

1 SOUTHEAST ALASKA FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE
2 REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING

3
4 PUBLIC MEETING

5
6 VOLUME II

7
8 Petersburg, Alaska
9 February 25, 2009
10 9:00 o'clock a.m.

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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 - 2/25/2009)

(On record)

CHAIRMAN ADAMS: We'll call the meeting to order. We just got some sad news this morning. There's a couple gentlemen from Hoonah who passed away. Charlie Wright is.....

MR. SEE: Frank Wright's brother.

CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Frank Wright's brother. And then Charlie Hinchman.....

MR. SEE: That's Johnny Hinchman. He's one of the original Hoonah fishermen from way back when. He died this morning. Charlie Wright is Frank Wright's brother and he died this morning too, also.

CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you, Mike. Then we just found out that John Littlefield was taken to the hospital. Was it a stroke? He had a stroke. It was a mild one and he seems to be doing good.

Brother Dick Stokes, if you would give us a prayer on their behalf. Please, everyone stand.

(Prayer)

CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you, Dick. Okay. Looks like Neil Barten is all ready to go. The floor is all yours, sir.

MR. BARTEN: Good morning, Mr. Chair. Members of the Council and everybody else. I'm just going to give a brief overview of the status of our current assessment and monitoring activities.

CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Neil, can I interrupt you for just a second.

MR. BARTEN: Sure.

CHAIRMAN ADAMS: I certainly want to thank Robert for the fine invitation to go to his home last night and enjoy one another's company and some good food. I'm sure everyone appreciated the invitation there. Gunalcheesh.

1 Go ahead, sir.

2

3 MR. BARTEN: Thank you. Again, this is
4 going to be fairly brief. You can ask questions at the
5 end if you want, but I think we covered some of these
6 topics yesterday. I'm going to go over some of the
7 monitoring and assessment activities we're doing. A
8 little of the explanation and rationale behind what
9 they're all about. It's only going to be like a six or
10 seven PowerPoint slides.

11

12 I'm going to talk about the deer pellet
13 program a little bit, the deer harvest survey program
14 we have. Unit 2 deer harvest program that Larry talked
15 about yesterday I'll briefly describe that. Then the
16 deer mortality transects and some of the beach and road
17 surveys that mostly are going to be taking place on
18 northeast Chichagof area.

19

20 Just as an overview because I think a
21 lot of people don't know this kind of information, but
22 we only started this deer pellet group survey stuff
23 back in 1981 and it was kind of perfected so to speak
24 with a number of deer that were put on Portland Island,
25 right to the side of Juneau, and Matt Kirchoff and Ken
26 Pitcher, I believe, were the ones who put the deer on
27 and looked at how many deer were on the island and
28 started doing transects and used that to kind of get a
29 gauge for how many piles of pellets a deer leaves in a
30 day and how many deer are in an area given the number
31 of pellets piles you find on a transect.

32

33 Once that was figured out with the help
34 of the Forest Service and Fish and Game working
35 together over the years we've established these routes
36 that we've done in different watersheds sometimes every
37 two or three years in areas of concern.

38

39 Again, it's used to monitor deer
40 population trends on winter range. That's what the
41 pellet program is all about. We try to have three
42 transects per watershed in selected areas and, again,
43 we don't get to these every year. In some cases on
44 Douglas Island, which is real easy to get to, we do,
45 but in a lot of cases we can only get to them every two
46 or three years.

47

48 The transects are basically one meter
49 wide from sea level to 1,500 feet, if we can get that
50 high. Some years the snow keeps us down below that and

1 some years you can't even get close. Each transect is
2 divided into plots and a plot is one meter wide by 20
3 meters long. Again, it's really a piece of cable
4 that's dragged through the woods and you go a half
5 meter on either side.

6
7 The pellet piles that you find, if you
8 find one pile of pellets per plot per 20-meter section,
9 based on the work they did on Portland Island, they
10 estimated that to come out to a density of about 32
11 deer per square mile. That's what we use as a rough
12 estimate.

13
14 Our survey areas, a lot of it is based
15 on the habitat characteristics and how much harvest
16 pressure there is, management concerns and obviously
17 accessibility is a big part in southeast Alaska. Snow
18 depth and duration of the snow are major factors in
19 deer pellet deposition and detection. That's the major
20 thing you have to use to really interpret the data
21 you're getting.

22
23 In spring 2009 we're going to do pellet
24 transects again. I'm not in charge of that program, so
25 I do not know which areas we're going to do. Karen
26 McCoy, who is not here, is the one that sets that up,
27 but we are going to be working with the Forest Service
28 to get to certain watersheds and do the pellet program
29 as we've done in past years.

30
31 One of the things, research by Todd
32 Brinkman, he spoke yesterday and had a very good
33 program and we have a lot of optimism for where that's
34 going to take us with additional efforts toward
35 understanding what deer populations are all about using
36 deer pellets. I think there's a lot of positive things
37 that can come out from his work.

38
39 The deer harvest surveys, you've
40 probably all have gotten one in the mail over the
41 years. Approximately 35 percent of the hunters who
42 actually get harvest tickets in each community receive
43 a survey. Of these, about 60 percent of the people
44 actually respond. We send out reminders and we get
45 about 60 percent of them. The total deer harvest is
46 extrapolated from the results of that survey
47 methodology. That's something we do every year. I
48 would guess most people again have probably gotten one
49 of those from the state.

50

1 Then Larry talked yesterday about this
2 Unit 2 deer harvest report. I'm not going to spend
3 much time on it, but again that's a cooperative effort
4 between Fish and Game and the Forest Service. The goal
5 is, I think, to get everybody who hunts in Unit 2 to
6 report their activity, their deer hunting activity and
7 the harvest to really get a handle on how many deer are
8 coming off Prince of Wales, where they're being taken,
9 et cetera. That's been, I think, a pretty successful
10 program up to this point.

11
12 The deer mortality transects. I've
13 been in Juneau 11 years. They were established many,
14 many years ago and literally we have maps with these
15 one mile sections of beach. Back in the late '60s,
16 early '70s when we had the hard winters I think is when
17 a lot of them were established. We tried to get to
18 them especially after hard winters and walk these one-
19 mile stretches and especially above the high tide line
20 into the beach fringe timber. We walk and zig and zag
21 and look to see what we're finding for deer and if
22 we're finding dead ones, are they males or females and
23 are they adults or young.

24
25 Again, we've not traditionally done
26 these intensively except after hard winters we try to
27 get out and really get a better look because those are
28 the years we're really concerned. Phil Mooney, out of
29 Sitka, who has been really passionate about learning
30 more about the deer in Unit 4 and especially the
31 northern part of Unit 4, he's been out many times this
32 fall and he's going to be doing a bunch of efforts to
33 get a better handle on what's going on with the deer
34 there.

35
36 Then the beach and road surveys, that's
37 also mostly Unit 4. Phil spent a lot of time on the
38 road system near Hoonah to get a sense of how many deer
39 he's seen along the road as well as boating in and out
40 of the bays to try to count deer on the beaches and get
41 a sense for what percentage of fawns and yearlings
42 there are in the population and basically what the deer
43 look like. For what it's worth, the last couple of
44 days he's been out a lot and the deer seem to be in
45 very good condition. There's a lot of deer on the
46 beaches and hopefully we're not going to get a lot of
47 snow in March.

48
49 Anyway, in conclusion, our inability to
50 count deer across large areas anyway lends importance

1 to these methods of the pellets and the harvest, et
2 cetera. The pellet harvest data over long periods of
3 time gives us good trend information. The better
4 techniques hopefully will lead us to a much better
5 understanding of what's going on with deer.

6

7 So that's all I have to say.

8

9 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you, Neil.
10 Questions by anyone. Neil, one of the bullets said
11 that these surveys are done only after severe weather
12 storms. The reason for that and why not be consistent
13 with it.

14

15 MR. BARTEN: That's a very good
16 question. The reason we're not consistent with it is
17 just it takes a lot of time and energy and expense just
18 to get around to these spots. In years when we don't
19 have much snow, you obviously don't find much because
20 the deer aren't spending much time on the beaches. So
21 it's not a very robust method of sampling because,
22 obviously, some deer die up in the hills that never get
23 to the beach and some deer die on the beach and are
24 swept away in the tides. It does give us some
25 information in general about what's going on. We try
26 to focus on the heavy winters when we know deer are
27 down on the beach.

28

29 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you. Mr. Kitka.

30

31 MR. KITKA: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
32 Neil, I know you do surveys with the hunters, could
33 that question be put on the survey also if they notice
34 any winter kill in the area?

35

36 MR. BARTEN: That's actually a very
37 good question and a good thought because as I mentioned
38 yesterday some of the hunters we talk with and a lot of
39 the people that come in our office that's a good source
40 of information as to what's happening. That's
41 certainly possible to put those kinds of questions on
42 there because obviously we can't reach out to
43 everybody. We don't even know where half the hunters
44 are hunting to actually talk to them, so I think that's
45 a good idea to put on questions like that and get a
46 better insight into what's going on with the deer
47 populations.

48

49 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you. Anyone
50 else. Donald.

1 MR. HERNANDEZ: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
2 Two questions. Neil, talking about the deer transects,
3 have you over the years altered where these transects
4 take place in watersheds as watershed habitat changes
5 over time?

6
7 MR. BARTEN: Yeah, you know, again, I'm
8 not in charge of this program, but I have a pretty good
9 sense of that in my tenure here, which has been about
10 11 years. We have dropped some transects that
11 initially were an old growth forest and then it became
12 clear-cut. We continued to do them and then we got
13 into that heavy second growth. As you all know, you
14 can't hardly get through that stuff without killing
15 yourself. In general, if it's an undisturbed habitat,
16 we run the same transects over and over. If it's an
17 area that gets clear-cut and becomes a heavy second
18 growth, we simply can't get through it. Plus we can't
19 even see the ground to really detect pellets, so we do
20 change some of those.

21
22 One of the effects we've talked about
23 in other meetings is the habitat changes, even if your
24 transects aren't actually having to go through clear-
25 cuts, habitat changes also help the deer distribute
26 themselves.

27
28 MR. HERNANDEZ: The other question, Mr.
29 Chairman. Yesterday, Neil, I think you mentioned and
30 again this morning Marty had brought it up as well, the
31 type of information you get talking to hunters that are
32 out there and in a subcommittee we always stress -- we
33 ask for these scientific projects to be funded, but we
34 always stress about that process. Some of the best
35 information we'll get is talking to hunters. I think
36 you mentioned yesterday there was some talk about
37 actually instituting a log book program, a system where
38 people keep track of hunting activities. You mentioned
39 some people hunt in the same area for 20, 30 years and
40 it's good, consistent information on what's happening
41 in that area. Do you know of any efforts that are
42 underway to institute a log book program? Larry, I'd
43 put the question to you as well.

44
45 MR. BARTEN: Yeah, I do not. I think
46 all of us biologists recognize the value, especially
47 for a species like deer and in some cases like
48 furbearers where you can't count them, but the hunters
49 and trappers who come in are an incredible source of
50 knowledge of what's going on out there, but we don't

1 have a methodology at this point for getting at that
2 from the average hunter other than our survey sources,
3 but on our survey we ask for comments and we get some
4 really good information from hunters.

5
6 MR. DICKERSON: Mr. Hernandez. We
7 haven't implemented that. We have done a lot of
8 education and providing hunters a call-in number in all
9 of our efforts that we've done with the radio comments
10 and also in the newspaper. Everyone who calls in I
11 have an Excel spreadsheet developed and at the end I
12 have comments. We talk about everything we can. The
13 same with the front desk. We've not developed a log
14 book and I have seen it there. It would be a good idea
15 if we can get some people that would give us long-term
16 information and this continues, but we haven't pursued
17 that.

18
19 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Go ahead, Mike.

20
21 MR. BANGS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I
22 have a question and a follow-up kind of question about
23 the hunter survey that was conducted in Unit 2 when you
24 receive your deer tags. I'm wondering if you felt like
25 you got a lot of good information from that survey and
26 if that could be applied to all the units in southeast
27 if it was worth the effort and expense to compile the
28 information from those surveys. I'd like to see some
29 sort of movement in that direction if you guys feel
30 like it was valuable enough information.

31
32 I was a proponent of moving that
33 forward to all hunters in southeast, but at the time
34 they felt it was maybe an experimental thing. I'm just
35 wondering what your take was on the information that
36 was gathered from that.

37
38 MR. BARTEN: Yeah, I'm certainly not
39 the best person to ask. I don't know if our standard
40 survey in comparison to this more intensive effort on
41 Prince of Wales if the data is increasingly better and
42 better with a higher sample or not. It's certainly an
43 idea to consider. Larry, you can probably talk a
44 little more on that than I can.

45
46 MR. DICKERSON: I think it's really
47 helped us, Mike. What it's done is we get information
48 from hunters really how they're using GMU 2, right down
49 to the islands and the specific roads they're hunting.
50 Where that helps us, it makes decisions on the limited

1 money we have for restoration efforts and also our
2 proposals where we want to go to the next year. It
3 also shows us very good information on everything from
4 the sex of the animals that are harvested and unit per
5 effort. We're getting the last two years and we expect
6 to this year over 90 percent respondent from those
7 hunters that are out there. I feel it's data we can
8 put some good stock in and move forward. It's not been
9 extrapolated a lot, so we know more what's going on the
10 ground.

11
12 What we don't know, because there's a
13 different type of harvest reporting, if someone says
14 they're not hunting in Unit 2, like if you're from
15 Petersburg, and you don't get the Unit 2 card, we
16 really don't have a good grasp on exactly what
17 percentage of the hunters from Petersburg go over to
18 Unit 2. So it would be nice in a way if there was an
19 option that everybody is getting the same report card
20 here in the southeast so we'd really know how many
21 people are using Unit 2 from here or at least a
22 percentage.

23
24 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Follow up, Mike. Go
25 ahead.

26
27 MR. BANGS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
28 The point I was trying to get at and I guess I didn't
29 make clear. I was considering that program extended to
30 -- when you get your tags, you get the report card.
31 Regardless of what unit you hunt in, it's recorded.
32 Every hunter gets the card. I'm just wondering if it's
33 worth the expense versus the mail-out surveys, which is
34 a random thing. I've gotten the surveys and they're
35 big envelopes and it seems like that's a big expense.

36
37 I'm wondering if we just had a
38 self-addressed card like you get for Unit 2 that you
39 just fill out. Every hunter gets it regardless of what
40 unit he hunts in. He puts what unit he hunts in, how
41 many deer. Basically whatever questions you ask on
42 that form, whether that would be a good direction to
43 go. That's what I was getting at.

44
45 Thank you.

46
47 MR. DICKERSON: A quick response to
48 that. Personally I think you would get more responses
49 across the board. However, your response rate still
50 could be, as Neil mentioned, 60 percent. That's

1 normally what we get, about 45 to 60 percent of the
2 people that send in the original harvest tags that they
3 have. It's the second and third reminder letters and
4 certified letters where we get harvest reporting up to
5 90 percent and plus. So I think that probably is a
6 good idea, but I also believe after two or three years
7 now that it may take more efforts to get that response
8 rate up.

9

10 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Anyone else with a
11 question. Patty.

12

13 MS. PHILLIPS: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I
14 know we have diversity of geography in southeast Alaska
15 and that certain areas are straight up to 2,000 foot
16 elevation and there isn't going to be really a carrying
17 capacity there. For the certain watersheds, is there
18 like a formula for carrying capacity? In my opinion,
19 prior to these last heavy snowfall winters that we were
20 at carrying capacity because you were seeing the browse
21 all the way down. For the next winter there wouldn't
22 have been browse anyway. Is there an established
23 carrying capacity formula?

24

25 MR. BARTEN: Sorry to say again I'm not
26 the expert on that at all. I know Matt Kirchoff has
27 spoken a lot with Tom Hanley, but it isn't something
28 that I have much familiarity with.

29

30 MR. DICKERSON: Patty, the Forest
31 Service does have something inside of each WA is broken
32 down into VCU's, which is a smaller measurement of
33 unit. We have something called the habitat suitability
34 index, HSI. It's a scientific formula that breaks down
35 how much timber harvest has happened, potential old
36 growth and the suitability it provides deer. It comes
37 out with an equation that the carrying capacity will
38 hold 17 deer per square mile or 32. That science has
39 been challenged before and it's been updated. It's
40 what we've held up in use in our NEPA documents for
41 planning if there's a timber harvest sale.

42

43 There's some new science coming. I
44 talked with Mr. Jim Brainard here today. So that is
45 out there and it's being used and has been used.
46 Inside what's called a VCU, which is just a smaller
47 area that we look at other than a WA, so we do try to
48 use that and use the science there.

49

50 MS. PHILLIPS: Thank you. I know

1 there's a lot of variables that affect the deer
2 productivity. I want to recognize that the Regional
3 Council provided input into the Tongass plan revision.
4 Not the most immediate one, but like 10 years ago or
5 so. It's because of our input that the 1,500 foot
6 beach fringe was put into the Tongass plan because we
7 recognized that was important deer habitat in the
8 winter season. You've got private lands where that
9 1,500 foot beach fringe buffer isn't in existence, so
10 that will effect some of the variables that will affect
11 deer productivity.

12
13 I guess I'm just saying a comment more
14 than a question. Thanks.

15
16 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Anyone else.

17
18 (No comments)

19
20 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you, gentlemen.
21 I'm going to ask Harvey if he would do something for
22 me. He's got a list of proposals that were considered
23 at the State fish meeting yesterday. If you would give
24 us a little update on what happened with that.

25
26 MR. KITKA: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
27 I'd like Mr. Baines to give me a hand here. As of
28 yesterday, Proposal 199, which was brought up by
29 Ketchikan Herring Association, which basically would
30 close all herring fisheries in southeast Alaska. That
31 one failed.

32
33 Proposal 200, which was put in by a
34 person that stated that Salsbury Sound was a distinct
35 stock from the Sitka herring. That one failed.

36
37 Proposal 203 as of this morning was
38 still on the table. Proposal 204, which has to do with
39 test fishing in the herring, that one failed.

40
41 Proposal 234, which was put in by Sitka
42 Tribe, which was allow the higher subsistence total.
43 It was a number put in by the tribe and the state back
44 when they first started. It was really incomplete at
45 that point and they didn't have enough information, so
46 they just grabbed a figure. Over the years they found
47 out they harvest more than that. So they raised that,
48 I believe. It was adopted with an amendment. I'm not
49 too sure what part of that they amended or which one
50 they took.

1 Proposal 235, which was put in by the
2 Sitka Herring Association or something like that,
3 commercial fishermen, which would require herring
4 harvesters for subsistence to get a permit to harvest
5 herring. That one failed.

6
7 Proposal 209, which was equal split,
8 put in by some of the herring fishermen, failed.

9
10 Proposal 217 put in by the State of
11 Alaska Fish and Game, that stated that all herring
12 stocks in southeast Alaska were one stock, which
13 allowed them to fish Salsbury Sound as part of Sitka
14 stock. That one passed.

15
16 That's as far as what I know it is.

17
18 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you, Harvey.
19 Mr. Baines, did you have anything to add? This pretty
20 much covered everything?

21
22 MR. BAINES: That's it.

23
24 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you. Before we
25 go any further on the deer issue, I'd like to
26 acknowledge that Tricia is leaving this morning. What
27 time?

28
29 MS. O'CONNOR: 10:30.

30
31 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: That's pretty soon.
32 We want to show our appreciation to your attendance
33 here. She's going to the roundtable in Juneau with a
34 message from us that we'd like them to participate in
35 this meeting in the future. We wish you well. Would
36 you like to come up and say something, closing remarks
37 for your presence here. After that we're going to have
38 Carrie Sykes do her testimony.

39
40 MS. O'CONNOR: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
41 Members of the Council. I do appreciate being at these
42 meetings. I'm always amazed at what I learn just
43 listening to this group. I'm always appreciate hearing
44 every Council member's reports because I think those
45 are important. I feel pretty strongly about taking
46 that information back and sharing that with my boss
47 because he does not always hear from everybody in all
48 the communities, so I will definitely commit to doing
49 that. Again, I apologize for leaving, but I will take
50 the message to the roundtable and hopefully we'll work

1 towards getting a better connection between that group
2 and this Council.

3

4 Thank you very much.

5

6 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you, Tricia.
7 Safe trip. Carrie. Not you, Terry. Carrie.

8

9 (Laughter)

10

11 MS. SYKES: Good morning. My name is
12 Carrie Sykes. I work for Tlingit-Haida Central
13 Council. I'm the subsistence and sustainable
14 development specialist and I appreciate the opportunity
15 to be here and provide some comments.

16

17 At the last meeting in September in
18 Juneau I reported that we would be holding a Southeast
19 Alaska Native Summit and the focus was going to be
20 regional energy and economic development solutions.
21 That summit was very successful. Central Council is
22 planning on that being a yearly event. One part of
23 that summit was my presentation on subsistence fuel
24 costs and impacts to subsistence gatherers. We heard a
25 lot about the harvesters having to make a choice
26 between paying for heating fuel or taking a chance and
27 buying gasoline for their boat and trying to get
28 subsistence food. It's a very big issue.

29

30 After that summit I was also asked to
31 go to the BIA provider's conference and I did a similar
32 talk and it was also again very well received. It is
33 an issue of major concern to all of the Native people
34 who are out there trying to make these decisions about
35 whether to buy heating oil or whether to go out and get
36 some food for their families. It's an ongoing issue
37 that we need to consider, particularly when we make
38 decisions about any further restrictions to subsistence
39 activities. I'd like you to keep that in mind when you
40 review proposals.

41

42 Another thing I wanted to bring up is
43 that at the last meeting I did testify about the five
44 proposals that were in front of the RAC. I was kind of
45 upset to find out that after all of our work at the
46 September meeting that those proposals did pass at the
47 Federal Subsistence level and that really causes a
48 major concern. We took a lot of time to prepare
49 comments and Central Council does represent over 27,000
50 tribal members and subsistence is a significant

1 importance. I was really upset to find out that those
2 proposals did pass at that level.

3

4 I have a question for the Council. I'm
5 just wondering, does the Federal Subsistence Board
6 provide rationale when they don't follow the advice of
7 the Regional Advisory Council? Mr. Chair, do they send
8 anything back with rationale when they don't follow the
9 recommendations of the Council.

10

11 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Carrie, we're
12 concerned about those same issues, too. In fact, the
13 Federal Subsistence Board is supposed to give deference
14 to the Councils. We work real hard on these proposals
15 and the field work is done, of course, by Staff, so the
16 real work is there right on the ground. When we accept
17 a proposal, I've always bragged at the fact that there
18 was a 99% chance it would get accepted by the Board.
19 It hasn't been so lately, particularly with rural
20 determination for Ketchikan and Saxman, Sitka and some
21 others pertaining to C&T.

22

23 The handbook for RAC's, there's some
24 guidelines that we follow in order to determine how the
25 process goes. One of the things I noted in there that
26 even though the Federal Subsistence Board will give
27 deference or may give deference to Councils, it also
28 says in there that it doesn't really need to. So
29 that's the stumbling block there. As far as I'm
30 concerned, that's a real bad policy that they have
31 developed.

32

33 I think, you know, we just need to keep
34 plugging away with the rural determination for
35 Ketchikan and Saxman and the Makhnati Island closure
36 issue and some of those others. But those are two that
37 I really think that the Board needs to really listen to
38 us on.

39

40 The thing about the Makhnati Island
41 issue, it is on Federal waters. They can close it and
42 open it. They need to listen to the people that are
43 most affected by it and they haven't been. Another
44 thing too, we're not allowed anymore to do an RFR,
45 request for reconsideration. I keep plugging away at
46 it. Every time I go there I remind them this is
47 something that I don't think is right. So there's a
48 lot of work we need to do to change those issues, but
49 we need to stay on it and don't let them forget.

50

1 As Chairman, going to those Federal
2 Subsistence Board meetings, I do my best to try to keep
3 that on the table. I really appreciate Diane McKinley
4 because she reminds me a lot about these things. We're
5 doing our best. That's the way it is. They don't have
6 to listen to you if they don't want to even if it makes
7 a lot of sense.

8
9 MS. SYKES: I know in my letters I
10 always do mention the due deference and I really think
11 that this is important. As part of ANILCA, this
12 Regional Advisory Council exists and it's an avenue for
13 public participation and comment. I think that if
14 they're not at least providing rationale about why they
15 didn't take the recommendations of the RAC, it seems to
16 be a problem with the process that all of us need to
17 continue to bring to their attention.

18
19 The Regional Advisory Council does a
20 lot of work at these meetings and it costs a lot of
21 money for people to participate. For me to travel here,
22 I have a very small subsistence budget for travel, so I
23 really have to select what I go to. There's a lot of
24 tribal members who can't travel to provide testimony.

25
26 It seems to me if they're not going to
27 give due deference and they're not going to be
28 providing more weight to the advice of the Council,
29 that they're, in effect, eliminating a part of the
30 public process and that's a very important part of a
31 Federal process that I think we need to bother them
32 more about and I really want to do some follow up on
33 that with the Council. I think it's a problem with the
34 process, so I'm going to continue to work on that too.

35
36 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you, Carrie.
37 Before you go any further I'll bring your attention to
38 a letter we received from Mr. Fleagle, Chairman of the
39 Federal Subsistence Board. We have a copy available
40 for you. It talks about Section .501 in ANILCA. The
41 Southeast Region's position on various proposals and
42 everything. Of course, the Federal Subsistence Board
43 does give some rationals as to the reason why they
44 acted the way they did.

45
46 We do need to keep reminding them of
47 the hard work that is done on the local level and that
48 they shouldn't just arbitrarily disregard it when it
49 gets to their level because it's very important to us
50 and to the people whom we serve.

1 Go ahead. Continue.

2

3 MS. SYKES: Okay. I'm glad to see
4 there is a response, but I really do agree that people
5 at the local level know more about their local
6 resources and I think there needs to be more due
7 deference given to the Regional Advisory Councils.

8

9 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Before you go any
10 further on that issue, before I forget it, particularly
11 with the Makhmati Island issue, and rural
12 determination, those are going to be coming up, I
13 think, at the next Board meeting. We need to get as
14 many people from southeast Alaska to go to that Board
15 meeting and testify on behalf of these proposals.

16

17 I'm going to give you an example. When
18 they were doing the rural determination for Ketchikan,
19 they did the same thing for Kodiak. Of course, Lee
20 Wallace and a couple other people from southeast Alaska
21 were the only people there to testify. Lee didn't know
22 they were going to combine Saxman and Ketchikan
23 together, which brought their population threshold up
24 higher and that's how come the Board voted to make it
25 non-rural.

26

27 On the other hand, Kodiak had 30 people
28 come from that community to testify on behalf of their
29 proposal. They had people even come from the Coast
30 Guard base. They said we're transient, not permanent,
31 so we shouldn't be counted as part of the population
32 base. As a result of that testimony Kodiak did get
33 their rural determination. It's just identical to
34 Ketchikan and Saxman. We need people to be there. As
35 many people the tribal governments can send to that
36 meeting, the better it will be for us.

