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SOUTHEAST ALASKA FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE
REGIONAL COUNCIL MEETING

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VOLUME II

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12

Sitka, Alaska

13

March 18, 2004

14

9:00 o'clock a.m.

15

16

17 COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

18

19 John Littlefield, Chairman

20 Bertrand Adams

21 Michael Bangs

22 Michael Douville

23 Dolly Garza

24 Donald Hernandez

25 Eric Jordan

26 Harvey Kitka

27 Floyd Kookesh

28 Patricia Phillips

29 Mary Rudolph

30 Michael Sofoulis

31 Richard Stokes

32

33 Herman Kitka, Member Emeritus

34

35 Regional Coordinator, Robert Schroeder

36

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1 P R O C E E D I N G S

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3 (Sitka, Alaska - 3/18/2004)

4

5 (On record)

6

7 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Okay, the meeting
8 will come to order please.

9

10 Yesterday we were discussing Proposal 2, 16
11 and 17, but earlier in the meeting we'd decided that at
12 9:00 a.m., we were going to have a special order to take
13 care of Proposal 3 to 15, and if there is no objection from
14 the Council, I would like to defer those until we complete
15 the discussion on 2, 16 and 17.

16

17 Is there any objection from the Council to
18 do that.

19

20 (Council Shakes Heads Negatively)

21

22 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Okay. I'd also like
23 to note for the record that Ms. Patty Phillips is here.
24 She made it in from the weather and we'd like to welcome
25 her and it's good to see you Patty.

26

27 So we were on Staff analysis and
28 presentation, if there's any questions for Federal Staff
29 from the Council.

30

31 (No comments)

32

33 DR. GARZA: Mr. Chairman, so we made it to
34 about Page 61, the effects of the proposal and the
35 preliminary conclusion, and it was my understand that Staff
36 was opposed to these proposals.

37

38 MR. ALUZAS: Mr. Chair. Dr. Garza, that's
39 correct. The preliminary conclusion of Staff was to oppose
40 all three of these proposals.

41

42 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Other Council
43 questions for Staff.

44

45 (No comments)

46

47 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Thank you, sir.
48 ADF&G comments, presentation.

49

50 MS. SEE: Good morning. My name is

00123

1 Marianne See with Fish and Game and I also have with me
2 Doug Larsen, who will provide some comments for you.

3

4 We're going to start by saying that we
5 concur with the points in the Federal Staff analysis that
6 you heard yesterday, we feel that was very well presented
7 and we want to emphasize some of the points from that are
8 also of concern for you to think about this morning.

9

10 Several states have implemented antler
11 restrictions as part of their quality deer management
12 programs. This kind of program is an intensive management
13 technique used in controlled and small environments and
14 it's really set up to accomplish two specific objectives.

15

16 The first is to reduce or maintain deer
17 populations well below the carrying capacity of the range
18 so that food resources are abundant and of high quality.
19 The idea behind this is that well fed does will produce
20 more and larger bucks. The second objectives of those
21 programs is to allow more bucks to reach older ages and
22 thereby produce bigger bodies and antlers. This is
23 accomplished by disallowing the harvest of bucks during
24 their first two or three years where they have only spikes
25 or small forked antlers.

26

27 Now, in most of Southeast Alaska predators,
28 mainly bears and wolves, successfully keep deer populations
29 well below the carrying capacity so this is distinctly
30 different than the kind of program we were just talking
31 about. And it makes the first goal of such programs really
32 inconsequential. Availability of more bucks with larger
33 antlers may be accomplished through antler based harvest
34 restrictions, however, and I stress this, however, given
35 the uncertainties given with mortality factors that are at
36 work here in Southeast and these include weather and
37 predation among others, this approach will more likely
38 result in unnecessary harvest restrictions and reduce
39 numbers of deer available to hunters. This is an important
40 point.

41

42 Furthermore, existing reproductive
43 successive deer in Southeast Alaska demonstrates that does
44 are successfully being bred and therefore numbers of
45 available bucks is not a concern, so, again, this is not
46 something that relates to those intensive management
47 programs that are done elsewhere.

48

49 So if adopted, this change would make
50 Federal regulations more restrictive than the corresponding

00124

1 State regulations and Federally-qualified users could
2 simply hunt under the State regulations in order to be
3 exempt from any antler restrictions.

4

5 Now, there's a couple of other points we
6 want to just get on the record here and Doug Larsen will
7 mention those.

8

9 MR. LARSEN: Thank you. Good morning, Mr.
10 Chairman, and Council Members. For the record my name is
11 Doug Larsen with the Division of Wildlife Conservation,
12 ADF&G.

13

14 I just wanted to add that a couple of
15 observations that perhaps are known to the Council and
16 perhaps not. But I think that it's important to the extent
17 that they're not fully recognized that they be.

18

19 And specifically in Unit 3, that's an area
20 where under Federal regulations hunter may harvest what are
21 termed in the Federal Subsistence Book antlered deer, under
22 State regulation it's stated that hunters may harvest
23 bucks. So there's a very definite distinction between
24 those, and, in fact, the State up until a few years ago
25 used the term antlered deer instead of bucks, however, what
26 happened was -- in fact this happened while I was the
27 biologist in Ketchikan. We had hunters that would come in
28 and say, you know, I was hunting in December, I saw a deer
29 that had shed its antlers but it was definitely a buck, I
30 could see the pedestals so it seems like the intent is
31 really to limit the harvest to males and not females, and
32 so whether it has an antler or not, if you can determine
33 that it is indeed a male it should be okay. And with that
34 intent then, we took that to the Board of Game and they
35 changed the language on the State side to reflect bucks
36 rather than antlered deer.

37

38 In Unit 3, in terms of fawns, which I know
39 has come up as an issue in this particular proposal,
40 harvesting of fawns, under the Federal, you would have to
41 have, again, an antlered deer, which means that a fawn
42 would not be a legal deer under that definition. Under
43 State law it would have to be male. So therein lies where
44 perhaps somebody could say I'm positive that particular
45 fawn is a male, however, I know from experience and in fact
46 1985 there was a deer study done in Hoonah Sound that I
47 participated in and that study was specifically targeted at
48 does during February and March. The purpose of that study
49 was to look at reproductive potential. When we were
50 collecting the does for that study, it was during a period

00125

1 where the bucks had shed their antlers and we could still
2 determine adult males from adult females based on features
3 of the face and body form. However, on fawns we harvested
4 13 fawns at that time to look, again, at reproductive
5 potential of females and it turned out that we had either
6 six bucks and seven does or vice versa, it was essentially
7 a 50/50 split. So somebody harvesting a fawn in an area
8 that's either antlered only or males only is essentially
9 flipping a coin and saying I have a 50/50 chance of getting
10 this right. So the harvesting of fawns essentially, I
11 guess the bottom line point is harvesting of fawns in areas
12 where it's male or antlered deer is really not a legal
13 activity as it stands right now.

14

15 So the other issue, of course, is relative
16 to the spikes which are going to be yearlings as Kurt
17 pointed out yesterday where they're at least -- going into
18 their second year of life.

19

20 Thank you.

21

22 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Council questions
23 for ADF&G.

24

25 Mr. Jordan.

26

27 MR. JORDAN: Doug, or Marianne, is that
28 right, is that okay to call you by your first names, is
29 that protocol here.

30

31 MS. SEE: Absolutely.

32

33 MR. JORDAN: I asked yesterday if you know
34 the percentage of the harvest by age class in these
35 different areas, has anybody looked that up or do you know
36 that yet?

37

38 MR. LARSEN: Through the Chair, Mr. Jordan.
39 The answer to that is, no, we do not have that type of
40 information. And, frankly, our harvest data is collected
41 by area, as I think most all of you know, but it's done
42 strictly on the terms of males and females in the harvest
43 and certainly areas where females are allowed that would
44 show up, and males as well. We have not, with the
45 exception of a few examples such as what Kurt showed
46 yesterday, done a some specific checkstations to get a
47 sense for what the breakdown in the harvest is across the
48 population.

49

50 However, I think it's fair to say that

00126

1 based on the information that was presented yesterday, at
2 least, for the areas that it was presented for, the
3 indication is that there was a substantial number of young
4 animals in that particular harvest. At least that they had
5 documented with that limited harvest, sample size. And it
6 suggests to me, as a biologist, that that population is
7 probably in very good shape. When you have a fair number
8 of younger animals in the population that's a good thing.
9 So while we don't collect that data, partly the reason is
10 we have not felt that it warranted the time or expense to
11 do that based on the types of management regimes that we've
12 had in place that really have built in conservation
13 measures. However, that is information that could be
14 collected with some time and money through checkstations.

15

16 MR. JORDAN: Right. The other question I
17 have is over the years in October I have shot three bucks
18 here on the island that did not have antlers and they
19 weren't going to have antlers all year and they were at
20 least two or three year old deer. It should have been
21 forked horns or two points, depending on -- do you have
22 that same situation down on the southern end of Southeast.

23

24 MR. LARSEN: Through the Chair. Mr.
25 Jordan. I'm not sure I totally understand your question,
26 unless -- let me see if I got this correct. If I
27 understand right you shot deer that did not -- males that
28 did not have antlers and as far as you could tell never
29 would have grown antlers during the year.

30

31 MR. JORDAN: Right. That's correct.
32 Because it was October they wouldn't have shed their
33 antlers yet, it didn't look like they had grown antlers
34 that year and they were healthy bucks, not fawns, would
35 have been at least forked horns in terms of body size.

36

37 MR. LARSEN: Through the Chair. Mr.
38 Jordan. I think that represents a really good point. And
39 that is, and I think Kurt pointed this out yesterday in his
40 presentation, that we don't really have a relationship that
41 we've developed, to see scientifically, that there is in
42 fact a relationship -- a positive relationship between
43 antler development and body size. So in your particular
44 instance, without knowing that the age of that animal was
45 it's difficult to say whether this was an anomaly and those
46 particular deer just didn't have the hormones which is
47 what's needed to grow antlers or whether it was something
48 else.

49

50 It's hard to pinpoint that.

00127

1 I can tell you, kind of in the course of
2 that discussion and maybe for an intra-stake, that, we have
3 over the years observed a few instances where females have
4 grown antlers and in those cases they're very unique in
5 their shape. They look almost like a dunce cap, a double
6 dunce cap on their heads, they're like a cone and they tend
7 to be in velvet even through the season. Whereas male
8 deer, of course, shed the velvet in August, these females
9 had the velvet on these cones through the year. So there
10 are anomalies obviously in nature and I don't know if that
11 helps in this particular regard.

12
13 But again, specific to your question it
14 would be hard to know without knowing really something more
15 about the age of those animals. Because, again, body size
16 and antler size are really not something we can look to as
17 a positive correlation.

18
19 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Other questions for
20 ADF&G Staff.

21
22 Mr. Stokes.

23
24 MR. STOKES: My question is we had the same
25 problem with the moose before it went on a horn
26 restriction. They didn't like it. No one wanted it. But
27 it turned out -- and I'm talking about the Stikene, and now
28 with the horn restriction, you know, spike-fork or 50-
29 inches, why that seems to be the best thing that ever
30 happened. And when you have a larger bull it's better
31 breeding stock. And he was talking about the difference in
32 the actions of the deer. Well, you got a big buck, he's
33 going to chase the little ones away, that's why you find
34 the spike and the little forks on the points in the fall.
35 The big bucks are getting ready to rut and they chase them
36 off the hill.

37
38 And it's been my experience that when you
39 shoot a button buck, you said it's best to bring home some
40 meat, but I don't think you get more than 20 pounds of meat
41 out of a little button buck. And it's quite easy to tell
42 a fawn when you see it. I know we do this all the time, we
43 pass them up. And I've been -- like I said, I'll be 80
44 years old here on my next birthday and I've been hunting
45 around the area since 1938 and when you call the deer,
46 they're dumb enough to come up right up to you so you can
47 take a look and you can see what they are and you can tell
48 by looking at their size whether you got a jackrabbit or
49 you've got something that's worth taking.

50

00128

1 I'm sure.....

2

3

CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: These are probably
4 questions that we should discuss under Council comments,
5 but what we need to do is ask them questions about their
6 presentation that they can answer from the State.

7

8

9

10

MR. BANGS: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I'm
11 wondering if the State has compiled any information on
12 accidental intake or accidental harvest of illegal bucks
13 under an antler restriction. And the reason I ask that in
14 regards to Mr. Stokes comments about the antler
15 restrictions on moose. I know that the amount of harvest
16 every year in Unit 3 in the Stikene isn't all that many
17 moose but there is always a pretty good percentage of
18 illegal harvest. I was just wondering if the State had
19 projected anything on what would happen to accidental deer.

20

21

MR. LARSEN: Through the Chair. Mr. Bangs.
22 No, we have not is the short answer. I think it's safe to
23 say that whenever you have some sort of restriction that
24 requires the judgment of the hunter to make a determination
25 on whether an animal is or is not legal. Certainly there's
26 going to be, the chance at least is going to be made.
27 Currently, with the regulations the way they are the
28 chances of mistakes is pretty minimal because it's either,
29 it has antlers or it doesn't have antlers, it is a male or
30 it isn't a male. But when you start looking at specific
31 features on antlers, then certainly that chance does exist.
32 Although, to the extent that that would happen in a case
33 like this, is really an unknown at this point.

34

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MR. LARSEN: Through the Chair. Mr. Adams.

00129

1 First of all, it is a sample as you indicated. So to the
2 extent that our sample is reflective of the hunters at
3 large, we feel that it would meet that criteria. However,
4 as you also indicated it's voluntary. So certainly it
5 really depends on the individuals on whether they're going
6 to submit their report or not, so there's that inherent
7 difficulty I guess associated with any kind of a survey of
8 that sort.

9

10 I would, though, point out and as you
11 mentioned, have been in place for 30 years roughly, and in
12 that time period, whatever biases or things that were built
13 in, over time, we would expect, just from a sampling
14 approach, that that would remain constant, so to the extent
15 that people are or aren't responding and from where and so
16 forth, we would expect that to be fairly constant over
17 time, and if that assumption is fair to say, then we would
18 think if nothing else it gives us an indication of the
19 trends over time, if not, the exact numbers.

20

21 MR. ADAMS: Another question I have for you
22 is how accurate is the pellet survey? I know up in Yakutat
23 they did a survey on Knight Island and they picked a point
24 from one side of the island and made a beeline straight
25 across. And, you know, I'm just wondering how accurate
26 that kind of a survey or data is collected and, you know,
27 how much you rely on that.

28

29 MR. LARSEN: Through the Chair. Mr. Adams,
30 the pellet survey work, as I think all of you are aware has
31 been something that the Department, together with the
32 Forest Service has been involved in for quite a few years.
33 And let me answer that question in a couple of examples,
34 and hopefully this will shed some light on it.

35

36 First I'd like to say that I think it's
37 important to note that these surveys, these pellet group
38 surveys are indices, they don't give actual numbers but
39 they give trends. That's the intent behind them. So in
40 that sense, I think they're accurate in at least giving
41 trends within watersheds or within specific areas to the
42 extent that those are looked at on a repetitive basis.

43

44 And that's a point I think that's very
45 important to make here and that is if you go across all of
46 the region and look at specific areas and do pellet count
47 transects in them but then you don't go to the very same
48 places next year, which, typically we do not because we're
49 trying to cover a broader area with limited resources, what
50 that means is that if you take all those pellet group data

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1 from any given year and lump them into a pot and then make
2 a trend analysis based on that, you could have some
3 inherent flaws because you're comparing apples to oranges
4 to plums essentially. Whereas if you were to go to a
5 specific drainage year after year after year after year and
6 sample that, then you would be getting a very good
7 indication within that area what the trend is.

8

9 So I think it's sort of a difficulty that
10 we face, and that with limited resources we want to get as
11 much as possible that we can use over a longer period of
12 time, and at the same time that causes some inherent
13 difficulties with analyzing data year to year.

14

15 So again, in terms of analyzing the
16 information we have to be a little careful in that regard.

17

18 The other thing, in terms of numbers is the
19 whole pellet group transect information in part was tested
20 in a study on Portland Island out of Juneau several years
21 ago and in that case a number of deer, and I forget the
22 exact number, but I want to say a dozen roughly were
23 captured on Admiralty, moved to Portland Island and radio-
24 collared so there was knowledge about where they went. And
25 during that time period with the given number of animals,
26 known number of animals on that island, then the Staff went
27 in and looked at pellet group transects and with that known
28 number of animals and the information they got from the
29 pellet group data, there was an ability then to extrapolate
30 the number of pellet groups into numbers of deer. Now,
31 we've done that to some extent but there's a lot of other
32 variables as you get into broader scale. But in general
33 what we found was one pellet group per plot, which is a 20
34 meter plot was about 32 deer per square mile, I think
35 that's the right number.

36

37 And so, you know, with that we've used that
38 to in some ways give a sense for how many animals are there
39 and more importantly it gives us some information or better
40 information about the trends over time are like.

41

42 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Dr. Garza.

43

44 DR. GARZA: Mr. Chairman, I have to ask
45 that we go out of order now, we do have a tribal member
46 that needs to testify and then head off for something and
47 we can come back to the State if we need to.

48

49 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Would you be excused
50 for a few minutes, we'll call you back up if there's any --

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1 we have at least one more question for you.

2

3

MR. KOOKESH: I have a question also.

4

5

CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: We'll ask you guys to come back. But Mr. Lorrigan from the STA, Tribal Governments are next, he has a doctor's appointment in a few minutes and he would like to talk on this proposal.

9

10

Mr. Lorrigan.

11

12

MR. LORRIGAN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman for allowing me to step in out of order. I'd like to apologize to the State for preempting them, but I've waited months for this appointment and I don't want to miss it and I thought this would be taken care of last night.

17

18

Last night I was authorized by the Sitka Tribe of Alaska Council to speak to this proposal. We're opposed to it. And we want to make certain that you understand that we're speaking about Unit 4 of this proposal. We agree with the data that the Forest Service and the Fish and Game have presented here. This proposal came from another area with different problems.

25

26

For the record, STA has never done that to another area. All of our proposals have been confined to our customary and traditional area, our territory. If anything from STA has been applied statewide is because somebody liked our proposal and took it to a higher level. It didn't come from us to talk about another area. So we're opposed to that concept, too.

33

34

We feel there's no biological reason for that proposal here. We don't have the wolves. We have some bear predation but we don't have the clear-cutting here in Sitka that the lower islands have. So our habitat is pretty good.

39

40

To quote Ted Skanc, he was the Forest Service biologist here a few years ago, he said, hunters in Sitka may get 2,000 deer, winter will get 20,000, so winter's our bottleneck.

44

45

From what I've read, the data shows that our deer are of the highest populations and are stable, our hunting success is relatively good. Our does are reproducing very well. We often, in the spring, summer, fall see does with one to two to three fawns sometimes, consecutively. I grew up in an area with antler

00132

1 restrictions in Colorado, mule deer, and from what I've
2 read that restriction failed to increase the number of
3 mature male deer. After the hunt was over all the deer
4 still had to deal with winter.

5
6 This proposal would force, I think, would
7 increase your citations of illegal harvest. You're going
8 to have people out looking for deer, climb up to the top of
9 a hill looking for an animal, not find one and on the way
10 out because it's time to come out, they run into a button
11 buck, they have to pass it up, they're probably going to
12 take it, I would.

13
14 To quote my grandpa, horns don't make very
15 good soup.

16
17 People are generally hunting for meat
18 around here, we're not trophy hunters.

19
20 And for other merit, this is a subsistence
21 proposal coming to the Federal Board wherein the State
22 sporthunters would still get to harvest button bucks in
23 this area and it would put a restriction on Federal
24 subsistence hunters in this area and we think this proposal
25 should die on that merit alone.

26
27 That's pretty much what I have to say.

28
29 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Any questions for
30 Mr. Lorrigan from the Council. Mr. Adams. Do you have a
31 few minutes to stay with us?

32
33 MR. LORRIGAN: (Nods affirmatively)

34
35 MR. ADAMS: Just a short question, Jack, if
36 you don't mind. I'm just wondering if the maker of this
37 proposal, you know, get input from the other people in the
38 units, there's five units involved in this and I'm just
39 wondering if there was any communication between the units
40 and so forth.

41
42 Thank you.

43
44 MR. LORRIGAN: Thank you. Mr. Adams. No.
45 The Council made clear last night that I was to speak for
46 Unit 4, not for any other unit. And I don't know how
47 Angoon feels about this, but for the Baranof/Chichagof side
48 of this proposal we don't think it's warranted here.

49
50 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Other Council. Mr.

00133

1 Kookesh.

2

3 MR. KOOKESH: How do you feel about someone
4 from Unit 1 or 2 submitting a proposal on behalf of Unit 4?

5

6 MR. LORRIGAN: We think it's rude.

7

8 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Other Council.

9

10 (No comments)

11

12 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Thank you, Mr.

13 Lorrigan.

14

15 MR. LORRIGAN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

16

17 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: The State ADF&G, if
18 you'll come back, I have at least two Council persons who
19 would like to ask questions. I have first, Mr. Bangs, and
20 then Mr. Kookesh.

21

22 MR. BANGS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I
23 have received the answer to my question.

24

25 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Mr. Kookesh.

26

27 MR. KOOKESH: My question pertains to Unit
28 4, basically I'd like to ask some questions. One of the
29 problems I -- this is just a statement first, but I'm not
30 knowledgeable about the lower Southeast area and that's why
31 I feel we need to have a flavoring in Southeast that covers
32 all of Southeast, not specifically putting us all in one
33 community, all our representation coming from that.

34

35 But my question is, I noticed that in all
36 the maker's proposals they address Zarembo and some other
37 islands. And I was wondering, to say to speak for
38 Admiralty Island or the Unit 4 area, most specifically for
39 Admiralty Island, we don't have a large -- we don't have
40 very much roads on our island and I'm wondering how a
41 proposal for an antlered deer, what the significance is for
42 an area such as ours that -- how you can actually -- how
43 somebody can assume we have a problem with the taking of
44 button bucks, that there's a problem that exists in an area
45 where there's no roads. And I think Zarembo Island, I
46 don't know what that island is like, I don't even know if
47 it has roads, but I was wondering if that's an island that
48 has roads and what you feel -- how you feel a regulation
49 like this would affect an area that has a heavy habitat
50 like ours with old growth on it.

00134

1 MR. LARSEN: Through the Chair. Mr.
2 Kookesh. Thank you. I think, first of all, Zarembo Island
3 is in Unit 3 down near Petersburg and it is fairly heavily
4 roaded, and there has been harvesting of timber on Zarembo,
5 I think to a greater extent than you would see in most of
6 Unit 4, particularly Admiralty.

7
8 I think in this particular instance this
9 proposal really is not so much an issue related to roads,
10 at least in my mind, it's more related to the environmental
11 conditions that exist in various areas across Southeast.
12 On Admiralty Island, for example, where you do have some
13 heavy snow and certainly that is a factor as we heard the
14 previous speaker mention, you know, for every two deer
15 taken by a hunter, 20 are taken by the winter, whatever the
16 numbers were exactly, I don't recall. But the point being
17 that certainly winter conditions are a major influence.

18
19 The other influence, of course, in southern
20 Southeast and Zarembo, for example, that doesn't occur in
21 Unit 4 is the presence of wolves, which is obviously a
22 predator is affecting that population to some extent.

23
24 Having regulations that allow the
25 harvesting of both male and female deer as happens in Unit
26 4 is really a function of available habitat, the carrying
27 capacity of the land which tends to be greater because you
28 don't have the predation factor that you have in other
29 parts of the region, so certainly the regulations as they
30 exist today, both on the Federal and the State side, I
31 think, reflect those differences in the allowances that one
32 area has relative to another.

33
34 So I think that's just good management to
35 look at all the variables associated with specific areas
36 and make regulations that fit accordingly.

37
38 MS. SEE: And, Mr. Chair, I just wanted to
39 add that I didn't state this on the record, although it's
40 written in the comment page in your book, but the State
41 position is that we do not support the proposal.

42
43 Thank you.

44
45 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Other Council
46 questions for the State. Ms. Phillips.

47
48 MS. PHILLIPS: Chairman Littlefield, thank
49 you. Point of clarification is that the Federal
50 Subsistence management mimics State regulatory rules when

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1 they took over subsistence management, so evidently the
2 State regulations changed from antlered deer to bucks, at
3 what point in time did that occur?

