
17 others this morning, you know, budgets are always an  
18 issue, and we're trying to leverage our dollars where we  
19 feel it most appropriate relative to the issues that  
20 we're facing. And so at this point Unit 3 hasn't risen  
21 high enough relative to the other areas, but it's  
22 certainly an area where we have concerns relative to wolf  
23 abundance, not so much with lack of wolves, but large  
24 numbers of wolves is our sense again from anecdotal  
25 information that we've received from people as well as  
26 some of our own observations. So that's an area we'd  
27 like to get a little better information on wolves as well  
28 as the deer population there, which we recognize is  
29 relatively low.

30  
31 So those the main -- the two that I  
32 mentioned are Berner's Bay and Gustavus though for wolf  
33 work.

34  
35 MR. WRIGHT: Follow up.

36  
37 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay. Thank you. We'll  
38 take one more question or comment. You've got a follow  
39 up. And then one more question. We have to move on.

40  
41 MR. WRIGHT: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

42  
43 When you're doing these studies, when  
44 you're using local knowledge, are they put on the payroll  
45 or are they just being local knowledge, because, you  
46 know, it takes a lot of time to be, you know, giving  
47 information and showing you where all the animals are.

48  
49 MR. LARSEN: Thank you, Mr. Wright. We  
50 don't currently have anyone on the payroll relative to

1 TEK. Subsistence Division, you know, oftentimes will  
2 interact in more of a paying capacity relative to  
3 information gathering. Ours is more anecdotal and sort  
4 of opportunistic as we encounter people and talk with  
5 them, or they come to us oftentimes and say, hey, have  
6 you thought about or do you know about, and then we'll  
7 certainly sit down and spend time. But, no, there's  
8 nothing like that.

9

10 Now, there's been some discussions about  
11 bringing people on with expertise relative to some  
12 actions, but we haven't gone there at this point.

13

14 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay. Patty.

15

16 MS. PHILLIPS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

17

18 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: And you're allowed a  
19 follow up.

20

21 MS. PHILLIPS: Okay. Thank you, Mr.  
22 Larsen. I appreciate our concise summary of the wolf  
23 research.

24

25 What I want to know is, you know, the RAC  
26 and the subsistence program has a fisheries monitoring  
27 program and a wildlife monitoring program. And it sort  
28 of builds on what Frank's question is, is that these  
29 programs compact or cooperate with tribes. Has the  
30 State considered doing that in their wolf research on  
31 POW?

32

33 MR. LARSEN: Thank you, Member Phillips.  
34 No. The answer is no. Not because we wouldn't like to.  
35 In fact if there's something that we should be aware of,  
36 or that I can become aware of in terms of how we might go  
37 about that, I'd be very interested in learning about  
38 that, because certainly we do want to involve people.  
39 And to this point, you know, as I indicated earlier, we  
40 know of some of the more active trappers on the island,  
41 and certainly they have some information that is very  
42 valuable and useful for us. But if there's others or  
43 other entities, I'd very much appreciate knowing what  
44 those are and how to contact them, and I'd like to do  
45 that.

46

47 MS. PHILLIPS: Thank you, Mr. Larsen.  
48 And I just have a comment to the Council, or to the RAC,  
49 and I'd appreciate your response to my inquiry.

50

1                   What's troubling to me is that these  
2 petitions are driving the research, and, you know, we  
3 have substantial information needs, you know, to help us  
4 formulate recommendations to the Board. And, you know,  
5 that includes forest-wide planning, sea otter habitat,  
6 ecosystem degradation, genetic sampling of salmon. We've  
7 all heard how expensive those sort of researches are.  
8 And yet we have this petition driving this wolf study,  
9 and we're hearing anecdotally that wolves are in  
10 abundance, and yet we have real critical needs. And  
11 that's something that we should address.

12  
13                   Thank you.

14  
15                   CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you, Patty.

16  
17                   Well, we appreciate your report to us,  
18 Mr. Larsen and Mr. Suminski. Thank you very much.

19  
20                   MR. LARSEN: Thank you for the  
21 opportunity, Mr. Chairman.

22  
23                   CHAIRMAN ADAMS: You bet.

24  
25                   MR. DOUVILLE: Before he goes, one more  
26 thing.

27  
28                   CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Mr. Douville. Stay  
29 right there a minute.

30  
31                   MR. DOUVILLE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
32 Real quick.

33  
34                   One of the things that we're concerned  
35 about on the island is that there's effort made to paint  
36 these wolves as a sub-species of the wolf population in  
37 Southeast. And we disagree with that, because they can  
38 freely swim back and forth. But on the other hand, I've  
39 been urging the Forest Service to do genetic studies of  
40 all the wolves in Southeast. And we think that if there  
41 is genetic differences, that those wolf have -- some of  
42 them have mixed with dogs that would give them a little  
43 different profile, because we know that it's true that  
44 dogs have run with them in the past. But it's a concern  
45 of ours.

46  
47                   CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Do you want to respond  
48 to that, Mr. Larson.

49  
50                   MR. LARSEN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

1 Mr. Douville.

2

3                   Actually there has been fairly extensive  
4 genetic work done on wolves in Southeast, and that's  
5 where that -- where Dave's conclusion was that those  
6 wolves on Prince of Wales are relatively isolated. They  
7 may or not be swimming off. In the course of the study  
8 that he did in the 90s, he didn't have any examples of  
9 them swimming off. So not to say they don't, but he  
10 didn't observe that.

11

12                   The genetics markers on those wolves on  
13 Prince of Wales are different than other wolves in  
14 Southeast Alaska, so there is some indication, and this  
15 is actually work that's been done beyond our Department,  
16 that does clearly suggest that there are some differences  
17 in terms of their genetic makeup. Now, behaviors and  
18 stuff like that, those are different issues. But in  
19 terms of genetics, they have determined that that is the  
20 case. And that's just a fact. I mean, it's not whether  
21 we like it or not, it's just what they found using  
22 genetics.

23

24                   CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay. Thank you. We'll  
25 end it right there. So thank you, Mr. Larsen and Mr.  
26 Suminski.

27

28                   And I see that, you know, our Deputy  
29 Under Secretary is here. Oh, do you have something to --  
30 do you have one last thing, Terry?

31

32                   MR. SUMINSKI: Yeah. The next topic was  
33 a summary of special actions that were taken up to this  
34 point. But I'm not sure of the schedule of the Deputy  
35 Under Secretary. I could come back after that.

36

37                   CHAIRMAN ADAMS: That will be fine. What  
38 I would like to do before we invite him to the table  
39 though is take about a five-minute break. And so we'll  
40 do that right now, and come back in five minutes. Okay.

41

42                   (Off record)

43

44                   (On record)

45

46                   CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay. I just wanted to  
47 recognize people on line.

48

49                   Right now we want to invite the Deputy  
50 Under Secretary for the Department of Agriculture, Mr.

1 Butch Blazer.

2

3 And, Ms. Pendleton, you want to introduce  
4 him for us, please.

5

6 MS. PENDLETON: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
7 And to the members of the Southeast Regional Advisory  
8 Council. It's great to be here, and it's really an honor  
9 to have our Deputy Under Secretary for Natural Resources  
10 and the Environment for USDA, Butch Blazer.

11

12 Butch has been in his role now for I  
13 guess a little under a year. We're excited to have him  
14 here in Southeast. He's had the opportunity to spend  
15 some time on the Tongass the last couple of days. And so  
16 he will be with us for the remainder of the week, as for  
17 this meeting and then for our meetings with the Federal  
18 Subsistence Board.

19

20 Mr. Blazer has quite a history. I'm not  
21 going to go through all of that. I'll give him a few  
22 minutes to tell a little bit about himself. But he has  
23 a long career with the State of New Mexico as well as  
24 with the range -- as a range management specialist with  
25 the Department of Interior, also in New Mexico. So it's  
26 a real honor to have Mr. Blazer here, and I'll give him  
27 a few minutes to tell a little bit more about himself.

28

29 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

30

31 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you. You are in  
32 the hot seat, sir.

33

34 (Laughter)

35

36 MR. BLAZER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.  
37 Members of the Council here this morning.

38

39 I'm quite honored to have been invited to  
40 meet with you and speak with you here today, and I bring  
41 greetings.....

42

43 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Excuse me. Beth, would  
44 you turn yours off, please. Thank you.

45

46 MR. BLAZER: I bring greetings to you  
47 from President Obama, from Secretary Vilsack, from Under  
48 Secretary Harris Sherman.

49

50 This is my first trip to Southeast. And

1 I've been to Alaska, as I mentioned to someone earlier,  
2 he says, well, that's Anchorage, and Southeast is  
3 different. And I have to agree with you. Alaska is all  
4 beautiful, but the various regions are very unique. In  
5 the short time that I've been here, I flew in to  
6 Ketchikan Sunday evening, and have been out to Ketchikan,  
7 Sitka and now here in Juneau today. I'm learning a lot,  
8 and that's the whole reason that I'm up here. The  
9 various issues that you're dealing with, whether it be  
10 forest restoration issues, the issues you're talking  
11 about here this morning.

12  
13                   You know, in order for USDA, and in  
14 particular the area, the mission area that I work in with  
15 the U.S. Forest Service, the only way that we can be  
16 truly supportive of the policy decisions that are made in  
17 Washington, D.C. is to have a strong understanding of  
18 what the issues here on the ground that all of you are  
19 dealing with. And that's the only way that we can be  
20 supportive of the work that Beth and then her Staff here  
21 in the region are responsible for. And so, again, that's  
22 the main reason that I'm here.

