

1                   SOUTHEAST ALASKA FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE  
2                   REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING

3  
4                   PUBLIC MEETING

5  
6                   VOLUME I

7  
8                   Petersburg, Alaska  
9                   February 24, 2009  
10                  9:00 o'clock a.m.

11  
12  
13 COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

- 14  
15 Bertrand Adams, Chairman  
16 Michael Bangs  
17 Michael Douville  
18 Merle Hawkins  
19 Donald Hernandez  
20 Harvey Kitka  
21 Floyd Kookesh  
22 Patricia Phillips  
23 Michael See  
24 Richard Stokes  
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29 Regional Council Coordinator, Robert Larson

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P R O C E E D I N G S

(Petersburg, Alaska - 3/24/2009)

(On record)

CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Good morning everyone.  
I'd like for the Council members to take their seats,  
we're going to get started here in two minutes.

Thank you.

(Pause)

CHAIRMAN ADAMS: (In Tlingit) Good  
morning everyone. We'll go ahead and call this meeting  
to order. And as many of you know we've had the passing  
of David Johnson here sometime ago, and I would just like  
for everyone to please stand and we'll have a few minutes  
of silence.

(Moment of Silence - Dave Johnson)

CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you, you may be  
seated. I'll let everyone know there's a card floating  
around for people in the audience to sign for Mr.  
Johnson's family. I also need to let you know that there  
will be a memorial service for Dave next Tuesday March  
3rd, in Craig, so anyone nearby, it'd be appreciated if  
you attended that memorial service. Again, it's going to  
be on Tuesday March 3rd in Craig.

Do you have any housekeeping items that  
we need to take care of right now, everyone aware of  
where the restrooms are and all that.

I want to thank the Petersburg ANB for  
allowing this building for our use during this week, we  
appreciate that.

Let me see, what else, I was just  
informed that Close-Up is going to provide us with snacks  
and with lunch today, all week, or this day, okay, so I  
would encourage George Pappas to keep his wallet  
handy.....

(Laughter)

CHAIRMAN ADAMS: .....and be generous.

1 (Laughter)  
2  
3 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay, Mr. Kitka, would  
4 you please call the roll.  
5  
6 MR. KITKA: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.  
7 Richard Stokes.  
8  
9 MR. STOKES: Here.  
10  
11 MR. KITKA: Frank Wright, Jr.  
12  
13 (No comments)  
14  
15 MR. KITKA: Patricia Phillips.  
16  
17 MS. PHILLIPS: Here.  
18  
19 MR. KITKA: Michael Douville.  
20  
21 MR. DOUVILLE: Here.  
22  
23 MR. KITKA: Harvey Kitka is here. Bert  
24 Adams.  
25  
26 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Here.  
27  
28 MR. KITKA: Floyd Kookesh.  
29  
30 MR. KOOKESH: Here.  
31  
32 MR. KITKA: Donald Hernandez.  
33  
34 MR. HERNANDEZ: Here.  
35  
36 MR. KITKA: Mike See.  
37  
38 MR. SEE: Here.  
39  
40 MR. KITKA: Merle Hawkins.  
41  
42 MS. HAWKINS: Here.  
43  
44 MR. KITKA: Joe Hotch.  
45  
46 (No comments)  
47  
48 MR. KITKA: Michael Bangs.  
49  
50 MR. BANGS: Here.

1 MR. KITKA: Lee Wallace.

2

3 (No comments)

4

5 MR. KITKA: Mr. Chairman, we have a  
6 quorum.

7

8 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you, Mr. Kitka.

9 Just make note that I got a call from Frank Wright the  
10 day I was leaving Yakutat, he informed me that he wasn't  
11 going to be here for this meeting. They cut down on  
12 halibut quotas, you know, drastically, and it's going to  
13 affect his pocketbook and, you know, crab season is open  
14 now and it's going to be throughout this week and so he  
15 said that he won't be able to make it and we can consider  
16 that as an excused.

17

18 Lee Wallace also has a personal reason  
19 for not coming here so that's an excused.

20

21 However, the Council needs to consider  
22 Joe Hotch. You know, it's been two meetings that he  
23 hasn't attended with no reason and in the bylaws, or the  
24 charter of the RAC says that if miss two meetings without  
25 an excuse that you can be replaced, so we need to  
26 consider that and see where we want to go with it.

27

28 I want to welcome our new Council member,  
29 Mr. Mike See, from Hoonah. And look forward to his  
30 contribution to this Council.

31

32 Let me say to you, sir, that all of the  
33 RACs throughout the state of Alaska look at this Council  
34 here for guidance and it's attributed to the people that  
35 we have on this Council so we're very happy to have you  
36 as part of our group, so gunalcheesh.

37

38 I'd like to have introductions and let's  
39 start with this end over here, Mr. Bangs, please.

40

41 MR. BANGS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My  
42 name is Mike Bangs and I live here in Petersburg. I am  
43 a commercial fisherman and avid subsistence user.

44

45 MR. DOUVILLE: I'm Mike Douville. I live  
46 in Craig. I've lived on Prince of Wales all my life and  
47 a commercial fisherman and sportsfisherman and hunter and  
48 it's a pleasure to be here.

49

50 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Mr. Stokes do you want

1 to say something.

2

3 MR. STOKES: I'm Dick Stokes from  
4 Wrangell.

5

6 MR. HERNANDEZ: My name is Don Hernandez.  
7 My primary residence is Point Baker on Prince of Wales  
8 Island for the last 25 years, but I've been spending the  
9 last couple of years here in Petersburg as well. I'm a  
10 commercial fisherman and an active subsistence hunter and  
11 fisherman.

12

13 MR. KITKA: Mr. Chairman, thank you. I'm  
14 Harvey Kitka and I'm from Sitka, Alaska. I'm a  
15 subsistence user, commercial fisherman and lifelong Sitka  
16 Sportsman Association. Also right now I'm the chair of  
17 the Sitka Tribe Herring Committee. I just left the Board  
18 of Fisheries, a lot of interesting things going on.

19

20 Thank you.

21

22 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Good morning. My name  
23 is Bert Adams, Sr. I come from Yakutat. And I am a  
24 former commercial fisherman, former charter boat captain.  
25 I'm retired from a lot of the hats that I wear and right  
26 now I'm a full-time subsistence user. But happy to be  
27 here and really enjoying the nice weather that's taking  
28 place here in Petersburg.

29

30 Gunalcheesh.

31

32 MS. PHILLIPS: Thank you, Chairman Adams,  
33 Sr., and good morning. I'm Patricia Phillips. I'm the  
34 Mayor of Pelican, Alaska. My husband and I co-own the  
35 Pacific Dawn and I'm a quota shareholder halibut and  
36 owner of Dragon Fly Charters, an outfitter guide  
37 operation on the Hoonah Ranger District Tongass National  
38 Forest. Mother of four sons. And I've lived in Pelican  
39 36 years, born in Sitka and here I am.

40

41 Thank you.

42

43 MR. KOOKESH: Floyd Kookesh representing  
44 Angoon currently residing in Juneau. Tribal  
45 administrator for Douglas Indian Association.  
46 Representing subsistence. Charter boat operator.

47

48 Thank you.

49

50 MS. HAWKINS: Good morning, Merle Nancy

1 Hawkins. I'm on the KIC Tribal Council. Tlingit/Haida  
2 delegate and I'm on the Ketchikan RAC, which is with the  
3 Forest Service. And I can trace my ancestry all the way  
4 back to Hydaburg, Howcan, and Haida where my Haida people  
5 came from. And I'm with Camp 14 ANS. And I'm glad to be  
6 here.

7  
8 MR. SEE: My name is Michael See. I have  
9 a power troll permit and I run a charter boat on the  
10 side. I'm on the board of directors for the Hoonah  
11 Indian Association, president of ANB Camp 12. It's a  
12 pleasure to be here and I hope I won't cause too many  
13 problems.

14  
15 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you, everyone.  
16 Thank you, Mike. Just the last day and a half or so that  
17 I've had, you know, conversations, dinner, breakfast and  
18 so forth together with you, I like what I see but I know  
19 that you're going to speak your mind as well. So, again,  
20 I want to welcome you onto this Council.

21  
22 Tina, would you like to say something on  
23 behalf of yourself.

24  
25 (Laughter)

26  
27 REPORTER: I'm Tina, and I'm the court  
28 reporter for the Council.

29  
30 (Laughter)

31  
32 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: And a faithful one too,  
33 comes faithfully to all of our meetings no matter where  
34 it's at and does a great job in recording our  
35 transcripts. I also see her at the Federal Subsistence  
36 Board meetings, you know, every time we go up there so  
37 she's a busy lady and a quiet one but we do appreciate  
38 the work that she does for us.

39  
40 I'd like to take this opportunity now to  
41 have Federal agencies, you know, introduce themselves and  
42 tell us a little bit about what you do, where do you want  
43 to start, let's start with you, sir.

44  
45 MR. LARSON: Good morning, my name is  
46 Robert Larson and I work for the Forest Service here in  
47 Petersburg, and I am the Council coordinator. What that  
48 means is I am a liaison between the Council and the Staff  
49 and the public and the State of Alaska. The questions  
50 going from the Forest Service or any agency to the

1 Council or from the Council to other agencies, I  
2 facilitate that.

3

4 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Would you stand and  
5 introduce yourself and please talk as loud as you can so  
6 the microphone can pick it up, it's important that we get  
7 every word recorded so we can accurately reflect that on  
8 the minutes. So let's start with anyone from the Federal  
9 agencies, please.

10

11 MS. CLARK: Hi, my name is Maureen Clark  
12 and I'm with the Office of Subsistence Management and I'm  
13 the public affairs specialist.

14

15 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay, George -- well,  
16 you're next George.

17

18 (Laughter)

19

20 MR. BRAINARD: My name is Jim Brainard,  
21 I'm the wildlife program manager for the Tongass National  
22 Forest.

23

24 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: All right, welcome.

25

26 MR. OVIATT: My name is George Oviatt and  
27 I'm with the Bureau of Land Management. I'm mainly  
28 involved with the Federal Subsistence Board, I am the  
29 BLM's designee if our director cannot attend or sit on  
30 the Board, I sit in for him. My main involvement with  
31 the BLM has been subsistence, the Federal side -- Federal  
32 Subsistence Board side.

33

34 MS. MCKINLEY: Dianne McKinley, Anchorage  
35 National Park Service, Subsistence Program, also from  
36 Southeast.

37

38 MS. PETRIVELLI: Pat Petrivelli, Bureau  
39 of Indian Affairs, subsistence anthropologist and I live  
40 in Anchorage.

41

42 MR. EASTLAND: I'm Warren Eastland. I'm  
43 the wildlife biologist for the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

44

45 MS. HERNANDEZ: My name is Melinda  
46 Hernandez. I work out of the Juneau Ranger District, a  
47 social science analyst and been working for the Council  
48 for a while now, enjoy it, thanks for being here.

49

50 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: We enjoy you, too,

1 Melinda.

2

3 MS. HOLMES: Marcus Holmes, I work  
4 enforcement with the Forest Service.

5

6 MR. BRYDEN: Jeff Bryden. I'm the lead  
7 enforcement officer for subsistence, both Southcentral  
8 and Southeast Alaska, this is my 17th year here in  
9 Alaska.

10

11 MR. SKEEK: I'm Leonard Skeek,  
12 representing myself. Thank you.

13

14 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: We're happy you're here  
15 Mr. Skeek.

16

17 MR. CASIPIT: I'm Cal Casipit. I'm the  
18 subsistence Staff fisheries biologist for the Forest  
19 Service in Juneau. Temporarily here for the -- from last  
20 week until the end of March I am the acting group leader  
21 for subsistence for the Forest Service for Steve Kessler,  
22 while he's on detail back in the Washington, D.C.,  
23 office.

24

25 MR. SUMINSKI: Terry Suminski,  
26 subsistence fisheries biologist, Forest Service and I  
27 live in Sitka.

28

29 MR. SAVAGE; Good morning everyone, I'm  
30 Chris Savage. I'm the District Ranger here at the  
31 Petersburg Ranger District.

32

33 MS. O'CONNOR: Good morning everyone, I'm  
34 Tricia O'Connor. I am head of wildlife subsistence and  
35 planning on the Tongass National Forest. And I'm here  
36 representing the Forest Supervisor who couldn't make it,  
37 and I live in Juneau.

38

39 MR. DICKERSON: Well, good morning, Mr.  
40 Chairman and Council. I'm Larry Dickerson, a wildlife  
41 biologist at Craig, Alaska, zoned for both Craig and the  
42 Thorne Bay Ranger Districts and right in the middle of  
43 Unit 2 deer we'll all be talking about later. So I'm  
44 glad to be here.

45

46 MS. OEHLERS: Good morning. My name is  
47 Susan Oehlers and I'm a wildlife biologist with the  
48 Forest Service in Yakutat.

49

50 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: All right, is that all

1 the people from the Federal side of it.  
2  
3 (No comments)  
4  
5 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: State people.  
6  
7 MR. PAPPAS; George Pappas, Department of  
8 Fish and Game, subsistence liaison team, and I brought a  
9 lot of one dollar bills.  
10  
11 (Laughter)  
12  
13 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: All right.  
14  
15 MR. BARTEN: Good morning everyone. My  
16 name is Neil Barten, I'm a wildlife biologist and  
17 coordinator from Juneau with Fish and Game.  
18  
19 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Anyone else from the  
20 State.  
21  
22 (No comments)  
23  
24 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you. Tribal  
25 people. Mr. Baines.  
26  
27 MR. BAINES: I'm Michael Baines. I'm the  
28 tribal vice-Chairman for the Sitka Tribe of Alaska. I'm  
29 also a delegate to Tlingit-Haida. And I was sent here by  
30 the Sitka Fish and Game Advisory Committee.  
31  
32 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Gunalcheesh. Any other  
33 tribal.  
34  
35 MS. STOKES: Wilma Stokes.  
36  
37 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Good to see you again,  
38 Wilma.  
39  
40 MS. STOKES: Good morning. Tribal  
41 president, Wrangell, Alaska, also on the city borough,  
42 and my better half's up there. I'm Haida from -- born  
43 and raised in Craig and lived a subsistence all -- ever  
44 since I was a child.  
45  
46 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you. Okay, any  
47 other tribal people.  
48  
49 (No comments)  
50

1 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Anyone else.  
2  
3 MR. BRINKMAN: My name's Todd Brinkman,  
4 I'm a student up at the University of Alaska-Fairbanks.  
5 I've been doing deer research in Southeast for the last  
6 five years, and I'll talk with you folks about that a  
7 little bit today.  
8  
9 MS. CAMPEN: Good morning. I'm Sarah  
10 Campen, I'm here with the Southeast Alaska Conservation  
11 Council. I'm from Angoon (ph), so it's good to be here.  
12  
13 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Anyone else.  
14  
15 (No comments)  
16  
17 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Mr. Kitka just whispered  
18 in my ear and said that -- okay, Sitka Advisory Council  
19 representation so we'll welcome them, so Mr. Baines,  
20 thanks. Mr. Mayor, would you please come forward, we'd  
21 like to have you give some opening remarks, please.  
22  
23 MAYOR : Well, I guess it's been two  
24 years, Mr. Chairman, since the Council's been here in  
25 Petersburg so I won't go on and on about the wonderful  
26 things about Petersburg because you already know that.  
27  
28 Subsistence is important to most of the  
29 people who live in Petersburg and we appreciate the work  
30 that you do to help with that use. And I also want to  
31 thank Don Hernandez and Michael Bangs for the local  
32 representatives to this Council.  
33  
34 I do hope you have a very productive and  
35 rewarding meeting and I hope you have some time away from  
36 the meeting to get downtown and spend some money.  
37  
38 (Laughter)  
39  
40 MAYOR: The retailers would really love  
41 to see you. So welcome to Petersburg.  
42  
43 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.  
44  
45 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Well, when you said you  
46 had a real short welcoming and introduction you're true  
47 to your word so you must be a man of your word.  
48  
49 I'd like to call the ranger person from  
50 the Petersburg District to also come up and say a few

1 words if you would.

2

3 MR. SAVAGE: Mr. Chairman and members of  
4 the Council, thank you for this opportunity. Again my  
5 name is Chris Savage, I'm the District Ranger here in  
6 Petersburg. Also I am the in-season manager for Unit 1B  
7 and 3. Those two areas primarily cover all the  
8 Petersburg and Wrangell Ranger Districts. Sometimes I  
9 feel like I'm the luckiest in-season manager since I have  
10 Bob Larson in my office that I can query a lot of  
11 questions and he helps guide me and that can write  
12 recommendations for you guys.

13

14 Definitely over the last four years that  
15 I've been in this position it seems like every year  
16 there's always some issue that comes across my desk that  
17 regards subsistence, subsistence for wildlife resources.  
18 There's the moose season up the Stikine. There was the  
19 deer season in Unit 3. And there was this last year  
20 marten trapping on Kuiu Island. So these examples have  
21 proven how important it is in having an Advisory Council  
22 to help us determine the best approach to address these  
23 issues. As an in-season manager I've gained a good  
24 understanding on what your roles and responsibilities are  
25 on this Council.

26

27 I wanted to thank you on behalf of the  
28 National Forest in your volunteering and participating on  
29 this Council. Looking just this morning at your rewards  
30 and seen how long your tenures on this Council is very  
31 admirable and I know we really appreciate your tenure and  
32 participation on this Council, the work you do in  
33 coordination with us, other Federal and State agencies to  
34 ensure that we can successfully manage the subsistence  
35 uses, the fish and wildlife resources on Federal public  
36 lands in Alaska.

37

38 Again, I want to thank you and enjoy your  
39 stay here in Petersburg.

40

41 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Gunalcheesh, sir, thank  
42 you.

43

44 On to Item 4, Mr. Larson, view of Council  
45 role and responsibilities.

46

47 MR. LARSON: Yes, Mr. Chairman. Unlike  
48 some previous meetings I'm not going to be speaking much,  
49 I'm losing my voice. But what I would like to say is  
50 that we're starting now down the road of having a two

1 year cycle. What that means to the Council instead of  
2 having proposals every meeting for deliberation, what we  
3 expect to have at this meeting and future meetings is  
4 that the Council will deliberate proposals during the  
5 fall meeting and during your winter meeting they'll have  
6 an opportunity to investigate and develop recommendations  
7 for either fish or wildlife topics, up to you decide.

8

9 At the last meeting the Council decided  
10 to investigate in-season management for wildlife and a  
11 variety of proposals.

12

13 There's several of you Council members  
14 that have been involved in this process for a number of  
15 years and we've have some presentations that we'd like to  
16 do now.

17

18 We have Council members Mike Douville,  
19 Michael Bangs, Don Hernandez, Floyd Kookesh, Bert Adams,  
20 Harvey Kitka and Richard Stokes that have all been  
21 working in this process as volunteers for more than five  
22 years and we have certificates and a small gift for each  
23 of those, and Melinda will distribute them with the help  
24 of Cal. And from the Office of Subsistence Management  
25 and the U.S. Forest Service we'd like to say thank you  
26 very much. This is an unpaid position and we truly  
27 appreciate the volunteer spirit and the work that you  
28 guys put into this process.

29

30 (Applause)

31

32 MR. LARSON: We have one more  
33 presentation. In the entire state of Alaska there are  
34 only a couple of individuals that have been with the  
35 program since its inception. Those individuals have not  
36 really been recognized in any formal way for their  
37 contributions but it's truly, truly a remarkable  
38 dedication to subsistence and the public process that  
39 they've shown and we'd like to make a special thanks to  
40 Patty Phillips from all of us, and thank you so we have  
41 a few gifts and a certificate for her as well.

42

43 MS. PHILLIPS: Wow.

44

45 (Applause)

46

47 MS. PHILLIPS: All these. Wow, I got  
48 more than you.

49

50 (Laughter)

1 MR. KOOKESH: But I don't have to give a  
2 speech.

3  
4 (Laughter)

5  
6 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Patty, what you like to  
7 say something.

8  
9 MS. PHILLIPS: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
10 Thank you, Robert, for these gifts and for the  
11 acknowledgement of my contributions to this program. I  
12 think I've been selected by four different Secretaries of  
13 Interior and I still have the letters that have appointed  
14 me to this position and I consider it quite an honor to  
15 have received letters from four different Secretaries of  
16 Interior and quite an honor to represent the people of  
17 Southeast Alaska, and work with the people who have come  
18 as members on this Board. It's very much enriched my  
19 life.

20  
21 Thank you.

22  
23 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Well, thank you, Patty.  
24 You know, sometimes Patty is not able to make it to these  
25 meetings and it's no fault of her own, weather, you know,  
26 has prevented her from coming and she's a very busy lady  
27 as the Mayor of Pelican and, you know, sometimes work  
28 will not allow her to come to these meetings but when  
29 she's here she's very invaluable to this Council and is  
30 one of the reasons why this Council is looked up to, you  
31 know, throughout the state. And if she weren't so busy  
32 she'd be sitting here instead of me, I really believe  
33 that.

34  
35 But we appreciate you, Patty, and  
36 gunalcheesh for all of the work that you do for us.

37  
38 I'd like to give opportunity for some of  
39 the others who have received a certificate to say  
40 something if they would like. Michael Douville would you  
41 like to say something?

42  
43 MR. DOUVILLE: What?

44  
45 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Would you like to say  
46 something in regards to the certificate you received?

47  
48 MR. DOUVILLE: Geez, thanks a lot.

49  
50 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: You're welcome.

1 (Laughter)

2

3 MR. DOUVILLE: I feel it is a real  
4 privilege to be able to serve on this Council because at  
5 least some of the time I know what I'm talking about and  
6 hopefully have been somewhat of good over the past few  
7 years and look forward to doing some more work.  
8 Appreciate your patience with me.

9

10 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Well, I want you to know  
11 that I really appreciate Michael's involvement on this  
12 Council because I know that if we need to get a group  
13 together, you know, to discuss an issue that I can count  
14 on three of you guys over here to -- or there's a bunch  
15 of us as well, but I always look to you for that kind of  
16 leadership.

17

18 Mr. Bangs, how about you.

19

20 MR. BANGS: Thank you, Mr. Chair. It's  
21 a real privilege and an honor to serve with the folks  
22 around this region and I think we all feel close at heart  
23 with these issues. And the deer management that we  
24 participated in, I think, was a worthwhile endeavor  
25 because it's a very important subsistence food for all of  
26 us and I was pleased to be able to be a part of it.

27

28 Thank you.

29

30 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Donald.

31

32 MR. HERNANDEZ: Has it already been five  
33 years already, it seems hard to believe.

34

35 (Laughter)

36

37 MR. HERNANDEZ: No, it's been a pleasure,  
38 you know, serving on this Council and very rewarding.  
39 And I still contend that the biggest thing I gain from  
40 this experience is just all that I've had a chance to  
41 learn in my five years that I've been on this Council.  
42 And I think it's great that I can take what I've learned  
43 here and use it in the future and hopefully, you know,  
44 pass some of it on as well. I think that's probably the  
45 most important thing I get from this Council is the  
46 learning experience.

47

48 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you, Donald. Mr.  
49 Stokes, would you like to say a few words.

50

1 MR. STOKES: I miss the extra ears that  
2 I was provided for in the past.  
3  
4 REPORTER: They're right here.  
5  
6 MR. STOKES: Oh, I didn't see them.  
7  
8 (Laughter)  
9  
10 REPORTER: I see, I need to provide you  
11 with ears and eyes too.  
12  
13 (Laughter)  
14  
15 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Oh, no, don't tell me he  
16 needs extra eyes too.  
17  
18 (Laughter)  
19  
20 MR. STOKES: It's kind of nice to be able  
21 to hear again. Thank you, Tina.  
22  
23 What was I supposed to talk about?  
24  
25 MR. HERNANDEZ: Do you want to say a few  
26 words about getting your certificate of appreciation.  
27  
28 MR. STOKES: Oh, okay. Well, I  
29 appreciate the certificate that I was given. Hopefully  
30 I'll answer up to it, what they expect of me. And last  
31 year was a tough time for me, I had three medivacs to  
32 Seattle and one down by ferry so I spent several months  
33 in the hospital last year so I got some excuse for not  
34 being able to hear too well.  
35  
36 (Laughter)  
37  
38 MR. STOKES: But I look forward to  
39 serving the Council until they want to kick me off.  
40  
41 Thank you.  
42  
43 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you, Mr. Stokes.  
44 Harvey.  
45  
46 MR. KITKA: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I,  
47 like, Mr. Hernandez, five years went by pretty fast. It  
48 seems like each meeting comes around and we have so much  
49 that we have to look at and bring back to our communities  
50 and different things and time just slips away and you

1 don't realize how fast it goes by. But we really  
2 appreciate working for you guys.

3

4 Thank you.

5

6 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Floyd.

7

8 MR. KOOKESH: Mr. Chairman. I've been on  
9 the Southeast Regional Advisory Council since 1999 and  
10 the other day I was asked why, why do I keep doing this  
11 and to me it's sort of like punishment but it's not  
12 really because there's a lot of work that we're doing and  
13 it's good work. Sometimes it's hard to measure where  
14 we're at. But I don't believe I'm being a gluten for  
15 punishment, I believe that what we're doing is something  
16 someone has to do. And my brother, Albert, they asked  
17 him how he can be a Senator and represent over 120  
18 communities in the state of Alaska and that was his  
19 comment, someone has to do it and that's what I'm doing  
20 and I'm happy to do it. I know that we tend not to  
21 always agree on everything and I've even been called  
22 feisty in harsher words by people who have had the  
23 opportunity to observe from the audience, but when it all  
24 comes down to it, we did an article for Maureen and when  
25 it all comes down to it, we have to be the voice for  
26 people that aren't able to represent themselves, that's  
27 what our job is. My job is to take what someone says and  
28 bring it to you and have it work for them, this is not  
29 about being self-serving or representing our commercial  
30 interest or subsistence interests this is about  
31 representing all of the interests and balancing that  
32 resource so we don't lose it which I'm afraid we're  
33 doing.

34

35 Thank you.

36

37 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you, Mr. Kookesh.  
38 And always appreciate your willingness to step up and,  
39 you know, sever in whatever way you can. I wasn't able  
40 to make it to the Fish and Game meeting here last week  
41 and I asked him if he would do it and he faithfully went  
42 over there and, you know, we look forward to a report  
43 from you later on in the agenda.

44

45 So, gunalcheesh, Floyd, for your  
46 dedication.

47

48 As for me I feel like everyone else, the  
49 five years, you know, it seemed like a long time but when  
50 you look at it it did go by pretty fast. And then having

1 the privilege, you know, to serve in this position as  
2 Chair has been a real learning experience for me and the  
3 next person who steps into this, you know, is going to  
4 have to learn it the same way that I did and it took me  
5 almost two years, you know, to get settled into it where  
6 I realized exactly what the heck I was doing. But it is  
7 a real big learning curve and to have the backing and,  
8 you know, support of the people around this table here is  
9 tremendous.

10

11 I need to remember that when I go to the  
12 Federal Subsistence Board I'm representing you people and  
13 the people of Southeast Alaska and, you know, it's really  
14 mind-boggling to be able to realize that and say, holy  
15 cow, you know, this job is really enormous. It's  
16 enormous for each and every one of you and you do make a  
17 significant contribution with your deliberations on the  
18 issues and as I said to Mr. See a little while ago, other  
19 RACs, you know, through Southeast [sic] Alaska, you know,  
20 always look to this group here for the leadership that  
21 they need to help them in their efforts as well.

22

23 So enough said, I look forward to working  
24 on this group for the next couple of years or so at least  
25 and the fine work that we are doing will benefit the  
26 people of Southeast.

27

28 Cal, do you have something you want to  
29 say.

30

31 MR. CASIPIT: Just on behalf of the  
32 Regional Forester, Denny Bschor, who happens to be the  
33 Secretary of Agriculture when it comes to Title VIII of  
34 ANILCA and all of the Forest Service, that we really  
35 appreciate this Council and all the members that are  
36 sitting here, without you we couldn't do our jobs. These  
37 Councils, this Council in particular is the heart and  
38 soul of the Federal Subsistence Program, and everything  
39 comes from this Board, from this Council.

40

41 Again, the quality of the recommendations  
42 and the advice given to the Federal Subsistence Board is  
43 top of the heap and you guys do really good work and the  
44 Board and Denny really notices it and I'm sure they  
45 really appreciate it and I do too. So I just wanted to  
46 say that, gunalcheesh.

47

48 Thank you.

49

50 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you, Cal. And we

1 need to come back to you people and say to you that it is  
2 you that is the driving force of what happens here, You  
3 know the proposals that we consider, you know, is all  
4 done through Staff analysis and so forth and the good  
5 work that comes from that, you know, helps us to  
6 determine whether this is a good proposal or whether it's  
7 bad and if it's a good one then we push it all the way up  
8 to the Federal Subsistence Board and work with the State  
9 to try to, you know, come on the same page and so forth  
10 which is sometimes difficult, isn't it George, but at  
11 least we're here trying to work for the betterment of the  
12 people that, you know, enjoy these resources. And so I  
13 want to compliment Staff people to show recognition to  
14 them.

15

16 So, thank you.

17

18 I would like to call George Oviatt up  
19 here and say something because he's always following me  
20 around and.....

21

22 (Laughter)

23

24 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: .....give a report on  
25 the assignment that he -- well, was given at the last  
26 Federal Subsistence Board meeting.

27

28 (Laughter)

29

30 MR. OVIATT: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.  
31 Like I said I'm sorry to report I haven't completed my  
32 assignment but I have the book and I've started.

33

34 Sitting on the Federal Subsistence Board  
35 as I have had the opportunity to do I realize the  
36 importance of what your job is. You know you're the  
37 basis of the Federal Subsistence Board as a grassroots,  
38 is from the bottom up, and the proposals come from the  
39 people through you and then to the Board, and your role  
40 is very, very important. And I think that it's that  
41 process that makes this work so well. So from sitting on  
42 that side and following Bert throughout Alaska as I have,  
43 I just want you to know how much that you are appreciated  
44 and needed and your contribution is -- along with our  
45 Office of Subsistence Management I think the heart and  
46 soul of this program, and you do represent the people,  
47 and I think that's what makes it so good.

48

49 That's all I have to say, and, thank you,  
50 Mr. Chairman.

1 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Mr. Kookesh.  
2  
3 MR. KOOKESH: Mr. Oviatt, is it Oviatt?  
4  
5 MR. OVIATT: Uh-huh.  
6  
7 MR. KOOKESH: Are you planning on being  
8 here for the whole meeting?  
9  
10 MR. OVIATT: Through the Chair, Mr.  
11 Kookesh, yes, I am, I'll be here for the whole meeting  
12 and I'll be giving BLM's report on Thursday which will be  
13 quite short, but I will be here.  
14  
15 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you. All right,  
16 let's move on then. Let's do the agenda, review and  
17 adoption of the agenda.  
18  
19 Let's do as we always have in the past,  
20 adopt it as a guide. There is some items that we have to  
21 move up toward the front that are in the back so if we  
22 can take care of that. The way that we always do the  
23 agenda, Mr. See, is we adopt it as a guide so that we  
24 have an opportunity to move things back and forth if we  
25 want.  
26  
27 MR. KOOKESH: Second.  
28  
29 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Who did it.  
30  
31 MS. PHILLIPS: Move to adopt the agenda  
32 as a guide.  
33  
34 MR. KOOKESH: You did.  
35  
36 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Oh, did I, I was only  
37 recommending that we adopt it as a guide.  
38  
39 MS. PHILLIPS: Mr. Chair. Move to adopt  
40 the agenda as a guide.  
41  
42 MR. KOOKESH: Second.  
43  
44 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: It's been moved and  
45 seconded. Questions.  
46  
47 MR. KOOKESH: Comment.  
48  
49 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Comments.  
50

1 MR. KOOKESH: Mr. Chairman. Normally  
2 under -- whenever we structure agendas, normally No. 5 is  
3 usually No. 3 and I was wondering if we could go back to  
4 that process, that seems to be the proper format for  
5 setting agendas, putting No. 5 as No. 3.

6  
7 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: That's a point well  
8 taken. And normally, you know, it's the process in any  
9 Robert's Rules of Order is to take care of the adoption  
10 of the agenda right at the very beginning so thank you  
11 for that Mr. Kookesh, we will make note of that.

12  
13 Any other comments.

14  
15 (No comments)

16  
17 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Hearing none do I hear  
18 a question on the motion.

19  
20 MR. KITKA: Question.

21  
22 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Question's been called.  
23 All in favor please signify by saying aye.

24  
25 IN UNISON: Aye.

26  
27 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Opposed.

28  
29 (No opposing votes)

30  
31 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Motion is carried.

32  
33 The next thing ladies and gentlemen is to  
34 review the minutes so why don't we take an at ease for a  
35 few minutes and we'll come back into session. If you  
36 have any questions about the minutes we'll take it up at  
37 that point.

38  
39 (Off record)

40  
41 (On record)

42  
43 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: If we could come back  
44 into session and we'll take it up at that point.

45  
46 (Pause)

47  
48 MR. KOOKESH: Mr. Chairman.

49  
50 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: We're back in session

1 folks.

2

3 MR. KOOKESH: Oh, we're back in session.

4

5 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Yes, do you have a  
6 question.

7

8 MR. KOOKESH: Yeah, Mr. Chairman. I  
9 noticed as I was going through this meeting this is  
10 certainly a condensed version of what we talked about.  
11 And the one thing that I seem to notice missing here is  
12 comments by Carrie Sykes and Peter Naoroz and their  
13 comments should be in here. Because normally when we go  
14 through all these meetings we tend not even to have  
15 public comments and we should at least let the record  
16 show that we did get public comments from these gentlemen  
17 on issues such as the Board of Fish proposals and Central  
18 Council's concerns about subsistence.

19

20 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you, Mr. Kookesh.  
21 Are you referring to Proposal No. 5, the issue on  
22 Makhnati Island?

23

24 MR. KOOKESH: Mr. Chairman. In general  
25 I just don't see their comments.

26

27 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay.

28

29 (Pause)

30

31 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Bear with us a little  
32 bit folks, we're going over this here in a little bit  
33 more detail.

34

35 (Pause)

36

37 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: We're back in session  
38 now. Mr. Kookesh, I'm going to have Mr. Larson, you  
39 know, explain the rationale for not having those items on  
40 there and also Harvey brought up the fact that on  
41 Proposal No. 15 there was the same situation with the  
42 road system in Juneau. So Mr. Larson, if you don't mind,  
43 please explain those items.

44

45 MR. LARSON: Mr. Chairman. And, Floyd,  
46 is correct that not all of the public testimony and  
47 comments that we heard during the course of these  
48 meetings have been included in the minutes. The public  
49 comments and testimony that have been included or  
50 referenced in the minutes are those pieces of information

1 that were provided to the Council that resulted in  
2 changes to or influencing the Council's actions. So if  
3 the Council didn't follow up on public comments then  
4 those public comments were on purpose not included in the  
5 -- you know, specifically in the discussions. Now, fi  
6 there was a general number of people that commented on  
7 some aspect then the minutes would reflect that there was  
8 a number of people that commented on this or that  
9 particular aspect of the issues in front of the Council.  
10 But, no, I have not listed and we did that on purpose  
11 that we don't highlight any one particular bit of public  
12 testimony unless it results in some action or discussion  
13 of the issue by the Council.

14  
15 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: All right. I would kind  
16 of like to make.....

17  
18 REPORTER: Bert. Bert.

19  
20 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Oh, sorry, I owe the til  
21 another dollar now, is it a dollar now.

22  
23 (Laughter)

24  
25 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Well, how does the  
26 Council feel about this. I feel, myself, you know, that  
27 there might be something lacking there and just not --  
28 not complete but -- Mr. Bangs go ahead.

29  
30 MR. BANGS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The  
31 point that I see that I feel comfortable with in that  
32 they are part of the public record and that public record  
33 is what goes to the Federal Board if I'm not mistaken,  
34 the public record is heard. So the essence of what the  
35 comments that are reflected in the minutes by the  
36 Council, but those comments are made part of the  
37 permanent public record and that's what I think is  
38 important, as far as my way of looking at this.

39  
40 Thank you.

41  
42 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: So in a sense what  
43 you're saying then is that the minutes doesn't  
44 necessarily reflect those comments but it is a part of  
45 the public record where we can go back and, you know,  
46 pick those up somewhere else; am I correct in that  
47 assumption?

48  
49 MR. BANGS: What I'm getting at is I  
50 think that they are reflected in the minutes but not

1 specified by names and, I mean all the discussion that  
2 goes on here can't possibly be verbatim in here as  
3 minutes, but the essence, I think, has tried to be  
4 captured from the public record which is permanent and  
5 that's the point, Tina's here.

6

7 You know maybe there should be names  
8 involved in who did make public comments in the minutes  
9 but I felt comfortable reading through that their  
10 comments were reflected in the way the Council dealt with  
11 that issue.