4

5 MR. LARSEN: Through the Chair. Ms.
6 Phillips. I don't know for sure. I can tell you that I was
7 the area biologist in Ketchikan from '90 to '98 and it was
8 sometime during that period and I want to say probably
9 earlier than later, so '93/94 perhaps would be around when
10 it happened. But we could certainly find that out
11 specifically for you.

12

13 MS. PHILLIPS: Thank you.

14

15 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Other Council
16 questions for the State.

17

18 (No comments)

19

20 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Thank you very much
21 for your testimony. We're at tribal governments. Are
22 there any tribal governments present who would like to
23 testify.

24

25 (No comments)

26

27 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Any other agencies
28 that would like to comment on these three proposals, any
29 other agencies.

30

31 (No comments)

32

33 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Inter-Agency Staff
34 Committee comments. Mr. Kessler.

35

36 MR. KESSLER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm
37 Steve Kessler with the Forest Service, Inter-Agency Staff
38 Committee. We don't have any additional comments on this
39 proposal other than those that have already come to you.

40

41 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Thank you. Any
42 questions for Inter-Agency Staff.

43

44 (No comments)

45

46 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Thank you, very
47 much.

48

49 MR. KESSLER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

50

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1 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: We're at Fish and
2 Game Advisory Committee comments.

3

4 (No comments)

5

6 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Summary of written
7 public comments. Dr. Schroeder.

8

9 DR. SCHROEDER: Mr. Chairman, we received
10 one written public comment. The Sitka Fish and Game
11 Advisory Committee, actually it's from the Fish and Game
12 Advisory Committee opposed this proposal.

13

14 And that concludes our public comments.

15

16 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Public testimony.
17 Is there anyone in the audience that would like to testify.
18 I do not have any testifier forms up here but that doesn't
19 stop you. If you want to testify please come forward.

20

21 (No comments)

22

23 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Okay. We're at
24 Regional Council deliberations, recommendations and
25 justifications. Council wishes. And remember, we want to
26 try to satisfy those four points in the rationale. And if
27 you could please state for the record the page that you are
28 talking about when you make your motion.

29

30 Council.

31

32 MR. JOHNSON: Mr. Chairman, excuse me,
33 yeah, there was another person that wanted to comment, I
34 believe from Kasaan.

35

36 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Excuse me, please
37 come forward. Ms. McCamy or -- we're going to leave this
38 open for public testimony, if there's anybody that wants
39 to, please come forward, you can do public testimony.
40 State your name for Tina and the record and have at it.

41

42 MR. PETERSON: Thank you, Mr. Chair. My
43 name is Richard Peterson. I'm the tribal president for the
44 Organized Village of Kasaan as well as Mayor of the city of
45 Kasaan.

46

47 We would like to speak to a couple of
48 issues that really aren't being addressed here today that
49 we're aware of but we have some serious concern over the
50 commercial crab and shrimp fisheries that are going on in

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1 front of our community. They are, I feel, very detrimental
2 to our subsistence use. The crab and shrimp are on a large
3 decline. And we are going to be working on a proposal to
4 bring before you guys next week.

5
6 We'd also like to bring up the Karta River,
7 in which we feel the sockeye are on a very serious decline
8 and we would request assistance from the agencies to help
9 us develop some monitoring for that.

10
11 And we would also like to support the deer
12 harvest on Unit 2 that were brought forward by the Prince
13 of Wales Tribal Coalition. So we are in support of that.

14
15 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Do you have that
16 number, Mr. Peterson, which proposal that is?

17
18 MR. PETERSON: Yeah, I was just looking at
19 it, I'm sorry. I believe it's WP04-03. Yes, we're in
20 support of those changes that are brought forth by the
21 Prince of Wales Tribal Coalition.

22
23 And that's my public comment unless there's
24 any questions.

25
26 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Thank you, very much
27 for your testimony. Does anyone have any questions for Mr.
28 Peterson.

29
30 (No comments)

31
32 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Okay, what I would
33 recommend is that you get with either Mr. Johnson, I think
34 he can head you -- Mr. Dave Johnson can head you in the
35 right place to get the help writing a proposal on the Karta
36 River Bay and sockeye and I think we can -- and the crab
37 and shrimp, of course, he can give you some help on those,
38 too.

39
40 MR. PETERSON: Thank you.

41
42 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Thank you for your
43 testimony.

44
45 Dr. Garza.

46
47 DR. GARZA: Mr. Chair, thank you. So Rick,
48 will you be here later on because we're right now we're
49 just trying to do the antlered deer one and then we will
50 get to the Unit 2 and we may want to hear a more complete

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1 testimony from you on your support for that proposal.

2

3 MR. PETERSON: Yes, I'd be more than happy
4 to. Thank you.

5

6 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Other members of the
7 public that would like to testify. Just as a reminder, we
8 are real loose on our public testimony policies. If you
9 want to testify out of order we generally allow that
10 because we know that all of you, you know, have some other
11 things to do as well as the Council, we're all volunteering
12 up here. So if you can only testify today on something
13 that we're going to take up tomorrow, that's fine, the
14 Council will do that. So are there any other members of
15 the public who would like to testify.

16

17 (No comments)

18

19 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: We're at Regional
20 Council deliberations and we're discussing Proposals WP04-
21 02, 16 and 17, Council wishes.

22

23 Mr. Jordan.

24

25 MR. JORDAN: This is related to the last
26 testimony. I'm not calling for people now but the issue of
27 problems with crab and shrimp came up, I know that's an
28 issue here and in other places in Southeast and during the
29 course of our meeting, I'd sure be interested in hearing
30 from people about concerns in the shellfish area.

31

32 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Thank you. Okay,
33 this is probably something we could take up under fish
34 proposals and we'll make some time for that.

35

36 Council wishes. Dr. Garza.

37

38 DR. GARZA: Mr. Chairman, to get these
39 proposals on the table.....

40

41 MR. KOOKESH: It's two, in the positive.

42

43 DR. GARZA: Okay, boss. I move that we
44 support Proposal 2, 16 and 17 as a package, understanding
45 that motions, to put on the table, should always be in the
46 positive whether or not you support them.

47

48 MR. KOOKESH: I'll second the motion, Mr.
49 Chairman.

50

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1 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Did you get that,
2 the second?

3
4 REPORTER: (Nods affirmatively)

5
6 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: It's been moved and
7 seconded to accept Proposals WP04-02, 16 and 17, the motion
8 is before you. Discussion. And remember we need to, for
9 the record, we need to make sure that we address on the
10 transcripts the rationale for recommendation that you were
11 able to make your decision on.

12
13 Dr. Garza.

14
15 DR. GARZA: Mr. Chairman, I will be voting
16 against the motion to support these three proposals. From
17 the evidence I've received from Staff, as well as from
18 State there are no conservation concerns. It will have
19 impact on subsistence opportunity and will, in fact, be
20 more restrictive than current State regulations. I felt
21 that the information provided to me was adequate to make a
22 good decision. I don't see an impact on -- well, the
23 impact on non-subsistence users would be the same as on
24 subsistence users.

25
26 If there are issues of concern then I think
27 we need to deal with them more directly. I heard clearly
28 from STA that they don't appreciate proposals for their
29 region that did not even go through their Council or
30 through their community for consideration. And so in that
31 sense I can't support a proposal that refers to all of
32 Southeast.

33
34 Thank you.

35
36 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: That covered all the
37 points. Other Council. Mr. Bangs.

38
39 MR. BANGS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I
40 also concur with Dr. Garza, except for one point and I
41 think that it will make it more restrictive to subsistence
42 users and less on non-rural communities. So that's even
43 more so a reason why I wouldn't support it.

44
45 So that's all I have, thank you.

46
47 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Those are two for
48 the proposal, are there any opposed that would like to
49 speak.

50

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1 DR. GARZA: We were speaking against the
2 proposal.

3
4 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Excuse me, two were
5 against the proposal. Anyone for the proposal, would you
6 like to speak at this time. Mr. Stokes.

7
8 MR. STOKES: I think I've said all I can.
9 And if I kept talking I'd just probably get myself in
10 trouble.

11
12 (Laughter)

13
14 MR. ADAMS: Mr. Chairman.

15
16 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Mr. Adams.

17
18 MR. ADAMS: Mr. Chairman, thank you. I'm
19 going to oppose this proposal.

20
21 I don't know too much about the other areas
22 and I don't even know very much about -- well, I think,
23 Dolly and Michael Bangs over there addressed all of the
24 four concerns and I concur with that.

25
26 In Unit 5 we have a small population of
27 deer up there. We never used to have deer up there but I
28 think around 1946 or thereabout, Herman Kitka, you know,
29 gave some to us and we've been kind of growing them ever
30 since. But they were transplanted, you know, from Sitka,
31 and the population in that area, you know, has just been up
32 and down, up and down, and they've never taken a real big
33 stable hold, you know, the winters are very harsh up there
34 and the predatory animals, you know, are really rampant
35 because of the harsh winters on occasion. And we've seen
36 how the population in that area goes up and down.

37
38 I think it's below stable, in my opinion,
39 and I think this proposal, you know, would not help us in
40 any way at all. But overall, I just don't feel that this
41 is a good proposal to support at this point.

42
43 Thank you.

44
45 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: I think most of the
46 rationale for recommendation has been covered. We have at
47 least three that are against and one for. Is there anyone
48 else who would like to speak to this proposal, for or
49 against.

50

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1 Mr. Hernandez.

2

3 MR. HERNANDEZ: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
4 I'm also voting against this proposal for all of the same
5 reasons that previous Council members have mentioned.

6

7 However, I would like to say, you know, to
8 the folks that made this proposal and Mr. Stokes, because
9 I know he feels so strongly about it, that any time I see
10 a proposal like this coming from people, I know -- I
11 recognize these names from Wrangell, I know some of them,
12 and I know they're subsistence hunters and I know they feel
13 strongly about this issue and I do want to acknowledge
14 their concerns. I think they got a little broad in their
15 reach here on some of these proposals, but I'd like to draw
16 attention in particular to Proposal No. 17 that addresses
17 Zarembo Island. And I know for the people of Wrangell,
18 Zarembo is kind of their bread basket. And when I see
19 concerns from the subsistence users about a specific place
20 like that, I just think that, you know, we ought to
21 recognize that there may be concerns there.

22

23 For part of the rationale, the one thing
24 that I did take note of was the kinds and quality of
25 information that were presented. And I think I would like
26 to make the request that we try and gather more information
27 specific to Zarembo Island. I think a little more -- I
28 think maybe some more age class information would be
29 helpful to the folks from Wrangell in their concerns over
30 this issue.

31

32 Thank you.

33

34 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Thank you. Other
35 Council.

36

37 (No comments)

38

39 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Are you ready for
40 the question.

41

42 MR. ADAMS: Question.

43

44 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Okay, the motion
45 before you is to accept WP04-02, 16 and 17, all those in
46 favor, please say aye.

47

48 MR. STOKES: Aye.

49

50 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: All those opposed,

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1 same sign.

2

3

IN UNISON: Aye.

4

5

CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: These three
6 proposals, the recommendation is to reject.

7

8

Dr. Garza.

9

10

DR. GARZA: Mr. Chairman, just to follow
11 up, it's my understanding that there was going to be a
12 working group or an effort that was going to deal with
13 Zarembo Island, did we hear that from the Staff.

14

15

CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Kurt, Mr. Aluzas.

16

17

MR. ALUZAS: Through the Chair. Dr. Garza,
18 this is Kurt Aluzas again. We do have intentions of
19 following up and doing some hunter checkstations down at
20 Zarembo Island this coming fall. This would be done in
21 conjunction with the State and we're not sure exactly, you
22 know, the mechanisms of how it's going to work and so
23 forth. But we do intend to get down there and collect
24 information on harvested animals such as, you know, pulling
25 teeth and sectioning teeth to get a good indication of the
26 age of the animals, in conjunction with the antler
27 configuration. Some various, you know, other things such
28 as body size and any other kind of biological information
29 we can get from that.

30

31

That's our intention. We're not sure
32 exactly yet the details of that, how we're going to work it
33 out. But I have been in contact with our local Fish and
34 Game area biologist about working together on that.

35

36

DR. GARZA: Mr. Chairman.

37

38

CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Dr. Garza.

39

40

DR. GARZA: So as part of that process, I
41 would hope that you would contact the three makers of these
42 motions and let them know what the efforts will be.

43

44

MR. ALUZAS: Through the Chair. Dr. Garza.
45 Absolutely. In fact, I've already mentioned it to one of
46 the individuals and we've actually -- you know, this is
47 going to be something that's going to require kind of
48 general community in support, in general, just to get
49 people to comply and understand how this information is
50 going to help us gather more information about the

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1 situation out there. So it will probably be something that
2 we, not only go through those three individuals, but
3 probably go through the community at large in some form.

4

5 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Other Council.
6 Question or comment. Mr. Stokes.

7

8 MR. STOKES: Yes. My line of questioning
9 yesterday was probably out of line and I'd like to
10 apologize.

11

12 MR. ALUZAS: Through the Chair. Mr.
13 Stokes. Apology accepted.

14

15 MR. STOKES: Thank you.

16

17 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Are there other
18 questions.

19

20 MR. STOKES: So he might look like a hunter
21 after all.

22

23 (Laughter)

24

25 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Okay, thank you very
26 much. We're going to take a break.

27

28 (Off record)

29

30 (On record)

31

32 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: The meeting will
33 come back to order, please. Grab your coffee and take your
34 seats.

35

36 (Pause)

37

38 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: There's a couple of
39 Council members still taking their seats but I'll go ahead
40 and get this part going. At this point in the agenda we
41 were going to do the discussions on Proposals 3 through 15,
42 we deferred those from 9:00 a.m., in the morning. But
43 prior to leading into that I'd like to introduce a member
44 of the Federal Subsistence Board who we are honored to have
45 with this morning, Gary Edwards. He is the Board member
46 from the Fish and Wildlife Service. He's the Deputy
47 Regional Director. And Gary, if you will stand up and make
48 yourself known so everybody knows, so he'll probably
49 address us later during this presentation or whatever he
50 wants. He's a member of the Federal Subsistence Board that

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1 we advise. In other words, in the hierarchy that you
2 looked at in the Council training the other day, our
3 recommendations will go to the Board.

4

5 So we welcome you and we're glad you're
6 here to participate in the meeting and we look forward to
7 hearing from you later.

8

9 BOARD MEMBER EDWARDS: Thank you, Mr.
10 Chairman. I keep being told that if I wanted to see a real
11 Regional Council in action I needed to come to Southeast,
12 so that's where I'm at.

13

14 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: This is the real
15 one.

16

17 (Laughter)

18

19 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Okay. What we're
20 going to start off with is Steve Kessler is going to give
21 us some preliminary information on the U-2 deer planning.
22 And the proposals that concern U-2 are 03 to 15. So Mr.
23 Kessler, if you would like to start off, please.

24

25 MR. KESSLER: Thank you very much, Mr.
26 Chairman, and Council. There's a number of preliminary
27 items that we want to go through prior to jumping into the
28 regular presentation of Proposals 3 through 15. So let me
29 just give you a brief overview of where we're going to go
30 here and then I'll jump in.

31

32 First, I have a message from Denny Bschor,
33 who is the Forest Service representative on the Federal
34 Subsistence Board, he is the Regional Forester for the
35 Forest Service for Alaska.

36

37 Gary Edwards will then have a short follow
38 up.

39

40 Following that, we'll talk about the Unit
41 2 Deer Cooperative Management Process, the Feasibility
42 Assessment that was done and talk about planning associated
43 with that. And I will have a presentation on the screen
44 for you of which you have a copy of that already.

45

46 Then there's some other background material
47 that will be presented. Dr. Schroeder will present part of
48 that and Mr. Johnson will provide part of that information.
49 Then Jim Brainard will actually be presenting the analysis
50 of the proposals.

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1 So first what I'd like to do is we have a
2 message from Mr. Bschor and I'd like to read that and I've
3 put it up here on the screen for you.

4
5 Good morning, Mr. Chairman, and Council
6 members. I apologize for not being here
7 in person to dialogue with you.
8 Unfortunately family events outside of my
9 control have resulted in my unavailability
10 for this week's meeting. However, I'd
11 like to make a brief statement to you
12 about deer and deer planning on Prince of
13 Wales Island.

14
15 As has this Council, the Federal
16 Subsistence Board has struggled with
17 regulations associated with Prince of
18 Wales deer hunting for a number of years.
19 I believe that significant progress was
20 made last year in providing a meaningful
21 priority for Federally-qualified
22 subsistence users. However, there are
23 still many concerns with deer hunting
24 regulations in Unit 2 as evidenced by the
25 13 proposals before us.

26
27 The Board, including me, believes that the
28 best long-term solution to the strongly
29 felt concerns for Unit 2 deer hunting by
30 all parties is through a cooperative
31 collaboratively developed management
32 approach. Similar efforts which provide
33 an opportunity for persons of greatly
34 differing views to talk each other have
35 helped diffuse controversy associated with
36 hunts elsewhere in Alaska.

37
38 I'm concerned that the true problems
39 associated with deer hunting be addressed
40 and not just the symptoms. A symptom is
41 the increased difficulty in harvesting the
42 deer required by subsistence, but what is
43 the problem? For instance, are there
44 enough deer being produced on Prince of
45 Wales Island for all users?

46
47 In order for us to succeed with an
48 accepted cooperative approach it must be
49 based on facts wherever possible and must
50 address the current conditions as well as

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1 anticipated further changes. A successful
2 effort must also be cost effective. We
3 have limited dollars for this effort, so
4 to stay within a reasonable budget this
5 process must be very well focused.

6
7 Again, both the Board and I feel that a
8 focused collaboratively developed approach
9 is crucial for Prince of Wales Island.
10 The Regional Advisory Council must be a
11 full partner in this process.

12
13 Thank you.

14
15 Mr. Edwards, do you have some additional
16 comments.

17
18 BOARD MEMBER EDWARDS: Mr. Chairman.
19 Council members. Usually when I attend Council meetings I
20 try not to say anything because I don't think that that's
21 the place of the Board. We always encourage Board members
22 to attend but, certainly, I think we view these as the
23 Council's meetings and the Board will obviously have its
24 opportunity.

25
26 But I do think on this issue, all I can do
27 really is maybe give you my personal views, I don't like
28 necessarily speak for the other Board members, but I do
29 think in this case I can at least speak for the Chairman.
30 I think my view is that this is an issue that cries out for
31 being solved at the local level. That's not because the
32 Board's unwilling to tackle this issue, which certainly is
33 a tough issue, but I guess my view is until it gets solved
34 at the local level the Board will be just putting band-aids
35 on it.

36
37 So I certainly support what Denny has said
38 in his letter. And I guess I would just encourage
39 everybody to try to come together in a cooperative way and
40 try to find resolutions to this issue. Because I think
41 folks in this room and the other users, and, all, I think
42 are the best ones that can come to grips with this issue
43 and really come up with a resolution that hopefully will be
44 acceptable to everything.

45
46 I think in the past where we have tried to
47 do some of these other, with moose and all, I think the
48 Board has felt that that has really been really successful
49 and is a much better way to go. So I'd just encourage you
50 and I applaud you for your willingness to try to resolve

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1 this at the local level.

2

3 Thank you.

4

5 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Dr. Garza, did you
6 have a comment.

7

8 DR. GARZA: Mr. Chairman, thank you. I
9 certainly agree that there needs to be resolution to Unit
10 2 deer, because if nothing else this Council is getting
11 tired of it, or at least me personally. But I have great
12 issues with the report, which I have read, and I have great
13 issues with the process of the whole thing, and serving on
14 the initial committee that looked at whether or not we
15 needed to even look at this process, it came to my
16 understanding that there would be no educational effort
17 prior to this process. And in my opinion, the most clearly
18 lacking step in this whole process is education to both
19 rural and urban residents regarding what all the issues are
20 and what the possible outcomes can be.

21

22 As an example, it's my understanding that
23 both the State and Federal are very, very hesitant to even
24 declare that deer can be in a decline on Prince of Wales.
25 It's something this Council has fought for extensively over
26 the last couple of years. If you look at the report, one
27 of the things it doesn't mention is the decrease in habitat
28 based on logging, which is one of the Prince of Wales
29 concerns. But also the urban residents do not have a clear
30 understanding of ANILCA requirements. And so when I talk
31 to them, and I am an urban resident, I am from Ketchikan,
32 their easiest solution to this is simply cut back the doe
33 season, to simply cut back some of what subsistence users
34 are doing, but they don't have a clear understanding that
35 we, as a Council, cannot support those types of
36 recommendations if it, in fact, is in conflict with ANILCA
37 requiring that we provide benefits to subsistence users.

38

39 And in looking at what urban people are
40 saying and rural residents are saying, if the first step
41 had been some very good educational materials on one, the
42 biology, which it's my understanding that the person who
43 did this report was unable to speak to the biology at all
44 to anybody, because I was one of the interviewees and she
45 made that clear to me. And that it was clear that there
46 was going to be no educational effort beforehand.

47

48 And to me those -- I agree that there needs
49 to be some coming together, but I think that if we start
50 the way we are now, the urban people are going to say,

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1 well, okay, this is all we have to do to the subsistence
2 people and things will be fine, and the subsistence people
3 are going to say well this is all we have to do to the
4 urban people and this will be fine, not understanding what
5 the legal and policy obligations are that the Council as
6 well as Federal Subsistence Board should be addressing, and
7 that's nowhere in this report and it's nowhere in
8 educational materials that has gone out to anyone.

9

10 And so as Federal Subsistence Board looks
11 at this process, I hope that they would provide clear
12 direction on the educational needs prior to any
13 collaborative process because it would be extremely
14 beneficial to Ketchikan residents to get a better feel for
15 the whole process.

16

17 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

18

19 BOARD MEMBER EDWARDS: Mr. Chairman. Dr.
20 Garza. I don't really have a reaction to what you said.
21 I certainly don't disagree with it. And I would operate
22 maybe under the assumption that Steve could address that or
23 it would be taken into consideration as this effort goes
24 forward.

25

26 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Mr. Douville, did
27 you want to talk to Mr. Edwards.

28

29 MR. DOUVILLE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I
30 believe my question might be directed at Dr. Garza, as to
31 were you talking of the biological education of the deer or
32 the education of the content of ANILCA, which in my mind is
33 most important for rural and non-rural users who make these
34 proposals, not knowing the rules that we have as a
35 guideline. Does that make any sense?

36

37 DR. GARZA: Uh-huh.

38

39 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Dr. Garza, would you
40 like to follow up.

41

42 DR. GARZA: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mike, I
43 agree that the education needs to be done on both avenues.
44 I mean it took probably three years before we got a clear
45 statement from Staff, both Federal and State that there is
46 likely a decline in deer and that it will likely continue
47 into the future because of the change in habitat. And up
48 to then, if you go through the old newspapers in Ketchikan,
49 what Ketchikan residents were receiving was yes deer are
50 fine, there's nothing wrong, we don't know what the big

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1 commotion is about. I mean I can pull those articles out.

2

3

And so I think one hand that is needed.

4

5

But secondly, I also agree that things are -- the education is needed on ANILCA on what is the requirement of this Council to do, how do we make our decisions, can we make decisions that reduce the opportunity for subsistence users prior to making decisions regarding urban and their uses. And if they understood that, that we cannot do that, we cannot reduce subsistence opportunities before doing something to urban residents, then that would go a long way in realizing what they can and cannot do and what kind of proposals should or should not be submitted. But that kind of education has not been done on a region-wide basis, and it surely has not been done on Prince of Wales and Ketchikan, which is where the majority of the conflict is. And there are several avenues in which it can be done.

19

20

21

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49

50

Thank you.

CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Thank you. Okay, what I would recommend is this is something that we should probably make sure that gets in this year's annual report so that you recognize the importance to this Council of training, because it isn't the first time we brought it up, and I cannot remember whether it's been in a prior annual report.

Mr. Johnson, could you address that.