23  
24                   And I'm looking forward to the meeting  
25 starting this afternoon with the Federal Subsistence  
26 Board and their interactions with all of you, the things  
27 that you have to share with them, the decisions that have  
28 to be made. And with Beth being the formal  
29 representative from the U.S. Forest Service for USDA on  
30 that Board, I will be there to learn from her and to help  
31 her in any interaction that we have with Secretary  
32 Vilsack.

33  
34                   And, again, the more and more that I  
35 listen to you, the more that I read, the better  
36 understanding that I'm gaining in regards to subsistence.  
37 It's extremely important, especially in today's economic  
38 climate where we're all trying to figure out how to feed  
39 our families. And it's a very important issue that I'm  
40 wanting to become more involved with and hopefully be a  
41 part of whatever solutions we can come up with.

42  
43                   And so, again, I'm very pleased to be  
44 here. Already I've made many new friends that I'm  
45 learning forward to developing relationships with and  
46 learning from.

47  
48                   I always tell people, being a member of  
49 the Mescalero Apache Tribe from where I was born and  
50 raised, the reason that I'm here today is because of the

1 teachings of my tribal elders and of my family. And, you  
2 know, I'll never forget that. And so, again, you will  
3 always have a friend -- as long as I'm in D.C., you will  
4 always have a friend there that you can come and talk to.

5

6

7

So thank you very much.

8

9

CHAIRMAN ADAMS: We really appreciate  
10 that, Mr. Blazer. And, you know, yesterday we had some  
11 of the Council members, you know, talk about how  
12 important subsistence is to our families and to our  
13 communities. And we've gotten into a culture of where,  
14 you know, transportation between the smaller communities  
15 into the hub communities like Juneau, you know, is very  
16 easy. And they can take come here to Juneau, and they  
17 can, you know, take produce and foods, you know, back to  
18 their communities from Costco and Fred Meyer and, you  
19 know, Walmart and all that. And we sometimes feel, you  
20 know, that our younger people are drifting more away from  
21 their traditional ways of living and of eating  
22 traditional foods. And so I think there's an education  
23 process that we, as, you know, leaders in our community,  
24 as leaders in our families, you know, have to bring back  
25 those things to our youngsters.

26

27

You know, I was raised, you know, as a  
28 subsistence user, I commercial fished, and I also was a  
29 charter boat captain. I was involved in all the various  
30 user groups, you know, that are in Alaska. But I've  
31 always been a subsistence user, and if you come to my  
32 home in the fall, and I told this to the group yesterday,  
33 you will find that 90 percent of my foods are from the  
34 land. And we have been able to teach our children, I  
35 have five sons and two daughters, and -- I take that  
36 back. I have six sons and a couple daughters from a  
37 previous marriage. My wife had five children already.  
38 But anyhow, we were able to teach them, you know, how to  
39 live off the land. And they go out and they do the  
40 hunting for me now. You know, I don't have.....

41

42

You know, most of the seasons that are  
43 open is when I'm sitting in a meeting here, you know, and  
44 so I have not been able in the past 10 years or so, go  
45 out and hunt with my children. But they have learned.  
46 They have learned from us, and they bring home, you know,  
47 the moose and the deer, and as a family we do our  
48 subsistence fishing together. We have a fish camp out on  
49 the Situk River, and on weekends our whole family, you  
50 know, goes out there and we teach them how to catch

1 salmon and process it, and they are teaching their  
2 children now.

3  
4 Last fall I had one of my grandchildren  
5 shoot a moose for me. And then one of my sons got a deer  
6 for me, you know, because I was busy doing other things.

7  
8 And, you know, we need to bring back that  
9 culture into our lives again, and I think it's really  
10 important.

11  
12 So I appreciate you being here. And I  
13 wanted to share that with you, because, you know, that is  
14 a part of our life and our traditional way of living.  
15 But we need to teach it to our younger people as well.

16  
17 I do have a couple questions that I want  
18 to field to you, and then the Council, you know, will  
19 also, you know, make some comments or questions as well.

20  
21  
22 But, Mr. Blazer, the Council has a real  
23 big concern about the budget. We know that we are being  
24 -- we are expected to do more with a lot less. And with  
25 a 22 percent cut in the budget this year, you know, that  
26 really is going to sink into our ability to be able to do  
27 the things that we need to do for the people, you know,  
28 who rely on subsistence. And, you know, it's going to  
29 affect our fish monitoring program, which has been a very  
30 important part of, you know, our programs in the past.  
31 And now it's being threatened. Tribal organizations will  
32 not get as much of the funding that they had been in the  
33 past because of all of these cuts. And so, you know, I  
34 think it's really important, you know, that we -- we try  
35 to remedy these things in our own way, but we also find  
36 it very difficult to do so when we don't have the  
37 monetary resources, you know, to handle that.

38  
39 So I'll let you respond to that, and then  
40 I have one more question for you and then I'll turn it  
41 over to the Council.

42  
43 MR. BLAZER: Okay. Again, thank you, Mr.  
44 Chairman.

45  
46 And my response to yourself and to the  
47 Council, soon after I came on board, and please realize  
48 I've only been in this position since October of last  
49 year. But soon after I came on board, I was presented  
50 with the 2013 budget for the U.S. Forest Service. And as

1 we were going through it and having the discussions in  
2 regards to preparation of preparing the pass back to OMB,  
3 we were having discussions on all the various line items.  
4 And I particular remember when the subsistence line item  
5 came up, and having a general understanding of what  
6 subsistence is in Indian country from my understanding,  
7 very limited understanding, and not knowing again what is  
8 it is here in Alaska, and particularly here in Southeast,  
9 you know, I had questions. And the answers, the  
10 responses were pretty general in nature. And so as I  
11 prepared for this visit and coming up here and to meet  
12 with you and to meet this afternoon with the Federal  
13 Subsistence Board, I wanted to take full advantage of my  
14 trip to visit with folks like yourself that have grown up  
15 and have lived and working with the land, living within  
16 the Tongass National Forest and surviving and thriving as  
17 you have.

18  
19                   And since I've been here, and I've only  
20 been here like I said a couple of days, I'm learning very  
21 quickly how important subsistence is. It's your way of  
22 life. And when we talk about cutting subsistence  
23 funding, it's starting to mean much more to me than when  
24 I first started on the job. And I can assure you that  
25 I'm going to be having much more discussion with the  
26 Regional Forester, with the Chief of the Forest Service,  
27 with the Under Secretary in regards to this subsistence  
28 issue.

29  
30                   I can't promise you anything, because  
31 again just about every line item is being cut. You all  
32 realize as you mentioned we're in tough economic times  
33 right now, and we're seeing not only Federal budgets, but  
34 State budgets and county budgets and tribal budgets being  
35 reduced. And that makes it just that much more important  
36 to work together as this Council does and figure out how  
37 we're all going to cover as many bases as we can. But  
38 you know as well as I do in rural areas that's much  
39 harder to do than it is in the more urban areas.

40  
41                   And the people that are in the villages,  
42 the very remote villages that have these huge energy  
43 costs that they're trying to deal with, it's unbalanced.  
44 And it's that kind of understanding and the message that  
45 I want to take back to Washington, D.C. And so that  
46 information, that understanding can be part of the  
47 discussions when it becomes decision time in figuring out  
48 what those budgets are going to be.

49  
50                   Thank you.

1                   CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you, sir. You  
2 know, many of the Native people, you know, that I've  
3 heard come and make their testimonies here, don't like  
4 the word subsistence, you know. And they prefer, you  
5 know, our traditional foods, or as you mentioned, you  
6 know, our traditional way of life. And the reason I  
7 think because, you know, of our traditional foods not  
8 only feed us physically, but spiritually as well. And to  
9 us, you know, that's a really important part of our every  
10 day living. We have to be not only physically fit, but  
11 we need to be spiritually rejuvenated as well. And  
12 that's where we get, you know, our resources from, is  
13 from our -- or those resources from, is from the foods  
14 that we eat every day.

15  
16                   And when you take, you know, processed  
17 food -- I know of a family up in the Wrangell-St. Elias  
18 area who had a son who could not take, you know, the food  
19 from the stores, you know, the beef and the pork and all  
20 that. His body required that he have, you know, caribou  
21 or moose or wild foods. And if he didn't have those, you  
22 know, he got very sick, and sometimes very life-  
23 threatening. And we were talking in our Wrangell-St.  
24 Elias Subsistence Resource Commission meeting, how do we  
25 remedy that. And so we made some suggestions about  
26 having certain areas of, you know, their units open so  
27 that at any particular time of the year they'd be able to  
28 go and get their wild animals.

29  
30                   So, you know, that to us is really,  
31 really important. It's our daily living. And so I hope  
32 you can, you know, take that back, you know, and help  
33 them realize that. Subsistence really isn't, you know --  
34 it's much deeper than that to us, and I'm sure that  
35 members of the Council will share their thoughts about  
36 that as well.

37  
38                   The next question I have, Mr. Blazer, it  
39 has to do with the C&T letter that we submitted from this  
40 body. It went to the Federal Subsistence Board, and then  
41 I believe it's in the Secretary's office at this time.

42  
43                   So, you know, ANILCA does not require or  
44 does not have C&T in that document, and so, you know, we  
45 determine C&T by eight factors, you know, and a community  
46 becomes recognized as traditional -- I mean, a C&T  
47 community, you know, by meeting those standards. And so  
48 we are kind of concerned that we haven't had a response,  
49 you know, in regards to that letter. It was written on  
50 April 15th of 2011. So I don't know if you're aware of

1 that particular letter or not, but, you know, if you can  
2 make a comment about that and assure us that we will soon  
3 get an answer from the Secretaries.

4  
5 MR. BLAZER: I have seen the letter about  
6 15 minutes ago.