12

13 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Mr. Kitka.

14

15 MR. KITKA: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I kind  
16 of agree with Michael Bangs. I believe that, if for no  
17 other reason, at least there should be a note that there  
18 was X number of oral comments that the Board could then  
19 go back and look at the transcript and be able to look at  
20 it and see what it was, whether they were for or against  
21 anything. It's important that public comments be entered  
22 into the record.

23

24 Thank you.

25

26 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you, Mr. Kitka.  
27 Patty, and then you.

28

29 MS. PHILLIPS: Mr. Chair, thank you. I  
30 think the meeting minutes are a compilation, a good  
31 synopsis of what occurred at the meeting. I was not at  
32 the Juneau meeting, but having reviewed numerous minutes  
33 over the course of the years they are a good synopsis of  
34 what has occurred. And if you look at No. 11, public  
35 testimony, throughout the duration of the meeting the  
36 public was invited to testify on various issues, some of  
37 the issues important to the Federal Subsistence  
38 Management Program discussed were the status of Sitka  
39 Sound herring, the status of deer and the status of  
40 halibut. And if you want more information on the public  
41 testimony there is the administrative record that people,  
42 Staff, members of the public can go to to further review  
43 that.

44

45 Thank you.

46

47 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you, Patty. And  
48 those transcripts are, of course, available for anyone  
49 who wants to have access to them. Right, Tina.

50

1 REPORTER: (Nods affirmatively)

2

3 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay, Robert, and then  
4 Floyd.

5

6 MR. LARSON: Yeah, Mr. Chairman. I would  
7 like to say that these particular sets of notes have been  
8 distributed to the other Regional Councils, there's 10  
9 Regional Councils, and this particular set of notes has  
10 been distributed as the best example of the way notes  
11 should be taken and provided feedback to the Council as  
12 a reminder of their previous actions. So the  
13 instructions we have from the Office of Subsistence  
14 Management, this is the best example that they have seen  
15 this year. So according to our instructions on what the  
16 minutes should contain and how it should be displayed,  
17 this is a good example of that.

18

19 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you, Robert. Mr.  
20 Kookesh.

21

22 MR. KOOKESH: I'm sorry. Mr. Chairman.  
23 All I'm saying is that under public comments, is that, we  
24 hardly get public comments, and if we -- for example, if  
25 Peter Naoroz testified, we should let it reflect that we  
26 did receive public comments from Peter Naoroz and compile  
27 his statement into a small little -- just a little blurb  
28 and the same thing with Central Council, it represents  
29 26,000 Natives, are we just going to delete it and say no  
30 public testimony was -- I mean this is a big  
31 organization, Kootsnoowoo represents a thousand  
32 shareholders and Central Council, like I said represents  
33 26,000 Natives, we need to at least reflect that instead  
34 of saying no public testimony or to keep it very general  
35 like that. I've never gotten any direction that we had  
36 to focus it like that. I'm just looking at this agenda,  
37 that's all my concern is because I value public testimony  
38 especially when you don't get it.

39

40 Thank you.

41

42 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you, Mr. Kookesh.  
43 And I fully agree with you the fact that we do get very  
44 few public comments, you know, when we come to these  
45 villages for meetings and so forth and, you know, we  
46 really encourage people to step up and that meeting in  
47 Juneau was a really good example of what I thought was a  
48 good participation from the public.

49

50 But I don't know, Mr. Larson, maybe

1 somehow or another, under public testimony, you know, or  
2 at the end of those maybe just, without having to say  
3 what it said, you know, that these people, you know,  
4 testified to this proposal and it should be understood  
5 also that there is some public records that they can look  
6 up to find more information on such.

7

8 Is that kind of going to solve our  
9 problem here a little bit.

10

11 MR. LARSON: Mr. Chairman, there's always  
12 room for improvement and we will make the next set better  
13 than this set, you bet.

14

15 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Great, thank you. Any  
16 other comments on the minutes.

17

18 (No comments)

19

20 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay.

21

22 MR. KOOKESH: Question.

23

24 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Question's been called.  
25 All in favor please signify by saying aye.

26

27 IN UNISON: Aye.

28

29 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Opposed, same sign.

30

31 (No opposing votes)

32

33 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Motion is carried.  
34 Okay, why don't we take a 10 minute break. Okay, a 10  
35 minute break.

36

37 Thank you.

38

39 (Off record)

40

41 (On record)

42

43 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: We are now back on  
44 record. I need to beg the Council's forgiveness with a  
45 sincere heart and real intent, we passed the minutes  
46 without going through a move to adopt and a second so we  
47 need to back up here and take care of that. That's my  
48 job to keep us in line there and I apologize.

49

50 So we need a motion to adopt the minutes

1 and we need a second and discuss the heck out of it and  
2 then pass it.

3

4 (Laughter)

5

6 MR. KOOKESH: Mr. Chairman. I'll make  
7 a motion to adopt the minutes for September 23rd as  
8 amended.

9

10 MR. STOKES: Second.

11

12 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you very much, Mr.  
13 Kookesh. And it was seconded by Mr. Stokes.

14

15 Discussion.

16

17 MR. KOOKESH: Mr. Chairman. Discussion  
18 was to include all of our comments we made earlier about  
19 the need for more public testimony. And one name I left  
20 out, too, was Robert Loescher.

21

22 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Yes, thank you, Mr.  
23 Kookesh. With those amendments and additions, the  
24 minutes have been moved and seconded, are you ready to  
25 vote.

26

27 MR. KITKA: Question.

28

29 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Question's been called.  
30 All in favor, once again, signify by saying aye.

31

32 IN UNISON: Aye.

33

34 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Opposed, same sign.

35

36 (No opposing votes)

37

38 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: The motion is carried.

39 Gunalcheesh.

40

41 We're at that point now where we have to  
42 listen to the President's [sic] report. I would refer  
43 you to the annual report of 2008 and what I would suggest  
44 is that it needs to be adopted but I would like you all  
45 to take some time to go through it today and maybe  
46 towards the end of the meeting we could adopt it then.  
47 But I'd like to, you know, encourage that, you know, so  
48 you know what you're working with.

49

50 So I'd like to make just a couple

1 highlighted comments in regards to the annual report.

2

3                   Let me see, you know, the Makhnati Island  
4 issue is still real big on the table. And as I  
5 understand, you know, the Board of Fish is meeting in  
6 Sitka, or has met in Sitka and they listened to all of  
7 the testimonies and I think this is one of the issues  
8 that was brought up and I heard comments from some of the  
9 people that, you know, it doesn't look too good. So it  
10 looks like it's going to fall back onto us, you know, to  
11 make sure that this is addressed properly. And I think  
12 the Board is going to take this up again at our next  
13 meeting in December, I believe, or January, and we need  
14 to be prepared to go there in full force to back up this  
15 issue because Sitka, you know, supplies all of Southeast  
16 Alaska and other parts of Alaska with the herring spawn.  
17 And I've got some personal contacts there in Sitka and  
18 they supply us with our -- me and my family, you know,  
19 with our herring spawn, we have a trade off for eulachons  
20 and other stuff. But I've noticed in the last year they  
21 were a lot thinner than normal. So we need to really  
22 encourage, and I have been doing this, folks, to people  
23 in Southeast Alaska who benefit from this, that when this  
24 issue comes up that they should be at the Federal  
25 Subsistence Board meeting to testify. I think that will  
26 make a big difference.

27

28                   Sitka Tribes has come up with some new  
29 information that we think, you know, will be helpful to  
30 us. I understand that there's going to be a peer review  
31 done on that study. The Tribe has hired a biologist and  
32 this is where the new information has come from and there  
33 will be a peer review as I understand on that study.

34

35                   So I just needed to bring that up as a  
36 matter of, you know, information and consideration for  
37 you, that we need to get as many people up there to  
38 testify as we possibly can.

39

40                   You know, I addressed at the Federal  
41 Subsistence Board meeting, and it's not so bad with this  
42 Council but in some other places, you know, there is a  
43 hard time meeting a quorum to conduct business, and so  
44 there was a proposal or an idea shifted around that we  
45 should have alternate Council members.

46

47                   I'd like to just give you a short report  
48 on the SRC Chairs meeting. As you know the RACs appoint  
49 a representative to sit on the Subsistence Resource  
50 Council -- Commissions, rather, and this Council had me,

1 you know, serving on the Wrangell-St. Elias Subsistence  
2 Resource Council I think ever since I've been on here,  
3 and I currently serve as Chair of that body as well. But  
4 the SRCs deal with issues that pertain to National Park  
5 Service and Preserves land and we do the same thing that  
6 we do here, you know, only it has to do with National  
7 Park Service issues.

8  
9                   Some of the -- what I'd like to just  
10 share with you, things that we talked about, and it's  
11 really short, at the Chair's meeting. We have a Chair's  
12 meeting every year. And it kind of piggybacks with the  
13 AFN Convention and they bring in all of their seven  
14 Resource Commissions throughout the state of Alaska, and  
15 they bring in all of the Chairs and we have a meeting and  
16 we talk about, you know, issues that are common to each  
17 and every one of us and some of those, you know, are user  
18 conflicts for instance between user groups, really big up  
19 in -- oh, I can't remember where it is, I think it's in  
20 Unit 23, where you have conflicts between commercial,  
21 subsistence, personal and even as far as, you know,  
22 people transporting -- they call them transporters to the  
23 subsistence areas or hunting areas or whatever it might  
24 be, you know, it's a real big problem in those areas up  
25 there and so they're trying to deal with that in a way  
26 that doesn't harm the subsistence resources in those  
27 areas. And, you know, that's a real big issue that has  
28 been on discussion almost every time that we go to those  
29 Chair's meetings.

30  
31                   You also have -- I'm not sure if you do,  
32 Mr. Larson, have a copy of our minutes from the Wrangell-  
33 St. Elias.

34  
35                   MR. LARSON: I do.

36  
37                   CHAIRMAN ADAMS: You do.

38  
39                   MR. LARSON: I do.

40  
41                   CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay. And if you can  
42 make those available to the Council, you know, then it'll  
43 give them a pretty good idea of some of the things that  
44 we talk about. We talk about the same issues that we  
45 talk about here, we might deal with them a lot  
46 differently because in that area it's a different  
47 situation up there.

48  
49                   And that's about the extent of my report,  
50 ladies and gentlemen, so is there any questions. Yes,

1 Patty.

2

3

4 MS. PHILLIPS: Thank you, Chairman. I  
5 had a question about the subsistence priority on the  
6 Makhnati Islands area. Several years ago when the  
7 Federal government took over, you know, or recognized  
8 Makhnati Island area as Federal jurisdiction, there was  
9 discussion about appointing a member of the RAC to the  
10 herring working group, did that committee meet or the  
11 herring working group, or did a member of the Advisory  
12 group sit on that and what was -- what came of that? I  
13 know I missed three meetings and I apologize for that,  
14 but maybe somebody can fill me in.

15

16 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Well, there was a  
17 meeting that took place, I think it was a couple years  
18 ago that included, you know, the working group in Sitka.  
19 And then I went down there as a, you know, representative  
20 of the Council and we had a meeting, we came up with a  
21 recommendation that we thought everyone, you know, could  
22 live with and of course it didn't go with the sports  
23 people, or the commercial people, and it needed to be  
24 done on a consensus basis, is the way I understand it,  
25 and so it really didn't get anywhere.

26

27 You know the Sitka Tribes, as you might  
28 know, and the Forest Service has an MOU and they work  
29 together on these issues and what we're -- no, I'm sorry,  
30 not the Forest Service, the State of Alaska has an MOU  
31 with the Sitka Tribes, and what we've been trying to do  
32 is get a representative from the Federal agency, you  
33 know, to be a part of that and that hasn't gone anywhere  
34 yet either as far as I know.

35

36 So I hope that answers your question,  
37 Patty, if you have any more.

38

39 MS. PHILLIPS: (Nods affirmatively)

40

41 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay, anyone else.

42

43 Floyd, go ahead.

44

45 MR. KOOKESH: Mr. Chairman. You  
46 mentioned in your report, the annual report, did you say  
47 that we were going to be discussing it later on, does it  
48 fall under other business?

49

50 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: You can put that

1 anywhere you want to.....  
2  
3 REPORTER: Bert. Bert. Bert.  
4  
5 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Another dollar into the  
6 kitty.  
7  
8 (Laughter)  
9  
10 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: We can put that anywhere  
11 on the agenda. We'd like to see it toward the end so  
12 that you can have a chance to look at it between now and  
13 then, and then we can bring it up for discussion and  
14 then, you know, it needs to be passed by this body so I  
15 want you all to have an opportunity to look at it and  
16 absorb it a little bit more.  
17  
18 Okay, go ahead.  
19  
20 MR. KOOKESH: What happens to your  
21 dollars, your fines?  
22  
23 (Laughter)  
24  
25 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Well, I owe that kitty  
26 over there about \$3 now, so I'll make up for it.  
27  
28 Anyone that makes a mistake in any way,  
29 you know, we have this, you know, like the ANB, you know,  
30 we fine them. We really drained George Pappas, when was  
31 it, in Sitka.  
32  
33 (Laughter)  
34  
35 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: You know he kept making  
36 mistakes. He came too late so we fined him, okay.  
37  
38 (Laughter)  
39  
40 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: And then he left too  
41 early so we fined him again.  
42  
43 (Laughter)  
44  
45 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: And, you know, just  
46 little things like that having fun and we raised over  
47 \$400 for that group.  
48  
49 (Laughter)  
50

1 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: So we want you to be  
2 generous, you know, to that kitty over there and, you  
3 know, help with the cause.

4  
5 Thank you.

6  
7 (Pause)

8  
9 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: I'm doing that on  
10 purpose, you know, just to help the kitty.

11  
12 (Laughter)

13  
14 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: So we'll reserve the  
15 annual report to the end again and look it over and adopt  
16 it.

17  
18 All right, would you like to help me out  
19 on this one here, Robert, report of the Board actions for  
20 January, do we have that here somewhere?

21  
22 MR. LARSON: Yes, it's in the packet,  
23 this grey one, the .805c letter.

24  
25 (Pause)

26  
27 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay, and then for your  
28 information as well, in the grey packet that was given to  
29 most all of us last night there is a letter from the  
30 Federal Subsistence Board and it addresses all of the  
31 issues that have been taken care of. You can have a look  
32 at that and toward the end of the meeting, too, if you  
33 want, we can bring that up for discussion, too.

34  
35 Okay.

36  
37 (Pause)

38  
39 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: All right, are you ready  
40 to move on.

41  
42 (Pause)

43  
44 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Council member's  
45 reports. This gives us an opportunity, folks, to listen  
46 to individual Council members.

47  
48 As Floyd always brings out, you know, we  
49 represent the whole region as members of the Council but  
50 there are issues in our local areas that we need to be

1 concerned about as well and no one knows more about  
2 what's happening in our regions or in our areas than we,  
3 who reside there, and so we'd like to take this  
4 opportunity, you know, to hear your concerns. And so  
5 that Mr. See will get an idea of what this is all about,  
6 we're going to start again on this end, Mr. Bangs, and  
7 you can start it off, please.

8

9 MR. BANGS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.  
10 Well, living here in Petersburg for the past 20 plus  
11 years there's a few concerns that seem to be prevalent  
12 throughout the years I've lived here, and one of them we  
13 bring up at every Council meeting, and that is the  
14 proliferation of the sea otters.

15

16 I just heard the last few days that one  
17 was spotted out here at Point Frederick, which is way  
18 inside for sea otters, and that doesn't bode well for any  
19 subsistence users in the area, commercial users, or non-  
20 resident sportfishermen. So this is a concern that I  
21 know has been brought up at the Board of Fish meeting  
22 every time it goes before them. And I really feel that  
23 we need to try to do more to address that issue, whether  
24 it's through a campaign to Congress or through the tribal  
25 councils to encourage more harvest or -- I'm not sure  
26 what direction the Council would want to go with this,  
27 but I feel that that's a common concern in this area and  
28 I feel it's a concern throughout the region. So that  
29 always comes up.

30

31 Another concern, a real growing concern  
32 here in Petersburg is the development of one of our  
33 area's bays, which there is a development for  
34 hydroelectric in nearby Thoms Bay, and that -- the  
35 residents here, for the majority of them, I think, are  
36 for development, but a very, very careful development in  
37 conjunction with our neighbor communities of Wrangell,  
38 Kake, we feel it's important to develop that very  
39 conscientiously thinking about how we spend our  
40 subsistence and recreation time in that bay and that's an  
41 important thing and we're really concerned about outside  
42 interests not having the concerns that are important to  
43 the local people in developing that. And so that's a  
44 very growing concern with how we can develop that and  
45 protect the local interests in a very important  
46 subsistence area.

47

48 And I think from the commercial sector,  
49 we're all still concerned about how the growing charter  
50 fleet is impacting our subsistence availability to

1 halibut. As we discussed this at the last meeting it was  
2 brought out by several different Council members that  
3 their communities are having a tougher time catching  
4 their subsistence halibut close to town because of the  
5 increased pressure from the sport sector.

6

7 So thank you very much, that's all I  
8 have.

9

10 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you, Mr. Bangs.  
11 Mr. Douville.

12

13 MR. DOUVILLE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.  
14 I'm happy to report that deer hunters did well, no  
15 complaints, everybody's happy. Our winters are a little  
16 milder there, the snow melts away because we're closer to  
17 the ocean, which helps some in that respect.

18

19 I would encourage, though, down the road,  
20 because there is so much logging that has been done in  
21 the past to restore the habitat, this was a real popular  
22 thing a few years back but I haven't heard much about it  
23 since, and certainly I would encourage any action in that  
24 direction.

25

26 We have otter concerns also. But the  
27 otters primarily were planted right out in front of us  
28 and they've since had a rippling effect and they're  
29 moving up into Frederick Sound and inside places. I used  
30 to believe they only lived out in the ocean but nothing's  
31 farther from -- that's the farthest from the truth, they  
32 go everywhere. And they've devastated our shellfish.  
33 They haven't all moved away, there's some that still will  
34 live there and make a living but for the most part that  
35 big outside ripple is moving with the food source and  
36 they won't leave until it's gone. So you're going to  
37 lose all your crab, your urchins and then they start  
38 working on the harder things to eat which is clams and so  
39 on.

40

41 There's one real concern we have there  
42 right now that I'm not sure we can do anything about but  
43 I will mention it anyway, is ever since we've had the  
44 fish egg, roe on kelp picks in the '60s, late '60s, the  
45 herring stocks there have never recovered. There is  
46 still a bait fishery and in more recent years we have a  
47 pound fishery. And these things have contributed to a  
48 decline, I believe, in the herring stock stocks still  
49 farther.

50

1                   For the first time in anybody's memory or  
2 history there's been no spawn on fish egg last year and  
3 the year before. They spot spawned and did little spawns  
4 in other places but this is devastating. There was one  
5 small area of thick spawn where most of the people got  
6 heir eggs to eat but for the most part it was really  
7 tiny. And the herring pounds on the other hand are doing  
8 really well. So it's really, I think some conservation  
9 needs to be exercised in this area.

10

11                   And that's my report.

12

13                   CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you, Mr. Douville.  
14 Again, I think I understood you to say that you don't  
15 know any reason why the herring stocks, you know, are  
16 acting the way they are, you might have an idea what's  
17 going on there because I think it's important, you know,  
18 because we have that problem in other areas as well. I  
19 know in Yakutat it's kind of rebounding but it's taken  
20 over 50 years after a big sweep over there. But, you  
21 know, I'd be interested in hearing what you have to say  
22 there.

23

24                   MR. DOUVILLE: You're asking for my  
25 opinion?

26

27                   CHAIRMAN ADAMS: I'm asking for your  
28 opinion, yes, uh-huh.

29

30                   MR. DOUVILLE: I gave some of it, but,  
31 you know, but initial herring on roe picks that were done  
32 in the '60s, they were taking 100 tons of fish eggs there  
33 a season and it really decimated the herring stocks and  
34 they've never recovered. And then they take a bait  
35 fishery there every winter, and then they've introduced  
36 a pound fishery which further kills herring. And not  
37 only that those stocks don't get to spawn for the -- they  
38 spawn in the pounds but those eggs are taken away so  
39 there's no reproduction. You do get some spawn off the  
40 pounds themselves.

41

42                   But once you lower the threshold of a  
43 stock it's very hard to rebuild it back and that's what  
44 we're seeing.

45

46                   But I think the pound fishery is really  
47 having a significant negative effect on the stock there.  
48 There's less herring. And for some reason they don't  
49 want to spawn on fish egg anymore and maybe this year  
50 it'll be different but we've never experienced that in

1 the past, ever. I think those fish need to be left alone  
2 for a few years so they can rebuild.

3  
4  
5 Stokes.

CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you, Mike. Mr.

6  
7 MR. STOKES: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I'm  
8 happy to report that there's not any negative comments  
9 about the Committee. That they really appreciate the  
10 backing that they have.

11  
12 And the sea otters, not only up around  
13 where you're at but they've been spotted in Whale Pass so  
14 they're moving in closer and closer and this is a great  
15 concern of our fishermen there.

16  
17 They were happy to have the subsistence  
18 salmon season on the Stikine and they tried a long time  
19 to get it and they had many comments that they're able to  
20 harvest their fish right there.

21  
22 And hopefully we can get a favorable  
23 report from the State Board about the subsistence moose  
24 hunting that we've asked to have that, any bull, in the  
25 season that they have there, for any bull, that it would  
26 be a subsistence hunting. And that would go for  
27 everybody in Southeast. But I do believe that Wrangell  
28 and Petersburg will be the ones that will benefit by it.

29  
30 And I'd like to enter into the record  
31 another resolution from the Wrangell Cooperative  
32 Association, which is the tribal governing body for  
33 Wrangell, that they want an area set aside for  
34 subsistence crab. Right now when the season opens up for  
35 commercial, the next day there's no crab there for  
36 subsistence and we have to travel a long ways to get any  
37 if we're going to get any at all and if we want a crab we  
38 have to go down to the cannery to buy it and we have to  
39 pay \$8 a piece for them, which is not right. I believe  
40 that we should have an area set aside just for crab.

41  
42 That's all I've got to report, Mr. Chair.

43  
44 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you, Mr. Stokes.  
45 Mr. Hernandez.

46  
47 MR. HERNANDEZ: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.  
48 I'll be making my report primarily for the residents on  
49 the north end of Prince of Wales Island.

50

1                   And for the folks down there there is  
2 really only one important issue that concerns us right  
3 now. The issue is so important that, you know, if it  
4 goes in our favor nothing else really matters and that's  
5 the legislation to transfer approximately 70,000 acres of  
6 land on the north end of Prince of Wales Island, Tuxican  
7 and Kosciusko Island to Sealaska Corporation.  
8

9                   There are three communities that are  
10 directly affected by this and the fact that they would  
11 essentially lose the protections of ANILCA on their  
12 primary subsistence lands and that would be Point Baker,  
13 Port Protection and Edna Bay. The lands in questions are  
14 the lands that those communities depend on for their  
15 subsistence and to lose that protection granted by Title  
16 VIII of ANILCA would be totally detrimental to their  
17 subsistence way of life. But there's also 10 other  
18 communities I'd say would be severely affected if this  
19 were to happen. And those would be the rest of the  
20 communities throughout the region that use that area for  
21 subsistence hunting and fishing.  
22

23                   I'd like to point out that the Regional  
24 Councils, you know, they're created to implement the  
25 provisions of Title VIII of ANILCA. And one of our  
26 responsibilities spelled out in Title VIII is to be a  
27 form for any expression of any concerns related to  
28 subsistence and in the past this issue has come before us  
29 and the Council has been made aware that we are not  
30 empowered to speak to the Congress, to our legislators on  
31 issues that come before them, our primary role is to  
32 communicate with the Subsistence Board. But matters like  
33 this, I think we do need to be heard.  
34

35                   The residents that are going to be  
36 affected by this, they look to the Council as being their  
37 representatives to speak for them and to have a voice,  
38 and to be told that in these matters we aren't allowed to  
39 have a voice, an opinion on this, I think is a disservice  
40 to the people that we represent. We should be able to  
41 have input on this. I think that's really important.  
42

43                   I guess I realize that the Congress has  
44 the power to supersede any other law that they've enacted  
45 and if they choose not to uphold their previous laws  
46 dealing with subsistence that's their prerogative but on  
47 the other hand by not allowing the Councils to speak on  
48 this issue, I feel that the very people that have  
49 empowered us through Title VIII to be a voice are also at  
50 the same time making us somewhat irrelevant if they don't

1 allow us to have input on such an important issue and I  
2 find that unacceptable and I know the people that I  
3 represent are kind of resentful of that fact.

4  
5                   And going back to Title VIII of ANILCA,  
6 Section .810 says that there shall be no withdrawals of  
7 public lands without first holding hearings in the  
8 affected areas, if it's going to affect people's  
9 subsistence. And I think that's something that the  
10 Council can be involved in. I don't -- I'm not asking  
11 that the Council make any kind of recommendation on  
12 whether or not these lands should be transferred to  
13 Sealaska but I think the Council should stand up for what  
14 is written in Title VIII of ANILCA, and I think in this  
15 instance we ought to be demanding that public hearings be  
16 held. That the people get a chance to express their  
17 opinions that are going to be affected by this  
18 legislation. We don't feel that it's right that these  
19 decisions are made in Washington, D.C., and unless we go  
20 direct to our legislators or go to Washington, D.C., that  
21 we will not be heard, I think they should come to us. I  
22 think that it's something that the Council can do.

23  
24                   I will be asking the Council to consider  
25 putting on the agenda a request that the Council be  
26 allowed to write a letter communicating to the Board our  
27 wishes that the Board act on our behalf through the  
28 highest level, possibly even the Secretary level, to  
29 communicate to our representatives in Congress that we  
30 feel that public hearings should be held on this matter  
31 before this legislation is to go any further.

32  
33                   So, Mr. Chairman, I'd like at this point  
34 to say that I would request an item be placed on the  
35 agenda to discuss this in the meeting.

36  
37                   CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you, Donald. Mr.  
38 Kitka, please.

39  
40                   MR. KITKA: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.  
41 Members of the Council. As the Sitka representative I  
42 had some concerns over the years where the herring  
43 population of Sitka, I can understand Mr. Douville's  
44 point of view on some things and on the herring. And  
45 when the herring reach a certain point where they can't  
46 sustain their life, basically is what you'd want to say,  
47 because at a certain point predation takes over and the  
48 stocks will diminish tremendously. Predation in Sitka  
49 Sound, right now the whales have been working within  
50 several of the bays where the juveniles are wintering and

1 you get 20 whales feeding on juvenile herring throughout  
2 the winter, and they eat pretty close to 3,000 pounds a  
3 day, they'll decimate the herring. Not only that but the  
4 herring are a food source for every living creature out  
5 there from the time they're eggs until they're adults.  
6 So watching over them and man should be careful how they  
7 try to manage them.

8  
9 Our other concern probably was the deer  
10 closures and I think we're probably going to discuss that  
11 a little bit more and that's kind of breaking up the deer  
12 hunting areas to the outside coastline. A lot of the  
13 outside coast people, they find out that our snow build  
14 up is not as much as the Interior part of Alaska, or the  
15 inside waters.

16  
17 Sea otter population is another concern.  
18 It is one that it is such a concern that I personally  
19 went and saw some members of the Sea Otter Commission and  
20 asked them if they can send some information to us so  
21 that we could help them with any type of loosen up some  
22 of the regulation on the sea otter. They claim they can  
23 -- they've gotten to the point to where they're real  
24 close to loosening up on the regulations but the State of  
25 Alaska has put a stop to them. So we might need to see  
26 if we can help them there.

27  
28 The sockeye situation, which was  
29 throughout all Southeast, that seemed like last year was  
30 a pretty tough year on them and nobody really knows why.  
31 But one of the things that one of my friend from Haines  
32 and too bad our representative from Klukwan isn't here  
33 because they're talking about building a hydro plant on  
34 the Chilkoot, which is a major sockeye producing stream  
35 in the Haines area and without further studies on the  
36 sockeye it seems like something like that shouldn't  
37 happen.

38  
39 And we also have some concerns with the  
40 charter and the halibut and LAMP issue which is probably  
41 not our concern but it's always something that I want to  
42 bring up because halibut are -- seem to move further --  
43 we have to move further and further away to get our  
44 halibut.

45  
46 I had a little note about the marten  
47 missing in the Kake area. And being we don't have  
48 representatives in those areas I know they're -- one of  
49 the reasons marten might disappear is because not enough  
50 forestry for them to sustain their food. Without food

1 marten will start to disappear like everything else.

2

3

4 Another one is -- probably our concern is  
5 with the hatcheries within certain areas like we've got  
6 a major hatchery within the Silver Bay (ph) and Deep Bay  
7 Inlet and Sitka Sound and we haven't had herring on that  
8 side of the Sound for a number of years. And those bays  
9 are some of the bays that the larvae which is the herring  
10 in a state where they are hatched out but they can't swim  
11 yet but the egg sack is still attached to them and  
12 they'll float into those bays and the little dog salmon,  
13 when they come out of the hatchery and probably all of  
14 the other salmon that are coming out will feed on them  
15 because it is food for them.

16

17 So some of these things are just some of  
18 our concerns in the Sitka area.

19

20 Thank you.

21

22 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you, Mr. Kitka.  
23 I'll go ahead and make my comments at this time.

24

25 You know, w were reminding here, I think  
26 it was by Mr. Hernandez, that we need to pay attention to  
27 ANILCA. ANILCA is, of course, the law of the land as far  
28 as subsistence issues and Alaska is concerned. And so  
29 often, you know, we have a tendency, you know, to drift  
30 away from that idea but we need to remember, you know,  
31 that all of those sections in there, you know, deal with  
32 a particular issue that helps us to move forward on, you  
33 know, the subsistence problems that people are having, we  
34 go back to ANILCA and use it as a guide. And, you know,  
35 we need to be reminded often about that.

36

37 When I first got on the Council I was  
38 reminded by Diane McKinley, ANILCA, use ANILCA, you know,  
39 and it does -- it is really important that we do that.

40

41 When I'm testifying at the Federal  
42 Subsistence Board I always refer to ANILCA, you know, in  
43 talking about a certain point or so forth. So that's the  
44 law of the land.

45

46 His concern about the Council should  
47 speak on behalf of the residents, you know, is a real  
48 touchy thing. We've got to be pretty careful about how  
49 we address issues, you know, in our local communities as  
50 a representative of the Council. I would just remind you

1 that, you know, we should not be allowed to speak on any  
2 issue unless it's been discussed among us. And, you  
3 know, those issues then can be carried forth. But most  
4 of the time, you know, we need to get some guidance from  
5 the Board in that regard. I know it's a bad policy but,  
6 you know, I've been complaining about that for a long  
7 time now, that, you know, it needs to be opened up a  
8 little bit more.

9  
10 Another thing that I need to remind  
11 everyone, the Constitution, the U.S. Constitution says  
12 that Congress shall make no law without the consent of  
13 the governed. In other words no law will be made in  
14 Congress unless it has gone through the public hearing  
15 process and that's a real good avenue from our standpoint  
16 is to listen to the people, you know, out there in the  
17 audience and get their views and then use that as a guide  
18 as we consider proposals, you know, to carry forth, you  
19 know, to the Federal Subsistence Board. We encourage a  
20 lot of public comment and as we were talking earlier, we  
21 got oodles and oodles of public comment at our last in  
22 Juneau. And, you know, of course those need to be  
23 documented so we can refer to them often. There are some  
24 things in the minutes that have been repeated over and  
25 over again, you know, today, like the halibut management  
26 and user conflicts, rural determination, the high cost of  
27 fuel for subsistence users to try to, you know, go out  
28 and do their subsistence hunting and fishing.

29  
30 One of the big concerns that I have is  
31 the eulachons. There was a closure, you know, on the  
32 Unuk River here, an emergency closure and it has been a  
33 problem, you know, for years and years now, and I still  
34 haven't seen any kind of a report as to what the reasons  
35 of the decline is. You know, maybe somebody out there  
36 from the State or the Feds can help us understand that a  
37 little bit. I have been concerned with the eulachon  
38 returns in the Situk River, they haven't been as healthy  
39 as they have been in the past. The whole community used  
40 to be able to go out there, you know, four or five years  
41 ago and get all they needed and now it's really scratchy.  
42 Most of the eulachons are showing up on the Aukway River  
43 and the Dry Bay area right now and they're not coming up  
44 any further in oodles as they used to so that to me is a  
45 real big concern not only on a regional basis but in my  
46 own area.

47  
48 Susan Oehlers is going to probably  
49 address, you know, the reasons why we had to reduce the  
50 take of moose in Unit 5 in Yakutat last fall. And in a

1 nutshell, you know, it was the bull/cow ratio. There are  
2 a lot of moose there but the bull/cow ratio was way down.  
3 So they feel that, you know, 25 to 100 ratio is healthy  
4 and over the past few years it's been half of that, I  
5 think 10 one year and 11 another year for the bull/cow  
6 ratio. And I can testify to that because I went out  
7 flying, you know, during the moose hunting season last  
8 fall and counted 11 cows to only two bulls and that was  
9 on the west side of the Dangerous River, and so that is  
10 a concern. I talked to Neil Barten extensively last fall  
11 about our concern for that and he said that they were  
12 going to do some surveys, and we'll probably get you to  
13 give a, you know, a report about that later on, too,  
14 Neil, you know, after the snow fell to try to take  
15 another count and see how healthy it is. After talking  
16 with Susan here a little bit on our way down here, it  
17 looks like it might be still the same as it was last  
18 year. But we have that same concern.

19

20                                   And, you know, Harvey mentioned the  
21 marten. The marten, as I understand it has that same  
22 problem, it's the male/cow [sic] ratio that's way down.  
23 We need to find out the reasons for those.

24

25                                   Health of the herring stock is always a  
26 big discussion here.

27

28                                   Also the goats in Yakutat and the Nunatak  
29 Bench has been closed off. That was done by emergency  
30 order as well or a special action as well. But, you  
31 know, that area has been suffering for years and years  
32 now, since 2000, the last 10 years or so, the stocks have  
33 been way down. And many people think it was because it  
34 was over hunted by a couple of people who went up there  
35 and just started killing them off and they got stung by  
36 some Federal agencies and they served their time but we  
37 have seen no recovery of that stock since then and we're  
38 kind of wondering why. And I was also talking to Susan,  
39 you know, about what can we do about it. And we have a  
40 mountain across the Nunatak, or the Russell River, you  
41 know, Russell Fjord, rather, that has no goat in it at  
42 all and, you know, the possibility of maybe transplanting  
43 some over there but, you know, habitat, environment and  
44 all that kind of stuff has to be taken into  
45 consideration. But, you know, that -- there are some  
46 issues, you know, that I think we are struggling with in  
47 Yakutat.

48

49                                   That's about all that I have so I'll turn  
50 this time over to Patty, please.

1 MS. PHILLIPS: Thank you, Chairman Adams,  
2 Sr. Pelican, Alaska, we have quite a few community  
3 concerns but first I want to start out with agreeing with  
4 Don Hernandez and his bringing forth his concerns about  
5 land transfer on Prince of Wales Island.  
6

7 Section .805(3)(b) says that the Regional  
8 Advisory Councils shall have the authority -- the  
9 provision of a forum for the expressions of opinions and  
10 recommendations by persons interested in any matter  
11 related to subsistence uses of fish and wildlife within  
12 the region. And .801(4) says to protect and provide the  
13 opportunity for continued subsistence uses on the public  
14 lands by Natives and non-Native rural residents.  
15

16 ANILCA does not confine us to specific  
17 topics as certain provisions have been edited down to us  
18 would like it to be. We have been a forum for different  
19 expressions of opinion and I would suggest we continue to  
20 be a forum to express those opinions and present our  
21 opinions in writing to the Federal Subsistence Board and  
22 to the other authorities within the State and Federal  
23 government. It is our right, it is our Constitutional  
24 right to have a freedom of expression, and we are a forum  
25 and if we construe this broadly then it gives us that  
26 right to state those concerns.  
27

28 So I'll get off my soapbox and get back  
29 to my community.  
30

31 (Laughter)  
32

33 MS. PHILLIPS: I was also at the Board of  
34 Fish meeting last week and some of these concerns I  
35 presented in my public testimony.  
36

37 We have had heavy rainfall, torrential  
38 rain events and heavy snowfall and when you have rain it  
39 just melts that snowfall. We had four inches of rain in  
40 a 24 hour period, we're seeing more and more of that.  
41 And if you've had like six feet of snow and you have that  
42 rain on top of it then you have floodout conditions.  
43 Well, we've seen an erosion wash out of salmon fry from  
44 the river systems and just two weeks ago now, I saw, it  
45 was either pinks -- I think it was pinks that was washed  
46 out of the stream systems with their egg sacs on them in  
47 the Pelican Harbor and we're seeing a later return of  
48 salmon in the streams and we're like why are they so late  
49 and now it sort of dawned on me, that we're seeing them  
50 so late because those early ones are getting washed out

1 and eaten before they have a chance to come back to the  
2 stream system.