MR. JOHNSON: Mr. Chairman. Council. Dave Johnson, Forest Service. I can tell you that we have made efforts with both the Department and with the Forest Service in Ketchikan to let folks know that we are available, Staff is available to come discuss issues regarding Unit 2 deer, as well as the redetermination -- in

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1 the rural redetermination process, as well, that is an
2 issue that I think is very important to Ketchikan folks.
3

4 There has been a reluctance on the part of
5 the Forest Service to hold those kinds of meetings if
6 people don't want them. If people do not want -- do not
7 come to the Forest Service requesting that we want to know
8 about Unit 2 deer issues, we want to know about Title VIII
9 issues. Now, if the Council wants to direct us to go back
10 and do that, I will be more than glad to carry that message
11 back to the Forest Supervisor and to the Staff back there,
12 Jerry Ingersol, the District Ranger, as well.
13

14 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: I would say we'll
15 probably take a position on that. We will definitely ask
16 you to do that. Because I read through in Juneau 112
17 personal letters that were -- they're almost unreadable,
18 they're unprintable, some of the stuff that was put in
19 there, that's from lack of education. So I agree with the
20 speakers that it's something we'll address, and Mr. Johnson
21 we will ask for your help.
22

23 Other Council.

24 Mr. Jordan.

25 MR. JORDAN: I want to make it very clear
26 that I'm not from Prince of Wales and I've not hunted on
27 Prince of Wales for many, many years. But I am familiar
28 with education and I am familiar with task forces that work
29 collaboratively to solve problems.
30
31

32 I just want to say that I think Dr. Garza
33 is right on on this issue. And I have some experience on
34 this issue and I want to detail it just a little bit, not
35 taking too much time.
36
37

38 Twenty-five years ago I brought on my time
39 when I was allowed to speak to the Sitka Chamber of
40 Commerce, I invited Alaska Department of Fish and Game to
41 present their slide show that they had detailing the
42 impacts of clear-cut logging on deer habitat and eventually
43 on deer populations and hunting, and it was very
44 controversial at that time. There's a whole story behind
45 the scenes of how we got that out of the Department and go
46 to show it. I was in Washington, D.C., when Max Peterson,
47 head of the Forest Service at that time testified at John
48 Seiberling's House Hearing, that Southeast hunters knew
49 that the best place to harvest deer was in clear-cuts, and
50 I was -- anyway, we have a problem here, in that, the

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1 scientific fact is that we have declining deer populations
2 due to habitat alterations by clear-cut logging. It's
3 going to affect hunting opportunities.

4

5 The educational effort needs to be out
6 there at every -- at Fish and Game Advisory Committees and
7 hunting clubs and stuff, and it's my belief that you cannot
8 solve this problem unless you have a real clear educational
9 effort so people come together agreeing on the problem
10 first. And I don't think there's that general agreement
11 yet. And that's why I completely agree with Dolly, with
12 Dr. Garza.

13

14 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

15

16 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Others like to
17 comment at this time. I remind you we're going to be
18 grilling Mr. Kessler probably pretty well before this is
19 over.

20

21 (Laughter)

22

23 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Ms. Phillips.

24

25 MS. PHILLIPS: Thank you, Chairman
26 Littlefield. Thank you, Mr. Edwards, for your listening
27 ears at our annual meeting, or semi-annual meeting.

28

29 I don't need to remind anyone here that
30 this entire process has been a learning process for us all.
31 The reason why we are where we are at on Unit 2 Prince of
32 Wales deer is because of our grassroots intervention to get
33 it where it is today. Numerous times we've asked for legal
34 counsel to be at our meetings. And we had Mr. Ustasiewski
35 our Ketchikan meeting, and with his involvement we were
36 able to come up with some pretty sound reasoning to present
37 to the Federal Subsistence Board, and your follow up
38 regulations are reflective of our advice.

39

40 I'm curious to know, do you, personally
41 read our transcripts or does Staff review the transcripts
42 and give you highlights, or how do our transcripts of our
43 advisory meetings play into your decision-making process?

44

45 BOARD MEMBER EDWARDS: I certainly don't
46 read the entire transcripts, I don't read the Board's
47 entire transcripts either. But certainly at our Board
48 meetings, your views are both presented in writing and I
49 can certainly guarantee you that you have a Chairman who
50 does a very excellent job of articulating your positions

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1 and defending them and is sort of a real pleasure, at times
2 maybe even be adversarial with because he does such a good
3 job, at carrying forth your ideas.

4

5 And so that's how me, along with the other
6 Board members, plus we certainly have Staff who attend
7 these various meetings and can also convey. But I can
8 assure you on my part I'm very interested in what each
9 member of the Councils have to say, even those who may
10 disagree with what the Council itself is proposing because
11 they're in the minority.

12

13 MS. PHILLIPS: Chairman Littlefield.

14

15 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Go ahead.

16

17 MS. PHILLIPS: I also want to state that
18 OSM, the Federal government has reluctantly taken over
19 subsistence management of our fish and wildlife resources.
20 It's only recently that there's the thinking that it's here
21 to stay, so let's make it work.

22

23 And we've had previous presenters, Thorne
24 Bay Ranger District Steve, I can't remember his last name,
25 but he gave us a presentation on collaborative management,
26 that was -- it was a nice presentation, sounded like it was
27 going to go somewhere and then he ended up moving away,
28 going away somewhere and so here we are, we're hearing
29 about collaborative management again. Well, I want to
30 build on what we start rather than start/stop/start.

31

32 Thank you.

33

34 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Other Council. mr.
35 Douville.

36

37 MR. DOUVILLE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
38 I'd just like to make a couple of comments as to why we're
39 even discussing this right now.

40

41 If you remember three or four years ago,
42 this RAC requested 10 days from August 1 to August 10th and
43 the attitude -- my feeling was it was just like over my
44 dead body, it just got totally -- it never went anywhere
45 with the Federal Board. So for the next three years
46 nothing happened. And the attitude then of the RAC was we
47 recommended several other proposals like in Hoonah, and a
48 total turnaround, in my opinion, went farther than what we
49 really needed which is putting us where we're at today.

50

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1 So it's been a difficult time doing all
2 this deliberation and making what we feel is the most
3 intelligent recommendation, because we know the situation.
4 I live on Prince of Wales and we can make a good decision.
5 However our recommendations have not been going anywhere.

6
7 And it's not because of any confusion on
8 our part. I want to point that out. We did the best we
9 could with the knowledge at hand.

10
11 So now you have this change and I think
12 that if we follow the process and take the RAC Committee's
13 recommendations seriously for what they are, they're good
14 recommendations, we would not be even discussing this
15 today. If we'd have had 10 days when we requested it three
16 years ago, it would have taken care of the problem.

17
18 Thank you.

19
20 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Are there any other
21 Council that would like to speak now.

22
23 (No comments)

24
25 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Thank you, Mr.
26 Edwards.

27
28 BOARD MEMBER EDWARDS: Thank you, Mr.
29 Chairman for the opportunity.

30
31 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Mr. Kessler.

32
33 MR. KESSLER: Mr. Chairman. Council. What
34 I would like to do next is go through a presentation that's
35 up on the screen that you should have a copy of it in your
36 hands, I believe. And what this is is exactly the
37 presentation that we gave to the Federal Subsistence Board
38 at their last work session. So I wanted you to see exactly
39 what was given to the Board. I didn't change it at all.

40
41 What I'm going to do is talk about two
42 things here. The 2003 regulation changes and the
43 cooperative management planning. Now, 2003 regulation
44 changes, of course, you've got very intimate familiarity
45 with. Those changes were that the Federal Subsistence
46 Board approved was having an early subsistence only
47 opportunity in the last week of July and then the first
48 three weeks of August are closed to non-Federally-qualified
49 subsistence users for Prince of Wales Island.

50

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1 The results of that from the Federal
2 registration permits are shown right here. This is a chart
3 showing how many deer were actually harvested by week as
4 reported through the returns of the Federal permits. Now,
5 Jim Brainard will give an update to this information, this
6 was very preliminary, there's probably a month's worth of
7 additional data so all of these bars are going to be higher
8 and Jim will give that to you. And there was a lot of
9 questions about this chart among Federal Subsistence Board
10 members. And Jim will go into more detail as I said. But
11 the only really accurate data points are the first four
12 because after those first four, starting the last week in
13 August, then there are also State permitted harvests and
14 anybody is allowed to -- well, Federally-qualified users
15 are allowed to harvest under either State regulations or
16 Federal regulations. So the only data points on this, and
17 he'll go into that a little bit more that we know about for
18 sure.....

19
20 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Excuse me, we have
21 one question, just a second.

22
23 Dr. Garza.

24
25 DR. GARZA: Just a clarifying question. On
26 this chart is that for the week ending, so for 7/31, that
27 includes the week starting 7/24?

28
29 MR. KESSLER: That is correct, that is the
30 week ending. And you will be handed out a revised chart,
31 everybody will have it.

32
33 Now as far as cooperative management
34 planning, the Forest Service is committed to two
35 cooperative planning, conditional on minimizing the risk of
36 failure and we've had quite a few discussions with Regional
37 Forester Denny Bschor on this and he is very engaged in
38 this area. So we developed a white paper for him and this
39 is sort of the summary of that paper.

40
41 The first thing that needs to be done to
42 minimize the risk of failure is to determine the
43 feasibility. And as no doubt you all are aware and you
44 have received copies of it, the Prince of Wales Island Deer
45 Cooperative Management Process of Feasibility Assessment,
46 this document here was prepared last year under contract
47 with Sheinberg Associates.

48
49 The results of that and there were 27
50 interviews that were done, was there was general

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1 concurrence to proceeds, 19 of 27 of the interviewees
2 agreed that it would be beneficial to proceed with a
3 cooperative process. There was some reluctance among
4 current and former RAC members.

5
6 Second to minimize risk of failure is to
7 address the causes and not the symptoms of the situation.
8 The symptom, as we have identified it and I think you would
9 agree, subsistence users are experiencing difficulties in
10 meeting their needs, their subsistence needs for deer. And
11 there are three possibilities as far as this goes, and why
12 is that?

- 13
14 1. Inadequate deer supply. And
15 that's been talked about in the
16 discussions just a little bit
17 earlier. Are there enough deer or
18 aren't there enough deer, and we
19 don't have an answer to that.
20 That will be talked a little bit
21 more about by Jim Brainard and
22 we've talked about it earlier with
23 deer pellet counts, just that we
24 don't have very good ways to
25 measure at this point.
26
27 2. The second cause could be that
28 there's competition from other
29 hunters so that Federally-
30 qualified subsistence hunters are
31 not able to, as easily find the
32 deer that they need.
33
34 3. The third cause could be
35 associated with just the habitat
36 conditions and how the habitat
37 conditions have changed on Prince
38 of Wales Island through such
39 things as reduced visibility in
40 clear-cuts as the vegetation grows
41 up.

42
43 So another condition to minimize the risk
44 of failure is that this whole process needs to be informed
45 by critical information. And the first piece of critical
46 information is the ability to estimate and monitor the deer
47 population levels. And we're looking into some other ways
48 to measure how many deer there are on Prince of Wales.
49 There are new technologies and genetic methods to estimate
50 total population. As a matter of fact, about two weeks

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1 from now we're going to have the head of the Forest Service
2 genetics laboratory in Montana is going to be coming up
3 here and there is sort of a science seminar that's being
4 sponsored by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, and
5 he'll talk at that and other methods for calculating or
6 figuring out and estimating the number of deer on Prince of
7 Wales Island will be discussed at that meeting.

8

9 We also need to improve information about
10 the harvest. How many deer are being harvested, where are
11 they being harvested, and who's harvesting them. That
12 chart that I showed you just a little while ago goes a step
13 towards figuring out how many and when. That's the best
14 information that we have at this point, that under the
15 State process there is no requirement at this point to
16 provide that information of when and where.

17

18 And the fourth item for minimizing the risk
19 of failure is we do need to address future trends as well
20 as immediate needs. This future trend is that deer habitat
21 capability is expected to decrease and continue to decrease
22 on Prince of Wales Island over time based on the habitat
23 modifications that have occurred to date. And I'm sure
24 that you've, at some point, over the years, been presented
25 with information from the deer habitat capability models
26 that show a decrease in capability as the timber stands
27 move through their different phases.

28

29 There's also another prediction could be
30 made that human activity on Prince of Wales Islands is
31 going to continue to increase. That there are going to be
32 more people, that there will be more people coming to the
33 island from other areas and Dave Johnson will have a little
34 more information for you today from the passenger traffic
35 on the Inter-Island Ferry.

36

37 So we're committed to a process and this
38 process of how we move forward, there's some options that
39 we've talked about. There's not very many options, but we
40 recognize that all the alternatives must be consistent with
41 the Federal Advisory Committee Act, FACA. One thing that
42 you have discussed previously, is structuring this as a
43 subcommittee of the Regional Advisory Council. It could be
44 conducted with the Department of Fish and Game leadership
45 or there might be some opportunities for a combined
46 process.

47

48 What we propose -- I think that's the last
49 slide, almost the last slide, what we propose now is that
50 in the very near future, that a small planning committee

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1 would be put together to figure out how this moves forward
2 and that committee would be made up of a couple Forest
3 Service members, couple of Department of Fish and Game
4 members and a couple of Regional Advisory Council members,
5 and that this group would actually plan on how that
6 cooperative approach would occur.

7

8 Let me just jump here to -- let me see if
9 I can do it here -- in 2002, the Southeast Regional
10 Advisory Council passed this resolution, a resolution
11 concerning establishing a deer committee to work on Prince
12 of Wales issues, I think, has that passed out to everyone
13 also, Bob?

14

15 DR. SCHROEDER: (Nods affirmatively)

16

17 MR. KESSLER: Yes. Okay, everyone should
18 have a copy in front of them. And in this resolution the
19 Council said that they believed that the subcommittee
20 approach would work and would comply with FACA and resolved
21 that Dr. Garza, Mr. Douville, Mr. Thomas, and others should
22 meet and form that subcommittee. At this point what we
23 would like is for the Council to identify a couple of
24 members who would participate in this planning group. I
25 don't really want to call this a subcommittee at this point
26 because that's another step beyond and if the Council so
27 chooses to have Dr. Garza and Mr. Douville participate with
28 us that would be wonderful, and if you would like to have
29 another person to replace Mr. Thomas, who's no longer on
30 the Council, that would be fine, too, although we would
31 prefer to have a smaller group because we think we could be
32 more effective and get more done quickly.

33

34 That's all I have at this point. There's
35 going to be some background material on other issues that
36 Dr. Schroeder and Mr. Johnson will present to you. So I'd
37 say right now this would be the appropriate time if we want
38 to have some discussion of this, to do so.

39

40 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: I believe there will
41 be some discussion. Council discussion, questions for Mr.
42 Kessler.

43

44 (No comments)

45

46 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: No one has any
47 questions for Mr. Kessler on U-2 deer.

48

49 Mr. Jordan.

50

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1 MR. JORDAN: Mr. Kessler, I sense a sense
2 of inevitability that you're going to have less deer on
3 Prince of Wales Island, would you concur?

4
5 MR. KESSLER: Mr. Jordan, as I understand
6 that's correct. At least the habitat capability models
7 that have been produced by the Forest Service in
8 conjunction with others do show that there is going to be
9 a reduction in deer habitat capability on the island, which
10 will, in most likelihood translate to an actual decrease in
11 number of deer.

12
13 MR. JORDAN: Thank you.

14
15 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Other Council. Just
16 for the record at the Federal Subsistence Board, I made it
17 clear that in my opinion that this SERAC Resolution 08 was
18 still the wish of the Council because it had not been
19 rescinded and until it has been or changed, a resolution
20 doesn't just disappear, it's still the will of the Council
21 unless you would like to change it.

22
23 Mr. Kookesh.

24
25 MR. KOOKESH: On one of your slides you had
26 a -- under the part that said determine feasibility on the
27 first page, the bottom right-hand corner, anyway, under
28 general concurrence it said 19 of 27 said to proceed, but
29 right under there it says, it kind of goes vague and says
30 some reluctance among current and former RAC members, why
31 is that number not like the 19 of 27? Why is that written
32 like that.

33
34 MR. KESSLER: Mr. Kookesh, of the eight of
35 27 who didn't necessarily concur to proceed.....

36
37 MR. KOOKESH: The next one down.

38
39 MR. KESSLER: What's that?

40
41 MR. KOOKESH: The next one down, why
42 is.....

43
44 MR. KESSLER: Yes, I know.

45
46 MR. KOOKESH:it written -- why is the
47 next one written like that.....

48
49 REPORTER: Floyd. Floyd.

50

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1 MR. KOOKESH:and when you put it --
2 the number, why is that?

3

4 MR. KESSLER: Let me make sure I understand
5 it. Are you asking me how many of those.....

6

7 MR. KOOKESH: Why.....

8

9 REPORTER: Floyd.

10

11 MR. KOOKESH:doesn't it be
12 specific.....

13

14 REPORTER: Floyd.

15

16 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Use your mike.

17

18 MR. KOOKESH: Why don't it be specific and
19 say eight out of 10 RAC members, former and current, why
20 doesn't it talk in that context?

21

22 MR. KESSLER: I guess I don't know the
23 answer to that.

24

25 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Mr. Kessler, just a
26 second.

27

28 MR. KESSLER: Yes.

29

30 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Dr. Garza, can you
31 help us with that or maybe make this clear?

32

33 DR. GARZA: I think generally speaking in
34 terms of surveys, it's probably because there was an
35 attempt not to identify, and so when the number gets too
36 small then generally you become more vague in terms of your
37 response. But I will clearly state I was one of the RAC
38 members that opposed going forward.

39

40 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Mr. Kessler.

41

42 MR. KESSLER: Mr. Chair. Mr. Kookesh. If
43 I'm not mistaken, there were four current or former RAC
44 members that were reluctant to move forward with this
45 process. But there were more than four RAC members,
46 current or former RAC members that were interviewed and I
47 would ask Dr. Schroeder if he remembers how many RAC
48 members actually were interviewed.

49

50 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Dr. Schroeder.

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1 DR. SCHROEDER: I'm a little thin on that.
2 I think my recollection is that four RAC members were
3 interviewed and three would be in the expressed reluctance
4 category and one was apparently -- did not express
5 reluctance. I think that if someone wants to get into
6 this, the material has been provided in the thick appendix
7 that was given out to the Regional Council, which has
8 basically the interview notes from these interviews.

9
10 I think the attempt of the author was to do
11 exactly as stated, that there was a lot of support for
12 going forward with this and that frankly RAC members had
13 some real questions about whether this was the right way to
14 go.

15
16 MR. DOUVILLE: Mr. Chairman.

17
18 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Mr. Douville.

19
20 MR. DOUVILLE: I was one of the other RAC
21 members who expressed reluctance and I'll tell you why.
22 Because I believe the current process has never been given
23 a fair opportunity to work and it's plain and simple as
24 that. Until I see it given a fair chance and seeing it not
25 work, well, then I would probably be open to a different
26 process but that hasn't happened yet.

27
28 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Mr. Hernandez.

29
30 MR. HERNANDEZ: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
31 I'd just like to state that I was also one of the RAC
32 members interviewed and I was in favor of going forward
33 with the process and I guess some of my main reasons, and
34 of course being -- at the time that was my first meeting,
35 first RAC meeting when this all came up so I don't have the
36 history behind me of previous efforts that Dr. Garza and
37 Mr. Douville have, of course, so I guess I'm kind of
38 looking more towards the future and less towards the past
39 and I see the problems.

40
41 I guess one of my main reasons was I
42 thought it was pretty inconsistent to be talking about a
43 rural status for Ketchikan and how that would change the
44 whole mix of things here when all our previous efforts to
45 solve this situation have been kind of towards directing --
46 directed towards restrictions to Ketchikan -- or non-rural
47 users and then, you know, in the near future we may have to
48 deal with them as equal status, so that's the way I viewed
49 it.

50

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1 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Other Council. I'd
2 just note for your comment there, if, in fact, Ketchikan
3 was a rural community, which I have gone on record as
4 supporting as well, there is a mechanism in ANILCA that
5 addresses how to take care of that. It's the section part
6 of Section .804, and we can differentiate if it ever gets
7 to that. It can be done.

8

9 So other Council.

10

11 Dr. Garza.

12

13 DR. GARZA: Mr. Chairman. Gee, I was kind
14 of hoping you wouldn't notice that, I joke.

15

16 (Laughter)

17

18 DR. GARZA: If it is the intent of the RAC
19 to continue with the SERAC Resolution 02-8, which is up
20 there, I think this was established when Mr. Thomas was, in
21 fact, a Regional Council member before they kicked him off
22 so we may need to replace that person, and I would
23 recommend either Mr. Bangs or Mr. Hernandez so that we have
24 sort of northern Prince of Wales, Petersburg area hunters
25 represented.

26

27 The one point that we have in this
28 resolution of ours, which was not in your recommendation
29 for the small planning committee, is that we did have John
30 Morris listed as Craig Community Association so he would be
31 the only non-employee, non-RAC member on there and it would
32 certainly be my wishes to have him on and I'm not sure how
33 to respond to that since Mr. Kessler's suggestion that it
34 would be Forest Service, Fish and Game and RAC.

35

36 Thank you.

37

38 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Mr. Kessler.

39

40 MR. KESSLER: Mr. Chairman. Dr. Garza. The
41 planning group that I'm talking about, I view, as being
42 something different than what is in this resolution. And
43 granted I wasn't here in 2002 so I don't know all of the
44 discussion, I haven't gone back in the transcript to see
45 all the discussion that led up to this resolution, but the
46 way I understood this resolution was that this would be the
47 subcommittee. This group that's mentioned in the
48 resolution would be the subcommittee.

49

50 What I'm saying is we need another step

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1 first. And it's sort of planning the process rather than
2 jumping straight into the subcommittee. So that's where I
3 thought that we should have a couple members of the RAC, a
4 couple members of the Forest Service and a couple members
5 of the Department of Fish and Game. You don't want this to
6 be too big a group, but it's just to plan what is going to
7 be the most effective way here to move forward, and the RAC
8 has clearly said that this is the way, through the
9 subcommittee process, that you think should be moved
10 forward with these members. But I guess what I'm saying is
11 it's not clear that everybody's in agreement, this is where
12 we may end up, exactly where you are, but what we would
13 like to do is have these two agencies and the RAC members
14 discuss that process and make sure that we come to a
15 process that we think will all work and will be cost
16 effective and will result in the products that are needed,
17 much as Denny Bschor, in the message that I gave you at the
18 very beginning from him, described.

19

20 Thank you.

21

22 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: I'd just like to
23 note that Mr. Morris is a representative of the Craig
24 Community Association, and you have a government-to-
25 government responsibility to meet with the tribes and go
26 over this anyway. So I just want you to remind you that
27 you have that, that exists.

28

29 Well, first Dr. Garza, go ahead.

30

31 DR. GARZA: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I get
32 the feel from, is it Mr. Edwards, that the Federal
33 Subsistence Board fully embraces this as a next step and if
34 that's the case then I think that's fine. I can put my
35 objections aside. But I have concerns in terms of how this
36 committee, the pre-committee would operate and I would
37 certainly be glad to sit on it with an open mind, I have
38 family on Prince of Wales, I have family on Ketchikan, so
39 I can stand clearly on that fence.

40

41 But my concern is in the one teleconference
42 that we had, in listening to the presentations from Federal
43 Staff as well as from ADF&G Staff as well as from previous
44 conversations, in the Inter-Agency Staff process that you
45 guys go through, it's my understanding that if there is
46 conflict, if one side objects to something then it doesn't
47 happen because you operate on a consensus basis, and if
48 that's the case and if one side can say, no, we don't want
49 to have publication, you know, education preceding this
50 process, then I don't know if there's any benefit for Mr.

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1 Douville or I to sit on there if we can simply be put aside
2 by one vote or one statement, and so I would have to have
3 a better idea on the planning committee, if, you know, one
4 agency can say, no, we don't want that and so we're not
5 going to have it happen, because I will continue to state
6 over and over, I think if we start with education we'll get
7 a lot farther in resolving this whole issue, and I hope
8 that's something that will go forward to the Federal
9 Subsistence Board, that as this cooperative planning
10 management discussion goes forward, that the people
11 involved with it are fully aware of biology as well as
12 ANILCA requirements and issues that we're facing.

13

14 Thank you.

15

16 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: I think maybe the
17 format we might look at is to entertain -- I would
18 entertain a motion to reaffirm this Resolution 02-08 and
19 then further by amendment you could change some of the
20 names if you felt like it. But I think we should take a
21 position on this resolution, whether it's still valid or
22 not.

23

24 DR. GARZA: Mr. Chair.

25

26 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Go.

27

28 DR. GARZA: I would move that we, as a
29 Council, reaffirm SERAC 02-08, a resolution concerning
30 establishment of a deer subcommittee to work on Prince of
31 Wales issues, also known as U-2.

32

33 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Is there a second.

34

35 MR. STOKES: I'll second it.

36

37 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: It's been moved and
38 seconded to reaffirm the Council's position on SERAC 02-08.
39 Discussion.