7  
8 (Laughter)

9  
10 MR. BLAZER: So again, I can assure you  
11 that if it's gone to the Secretary, he will be  
12 responding, and now that I've been made aware of it, I'll  
13 be looking at it and having again discussions, not only  
14 with the Regional Forester but with whoever I need to  
15 before I leave here. And so when I get back, I can  
16 immediately bring that to the attention of the Secretary  
17 and make sure that that letter is responded to.

18  
19 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you, sir. We  
20 really look forward to receiving a response to that  
21 letter.

22  
23 MR. BLAZER: Yeah. Okay.

24  
25 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: In my language, I would  
26 say Gunalcheesh. Gunalcheesh (In Tlingit) means big  
27 thank you.

28  
29 MR. BLAZER: Thank you very much.

30  
31 Very quickly, I just want to share with  
32 you, when I was flying in from Seattle into Ketchikan  
33 Sunday evening, I had the pleasure of sitting next to a  
34 tribal elder from Hoonah. And I believe her name was  
35 Bertha Caras, and she was on her way back from graduation  
36 ceremonies of her granddaughter going to school in  
37 Hawaii. And she was on her way back, and on her way  
38 home. And all the way from Seattle into Ketchikan, we  
39 talked about many of the things that you shared with me  
40 here this afternoon in regards to the importance of the  
41 Native foods.

42  
43 And we talked about the diabetes  
44 situation in Indian country, and how that came about and  
45 how we need to deal with it.

46  
47 And we talked about the extreme suicide  
48 rates that we are trying to deal with. And it's very  
49 unfortunate that my reservation, the Mescalero Apache  
50 reservation several years ago led the nation in teen

1 suicide. And it's a real tough topic to talk about and  
2 to work together to try to figure out how to deal with  
3 it. But I think that one of the answers that we came up  
4 at Mescalero, and the Mescalero Tribe is pursuing is  
5 looking at youth conservation, youth conservation  
6 programs where they can get our young people much more  
7 involved in the management and understanding of tribal  
8 natural resources on our reservation. And the tribe has  
9 developed a very successful youth conservation program  
10 that tied in with the tribal fish hatchery there at  
11 Mescalero. And it's astonishing to see those young  
12 people going out and learning how to take care of the  
13 fish, and learning how to take care of the stream banks  
14 and the water, and learning about water quality and how  
15 to improve that. And it just gets their mind in much  
16 better place. And now we're seeing those students that  
17 have become part of this program wanting to go on and  
18 move into college.

19

20                                 And so again over the last several days  
21 I've been having that discussion with Forest Service  
22 personnel on how they can better partner with all of you,  
23 especially in the rural community areas. How can we get  
24 our young people more involved and have them develop that  
25 understanding of the importance of our natural resources  
26 and really get them to the place where again many of you  
27 are, that understanding of what I was taught growing up,  
28 that if you care for your Mother Earth, she will provide  
29 for you.

30

31                                 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Exactly.

32

33                                 R. BLAZER: And that's what they need to  
34 learn. And so I look forward to again working with all  
35 of you to get us to that place.

36

37                                 Thank you.

38

39                                 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you, sir. We do  
40 have Mr. Jack Lorrigan back there. He works for the  
41 Forest Service and he's been working with students from  
42 the University of Alaska, and he's been bringing them to  
43 meeting such as this. And I'm really happy to see that,  
44 you know, because they are the ones who are going to be  
45 taking over these seats, you know, when we are gone.

46

47                                 MR. BLAZER: That's right.

48

49                                 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: So, yeah, we are doing  
50 the same thing, and I think it really helps them, you

1 know, to identify with the land and the resources.

2

3 I'm going to open this meeting up for  
4 questions now. and I saw Mr. Kookesh first. So go  
5 ahead.

6

7 MR. KOOKESH: Okay. Thank you. Thank  
8 you, Mr. Blazer.

9

10 Bert mentioned earlier that our younger  
11 people are drifting away from their traditional way of  
12 life, but I don't necessarily believe that to be all  
13 true, because there's a lot of good things in the non-  
14 Native world that we should embrace. It would be like us  
15 embracing motors, outboard motors when they first came  
16 in, when our fathers first were introduced to them. That  
17 was a good thing. Like our children enjoy McDonald's and  
18 they enjoy cell phones and they enjoy playing little  
19 games on their phones, and there's nothing wrong with  
20 that. But I don't believe that our children are drifting  
21 away from our traditional way of life because of that  
22 technology.

23

24 I'm of the opinion that if you look at  
25 Southeast -- and this is to help you with your, what you  
26 called a stronger understanding. I'm of the opinion that  
27 we have in Southeast two kinds of areas. One is a rural  
28 area and one is an urban area. If you live in the rural  
29 area, your traditional way of life is protected to a  
30 greater degree, but when you move to an urban area like  
31 Juneau, for example, you lose a lot of that. You're more  
32 regulated, you're more watched over in the sense that  
33 your acts are more likely to be criminalized a lot  
34 faster. For example, when I go home, I take all we need  
35 for the year. Sometimes all at once. And that might be  
36 breaking the law, but I do it only once.

37

38 And what I was hoping you could  
39 understand is that it's the regulations that are taking  
40 our livelihood and affecting our children. For example,  
41 I have a niece and nephews that live out of state, and if  
42 they come back to Alaska to practice their customary and  
43 traditional way of life the way they were raised, they're  
44 criminals. They actually become criminalized for that,  
45 for their acts. And it's really sad that you can't come  
46 back and just practice your customary and traditional way  
47 of life. And it really bothers us that you just can't go  
48 back and do that. And I was hoping that there is some  
49 way, I don't know if it will ever happen, where my niece  
50 and my nephew can come home without fear of that, to be

1 able to allow us to practice.

2

3                   When you talked about budget cuts, you  
4 know, even though budget cuts occur, the regulations  
5 still stay. They don't go away with the budget cuts. So  
6 our acts are always still criminalized. And I was hoping  
7 that you would understand it's the regulations that  
8 create problems for the urban Natives, and I was hoping  
9 there's some way we could go back, because we've embraced  
10 this process.

11

12                   I remember being here a few years ago, we  
13 were in Petersburg, and I said, isn't it sad that we're  
14 sitting here making regulations that are affecting our  
15 subsistence way of life? And when we pass the  
16 regulation, we're all standing around shaking hands,  
17 patting each other on the back, what a wonderful job we  
18 just did. And here we are regulating our lifestyle right  
19 out of existence, and we're taking pride in that. And I  
20 was hoping that at some point we can go back and allow us  
21 to practice it. It's our way of life.

22

23                   You know, even though you're taken out of  
24 the environment of the rural area, you still have these  
25 cravings for -- like my grandson. He's only five years  
26 old, and he loves dried fish. And he gets -- joy comes  
27 to him when he eats it. You know, he's being raised on  
28 it, but he loves McDonald's, too. But when you go back  
29 to our Native foods, it's good for us. We crave it,  
30 especially when we get sick, like, for example, when I  
31 was going through -- I've been cancer treatment. The  
32 Native foods were the ones that didn't bother me the  
33 most. The non-Native -- dieticians told me, our bodies  
34 have a harder time processing beef, but when I have  
35 smoked salmon with seal oil and baked potatoes, that was  
36 one -- and herring eggs, that was one hell of a good  
37 meal. But it's going back to our foods. It didn't make  
38 me nauseous. It made me -- it filled me up and it  
39 provided me with what I needed.

40

41                   But I just want to let you know that it's  
42 not -- we're just not moving away from it. It's the  
43 regulations that are affecting us and keeping us away  
44 from going back.

45

46                   Thank you.

47

48                   MR. BLAZER: Thank you for sharing those  
49 very personal stories with me, because again, I am  
50 learning from those examples that you've shared and that

1 perspective is -- I hadn't thought about that, so it's  
2 very unique. And, again, thank you.

3

4 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Patty.

5

6 MS. PHILLIPS: Thank you, Chairman Adams.

7

8 Welcome to Southeast Alaska, Mr. Deputy  
9 Under Secretary Blazer.

10

11 MR. BLAZER: It's Butch.

12

13 (Laughter)

14

15 MS. PHILLIPS: Okay. It's very common  
16 for the members of the RAC to serve in multiple venues in  
17 their lives. I serve on the -- as the Chairperson of the  
18 Alaska Department of Fish and Game Pelican Advisory  
19 Committee. I'm also a board member of Southeast  
20 Conference, which is Alaska Regional Development  
21 Organization, and Federally-recognized by the Economic  
22 Development Administration. And also -- yeah. You know,  
23 so we serve in multiple capacities. I'm also the  
24 economic development committee Chairperson of the  
25 Southeast Conference, which oversees the comprehensive  
26 economic development strategies for the region, for  
27 Southeast region.

28

29 And recently the Southeast Conference  
30 partnered with the Juneau Economic Development Council in  
31 a clusters initiative, which is funded by the U.S. Forest  
32 Service. And the cluster initiative work group, there  
33 are several of them, of which I serve on the ocean  
34 products committee as a committee member. And on  
35 Southeast Conference, the fisheries committee, which I  
36 participate in, one of the common cluster initiatives is  
37 sea otters. And, you know, all too often we have outside  
38 interests and outside trust funds that are trumping the  
39 local voice at the local level. And yet, you know, you  
40 heard that perhaps, you know, that several of us are  
41 commercial fishermen, or we have a way of life that, you  
42 know, comes from the sea. And, you know, the sea otter  
43 habitat, ecosystem, that degradation is destroying a  
44 subsistence way of life in terms of cockles, clams, sea  
45 cucumbers, crab, Dungeness crab.

46

47 And so what I'm requesting is that  
48 perhaps there could be more of a multiple agency  
49 collaborative effort with NOAA, and Department of  
50 Agriculture, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to

1 put this more in -- you know, take some action, get some  
2 action going.