37

38 Thank you. Go ahead.

39

40 MS. SYKES: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Yes,
41 it was unfortunate I didn't get to go to that meeting.
42 It was due to medical reasons, but I really understood
43 the importance of people being there. I think other
44 people have funding constraints to be able to
45 participate. But I will be at the next one. As part
46 of the whole thing too in getting more people to
47 testify about these issues is educating them more.
48 That's another thing I'm going to be working more with
49 the tribes to educate them more on process so they can
50 be effective in getting their concerns brought to the

1 table. That's very important.

2

3 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: And while you're on
4 that issue let me just say something before I forget
5 again. The Central Council is the vehicle on how you
6 can get all of the tribes that are under your umbrella
7 together. I know that you're really overloaded at
8 times with the job that you do and I hope they'll be
9 able to take some of the pressure off you so that you
10 can get other people to help you in that effort. Just
11 a thought of mine. Those tribes that are not self-
12 governing and under Tlingit and Haida, you people are
13 going to represent them and if you can get as many
14 people from those areas who can testify, that would be
15 a big plus as well. Just food for thought. Go ahead.

16

17 MS. SYKES: That's part of what I want
18 to do with education. I do send a lot of this
19 information out, particularly when it comes to request
20 for proposals, but I think a lot of the tribes don't
21 know how to proceed to get the proposals forward, so I
22 really want to work on that. You are right, there's
23 more work than I can do. I just had a meeting last
24 month with our President Martin and with Bob Loesher,
25 who is the chair of ANBA, Grand Camp, their
26 subsistence committee. There are concerns that there's
27 not enough work being done on subsistence. There are
28 so many issues that it's really difficult to keep up
29 with all of them.

30

31 Right now we're going to be developing
32 a working group so that I can get more assistance to
33 get all the issues out and to educate people and make
34 sure we have a coordinated response and that we can get
35 people to agree on the issues and come together to try
36 to get our voice heard. That is very important and
37 that is something that I am working on. Hopefully I
38 can get more support from the other tribes.

39

40 Back to the process and some of the
41 concerns. I've mentioned before, I think it was at the
42 Sitka meeting, in August 2007 I sent out a ballot to
43 all of the tribes in Alaska and it was to prioritize
44 all the top subsistence concerns. We did get quite a
45 few responses. I think I got almost 60. I've shown
46 this pie chart before about what the top concerns are.

47

48

49 I wanted to mention again my concern
50 about the memorandum of understanding that was signed

1 between the Federal Subsistence Board and the State of
2 Alaska. There's great concern that the Federal
3 Subsistence Board is taking a lot of the State of
4 Alaska positions. This was shown by this ballot. For
5 the number one priority, 12 percent of the people that
6 responded stated that is their top concern. For the
7 second priority, 26 percent stated that was their
8 second priority. It's really a concern to Central
9 Council. I received a copy of a letter that AFN sent
10 out and I did a letter also.

11
12 We were concerned that there wasn't RAC
13 involvement in the review of that MOU before it was
14 signed. I did get a copy and I haven't had a chance to
15 look at it because I've been out of the office, but
16 that's of great concern that that didn't go to the RAC
17 and there was no public participation or any
18 opportunity for any kind of input of concerns for that.
19 If we're going to be effective, we should be able to
20 look at that kind of document before it's signed. I
21 know there was a proposed MOU out that didn't get
22 signed and then this one was quickly pushed through and
23 I don't think that's right. It's an important document
24 and it should have had better review by the Councils
25 statewide.

26
27 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: And while you're on
28 the subject, there were several other RAC Chairs that
29 were concerned about this and we were emailing back and
30 forth. We all felt that the Board overstepped their
31 bounds by not allowing us to look at it. It was
32 addressed at the Board meeting by some of us. It was
33 all after the fact, as you said, and found out, you
34 know, that -- oh, I can't remember -- the guy's name is
35 Neil somebody who represents the Secretary of Interior,
36 was really trying to push it and have it all signed off
37 before the new administration came on board.

38
39 MS. SYKES: So you say it was
40 addressed. Is there going to be any action?

41
42 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: I really can't
43 remember, but I don't think so.

44
45 MS. SYKES: That's still a great
46 concern. I don't know whether there will be any
47 changes with our new administration, but that was very
48 concerning to the tribes and to Central Council.

49
50 I also wanted to mention, too, that

1 Central Council has been supporting Sitka in their
2 herring issue. We did do a letter to the Alaska
3 Department of Fish and Game and we provided resolutions
4 of support for the proposals that were submitted by the
5 Sitka Tribe. Proposal 203, which was requesting
6 changes in the harvest level for the Sitka sac roe
7 fisheries. We supported 204. That was to decrease the
8 test setting in traditional subsistence areas. We also
9 supported Proposal 234 to increase the amount
10 reasonably necessary for subsistence.

11
12 We did oppose 235, which was going to
13 expand the permitting and reporting requirements for
14 the herring spawn. This is of really great concern.
15 People have been calling me a lot about the Sitka
16 herring. This is the last real spawning area. The
17 resources are relied on by people throughout the state
18 and even in the Lower 48. The herring eggs are shipped
19 out. I really am concerned. Like I said, I continue
20 to get phone calls about this. I just want to mention
21 that Central Council did do resolutions to support the
22 tribe and it will continue to follow this issue and
23 provide support for that wherever we can.

24
25 I think the last thing I wanted to
26 mention was this bear working group. We want to make
27 sure that we include the tribes in that also. That's
28 all I have for now.

29
30 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you, Carrie.
31 It's always good to see you come to these meetings and
32 we look forward to your future participation.

33
34 Harvey, do you have a question.

35
36 MR. KITKA: Yes, Mr. Chair. Thank you.
37 Thank you, Carrie, for your kind words about Makhnati
38 and Sitka Tribe's stand on this.

39
40 On one of your talks there, educating
41 the people to come up and testify, we not only need the
42 people to come up and testify, but we also need the
43 Native community to find a way to get more Natives out
44 there, even if they don't testify, to show that they're
45 backing the people that are talking.

46
47 When the Fish Board came to Sitka and
48 they looked at the audience and saw who they were
49 talking to, there probably was maybe 10 Natives within
50 the Board area that were going to testify. If it was

1 such a big concern of the Native communities in
2 southeast, we should have had more. We should have had
3 enough to where when the Board looked out at the
4 audience they would have seen a Native community that
5 was really ready to support. Some of these things need
6 to be brought to the Native communities so they
7 understand. They don't necessarily have to testify,
8 but if they're just standing there. This is something
9 Floyd brought to my attention. It made a lot of sense
10 to me.

11

12 Thank you.

13

14 MS. SYKES: I agree, Harvey. I think
15 we do need more people there. Like I said, I'm trying
16 to figure out ways I can get more people educated. One
17 thing that my boss is working on right now is a web
18 program he's developed called My Tribal TV and I'd like
19 to be able to start having videos of different meetings
20 that people could access through the web. So we're
21 looking at ways we can get more information to the
22 tribes where it's not going to cost them money to have
23 to travel to meetings.

24

25 I did want to mention too that we also
26 went to the legislative hearings on the Sitka herring
27 issue. That was the Fisheries Committee. That
28 happened on February 10th. I did make that meeting and
29 brought our resolutions up and made sure they were a
30 part of the record. We are trying to be there whenever
31 we can and make sure the Native concerns are heard.

32

33 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Floyd.

34

35 MR. KOOKESH: Hi, Carrie. Thank you
36 very much for bringing those points up. I think
37 they're very valid points. To talk a little about the
38 Makhnati issue, they have the signs out there. I don't
39 know why they're not applying it and listening to what
40 people are saying. We know for a fact that the fishery
41 is in trouble.

42

43 The one thing I keep hearing from the
44 Chair to Carrie is that you need to do the work for us
45 and that doesn't make sense to me. All of a sudden we
46 need to go and testify. I don't know where the break
47 is here. I believe we have BIA and BLM personnel here
48 that can probably tell us about their voting record so
49 that we can at least be able to address it here, find
50 out how the Bureau is voting. How both of them are

1 voting. See how they're voting on the issue of
2 Makhmati and Saxman, and C&T just in general.

3
4 We really need to have this system work
5 for us. We can't be, like our Chairman is alluding to,
6 to just forgive them and just forget this. This is not
7 how this process is supposed to work. We're all going
8 to lose in this if the Federal Subsistence Board
9 doesn't start following our recommendations. I'm sure
10 they can discount us as advisory only and throw FACA at
11 us, but that still doesn't solve our problem. I know
12 when you mentioned the MOU seven years in the making
13 and it never once crossed our table. I've been here
14 nine years, going on ten, and we haven't even seen an
15 MOU. Something is wrong here. Somebody is not doing
16 their work. I also believe that, as I mentioned
17 earlier in my testimony to the Board of Fish, that the
18 Federal Subsistence Board along with the State Boards
19 of Fish and Boards of Game are all failing in their
20 duties. If anybody knows this process and what's wrong
21 with it, it's the user groups and nobody is listening
22 to them.

23
24 We shouldn't, Mr. Chairman, just depend
25 on Carrie. Something has to give at that level. We
26 can't just say I don't think anything is going to
27 happen after they talked about their concerns about the
28 memorandum. Something has to happen. We just can't
29 waste our time. I'm sitting here for nine years and
30 somebody is telling me you guys are just an Advisory
31 Committee and your opinion doesn't matter, am I
32 supposed to sit here for nine more years and waste my
33 time? Is that what I want to do with my life? I don't
34 think so. Mr. Chairman.

35
36 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you, Floyd. I
37 think what I'm really alluding to, Carrie -- I'm not
38 trying to put more work on you. It's just the fact
39 that you guys are catalysts where you can influence the
40 tribes that you're responsible for and you get them
41 more and more involved in the process. If we can
42 accomplish that somehow, that would be a great plus to
43 us. I'm not trying to say that it's all on you, no.
44 It's on individual tribes, communities and so forth, to
45 step forth and make their wishes known. Bring it to us
46 and then we can take it to the Federal Subsistence
47 Board. Whether they give us deference or not, it's
48 their problem. We have done our work. Maybe we have
49 failed on certain issues, but at least hope that we
50 have done our best to take that issue to them for their

1 consideration.

2

3

4 As far as how the Board votes and so
5 forth, there's a lot of political goings-on that takes
6 place even before that happens. e know where some of
7 those Board members stand on certain issues and to try
8 to influence or change their way of thinking and so
9 forth is very difficult.

9

10

11 I just wanted to clarify that. We do
12 have an important part to play here. I really believe
13 the Board should give us deference. It's interesting
14 to see how they combined Ketchikan and Saxman together
15 in order to bring the population threshold up. Both of
16 those communities have characteristics of being rural
17 communities. So our effort is to try and separate them
18 again. It was done at a very short notice. Lee
19 Wallace didn't even know this was going to happen.
20 Then he was taken aback and he couldn't respond. So
21 we've had to try to play catch-up on that. I just
22 wanted to share that with you.

22

23

Thank you.

24

25

26 MS. SYKES: I realize that Central
27 Council's input is very important. We do represent a
28 lot of tribal members. 27,000 is a lot of tribal
29 members. We're one of the largest Federally recognized
30 tribes. Tribal consultation and Federal processes is
31 very important. We have a government-to-government
32 relationship with Federal agencies. That was put in
33 place by Clinton's initiative and it's really very
34 important. I think sometimes some of the Federal
35 agencies think that they've come and had a meeting with
36 us that they've done their tribal consultation and
37 that's not enough. It needs to be an ongoing
38 discussion and negotiation of issues. The tribal input
39 is very important. I think the tribe really should
40 have more weight as far as getting the recognition
41 these issues need.

41

42

43 About the MOU. I did get an email that
44 I was going to get a response letter and I don't
45 believe I received that yet. I would like to see what
46 their response to that is. About the Ketchikan/Saxman
47 issue, that really upsets me too. I grew up in
48 Ketchikan. I know that Saxman does a lot of
49 subsistence. They really rely on it. Some of our
50 communities who are economically disadvantaged it's
51 critical to their survival.

1 When the Ketchikan issue was being
2 discussed, I did talk to Denny Bshor, particularly
3 because we just got through with an acknowledgment
4 ceremony where they acknowledged that they removed
5 smokehouses and other structures from the Tongass,
6 which a lot of the tribes will disagree who's right it
7 is to have structures there. The tribes will argue
8 that that's their traditional use areas they've been
9 using for years. Denny's response to me was that
10 although he was sympathetic to the concerns, he had to
11 go by the letter of the law and make sure that the
12 Forest Service wasn't going to be opening themselves up
13 for possible litigation. That sympathy didn't help with
14 that rural status and that's really upsetting to me.

15
16 I grew up in Ketchikan and I grew up in
17 a subsistence lifestyle, so when I see that kind of
18 stuff happen and when I see the Sitka herring issue
19 that's going on and the resource that's in danger, it's
20 really upsetting. My grandbabies love herring eggs and
21 I want them to be able to have those herring eggs when
22 they grow up for their children. So I really am
23 concerned about these major issues and I will continue
24 to come to the Board and bring those up.

25
26 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you, Carrie.
27 Patty.

28
29 MS. PHILLIPS: Thank you, Chairman
30 Adams and Ms. Sykes for your testimony. It's troubling
31 to me that after 14 years as a Regional Advisory
32 Council meeting on a twice yearly basis and sometimes
33 more that there still is a lack of ability to
34 participate in this process, the lack of being able to
35 know what to do to participate in this subsistence
36 advisory process. It's something that we, as a RAC,
37 have addressed over the years is that there needs to be
38 more of a public outreach to the communities. Our
39 process here is open and available to every citizen of
40 the region, of the nation, to come and participate in.
41 We get a good showing in our rural areas. When they
42 leave, they say, wow, we have a much better
43 understanding of the process.

44
45 So we're glad you're here and you can
46 see this process and get a better understanding of it.
47 That being said, it's not to diminish what you've
48 presented to us. What you said is really important.

49
50 ANILCA, you know -- if you know the

1 statement my ways are not your ways and you may not
2 understand my ways, but what I'm trying to say is that
3 my way, subsistence way, are not your ways. The greater
4 powers that be may not understand our subsistence way
5 of life, so Congress, invoking its constitutional
6 authority, implemented ANILCA, Title VIII. There's a
7 lot of provisions in here that we need to focus on and
8 we do. If you go to like Section .812, it says the
9 Secretary, in cooperation with the State and other
10 appropriate Federal agencies, shall undertake research
11 on fish and wildlife and subsistence uses on the public
12 lands, which we have. This is mandated by Congress.

13

14 If you go on to Section .813, it says
15 in number six, the Secretary, within every three-year
16 period in consultation with the Secretary of
17 Agriculture, will prepare and submit a report to the
18 president of the Senate and Speaker of the House. Six
19 is a description of those actions taken or which may
20 need to be taken in the future to permit the
21 opportunity for continuation of activities relating to
22 subsistence uses on public lands.

23

24 We're supposed to continue. We're not
25 supposed to be regulated out of existence. We're
26 supposed to be regulated into existence. We came into
27 this with subsistence being minimized and we're
28 bringing it back up. There was controversy through the
29 years and there continues to be controversy, but we're
30 trying to do it. We're here. We're meeting.

31

32 I don't know. You got my blood going a
33 little. I just wanted to say we're trying. We're
34 working on it. Thank you.

35

36 MS. SYKES: Thank you, Patty. I agree,
37 there is a lot more data that is being brought forth.
38 I was particularly happy when I went to the legislative
39 hearings for the Fisheries Committee about the herring
40 that there were three scientists there who were very
41 concerned. These are scientists who study herring.
42 Sitka Tribe has been getting a lot more data together.
43 I agree with you too about being regulated out of
44 existence.

45

46 Of particular concern to me, especially
47 with the high energy costs, were the proposals that we
48 discussed at the last meeting about subsistence in a
49 Juneau road area. People don't have the money to go
50 fill up their boat and run 50 miles. If they can

1 subsist from a road system, then why not. Bob Loesher
2 brought up a very important point during that meeting
3 too. There's more and more roads that are being put
4 in. Does that mean we're going to get pushed further
5 and further from subsistence and have to go farther?
6 There's a lot of concerns.

7
8 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you, Carrie.
9 Anyone else.

10
11 (No comments)

12
13 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Gunalcheesh. We'll
14 see you next time.

15
16 MS. SYKES: Uh-huh.

17
18 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: We'll take a 10-minute
19 break. We'll be back to continue on with the deer
20 issue.

21
22 (Off record)

23
24 (On record)

25
26 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: We're back in session
27 now. Mr. Baines just left here a few minutes ago. I
28 guess there's going to be some action items done by the
29 Board of Fish that will be interesting to us and he's
30 going to come back and give us a report and keep us
31 updated.

32
33 We're going to move on to item number
34 12 now, recommendations on deer management issues.
35 Each of you should have in your packet a couple papers
36 like this. One says Southeast Alaska Subsistence Deer
37 Management Recommendations and then there's another one
38 that says Southeast Alaska In-Season Recommendation for
39 Subsistence Management of Wildlife.

40
41 The first sheet I alluded you to are
42 principals that will be taken into consideration and
43 some guidelines. We want to express our appreciation
44 to the committee that worked on this, Mr. Bangs, Mr.
45 Douville, Mr. Hernandez and Mr. Kookesh. We'll take a
46 look at these now.

47
48 Mr. Bangs, would your group like to
49 make a report. I'm kind of at a loss where to go, how
50 to proceed. Let's just go over it.

1
2 It says recent events affecting
3 management of the subsistence deer harvest in Southeast
4 Alaska have highlighted the need for the Southeast
5 Alaska Subsistence Regional Advisory Council to provide
6 recommendations for guidelines to use in managing this
7 important subsistence resource. The extreme snowfall
8 events in the 2007 and 2008 seasons have resulted in
9 special actions to restrict deer harvests in northern
10 southeast the State Board of Game has reduced the
11 harvest limit of deer in Cleveland Peninsula and the
12 December subsistence deer season in Unit 3 was not
13 opened. The Council continues to support the findings
14 of the 2006 Unit 2 deer planning report and finds that
15 some of those same recommendations are applicable for
16 subsistence management of deer in the remainder of the
17 Southeastern Alaska Area.

18
19 These are Council recommendations.
20 Again, these are principles that we have come up with.
21 Recommendation number one. Current conditions
22 concerning harvest, population status and subsistence
23 uses must be adequately identified.

24
25 The estimates of deer harvest must be
26 accurate enough and to the appropriate geographic scale
27 to detect real changes in deer harvests. Sufficient
28 knowledge of deer population status and trends is
29 necessary to address future proposals that suggest
30 changes to hunting seasons or harvest limits. Deer
31 uses and needs must accurately describe the current
32 situation.

33
34 Two. Support research projects required
35 to address information deficiencies. Information needs
36 may include evaluation of various methods to
37 determining deer population levels and trends. The
38 Council will identify specific geographic locations
39 with special information needs.

40
41 Three. Maintain awareness of decisions
42 regarding use of the land that could affect access or
43 the habitat of deer on Federal public land. Knowledge
44 of planned activities such as the road access
45 management plan, changes in land ownership and timber
46 planning will allow the Council to make meaningful
47 comments for the protection of subsistence deer
48 harvests.

49
50 Four. Coordinate management with the

1 Alaska Department of Fish and Game. The Council
2 recommends an annual meeting between the Federal
3 subsistence management Staff and ADF&G. Collaboration
4 between the agencies will facilitate review of
5 available information about harvest, deer population
6 trends, and subsistence use and needs. The Council
7 requests a Council representative attend Board of Game
8 meetings where Southeast Alaska wildlife issues are
9 discussed.

10

11 So why don't we take those principles
12 and maybe talk about them a little bit and see where we
13 want to go. Any comments.

14

15 Donald, go ahead.

16

17 MR. HERNANDEZ: Thank you, Mr.
18 Chairman. I think what we attempted to do in this
19 little subcommittee that we worked on this winter was
20 to try and bring to the entire region some of the ideas
21 and principals we talked about in the Unit 2
22 subcommittee. I think that's been fairly clear.

23

24 Then the second document, the
25 recommendations for subsistence management of wildlife,
26 that is a little more specific towards what's happened
27 here most recently with a lot of the in-season actions
28 and special requests. We felt we needed to have a
29 discussion on how we were going about some of this
30 in-season management and can we do a better job of
31 responding to some of the recent conditions that we've
32 had, particularly in the northern end of the region.

33

34 So going back to this first document,
35 overall deer management recommendations, I think we've
36 done a pretty good job here in the last day and this
37 morning just getting a good understanding of where the
38 Council has progressed in its information gathering in
39 the last several years. If we can bring some of that
40 new technique and knowledge and cooperation with the
41 State to the region as a whole, I think that would be
42 pretty beneficial.

43

44 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Uh-huh.

45

46 MR. HERNANDEZ: So we can discuss these
47 individual points and see if that Council as a whole
48 would agree with them. Also, I think we really need a
49 more detailed discussion of what we're going to do with
50 this in-season management and also concurrently if

1 there are any new proposals that need to be developed
2 to deal with the current situation.

3

4 That's what we attempted to do.

5

6 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you, Donald. I
7 should have called on your first since you were the
8 chair of that committee. What's the wish of the
9 Council. Any more comments or questions on the
10 principles that he identified in that first paper.

11

12 Harvey and then Floyd.

13

14 MR. KITKA: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I
15 just have a question and it's more for you and Bob, I
16 think. What kind of voice would this Council person
17 have at the Board of Game meetings? What kind of
18 topics would he be allowed to talk to? It seems like
19 there's some very strict guidelines on what they can
20 say. I wonder about that.

21

22 MR. HERNANDEZ: I can shed a little bit
23 of light on it and then maybe Bob can fill in the rest.
24 The Council would not be allowed to address anything at
25 any public forum if we hadn't already discussed it in
26 this forum here and made our wishes known through a
27 proposal or letters. Bob, do you have anything to add.

28

29 MR. LARSON: Yes, Mr. Chairman, I do.
30 That agenda or that sentence actually references an
31 invitation from Denby Lloyd, who is the Commissioner of
32 Fish and Game for the State. At the January
33 Subsistence Board meeting, he provided some testimony
34 to the Board and in there he said that both the Board
35 of Game and Board of Fish would appreciate input from
36 the Regional Councils. He would encourage Regional
37 Councils to spend some time with the issues that both
38 Boards were going to be discussing at their meeting and
39 to send a representative to their meeting to provide
40 this really unique perspective provided by the
41 Councils.

42

43 Now, that being said, Mr. Chairman is
44 correct. In those meetings, only the action items the
45 Council has adopted as a position statement you can
46 present to the Board of Fish or Board of Game as a
47 position of the Council. You would also be there as a
48 representative of the Council if there was some
49 exchange or questioning by the Boards themselves.

50

1 At this last Board of Fish meeting,
2 Floyd Kookesh provided some testimony and sat in on the
3 committee process. I've had some discussions and his
4 testimony was very well received and certainly is
5 valuable in promoting the interests of subsistence
6 users at the Board level, which is something that's
7 been lacking, quite frankly.

8
9 The next time we will have the
10 opportunity to go to the Board of Game will be in two
11 years and the next time we will discuss Board of Fish
12 issues is three years. So we'll have time to develop
13 some statements or some action items regarding
14 positions or issues that we think is important that are
15 going to be discussed.

16
17 The Office of Subsistence Management
18 has said that they'll provide funding for this person
19 to attend and participate fully. This is a terrific
20 opportunity I think and somewhat of a departure from
21 the State's positions regarding input from the Council
22 and it's something we should take advantage of.

23
24 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Mr. Larson, did they
25 provide per diem and funding for Floyd to attend the
26 meeting?

27
28 MR. LARSON: Yes, they did.

29
30 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: He didn't get it
31 though.

32
33 MR. KOOKESH: They cancelled my check.

34
35 MR. LARSON: We'll send a different
36 person next time.

37
38 (Laughter)

39
40 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: No, I trust Floyd when
41 he goes to those meetings. I think the tide is
42 changing where the cooperation between State and
43 Federal is getting a lot better. At the Federal
44 Subsistence Board meeting, you know, Denby Lloyd sits
45 next to me and I'm always kicking him in the shins all
46 the time. No, I don't.

47
48 Floyd, did you have a comment. Go
49 ahead.

50

1 MR. KOOKESH: Mr. Chairman. I don't
2 know if you all had an opportunity to read my statement
3 that I made to the Board of Fish, but I did try to
4 stick to the guidelines I was told about.
5 To talk about the deer management issue here, I don't
6 know where you'd like to go with this, but I know where
7 I'd like to see us go.

8
9 Last year I printed out all the minutes
10 and I have a comment from Bill Thomas, the
11 representative for Angoon. I believe Neil was there at
12 the time. Bill's recommendation was, if it was up to
13 me I'd make it a local hunt only because I spend a lot
14 of time in Hoonah. That is their primary food source.
15 To me, I live in Haines. If I want subsistence, I go
16 to the food houses. If I lived in Juneau, it would be
17 Fred Meyer. But that is their Fred Meyer to them. And
18 this was Bill. My comment was, Neil, did you get that.
19 That was my comment to Neil last year.

20
21 Because of the harsh winters we had and
22 based on the approach we took at the time the State had
23 made a recommendation to close, I believe it was
24 December 14th, they wanted us to close it along with
25 them.

26
27 I'll bring out a few points here. One
28 of the things that was done in this process was the
29 call was made to individual Council members without us
30 coming together as a body and asking our opinion. That
31 was one thing that was wrong that we didn't do, was
32 come together as a body and address the issue.

33
34 The other thing that wasn't done was
35 that when the issue was being decided they had known
36 prior to August 1st of the season opening that we had a
37 harsh winter and to shut it down would have been the
38 right thing. To wait for this long on the State's part
39 was wrong and for all of us just to have this reactive
40 instead of proactive position to me is not the way we
41 should be doing management. That's not good
42 management. If we're really going to do this right, we
43 need to make these decisions prior to August 1st. If
44 we're going to decide to get some in-season regulatory
45 authority and a consultation process, it needs to go to
46 the affected user the closest instead of just calling,
47 for example -- no disrespect, Mr. See -- calling Hoonah
48 and saying what do you think and they say close it, but
49 Angoon says why. We're on different systems.

50

1 My point on that one is we got to break
2 up Unit 4 into a system that works for all of us. I
3 have a lot of respect for you, too, but calling the
4 Chair and asking him to close Unit 4, the consultation
5 process needs to be bigger than you. We all need to be
6 part of it. Hoonah needs to be part of it. I guess
7 Harvey. And Angoon, those affected, and Petersburg and
8 Pelican.