40

41 Mr. Kookesh first and then Dr. Garza.

42

43 MR. KOOKESH: In terms of structure, Mr.
44 Kessler pointed out that if we have too large of a body
45 represented here that it would get, in a sense, bogged
46 down, and just from looking at what I saw and what I heard,
47 it would be my opinion that we should, this structure, to
48 have two RAC members but only one person from the Forest
49 Service and one person from ADF&G, and also to ask for
50 representatives of other interests. I believe that if we

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1 start putting too much Fish and Game and too much Forest
2 Service on there, we've already stacked it too heavy and I
3 believe having just one representative from each group, but
4 I believe the two I'm looking at, for some reason, they
5 seem to get appointed all the time, the two I'm looking at,
6 they do represent two areas, one is an urban area and one
7 is a rural area, and I'd like to see us not get it too
8 heavy into the Forest Service and the Fish and Game. I
9 think that body can operate on one.

10

11 But I'd like to see representatives of
12 other interests speak also to this issue.

13

14 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Just to clarify, Mr.
15 Kookesh, you're suggesting that the make up be revised, and
16 you haven't made this in a form of an amendment.....

17

18 MR. KOOKESH: No.

19

20 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD:I'm just trying
21 to clarify what you said for my records. Two RAC members,
22 one ADF&G, one OSM, one Forest Service, one interested and
23 one tribe, is that kind of what you were looking at.

24

25 MR. KOOKESH: I wasn't included OSM, no.

26

27 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: One Federal, would
28 be, instead of OSM, one Federal.

29

30 MR. KOOKESH: Yeah.

31

32 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Okay. I just wanted
33 to kind of catch what you were saying. Other Council.

34

35 Dr. Garza.

36

37 DR. GARZA: Mr. Chairman. Speaking
38 directly to the SERAC resolution and putting aside for a
39 minute, Mr. Kookesh's comments, I would amend the
40 resolution to replace Mr. Bill Thomas, who, of course, is
41 irreplaceable, but for purpose of this RAC Committee, to
42 replace him with Donald Hernandez.

43

44 MR. DOUVILLE: Second.

45

46 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: An amendment has
47 been proposed to the main motion to replace Mr. William
48 Thomas' name with that of Mr. Hernandez, and first I would
49 ask Mr. Hernandez, are you willing to serve?

50

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1 MR. HERNANDEZ: Yes, I am, Mr. Chairman.

2

3 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Okay. Under
4 discussion, is there any discussion on that.

5

6 (No comments)

7

8 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Hearing none, all
9 those in favor of replacing Mr. Bill Thomas, which we
10 understand can't be done, but with Mr. Don Henderson.....

11

12 DR. GARZA: Hernandez.

13

14 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD:Hernandez --
15 getting all screwed up here, Hernandez, please signify by
16 saying aye.

17

18 IN UNISON: Aye.

19

20 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Opposed, same sign.

21

22 (No opposing votes)

23

24 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: The amendment has
25 carried. We're back to the main motion as amended. Any
26 further discussion.

27

28 Mr. Jordan.

29

30 MR. JORDAN: Mr. Chair. I understood that
31 Mr. Douville was speaking in opposition to this. I'm
32 inclined to go that way myself, maybe hearing more from him
33 to clarify his position for me.

34

35 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Mr. Kookesh first,
36 then Mr. Douville.

37

38 MR. KOOKESH: Mr. Chairman, we just noticed
39 that we had to remove Mr. Thomas, I was wondering if there
40 was a way we should just structure this so that we don't
41 use names, that way we don't always have to keep coming
42 back to modifying this. If we can just say for what we're
43 doing, ask for two RAC members, ADF&G representative, a
44 Forest Service representative, and then other interested
45 parties. Instead of being very name specific, because we
46 haven't talked to Mr. Morris yet either. But just to keep
47 it in the generic context, that way we don't always have to
48 be doing this.

49

50 That's my comment.

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1 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: I believe those
2 names were selected because they were most familiar with
3 it, Dr. Garza being originally from the island and Mr.
4 Douville being the Council member from the island, so they
5 were most familiar with the issues, that's all.

6
7 But you're welcome to make an amendment if
8 you wish, Mr. Kookesh.

9
10 MR. KOOKESH: No, I have no problem with
11 Mr. Douville and Ms. Garza, you know, that's my
12 recommendation and if you so wish that it be an amendment,
13 so moved.

14
15 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Could you please
16 restate the amendment.

17
18 MR. KOOKESH: The amendment would be to
19 change -- to remove the individual names and replace them
20 with two RAC members, an Alaska Department of Fish and Game
21 member and one Forest Service member and other interested
22 parties. That is what I'm requesting.

23
24 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Is there a second.

25
26 MR. ADAMS: (Nods)

27
28 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Mr. Adams, are you
29 seconding.

30
31 MR. ADAMS: For the sake of discussion I'll
32 second.

33
34 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Okay. It's been
35 moved and seconded to amend the motion to strike the names
36 of the three RAC members and replace those with two unnamed
37 RAC members, one ADF&G, one Federal, one interested and one
38 tribal; is that correct?

39
40 MR. KOOKESH: Mr. Chairman, when I was
41 talking to it, I was only speaking to Ms. Garza, but I
42 didn't include Mr. Thomas, but if it's the wish that it be
43 three, you know, it doesn't matter to me, two or three
44 would be fine.

45
46 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Just for
47 clarification we've already amended the motion once to add
48 Mr. Hernandez, so we would have Mr. Hernandez named and two
49 RAC members unnamed, so please clarify and restate that for
50 me.

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1 (Laughter)

2

3 MR. KOOKESH: Okay. Since I was just
4 following the discussion of two people, to have it be
5 three, Mr. Chairman, and one representative from Fish and
6 Game and one representative from Forest Service and other
7 interested parties.

8

9 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: And you did not
10 include the tribe.

11

12 MR. KOOKESH: I just left it open to other
13 interested parties, that can -- that's something you can --
14 if we have an MOU with them or an MOA, then include them,
15 but if not then.....

16

17 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: The maker has
18 clarified his motion, is that an approval of the second,
19 Mr. Adams.

20

21 MR. KOOKESH: Were you going to get a
22 response from the second?

23

24 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: That's what I'm
25 asking.

26

27 MR. KOOKESH: They want your response.

28

29 MR. ADAMS: I'm not seconding it, I'm sorry
30 -- oh, yes, fine, yeah. I had my mind set on something
31 else, can I address that part now.

32

33 (Laughter)

34

35 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: I take it you
36 approve.

37

38 MR. ADAMS: Yes, it's fine.

39

40 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Go ahead.

41

42 MR. ADAMS: I wish you could find words to
43 replace, replace or remove. Because, you know, we all know
44 that Bill Thomas is irreplaceable and immovable.

45

46 But I wanted to ask, you know, Mr. Kookesh
47 here, how we would identify those other two or three -- no,
48 two, other interests, how would you go about identifying
49 those individuals.

50

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1 Thank you.

2

3 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Dr. Garza.

4

5 DR. GARZA: Mr. Chairman, I'd like a 10
6 minute at ease so we can Tling up on here what we're
7 talking about.

8

9 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Two minute at ease.

10

11 (Off record)

12

13 (On record)

14

15 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: The meeting will
16 please come back to order.

17

18 Dr. Garza.

19

20 DR. GARZA: Mr. Chairman, I move that we
21 table the motion as well as its amendment before us until
22 we're done with Mr. Kessler and bring forward possibly a
23 new resolution.

24

25 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Correction, the
26 motion is to table, not to any time certain, just a motion
27 to table. Do I have a second.

28

29 MR. ADAMS: Second.

30

31 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: The motion is to
32 table. All those in favor signify by saying aye.

33

34 IN UNISON: Aye.

35

36 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: All those opposed,
37 same sign.

38

39 (No opposing votes)

40

41 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: The motion, with one
42 amendment pending, is tabled.

43

44 Where are we?

45

46 Mr. Kessler.

47

48 (Laughter)

49

50 MR. KESSLER: Mr. Chairman. I guess I'm a

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1 little confused. Are we ready to move forward with the
2 rest of these presentations or what?

3

4 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: We tabled this
5 motion so that we could discuss it after any kind of
6 business is taken place, that could be in a minute, after
7 you've said something, we want you to finish your
8 presentation, make your recommendations and then we'll take
9 it off the table. I think that's our intent.

10

11 MR. KESSLER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I
12 just have a comment to make about what our, sort of vision,
13 for this process would be. And what that vision is, is
14 that we would put together, let's just call it a planning
15 committee of Forest Service, Department and RAC members to
16 decide the process to move forward, and who should actually
17 be participating in the cooperative planning and how that
18 would be administered.

19

20 That would be the purpose of this smaller
21 group.

22

23 So from our standpoint, we would have this
24 group do its work and then coming from that we would
25 recognize we need two RAC members, a number of urban
26 numbers perhaps, tribal representatives and exactly what
27 that make up would be, and also would be running the entire
28 cooperative planning process. At this point we don't view
29 the agencies having any significant role in that except for
30 facilitators in this. But we don't think at this point
31 that trying to just implement the resolution just as it is
32 is going to work very effectively because we don't think
33 that all of the players will be in agreement with the
34 process as it is set up specifically as in the resolution
35 of the RAC.

36

37 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Council. Mr. Bangs.

38

39 MR. BANGS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm
40 not real sure, this probably isn't directed at what you're
41 asking but I just have this feeling that no matter what we
42 go through when we address this, that there's this large
43 variable that the Forest Service has to deal with and in
44 your report here there's the effects of clear-cutting, and
45 each time our Federal government changes administration,
46 this is a big variable. And so in the Inter-Agency, how is
47 this variable going to be dealt with when we form this
48 committee?

49

50 MR. KESSLER: Mr. Chair. Mr. Bangs. I

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1 think my response to that is pretty straightforward. We a
2 have Forest plan. The Tongass Land Management Plan. The
3 Tongass Land Management Plan describes the maximum amount
4 of timber production, maximum amount of lands that could be
5 harvested under the Forest Plan, and, therefore, when we're
6 talking about what is the potential future changes on the
7 island and what are the potential changes, geographic
8 basis, wildlife analysis area, bio-wildlife analysis area
9 on Prince of Wales we already know, as an estimate, what
10 those changes will be, that's the habitat changes. Exactly
11 what those changes would be as far as deer availability for
12 subsistence, non-subsistence hunters, well, that we're not
13 quite so sure of, but we are sure of what those changes on
14 the island could be and we have a model that shows us what
15 the changes in deer habitat capability could be as a
16 result.

17

18 So the Forest plan tells us what's going
19 on. Now, there are other lands on Prince of Wales Island.
20 There are private lands and exactly what's going to happen
21 to those private lands, well, that's not something we have
22 any authority over.

23

CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Other Council.

24

Dr. Garza.

25

26 DR. GARZA: Thank you, Mr. Chair. And so
27 we're seeing that we, as a Council, need to make several
28 decisions here. One is reaffirming something like the
29 resolution that we passed in Hoonah. Options for
30 structuring on your power-point, there were three listed.
31 Whether it would be a subcommittee of RAC conducted by
32 ADF&G leadership or combined RAC and ADF&G process. And on
33 that power-point, it would be my -- and maybe we should
34 start from here, it would be my preference that it be a
35 subcommittee of the Regional Advisory Council since it's
36 something that will come back to us as a Regional Advisory
37 Council.

38

39 So Mr. Chairman, if it takes a motion then
40 I would move that the structure of the deer subcommittee to
41 work on Prince of Wales issues be structured as a
42 subcommittee of the Regional Advisory Council.

43

CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: You've moved.

44

MR. KOOKESH: (Shakes head positively)

45

DR. GARZA: Floyd's shaking his head as the

46

00171

1 second.

2

3

CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Please restate

4 that.....

5

MR. KOOKESH: (Shakes head positively)

7

8

CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD:I don't think

9 I have that right.

10

11

DR. GARZA: Mr. Chairman, I was trying to read from the power-point presentation, the last slide all alternatives must be consistent with FACA options for structuring, the first one was structured as a subcommittee of the Regional Advisory, and then I was trying to use also our resolution.

17

18

So I was moving that the deer subcommittee to work on Prince of Wales issues be a subcommittee of the Regional Advisory Committee, and Floyd shook his head as my second.

22

23

MR. KOOKESH: Yes, sir, Mr. Chairman.

24

25

CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: You second, Mr.

26 Kookesh.

27

28

MR. KOOKESH: (Nods head affirmatively)

29

30

CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Discussion.

31

32

Mr. Hernandez.

33

34

MR. HERNANDEZ: I just need a clarification, this motion you just put forth, Dolly, is this dealing with the committee that will establish and set the membership of what eventually will be a working group or are you talking about the eventual working group itself.

39

40

CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Dr. Garza.

41

42

DR. GARZA: The working group itself.

43

44

CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Other Council.

45

46

Mr. Jordan.

47

48

MR. JORDAN: I brought this up earlier, and I also talked to the Staff a bit about it. My experience and my recommendation would be that the Alaska Department

50

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1 of Fish and Game and the Forest Service officials be ex-
2 officio. And I have a couple other ideas, but I think we
3 should deal with them one at a time.

4

5 I could offer an amendment but I want to
6 see how sympathetic some other members, including the maker
7 of the motion would be to that.

8

9 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Dr. Garza.

10

11 DR. GARZA: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Eric,
12 this is just the first step and then secondly we will speak
13 to the resolution and the make up of the subcommittee. And
14 so the first intent is just that the leadership of that
15 subcommittee come from this Council, and the second step
16 would be, okay, who's going to be on it and then at that
17 point if we want any Federali's to be ex-officio only.

18

19 MR. JORDAN: I understand, thank you.

20

21 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Dr. Schroeder, could
22 you please take us through how you look at this.

23

24 DR. SCHROEDER: Mr. Chairman, just as your
25 coordinator I'm trying to catch up and see if we're making
26 progress towards the work that we have to accomplish on
27 this.

28

29 I think there are at least two things in
30 play in this discussion. One is the suggestion from Mr.
31 Kessler and from the Federal Staff with the encouragement
32 of the Federal Subsistence Board, as you heard from Gary
33 Edwards, that we move forward on planning of some sort.

34

35 The first step, which is basically about
36 the only way that Federal Staff has figured out how we
37 might proceed with this pretty clear direction from the
38 Federal Subsistence Board and from the SERAC resolution was
39 to form a working group whose task would specifically be
40 figuring out how we would take next steps, and that this
41 working group would be very much like the working group
42 that advised on the feasibility study and a number of
43 people on the Council served on that. And that that
44 working group would then come up with something that the
45 RAC members who were part of that working group would help
46 develop and then whatever came out of that group would come
47 back to be subject to Regional Advisory Council discussion
48 at a later date.

49

50 I'm not clear whether Dr. Garza wishes this

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1 working group to be a subcommittee or whether we're moving
2 ahead to what the activity actually dealing with Prince of
3 Wales would be the subcommittee.

4

5 But what Federal Staff would prefer would
6 be if we could identify members for this interim temporary
7 working group whose function it would be to identify the
8 direction that the program goes.

9

10 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: That's clear to me.

11

12 (Laughter)

13

14 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Okay. I believe
15 that Dr. Garza said it was a subcommittee, that's what I
16 have written down, that it was a subcommittee of the RAC,
17 but I'm going to let Dr. Garza restate the motion that's on
18 the floor.

19

20 DR. GARZA: Already restated it twice.

21

22 MR. KOOKESH: And this is my second again.

23

24 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Okay.

25

26 DR. GARZA: Okay. And so it was -- I'm not
27 going to restate it. Mr. Schroeder, it was my intent that
28 this would be the actual working subcommittee, not the
29 preplanning, which I intended to get to in another motion.
30 So I see a series of motion going, the one that's before us
31 is the -- that the working subcommittee that will address
32 Prince of Wales U-2 deer be through the RAC subcommittee
33 process.

34

35 The second motion, should this pass, would
36 be, we would look at something like the resolution we had
37 up there, saying that the subcommittee should be three RAC,
38 one ADF&G, one Forest Service, one Prince of Wales tribal
39 member, one -- they wouldn't let me call them an urban
40 cowboy, but I know we've got urban cowboy's in Ketchikan,
41 that we then speak to the preplanning or interim committee
42 which Mr. Kessler did speak to in his initial comment; he
43 said it would be Forest Service, ADF&G and then RAC, and
44 then the second time he spoke to it, it sounded like it was
45 Forest Service and RAC, so I would need clarification on
46 that.

47

48 And then, finally, I think we could speak
49 to the timeline so what is the preplanning committee doing,
50 what is the full subcommittee doing and how are we going to

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1 get education in there, which I think is one of the
2 critical points.

3

4 Thank you.

5

6 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Mr. Kessler, could
7 you address those four items of information.

8

9 MR. KESSLER: Uh-oh.

10

11 (Laughter)

12

13 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: You're putting this
14 up on the board and I think that's a great idea because
15 this is kind of complicated. What I'd like to do is let
16 you finish that and then maybe Dr. Schroeder, you can
17 address those questions.

18

19 MR. KESSLER: Okay. Would you like me to
20 try and capture exactly what each of these resolutions are?

21

22 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: That's the intent,
23 yes.

24

25 MR. KESSLER: Okay.

26

27 (Pause)

28

29 DR. SCHROEDER: Mr. Chair, I think Dr.
30 Garza has the intention to work through a series of
31 resolutions. Perhaps if that's the intention let's work
32 through them.

33

34 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Okay. And then as
35 I see it, we have before us the motion to approve the
36 working group as a subcommittee of the RAC. That's all
37 that's before us at this time. Is there any further
38 discussion on this or are you ready for the question.

39

40 (No comments)

41

42 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Okay. All in favor
43 of establishing the working group as a subcommittee of the
44 RAC, please say aye.

45

46 IN UNISON: Aye.

47

48 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Those opposed, same
49 sign.

50

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1 (No opposing votes)

2

3 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: The motion is

4 carried. The working group is intended to be a

5 subcommittee of the RAC.

6

7 Dr. Garza.

8

9 DR. GARZA: Steve, if we could go back to

10 the last -- the resolution that we were modifying.

11

12 (Pause)

13

14 MR. KESSLER: Okay, the original one.

15

16 DR. GARZA: No, I choose to leave the

17 resolution that we tabled on the table until, as I told

18 John, hell freezes over, and just bring this new one

19 because the other one was amended and then further amended

20 and it got too confusing.

21

22 So I would move that the Regional Advisory

23 Council support the resolution as written on the power-

24 point up here. The intent of it is to continue the process

25 that we started in Hoonah. The major changes is that the

26 names are taken out so it would have three RAC members as

27 we've had in the past; one Forest Service; one ADF&G, who

28 we don't identify, they identify; they will be ex-officio

29 and that was the recommendation of Mr. Jordan, as things

30 have worked, and I know he has done lots of work along this

31 line, so I thought that this was an excellent suggestion

32 and that they would not serve as Chair, but somebody in the

33 public domain would serve as Chair; that we would have one

34 tribal representative, and it was our understanding it

35 would be from Prince of Wales and Prince of Wales would

36 figure out who they wanted; and that we would have one

37 urban hunter.

38

39 And again we're not giving the names

40 because that should come from those respective users.

41

42 And that this RAC subcommittee would not

43 exceed seven members. So we're just trying to clearly

44 define how big it is since we were told that we don't want

45 it to be too big and this is the make up that I think we're

46 favoring although that's up for discussion.

47

48 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Is there a second.

49

50 MR. KOOKESH: Yeah, I'll second the motion.

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1 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Discussion. Ms.
2 Phillips.

3
4 MS. PHILLIPS: Chairman Littlefield, a
5 friendly amendment that it be one POW tribal
6 representative.

7
8 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Does the maker of
9 the motion and the second, do they concur with that that we
10 can insert POW, Prince of Wales before tribal?

11
12 DR. GARZA: Yes.

13
14 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Does the second
15 concur?

16
17 MR. KOOKESH: Yes.

18
19 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Okay. So the motion
20 before you is as written on the board. Discussion.

21
22 (No comments)

23
24 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Are you ready for
25 the question.

26
27 MR. KOOKESH: Question.

28
29 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: The motion before
30 the Council is to adopt the resolution as shown on the
31 screen and I want to make sure that that gets in the
32 record. All those in favor, please signify by saying aye.

33
34 IN UNISON: Aye.

35
36 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Those opposed, same
37 sign.

38
39 (No opposing votes)

40
41 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: The resolution is
42 adopted. The motion is adopted.

43
44 Dr. Garza.

45
46 DR. GARZA: Mr. Chairman, I would like to,
47 on this particular motion that just passed, I would like to
48 reiterate that while my initial comments to the initial
49 presentation on this as an interviewee that I oppose this
50 process, however, I would be glad to serve on this

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1 committee and would serve with as open of mind as I can and
2 it's my understanding that Mr. Douville would also be
3 willing to serve on it, despite his initial reluctance to
4 the process, but he may wish to speak to that.

5
6 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Okay. Dr. Garza has
7 volunteered.

8
9 Mr. Douville, response. Would you like to
10 serve on this subcommittee.

11
12 MR. DOUVILLE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I
13 will serve on it and I will keep an open mind. I will have
14 further comments to this sort of thing, maybe as we close
15 our meeting.

16
17 Thank you.

18
19 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: And, Mr. Hernandez,
20 are you still willing to serve?

21
22 MR. HERNANDEZ: Yes, I am, Mr. Chairman.

23
24 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Mr. Jordan.

25
26 MR. JORDAN: I have a couple other things
27 to suggest. One, we've kind of bypassed the Fish and Game
28 Advisory Committees and I know this group as well as the
29 Department pays a lot of attention to their
30 recommendations. I want to be sure that especially in
31 Ketchikan, which has an active Advisory Committee, that we
32 invite them to nominate an urban hunter.

33
34 Mr. Chairman.

35
36 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: We had our last
37 meeting there and not one of them attended. I mean we were
38 right in the Lion's Den, and no one from the Fish and Game
39 Advisory Committee, Ketchikan, was able to attend this. If
40 we have an urban hunter, I believe that that's going to be
41 satisfactory, in my opinion.

42
43 Other Council comments.

44
45 First, Mr. Kookesh and then Dr. Garza.

46
47 MR. KOOKESH: Mr. Chairman, as someone
48 who's served on a city council for a city, seven
49 representatives for a city was sufficient and I don't know
50 why this subcommittee should be going after more, because

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1 if seven can serve a city then I believe that this is
2 sufficient.

3

4 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Dr. Garza.

5

6 DR. GARZA: Mr. Chairman, thank you. I
7 think, Eric, when we were coming up with names for the
8 interviewees, people to be interviewed, Ketchikan Advisory
9 was not active at the time, but the ADF&G Staff Boyd
10 Porter, and I can't remember who else, really knew who the
11 urban hunters were and I think if we turn to them we'll
12 come up with a good name.

13

14 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Council comments.

15

16 (No comments)

17

18 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Other Council
19 comments.

20

21 (No comments)

22

23 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Now, we're not
24 locked into these three members, but at this time I would
25 say that those are the three members that are currently
26 going to serve in that position, that could change over
27 time, if one is unable to serve, perhaps someone else
28 could.

29

30 Mr. Kookesh.

31

32 MR. KOOKESH: Mr. Chairman, even as a
33 subcommittee, I don't believe there's anything wrong with
34 soliciting opinions from other interested parties to form
35 your own opinion. I think that's what makes the world go
36 around, if I'm correct, sometimes.

37

38 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: I believe that would
39 be a function of the subcommittee, I believe you're
40 correct.

41

42 Dr. Garza.

43

44 DR. GARZA: I guess the next two that I had
45 were the preplanning or interim committee and the timeline
46 and I'm not sure which order we should address them and
47 then I also wanted to hear from Mr. Kessler as to what he
48 thought the make up and the process would be for this
49 preplanning/interim committee.

50

00179

1 Thank you.

2

3

CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Mr. Kessler.

4

5 MR. KESSLER: Mr. Chair. Dr. Garza. The
6 thought that we had for how this would work was that there
7 would be a preplanning group made up of two members from
8 the Forest Service, likely, two remembers from the RAC, two
9 from the Department of Fish and Game, and in our thought
10 process, that those members would then come together on
11 what this process needs to look like. These members of
12 what we're now calling the preplanning -- preworking group,
13 preplanning group, and that these members would actually
14 figure out what the membership on this subcommittee ought
15 to be.