3

4 I know Representative Don Young, he's  
5 seen almost as, you know, a lone wolf in Congress, but he  
6 hears from his people here in Southeast that sea otters  
7 are really, you know, harmful to our economy and  
8 subsistence way of life here in Southeast Alaska.

9

10 And on a final note, you know, we have  
11 the subsistence program in the State of Alaska has  
12 fisheries monitoring programs and wildlife programs, and  
13 they have compacts, cooperatives and partnerships with  
14 the tribes at the local level to do some of this research  
15 in the field. Ben Van Alen, he's a Forest Service  
16 biologist, has worked with the Craig Community  
17 Association, with Hydaburg, and what they do is they  
18 bring their tribal members, and oftentimes young people  
19 into the field to do that research. And, you know, one  
20 of the strong aspects of Southeast Conference is our  
21 workforce development.

22

23 And so that, you know -- so these people  
24 see a professional field that perhaps they'd be  
25 interested in, but oftentimes the people from our  
26 villages -- like my own son, for example, can't pass the  
27 high school general qualifying exam. So my son's a  
28 senior, and if he doesn't pass that math portion of the  
29 high school qualifying exam, he won't get a diploma.  
30 He'll get a certificate. With a certificate, you can't  
31 enter the military or, you know, he'll have to do  
32 multiple math remediation in order to get to a college  
33 level mathematics.

34

35 So a lot of these issues are cross -- you  
36 know, I don't know how to say that, but you know, I just  
37 wanted to bring all those to your attention. And it's  
38 probably a lot for you.

39

40 So thank you, Butch.

41

42 (Laughter)

43

44 MR. BLAZER: You're very welcome. But  
45 again it brings up a very important point on how one  
46 issue is connected to another, and how those connections  
47 need to be understood and dealt with by all disciplines.  
48 You know, primarily people in this room, people that are  
49 sitting around the table here are primarily involved in  
50 discussing and working on natural resource issues. But

1 when we start talking about our children and figuring out  
2 how to primarily move them into natural resources  
3 management, there's a lot of different things that become  
4 involved in that in regards to education issues and other  
5 social issues that we all need to be, excuse me, made  
6 aware of, and work together to deal with. Not just  
7 strictly related to natural resources, but holistically  
8 related to the development of our young people.

9

10 And so your points are well taken. And  
11 thank you for sharing them with me.

12

13 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Any -- okay. Mr.  
14 Wright.

15

16 MR. WRIGHT: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

17

18 Thank you for being here.

19

20 MR. BLAZER: You're welcome.

21

22 MR. WRIGHT: My name is Frank Wright and  
23 I'm from Hoonah.

24

25 You know, my daughter, you know, she went  
26 off to school, and she came back home, you know, and we  
27 had some cockles and seal oil, and she was digging in  
28 there, and she was going like this, ummm, just -- and  
29 seal meat, you know, and she was just enjoying herself.

30

31 You know, another thing is that, you  
32 know, I get concerned about urban people that live here.  
33 My sister moved away from my home, you know, because of  
34 work. And she came home one time, and my daughter was  
35 eating some seal meat, and my sister said to her, do you  
36 eat that? And I was just so upset with my sister, I  
37 said, of course she eats this. You know, my sister says,  
38 well, my kids don't.

39

40 You know, subsistence is more than just  
41 food. It's an existence of a people. Our people have  
42 lives on this for centuries. And when you take like the  
43 urban people that are restricted from using their food,  
44 it diminishes their existence as a tribe or as a people.  
45 And I think that's against the law around the world that  
46 you do not eliminate a people. But under certain  
47 regulations and laws, we are, or some of our people are,  
48 because they have to exist in an urban area.

49

50 You look at Ketchikan where you've got

1 the one small village down there, they are being  
2 restricted from practicing their traditional way of life,  
3 because they are connected to a city.

4  
5                   So like I said, subsistence is not just  
6 food. It's an existence of a people that have existed  
7 off this land for centuries.

8  
9                   You know, I've grown up, you know, eating  
10 all the traditional foods, and I'll say to myself, I say  
11 to some people, look at me. I am from the land. I am  
12 from the waters. This is me. I'm a Tlingit from Hoonah.  
13 And I'm very proud of saying that, because you look at a  
14 lot of the kids that are away from Hoonah. You know, you  
15 talk about suicide. Identity is very important. If you  
16 have young children or young people that cannot identify  
17 themselves of who they really are, they're a lost people.  
18 And when you've got a generation that is not -- doesn't  
19 -- don't know who they are, it's a shame. And  
20 subsistence is one of the things that makes a person who  
21 they are.

22  
23                   And I have a hard time, because when you  
24 get suicide, and we've got young people that are hurting  
25 themselves, it's, you know, very painful. You know,  
26 Hoonah has had a cluster one time that I think we lost  
27 about four or five young people, you know. But it's not  
28 only the -- I'm having a hard -- it's -- you know, it's  
29 the modern technology has also hurt our people. I mean,  
30 you look at, you know -- my daughter has never had a  
31 Nintendo, because we didn't allow it, because we didn't  
32 believe that it was mind building. You know, we finally  
33 got her cell phone when she went to college. And that's  
34 because I wanted to make sure I knew where she was at.

35  
36                   (Laughter)

37  
38                   MR. WRIGHT: But it's like I say,  
39 subsistence is more than just food. It's the existence  
40 of a people that are struggling to exist.

41  
42                   Thank you.

43  
44                   CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you, Frank. Tim.

45  
46                   MR. ACKERMAN: Yeah. Tim Ackerman from  
47 Dtehshuh Klukwan Chilkoot area at the north end there.

48  
49                   Very interesting to listen to all of this  
50 in regards this whole stems on the abundance of fish and

1 game and the State of Alaska and all the waters all west  
2 and south of us. It's a multi-million dollar venture for  
3 any fisheries, including out-of-state fisheries, but the  
4 fish in fact has sustained all the aboriginal people on  
5 the whole of the west coast for centuries.

6  
7 And as I stated before, it's really hard  
8 to change their diets. It has detrimental effects on  
9 them, on all of us. And it's a necessary need in our  
10 diet that these folks shouldn't feel like a criminal when  
11 they go harvest more than they need, because they pass it  
12 out to the elders. It's just a sharing thing that's been  
13 going on for many years.

14  
15 The over-regulation of harvesting any  
16 fish stocks or fish and game for that matter, I would  
17 liken it to taking the buffalo away from the Plains  
18 Indians down south. And as soon as you take that into  
19 factor, then, you know, these folks here have been doing  
20 this for centuries, and we will continue to do it, even  
21 though we are over-regulated as the one gentleman here  
22 from down below said. It's an over-regulated item.

23  
24 It's actually very simple. It's our  
25 refrigerator. We don't have a Costco. We don't have  
26 Safeway. We don't have all of that stuff in the outer  
27 areas. And the unemployment rate in a lot of these  
28 villages is really, really bad.

29  
30 Part of the thing that I see that  
31 happened to the whole of the west coast was that we as a  
32 people were able to sustain a good portion of our economy  
33 due to the fish, the sale of fish in these outer areas.  
34 Now a lot of us have been nixed out of this quota  
35 program, the halibut quotas, the salmon. Yeah, a lot of  
36 that has been a loss on our part. We have our economy in  
37 the fish, and it generates multiple jobs in the outer  
38 areas. It's probably one of the few things that we can  
39 generate revenue with. And that's part of the problem  
40 with living in the Bush. I call it from boom to bust in  
41 just six months. And you eat good for six months, and  
42 you starve for six months here. It's just the Alaska  
43 way that we've learned to live here.

44  
45 Yeah, it's real interesting to see, since  
46 the Alaska Native Claims Act has extinguished our  
47 birthright to all the resources in the State of Alaska,  
48 millions upon millions of resource extraction from gold  
49 to oil to all the fish, it is a phenomenal amount of  
50 money that has gone out of the State, and to see all the

1 aboriginal people live below poverty level, a good  
2 portion of us, is really a sad thing to see. Such a rich  
3 state, and then the aboriginal people having to live in  
4 poverty and third world conditions there.

5

6 Thanks, Butch.

7

8 MR. HERNANDEZ: A question.

9

10 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay. Donald.

11

12 MR. HERNANDEZ: Okay. Thank you, Mr.

13 Chairman.

14

15 It's kind of a unique opportunity for us  
16 to have, you know, people from the high levels of the  
17 Department here, so we really appreciate that.

18

19 And what we talk about here most of the  
20 time is how this subsistence way of life is an important  
21 part of our culture. And that's most of what we do here.

22

23 But for you folks at your higher level,  
24 when you go back to Washington, D.C., a lot of what  
25 you're going to hear is the number 1 priority for a lot  
26 of people in the country is economics, the economy. And  
27 we realize that as land managers you have a lot to say  
28 about what happens here with the land in our region.

29

30 And I appreciate the fact that the Forest  
31 is taking a new course here with restoration, and we  
32 refer to it as a restoration economy.

33

34 And at times in the past there's been a  
35 lot of conflict between economic development and  
36 subsistence uses. And I hope in the future that that  
37 will become less of a factor. We can see less conflicts  
38 between economic opportunity and subsistence uses.

39

40 And one thing I hope that -- you know,  
41 maybe it isn't always spoken about, but a thought to keep  
42 in mind is that subsistence is also, besides being an  
43 important cultural aspect to us, it's also an important  
44 part of our economy. You know, just the fact that we  
45 depend on this to sustain our families is very important  
46 in the overall economic picture. So we have to kind of,  
47 you know, keep that in mind, work together on trying to  
48 maintain an economic development, healthy resources, and  
49 sustain this way of live and this culture.