3

4 I just finished reading a book called  
5 Russians in Alaska by Lydia Black and she documents the  
6 history of the Russian advance, you know, from Russia  
7 over to Southeast Alaska and all up and down the West  
8 Coast. But in it she describes like in the 1850s like up  
9 to 200 Yankee whaling ships coming up to Alaska. The  
10 Russians kept accurate data on the number of whaling  
11 ships. Well, they nearly decimated the whale population  
12 and that gave an opportunity for the herring populations  
13 to abound to like where you could walk on herring all  
14 across certain areas. Well, then in the like early 1900s  
15 we had the herring reduction plants come in and they  
16 fished the herring out to almost extinction. We have in  
17 Stag Bay, near Pelican, the remnants of piling of where  
18 a herring reduction plant used to be so our stocks are  
19 rebuilding from that. And then we also have in the  
20 1970s, we had herring -- bait herring fishermen bringing  
21 herring in that they said they caught down near Ketchikan  
22 but we know they caught them in Stag Bay or out of sight  
23 from Pelican so that really hurt our local stocks but are  
24 local stocks of herring are now rebuilding but we're  
25 seeing some odd behavior in their spawn. They we do get  
26 a -- their annual spawn in April, but then because of the  
27 cold water temperatures with the snow melting we're  
28 seeing the spawn extend through the summer months.

29

30 We're seeing large numbers of harbor  
31 seals. I flew from Pelican to Sitka and the ice was from  
32 the head of the inlet up to Phonograph River, which is  
33 about six miles and there were quite a few harbor seals  
34 around the air holes on the ice.

35

36 I traveled out from Pelican to White  
37 Sulphur two weeks ago and we counted 200 deer on the  
38 beach. The snow is like, you know, 20 feet in some  
39 places drifting up and the deer just can't feed in the  
40 forest so they're down on the beaches eating the seaweed.  
41 We counted 60 going out on one side, 60 coming back. And  
42 then we decided to run the inlet up to the ice and then  
43 60 in the inlet. In one watershed itself there was 45  
44 deer. But they seem to be very frisky and able to get  
45 around pretty well, we only saw one dead deer. But in my  
46 opinion the bear populations are at unprecedented  
47 numbers, they're feeding on the deer carcasses from the  
48 last two heavy snowfalls we've had in '08 and '07.

49

50 The sea otter hunters are keeping the

1 otters down to a manageable or conservative harvest and  
2 if you don't keep a handle on those sea otters then you  
3 have an unbalanced eco-system. Glacier Bay National Park  
4 is a perfect example of that. You have no harvest in  
5 Glacier Bay of sea otters and they're just going to wipe  
6 out that crab fishery in there.

7

8 But we are seeing increasing immature  
9 crabs in the tide on the beach that we hadn't seen in a  
10 long time.

11

12 Let's see I want to thank the Council for  
13 submitting a letter to the National Marine Fisheries  
14 concerning the salmon bycatch in the Bering Sea area.  
15 And those are the type of issues that are of tantieme  
16 amount importance to us subsistence users.

17

18 That's my report, thank you.

19

20 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you, Patty. Mr.  
21 Kookesh.

22

23 MR. KOOKESH: Mr. Chairman. Just to get  
24 a little into what I've been doing for the last year, one  
25 of the things I've been doing I made it a point to start  
26 attending local Fish and Game Advisory Committee meetings  
27 in the Juneau area. And earlier you mentioned that we  
28 need to represent only what this RAC's opinions and I  
29 made it that point -- to -- to try to do that but I've  
30 served here, you know, for nine years and I've heard many  
31 points come across from many people and also from this  
32 Council on dialoguing on a lot of issues. A lot of these  
33 issues we keep rehashing over and so you tend to kind of  
34 lose that, what exactly you said as a RAC so -- but we  
35 did -- I do serve on the community council also for  
36 Juneau, which is a local T&H there.

37

38 And I've been involved in this  
39 legislative process where we're up on the Hill following  
40 energy legislation, we're following subsistence, along  
41 with Bob Loescher and Peter Naoroz and Brad Fletch, to  
42 name a few.

43

44 And also last -- I also attended the  
45 Board of Fish meeting in Sitka and to go -- to talk a  
46 little bit about that because it is representative of the  
47 whole fishery from -- from Hoonah all the way down to  
48 past Angoon. On the Board of Fish they had two proposals  
49 that we supported, which was 236 and 262. And I -- and  
50 as a Southeast Regional Advisory Council representative

1 I did a presentation to the Board of Fish. Patty and --  
2 and Harvey were also present there. And I did make it a  
3 point to impress upon them -- especially on 236, which --  
4 and 262, which was our -- our resolutions and also on  
5 Makhnati Island, to let them know where we stood.

6

7 On 236, which is a proposal -- on 236 was  
8 also -- it was just asking for the community to have  
9 amounts necessary for subsistence. Where we got with the  
10 Board of Fish committee, that's still being determined.

11

12 And on two -- Proposal 262 we were --  
13 what we were seeking was to have them modify their seine  
14 openings around the first week of July, to back off on  
15 that so that we can allow for escapement so that  
16 basically the Hoonah and the Angoon people can have  
17 access to Basket Bay, Kanalku and Sitkho. Where that  
18 process is going, I don't know. I do know that the local  
19 manager -- or the CommFish manager did state that -- that  
20 what was going to happen is we were going to create  
21 restrictions and regulatory problems for CommFish. The  
22 Southeast Seiners had said that we were going to impact  
23 their fishery but -- and my discussions in following up  
24 with that was that we weren't -- we weren't trying to  
25 restrict or create regulatory problems, all we're trying  
26 to do is fix -- fix the amounts necessary for subsistence  
27 and the -- and the sockeye fishery around the Chatham  
28 Straits. It's a very heated issue.

29

30 And the other thing is I -- I represent  
31 Douglas Indian Association, but I'm also keenly aware  
32 that communities such as Angoon, Kake, I don't know  
33 specifically the Hoonah population, are moving toward the  
34 urban centers. We're having a rural -- a rural community  
35 residents moving to urban -- urban areas and their take  
36 on subsistence is being restricted by the urban -- the  
37 urban provisions that are out there for Juneau. We have  
38 a people who have a totally different lifestyle who have  
39 -- who are seeing their lifestyle totally being regulated  
40 in a wrong way. It, as one -- as Walter Johns had said,  
41 you know, we're not talking about spaghetti, I mean we're  
42 actually making ourselves -- we're actually making the  
43 rural Indian become a spaghetti eater, and that's one of  
44 the most disappointing things that brought to my mind  
45 about sitting on the Southeast Regional Advisory Council  
46 on subsistence, is we're basically sitting here and we're  
47 regulating away a customary and traditional lifestyle.  
48 And the unfortunate part is that at the end of the  
49 meetings, no disrespect, Mr. Chairman, we're -- we're  
50 sitting here and saying what a -- we had a great meeting,

1 what a good job we did but sadly we're sitting here  
2 regulating our people's lifestyle away and we're very  
3 proud of the meeting we had and I think that that is very  
4 sad.

5  
6 On the Unit 4 deer, we're stilling with  
7 this issue and hopefully what we'll come to -- to a head  
8 about it because I do know that we have different --  
9 different kind of hunters in different parts of Unit 4,  
10 the Hoonah one being a road system hunter, the Angoon one  
11 being a beachcombing and a woods hunter and the Sitka  
12 one, well, they're basically -- they're like us, they're  
13 all on the beach and they're going into the woods, I  
14 believe, so but we do need to address Unit 4 and break  
15 that unit into subunits so that we can have a more  
16 working relationship instead of closing off a -- a  
17 roadless system because the road system hunter is saying  
18 they're not getting it.

19  
20 And on the Sealaska, the Sealaska land  
21 bill, I do believe that Sealaska did talk in their  
22 legislation that there was no prohibition to subsistence.  
23 I do know that -- you mentioned that we need to follow  
24 Title VIII of ANILCA, that we're drifting away from it,  
25 but I also believe that the Federal Subsistence Board is  
26 also drifting away from Title VIII of subsistence, so the  
27 onus should not be just on us, it should also be on that  
28 body, not just us.

29  
30 The herring issue -- the herring issue  
31 that was brought up in Sitka, the -- the problem that  
32 we're having, if you review the Makhnati Island issue is  
33 that the Federal Subsistence Board is not being receptive  
34 to what we're saying; that is a crime in itself. We need  
35 to tell the Federal Subsistence Board that they need to  
36 start listening to us.

37  
38 Thank you.

39  
40 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you, Floyd.  
41 Merle.

42  
43 MS. HAWKINS: Yeah, the Forest Service  
44 District Ranger did close the eulachon at the Unuk River,  
45 and there was no tribal consultation this year. And Mr.  
46 Linn Kolen, he's the district ranger, I guess he's gone  
47 now, he moved on so we're going to be getting a new  
48 district ranger, someone new for us to train in tribal  
49 consultation and everything they need to be doing in the  
50 local area.

1                   But there's a lot of concern about the  
2 loss of our eulachons. Dolly Garza did email me, I was  
3 just home for a day, about a meeting they're going to  
4 have in Prince Rupert the first week of March and so  
5 there must be a lot of concern in other places about the  
6 eulachon fishery. Also eulachon grease, which is a  
7 cherished food of our Native people has gone double in  
8 price it's now \$50 for a quart of eulachon grease and we  
9 do have someone from the Tsimshian country that comes up  
10 to Ketchikan and sells us eulachons and eulachon grease  
11 and they're pretty expensive.

12  
13                   So for me there's a lot of emotions  
14 sitting on this Council, there's a lot of ambivalence, a  
15 lot of frustration in that I'm seeing our foods slowly  
16 slip away and as has been stated, the Federal Subsistence  
17 Board doesn't listen to our recommendations, especially  
18 about the availability of our foods.

19  
20                   And, you know, the next big thing is the  
21 herring eggs that always came from Sitka and were made  
22 available in every Native community in Southeast. Mr.  
23 Joe Demmert used to bring down a deckload of herring eggs  
24 and that would be our Easter eggs and everyone in town,  
25 there was no radio announcement, it was all by word of  
26 mouth, everyone knew when to go down on the dock to get  
27 their eulachons or their herring eggs and, you know,  
28 that's a way of life that I'm definitely missing.

29  
30                   And it was interesting at the last -- I  
31 missed the last meeting in Juneau, but the meeting prior  
32 to that in Sitka, a commercial sac roe fisherman had  
33 invited me to go with him on one of these sac roe fishery  
34 trips just as a witness and I said, yeah, I'd be happy to  
35 do that if you're willing to bring home a deckload of  
36 herring eggs to Ketchikan, so I never heard from him  
37 again so I guess he wasn't willing to do that, but I'm  
38 not willing to compromise where I'm coming from and my  
39 community is the one that goes without these foods.

40  
41                   You know, the State of the Nation, we're  
42 supposedly in a recession just like we were back in the  
43 30s and the government's working to bail us out of this  
44 but, you know, because of the high cost of fuel it's  
45 harder for us to get the foods. And the elders that I've  
46 talked to, they said during the recession, or the  
47 Depression back in the 30s and 40s, it wasn't even felt  
48 in Alaska because we had access to our Native foods and  
49 it's a totally different picture now where it cost so  
50 much to get out there to go get halibut from the

1 Ketchikan area. We might have our green cards but you  
2 have to go so far to get to the halibut fishery there's  
3 a lot of competition with the commercial fishery and the  
4 charter fishermen so it's just -- and it seems like you  
5 have to get more and more involved with the Fish and Game  
6 Advisory meetings and so it's just a lot of frustration.

7  
8 And I just want to continue to be a part  
9 of this committee and we support Sitka Tribe in their  
10 quest to protect their herring -- subsistence herring egg  
11 fishery because it benefits all of us. We did send some  
12 money to the past Chair to help him put the information  
13 in the newspaper in Sitka and we didn't send anyone to  
14 the Board of Fishery meeting but I knew there would be  
15 people there that would be able to testify and get the  
16 word out where we need to protect our subsistence.

17  
18 As far as the Sealaska lands bill, my  
19 tribe hasn't made a decision but I do have them doing the  
20 research on our Way of Life Committee to see which way  
21 we're going to go so it's interesting to hear the  
22 different viewpoints.

23  
24 And it's the 50th Anniversary of the  
25 state of Alaska and so the Daily News in Ketchikan  
26 interviewed various Native people and I was one of them  
27 and my input was, that, statehood I thought was a great  
28 thing for Alaska, especially since the bylaws of the  
29 state -- or I forget -- the Constitution -- anyway, in a  
30 section of that it said that the State had to listen to  
31 the Alaska Native people and couldn't interfere with  
32 their lands and so that led up to the ANCSA regulations  
33 and the -- the village corporations and Sealaska and all  
34 of that so it makes things even more complicated but it  
35 was a positive thing where Natives were able to have land  
36 and resources and money that would have never happened  
37 unless that provision was in the State Constitution. So  
38 I look for the good things and the positive things that  
39 are going to help us in the protection of our way of life  
40 and I guess ANILCA is the way to go. And so I'm glad to  
41 be here and to represent the people of Southeast Alaska.

42  
43 Thank you.

44  
45 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Gunalcheesh, Merle.

46  
47 Mr. See.

48  
49 MR. SEE: Got to remember to push the  
50 button.

1 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Yeah.

2

3 MR. SEE: My name is Michael See, I'm out  
4 of Hoonah representing Northeast Chichagof. I assume  
5 that'd be my area.

6

7 I listened to your different problems you  
8 have in your areas and we pretty much have the same  
9 thing.

10

11 We have the martens, the first time they  
12 planted martens on Chichagof Island they didn't take. I  
13 was living in Tenakee where I grew up when the second  
14 batch they brought out and unfortunately those did take  
15 and as a consequence of that we lost most of our  
16 ptarmigan and our grouse, they became of thing of the  
17 past. But the last few years they've been hitting the  
18 martens pretty good so the grouse are coming back and the  
19 ptarmigans also.

20

21 We're in the middle of going through an  
22 EIS study with the Glacier Bay National Park so we can be  
23 able to go in there and get sea eggs again. I think some  
24 of the rules, myself, personally I don't agree with any  
25 of their options because they're being too restrictive,  
26 you know, it's our land, they're our eggs, you know,  
27 don't make things too hard for us.

28

29 I think as far like we have that  
30 controlled land use designation up there and that's led  
31 to a lot of bears. I mean, what was it, I think they  
32 lost something like seven bears in town a couple years  
33 ago, they get into town we wind up killing them.

34

35 We also have the problem with the sea  
36 otters coming in, we try to control them. Only Glacier  
37 Bay is their refuge where they say to maintain a healthy  
38 population they need something like 12 or 12 and a half  
39 percent a year increase so to maintain their population.  
40 In Glacier Bay they started with six and five years later  
41 they have something like 2,000 so it's not a healthy  
42 population there.

43

44 We have differences with the charter  
45 boats and the lack of halibut in front of town. We're in  
46 Port Frederick, we live on the bay there and our solution  
47 to that, we're trying to establish a LAMP like they have  
48 in Sitka, where we'll have more or less, control of our  
49 own waters, you know, we want to be able to control that  
50 because I'm a firm believer in that if you don't take

1 charge of your resources somebody else will. And  
2 whatever they decide then you have to live with it  
3 whether you like it or not. So I'd rather be on the side  
4 that's making the rules.

5  
6 For our deer hunting up in Northeast  
7 Chichagof it was totally devastated by that snowfall we  
8 had, we lost something like 85 percent of our deer. This  
9 last year was the second year we voluntary shut down our  
10 doe season and part of that, I believe is things that  
11 could have been avoided with the harvest of the trees,  
12 the over harvesting of the trees where they're losing  
13 their habitat, and with the snowfall there's no place for  
14 them to go. I think that's at contributing factor.

15  
16 As far as subsistence, I sometimes get in  
17 trouble because I say, we don't live a subsistence  
18 lifestyle. I'll tell everyone I hunt as many seals -- I  
19 probably kill more seals than anybody here but we do a  
20 lot of -- we get -- I get my own sea gull eggs, I get --  
21 we live on ducks, deer meat, seals and fish. But I don't  
22 consider myself to be subsistence. Semi-subsistence  
23 because I do -- I have a job. To be a true subsistence  
24 person you can't -- it's -- that lifestyle is a complete  
25 way of life in itself, there's not enough time for  
26 anything else because it takes a lot of time to be  
27 subsistence.

28  
29 I sometimes get frustrated in that we're  
30 fighting for these things and 10 years away from now it  
31 may be a moot question because with assimilation and the  
32 exodus of people from the rural communities into the  
33 urban centers the people, you know, we're trying to bring  
34 up our kids now, even in my own hometown there's a lot of  
35 young kids, they don't eat seal meat, they don't know how  
36 to make dry fish, they -- we're losing the way of life,  
37 but that is assimilation, that was the purpose of the  
38 Bureau of Indian Affairs.

39  
40 So I don't know I like to be -- I  
41 appreciate being here, in that, hopefully I can make some  
42 impact somewhere or, you know, everybody makes an impact  
43 and my Uncle Frank always told me, he says, well, a wise  
44 person, he speaks when he has something to say and an  
45 ignorant person will speak just to hear himself talk; so  
46 I try to listen and I try to take in as much as I can.  
47 Hopefully some of the things I say will make a  
48 contribution.

49  
50 Thank you very much.

1                   CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you, Mr. See. I'm  
2 sure that your participation on this Council is going to  
3 be very helpful to us.

4  
5                   So that is everyone now. So the next  
6 thing on the agenda is, I guess, public testimony.

7  
8                   I think one of the things that we need to  
9 impress, you know, is that anyone who wants to come in at  
10 any time to testify, need to go over to Melinda over  
11 there and pick up a green sheet like this and fill out  
12 and then she'll bring it up to us and we'll allow you to  
13 testify.

14  
15                   Is Joseph Sebastian here.

16  
17                   MR. SEBASTIAN: That's me.

18  
19                   CHAIRMAN ADAMS: All right, sir, come on  
20 up. Let us know what your name is, who you represent and  
21 what you're going to talk about, please.

22  
23                   MR. SEBASTIAN: Yes, good morning. My  
24 name's Joseph Sebastian. I'm here this morning to talk  
25 about the Sealaska land bill which is kind of up in the  
26 air right now but it's something that's not going away  
27 and kind of keeps reappearing in different forms. I  
28 brought some attachments to pass to the Council.

29  
30                   MS. HERNANDEZ: Here, I'll help you.

31  
32                   MR. SEBASTIAN: And I have a few more  
33 copies if anybody's interested, you can pass those  
34 around.

35  
36                   It's such a big proposal that it's  
37 difficult, really, just with words in 10 or 12 minutes to  
38 encompass what's really taking place here.

39  
40                   First for the record I'd like to say that  
41 I've been a fisherman in Southeast Alaska for 30 years  
42 and I lived in Point Baker, one of the affected  
43 communities for 25 years, and still maintain a home  
44 there.

45  
46                   Like Mr. See said from Hoonah, almost  
47 nobody lives a full scale traditional subsistence  
48 lifestyle. Myself, I like to call the lifestyle I lived,  
49 there's the Native and Sourdough lifestyle, and both of  
50 them go pretty far back because we can our deer meat, we

1 can our berries, we smoke and can our fish, and you can  
2 use a freezer if you got one.

3  
4 This proposal, at any time anyone  
5 criticizes something another party's trying to do there's  
6 a host of negative things that arise and my criticism of  
7 this Sealaska proposal, it's been suggested that because  
8 Sealaska is a Native Corporation that they're somehow  
9 above scrutiny and any criticism of this corporation or  
10 their proposals is somehow anti-Native; and that's the  
11 first thing I want to lay to rest. I don't care of this  
12 Sealaska proposal was from the Chinese or French  
13 Polynesians or who made it, in its present form it's just  
14 simply not acceptable in this day and age to cut  
15 communities off, not just at the knees literally they'd  
16 be cutting our communities of Point Baker and Port  
17 Protection off right at the ankles.

18  
19 And if you look carefully at this map,  
20 this is kind of a redesigned map. The Sealaska proposal  
21 has been changed substantially every two or three years,  
22 they've been taking another shot, well, let's run this up  
23 the flagpole and see how it flies and it was Heceta  
24 Island and Tuxican and this particular proposal is north  
25 Prince of Wales, West Kosciusko and Tuxican.

26  
27 Now, personally living in Point Baker the  
28 Tuxican proposal did not bother me in the least, nor did  
29 the Heceta one, in fact I thought the Heceta proposal  
30 looked like maybe had some merit but for the people that  
31 lived in that area, well, they were just hog wild, dead  
32 set against it, Sealaska taking such a huge bite.

33  
34 And another issue I'd like to lay to rest  
35 is Sealaska is entitled to this 65, 70,000 acres of land  
36 and everyone recognizes that.

37  
38 I want Sealaska to, after 30-some years,  
39 to finally be able to achieve and finish their land  
40 selections.

41  
42 However, that has to be done in  
43 cooperation with other communities and other interests  
44 and other people's concerns unless they can find a place  
45 remote enough and non-offensive enough somewhere that  
46 people can go along with it and buy into it and I think  
47 at this time a lot of parties are negotiating towards  
48 that end on the Roundtable and other forms of  
49 communication. I know this is an ongoing thing.

50

1                   But this particular proposal, and I'll  
2 speak directly to the north Prince of Wales one, would  
3 impact, not only Point Baker or Port Protection, but  
4 people in Ketchikan, Craig, Klawock, Thorne Bay, Hollis,  
5 Hydaburg, and Wrangell as well.

6  
7                   The particular structure of the way these  
8 lands are fully located around all the roads and some of  
9 the most productive old growth timber that's still left,  
10 and this map doesn't reflect at all the present patchwork  
11 that exists there. North Prince of Wales is much like  
12 north Kuiu, one of the heaviest clear-cut places in the  
13 Tongass and there is, indeed, some old growth existing  
14 there, and what little that remains is extremely valuable  
15 for whatever deer resource happens to be left. I,  
16 myself, was never really a vehicle road hunter, although  
17 several times if the weather was bad and we couldn't get  
18 someplace else by boat, we hiked up these various roads  
19 and we would meet guys from the south end of the island  
20 and maybe a 15 or \$20,000 pickup and the best brand new  
21 binoculars available and the best high powered rifle with  
22 a scope and we were kind of standing there in our Extra-  
23 Tuffs and our hunting gear rags and, you know, I just  
24 felt a little bit outgunned by some of the competition on  
25 that road. However, it's a fact of life that this road  
26 corridor is heavily utilized by people from all over  
27 southern Southeast and not just the residents of these  
28 two villages alone.

29  
30                   But the residents of these villages do  
31 use this area as well for hunting, and I've bicycled up  
32 many of these roads to their end, early spring or early  
33 summer and hiked up many others from the beach and I'm  
34 pretty fairly well acquainted with the terrain.

35  
36                   I met with Mr. Todd Antioquia of Sealaska  
37 about a year and a half, year and three-quarters ago now  
38 and he was from Kake, real nice gentleman, very well  
39 spoken, took notes of our conversation and I was hoping  
40 that we could kind of avert a big showdown over this bill  
41 and, you know, maybe find some other way. I suggested at  
42 the time that with so much of Sealaska's membership, up  
43 to 50 percent living down south, there could be BLM lands  
44 or Federal lands, old Army bases or what have you in the  
45 Lower 48 that they may be able to select from and find a  
46 better economic opportunity from than cut over timber  
47 lands in Southeast Alaska. Whether they're pursuing that  
48 idea or not, I don't know, but I think it's a valid idea  
49 and I know Sealaska has a lot of interests, timber is  
50 perhaps one of their poorest interests at this time.

1                   We are confident that something better  
2 than this proposal can be achieved if people are willing  
3 to take the time and find an acceptable alternative.

4  
5                   However, Sealaska has not been idle, they  
6 wield a lot of power in the region. In some ways they  
7 remind me of the pulp mills, they own almost every  
8 politician and every news reporter and advertise widely  
9 and they carry a lot of people in their vest pocket and  
10 the back pocket as well. It's a powerful corporation.  
11 And our two Senators Mr. Begich and Ms. Murkowski seem to  
12 be very warm to their ideas, and residents from our  
13 community have called Lisa Murkowski and said, you know,  
14 this particular thing is really going to impact us  
15 greatly, a staffer from our office responded to one of  
16 those people, well, if this is just about not in my  
17 backyard, that's not good enough. I consider an answer  
18 like that by a representative from our government to be  
19 a slap in the face. I know for myself I spent 25 of the  
20 best years of my life and my youth building a home and  
21 dock and raising my family there, and it's -- we survived  
22 the pulp mill years. They just about wiped the place  
23 out.

24  
25                   One of the things that Mr. Antioquia  
26 mentioned is that Sealaska isn't the same company as it  
27 used to be, they're going to do things differently now.  
28 They're going to proceed in a different business fashion  
29 to their timber interests. And I said, oh, really, he  
30 said, yes, he said, you know, we've did things in the  
31 past we're not going to repeat. Well, I hope that's the  
32 case. But the problem is whether it's individuals or  
33 whether it's corporations, you can only judge on their  
34 past record. And when I look at Sealaska's past record  
35 where it's plainly evident, down in the Craig area, or  
36 Dall Island where they've, you know, rapidly liquidated  
37 their timber interests, we can only imagine what's going  
38 to happen to the rest of the available old growth in this  
39 area.

40  
41                   I don't know what kind of position or  
42 stand or how the Council would view or be involved in  
43 this particular land selection and where it stands at  
44 this point.

45  
46                   I've heard that there's two bills  
47 pending, one bill from Lisa Murkowski is to free Sealaska  
48 from the confines of ANCSA and those confines are to only  
49 select lands inside the box, I hope many of you are  
50 familiar with that term, inside the box, areas were

1 identified in ANCSA that Native Corporations could select  
2 their lands. I believe Sealaska has successfully  
3 completed 288,000, that's an approximate number, 288,000  
4 acres of land and they have another 65 or 70 to go.

5  
6 This bill hasn't been introduced by Lisa,  
7 I heard it's gaining critical mass. It's also unclear  
8 whether or not she's going to reintroduce this bill ,  
9 this present bill that we kind have, the biggest part in  
10 front of us, if she does it would do a disservice to  
11 organizations like the Roundtable where they are trying  
12 to find a more mediated solution that doesn't impact  
13 small communities or kind of gobble up the total end of  
14 the road.

15  
16 North Prince of Wales, the lady from  
17 Pelican was mentioning about how deep the snow was up  
18 there. For whatever reason, just because it's another  
19 degree further south or two, we do get a good -- a lot of  
20 snow, enough snow to close the road at the summit, but we  
21 don't get that 30 feet of snow like Baranof does or 27  
22 feet of snow and north Prince of Wales is a productive  
23 area for deer even with as much of it cut over as it is.  
24 I think something needs to be done and Sealaska needs to  
25 receive a sign that this is kind of a bad idea and what  
26 can we do to find something acceptable for your  
27 corporation and maybe let some of these other places off  
28 the hook.

29  
30 I know one thing north Prince of Wales  
31 has already paid the price.

32  
33 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Mr. Sebastian, could you  
34 sum up your presentation.

35  
36 MR. SEBASTIAN: Yes.

37  
38 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: I think we've got an  
39 idea what.....

40  
41 MR. SEBASTIAN: I should have said  
42 summation, thank you.

43  
44 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: And I'd like to give the  
45 Council an opportunity to ask you some questions, too, so  
46 if you don't mind, please.

47  
48 MR. SEBASTIAN: Thank you, sir.

49  
50 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you.

1 MR. SEBASTIAN: I guess I lost my train  
2 of thought.

3  
4 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: I'm sorry.

5  
6 MR. SEBASTIAN: That's all right. In  
7 summation, though, an alternative needs to be found and  
8 we need to keep the rhetoric at a minimum because I think  
9 everybody wants Sealaska to finally be successful in its  
10 selection process after so many years but this just isn't  
11 quite it.

12  
13 So thank you very much and I'll be happy  
14 to try to answer any question anyone might have of me.

15  
16 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Yeah, just stay right  
17 there and we'll see if there's any questions that anyone  
18 might have, but you need to turn your mic off right now.

19  
20 Thank you.

21  
22 Any questions, anyone. Mike, go ahead.

23  
24 MR. DOUVILLE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.  
25 I agree with Patty and Don that this does affect  
26 subsistence. For one, when Sealaska, if they ever get  
27 their hands or this land goes to Sealaska, it becomes  
28 private land and Federal law or Federal subsistence, as  
29 we know it, doesn't apply on private land.

30  
31 The other impact is that Sealaska doesn't  
32 keep you off their land, you can walk anywhere on it, but  
33 their policy is you cannot, if you're a non-shareholder,  
34 drive on it. So you lose some in that respect.

35  
36 It seems like no one disagrees that they  
37 have a certain amount of timber coming to them, but in  
38 this bill they've also attached approximately 8,000 acres  
39 of non-timber land, which is what they call future sites  
40 and sacred sites.

41  
42 Do you have an opinion about that?

43  
44 MR. SEBASTIAN: I do. Many places,  
45 Sitka, Craig, certainly has seen the impact of the  
46 charter boat fishery and, you know, the halibut fishery  
47 has kind of suffered because of that and I'm not sure  
48 what their final plan for a lot of these sites are, I  
49 think it is important to protect sacred and cultural  
50 sites and certainly no one, I could think of, no

1 reasonable person would find anything wrong with  
2 protecting those sites but a shotgun approach that we'll  
3 take this one, this one, this one, this one and that one,  
4 wherever it looks attractive on the map, those are not  
5 opportunities other Native Corporations had at the time.  
6 And for Sealaska to waltz in at this late date and say,  
7 well, we're entitled to whether they got to or not, I  
8 think it's unfair and I think it's -- it has to be  
9 carefully considered and it seems to have expanded. It  
10 was at 12, it was at 26, the last I heard it was at 50-  
11 some. So the idea keeps going.

12  
13 Then last I heard is the Roundtable  
14 squashed all of those sites, they just said flat out no.  
15 So, you know, it's an involving process and I just think  
16 to get the best result for the communities of Southeast  
17 Alaska that are subsistence dependent and for Sealaska  
18 itself to live in harmony with its neighbors, it's just  
19 going to take a lot of work. It's not something they can  
20 do alone. They're going to need everybody to go along  
21 with them to reach the best result and that's what I'm  
22 hoping for.

23  
24 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you, any follow  
25 up.

26  
27 MR. DOUVILLE: You probably know better  
28 than I but it's my understanding that within the initial  
29 selection area, the timber has not been totally  
30 exhausted, and then we're wanting to -- wanting to select  
31 outside that area, is there any truth to that?

32  
33 MR. SEBASTIAN: The way it's been phrased  
34 to me is a lot of these Native communities that were  
35 inside the box and it's my understanding there's an  
36 additional 327,000 that they could select inside the box  
37 and I don't have that data available to me but those  
38 surround places like Craig and Klawock, Hydaburg and a  
39 lot of people down there feel like they've been  
40 traumatized enough and they don't want -- they support  
41 Sealaska going outside the box just to get some of the  
42 pain of such massive clear-cutting that's taken place,  
43 you know, around Craig, Hydaburg and Hoonah, somewhere  
44 else. And that's the sentiment that I've run into and  
45 can answer you with.

46  
47 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you. Anyone else.

48  
49 MS. PHILLIPS: Mr. Chair.  
50

1 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Patty.

2

3 MS. PHILLIPS: Thank you, Chairman Adams,  
4 Sr.

5

6 I have a question about is there a  
7 possibility of a compromise if there were provisions in  
8 the legislation that required second growth management  
9 alternatives to clear-cuts, perhaps patch-cuts or select  
10 logging or thinning that would improve deer habitat in  
11 your area and deer productivity.

12

13 MR. SEBASTIAN: The Federal government,  
14 the Forest Service has been very poor at monitoring its  
15 own lands, even though they have hundreds of Staff  
16 people. If promises were made, I -- I just think it  
17 would be unworkable. I would remind the council that the  
18 biggest eagle kill, the biggest kill of bald eagles took  
19 place in Labouchere Bay where up to over 150 bald eagles  
20 were killed in 1987 by the logging camp of LP. We've  
21 seen every crime imaginable take place in this area, from  
22 whole log rafts being stolen and exported in the round,  
23 they just disappeared, nobody knows what happened to  
24 them, to whole units being moved across one valley to  
25 another, to almost all of Red Bay -- if people are  
26 familiar with that area and you wonder, geez, they sure  
27 wiped that place, it looks like a couple thousand acres,  
28 it is a couple thousand acre clear-cut because the Forest  
29 Service did that themselves because of fall down, which  
30 if they couldn't get enough timber from somewhere else  
31 and they signed a contract to get the timber -- what I'm  
32 trying to say is promises and good intentions don't go  
33 very far out in the field, and we have our own history of  
34 broken promises, broken laws, skullduggery, out and out  
35 thievery taking place and I just really -- like I said  
36 this end of the island is utilized by hundreds of people  
37 as far away as Ketchikan, Wrangell and the far corners of  
38 the rest of the island, not just our two twin  
39 communities, and that's what I think makes it such an  
40 important thing that it's just too heavily used already  
41 to be privatized and removed.

42

43 With the -- everyone, I think is aware  
44 that right now the annual Federal timber production in  
45 Southeast Alaska has been somewhere between 30 million  
46 feet and 40 million feet fluctuating for the last five or  
47 six years instead of 267 million feet or as much as 360  
48 million feet in the old days. And when Sealaska and the  
49 rest of the Native Corporations and the Federal  
50 government were cutting back in the heyday, middle '80s,

1 early '90s as much as 100 million feet a year was being  
2 logged but, you know, those days are done and we're left  
3 with what's leftover and we have to -- as many here have  
4 said this morning, try to subsist with what's leftover  
5 from the carnage that took place, a free for all, and we  
6 got a little bit leftover here and we'd, I think if  
7 careful management went slow, you know, it could last for  
8 quite awhile, but we're talking about leftovers and we  
9 have a history of the road to hell paved with good  
10 intentions and really Sealaska's record is when you look  
11 at their record, I personally don't care to live in the  
12 shadow of a record like that.

13

14 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay, anyone else have  
15 any questions. Floyd, do you have.

16

17 MR. KOOKESH: Sure. I have a couple  
18 questions. Unfortunately you're traumatized as it is and  
19 -- but a little while ago we talked about under .810 of  
20 ANILCA and one of the questions that's in there under  
21 .810a is that it would significantly restrict  
22 subsistence. Are you of the opinion that what the  
23 Sealaska entitlement is going to also do?

24

25 But before you answer I have one more  
26 comment.

27

28 Under .810 since it was referenced,  
29 .810c, it states that nothing -- too bad we don't have an  
30 attorney here to -- nothing herein shall be construed to  
31 prohibit or impair the ability of the State or any Native  
32 Corporation to make land selections and receive land  
33 conveyances pursuant to the Alaska Statehood Act or the  
34 Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act, which is basically  
35 the entitlement. Last year when we talked about this  
36 Sealaska issue we had someone here from the Mental Health  
37 Trust Lands, and my comment at that time to the  
38 gentleman, maybe you might want to talk about them a  
39 little bit, too, since you're very familiar with Sealaska  
40 you must be familiar with the Mental Health Land Trust,  
41 I hope I got the terminology right, my comment to the  
42 gentleman was, in looking at what they were proposing, I  
43 told him they didn't look any different than Sealaska,  
44 than what the State of Alaska was proposing. So I'm just  
45 wondering what part of -- which one's Animal Farm and  
46 which one's the real, you know, the -- the bad guy here.

47

48 MR. SEBASTIAN: I'm sorry, I'm not quite  
49 sure how you're phrasing your question. I'm not quite  
50 sure what you're asking me. It was like more of a

1 statement than a question, I'm not quite sure -- I'd be  
2 happy to respond but.....

3  
4 MR. KOOKESH: Well, my comment was that  
5 you're -- you're -- you're commenting and -- and looking  
6 at subsistence, which we're bound to follow Title VIII  
7 and Title VIII has this little section here that -- that  
8 says if a withdrawal has -- significantly restricts  
9 subsistence, my question to you, does it? And my other  
10 question that -- going back to this other portion of .810  
11 -- .810(3(c) -- or three -- yeah, 3cc says that -- that  
12 this is -- this is an allowable entitlement to a  
13 corporation.

14  
15 MR. SEBASTIAN: On the first, this  
16 present selection would be a severe restriction of  
17 subsistence, there's no doubt about it. I mean, you  
18 know, we lived outside the logging camp for about almost  
19 20 years and the loggers all came to Baker on Sunday to,  
20 you know, cut loose a little steam. When hunting season  
21 opened the number of deer shot on the first day by the  
22 loggers or before the first day was astronomical. So  
23 whether you're there on the first day or not, you better  
24 be there on the first day or that's all she wrote.