16

17

18 Here we have a resolution that says here
19 is, fixed, this is the opinion -- this is what the RAC says
20 this subcommittee should look like. And in our opinion,
21 that this really should have come out of the process of
22 this planning group, this prework group, would have worked
23 out together to say we need RAC members -- I mean I agree
24 with what's on here, that there's RAC members, Forest
25 Service, Department of Fish and Game, tribal
26 representatives, urban hunters, but should there be one
27 urban hunter that's going to be balanced in some way with
28 the RAC members and the Prince of Wales tribal
29 representative. I mean in our thought process this sort of
30 preplanning group would figure that out.

30

31

32 There was a recommendation of what that
33 group would look like in the feasibility assessment.
34 Having looked at that recommendation, we thought that that
35 was too large of a group and that it would be unweilding.
36 And let me see if I can find which page it is on, it's on
37 Page 18. So there were 20 proposed members, what were
38 called here, stakeholder seats. We felt that that would be
39 very unweilding and extremely expensive, but that we do
40 need some sort of representation probably somewhat similar
41 to what's on here. There are no specific RAC members that
42 are shown here and those RAC members could be
43 representatives of these other organizations or could be
44 RAC members who have a vision for all of Unit 2 rather than
45 specifically representing one of these organizations.

45

46

47 So it was our view that this preplanning
48 group would work on what the process would be, who the
49 members would be, what the timing would be, other
50 components, and I fully agree with your education
51 component, but what those other components would be and

00180

1 then would move that forward.

2

3 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: I believe the
4 Council has already expressed its wishes on this previously
5 for many, many years, and I believe that they want this to
6 be a subcommittee of the RAC. Nothing prevents the
7 planning committee from establishing the goals and
8 objectives and going through this, that I see, but I think
9 they're clear, that the RAC said that this is what they
10 would like to have.

11

12 Notwithstanding that, they could come back
13 and look at it again. I don't think it would stop the
14 planning committee from going ahead and defining a lot of
15 the things with the exception of the make up, the Council
16 has already said what they want the make up to be. But
17 there's a whole bunch of other stuff that needs to be done
18 here, too.

19

20 Dr. Garza.

21

22 DR. GARZA: Mr. Chairman, then if we indeed
23 -- have indeed or requested that this be a subcommittee of
24 the RAC and we have, indeed, listed who we think should be
25 on that subcommittee, I think if you look at Page 18 of the
26 report, it does represent all of those interest groups only
27 in a more concise smaller number. And I think by having a
28 number of seven, in my opinion, that alleviates the need
29 for the preplanning committee, that that committee of seven
30 could get together and say, okay, this is what we should be
31 doing, this is how we should be doing it, this is the
32 timeline that we need.

33

34 So I don't even think we need a preplanning
35 committee if their intent was to establish a committee of
36 20 when I think we have a good committee of seven already
37 set up.

38

39 Thank you.

40

41 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: I agree. Timeline.
42 Do you have any comments on the timeline. I don't know if
43 that's workable or not, but I think that's the will of the
44 Council, so maybe timeline is not something you would like
45 to discuss.

46

47 But other Council, do they have any
48 comments on this.

49

50 Dr. Garza.

00181

1 DR. GARZA: Mr. Chairman, I guess in
2 timeline, I think that the Council needs to discuss -- I
3 know that there is concern on this Council that if we would
4 let the proposal that passed go forward, that maybe we've
5 resolved U-2 deer issues and so I think we need to discuss
6 in terms of timeline have we, in fact, given the current
7 solution that we offered forward at our last meeting enough
8 time to determine whether or not that was a successful
9 outcome. That should be part of the discussion, you know,
10 should we jump into this tomorrow or should we let another
11 season go by and see if Prince of Wales people can live
12 with what they have and whether or not Ketchikan people can
13 live with what they have.

14

15 In addition, the other concern I have with
16 timeline is the need to make the education available to all
17 concerned parties, on island/off island in terms of biology
18 as well as ANILCA.

19

20 And so those are the kind of timeline
21 things I'm thinking of. That, perhaps this subcommittee
22 can consider even as we start moving forward.

23

24 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Mr. Kessler.

25

26 MR. KESSLER: Mr. Chairman, two items.

27 First of all, just to go back a little bit.

28

29 With the resolution that's in front of us
30 and up on the screen, I really view the subcommittee as
31 being a subcommittee of five because those are the people
32 that are going to do the work. The three RAC members, the
33 one Prince of Wales tribal representative and the one urban
34 hunter. The Forest Service and the Alaska Department of
35 Fish and Game really don't have the same interests as the
36 users do and as I see it, are pretty much sitting back in
37 a cooperative planning process, really letting the users do
38 the work and the negotiating and then the Forest Service
39 and the Department are more there to assist. So I wanted
40 to mention that this I really see as more of a five person
41 subcommittee at this point.

42

43 As far as timeline, the recommendation on
44 the proposals in front of you that we'll be discussing
45 shortly, 3 through 15, the preliminary conclusion and
46 support of the Inter-Agency Staff Committee also is that we
47 let another year go by and try and just let these
48 regulations be implemented for another year and see how
49 that works, but at the same time have cooperative planning
50 go along in parallel.

00182

1 So our vision was that we would be doing
2 both, be allowing the current regulation to stand, but at
3 the same time start this process.

4
5 Now, one of the important parts as we I
6 went in the power-point show I showed you is we do need to
7 gather some more information. And we thin there may be the
8 means to figure out, well, how many deer are there really
9 on Prince of Wales Island. That's something that we can
10 get going on. We also feel that it's very necessary to
11 have more information about who's hunting where and when.
12 And much as the information that we showed you in that
13 graph from the Federal permits allowed us to do, we feel
14 strongly that we need to have additional information for
15 all hunting on Prince of Wales not just during that four
16 week period which is the most accurate information.

17
18 So the reasons to perhaps go slow to gather
19 more information, reasons to go slow to allow more time for
20 the current regulation or whatever regulation, maybe
21 something that's similar to that regulation that you might
22 propose today, but the ball -- so timing-wise, you know,
23 it's our opinion that we need to start but we probably will
24 not get all of the answers because of the lack of
25 information for a year or so.

26
27 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Other Council.

28
29 MR. DOUVILLE: Mr. Chairman.

30
31 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Mr. Douville.

32
33 MR. DOUVILLE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I
34 just have a couple comments to make. I will abide by any
35 wishes of the Chairman of the Federal Subsistence Board,
36 for one, and I strongly encourage education of ANILCA and
37 its process to all users of U-2 deer. This is very
38 important so we can talk sensibly on any level.

39
40 And I'd also like to point out that this
41 process, this proposed process does not change ANILCA or
42 its guidelines, so I just wanted to put that out.

43
44 Thank you.

45
46 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: I concur. Dr.
47 Kessler [sic], any comments on that.

48
49 MR. KESSLER: Well, I thank you, I became
50 a Dr. Kessler today. No, I don't -- I agree, education is

00183

1 important, Mr. Douville.

2

3 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Is the Council ready
4 for a motion or something on this.

5

6 Mr. Adams.

7

8 MR. ADAMS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr.
9 Kessler, you made a comment that you viewed this committee
10 to be a five member committee and I'm assuming then that
11 the State and Federal representatives would be the ex-
12 officio members as already outlined. But how do you --
13 could you explain that a little bit further for me, I just
14 don't quite understand how you see that make up.

15

16 MR. KESSLER: Mr. Chair. Mr. Adams. I
17 guess what I view is that the subcommittee's make up, the
18 people that are going to be doing the discussing and the
19 negotiations and coming to some sort of resolution are
20 going to be the users, will be the RAC members, the Prince
21 of Wales tribal representative and the urban hunters, and
22 it's those people, you know, who have a real interest in
23 what occurs on Prince of Wales Island, those are the ones
24 that are going to be doing the bulk of the work. The
25 Forest Service and the Alaska Department of Fish and Game
26 representatives and what I see as this subcommittee with
27 the Forest Service and the Department as non-voting
28 members, we would be there to assist the Council, and have
29 scientific information available as we know it and to help
30 with the process. But as far as coming up with an actual
31 plan, it would be the five members.

32

33 Is that clear.

34

35 MR. ADAMS: Then.....

36

37 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Excuse me, Mr.
38 Adams. I believe Mr. Jordan can answer you specific
39 question that you had to Dr. Kessler about an ex-officio,
40 do you want to hear it?

41

42 MR. ADAMS: (Shakes head negatively)

43

44 DR. GARZA: I do.

45

46 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: No, okay, continue,
47 please.

48

49 MR. KOOKESH: That's not your point,
50 though, uh?

00184

1 MR. ADAMS: That's not my point but go
2 ahead.

3
4 MR. JORDAN: Well, I didn't want to
5 interrupt you, Bert, but in my experience, which dates back
6 now to the mid-'70s, working with ex-officio members, in our
7 group processes and task forces, they are fully engaged,
8 fully active members of the committee, they usually draft
9 the plans for us, are very influential in what our
10 decisions come up with, but part of the reason for being
11 ex-officio is voting often puts them in a very difficult
12 situation on these task forces and panels, in that, they
13 have to clear their votes with superiors and on and on and
14 on. And so often, both the rest of the committee members
15 and the Alaska Department of Fish and Game and Federal
16 people are more comfortable in the ex-officio role, that's
17 why I suggested it.

18
19 But let me tell you in my experience, that
20 doesn't make for a five member committee, it's still seven
21 people working together, and that would be my vision of the
22 committee. And from my understanding of the maker of the
23 motion, Ms. Garza, that was also her vision, Mr. Kessler.

24
25 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Let's go back to Mr.
26 Adams.

27
28 MR. ADAMS: Well, that's fine, thank you,
29 Mr. Jordan for your explanation. But -- well, I'll just
30 leave it at that, thanks.

31
32 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Dr. Garza.

33
34 DR. GARZA: I'm getting hungry which means
35 I'm going to get crabby pretty soon, too. I have two more
36 motions -- I will get crabby Floyd.

37
38 I would move that the Southeast Regional
39 Advisory Council U-2 deer subcommittee serve as the
40 preplanning committee.

41
42 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Is there a second.

43
44 MR. STOKES: I'll second it.

45
46 MR. DOUVILLE: Second.

47
48 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: It's been moved and
49 seconded that the subcommittee, the RAC subcommittee serve
50 as the preplanning subcommittee. Any discussion.

00185

1 (No comments)

2

3 DR. GARZA: Question.

4

5 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Question's been
6 called for. All in favor of approving the Regional
7 Advisory Council subcommittee to be used as the preplanning
8 subcommittee, please say aye.

9

10 IN UNISON: Aye.

11

12 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: All those opposed,
13 same sign.

14

15 (No opposing votes)

16

17 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: I'm getting hungry.
18 One more motion. But the motion is approved.

19

20 DR. GARZA: Mr. Chairman, I would move that
21 Mr. Donald Hernandez serve as Chair of the subcommittee,
22 and it is with his concurrence.

23

24 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Mr. Hernandez, would
25 you accept that if it was offered?

26

27 MR. HERNANDEZ: Yes, I will, Mr. Chairman.

28

29 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Is there a second.

30

31 MR. DOUVILLE: Second.

32

33 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: It's been moved and
34 seconded that Mr. Hernandez serve as Chair of the RAC
35 subcommittee. Discussion.

36

37 (No comments)

38

39 DR. GARZA: Question.

40

41 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: The question has
42 been called. All in favor of asking Mr. Anderson or.....

43

44 (Laughter)

45

46 MR. KOOKESH: Henderson.

47

48 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD:Mr. Hernandez,
49 excuse me, to serve as the Chair of the Southeast Alaska
50 Regional Advisory Council subcommittee and preplanning

00186

1 group signify by saying aye.

2

3 IN UNISON: Aye.

4

5 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: All those opposed,
6 same sign.

7

8 (No opposing votes)

9

10 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Are you ready to
11 eat?

12

13 (Council nods affirmatively)

14

15 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: The motion has been
16 approved.

17

18 Mr. Kookesh.

19

20 MR. KOOKESH: Mr. Chairman, I've sat as a
21 member of a Council before and I was -- and on school
22 boards, and I was always under the impression that it's
23 always been the role of the Chair to appoint committee
24 members, and you can even appoint the Chair; is that
25 correct?

26

27 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: My understanding is
28 I can appoint the members, subject to the will of the body,
29 if they would disapprove of them they could do that. But
30 I've approved everybody that you guys have wanted.

31

32 Mr. Bangs.

33

34 MR. BANGS: Yes, thank you, Mr. Chairman.
35 I just wanted to say that if there is a need for an
36 alternate I would volunteer for that position.

37

38 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Thank you, very
39 much. Is there any objection to him serving as an
40 alternate.

41

42 MR. KOOKESH: We'll call you.

43

44 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: We'll call you if we
45 need you, thank you.

46

47 Mr. Kessler.

48

49 (No comments)

50

00187

1 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Dr. Schroeder.

2

3 DR. SCHROEDER: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

4 Staff would like the opportunity to come back with typed up
5 resolutions to make sure that the wording is correct and
6 consistent.

7

8 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: That would be
9 appreciated. We'll do that after lunch.

10

11 Dr. Garza.

12

13 DR. GARZA: There is no fundraiser for
14 lunch today, we're on our own. There is the major dinner
15 tonight for Bill Thomas as well as the raffle. The dinner
16 is at 6:00 o'clock at the Noukatiti Building. There will
17 be a fundraiser lunch tomorrow, I think, by the
18 Kaagwaantaan, so we're off the hook for today's lunch.

19

20 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Okay, we're going to
21 run out of time, probably, I never thought that would
22 happen with this agenda, but we're already getting up
23 against it. I would like you back in one hour, 1:00 p.m.,
24 we'll come back to order. 1:00 p.m., Mr. McBride, if
25 you're prepared to make your presentation we'll put you on
26 at 1:00 p.m.

27

28 MR. MCBRIDE: (Nods affirmatively)

29

30 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Lunch.

31

32 (Off record)

33

34 (On record)

35

36 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Before we broke for
37 lunch, we had taken action on three proposals, they're on
38 the screen in front of you. I'd like you take a second to
39 review those and make sure that that captured exactly what
40 the Council's wishes were.

41

42 Just take a second to look at them and let
43 me know if you have any objection.

44

45 Dr. Garza.

46

47 DR. GARZA: Mr. Chairman, as we're looking
48 at them, we need to either make sure we get a copy of this
49 to Tina or we read it into the record because basically I
50 told her whatever's on the screen, and she's not going to

00188

1 pack that screen off with her, so if this is what we agreed
2 to then we need to make sure that a copy is given to the
3 court recorder. Thanks, Tina.

4

5 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Let's make all the
6 corrections, if any, and then I would like to ask the
7 coordinator, Dr. Schroeder, to read this into the record.

8

9 (Pause)

10

11 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Any other
12 corrections.

13

14 (No comments)

15

16 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Everybody's happy
17 with what's on the screen.

18

19 (Council nods affirmatively)

20

21 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Okay, Dr. Schroeder.

22

23 DR. SCHROEDER: Mr. Chairman, the first
24 resolution SERAC 04-1, concerning Prince of Wales Deer
25 Management Planning.

26

27 SERAC 04-01:

28

29 The working group that will address Prince
30 of Wales Deer Management Planning will be
31 formed as a subcommittee of the Regional
32 Advisory Council.

33

34 Is that okay.

35

36 (No comments)

37

38 DR. SCHROEDER: The second resolution SERAC
39 04-2 concerning the composition of the deer management
40 subcommittee.

41

42 SERAC 04-02:

43

44 The Council resolved that the Federal
45 Subsistence Board -- excuse me, we have to
46 change a word in here. See if this
47 wording is correct.

48

49 The Council resolved that the Federal
50 Subsistence Board should approve formation

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1 of a subcommittee to examine Prince of
2 Wales deer issues. This subcommittee will
3 report to the Southeast Alaska Regional
4 Advisory Council. The Council has
5 concluded that the subcommittee approach
6 would comply with the Federal Advisory
7 Committee Act and allow the Council and
8 the Federal Subsistence Board to develop a
9 better management direction for deer in
10 Unit 2.

11
12 The Council further resolved that three
13 Regional Advisory Council members, one
14 Forest Service, one ADF&G and Prince of
15 Wales tribal representative and one urban
16 hunter be members of this subcommittee.
17 Membership will not exceed seven members.
18 Forest Service and ADF&G members will be
19 non-voting members and will be unable to
20 serve as the Chair of the subcommittee.

21
22 And I'll spell things out. The third
23 resolution SERAC 04-3 concerning how deer planning will
24 proceed.

25
26 SERAC 04-03

27
28 The Unit 2 deer subcommittee will serve as
29 the preplanning subcommittee to guide
30 development of the planning approach.

31
32 Is this the intention of the Council.

33
34 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Any errors,
35 omissions, corrections to that.

36
37 MR. KOOKESH: Mr. Chairman.

38
39 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Mr. Kookesh.

40
41 MR. KOOKESH: May I ask a question about
42 line one on number 2.

43
44 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Go ahead.

45
46 MR. KOOKESH: What happens if they don't
47 approve it. I never heard any discussion where we were
48 asking that statement, that the Council resolved that the
49 Federal Subsistence Board should approve formation of a
50 subcommittee, I never heard us discuss that portion. I was

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1 under the impression that we understood that we were
2 creating, that we weren't asking for somebody to approve
3 it, because if you're using the word, should approve, what
4 if they don't, I mean my question is not should approve, is
5 I didn't hear us discussing that issue.

6

7 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: I will let Dr.
8 Schroeder address that, because we're a FACA subcommittee
9 and formed by the Board, there are some rules that apply.

10

11 Dr. Schroeder.

12

13 DR. SCHROEDER: Mr. Chairman. Floyd. I'm
14 not an expert on FACA, but FACA appears to require the
15 approval of a subcommittee of an existing committee by the
16 agency that appoints the original committee, so in this
17 case the Department of Interior appoints you people and
18 therefore according to my reading of FACA they need to
19 approve a subcommittee.

20

21 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Mr. Kookesh.

22

23 MR. KOOKESH: So I'd like to -- this is the
24 way I look at it, I'd like to see us remove the word,
25 should, because if they don't it's like this is an
26 insignificant issue to us. I'd like to see the word should
27 deleted and just ask them to approve it. Because
28 everything we've just done, we've dealt a long time with
29 this issue and we don't need it just to go away.

30

31 DR. SCHROEDER: Mr. Chair, I was just
32 trying to capture the intent of the Council. Our earlier
33 wording said consider forming, and I thought should approve
34 was closer to what you meant, if you meant approve so be
35 it.

36

37 MR. KOOKESH: Thank you.

38

39 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Okay. Just remember
40 that we cannot direct the Federal Subsistence Board to do
41 anything. We can't use the word, shall, or whatever
42 because that would be a null and void resolution because we
43 don't have that authority.

44

45 I think the intent is clear.

46

47 Mr. Jordan.

48

49 MR. JORDAN: I prefer the way it reads now.
50 I agree with Floyd.

00191

1 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Any other
2 corrections Council.

3
4 (No comments)

5
6 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Okay that's into the
7 record as written. We're on -- first, do you have anything
8 else, Dr. Schroeder?

9
10 DR. SCHROEDER: (Shakes head negatively)

11
12 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Okay. We've changed
13 our agenda so that Mr. McBride could make a presentation on
14 Number 10, the Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program, and
15 also at the same time we're going to allow Yakutat to make
16 their presentation and tag along with them, so Mr. McBride.

17
18 MR. MCBRIDE: Mr. Chairman. Members of the
19 Council. Thank you very much for your indulgence in this.

20
21 What I'd like to speak to you very briefly
22 about is the performance and results that we've realized
23 through the Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program in
24 Southeast. I'll speaking to two documents that were
25 distributed to you, they're not in your books, they were
26 distributed to you by Staff. The first one is this
27 document, it's title Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program
28 2000-2004, Southeast Region. And then accompanying that,
29 that's the right one, and then accompanying that I'll speak
30 to in just a little bit is a letter that's dated February
31 12th, 2004 and it's addressed to Chairman Littlefield.

32
33 But first I'd like to just give you a real
34 brief overview of what's in the performance report and give
35 you a head's up of what's going to be coming in the future
36 and what to be watching for.

37
38 I'm not going to spend any time on the
39 background of the monitoring program, I think we covered
40 that in plenty of sufficient detail during the training
41 session a couple of days ago so I'll just get right into
42 the results and the performance. And I think the best
43 thing to look at while I'm talking to you is this table,
44 it's the last page of your document. And what this table
45 shows is just a summary -- it's this one -- the one in your
46 hand there, yeah -- it's just a summary of everything that
47 we funded and the money that we've invested in the program.

48
49 And the way to read the table is the left-
50 hand corner are just the project numbers, those really

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1 don't matter a whole lot. That second column that days
2 data-type, we talked about this yesterday, there's two
3 types of programs that we recognize, SST, stock, status and
4 trends, and then HMTEK, harvest monitoring and traditional
5 ecological knowledge.

6
7 In the table I grouped the project into two
8 categories, the top category is estimation of salmon
9 escapement and we spoke about this yesterday and you can
10 clearly see as we go through the rest of this table that
11 the major theme of the program here has been assessment of
12 subsistence fisheries for sockeye and the stocks that
13 support those fisheries, and you can see all those projects
14 there.

15
16 The next column are the investigators, that
17 is just laying out all the different cooperators that do
18 those projects. And, again, when we went through this at
19 the training yesterday we talked about capacity building
20 and this very much reflects the style or the manner in
21 which we're trying to do business. It's not just a single
22 agency or a single organization show, by and large, almost
23 every one of these projects is some kind of a collaborative
24 effort, usually between State, Federal and non-government
25 organizations.

26
27 Then all the numbers to the right is
28 basically just the budget information and so you can just
29 simply see the amount of money that was invested in each
30 one of those projects by year. And if you look at those
31 and if you look at the last three columns, they're entitled
32 2004, 2005, 2006 and then you go down to where the numbers
33 are in those columns, those are the projects that we just
34 approved, through the Board, this last December at their
35 Board meeting and that you provided recommendations on at
36 your meeting six months ago in Craig, and those are the
37 dollar amounts that we're putting into those projects, and
38 all of those projects, basically will be going this year.

39
40 There's just kind of a couple of overriding
41 things that I think are worth mentioning about what we've
42 done. When you look at everything that we've done here,
43 we've assessed 20 different sockeye stocks throughout
44 Southeast. And if you look at what had been done
45 previously -- or what existed prior to this program, that
46 is an incredibly significant number, I don't know the exact
47 number that were being assessed but it wasn't close to
48 that. Actually this program is a major part of certainly
49 the sockeye assessment in this region.

50

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1 I think the other thing worth noting is to-
2 date we have been very, very successful in partnering our
3 money with money from the Southeast Sustainable Salmon
4 Fund. And the amount -- and basically what that means is
5 we're leveraging our money. We're getting financial help
6 from another funding source that has concurrent interests
7 to ours. And a lot of these projects, this table doesn't
8 reflect it because it gets too confusing, but a lot of
9 these projects have matching funds provided by ADF&G
10 through the Southeast Sustainable Salmon Fund and what it's
11 allowed us to do is stretch our dollars, fund more projects
12 than we would have been able to fund in the past. And I
13 guess the word of caution on that is, in talking with
14 leadership of ADF&G, future installments of that money for
15 Southeast is very seriously a question, so the extent to
16 which we're able to do that in the future is a huge
17 question mark and I hope they're very successful in
18 continuing that funding for this region. If they're not,
19 what it will force us to do is narrow our focus down even
20 more because the level of program that we're funding right
21 now is, in large part, a function of our ability to stretch
22 our dollars.

23

24 In terms of the actual results. If you
25 look in that report starting on Page 4 there's basically a
26 project by project thumbnail sketch of what has been
27 accomplished to-date. And I'm not going to go through all
28 of these, I'm just going to highlight several of them and
29 particularly try to point out ones for which -- no action
30 is required of you, certainly, right now, but ones you're
31 going to be watching for in the future.