9
10 See, the points I'm bringing out is if
11 there's a concern for the stocks, then we need to
12 properly address it if is what we do is say that
13 subsistence is our highest priority, then let's vote
14 rural. We're talking about a rural hunt here. If we
15 affect the urban hunt. This is because of the
16 conservation concern. I believe, if I'm correct,
17 there's a conservation concern that's being addressed
18 here. We've seen the solid data, the pellet count that
19 was put in front of us yesterday. That's one thing.
20 Because of the record snowfalls we've had in the past
21 two years something needs to be done.

22
23 My other recommendation on that regard,
24 if you really want to do conservation and I know we all
25 like to hunt, but we also like to believe and respect
26 that the resource is going to be there for us and I
27 know for a fact from my position I'd be happy to take a
28 back seat and cut back our harvest limit, reduce our
29 ability to take five or six, whatever we're allowed by
30 the area, and reduce those amounts. Also shorten our
31 season if that's what it's going to take.

32
33 As I stated, I came out of Sitka and it
34 was unfortunate for someone who lives a subsistence
35 lifestyle to hear that last year we might not get any
36 herring eggs this year. I think I was telling Harvey
37 we might have to eat last year's herring eggs next
38 year. We shouldn't have to go there. Maybe in the
39 fishery with the politics being the way it is, that's
40 the way it's going to go down in Sitka. But we have a
41 chance here to address Unit 4 and fix it.

42
43 I tried to go through the 50 pages of
44 your Unit 2 stuff and I said forget that. I had asked
45 the gentleman that was here talking about the deer
46 pellets, they should have just made a cheat sheet for
47 us so we could skim through it fast. I'd like to see
48 us do this the right way and take an approach that
49 addresses it at both State and Federal.

50

1 I don't know what more I can add to
2 this. I'd just like to see that population be strong.
3 I don't know what's going on out there, how much deer
4 are out there, but we certainly need to look at it
5 right now and not wait until December 14th.

6
7 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you, Mr.
8 Kookesh. I think we're trying to do what you're
9 alluding to. Later on we're going to be looking at the
10 proposals we're going to propose and also some of the
11 special actions that we anticipate will take place.

12
13 I think you hit upon exactly a couple
14 things under the guidelines, the Southeast Alaska
15 in-season recommendations, items number 2 and 3. You
16 adequately and expertly identified the situation here.
17 Let's go through it together.

18
19 Number 2 says: Whenever the Council
20 meeting schedule permit, recommendations will be sought
21 from the Council prior to implementing either an
22 emergency or temporary special action. If the Council
23 is not meeting in a relevant time frame, the Board or
24 delegated in-season manager will consult with the Chair
25 of the Council prior to implementing or extending the
26 proposed action. The Chair of the Council shall
27 consult with affected Council members or others, with
28 knowledge of that particular location or resource prior
29 to making a recommendation on the proposed action.

30
31 And then item number 3 also I think
32 addresses your concern. Preseason planning and post-
33 season evaluation are important components of an
34 effective coordinated in-season management program.
35 Federal Staff will report to the Council and Federal
36 in-season managers at the winter Council meeting, any
37 special circumstances that may require either a
38 wildlife special action or temporary action. In
39 addition, the report will include an evaluation of the
40 effectiveness of any previous year's special actions.
41 The Council will schedule time to review Federal
42 wildlife management plans during the winter meeting.

43
44 I think you addressed those issues and
45 I think these are some of the answers that has come as
46 a result of that. Hopefully this addresses your
47 concern. Is there any more comments or concerns that
48 you want to bring up on this issue.

49
50 Floyd, go ahead.

1 MR. KOOKESH: On the Federal part we do
2 have a January hunt and if we give the hunters enough
3 time -- you know, they have intelligence like the rest
4 of us, give them enough time, let them know that you're
5 going to have a shorter January season if it means
6 preserving the stock because all the bucks are running
7 around without racks anyway. I know Mr. See had a
8 concern about the January hunt and I don't hunt
9 January.

10
11 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: I think one of the
12 discussions we've had is the fact those late in-season
13 hunts take place when you can't tell the difference
14 between a deer and a buck and that's been a big
15 concern.

16
17 I also know that Hoonah has been self-
18 regulating themselves. They decided they were not
19 going to hunt any deer that year because there was a
20 shortage, so they started supplying themselves with
21 other sources of food. I think that's a good example
22 to follow.

23
24 Any other comments. Mr. Kitka.

25
26 MR. KITKA: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I
27 had to go back to Unit 2 deer. Maybe we need to go
28 back and look at what they had to do with the non-rural
29 hunters that are coming in. I saw in the graph that
30 the State put out where the non-rural people are in
31 Unit 4 in bigger numbers than the local users. When
32 you start having a problem within a local area, which
33 Floyd alluded to, they should be allowed to hunt what
34 they need first. If they're going to regulate a
35 season, at least they should be allowed to get theirs.

36
37 Thank you.

38
39 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you, Harvey.
40 Anyone else. Floyd.

41
42 MR. KOOKESH: Mr. Chairman. In order
43 to bring this together properly, I believe there needs
44 to be an education process that says everyone needs to
45 understand all the deer are in the rural areas, all the
46 fish are in the rural areas. We need to do it so that
47 the urban hunter understands there's a concern in the
48 rural areas and this is the Southeast Regional Advisory
49 Council's job to address it and to let them know we're
50 not just picking on them, but in order to conserve the

1 stocks we have to take this approach. I know they're
2 understand if they know we're not out to get them.

3

4 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Any more comments.
5 Donald, go ahead.

6

7 MR. HERNANDEZ: Thank you, Mr.
8 Chairman. My observation is if we, as a Council,
9 wanted to change any regulation that would affect the
10 non-subsistence users, that would have to be done with
11 a proposal, is my understanding. That would have to go
12 through the full public process.

13

14 If we want to do in-season management
15 actions, it seems like those types of actions would
16 have to be restricted to probably just the subsistence
17 users. I don't know if I'm correct on that. Anybody
18 could comment.

19

20 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you, Donald.
21 What I'd like to do right now is go back a little bit.
22 If we want to move on any of these, we need a motion to
23 adopt and then we can discuss the heck out of them some
24 more.

25

26 MS. PHILLIPS: What are we adopting?

27

28 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: This and this. We've
29 kind of gone over it already. Do you have this in your
30 packet?

31

32 MS. PHILLIPS: Yes.

33

34 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay. That's what
35 we're talking about. Mr. Bangs.

36

37 MR. BANGS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I
38 think there's several issues that are all tied with
39 this. One of them has to do with the collaboration we
40 discussed about trying to be aware and have the pulse
41 on what the State is doing, whether it's moose, deer,
42 whatever.

43

44 As to their emergency, what they call
45 an EO, to stop in-season hunting, fishing, whatever
46 because of conservation concerns, one of the things
47 that came up is we don't have a clear precise protocol
48 on what to do. I think part of it has to do with the
49 lack of communication between the Board of Fish, Board
50 of Game, their system and the Federal system. We

1 talked about how we can make, say for instance, a deer
2 in-season management decision. Do we subdivide a unit,
3 like what Floyd was alluding to, Unit 4. It's hard to
4 do a blanket thing.

5
6 Anyway, what I'm getting at is I think
7 if we're going to come up with a product from these
8 recommendations and guidelines, we need to make sure
9 that we include some way that we can stay on top of
10 what's going on. Just for instance, the Board of Fish
11 is meeting in Sitka at the same time we're meeting
12 here. That's not a good decision. These things need
13 to be looked at. I think it's important if we're going
14 to come up with a product, we need to figure out what
15 we want to do and what this Council feels is important
16 to manage the resources.

17
18 I'm not sure where we want to go with
19 this, but I think this was meant as a guideline for
20 some way we can come up with a product of a statement
21 and a direction we can follow in-season, pre-season.
22 Floyd said December 14th is too late, but in a lot of
23 cases that's when the decision has to be made. If you
24 have 24 inches of snow in a few days, all of a sudden
25 you have an issue. I just think we need to collaborate
26 and have a way to communicate with the state and figure
27 out what we need as subsistence users and be able to
28 follow up on the subsistence needs.

29
30 Thank you.

31
32 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you, Mr. Bangs.
33 What's the wish of the Council? Would you like to
34 adopt these two recommendations and then work off these
35 two pages and tweak it the way we want it and then go
36 from there? If that's the case, then I think we need a
37 motion to do so.

38
39 MR. SEE: I so move. I move to adopt.

40
41 MR. KOOKESH: Second.

42
43 MS. PHILLIPS: Adopt what?

44
45 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: To adopt the Southeast
46 Alaska subsistence deer management recommendations and
47 Southeast Alaska in-season recommendations for
48 subsistence management of wildlife. It's been moved
49 and seconded.

50

1 Patty, do you have something.

2

3 MS. PHILLIPS: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I
4 understand you want to move forward and have a motion
5 on the table. I'm uncomfortable with the casualness of
6 the motions being made. I think we should be more
7 formal. We've agreed we would follow Robert's Rules of
8 order. If there is a motion to be made, I would prefer
9 it be stated what that motion is.

10

11 Thank you for clarifying what the
12 motion was. I appreciate that.

13

14 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you, Patty. Mr.
15 See, you know the procedure.

16

17 MR. SEE: Yes.

18

19 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: So in the future. Go
20 ahead.

21

22 MS. PHILLIPS: Are we in discussion?

23

24 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Yes.

25

26 MS. PHILLIPS: I appreciate the effort
27 that the subcommittee went through to bring forth
28 recommendations to the Regional Advisory Council on the
29 Southeast Alaska subsistence deer management
30 recommendations, Council recommendations, number one on
31 the deer harvest reporting. In my opinion, the 60
32 percent return surveys on the mailouts is enough of a
33 return to get valid harvest data. I think it should be
34 a voluntary return like it is now. The mailout could
35 be expanded upon to ask more questions of the deer
36 hunters.

37

38 As far as the Southeast Alaska in-
39 season recommendations for subsistence management of
40 wildlife, number 2, The Chair of the Council shall
41 consult with affected Council members. Previously,
42 when we've had the Regional Coordinator also contact
43 various Council members and there may be times when
44 you're not able to get a hold of you and you can't make
45 those calls, so it would be good to put in there or the
46 Regional Coordinator.

47

48 I have to comment about Hoonah is self-
49 regulating themselves. We're about providing
50 subsistence opportunities. The special action to close

1 the northeast Chichagof use area, that was to follow
2 the State Alaska Department of Fish and Game closure,
3 so they closed Federal also. Hoonah is self-regulating
4 themselves if the loudest voice speaking is being heard.
5 We're here to represent those minority people who
6 aren't going to stand up and say, hey, gas is \$8 a
7 gallon. I don't have any income. They're not going to
8 stand up there and say, hey, I need this hunt. But
9 somebody who is really loud and vocal saying we've got
10 to shut this just because I don't agree with the
11 January hunt. Well, there's going to be guys and gals
12 that go out there and do it anyway because they need
13 it. They need to eat. They don't have anything in
14 their freezers. This is what we heard on POW. People
15 don't have the resources to go to Fred Meyers, so
16 that's why we're providing that opportunity.

17
18 I agree with Don, we need to change the
19 regulations that affect the non-subsistence user if we
20 do have a conservation problem in a specific area. I
21 live in an area that's wilderness and so I have a
22 benefit of a non-timber harvest area. But, like
23 Hoonah, they're surrounded by timber-harvested areas,
24 so they have different land management issues that are
25 affecting the deer productivity. I don't know. Non-
26 rural hunter harvest should be addressed and we should
27 be not restricting subsistence use. There's my
28 comments.

29
30 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Floyd.

31
32 MR. KOOKESH: Mr. Chairman. To talk to
33 the document that was put on the floor by Mr. See. To
34 go back to the Council recommendations on number one
35 about the fact that it's voluntary. If you really want
36 to get to 100 percent, it might be a good idea that
37 Regional Advisory Council, State of Alaska and the
38 tribes all work on this if you want to get your numbers
39 right. The tribes always want to be involved in this
40 process. This is an opportunity to involve the tribes
41 so we can get 100 percent outreach and get those
42 surveys back.

43
44 I do know from being in Sitka that
45 Helen Dangle said that they were very aggressive about
46 their data acquisition, getting stuff back, and they
47 are almost in the 100 percent range for that. I might
48 be wrong.

49
50 The other thing is on number 4, to

1 coordinate management ADF&G. I spoke earlier about it
2 and I'll just give you the shorter version. Shorter
3 seasons, reduce bag limits, address the non-rural hunt.
4 To go to your number 2 on subsistence management of
5 wildlife, Patty talked about if you can't get a hold of
6 the chair and following our Robert's Rule of Order
7 process, it's probably best to go to the vice chair.
8 We also need to include the coordinator and the in-
9 season manager. I'm sure we have some technology where
10 we can get four phones on the same line talking at the
11 same time.

12
13 I just want to say one more thing. The
14 one thing about the December 14th issue that was
15 brought out for the Angoon area was that it's not
16 timely and there's a conservation concern. It's not
17 timely in the sense that the Angoon hunter was waiting
18 for the snowfall and banking on the January hunt
19 because nobody had told them August 1st we're going to
20 shut it December 14th. They would have been prepared
21 for that, but nobody told them that. The price of fuel
22 was a factor. It was over \$5 a gallon at that time.
23 These guys weren't prepared for that. They wanted to
24 get their deer.

25
26 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay. Mr. Kitka,
27 please.

28
29 MR. KITKA: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I
30 had maybe one comment. Neil, in his report to us, he
31 did say there was a difference in Unit 4 between the
32 mainland and Juneau and Douglas, so they must already
33 have a vehicle in their works that would kind of
34 address this issue if they would look at it as the
35 subsistence and non-subsistence area.

36
37 Thank you.

38
39 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you, Harvey.
40 Did you have something to add.

41
42 MS. CLARK: Mr. Chairman. I just
43 wanted to clarify one issue. It is possible.....

44
45 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Would you please
46 identify yourself.

47
48 MS. CLARK: Thank you. Maureen Clark
49 with the Office of Subsistence Management. It is
50 possible to restrict non-Federally-qualified users,

1 non-rural users, with in-season actions.

2

3 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you. Anyone
4 else. Cal, come hither.

5

6 MR. CASIPIT: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
7 Cal Casipit, acting Interagency Staff Committee member
8 for the Forest Service. I just wanted to add to what
9 Maureen said. She's correct that if the in-season
10 manager is delegated the authority like we have for
11 fish, we can close for conservation purposes or to
12 continue subsistence uses.

13

14 I think what you're trying to get at
15 here, especially this one here, the in-season
16 recommendations for subsistence management of wildlife.
17 Since there hasn't been a delegation except for Unit 4,
18 if you want to extend that delegation to all the other
19 units, your recommendation could include whatever you
20 wanted. If you don't want to delegate closures, that
21 could be in your recommendation as well. What I'm
22 trying to say here is that you're trying to build a
23 recommendation to the Board for what you would like to
24 see for in-season management of wildlife. It's under
25 your authority to decide what that delegation would
26 entail and what would be there.

27

28 I just wanted to say at least for the
29 fisheries stuff the in-season managers are delegated
30 the authority to close for conservation and to continue
31 subsistence uses.

32

33 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

34

35 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you, Cal. Maybe
36 we need to talk about that. Do you want to expand that
37 to other in-season managers as well. Right now I guess
38 it's just addressing that one unit.

39

40 Mr. Larson, do you have something to
41 offer.

42

43 MR. LARSON: Mr. Chairman. Maybe I
44 could speak to item one and what is in this document in
45 the in-season recommendations. Item one, it asks to
46 revisit the delegations of authority and to grant the
47 same delegation of authority for wildlife as what is
48 currently being offered for fish and to those same
49 positions.

50

1 So right now if you would look back in
2 this document on page 2 and page 3, you'll see the
3 current mix of in-season management authorities for
4 wildlife and you can see that it's a variety of
5 different delegations and different authorities to
6 different people for different species.

7
8 The recommendation is to simplify that
9 and have the same people that currently hold in-season
10 management authority for all fish to have the same
11 authorities for all wildlife. That's a different
12 scenario than what we have right now. What we have
13 right now is not built on a plan or a recommendation to
14 move forward. What we have right now is a matter of
15 dealing with issues as they come forward over the last
16 15 or 20 years. So what this does is provide a
17 strategic plan and a recommendation to the Board for
18 in-season management authorities similar to fish for
19 wildlife to the same people.

20
21 Item 2, if we look at the regulations
22 regarding the role of the Council in in-season
23 management both in Federal regulations and in ANILCA,
24 the role is not clear. It references that the Council
25 should be involved, but there's no regulations that say
26 how they should be involved. What this does is provide
27 the Board and the Staff an expectation of how the
28 Council is going to be involved in in-season
29 management.

30
31 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you.

32
33 Patty, go ahead.

34
35 MS. PHILLIPS: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
36 It's clear to me that we have two different sets of
37 recommendations that are in one motion and I would
38 prefer that we have a motion for each separate set of
39 recommendations. It's getting confusing jumping back
40 and forth. I'd rather focus on one set of
41 recommendations, deal with that and then go to the
42 other set of recommendations. I do appreciate the
43 clarification that Robert just gave us on the in-season
44 recommendations, but which one are we focusing on.

45
46 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: We are bouncing back
47 and forth. Why don't we just go ahead and -- what I
48 was trying to do earlier was take this one right here
49 and address it and work off of that for now.

50

1 MR. KOOKESH: Which one is that?
2
3 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: The principles,
4 Southeast Alaska subsistence deer management
5 recommendations, the one page one.
6
7 MR. KOOKESH: Mr. Chairman. In
8 following this process under the recommendations for
9 subsistence management of wildlife, I really felt that
10 we should focus on number 2.
11
12 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: I apologize for not
13 handling this properly, but let's do this one first.
14 I'll name it. It's the Southeast Alaska subsistence
15 deer management recommendations. That's the principles
16 that we're going to follow. If all of those things are
17 appropriate, then we can have -- I'd like to have the
18 motions for accepting both of them rescinded or taken
19 back and then we'll take them one by one and go from
20 there. I apologize for that oversight. So if it's
21 okay with the first and second of that first motion to
22 take it off the table, then we'll start a new motion to
23 adopt this one.
24
25 MR. SEE: Mr. Chairman. As the maker
26 of the motion, I ask that we rescind the motion and
27 move that we accept this Southeast Alaska deer
28 management recommendations.
29
30 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Just a minute. We'll
31 do one by one. Is that okay with the second?
32
33 MR. KOOKESH: The second withdraws the
34 second.
35
36 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: So now it's all done.
37 We can now address this one.
38
39 MR. SEE: Mr. Chairman. I move that we
40 accept the Southeast Alaska deer management
41 recommendations for discussion.
42
43 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: We need a second.
44
45 MS. PHILLIPS: I'll second it.
46
47 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you, Patty. Now
48 we can discuss it. Thank you.
49
50 Michael, go ahead.

1 MR. DOUVILLE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
2 What weight does the Chair have or a RAC member should
3 we adopt this? If the in-season manager wanted to
4 close something and you and I disagreed, what weight
5 does that carry? He could close it anyway. How is the
6 power delegated? Do you know what I'm asking you? So
7 it's possible that I would disagree.

8
9 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay. Well, I think
10 your point is well taken. In the spirit of
11 cooperation, we would do our best to do what we think
12 is right, but it doesn't mean that they're going to
13 follow our feelings about any particular issue.

14
15 Go ahead.

16
17 MR. DOUVILLE: Mr. Chairman. Mr. Bangs
18 pointed out I'm on the wrong piece of paper here now.
19 I'm thoroughly confused now. In any case, I'll ask
20 that question again when we get to the proper sheet.

21
22 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Why don't we take a
23 five-minute break and get our thoughts collected here.

24
25 (Off record)

26
27 (On record)

28
29 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: People, let's gather
30 to get started again. We are on this issue that we
31 moved and seconded the issue of Southeast Alaska
32 subsistence deer management recommendations. Actually
33 these are principles that we want to implement here.
34 If there's no real further comments that we need to
35 make on this, I think we can pass it and then move on
36 to the next document. I want to open it up for your
37 discussion at this point.

38
39 Mr. Kitka, please.

40
41 MR. KITKA: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I
42 was under the impression that we were going to use this
43 as a guide. Maybe some points of clarification. Under
44 number one, I'm not sure what this is really saying. I
45 was wondering if this is a disguised way of saying they
46 would like to break up some of the units so that they
47 have some areas where the weather is different
48 geographically and things. So different that it would
49 make management a little different for those areas
50 instead of a blanket type of closing off an area.

1 Thank you.

2

3 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: I think that's a good
4 question and concern, Mr. Kitka. Is there anyone that
5 would like to clarify that? Robert, would you do so.

6

7 MR. LARSON: Yes, Mr. Chairman. No,
8 you're reading way too much into this statement. What
9 it says is that quite literally prior to making
10 decisions the current conditions should be known at
11 whatever scale is appropriate. If the question is deer
12 harvest, then we should be able to know what the deer
13 harvest is. It's just the current state of affairs.
14 It's important to know where we are right now. It's
15 important to know it at whatever scale the question is.
16 No, there's nothing that leads into some other
17 proposal. This is just a statement saying knowing what
18 the current conditions are is important to the Council.

19

20 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Does that answer your
21 question, Mr. Kitka?

22

23 MR. KITKA: Clear as mud.

24

25 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Mr. Hernandez.

26

27 MR. HERNANDEZ: Thank you, Mr.
28 Chairman. Both items, 1 and 2, talk about specific
29 geographic location, special information needs. I
30 think that's just an attempt to recognize that
31 throughout a unit there may be specific needs to
32 address that subunit. We're not making the suggestion
33 it should be divided up into subunits.

34

35 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you. Michael.

36

37 MR. DOUVILLE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
38 Would you explain to me number 4, it's kind of a broad
39 statement, coordinate management with the Alaska
40 Department of Fish and Game. I mean sharing
41 information is one thing, but coordinating is a little
42 bit different as we operate with a different set of
43 rules.

44

45 MR. LARSON: Mr. Chairman. Item 4 is a
46 recognition that we all bring strengths to the table
47 that are different. Monitoring activities, deer
48 harvest reporting, those are really the strengths of
49 where the Department of Fish and Game has. They have
50 an ongoing research project. The management of

1 wildlife on all lands is done by the Board of Game.
2 It's just an acknowledgement that we use each other's
3 strengths appropriately and that the Council expects
4 and will move forward to become involved in the Board
5 of Game process.

6
7 It's also an acknowledgement of the
8 memorandum of understanding that's been recently signed
9 that says essentially we'll do this through the Staff.
10 So it's an acknowledgement by the Council that they
11 will participate. There's nothing in here that would
12 diminish the authorities of the Council.

13
14 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you, Michael and
15 Robert. I'm going to call Cal up here. In line with
16 what you asked earlier, Mike, you know, what if there's
17 no agreement between the agencies and Cal came and kind
18 of explained it to me. I'd like him to do it to the
19 public now. And if you can shed some more light on
20 what Bob had already said, please do so.

21
22 MR. CASIPIT: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
23 Again, my name is Cal Casipit. I'm the acting Inter-
24 agency Staff Committee member for the Forest Service.
25 What I had talked to you earlier about, there was a
26 question on -- actually, I'm skipping ahead of what you
27 guys are actually discussing now.

28
29 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: That's okay.

30
31 MR. CASIPIT: But it may help you out
32 with this discussion. No matter what, the provisions
33 of ANILCA still apply to any delegated authority that
34 comes from the Board. For instance the in-season, if
35 so delegated, would still have the .805(3)(c) stuff
36 there about deference to the Council. If we were to
37 reject a recommendation from the Council, you've made a
38 recommendation to do something and the decision-maker
39 doesn't follow that recommendation. He or she still
40 has the responsibility to report back to you as to the
41 reasons. The only reasons they can reject is to
42 continue subsistence opportunity, it violated
43 principles of fish and wildlife conservation or it was
44 detrimental to subsistence users.

45
46 ANILCA doesn't go away with any kind of
47 delegation to an in-season manager or local manager.
48 All that stuff still applies. When it comes to that
49 delegation, they are the Federal Subsistence Board in
50 that instance and they still have those

1 responsibilities that are outlined in ANILCA, so I just
2 wanted to make that clear.

3

4 Is there anything else you wanted?

5

6 (No comments)

7

8 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you, Cal. Mr.
9 Bangs.

10

11 MR. BANGS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
12 In regards to the question about coordination of the
13 management, I think it's a pretty broad statement, but
14 I think it's important that we look a little bit into
15 the reasons why this came about. Part of it is because
16 of why Federal users have antlerless deer instead of
17 female deer, why we have a difference in evidence of
18 sex. The regulations are confusing and coordination in
19 management would go a long ways.

20

21 Whether we adopt a closure or not, the
22 coordination in management goes a lot further than that
23 and I think it's important that we recognize and
24 coordinate a little bit. These are all management
25 concerns and I think it's important that we read into
26 that a broad statement that it's important that we
27 adopt specific things and look into it so we don't have
28 antlerless deer in January. Well, what is that?
29 That's all deer basically.

30

31 These kind of things are something that
32 I think is why this statement is there to coordinate
33 management. Thank you.

34

35 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you, Michael.
36 Anyone else like to stay something.

37

38 MR. KITKA: Question.

39

40 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: The question has been
41 called for. Let's do it different. Let's do roll call
42 on this here, Mr. Kitka.

43

44 MR. KITKA: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
45 Michael Bangs.

46

47 MR. BANGS: Yes.

48

49 MR. KITKA: Merle Hawkins.

50

1 MS. HAWKINS: No.
2
3 MR. KITKA: Mike See.
4
5 MR. SEE: Yes.
6
7 MR. KITKA: Donald Hernandez.
8
9 MR. HERNANDEZ: Yes.
10
11 MR. KITKA: Floyd Kookesh.
12
13 MR. KOOKESH: Yes.
14
15 MR. KITKA: Bert Adams.
16
17 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Yes.
18
19 MR. KITKA: Harvey Kitka votes yes.
20 Mike Douville.
21
22 MR. DOUVILLE: Yes.
23
24 MR. KITKA: Patricia Phillips.
25
26 MR. PHILLIPS: Yes.
27
28 MR. KITKA: Richard Stokes.
29
30 MR. STOKES: Yes.
31
32 MR. KITKA: Mr. Chair, we have a
33 majority vote in favor.
34
35 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you, Mr. Kitka.
36 Okay, now we are on the next one that we need a motion
37 on. This is called the guidelines for the Southeast
38 Alaska In-Season Recommendation for Subsistence
39 Management of Wildlife. So if we can get a motion and
40 a second to adopt, we can discuss the heck out of it
41 some more.
42
43 Mr. Hernandez, please.
44
45 MR. HERNANDEZ: Mr. Chairman. I move
46 to adopt the Southeast Alaska In-season Recommendations
47 for Subsistence Management of Wildlife.
48
49 MR. STOKES: I second the motion.
50

1 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you, Mr. Stokes.
2 It's been moved and seconded. Now we are into
3 discussion. Let's start talking about it. Any
4 comments.