50

1 Thank you.  
2  
3 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you.  
4  
5 MR. BLAZER: Mr. Chairman. Excuse me.  
6  
7 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: You go ahead.  
8  
9 MR. BLAZER: Before we end this session,  
10 would we have time to go around the table and have people  
11 introduce themselves and who they represent on the  
12 Council.  
13  
14 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Sure.  
15  
16 MR. BLAZER: That would be very important  
17 for me. Thank you.  
18  
19 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Yeah. You bet. Anyone  
20 else want to make a comment, have a question. Mr. Bangs.  
21  
22 MR. BANGS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.  
23  
24 Thank you, Mr. Blazer for showing your  
25 interest in what we do in the subsistence arena, and I  
26 appreciate you taking time out of what I'm sure is a busy  
27 schedule.  
28  
29 And I'm also glad you're going to take  
30 back the message of how important subsistence is up here  
31 in Alaska. And I urge you to encourage other members,  
32 people in your office to spend time if they can to come  
33 out and come to our meetings. I think it would help them  
34 understand just how important subsistence is to the  
35 existence of many families in this state.  
36  
37 Thank you.  
38  
39 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you, Mr. Bangs.  
40  
41 I saw her first. Merle.  
42  
43 MS. HAWKINS: Yeah. Thank you, Butch,  
44 for being here and coming to Alaska. I was glad that you  
45 were able to stop in Ketchikan.  
46  
47 MR. BLAZER: Thank you for calling me  
48 Butch.  
49  
50 (Laughter)

1 MS. HAWKINS: Yeah. You gave us  
2 permission.

3  
4 So I'm Haida. My grandmother was from  
5 the Village of Howcan, and she was born in 1898. They  
6 took three Haida villages and move them to the central  
7 location of Hydaburg, which is where the Haidas reside  
8 now. So when my mother was born in 1915, there was only  
9 688 Haidas left. The society had been decimated by the  
10 diseases that were introduced after the time of contact.  
11 We originally came from Haidagui (ph) Islands which is  
12 now across the border in Canada, so we have a lot of  
13 issues with border crossing and getting our food and our  
14 commerce and the trade.

15  
16 Some of the issues that I'm concerned  
17 about are the transboundary issues of not being able to  
18 trade our traditional foods and sea otter hides and other  
19 items that we have traditionally used. They had grease  
20 trails.

21  
22 Eulachon grease is a very traditional  
23 food. The eulachon hasn't been returning to the Unuk  
24 River down to the Ketchikan area, and we're quite  
25 concerned about that. It's almost like a buttery  
26 substance, but it's basically a fermented fish oil that  
27 costs about \$50 a quart. But we haven't been able to get  
28 it in our Ketchikan area since about 2003.

29  
30 And also we're concerned about the  
31 proposed mining up above in the British Columbia area.  
32 There was the SK mine that was there for 10 years. And  
33 it was the job of State to protect our rivers and they're  
34 not doing that, because we have all this proposed mining  
35 that could decimate the whole fishing economy of  
36 Southeast Alaska. Not only the personal use, but other  
37 uses.

38  
39 So we have rich history, and I think it's  
40 ironic that the government is the one that moved our  
41 Native people out of the villages. And because of the  
42 United States Constitution, they have to provide for our  
43 education and our health care, which is pretty  
44 substantial now.

45  
46 But I was glad to hear that you met  
47 Bertha Caras. She's one of my favorite people in the  
48 world, and I could tell you some good stories on the  
49 impact that she had on our life.

50

1                   But for me, the rural status is also a  
2 very important thing. I was born and raised in  
3 Ketchikan, but as a clan member, I'm a Double-Fin Killer  
4 Whale. I'm always connected to my mother's village and  
5 my grandmother's village. And I have sisters, I have  
6 three sisters, they all moved out of the Ketchikan area.  
7 Any time they come to Ketchikan, they're still entitled  
8 to the same rights to the resources in our clan history  
9 and everything that goes with it.

10  
11                   So we're dealing with two different types  
12 of societies, the one that we have to deal with on a  
13 daily basis with all the regulations. I just heard  
14 before I came up here there was a few people in Hydaburg  
15 that got citations for getting a couple of Dungeness crab  
16 in Hydaburg. That was quite upsetting to me that we have  
17 to get a fishing license to go and gather the food that's  
18 right at their doorstep where the government moved them.

19  
20                   So for me the rural status, we fought for  
21 that for Ketchikan at the last go around, and now Saxman  
22 is being threatened with losing their rural status. And  
23 so if we don't have an opportunity -- to me, you saw  
24 Ketchikan and you flew -- any time we go south from  
25 Ketchikan, it's an hour and 45 minutes by jet. To get  
26 here to Juneau, I got on the jet at 8:00 o'clock and we  
27 got here at noon. So any time you go anywhere, it takes  
28 hours. If you go to Anchorage, it takes you six hours  
29 flying time.

30  
31                   So to me, Ketchikan should be designated  
32 as a rural area, not urban, because of the history of the  
33 people. It was traditionally a Tlingit fish camp. And  
34 because of the economy the people have had to move out of  
35 the villages and go to the urban areas for education and  
36 for employment, for their very survival. And if you look  
37 at the whole history of Alaska, that's happening very  
38 rapidly now. And because of government policies that's  
39 affecting us. Recently with our tribe, the IHS was  
40 taking funding out of our compact, but because of the  
41 migration of people into the Anchorage area, they want  
42 more of the funding there. So the resource is getting  
43 depleted. We're struggling to survive as a people once  
44 more.

45  
46                   So thank you for being here and for  
47 learning our history and the challenges that we face  
48 every day. Howa. Thank you.

49  
50                   MR. BLAZER: Thank you.

1 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Mr. Kitka, you had a  
2 comment.

3  
4 MR. KITKA: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

5  
6 And welcome to our Southeast Alaska,  
7 Butch, and my name is Harvey Kitka. I'm from Sitka,  
8 Alaska.

9  
10 I heard you mention Bertha Caras, and  
11 she's actually from Sitka, Alaska.

12  
13 But one of the main things you'll -- one  
14 of the big things you'll find out, what everybody's  
15 basically talking about has a lot to do with the  
16 regulations. Part of it our problems is, is that the  
17 topic is by the different agencies it's interpreted  
18 different ways. And it would be nice to see it all come  
19 out to be interpreted one direction so that we're not  
20 unclear about what is the regulations is saying. The  
21 enforcement interprets it one way, the Forest Service  
22 interprets it another way. NOAA interprets it a  
23 different way. And all the different government agencies  
24 interpret the regulations a little different.

25  
26 And it would be really nice to see it  
27 interpreted the right way, the way it was originally  
28 intended, because the regulations were really intended to  
29 preserve the resources for the people, and it's gotten to  
30 where it's not that way any more from our point of view.

31  
32 Thank you.

33  
34 And also there is some concern over  
35 tribal consultation and corporation consultation. Tribal  
36 members you'll find will never consider corporations a  
37 tribal -- a tribe basically. They're an attachment to the  
38 tribe, but they're not the tribe. So they'll always  
39 interpret it as the tribe is more important than the  
40 corporations.

41  
42 Thank you.

43  
44 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you. Anyone  
45 else.

46  
47 (No comments)

48  
49 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Sir, we thank you very  
50 much. And I'm sure that.....

1 MR. LARSON: Did you want to give  
2 introductions.

3  
4 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Yeah, we are. And I'm  
5 sure that, you know, you learned a lot from each of these  
6 individuals, and that's why they're sitting on this  
7 board, is because of their knowledge about subsistence.

8  
9 But, you know, I think one of the  
10 important messages that I got out of what everyone said  
11 here is this knowing who you are. And when you can learn  
12 about your history and culture and participate in the  
13 traditional foods that we were raised on, you know, you  
14 become a person that is able to, you know, walk uprightly  
15 with your chest out, and being able to tackle the world,  
16 you know, with all of the problems and issues. That's  
17 the way it was with me.

18  
19 I grew up -- my parents, you know, were  
20 ones who were punished in the boarding schools if they  
21 spoke the Tlingit language, so when they married and  
22 started having their own families, they never taught it  
23 to us.

24  
25 I have a friend who learned the Tlingit  
26 language very well. And it was because it was spoken in  
27 his house every day. And just recently I started  
28 learning it, and, you know, it's helped me to understand  
29 a lot more about myself as well, but this important  
30 concept of knowing who you are can really build up  
31 yourself, a youngster's self-esteem and help them, you  
32 know, to deal with the issues and challenges and problems  
33 of the world.

34  
35 So again thank you for coming. And we  
36 will go ahead and introduce ourselves. We should have  
37 done that earlier, but here we are. We'll start with  
38 this end over here. Mr. Ackerman, please.

39  
40 MR. ACKERMAN: Yeah, my Tlingit name is  
41 (In Tlingit). My second Tlingit name is (In Tlingit).  
42 I am Coho-Raven, (In Tlingit). I am the spokesperson for  
43 the Whale House. My relatives come from Klukwan and Dry  
44 Bay is where I started out. I represent Dtehshuh,  
45 Klukwan area, Chilkoot, and also I share information with  
46 Klukshu, Carcross, Taggish, Champagne, Whitehorse. It's  
47 all across the border. Now, before the border was there,  
48 we all were all together, all the Tlingits. We traded  
49 back and forth, so we still cross the border and trade up  
50 there in that area, but I represent a lot of people up in

1 the area there.

2

3

Thanks.

4

5 MS. HAWKINS: Yeah. Merle Hawkins. I  
6 was born and raised in Ketchikan, Alaska. I'm from the  
7 Haida Tribe, Raven Moiety, Two-Fin Killer Whale Clan in  
8 the Brown Bear Community House. And I spent 10 years on  
9 the KIC tribal council, so I have a lot of experience  
10 there. I also worked for the Forest Service for 10 years  
11 as an interpreter at the Discovery Center.