32

33 That very first project on Page 4, the
34 Klawock Lake stock assessment, we did continue funding for
35 that project in 2004, but because of some technical
36 concerns, the recommendation was to only fund that for one
37 year and then have the investigators, which are Alaska
38 Department of Fish and Game in cooperation with KCA,
39 Klawock Cooperative Association to address those concerns,
40 they did do that, we now have a -- one of the proposals in
41 front of us that is under consideration right now for 2005
42 and 2006 is that proposal. So you will be seeing that
43 proposal and that investigation plan this fall. And
44 certainly based on the proposal that we received, it
45 certainly is our assessment, on the part of FIS and the
46 TRC, that they addressed the concerns with that project
47 that were laid out, but that's a real important one. We've
48 been assessing that stock and that fishery since 2000, the
49 inception of this program, that fishery is, just in terms
50 of numbers, I mean you can see the numbers there, is

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1 significant in terms of the abundance of fish that are
2 there. And that's a very important fishery in our view,
3 certainly, and I think in your view as well to continue to
4 look at.

5
6 I think we've had great success with the
7 assessments. Close to Sitka here, I think probably our
8 best success story in terms of capacity building has been
9 with the Sitka Tribe, and they are conducting the
10 assessments at Klag, Salmon Lake and Red Fish, and you'll
11 see all those summaries in here. The reason I say that's
12 our best success story, is, for those projects they're not
13 the co-PI, they are the PI, the principle investigator.
14 They're doing that in cooperation with the Forest Service
15 and Fish and Game, but they're taking the lead role in
16 those projects.

17
18 I think we're making a lot of progress on
19 a real difficult system to assess, which is Hetta, that's
20 being done by Fish and Game in cooperation with the
21 Hydaburg Cooperative Association, and that one was just
22 reauthorized for 2004 through 2007.

23
24 If you turn to Page 5, we have completed
25 work at Virginia Lake. I think the investigator on that
26 was USDA Forest Service. That proved to be a very
27 difficult system to assess and I think they've done an
28 outstanding job, kind of redirecting that program. We
29 finished that with doing a radio-tagging study because what
30 they discovered was there's a whole series of barrier falls
31 on that system and there was serious question whether what
32 was being measured through initial fish -- the bottom fish
33 pass was even surviving to spawn to any great degree. So
34 they very successfully conducted a radio-tagging study
35 there. I've got the final report in hand, it's under
36 review, but I think we're bringing that to a real logical
37 conclusion. And like I say, that was a very difficult one
38 to assess.

39
40 We're going to continue to assess Falls
41 Lake, which is that project at the bottom of Page 5. That
42 certainly has been the subject of a lot of regulatory and
43 management attention, both on the part of the Federal
44 system and the part of the State and certainly continued
45 assessment of that fishery and fish stock makes a lot of
46 sense. Again, I think we did a very good job, and when I
47 say, we, in this case Alaska Department of Fish and Game
48 and the Wrangell Cooperative Association in terms of
49 bringing to a very successful conclusion that project on
50 Thoms, Salmon Bay and Luck Lakes. Right now we're not

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1 going to continue those assessments. And you can just see
2 from the numbers in there we've got some credible estimates
3 of escapement in there based on tagging studies and we've
4 got very high abundance certainly in relation to the size
5 of the fishery that's harvesting those stocks.

6
7 We're finishing up the last year of study
8 on the Neva and Pavlof systems up by Hoonah. Those
9 projects have been very, very successful. Again, we've got
10 relatively high abundance in relation to the fishery so
11 continuation of those projects, at least, at this time is
12 not under consideration. But those will be in their last
13 year of study in 2004, this coming year.

14
15 We've talked about Red Fish and then we did
16 one year of study at Eek Lake, which is by Hydaburg, and,
17 again we got a good credible estimate of escapement, and
18 that's one we might want to look at in the future. The
19 systems around Hydaburg -- the one we are going to continue
20 to assess is Hetta but when you look at those abundance
21 estimates in relation to the size of the subsistence
22 fisheries some continued monitoring, certainly in my view
23 would make a lot of sense.

24
25 If you turn the page and then look at the
26 project descriptions on Page 7, those would relate to the
27 projects on the bottom of Table 1. Those are the harvest
28 monitoring and TEK projects. I'm not going to spend as
29 much time on these because you have investigators here in
30 the room that are going to speak to these projects
31 directly. But what I would say is we're, I think, doing
32 very well in terms of bringing these projects to successful
33 conclusion.

34
35 What these projects are doing is
36 documenting subsistence harvest use patterns around the
37 communities being studied so you can see we're getting, I
38 think, real good temporary assessments around Kake,
39 Klawock, Yakutat, Wrangell, Hoonah, and we're addressing
40 not only salmon but in a lot of cases or in some cases
41 we're certainly addressing other species of fish.

42
43 The one that I would mention that I think
44 from a management perspective and an assessment
45 perspective, we are very much awaiting the answers out of
46 this study is the very last one, that's that Prince of
47 Wales rainbow and steelhead subsistence salmon monitoring
48 in Southeast Alaska. One of the things that, I think,
49 we've very much got to get a handle on is which systems on
50 Prince of Wales Island are receiving attention on the part

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1 of subsistence fishermen. And if for no other reason we
2 need that to direct whatever studies we might do in terms
3 of estimating abundance or composition of steelhead, we
4 want to aim those studies where there are subsistence
5 fisheries and then obviously there's ongoing studies about
6 regulation of those fisheries. And, again, having a good
7 handle about which systems are being harvested and fished
8 by the subsistence fishery makes all the sense in the
9 world. So that's one, at least in my mind, comes right to
10 the top in terms of immediately relevance for both
11 assessment and management.

12

13 Mr. Chairman, I'm just going to very
14 briefly talk about this letter that's addressed to you.
15 It's from Tom Boyd, the Assistant Regional Director of OSM.
16 And what this letter speaks to is the issue of trying to
17 better and more rigorously define research objectives for
18 this program. And the rationale to do this, certainly in
19 our view, is very compelling. As money becomes tighter our
20 need to strategically aim our funds becomes greater and
21 greater. And to that end we're going to embark on a
22 process to try to more rigorously define our information
23 needs that we want our program to assess and to do that,
24 it's going to take us a period of several years, but to
25 that for each region we're going to pull together a
26 workshop of, what I would guess, for a lack of a better
27 term, appropriate professions within that region, so we're
28 going to invite managers and researchers from the various
29 agencies and organizations to come together and basically
30 we're going to ask them address three work products that
31 are in the second paragraph of that letter.

32

33 First of all we want them to, as completely
34 as possible, identify goals, objectives and information
35 needs for that region needed for Federal Subsistence
36 Fishery management.

37

38 Second, we want them to identify the gaps
39 in knowledge for each of those identified information
40 needs.

41

42 And then three, give some sense of priority
43 to which information needs we would then want to address in
44 our upcoming call for proposals.

45

46 Now, as part of that workshop, as I'm sure
47 you're all very aware, we've done this process exclusively
48 really through the Council process, and so to achieve a
49 good transition from what we're setting out to do from
50 where we've been, Mr. Chairman, one of the things that I'll

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1 be asking for from this Council in the fall is the name of
2 two Council members to serve on this workshop, so that we
3 get good representation from the Council while we're doing
4 this. And what we envision, I would say the Southeast
5 workshop is probably going to be about a year from now, and
6 what I would envision is having that workshop producing
7 these projects, with Council representation and then coming
8 up with a draft document which we would then present to you
9 that following fall meeting. Get your review and comment
10 on that document and then use that report, if you will, as
11 our issues and information needs for what would be the 2007
12 call for proposals.

13

14 So with that, Mr. Chairman, I'll end my
15 presentation and I'd certainly be happy to answer any
16 questions on either one of these topics.

17

18 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Thank you, Mr.
19 McBride. And as I noted in Anchorage, the Southeast Alaska
20 portion of the Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program was
21 completely -- well, I believe it was 100 percent capacity
22 building with tribes and ADF&G or others, which I thought
23 was the cornerstone of this when it was described to us.
24 And as far as I know we were the only region that had that
25 level. And so we're quite happy with that. I don't know
26 what's going to come down with the new marching orders, but
27 hopefully that they would take into mind -- well, I guess
28 when we have the two RAC members, they'll make that clear
29 where they want to be.

30

31 Other Council.

32

33 (No comments)

34

35 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: You got off pretty
36 easy. Okay, thank you.

37

38 MR. MCBRIDE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

39

40 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: We'd like to have
41 Judy Ramos come forward please and we'll finish up this.
42 Are there any others that are going to want to -- are there
43 any investigators, Jack Lorrigan, that are here?

44

45 DR. GARZA: John Morris.

46

47 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: John Morris, are you
48 going to want some time here.

49

50 MR. MORRIS: (Nods affirmatively)

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1 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Okay, we'll get you
2 then.

3
4 (Pause)

5
6 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Okay, what I'd like
7 to do here is, if this is going to take 15 to 20 minutes
8 and John takes some time, what I would like to do with the
9 Council's indulgence, is to allow Mr. Ed Thomas to come
10 forward and address the Board, this is brother of Bill
11 Thomas, and if that's okay with the Council, I would like
12 to do that at this time because he has other things to do
13 and we'll come back to fishing up on these FRMP projects.

14
15 Any objection to doing that.

16
17 (Council Shakes Head Negatively)

18
19 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Thank you. Judy, if
20 you will indulge us, we'll allow Mr. Thomas to address the
21 Council.

22
23 MR. THOMAS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My
24 name is Ed Thomas. My Tlingit name is Tsa Xoo. I have a
25 Haida name of Skil Quidaunce. I'm born and raised in
26 Southeast Alaska and Southeast Alaska is the ancestral home
27 of the Tlingit and Haida people.

28
29 I come here in peace. Somebody's paying
30 attention.

31
32 But anyway, as a person that is from the
33 region, I come here to thank all of you for your time, your
34 effort that you put into this very important task of
35 subsistence management. Now, I know my brother, Bill,
36 would have preferred to be here but he's struggling with
37 some illness that he had and I understand he's back home in
38 Ketchikan now and so I wanted to report that to you. And
39 I also wanted to thank you for taking the time this evening
40 to do a little fundraiser for him. As you know dealing
41 with cancer is pretty expensive business and all of us very
42 much appreciate your help in this endeavor.

43
44 I appreciate the opportunity to say a few
45 words to this Council and so I'm going to take the
46 opportunity to talk a little bit about subsistence, besides
47 thanking you for your efforts with my brother.

48
49 As you know, subsistence is very important
50 to the people in our rural communities, has been forever.

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1 And for my part, I spent the majority of my life involved
2 in fisheries and hunting and stuff like that. I was born
3 and raised in Craig. I commercial fished for about 30
4 years. I've had a hunting license since I was 16 and I had
5 a sportfishing license since I was 16. So today I'm
6 speaking on behalf of all the sportsmen, so whatever I say
7 is what sportsmen want.

8

9

(Laughter)

10

11

MR. THOMAS: As I talk about the issue of
12 subsistence I need to share with you some of the things
13 that we, at Tlingit and Haida end up weighing in on if you
14 may. You may be aware that we took a stand that very much
15 opposed the Governor's request to appoint a non-subsistence
16 person to the Federal Subsistence Board or a State
17 representative to the Federal Subsistence Board. Now, the
18 reason for that is we feel that there really would not be
19 a need for a Federal Subsistence Board were the State to do
20 what it should do and that is comply with Section VIII of
21 ANILCA. Having said that, that does not mean that we are
22 just opposed to everything the State does, we're not. We
23 worked years and years on both fish and game management in
24 tandem with the State, in tandem with the Federal
25 government, and we do that because it's very important to
26 all of us. We live here and we live with people who have
27 different needs and different uses.

28

29

But as a person that has grown up in this
30 region and has been associated with fish all my life, I
31 really find it very difficult to be quiet when it comes to
32 the charges that somehow subsistence utilization is going
33 to make it difficult on other people's lives. I don't buy
34 into that. Even a person that has left the village and
35 gone to Juneau, and I guess you can call me a weekend
36 warrior, in the summertime I like to go out and do my
37 subsistence fishing and gathering and whatever, and it
38 really is something that needs to be preserved for our
39 rural communities.

40

41

Now, some of us in the urban centers really
42 participate in the subsistence anyway, but I think it
43 should continue to be one, make sure that there's enough
44 resources in the rural areas first, and then what is
45 available after that could be available for the urban
46 folks.

47

48

Now, one of the things that happened to me
49 a number of years ago, and I'm going to summarize here, I
50 realize you have a very busy agenda here, I went over to

00200

1 Hoonah when I first moved to Juneau to go hunting on the
2 weekend, it happened to be the Thanksgiving weekend. And
3 it was just like downtown Juneau over there. There were so
4 many cars over there that had gone over there on previous
5 ferries and then those of us that went over just on the eve
6 of Thanksgiving joined the crowd. The point being is that
7 I believe there were more people from Juneau on the road
8 systems than there were Hoonah people. And the point also
9 being it put one tremendous strain on the resource. I
10 always pride myself in being able to get a deer, but those
11 folks that came over earlier really pretty much saturated
12 the places where deer would normally hang out.

13

14 Now, being a person of Juneau you would
15 think that, well, gee whiz, I want to hang onto that right,
16 but in consideration of the limits of the resource, it's
17 very important to set some limits on people who just come
18 into an area somewhat raid it and then go back home,
19 leaving the people who live in those areas with what's
20 left. And I think that we've got to be wise than that, I
21 think that we can.

22

23 And it's through your efforts, I was
24 watching the efforts you put forth in the resolution, while
25 I think it's a good resolution, I think that we really need
26 to keep in mind who really are the stakeholders. The
27 stakeholders are the subsistence users, and that's why the
28 Federal Subsistence Board is in place.

29

30 Now, you might say, well, in game
31 management, all the rest of us are also part of that, us
32 sportshunters and when we're commercial, and I agree with
33 that. But when it comes to the dealings of this Board, I
34 believe that subsistence uses must be the primary
35 stakeholders and we must deal with everything from that
36 perspective.

37

38 Anyway, that's my view. I appreciate once
39 again all the time and effort you put into this issue and
40 I read periodically some of the challenging issues you have
41 before you and I don't envy you. But I believe that the
42 citizenry, not just the people in the rural communities,
43 but throughout appreciate the hard work that you put into
44 developing policy and then developing strategies in which
45 to get the policies implementing, keeping in mind, of
46 course, what I spoke about earlier. There are other user
47 groups that may or may not agree with what you're saying.

48

49 I'll be happy to answer any questions, but
50 that's the end of my speech. And once again I am only here

00201

1 to wish you well. I really do not have any issues that I
2 would weigh in on at this point and time, but I do
3 appreciate all the work you're doing.

4

5 Gunaxcheesh, ho-ho.

6

7 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Gunaxcheesh, yuk-
8 atongi. Thank you for your words. We appreciate your
9 counsel and we're glad to do what we're doing tonight.
10 Other Council. First, Mr. Adams.

11

12 MR. ADAMS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. At
13 the conclusion of our last RAC meeting in Craig, I believe
14 it was, the issue of Senate Bill 1466 came up as a matter
15 of discussion, and we did some action item on that and got
16 muffled, you know, as it went up the process.

17

18 The Bill, you know, was submitted with a
19 whole bunch of amendments to it. And it was through the
20 efforts, you know, a bunch of leaders throughout the state
21 of Alaska who worked as a working group to put these
22 amendments together. And Mr. Thomas was the individual who
23 went to Congress and testified on behalf of all Alaska on
24 this bill, and I just wanted to let you know, Mr. Thomas,
25 that you did a fine job and I wanted to thank you.

26

27 Gunaxcheesh.

28

29 MR. THOMAS: Thanks.

30

31 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Next, I have Mr.
32 Douville, followed by Dr. Garza.

33

34 MR. DOUVILLE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
35 Ed, if more people had your point of view our job would be
36 much easier for sure. But if we have any extra subsistence
37 around my neighborhood I'll see that you get some.

38

39 MR. THOMAS: Now, that was the reason for
40 the comment, thanks.

41

42 (Laughter)

43

44 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Dr. Garza.

45

46 DR. GARZA: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Ed, I do
47 much appreciate your presentation. We often face such
48 difficult challenges, it's nice to hear that our efforts
49 are being supported because sometimes it gets stressful,
50 and if you give me too many cups of coffee I tend to get

00202

1 all wound up and order everybody around.

2

3

(Laughter)

4

5 DR. GARZA: But we may be seeking your help
6 from Tlingit and Haida. We have faced a couple of
7 difficult issues. We appreciate your help in regard to the
8 challenges to FACA and the representation on the Council.
9 I don't know how the other regions look, but for us we're
10 very happy with the new Council appointees that we've
11 received, while they represent commercial interests, they
12 do well represent subsistence interests, so we may be the
13 lucky ones, I'm not sure.

14

15 However, what you may have missed in the
16 last two days is that we have received correspondence that
17 we're not supposed to write letters anymore, and that's
18 been one of our strong points as a Council, is to be able
19 to send letters to IPHC to say we support -- wholly support
20 the subsistence halibut program, we wholly support this, we
21 have issues with other things that affect subsistence, and
22 so as we try and figure out what we're going to do it may
23 be necessary for us to direct some of our concerns through
24 Tlingit and Haida, and ask them if they would also write a
25 letter of support in that direction because our voices may
26 be muted.

27

28

Thank you.

29

30

31 MR. THOMAS: Well, most definitely we would
32 try to support you hanging on to your First Amendment
33 Rights. I really find it somewhat distasteful for a person
34 who's supposed to be sharing their wisdom to be muffled in
35 that manner. You don't really see that people
36 participating on the banking securities exchange very
37 serious problem before them saying, well, you can't talk
38 about issues dealing with banking or investing. And so I
39 really think that that is somewhat of an issue that is so
40 distasteful I can't even say it without getting a little
41 bit nervous about it.

41

42

43 But, you know, it really is wrong, in my
44 judgment to try to develop rules or guidelines that
45 somewhat muffle people who are just trying to get their
46 point across. The best thing to do if you don't agree with
47 somebody is disagree with them, tell them you don't agree
48 with them rather than saying, well, I'm going to take away
49 your First Amendment Rights. So what it's worth that's my
50 feeling about that and I think you should be encouraged to
write letters, not stop writing letters. So whoever's

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1 doing that, you know, really needs to grow up, I think, and
2 kind of come to grips with this nation, that's what we're
3 in war with Iraq about, people are limiting those rights of
4 those folks over there so we went to war about it. So to
5 create that kind of a situation here is just wrong.

6

7 But anyway, getting back to any kind of way
8 that I can be of help to write a letter, I'd be happy to do
9 that, but I'm not going to Iraq.

10

11 (Laughter)

12

13 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Thank you. Other
14 Council.

15

16 (No comments)

17

18 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: We really appreciate
19 that and your words are real meaningful, we'll take them --
20 we have some real difficult issues, as you well know, on U-
21 2 and we appreciate the counsel that you've given us and
22 we'll see you tonight.

23

24 MR. THOMAS: All right. Thanks for your
25 time. Gunaxcheesh.

26

27 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Okay. We need about
28 three to five minutes to get set up here so if you want to
29 grab a quick cup of coffee Ms. Ramos will get set up for
30 her presentation.

31

32 (Off record)

33

34 (On record)

35

36 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Please take your
37 seats. Okay, we're back in session. Ms. Ramos, your
38 presentation.

39

40 REPORTER'S NOTE: (Ms. Ramos' report was requested to help
41 in correct spellings but was not received at the time of
42 transcription completion; apologies ahead of time for any
43 misspellings)

44

45 MS. RAMOS: Gunaxcheesh.

46

47 (In Tlingit - speaking her name and clan
48 names)

49

50 This is the traditional way we introduce

00204

1 ourselves and I always try to be traditional because if we
2 don't carry on these traditions they're going to die. And
3 I'm trying to keep my kids involved with their language.
4 And I think our language is afraid, it's going to die. Our
5 language is really only being spoken by Elders, so we're
6 trying to keep our language alive.

7

8 The two presentations I'm doing. One is
9 the traditional clan territories of the Gulf Coast Tlingit
10 and the historical subsistence use and the other is
11 traditional management in the Dry Bay area.

12

13 I wanted to point out the mask behind it
14 because as result of the Dry Bay study I discovered there
15 were a large collection of Dry Bay masks which were stolen
16 by Emmens and they're housed in the Chicago Field museum
17 and the National Museum of the American Indians and he
18 actually did go down to the graves in Dry Bay and take them
19 off the graves. One of these beautiful masks is the mask
20 you see in the background here.

21

22 The objectives of this study which I worked
23 on is to produce accurate complete descriptions of
24 Yakutat's traditional tribal territories including
25 identification compiling and summary of existing
26 documentations, interviews with clan and house and tribal
27 Elders, production of annotated GSI based reference map of
28 territories and production of a published reference volume.

29

30 These are the people that I'd like to
31 thank. Dr. Bob Schroeder who had overall responsibility
32 for the coordinating of the research in these communities
33 that were involved. Yakutat Elders. Dr. De Laguna, which
34 we call Grandma Freddie. National Park Service, Rachel
35 Mason and Catherine Moncrieff, who helped me with the
36 transcription and transcribing. Sealaska Historic Sites
37 Information. Yakutat Tlingit Tribes Place Names Projects.
38 The 2000 household harvest survey which was done in
39 coordination with the subsistence department and Forest
40 Service. Goldschmidt and Haas report.

41

42 So these are people who I'd like to thank
43 that helped with the research.

44

45 This first map shows the Yakutat
46 environment, you can see on there the white areas is the
47 great huge Malispina Glacier. We've identified all the
48 major mountains in that area. And Yakutat area, in our
49 mind stretches from Copper River to Lituya Bay. Yakutat's
50 the only year-round coastal community along that 250 mile

00205

1 coast line from Cape Spencer to Copper River. We are about
2 212 miles northwest of Juneau and 225 miles southeast of
3 Cordova.

4

5 Shaa Kwaani is mountain spirits and Sit'tu
6 Kwaani is glacier spirits. We believe that all the
7 mountains and glaciers are inhabited by glacier spirits.
8 Mountain spirits that have lived in the Yakutat area
9 includes Waas'eitu shaa, that's Mt. St. Elias and all these
10 other huge mountains in this area.

11

12 Besides Malispina Glacier there are
13 Valerie, Turner, Hubbard, Nunatak and Yakutat Glacier.
14 Hubbard Glacier is a very active tidewater glacier and it
15 is probably going to close again this year. Evidence of
16 recent glacier retreating include raised beaches on Kituia
17 and Otamar Island and south of Pt. Latouche and the drying
18 up or swallowing of sloughs and shifts in sand waters. So
19 much of the area that used to be under water is now dry
20 land, that's the result of the glacier rebound and also
21 earthquakes.

22

23 Just to give you information of how long
24 we've been here. We believe that Raven created the world,
25 we call it Lingit Aani, and his jealous uncle made a huge
26 flood and that's when many of our clan origin stories
27 begin. The Tongass Cave Sites project dates to around
28 9,800 years ago. Dr. Aaron Cronwell's excavation dates
29 around 700 years ago. The other excavations in the Lost
30 River data were a thousand years old. Dr. De Laguna and
31 Riddell's excavation suggest an occupation 200 to 400 years
32 ago.

33

34 This is the tribal territories from Copper
35 River to Lituya Bay. We have three major Kwaans as we call
36 them. Galyax Kaliakh Kwaan, or the Eyaks, they go from the
37 Copper River area all the way down to just north of Icy
38 Bay, that's the Eyak and the Galyax-Kaagwaantaan.

39

40 The Yaakwtat Kwaan people, as they call
41 themselves are from Icy Bay to about the Lost River area.

42

43 The Gunaaxoo Kwaan, which is the Dry Bay
44 people, they are from approximately the Italio River area
45 all the way down to the Lituya Bay area.

46

47 And those are the major clan or territories
48 in the Yakutat area.

49

50 Just to differentiate between what we call

00206

1 tribes and clans, we don't have tribes, we don't consider
2 ourselves tribes, we say we're Kwaan, and the clan had most
3 of the territory or had ownership of the territory and
4 included salmon streams, hunting grounds, berry picking
5 areas, seal rocks, house sites, fresh drinking water and
6 firewood.

7

8 Starting from the north, the Eyak, Copper
9 River people area were originally probably from Cape
10 Suckling to Kayak River, but Dr. De Laguna divided the Eyak
11 into four regional groups. The Eyak and the Cordova Copper
12 River area, those are on the inland called Chilkats, those
13 on the Gulf Coast, between Cape Suckling and Yakataga and
14 those in Yakutat. This area is very active -- Raven was
15 very active in this area, many of the traditional sites do
16 relate to Ravens in mythologies. So this is the
17 Jeeshkweidi Eyak territory around the Copper River area.