5
6 MR. KITKA: Mr. Chairman. Thank you
7 for allowing me to talk. I was just wondering about
8 this in-season management. Maybe I need to go back a
9 little further before I mention it, but I was wondering
10 about where he gets his information for closure of an
11 area, whether it comes from the State Fish and Game or
12 whether it would be from the local users. Local users
13 in the area might have as much say as State Fish and
14 Game.

15
16 Thank you.

17
18 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Mr. Larson, maybe you
19 can address that as well.

20
21 MR. LARSON: Yes, Mr. Chairman. The
22 in-season management actions are initiated by a request
23 for in-season action, so that's a formal document and
24 it can be made by anyone, any user, member of the
25 public, the Council, the Department of Fish and Game.
26 The initiation of the process is the same in all cases
27 where there is a request for in-season management, a
28 request for actions.

29
30 What we see in this document, in the
31 first item, we have a change to who the in-season
32 managers are and the extent of their authority. If you
33 reference Page 2 and Page 3, that would be Table 2,
34 you'll see the in-season managers and their authorities
35 as delegated by the Board and that is what's currently
36 in effect.

37
38 The item in number one is to
39 consolidate those in-season managers and their
40 authorities to six people and have them for all species
41 of wildlife. So that's a current change and a
42 simplification, but it's also an expansion of their
43 authorities.

44
45 In item two, the ANILCA Title VIII does
46 not specify how the Council will be involved in in-
47 season management. In implementing regulations from
48 the Fish and Wildlife Service, again, does not specify
49 exactly how the Council will be involved in in-season
50 management. What this does is your recommendation for

1 how you expect the Council to be involved in in-season
2 management recommendations.

3

4 You need to remember that the Council
5 can recommend actions, but for in-season management
6 authority it does not have veto authority. With this
7 protocol, it does specify how you would provide input
8 into the decision-makers and who the decision-makers
9 are going to be.

10

11 In item three, it is a follow up for
12 that provision of the principles document that requires
13 coordination with the Department of Fish and Game.
14 That is that you expect a report at the winter meeting
15 every year on wildlife special actions and whether or
16 not they were truly needed or effective.

17

18 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Let's take these one
19 by one. Let's look at item number one. If there are
20 any issues or discussions to be brought up on that,
21 we'll do that and go on down the line and tweak it if
22 we have to and come up with something we can all live
23 with.

24

25 Any comments about item number one, in-
26 season management authority? Go ahead, Patty.

27

28 MS. PHILLIPS: Thank you. Number one
29 sort of is addressed in number two as well. It says
30 the Board or delegated in-season manager. So if you go
31 to Unit 4 on Page 3 for deer, then you have Admiralty,
32 Hoonah, Juneau and Sitka District Rangers. Who is the
33 in-season manager? Who can answer me?

34

35 MR. LARSON: I can answer that.

36

37 MS. PHILLIPS: Okay. Thanks.

38

39 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Can you answer that,
40 Bob?

41

42 MR. LARSON: Yes, I can.

43

44 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay.

45

46 MR. LARSON: According to provisions of
47 number one, then their management area would be the
48 same as the fish management areas. So in the case of
49 Unit 4, the Juneau District Ranger would have
50 management authority for Admiralty Island and the Sitka

1 District Ranger would have management authority for all
2 wildlife on Chichagof and Baranof. That is how they've
3 got it divided right now for fish and that's how it
4 would be divided for all wildlife.

5
6 MS. PHILLIPS: Thanks.

7
8 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Does that help you,
9 Patty?

10
11 MS. PHILLIPS: Yes.

12
13 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Go ahead, Floyd.

14
15 MR. KOOKESH: On number one, in-season
16 management authority will be for that area. That's the
17 language, right, for that area. That's the language
18 we're going to be using, right?

19
20 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: That's how I would
21 interpret it.

22
23 MS. PHILLIPS: Mr. Chair.

24
25 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Patty, go ahead.
26 We're still on number one.

27
28 MS. PHILLIPS: So even though there's a
29 Hoonah Ranger District on Chichagof Island, the Sitka
30 District Ranger is the in-season manager?

31
32 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Bob.

33
34 MR. LARSON: Mr. Chairman. Yes, that's
35 correct. That's the way for all fish is set up right
36 now. That also is true for on Prince of Wales Island
37 the District Ranger for Craig has in-season management
38 authority over the Thorn Bay Ranger District. In Unit
39 3, the District Ranger for Petersburg has management
40 authority over the Wrangell Ranger District.

41
42 The expertise involved in managing and
43 understanding the process is in the hands of six
44 people. For fish and your proposal, if you want to go
45 that way, is to do the same thing for wildlife.

46
47 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay. Some more
48 comments. Mr. Bangs and then Mr. Hernandez, please.

49
50 MR. BANGS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I

1 think it's important to recognize that this authority
2 we're trying to identify is not necessarily the expert
3 in what's going on. I mean a District Ranger might
4 have an idea of -- to me, I look at this as the go-to
5 person that you contact, but the expert is the person
6 that is out there in the field, the biologist and all
7 that, but I have a tough time looking at that as that's
8 the expert that's going to carry the weight.

9

10 Thank you.

11

12 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Point well taken.

13 Donald, go ahead.

14

15 MR. HERNANDEZ: Thank you, Mr.
16 Chairman. I guess I was going to ask Bob to explain
17 the reasoning why those six people should have that
18 authority and he kind of touched on it, I think. Maybe
19 he can make it a little more clearer. It's my
20 understanding that in those ranger districts that is
21 where the wildlife Staff is centered and the fisheries
22 Staff, the biologists basically that have to make these
23 decisions are staffed in those particular ranger
24 districts.

25

26 Is that correct, Bob?

27

28 MR. LARSON: Mr. Chairman. This was
29 actually the -- I was a proponent of this position.
30 Those positions are trained in the process. Those are
31 not subject matter experts. The subject matter experts
32 are in the Forest Service, distributed throughout the
33 forest. The process is important and there's a high
34 degree of training and understanding of ANILCA and
35 their responsibilities. Those same positions have
36 associated with them subsistence biologists to guide
37 them through the process.

38

39 If there was, for instance, an issue on
40 either of the Wrangell or Petersburg Ranger District,
41 although the Petersburg Ranger has the management
42 authority. He would certainly involve whatever subject
43 matter experts from wherever they are to provide him
44 guidance and counsel. It's primarily to facilitate the
45 process and the understanding of their
46 responsibilities.

47

48 One other thing. It also matches up
49 very well with the companion managers either for fish
50 or wildlife in the State system. For instance, the

1 manager for fish and the manager for wildlife for both
2 the Wrangell and the Petersburg Ranger Districts
3 resides in Petersburg. The manager for the Unit 1 and
4 all of the Prince of Wales Island and the mainland
5 associated with Ketchikan, resides in Ketchikan. The
6 manager for the northern southeast resides in Juneau.
7 The manager for Unit 4, that portion westward,
8 including Baranof and Chichagof, they reside in Sitka.
9 So it matches that way and you would facilitate
10 communications with people of a similar responsibility.

11
12 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you, Bob. Mr.
13 Pappas was going to come up here and say something, but
14 it looks like Bob answered all your questions because
15 you're going like this.

16
17 (Council nods affirmatively)

18
19 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Any more comments.

20
21 (No comments)

22
23 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Let's do number two
24 then. Comments. Mr. Bangs.

25
26 MR. BANGS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
27 I'd maybe like to add to it along the lines of what Mr.
28 Kookesh was saying, that if you're unavailable that we
29 have another person to contact on the Council.

30
31 Thank you.

32
33 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: That person would
34 naturally be the vice-Chair and the coordinator
35 suggested the coordinator be included in that process
36 as well. The coordinator works for the Council through
37 the Chair. So if the Chair is absent for some reason,
38 then that would be passed on to the vice-Chair and he
39 would work under your direction. That's the way I
40 think it should work.

41
42 Any more comments. Mr. Douville.

43
44 MR. DOUVILLE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
45 The reason I asked how much weight the other parties
46 than the in-season manager would have is a situation
47 that occurred in Craig. Before the steelhead season
48 opens they have a little consultation with the
49 Department and hopefully the resident RAC member, which
50 is me, and sometimes it's hard to put all three

1 together.

2

3 So the District Ranger took the bait
4 provision out of the permit for the winter steelhead
5 and this was acted on by this Council and went to the
6 Federal Board and was passed and it was legal to use
7 bait, but in consultation with the Department, they
8 brow-beat him if you will into taking the bait out. I
9 protested it and they told me it's too late, they went
10 to print. I said, well, you could pencil it in and
11 they wouldn't do it. So bait was just not allowed for
12 that portion of the season. That was one of the
13 concerns I have for this type of system, although it
14 can work also.

15

16 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Yeah, that's
17 unfortunate. I think Cal explained earlier, you know,
18 that conflict and how it's addressed. Would you like
19 to hear it again? I can have him come up and address
20 it. The one he was saving for later, but I asked him
21 to jump the gun. Did you get his answer okay?

22

23 MR. DOUVILLE: No. It doesn't matter.

24

25 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: It doesn't matter,
26 okay. I think it's unfortunate that we have that kind
27 of conflict though. After the fact, I think it's
28 difficult to work with after the process has been
29 completed. Any other comments.

30

31 Cal, go ahead.

32

33 MR. CASIPIT: Again, for the record,
34 Cal Casipit, acting Inter-agency Staff Committee for
35 the Forest Service. Mike's concerns on the winter
36 steelhead fishery and the use of bait, for that one
37 year that did happen, but we heard you and we put it
38 back in in future years. We probably didn't follow the
39 procedures quite the right way on that issue. There
40 should have been a response to you with in-season's
41 rationale for rejecting that particular part of your
42 recommendation. We apologize. Hopefully that won't
43 happen again.

44

45 Thank you.

46

47 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you, Cal. Thank
48 you for the explanation. Mr. Kitka, go ahead.

49

50 MR. KITKA: I still think the affected

1 communities should have a say in this some way, some
2 how. I believe that an emergency closure like in some
3 places that has an effect on the community at some
4 point the local community should have a voice in there
5 somewhere. Whether we need to put some trail on how
6 they get to that point might be important.

7

8 MR. KOOKESH: Mr. Chair.

9

10 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Mr. Kookesh.

11

12 MR. KOOKESH: Mr. Adams. Under number
13 two, we only have meetings two times a year, so I felt
14 that first sentence should be deleted under number two
15 and then just go with the next sentence all the way
16 down. That way it kind of clears up this language
17 instead of throwing some grey cloud in there. We don't
18 need to know what the first sentence is because we
19 already know that we only have two meetings a year.
20 The reason why this one is being addressed in the
21 context is because we're not meeting.

22

23 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: What we can do to
24 address that, Mr. Kookesh, is a motion to take that out
25 of there. It would be like an amendment.

26

27 MR. KOOKESH: Mr. Chairman. I believe
28 we have a motion on the floor and we're under comments
29 that we're making these changes as we're talking, is
30 that correct? We don't need to have a motion every
31 time we want to make a change during a motion.

32

33 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Mr. See, go ahead.

34

35 MR. SEE: I believe a motion to amend
36 would be in order.

37

38 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: A friendly amendment
39 would work. What you're doing is you're actually
40 amending the main motion, so I think an amendment would
41 be in order to take that out of there.

42

43 MR. KOOKESH: Mr. Chairman. I'd like
44 to make a motion to remove that one sentence.

45

46 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Is there a second.

47

48 MR. SEE: I'll second it.

49

50 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you, Mr. See.

1 We're under discussion now. Mr. Douville, go ahead.
2
3 MR. DOUVILLE: I'd like to clarify what
4 sentence are we deleting.
5
6 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: I'm sorry. Item
7 number two, the very first sentence where it says,
8 "Whenever the Council meeting schedule permit,
9 recommendation(s) will be sought from the Council prior
10 to implementing either an emergency or temporary
11 special action." That's what the amendment is trying
12 to do, take that out of there.
13
14 MR. KOOKESH: Mr. Chairman.
15
16 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Mr. Kookesh, go ahead.
17
18 MR. KOOKESH: The logic for it is that
19 this special action is being done because we're not
20 meeting.
21
22 MS. PHILLIPS: Mr. Chair.
23
24 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Patty, go ahead.
25
26 MS. PHILLIPS: Again, if the motion
27 maker had been clear on specifically what his motion
28 would be there wouldn't be this confusion. I believe
29 the motion is to delete "Whenever the Council meeting
30 schedule permit, recommendation(s) will be sought from
31 the Council prior to implementing either an emergency
32 or temporary special action. If the Council is not
33 meeting in a relevant time frame....."
34
35 MR. KOOKESH: I was just referring to
36 the first sentence.
37
38 MS. PHILLIPS: Mr. Chair.
39
40 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Go ahead.
41
42 MS. PHILLIPS: What is the purpose of
43 leaving if the Council is not meeting in a relevant
44 time frame?
45
46 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay. That's if the
47 Council is not meeting. Go ahead.
48
49 MR. DOUVILLE: What would be the
50 purpose of taking that sentence out? To me it seems to

1 be not a bad thing to have in there.

2

3 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: I think Mr. Kookesh
4 explained his rationale. Would you like to go over it
5 again for Mr. Douville?

6

7 MR. KOOKESH: The rationale at the time
8 is that we only meet twice a year, so it's understood
9 that the reason why we're having a special action is
10 because we're not meeting and that's what it's for.
11 We're unable to meet on it, so it gives that authority,
12 correct?

13

14 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Robert.

15

16 MR. LARSON: I just want to note that
17 with the even/odd year cycle with fish and wildlife
18 regulations, we will be adopting proposals only ever
19 other year. So if there are in-season actions that
20 need to be taken, that's one thing. If the action
21 needs to be addressed by a proposal at the appropriate
22 Council meeting, that's only going to happen every
23 other year, every fourth meeting. So I think that's
24 some of the reason for that first sentence.

25

26 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Go ahead, Michael.

27

28 MR. DOUVILLE: I, at this time, believe
29 it should be left in there. It just gives us an
30 opportunity to address something on a cycle if you will
31 because we have more than just game issues. We have
32 fish issues and at some point they would connect, so
33 there is no reason to take it out.

34

35 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Especially if there's
36 a two-year cycle that's taking place right now. The
37 other Michael.

38

39 MR. BANGS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
40 Another point that has to do with that sentence, I
41 think it would be appropriate to include the intent
42 that possibly a teleconference could occur. We could
43 have a meeting of any kind through the proper channels.
44 I think leaving that sentence in is good.

45

46 Thank you.

47

48 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Mr. Kookesh, go ahead.

49

50 MR. KOOKESH: Mr. Chairman. My intent

1 was just to make the language a lot easier and if
2 that's not going to be the case, if I'm going to sit
3 here and make a mockery out of this, I'll withdraw the
4 motion. Keep it that simple. Hopefully the second
5 will withdraw the second.

6

7 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Mr. See.

8

9 MR. SEE: Mr. Chairman. I'll withdraw
10 the second.

11

12 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you. The
13 sentence will remain in there. Cal, did you have
14 something you wanted to add or did we take care of it
15 already? Thank you.

16

17 It's lunch time now, folks. Let's see
18 if we can be back here, and you're on your own, quarter
19 after 1:00 and then we'll continue on with this
20 discussion.

21

22 (Off record)

23

24 (On record)

25

26 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: We'll call the meeting
27 back to order

28

29 (Pause)

30

31 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: We're still working on
32 the paper. Did we talk about Item No. 2 enough or is
33 there something else we need to address there.

34

35 MR. HERNANDEZ: I have something on
36 Item No. 2.

37

38 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Donald, go ahead.

39

40 MR. HERNANDEZ: Over the lunch break I
41 thought of a couple questions I wanted to ask here.
42 They may have to be answered by OSM Staff, I'm not
43 sure, but I think we have somebody here if necessary.
44 In the action that we're proposing to do here, we're
45 designating in-season managers. The first question is,
46 is that something the Council has the authority to do?
47 Do we vote on this and that's the way it is, or are
48 these recommendations to the Board for them to do. I
49 guess I need that clarified.

50

1 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Could you help out on
2 that, Robert.

3
4 MR. LARSON: Yes. These would be
5 recommendations and there would be positions of the
6 Council, but they would go to the Board for
7 disposition, but there's no requirement for the Board
8 to do anything that is in the recommendation. So they
9 will do or what they will not do after some
10 consideration. I don't know what process they would go
11 to evaluate the appropriateness of especially those in-
12 season manager designations. But they'll have some
13 process that they go through once they receive our
14 recommendations or your recommendations.

15
16 MR. HERNANDEZ: Second question. As
17 far as the delegation of authority, I want one more
18 clarification. Is it true that the in-season managers
19 can only take an action that the Council has
20 predetermined them to take? On Table 2 we have
21 authority delegated and I know these are things that we
22 have acted on as a Council. So my question is if a
23 circumstance arises that we haven't directed an in-
24 season manager to take an action on, do those type of
25 actions have to come directly from the Board such as
26 the ones that are listed in the first table where these
27 actions occurred all taken by the Subsistence Board?
28 Is that the way the system works?

29
30 MR. LARSON: Mr. Chairman. The Board
31 delegates authority very, very specifically to a
32 position. And so the recommendation as specified in
33 one would have an in-season manager for all species of
34 wildlife that would be the same person as currently has
35 in-season management authority for all fish and it
36 would have similar kind of authorities. The in-season
37 manager will react to a request for in-season actions
38 without regard to who it comes from and it does not
39 have to be somehow proposed by the Council or it
40 doesn't have to come from OSM. It can come from any
41 person. There is a process involved about making sure
42 that those decisions, in fact, go through the right
43 stages and have all the right analysis.

44
45 But, no, there doesn't have to be any
46 action by the Council prior to an emergency and that's
47 what we're talking about here, that there has been some
48 situation that is deemed an emergency. That's the
49 first criteria. It can't be dealt with during a
50 regular session.

1 One thing I would like to remind the
2 Council of is that the Council can have more than one
3 meeting. We could have a teleconference type of
4 meeting to address something if you wanted to. These
5 don't come from the Council. The delegations are from
6 the Board and the emergencies are identified by most
7 anybody.

8

9 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Donald.

10

11 MR. HERNANDEZ: When does the in-season
12 action come from the District Ranger and when does it
13 come directly from the Federal Subsistence Board?

14

15 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Robert, why don't you
16 go ahead and explain the process using an example of a
17 special action situation.

18

19 MR. LARSON: The authority to act is
20 from the Board. The Board in some circumstances will
21 delegate that authority to in-season managers,
22 otherwise they retain that authority within OSM.

23

24 Let's pick out an instance here. For
25 martens in Kuiu Island. We had a request for action
26 from the Department of Fish and Game and it's in
27 response to actions taken by the Board of Game that
28 there was Staff assigned to do an analysis once the
29 Board determined it was an emergency and it could not
30 wait until the next regular cycle. The analysis
31 indicated that, in fact, there were low numbers of
32 martens and then the Board determined that it was
33 appropriate to close marten trapping for this year.

34

35 Under item one, that authority to make
36 that decision would be delegated in that case to the
37 Petersburg District Ranger, who has the same authority
38 for that area for fish.

39

40 MR. HERNANDEZ: Okay.

41

42 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Any other comments.

43

44 (No comments)

45

46 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: What's the wish of the
47 Council on what we have before us now. We made a
48 motion, seconded it, discussed it. Any more discussion
49 on any of the items, one, two or three?

50

1 MS. PHILLIPS: Mr. Chair.
2
3 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Patty, go ahead.
4
5 MS. PHILLIPS: On number three, the
6 last sentence, the Council will schedule time to review
7 Federal wildlife management plans during the winter
8 meeting. This is a suggestion. And develop proposals
9 during their winter meeting.
10
11 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: That is suggested.
12 It's at this time that these kind of wildlife
13 management issues will be taken care of.
14
15 MS. PHILLIPS: Mr. Chair. I wanted to
16 insert "and develop proposals." We have that in our
17 packet already. Our regional coordinator has taken the
18 initiative to put proposals into our packet that are
19 related to special actions for in-season closures. I'm
20 not stuck on it to add and develop proposals. Go ahead.
21
22
23 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Bob is offering to
24 speak to it, so go ahead.
25
26 MR. LARSON: Mr. Chairman. The reason
27 the wildlife proposals are not included in that is that
28 we're under an every other year cycle for wildlife
29 proposals. The way I see the schedule working would be
30 at this winter meeting we would develop proposals for
31 wildlife. At a year from now at our scheduled winter
32 meeting we would be developing proposals for fish. I
33 think that's going to be the way that this whole
34 process evolves.
35
36 MS. PHILLIPS: Thank you.
37
38 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: I'd kind of like to
39 move on with this and get it behind us now. If there's
40 any more discussion in any of the items.
41
42 MR. HERNANDEZ: Question.
43
44 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: The question has been
45 called. Would you take roll, Harvey, please.
46
47 MR. KITKA: Michael Bangs.
48
49 MR. BANGS: Yes.
50

1 MR. KITKA: Merle Hawkins.
2
3 MS. HAWKINS: Yes.
4
5 MR. KITKA: Mike See.
6
7 MR. SEE: Yes.
8
9 MR. KITKA: Donald Hernandez.
10
11 MR. HERNANDEZ: Yes.
12
13 MR. KITKA: Floyd Kookesh.
14
15 MR. KOOKESH: Yes.
16
17 MR. KITKA: Bert Adams.
18
19 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Yes.
20
21 MR. KITKA: Harvey Kitka votes yes.
22 Mike Douville.
23
24 MR. DOUVILLE: Votes yes.
25
26 MR. KITKA: Patricia Phillips.
27
28 MS. PHILLIPS: Yes.
29
30 MR. KITKA: Richard Stokes.
31
32 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: He's absent.
33
34 MR. KITKA: Mr. Chair. The motion
35 passes.
36
37 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you, Mr. Kitka.
38 I just got information that Mr. and Mrs. Stokes was
39 late getting down to the restaurant to have food and
40 you know their inability to get around very well is
41 causing problems, so they're going to be kind of late
42 coming back.
43
44 Thank you very much. That passes.
45 We're going to go ahead and move on to number 13,
46 wildlife proposals and special action presentations by
47 Susan Oehlers. Please come forward.
48
49 MS. OEHLERS: Good afternoon, Mr.
50 Chairman. Members of the Council. I just have a real

1 brief presentation for you today just reviewing the
2 past two regulatory years special actions. As Robert
3 just reiterated, we'll be focusing on the wildlife
4 special actions. I do have some handouts, but I have
5 included some of the fisheries special actions. That
6 was my not following directions, so I will put my
7 dollar in the kitty after we're done.

8

9 I think the purpose of this is just to
10 review some of the special actions from the last couple
11 years that refresh your memory and that may kind of
12 have some bearing on some of the potential actions
13 you'll be discussing here shortly.

14

15 For 2007-2008 we just had two wildlife
16 special actions involving deer in Unit 4. The first
17 one was specific to the NECCUA, which closed the NECCUA
18 to the taking of female deer and that was starting
19 November 27th, 2007 for 60 days authorized by the
20 Board.

21

22 Following that we had another special
23 action for all of Unit 4 as well as 1C deer, which
24 closed the hunting of female deer for the remainder of
25 the season starting in December 27th, 2007 extending to
26 December 31st in Unit 1C and January 31st, 2008 for
27 Unit 4. That was also authorized by the Board.

28

29 For 2008-2009 we had three wildlife
30 special actions. Again, in Unit 4 deer in the NECCUA
31 it was closed to the taking of female deer effective
32 October 2nd, 2008. This was in line with a similar
33 State closure and this was effective through the end of
34 the season January 31st, 2009. This was authorized by
35 the Hoonah District Ranger, who had authority delegated
36 to him by the Federal Subsistence Board.

37

38 In Unit 5A, the Yakutat Forelands area,
39 the moose quota was changed for Unit 5A outside of the
40 Nunatak Bench when 50 bulls rather than 60 had been
41 taken from the unit. That allowed the season to be
42 closed west of the Dangerous River when 20 bulls had
43 been taken as opposed to previously it had been 30 and
44 that was authorized by the Federal Board.

45

46 Finally for Unit 3, Kuiu Island marten,
47 this closed Federal public lands in the Kuiu Island
48 portion of Unit 3 to trapping or taking of marten.
49 This was effective December 12, 2008 through February
50 9th of this year and that was authorized by the Board.

1 That's all I have.

2

3 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you, Susan.
4 Questions of Susan. Maybe you could explain some of
5 the reasons why these special actions were taken.
6 Like, for instance, the moose being reduced from 60 to
7 50 in Yakutat.

8

9 MS. OEHLERS: Certainly. And I think
10 we'll talk about this a little more. This was
11 primarily due to concerns of a low bull/cow ratio in
12 recent years particularly on the western side of the
13 Forelands. I don't have the specific numbers in front
14 of me, but I believe we were looking at bull to cow
15 ratios as low as 10 or 11 to 100 in 2006 and 2007,
16 which was quite a bit lower than the other side of the
17 Dangerous River. The Dangerous River basically divides
18 5A into kind of two separate halves.

19

20 On the other side of the Dangerous we
21 were looking at bull to cow ratios of closer to 20. So
22 we were concerned about the bull to cow ratio closer to
23 town and we did want to go ahead and reduce the quota
24 at least for a season to try and get those numbers back
25 up.

26

27 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: And a healthy bull/cow
28 ratio is what?

29

30 MS. OEHLERS: Generally Fish and Game
31 recommends at least 25 to 100.

32

33 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you. Over the
34 past couple three years I noticed that it was about
35 half of that. I just wanted to have the Council
36 understand the reasons behind that. Like you said, we
37 will be talking about it.

38

39 MS. OEHLERS: Uh-huh, certainly.

40

41 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you. Any other
42 questions.

43

44 MS. PHILLIPS: Mr. Chair.

45

46 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Go ahead, Patty.

47

48 MS. PHILLIPS: Who initiated the
49 special action process on these?

50

1 MS. OEHLERS: I don't have that
2 information specifically. For Unit 4 deer, that was
3 kind of following some actions by the State. Does
4 anyone have that handy? I'm thinking for most of it it
5 was kind of initiated by the State. Does that seem
6 right, Mr. Larson?

7
8 MR. LARSON: (Nods affirmatively)

9
10 MS. OEHLERS: So I think that was the
11 case for most of the Unit 4 deer. 5A moose we actually
12 -- the Forest Service put that in and that was to be
13 able to align our quotas with that of the State. The
14 hunt is a joint Federal/State hunt. Then Unit 3
15 marten, I believe that was requested by the State, who
16 had put in a similar closure for the State regs.

17
18 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you. Any other
19 questions. Go ahead.

20
21 MR. KOOKESH: Under the Unit 4 NECCUA,
22 what's the rule on 60 days for NECCUA?

23
24 MS. OEHLERS: After 60 days, then the
25 season would go into effect again. It was just a
26 temporary 60-day closure, so that actually allowed for
27 a certain amount of time, like towards the end of the
28 season in January where the season would be open again.

29
30 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Isn't there a rule on
31 60 days?