12

13

MR. KOOKESH: Yes. My name is Floyd  
14 Kookesh. I've been a member of the RAC since 1999. I'm  
15 from Angoon. I'm a charter boat captain out of Angoon.  
16 And I'm currently the Chairman of Kootznoowoo,  
17 Incorporated, the one who has the ETJ petition in front  
18 of the RAC and the Federal Subsistence Board.

19

20

Thank you.

21

22

MR. HERNANDEZ: My name is Don Hernandez.  
23 I live in Point Baker which is a remote, roadless  
24 community on Prince of Wales Island. I've been on the  
25 RAC since 2003. And I'm also a commercial fisherman.

26

27

MS. PHILLIPS: Thank you. I'm Patricia  
28 Phillips. I live in Pelican. I've lived there 40 years.  
29 My husband has lived there 50 years, but he is of the  
30 same clan as Merle there, Brown Bear Double-Fin Killer  
31 Whale. His mother was born in Howcan. My mother was  
32 born in Wainwright and my father was born in Afognak, but  
33 they met when my mom was going to Mount Edgecumbe  
34 Boarding School on Japonski Island, which is the airport  
35 side of Sitka. So we grew -- I grew up in a Native  
36 village, and then as a teenager we moved to Pelican.  
37 Yeah, so I have a lot of roots in rural, remote coastal  
38 Alaska.

39

40

Thank you.

41

42

MR. BLAZER: And who do you represent on  
43 the Board? I mean, Council.

44

45

MS. PHILLIPS: I represent rural  
46 subsistence.

47

48

CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay. (In Tlingit -  
49 history)

50

1 I told you my Tlingit name. I had two of  
2 them. One was Kadashan, the other one is Nats-Keek. And  
3 I am a Raven from the Raven moiety. And I belong to the  
4 Coho Clan. My tribal house is (In Tlingit), or, you  
5 know, Stone House or Boulder House. My father comes  
6 from Sitka and my grandfather was Swedish. But I always  
7 like to include, you know, the (In Tlingit) Tribe from  
8 Sitka as well. My grandfather on my father's side.

9  
10 I have been on this Council since 1999,  
11 and some of the past work that I have done, it is really  
12 long. I served as the tribal president for our tribal  
13 council in Yakutat for about 12 years. I did a lot of  
14 traveling all over the country. I learned about the  
15 self-governance demonstration project, and, you know,  
16 participated in many of the workshops and discussions at  
17 self-governance conferences. I learned a lot about  
18 tribal government. I do some writing.

19  
20 I used to write for the Juneau Empire for  
21 about six years. And when I go to these meetings, you  
22 know, I'd come back and feature, you know, some of the  
23 things that I had learned, you know, in the paper.

24  
25 Right now I'm a retired commercial  
26 fisherman, charter boat captain. And I still love to go  
27 out and subsistence hunt and fish with my family. And  
28 enjoying, you know, my time with my wife right now. I  
29 hate leaving here at this time of the year, you know,  
30 because we have 25 feet of snow at home right now, and  
31 it's like, you know, coming out of an igloo every day.

32  
33 But, you know, working here has been a  
34 great job for me, and among these people, you know, who  
35 are experts in subsistence issues, it's good to be able  
36 to learn from them.

37  
38 And so again, you know, thank you for  
39 being here, and we appreciate you listening to us and  
40 being able to take back, you know, to the powers that be  
41 some of our issues and concerns. Gunalcheesh

42  
43 MR. KITKA: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

44  
45 I'm Harvey Kitka, Sitka, Alaska. I  
46 represent the Sitka area as well as the whole Southeast  
47 area as I take on the responsibilities of subsistence.

48  
49 I'm from the Eagle House in Sitka, (In  
50 Tlingit). My grandparents are -- my father is from the

1 -- is an Eagle, and his grandparents were Cohos and  
2 Eagles. And we're all cross-tied with relatives here and  
3 there throughout Southeast. I'm from -- well, put it  
4 this way, I'm maybe a little different than a lot of the  
5 people. We grew up as -- my mother was from the Eagle  
6 House and my father was from the Eagle House, and this  
7 happened just a little different from what happened to  
8 the rest of our people. And even though my father was  
9 from the Bear side of the Eagle House, my mother was from  
10 the Wolf side of the Eagle House.

11

12 And so this is who I am.

13

14 Thank you.

15

16 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Mr. Bangs.

17

18 MR. BANGS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My  
19 name is Michael Bangs, and I live in Petersburg. I've  
20 lived there for just under 30 years. It's a town about  
21 a little over 100 miles south of here. It was a  
22 settlement by some Norwegian immigrants, or some refer to  
23 us as the Squarehead Clan.

24

25 And I've been on the Council for 10 years  
26 now, and I'm a commercial fisherman. I'm an avid  
27 subsistence user. And I also support the rest -- you  
28 know, represent the entire Southeast. And I appreciate  
29 you being here.

30

31 Thank you.

32

33 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Mr. Wright.

34

35 MR. WRIGHT: Thank you. My name is Frank  
36 Wright. I'm also the president of the Hoonah Indian  
37 Association, and I've lived in Hoonah maybe 60 years I  
38 guess.

39

40 And I'm glad you're here to listen to us,  
41 because a lot of the -- you know, everything depends on  
42 what goes on in a community, because when the employment  
43 stops, you go outside and go get something to eat. So  
44 everything depends on what goes on here. Because, you  
45 know, it's like Bert says, you know, my freezer is 95  
46 percent out of the woods or off the beach.

47

48 Gunalcheesh.

49

50 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Gunalcheesh. The man of

1 few words.

2

3 MR. YEAGER: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

4

5 And my name is John Yeager. I'm from  
6 Wrangell, Alaska, and I represent subsistence users.

7

8 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: See what I mean?

9

10 (Laughter)

11

12 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Cathy.

13

14 MS. NEEDHAM: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

15

16 My name is Cathy Needham. I was born and  
17 raised in Ketchikan, Alaska. I'm part Haida and  
18 Tsimshian. I currently live in Juneau, Alaska. I own a  
19 small environmental consulting firm in town that works  
20 with Alaska Native tribes throughout the State on natural  
21 resource based issues. And on this Council I represent  
22 subsistence users throughout the region.

23

24 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Next. (In Tlingit)

25

26 MR. DOUVILLE: Thank you, Chairman Adams.

27

28 I welcome you here and I enjoyed meeting  
29 you in the Ketchikan airport.

30

31 I was born in Ketchikan and lived on  
32 Prince of Wales Island for 63 years. I'm a several-term  
33 member of the Craig City Council. And I also serve on  
34 the ADF&G Advisory Committee. I'm also a Board member of  
35 the Prince of Wales Hatchery Association. I do a lot of  
36 hunting. I do a lot of sportfishing. I do a lot of --  
37 all the fun things that you can possibly do. And I'm  
38 also a full-time commercial fisherman. I've owned my own  
39 boat since 1970, so I understand Prince of Wales really  
40 well.

41

42 And if I may touch on a couple things,  
43 Prince of Wales is the most heavily logged island in  
44 Southeast. It seems like everybody wanted their timber  
45 there. The Native corporations, and then you had the 50-  
46 year Forest Service contracts, and much of the island's  
47 been logged. However, there's still enough timber there  
48 to support our local economy if we do it at the rate  
49 we're doing it now. It's good for -- we need it. I have  
50 no issue with it. However, it gets challenged by the

1 greens on every sale practically.

2

3                   But I do believe that a similar amount of  
4 money needs to be spent on its restoration that was put  
5 into its logging during those contracts. Stream  
6 restoration and thinning to try to avoid the depletion of  
7 the understory, which is critical for the wildlife that  
8 we have. And there has been some done and it's greatly  
9 appreciated. It does create jobs and it's a good thing,  
10 and it will be a good thing down the road.

11

12                   The only other thing I would like to  
13 touch on, as Bert did, is I believe we're operating on  
14 less than half the budget we had a few years ago, and now  
15 we're looking at further cuts. But we have Title VIII  
16 which is really a great thing for rural users. It gives  
17 a priority, and it's been a really good thing for us,  
18 because we are accustomed to gathering our own food.  
19 Even though we do have an opportunity to go buy some, we  
20 prefer to get our own. It's fresher, it's better, it's  
21 a cultural thing. We take our kids to do it, and then  
22 they learn. It's a healthy environment.

23

24                   But when we deal with Title VIII issues,  
25 we need to have rock solid proof. We can't guess and  
26 stuff. And many of those things are through funding that  
27 comes to us from the Forest Service. So I can't  
28 emphasize how important is to us.

29

30                   Thank you.

31

32                   CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you much.

33

34                   So you've learned a little bit about each  
35 member of our Council, and you can probably appreciate as  
36 well as we do, you know, the experience and knowledge  
37 that they have about subsistence. So if you have any  
38 closing comments, sir, we'll take that now and move on.

39

40                   MR. BLAZER: Okay. Thank you, Mr.  
41 Chairman.

42

43                   And again, I really am seeing some strong  
44 energy in this group. And I think it's because one of  
45 the reasons that I again took the job in Washington,  
46 D.C., when I began to understand and get to know  
47 Secretary Vilsack, I very quickly found out that one of  
48 his priorities within USDA is diversity. And he truly  
49 understands, as a Secretary, he understands the strength  
50 in diversity. And that's what I see within this group,

1 bringing the non-Native people and the Native people  
2 together, bringing the subsistence users together with  
3 the commercial fishermen. Bringing those entities  
4 together in a very sustainable way over a long period of  
5 time. You're educating one another.

6  
7                   And to me just personally over the last  
8 several days I spent a lot of time with the Forest  
9 Service employees, non-Native employees, and going to  
10 their homes and eating supper with them, and getting to  
11 understand them and getting to know them. And it was  
12 very interesting to see that their histories, their  
13 families, their cultures were very similar to what I'm  
14 hearing here today. And they have that very same  
15 understanding of the value and importance of the natural  
16 resources, of the fish, of the animals.