18

19 The next clan area is the Galyax
20 Kaagwaantaan. They claim from Strawberry Point by Copper
21 River all the way to Icy Bay area, and this is a lot of
22 their place names here. Their main village is Kaliakh at
23 the mouth of Kayak River from Kaliakh they went and worked
24 and settled at Bering River on Strawberry Harbor and in the
25 Katella River area. They had many different camps and
26 areas that they would have their villages. This shows all
27 their different places they had.

28

29 Their houses at Cape Yakataga are
30 documented as being occupied during the winter season and
31 with the advent, spring, the whole population embarked in
32 their large wooden canoes camped at Cape Suckling, spent a
33 few weeks feasting together with their relatives, as they
34 said and they sailed across to Kayak Island. This is
35 documented by Petroff in 1893. We traded from the Yakutat
36 area with the Kaagwaantaan people for beaver pelts and
37 copper. Wingham Island was a spring camp area for seals,
38 halibut, cod and black seaweed. Kayak Island was usually
39 used by other sea otter hunters.

40

41 I also wanted to mention within that area
42 they had a trade route which started at Dutktuh River and
43 went up the natural arch, over the Bagley Ice Field then
44 over Granite Creek down the Tanana River to Chilkat River.
45 So they had a trade route which is not documented at this
46 time.

47

48 This is the Yakutat area which is under the
49 ownership of the Kwaashki Kwaan or Gineix Kwaan people,
50 which is the people that originated from the Chilkat Copper

00207

1 River area. So our first village was called Teikwaani or
2 house made of bark, west of Icy Bay. A glacier overran
3 this village. From Icy Bay we migrated to Yakutat Bay
4 which at that time the whole glacier filled the whole Bay.
5 We bought this area from the L'uknax.adi or Lukaax.adi
6 people, so this is the Kwaashki Kwaan, Gunaaxoo Kwaan
7 people and we had village sites at Knight Island,
8 Ness'udat, Aka, Hill-Top Town, Khaantaak Island and Port
9 Mulgrave and this is -- these maps show all our sites in
10 the Yakutat area.

11

12 This Icy Bay was a very important area for
13 strawberries, seals and sea otter. On Eleanor Islands, we
14 call them the Islands were important spring camping areas
15 where we harvested halibut, salmon, hunted bears, gathered
16 hemlock, spruce bark, wild celery, herring spawn, seaweed,
17 sea urchin, thunderbird eggs and smelts. And we used that
18 quite a bit.

19

20 Disenchantment Bay, which is on the map on
21 the bottom was very important for harvesting seals, seagull
22 eggs, bears, seaweed, mussels and gumboots, and we used the
23 Ankau area important in the spring for seaweed, ducks and
24 it was a very important fall fishing area where we
25 harvested silvers and coho.

26

27 Lost River area was very important for the
28 Teikweidi or Bear Clan people. Their main towns were
29 Diyaguna'et, Shallow Water Town and Situk River. Drum
30 House Teikweidi village was in the Ahrnklin River. They
31 originally came -- the two different lineages, one, the
32 Drum House lineage came over land from Chilkat Pass and the
33 other lineage came along the coast. They were living south
34 of Dry Bay when they discovered the Ahrnklin River which
35 they purchased from the L'uknax.adi. Situk and Ahrnklin
36 River was important for salmon, steelhead, hooligan and
37 berries, and the Upper Situk was used for hunting and
38 trapping. Ahrnklin River was important for fishing,
39 hunting, trapping and berries.

40

41 This is the Dry Bay Clan, we call them the
42 Gunaaxoo Kwaan. Many land marks in this area were
43 associated with Raven. It is all documented that lowered
44 glacier dam, the Alsek River, at least five times and
45 caused a huge flood which was many, many times the size of
46 Niagara Falls when it did finally break through.

47

48 The Lukaax.adi Clans are originally the
49 Athabascan inhabitants of Dry Bay. The L'uknax,adi Clan
50 migrated from Southeast Alaska along with the Eagle

00208

1 Kaagwaantaan and found at Gusex. The Shangukeide Clan came
2 from Chilkat through marriage with the L'uknax.adi, so
3 those are the main clans in that area.

4

5 Dry Bay, Alsek River was important. Dry
6 Bay Chief George turned over Italio River to his
7 Shangukeide sons, and this area is important for trapping
8 fishing and gathering. Dry Bay area is also important for
9 hunting, trapping, hooligan, salmon fishing, bird eggs,
10 birds, seals and berries. In the Upper Alsek Bay would dry
11 king salmon covered with cottonwood branches and the clan
12 would migrate up and down the river to the Athabaskan
13 people.

14

15 The next series of maps just shows the clan
16 areas by different major species. These are the major
17 species for birds and bird harvesting sites, we call them
18 (In Tlingit). Disenchantment Bay area is important for
19 eggs. Icy Bay area, the Islands and Yatsu River, Yakutat
20 Bay, south of Situk and Dry Bay are all important bird and
21 egg harvesting sites.

22

23 The large animals we had -- moose came in
24 the area recently, in the late 1930s and '40s. Deer were
25 transplanted to this area in the 1940s. On the bottom is
26 the mountain goat hunting territories. Each clan had their
27 own territory for hunting mountain goat. Black bear, we
28 didn't map the black bear. We coordinated our map with the
29 subsistence mapping we did and black bear wasn't mapped,
30 but we used bears in the Disenchantment Bay along the
31 shorelines, Situk River and mouth of the Italio and Ankau
32 River, entire Dry Bay area, along the Mami Coast and the
33 south of Kayak River. These are marine and vertebrate
34 harvesting areas. The Ankau Islands, Disenchantment Bay
35 were all important for harvesting marine invertebrates.
36 Marine mammals were very important. All marine mammal
37 areas were tribally controlled in Yakutat, Icy Bay sea
38 otter hunt was controlled by the Kwaashki Kwaan Chief.
39 Seals are harvested through the Yakutat Bay all the way
40 through Disenchantment, The Fjords, Icy Bay, Situk and East
41 River. Hunting in Disenchantment Bay was also controlled
42 -- seal hunting was also controlled by the chiefs.

43

44 Hooligan, halibut, steelhead, we call them
45 saak, chaatl, aashat. Aashat is called the wife of the
46 lake. Hooligan and steelhead are harvested in the
47 springtime from Situk, hooligan could be smoked, dried,
48 steelhead could be dried. Hooligan was important in Dry
49 Bay also. Halibut was harvested all around the islands and
50 also on the coast.

00209

1 These are the berry harvesting areas and
2 all the clans owned the berry harvesting areas. Seaweed,
3 berries and edible plants. Dry Bay, dried strawberries
4 were an important trade item for the , you know, Yakutat
5 people.

6
7 These are the salmon areas, each clan owned
8 their own salmon streams. Situk was very important for
9 kings and sockeye. Ahrnklin, Ophir Creek and Humpy Creek
10 were important for coho and humpy salmon.

11
12 And these are acknowledgements.

13
14 And then I do have the Dry Bay slide, too,
15 if you could load the Dry Bay slides here. I don't know
16 how you do this, Mr. Schroeder.

17
18 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Mr. Jordan, do you
19 have a question.

20
21 MR. JORDAN: Yeah, I was wondering what
22 species of clams that they harvested.

23
24 MS. RAMOS: The clams that were harvested,
25 there was butternecks, cockles, the harvest mussels. Most
26 of those -- we didn't have a -- each clan had their own
27 territories for harvesting but those are the main areas --
28 species that we harvest the clams [sic].

29
30 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: I might also note
31 that a previous hand out that you distributed to the
32 Council had all of those on it, if I remember right, as
33 well as the Tlingit names for those, and those are really
34 handy, if we could get a copy for Mr. Jordan.

35
36 MS. RAMOS: Yes. The report you're talking
37 about was the report I did where the household subsistence
38 harvesting studies for 2000. And the next presentation is
39 traditional management of salmon in the Dry Bay area, which
40 was done in conjunction with National Park Service.

41
42 What this is -- because of the high --
43 because of the decline of sockeye, the sockeye salmon
44 harvesting, the community was very afraid of the harvesting
45 and this is why we worked on this study. So this is
46 traditional ecological knowledge of the Tlingit people
47 concerning the salmon of Dry Bay, called Gunnaaxoo Kwaan.

48
49 We did the study because of the decline of
50 the harvesting of the sockeye in the Alsek area. So the

00210

1 main object of this study should document traditional
2 Tlingit knowledge of salmon management and utilization
3 strategies in the Dry Bay area. And so we spent the first
4 year doing -- I did the first year, the literature review
5 and the annotated bibliography, and then we did the
6 interviews, and then the production of annotated maps.

7
8 Just some more of the prehistory that we
9 started, about the great flood, and more information is Dr.
10 Krauss suggested the Tlingit language separated from proto-
11 Athabascan some 46,000 years ago.

12
13 Many land marks in the Dry Bay area are
14 associated with Raven. Raven, this is where he opened the
15 box of daylight, and Bear Island is the way Raven flew out
16 of. Here Raven tricked the king salmon into coming ashore
17 luring him through his spice sewing basket and king salmon.
18 The Upper Alsek is where the Shugukeidi people were left
19 behind and rescued by the Thunderbirds. And that's a
20 Thunderbird screen there you see in the state museum.

21
22 This is very interesting geology of this
23 area. Tlingits believe that the world is supported by Iapo
24 (ph), which the old woman shakes when she's hungry. The
25 ground in the Dry Bay region is rebounding at a rate faster
26 than anywhere else in the world, about four centimeters a
27 year. This map here shows that the huge lake that was
28 built behind and many of the villages that were up in there
29 disappeared when the ice dam gave away and released Lake
30 Alsek out which is six times that of the Amazon. In 1958
31 an earthquake centered at Lituya that measured 8.3.

32
33 Tlingits believe that their animals had
34 souls like human beings. Tlingits believe that an animal
35 could only be killed when it was willing and only came to
36 them, purified and treated their bodies with respect.
37 Tlingit believe that the squander, waste and wanton killing
38 could not be justified and so are taboo. Tlingits believe
39 they were killing an image of fish, the same fish over and
40 over provided that he burns their bones and so enables them
41 to live and return in the next years run.

42
43 Tlingits respect sharing, they showed the
44 animal respect. In the olden days, when we killed
45 anything, even a little trout, we'd pray to it, we
46 explained why we killed it, we'd sing a song to it, since
47 fish was so important, no part of the fish was wasted.
48 They utilized every part of it. No one was allowed to kill
49 fish before they came up stream to spawn. They believed
50 the fish would be bothered and go -- turn back and go up

00211

1 another river, so they very much treat with respect. When
2 the Chief, or the owner of the fish trap had taken enough
3 for the household he'd let the others have the rest.

4

5 Tlingits depended on a wide variety of
6 plants and animals. We had one month we called the Salmon
7 Moon, which was July. Some northwest coast wood and stone
8 fish weirs were constructed more than 3,000 years ago.
9 Salmon had to be processed properly and only certain
10 species stored well so in the olden days coho was preferred
11 more than other fish.

12

13 Spears or harpoons were used mostly. In
14 the salmon, box traps were set and in the Lost River they
15 found three huge salmon traps in that area. Also they used
16 cylindrical traps or barbed gaff hooks and nets. Tlingits
17 are matrilineal, they live together in a geographical area
18 known as Kwaan. We were divided into two reciprocating
19 exogamy, (In Tlingit) moieties Raven and Eagle. Each
20 consists of many clans, each clan is divided into houses.
21 Tlingits are also divided into aristocrats, commoners and
22 slaves.

23

24 In the Dry Bay area they're called the
25 Gunaaxoo Kwaan, there was the Raven moieties, Lukaax.adi
26 and L'uknax.adi, and the other Eagle clans are Shangukeide
27 and Kaagwaantaan. Each clan had ownership of salmon
28 streams, hunting grounds, berry patches, sealing areas and
29 all these. Ownership of territories symbolized bequests
30 were validated at potlatches and by stories.

31

32 The clan leader protected the clans hunting
33 and fishing territories. He determined when, where and
34 with what weapons his people and others might hunt of fish,
35 and how many animals each man might take. The clan leader
36 determined where the weirs and traps were to be place and
37 who might spear or gaff salmon. They said that the local
38 clan leader would watch the salmon runs and if there were
39 too fish going up he would order the nets taken up for a
40 day or two.

41

42 So this is the status of the study, and we
43 finalized our report now, so that's the end. Thank you.

44

45 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: First, I want to
46 say, thank you very much, this is a wonderful presentation,
47 and this is something that the Council -- maybe if you have
48 those numbers, I don't have them, but these were TEK
49 projects that this Regional Advisory Council funded. And
50 one of the objectives, highly ranked objectives of this

00212

1 Council at that time was to fund TEK projects and I just
2 think these are wonderful, Judy. Do you have that number,
3 if anybody was interested.

4

5 This was a TEK project, so if anybody
6 wanted to look it up they could, do you have the number of
7 it?

8

9 MS. RAMOS: Are you talking about where to
10 get the reports, copies of the reports. I think you can
11 get them through the YTT, the tribe, contact the tribe
12 directly for copies of the report.

13

14 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Any questions or
15 comments from the Council.

16

17 Ms. Phillips.

18

19 MS. PHILLIPS: Thank you, Chairman
20 Littlefield. Thank you, Judy Ramos, for your presentation.
21 It's dissertation work from what I see, it's very well
22 done.

23

24 Thank you.

25

26 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Any other Council
27 comments. Mr. Adams.

28

29 MR. ADAMS: I just want to thank, you know
30 Judy, for a fine work and well done. Because being the
31 President of the tribe, you know, the key thing I kept
32 emphasizing to her, you know, is to find out how our people
33 managed the resources, you know, long, long, long, long
34 time ago, and to prove that we had ways and means of
35 managing our resources. And as indicated in the
36 presentation, you know, to bridge the local knowledge with
37 Western science when it comes time to start managing our
38 resources. And I think with that type of background
39 information, along with the data and information that we
40 have from Western science now, put those two together, and
41 I don't think that we can go very wrong, you know, when we
42 begin to develop restoration or enhancement projects, you
43 know, in any of our rivers and streams.

44

45 I watched Judy do these projects and every
46 time I went into the office there she was, you know, just
47 diligently working doing the research and everything. And
48 I was really amazed at her ability to be able to do that,
49 so I just wanted to, you know, publicly express my
50 appreciation to her for a job that I don't think anyone

00213

1 else could have done for us.

2

3 Gunaxcheesh.

4

5 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Other Council. Dr.
6 Garza and then Dr. Schroeder.

7

8 DR. GARZA: The cuter one goes first.

9

10 (Laughter)

11

12 DR. GARZA: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Thank
13 you, also, Judy, it's a marvelous presentation. And it is,
14 as John said, exactly what we're looking for. I think it's
15 particularly important now, as Doug McBride was saying,
16 that the monies are being reduced. It's good to see some
17 really good reports that will give us an idea of what else
18 needs to be done in other regions. We've had great reports
19 through Sitka Tribe and through other communities and it's
20 marvelous to see this.

21

22 I would encourage you to continue to
23 request funds and I mean this to you, to Sitka Tribe, to
24 Craig Community, to Kasaan, to whatever communities are
25 represented here, to give us an idea of where the holes
26 are, in your opinion, of what kind of data we need through
27 traditional knowledge, but also one area that Vicki LeCornu
28 harped on continuously when she was on this Council was,
29 what are the needs of the community that are not being met?
30 And so as your rivers change, as the community pattern
31 changes, if there are unmet needs pertaining to fisheries,
32 I think that this is a process where we could look at it.
33 And so as we look at other areas that we might want to get
34 involved in, that's one that I would certainly encourage.

35

36 Thank you.

37

38 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Dr. Schroeder.

39

40 DR. SCHROEDER: I just wanted to, again,
41 thank Judy for excellent work done. And I really see this
42 as an outgrowth of Council direction probably three or four
43 years when you met in Douglas. And you directed the Office
44 of Subsistence Management and Forest Service to do the best
45 we could to fund some TEK projects that would work directly
46 with tribes in documenting traditional territory and this
47 is just an excellent example of how that might be done and
48 I certainly hope that this work is continued, on Judy's
49 part, and that we work towards various final publications
50 and further presentation.

00214

1 It also seems very smooth when Judy
2 presents this, but this is really hard work, and it takes
3 a very special talent, skill, and basically an access to
4 local community and a real love of Tlingit culture and
5 doing this kind of deep research with such care.

6

7 So hopefully the program will be able to do
8 other studies of this sort in addition to the six studies
9 that have already been funded.

10

11 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Any other Council.
12 Ms. Rudolph.

13

14 MS. RUDOLPH: (In Tlingit)

15

16 I just thanked her for her presentation.
17 It's something I have always worried about and felt bad
18 that it could be lost, the history of our people. And one
19 of my hope and gain is to see more of this done so that our
20 children will know what a strong history we have.

21

22 My mother used to tell me that you just
23 step outside and you're home. You just step out and you go
24 down to the graveyard, your grandma, your great-grandma and
25 all of them are there.

26

27 And to see some of this makes me very proud
28 of you and to be a L'uknaxadi like me, I am very proud of
29 you. And I felt a lot of times this was -- all the history
30 of our people were just going to be lost, the stories and
31 the things. So I just wanted to thank you and tell you
32 that this was a real good presentation.

33

34 MS. RAMOS: Thank you.

35

36 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Mr. Kitka.

37

38 MR. KITKA: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Judy,
39 I want to thank you. These presentations are so great to
40 see. I hope there is a vehicle that these will get into
41 the classrooms of the universities and other places where
42 Native history is being taught because some of these are
43 vitally important.

44

45 Thank you, so much.

46

47 MS. RAMOS: Thank you.

48

49 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Other Council.

50

00215

1 (No comments)

2

3

CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Well, thank you very
4 much for your presentation. At this time we're going to
5 continue on these -- oh, I'm sorry, go ahead, you have the
6 floor.

7

8

MS. RAMOS: Gunaxcheesh. Thank you for all
9 your encouragement. It was very nice for me to get back
10 home. I left home in order to go to university and then I
11 got married and then I wanted to come back home and this
12 gave me a chance to come back home and work in my community
13 and raise my children the traditional subsistence
14 lifestyle, and learn their culture from their grandparents,
15 Elaine Abraham and George Ramos and I'm so proud of my kids
16 because they know who they are.

17

18 Thank you.

19

CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Thank you. This is
20 a win-win for both of us then because we appreciate your
21 work.
22

23

So we'll continue on with TEK project
24 reports if anybody wants to make one. Mr. Morris, did you
25 want to make a report?
26

27

28 MR. MORRIS: Yes.

29

CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Please come forward.

30

31 DR. GARZA: Judy, I thought your kids were
32 part Haida.

33

34 MS. RAMOS: I thought they were.

35

36 MR. MORRIS: Good afternoon everybody. My
37 name is John Morris. I work for the Craig Community
38 Association down in Craig.

39

40 MR. KOOKESH: Could you speak into the
41 microphone, closer.

42

43 MR. MORRIS: Okay, sorry. I get kind of
44 nervous sitting here like this, I shouldn't though.

45

46 My name is John Morris. I work for the
47 Craig Community Association down in Craig. We had the
48 opportunity to do a TEK project that we basically just
49 started in January. It was in the planning process since
50

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1 last fall, September. That's a very tough act to follow,
2 Judy.

3

4 (Laughter)

5

6 MR. MORRIS: You did a wonderful job. And
7 I just hope ours turns out that good as well.

8

9 What we're doing down in Craig and in that
10 whole region basically is you look at Goldschmidt and Haas
11 Hanihuni book and there's a blank spot there, in the
12 traditional map and it's probably from Cape Shacken all the
13 way up to just north of Klawock there, Bukurelli Bay, Sea
14 Otter Sound, and it's kind of not well defined, mapped out,
15 and that's the territory that's home to me and my
16 ancestors, it's the Kiani-Haida. And what I'm doing now is
17 we're doing some Elder interviews of some of the Elders
18 that we have left on subsistence places, where they used to
19 subsis -- or gather, I don't like to use subsist but where
20 they would gather their foods and what not, their patterns
21 of use and things like that. And how we're developing ours
22 is we'd like to find out the traditional patterns of use
23 between clans and different tribes because it was that --
24 that region there was overlapped between the Kiani-Haida
25 and the Henia-Kwaan people from Tuxican and Klawock and
26 things like that.

27

28 We're working with Steve Langdon on it out
29 of the University of Alaska and it's basically a layering
30 project from our -- where we're at now is the 1800s to
31 probably right before World War II on the patterns of
32 subsistence usage that they used to use because I think
33 back in them days the -- it was really -- pretty well
34 instilled to them then that, you know, you have to follow
35 tradition, you know which streams to fish by and then
36 compared to today it's like, well, you know, there's no
37 respect to who owned the streams or anything like that.

38

39 So that's where our TEK project is. It's
40 kind of a layering -- a layer of -- it's going to have
41 three layers on it and it's going to go from three -- well,
42 pre-19 -- let's say mid-1800s to 19 -- before World War II,
43 and then from World War II to the 60s, and then from the
44 1960s to present. So that's what we're doing now.

45

46 We just mapped out all the Henia-Kwaan and
47 the Kiani, the village and camp site names. We have all
48 the Tlingit names for the areas but it's hard for us to
49 find the Haida names. A lot of our Elders have moved on
50 and it's pretty limited right now. So it's challenging,

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1 yet, but fun, in a way.

2

3 And I'd just like to thank you guys for the
4 opportunity for this, for the community of Craig.

5

6 Gunaxcheesh.

7

8 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Gunaxcheesh. We're
9 looking forward to that and we know you'll do a good job.

10

11 Other Council.

12

13 (No comments)

14

15 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Gunaxcheesh, howwa-
16 ho-ho. Bill Thomas taught me that.

17

18 MR. MORRIS: Thank you.

19

20 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Just a second, John.

21 Mr. Adams.

22

23 MR. ADAMS: Just a note of encouragement
24 for you John, just keep in there and plugging away at it,
25 you'll come out okay.

26

27 Thanks.

28

29 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Are there any other
30 TEK presenters. Mr. Lorrigan, any updates?

31

32 MR. LORRIGAN: (Shakes head negatively)

33

34 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Any others.

35

36 (No comments)

37

38 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Let's take a few
39 minutes break and we will come back to Federal preliminary
40 data and action by -- Mr. Kessler, I believe we're going to
41 have him come back. Are you done, the Federal.....

42

43 DR. SCHROEDER: Steve's done.

44

45 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Okay, he's done with
46 that preliminary data, so we're going to go right into
47 Proposals 3 through 15 after a break.

48

49 (Off record)

50

00218

1 (On record)

2

3

DR. SCHROEDER: We're moving into consideration of Prince of Wales deer proposals. I have some brief summaries, graphs showing the ADF&G mail out survey results for 2002 and so all of this data may not have gotten into your book because it became available after the printing.

9

This went to you by email so there isn't anything new in this set of graphs. I distributed graphs to Council members, we had approximately six or seven copies so please share with your neighbor.

14

The first graph shows the overall harvest of deer according to the mail out survey data over time in Southeast Alaska from 1987 through 2002.

18

Let's see, Salena, I think we lost a plug here.

21

REPORTER: I don't think so, you're fine.

23

DR. SCHROEDER: As you can see we had exceptionally high harvest in 1987. 1999 was a pretty high harvest year. We're down in the lower level over this long-term trend for Southeast Alaska. And, again, this is based on the mail out surveys conducted by Division of Wildlife Conservation, Alaska Department of Fish and Game.

30

The next slide, if I can find it here, breaks out Unit 2 deer. The yellow portion of the bar is the harvest of deer by rural residents and the bottom part is the harvest of deer by urban residents as classified by the Federal regulations. As you can see there there's a fair amount of fluctuation. We are at a somewhat low level over here in 2002 with an estimated 1,312 deer taken by rural residents. The only year was 1997.

39

This graph shows where Ketchikan folks get their deer. And the red portion of the graph are deer that Ketchikan residents get from some other unit, in this case, in Unit 1(A). The bottom portion is the portion of deer that they get from -- the number of deer that they get from Unit 2 and our lower graph here, which is also in your handout puts us this in a hundred percent format. So overall the reliance of Ketchikan on Prince of Wales for deer harvest has been going up over time based on this data source. At the same time the number of deer that they're getting total really hasn't shown an increase, it's more

00219

1 that the other areas apparently haven't been used quite as
2 much.

3

4 And the final set of graphs are some that
5 you saw last year when we talked about deer on Prince of
6 Wales and this series of graphs compares the -- well, it
7 has two things on it, one, is it has the mail out survey
8 data by community and, second, the solid bars are the deer
9 harvest estimates based on Division of Subsistence much
10 more intensive and household surveys that have been
11 conducted in the years they've been conducted.