25  
26 The other thing that happened in the Lab  
27 Bay dump is that an amazing amount of waste of deer  
28 carcasses, the same thing where backstrap and hams were  
29 taken and the rest of the deer was thrown away.

30  
31 I'm not saying that would happen, but if  
32 these lands were selected they'd be subject to the same  
33 kind of wrong things taking place.

34  
35 On the second under ANCSA, Sealaska has  
36 no right to even ask for these lands, not this one, not  
37 north Kosciusko, not Tuxican; those are all outside the  
38 box at this point in time. They have no right. This is  
39 California Dreamin' is what these selections are. This  
40 is how we can Tiddly-Wink what we have to ask for into  
41 the highest and best offer.

42  
43 Now, I don't blame them for choosing  
44 this, this is a real plum if they could get their hands  
45 on it. But it would be a plum that would be harmful to  
46 a large strata of people all across society, like I said,  
47 from Ketchikan to Wrangell, Petersburg may have a little  
48 different hunting pattern, I don't know how many.

49  
50 But another point to bear in mind that I

1 hadn't mentioned, now they have the northern ferry route  
2 that goes to Kaufman Cove, there's going to be more  
3 people, more people than ever coming from Wrangell and  
4 Petersburg to hunt on north Prince of Wales, so the  
5 hunting pressure isn't just staying steady, it's growing,  
6 and to add something like this to the mix, it's just sure  
7 to cause friction, bad feelings, heartache, and certainly  
8 loss of subsistence opportunity.

9

10 I hope that answered your question, sir.

11

12 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay, Mr. See, yeah, go  
13 ahead.

14

15 MR. SEE: Mr. Chairman. I've had some  
16 instances where we used maps like this with the Forest  
17 Service and a map like this can be misleading. And part  
18 of the one deal there where they were talking about  
19 opening up logging on northeast Chichagof, they put out  
20 a map like this here and they wanted part of our -- part  
21 of our question to them was, could you show us, say like  
22 okay you have this in dark green or whatever, show us  
23 which areas have already been logged. And when they saw  
24 how many areas had already been logged, there wasn't very  
25 many trees actually left so -- and they talk about -- but  
26 I don't know how much has been logged here, I just -- I  
27 haven't been there myself, I don't know, I just have to  
28 bow to your knowledge that a map like this can be  
29 misleading in how much timber is there left, how much  
30 will they be taking. I can't see, you know, the influx  
31 of logging again, I don't think it will ever reach the  
32 magnitude that it was in the past, there's not that many  
33 trees left.

34

35 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you, Mike. So is  
36 there something that you want from us as far as this  
37 issue is concerned?

38

39 MR. SEBASTIAN: I don't -- like I said, I  
40 don't know if the Council can take a position that this  
41 would be harmful to subsistence, this land selection  
42 would be harmful for subsistence, if that's what -- if  
43 you have the power to do so I would urge you to take that  
44 position.

45

46 The Forest Service conducted roadside  
47 studies where they stopped hunters in vehicles and asked  
48 where they've hunted and how many they got and, you know,  
49 Prince of Wales, a lot of people come to Alaska and they  
50 think this is like the Wild West and Prince of Wales

1 probably suffers more wildlife atrocities than anywhere  
2 else in Southeast Alaska. I mean greenhorns, their first  
3 inkling, they see a bear, we better shoot it. A lodge in  
4 Craig was busted. A guy was illegally, 39 bear hunts, or  
5 they killed 39 bear hunts, he didn't have the right  
6 permits or paperwork yet he was taking out visitors, the  
7 room for abuse on Prince of Wales of wildlife is just --  
8 I think what I'm trying to portray is there already  
9 exists heavy, heavy hunting pressure. The trapping  
10 pressure alone, I've heard of guys that are essentially  
11 trapping the whole island in the winter and they trap  
12 right until the snow closes the road, quite often their  
13 traps are left up in here until spring with whatever's in  
14 it while the road closes just somewhere here by the  
15 summit by Red Bay and they retrieve their traps in the  
16 spring because of vehicular access.

17  
18                               You know Prince of Wales almost defies  
19 common reality of how we choose to view the world.  
20 Things are extremely flawed there. And what people are  
21 trying to do, I think, is make the best of a bad  
22 situation and.....

23  
24                               CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you, Mr.  
25 Sebastian, we appreciate, you know, your coming here and  
26 sharing this information with us.

27  
28                               I doubt -- would you turn your thing off,  
29 please.

30  
31                               MR. SEBASTIAN: Sorry.

32  
33                               CHAIRMAN ADAMS: I'm not sure whether we  
34 can do anything or not because we can't appeal to  
35 Congress, you know, it's just not within our system to be  
36 able to do that. However, a little bit later on, I think  
37 we'll ask the Forest Service to give us a report, you  
38 know, and it can also be put on the future agenda. But  
39 I just need to, you know, talk with some people here a  
40 little bit more to find out if there is anything that we  
41 can do to assist in this situation but I doubt whether  
42 there's very much help that we can do at this point.

43  
44                               And it's about time for lunch now so.....

45  
46                               MR. STOKES: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

47  
48                               CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Go ahead, Dick.

49  
50                               MR. STOKES: Thank you. I think our

1 present administration with a new President will take  
2 care of this situation because by July 1st we'll have to  
3 destroy all ammunition that we have and we can't buy any,  
4 no one will be able to buy any ammunition so he's keeping  
5 his word, he won't take the rifles or guns, but he's  
6 making it so we can't and this includes the handloaders,  
7 they have to turn everything in and destroy them by July  
8 1st.

9

10 MR. SEBASTIAN: If the Council can pass  
11 a resolution opposing the north Prince of Wales  
12 selection, I think that would be very helpful and it may  
13 be enough to get Sealaska to rethink the present  
14 planning. We're very hopeful that some resolution of an  
15 issue, happiness can be somewhere else.

16

17 I thank the Council for their time and  
18 you guys have an impossible job and I thank you all  
19 individually for all the efforts you put forth.  
20 Subsistence, I think, is worth fighting for and worth  
21 trying to protect.

22

23 Thank you, everyone.

24

25 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Mr. Sebastian thank you  
26 for bringing this impossible task before us, we really  
27 appreciate that.

28

29 (Laughter)

30

31 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay, we need to break  
32 for lunch now and I understand that there is halibut  
33 chowder over there, you know, dig down deep into your  
34 pockets, it's a donation, they're not saying, you know,  
35 whether it's going to be a certain amount but whatever  
36 you feel is necessary dump it in that thing over there  
37 and we'll break for lunch and be back here at 1:15.

38

39 Okay.

40

41 (Off record)

42

43 (On record)

44

45 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay, good afternoon,  
46 ladies and gentlemen. I trust you all had a real nice  
47 lunch and stroll around town on this very good day but  
48 we've got business to do so let's get down to it.

49

50 (Pause)

1 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay, what we want to do  
2 now is turn the time over to, Susan, are you going to do  
3 this presentation -- did you delegate it to someone, oh,  
4 Tricia is going to go first. Okay, Tricia, I thought you  
5 were going to go afterwards because of all that stuff up  
6 there. So I guess we can handle that okay.

7  
8 MS. O'CONNOR: I think we can adjust.  
9 Mr. Chair. Members of the Council. I'm Tricia O'Connor  
10 the Tongass National Forest Wildlife Subsistence Planning  
11 Staff Officer and I'm on the agenda to talk about a few  
12 updates from the Tongass and then if there's any  
13 questions from the Council I can certainly answer them  
14 about what's going on with the Forest Service.

15  
16 The first one on your agenda is the  
17 schedule of proposed actions, or as we all like our  
18 acronyms with the Forest Service, the SOPA, S-O-P-A.  
19 It's just a reminder that that is something that comes  
20 out from the Tongass on a quarterly basis. I believe  
21 Robert Larson has some copies that he can send around.  
22 And it really is the place for you to keep tabs on what's  
23 proposed in the Forest Service in terms of projects,  
24 whether it be a timber sale, a recreation project, road  
25 project or whatever, and I encourage you to take a look  
26 at that. If there's specific questions on projects I can  
27 certainly help point you in the right direction, I  
28 probably can't answer all of them. And typically the  
29 best contact for specific questions is who's listed on  
30 there, whether it's the district ranger or the project  
31 manager. So I just wanted to give you a head's up that  
32 that's out there. This is available on the internet as  
33 well, and we'll just keep you posted that way through  
34 these meetings with that.

35  
36 That's all I had on that topic.

37  
38 Next topic -- would you like me to, Mr.  
39 Chair, to run through the topics or stop and have  
40 questions.

41  
42 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Yeah, I was going to  
43 pause for questions. I just wanted to let everyone know  
44 that, you know, we're taking you now because I guess  
45 you're leaving tomorrow. So, you know, you were further  
46 down on the agenda, but, you know, we had a motion to  
47 adopt the agenda as a guide, you know, so we could move  
48 around.

49  
50 So, go ahead, are there any questions by

1 anyone, Mr. Bangs, please.

2

3 MR. BANGS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.  
4 With the introduction of this stimulus package, is that  
5 going to change the SOPAs, you know, the -- I mean the  
6 one that I read that came a few weeks ago had a lot of  
7 proposals or projects that were decommissioning cabins  
8 to, you know, different products, Forest products and  
9 projects, and I'm wondering if that's going to change  
10 significantly with this introduction of money.

11

12 MS. O'CONNOR: We have been pretty  
13 valiantly working the past week or two on coming up with  
14 proposed projects for the stimulus package that Congress  
15 has passed. And because of the short timeframe that the  
16 intent of spending that money is in creating jobs very  
17 quickly we looked at focusing on projects that had  
18 already gone through NEPA and had that process cleared.  
19 So my expectation is you may not see these on the SOPA  
20 because we've already made a decision on many of them.  
21 But I say that with a caveat is that we may some projects  
22 that have already gone through that and so we may have to  
23 make some adjustments on this.

24

25 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Anyone else.

26

27 MS. PHILLIPS: Mr. Chair.

28

29 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay, go ahead -- oh,  
30 sorry, Patty.

31

32 MS. PHILLIPS: Can you give an example of  
33 what might be on there?

34

35 MS. O'CONNOR: According to the  
36 legislation in what money is coming to the Forest  
37 Service, there was some pretty strict interpretations of  
38 what kinds of projects and so the Forest Service was  
39 focusing on road restoration projects and stream  
40 restoration projects, any facilities, maintenance so that  
41 could be a building, it could be a cabin, a recreation  
42 facility, we were looking at those kinds of projects. So  
43 those were the primary types of projects that, at least  
44 on the Tongass, we've been looking at. And we did submit  
45 a significant number of those.

46

47 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay. How are we doing.

48

49 (No comments)

50

1 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Move on.

2

3 MS. O'CONNOR: Okay, the next topic was  
4 the access and travel management planning and I have  
5 talked about this at past meetings and just want to give  
6 a quick update. There is a lot of activity continuing on  
7 the Tongass. We do have a target of completing all  
8 district access travel management plans by -- and have a  
9 visitor use map published by December of 2010. And so to  
10 try to meet that deadline there's a lot of activity going  
11 on now with access planning. And there are a couple of  
12 districts that have completed their plans and that would  
13 be Wrangell and Sitka, and then there are several others,  
14 Prince of Wales Island, Ketchikan, actually I think is  
15 finished, too, but Prince of Wales is very close and then  
16 everyone else is following suit behind that.

17

18 And as you're well aware there's the  
19 balance of looking at impacts of roads on subsistence  
20 resources, trying to balance that with access for  
21 subsistence users, and so those are big issues that the  
22 districts are all tackling as they work through this  
23 process.

24

25 And that was what I had for that topic  
26 too.

27

28 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Questions anyone.

29

30 (No comments)

31

32 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Hearing none, go ahead.

33

34 MS. O'CONNOR: The last topic I had to  
35 talk a little bit about was the Tongass Futures  
36 Roundtable, I know this has come up in the past and I was  
37 asked just to give a little bit of an update of what  
38 they're doing and then kind of a status of potentially  
39 some involvement between the Roundtable and this Council,  
40 and I'll talk about that at the end.

41

42 The Tongass Futures Roundtable is a  
43 collaborative effort and, I was looking today for kind of  
44 what their -- they have a charter, and if you're very  
45 interested in that group, they have a website which is  
46 TongassFutures.net, I believe, and so you can read all  
47 about, look at their charter, their members on that, but  
48 when I was looking at their website, you know, in a  
49 nutshell their charter is that they are a collaborative  
50 effort of stakeholders to address public policy issues on

1 the Tongass and in a nutshell that's what they're set out  
2 to do.

3  
4                   They have 35 members, and those members  
5 of the Roundtable come from Southeast Alaska all over  
6 plus outside. There are some members that come from  
7 outside interests as well. There are Forest Service  
8 members on it as well. There are other agencies  
9 represented as well, other government entities, and they  
10 have continued to meet for the past several years, and,  
11 in fact, the reason I am leaving is they are meeting in  
12 Juneau this week, tomorrow and the next day and I need to  
13 go attend that meeting as well.

14  
15                   You know they continue to work on  
16 collaborative solutions to a lot of the sticky problems  
17 that we're facing on the Tongass. One of their primary  
18 goals has been to try to deal with the timber supply  
19 issue, both from a short-term and a long-term standpoint,  
20 and that has spun off into addressing things like  
21 transitioning to second growth, utilization of biomass,  
22 they've looked at issues related to climate change and I  
23 think, as was discussed this morning, they have looked at  
24 some long-term land issues related to Sealaska land  
25 claims as well. And so they have really been looking at  
26 across the board a lot of different interests in  
27 Southeast and trying, valiantly, I think, to come up with  
28 collaborative solutions that have wide stakeholder  
29 support and I think what I can say to-date is they are  
30 still struggling with that. You know if you've been tied  
31 in with the Roundtable, you know, that's not an easy  
32 thing to do but they continue to do that. And I did want  
33 to mention that they are -- the effort of the Roundtable  
34 is facilitated by the Nature Conservancy in Juneau so  
35 they have had a large stake in seeing this process  
36 through. The Forest Service is a partner within it and  
37 a member but we aren't organizing nor run it, it is  
38 really run by the Nature Conservancy.

39  
40                   And I know, you know, we have heard from  
41 some of the Council members that there's been an interest  
42 in learning more about the Roundtable and seeing how the  
43 Roundtable could interact with this Council and I know  
44 Robert Larson has had some discussions with a  
45 representative from the Nature Conservancy about how to  
46 go about doing that and they have shared that they are  
47 interested in that. And I think with the Council's  
48 support we can have Robert continue to work with the  
49 Roundtable representatives to potentially have some  
50 members come to the Yakutat meeting this fall and do some

1 sort of presentation at that.

2

3 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Yeah, I've been kind of  
4 involved in that conversation too, and I think it's a  
5 great idea. The reason why they're not here now is  
6 because of the meeting in Juneau. So could you maybe  
7 just talk a little bit about how much subsistence issues  
8 they might be involved in, I think that'll be helpful for  
9 the Council to know.

10

11 MS. O'CONNOR: I can't speak entirely  
12 because I haven't been involved with all the meetings but  
13 I have attended several meetings and what I would say is  
14 I don't believe to-date that the Roundtable has directly  
15 tackled any subsistence issues but I can also say at  
16 least at every meeting I've been to, that subsistence  
17 values and concerns have come up to that group through --  
18 typically through the public that's present at the  
19 meetings because they do have people that can provide  
20 testimony and those issues come up but I haven't seen  
21 that the Roundtable has directly tackled those yet.

22

23 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay. Mr. Hernandez, go  
24 ahead.

25

26 MR. HERNANDEZ: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
27 Tricia, yeah, I was about to ask a question kind of on  
28 the same lines as Mr. Adams there, but a little more  
29 specific maybe. With the 35 members on the Roundtable,  
30 who would you say on the Roundtable, what membership  
31 would best represent the subsistence interests on the  
32 Roundtable?

33

34 MS. O'CONNOR: I'd have to think about  
35 that a little bit. But just as I think about the  
36 membership, there are various members on the Roundtable  
37 from representing communities throughout Southeast and  
38 some of the rural communities. I think it would be a  
39 good question of those members of whether or not they  
40 bring that view to that table or not and whether they  
41 represent that interest. And I think that would be a  
42 question for the individual members.

43

44 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Follow up Donald.

45

46 MR. HERNANDEZ: Yeah, just a quick follow  
47 up. I know, I mean the Roundtable is structured as a  
48 stakeholder's group, and it just seems like at any  
49 stakeholders meeting, you know, all the stakeholders  
50 should be represented. And I know I've heard some

1 concerns around that there are various interests that  
2 people feel are not being well represented on the  
3 Roundtable and that's why I asked about subsistence, it  
4 seems like that's a pretty, you know, topic to be under  
5 discussion.

6

7 I would be interested to know that  
8 there's somebody on there that does represents our  
9 interests as subsistence users. So I guess that's  
10 something to maybe look into further.

11

12 Mr. Chairman.

13

14 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you, Donald. I  
15 know they had their meeting in Yakutat this last -- was  
16 it this fall?

17

18 MS. O'CONNOR: (Nods affirmatively)

19

20 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Yeah. And, you know, I  
21 was there for quite a bit of it because I had to serve  
22 them breakfast and shared some of my sourdough pancakes  
23 with them, which I see some of these people at the  
24 airport every now and then and they say, oh, you're the  
25 pancake man, uh.

26

27 (Laughter)

28

29 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: But anyhow, I think  
30 because of the fact that they have representation from  
31 all of the areas, you know, in Southeast Alaska, as you  
32 indicated, too, even from outside, that they would be a  
33 real good body to become familiar with, and maybe they'd  
34 be in a better position to help some of our causes if we  
35 developed that relationship. So to have them come to the  
36 next meeting I think is a message that you could probably  
37 take back with you when you go.

38

39 Any other comments.

40

41 Patty.

42

43 MS. PHILLIPS: Mr. Chair, thank you. May  
44 I have permission to talk about the Tongass Travel  
45 Management Plan.

46

47 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Sure, you bet.

48

49 MS. PHILLIPS: I had a question.

50

1 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: While she is here you  
2 can ask her anything that she's talked about so far.

3  
4 MS. PHILLIPS: Thank you. With the  
5 emphasis on alternative energies at the national level is  
6 the energy inter-ties -- can those be discussed in the  
7 Tongass Travel Management Plan public comment periods or  
8 not?

9  
10 MS. O'CONNOR: I'm not sure I have the  
11 total answer for that. I do believe that would be an  
12 appropriate place to discuss that. And if there are --  
13 I think it would be of value if there were things that  
14 the public sees that might be barriers to doing that, it  
15 would be good to bring them up. And I guess my point is,  
16 is that we want to make sure that we aren't -- in access  
17 travel management, we certainly don't want to preclude  
18 those options down the road and I don't believe we would  
19 but I would encourage people to certainly bring those  
20 things up if they see them.

21  
22 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Go ahead, Floyd.

23  
24 MR. KOOKESH: You mentioned that there  
25 was 35 members, how many are them from rural communities?  
26

27 MS. O'CONNOR: Off the top of my head, in  
28 fact, I tried to look today for the member list and I  
29 could not find it, so I can't answer that. I can't even  
30 answer off the top of my head whether it's a majority or  
31 not, I don't believe it is. But I can certainly get that  
32 information for the Council.

33  
34 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Anyone else.

35  
36 (No comments)

37  
38 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you, Tricia,  
39 appreciate it.

40  
41 MS. O'CONNOR: Thank you, Mr. Chair. And  
42 I will take the message back to the Roundtable meeting  
43 when I go about the wishes of the Council.

44  
45 Thank you.

46  
47 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you. Susan will  
48 give.....

49  
50 REPORTER: Bert. Bert. Bert.

1                   CHAIRMAN ADAMS: How much do I owe that  
2 kitty now -- wildlife harvest in Southeast Alaska and in  
3 the Yakutat area.

4  
5                   MS. OEHLERS: Okay, are we all set.

6  
7                   MR. LARSON: Yeah, go ahead Susan.

8  
9                   MS. OEHLERS: Okay, good afternoon.  
10 Again, my name is Susan Oehlers. I'm a wildlife  
11 biologist with the Forest Service in Yakutat, and I  
12 appreciate being here today.

13  
14                   I'm going to give you today just a real  
15 brief overview of wildlife harvest in Southeast and  
16 Yakutat just to kind of set the stage for some further  
17 discussions we're going to be having. And this is the  
18 best we could come up with for a screen so there's a  
19 little bit cut off at the top but I think it should be  
20 okay.

21  
22                   And just an overview of the units I'll be  
23 talking about today, Units 1 through 5, I'm sure you're  
24 all familiar with these units. We're here in Unit 3  
25 today and I'm from up here in Yakutat, kind of the  
26 northern end of Southeast Alaska.

27  
28                   And the species I'm going to be talking  
29 about today, just kind of the main, kind of the big four  
30 subsistence species being deer, goats, moose and bears.

31  
32                   And for deer, for the most part we get  
33 our population estimates through pellet surveys and  
34 hunter questionnaires. Generally densities and harvest  
35 are highest in Unit 4. We do see some pretty extreme  
36 population fluctuations due to weather and other factors.  
37 And as most of you are aware we've had a couple of harsh  
38 winters the last two years, 06/07 and 07/08 and so we did  
39 see some pretty extreme population reductions in certain  
40 areas, particularly like in Unit 4 where it's estimated  
41 the population may have been reduced by up to 80 percent  
42 in some portions. And total harvest of deer averages  
43 about 11,000 per year throughout Southeast.

44  
45                   So for each of the species I'm going to  
46 give you just kind of an average harvest, similar charts  
47 for each species so I'm going to go ahead and explain how  
48 this data is presented and this will hold true for all  
49 the other charts.

50

1                   It's a little difficult to try and  
2 portion out Federal versus State harvest so the way I'm  
3 presenting this is how it's presented basically in the  
4 Fish and Game management reports, which is where the data  
5 is from and that's broken into local residents, non-local  
6 residents and non-residents. So local residents would be  
7 residents that live within that unit, so in general they  
8 would be considered Federally-qualified but there may be  
9 some harvest on non-Federal lands which would be under  
10 the State regulations. Non-local residents are residents  
11 of Alaska but from outside that unit so some of that may  
12 be harvest under State regs but there's also communities  
13 outside of each unit that have C&T designation for that  
14 unit so there's going to be a mix of Federal and State in  
15 that category. And then non-residents, of course, would  
16 be folks outside of Alaska, so that would be under State  
17 regulations. So hopefully that makes sense or ask some  
18 questions on that.

19  
20                   So for deer, as I mentioned, Unit 4 is  
21 generally the highest harvest and kind of a mix of non-  
22 local and local residents there, a few non-residents.  
23 The second highest harvest would be in Unit 2. And I do  
24 just want to go over Unit 1, which is kind of an  
25 exception to that rule, where local residents are  
26 Federally-qualified. Unit 1 I did combine all the  
27 subunits just for simplicity sake, but most of that is  
28 from Unit 1A and 1C, which includes Ketchikan and Juneau,  
29 which don't have C&T designation. Unit 5, in Yakutat, we  
30 have a very small deer population. Generally we get  
31 about 10 deer harvested every year so it doesn't even  
32 show up on this graph relative to the other units and  
33 most of that is by local residents, a couple non-locals.  
34 And just as an update, you know, most of these figures  
35 are through 2005. We did see some reductions in harvest  
36 the last couple years due to population declines and  
37 closures in some areas. So for example in Unit 4 there  
38 were only about 3,200 deer harvested in 07/08 compared to  
39 over twice that amount, almost 7,000 from '01 to '05.  
40 And I will just point out there's going to be more  
41 discussions on deer this morning and in particular, Larry  
42 Dickerson, will get into some more harvest reporting for  
43 Unit 2 in particular.

44  
45                   And then the designated hunter deer  
46 harvest is a real important part of the subsistence  
47 program, just wanted to give you some ideas of numbers on  
48 that. For example, starting in 2000/2001 there were 128  
49 deer harvested by designated hunters throughout Units 1  
50 through 5, and that was primarily Unit 3, also in 2 and

1 4. The next year you see almost twice as many, 354, with  
2 Unit 4 and Unit 3 composing a higher proportion of that  
3 harvest. And then fast-forward to 2006/2007 where you  
4 see Unit 4 is actually comprising most of that designator  
5 hunter harvest. And then in general in Southeast there  
6 is usually about 200 permits, designated hunter deer  
7 permits issued every year. In fact there might be a  
8 slight increasing trend on that but the harvest doesn't  
9 actually necessarily reflect the number of permits issued  
10 probably related to changes in population, weather, you  
11 know, maybe even some of the closures.

12  
13 And on to moose. There's close to 4,000  
14 moose we estimate throughout Southeast through Units 1,  
15 3 and 5. Total harvest about 250 per year. The majority  
16 of the harvest is in Unit 1C and that, of course,  
17 includes Juneau and Gustavus, a pretty popular hunt in  
18 Gustavus as well as some other areas making up that  
19 total. Units 1D and 3, fairly similar numbers mostly by  
20 local residents. And then in Unit 5, Yakutat, probably  
21 about the second highest harvest there mostly by local  
22 residents, some non-local and a few non-residents. And  
23 I did just add in a little more detail for Yakutat. This  
24 is something we'll be talking about later on with some  
25 special actions. We did have a reduction in the quota  
26 for last season so that resulted in a reduced total  
27 harvest. We had 49 in 2007 and 35 in 2008. Primarily it  
28 is by Yakutat residents but we do get some folks from  
29 Juneau and other parts of Alaska and a couple of non-  
30 residents, but it's primarily by Yakutat residents,  
31 particularly closer to town.

32  
33 Bears, as far as population densities.  
34 Black bears up to three and a half or four per square  
35 mile. Brown bears up to 1.5 to two per square mile on  
36 the islands. The State Alaska Department of Fish and  
37 Game is doing some work with brown bears to better  
38 determine mainland densities so they've got some work  
39 ongoing trying to get better estimates there. Total  
40 harvest about 225 browns and 700 black bears per year.  
41 Brown bear harvest highest in Unit 4, primarily by non-  
42 residents and fairly similar numbers in Units 1 and 5,  
43 and, again, primarily by non-residents. Black bear,  
44 pretty high in Units 1 and 2, highest by non-residents in  
45 Unit 2. Fairly similar between local and non-residents  
46 in Unit 1, and a smaller harvest in Unit 3 and very  
47 little in Unit 5, but primarily by local residents.

48  
49 And mountain goats, there's about 10 to  
50 15,000 we estimate throughout Southeast in Units 1, 4 and

1 5. Total harvest is about 175 per year. And most of  
2 that is in Unit 1 by local residents but a pretty high  
3 proportion is non-residents as well. Primarily local  
4 residents in Unit 4. And kind of a mix in Unit 5, a  
5 little more non-residents. And I'll just mention, too,  
6 Unit 5 we're going to talk a little bit more about the  
7 goats issue there, like Bert mentioned, the Nunatak has  
8 been closed for several years so there had been more  
9 harvest in Unit 5 prior to that closure. And we're also  
10 seeing some population declines in adjacent areas, and  
11 there was actually a State closure in part of that unit  
12 last year.

13

14 And with that I just want to acknowledge,  
15 and, again, like I mentioned most of the information came  
16 from the State Fish and Game management reports. Some of  
17 the population estimates were from the Alaska Board of  
18 Game Board meeting -- or November 2008 meeting  
19 transcripts -- I'm sorry, the Alaska Board of Game, not  
20 Fish and Game, and then just additional data that was  
21 provided by Forest Service and Fish and Game.

22

23 So I open it up to any questions or  
24 comments, if Bert allows, and I just wanted to give  
25 everyone a brief overview so I hope that's helpful in  
26 setting the stage for further discussions.

27

28 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you, Susan. I  
29 notice the deer report you were giving in Unit 4 from  
30 2001 through 2005 that there was an increase in non-local  
31 people hunting in those areas and I found that kind of  
32 curious, particularly since there's some decline in the  
33 deer population in that areas over the past couple of  
34 years or so and so I just wanted to bring that out as a  
35 matter of observation for myself and see if you might  
36 have a comment about it.

37

38 MS. OEHLERS: Okay, you're talking about  
39 Unit 4.

40

41 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: (Nods affirmatively)

42

43 MS. OEHLERS: I don't know if I'm the  
44 best person to answer that. I don't know if Fish and  
45 Game might be able to better respond to that.

46

47 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Neil, would you be able  
48 to say something about that or maybe George.

49

50 MR. BARTEN: Good afternoon, members of

1 the RAC, Regional Advisory Committee. I have to  
2 apologize I was talking to my colleague back there and I  
3 didn't hear the question so you'll have to repeat it  
4 please.

5  
6 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: The question is right up  
7 there on the board on Unit 4, we see a significant  
8 increase in the amount of local [sic] resident hunters  
9 opposed to local [sic], and I'm just wondering with  
10 respect to the deer population decreases in Unit 4,  
11 because of the harsh winters and so forth, why that has  
12 an increase and if it has any affect on the population or  
13 no.

14  
15 MR. BARTEN: Yeah, you know, I guess I  
16 don't have the data going back in front of me but my  
17 guess, certainly in the last two years, '06 we had the  
18 really hard winter, I think a lot of deer were taken in  
19 Unit 4, as well as other places, and I think back then  
20 before we had the doe closures it was a very attractive  
21 place to hunt with the logging roads and I think a lot of  
22 people from Juneau as well as Haines and other people  
23 went over on the ferry, took the road system and hunted  
24 deer, so I think it's always been popular. But I know  
25 the fall of '06 is an extremely high harvest that might  
26 be slanting some of that data. Since then, of course,  
27 there's been very little hunting activity over there  
28 because there's just been better places to hunt due to  
29 the decline in deer.

30  
31 Now, I think, you know, those hard  
32 winters were especially harsh on northeast Chichagof in  
33 Unit 4 because of the -- I think someone mentioned here  
34 earlier, a lot of the habitat alterations have taken away  
35 some of the winter habitat and I think it's really  
36 extremely difficult on the deer there when you do get a  
37 hard winter because they have very limited winter habitat  
38 anymore.

39  
40 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you, Neil, if  
41 you'd just stay there. More questions. Floyd.

42  
43 MR. KOOKESH: I just have one and it's  
44 probably clarification. When you mention non-local  
45 residents you're referring specifically to both other  
46 rural hunters and urban hunters?

47  
48 MS. OEHLERS: That's correct. Yeah, the  
49 way the data is presented you can get it by community  
50 residents, so -- and like I said some folks, some

1 communities outside of that unit would have and some  
2 would not, so, yeah, that would be a mix of urban and  
3 rural.

4

5 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Donald, and then Harvey.

6

7 MR. HERNANDEZ: I have a black bear  
8 question if you want to go to black bear for a second.

9

10 On the graph that you gave us here, an  
11 average annual black bear harvest show over the years  
12 ranging, depending on the area, from 1980 through 2003 or  
13 1992 through 2003, it just seems to me and I think a lot  
14 of other people on the Council would agree that there's  
15 been some pretty drastic changes in who's hunting and how  
16 many bears are being taken in the last 10 years or so and  
17 I guess my question is why is there no data here for the  
18 last five years, or at least four years, we've probably  
19 seen some significant changes in that time period and  
20 even over 20 to 12 year period, depending, I mean there's  
21 been a lot of changes over that time period. I'm just  
22 wondering how we can better, you know, judge what's  
23 happened more recently.

24

25 MS. OEHLERS: Sure. And, I mean this was  
26 just kind of meant as a general, you know, pattern and,  
27 you know, there was data available from different years.  
28 I mean, again, I was just basing this off what's been  
29 published in the management reports so there's kind of a  
30 lag time. But there should be data available that we  
31 could look at, you know, specific years or specific time  
32 periods. So you're right this doesn't necessarily  
33 reflect the last few years but that is something, you  
34 know, we could look at or, you know, we could present at  
35 the next meeting. Or that -- you know, that should be  
36 data I could get from Fish and Game.

37

38 MR. HERNANDEZ: Mr. Chairman. Susan.  
39 Yeah, I think the Council's heard some concerns, you  
40 know, about black bear populations in the more recent  
41 years so I think in the future we might want to see some  
42 of that.

43

44 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Mr. Kitka.

45

46 MR. KITKA: Thank you, Mr. Chair. My  
47 question is Unit 4 is kind of spread out. And I would  
48 like to know just what areas non-local people are hunting  
49 because are you talking more in the northeast Chichagof  
50 area or is this completely across Unit 4?

1 MS. OEHLERS: And you're talking about  
2 for deer?  
3  
4 MR. KITKA: Yes.  
5  
6 MS. OEHLERS: Yeah, I mean for purpose of  
7 this presentation it was just for Unit 4. I don't have  
8 any of the specific data on hand for northeast Chichagof  
9 right now.  
10  
11 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Anyone else.  
12  
13 MR. BANGS: Mr. Chairman.  
14  
15 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Mr. Bangs.  
16  
17 MR. BANGS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.  
18 Well, one point that Harvey made about that I'd like to  
19 point out that Petersburg and I think some of the other  
20 people, the people of Kake, use Unit 4 extensively for  
21 their deer harvest and that would bring that number way  
22 up because that's a real popular -- Admiralty Island is  
23 real popular for deer hunting.  
24  
25 But my question is this is, you know, I  
26 understand this is just for human harvest for these  
27 species, but does the Department have any clue or  
28 guesstimation of how many deer, say, for instance, is  
29 taken by predators?  
30  
31 MR. BARTEN: Members of the Council. We  
32 certainly don't. We know, you know, bears take some,  
33 wolves obviously are much more of a predator on deer, but  
34 we really don't in most places have any idea how many  
35 deer are being taken by bear whatsoever.  
36  
37 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Follow up, Mr. Bangs.  
38  
39 MR. BANGS: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Is  
40 there any ongoing leaning towards doing studies for that?  
41 I mean, you know, we've talked about it in Unit 2 and we  
42 had some presentations and there's been some studies done  
43 but it doesn't seem like there's any movement towards  
44 that to see any correlation between, you know, years we  
45 have harsh winters and population drops, what effect  
46 we're having but what effect, you know, the predators are  
47 having on that and I was just wondering if you guys were  
48 doing anything about that.  
49  
50 MR. BARTEN: Yeah, members of the

1 Council. We do have a biologist, Dave Person, many of  
2 you probably know him, he lives down in Ketchikan, who,  
3 I think this spring is going to get going a fawn  
4 mortality study because from his work, working on POW  
5 over the years on deer as well as wolves, he's noticed a  
6 fair bit, what he thinks is a fairly high mortality rate  
7 or predation rate on fawn deer by black bears, so he will  
8 be starting a study on POW specific to black bears,  
9 obviously, and looking at the predation rates on fawn  
10 deer from black bear activity and that's probably going  
11 to be a two or three, maybe even a four year study of it.

12

13 Thank you.

14

15 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay. How are we doing,  
16 any more questions. Patty.

17

18 MS. PHILLIPS: Thank you, Chairman Adams.  
19 The total deer harvest by unit and for Unit 4, can that  
20 data be further broken down to Federally-qualified  
21 hunters versus non-Federally-qualified hunters for their  
22 actual deer harvest?

23

24 MS. OEHLERS: I think the short answer is  
25 yes. The data that's, at least, published in the  
26 management reports does report by community of residents,  
27 so you could report it, you know, whether -- you could  
28 report for people that are Federally-qualified. And, you  
29 know, most of the land is Federal land but there's going  
30 to be some harvest on State land, so even if you're  
31 Federally-qualified it wouldn't be considered subsistence  
32 harvest, so I don't know if there's any other way of  
33 delineating that out with the harvest reporting systems.

34

35 Any comments on that Neil.

36

37 MR. BARTEN: Yeah, members of the  
38 Council. I think it's entirely possible because when  
39 people return their harvest surveys we can get the  
40 community of residents and you can look at -- I think  
41 break it down by, you know, not just whether they're  
42 Federally-qualified but at least even by the community of  
43 residents where they live when they took the deer. If  
44 that answers your question.

45

46 MS. PHILLIPS: (Nods affirmatively)

47

48 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: How we doing. Any more  
49 questions.

50

1 (No comments)

2

3 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Last call. Go ahead.

4

5 MS. PHILLIPS: Mr. Chair, I don't have a  
6 question but I have a comment. And I notice that it's in  
7 our -- Mr. Larson put together some proposals for us to  
8 consider, wildlife proposals, and I'm wondering why are  
9 we doing a NECCUA, which is the northern Chichagof Island  
10 closures, why are we doing a NECCUA closure to deer when  
11 we have such a high proportion of non-local residents  
12 taking deer in Unit 4. I just wanted that comment out  
13 there and if we could bring it up when we go to  
14 proposals.

15

16 Thank you.

17

18 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you, Patty, well  
19 taken. Any other people.