17  
18                   And that's what it's going to take in  
19 regards to making the very important decisions that all  
20 of you are making in regards to the utilization and the  
21 management of this tremendous resource that we have in  
22 Southeast Alaska. And so you're doing it the right way,  
23 and continue to come together to deal with the tough  
24 policy issues, Timothy, that you mention, because that's  
25 something that we need to understand, that our way of  
26 life is a very dynamic thing. It changes all the time.  
27 And when you set policies 40 years ago, and you're having  
28 this way of life that ebbs and flows and changes,  
29 sometimes those policies need to be looked at and  
30 adjusted. And I think that's something that we all need  
31 to take into consideration and work together to make the  
32 decisions that need to be made so that those  
33 recommendations can be made.

34  
35                   And so again I applaud all of you for the  
36 work that you're doing. Keep it up.

37  
38                   CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you very much,  
39 sir.

40  
41                   MR. BLAZER: You bet.

42  
43                   CHAIRMAN ADAMS: We appreciate those  
44 comments.

45  
46                   This afternoon is going to be historic,  
47 because a Regional Advisory Council is going to meet in  
48 a joint session with the Federal Subsistence Board. This  
49 has never happened before, so it's going to be  
50 interesting to see, you know, the outcome of this

1 historic meeting.

2

3                                 And yesterday when we were talking about,  
4 you know, Costco and subsistence and everything, I told  
5 the group, I says, when I go home on Saturday, all I'm  
6 going to be taking with me is toilet tissue.

7

8                                 (Laughter)

9

10                                CHAIRMAN ADAMS: So thank you, sir. We  
11 appreciate your being here and have an enjoyable day.

12

13                                MR. BLAZER: You know, thank you for  
14 supporting the paper industry.

15

16                                (Laughter)

17

18                                CHAIRMAN ADAMS: You're welcome.

19

20                                (Pause)

21

22                                CHAIRMAN ADAMS: We're nearly done with  
23 the agenda, folks. Congratulations for a job well done.  
24 We do have item number 12.B.4. That wasn't finished;  
25 however, it is in the book. Okay. So you can look at  
26 it. And, you know, if you have any questions, we can  
27 entertain that as well, but we've got to be out of here  
28 in about, you know, seven or eight minutes. So if that's  
29 okay with the Council, you know, we'll just leave it at  
30 that. Is that all right.

31

32                                (Council nods affirmatively)

33

34                                CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay. If you do have  
35 any questions, you know of Mr. Suminski, you know, please  
36 let me know right now and we'll take it up.

37

38                                (No comments)

39

40                                CHAIRMAN ADAMS: So the next thing on the  
41 agenda -- and if we need to later on, we could probably  
42 do it a little bit tomorrow when we come back into  
43 session.

44

45                                But the next thing that we want to take  
46 care of right now is our future meetings. Confirm the  
47 dates for our fall meeting. There's a calendar at the  
48 end of your book if you want to look at that.

49

50                                Let me make you aware that the Wrangell-

1 St. Elias Subsistence Resource Commission meeting is  
2 going -- they tentatively set a date for the week of  
3 September 24th. That's our fall meeting. And the  
4 alternative is the week of October 8th, so keep that in  
5 mind when you think about -- one of the things that I've  
6 always liked to do, and we've kind of drifted away from  
7 that lately, is to have our SRC meetings, you know,  
8 before this meeting so I can give you a better up-to-date  
9 report, but it doesn't make any difference anyhow.

10

11 So with that, we need to talk about place  
12 and where. First, for the fall 2012 meeting, tentatively  
13 scheduled for September in Sitka, 28th/26th. Maybe we  
14 just need to confirm that one, but then we need to select  
15 a date and location for the winter 2013 meeting.

16

17 Mr. Bangs.

18

19 MR. BANGS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I  
20 agree with the September Sitka meeting. I think that we  
21 had planed on that. And then we were invited to Craig.  
22 I just thought maybe that might be a good place to go for  
23 the winter.....

24

25 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Let me share something  
26 with you that I was made aware of a couple days ago. And  
27 Pete Probasco, you know, made reference to that when he  
28 gave his presentation, that we need to, for the sake of  
29 the budget, you know, try to -- well, need to choose a  
30 hub community. And, you know, we've kind of resisted  
31 this in the past, didn't disagree with it, and for good  
32 reason, but as you know, the budget has been cut 22  
33 percent this year. It means that we're going to do more  
34 with less. And, you know, we need to, you know, follow  
35 that counsel and select a place that will not be so hard  
36 for the Council to go to. I would hate to, you know, say  
37 that we will have one in Craig or some other community  
38 and then be told that we are not -- we can't afford it,  
39 so take that into consideration, folks.

40

41 Why don't we deal with confirming the  
42 Sitka one first. And I think a motion would be in order  
43 for that.

44

45 Mr. Bangs.

46

47 MR. BANGS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

48

49 I move that we hold our September meeting  
50 in Sitka the week of September 24th.

1 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you, sir. Do I  
2 hear a second.  
3  
4 MR. KITKA: I'll second it.  
5  
6 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Mr. Kitka seconds it.  
7 Discussion.  
8  
9 MR. KOOKESH: Discussion.  
10  
11 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay. Mr. Floyd.  
12  
13 MR. KOOKESH: So, Mr. Chairman, do I take  
14 it Sitka is a hub community? Is that what you just said?  
15  
16 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Yeah, it is.  
17  
18 MR. KOOKESH: Sitka is a hub community?  
19  
20 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Alaska Airlines goes in  
21 there.  
22  
23 MR. KOOKESH: Oh, you mean jet service  
24 communities?  
25  
26 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Uh-huh.  
27  
28 MR. KOOKESH: Why don't -- yeah.  
29  
30 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Yeah.  
31  
32 MR. KOOKESH: Because we need to clarify  
33 that. Because if you're talking about hub communities,  
34 in my opinion, Juneau and Ketchikan are hub communities  
35 for Southeast. We should just make a motion and keep it  
36 to that, because more people will be able to attend in  
37 Ketchikan than they will in Sitka. And more people will  
38 be able to attend in Juneau than they will in Angoon.  
39 But that was my understanding of the hub communities.  
40 But if you're talking about daily jet service, that's not  
41 a hub concept. That's daily jet service.  
42  
43 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Well, what they're  
44 saying is they don't want us to choose a community that's  
45 going to have to make, for instance, you know, land in  
46 Juneau and then have to transport over to Hoonah or one  
47 of the other communities. You know, that's going to be  
48 difficult to finance.  
49  
50 MR. KOOKESH: I'm a pretty smart kid; I

1 understand that part.

2

3 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay. Thank you. Any  
4 more comments. Mr. Kitka.

5

6 MR. KITKA: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I took  
7 a look at this schedule, and I asked our Sitka Tribe to  
8 go ahead and schedule dates in there in Knakaheeti House  
9 in Sitka.

10

11 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay. So that is  
12 confirmed?

13

14 MR. KITKA: Yeah.

15

16 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you.

17

18 MR. KITKA: Is that okay?

19

20 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Yeah. Okay. Thank you.  
21 So any more discussion on Sitka.

22

23 (No comments)

24

25 MS. HAWKINS: Question.

26

27 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Question's been called.  
28 All in favor say aye.

29

30 IN UNISON: Aye.

31

32 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Opposed same sign.

33

34 (No opposing votes)

35

36 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Carried. Now let's look  
37 at the winter schedule meeting.

38

39 Oh, Mr. Hernandez, I'm sorry.

40

41 MR. HERNANDEZ: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.  
42 I'd like to propose that try and hold our meetings  
43 earlier than we have been the last couple of meetings.  
44 By the time we get into mid to later part of March, I  
45 know a lot of us as fishermen are starting to -- it's  
46 starting to cut into our fishing time. So if we could  
47 move it back to, say, the end of February. As long as  
48 we're using, you know, communities with jet service, that  
49 it kind of helps with -- travel isn't as big of a factor  
50 as it has been some of our other meetings. We were

1 trying to get to smaller places and we had difficult  
2 times in the winter, but I'd like to put that up to  
3 consideration to moving it to the week of, say, February  
4 25th, and I'm open to suggestions for a meeting place.

5  
6 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay. Is that a motion  
7 then, your proposal for the week of the 25th of February.

8  
9 MR. HERNANDEZ: I could make that as a  
10 motion.

11  
12 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: That would be a good  
13 start.

14  
15 MR. HERNANDEZ: Okay.

16  
17 MS. PHILLIPS: Second.

18  
19 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: That is a motion. Do I  
20 hear a second.

21  
22 MR. BANGS: Second.

23  
24 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Seconded by Mr. Bangs.  
25 All in favor say yeah.

26  
27 IN UNISON: Aye.

28  
29 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: All opposed say nay.

30  
31 (No opposing votes)

32  
33 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Motion carries. So  
34 let's talk about place. Mr. Bangs.

35  
36 MR. BANGS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I  
37 think it's been a while since we've been to Ketchikan.  
38 And if we're looking for a hub, that's, you know, I just  
39 would entertain the idea of going there.

40  
41 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay. If you want to,  
42 you can turn that into a motion, and we could either  
43 defeat it or accept it.

44  
45 MR. BANGS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I  
46 move that we have our winter meeting of 2013 the week of  
47 February 25th in Ketchikan.

48  
49 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: We've already  
50 established a date, just say Ketchikan.