32
33 MR. LARSON: There are special actions
34 according to our regulations are restricted to 60 days.
35 You can convert a special action into a temporary
36 special action through an increased public process.
37 The increased public process is public hearings that
38 are held in the affected areas. A temporary special
39 action is can and usually does extend to the end of the
40 regular season. So if you need to do something for
41 longer than 60 days, you have the ability to do that by
42 converting a special action into a temporary special
43 action after you hold public hearings.

44
45 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Mr. Kookesh.

46
47 MR. KOOKESH: What I was looking for is
48 there going to be a hearing on this or do you just
49 start all over with a fresh season on August 1st?

50

1 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: I don't have an answer
2 to that. Do you?

3
4 MR. LARSON: Mr. Chair. As far as I
5 know, there are no plans to have -- or no requests for
6 a special action to amend or restrict any deer hunting
7 anywhere in southeast Alaska.

8
9 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay. Any other
10 questions.

11
12 (No comments)

13
14 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you, Susan.
15 Appreciate it.

16
17 MS. OEHLERS: Thank you.

18
19 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: We're going to move on
20 to item number 14 now. This is where a lot of the
21 concerns that was brought up during the issues on the
22 management portion of it, the principles and the
23 guidelines. Did you want to take some time and address
24 an issue here at the top -- I can't remember your name.

25
26 MS. RICE: Sunny Rice is my name.

27
28 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay, Sunny Rice. I
29 know you came to me this morning and you wanted to know
30 when we'd be getting to this portion of it.

31
32 MS. RICE: Whatever works for you.

33
34 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: You don't mind
35 waiting?

36
37 MS. RICE: I don't mind waiting.

38
39 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay. We're just
40 going to go down the line then if you don't mind and
41 we'll take them as they come. 14A customary and
42 traditional use on Berners Bay moose. We've had it on
43 the table before. I don't know what the Council wishes
44 to do with this issue, but we can bring it up for
45 discussion at this point.

46
47 MS. PHILLIPS: Are we on 14.

48
49 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: We are on 14 now,
50 Council.

1 (Pause)

2

3 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Mr. Bangs, you got
4 something.

5

6 MR. BANGS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
7 This customary and traditional use was specifically for
8 Gustavus residents, I believe, and I thought we
9 addressed that.

10

11 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Yeah, I recall that
12 too. Mr. Larson and then Donald.

13

14 MR. LARSON: Mr. Chairman. If you
15 recall, the proposal initially was to have a C&T
16 determination for Berners Bay for residents of
17 Gustavus. The Staff analysis that was done for that
18 proposal addressed all residents of Unit 1D, including
19 Gustavus, but it did not include residents of places
20 like Hoonah and Petersburg and Sitka, places that would
21 have residents that applied for permits for 1C, but
22 they weren't included in the analysis.

23

24 The Council two years ago during this
25 time said that the analysis that was before them was
26 incomplete and they recommended at that time that no
27 action be taken on the proposal and the Council wished
28 to resubmit this proposal during this cycle for all
29 residents, including a C&T analysis for all residents
30 of Southeast Alaska and that's what the Board did. The
31 Board said, okay, we will defer this until we see the
32 new proposal from the Southeast Regional Advisory
33 Council. So this is a leftover proposal from two years
34 ago.

35

36 MS. PHILLIPS: Mr. Chairman.

37

38 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Go ahead, Patty.

39

40 MS. PHILLIPS: Move to submit Federal
41 subsistence wildlife proposal for customary and
42 traditional use for Berners Bay moose, Unit 1C rural
43 residents of Yakutat and southeastern Alaska areas.

44

45 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you, ma'am. Is
46 there a second.

47

48 MR. HERNANDEZ: Second.

49

50 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: All right. Let's

1 bring it up for discussion.

2

3

Donald.

4

5

MR. HERNANDEZ: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I agree with what Mr. Larson reviewed for us there. I think this is a necessary proposal. I think the Staff needs to do an analysis that covers all rural residents in Southeast so that the Council can look at that and see who is eligible for this customary and traditional use. It was as a result of a proposal that came before us that was not adequate in scope. So I would recommend we vote in favor of this proposal.

14

15

CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you, Donald. Mr. Stokes, go ahead.

17

18

MR. STOKES: I was wondering if that was the proposal that was put in for subsistence moose hunt on the Stikine where the State has any bull season open. Wrangell would have liked to have seen it where they would be changed to a subsistence season. I think it kind of lost its identity. Do you follow me?

24

25

CHAIRMAN ADAMS: I think. But what we're asking for is customary and traditional use for Berners Bay. That would address the subsistence issue. Mike, do you have something to add there.

29

30

MR. BANGS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think what Mr. Stokes is referring to is under Item J.

32

33

MR. STOKES: Mr. Chairman.

34

35

CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Yes, go ahead.

36

37

MR. STOKES: I don't believe there would be a subsistence traditional use in Berners Bay because when I was going to high school and graduated in 1943 our coach moved to Juneau and he missed moose hunting, so he got some friends together and went up north and got a few of the calves and brought them back and introduced them to Berners Bay. There's no traditional use there.

45

46

CHAIRMAN ADAMS: I know that when this was brought up at one of our last few meetings ago, two years ago, this was a part of that discussion. A lot of those moose were transplanted there. Whether it should be customary and traditional use is what we're

1 talking about right here. Do we want that for them or
2 not?

3

4 Mr. Kookesh.

5

6 MR. KOOKESH: Mr. Chairman. If I
7 recollect from the material that was given to us
8 before, it was my comment at the time in reviewing the
9 harvesters of Berners Bay, what I saw was a large
10 amount of the harvest was by the Juneau and Douglas
11 residents, so my comment was why don't we give them
12 C&T. But I do know that from talking at the local Fish
13 and Game meetings in Juneau it was mentioned to me that
14 the territorial sportsmen are the ones responsible for
15 planting, so I don't know if we're breaking new ground
16 on C&T.

17

18 MS. PHILLIPS: Mr. Chair.

19

20 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Go ahead, Patty.

21

22 MS. PHILLIPS: This is placing a
23 proposal forward for it to be analyzed and these
24 discussions that you're having about whether it should
25 be designated with C&T or not will come through in the
26 proposal process.

27

28 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you, Patty. All
29 we need to do is either say yes or no to this proposal.
30 If we pass it, then we'll go through the process of
31 Staff analysis and then for the next cycle be brought
32 to us for consideration. That's all we're doing right
33 now is considering whether we want to move it forward
34 or not.

35

36 MR. BANGS: Question.

37

38 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Question to vote or
39 no.

40

41 MR. BANGS: Question, yes.

42

43 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: The question has been
44 called for. Let's do roll call again, Mr. Kitka.

45

46 MR. KITKA: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
47 Michael Bangs.

48

49 MR. BANGS: Yes.

50

1 MR. KITKA: Merle Hawkins.
2
3 MS. HAWKINS: Yes.
4
5 MR. KITKA: Mike See.
6
7 MR. SEE: Yes.
8
9 MR. KITKA: Donald Hernandez.
10
11 MR. HERNANDEZ: Yes.
12
13 MR. KITKA: Floyd Kookesh.
14
15 MR. KOOKESH: Yes.
16
17 MR. KITKA: Bert Adams.
18
19 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Yes.
20
21 MR. KITKA: Harvey Kitka votes yes.
22 Michael Douville.
23
24 MR. DOUVILLE: Yes.
25
26 MR. KITKA: Patricia Phillips.
27
28 MS. PHILLIPS: Yes.
29
30 MR. KITKA: Richard Stokes.
31
32 MR. STOKES: Yes.
33
34 MR. KITKA: Mr. Chair. We have enough.
35 It passes.
36
37 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you, Mr. Kitka.
38 That passed. We'll move on down to the next one.
39 Martin trapping.
40
41 Patty.
42
43 MS. PHILLIPS: Move to submit Federal
44 subsistence wildlife proposal for Kuiu Island marten
45 trapping harvest season, new regulation, Unit 3, Kuiu
46 Island December 1 - February 15th, no limit, Unit 3, no
47 open season.
48
49 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you, Patty. Do
50 I hear a second.

1 MR. HERNANDEZ: Second.
2
3 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Seconded by Donald.
4
5 MR. KOOKESH: Question.
6
7 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: The question has been
8 called. Roll call, please. Do you want to discuss it?
9
10 MR. DOUVILLE: This one, marten
11 trapping?
12
13 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Uh-huh. Okay.
14
15 MR. LARSON: We should have discussion
16 on motions.
17
18 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: We need to discuss it.
19 Go ahead, Mike.
20
21 MR. DOUVILLE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
22 This just says there's low numbers. Where is the
23 study, the evidence, the causes or supposed causes. I
24 would like to see some reasoning to go here.
25
26 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Perhaps we could have
27 someone address that, but from what I understand, Mr.
28 Douville, the marten is kind of similar to what is
29 happening in Yakutat with the moose. The male
30 population isn't in healthy ratio as far as female
31 population, so there was a conservation concern and
32 that's the reason for this proposal.
33
34 Mr. Larson, do you have anything to add
35 to that.
36
37 MR. LARSON: Mr. Chair. This proposal
38 was not generated by request of the Council. This
39 proposal was generated because there was a special
40 action to close the marten season this year. That's
41 why it's before you.
42
43 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you for that
44 clarification. It was a special action that took
45 place. Mr. Bangs, go ahead.
46
47 MR. BANGS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I
48 would like to hear from the State wildlife biologist as
49 he could probably explain a lot of the reasons why the
50 State took action and it shows good reasons for that

1 action.

2

3 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Mr. State wildlife
4 biologist, would you come forward, please.

5

6 MR. LOWELL: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
7 Members of the Council. For the record, my name is
8 Rich Lowell. I'm the area biologist for Alaska
9 Department of Fish and Game Division of Wildlife
10 Conservation here in Petersburg. I have primary
11 responsibility for oversight of wildlife management in
12 GMU 1B and Unit 3, which includes Kuiu Island. I'm
13 quite familiar with the events leading up to the
14 State's proposal to the Board of Game to have the
15 marten season close. I'd be more than happy to address
16 any questions the Council or yourself might have for
17 me.

18

19 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Can you elaborate a
20 little bit about the reasons why we took that action.

21

22 MR. LOWELL: Yes, Mr. Chairman.
23 Concerns about marten populations on Kuiu Island are
24 not new to the Department. Our concerns originated in
25 the early 2000's when some initial research efforts
26 were begun there. Capture rates in 2001 and 2002
27 revealed low marten numbers on the island. Followed in
28 2005 university efforts to collect hair samples from
29 marten as a result of DNA research effort looked at the
30 island island wide and found that populations appeared
31 to be low across the island. We had been prepared to
32 request that the Board of Game close the season in
33 2006. We decided at that time that we should intensify
34 research efforts in 2007 and 2008 to try to get a
35 better handle on if this was just an odd year when
36 numbers were down or if this was a chronic problem.

37

38 Safe to say that with regard to marten
39 research efforts our efforts on Kuiu Island are second
40 only to the efforts on northeast Chichagof. They are
41 ongoing now. We have animals radio-collared there.
42 We've continued our trapping efforts. These are live
43 trapping efforts. One of the units of measure that we
44 use to determine the abundance of marten is live
45 capture rates per 100 nights of trapping effort.

46

47 Just to give you an example of some
48 other populations which we might compare Kuiu marten
49 populations and densities to, on Chichagof Island,
50 northeast Chichagof, for 100 trap nights of effort we

1 typically caught almost six. We actually did these
2 efforts in a number of locations, including Chichagof,
3 Thomas Bay, Point Kuverdom (ph), Prince of Wales,
4 Kupreanof Island, Kuiu Island and Edlin Island. Kuiu
5 actually came out the lowest of the many places we
6 sampled. Only one area was lower and that was Edlin
7 Island, which our capture rates there were .4 marten
8 per 100 trap nights.

9
10 That was just a one-time effort there.
11 Just to bring the Council -- we have had some radio-
12 collaring efforts there. We have concerns about marten
13 survival on the island. 2007 we captured and radio-
14 collared 19 marten, 11 males and 8 females. This year
15 we have captured and radio-collared an additional 17.

16
17 Our concerns about marten survival
18 resulted to some extent last year when I believe it was
19 11 of the 18 marten we captured died over winter
20 presumably as a result of starvation. There was no
21 trapping effort on the island. When we looked at the
22 ages of the animals this year following what we
23 perceived to be a large mortality rate, indeed we found
24 that there was very little recruitment of young animals
25 into the population. The animals we sampled this year
26 were older animals and there was little recruitment.

27
28 I just want to stress to the Council
29 that obviously Fish and Game doesn't recommend, nor
30 would the Board adopt, a closure unless we felt it was
31 warranted and made a good case with regard to a request
32 for that action.

33
34 We initially, when we developed this
35 proposal, hoped to preserve some trapping opportunity
36 on Kuiu. Some of the things we initially considered
37 was we'll shorten the season to a two-week trapping
38 season. Most marten are harvested earlier in the
39 season and they can be trapped out pretty quickly and
40 trappers tend to move on. That was one of the things.

41
42
43 Another item we considered was to close
44 the road system to trapping. A third item was to close
45 the season to non-residents. When we looked at those
46 things, we found that while very few of the marten were
47 being trapped on the road system, I believe since 1993,
48 just 199 marten had been taken off the island and only
49 something like 30 or 16 percent of those had been taken
50 from the road system. So we felt the road system

1 closure wasn't going to be enough to adequately address
2 the problem.

3

4 We also looked at either the component
5 for non-resident harvest. Well, it turned out there
6 were no non-residents trapping marten. These were
7 indeed Federally-qualified residents of Unit 2, Unit 4
8 and Unit 3. In terms of the number of trappers, we
9 felt like we weren't impacting a large number of
10 people. Since 1993, during seven of those years, it's
11 a 15-year period, there were no trappers in any given
12 year. No one trapped there. For six of those years
13 there was one trapper. In one year there were two
14 trappers and in another year there were three trappers.
15 I think that low effort indicates to some extent a low
16 return for the amount of trapping effort someone might
17 put forward there.

18

19 So those factors combined, and I
20 believe Council Member Douville asked what is the
21 cause, and as with so many research efforts you end up
22 with more questions or as many as you answer and there
23 were a couple things going on with Kuiu that is of
24 concern to the department and one is the extensive
25 timber harvest that is occurring on the north end.
26 Over 28,000 acres have been logged to date. Increasing
27 road densities. Marten are relatively easy to trap and
28 roads increase human access and increase vulnerability
29 to marten.

30

31 That said, these research efforts also
32 looked at small mammal abundance, small mammal
33 trapping, to see what the prey base for marten looked
34 like and it was indeed quite low as well. Other
35 factors, other supplemental food sources. You know, in
36 many areas where marten exist with healthy deer
37 populations you often get winter kill deer, marten go
38 to the beaches, scavenge on deer carcasses. Well, deer
39 are in very low abundance on Kuiu. So it could be a
40 combination of several factors that are conspiring to
41 hold marten populations at low levels on Kuiu.

42

43 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you. Anymore
44 questions. Donald and then Patty and then Harvey.

45

46 MR. HERNANDEZ: Were marten introduced
47 on Kuiu Island?

48

49 MR. LOWELL: No. If I might elaborate
50 a little, there's another concern with marten on Kuiu

1 in that the genetic studies have indicated that there
2 is at least a different subspecies if not separate
3 species of marten on Kuiu. There's *Martes americana*,
4 which occupies most of Southeast Alaska. Then there's
5 *Martes caurina*, which is also known as the Pacific
6 marten.

7

8 Up until the early 1950s those were, in
9 fact, considered two separate species. They were
10 subsequently lumped. You know, taxonomists being
11 lumpers and splitters, they were lumped. Now the
12 genetic research tends to suggest that they were
13 appropriately identified as two separate species which
14 only exists on Kuiu and Admiralty in southeast Alaska.
15 So you have an ademic species there that ads just a
16 little more concern to this marten issue on Kuiu
17 Island.

18

19 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Patty.

20

21 MS. PHILLIPS: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
22 What is the forest density?

23

24 MR. LOWELL: You mean with regard
25 to.....

26

27 MS. PHILLIPS: Trees, timber, density.

28

29 MR. LOWELL: Through the Chair, Council
30 Member Phillips. The forest density differs across the
31 island. I'm not sure I'm following you. I mean it's a
32 mosaic of muskeg and low volume timber and high volume
33 timber.

34

35 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Go ahead, Patty.

36

37 MS. PHILLIPS: Is there clear-cuts on
38 the island?

39

40 MR. LOWELL: Mr. Chair. Member
41 Phillips. Absolutely. Timber harvest is concentrated
42 primarily on the northern lobe or the northern half of
43 Kuiu Island. There is some wilderness on the southern
44 end and some of that has not been logged. But when we
45 looked at or university personnel looked at some of
46 those southern areas to see if perhaps they were on the
47 south end outside of the areas that were logged. It
48 appears that densities of marten are equally low across
49 the island.

50

1 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Harvey, go ahead.

2

3 MR. KITKA: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I
4 was curious whether there were any cycles and how they
5 will reach a certain number and then eventually fall
6 back because the food or disease or whatever.

7

8 MR. LOWELL: Through the Chair. Mr.
9 Kitka. Typically that is what we see with marten
10 populations. They typically fluctuate based largely on
11 the abundance of long-tailed voles. That appears to
12 drive marten populations in areas where voles do occur.
13 We typically see those types of fluctuations occurring
14 reaching highs and peaks and valleys. Perhaps we just
15 haven't looked at Kuiu Island long enough, but the
16 years that we've been there we have not seen those
17 peaks. We are currently now in the process of
18 determining if we will continue and intensify these
19 research efforts into the coming fiscal years.

20

21 I imagine this group might wonder how
22 do you plan to reopen the marten trapping season if you
23 don't periodically check that. So that's one of the
24 things we're thinking that the same capture rate
25 assessment that we've conducted over the last several
26 years would be repeated at points in the future that
27 would evaluate whether the population had increased to
28 a point that trapping could be reinstated there.

29

30 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Mike, go ahead.

31

32 MR. SEE: You stated there were two
33 species. Do they inter-breed or, if they don't, is
34 there one more prevalent than the other? Is either one
35 getting to a point where they're going to be
36 threatened?

37

38 MR. LOWELL: Through the Chairman.
39 Member See. Very good question. Our genetic research
40 shows that these two marten do inter-breed. There's a
41 distinct possibility that *Martes americana*, the
42 American marten, will eventually swamp the Pacific
43 marten. So there is some concern that this population
44 will wink out either from over-exploitation or just
45 from genetic swamping by the other species or
46 subspecies if you will. Depending on whether you're a
47 lumpener or a splitter, it hasn't been definitely
48 determined that this is a separate species. It may
49 just be a separate subspecies.

50

1 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Mr. Bangs, please.
2
3 MR. BANGS: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I
4 had a couple questions. Marten, if I have this right,
5 they're reliant on old growth forest?
6
7 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Turn your mike on,
8 please. When you're done here, you need to put maybe a
9 couple dollars into that kitty there.
10
11 MR. LOWELL: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
12 I was wondering what that was for over there. I
13 thought you were supposed to help yourself.
14
15 (Laughter)
16
17 MR. LOWELL: Through the Chair. Member
18 Bangs. Yes, marten are identified as an old growth
19 associated species.
20
21 MR. BANGS: Thank you. The other thing
22 I wanted to point out at our meeting in Kake there was
23 concern by the residents of Kake about the Forest
24 Service projects they had over there and we submitted a
25 letter to the Forest Service in regards to timber sales
26 that were going to happen on north Kuiu and I believe
27 Ms. Phillips was part of a group that we worked on a
28 letter.
29
30 The way it's appearing to me now that
31 this marten thing has come up, they're like a spotted
32 owl of Kuiu. I don't know what steps the Council could
33 do to reiterate our concern over that timber harvest on
34 north Kuiu, but it might be something we could address.
35
36 Thank you.
37
38 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you, Mr. Bangs.
39 Any other questions. Mike, go ahead.
40
41 MR. DOUVILLE: There's been between one
42 and three trappers on there for the past six years or
43 since you've been looking at it. On average, how many
44 marten do those people take a year?
45
46 MR. LOWELL: Through the Chair. Going
47 back to 1984, which was obviously getting into the pre-
48 computer records and having gone over some of the hard
49 copies, trapping, if I recall right, it's about 17
50 marten per year. The highest that I've looked at was

1 51 in one year and that was in 1996.

2

3 MR. DOUVILLE: Follow up. I know there
4 was a big logging operation and probably people trapped
5 from there. That's not going on now, so I'm only
6 referring to residents of Kake because virtually no one
7 else goes there and those numbers are not reflecting
8 their effort for say the past five or six years.

9

10 MR. LOWELL: Through the Chair. Member
11 Douville. I don't recall seeing any trapping effort on
12 Kuiu for marten, at least successful trappers, I don't
13 recall seeing Kake residents on that list. Petersburg,
14 Little Port Walter, Northern Prince of Wales, are
15 people I recall seeing in the records. I don't
16 envision our efforts having been greatly disruptive to
17 the organized village of Kake.

18

19 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Another one, Mike. Go
20 ahead.

21

22 MR. DOUVILLE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I
23 do a lot of trapping myself, but I do know there is
24 something about marten you've got to understand. They
25 walk across the ice from Kupreanof onto Kuiu. I mean
26 it's just like a highway. In some cases they've even
27 moved across to Dall Island. It appears they can move
28 if it's a close swim. I've always been under the
29 impression that they're like cats and won't go in the
30 water, but they will. They have been observed going
31 after water ousles (ph) in the creek and going right in
32 after them just like a mink would. It changed my
33 impression of marten. As far as them being a separate
34 subspecies, I'm certain that they'd be contaminated
35 because they can flow back and from Kuiu to Kupreanof
36 just simply walking on the ice in the wintertime.

37

38 In any case, this proposal I would
39 support if it did not close off the residents of Kake
40 whether they trap there or not. I have no problem with
41 it being closed to all other residents in southeast.

42

43 MS. PHILLIPS: Mr. Chair.

44

45 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Patty, go ahead.

46

47 MS. PHILLIPS: What are the populations
48 on Kupreanof of marten?

49

50 MR. LOWELL: Through the Chair. Member

1 Phillips. Concerning Kupreanof Island, most of our
2 work was done at Portage Bay, the northeast corner,
3 where we had a road system. Comparatively, in 2002, we
4 captured two marten per 100 trap nights. 2003, 2.5
5 marten per 100 trap nights.

6
7 Mr. Chairman, if I might, I realized
8 that I neglected to address one of Mr. Douville's
9 questions with regard to the presence of logging camp
10 there. There didn't appear to be much trapping effort,
11 at least successful. Again, we don't have records
12 showing that there was a lot of trapping activity going
13 on out of the Rowen Camp when it was active there, but
14 that was a concern with regard to upcoming timber sales
15 that are planned for northern Kuiu that perhaps we
16 might see some activity, particularly with marten
17 prices having kind of spiked in recent years. It
18 doesn't look quite so favorable this particular year,
19 but having gone from 30 up to 80 and 90 in the past
20 couple of years we were concerned that that would
21 encourage trappers despite the low numbers to try to
22 get martens to secure those higher prices.

23
24 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay. Any more
25 comments, questions.

26
27 (No comments)

28
29 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Appreciate it. I
30 don't think you're familiar with what happened a couple
31 years ago in Sitka. We had Girl Scouts that came there
32 and they were raising money to go on a camping trip.
33 They supplied us with the food over there. You see
34 they had a little money box there. So I took an
35 opportunity of helping them to replenish that fund by
36 fining anyone that forgot to turn on their light when
37 they spoke and I was one of the biggest contributors,
38 you know, chairing this thing all the time. I think
39 the one that really outbid me though was George Pappas.
40 We fined him for coming into the meeting late, we fined
41 him for leaving early and a whole bunch in between.
42 That Scout Troop really walked out of there real happy
43 that they can go on a trip because they raised over
44 \$400.

45
46 So that's what that's for over there,
47 sir.

48
49 MR. LOWELL: Thank you, Mr. Chairman,
50 for clarifying that. I'll be sure and make all my due

1 contributions accordingly. Sir, I would also be
2 representing the Department on the next issue. If you
3 don't mind me stepping back, I'd gladly come back at
4 your beckon.

5
6 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Sure. We'll look
7 forward to that. Thank you. It looks like this issue
8 is serious enough where they had a special action done.
9 Now they want to make it permanent.

10
11 Mr. Bangs, go ahead.

12
13 MR. BANGS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
14 I'm in support of this proposal because I believe there
15 is a conservation concern there from all we've heard.
16 I spoke with trappers that have trapped over there and
17 they expressed they weren't going to trap over there
18 any more because the numbers were so low. We could say
19 that it's self-regulating, but at the same turn I think
20 it would show we are concerned about the conservation
21 of those stocks.

22
23 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Mr. Kitka.

24
25 MR. KITKA: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I
26 think I'd be in support of this if we do what Mike
27 Douville proposed.

28
29 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: If that's the case,
30 then I think we need to offer an amendment to it to
31 include not including Kake.

32
33 MS. PHILLIPS: I would do that.

34
35 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: We just amended to
36 exclude Kake from the closure. Robert.

37
38 MR. LARSON: Mr. Chairman. I caution
39 you regarding going down that road that the C&T
40 determinations have already been made and it's a
41 broader scope. It's all rural residents. I don't know
42 that that's anything we've ever done as to have a
43 proposal that is essentially an analysis of .804 and
44 that's where you would be going, would be to have a
45 separate analysis regarding who is the most deserving
46 to keep access to those martens. If that's your desire
47 to initiate an .804 process, then that's your
48 prerogative. If that's not it, then I caution you that
49 maybe that's not the right way to go.

50

1 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Caution is well taken,
2 Mr. Larson. I'm going to leave it up to the Council to
3 determine where they want to go with this issue. Mr.
4 Hernandez, go ahead.

5
6 MR. HERNANDEZ: I would agree, Mr.
7 Chairman. It would be premature to amend this proposal
8 prior to the analysis. We need to see the full
9 analysis first before we start amending the proposal.

10
11 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: That point is well
12 taken too, Donald. Let's take that into consideration.
13 Anyone want to make a comment. Go ahead.

14
15 MR. DOUVILLE: I said I wouldn't
16 support it, but that doesn't stop it from going through
17 at this point. When it comes before us for
18 consideration down the road after analysis has been
19 done and so on, we can modify it. We can do whatever
20 we see fit at that point and this will give it a little
21 more time for further analysis and looking at how it
22 affects Kake residents.

23
24 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Yes, thank you, Mr.
25 Douville. That's the road we're going to take then.
26 We'll either accept it or not and go from there.

27
28 MR. DOUVILLE: Question.

29
30 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Question has been
31 called for. Roll call, please.

32
33 MR. KITKA: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
34 Michael Bangs.

35
36 MR. BANGS: Yes.

37
38 MR. KITKA: Merle Hawkins.

39
40 MS. HAWKINS: Yes.

41
42 MR. KITKA: Mike See.