20

21 (No comments)

22

23 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay. Thank you, Susan  
24 and Neil, appreciate it.

25

26 MS. OEHLERS: We'll take a five minute at  
27 ease if you want to clear the table there.

28

29 Thanks.

30

31 (Off record)

32

33 (On record)

34

35 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay, folks, please take  
36 your seats.

37

38 (Pause)

39

40 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay, ladies and  
41 gentlemen, we're going to turn the time over to Neil.  
42 We're on Item No. 11 deer management in Southeast Alaska,  
43 so Mr. Barten, it's all yours.

44

45 MR. BARTEN: Thanks for inviting me here  
46 members of the Council.

47

48 The title of my presentation in this  
49 agenda is State of Alaska Deer Management Policy Goals,  
50 Objectives and Rationale. And I talked to Robert last

1 week a few times about what exactly, you know, I should  
2 talk about to try to get to what would be most beneficial  
3 to you all. So on the screen, obviously I changed my  
4 tittle to State of Alaska Deer Management Strategies, and  
5 I'm going to talk about some of our objectives and  
6 reasons we do what we do when we're managing deer and  
7 kind of how we look at it on a regionwide scale and a  
8 unitwide scale and things that kind of factor into our  
9 deer management. And it's going to be fairly general  
10 overview but there's a lot of room for questions in  
11 between the lines if you want to get there at the end of  
12 the presentation.

13

14                   So as an outline I want to talk about  
15 deer management goals and objectives that we have for  
16 managing deer in the region. Some of the data collection  
17 efforts we use to guide our management of deer. What  
18 drives or changes or what drives changes toward deer  
19 management and we'll talk about some of the changes that  
20 we recently heard. And then also kind of the future of  
21 deer management or kind of as we see it, or as I saw it  
22 when I was putting this together.

23

24                   So as far as goals, objectives, you know,  
25 I mean our main goal and it's a very kind of a common one  
26 that I think everybody would agree with and we have it  
27 written in some of our management reports, but, generally  
28 it's a singular goal across the region, is to have  
29 healthy and productive deer populations, and that's  
30 pretty easy to say but not necessarily easy to live up  
31 to.

32

33                   And under that we have objectives, and if  
34 you go through our management reports, which are -- you  
35 can find them on line on our website, generally our  
36 management objectives are based on indirect measures of  
37 the deer population through the harvest, number of deer  
38 we can harvest and/or pellet densities is one that we  
39 have objectives for across the region, whether you're  
40 talking Unit 1C, Unit 4, Unit 3, or whatever, and the --  
41 you know the objectives they were in place long before I  
42 got here but -- back in the early '80s, and I'll talk a  
43 little more about this probably later in the day, when  
44 the deer pellet transect methodology really got perfected  
45 with Matt Kirchoff and Ken Pitcher kind of did some work  
46 on management in Juneau. And they made the determination  
47 of how many piles of pellets on a transect equals equal  
48 how many deer, and the density of deer in the area, and  
49 from that, I think we came up with some of our objectives  
50 in our management reports generally in the neighborhood

1 of 32 deer per square mile and 45 deer per square mile,  
2 things like that.

3

4                   So those are our objectives. In some  
5 cases we meet them year to year based on our deer pellet  
6 transect information and in some cases we don't.

7

8                   The geographic scale that we set of our  
9 objectives as far as the pellet transects and the pellet  
10 information is generally on a unit wide basis, Unit 4 we  
11 have objectives for, I think 1.4 piles of pellets per  
12 plot, and I'll talk a little bit more about that later,  
13 what that really means. Unit 1C is two piles to per  
14 plot, which means, really if we trust the density of deer  
15 that that really indicates we're talking almost 60 some  
16 deer per square mile and Unit 1C is our objective. And  
17 a lot of years we meet that objective based on our pellet  
18 densities on Douglas Island.

19

20                   When it comes to seasons and bag limits  
21 our objectives or strategy of managing within a unit  
22 varies more than our objective for deer pellet densities.  
23 And by that I mean if you go to Unit 1C, for instance, we  
24 have a four deer bag limit on Douglas Island, yet, on the  
25 mainland we have a two buck bag limit. And if you go  
26 down the coast all the way through Petersburg, down to  
27 Ketchikan, most of the mainland areas, we have two buck  
28 bag limit. If you go to Unit 4, there's areas where you  
29 can kill four deer, there's also areas that you can only  
30 kill three. And northeast Chichagof, I think it's a bag  
31 limit of three deer under State regulation. So there are  
32 differences, and a lot of those differences in the bag  
33 limits are based on, you know, predation, if there's  
34 predators present, say, you know, down in this area or  
35 Prince of Wales, you know, you have to manage it a little  
36 differently than you do say up in the Juneau area where,  
37 on Douglas Island, you can take four does a year. Now,  
38 Douglas, as most of you know, is connected to the Juneau  
39 mainland and there we have 800 hunters, at least, who  
40 target Douglas specifically and, yet, we've been able to  
41 maintain a four deer bag limit for many, many years and  
42 I think in large part is because we have a population  
43 there that's pretty independent of wolf predation and  
44 because of that recruitment's pretty good and you can  
45 withstand the pretty intense harvest, where if you go  
46 over even onto the mainland by Juneau, the deer density's  
47 a lot lower, we have deeper snow, and also we have  
48 predation and we have a two buck bag limit. So things  
49 like that really factor into our way to manage deer.

50

1                                   And as well would be situations where,  
2 you know, access is a big issue. Northeast Chichagof is  
3 a perfect example where you have a lot of logging, those  
4 people can really access that country, deer are a lot  
5 more vulnerable, there's not as much refugia. And then,  
6 of course, we've got the heavy winters, when you've got  
7 hard winters last you've had in the last few years, that  
8 really can have an impact on deer and nit requires  
9 special management strategies.

10  
11                                   So some of the data that we collect to  
12 kind of guide our management of deer, you know, obviously  
13 I spoke a little bit about the deer pellet surveys and  
14 we'll talk more about that later, we have the deer hunter  
15 harvest surveys where we send out surveys to a percentage  
16 of the hunters and ask where they hunted, you know, if  
17 they killed any deer and when they killed them, et  
18 cetera. We try to do beach mortality transects in years  
19 following hard winters, I mean that's pretty much been  
20 the pattern. Phil Mooney over in Sitka is getting a  
21 little more routine with his, we try to do them every  
22 year just to get a sense of, you know, how many deer  
23 we're finding in some of these coves or bays and get a  
24 sense for how hard the winter really was on the deer.  
25 It's maybe not the most obviously statistically robust  
26 method of sampling but it does give us kind of an  
27 indication of was it a really hard winter in this  
28 particular drainage or not on deer by what you find  
29 there.

30  
31                                   Boat-based beach surveys, again, Phil  
32 Mooney out of Sitka, he is kind of -- he's spending a lot  
33 of time because of the issues with deer in Unit 4 looking  
34 at deer and counting deer and seeing where they're  
35 wintering and what condition they're in and he's been out  
36 the last couple of days looking at deer, looking at the  
37 number of deer, and the sample he sees, looking at the  
38 body condition of the deer and also looking for dead  
39 ones. Yesterday he saw almost 300 deer on the survey he  
40 did north of Sitka, and he's getting some pretty good  
41 data that I think could become part of a routine sampling  
42 methodology. Browse surveys in some cases, Phil, again,  
43 has done a bit of that on northeast Chichagof in the last  
44 couple of summers due to the, you know, short decline in  
45 deer that we saw after the winter of '06. Road base  
46 surveys, you know, again, that's almost been entirely on  
47 northeast Chichagof, Phil Mooney has been doing that with  
48 the help of some other biologists to try to get a sense  
49 for how many deer really are in that area. So he's doing  
50 a number of different methodologies to try to get a

1 handle on the necessity of like the last couple of years  
2 of doe closures in that area; are there really as few  
3 deer as we think there are. He's some hiking based field  
4 recon, aerial counts of beaches and deer on the beaches  
5 and in the alpine, he's done some of that along with  
6 Karen McCoy and some other biologists.

7  
8                   And then, of course, we get the hunter  
9 reports but we also talk to a lot of hunters. We  
10 encourage hunters to call us after they go. We have  
11 hunters going down to cabins in Seymour Canal and we ask  
12 them when you get back, give us a call, let us know what  
13 you're seeing. Now, some of that information is actually  
14 pretty valuable when you've got a group of hunters who  
15 have hunted the same place for the last 25 years. Some  
16 people go to Hasselborg every year the first 10 days in  
17 November, and when you start getting data from people  
18 like that who have been hunting in the same group in the  
19 same way and the same way and the same area year after  
20 year, the data they bring back, I think, is pretty  
21 valuable and from pilots and other users as well.

22  
23                   Some of the driving factors that  
24 influence our changes, of course, again, I've mentioned  
25 winter weather, predation, hunter access and habitat  
26 changes, you know, I think one of the things that I  
27 mentioned a little earlier, that certainly northeast  
28 Chichagof is kind of the epicenter of this kind of  
29 activity now because, you know, being in the northern  
30 part of Southeast they get a lot of snow but they also  
31 have a lot of winter habitat that has been logged, I  
32 think, and deer have fewer places to go and less habitat  
33 to use when conditions do get bad and again the impacts  
34 of the recent winters have really kind of changed our --  
35 and kind of prompted us to be much more active with our  
36 management on the area.

37  
38                   So, again, the recent deer management  
39 changes Northeast Chich Controlled Use Area, we closed  
40 the doe season under State regulation during 2007 and  
41 2008. This involved extension discussion with the Forest  
42 Service and also we held a meeting in Hoonah and got a  
43 lot of input from the people in that community, and most  
44 folks were, you know, with us in the understanding that,  
45 boy, what we really need to do is close the doe season  
46 because of the hard winter that really put a hurt on and  
47 we have a lot fewer deer and we didn't want to be tapping  
48 into the reproductive portion of the population. The  
49 Federal season was also closed and we began to work -- we  
50 worked very hard together and I think that was a bit of

1 a success story again this year, and I think it was very  
2 important.

3

4                   And if you go all the way back, even to  
5 the late '60s or early '70s, I think some of those hard  
6 winters prompted some major changes in the deer  
7 management seasons and bag limits even down in this area  
8 from Kuiu Island and other areas. And in the Cleveland  
9 Peninsula, this wasn't so much winter weather related but  
10 we did go to the Board of Game this year with a proposal  
11 to change the bag limit from four bucks to two bucks on  
12 the Cleveland Peninsula. And part of it was to, this  
13 made it kind of across the board, and the reason we did  
14 that is the deer harvest in that area from the mid-1990s  
15 until today has just dropped dramatically, I mean there  
16 used to be hundreds of deer in that area and now they get  
17 dozens. And, you know, it's bucks only so there's some  
18 major things going on that are, you know, we don't really  
19 understand but what we think a lot of the reasons for  
20 this decline probably are things to do with habitat, over  
21 utilization by the deer when they were at high numbers as  
22 well as predation, of course. But, you know, without  
23 actually having animals out there, collaring and studying  
24 it's hard to get a really good handle on what that cause  
25 and effect is. But we did go to the Board and they  
26 adopted our proposal under State regs to drop that bag  
27 limit from four bucks to two bucks.

28

29                   Future of deer management, you know,  
30 hopefully we'll be getting these additional forums of  
31 information, but Todd Brinkman is going to be giving a  
32 talk later and he's got a new approach to using deer  
33 pellet transects and deer pellet -- counting deer pellet  
34 piles for getting an indication of how many deer there  
35 are. I think his work has a lot of potential and we're  
36 really excited about it. Research by Dave Persons going  
37 forward doing this fawn mortality study on POW that I  
38 mentioned will give us some indication of really what are  
39 some other factors that are affecting the number of deer  
40 and the recruitment of deer into the population. And  
41 then recently I think this -- the spring and summer, Phil  
42 Mooney, again, the guy I keep mentioning, he's a Sitka  
43 area biologist, he and Karen Mccoy out of our regional  
44 office in Douglas, are going to be doing some efforts on  
45 the northeast Chichagof and several drainages where  
46 they're going to try to collar deer and get a sense for  
47 the survival of deer in some of these areas that have  
48 been logged and maybe unlogged and how they're using the  
49 habitat in these areas and hopefully this study will last  
50 several years and we'll be able to get a sense too of

1 some of the winter habitat use and the important parcels  
2 of habitat for these deer in the winter.

3

4                   So we've got, you know, a lot of energy  
5 I guess going right now for understanding what's going on  
6 with deer and deer numbers in the face of predation, of  
7 both habitat, manipulation and other things like the  
8 weather so try to get a better handle on really what's  
9 going on with deer and how we can do a better job of  
10 managing them.

11

12                   We certainly will continue to have  
13 challenges and if these hard winters continue that's  
14 going to be a big player, habitat alteration certainly is  
15 something we've been looking at and actually looking to  
16 the future to some degree, especially being a person out  
17 of Ketchikan, doing a lot of modeling et cetera, looking  
18 at some of these altered habitats are going to be  
19 detrimental to deer, I think in the future as we get into  
20 some exclusions in maybe some of the areas. And the  
21 scale of deer management, we may have to get to a much  
22 smaller scale, and I think to one degree we did this the  
23 last couple of years on northeast Chichagof, where even  
24 though we have objectives in some cases unitwide, we  
25 targeted the northeast Chichagof area, with the road  
26 system there, and the really hard hit area with the doe  
27 closure that hopefully has been effective in trying to  
28 get that reproductive potential back for that population.

29

30                   So with that I can answer any questions  
31 you might have.

32

33                   CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Mike, go ahead.

34

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

36

37                   CHAIRMAN ADAMS: I was wondering when you  
38 were going to speak up.

39

40                   (Laughter)

41

42                   MR. SEE: I have questions, like on your  
43 pellet density counts, do you move those, your areas, I  
44 know you put the grids on the ground and you count the  
45 pellets of the grids, and what have you, do you ever  
46 change them from area to area or do you have a specific  
47 area that you go back to every year.

48

49                   MR. BARTEN: Yeah, Member See, we  
50 actually -- I'm going to get into that a little later.

1 I'll actually talk a little more about what the  
2 methodology is about but this methodology that we use is  
3 actually a -- we run a -- we literally start at the beach  
4 line and go up to 1,500 feet pulling a 20 meter cable and  
5 at every 20 meters you stop, and the next person follows  
6 up behind and counts pellets within a one meter wide slot  
7 so a half meter on either side of this cable, so that's  
8 the transect. And we don't actually put a grid down but  
9 we count everything within a half meter of this, and the  
10 pellet transects have been long established and for the  
11 most part they're in the same place, the same watersheds  
12 year after year after because we're trying to maintain  
13 the areas and have some consistency in comparing, you  
14 know, the drainages Spasski to Spasski over five years,  
15 10 years and 15 and 20. In some cases, though, where  
16 partials have been clear-cut and we can't even get  
17 through them anymore, we've dropped those and have  
18 started new ones in different areas.

19

20 MR. SEE: Yes, Mr. Chair. Also you were  
21 saying awhile ago, your first statement was that you guys  
22 didn't have any real data on predation. When you say  
23 predation you're talking specifically animal predation or  
24 are you counting humans, too.

25

26 MR. BARTEN: Yeah, I guess, based on the  
27 question, I think it was from over here, I'm talking wolf  
28 and bear predation for the most part and in this  
29 particular case I was talking bear almost specifically.

30

31 MR. SEE: Thank you. Also, through the  
32 Chair, it's good that you take some of the notice of what  
33 the hunters say but it's just like anywhere else, you  
34 know, you know and I know some of the hunters in Hoonah,  
35 there's a small minority that are more vocal than the  
36 rest of them, there's a lot -- there's a large portion of  
37 hunters who won't say anything, but you have a small  
38 minority who are pretty opinionated and, you know, I have  
39 to applaud you guys on the fact that you try to take  
40 everyone into consideration. That's the pattern of this.

41

42 And I also through the Chair, I'd like to  
43 know, I'd sure like to see what you folks, when you come  
44 out -- like Phil comes out and does his deer counts and  
45 his studies and what have you, I'm on the tribal  
46 government, and there's always talk of co-management, and  
47 for the most part it would make us feel better if when  
48 you come out to do your studies, at least, let us know  
49 you're going to be there, you know, all it takes is just  
50 a phone call or whatever and then, you know, let somebody

1 up in our office know and say, hey, because for the most  
2 part the only way we find out is we happen to be down by  
3 the harbor. The last time I found out you guys were  
4 there, I was down on the harbor when they were bringing  
5 all their gear back, you know, and we didn't even know  
6 you folks were there. I think a little more interaction  
7 with the tribe would be greatly appreciated.

8  
9 MR. BARTEN: Yeah, that's a very good  
10 point and I'll be sure to carry that message to Phil, and  
11 I've been talking to him daily so I'll talk to him about  
12 that. I think that's a good idea.

13  
14 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you, Mike, anyone  
15 else. Donald, go ahead.

16  
17 MR. HERNANDEZ: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
18 Yeah, Neil, I've got some questions on your objectives.  
19 In the range of population, I guess, you're looking for  
20 and how you set your bag limits and what not, are you  
21 basically -- are you trying to manage different areas  
22 based on what the carrying capacity is for that area, is  
23 that prime consideration or I guess I'd like to know a  
24 little bit more about what you're actually trying to do  
25 in your objectives.

26  
27 MR. BARTEN: Yeah. You know, again, the  
28 objectives that we have listed in our management reports  
29 that we, you know, look at but don't try to follow to a  
30 T because in some years we're above them, some years  
31 below them and they're just kind of general targets, but  
32 I think they're based on the past history, you know, so  
33 we started our transects, our pellet transects in the  
34 early '80s and I think after a few years of getting a  
35 sense of what we were finding, as the years went by, we  
36 looked back and looked at the mean for five years and 10  
37 years and that kind of established what we were looking  
38 for in the future.

39  
40 Now, back in the late 1990s and in the  
41 late 1990s we were asked by the Board of Game to come up  
42 with population and harvest objectives for deer  
43 population throughout the area and those estimates that  
44 we came up with were based on what we considered the  
45 carrying capacity of the habitat based on, you know, the  
46 -- basically habitat suitability models. And -- but I  
47 must say those are something that they're sitting there  
48 somewhat on a shelf that we have and we look at once in  
49 awhile but we don't do much with them. So the objectives  
50 we have are almost a look in the past at what we were

1 seeing protecting into the future that if that's what we  
2 were seeing over these course of years that's what we'd  
3 like to maintain over the next number of years and  
4 obviously we don't jump the seasons back around or even  
5 try to if we drop below, say, a mean of whatever our  
6 objective for the pellet densities is in a certain area,  
7 we don't go to the Board and go we want to close the  
8 season for two years, you know, it's just a general  
9 guideline and we all understand that, even though deer  
10 pellet density or deer pellet data is some of the best  
11 data we have because we can't really count deer very well  
12 obviously, there are, you know, depending on the winter  
13 and what the habitats the deer were using, et cetera,  
14 you've got to really kind of factor in some of those  
15 issues when you look at the data and before just going,  
16 oh, boy, we've got a decline in deer, we've got an  
17 increase in deer and so, you know, it's a trend, it gives  
18 us a trend in deer numbers that we use over long periods  
19 of time but we don't jump back and forth with these  
20 objectives and try to hit them on the nose.

21

22 If that makes sense.

23

24 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Mr. Stokes, go ahead.

25

26 MR. STOKES: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I was  
27 just wondering how can you tell from the DNA on the deer  
28 pellets, can you tell whether they're bucks or whether  
29 they're does?

30

31 (Laughter)

32

33 MR. BARTEN: If it's all right with the  
34 Council I'm going to invite an expert up here on it. Mr.  
35 Todd Brinkman, he's doing his graduate work on deer  
36 pellets and other things.

37

38 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: So what did you find  
39 out, Mr. Todd.

40

41 MR. BRINKMAN: The short answer is yes,  
42 absolutely we figured out a really nice way to do that  
43 very effectively and in my talk coming up here I'm going  
44 to go over it in detail of how we're getting that sex  
45 ratio.

46

47 MR. STOKES: Thank you. On Zarembo  
48 Island, when the deer season opens up, there are very few  
49 bucks taken and if there are they're just little forks  
50 and there are no big ones. But they count as many a doe,

1 that's on Zarembo.

2

3 MR. BRINKMAN: I don't know if you're  
4 asking a question but the one thing about our DNA, we can  
5 tell you if it's male or female, but we can't get you  
6 information on the age structure. So a fawn male counts  
7 same as a mature adult would. I'm not sure if I  
8 addressed your comment, though.

9

10 MR. STOKES: That's good enough, thank  
11 you.

12

13 (Laughter)

14

15 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: I think you did, yeah,  
16 thank you. All right, any more questions. Patty or  
17 Floyd -- Patty.

18

19 MS. PHILLIPS: Mr. Chair. Do you have a  
20 modified formula like for habitats that are, you know,  
21 timber harvested versus non-timber harvested?

22

23 MR. BARTEN: Yeah, members of the  
24 Council. I'm probably not the best person -- I know I'm  
25 not the best person to ask that. You know Dave Person  
26 has done a lot of work working on Prince of Wales looking  
27 at different ages of clear-cuts and that kind of thing  
28 and I think he's -- I mean he's done a lot of work on  
29 even projecting into the future which stands are going to  
30 be stem exclusion stage and not so useful to deer for  
31 winter range and that kind of thing, and he's got that  
32 kind of information but I don't have it off the top of my  
33 head, nor do I even have it with me. But I think if the  
34 Council's interested we could pursue that and probably  
35 get you some information that might help you answer that  
36 question.

37

38 MS. PHILLIPS: Follow up.

39

40 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Follow up, go ahead.

41

42 MS. PHILLIPS: Thank you. Like for the  
43 NECCUA, Northeast Chichagof Island Use Control Area, I  
44 mean that's primarily been timber harvested so are they  
45 doing a modified formula for that and who is making those  
46 decisions if they are doing a modified formula? Is that  
47 State or is that Federal and who?

48

49 Thank you.

50

1 MR. BARTEN: Yeah, I guess I -- you know,  
2 I don't think we've done or we are doing any work at  
3 present with, you know, modeling that habitat. I'm  
4 thinking some of that may come about with this study that  
5 Phil Mooney and Karen McCoy are going to be leading where  
6 we're going to be going over there this summer collaring  
7 potentially 30 deer and getting a sense of what habitats  
8 are useful to them, or at least what habitats they're  
9 using and, you know, what travel corridors they're using  
10 to get from winter to summer range and vice versa, but  
11 you know right now we -- for years we've obviously  
12 managed with a three deer bag limit on Northeast  
13 Chichagof and until these hard winters it seemed like a  
14 sustainable harvest level and then of course we went to  
15 the doe closure because we thought, you know, we were  
16 pretty convinced that the deer population had taken a  
17 hard hit. So that management decision was based purely  
18 on the hard winter but we haven't been really modeling  
19 that habitat there and going, you know, which areas are  
20 going to be best for deer this year or next year, et  
21 cetera. If that's what you're asking.

22  
23 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: One more, Patty, go  
24 ahead.

25  
26 MS. PHILLIPS: So that's the Sitka Ranger  
27 District -- or the Sitka -- that's making the decisions  
28 for the NECCUA?

29  
30 MR. BARTEN: The Sitka area biologist  
31 oversees that area, yes. We certainly all work together  
32 at our regional meetings to address some big issues like  
33 that probably would be, but he would take the lead on it.

34  
35 MS. PHILLIPS: Thank you.

36  
37 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Mr. Kookesh.

38  
39 MR. KOOKESH: Mr. Chairman. Neil, in one  
40 of your slides you did -- and you have a question here,  
41 what do you mean by what geographic scale do we set our  
42 objectives?

43  
44 MR. BARTEN: Yeah, by that I mean, you  
45 know, the -- like for instance with -- again, I'll use 1C  
46 as my example, you know, even though it's all Unit 1C,  
47 Douglas Island as well as the mainland by Juneau we have  
48 different scales of management meaning Douglas Island we  
49 have a four deer bag limit, you can shoot four does if  
50 you want, but if you go right across the C

1 Gastineau Channel to the mainland we manage for a two  
2 buck bag limit, so that's kind of the -- the scale there  
3 is broken up into two smaller units where most of Unit 4  
4 other than Northeast Chich, you can take four deer, and  
5 so that's a much broader scale, so I guess that's what I  
6 mean.

7

8 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Follow up, Floyd, go  
9 ahead.

10

11 MR. KOOKESH: Yeah, Mr. Chairman, I'd  
12 like to continue for a little bit here. Right after you  
13 had did that one portion of the question I just asked you  
14 about. You also mentioned if we trust, you said  
15 something to that effect, if we trust our pellet counts,  
16 you mentioned if we trust, what do you mean by that?

17

18 MR. BARTEN: Good question. I'm not sure  
19 what I said with that, but I guess, you know, and I --  
20 without knowing how I used that word and what context, I  
21 can't recall what I said with that -- we could play the  
22 tape over.

23

24 (Laughter)

25

26 MR. BARTEN: But, you know, the thing  
27 with when we do our pellet transects and we've been doing  
28 them for many, many years and I'm going to try to get to  
29 maybe what I was talking about, is, you know, if you have  
30 a winter where you have a lot of snow and the deer are  
31 down into the zone between the beach and 1,500 where  
32 we're going to do our sampling, you may get with the same  
33 number of deer on the landscape you may get a higher  
34 pellet count that year than a year where you don't get  
35 snow until January where a lot of the deer are up above  
36 1,500 feet, so you have to really factor that in to the  
37 interpretation of what the pellet data is telling you.

38

39 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Go ahead, Floyd.

40

41 MR. KOOKESH: To continue, I noticed that  
42 when you -- in your conclusion, you tend to use the word,  
43 may, and for someone who lives and hunts in Unit 4, I'm  
44 just hoping that unlike what's going on in Makhnati, on  
45 the herring issue, that we can start taking an approach  
46 where we start adjusting bag limits and seasons so that  
47 we can start addressing the winters. Like right now  
48 we're, I believe, what, 50 inches from another record, is  
49 that correct, somewhere in that neighborhood, but what  
50 I'm hoping for is that we don't get this managing this

1 thing so that it becomes a crises situation.

2

3                   And while I'm on that, we're showing --  
4 I'm showing that we're talking about deer management  
5 right now, but if you go to Page 14 -- on No. 14, Mr.  
6 Chairman, it shows discussion topics for Council  
7 generated proposal changes to Federal wildlife changes,  
8 I'm hoping that while we have -- while we're on this  
9 issue we should focus on Unit 4 deer management and also  
10 change antlerless deer to female deer in Federal regs and  
11 address it here in case we lose this powerful -- the  
12 powerful presentations that are probably going to occur  
13 on this issue.

14

15                   CHAIRMAN ADAMS: So you're wanting to  
16 bring up these two issues now so we don't lose it, okay.  
17 Okay.

18

19                   MR. KOOKESH: I still have some more.

20

21                   CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay. But anyhow are  
22 you prepared to do that?

23

24                   MR. BARTEN: Members of the Council,  
25 yeah, if that works best, we can go there.

26

27                   CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay. All right, he has  
28 a question, or a comment.

29

30                   MR. KOOKESH: To continue along, we were  
31 talking about -- Mr. See was asking about pellet counts  
32 and where you're doing them, are all of the ranger  
33 districts in all of Unit 4?

34

35                   MR. BARTEN: Members of the Council,  
36 again, you know, I'm not the best person to ask. Karen  
37 McCoy, who just had a baby, was going to present this so  
38 I think we try to do -- I mean I don't think we get all  
39 the ranger districts each year just because we have to  
40 kind of put our money and effort and power into this kind  
41 of checkerboard pattern of we try to get each area every  
42 three years, if we can, depending, again on the intensity  
43 of the hunting pressure, that kind of thing. But I do  
44 not know off the top of my head what the schedule is for  
45 this upcoming year, nor if we get each ranger district  
46 each year.

47

48                   MR. KOOKESH: Mr. Chair.

49

50                   CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Go ahead, sir.

1 MR. KOOKESH: Well, I'll simplify it,  
2 Unit 4 then. Deer surveys in Unit 4, I'll simplify it  
3 instead of asking about all of the ranger districts, it  
4 does encompass a lot.

5  
6 MR. BARTEN: I think we do transects in  
7 Unit 4 each year but, you know, one year we'll do the  
8 outside of Baranof, one year we'll do the Tenakee area,  
9 so it kind of varies.

10  
11 MR. KOOKESH: Thank you.

12  
13 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay. Any more  
14 questions -- oh, Mr. Kitka.

15  
16 MR. KITKA: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I  
17 think it was a question I'll go back to about 2007, I  
18 believe that was the first real severe winter we had and  
19 I came back from down south and I was kind of shocked at  
20 the time when they -- looked in the newspaper and saw  
21 that Fish and Game said, go out and get some more deer  
22 and don't worried about the bag limit and I was wondering  
23 if this was going to be a management strategy on severe  
24 winters. And one of the reasons I ask this because I  
25 know in certain areas even though there'd be a lot of  
26 deer on the beach, they'll be down there feeding where  
27 the water is open, I understand where the -- where the  
28 bays freeze over, the deers will starve an awful lot more  
29 than they will out in the places where the water doesn't  
30 freeze up. So a management strategy like that would be  
31 kind of worrisome to me.

32  
33 MR. BARTEN: Yeah, you know, back in the  
34 fall of '06, you know, I believe, you know, we actually  
35 put out a news release, the Department did, out of the  
36 Juneau office straight on down from the regional  
37 supervisor asking people -- well, the news release was to  
38 the point where if you go out and try to shoot fawns  
39 and/or bucks and, you know, leave the reproductive  
40 portion of the population off to the side, if you can, if  
41 you're going to take three deer, try to take fawns and  
42 bucks because they're the most likely to die, but, yeah,  
43 we did nothing at that point to correct the season and  
44 part of it, it's not an easy, you know, issue to get at  
45 because none of us really know the answer. And that  
46 being when you have a winter like that, we were carrying  
47 a lot of deer because we had a number of easy winters in  
48 a row and we had deer that we assumed were pretty close  
49 to the carrying capacity of the habitat in a number of  
50 areas and you get this snow that just crams them down on

1 the beach and at that point, you know, if you take a lot  
2 of deer you risk taking too many, maybe, and then there's  
3 not as many to carry over to the next year to kind of  
4 continue on with the population but if you take a few  
5 deer are the rest of them going to out compete each other  
6 for food and the whole lot falls over dead just because  
7 they simply don't have enough food for the whole bunch.

8

9 So, you know, I don't know what the right  
10 answer is or was.

11

12 You know, because we had people from  
13 Elfin Cove, a guide who works out in that country called  
14 up and said, you know, you've got to close the season  
15 because the big bucks will plow trails for the small does  
16 and even the fawns to get in and out of that surf line.  
17 And he was totally convinced that was the thing to do and  
18 other people were like, take them while you got them  
19 because they're going to die anyway, you know, it's a  
20 tough question and answer and I'm not sure what the  
21 correct one is even, but that's a good point.

22

23 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay, Mr. Stokes, go  
24 ahead.

25

26 MR. STOKES: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I was  
27 just wondering what actually happens to a deer when you  
28 find them during a heavy winter and all they've got to  
29 eat is seaweed on the beach?

30

31 MR. BARTEN: Yeah, I thin the general  
32 consensus is that the kelp isn't really something that's  
33 very nutritious for deer but they will eat it because  
34 that's all they've got in some cases and they'll fill up  
35 their gut with it and it kind of occupies their gut. But  
36 it doesn't really do them much good so they'll die with  
37 a full stomach eventually. And that's the word on the  
38 street and that's kind of what I've always heard and read  
39 as well. But, yeah, I think if that's what they're down  
40 to eating it's not going to do them very good for a long  
41 period of time at all because it's really not something  
42 that's going to sustain them very long.

43

44 MR. STOKES: Do they survive at all on  
45 that diet?

46

47 MR. BARTEN: Yeah, again, you know, I'm  
48 not sure how long they could survive on it but, you know,  
49 from the literature I've read and heard from other  
50 biologists if they're eating seaweed and that's really

1 their only source of food for any length of time it's  
2 probably not a good thing for them.

3  
4 MR. STOKES: Will they eat any of the  
5 evergreens?

6  
7 MR. BARTEN: That's a good question. I'm  
8 not, you know, and obviously like in the midwest eat a  
9 lot of cedar here, I don't know if they're going to eat  
10 hemlock or cedar or not, but, you know, I think their  
11 preferred forage is probably the vaccinium or the  
12 blueberry bushes and I really don't know -- I don't know  
13 enough about their dietary components and different areas  
14 to know that.

15  
16 MR. STOKES: Is there enough vitamins in  
17 there to retain them if they eat blueberry branches and  
18 that stuff?

19  
20 MR. BARTEN: Well, I think -- I mean  
21 that's a lot of their winter forage is going to be that  
22 but I think a large part of it is, one, is the snow  
23 really causing them to burn up a lot of energy to get to  
24 their food and then, two, can they get to it if it's  
25 buried in snow and they're stuck on a beach so I think a  
26 lot of it is, if they get into the winter and, you know,  
27 the food isn't that great in the winter regardless of the  
28 situation they simply have to maintain and the more  
29 energy they burn off fighting the cold and getting  
30 through snow the harder it's going to be on them and  
31 obviously they're going to get through the winter in  
32 poorer, poorer condition and potentially perish. But,  
33 you know, obviously vaccinium gets them through some  
34 winters but if they've got to work hard to get through it  
35 and push through a lot of snow, I think that's really the  
36 ultimate thing that dooms a lot of deer.

37  
38 MR. STOKES: Thank you.

39  
40 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay, thank you, Mr.  
41 Stokes. Anyone else. Okay, Mr. Kookesh, was there some  
42 action item that you wanted -- action issue that you  
43 wanted us to follow up with on this, I take it, I kind of  
44 lost my train of thought here, remind me.

45  
46 MR. KOOKESH: Well, Mr. Chairman, I just  
47 figured that after we did all of these presentations that  
48 we'd come to some sort of.....

49  
50 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay, after all of the

1 presentations.  
2  
3 MR. KOOKESH: After them.  
4  
5 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Good, thank you.  
6  
7 MR. KOOKESH: Unless Neil wants to act on  
8 it right now and do some in-season management.  
9  
10 (Laughter)  
11  
12 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Do you have anything  
13 else to share with us Neil?  
14  
15 MR. BARTEN: No, I don't. But depending  
16 on which -- how far we want to go into the deer in the  
17 Unit 2 area, which is obviously, that's been a big line  
18 of topic for years. Boyd Porter, the Ketchikan area  
19 biologist who took part in the Unit 2 deer planning  
20 process and all that, he's not going to get in until  
21 tomorrow on the morning flight, which is like 10:30 or  
22 something, so if we're going to talk about the Unit 2  
23 deer management, you know, he's the expert on that much  
24 more so than I am so we might want to, at least that  
25 portion, talk about tomorrow.  
26  
27 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: All right, I think  
28 that's the way we will handle it then. Mr. Kookesh,  
29 we'll just wait until the expert gets in.  
30  
31 MR. KOOKESH: What?  
32  
33 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Did you hear what he was  
34 saying?  
35  
36 MR. KOOKESH: (Nods affirmatively)  
37  
38 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay.  
39  
40 REPORTER: Bert. Bert.  
41  
42 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: So we'll just wait for  
43 -- it's a fine for me again. We'll just wait until  
44 after, you know, all the presentations are made on this  
45 issue and then, what's his name?  
46  
47 MR. BARTEN: Boyd Porter.  
48  
49 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Boyd Porter comes in  
50 tomorrow and then we can, you know, pursue it further.

1 Thank you.

2

3 Okay, let's go on then with the next one.  
4 Tricia O'Connor, Federal subsistence deer management and  
5 its relationship with the State.

6

7 MR. O'CONNOR: Mr. Chair. Members of the  
8 Council. I'm just going to give a brief overview of the  
9 Federal side of deer management.

10

11 I just want to start out with I believe  
12 that one of the key aspects that really makes deer  
13 management work between the Federal and State management  
14 is our relationship, and a very strong relationship  
15 between, particularly, the biologists from both agencies,  
16 and I think, you know, as I walk through this you'll see  
17 that we really need to work together and we strive to do  
18 that because we both bring different strengths and  
19 different biological interests to the table.

20

21 But, you know, given that we also  
22 recognize that there is a unique and different mandate  
23 with Title VIII of ANILCA that the Federal side that we  
24 deal with and that we know that's there, but at the same  
25 time we work together and I think in a lot of cases,  
26 particularly with deer, come to very similar conclusions  
27 based on professional judgment that we both have.

28

29 And I want to go through some examples of  
30 things that we have worked pretty closely together and  
31 then some areas where we have some differences that we  
32 bring to the table as well.