1 MS. PHILLIPS: Second.  
2  
3 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: It's been seconded.  
4 Okay. Discussion.  
5  
6 (No comments)  
7  
8 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Hearing none, all in  
9 favor say aye.  
10  
11 IN UNISON: Aye.  
12  
13 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Opposed nay.  
14  
15 (No opposing votes)  
16  
17 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Motion carries.  
18  
19 MR. DOUVILLE: I've got a question.  
20  
21 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Do you have a question  
22 or a protest or comment or something?  
23  
24 MR. DOUVILLE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.  
25 You just buzzed right me, but.....  
26  
27 (Laughter)  
28  
29 MR. DOUVILLE: I was just going to make  
30 a joke, and say that, well, if you could make it to  
31 Ketchikan, you could hitchhike over to Prince of Wales.  
32  
33 (Laughter)  
34  
35 MR. DOUVILLE: I support the motion.  
36  
37 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay. Thank you, Mr.  
38 Douville. All right. We'll take that into  
39 consideration.  
40  
41 So that's set now, folks. And anything  
42 else we need to cover on the agenda. I think we're done.  
43  
44 MR. LARSON: I think we're done, yeah.  
45  
46 MR. BANGS: I don't think so.  
47  
48 MS. NEEDHAM: Proposal.  
49  
50 MR. LARSON: Oh, no, we've got to vote on

1 Michael's fish proposal.  
2  
3 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Oh, are you ready to  
4 vote on Michael's proposal.  
5  
6 (Council indicates affirmative)  
7  
8 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay. You understand it  
9 pretty well. So maybe we can take care of that very  
10 quickly. Cathy.  
11  
12 MS. NEEDHAM: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
13  
14 I move that the Council submits the  
15 proposal that Mr. Douville put through regarding the  
16 steelhead, the draft proposal that he shared with us  
17 yesterday regarding steelhead.  
18  
19 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Do I hear a second.  
20  
21 MR. BANGS: Second.  
22  
23 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Seconded by Mr. Bangs.  
24 Any discussion. We talked about it quite a bit  
25 yesterday. Yes.  
26  
27 MS. NEEDHAM: I just wanted to make sure  
28 that the proposal's clarified that it's not a limit to  
29 what the previous regulation was or subsistence users.  
30 It's a preemptive strategy to take care of what is a  
31 circumstance happening in specific systems, and so the  
32 proposal needs to clarify that it is for the limit -- the  
33 harvest limits that are put on there is for a system, not  
34 for Prince of Wales as a whole, and that users will still  
35 have access to steelhead in multiple systems.  
36  
37 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you for that  
38 thought, it is well noted in the notes. Thank you.  
39 Okay.  
40  
41 Moving on.  
42  
43 MR. HERNANDEZ: Mr. Chairman.  
44  
45 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: What's going on?  
46  
47 MR. HERNANDEZ: Just a question.  
48  
49 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: A question. You've got  
50 a question.

1 MR. HERNANDEZ: Maybe a clarification.  
2 I don't know if this was the intention, but the proposal  
3 that was distributed to us yesterday, I'm not sure it's  
4 printed properly or if it's clarification needs to be  
5 made, but under section A where it actually lists what  
6 the proposal will be, it says the winter season is  
7 December 1st through the last day of February with a  
8 harvest limit of two fish per household; however, only --  
9 the way it's printed, it says, however, only one  
10 steelhead may be harvested by a household from a  
11 particular drainage. I think from our discussion on the  
12 proposal yesterday, that should read only one household  
13 limit maybe harvested by a household from a particular  
14 drainage, not one steelhead.

15  
16 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Well, you know, we  
17 already passed this. If that was the intent of the  
18 Council, maybe we can insert that change in there if it's  
19 okay.

20  
21 MR. LARSON: You should ask the propose.

22  
23 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: The proposers. Yeah.  
24 Do you remember that discussion, Mike? What did you say.

25  
26  
27 MS. NEEDHAM: I was just reminding the  
28 Council that we actually haven't voted. It's still in  
29 discussion.

30  
31 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Pardon?

32  
33 MS. NEEDHAM: We haven't voted on the  
34 motion yet; it's still in discussion.

35  
36 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Oh, we haven't? I  
37 thought we did. Okay. So we can change it right now if  
38 we haven't voted on it.

39  
40 Mr. Hernandez, go ahead.

41  
42 MR. HERNANDEZ: Yeah. Thank you, Mr.  
43 Chairman.

44  
45 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: I'm sorry about that.  
46 I was trying to get this moving, you know, moving and  
47 over with.

48  
49 MR. HERNANDEZ: I know, but we have to  
50 dot our i's and cross our t's here.

1 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Yeah.  
2  
3 MR. HERNANDEZ: I just would ask Mr.  
4 Douville, who was the proposer there, maybe if he could  
5 just, you know, clarify that, and make sure we have it  
6 written properly for a vote here.  
7  
8 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Mike, does that seem  
9 okay to you?  
10  
11 MR. DOUVILLE: I would like to listen to  
12 his concern again, please.  
13  
14 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay. Repeat your  
15 concern, please.  
16  
17 MR. HERNANDEZ: I'm just reading, the way  
18 the proposal's actually written here, on the sheet that  
19 was distributed, it's listed as 2, paragraph A, where it  
20 says the winter season is December 1st through the last  
21 day of February, with a harvest limit of two fish per  
22 household. And then it reads, however, only one  
23 steelhead may be harvested by a household from a  
24 particular drainage. I think it was my understanding for  
25 our discussion that that should read only one household  
26 limit may be harvested by a household. Because the limit  
27 is two fish per household, but then, you know, the way  
28 it's written, it says only one fish may be harvested,  
29 which is -- I don't think that's the way we intended it.  
30 I think it was -- it should read one household limit may  
31 be harvested from a particular drainage.  
32  
33 MR. DOUVILLE: I would agree with that  
34 change to make it clear. The intention is to limit a  
35 household one fish per system although there are other  
36 systems to get your other fish. You still get two fish.  
37  
38 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay.  
39  
40 MR. DOUVILLE: So whatever you need to do  
41 I guess to make it clear would be a plus.  
42  
43 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay. So this is really  
44 an amendment. Do you want to make that amendment, or  
45 just clarify the language in there.  
46  
47 MS. NEEDHAM: Concurrence of the second.  
48  
49 MR. HERNANDEZ: My intention was just to  
50 clarify the language.

1                   CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay. So that's well  
2 noted.  
3  
4                   MR. HERNANDEZ: So if that's okay with  
5 the person who seconded it. Okay.  
6  
7                   CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay, we can do that.  
8 Thank you.  
9  
10                  Any more discussion on the proposal.  
11  
12                  (No comments)  
13  
14                  MR. KITKA: Question.  
15  
16                  CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Hearing -- okay. The  
17 question has been called. Do you have a question.  
18  
19                  MR. LARSON: Mr. Chair. I think it would  
20 be a good idea for us to read the regulatory language  
21 into the record so we know what we're voting on. And if  
22 you just indulge me for a second, I will make the notes.  
23  
24                  There's two parts. Part A would be an  
25 addition, however only one household limit may be  
26 harvested by a household from a particular drainage.  
27 Part two would be the B section, the way I understand it,  
28 it would remain the same as written by Mike Douville;  
29 however, the addition would be, however, only two  
30 steelhead may be harvested by a household from a  
31 particular drainage.  
32  
33                  CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Does that work.  
34  
35                  MR. LARSON: That is the wording that I  
36 have in front of us.  
37  
38                  MR. DOUVILLE: That's correct, but it  
39 addresses the spring season, and not the winter one, so  
40 you have different limits. There's two in the winter  
41 season and five in the spring season.  
42  
43                  MR. LARSON: Yeah. Mr. Chairman. That's  
44 correct. The A section where it's one household limit is  
45 the December season, the winter season; the B portion  
46 only two steelhead, is the spring season. So I have it  
47 clear in my mind.  
48  
49                  CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay.  
50

1 MS. PHILLIPS: Mr. Chair.  
2  
3 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Yes, ma'am.  
4  
5 MS. PHILLIPS: Thank you, Chairman Adams.  
6 Are we striking language also?  
7  
8 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: I think you're just  
9 clarifying, aren't you?  
10  
11 MR. LARSON: Mr. Chair. The proposal  
12 that was submitted yesterday did contain some strike-out  
13 language. As far as I know, that's not been changed.  
14 The strike-out language under Part A is the winter season  
15 may be closed when the harvest level cap of 100 steelhead  
16 for Prince of Wales, Kosciusko Islands has been reached.  
17 That is the strike-out portion. That's the winter  
18 season, Section A. There's a strike-out portion in the  
19 spring season, Paragraph B. The part that would be  
20 struck reads, the spring season may be closed prior to  
21 May 31 if the harvest quota of 600 fish minus the number  
22 of steelhead harvested in the winter subsistence fishery  
23 is reached.  
24  
25 Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
26  
27 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay. That's it.  
28 Satisfied?  
29  
30 MS. PHILLIPS: Yes.  
31  
32 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay. Are you ready for  
33 the question. All in favor say aye.  
34  
35 IN UNISON: Aye.  
36  
37 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Opposed, nay.  
38  
39 (No opposing votes)  
40  
41 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Motion carries.  
42  
43 We've got a joint meeting at the Board.  
44 I just turned it off and then I started to speak. I  
45 meant to turn it on. We've got a joint meeting here with  
46 the Board at 1:00 o'clock, so we're going to take a lunch  
47 break now. We will reconvene tomorrow after our Board  
48 session with the Board. And we can make room for  
49 testimonies at the beginning of the meeting. And then  
50 we're going to go into deliberations with this extra-

1 territorial jurisdiction petition. So I've got to drink  
2 some water.  
3 But anyhow, let's break. Be back here at  
4 one, and we'll see you all then. Thank you.  
5  
6 (Off record)  
7  
8