43
44 MR. SEE: Yes.

45
46 MR. KITKA: Donald Hernandez.

47
48 MR. HERNANDEZ: Yes.

49
50 MR. KITKA: Floyd Kookesh.

1 MR. KOOKESH: Yes.
2
3 MR. KITKA: Bert Adams.
4
5 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Yes.
6
7 MR. KITKA: Harvey Kitka votes no.
8 Michael Douville.
9
10 MR. DOUVILLE: Yes.
11
12 MR. KITKA: Patricia Phillips.
13
14 MS. PHILLIPS: Yes.
15
16 MR. KITKA: Richard Stokes.
17
18 MR. STOKES: Yes.
19
20 MR. KITKA: Mr. Chair, the motion
21 passes.
22
23 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you, Mr. Kitka.
24 Let's move on. Unit 1B and three moose antler
25 restrictions. Do you want to come forward, sir, and
26 address this issue for us. Thank you.
27
28 MR. HERNANDEZ: Do we need a motion?
29
30 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Oh, we need a motion
31 to accept this proposal and a second. Trying to move
32 too fast.
33
34 MS. PHILLIPS: Mr. Chair.
35
36 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Patty.
37
38 MS. PHILLIPS: Move to submit Federal
39 subsistence wildlife proposal Unit 1B and three moose
40 antler restriction, methods and means of harvest,
41 substitute language for .26(N)(1)(7) and .26(N)(3)(3),
42 one bull with spike fork antlers or 50-inch antlers or
43 antlers with three or more brow tines on one side or
44 antlers with two brow tines on both sides.
45
46 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you, Mr.
47 Phillips. Is there a second?
48
49 MR. HERNANDEZ: Second.
50

1 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: It's been moved and
2 seconded by Donald. Sir, go ahead.

3
4 MR. LOWELL: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
5 Hopefully I can be a little more brief on this one than
6 the preceding one.

7
8 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: For the record, please
9 introduce yourself again.

10
11 MR. LOWELL: For the record, my name is
12 Richard Lowell. I'm the area wildlife biologist for
13 Fish and Game's Division of Wildlife Conservation here
14 in Petersburg.

15
16 Moose antler restriction, as certainly
17 the locals know, has been a hot topic here in
18 Petersburg for quite some time, basically since they
19 were implemented. We went to the Board of Game with
20 the proposal requesting that we modify the antler
21 restrictions for moose in a sense to liberalize them.

22
23 A secondary component of that request
24 was that we suspend or eliminate the any bull drawing
25 permits that had been used to gather the age and antler
26 information that we then used to modify the antler
27 restrictions. We felt that they were somewhat
28 over-restrictive for our smaller andersoni subspecies.
29 There were some additional harvest opportunity there.
30 We felt we could safely afford to the public. It was
31 not without some reservations that I, as the manager,
32 moved forward with this coming on the heels of two hard
33 winters that did impact our moose herd to some extent.

34
35 I don't know how far you want me to go
36 with regard to the history of antler restrictions here.
37 Basically since 1995 all of our local moose hunt has
38 been under antler restrictions. It was phased in in
39 Thomas Bay initially. Then, when moose hunting opened
40 in the Unit 3 islands in 1990, they also came under
41 antler restrictions. The Stikine River drainage
42 actually was the last to come under management with
43 spike fork 50 three brow tine regulations. That
44 essentially was implemented as a result of a
45 precipitous drop in the moose population on the river.
46 Those antler restrictions have been successful in
47 rebuilding that population.

48
49 The nice thing about antler
50 restrictions are that with appropriate compliance

1 there's no need for harvest guidelines. It's a self-
2 regulating hunt. It allows unlimited hunter
3 participation. I'd just like to point out that our
4 local moose hunt is an amazingly popular hunt. We
5 issue over approximately 1,000 registration permits for
6 from 50 to 90 moose a year. The overwhelming majority
7 of those are Federally-qualified locals and Alaska
8 residents.

9

10 You can leave the hunt open for an
11 entire month. We have one of the longest moose hunts
12 in the state and not only that it also encompasses
13 almost the entirety of the rut. A lot of moose hunts
14 in the state is closed during the rutting period to
15 protect bulls.

16

17 The antler restriction partition the
18 harvest into certain age classes to ensure that enough
19 bulls are retained in the population to provide for
20 timely and complete breeding of cows. It allows you to
21 harvest the younger age classes and the older age
22 classes and protect the middle-age bulls for breeding
23 purposes.

24

25 Because the antler restrictions were
26 originally developed in British Columbia, they were
27 later modified for moose on the Kenai Peninsula. They
28 were developed to fit a much larger subspecies of moose
29 than we have here. I guess moose routinely reach in
30 excess of 50 inches. Here in southeast in the central
31 panhandle region we see very few bulls that exceed 50
32 inch in antler spread.

33

34 So what we saw happening was we appear
35 to be killing -- you know, our harvest was dominated by
36 70 to 80 percent one and two year old animals, but we
37 were not taking many off the top. The public had come
38 to us with various recommendations about how we might
39 fix this and one of them was to adopt this 2x2 brow
40 tine antler restrictions.

41

42 I was a little uncomfortable with that
43 initially. As an alternative, I went to the Board of
44 Game and requested that we implement some limited any
45 bull permits so that I could get age data from what
46 would otherwise be protected population. We didn't
47 know what the age of 2x2 brow tine bulls were because
48 we weren't allowed to harvest them. So these any bull
49 permits were actually implemented as a tool to gain
50 information. After evaluating the age data from those

1 animals we ended up getting a reasonable sample size
2 that we could make inferences about.

3
4 We found out that a bull with two brow
5 tines on both antlers was on average the same age as a
6 three brow tine bull. That was five and a half years
7 old. At that age they should be available for harvest.
8 It's not without some reservations that we move forward
9 with this. One of the reasons this likely will come up
10 later is one of the reasons we chose to discontinue the
11 any bull permits we were offering at that time was so
12 that we could evaluate the impacts of liberalizing the
13 antler restrictions on the herd. The any bull permits
14 typically come out of the age class that you want to
15 protect. They're the most abundant.

16
17 What we're going to do is provide some
18 more opportunity by allowing the two brow tine bulls
19 but we're going to cautiously watch and see what impact
20 that has on bull/cow ratios on the Stikine and
21 productivity and stuff. That's why we decided to step
22 back from one until we saw the impact of the other.

23
24 I might add, Mr. Chairman, some members
25 of the public they really like an any bull permit if
26 you're the one who draws it. If you're not the one
27 that gets it and you have to pass up a bull that walks
28 over to a guy next to you and he gets to shoot it,
29 there was some dissatisfaction with that scenario. The
30 people, at least that I've talked to in Wrangell, said
31 we just want everybody on the same footing with the
32 same opportunity to harvest, so we proceeded with that.

33
34 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you, Mr. Lowell.
35 Is there any questions by the Council. Mr. Bangs, go
36 ahead.

37
38 MR. BANGS: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
39 Rich, do you anticipate a large increase in harvest?
40 Are you thinking maybe it will double or triple or how
41 do you feel about that?

42
43 MR. LOWELL: Through the Chair. Member
44 Bangs. Good question. I guess it depends to some
45 extent who you talk to. Some say it won't have much
46 effect. Others say it could have a great effect. My
47 personal opinion is that I don't envision it being a
48 huge impact. I think what we'll see is an initial
49 spike in harvest to begin with and then, as those 2x2
50 brow tines are reduced, they will be less in subsequent

1 years. How it compares to the number of any bull
2 permits we had previously been issuing 22. We
3 typically saw 20 animals harvested. Do I think we're
4 going to get 20 more two brow tiners to replace the any
5 bull permits, I'm not sure. I just feel the need to
6 approach this carefully. We've rebuilt this moose herd
7 to pretty nice levels and they've spread out to the
8 Unit 3 islands. We're in pretty good shape now despite
9 the recent tough winters we've had.

10

11 MR. BANGS: Thank you.

12

13 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Carrie, have a safe
14 trip back home.

15

16 MS. SYKES: See you next time.

17

18 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Any other questions.
19 Patty, go ahead.

20

21 MS. PHILLIPS: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
22 I'm curious how did you determine that the 2x2 brow
23 tine is the same age as the three brow tine?

24

25 MR. LOWELL: Through the Chair. Member
26 Phillips. In this particular hunt we have a mandatory
27 requirement to bring the antlers in so that they can be
28 measured and photographed. At that time we also pull a
29 tooth for aging. It's a requirement that hunters
30 submit the lower jaw. So we're able to look at various
31 antler configurations and then make inferences about
32 the age based on the samples we've collected over time.

33

34 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you. Anyone
35 else.

36

37 (No comments)

38

39 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you, sir.
40 Appreciate it. What's the wish of the Council.

41

42 MS. PHILLIPS: Question.

43

44 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: The question has been
45 called. Mr. Kitka, roll call.

46

47 MR. KITKA: Michael Bangs.

48

49 MR. BANGS: Yes.

50

1 MR. KITKA: Merle Hawkins.
2
3 MS. HAWKINS: Yes.
4
5 MR. KITKA: Mike See.
6
7 MR. SEE: Yes.
8
9 MR. KITKA: Donald Hernandez.
10
11 MR. HERNANDEZ: Yes.
12
13 MR. KITKA: Floyd Kookesh.
14
15 MR. KOOKESH: Yes.
16
17 MR. KITKA: Bert Adams.
18
19 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Yes.
20
21 MR. KITKA: Harvey Kitka votes yes.
22 Michael Douville.
23
24 MR. DOUVILLE: Yes.
25
26 MR. KITKA: Patricia Phillips.
27
28 MS. PHILLIPS: Yes.
29
30 MR. KITKA: Richard Stokes.
31
32 MR. STOKES: Yes.
33
34 MR. KITKA: Mr. Chair, the motion
35 passes.
36
37 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you, Mr. Kitka.
38 We're on to item number D now. Unit 1A, Cleveland
39 Peninsula, deer harvest limits. What's the wish of the
40 Council. Do I hear a motion to accept.
41
42 MS. PHILLIPS: Mr. Chair.
43
44 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Patty.
45
46 MS. PHILLIPS: Move to accept Federal
47 subsistence wildlife proposal Unit 1A Cleveland
48 Peninsula deer harvest limits. Substitute language for
49 .26(N)(1)(7) deer, two bucks.
50

1 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Donald.
2
3 MR. HERNANDEZ: Mr. Chair.
4
5 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: You've got to
6 contribute over there too, Donald.
7
8 MR. HERNANDEZ: Before we second that
9 proposal it looks like there was also a special action
10 request dealing with the brow tine restriction that we
11 need to.
12
13 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: I think we can talk
14 about that. Let's go ahead and second it right now.
15
16 MR. HERNANDEZ: I'll second.
17
18 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you. Now it is
19 up for discussion. Do you want to come forward and
20 introduce yourself, please, and help us understand this
21 a little bit better.
22
23 MR. PORTER: Mr. Chair. Members of the
24 Council. My name is Boyd Porter. I'm the wildlife
25 management biologist for the State out of Ketchikan for
26 Units 1A and Unit 2.
27
28 The State has been looking at Unit 1A
29 along the Cleveland Peninsula for several years now.
30 To give you a little history, back in the mid '80s to
31 end of the early '90s our hunters were harvesting
32 around two to three hundred deer from the Cleveland
33 Peninsula. The harvest has since gone down to just
34 around a dozen animals now. It's not clear what
35 happened to that population and we're looking at
36 several potential scenarios but it's hard to piece that
37 together. It just slowly declined. Of course, once
38 it's down at low levels the predators that are there
39 can keep that at low numbers.
40
41 We've since liberalized trapping
42 seasons, maximized those for wolves as much as we can.
43 There's been a pretty consistent harvest of black
44 bears, another predator on deer, in that area. As far
45 as we can tell, those low numbers may be at a different
46 equilibrium. Maybe they've shifted and they're not
47 only having a hard time pulling out, but they don't
48 have the habitat as far as we can assess up to this
49 point to allow that population to ever get back to
50 where it was in the mid '80s to early '90s. It's hard

1 to imagine looking at the current conditions out there
2 that there were ever hundreds of deer over there.

3
4 Anyway, we've looked at it pretty
5 extensively. Deer persist right now in small pockets
6 and we were trying to figure out what we could do with
7 seasons and bag limits to try to relieve that deer
8 population and give it a chance to bounce back. This
9 was one of the ideas that we came up with that we'd
10 reduce the number of bucks being taken off of that area
11 because those deer are in such small groups that
12 potentially if someone went in there under a four deer
13 bag limit they could take every buck out of a small
14 drainage.

15
16 Going to a two buck bag limit also
17 makes it consistent with 1B, which is on the west side
18 of the Cleveland and that's been a two deer back limit
19 for some time now already. What this proposal did, in
20 a sense, is it went from a four buck bag limit to a two
21 buck bag limit. Realizing too that there's very little
22 hunting effort in that area. The intent of this
23 regulation was to try to give that population a chance
24 to rebound.

25
26 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you, Boyd. Any
27 questions from the Council.

28
29 MS. PHILLIPS: Mr. Chair.

30
31 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Patty, go ahead.

32
33 MS. PHILLIPS: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
34 You said that area does not have the habitat to
35 replenish the deer. Could you elaborate.

36
37 MR. PORTER: Through the Chair. Member
38 Phillips. Through all of our assessment of being on
39 the ground and looking at winter habitat, which is the
40 bottleneck for deer as you all know, it really makes
41 you wonder what that population could ever bounce back
42 to. We may be looking at a population level that will
43 never reach what it was 20 years ago. All assessment
44 and comparing it to other places like Prince of Wales
45 and even the mainland over on the east side of Unit 1A,
46 this would just be one potential fix for that
47 population to see if it rebounds. If it doesn't, we're
48 not out anything. Most people don't spend a whole lot
49 of time hunting over there anyway.

50

1 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Michael, go ahead.

2

3 MR. DOUVILLE: Thank you. I assume
4 it's safe to say you have predators on that peninsula.

5

6 MR. PORTER: Through the Chair. Member
7 Douville. We do and it doesn't seem like those numbers
8 have changed a whole lot. I guess that's sort of
9 problematic in that we have less trappers going to
10 those places. Most wolf trappers have slacked off just
11 due to the cost of operating no matter where you're
12 talking about. So we have less trapping effort, less
13 hunters that are over there that are likely to
14 encounter those wolves and shoot them during an open
15 hunting season. There's not a whole lot of other tools
16 that you could use to kill more predators over there.

17

18 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Go ahead.

19

20 MR. DOUVILLE: If no one is harvesting
21 them, then it's safe to say that those deer are not
22 going to bounce back. That I can almost guarantee.
23 The only way I could support something like this
24 proposal, as it puts a restriction on rural users, is
25 other users would have to be eliminated. I just want
26 to point out that we have rules in Title VIII that
27 apply to this type of situation.

28

29 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you, Michael.
30 Are there any other questions, comments. Boyd, go
31 ahead.

32

33 MR. PORTER: Mr. Chair. I might
34 mention to Mr. Douville that the hunters that hunt that
35 area, the only Federally-qualified hunters that I can
36 think of that spend much time there are Meyers Chuck
37 and they're on the west side, as you know, and wouldn't
38 spend much time on the 1A side of the Cleveland. It
39 splits down the middle by the way through the mountain
40 range there. I'm not sure how much affect that would
41 have if you made it just Federally-qualified hunters.

42

43 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Any more comments,
44 questions.

45

46 (No comments)

47

48 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: You brought up a good
49 point there, Michael, but I think I'm going to vote in
50 favor of this because it's going to go through Staff

1 analysis and come back to us at the next go around.
2 Then we can pick out those points of interest that you
3 brought up. Go ahead.

4
5 MR. DOUVILLE: Mr. Chair. I wasn't
6 trying to derail submitting it, but what I'm saying is
7 it falls into restricting a rural user and when it does
8 come back to us that will have to be considered.

9
10 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: I agree with you on
11 that. Mr. Bangs, go ahead.

12
13 MR. BANGS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I
14 just wanted to add I spent time down there hunting and
15 quite a few hours and the only deer I saw was being
16 carried off by a big wolf, so I know there's predators
17 there.

18
19 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thanks. Go ahead.

20
21 MR. DOUVILLE: I'd like to make a
22 statement to Mr. Porter. You can put eight or ten
23 wolves on an island and it supports them for eight or
24 ten years and then pretty soon it doesn't. While the
25 wolf number doesn't seem to increase, the deer
26 population goes away. So unless there's some harvest
27 of those predators you won't have any success
28 rebuilding that herd.

29
30 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Go ahead.

31
32 MR. PORTER: Mr. Chair. Member
33 Douville. We spent some time talking to trappers about
34 where they're putting their efforts and I spent some
35 time with people over in Meyers Chuck and in fact two
36 of the residents over there came into my office. We
37 talked about trapping methods for wolves and lo and
38 behold the next couple of years they were able to
39 collectively, between the people out of Meyers Chuck
40 and the people coming from Ketchikan side on the east
41 side, they were able to take the most wolves that we
42 ever took off of there. About 19 wolves came off those
43 next two years. But they weren't able to keep at it,
44 so we've since lost those two people over on the west
45 side that were trapping. As you know, you've got to
46 hammer them and continue to take 30 to 50 percent of
47 the estimated population before you really drive that
48 wolf population down.

49
50 MR. DOUVILLE: You are absolutely

1 correct.
2
3 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you much.
4
5 MR. BANGS: Question.
6
7 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: The question has been
8 called. Mr. Kitka, roll call.
9 MR. KITKA: Michael Bangs.
10
11 MR. BANGS: Yes.
12
13 MR. KITKA: Merle Hawkins.
14
15 MS. HAWKINS: Yes.
16
17 MR. KITKA: Mike See.
18
19 MR. SEE: Yes.
20
21 MR. KITKA: Donald Hernandez.
22
23 MR. HERNANDEZ: Yes.
24
25 MR. KITKA: Floyd Kookesh.
26
27 MR. KOOKESH: Yes.
28
29 MR. KITKA: Bert Adams.
30
31 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Yes.
32
33 MR. KITKA: Harvey Kitka votes yes.
34 Michael Douville.
35
36 MR. DOUVILLE: Yes.
37
38 MR. KITKA: Patricia Phillips.
39
40 MS. PHILLIPS: Yes.
41
42 MR. KITKA: Richard Stokes.
43
44 MR. STOKES: Yes.
45
46 MR. KITKA: Mr. Chair, the motion
47 passes.
48
49 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you, Mr. Kitka.
50 Next item, Unit 2 and three black bear harvest

1 restrictions. Motion to adopt is in order.

2

3 MR. LARSON: Mr. Chairman. This topic
4 was included because of some actions taken by the Board
5 of Game at their last meeting. I did not include any
6 proposed wording. Subsequent discussions we've had
7 with OSM and ADF&G made it clear that those
8 restrictions adopted by the Board were not intended to
9 apply to subsistence hunters and we agree that the way
10 the regulatory language is in place right now is that
11 they don't apply to subsistence hunters.

12

13 The topic was included on here as an
14 opportunity to raise this issue and to have some
15 discussion if the Council so desires, but there's
16 nothing before the Council right now as a form of a
17 recommendation or a proposal.

18

19 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay. What's the wish
20 of the Council on this issue. Do you want to talk
21 about it and move on or ignore it? Donald, go ahead.

22

23 MR. HERNANDEZ: Mr. Chairman. I'd like
24 to hear what the issue is myself.

25

26 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: We'll bring Mr.
27 Dickerson up as well so the two of you can work
28 together on that.

29

30 MR. PORTER: Mr. Chairman. Members of
31 the Council. My name is Boyd Porter. I'm the wildlife
32 management biologist for Unit 2.

33

34 MR. DICKERSON: I want to make sure,
35 Mr. Chairman, I turn my microphone on. I'm Larry
36 Dickerson, wildlife biologist for the Forest Service in
37 the Craig and Thorne Bay Ranger Districts.

38

39 MR. PORTER: So, Mr. Chairman, you
40 would just like the justification for this regulation.
41 This is one of those balancing acts with bears and deer
42 certainly. We've been watching this black bear
43 population slowly increase for the last 10 or 15 years
44 and it's just creeping up, but it started getting into
45 a cautionary area the last few years and realized too
46 that this is about 80 and 85 percent non-residents
47 harvesting most of these black bears. It's an economic
48 stimulus for places like Prince of Wales and other
49 areas that supply services and provide things to these
50 hunters. It's a fairly easy access area with all the

1 roads on Prince of Wales. It certainly ties in with
2 the Unit 2 deer planning efforts when we talked about
3 the predators that were having an impact on deer
4 populations particularly along the road corridor where
5 people were spending a lot of time deer hunting. That
6 happens to be where a lot of the bear hunters spend a
7 lot of their time because they're able to cover a lot
8 of ground and locate bears fairly easily. Some of the
9 hunting is from the beaches as well, but the road
10 system provides a real conduit to get people into a
11 majority of places in Unit 2. As we were seeing that
12 black bear harvest increasing, we were sort of juggling
13 those two things. Realizing that by limiting those
14 black bears along the road corridors it was providing
15 more deer by protecting some of those deer fawns from
16 black bear predation.

17
18 We've reached a point now where along
19 those road corridors we're concerned for some of the
20 bear populations, especially along the streams that are
21 intersected multiple times by the roads. It's
22 different than most places in the state where you may
23 only have one access point to a stream. What you find
24 is that these hunters will go to the streams in the
25 fall particularly and intersect these bears at many
26 points along the salmon streams and those hunters that
27 are harvesting bears along the streams are less
28 selective in terms of the size of the bear they take
29 and whether it's a male or female. Consequently, the
30 female harvest was getting to a point that we felt it
31 was unsustainable in some of those places.

32
33 So at the same time we were trying to
34 balance that out with the deer survival, we feel like
35 we've got to put some restrictions on some of this bear
36 harvest and realize, as you mention, there was an
37 intent to not affect Federally-qualified hunters.
38 There was discussion at the Board meeting and Larry
39 spent some time going over the minutes of those Board
40 of Game meeting just to sort out the discussion points
41 that we made and the intent was not to affect
42 Federally-qualified hunters that did want to go out and
43 harvest bears in Unit 2 and 3.

44
45 I'll see if Larry has a comment or two
46 as far as the Forest Service perspective.

47
48 MR. DICKERSON: Mr. Chairman and
49 members. As far as how we've looked at this as it
50 affects rural subsistence hunters, deer regulations in

1 GMU 2 are different than deer regulations as all rural
2 residents are bear hunters under the subsistence
3 regulations in GMU 2. To verify Mr. Larson's statement
4 and what Boyd has mentioned too, there was 522 pages of
5 transcripts and presentations at the Board of Game
6 meetings and we didn't see where that was discussed
7 there, but Boyd and Steve Bethune got the voice
8 transcripts to us and it's mentioned very clearly in
9 two areas in here that the intent of what the Board of
10 Game changing this was not to affect bear hunting of
11 rural residents. So that is true.

12

13 One of the things, Robert, I did want
14 to speak on is the one thing we feel will be affected
15 is that we may have to change the Federal subsistence
16 regulations to show that bear hunters have to have a
17 harvest ticket now for bears. I'll quickly read just
18 two lines and this is under the 2008 to 2010
19 regulations. Page 16 says subsistence hunters are also
20 required to possess and comply with provisions of any
21 permits, tags or harvest tickets required by the State
22 unless superseded by Federal regulations. Therefore,
23 just as we go any subsistence hunter in Unit 2 or 1A
24 and pick up your harvest permits for deer, we feel
25 without a doubt by the fall of 2009 we'll also have to
26 have a bear harvest permit too.

27

28 So this is going to be just a little
29 bit different for someone that could be a subsistence
30 hunter, though I think we have few subsistence bears
31 killed there. I've heard 15 to 20. But, nevertheless,
32 that opportunity is there and I don't think we have a
33 real handle on how many bears were taken
34 opportunistically or for subsistence purposes because
35 that hasn't been captured in the harvest records.

36

37 Thank you.

38

39 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you, Larry. Go
40 ahead, Donald.

41

42 MR. HERNANDEZ: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
43 Boyd, I guess my question is I fully agree that from
44 what I hear that the wording of this proposal is not
45 going to affect the subsistence hunter's taking of
46 bears. I can see that. My question is, is this
47 regulation the State has adopted going to be adequate
48 to address the problem? I would raise the question of
49 whether or not the Subsistence Board will want to
50 consider a more restrictive proposal than what the

1 State does. I have my doubts as to whether your
2 proposal will actually decrease the harvest to the
3 extent that you're hoping it will. What exactly is the
4 wording regarding this restriction on -- is it
5 motorized vehicles or something to do with using the
6 vicinity to a road or how is it worded?

7

8 MR. PORTER: Mr. Chair. Member
9 Hernandez. This thing has several layers and I realize
10 I didn't cover that part when I went through the
11 population concerns. This wasn't the proposal that we
12 went to the Board with. We went to the Board with one
13 that I thought was going to fit and it closed the first
14 15 days of September, which was when the majority of
15 those female bears along the road corridor were being
16 harvested. The proposal changed as we were having
17 discussion at the Board. Unfortunately, people that
18 had commented on the original proposal felt a little
19 bit slighted if they weren't at the Board of Game
20 because they didn't get a chance to comment on it. But
21 this one fits better than the September 1st through
22 15th closure. It's still not a perfect fix and we
23 realize that.

24

25 The Board really gave us some marching
26 orders when we left there last November. That was in
27 two years when the Board sits in Ketchikan in 2010 they
28 want us to come back with a whole lot more information.
29 We'll have a harvest information from the harvest
30 permit and when I say that, we get good information on
31 bears that are harvested. We know nothing or very
32 little about bear hunters that spend time hunting and
33 don't harvest a bear. So that's what the harvest
34 ticket is going to give us.

35

36 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Donald, go ahead.

37

38 MR. HERNANDEZ: Well, you still didn't
39 answer the question. What exactly is the wording of
40 this new regulation? Does it say a person cannot use a
41 motorized vehicle to take a bear?

42

43 MR. PORTER: Through the Chair. Member
44 Hernandez. It is no use of motorized vehicles for bear
45 hunting during the month of September 1st through 30th.
46 So that means the transport of bears, bear hunters,
47 bear hunting equipment. It doesn't prevent someone
48 from hooking onto a boat at the ferry or at a lodge and
49 going somewhere by boat. So, in other words, there's
50 still a lot of opportunity. We're trying to maximize

1 opportunity while ensuring that we were managing under
2 a sustainable harvest. It has some restrictions along
3 the road corridors. Realizing it has some implications
4 for -- you've got deer hunters out there that can still
5 deer hunt. Moving from Point A to Point B. The
6 protection people don't like this a whole lot. They
7 still feel like it's enforceable nonetheless.