33

34 Again, we really try to be consistent  
35 where possible with regulations unless there's a need to  
36 be different because of ANILCA, but we do really try to  
37 do that to make it simpler for the harvesters. We have  
38 cooperated a lot with the State on some of the things  
39 that, you know, Neil brought up in terms of deer  
40 monitoring with the pellet counts, that's a cooperative  
41 project between our agencies. A lot of the deer research  
42 that's been going on has been cooperatively funded by  
43 both agencies. Within our in-season management and the  
44 Unit 4 example is a really good one, where we, in fact,  
45 this past winter set up a weekly call between the in-  
46 season managers, the State biologist, the Federal  
47 biologist and we were on a weekly basis checking in with  
48 what was going on out there and talking about what data  
49 there was and reporting on that but we were all on the  
50 same page of what was going on. And, again, I think

1 that's a very good example of how this could work real  
2 well. And harvest reporting we work cooperatively  
3 together on.

4  
5                   And I would say in general, and the  
6 reason that I do believe that we need both agencies to  
7 work strongly together because in general the Forest  
8 Service strength and our biologist strength is with  
9 habitat management, I mean that has always been what we  
10 do and I know the issue of habitat has come up. Some  
11 questions came up earlier and I do want to say just on an  
12 aside, we are working very closely with our research  
13 biologist, Tom Hanely, who is in Juneau, and he's been  
14 working very hard to better map and look at deer food  
15 values across different habitat types and kind of a key  
16 to figuring out what deer, what quality food for deer is  
17 a combination of whether the food has nutrition in it or  
18 not and how much is in there, but you also have to look  
19 at whether or not that food is digestible to deer. There  
20 are actually foods out there that are highly nutritious  
21 but a deer can't digest it and so they really don't get  
22 a lot of nutrition out of it, and then it also has to be  
23 available. I mean you think about snow, you know, some  
24 of the best foods out there in the winter are those small  
25 little plants that are on the ground but in the winter  
26 the deer can't get them. And as pointed out before  
27 vaccinium blueberry is a very good deer food mainly  
28 because it is available but it also provides quite a bit  
29 of nutrition in the winter. And Tom's work has really  
30 helped us and I think it will help both us and the State  
31 in terms of these future issues we have with deer habitat  
32 changes at the landscape level with all of the second  
33 growth that's growing up we'll have some really good  
34 tools at our hands to help better decide where we should  
35 do deer habitat manipulations in the future and what's  
36 going to be the best place to do that and get the best  
37 food quality.

38  
39                   So that's a place where we bring a  
40 strength to the table.

41  
42                   I do think in terms of population  
43 dynamics and deer numbers and deer population dynamics,  
44 the State really has that strength, and so we really do  
45 use the State and work them and rely on them. It doesn't  
46 mean that either agency doesn't have some experience with  
47 both but I think we both bring those different strengths  
48 to the table and again we really need to work together.

49  
50                   I guess what I would finish with in terms

1 of the cooperation level. I really do believe that the  
2 further you get near the ground, the closer to the ground  
3 you are, the area biologists and our district biologists  
4 and area managers, I really see a cooperation at that  
5 level with the biologists and I think that's a really  
6 good thing. I think as you move up, I think some of the  
7 differences you see in opinions in management if the --  
8 at the whole subsistence program really starts getting up  
9 when we get to the policy level, you know, as you start  
10 moving up in our organizations and to be honest that's  
11 where we have differences of opinion but I think the  
12 strengths we have at the ground level really do help us  
13 in terms of that kind of management we need on a day to  
14 day basis with deer.

15  
16 So I think with that I will end and if  
17 there's any questions I'll be happy to answer them.

18  
19 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Mr. See, go ahead.

20  
21 MR. SEE: Yes, through the Chair. Once  
22 again I hate to sound like a broken record, you keep  
23 talking about the interaction of all your managers and  
24 everyone, you know, everybody's in the loop except for  
25 the tribe. There's always been this notion of co-  
26 management, everybody extols co-management, we got to  
27 have co-management. But we feel, and rightly so, I  
28 believe, that our part in co-management is just giving  
29 you the numbers and you tell us what we can and can't do.  
30 You know we don't have any real -- we're not helping  
31 other than just being numbers, you know, telling the  
32 numbers that we take.

33  
34 And I think that along with that idea,  
35 too, I am opposed to this Federal deer hunt in January.  
36 I think that's a terrible time. I don't hunt deer in  
37 January, and a lot of the people I know won't hunt deer  
38 in January because the deer are in bad shape the people  
39 that I know, most of us, we're meat hunters, and my idea  
40 is if you go out there on the beach somewhere and you see  
41 four deer standing there, you got three skinny ones and  
42 a fat one, everybody I know they're going to take the fat  
43 one, and in all probability that'd be the one that would  
44 survive through the winter. So I don't think that's a  
45 good management plan, you know, having a deer hunt in  
46 January, myself.

47  
48 I know down here they hunt deer earlier,  
49 you know, two weeks earlier or whatever, and that to me  
50 is -- you know, I grew up in Tenakee, I never knew there

1 were seasons, you know, we didn't have -- you know if you  
2 want meat you better go get a deer, but I think this --  
3 there needs to be more interaction with the people and  
4 with the tribes. We want to be involved, you know, we  
5 should be involved.

6

7 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you, Mike. I'll  
8 follow up on that and then Floyd. When you were in  
9 Yakutat, you know, we had a real close relationship with  
10 the Forest Service and the tribe and I think, I don't  
11 know, you know, if you guys have an MOU with the Forest  
12 Service or with the State but we do and it brings the  
13 three, you know, in together to determine, you know, the  
14 issues that come before us. Like the Nunatak Bench  
15 issue, you know. The State got concerned, you know, that  
16 there wasn't enough population up there to sustain any  
17 hunting up there anymore and so the tribe was invited to  
18 participate in the meeting with the Forest Service, and  
19 sat down and discussed it and all came to the same  
20 conclusion, you know, we need to do something there and  
21 we closed it off.

22

23 So I think that kind of relationship is  
24 really important.

25

26 It kind of eroded since you left, I have  
27 to say, Tricia, and we're trying to get that become an  
28 important part of the process again.

29

30 But, you know, I just wanted to mention  
31 that because, you know, it can work if you just really  
32 put an effort into it, both, everyone concerned.

33

34 And, Floyd, did you have something.

35

36 MR. KOOKESH: Mr. Chairman. I don't know  
37 if Trish can answer this, but it seems -- I seem to  
38 recollect that the deer hunt numbers in January were very  
39 low; is that correct?

40

41 MS. O'CONNOR: I'm not sure I can answer  
42 it but there might be someone else here that can. And  
43 was this particularly to Unit 4?

44

45 MR. KOOKESH: (Nods affirmatively)

46

47 MS. OEHLERS: You know I don't have the  
48 numbers off the top of my head but I did do some of the  
49 analysis for the closures like in the NECCUA and I  
50 believe, yeah, the majority of the harvest was in

1 November, some in December and then January numbers were  
2 pretty low.

3

4 MR. KOOKESH: Thank you.

5

6 MS. OEHLERS: And we could get more  
7 detailed, you know, data to you, but I would say that it  
8 was a small proportion of the harvest in January, that's  
9 correct.

10

11 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay. And, Susan, while  
12 you're there, maybe I misstated something, you know, I  
13 said that I thought maybe the relationship between tribe  
14 and Forest Service might have eroded, you know, since  
15 Tricia has left, but I do know that, you know, Lee has  
16 been working with tribe on issues but has there been any  
17 such meetings like I described before, where the tribal  
18 council and Forest Service and the Fish and Game got  
19 together to determine, like for instance, you know, the  
20 closure of the goat in Nunatak or even, you know, when  
21 there was an emergency -- special action done for the  
22 moose, you know, in Yakutat, last fall, I just want to --  
23 you know, I might have misstated myself and since you  
24 work there I was wondering if there was that kind of a  
25 relationship that's still there.

26

27 MS. OEHLERS: Yeah, thank you, Bert. You  
28 know, I think -- I mean most of the Nunatak stuff is kind  
29 of, you know, ongoing and I think, you know, primarily,  
30 I mean what I can speak to is, you know, I mean that I  
31 try and work with you and the RAC and I think Lee does  
32 work pretty closely with the tribe, you know, but I can  
33 certainly take that message back and make sure that we  
34 continue to work on that.

35

36 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Good. All right, thank  
37 you. Anyone else. Okay, Mr. Stokes.

38

39 MR. STOKES: Thank you, Mr. Chair. This  
40 is just a point of interest. Utilizing the whole deer  
41 has changed since the late 20s and early 30s. When my  
42 grandmother was alive we used to utilize the deer hide  
43 for clothing. Nothing was wasted. They had the heart  
44 and the liver and the brains, they used that for the  
45 tanning and used the stomach, the tripe, they used that  
46 and the intestines, they'd clean them out. And I  
47 remember eating them when I was a little fellow but I  
48 don't know how they did it. But that's just how things  
49 have changed since I was a boy.

50

1 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay.  
2  
3 MR. BANGS: Mr. Chairman.  
4  
5 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Mr. Bangs, go ahead.  
6  
7 MR. BANGS: Thank you, Mr. Chair. One  
8 point I'd like to make in regards to what Mr. See had to  
9 say about the January hunt. I think it was brought to  
10 our attention at several different meetings, I think Mr.  
11 Kookesh brought it up, that many people in some of the  
12 small villages rely on that January hunt especially in  
13 times of late snows because they do hunt the beaches. So  
14 although I don't necessarily like to hunt in January, I  
15 think it is important to many of the residents of small  
16 villages that it should be in consideration.  
17  
18 And another thing that Ms. O'Connor  
19 brought up is some of these ongoing programs in food  
20 value and habitat diversities and stuff, you know, I  
21 remember, I know there's a few of us on here that did the  
22 Unit 2 study and a lot of those studies have already been  
23 done, and I just hate to see the Federal agencies waste  
24 money if all that information's already there.  
25  
26 We talked a lot about how the value of  
27 berry bushes is a lot different in old growth versus, you  
28 know, clear-cuts. So it just seems strange that they're  
29 doing things -- the Canadians have done a lot of research  
30 in that area, too, but anyway I just wanted to make that  
31 point.  
32  
33 Thank you.  
34  
35 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thanks. Thank you. How  
36 are we doing?  
37  
38 MR. DOUVILLE: (Nods affirmatively)  
39  
40 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Michael, go ahead.  
41  
42 MR. DOUVILLE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.  
43 I just want to make a couple of comments.  
44  
45 And one is I live on the most studied  
46 island in Alaska.  
47  
48 I appreciate you recognizing that we have  
49 a different set of rules that we go by when it comes to  
50 bag limits and so on.

1                                   And, Mr. Barten, it's nice to see that  
2 you recognize an island that doesn't have predators and  
3 is not logged can produce a tremendous amount of deer.  
4 It's 'just amazing. We witnessed this years ago on St.  
5 John Island when there was a lot of wolf everywhere else,  
6 St. John didn't have any it virtually fed Craig.

7  
8                                   And the other is it's nice that you have  
9 a good working relationship with game biologists, with  
10 the State you're holding hands and there's a lot of good  
11 will, if some of that could just rub off on the fisheries  
12 side of the State.....

13  
14                                   (Laughter)

15  
16                                   MR. DOUVILLE:   .....it would be much  
17 appreciated.

18  
19                                   CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you, Michael.  
20 Anyone else like to ask Tricia a question.

21  
22                                   (No comments)

23  
24                                   CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you, ma'am.

25  
26                                   MS. PHILLIPS: A comment.

27  
28                                   CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Yep, Patty, go ahead.

29  
30                                   MS. PHILLIPS: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I  
31 just want to follow up on what I've heard is that if the  
32 managers, State and Federal involved the tribes, even in  
33 their research study like Mike was saying, you know,  
34 well, sort of saying but if they do in fisheries, they  
35 involve in tribes in their like weirs and the fisheries  
36 resource monitoring, so, you know, if you involve the  
37 tribes in the deer resource monitoring then you get some  
38 ownership, you get -- I mean we feel like we own it  
39 anyway but, you know, let's raise the capacity of our  
40 people at the village level. I mean if Mike says that  
41 people are coming in there and they're going up and doing  
42 deer pellet counts but nobody in Hoonah knows about it,  
43 you know, what happened with me is that the Sitka ranger  
44 came and picked me up and we went up the Lisiansky River  
45 and they took me on a deer pellet count so I got to learn  
46 first-hand, I only did it once, got to learn first-hand,  
47 just what it meant to do a deer pellet count. You don't  
48 know it sometimes unless you actually do it. So let's do  
49 that with some of our Native people in the villages who  
50 access, you know, who utilize these resources close to

1 their villages.  
2  
3                   You know if you talk about Federal  
4 subsistence deer management in relationship with State  
5 management, you know, the Federal subsistence management  
6 is about the people in the rural areas so involve us at  
7 the local level.  
8  
9                   So that's my comment, thanks.  
10  
11                   CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Exactly, thank you,  
12 Patricia.  
13  
14                   MR. SEE: One final comment.  
15  
16                   CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay. One final  
17 comment.  
18  
19                   MR. SEE: Yes, one final comment. In  
20 line with what Patty's saying then maybe someday the  
21 person coming up here giving the report may be a Native  
22 person.  
23  
24                   MS. PHILLIPS: Uh-huh.  
25  
26                   MR. SEE: That would make me real  
27 prideful.  
28  
29                   Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
30  
31                   CHAIRMAN ADAMS: I see where you're  
32 coming from, too, Mike, in that, some day maybe, you  
33 know, if we learn how to do those pellet counts  
34 ourselves, you know, it might interest them in joining  
35 the force. So any others force.  
36  
37                   MR. KOOKESH: One more.  
38  
39                   CHAIRMAN ADAMS: One more, you?  
40  
41                   MR. KOOKESH: I can't resist.  
42  
43                   CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay, Floyd.  
44  
45                   MR. KOOKESH: Patty's right. Mike's  
46 right. That the problem is local management, local  
47 control, where decision-making by the most affected users  
48 needs to occur, if it doesn't we'll never get anywhere.  
49 If we wait for Juneau and Sitka to respond we'll never  
50 get it.

1 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay. Donald, one more.  
2  
3 MR. HERNANDEZ: Quick comment.  
4  
5 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: That's what they all  
6 said.  
7  
8 MR. HERNANDEZ: In addition to what Patty  
9 was saying, we got the kids in Port Protection school  
10 involved in doing pellet counts one year, we got all the  
11 kids out there doing pellet counts with the Fish and Game  
12 and the Forest Service, it was a really valuable  
13 experience. And I don't think you'll ever find anybody  
14 better at finding stuff on the ground in the bushes than  
15 a bunch of kids.  
16  
17 (Laughter)  
18  
19  
20 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: All right, I guess we  
21 all encourage that, Tricia.  
22  
23 MS. O'CONNOR: Thank you, Mr. Chair, and  
24 the Council. And I do -- I take your comments to heart  
25 about the local involvement and that is something I will  
26 take back with me on the Tongass. We do have some good  
27 models out there in communities so I think we can strive  
28 to do better.  
29  
30 Thank you.  
31  
32 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you. Susan.  
33  
34 MS. OEHLERS: I just had one.....  
35  
36 REPORTER: Come on up.  
37  
38 MS. OEHLERS: Come up.  
39  
40 REPORTER; (Nods affirmatively)  
41  
42 MS. OEHLERS: I just did find the data on  
43 the January harvest for Unit 4. And from the Fish and  
44 Game management reports it states that the Federal season  
45 in January generally results in about 5 to 6 percent of  
46 the annual harvest. And between 1999 and 2004, January  
47 accounted for four percent of the harvest and that's  
48 throughout Unit 4. And so I just wanted to clarify that.  
49  
50 Thank you.

1 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you. All right.  
2 Why don't we take a 10 minute break here and then  
3 Patricia you're next and then Todd right after her.  
4  
5 (Off record)  
6  
7 (On record)  
8  
9 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: That little caucus over  
10 there will you please take your seat.  
11  
12 MR. SEE: Fine them.  
13  
14 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: I will. I'll fine them  
15 each \$5.  
16  
17 (Pause)  
18  
19 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: All right, Pat, the  
20 floor is yours, go ahead.  
21  
22 MS. PETRIVELLI: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
23 My name is Pat Petrivelli and I'm the BIA subsistence  
24 anthropologist. And I've been working with Craig  
25 Community Association on this Unit 2 deer subsistence  
26 uses and needs study.  
27  
28 And on here it says preliminary results,  
29 I'll have to acknowledge that I'm just going to do an  
30 update because we don't really have results right now.  
31  
32 So I'm going to start with the study  
33 background, go through the issue, describe the research  
34 objectives and then the status of our research  
35 activities.  
36  
37 Okay, with the study background, of  
38 course, like everyone's mentioned, Title VIII of ANILCA  
39 provides a rural priority for subsistence uses on Federal  
40 public lands. Residents of Unit 2, 1A and 3 and that's  
41 rural residents of Unit 2, 1A and 3 have a C&T use for  
42 Unit 2 deer. And, of course, all the residents of Unit  
43 2 and 3 are rural and 1A the rural residents are everyone  
44 except for the people who live in the Ketchikan area who  
45 are the non-rural people at this time. And of course  
46 your Council identified the subsistence uses and needs  
47 study as a priority.  
48  
49 And I usually include this -- I've gotten  
50 to make this presentation at the BIA providers and I

1 always give this as a background slide just to provide a  
2 context for how our program works or the Federal program  
3 works, the Federal Subsistence Management Program, and  
4 then these are just all the people involved in making a  
5 decision and, of course, the Southeast Regional Advisory  
6 Council is in there and then of course the public, the  
7 agencies and just the different -- and what people  
8 usually like to know is the different agencies and, of  
9 course, with the agency logos up there, you know, Forest  
10 Service, BIA, Fish and Wildlife, National Parks and BLM,  
11 so -- but this is just background for people who aren't  
12 fully aware of how the Federal system works.

13

14                   And here's the context for Unit 2 and  
15 just the boundaries of Unit 2. And the important part  
16 about this map is the Federal public lands are all the  
17 green colored areas and then the white are the private  
18 lands and those are where the State regulations would  
19 apply and the green colored areas where the Federal  
20 regulations apply. And then the different regulations I  
21 think is the next slide, yes, in Unit 2, the Federal  
22 regulations provide for a deer season from July 24th to  
23 December 31st and the bag limit is five deer and no more  
24 of those can be -- or no more -- well, I just should read  
25 it:

26

27                   Five deer, no more than one antlerless.

28

29                   So that means that one can be a doe.

30

31                   And then the State regulation says August  
32 1 through December 31st and it's four bucks, which is the  
33 limit. And portions of Unit 2 are closed to others, from  
34 August 1 to August 15th. And some of those portions of  
35 those green lands that are closed to non-Federally-  
36 qualified users. And that's not a State regulation, that  
37 just applies to the Federal regulations.

38

39                   So this study came about -- well, because  
40 of the Unit 2 study group that was formed and the  
41 Southeast Regional Advisory Council formed the  
42 subcommittee because, well, one thing that happened once  
43 the Federal government took over management on Federal  
44 public lands the program received proposals about Unit 2,  
45 I think almost every year. I only started to work in the  
46 program in the year 2000 with the Fish and Wildlife  
47 Service, and I think people submitted proposals every  
48 year, either to close the doe season or increase the  
49 harvest limit or close Federal public lands. I think  
50 there was a variety of proposals. But I think that --

1 but the Council, you know, just recommended the formation  
2 of the study group, and the study group -- or  
3 subcommittee, study committee held public meetings for a  
4 period of, I think, two years, and -- or one year, and  
5 they held it in Ketchikan and on the island in different  
6 places, and I'm not sure if they came to Wrangell or  
7 Petersburg -- they did come to Wrangell and Petersburg  
8 and they ended up with a report that this Council had to  
9 approve and then -- but the reason for the study  
10 committee was because -- for these reasons, they were --  
11 the Council was concerned about increase access to Prince  
12 of Wales, the competition with non-rural residents, and  
13 then the idea that the population trends of deer was  
14 uncertain.

15  
16 But they came up with recommendations and  
17 the main one I cared about, because I'm an anthropologist  
18 and this gave me a chance to be involved in a study so  
19 not the -- but the study that we're doing right now is  
20 one of the three that are the information needs triangle  
21 that was recognized by the study committee.

22  
23 The one at the top was unit deer harvest  
24 information, just better reporting. And I think when  
25 Neil Barten went through the idea of reporting before and  
26 just all of that it was pointed out to the study  
27 committee members that some of that reporting isn't, you  
28 know, they're just identifying trends, with the mandatory  
29 reporting was hoped that we would get data about actual  
30 harvest. And so the Federal Board and the Board of Game  
31 took the recommendation to heart and they require now  
32 mandatory reporting for all Unit 2 deer harvest.

33  
34 The next information need was deer  
35 population and trends. And Todd Brinkman is going to  
36 give a report about that, the Forest Service funded a  
37 study for him to do -- get -- try to get a better handle  
38 on more information about population trends.

39  
40 And then the third leg was a better  
41 description of subsistence uses of a need for deer, Unit  
42 2 deer. And just the uses and need for deer by Ketchikan  
43 residents and Unit 2 and just to better describe and  
44 contrast those different groups of users. Because people  
45 were saying they're not getting the deer they needed, and  
46 some people don't know what that means. So our study is  
47 supposed to help describe that.

48  
49 Let's see, so when we came up with a goal  
50 for the study, recognizing the need for more accurate

1 information on subsistence uses and needs, our questions  
2 are:

3

4                   What are the subsistence uses and needs.

5

6                   What are the C&T use patterns of the  
7 rural residents and how do they differ  
8 from the Ketchikan non-rural area  
9 residents.

10

11                   And so a lot of the past studies, when we  
12 looked at uses and needs, and especially needs it seemed  
13 like a lot of it was directed at kind of hunter effort,  
14 you know, like you didn't get the deer you needed because  
15 you didn't try hard enough and that seemed a lot and so  
16 -- but so we kept -- as we were putting together, how do  
17 we go about measuring this, I took the advice of past  
18 members of this Council, John Littlefield and Bill  
19 Thomas, when they said read ANILCA, you know, just go to  
20 ANILCA, so whatever you're going to do that's what we're  
21 implementing is we're implementing ANILCA, and so in the  
22 idea of uses and needs, that's what we went to. Oh, but  
23 before we did that -- before we could even get the  
24 contract, we had to agree to involve all the -- because  
25 I'm working with the tribe and the Forest Service, before  
26 they would give it to us, they said we had to involve all  
27 communities in Unit 2, we had to practice scientifically  
28 valid methodologies, we had to follow principles of  
29 research conduct and we had to have, you know, valid  
30 sampling considerations. And the principles of research  
31 conduct that we're required to follow requires informed  
32 consent from the community, organizations that we're  
33 doing our household studies in and also informed consent  
34 of all the individuals who provided us with information.  
35 But this is just a -- so anyway, that's just a  
36 housekeeping.

37

38                   And this is how we're going to gather  
39 data.

40

41                   But here we go to define the community  
42 needs.

43

44                   So in ANILCA, Congress in Section .803,  
45 they say subsistence uses are the uses of natural  
46 resources or the uses of natural resources, or whatever,  
47 renewable resources for food, sharing, barter, making of  
48 clothing and objects and customary trade, and so that's  
49 how Congress identified subsistence uses of resources.  
50 And they also said that subsistence resources are

1 important to Native residents and non-Native rural  
2 residents who are -- rural -- or Native rural residents  
3 and non-Native rural residents for -- in meeting  
4 physical, economic, traditional and cultural and social  
5 needs. Of course they said cultural for Native residents  
6 and social for non-Native residents and, of course,  
7 that's rural but in meeting those needs. And so those  
8 were the things we used to come up with our questions.

9  
10 Of course this is where you put those  
11 uses and needs together and most people don't like that  
12 diagram but this one's a little bit clearer. You have  
13 the uses on the outside and the needs in the middle but  
14 they're all in the little boxes, but most people know  
15 what those little boxes, they're pretty overlapping,  
16 which is the more -- when they overlap like that I like  
17 that one better because the overlapping one you think of  
18 physical and economic and food, you know, those three  
19 things go together, physical, economic because when  
20 you're meeting a physical need is nutritional but then  
21 the economic is buying food, you know, but with the lines  
22 in between it's hard to know where they go. But we're  
23 not here to discuss the diagrams.

24  
25 (Laughter)

26  
27 MS. PETRIVELLI: But we'll move on to the  
28 questions.

29  
30 With our survey questions we have, well,  
31 two ways -- well, actually I'll go back to the gathering  
32 information, the methods of getting this information and  
33 it was a literature search to look in the past how people  
34 described deer uses and needs. Looking at the harvest  
35 data that's been gathered, you know, and you saw some of  
36 that that Susan had put together, all the deer harvest  
37 data and then the new stuff we're gathering is from three  
38 to six, we're doing -- and at first we were only going to  
39 do a hunter survey and we thought for sure, well, with  
40 the hunter survey and we're having a raffle prize and we  
41 thought, you know, that's it, every hunter, deer hunter  
42 in Unit 2 will answer every question we want because  
43 we're going to offer this prize to win this rifle, and  
44 it's a 30-06, whatever that is.

45  
46 (Laughter)

47  
48 MS. PETRIVELLI: But it's supposed to  
49 mean something.

50

1 (Laughter)

2

3

MS. PETRIVELLI: And actually  
4 surprisingly when you put a picture of it, when I was  
5 doing the school things, the little boys, you know, the  
6 third graders even, they went, wow, you know, they were  
7 really impressed and they were like, how do I get that  
8 and I went -- but third graders can't enter, it's 12 and  
9 over. And then 18 year olds can only own a rifle under  
10 Federal regulations.

11

12 So were going to just do a hunter survey  
13 but we have a study committee that is guiding our  
14 research activities and members of the study committee  
15 said, you're going to define subsistence uses and needs  
16 and you're only talking to hunters and I said, yeah, you  
17 know, but she said we had to talk to households too. So  
18 we changed our research design and we -- and it's just  
19 for the communities on Unit 2, but we did a household  
20 survey. We went to every household in the smaller  
21 communities and then a random sample in the larger  
22 communities and then we switched it so the second year of  
23 our study we're just talking to hunters. And then the  
24 other part -- and the survey is just a fill in the blank  
25 type of questions and gathering. And then the -- but the  
26 key respondent interviews, we're talking to 50 people,  
27 and I always like to say those are the essay question  
28 types of data gathering where we allow people to talk  
29 more fully about their subsistence uses and needs. And  
30 a component of that essay question is mapping on a  
31 generational basis, where we're talking to active hunters  
32 and the tribes that we've talked to, in writing up this  
33 research design, they said you should have two groups of  
34 active hunters, the younger ones and the older ones to  
35 see if hunting patterns are the same or different in the  
36 generations and to see if people are going different  
37 places, practices are changing and then if there's some  
38 components of -- if we can identify there are differences  
39 between the younger hunters and the older hunters and  
40 just to measure change and if that change is being caused  
41 by habitat access, competition or just people aren't  
42 being taught the right way to hunt anymore; so we had  
43 that component.

44

45 And then the other part of data gathering  
46 is to try to document use of deer in community events.  
47 And so we had a brilliant idea of paying someone in each  
48 community 50 bucks a month to just go to every community  
49 event and tell how much deer is used in each potluck  
50 that's being held. But -- and so then we could have an

1 objective measurement of deer in community events, and  
2 not only deer as food but also as objects. If they have  
3 dancing, if people are wearing regalia with the deer or  
4 if they're selling deer objects, so those were the main  
5 methods of gathering data.

6

7                   So we'll go back to the questionnaire.

8

9                   So here's our questions on uses.

10

11                   And we asked these same for -- of uses in  
12 the household and the hunter survey so for the 2007 we  
13 asked:

14

15                   How many pounds of deer did your  
16 household use for food.

17

18                   And then, of course, we did ask them, how  
19 many pounds of deer do you normally use, you know, and  
20 then there's a whole bunch of other questions in this --  
21 we tried to make it as short as possible but it's -- and  
22 it's pretty good, it's only eight pages, but the  
23 household one, the hunter one, I think we got down to  
24 six. So I think for a survey, it's a relatively short  
25 one to discuss things as important as uses and needs.

26

27                   And then here are the uses, just check  
28 all of the following types of uses of deer that apply to  
29 your household, food, sharing, barter, clothing and  
30 objects and trade for cash and then other.

31

32                   The other use that always comes up is  
33 maybe dog food, you know, and that but then some people  
34 consider dogs as part of their family and so they never  
35 know whether food is -- and dog food is the same but, you  
36 know, I'll write it down anyway as dog food because I  
37 think it's illegal sometimes to feed your dogs with --  
38 I'm not sure but I never know. And it's all confidential  
39 so even if they do do illegal stuff we wouldn't report it  
40 anyway.

41

42                   And besides the actual using of deer in  
43 their own household, we do -- because sharing is the part  
44 and we wanted to measure how much -- if they received any  
45 deer or if they gave away any deer, and then that's a  
46 number -- we also asked the number of pounds.

47

48                   And then we get to needs we have a  
49 question for each of physical economic, social, cultural  
50 and traditional. And the physical one was the hardest

1 one to give an example for, you know, when we said how  
2 important is deer to your household in meeting your  
3 physical needs, such as dietary or nutritional. And then  
4 of course the scale is one to five with one not important  
5 and five very important.

6  
7 In the physical with dietary and  
8 nutritional, because people, again, didn't know how to  
9 put, well, if we need it for food to replace store bought  
10 food, you know, is that the physical need but then they  
11 thought, well, dietary and nutritional where is it just  
12 the exercise to go out hunting because that's nutritional  
13 and that's physical and, you know, so you get people  
14 arguing or, you know, arguing with the question.

15  
16 But we had written the questionnaire and  
17 we approved it and we just asked the question.

18  
19 And then we had them put in the store  
20 bought meat as an other need that we had not identified,  
21 at the bottom.

22  
23 So the next year when we did talk to the  
24 hunters and fixed the survey a little, then we added the  
25 question, how important is deer to your household meeting  
26 your economic need such as replacement for store bought  
27 meat. And because the economic need we had before, we  
28 had economic as selling deer parts -- or not deer parts,  
29 but objects made from deer parts because that's  
30 recognized as customary trade and so that was our  
31 economic question from the year before so now we had two  
32 economic questions in 2008.

33  
34 And the other thing we didn't -- in the  
35 second year we're going to survey all the stores because  
36 the State does a food price list, UAF does the  
37 cooperative extension but they only do it in the main  
38 areas and so I copied their little list and I gathered  
39 all the food prices in the stores in Hydaburg, Craig,  
40 Klawock and Thorne Bay and then we'll just do it. And  
41 then I think we're going to send that same price list to  
42 the smaller communities and ask them to put prices on --  
43 the interesting thing I noticed right away, in Hydaburg,  
44 the store's so small they don't have meat or fish in the  
45 store so there was nothing to give a price for and so  
46 either they go to Craig and Kalwock and buy their meat or  
47 fish or they just don't buy meat or fish and that's  
48 probably more likely.

49  
50 So with the household surveys, we

1 finished the survey period June 30th of last year and we  
2 did surveys in all 12 communities and the random sample  
3 was in Craig, Klawock, Thorne Bay and Hydaburg and we did  
4 a census sample in the smaller communities that had 100  
5 or less households. And a census sample is where you try  
6 to go to every household. What we actually accomplished  
7 in Craig, we got 10 percent of the households, Klawock  
8 12, Hydaburg 30 and Thorne Bay 20 percent. Those  
9 percentages are higher in Hydaburg and Thorne Bay because  
10 technically in order for a random sample to be valid you  
11 have to survey at least 40 households. I don't know why  
12 that magic number is there but the statistician that I'd  
13 been working with told me that and so I just -- so if  
14 that's what you have to do that's what you have to do so  
15 they had the higher percentage and, then, too, it's  
16 probably easier to get that many surveys. But we got the  
17 overall -- the percentage -- we got about 15 percent of  
18 the households in those larger communities.

19  
20 In the census communities we surve -- we  
21 got 184 surveys in those smaller communities and it  
22 worked out to be 63 percent total.

23  
24 The lowest percentage was Kasaan, where  
25 we didn't even get to 50 percent. Only five households  
26 would answer our questions. They had been doing a  
27 sockeye survey every year, the sockeye people doing a  
28 weir study have been surveying them about how many  
29 sockeyes they used, they're also doing a steelhead survey  
30 and, of course, this was their own tribal members or  
31 tribal employees that were surveying them, and then when  
32 Craig came in, Craig Community Association employees came  
33 in to ask them to do questions, they kind of slammed the  
34 door in our faces because they -- they just wouldn't do  
35 them. And so -- but hopefully with the chance of winning  
36 that rifle maybe more people will participate in the  
37 survey this year.

38  
39 So overall for the whole community -- or  
40 the whole Prince of Wales household survey we managed to  
41 sample 23 percent of the households.

42  
43 And here's the rifle. Here's the poster.  
44 And I have to give credit, Dave Johnson was the one that  
45 handled all the details of this. He was very pleased  
46 with the deal he got us, he knew somebody and he got us  
47 -- he picked out the rifles, and I guess -- I don't know,  
48 it's a new Ruger M77 Hackeye bolt action, but it's got a  
49 Leupold scope and -- oh, and then it comes with a  
50 carrying case, too. And we had two of them, one for the

1 Ketchikan area hunters, which we had the drawing last  
2 week and I guess -- but we had workers on the ferry going  
3 from Hollis to Ketchikan and then we put up this poster  
4 in different parts of Ketchikan, and we asked people to  
5 go to the ferry terminal and fill out the survey and they  
6 had the chance from August 16th to December 31st to fill  
7 out the survey and we ended up getting 255 surveys  
8 completed.

9  
10 I know that's a horrible, horrible slide,  
11 but what it shows is 177 people from Alaska filled out  
12 this survey and then all the other little columns, those  
13 are other people from 22 different states that were on  
14 the ferry filling out this survey. So 22 different  
15 people -- because we couldn't say -- you know, but they  
16 were, I don't know what, but they had hunting licenses  
17 and they filled out the survey and they said they hunted  
18 Unit 2 deer, but 177 were from Alaska and the others were  
19 from other states. And the ones in yellow, they had more  
20 than five hunters, so that was Washington state, Texas,  
21 Idaho, Ohio, Utah, Michigan and Wyoming that were there  
22 on Prince of Wales hunting deer. And the winner of the  
23 rifle was from Fairbanks, a Slope worker. So he won his  
24 30-06.

25  
26 And then now with the other rural  
27 residents, they have a chance to fill out our survey and  
28 by March 31st and they can turn it in and they could win  
29 the other rifle. And I guess that's it for the hunter  
30 survey.

31  
32 With the key respondent interviews, we  
33 have the goal of 50 interviews and I think I already went  
34 over the two groups of active hunters and then also  
35 knowledgeable users, and to-date we've finished 31 of  
36 those interviews and 25 of them were from the Prince of  
37 Wales Island communities, and of those interviews 23 were  
38 over 35 and eight were under 35 years of age. And six of  
39 the interviews were with females. So as either  
40 knowledgeable users or even active hunters, I was  
41 surprised at how many females are active deer hunters.

42  
43 These are the communities we have not  
44 gotten key interviews with, Petersburg, Wrangell,  
45 Metlakatla, Saxman, Kasaan, Thorne Bay and Whale Pass.  
46 And we're working on trying to find individuals for those  
47 communities. And with that quota we still have 19 left  
48 so we could easily -- but just to get from those -- and  
49 so while I'm here in Petersburg I'm going to be looking  
50 for knowledgeable -- and our criteria are that they are

1 active hunters, they've hunted in Unit 2 and they have  
2 had to live in the community for at least five years.  
3 Because we discussed, not only their hunting patterns,  
4 but how representative it is of the community and if they  
5 know about the community patterns.

6  
7           The other way we gather data with the  
8 community documentation, like I said we were going to pay  
9 people \$50 a month to attend community events and fill  
10 out forms and tell us how people use deer. We were able  
11 to subcontract with only three people that would agree to  
12 do that and only one consistently turned in the forms.  
13 But we ended up getting the information just by talking  
14 to people, you know, and so -- because like in Makhnati,  
15 when we went there it turns out they don't have community  
16 events where they serve deer at, you know, the only  
17 community event where people even eat food at is their  
18 Fourth of July celebration and people just eat hot dogs  
19 and hamburgers at the Fourth of July celebration so they  
20 never eat deer. And then when I was in Edna Bay they --  
21 you know I just talked to people there and at the men's  
22 breakfast every month, at the men's church breakfast they  
23 eat deer there consistently every month because that's  
24 all they eat for meat is deer, and so they would bring  
25 deer. But, you know, we just ended up -- personal  
26 communication became the manner in which they discovered  
27 how people used deer at community events or if they even  
28 make objects of just others. And then I already covered  
29 the other idea of compiling food costs.