8

9 I wanted to add just one more thing,
10 Don. That is the Board wants us to come back with a
11 lot better information. We've engaged in a research
12 project over there that's got some promise to come back
13 with better density estimates or an estimate of how
14 many bears are there. Also, they really felt strongly
15 that we would go some place like a drawing permit for
16 non-residents. That's the most likely proposal that
17 the Board is going to take up and strongly consider
18 during this next Board cycle. At least with the
19 research that we're doing on the ground that's going to
20 give us a lot better handle on if we had a drawing
21 permit, what would those limits look like. What would
22 the harvest objectives look like across the unit. We
23 may split that up across roaded and unroaded areas.
24 Remember, that's only for non-residents. Residents
25 would not be restricted under that drawing permit.

26

27 MR. HERNANDEZ: One more question.

28

29 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Make it quick.

30

31 MR. HERNANDEZ: Have you considered a
32 cap on the harvest such as is in place like for Kuiu
33 Island?

34

35 MR. PORTER: Through the Chair. Member
36 Hernandez. We did and if you followed that much with
37 the Kuiu situation, that's not a very good fix either.
38 It has some serious problems. That wasn't one of our
39 high priorities.

40

41 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay. Other
42 questions.

43

44 (No comments)

45

46 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you, gentlemen.
47 So that was just a matter of information. It doesn't
48 need any type of action from us.

49

50 Mr. Bangs, you have something.

1 MR. BANGS: Yeah, real quick. I just
2 hope that this new regulation doesn't confuse the
3 subsistence hunters and they get in trouble because
4 they answer the question wrong or some sort of an
5 enforcement issue.

6
7 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Yes, that's always a
8 big concern, Mr. Bangs, and I share your concern.
9 Let's take a break.

10
11 (Off record)

12
13 (On record)

14
15 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay. Shall we get to
16 our seats so we can get started here. Thank you.

17
18 (Pause)

19
20 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay. We are ready to
21 start here again. What I'd like to do if we can try to
22 move through this here. I don't want to deprive anyone
23 by pushing too fast through this, but I'd like to get
24 done by 5:00 o'clock today. It looks like the rest of
25 these items here will probably take up the rest of that
26 time.

27
28 I just want to bring this out as a
29 matter of information for those of you who are doing
30 kind of an analysis for us. If you could just give us
31 a brief outline of what these issues are about and then
32 I think more details will come out as the Council
33 questions you on those issues.

34
35 We'll go ahead and look at Item F,
36 wolverine trapping season. Mr. Larson, is there
37 someone who can address this for us?

38
39 MR. LARSON: Yes, Mr. Rich Lowell, the
40 area biologist for Department of Fish and Game is here.
41 I would like to mention that this is on your agenda
42 because this was an action item adopted by the Board of
43 Game at their November meeting.

44
45 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Mr. Lowell, go ahead.

46
47 MR. LOWELL: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
48 This proposal was born of concern about the season
49 length basically throughout southeast Alaska. The fact
50 that it had extended clear into April 30th for

1 wolverines. Well, wolverines have their young in March
2 and April. Having that lengthy season, which my
3 understanding was it was implemented initially because
4 wolf trappers sometimes catch wolverine incidently and
5 they would be able to keep them.

6
7 Basically, the gist of this proposal is
8 to shorten the season in order to protect denning
9 females, which will improve recruitment of young into
10 the population and then thereby provide more wolverines
11 that will be available for harvest. With the long
12 season right now we're killing our chickens right after
13 they hatch rather than waiting for them to mature.

14
15 So that's the gist of it.

16
17 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you, Mr. Lowell.
18 Any questions from Council.

19
20 (No comments)

21
22 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay, thank you. We
23 should call for a motion.

24
25 MS. PHILLIPS: Mr. Chair.

26
27 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Patty, please.

28
29 MS. PHILLIPS: Move to submit Federal
30 subsistence wildlife proposal wolverine trapping season
31 harvest limit, wolverine Unit 1 through 5, November 10
32 through February 15, no limit.

33
34 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you. Do I hear
35 a second.

36
37 MR. HERNANDEZ: Second.

38
39 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Seconded by Donald.
40 Now we are under discussion.

41
42 (No comments)

43
44 MR. BANGS: Question.

45
46 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: The question has been
47 called for. Roll call. Thank you, Mr. Lowell. Are
48 you going to address the next one too?

49
50 MR. LOWELL: No. Thank you, Mr.

1 Chairman. I'm going to step back.
2
3 MR. KITKA: Michael Bangs.
4
5 MR. BANGS: Yes.
6
7 MR. KITKA: Merle Hawkins.
8
9 MS. HAWKINS: Yes.
10
11 MR. KITKA: Mike See.
12
13 MR. SEE: Yes.
14
15 MR. KITKA: Donald Hernandez.
16
17 MR. HERNANDEZ: Yes.
18
19 MR. KITKA: Floyd Kookesh.
20
21 MR. KOOKESH: Yes.
22
23 MR. KITKA: Bert Adams.
24
25 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Yes.
26
27 MR. KITKA: Harvey Kitka votes yes.
28 Michael Douville.
29
30 MR. DOUVILLE: Yes.
31
32 MR. KITKA: Patricia Phillips.
33
34 MS. PHILLIPS: Yes.
35
36 MR. KITKA: Richard Stokes.
37
38 MR. STOKES: Yes.
39
40 MR. KITKA: Mr. Chair, the motion
41 passed unanimously.
42
43 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you, Mr. Kitka.
44 Let's move on to item number G, Unit 4 deer management.
45 This one here, you know, there has been a lot of
46 concerns about deer management in Unit 4 and I'd like
47 to be able to fully satisfy the subsistence users in
48 this area and I think Floyd will be able to help us to
49 address that a little bit better. I guess he suggested
50 there be a system whereby it be divided into units.

1 Mr. Barten, I don't know if you'd have any suggestions.
2 I'd like to be able to particularly come forth with a
3 good proposal for this particular area.

4
5 Did we do a motion yet? We need a
6 motion to accept. Donald, go ahead.

7
8 MR. HERNANDEZ: Mr. Chairman. I guess
9 I need to hear a proposal suggested by somebody. I
10 don't have one.

11
12 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Mr. Larson, go ahead.

13
14 MR. LARSON: Mr. Chair. This agenda
15 item was included on your agenda not because there is a
16 proposal or special action request, but it was included
17 because there was a special action request last year.
18 I did not draft a suggested language for either special
19 actions or proposals because it wasn't clear to me that
20 we needed one. The agenda item is here because there
21 was a special action last year and the year before.

22
23 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Doggone it! I must
24 owe that thing a lot of money now. With the principles
25 and guidelines for recommendations for subsistence
26 management and wildlife, I think we can use this as a
27 guide. I know Floyd has some really deep concerns
28 about management of Unit 4, so I want to be able to
29 come out of this with something that will satisfy the
30 subsistence users. I'd like to have Mr. Barten talk a
31 little more about this and then we can go from there.

32
33 MR. BARTEN: Mr. Chair. Members of the
34 Council. I guess I'm not exactly sure where this is
35 going other than I assume we're going to focus on the
36 special actions that took place the last couple years
37 with the doe closures and the scale of that. Last year
38 it was limited to northeast Chichagof. The year before
39 it was a little wider spread.

40
41 Kind of in a nutshell, the reason we
42 pursued that action and worked with the Forest Service
43 and ended up with a Federal closure in some cases as
44 well was because of the severe winters of '06-'07 and
45 then followed up last year by not as severe a winter
46 but another winter that really had us concerned about
47 the long-term effects of harvesting productive does and
48 some of those watersheds or some of those areas when we
49 felt to err on the side of caution and try to preserve
50 some of those productive females for the long-term good

1 rather than a short-term gain. That's kind of where we
2 approached that from.

3

4 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you, Mr. Barten.
5 I think Mr. Kookesh's concern when we were going
6 through that process is that in Unit 4 those situations
7 might not apply in other sections of that unit. I
8 think what he's really looking for is a process on how
9 we can address those issues without affecting the whole
10 area.

11

12 Mr. Kookesh.

13

14 MR. KOOKESH: Mr. Chairman. I've had
15 all morning to practice. Mr. Chairman, under G, I
16 believe G should be Unit 4 deer management for 2009. I
17 really believe that we need to talk about a cooperative
18 effort here where we get everybody in a coordinated,
19 integrated -- there's all kinds of terminology. But
20 the one thing that I really want us to do, because of
21 what's in front of us, I see this season because of the
22 record snowfalls we've been having that we do have a
23 conservation problem. It was evident when the State
24 first requested the closure.

25

26 So what I'd like to see us do is start
27 focusing, and I'm hoping Mr. See and Mr. Kitka and Ms.
28 Phillips will help in getting this right, but the one
29 thing that I noted, as I mentioned earlier, that we
30 need to talk about breaking ourselves into smaller
31 units so we can have a better control over maybe the
32 local management of our systems. What's good for one
33 may not be good for the other. We need to fix that so
34 it doesn't happen.

35

36 Then one of the things I was talking
37 about, if we do have a conservation concern, to start
38 asking for limits. Also some season adjustments if
39 there is a concern. I don't want us to go the way I
40 view the fishery in Sitka is going. I fear for that
41 one.

42

43 The other question, I guess, was the
44 local in-season management authority. Our MOU says we
45 should cooperate between both of us on all public
46 lands, is probably the terminology. Maybe I'll stop
47 for one second.

48

49 (Pause)

50

1 MR. KOOKESH: Mr. Chairman. When I
2 reviewed the memorandum of understanding we have
3 between the State and Federal government and I found
4 out what the purpose of it is, it's for coordinated
5 inter-agency management for subsistence on Federal
6 lands. I thought this should have been the foundation
7 for which we should have been building upon this
8 morning along with that document we had. I'm just
9 trying to build this relationship so we can work
10 together. I don't want us fighting over a dead deer
11 that has no meat on it in the end.

12
13 You can read on Page 25 of the MOU it
14 talks about in-season fisheries and to recognize in-
15 season fisheries and wildlife management. This MOU
16 certainly speaks to what needs to be done and we really
17 need to take it to that level. That's where I'd like
18 to see us take this. I don't know what kind of
19 proposal we'd ask for. I'm not the paid Staff that
20 knows this stuff inside and out. You have to tell me
21 if we're asking for some in-season changes and breaking
22 out the units so that we can have better control over
23 what's around us.

24
25 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay. Neil, can you
26 respond to that.

27
28 MR. BARTEN: Yeah. Members of the
29 Council. I think we're getting kind of to where you
30 hope we get to, Member Kookesh. I think a large part
31 is in-season management and, as we talked, having
32 designated people who can make in-season management
33 decisions. For instance, you know, two years ago the
34 doe season was closed in a broad area and I know
35 especially from Angoon some people were like we didn't
36 need this doe closure, the rug got pulled out from
37 under us and here we sit, and you guys were trying to
38 address a problem in northeast Chichagof and you
39 included other parts of Unit 4 that didn't make a lot
40 of sense.

41
42 Last year we narrowed the scope and
43 again working with the Forest Service to do that. Only
44 northeast Chichagof was closed because that's the area
45 that we see with the road system as well as the
46 opportunity on the road system to spend a lot of time
47 driving around. Phil Mooney spent a ton of time there,
48 several weeks of time, doing transects and hiking
49 around, trying to confirm or not confirm whether or not
50 the deer numbers were as low as we thought they were.

1 He certainly found that.

2

3 Again, he had a meeting with the
4 community there. So they did close northeast Chichagof
5 kind of in and of itself because that's where we
6 considered the area of biggest concern. It didn't go
7 more widespread because some of the same concerns on
8 northeast Chichagof aren't realized in other places,
9 the access and the habitat fragmentation, which has led
10 to a large drop in deer numbers, much more so than
11 other areas.

12

13 I think we can address smaller areas
14 with the setup we have right now and with the
15 designated authority on the Federal side to kind of
16 work together to close areas like that if we see fit.
17 I think in the short term we can address those issues.
18 Now whether or not we want to in a longer term go to
19 our respective boards and ask for changes in seasons
20 and bag limits, that's something to consider too. I
21 think those are issues we can discuss. I think we do
22 have the latitude right now to be kind of reactive and
23 focus on areas of concern between both agencies and we
24 can get it done to some degree pretty well right now.
25 I think so.

26

27 Again, we may decide on northeast
28 Chichagof in a year that, boy, this population is just
29 not coming back. In a case like that, I think we get
30 together and discuss whether or not we want to approach
31 it with a long-term solution, which might be reductions
32 in seasons and bag limits.

33

34 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you, Floyd.
35 Donald, go ahead.

36

37 MR. HERNANDEZ: Thank you, Mr.
38 Chairman. I think I would agree with what Mr. Barten
39 said. It's a question we spent quite a bit of time
40 discussing in the Unit 2 subcommittee. In the end, we
41 decided not to break the area up into sub-units.
42 Instead we did what Mr. Barten has said. If there is
43 an area that can be addressed specifically within that
44 unit, we can do that without actually taking a formal
45 step of dividing it into sub-units and dealing with
46 that as situations change from year to year. I think
47 it's worked fairly well and I think it can work in Unit
48 4 also. That would be my recommendation.

49

50 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Floyd, go ahead.

1 MR. KOOKESH: Mr. Chairman. The one
2 thing that probably needs to be addressed that Mr.
3 Douville had asked for earlier was the impact to the
4 non-Federally-qualified. In talking about this issue
5 -- for example, in Sitka, I talked about Angoon being
6 on a voluntary closure for sockeyes, with the State not
7 coming in and helping us, with no one. I don't want to
8 get to the point where we, in Angoon, voluntarily
9 reduce our own bag limits but yet we can still have
10 non-Federally-qualifieds coming in and totally taking
11 away from that. We need to get to the point where we
12 address the non-Federally-qualified so that we don't
13 lose. We do need to do something. I do know from
14 living in Angoon and hunting in Angoon that we do have
15 a problem out there.

16
17 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay. If you look at
18 Unit 4, could there be a way to identify where the real
19 problems are and address them in a manner I think Floyd
20 is kind of looking for. If you're going to have to
21 address a situation where you have to close it, you can
22 say, you know, Baranof Island, Unit 4, but keep the
23 rest of the areas open. Just as an example.

24
25 MR. BARTEN: Members of the Council.
26 Again, I think we showed this year that we can do that
27 by focusing just on northeast Chichagof. I think the
28 key is to work with both the Federal agencies and our
29 agency to try to make sure we're on the same page.
30 Number one, we look at the health of the stock first
31 and foremost. I think on Chichagof we did that. It's
32 a conservation concern that we're all in this together
33 and it doesn't matter who takes does, it's still not a
34 good idea. I think it worked well where we all agreed
35 close a doe season and build for the future, not take
36 out of the basket right now, which potentially might
37 keep us at low levels for a long period of time. I
38 think we kind of have that structure in place right
39 now.

40
41 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: The guidelines we
42 adopted this morning is a real good step in that
43 direction, towards trying to address those issues. All
44 we need to do now is implement this into, for instance,
45 Unit 4 and work with the land managers, the State and,
46 of course, it goes through the Council as well, in that
47 manner.

48
49 MR. BARTEN: Yeah, Members of the
50 Council. If I may add one more thing. You know, this

1 fall and through July, August, September, even on into
2 early January, Phil Mooney, out of the Sitka area
3 office who is responsible for managing wildlife in Unit
4 4, he was keeping in touch with the District Rangers
5 through emails because I was part of that traffic. I
6 think there was a pretty good network of interchange of
7 information between the State as well as the decision-
8 makers or the people who could work from the Federal
9 side. I think that was a good kind of structure to
10 follow.

11

MS. PHILLIPS: Mr. Chair.

12

CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Go ahead, Patty.

13

MS. PHILLIPS: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

14 What percentage of the deer harvest is by non-
15 Federally-qualified from the NECCUA?

16

MR. BARTEN: Members of the Council. I
17 don't know that off the top of my head. I really don't
18 know. We certainly could get that data, but I don't
19 have it with me at the moment.

20

CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Go ahead, Patty.

21

MS. PHILLIPS: Mr. Chair. I would like
22 to know the percentage of harvest by non-Federally-
23 qualified hunters by month preferably. Thank you.

24

CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Mr. Barten is taking
25 some notes. Anyone else.

26

(No comments)

27

CHAIRMAN ADAMS: So it looks like we
28 have mechanisms in place to answer all of the concerns.
29 Mr. Kookesh, do you think we covered that.

30

MR. KOOKESH: (Nods affirmatively)

31

CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Great. Donald, go

32 ahead.

33

MR. HERNANDEZ: I was going to ask a
34 question. I think Patty was kind of going there
35 herself. My question was, do the Council members feel
36 that we've adequately addressed the question of whether
37 or not the subsistence priority is being met for Unit 4
38 hunters.

39

1 MS. PHILLIPS: Mr. Chair.

2

3 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Go ahead, Patty.

4

5 MS. PHILLIPS: Thank you for asking
6 that question and it is a very good question. It's one
7 that I would like to reiterate. Are subsistence needs
8 being met in the community of Hoonah. Should there
9 perhaps be a reduction in season and bag limits for
10 non-Federally-qualified hunters. I heard the biologist
11 himself say that there is a conservation concern in
12 that area. Are we just going to allow in-season
13 management to be the management model or are we going
14 to set a plan in place like we did in Unit 2?

15

16 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: That point is well
17 taken, Patty. How would we go about duplicating
18 something similar to Unit 2? Donald, you've been
19 through that process. Go ahead.

20

21 MR. HERNANDEZ: Yes, Mr. Chairman. I
22 mean that's what we did in Unit 2, obviously. The
23 situation there I think was a situation that was
24 essentially a permanent situation. We've been dealing
25 with that for a long period of time, that conflict
26 between subsistence and non-subsistence users. I guess
27 everyone's hope here in Unit 4 that situation is not
28 really existed in the past. It's been brought out by
29 these hard winters.

30

31 If our hope is that everything is going
32 to get better in the next few years, then it's probably
33 not necessary to do like we did in Unit 4 where we
34 instituted new regulations that clearly gave a priority
35 to the subsistence users and it's in place until we
36 make another proposal to change it, which probably
37 won't be for a very long time.

38

39 If that's the situation we think we're
40 looking at, that this is temporary and in-season
41 actions can address that adequately, the people with
42 the in-season management authority I guess I heard this
43 morning they do have the authority to institute more
44 restrictive closures on non-subsistence users. I guess
45 if we're satisfied with that and feel that this is
46 temporary, I'd be comfortable with it. So I guess
47 that's the big question.

48

49 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Does that answer your
50 question a little bit Patty in regard to non-

1 subsistence users?

2

3 MS. PHILLIPS: Mr. Chair. It didn't
4 answer my question. It raised more questions. If we
5 have more restrictive closures, those are blanket
6 restrictive closures and are reducing the subsistence
7 opportunity for those of Hoonah and that's where I have
8 a problem. Specifically to the NECCUA. The reason I'd
9 like to know what percentage of non-Federally-
10 qualified. But that harvest is by month. Then perhaps
11 we could submit a proposal that closes the NECCUA to
12 non-Federally-qualified hunters at a specific month,
13 like December 1 to December 30 or something like that.

14

15 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Mr. See.

16

17 MR. SEE: Mr. Chairman. Patty's last
18 statement there is what was being kicked around in
19 Hoonah when I left because we more or less wanted to
20 stay fluid with the emergency closure type thing
21 because once you get it cast in stone it's in stone.
22 We were going to submit that as a proposal for this
23 next year.

24

25 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Then we'll look
26 forward to that proposal, Mr. See. Mr. Kitka.

27

28 MR. KITKA: Neil, a question for you.
29 I heard a comment earlier today in some places where
30 people who are rural in nature will go get permits from
31 other people to hunt their deer for them.

32

33 MR. LARSON: Proxy.

34

35 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Proxy.

36

37 MR. KITKA: Proxy hunting. How many
38 does the State allow each person to carry as proxies?

39

40 MR. BARTEN: Members of the Council.
41 Yeah, under the State system it's called a proxy.
42 Under the Federal it's a designated hunter. If you're
43 hunting under a proxy for the State, you can only hunt
44 for one person at a time. So I could go out and hunt
45 for another person and get whatever the bag limit is,
46 say four deer, and then come back and I could go out
47 for another person, but I need another permit. Under
48 the Federal designated hunter system, I think you can
49 hunt for -- it might be any number of Federally-
50 qualified people at a time.

1 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Follow up, Harvey.
2
3 MR. KITKA: Does that mean that one
4 person can go out and if he had the means available to
5 get proxy permits from 15 people he can get 15 deer in
6 a day?
7
8 MR. BARTEN: Yeah, Members of the
9 Council. Again, under the proxy, you can only hunt for
10 one person at a time. One thing I neglected to tell
11 you that Rich just whispered in my ear, under the State
12 proxy you can only hunt for someone who is over a
13 certain age. I think it's 60 years old they have to be
14 or legally blind or 70 percent physically disabled.
15 Obviously we want people hunting for people who might
16 need help getting animals. You have to deliver it to
17 the person within 30 days and then you could go out and
18 get another proxy for someone else who needed the meet.
19
20 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you. Anyone
21 else. Patty.
22
23 MS. PHILLIPS: Mr. Chair. I move to
24 submit a Federal subsistence wildlife proposal harvest
25 limit Unit 4, Northeast Chichagof Controlled Use Area,
26 Federal public lands on the Northeast Chichagof
27 Controlled Use Area are closed to the taking of female
28 deer from December 1st to January 31st.
29
30 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you, Patty. Do
31 I hear a second.
32
33 MR. DOUVILLE: Second.
34
35 MR. BANGS: Second.
36
37 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: I'll go with Mr. Bangs
38 over there. Mr. Kookesh.
39
40 MR. KOOKESH: Yeah, this is getting
41 back to what I'm speaking of in Unit 4. If we're going
42 to do something like this and that's what I'm asking
43 for and this kind of addresses it, but what I'm asking
44 for is can we just do like in the big picture for all
45 of Unit 4 instead of just focusing on NECCUA. It
46 should be all of Unit 4 to non-Federally-qualified.
47 That's what I'm looking for. I'm looking for lower
48 limits, seasons. If we could just keep this to the
49 season instead of just focusing on NECCUA. That's what
50 I want to see come out of this. I don't want to just

1 walk in and say we've got a proposal for NECCUA. I
2 want it for all Admiralty, all of Baranof, all of
3 Chichagof. I want it to address those areas.

4
5 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Neil, do you have a
6 response to that and then Patty.

7
8 MR. BARTEN: Members of the Council.
9 Yeah, one thing I do want to bring up. I have some
10 data that Susan Oehlers handed to me a little bit ago
11 just to give you some concept of what's going on in
12 northeast Chichagof. This is for the 2003-2004 season,
13 52 percent of the successful hunters on northeast Chich
14 were Federally qualified. Again, that's just one year
15 and it's not broken down by month.

16
17 To that I'd like to add, you know, I've
18 been in southeast Alaska just 11 years, but up until
19 these last two really hard winters a lot of hunters
20 from the Juneau area, Haines, Gustavus, all over the
21 place actually, were able to go out and hunt
22 successfully throughout Unit 4 and it's only because of
23 the hard winters I think that the deer numbers really
24 took a nose dive in some places and I think with
25 especially in Unit 4 where we don't have wolves the
26 deer recruitment can be -- their reproductive potential
27 is really high and they can really come back from low
28 numbers fairly quickly because of that.

29
30 I think it's important to remember that
31 even -- you know, barring these hard winters, I think a
32 lot of places in Seymour Canal and other parts of Unit
33 4 aren't really adversely impacted by people hunting
34 does all the way from August through December because
35 in a lot of cases we thought we were pretty close to
36 the carrying capacity of the habitat up until these
37 hard winters to where we were carrying a lot of deer
38 and we were worried about what those deer might do to
39 the habitat if we got a hard winter and we did and we
40 lost a lot of deer.

41
42 So I think you might want to consider
43 that too where if you did close all these areas to doe
44 hunting after a certain period of time, you know, we
45 really didn't have a problem in most areas until this
46 hard winter hit.

47
48 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: I've got Patty and
49 then Mike.

50

1 MS. PHILLIPS: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
2 Thank you, Mr. Barten. I want to reiterate what Mr.
3 Barten said. The conservation concern is isolated to
4 this NECCUA area. There is hard winters and it is
5 stressing deer population, but in my area we don't have
6 the heavy timber harvest, so we still have strong
7 populations of deer. I don't want to expand closing
8 the NECCUA to other areas of Unit 4. I want it just
9 strictly to NECCUA because of what I'm hearing from the
10 biologists. There is a conservation concern. Hoonah's
11 subsistence needs are not being met.

12
13 Thank you.

14
15 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you, Patty. Mr.
16 Bangs.

17
18 MR. BANGS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I
19 totally agree with Patty. I think if subsistence needs
20 are being met in the other communities, there's no
21 reason to restrict non-Federally-qualified. Thank you.

22
23 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you, Mike.
24 Mike, the other Mike.

25
26 MR. SEE: I totally agree with Patty,
27 too. If it gets to a point where the deer rebound
28 enough where they become a problem again, we can go
29 through the same process and change it. Right now this
30 is a fix. If it gets to be not a problem, we can unfix
31 it.

32
33 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you, Mr. See.
34 Floyd.

35
36 MR. KOOKESH: That's actually why I'm
37 sitting here is because the community of Angoon feels
38 they have a conservation concern and I'm trying to
39 address it. Thank you.

40
41 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Any more comments,
42 questions. What's the wish of the Council on this
43 motion. Thank you, Mr. Barten. Appreciate it.
44 Donald.

45
46 MR. HERNANDEZ: While we're caucusing
47 over there in the corner, we do have a motion on the
48 floor by Patty to submit this proposal for Northeast
49 Chichagof Controlled Use Area and I would be inclined
50 to vote, yes, the proposal should be submitted, go

1 through the analysis and let's take a close look at
2 this and consider it. That would be my recommendation.

3

4 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: That's exactly what I
5 heard the caucus was discussing over here. What's the
6 wish of the Council.

7

8 MR. HERNANDEZ: Question.

9

10 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: The question has been
11 called for. Roll call, Mr. Kitka, please. Before we
12 do the voting, do you have something, Mr. Larson.

13

14 MR. LARSON: I do. I was looking at
15 the regulatory language and what I believe would
16 implement Patty's intent but would be correct language.
17 If I may restate your proposal. It would say six deer;
18 however, female deer may be taken only from September
19 15th and we scratch January 31st and we include
20 November 30th and that is for the NECCUA area only.

21

22 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Let's go ahead and
23 take an at east here while they figure this out.

24

25 (Off record)

26

27 (On record)

28

29 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay. It looks like
30 we've got some language developed here for this
31 particular issue. How is it going to affect the motion
32 that's already on the floor? Is it going to be a new
33 one?

34

35 MR. LARSON: Yeah. A clarification.

36

37 MS. PHILLIPS: Mr. Chair. May I remove
38 my previous motion and make another motion?

39

40 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: At the concurrence of
41 the second. Is that okay?

42

43 MR. BANGS: I'll withdraw my second.

44

45 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you. So done.
46 So a new motion is in order.

47

48 MS. PHILLIPS: Mr. Chair.

49

50 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Go ahead, Patty.

1 MS. PHILLIPS: I move to submit a
2 Federal subsistence wildlife proposal harvest limit,
3 Federal public lands on the NECCUA, Northeast Chichagof
4 Controlled Use Area, are closed to the taking of female
5 deer from December 1 to January 30 except by Federally-
6 qualified subsistence users.
7
8 MR. BANGS: Second.
9
10 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you, Patty.
11 Seconded. Any further discussion.
12
13 MR. DOUVILLE: Question.
14
15 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: The question has been
16 called for. Mr. Kitka, roll call, please.
17
18 MR. KITKA: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
19 Michael Bangs.
20
21 MR. BANGS: Yes.
22
23 MR. KITKA: Merle Hawkins.
24
25 MS. HAWKINS: Yes.
26
27 MR. KITKA: Mike See.
28
29 MR. SEE: Yes.
30
31 MR. KITKA: Donald Hernandez.
32
33 MR. HERNANDEZ: Yes.
34
35 MR. KITKA: Floyd Kookesh.
36
37 MR. KOOKESH: Yes.
38
39 MR. KITKA: Bert Adams.
40
41 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Yes.
42
43 MR. KITKA: Harvey Kitka votes yes.
44 Michael Douville.
45
46 MR. DOUVILLE: Yes.
47
48 MR. KITKA: Patricia Phillips.
49
50 MS. PHILLIPS: Yes.

1 MR. KITKA: Richard Stokes.
2
3 MR. STOKES: Yes.
4
5 MR. KITKA: Mr. Chair, the motion
6 passes unanimously.
7
8 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you, Mr. Kitka.
9
10 MR. KOOKESH: Mr. Chairman.
11
12 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Floyd, go ahead.
13
14 MR. KOOKESH: Mr. Chairman. We're
15 working on another proposal for Unit 4 and we'd like to
16 bring it up later on under M, other items as necessary.
17
18 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you, Mr.
19 Kookesh. We will do that. Number H then, moose
20 harvest limit reduction in Yakutat. Susan, are you
21 going to handle that one?
22
23 MS. OEHLERS: Good afternoon, Mr.
24 Chair. Council members. Did you want me to do an
25 overview?
26
27 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Let's see. This was
28 that special action that was taken. Go ahead.
29
30 MS. OEHLERS: Okay. I believe what we
31 wanted to discuss was to put in a proposal to delegate
32 authority. This would be a special action request for
33 this year to delegate authority to the District Ranger
34 out of Yakutat to basically set the harvest limits for
35 moose harvest in Unit 5A. He currently has the
36 authority to close the season when the quota has been
37 reached, but he does not have the authority to set the
38 quota. So in the regs there's specific numbers, which
39 is 60 for the entire unit, and that the season would
40 close when 30 moose have been taken west of the
41 Dangerous.
42
43 In consultation and in line with the
44 State, we did want to reduce the quota last year to 20,
45 so we went through the Federal Subsistence Board to do
46 that. It may be such that we would want to go with
47 similar numbers this year, maybe 20 or 25, so what we
48 would like to do is be able to give authority to the
49 District Ranger to change that quota if need be.
50

1 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay. So you're
2 asking for a special action to authorize the District
3 Ranger to change quota when he feels it's necessary.
4 Kind of give us a background if you would on what
5 happened last year with reduction of the bull moose and
6 the cow ratio.

7
8 MS. OEHLERS: Certainly, Mr. Chair. As
9 we talked about a little bit briefly before, we've been
10 concerned for a couple years about bull/cow ratio in
11 the 5A area. We have sort of a geographical dividing
12 line through the Yakutat Forelands, which is the
13 Dangerous River, so there's a total of 60 moose that
14 can be taken, but we close the season when 30 have been
15 taken west of the Dangerous River. So between the
16 Dangerous River and the town of Yakutat is where most
17 of the harvest takes place and where most of the
18 subsistence harvest takes place primarily because of
19 easier access. The other side of the Dangerous is a
20 little harder to get to, mostly fly in, and that's
21 where we get a little more of the non-Federal harvest.

22
23 One of the reasons for a lower bull/cow
24 ratio on the western Forelands may be because we
25 actually do get a higher harvest there. We generally
26 do reach 30 or close to on that side, whereas on the
27 other side of the Dangerous is usually quite a bit
28 lower in the 10 to 20 range.

29
30 Just to give you a couple numbers for
31 the bull/cow ratio November 2005 we estimated 20/100
32 and that was on the eastern Forelands, the east side of
33 the Dangerous. The following year November of 2006 on
34 the western Forelands we had 10/100. In 2007, where we
35 did both areas at the same time, there was 11/100 on
36 the western side and 18/100 on the eastern.

37
38 Some of these numbers may be a little
39 low estimates. We do have problems in Yakutat with low
40 visibility before we get the snow and so it's difficult
41 to get out before the bulls start dropping their
42 antlers, but if you go up without snow it's really
43 difficult to get any kind of count. Nevertheless,
44 we're still seeing much lower numbers on the western
45 side of the Dangerous.

46
47 So, in consultation with the State
48 again, the hunt is managed under a State/Federal joint
49 permit. We did decide this year to reduce the quota to
50 20 bulls west of the Dangerous. So the whole limit was

1 changed from 60 to 50 with a closure when we reach 20
2 on the western side of the Dangerous.

3

4 The proposal that we're asking for is
5 to give authority to the in-season manager to be able
6 to set the harvest quota and that would be in
7 consultation with the State and with the Chair of the
8 RAC.

9

10 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Any comments or
11 questions from the Council. We did have a special
12 action last season. Essentially what you're doing is
13 asking the same thing or is it different?

14

15 MS. OEHLERS: Let me try and clarify.
16 Last year, in order to change that quota, we, as the
17 Forest Service, put in a special action request and
18 that went through the Board and they authorized that
19 quota reduction. What we're asking now for this season
20 would just be to give authority to the District Ranger
21 to set that quota. We did some surveys this fall.
22 We'll continue to monitor the bull/cow ratio, but we'd
23 like to have some flexibility to provide that in-season
24 management authority to the District Ranger.

25

26 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Right after the moose
27 season last year I approached you and some other people
28 in the community talked extensively to Mr. Barten on
29 the telephone of a possibility of opening up a cow
30 season there for a short time. The information that I
31 got from Neil was all of Yakutat, Unit 5A, has a lot of
32 moose there and the bull/cow ratio was a real big
33 concern, so that's the reason that special action came
34 through. If there is a lot of moose in the area and if
35 the community's subsistence needs are not being met, I
36 thought it would be a good idea if we could do a
37 special action to open up at least for five cow moose
38 for a short time, particularly for subsistence hunters.
39 We talked about maybe doing that last year, but after
40 discussion with you and Neil and some other people we
41 decided to not pursue it. I think it would be a real
42 good idea to put that back on the table for this year
43 if need be.

44

45 I'd like to get particularly Neil's
46 feedback on that because they were supposed to do some
47 more surveys this winter and I'm kind of curious if
48 that took place and if there's any difference in the
49 bull/cow ratio.

50

1 Go ahead, Neil.

2

3 MR. BARTEN: Mr. Chair. Members of the
4 Council. So last fall Susan was kind enough to be
5 available. We had Board of Game meetings in Juneau and
6 we ended up getting snow in Yakutat and I couldn't make
7 it up there, so Susan actually did several flights on
8 the west side to do comp surveys. The first survey she
9 did she counted 94 animals and actually saw a good
10 number of bulls. She saw 23 bulls. So the ratio for
11 that survey was close to 30-some bulls per 100 cows.
12 About three weeks later she did a second survey where
13 her sample size was a lot higher and ended up with, I
14 think, 14 bulls per 100 cows. So I think we saw some
15 immediate effects of limiting the harvest last year.

16

17 My sense, going into this year, if you
18 go back the last five or six years, I think the average
19 take on the west side of the Dangerous has been about
20 26 bulls or so in that area. Last year we limited the
21 harvest to 20 and I think we could probably go up to 25
22 bulls and allow more opportunity and still accomplish
23 our objective with another year or two of a somewhat
24 limited harvest.

25

26 I think that would be a much better
27 route to take than to consider an antlerless or a cow
28 hunt. You and I talked about that because I think the
29 Yakutat area is a pretty much predator limited system.
30 Those cows out there, even if you take five, that might
31 be six or eight calves that those five would have had,
32 even if all of them get eaten by bears, they're going
33 to have calves the next year, so there's a lot of
34 reproductive potential with every cow out there over
35 the course of its lifetime.

36

37 I don't see this as a long-term deal
38 where we're going to be limiting bull harvest for many,
39 many years to come, but I think we've already
40 accomplished something by one year of limited harvest
41 and I think next year we would be okay with going up to
42 25 and just keeping it right at that and then reassess
43 the year after that and just see where we are.

44

45 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Susan, go ahead.

46

47 MS. OEHLERS: Thank you. I'm in
48 agreement with Neil. That would be a good conservative
49 approach. We could allow some additional subsistence
50 harvest opportunities and still work on rebuilding that

1 bull/cow ratio.
2
3 I just wanted to add the clarification.
4 What we would be asking for would be a special action
5 so that this would be in effect this year for 2009, but
6 then we would also want a proposal through the next
7 cycle to make it a permanent change, but we would want
8 this to be in effect this year as well.
9
10 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Donald.
11
12 MR. HERNANDEZ: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
13 I don't believe we have a motion on this yet.
14
15 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: You're right, we
16 don't. I'd like to entertain a motion at this point.
17 Go ahead.
18
19 MR. HERNANDEZ: I'm prepared to make a
20 motion that the Council designate the district ranger
21 in Yakutat to set the quota for west of the Dangerous
22 River for bull moose.
23
24 MR. KITKA: I'll second it.
25
26 MR. STOKES: Second.
27
28 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: I'll take Mr. Stokes,
29 Harvey. Does that cover your concern? Does that
30 motion have all the ingredients you need in it?
31
32 MS. OEHLERS: Yes. I think we would
33 want to include the whole area 5A, which would include
34 that portion west of the Dangerous River.
35
36 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Further discussion
37 from the Council.
38
39 MR. BANGS: Question.
40
41 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: The question has been
42 called. Mr. Kitka, roll call.
43
44 MR. KITKA: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
45 Michael Bangs.
46
47 MR. BANGS: Yes.
48
49 MR. KITKA: Merle Hawkins.
50

1 MS. HAWKINS: Yes.
2
3 MR. KITKA: Mike See.
4
5 MR. SEE: Yes.
6
7 MR. KITKA: Donald Hernandez.
8
9 MR. HERNANDEZ: Yes.
10
11 MR. KITKA: Floyd Kookesh.
12
13 MR. KOOKESH: Yes.
14
15 MR. KITKA: Bert Adams.
16
17 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Yes.
18
19 MR. KITKA: Harvey Kitka votes yes.
20 Michael Douville.
21
22 MR. DOUVILLE: Yes.
23
24 MR. KITKA: Patricia Phillips.
25
26 MS. PHILLIPS: Yes.
27
28 MR. KITKA: Richard Stokes.
29
30 MR. STOKES: Yes.
31
32 MR. KITKA: Mr. Chair, the motion
33 passed unanimously.
34
35 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you, Mr. Kitka.
36 Are you going to address the goat management issue,
37 too? Just give us an idea what this is all about and
38 then if there's a motion that needs to be made we can
39 entertain that and then discuss it, okay.
40
41 MS. OEHLERS: Okay. As we discussed
42 earlier, did you want to talk about the possibility of
43 looking at restricting the moose harvest in Yakutat to
44 a number per family.
45
46 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: While we're on the
47 subject of moose, why don't we do that, Susan. It's
48 kind of a new idea and Mayor Stone from Yakutat
49 requested this through her and so she's going to bring
50 it before us at this point.

1 Mr. Bangs, go ahead.
2
3 MR. BANGS: Mr. Chair. Would it be the
4 time to draft a proposal for the next cycle or do we
5 have time later? She requested that we put in a
6 proposal for the next cycle and I just wondered if now
7 is the time we could just get that out of the way.
8
9 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Yeah, I guess that's
10 possible. Mr. Larson.
11
12 MR. LARSON: Mr. Chairman. If it is
13 the Council's intent to submit a proposal that is
14 similarly worded and has the same effect as the special
15 action that you just adopted, I could move that forward
16 as Council intent and produce a similarly worded
17 proposal, but I would need something in the affirmative
18 from the Council to do that.
19
20 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay. I think that
21 would require a motion for us to allow him to move
22 forward with that. Mr. Bangs.
23
24 MR. BANGS: I make a motion to draft a
25 proposal to address the management of the moose in 5A.
26
27 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you. Do I hear
28 a second.
29
30 MR. HERNANDEZ: Second.
31
32 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Donald. Is there
33 discussion.
34
35 MS. PHILLIPS: Mr. Chair.
36
37 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Yes, ma'am.
38
39 MS. PHILLIPS: Thank you. The intent
40 is to delegate authority to the Yakutat District Ranger
41 to establish quota in consultation with ADF&G and the
42 RAC to close the season when the quota is filled in
43 that portion west of the Dangerous River and Unit 5A.
44
45 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay, Susan. So
46 that's covered then?
47
48 MR. BANGS: (Nods affirmatively)
49
50 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Then go ahead and

1 address.....
2
3 MR. LARSON: We need to vote.
4
5 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Oh, yeah, we do need
6 to vote. I'm trying to push it real fast. Are we
7 ready for the question.
8
9 MS. PHILLIPS: Yes.
10
11 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Go ahead, Mr. Kitka.
12
13 MR. KITKA: Michael Bangs.
14
15 MR. BANGS: Yes.
16
17 MR. KITKA: Merle Hawkins.
18
19 MS. HAWKINS: Yes.
20
21 MR. KITKA: Mike See.
22
23 MR. SEE: Yes.
24
25 MR. KITKA: Donald Hernandez.
26
27 MR. HERNANDEZ: Yes.
28
29 MR. KITKA: Floyd Kookesh.
30
31 MR. KOOKESH: Yes.
32
33 MR. KITKA: Bert Adams.
34
35 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Yes.
36
37 MR. KITKA: Harvey Kitka votes yes.
38 Michael Douville.
39
40 MR. DOUVILLE: Yes.
41
42 MR. KITKA: Patricia Phillips.
43
44 MS. PHILLIPS: Yes.
45
46 MR. KITKA: Richard Stokes.
47
48 MR. STOKES: Yes.
49
50

1 MR. KITKA: the motion passed
2 unanimously.

3
4 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you, Council and
5 Mr. Kitka. Let's move on to the issue that Mayor Stone
6 talked with you about.

7
8 MS. OEHLERS: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I
9 just wanted to kind of introduce this topic. We had
10 the National Park Service Subsistence Commission met in
11 Yakutat this last fall and I attended -- Mr. Adams here
12 is also on that committee. We did have the Yakutat
13 mayor in the audience participating. He had expressed
14 some concern about moose harvest in Yakutat where
15 there's a couple individuals or families that tend to
16 take a large proportion of the harvest, so we're
17 looking at generally 20 to 30 moose taken by Yakutat
18 residents and one family may take several of those
19 moose every year. So he was interested in possibly
20 putting something through that would limit number of
21 moose per household. I know he's not the only person
22 in the community that has those concerns. I thought
23 that was something I should bring forward to the
24 Council for discussion.

25
26 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you, Susan. To
27 clarify that somewhat, I'm personally familiar with the
28 situation where an individual who has a large family
29 gets a permit for all of his children, goes out and
30 shoots moose for all of them. I think the proposal
31 that Major Stone is bringing our attention to is a real
32 good one. Not only that, but this individual does a
33 lot of designated hunting. There's been situations
34 where he has hung moose in his shed and it's gone bad
35 on him, so we have that situation. When those kinds of
36 things happen, we need to stand up and take notice and
37 I think this is a real good proposal. I would
38 entertain a motion to address that issue. It would be
39 one moose per family.

40
41 MR. SEE: Mr. Chair.

42
43 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Mr. See.

44
45 MR. SEE: I am very unfamiliar with
46 moose. How much meat do you get off one moose?

47
48 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: You get enough. I
49 have a large family, five families in Yakutat, and we
50 survive off of two or three. One moose is enough to

1 take care of one family. They're pretty big animals.
2
3 Donald.
4
5 MR. HERNANDEZ: I'll make a motion that
6 we submit a proposal to limit the moose harvest to one
7 per family in Unit 5A.
8
9 MR. BANGS: I'll second.
10
11 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you. Any
12 further discussion on this issue. Harvey.
13
14 MR. KITKA: Mr. Chairman. I know you
15 said one per family on this motion, but I believe they
16 were talking about one per household, which is
17 different.
18
19 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: And that is the real
20 intent, one per household.
21
22 MS. OEHLERS: I believe that would
23 probably be.....
24
25 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: That would be more
26 accurate.
27
28 MR. HERNANDEZ: Mr. Chairman. I'll
29 amend my proposal to replace the word family with
30 household.
31
32 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: That's a friendly
33 amendment so we'll go ahead and accept it as that.
34 Thank you.
35
36 Discussion. Mr. Hernandez.
37
38 MR. HERNANDEZ: You mentioned something
39 about the designated hunter. I don't know how
40 designated hunter works in Yakutat. Maybe you could
41 explain that to me.
42
43 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Same as the proxy
44 hunter with the State. They get a permit to hunt on
45 behalf of an elder or someone incapable of hunting.
46
47 MR. HERNANDEZ: So unlike the deer
48 hunting here, the designated hunter for moose there is
49 only for an elderly person or disabled?
50

1 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: No, not necessarily.
2 They can go hunt for another person as well. It's been
3 abused. I guess the better word for it would be proxy
4 hunt. No? I see Patty looking at the regs.

5
6 MR. HERNANDEZ: Mr. Chairman. I guess
7 I would want to see a clarification on that. It sounds
8 like essentially we'd be either doing away with the
9 designated hunter or altering it. Maybe we'd still
10 want to leave it open so somebody could designate hunt
11 for an elderly or disabled person.

12
13 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: No, this particular
14 motion or proposal is not to include designated. We're
15 not addressing designated hunters, okay. Just one per
16 household.

17
18 Patty, go ahead.

19
20 MS. PHILLIPS: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
21 The definition of household means that group of people
22 residing in the same residence. The definition of
23 designated hunter means a Federally qualified
24 subsistence hunter who may take all or a portion of
25 another Federally-qualified hunter's harvest limits
26 only under situations approved by the Board.

27
28 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you for that.
29 Did that help you out?

30
31 MR. HERNANDEZ: I guess my question was
32 can somebody be a designated hunter for somebody within
33 their own household presently and would that change
34 that.

35
36 Go ahead.

37
38 MS. OEHLERS: Maureen just brought up
39 the regs, too. Just to clarify, if you're a Federally-
40 qualified subsistence user, you may designate another
41 Federally-qualified subsistence user designated hunter
42 to take deer, moose and caribou on your behalf.
43 Designated hunters may hunt for any number of
44 recipients but have no more than two harvest limits in
45 possession at any one time.

46
47 My understanding is you can be a
48 designated hunter for someone else in your household.
49 I don't think this would necessarily change that, but
50 once you did get a moose, you would not be able to hunt

1 any more for those members in your household. Does that
2 clarify?

3

4 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: It does.

5

6 MR. HERNANDEZ: You could still be a
7 designated hunter for somebody outside of your
8 household.

9

10 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: I don't see any
11 problem with that. Any more discussion.

12

13 MS. PHILLIPS: Question.

14

15 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: The question has been
16 called. Mr. Kitka, roll call.

17

18 MR. KITKA: Michael Bangs.

19

20 MR. BANGS: Yes.

21

22 MR. KITKA: Merle Hawkins.

23

24 MS. HAWKINS: Yes.

25

26 MR. KITKA: Mike See.

27

28 MR. SEE: Yes.

29

30 MR. KITKA: Donald Hernandez.

31

32 MR. HERNANDEZ: Yes.

33

34 MR. KITKA: Floyd Kookesh.

35

36 MR. KOOKESH: (No response)

37

38 MR. KITKA: Bert Adams.

39

40 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Yes.

41

42 MR. KITKA: Harvey Kitka votes yes.

43 Mike Douville.

44

45 MR. DOUVILLE: Yes.

46

47 MR. KITKA: Patricia Phillips.

48

49 MS. PHILLIPS: Yes.

50

1 MR. KITKA: Richard Stokes.

2

3 MR. STOKES: Yes.

4

5 MR. KITKA: Mr. Chair, the motion
6 passes. One absent.

7

8 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you, Mr. Kitka.
9 We'll move on. Goat management in Yakutat. Do you
10 want to just give us a little bit of highlight of what
11 this is all about and then we can get the Council to
12 address it.

13

14 MS. OEHLERS: Certainly. So regarding
15 goat management in Yakutat. This is the Nunatak Bench
16 portion of Unit 5A. This population we started seeing
17 a decline in 2000. As Mr. Chair mentioned earlier,
18 there had been some illegal hunting/guiding in that
19 area, which we think kind of precipitated the decline.
20 Numbers, we're talking 82 goats counted in 2000, 48 in
21 2001. In recent years we've counted anywhere between
22 20 and 40. So maybe only 25 percent of the population
23 we were seeing in 2000. We did go ahead and close the
24 season, both the State and Federal, starting in 2001.
25 The State has removed that area from their registration
26 hunt. As the Forest Service, we do have the authority
27 to set that harvest quota and basically what we've been
28 doing is closing this every year.

29

30 So this proposal is to basically close
31 this season in the regs so that we're not reassessing
32 every year and closing it. We're just not seeing any
33 rebounding of the population. It's likely it's going
34 to take several years, maybe even decades for that
35 population to come back. So we're proposing to just
36 close that area for now.

37

38 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Susan, I don't see a
39 proposal here in front of us, so is this something
40 you're bringing before us right now?

41

42 MS. OEHLERS: I did write up a
43 proposal. Does Mr. Larson have that?

44

45 MR. LARSON: Just special action.

46

47 MS. OEHLERS: So I guess this would
48 probably be similar to what we're looking at for moose.
49 We may want to do a special action this year and a
50 proposal as well. I mean we're looking at this as a

1 long-term closure before we would see any harvestable
2 population in that area.

3

4 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Okay. Patty, go
5 ahead.

6

7 MS. PHILLIPS: Move to submit a special
8 action request to close the Federal subsistence goat
9 hunting season in Unit 5A, that area between the
10 Hubbard Glacier and the west Nunatak Glacier on the
11 north and east sides of the Nunatak Fiord with the
12 intention of submitting this as a Federal wildlife
13 proposal.

14

15 MR. BANGS: Second.

16

17 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you, Mr. Bangs.
18 It's up for discussion.

19

20 (No comments)

21

22 MR. SEE: Call for the question.

23

24 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: The question has been
25 called for. Mr. Kitka, roll call.

26

27 MR. KITKA: Michael Bangs.

28

29 MR. BANGS: Yes.

30

31 MR. KITKA: Merle Hawkins.

32

33 MS. HAWKINS: Yes.

34

35 MR. KITKA: Mike See.

36

37 MR. SEE: Yes.

38

39 MR. KITKA: Donald Hernandez.

40

41 MR. HERNANDEZ: Yes.

42

43 MR. KITKA: Floyd Kookesh.

44

45 MR. KOOKESH: Yes.

46

47 MR. KITKA: Bert Adams.

48

49 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Yes.

50

1 MR. KITKA: Harvey Kitka votes yes.
2 Mike Douville.
3
4 MR. DOUVILLE: Yes.
5
6 MR. KITKA: Patricia Phillips.
7
8 MS. PHILLIPS: Yes.
9
10 MR. KITKA: Richard Stokes.
11
12 MR. STOKES: Yes.
13
14 MR. KITKA: Mr. Chair, the motion
15 passes unanimously.
16
17 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Thank you, Mr. Kitka.
18 Susan.
19
20 MS. OEHLERS: Mr. Chair, if I may, I
21 just had a few more notes on goats in the Yakutat area,
22 if I could just finish up with that topic.
23
24 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Sure. Go ahead.
25
26 MS. OEHLERS: Mr. Barten and I had
27 talked. We just wanted to give the Council some
28 information. I did do some work on the Nunatak goat
29 area just kind of compiling historic information and
30 population data. So if you're interested in some late
31 night reading, you might want to take a copy of that
32 home.
33
34 Also in there I talk about we are
35 noticing some population decline in the area adjacent
36 to Nunatak Bench. So we're not sure what's going on,
37 why that population isn't rebounding, but we're
38 starting to see some decline in the area from Harlequin
39 Lake up to Nunatak. We were formerly seeing as far
40 back as 2001, maybe 125 goats, 125 to 150 through 2006.
41 In the last couple years we've been seeing between 50
42 and 60. So we're not sure what's going on, but it
43 seems like there's a decline going on in the areas
44 adjacent to that Nunatak Fiord now. The State did
45 actually close that season last year. Subsistence
46 harvest in that area is very low. We didn't feel at
47 the time we needed to pursue a closure, but it is
48 something that may become more of an issue.
49
50 I know the State is interested in doing

1 some surveys probably before the season opens this
2 year, so there may be some issues coming up for this
3 season, so I just wanted to give everyone a heads up on
4 that.

5
6 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: So something that
7 might come down the pike in the future. Thank you,
8 Susan, for that. I think it was you that I was talking
9 about why there wasn't any goat on the other side of
10 Russell Fiord. Was that you?

11
12 MS. OEHLERS: I think we've discussed
13 that, yes.

14
15 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: We talked about it and
16 we were wondering why. We thought maybe habitat wasn't
17 appropriate or something like that and looking at the
18 possibility of transplanting some of those over there.
19 There's nothing on that side. All the goats are over
20 on the Nunatak Bench. So it might be food for thought.

21
22 MS. OEHLERS: If I may, Mr. Chair. In
23 doing some research for the Nunatak area and some of my
24 local knowledge interviews, there were a couple
25 individuals that said they had seen a handful of goats
26 there over the years. So we're not really sure why
27 they're not there.

28
29 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: All right. Thank you.

30
31 MS. OEHLERS: Thank you.

32
33 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Mr. Bangs, go ahead.

34
35 MR. BANGS: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
36 Before I forget, I think we skipped over a special
37 action on the 1B and Unit 3 moose antler change. We
38 put in a proposal, but in order for it to be enacted
39 this year we need to adopt this special action
40 proposal.

41
42 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: I think that's next.
43 You know what, I think we can finish this up tomorrow
44 morning and finish up the agenda as well tomorrow. So
45 why don't we adjourn for the night. I promised some of
46 the Council members we would try to do that so they can
47 look around town and do some shopping. So why don't we
48 start at 8:00 o'clock tomorrow.

49
50 Let's make that 9:00. I think we can

1 do it.

2

3

(Off record)

4

5

(PROCEEDINGS TO BE CONTINUED)

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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 153 through 281 contain a full, true and correct Transcript of the VOLUME II, SOUTHEAST FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING, taken electronically on the 25th 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