30  
31           The other part is, you know, trying to  
32 reanalyze the information and I haven't really done any  
33 reanalysis of that. But in -- I got to talk with Jim  
34 Brainard and here's a -- this was done for a proposal, it  
35 should look familiar, it was part of when -- before  
36 the subcommittee came about and he did all the work  
37 gathering this data about the WAS. And I just did a  
38 minor thing, because he gathered all this data saying  
39 where -- which WAAs and all the harvest from 1987 to 2003  
40 and so these are the core areas and it was already broken  
41 down between rural and urban residents. And the farthest  
42 I got was putting stars on the map and this really --  
43 this shows all the WAAs in that time period that there  
44 was an average harvest of 150 deer a year, you know. In  
45 that pale pink one there was 149, the Whale Pass one, but  
46 the others where the red stars are -- and that just shows  
47 where 150 deer were harvested a year. Of course we'll be  
48 able to do a lot more sophisticated analysis because  
49 we're going to work with a GIS person and we'll have our  
50 harvest -- mapping harvest history and then we'll have

1 all our survey data and at least we'll have good survey  
2 data for all this stuff that Larry Dickerson will be  
3 telling you about with harvest reporting, we can do some  
4 -- a better analysis for you about where people are  
5 harvesting.

6  
7                   And the reporting, even from our survey,  
8 we followed the harvest report that's being required but,  
9 you know, we asked people when they harvested, whether  
10 they got bucks or does, what transportation, you know,  
11 there's just a lot of information and we could put it on  
12 there but we just haven't done it yet because we're too  
13 busy still gathering data.

14  
15                   So what we've done to-date though, we did  
16 form our study committee and we have made just, you know,  
17 community presentations, informing people about the study  
18 at the annual deer celebration that's held every November  
19 in Craig. The community documentation as it was, is  
20 done, and we're not doing anything more on that. We  
21 finished the household surveys and we'll continue to keep  
22 looking for literature about deer use.

23  
24                   What we're still -- oops. What we still  
25 have to do is finish up the key respondent interviews to  
26 get to that magic 50 mark and all those other communities  
27 we haven't gotten. And we're still doing the hunter  
28 surveys and then we have to get all that data entered and  
29 analyzed and then write the report.

30  
31                   We won't turn the report into the Forest  
32 Service until we have community meetings. And when we  
33 make the people sign the informed consent we tell them  
34 that they will get a four page executive summary that  
35 will tell them when we're having the community meetings  
36 and that they could please -- or if they want they could  
37 come and attend it and make comments at those community  
38 meetings. And we'll also send a full copy of the report  
39 to all the community councils involved and all the  
40 libraries of the communities where we're doing the  
41 surveys so that they could read the full copy if they  
42 want to. Because I know it will be very exciting to read  
43 about deer use in Unit 2.

44  
45                   And so once the review process, we'd have  
46 that meeting in November and then we'd hope to return the  
47 report into the Forest Service in January, hopefully  
48 there won't be a lot of rewriting done, and then the  
49 Forest Service will get to review it also and they'll  
50 have six weeks to review it and then they'll ask us to

1 rewrite it and I hope that won't involve a lot of  
2 rewriting either, and then hopefully it will be finalized  
3 by April.

4

5 So there I am.

6

7 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Well, very good, Pat.  
8 Questions from anyone. Mike and then Donald.

9

10 MR. BANGS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I  
11 just had a question about the education portion of what  
12 came from the Unit 2 deer study work. You know we talked  
13 a lot about trying to educate the people of Prince of  
14 Wales and Ketchikan and outlying communities and what  
15 effects they have on deer harvest and I was wondering if  
16 there was any of that going on, have you noticed that in  
17 Craig or Klawock.

18

19 MS. PETRIVELLI: That they know more  
20 about regulations or.....

21

22 MR. BANGS: I'm sorry I didn't make my  
23 question clear. But when we were going through in the  
24 Unit 2 subcommittee, we asked -- we found out a lot of  
25 the problems that arose from the Unit 2 deer, you know,  
26 interactions with the people from Ketchikan and people  
27 from outlying communities and what not, was just that  
28 they had a lack of education as to what the regulations  
29 were and they affects that they had by the doe harvest in  
30 years of heavy snow or in areas that were going into this  
31 exclusion portion. And I was just wondering, we  
32 discussed that that was probably an important ingredient  
33 in making everyone aware of the problems in Unit 2, was  
34 an education portion, and through the use of posters and  
35 what not, we were hoping that that would come about in  
36 the community centers and the tribal organizations.

37

38 MS. PETRIVELLI: I've seen that nice Unit  
39 2 deer subcommittee poster at Craig Community  
40 Association's office. And then at the deer celebration  
41 it's nice because a number of wildlife biologists  
42 participate in education activities and the kids go  
43 through them and sometimes the parents will be along.  
44 But I think when we do -- one thing I've noticed, because  
45 we have our fill in the blanks surveys and at least, if  
46 not a half to two-thirds of the people, all have comments  
47 and concerns about the deer study, about deer  
48 populations, about enforcement, about everything, but  
49 until we write it all down. I'm not sure if they learned  
50 a lot from that subcommittee activity, but they do have

1 a lot of concerns.

2

3                   And, you know, we just write them down  
4 and I think once we write them all down definitely -- and  
5 analyze them, I was going to use a lot of the educational  
6 attachments because Dolly Garza gave me her book from the  
7 subcommittee and I was going to use that as a resource  
8 for addressing some of those concerns in an appendix.

9

10                   MR. BANGS: Thank you.

11

12                   CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Donald, go ahead.

13

14                   MR. HERNANDEZ: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.  
15 Pat when the subcommittee first realized that this uses  
16 and needs was kind of a big lacking component of how we  
17 go about managing deer, especially on the Federal side,  
18 you know, subsistence oriented we have to -- we really  
19 need this information and Unit 2 was the center of  
20 controversy at the time, you know, for deer management  
21 issues and I think it's going to be a really valuable  
22 study, but I think the big question is and we're starting  
23 to see in other regions now that, you know, the deer  
24 populations which have always been pretty stable and not  
25 much management action has had to occur over the years,  
26 all of a sudden we're talking about these severe winters  
27 and having to change management strategies, I guess, and  
28 so my question is do you think that some of the work that  
29 you've done on Prince of Wales would be applicable to  
30 dealing with other subsistence oriented communities in  
31 the rest of Southeast or do you think your work needs to  
32 be more only regarded, you know, specifically to the  
33 communities where the work was done?

34

35                   MS. PETRIVELLI: I won't even know until  
36 we look at what it tells us, you know, because -- and I  
37 wasn't even sure -- okay, because when you say, like a  
38 valid measurement of uses and needs and kind of like say  
39 about the validity of that transect as you move, you  
40 know, you put the rope down or whatever you do and count  
41 everything, it's really hard to say if it would be a  
42 useful measure until we see what it tells and what the  
43 communities say how well it is because they're the real  
44 -- because I think it's important, if they say what we've  
45 measured gives an accurate picture of what they've  
46 described of their communities then I could say we could  
47 figure out what portions of it would be a good measuring  
48 aspect and how to gather that data, like maybe changing  
49 the reporting form, you know.

50

1                   But until we see what it really tells us  
2 we won't know so, sorry.

3  
4                   CHAIRMAN ADAMS:  Anyone else.  Mr.  
5 Kookesh.

6  
7                   MR. KOOKESH:  Mr. Chairman.  I didn't  
8 follow all of your questions and I might have missed this  
9 one, but do you ask people if they're under reporting or  
10 if the limits, the harvest limits are meeting their  
11 subsistence needs?

12  
13                  MS. PETRIVELLI:  We don't ask if they're  
14 under reporting we just ask them when they harvest deer  
15 and then we say that we won't turn them in if they were  
16 harvesting them out of season.  And we ask them to tell  
17 us how many they harvested, when they harvested, and then  
18 until we -- like some people do say, you know, what  
19 months they harvested, you know, and, of course, we did  
20 it on a household level so some households, you know,  
21 have six people and they harvested, you know, 12 deer but  
22 -- and, you know, lots of deer so under the Federal  
23 system with designated hunting, you know, but it didn't  
24 matter to us whether they had a designated hunting permit  
25 or -- at first our survey did have did you get a hunting  
26 license, did you get a designated hunting permit and then  
27 someone pointed out to us that we could get that  
28 information from the Federal agencies and we could get  
29 that from the State of Alaska how many hunting licenses  
30 are issued in each community and we could find out  
31 exactly how many designated hunting permits are issued in  
32 each community.  So we were asking people unnecessary  
33 questions, that they really didn't -- and if we did ask  
34 those questions then they would think that we were doing  
35 enforcement measures and our goal is not to enforce it  
36 was just to get information about how much people -- how  
37 much deer people use and that was just the main goal of  
38 the study; how much do you use, how much do you harvest  
39 and what do you use it for.  And the needs, we have  
40 questions, did you get enough deer to meet your needs.  
41 And then if they didn't get enough then we asked them,  
42 and this was the effort part, well, was it because you  
43 didn't have enough time to hunt, was it because the  
44 resource wasn't abundant, was it because the weather  
45 conditions weren't right and I forget, there was a whole  
46 list of things that we asked about, if they didn't meet  
47 their needs.

48  
49                  So -- but we didn't say are you meeting  
50 your needs, but we just asked did you get enough deer to

1 meet your needs, and we didn't ask them how they got it.  
2 In a way we did because if someone gave them all the  
3 deer, you know, someone could give you -- I mean you  
4 could -- some people did harvest two to three deer  
5 themselves and then when -- they say they stopped  
6 harvesting because they were old or because of health and  
7 then people would give them pounds of deer to replace  
8 some of that, or they'd replace it with fish.

9

10 But we did ask what they used in place of  
11 deer if they didn't meet their needs also.

12

13 So I don't know if I answered your  
14 question or not, I kind of did.

15

16 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Anyone else.

17

18 (No comments)

19

20 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you, Pat,  
21 appreciate it.

22

23 MS. PETRIVELLI: You're welcome.

24

25 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Todd, you're next.

26

27 (Pause)

28

29 MR. BRINKMAN: Hello, my name is Todd  
30 Brinkman. I'm with the University of Alaska-Fairbanks.  
31 For the last five years I've devoted all my time to  
32 better understanding the hunting system on Prince of  
33 Wales Island, not just what's going on with deer but  
34 what's going on with the deer hunter, and what's going on  
35 with the landscape.

36

37 I hope you had a chance to look at the  
38 acknowledgements there, the acknowledgments because  
39 there's been a lot of other folks who have helped me all  
40 the way, especially a number of hunters who have shared  
41 their time, knowledge and hunting experiences. And then  
42 we worked with closely with the tribal villages on the  
43 island from the very get-go. And Mr. See, you can throw  
44 the broken record away because we fully involved the  
45 tribes in every step on this. And in regards to capacity  
46 building amongst the tribe, I only hired my technicians  
47 through the village corporations so there's two guys  
48 Brodovich, and Joey Adams down there in Hydaburg that can  
49 do what I did as good as anybody.

50

1                   But I'll get right into it, I'm going to  
2 cover a lot of data and I'm going to go kind of fast but  
3 I can go back afterwards.

4  
5                   So the issue I'm addressing is something  
6 that's been hindering wildlife managers and subsistence  
7 managers for a very long time and that's trying to figure  
8 out how many deer are in the woods and the problem is we  
9 have no idea, really, a good estimate of how many deer  
10 are in the woods.

11  
12                   So without knowing the size of the pie,  
13 any time we talk about, like you did, Mr. Bangs, about  
14 the effects of predation or something, even if we know  
15 how many deer wolves are taking, it doesn't have a lot of  
16 meaning if we don't know the number of deer out there for  
17 the wolves to take. So we need to get that first  
18 population parameter to give meanings to these other  
19 mortality factors.

20  
21                   And the other thing, in addition to our  
22 work on figuring out how to come up with set we also look  
23 at sex ratio and I'll get into that as well.

24  
25                   I won't get into the geography very much  
26 because you folks are all aware of where Prince of Wales  
27 is at and much about what has gone on there but all of  
28 our research has been conducted on this island. And  
29 something that's very unique about Prince of Wales Island  
30 is it's undergone a massive amount of change over the  
31 last 50 years mainly due to industrial. scale logging.

32  
33                   Now, this map up here, if you can see it,  
34 it's kind of tough, but all the red represents the clear-  
35 cut logging that's taken place on the island from 1950 to  
36 1995, and the yellow is the road network that was built  
37 to support that logging activity. Now, like other places  
38 in Alaska this has kind of undergone a boom and bust  
39 cycle. In the 50s it really exploded and heavy logging  
40 activity was maintained until the late '90s, early 2000s  
41 when it crashed. And this is Federal public lands too,  
42 so I didn't have the date on some of the tribal lands.

43  
44                   And now with this crash of logging, what  
45 you can see and maybe you've talked about it already but  
46 around the peak you have about 3,000 kilometers of road  
47 providing access to previously remote habitat on the  
48 island, but now with the crash of logging a lot of that  
49 revenue from timber sales isn't coming in and you're  
50 likely going to see some decommissioning of roads, maybe

1 upwards of 40, 50 percent.

2

3                   So you had two major things that took  
4 place over the last 50 years. First of all the logging  
5 came in and changed the habitat in one way and now as  
6 logging is going away the habitat is transitioning into  
7 something else and that change is not only the way the  
8 hunters interact with land but also the way the deer  
9 interact with land. And to really understand this  
10 hunting system I believe, you not only need to know a  
11 little bit about the landscape, the deer and the hunter,  
12 but also how all three of these components interact. So  
13 this kind of is a portrayal of what's happened.

14

15                   So you had the logging road punched in,  
16 and you have this clear-cut forest, right after you got  
17 this clear-cut you got this boom of vegetation and the  
18 deer are going to move in there, right, and take  
19 advantage of all this fresh forest, well, your hunters  
20 are seeing this go on so the hunters are going to move in  
21 and take advantage of all these deer moving into your  
22 clear-cuts, and this is what has happened over the last  
23 50 years on Prince of Wales Island. There's been a lot  
24 of people jumping out of their boats and into vehicles  
25 and taking advantage of all this new road network and all  
26 these new clear-cut habitats with all this great  
27 sightability.

28

29                   But also as you know, over time, you have  
30 the second growth comes up and you lose that sightability  
31 and some of the benefits associated with the fresh clear-  
32 cut.

33

34                   When I first got down to the island I had  
35 these face to face interviews with 88 deer hunters on the  
36 island. I asked them around 100 questions and a number  
37 of the questions addressed how access and forest  
38 structure change is affecting their hunting  
39 opportunities. So here's a little bit about the forest  
40 structure change because I was really interested in this  
41 landscape change. One of the things I asked them is, of  
42 course, which habitat do you prefer to hunt and clear-cut  
43 was the second most desirable habitat for hunting on  
44 Prince of Wales Island. It was right behind muskeg. And  
45 they told me that around two years of age that's your  
46 best hunting in the clear-cut. However, a young clear-  
47 cut from zero to eight years old is pretty good hunting.  
48 Now, what's interesting here, though, is according to  
49 about 86 percent of the hunters I spoke with, at around  
50 12 years they feel that this clear-cut is no longer a

1 good hunting spot anymore and 50 percent believe that  
2 this second growth forest cannot be hunted again  
3 regardless and where about half said, yeah, we can hunt  
4 this again someday, maybe about 40 years with proper  
5 management but it may never be as good as some of these  
6 other habitat types.

7  
8                   So during the good old days of hunting,  
9 I guess, you might call on them Prince of Wales Island,  
10 you'd be driving down the road and the background of this  
11 slide is what you would see. Well, now many of the roads  
12 that you drive down this is what you see out of your car  
13 windows, becoming much more difficult, not only to spot  
14 a deer but also to stop, pursue and harvest a deer and  
15 many hunters are being challenged and forced to adapt  
16 that hunting strategy. Up there you recall the red was  
17 the clear-cut habitat, well, this is slowly transitioning  
18 into second growth, there is still some clear-cuts being  
19 created, however there's far more area converting into  
20 the second growth which is poor hunting habitat and new  
21 clear-cuts being created.

22  
23                   So let's graph this.

24  
25                   So clear-cut forests, zero to eight years  
26 old is selected for hunting habitat, second most  
27 desirable behind muskeg. Where your older forest,  
28 greater than 12 years old, your second growth was one of  
29 the least desirable habitats for hunting. And while  
30 logging was at a high and maintained you always had  
31 around 100 to 200 square kilometers available of that  
32 young clear-cut forest and as logging crashes that area  
33 is diminishing and in the meantime all these clear-cuts  
34 that occurred in the past are converted into your 12 year  
35 old forest which is less desirable areas for hunting.  
36 And that's going to continue to grow.

37  
38                   So I just wanted to lay that out and give  
39 you some context of what I'm about to talk to you.  
40 Because we're starting to get a handle on the way the  
41 hunter interacts with the landscape and how the hunter  
42 interacts with the deer, but we really don't know how the  
43 deer are responding to all these changes, and until we  
44 figure that out we really can't really monitor the  
45 hunting system as a whole. So that was the focus of the  
46 last three years.

47  
48                   But before I jumped into that, I'd  
49 gathered so much great information from these hunters and  
50 they're so knowledgeable and they've taught me so much

1 that I first went to them for estimates of deer numbers  
2 and I gave them this map and I go can you please tell me  
3 how many deer are on Prince of Wales Island and they  
4 looked at me like I was crazy, which they should, because  
5 how could you just guess how many deer was on Prince of  
6 Wales Island. Well, I go, okay, tell me this, how many  
7 deer are in the area you hunt and tell me how big it is  
8 and they said, oh, I can tell you exactly how many deer  
9 I think there is in the area I hunt and this is how big  
10 it is. And so they gave me a density estimate, how many  
11 deer per square mile and I go, okay, well, let's use that  
12 density and then we'll just times it by the area on  
13 Prince of Wales Island just to get a starting point. And  
14 we dropped it by a few deer because we're assuming their  
15 hunting area is a little bit better than most. So what  
16 we do is they'd give me a starting point, somewhere here  
17 on the map and then I would ask them to draw me a line  
18 over the last 30 years, it's hard to see that bottom  
19 axis, those are year 1975-2005 -- 2045 -- draw me a line  
20 to your initial point of what that population did over  
21 the last 30 years and then tell me again what you think  
22 it's going to do 40 years in the future.

23

24 After 88 deer hunters this was our  
25 consensus.

26

27 (Laughter)

28

29 MR. BRINKMAN: So I can go back to the  
30 managers now and say I know in '75 we had somewhere  
31 between 2,000 and 100,000 deer and in 2045 we're going to  
32 -- they're either going to go extinct or they're going to  
33 go off the charts.

34

35 (Laughter)

36

37 MR. BRINKMAN: So that probably isn't  
38 good enough data to change policy. We needed to get  
39 creative, we needed to find another way to get solid  
40 estimate. Now, what we do know is clear-cuts are good  
41 but we also know as clear-cuts grow older the sun can't  
42 penetrate the forest floor and you lose that vegetation  
43 on the bottom. And then we know if the deer don't have  
44 anything to eat they may use it as a corridor but they're  
45 likely moving to somewhere else to forage. Now, they've  
46 speculated over the last 40 years, although we don't  
47 know, that a certain area of habitat can only support so  
48 many deer, so losing some of this old growth forest or  
49 some of this area with higher biomass may be resulting in  
50 an overall drop of the carrying capacity but we have no

1 idea to support that, we need it.

2

3                   And we also know that these clear-cuts  
4 are great in the summer but I think I've heard it six  
5 times today about the snow, because clear-cuts really  
6 aren't that great in the winter. It can reduce forage  
7 ability, it can drastically increase energy expenditure  
8 if they got to move from a pocket to another pocket. As  
9 soon as that snow gets to about the brisket height they  
10 got to exert about five times as much energy to move  
11 through it. And in some cases, like perhaps what was  
12 happening in Pelican where you have these really  
13 significant snowfalls, they may be isolated in these  
14 pockets, eating themselves out of house and home. And  
15 during a harsh winter like we've seen in the last two  
16 years, we might have some significant winter kill. But,  
17 you know, we need to put a number on this to get external  
18 validity to really figure out what's going on we need to  
19 quantify it, how these effects might be influencing our  
20 deer populations.

21

22                   So that was the objective. First we get  
23 an idea of the deer population and then track it through  
24 time and maybe we can find out what influence some of  
25 these factors are having. In other parts of Alaska it's  
26 quite a bit easier. They use aerial surveys on moose and  
27 caribou and they can get you good numbers that way. But  
28 as you guys all know flying over Southeast Alaska, you  
29 look down you're not going to see many deer. Aerial  
30 counts are just out.

31

32                   Well, what about the roads.

33

34                   You got the most extensive road network  
35 in Southeast Alaska on Prince of Wales Island. Well, as  
36 we just kind of talked about, all those clear-cuts have  
37 grown up so this is your view from the road, that deer  
38 takes two more steps and it's gone. So direct  
39 observation is out. We really can't use that.

40

41                   So this is what we can do. Now, this may  
42 look like just deer feces to some of you, to me these are  
43 little libraries of information. And if I come across a  
44 real fresh pile it's a big library of information because  
45 that means the DNA is relatively fresh and high quality  
46 and I can get a lot of information out of it. So it's  
47 the deer feces, it's basically the DNA on the deer feces  
48 is helping us determine how many deer are on Prince of  
49 Wales Island and I'm about to go through that.

50

1                   Now, how this DNA stuff works is when the  
2 deer eats the food, you got the pellet right there, right  
3 and it travels through the lower digestive system and as  
4 it goes through there you got skin cells from the inside  
5 shed on top of the pellet, now that's where our DNA is.  
6 It's this DNA filled coating on top of the pellet which  
7 we kind of wash off and distract our DNA from. And with  
8 this DNA we can do a lot of cool stuff. We can identify  
9 an individual deer. We can tell that one deer is  
10 different than all the other deer in the woods. We can  
11 identify the sex of the deer, whether it's male or  
12 female, very quickly, very easily. And in addition to  
13 that we can start to determine the relationship between  
14 all the deer. So this is useful. Say you have a  
15 watershed right here and a watershed right here, if we  
16 know the genetic structure of the deer in those  
17 watershed, we can tell you how closely they are related  
18 and how often they move back and forth between those  
19 watersheds. This is good. Say this watershed gets hit  
20 hard by snow and this deer population is really depleted,  
21 right, we know if it has a genetic structure close to  
22 this one, if there is a high likelihood that it's going  
23 to recover and recolonize very quickly, however, if we  
24 find out it's very genetically isolated we know if it  
25 gets hammered it might be awhile before it recovers.

26

27                   So we can start to answer these questions  
28 that we've never been able to get at before.

29

30                   So we figured out that we could get good  
31 DNA off these pellets.

32

33                   We went and established three study sites  
34 on Prince of Wales Island, Upper Staney, Upper Steelhead  
35 and Maybeso. And then we walked these transects, they're  
36 different than the State transects. Your deer travel  
37 through the forest like this, well, often times though  
38 your biologists walk through the forest like this. Well,  
39 in doing that we realized that we weren't encountering as  
40 many pellets as we needed to to perform this DNA study.  
41 And it was very difficult to walk straight line transects  
42 through many of these habitats and we wanted to sample  
43 all of them, everything from clear-cut to pre-commercial  
44 to all your different volumes of old growth. So we  
45 proposed a new technique for sampling animal sign (ph)  
46 that allows a researcher to follow the deer trails. So  
47 the deer travels through something like this,  
48 traditionally the researcher would walk like through  
49 this, on this red line here. Well, we started the  
50 transect the same way they would, we walked this straight

1 line trail until we encountered a deer trail and then we  
2 would follow that deer trail until we came across another  
3 deer trail. Now, what we did is the same way that they,  
4 in the woods, in the traditional transects use a compass  
5 bearing to follow a straight line, we used a compass  
6 bearing to select which deer trail we follow. So say we  
7 encounter a Y in the deer trail, we simply used a compass  
8 to select for us which deer trail we followed. So in a  
9 way the compass was making the decision and we're still  
10 eliminating bias and incorporating objectivity into our  
11 sampling design here. And say the deer trail starts to  
12 wind around 90 degrees plus or minus, we get off it and  
13 just once again walk the straight line to another deer  
14 trail. This prevents us from looping back around. And  
15 say we can no longer see the deer trail or find out which  
16 one to take, we will once again walk the straight line  
17 transect as we do.

18

19                   So what it ends up looking like for our  
20 deer trails is something like this rather than the  
21 straight line transect, we spend most of our time on the  
22 deer trail and that resulted in a study we did in the  
23 woods where we were encountering about 119 percent more  
24 pellet groups than if we were to walk the straight line  
25 transect, which is giving us greater power to detect  
26 changes.

27

28                   So the advantage of this, you got higher  
29 encounter rates using this design which allows us to do  
30 a mark/recapture study which we can do -- we can identify  
31 individual deer and it's safety, any of you guys that  
32 have participated in this, in order to keep a straight  
33 line you almost need to risk your life out there in some  
34 cases. So it's easier walking because you're following  
35 a trail and then logistically it's easier. One field  
36 crew member can walk this trail with a compass and still  
37 be able to detect most of the pellets on the trail so you  
38 got low detection error as well.

39

40                   Okay, so we figured out that this new  
41 deer trail system works, we're counting more pellets. We  
42 set up all these different transects, these lines that  
43 we're going to walk in the watershed. So this is upper  
44 Staney, and I think we got around 16 transects spread  
45 out. Now, all the different colors on this map are  
46 different habitat types, the red represents managed  
47 stands, lighter red is younger managed stands, older  
48 [sic] red is newer, like clear-cuts. And then the  
49 different shades of green is low volume, mid- volume and  
50 high volume old growth and then you have white, which is

1 muskeg, and those are pretty much your general habitat  
2 types because when we're sampling the alpine is under  
3 snow.

4  
5                   So this is the other one, upper  
6 Steelhead. Traverses all different types of habitat  
7 types.

8  
9                   And then we got Maybeso. Now, we did the  
10 first two upper Steelhead, Stoney because those are very  
11 important to the hunters and eventually I wanted to tie  
12 this information back into the hunter surveys I get. Now  
13 we did Maybeso because this is kind of like what's going  
14 to come to Prince of Wales Island. Maybeso was hammered  
15 by logging in the 1950s so most of this watershed is now  
16 50 year old -- 50 to 60 year old second growth forest so  
17 maybe if we could figure out what's going on that we can  
18 make predictions on what's going to be going on in all  
19 these other places, that are transitioning to that age.

20  
21                   So we went out there and we walked these  
22 deer trails and we marked them so we could walk the same  
23 deer trail the next time and what we did is we walked  
24 these deer trails every 10 days, every time we walked we  
25 would count every pellet group sample from the good ones  
26 and then clear all the pellet groups off the trails so  
27 when we walked that trail system 10 days later we  
28 realized we're coming across all fresh pellets, so we  
29 weren't sampling from the same deer we did before. So we  
30 can give you a time and a place of every one of these  
31 deer. Then after we have them in the test tube I take  
32 them back up to the lab with me in Fairbanks and I'd  
33 extract DNA off the pellets and then I would isolate the  
34 part of the DNA that's unique in every single deer. So  
35 we can tell this deer from this deer.

36  
37                   So here -- I'll get into the results a  
38 little bit. This is the number of pellet groups  
39 providing quality DNA. When I say quality DNA the DNA  
40 was good enough where we could geno-type it, or identify  
41 a deer and distinguish it from all other deers. so you  
42 have Maybeso right there, upper left, upper Stoney in the  
43 middle, upper Steelhead on the right, and this is the  
44 number of pellet providing data.

45  
46                   Now, this was an experimental study from  
47 the get-go so these percentages up here is the number of  
48 pellet groups providing quality DNA from the total number  
49 we sampled. So about half the pellet groups that we  
50 sampled we got good DNA off that first year in Maybeso,

1 and half the second year and then we tweaked a few things  
2 and we really got some amazing results after that. About  
3 83 percent of the pellet groups we collected that last  
4 year, we got about 90 percent in upper Staney that last  
5 year, and 96 percent of all the pellet groups we sampled  
6 were giving us good DNA in upper Steelhead that last  
7 year. So it took us three years but we're really honing  
8 in on what might be a real useful protocol for the  
9 managers and researchers in the future.

10

11 So, okay, so let's get to the number of  
12 unique individuals.

13

14 So this is the number of deer that we  
15 identified in each of those watersheds during each of  
16 those years. Keep an eye on the trend here because I'm  
17 going to come back to it.

18

19 So you got somewhere around, if you can  
20 read this that first year in Maybeso 100 deer, around 80  
21 second year, around 60 in the third, and kind of the same  
22 trend, a little bit higher in upper Staney, and then  
23 slightly different in upper Steelhead.

24

25 Now, as far as probable identity, how do  
26 we know if this deer is different than any other deer,  
27 well, based on how we do our genetics we can do  
28 statistics to tell us exactly how likely we are, and  
29 there's about a one in a 2,000 chance that we're calling  
30 two deer the same when they're actually different here.  
31 So it's not as good as some studies but these Sitka deer  
32 are real tough, they're very closely related genetically.  
33 But one in 2,000 is probably going to be good enough to  
34 get the information we need.

35

36 So if we expand and we look at the area  
37 of the deer -- or the number of the deer in the area we  
38 sampled, now how I'm getting that area from this trail  
39 system is we know using radiocollared data that a home  
40 range of a deer is a little under a mile across, so  
41 basically we buffered each one of these trails by a  
42 little under a half a mile and we are considering that's  
43 the area that we'll likely have an opportunity to sample  
44 some deer in. So this is the estimated number of deer in  
45 the area sampled.

46

47 You can just kind of look at these trends  
48 right now because I'm going to give you density estimates  
49 in just a second.

50

1                   Upper Steelhead we didn't quite get a  
2 good enough sample to get an estimate that last year.  
3 And then this data here, I just got out of the genetics  
4 lab, so I'm still kind of error checking, this one's a  
5 little fishy that's only why I circled it because some of  
6 these numbers we might want to change. I really want to  
7 stress that, I just got out of the lab, this is  
8 preliminary data, we're going to error check it, we're  
9 going to confirm it with more analysis so the number is  
10 going to stay relatively the same but I think it will  
11 probably go up and down a little bit.

12  
13                   Okay, so we go back to get a density  
14 estimate, basically what we do is we look at the area  
15 sampled and the total number of deer that we found in  
16 that area and that gives us your deer density. Now, the  
17 last 30 years using the pellet counts we've been talking  
18 about deer densities, well, this is actual numbers based  
19 on unique individuals in these watersheds and we can see  
20 that in 2006 we had some densities around 45 in Maybeso  
21 and a little above -- between 35 and 40 in upper Staney  
22 and around 20 in the upper Steelhead. And we had kind of  
23 a sharp decline in Maybeso, a pretty sharp decline that  
24 first year in upper Staney but after those two harsh  
25 winters, perhaps it has something to do with it, perhaps  
26 it doesn't, we're looking at around 20 deer per square  
27 mile in those watersheds. So the other thing I'm doing  
28 is -- getting the estimate through the DNA was one  
29 thing, but then I also wanted to somehow improve the  
30 pellet count estimates because if this DNA didn't work I  
31 still wanted to make a contribution, so this was our  
32 pellet group densities by walking our deer trail  
33 transects. So we see a nice trend that kind of matches  
34 our DNA trend in Maybeso. Not as well in upper Staney  
35 and pretty good in upper Steelhead. And if you look at  
36 the State pellet counts, we ran those in the same  
37 watersheds that we did these kind of new techniques to  
38 see what they got and their variance wasn't giving us any  
39 real trend there.

40  
41                   But I'm not done, as I said I'm just  
42 starting the -- kind of the analysis stage of my research  
43 and so we're really going to look at these pellet counts  
44 really rigorously to try to tease out something and  
45 possibly improve the value of all the work that people  
46 have been doing over the last 30 years.

47  
48                   So how many deer, I mean that's kind of  
49 what we're getting at. How do we figure out how many  
50 deer are on some of these islands in Southeast Alaska and

1 I'm hoping that eventually this technique will take us  
2 there. But we can start to speculate right now just  
3 based on our estimates. Before we either said a whole  
4 bunch or not enough. What does that mean, well, no one  
5 knows.

6  
7                   So what we can do, we know that Unit 2,  
8 you can see that, it's 3,627 square miles roughly and if  
9 you average between all three watersheds all three years  
10 you got about 27 deer per square mile. So the simple way  
11 to do it is just times it by that and that gives you just  
12 under 100,000 deer, but you can't do that that would be  
13 misleading. The reason why when we're sampling in the  
14 late winter, much of the area on Prince of Wales Island  
15 isn't available to deer and all those deer shove down  
16 into those watersheds so the actual area we're sampling  
17 is quite a bit less. So this is -- volunteer one day,  
18 when we're not walking transects I was kind of up there  
19 around 1,500 feet just seeing what there was for deer  
20 activity and there really isn't. During those harsh snow  
21 years most of those deer are being pushed down. This is  
22 me just getting out of deep (indiscernible) stop trying  
23 to plow myself in.

24  
25                   Okay, so this map represents -- all the  
26 green is the actual area left on Prince of Wales Island  
27 during the winter so all the white is covered with snow  
28 and really isn't utilized by deer so you kind of got to  
29 change the area you're looking at. It's no longer 3,627,  
30 it's closer to 2,400 because you're losing about 1,200  
31 square miles above 800 feet during a harsh winter. So  
32 you redo your estimate 2,400 square miles you're working  
33 with, say around 27 deer per square mile, a closer  
34 estimate is 64,800 and then in the summer when the deer  
35 spread back out, go up in the alpine you can start  
36 looking at the total area of 3,600 again and then in your  
37 summer and fall deer density when a lot of the harvest is  
38 occurring you're closer to 18 deer per square mile. Now,  
39 these are rough estimates, there's a lot of other  
40 variables that are going to go in, the habitat I sample  
41 isn't exactly like the rest of the habitat on POW but I  
42 just wanted to throw some numbers at you and let you know  
43 that I am going to tweak this and consider all these  
44 other variables and try to fine tune my estimates.

45  
46                   But it's really cool. For the first time  
47 we're getting an estimate of deer, we're getting  
48 something to work with.

49  
50                   So now a harsh winter occurs, high

1 predation, something like that, the population changes  
2 it, we get a number, we get an idea of what these factors  
3 and how they're affecting the deer population.

4  
5                   Okay, sex ratio, I'll whip through this  
6 here relatively quickly. But this was real simple, from  
7 the DNA we can tell whether it's a male or a female. So  
8 in Maybeso of all the unique individuals that we  
9 identified we found 80 females and 26 males [sic], so  
10 about 75 percent males, 25 percent females [sic], I  
11 don't have all my data done on this yet so Maybeso '08  
12 60/40, Staney '06 62/38 percent, and in Staney '08 72  
13 percent to 28 percent, so it's pretty consistent between  
14 those two years and those two watersheds, about one to  
15 three, one to four deer are a male. Now, back to what  
16 Mr. Stokes was, I think, talking about earlier, is, okay,  
17 so there's the average over all sites, all years that I  
18 have so far. So all this data, before it came to you,  
19 before it went into any publications, it went back to the  
20 communities and I talked to many of the hunters I  
21 interviewed and I spoke at the deer celebration and I  
22 could I tell when I gave them this ratio of one to three,  
23 one to four, they were pretty skeptical. Well, the thing  
24 is -- oh, oh, I'm ruining it -- not all your males in  
25 the woods, of course, look like this, like I was saying  
26 earlier we can tell you whether it's a male or a female  
27 but we can't tell you how old it is. So this guy's a  
28 buck too. When we're sampling he doesn't look that, he's  
29 a little older but he's still not a mature animal. So if  
30 you consider that one out of every four deer may be a  
31 male, however, in a male skewed harvest, you're probably  
32 closer to about one out of every eight deer may be a  
33 mature buck and you mainly focus your harvest on males,  
34 so if you got one out of every eight, they can start to  
35 kind of agree with that a little more, that's what you're  
36 looking for as far as mature animals, that's what you're  
37 seeking.

38  
39                   So I'm just going to wind down here.  
40 Like I said I'm still in the analysis stage, but what I  
41 still will deliver to the Forest Service, ADF&G and you  
42 folks is we're going to start to tease this apart by  
43 looking at what the effects of slope are on these  
44 numbers, aspects, elevation, habitat, stuff like that.  
45 I'm going to look closer at the pellet counts versus deer  
46 density by transect. Is there a way to track trends with  
47 pellet counts. Is there a better way to improve the data  
48 that we have over the last two decades.

49  
50                   Now, the other thing I want you to also

1 look at once more real quick is there was a deer density  
2 estimates, when you see a trend like that and it was  
3 probably already on your folks' mind but the thing that's  
4 happened over the last two years really hasn't happened  
5 since the early '70s and we've received two consecutive  
6 harsh winters. Now, this is Annette Island, this is kind  
7 of the banana belt of Southeast Alaska, but as you can  
8 see we just kind of went above the mean snowfall depth  
9 these last two years and that might be what is driving  
10 these numbers we're seeing in the DNA.

11  
12 So if I was to recommend if Forest  
13 Service, ADF&G likes what we're doing here and they like  
14 the protocol, the next things I'd recommend, I'd say go  
15 remote and head north. Go remote, we looked in areas  
16 that were really heavily logged, maybe go try some of  
17 this stuff in areas that aren't receiving logging and see  
18 what the difference is in those areas. Head north,  
19 Prince of Wales Island, it receives a lot less snowfall  
20 than other parts of Southeast Alaska, if that's what's  
21 really driving deer populations in Southeast Alaska let's  
22 go see. Let's move this technique up north and see how  
23 these deer respond to some harsher winters.

24  
25 This is just an example. So this red  
26 line, not to be confusing was the mean down at Annette  
27 Island, this was the mean down at Annette Island, now  
28 that's laid over Juneau's snowfall, as you can see that  
29 mean at Annette Island is nothing compared to what you  
30 might see up in Juneau. So if snowfall is driving some  
31 of these populations we need to get up and check out to  
32 what effect because most of those years are above the  
33 mean down in there.

34  
35 So my ultimate goal is to develop useful  
36 protocols to Southeast, provide insight in the future,  
37 help managers prepare, help hunters prepare for these  
38 changes. And that's all I have.

39  
40 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Well, Todd, I am  
41 impressed.

42  
43 MR. BRINKMAN: Thank you.

44  
45 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Yeah, this is really  
46 something, so any questions from anyone. Mike, go ahead.

47  
48 MR. SEE: Yeah, you say impressed, that's  
49 -- that's really impressive.

50

1                   Can you tell -- I assume you can tell  
2 with the -- with the pellets, do you go through and  
3 compare the studies as to what the deer have been eating  
4 as far as nutritional, I mean with some of them, you  
5 know, the -- I mean I don't know what you call it, the  
6 nutritional value of the pellets would vary -- go up and  
7 down, you know, I would think in times of plenty there  
8 would be a higher nutritional value of the pellets or I  
9 know in rabbits, you know, (indiscernible) own pellets,  
10 so do you ever do that?

11  
12                   MR. BRINKMAN: I don't think that's very  
13 common with deer. And they have done studies. I know  
14 Tom Hanley and a number of guys years ago did lots of  
15 studies using some people pellets and they got a  
16 nutritional value. And one thing that shifts quite a bit  
17 during the -- is when I'm out there sampling at the end  
18 of the winter a lot of these deer are on a very woody  
19 diet, and you have those very -- you guys have seen them,  
20 they're very hard, dark pellets, well, as you shift into  
21 spring and you get snow melt and the snow cabbage comes  
22 up they shift their diet dramatically and their stool  
23 changes a lot. So the pellets I collect, I'm preserving  
24 everything I have in that, I'll never be able to get  
25 around to doing it because I just don't have the time but  
26 it's there for another researcher if they'd ever like to  
27 take this on. So during that time of year when I'm  
28 sampling, yeah, somebody could go in there and figure out  
29 the nutritional value of their food and probably what  
30 they're eating because you could get DNA off the plant  
31 material inside the pellet as well.

32  
33                   CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Mr. Kitka. Mr. Stokes.

34  
35                   MR. STOKES: I was just wondering, if a  
36 young buck impregnates a doe, does that have any affect  
37 on the size of the deer when it's -- when it's mature?  
38

39                   MR. BRINKMAN: I haven't done a lot of  
40 research in that area. I've done it a little bit on  
41 white-tail deer and I don't think age is as much the  
42 driver as the nutrition available both to the doe when  
43 it's being impregnated and the genetics, of course, of  
44 both the doe and the male.

45  
46                   MR. STOKES: I've heard a lot of pro and  
47 con's that said that you have to get a big buck in order  
48 to breed, and I just didn't think so.

49  
50                   MR. BRINKMAN: It may be more of a

1 behavioral thing. I know they've done studies and found  
2 out that the young bucks really don't know what they're  
3 doing and so instead of.....

4  
5 (Laughter)

6  
7 MR. BRINKMAN: .....this is -- this is  
8 serious though.

9  
10 (Laughter)

11  
12 MR. BRINKMAN: Instead of effectively and  
13 efficiently -- effectively servicing the animal they may  
14 harass the animal more initially which has also seen in  
15 areas where a lot of the larger bucks have been taken,  
16 you have a lot of the young bucks left, kind of doing  
17 more harassing than impregnating. It's led to pushing  
18 the does around enough where they're burning more  
19 calories than you want to before they head into winter.  
20 So there's something to it, it might be more behavioral  
21 than actually bigger bucks producing bigger bulls.

22  
23 MR. STOKES: They need to practice I  
24 guess.

25  
26 (Laughter)

27  
28 MR. STOKES: I was just wondering there  
29 at Heceta Island, I was out there for a couple years on  
30 a logging camp and all the deer that were harvested were  
31 small so do you think that was caused from inter-  
32 breeding>

33  
34 MR. BRINKMAN: I don't -- I can't answer  
35 that for sure. I don't know. I don't think so though.  
36 So far the genetic structure we've got out the year in  
37 that area shows it's probably good enough to avoid any  
38 breeding depression.

39  
40 MR. STOKES: Thank you. I just don't  
41 think we have enough left, we should have some  
42 politicians come down to California and get some of that  
43 \$50 million they set aside to study the red-breasted  
44 mouse.

45  
46 (Laughter)

47  
48 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you, Mr. Stokes.  
49 Anyone else. Mike.

50

1 MR. DOUVILLE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.  
2 Your study looks like it's focused on three different  
3 sections of clear-cut; is that correct?

4  
5 MR. BRINKMAN: Did you say it's three  
6 different sections of clear-cut?

7  
8 MR. DOUVILLE: (Nods affirmatively)

9  
10 MR. BRINKMAN: Kind of. I got managed  
11 stands all the way from 60 years old up to fairly new.  
12 There's a number of different habitat patches that our  
13 transects go through of several ages within each of the  
14 last four decades. Is that kind of what you're getting  
15 at as far as managed forest?

16  
17 MR. DOUVILLE: I guess what I'm asking  
18 you is any of your study confined to old growth that has  
19 not been altered in the past 500 years?

20  
21 MR. BRINKMAN: No. And that's a really  
22 good point because in my recommendations I think that's  
23 where we need to go next. All the watersheds that I  
24 looked at were greatly disturbed. So if folks want to  
25 use this protocol in the future that's one thing I  
26 recommend they do is try to go in an area that hasn't  
27 received the human disturbances that my watersheds have.

28  
29 MR. DOUVILLE: Then to apply your  
30 formula, you would have to do that to have any sort of an  
31 accurate measure. You couldn't apply altered landscape  
32 studies with old growth that has not been -- to come up  
33 with an accurate deer figure in my opinion.

34  
35 MR. BRINKMAN: I'd say your opinion is  
36 good, and you're right. When I extrapolated up there it  
37 was just kind of to speculate if we were to do that. I  
38 also made the point that the habitat I looked at is very  
39 different than other parts of the island. So before you  
40 would want to extrapolate those findings up to a greater  
41 area, you should consider some of these factors that I  
42 haven't looked at.

43  
44 MR. DOUVILLE: And also you would have to  
45 consider predation and it's more prevalent in some areas  
46 than others, also when all this falls into place,  
47 sometime down the road.

48  
49 MR. BRINKMAN: That's exactly right. And  
50 then how the predation works is may be strong one year

1 and they may not utilize the deer in that area the next  
2 year. So that would be more difficult to tease out but  
3 I think there's a way that you could do it by simply  
4 taking these transects to where some of these islands  
5 that these predators don't exist and seeing if your  
6 effects vary or you can tease out the effects of where  
7 predators might be and where they might not be.

8

9 But that would be very difficult.

10

11 Right now we're looking at it as kind of  
12 a bottom up with the data we have because we're not  
13 monitoring predator or predator influence in some of  
14 those watersheds. But Dave Person, when he moves into  
15 his fawn mortality study he's going to be looking very  
16 closely at bear predation on neonates and I think he's  
17 going to try to capture a number of animals in the  
18 watersheds that I looked at.

19

20 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Mike, go ahead.

21

22 MR. DOUVILLE: The reason that I say that  
23 is because I wouldn't want one to think that snow itself  
24 as the only factor for fluctuation because we do have  
25 predators on the island.

26

27 MR. BRINKMAN: That's right and that's  
28 when it gets real complicated. You got all sorts of  
29 different things getting at these populations, and so  
30 until we can sample in enough areas and get enough  
31 results it's going to be very difficult to tease out  
32 which variables are driving it and when.

33

34 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: All right, anyone else  
35 with a question.

36

37 (No comments)

38

39 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Well, Todd, that was  
40 really impressive so thank you very much and we look  
41 forward to what you can do in other areas as well. Look  
42 forward to that. And I'm sure that you're going to be  
43 improving it and refining it and tweaking it as you go  
44 along.

45

46 Good luck.

47

48 Okay, Mr. Dickerson.

49

50 MR. DICKERSON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman

1 and Council. My name is Larry Dickerson. I'm a wildlife  
2 biologist for the Forest Service with the Craig and  
3 Thorne Bay Ranger Districts. I'm here to talk to you  
4 about Unit 2 deer harvest reporting and it took my wife  
5 a long time the other night to get this deer off its feet  
6 and running because he was down when I had him.

7

8

(Laughter)

9

10 MR. DICKERSON: But anyway I'm really  
11 glad to be here. There's been a lot of work on Unit 2.  
12 We've heard Unit 2 talked about quite a bit and all the  
13 units. And deer in Unit 2 is very controversial.

14

15 Anyway back in 2004 through the Federal  
16 Subsistence Board the Council here established as we  
17 heard earlier, the Unit 2 Deer Planning Subcommittee, and  
18 that subcommittee was very important in bringing all the  
19 deer users together and GMU 2, it was very controversial  
20 and very contentious. Since 1991 there's been 34  
21 proposals in front of the board trying with regulatory  
22 changes in Unit 2, so we're seeing this with these other  
23 units now. And the outcome of the Unit 2 planning  
24 subcommittee was very, very good for giving us some  
25 guidance and some goals to work on, and that's why we're  
26 here today, that's actually why I'm here, about the  
27 harvest reporting, and also you heard from Pat Petrivelli  
28 about Unit 2 deer use and needs and Todd Brinkman about  
29 research. So that really has been model. We've heard  
30 Unit 2 deer planning subcommittee come up a lot.

31

32 So Mr. Hernandez chaired that and Mr.  
33 Bangs and Mr. Douville were on that subcommittee along  
34 with tribal members, Forest Service, ADF&G Staff,  
35 hunters, guides so it was made up of a consortium of  
36 different deer users and people with deer needs for that.  
37 And so we've come a long way with that and I'll talk with  
38 you about where we're headed and what we found out and  
39 then hopefully answer some questions.

40

41 What we did is we got started, and it's  
42 really a task from the Forest Service to get going and we  
43 got going and started a cooperative program with ADF&G on  
44 harvest reporting. There was a Federal reporting and  
45 there was State reporting. And then the first year, in  
46 2005, we got together and in 2006 the data actually began  
47 entering on one universal harvest reporting card and  
48 that's why we show the data -- excuse me, showing up in  
49 2005. At that time we had about a 60 percent harvest  
50 rate for hunters reporting. We did a lot, and it'll talk

1 to Mr. Bangs' questions, about public education efforts  
2 and reporting strategies to get that and we really went  
3 to work on it cooperatively with ADF&G and got that up to  
4 92 percent and almost to 94 last year, 2007, because  
5 we're getting 2007 reports in 2008 and we're now just  
6 getting ready to send out the first non-respondent letter  
7 to 2008 hunters.

8  
9                   So just to show how important this is,  
10 now we have the highest, and I think the best quality  
11 data as far as deer harvest data in the state. What the  
12 State has done, talking with Tom Straugh, who runs the  
13 winfonet (ph) database with ADF&G, where we get a lot of  
14 this information, before -- and normally the State will  
15 take a subset of hunters, here's all the people that hunt  
16 deer, they will send out questionnaires to about 30  
17 percent of those hunters and then about 55 to 60 percent  
18 of those hunters respond. So, therefore, before we got  
19 this information, we're really looking at anywhere from  
20 15 to 25 percent of the hunters from a unit responding,  
21 and then that information is extrapolated and we have a,  
22 you know, here's your confidence limit and things so  
23 that's really different now because of the efforts that  
24 were made in Unit 2 and how we're working cooperatively.  
25 So we can see we've got very, very good reporting,  
26 harvest reporting, and what this gives us, I hope we can  
27 read this, but it really gives us some great ideas and  
28 some information. And to answer Mr. Bangs' questions, we  
29 really visit -- at least in GMU 2 and around we, visit  
30 each of the vendors each year so they're talking with  
31 people and making sure they're reporting this. We  
32 encourage that. And Ketchikan and other areas. We've  
33 put out press releases in the paper, we've got those  
34 started, and we do radio interviews, we put up fliers,  
35 we've really done some things. We've gone to three  
36 different survey interview -- or surveys for non-  
37 respondents, the last mailing, if you didn't get yours,  
38 is in red, and it is certified harvest report, it comes  
39 in a certified letter, so hopefully it'll get you to do  
40 that and to respond and we try to get back to people on  
41 how important it is because this is our resources and  
42 their resources to respond. And we'll find out in the  
43 end how this information is not only used here but we can  
44 make better management decisions, it's used in our ATM,  
45 here's a giant subsistence thing about access and  
46 competition. When access goes down and competition goes  
47 up, and that's really addressed under ANILCA .810 and  
48 also reasonable access under .811.

49  
50                   So this has really helped us a lot.

1                   At the end of the year, as it says, we  
2 have a core group that works together, we get together  
3 and brainstorm to see how we can improve our hunting  
4 forms and what we can do.

5  
6                   As I said quality information really  
7 helps us make better management decisions. And one of  
8 the things that we're doing now is with good harvest  
9 information we really know what's coming out from the  
10 harvest in these different WAAs. A WAA is -- the name  
11 for that is Wildlife Analysis Area, it's just a smaller  
12 section of a GMU that's broken down that allows managers  
13 to concentrate in that area. We know more about the sex  
14 of the animals harvested. That gives us a large portion.  
15 So at least just to let you know in GMU 2 there's an  
16 average of 126 does that have been reported harvested in  
17 the last 10 years, and that's a real small bunch if you  
18 think, on the other hand, to put it in perspective, if  
19 we've got 300, 350 wolves that are maybe taking 26 deer  
20 apiece so hunters are taking 2,500 deer a year and then  
21 maybe wolves are taking eight to 10,000. So we don't  
22 know that but those are estimates from the best science  
23 that we have. But it puts things in better perspective  
24 and if wolves are taking -- if half the animals that  
25 wolves are taking are 4,000 does, but we don't know that,  
26 and hunters are taking -- subsistence hunters 126, it  
27 puts it in better perspective for us that knowledge to  
28 know what's going on out there and where we put our  
29 value. So this is the information we're getting,  
30 especially people are using these access, that people are  
31 using boats, motorized and -- or by foot travel. We  
32 found out that until 1986, really, most of the people  
33 were using boats -- or 1985 to access their hunting area  
34 as the road system -- and you saw what Mr. Brinkman  
35 presented, really increased by 1986 or so, vehicle travel  
36 on the island and harvesting the animals from the road  
37 really increased and that still is the case from today.

38  
39                   Well, here we're going to look at the  
40 last three years of harvest, 2008 isn't there, and though  
41 these look quite different they're really in a -- the  
42 mode is very similar. We had about 2,850 deer reported  
43 in 2002 and then 2,539 in 2007. The highest harvest that  
44 we have on record was 1995, I think there were 3,300  
45 animals. In 1987 the low was 1,800. So we have better  
46 harvest reporting now. But this is going to be  
47 influenced, I think, also economics by, of course, the  
48 number of hunters that are showing up there but we really  
49 have a good average of what's going on. And looking at  
50 the number of deer hunters they also vary. And these,

1 again, because you're looking at it, but there are just  
2 a couple of hundred, 300 hunters difference from the high  
3 to the low there. So the hunters are coming, now, we're  
4 getting a very good idea of where the rural hunters are  
5 coming from and where the non-residents are coming from  
6 or where Alaskan residents that are not residents of GMUs  
7 1 through 4 are coming. So we have some very, very good  
8 data.

9

10 We talked about percent of successful  
11 hunters that's important when you're getting out on the  
12 ground and you're hunting and you're talking to people  
13 that they are successful.

14

15 So you see here about 70 to 75 percent of  
16 the hunters that are out there are successful. That  
17 means you still have 25 percent of the hunters that are  
18 new hunters, are inexperienced or whatever. But this  
19 gives us a good idea of that. And when you look at those  
20 successful hunters on Prince of Wales and GMU 2 in the  
21 last three years they're averaging over two deer apiece.  
22 So that really shows that if you're successful and you're  
23 experienced you're going to get more deer.

24

25 This really is just a small look of the  
26 data. We have hunters that are literally, you know,  
27 they're after a good piece of meat and they're after any  
28 buck that's legal and we have other hunters that come out  
29 there and will hunt half the season without firing a shot  
30 because they're after a higher quality or a more trophy  
31 animal. So all that data is spread over, and you can  
32 pick some of that out but this is the general statistics  
33 of each hunter that came in. And this is very  
34 interesting because the subcommittee, when they did their  
35 actions, they really wanted -- one of the things you'll  
36 read is a meaningful preference in GMU 2. And what that  
37 said is that kind of designated that it's very important  
38 for rural residents that they're going to have a  
39 meaningful preference but they also wanted conservation  
40 of the animal and non-rural residents, like people from  
41 Ketchikan, to have a quality hunt. So, therefore, Prince  
42 of Wales and GMU 2 is really, though it's only one GMU 2,  
43 it's broken down into three different areas you can hunt  
44 by time. Subsistence hunters allowed to hunt on Federal  
45 lands, rural residents beginning July 24th, so they have  
46 one week of harvest, you can see in the month of July.  
47 And that's really used because you can see just in 2007,  
48 in that one week of time, those hunters took 140 deer.  
49 So when we talked about the fact when hunters were saying  
50 they were not meeting their needs, these adjustments were

1 made through the Unit 2 subcommittee on the different  
2 things that they came up with, strategies and that really  
3 worked, and also the first two weeks of August they can  
4 be hunted on Federal lands on the Prince of Wales proper  
5 by rural residents. If you're not a rural resident you'd  
6 have to hunt on the outer islands and that begins August  
7 1 or on private and State properties, and otherwise on  
8 August 1 there's a section from Chamley south that you  
9 can hunt and that's usually and traditionally been used  
10 by Ketchikan hunters coming out, which is more that  
11 access is by boat.

12

13                   So the GMU never got broken down. But  
14 when the subcommittee traveled and listened to all these  
15 different thoughts and desires by people they broke it  
16 down to try to satisfy as many people and hunters as they  
17 could but mainly allow subsistence hunters to get their  
18 needs and everyone else.

19

20                   One of things hunting here you can see  
21 that it's very successful as far as looking at the deer  
22 harvest and number of hunters, it's about one for one  
23 there in August and July, Now, it drops down as far as  
24 unit effort, as you can as you get into November during  
25 the rut that more deer hunters are killing more than one  
26 deer per hunter, which is kind of what we think. The  
27 deer are on the move there, they're on the rut, they're  
28 coming to call, it's more accessible, the bucks are  
29 traveling, they're showing themselves; and then that  
30 drops down really steep. And there were a couple of  
31 guys, like five, that reported they got deer in January  
32 and the season closed December 31st so those guys are  
33 really reporters.

34

35                   (Laughter)

36

37                   MR. DICKERSON: So they were out there  
38 getting deer and they missed the season by a little bit  
39 but we don't know who they are but I'm glad they  
40 reported.

41

42                   (Laughter)

43

44                   MR. DICKERSON: Now, we're going to look  
45 at a piece of pie chart here and this is very interesting  
46 because it's so contentious, real quickly we'll go  
47 through this.

48

49                   These are residents of GMU 1A which is  
50 really the Ketchikan area and Saxman area. And we know

1 Ketchikan hunters are at this time non-rural, at this  
2 time Saxman hunters can hunt until there's some  
3 determination. There really shows that those people that  
4 went out, 411 hunters, filled out a GMU 2 card that came  
5 over which was 76 percent of the hunters that hunted that  
6 reported hunting that we've had. They were living in  
7 Ketchikan, came over and hunted Prince of Wales, and you  
8 can see 123 stayed and hunted in Unit 1A which is around  
9 the Ketchikan area. And then about 10 hunted some of the  
10 other units. I think this is very graphic on how  
11 important, and we saw it at all the subsistence meetings,  
12 how important Unit 2 is to Ketchikan hunters. And here's  
13 the harvest that they made, this 552 deer harvested,  
14 which was 88 percent of the harvest that was reported by  
15 Ketchikan hunters. Very important. Normally in the last  
16 10 years Ketchikan hunters have made up about 30 to 35  
17 percent of the harvest of deer taken out of Unit 2. So  
18 it's a big part of the harvest. It's a big part of  
19 discussions that were from those rural resident hunters  
20 that felt the competition and especially -- and it's  
21 getting more and more, we'll talk about that. As Todd  
22 mentioned, here are these guys -- here are people  
23 traveling, right now we have the second growth at least  
24 these clear-cuts, there's only six to seven percent of  
25 the clear-cuts on Prince of Wales that are left 10 years  
26 old or younger, so what does that mean if all these  
27 people, as Todd say, are probably within one area are  
28 starting to -- competition is going to happen if you're  
29 from the road and you're driving in those places if  
30 there's only seven percent available where you can see  
31 deer. Those clear-cuts are still there -- excuse me --  
32 if they're growing out and second growth is coming in and  
33 it's getting so thick that you visually can't get your  
34 eye on a deer, therefore, hunters don't hunt.

35  
36 We'll jump over to Unit 2 real quick, it  
37 shows that about 99 percent of the residents from Prince  
38 of Wales hunted there. Only -- it's hard to see the  
39 graphics, but only about 10 or 11 of the hunters kind of  
40 left and reported that they hunted somewhere else. And  
41 one of those I talked with, it was hunting with a  
42 relative which was some traditional things. And also  
43 since the season goes from July to the end of December,  
44 it was during the holiday visiting family and they went  
45 hunting so that could be expected. It really shows how  
46 Unit 2 hunters use Unit 2, what we'd expect.

47  
48 And jumping over to Unit 3 we start --  
49 the data here is kind of not as good because here when  
50 you live in Petersburg or Wrangell or another place, when

1 you come through a vendor and ask to get your deer  
2 hunting harvest tags, they will ask you, do you -- are  
3 you hunting in Unit 2 or not, and they should ask you  
4 that. If you say yes then they give you a Unit 2 harvest  
5 reporting card, otherwise you don't get one, and you  
6 report your harvest. So it does show here that that 80  
7 hunters in 2007 from Unit 3 came over and hunted in GMU  
8 2, and there was some hunting there too but it's not as  
9 good as data as we have in 1A and Unit 2.

10

11                   And, of course, here's just some -- these  
12 are residents of Alaska that live outside of GMU 1 or 2  
13 but they hunted in GMU 1 through 4. And it shows that at  
14 least the people that picked up, they came in and were  
15 asked that got a reporting card, 42 of those hunted in  
16 GMU 2, and then some in, of course, GMU 3. We know that  
17 most of those hunters evidently questioned here, as we go  
18 south, did not hunt or elected not to get a Unit 2 card,  
19 and hopefully we get that information that shows you how  
20 important Unit 2 is to hunters in Wrangell and Petersburg  
21 and other places.

22

23                   And this is for non-residents of Alaska.  
24 It just gives you an idea of a harvest, so it shows 131  
25 animals that were harvested -- or 131 hunters, excuse me,  
26 97 percent of those, normally non-residents and non-  
27 residents, GMUs 1 through 4 take two to five percent of  
28 the total deer that are removed from GMU 2. So it's a  
29 small percentage but I mean it is deer, so they are --  
30 they take about 90 percent of the black bears right now,  
31 and like Mr. Hernandez asked earlier 90 to 92 percent  
32 through the last five to eight years, but as far as deer  
33 hunting they take about five percent of the deer.

34

35                   And just a quick look at all the  
36 residents, the hunters, and the GMU hunters, where they  
37 hunted, you can kind of see where the large portion of  
38 GMU 1A Ketchikan hunters are spending time in Unit 2.  
39 Unit 2 hunters really don't leave their backyard, they're  
40 right there. A good proportion of GMU 3 hunters come  
41 over and some Alaska residents and Alaska non-residents.

42

43                   And I can talk about some specifics, but  
44 one of the things that we talked about that came out --  
45 it came out earlier, it was I think Mr. Douville  
46 mentioning about one of the things that came out in the  
47 planning subcommittee was about restoration efforts and  
48 that's a -- after we took care of the harvest reporting,  
49 in 2007 we finished -- or the Forest finished what was  
50 called the Prince of Wales Young Growth Management

1 Strategy. That came out in July of 2007, and last year  
2 2008 the Tongass Young Growth Strategy came out. And in  
3 that young growth strategy, which kind of came out of the  
4 subcommittee's work, we had 13, what were called priority  
5 WAAs were identified in GMU 2. A priority WAA was given  
6 -- it was based upon how important it was to the deer  
7 harvest, how many deer are harvested there, how many  
8 acres of second growth remains there and the road  
9 density. So from the subcommittee came -- they  
10 recommended that we needed restoration efforts to be  
11 picked up so then here came this task and Prince of Wales  
12 Young Growth Strategy came out, the young growth strategy  
13 identified 13 WAAs and not only that but it talked of us  
14 developing WAA plans. So what we've done is we started  
15 on three WAA plans last year and those WAA plans are  
16 very, very intensive down to all the second growth  
17 harvest within a wildlife analysis area. And this is  
18 wrong because -- I apologize, you'll see one that says  
19 WAA 1319 and that's incorrect, it should say 1422, which  
20 is the Staney WAA. That's Staney WAA traditionally has as  
21 much deer harvest, black bear harvest, and marten  
22 trapping just about as any of the WAAs. It's pretty --  
23 for GMU 2 it's got a high road density.

24  
25           So one of the things that we're doing on  
26 these plans is we're looking -- we take a 40 acres of a  
27 clear-cut or whatever and because of the young growth  
28 strategy we're looking at not only that clear-cut for  
29 restoration efforts but we put a whole deer's range  
30 around it which is roughly 250 acres, at least, the best  
31 science we have. We're seeing what the young growth is  
32 like in that. We figure out -- I mean because of our  
33 database that we have, at least, our existing bench, we  
34 know how much young growth to old growth percentage is  
35 there so how much potential old growth is there with deer  
36 can find feed adjacent to that, where is the alpine from  
37 there, or the muskeg, how close is the road for  
38 subsistence hunters, what's the elevation, what's the  
39 slope, what's the aspect, we really can feed all this  
40 information and not have to throw a dart where we go when  
41 we get funds to go work on restoration. And that's huge  
42 compared to what we've done. We've always had an idea  
43 where people think deer are and the needs are but now we  
44 can have 10 different -- look at 10 different lists that  
45 come out as a very high priority within that WAA and we  
46 can go out on the ground and look initially to find out  
47 what the forage is under the -- the understory, what's in  
48 there, how have things responded from pre-commercial  
49 thinning and things that we have to do.

50

1                   So these are very good and as soon as  
2 we've got some of the tribes working, we're going to meet  
3 with the tribes and try to do this as a -- there's a lot  
4 of these WAAs that have a lot of tribal lands in it that  
5 have quite a bit of harvest and then some of our lands,  
6 we keep a thousand feet, what we call a beach buffer for  
7 harvest where there's this old growth and it protects the  
8 beach, as the deer come down from elevation from hard  
9 winters, and some of the science, the limited science  
10 will say that during the year there's about a 370 foot  
11 elevation average that they winter through, so if you're  
12 at that elevation down the sea line and up, you know,  
13 that low elevation, south aspect is very, very important  
14 to deer. And someone said earlier, we really have to  
15 find out what we've got and preserve what we've got and  
16 take care of it.

17  
18                   So that's what the WAA plans are going to  
19 be all about so we can go forward.

20  
21                   The other thing I wanted to make a few  
22 comments on that had come through the subcommittee and  
23 Unit 2 deer planning, has been a little bit about the  
24 draft ATM> And I don't think you can see the very  
25 bottom, it's kind of covered up, maybe I can raise this  
26 for just a second -- but you can see right now at the  
27 bottom -- I'll get a little further -- and the existing  
28 condition we have about 1,650 miles of Forest Service  
29 roads, not counting the highways, and on this draft we're  
30 talking about closing in the future, decommissioning  
31 about 700 miles in Alternative 1 and Alternative 2 and  
32 they both have different rationales and different  
33 alternatives for OHV travel, for multi-use travel, for  
34 foot travel, for motorized vehicle so this is all going  
35 to be coming up, but now when we look at it, or when I  
36 looked at it through the subsistence eye and from the  
37 data that we got from Unit 2, we're able to look at  
38 what's going on and you can see here that all the hunting  
39 report that we have -- and this is 2006 data I flashed  
40 up, and 2007 says the same thing, about 75 percent of  
41 those deer that are harvested, people are harvesting and  
42 if we have a mode of transportation to get to your deer  
43 and how your deer was harvested, it says through -- it  
44 was through vehicle travel, boat is about 18 percent, so  
45 that's what's going on and that's fairly -- the 2007 data  
46 is about the same. If you go down to OHV travel you can  
47 see it's about one percent, it was about one to three  
48 percent was the highest it was. So if someone tells you  
49 from the subsistence point we're going to close down 200  
50 miles of your road that you've been using OHV, from that,

1 well, first off you've got to have an OHV and then you've  
2 got to have a truck to get your OHV to where you want  
3 to go if you can use that, well, when you drove that road  
4 maybe you could trap it, maybe you could harvest wood,  
5 maybe you could deer hunt, all those things, so we do  
6 know one thing and from ANILCA and Title VIII and  
7 especially ,810 talks about abundance and distribution of  
8 the resource, it talks about competition and access so  
9 when access goes down competition usually goes up.

10

11 So these are the things we're working on.  
12 Someone used a horse. I thought that was pretty neat, we  
13 had a horse rider.

14

15 (Laughter)

16

17 MR. DICKERSON: I don't keeping things  
18 open for horses but this is the data that is going to be  
19 very important. And when I looked at the data, at least,  
20 on the draft ATM, these are the sections that I really  
21 had to concentrate on, was, .803, .810 and .811, and when  
22 I say, I, it's a we thing, I mean lots of different  
23 people are pulling together and looking at this, the  
24 subsistence, at least this has been a big part of my job.

25

26 And one of the things that the ATM has  
27 taken us into some very interesting country, and these  
28 different roads were proposed to be decommissioned and  
29 what I did through a GIS exercise is -- since Mr.  
30 Brinkman's first study when he talked with 88 hunters, we  
31 have some great information that must muskeg was their  
32 number 1 priority for hunting and they -- everybody that  
33 (indiscernible) and uses muskeg during the rut, it's very  
34 important and at other times. But anyway I -- wherever  
35 all these roads went to, I found out how close muskeg was  
36 to each of those roads that was proposed to be closed,  
37 did those roads, intersect old growth, why, because when  
38 you go through old growth you can gather wood, you can  
39 hunt old growth, you can trap on old growth, so each of  
40 those roads, if you're a user has a value. And you'll  
41 see the third one says, was the road connected to a 10  
42 year or less clear-cut and as Mr. Brinkman mentioned,  
43 that that road and all those roads were built for timber  
44 harvesting goes to the end and it's purported to be  
45 closed, if it goes to the end and where it terminates or  
46 along it, if there's a clear-cut, it still has a value to  
47 hunters because it's less than 10 years because they can  
48 spot deer in it. And then the last is with 800 yards of  
49 alpine. I talked and met with 10 different hunters to  
50 find out where they parked and where they accessed

1 alpine. Alpine's very important in late July and August  
2 to hunters. They get up there, rural residents, and  
3 people coming and it's a wonderful hunt.

4  
5 So those are things that we're trying to  
6 look at and it's all really been direction out of the  
7 Unit 2 Deer Subcommittee, and we're working on that. So  
8 there's a myriad of different things we're trying to do  
9 to get there. We have some direction. I really  
10 appreciate what the Unit 2 Subcommittee did. Because  
11 when I was hired and got here there were marching orders  
12 right in front about priorities that were outlined so  
13 there's goals that people told me that we needed to get  
14 to and you can see you have three different, at least,  
15 groups of people here working to get those answers in  
16 Unit 2. Maybe that's a model or something that can be  
17 done in some of these other areas where we have  
18 contentious wildlife problems and get all the users  
19 together and formulate a plan, it can be worked. And now  
20 I've talked with Pat and I'll talk with -- we'll need to  
21 get together, that as soon as everything's final, let's  
22 get this show on the road and get back to the hunters and  
23 subcommittee members that asked us to put this stuff  
24 together along with ADF&G and present to the public what  
25 we found out, where we're at and what we can do about it.

26  
27 Thank you.

28  
29 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you, Larry.  
30 Questions by anyone. Mr. Stokes.

31  
32 MR. STOKES: I've seen clear-cuts now  
33 that are several years old and they're up to about a foot  
34 and a half in diameter, now when you thin this out, don't  
35 you think that would be good for the deer?

36  
37 MR. DICKERSON: Yes, Mr. Stokes. When  
38 you say a foot and a half diameter, are you talking about  
39 the deviates, the diameter of a tree that's growing in  
40 it?

41  
42 MR. STOKES: Yes, in certain areas I've  
43 been in, they're about a foot and a half in diameter.

44  
45 MR. DICKERSON: Well, here's my thoughts  
46 on thinning. I think we're getting some new tools in but  
47 thinning, there's several different juries out on  
48 thinning second growth. One of the things about second  
49 growth, it is so thick, when it's thinned, it can impede  
50 deer travel and especially we know that for the fawns and

1 different things, however, it does open up the canopy for  
2 10 to 25 years, depending where you thin, so it gets  
3 light to the ground. Now, it takes about 10 years for  
4 that second growth thinning, with snow on it and weather  
5 on it to drop down to where it's really starting to meld  
6 in where deer can travel through it and go through and  
7 forage. So then there still should be a useable time for  
8 deer to use that.

9

10 So I don't know if I answered your  
11 question but thinning -- the jury's out but thinning is  
12 doing -- thinning's doing us a lot of good if it's used  
13 in the right applications.

14

15 MR. STOKES: Why haven't they done more  
16 thinning than they have and I've been in areas that are  
17 just -- you could fall down and not hit the ground?

18

19 MR. DICKERSON: Well, I really need a  
20 different person here to answer that question, a  
21 silviculturist, a timber person. For wildlife, I can say  
22 from that, we have just certain amounts of money and we  
23 will try to take it to certain areas where we have it the  
24 most use where the deer -- it's kind of like the limiting  
25 factor at least in that area that there's just no place  
26 to go. Timber, the timber parts of the Forest Service do  
27 a lot more thinning and it's to grow bigger trees and for  
28 a silviculturist prescriptions for that.

29

30 So I can't answer why the Forest Service  
31 hasn't done more thinning, Mr. Stokes.

32

33 MR. STOKES: What is the average year  
34 that they do thinning, about 20?

35

36 MR. DICKERSON: That's correct. Most of  
37 the -- I think for most thinning to work it's somewhere  
38 between the 15 and 25 or 20 to 24, and that's -- as far  
39 as from a deer's perspective, we mentioned that you can't  
40 see deer after 12 -- or 10 to 12 years as Mr. Brinkman  
41 said, but that it is believed that it still provides  
42 forage, some forage, up to 20 to 25 years. So you're  
43 right at about 20 to 25 years, from a deer's point then  
44 it's no longer that useful and then thinning should occur  
45 on it.

46

47 MR. STOKES: Thank you.

48

49 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Anyone else have any  
50 questions of Larry.

1 (No comments)  
2  
3 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Well, thank you, sir,  
4 appreciate it.  
5  
6 MR. DICKERSON: Thank you.  
7  
8 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay, it's break time.  
9 So we'll play it by ear, we'll start at 9:00 tomorrow and  
10 then if we need to start earlier on Thursday we can do  
11 that, but I think we can get through the agenda so we'll  
12 see you all tomorrow morning at 9:00.  
13  
14 Have a good evening.  
15  
16 (Off record)  
17  
18 (END OF PROCEEDINGS)

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C E R T I F I C A T E

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

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

THAT the foregoing pages numbered 1 through 152 contain a full, true and correct Transcript of the VOLUME I, SOUTHEAST FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING, taken electronically on the 24th day of February 2009, beginning at the hour of 9:00 o'clock a.m. in Petersburg, Alaska;

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

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

DATED at Anchorage, Alaska, this 10th day of March, 2009.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Salena A. Hile  
Notary Public state of Alaska  
My Commission Expires: 9/16/2010