12

13 These data again show some peculiarities.
14 I looked at them once I put them in and the numbers that
15 are in there show Craig as getting many fewer deer in 2002
16 as in 2001. So just based on this look at the data the
17 Craig harvest went down 50 percent. If we go through to
18 Klawock, we see an even more drastic reduction in harvest
19 based on the mail out data. And other communities may show
20 something similar. Nuakati shows a serious decline in the
21 number of deer taken over these two years time periods from
22 2001 to 2002, yet I think if I'm remembering right, Thorne
23 Bay showed a small but -- a small increase, an
24 insignificant increase.

25

26 I just put these before you, not with a
27 conclusion, but just to say that these are data that are
28 there and you may wish to consider in your deliberations on
29 these proposals.

30

31 The one other source of information I have
32 comes from the permits that were issued and Jim Brainard
33 will be talking about the hard number data because he, of
34 course, is a biologist -- excuse me, that was a joke -- he
35 is a biologist, but I'm not a biologist.

36

37 What we did was when people came in to get
38 permits, they were asked some background questions as part
39 of the permit information and so we tabulated those
40 answers, those pieces of information and I'll present
41 those.

42

43 And then just over the last two or three
44 weeks since Melinda Hernandez has been working with me as
45 a student intern, we were able to make telephone calls back
46 to approximately 156 people who got permits and we asked
47 them how their season went, and so these are preliminary
48 data, they're what we found out from these pieces of
49 information.

50

00220

1 We issued permits to more than a thousand
2 people in the 2003 season. As you know each person got
3 four permits so we had a lot of permits we were dealing
4 with. The persons who received permits provided
5 information about their previous year's deer hunting,
6 whether that harvest met their family's needs, their
7 reliance on deer and other questions. At the close of the
8 season we polled about 350 of those permits to check the
9 results of the 2003 season. And so we asked people about
10 what happened in 2003.

11
12 So looking at the 2002 season -- so this is
13 every one who got a permit answered certain questions. We
14 had, as I say, over a thousand responses, I think there
15 were 1,087 permits and Jim will be presenting the exact
16 numbers. What we found was that overall those people who
17 applied for permits in 2003 took a mean of 1.37 deer in
18 2002, they hunted about 13.4 days, they reported that they
19 had been hunting on -- if you did a mean of the years they
20 had hunted on Prince of Wales they had hunted there for
21 9.26 years. 65 percent of the people who responded said
22 that the 2002 harvest did not meet their family's need for
23 deer. These permit holders needed, meaning we asked them
24 how many deer do you need for your family's use, they said
25 they needed 4.2 deer to meet their needs. And they said
26 they relied on deer for a mean of about 58 percent of the
27 red meat that their household consumes.

28
29 So those data are pretty strong because,
30 again, they were asked of all 1,087 or 85 different people.

31
32 The post-hunt information isn't quite as
33 strong because it's based on a smaller number of
34 respondents. We had a list of 350 people who we tried to
35 contact over a two week time period. We were successful in
36 getting information about 156 permit recipients, of these
37 156 that we contacted, 128 hunted, 28 didn't hunt, I don't
38 know what they did. The information from the 128 people
39 who did hunt gets summed up as follows.

40
41 The hunters overall hunted a mean of 11.6
42 days in 2003. They took a mean of .97 or basically one
43 deer apiece during the July 24 to 21 time period, and they
44 took an additional 1.23 deer in the rest of the deer
45 season.

46
47 Also looking at the 2003 years, and now the
48 people we talked to here are the people who said they
49 hunted, that 128 permit recipients, 65 percent of those
50 hunters said that their 2003 harvest, that the 2003 harvest

00221

1 by their family members did not meet their family's need
2 for deer. And 75 percent of this 128 of the people who
3 actually did hunt supported keeping the July 24th to August
4 21st subsistence only deer season. And the question was
5 phrased simply do you favor keeping this season, there
6 wasn't room for discussion about other seasons or other
7 options.

8

9 So, Mr. Chairman, that concludes this data
10 for you to consider in your deliberations. If there are
11 any questions.

12

13 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Questions for Staff.

14

15 Mr. Jordan.

16

17 MR. JORDAN: Yeah, has there every been any
18 groundtruthing of this data or similar type of surveys?
19 For example, did you do this contacting by phone or did you
20 do it by personal interview or what was your method of
21 contact?

22

23 DR. SCHROEDER: Mr. Chairman. Eric,
24 there's two sets of information here. One is that every
25 person who came in to get Federal subsistence permits,
26 which they needed if they wanted to hunt during the July 24
27 to 21st -- August 21st period, were asked to fill out -- to
28 answer these certain background questions, and so that's
29 face to face with Forest Service personnel standing right
30 there explaining things.

31

32 And then the second set was a call back.
33 And everyone who got a permit listed an address and a phone
34 number, and they were called back, as I said, in the last
35 couple of weeks or so.

36

37 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Follow up.

38

39 MR. JORDAN: Has there ever been any
40 groundtruthing of what people actually got and what they
41 say they got, and, this is real important to me, I was
42 looking through the other data and the correlation between
43 the household surveys and the mail out surveys were totally
44 all over the map. I mean in one case they say they caught
45 10 times as much as it said in the mail out survey and then
46 the next community, a few years later it'd be completely
47 opposite. And I'm quite frankly more familiar with
48 fisheries data, but, you know, asking people what they
49 caught and trying to groundtruth with what they actually
50 caught is about as hard as getting the truth out of my

00222

1 coding partners.

2

3 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Welcome to U-2 deer.

4

5 (Laughter)

6

7 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Dr. Schroeder.

8

9 DR. SCHROEDER: Well, I can't speak for

10 your problems with your code partner.

11

12 (Laughter)

13

14 DR. SCHROEDER: But the Division of
15 Subsistence Household survey methodology is pretty much the
16 state of the art for determining how much, how many fish --
17 animals people take in a year and this -- it uses a
18 retrospective survey methodology where people are asked
19 about their harvest over the previous year.

20

21 If we have significant questions about that
22 I'd like to refer those to my colleague, Mike Turek. But
23 this is the baseline data that, for better or worse, we
24 rely on for fish -- management of fish and wildlife for
25 subsistence purposes across the state as well as in Canada.
26 So we have a pretty high level of confidence in those data.
27 If anything they may be a little bit low, just
28 systematically because of recall problems where people
29 forget some of the harvesting that they've done.

30

31 On questions of the accuracy of mail out
32 data, I think Doug Larsen touched on that a little bit
33 earlier today with reference to something else. We don't
34 have a mandatory registration for deer or a mandatory
35 reporting for deer harvest in Southeast, reporting is on a
36 voluntary basis where people respond to a mail out survey.
37 And so the data are as good as the participation of hunters
38 and their accuracy of their response. And again, I'll pass
39 the ball over to one of my Fish and Game colleagues on the
40 questions concerning the mail out as well.

41

42 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Other Council.

43

44 Mr. Hernandez.

45

46 MR. HERNANDEZ: Thank you. Bob, how about
47 people that came in to get doe hunt permits, did you get
48 any similar data specific to doe hunters and maybe -- doe
49 hunt season starts October 15th, any additional information
50 on how hunting went during that period?

00223

1 MR. JOHNSON: Mr. Chairman. Mr. Hernandez.
2 Dave Johnson, Forest Service. Excuse me, I'm not going
3 through my second childhood but I am losing my voice.

4
5 I would like to comment on that. This
6 year's permit did not have a -- or in the past we've had a
7 separate permit for antlerless deer, this year we combined
8 the antlerless permit into the deer permit into one form so
9 that we simply asked people if they got an antlerless deer
10 or a doe, to include that on the report. Mr. Brainard will
11 have more information about the specific numbers and the
12 amount of success during that period of time during the
13 antlerless hunt.

14
15 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Mr. Bangs.

16
17 MR. BANGS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes,
18 Dave, I was wondering if -- maybe just a point of
19 clarification. I may have missed this but when you refer
20 to Prince of Wales and you compile the data for deer
21 harvested and what not and then you include the communities
22 of Prince of Wales, is that part of Unit 2 and the deer
23 that are harvested on the other islands or just Prince of
24 Wales?

25
26 DR. SCHROEDER: Mr. Chairman. Mike, are
27 you talking about the graphs that are before you?

28
29 MR. BANGS: Well, most all the information.
30 Some of it refers to Unit 2 and then some of it refers to
31 you, such as the Prince of Wales permit hunt or
32 information, so you know, there's places like Edna Bay,
33 which is not on Prince of Wales but did -- you know, are
34 the deer that they're hunting, is that from Prince of Wales
35 or is that in other parts of Unit 2, because a lot of the
36 other islands on the outside coast are fairly large and I
37 was just wondering if there was a clarification of where
38 those deer came from in Unit 2.

39
40 DR. SCHROEDER: Mr. Chair. Mike, the first
41 set of data, the mail out data simply -- we don't -- that
42 isn't presenting where people got deer, so the graphs that
43 were presented simply are saying that these are the
44 numerical data that we have for what Edna Bay's harvests
45 were. And so we don't know where those deer came from in
46 these graphs, we know from other sources, but we didn't
47 present that.

48
49 The permit data that I presented is asking
50 different questions, it's saying of the permit holders, how

00224

1 many deer did you get during this season, during the
2 subsistence only season. And so that was -- those deer --
3 we presume those deer did come from Federal lands on Prince
4 of Wales because that's why they were hunting at that time.

5
6 The other data doesn't ask whether they got
7 deer on the islands, on Prince of Wales Island proper or on
8 the adjacent islands. That's not compiled in this forum.

9
10 Jim Brainard has that detail but we're
11 doing some kind of quick tabulations of this and this is as
12 far as we are.

13
14 I'd also like to mention that because these
15 data just came out in the last week they haven't been
16 circulated or reviewed.

17
18 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Any other Council
19 questions for Dr. Schroeder.

20
21 (No comments)

22
23 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: We're going to have,
24 what, I believe three of you that present on this before
25 we're done with the Staff?

26
27 DR. SCHROEDER: Yes.

28
29 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: And any of you can
30 come back up. Mr. Douville.

31
32 MR. DOUVILLE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I
33 think Mr. Bangs just wants to know where the best hunting
34 spot is.

35
36 (Laughter)

37
38 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Any other Council.

39
40 (No comments)

41
42 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Okay, let's go on.

43
44 MR. JOHNSON: Mr. Chairman. Council. Dave
45 Johnson again, Forest Service. There are three additional
46 pieces of information that are not included in your packets
47 that I would refer to in the information that I'm going to
48 provide you. You should have a copy of the current
49 February 2004 Inter-Island Ferry Authority Report. They
50 should be at the table up there. Also the second piece of

00225

1 material that I would refer you to is the draft -- I'll
2 wait until we get this around here. The second piece of
3 material is a revised hunt report form and harvest
4 information form that you should also have. Thirdly, is an
5 errata sheet for the analysis you're about to be presented
6 by Mr. Brainard, there's a one page errata sheet with an
7 additional several pages that include the revisions in the
8 text of the document.

9

10 For the record, the first document I will
11 be referring to is the IFA Ferry Authority February
12 newsletter, Page 1, starting with the second column there.
13 Contract documents call for design work for the new ferry
14 to be completed by May 21, 2004, plans called for
15 construction bids to be advertised in July 2004 with
16 construction to commence in October 2004 and completion by
17 March 2006. Originally the IFA plans summer only service
18 on the northern route but the board is currently
19 reassessing the needs of the communities that will be
20 served with consideration being given to extending the
21 months of operation. And on this back page, the M/V
22 Stikene will be 198 feet in length with a breadth of 51
23 feet, it will be certified for 160 passengers with a car
24 deck capacity for 30 standard automobiles. Also if you'll
25 go with me now to the inside portion of the document,
26 again, at the green column on the left side of Page 2 from
27 Mr. Watson, at the end of its second year in operation, the
28 M/V Prince of Wales saw a 15 percent increase in passenger
29 ridership and a 20 percent increase in vehicle traffic over
30 2002 figures. And I would point out that the 2002 figure
31 was the highest use recorded for that route with the
32 exception of one year when Mark Air had some special fares
33 for airline tickets that was slightly higher. Also if
34 you'll look at over on Page 3, the November 22nd, 2003
35 marked the 100,000th passenger to ride on the M/V Prince of
36 Wales and that was Vicky Hamilton. I would refer you to
37 the bottom of Page 3, more than 56,000 passengers traveled
38 between Ketchikan and Prince of Wales Island on the M/V
39 Prince of Wales in 2003. Based on 2002 statistics the
40 Hollis/Ketchikan route is the busiest passenger/vehicle
41 ferry route in the state.

42

43 I'm not going to read any additional
44 material from there but there are some other facts that are
45 important, I think, to this Council that you may want to
46 reference later.

47

48 Secondly, on the new permit, draft permit
49 that I have before you, if you'll also reference your
50 Council booklets on Page 9. On Page 9, Mr. Douville and

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1 others at the Regional Council meeting in Craig raised
2 issues and questions pertaining to how the current new
3 permit was being implemented and issues surrounding the
4 requirement for Federally-qualified hunters to have to
5 report and also because of the fact that there was four
6 pieces of paper that had to be used to do the reporting.

7

8 We've made some tremendous successes in the
9 Office of Subsistence Management and I'd like to commend
10 Chuck Miller and some of the other Staff at OSM for working
11 with us to come up with a much better reporting document.
12 The one you have before you is draft and we certainly would
13 appreciate hearing comments you may have about that
14 particular form.

15

16 Thirdly, is the errata sheet and it's
17 pretty self-explanatory with the information that is
18 attached to regarding the actual text for the analysis.

19

20 That concludes my comments, Mr. Chairman.

21

22 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Thank you.
23 Questions from the Council for Mr. Johnson.

24

25 (No comments)

26

27 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: I'd just note that
28 on Page 4 and 5, also in that IFA brochure, there's a
29 larger map that shows quite a few of the areas that we're
30 going to be discussing.

31

32 Okay, I guess we're ready for Mr. Brainard.

33

34 Thank you.

35

36 Let's take a quick break here while they
37 get ready for this.

38

39 (Off record)

40

41 (On record)

42

43 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Mr. Brainard, you
44 have the floor.

45

46 MR. BRAINARD: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
47 Council members. My name is Jim Brainard. I'm a wildlife
48 biologist with the U.S. Forest Service currently stationed
49 in Petersburg. I've been there about 13 years and before
50 that I was stationed on Thorne Bay District which is on

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1 Prince of Wales Island.

2

3

4 Before I go with my prepared statement,
5 I'll show you some of the new data from the hunt so far.

6

7 As of Friday we had approximately 76
8 percent of the cards returned to us, these permits. In
9 your book you'll notice the top chart is the same as in
10 your book, that was from several weeks ago and the one
11 right below it is as of Friday. The numbers have changed,
12 as you would expect.

13

14 The ones on the left-hand side of the chart
15 are numbers that are very solid numbers. That occurred
16 during the closure, where they were only Federally-
17 qualified users. After that, the 21st of August they were
18 no longer required to use the Federal permits and some of
19 them did return them at that point and started using their
20 State permits. We have continued to get Federal permits in
21 and people are still using them. The numbers to the right
22 do not tell the whole story because a lot of it would be
23 reported to the State as State permits.

24

25 Are there any questions on that.

26

27 (No comments)

28

29 MR. BRAINARD: As you can see 184 deer were
30 killed in that first week and so far -- the question was
31 asked earlier, how many does had been harvested, I think 77
32 does had been harvested for this season and 317 deer
33 totally that have been reported to us.

34

35 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Everything to the
36 left of the black bar is Federal deer; is that correct?

37

38 MR. BRAINARD: Yes, sir. They're all
39 Federal deer, it's just that the ones to the right don't
40 have the State component in it.

41

42 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Does anybody have
43 any questions at this time.

44

45 (No comments)

46

47 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Okay, we'll proceed.

48

49 MR. BRAINARD: You will find the basis for
50 this analysis on Pages 65 through 92 in your Regional
51 Advisory booklet and the errata sheet that has been

00228

1 provided to you. Most of those errors were formatting
2 errors, things didn't get crossed out, things didn't get
3 bolded. There was one error that we did find and my
4 colleague Matt Moran helped me with this one and that was
5 with Proposal 13, so what I tell you will be a little
6 different than what you read in the book, and I apologize
7 for that.

8

9

10 Thirteen proposals were received this year
11 requesting changes to Unit 2 deer hunting regulations. The
12 issues addressed in these 13 proposals include a wide range
13 of regulatory options.

14

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50

Three proposals increase the length of the season that Federal public lands are closed to non-Federally-qualified users, those are Proposals 3 and 11 submitted by the Prince of Wales Tribal Coalition, and 12 submitted by Steve Hoffman of Ketchikan.

Seven proposals eliminate the July 24th to the 31st season, WP04-3 and 11 submitted by the Prince of Wales Tribal Coalition, 9, 10 and 12 submitted by Steve Hoffman of Ketchikan, 13 submitted by Jay O'Brien of Ketchikan and 14 submitted by William Welton of Thorne Bay.

Four proposals reduce the harvest limit, Proposal 3 and 11 submitted by the Prince of Wales Tribal Coalition, 5 submitted by Dolly Garza of Ketchikan and 10 submitted by Steve Hoffman of Ketchikan.

Three proposals close Unit 2 to the harvest of antlerless deer, that would be 9, 10 and 12 submitted by Steve Hoffman of Ketchikan.

One proposal changes the dates of the antlered season, that was No. 4 submitted by Dick Stokes of Wrangell.

Seven proposals reduced or eliminated the season allowed to Federally-qualified users only, that would be 5 submitted by Dolly Garza of Ketchikan, 6 submitted by Eric Eichner of Ketchikan, 7 submitted by Andy Mathews of Ketchikan, 8 submitted by

00229

1 Mike Mood of Ketchikan, 11 submitted by
2 the Prince of Wales Tribal Coalition, 12
3 submitted by Steve Hoffman of Ketchikan.

4
5 One proposal specifically specifies antler
6 restrictions for non-Federally-qualified
7 hunters and that would have been 9
8 submitted by Steve Hoffman of Ketchikan.

9
10 One proposal increased the total length of
11 the season, 12 submitted by Steve Hoffman
12 of Ketchikan.

13
14 And finally, one proposal maintains the
15 current regulations, that's Proposal 15
16 submitted by the Southeast Regional
17 Advisory Council.

18
19 The majority of Unit 2 Federal public lands
20 are administered by the USDA Forest Service, and
21 approximately 280,000 acres are under private or State
22 control. There's no indication that the deer harvest on
23 Prince of Wales Island limits the opportunity to
24 subsistence users. Biologically hunter harvest is not the
25 limiting factor on deer populations, changes in habitat and
26 winter severity are much more important factors affecting
27 deer populations in Unit 2.

28
29 Hunter harvest depends on changing the
30 hunting strategies and moving to other areas as the process
31 of forest regeneration moves through the different stages
32 of stand development.

33
34 Deer pellet counts and harvest data
35 indicates that there is a slight decline in population
36 since 1983. Both the Alaska Department of Fish and Game
37 and wildlife biologists agree that there is, at this
38 current time, no conservation consideration for Unit 2
39 deer.

40
41 During the first eight days of July more
42 deer were harvested than any other month of the entire
43 season. August and November were the next two months when
44 most deer were harvested on Prince of Wales Island.

45
46 Deer harvest data collected by the
47 Department of Fish and Game suggests that deer populations
48 may have decreased over the past three years. 16-year low
49 occurred in 1997 followed closely by the 2000 season which
50 is the last year that data is available and Dr. Schroeder

00230

1 presented that data. We assume that the harvest data is a
2 surrogate for the deer populations. We do realize,
3 however, that this is not necessarily true but is the best
4 data we have for that purpose.

5
6 The assessment considering the feasibility
7 of Prince of Wales Island Deer Cooperative Management
8 Process was completed in December and distributed in
9 January. You've already been briefed on this so I will not
10 go into it any further at this time.

11
12 Proposal WP04-3 would eliminate the July
13 season for Federally-qualified users on Prince of Wales.
14 This proposal would also result in an increased competition
15 to subsistence hunters in the August 1 through 21 portion
16 of the season because of the non-Federally-qualified
17 hunters which would increase during this period. Adoption
18 of this proposal would reduce competition from non-
19 Federally-qualified hunters during the rut, which is
20 approximately October 16th through November 16th by
21 reducing the number of non-Federally-qualified hunters in
22 the field at that time. Additionally, the proposal would
23 reduce competition between the two user groups by reducing
24 to the number, 2, buck deer available for non-Federally-
25 qualified hunters.

26
27 Subsistence users took substantially more
28 deer during the July to August 21st season as we've shown
29 you.

30
31 Proposal 4 changes the season for harvest
32 of antlered deer from the current regulations and may have
33 a deleterious affect on the population of female deer for
34 Prince of Wales Island. Early in the season female deer
35 are not yet habituated to fear humans and the potential for
36 increased harvest is a real concern. Later in the season,
37 normally late November to early December, male deer lose or
38 shed their antlers. The current regulations allows the
39 harvest of one antlerless deer, not necessarily a female
40 deer, since males may have lost their antlers at that time
41 and may be a little more difficult to distinguish from
42 females.

43
44 It will not appreciably change the number
45 of deer available as the proponent believes. It may
46 enhance the availability of food to the remainder of deer
47 later in the season as the proponent believes.
48 Additionally, if this proposal is accepted, this early
49 season could result in higher fawn mortality. Fawns may
50 not be weaned in August from their parents and that could

00231

1 cause considerable die-off of fawns during that period of
2 time.

3

4 Proposal 5 would reduce the time when
5 Federal lands on Prince of Wales are closed to non-
6 Federally-qualified hunters. Provisions of this proposal
7 present a possible management alternative by pairing a
8 reduction in the closure of Federal lands with the
9 restriction of bag limit for the non-Federally-qualified
10 hunters. It would increase substantially opportunity for
11 Ketchikan residents by providing six additional days for
12 families to hunt during the month of August. This action
13 would reduce subsistence opportunities for Federally-
14 qualified users due to the increased competition from the
15 non-Federally-qualified users between August 16th and the
16 21st. Reducing the harvest limit for non-Federally-
17 qualified hunters by one deer would reduce overall non-
18 subsistence harvest levels and potentially provide more
19 deer for subsistence users. However, a single years worth
20 of data is not enough to tell us what would happen.

21

22 Dr. Dolly Garza believes that this would
23 allow Ketchikan and other non-Federally-qualified hunters
24 to hunt with their families in August before school begins.
25 The change to the bag limit for non-Federally-qualified
26 hunters would reduce the hunting pressure in Unit 2 and
27 provide more deer for subsistence hunters.

28

29 Proposals 6, 7 and 8 would eliminate the
30 closure of Federal lands to non-Federally-qualified
31 hunters. This proposal would allow an increased
32 competition from subsistence hunters in the August 1
33 through 21st portion of the season and decrease the
34 subsistence opportunity because of the elimination of this
35 part of the season.

36

37 The proposal would roll back the Board
38 action taken in the last cycle. This regulatory change was
39 instituted to reduce competition in the early season of
40 Unit 2 deer and that has suggested that this approach was
41 successful in meeting the objective. Repealing the new
42 regulation would eliminate the benefits to Federally-
43 qualified subsistence users.

44

45 Eric Eichner, or the first proponent
46 believes that there has been an increase in deer population
47 during this period, probably because of the mild winters.
48 He's a pilot of a helicopter and flies all over Prince of
49 Wales and he says he's seen more deer this year than in
50 past years in the Alpine. He believes that the concern

00232

1 about the deer population -- if there was a concern about
2 the deer population, the Board should have reduced the bag
3 limit instead of excluding user groups.

4

5 Andy Mathews said he would rather lose a
6 tag than give up a portion of the season. He enjoys
7 hunting early season with his kids in the Alpine, while he
8 doesn't always hunt Prince of Wales he likes having that
9 option. He also flies an airplane and has seen more deer
10 than he's ever seen before on Prince of Wales.

11

12 Mike Mood, the third proponent believes
13 that the closure is unfair. He's a lifelong Alaska
14 resident and he has lived on Prince of Wales Island --
15 excuse me, he's always hunted Prince of Wales Island and he
16 disagrees with the idea that you should get preferential
17 treatment just because where you live. He believes that
18 many people living on Prince of Wales Island make more
19 money than he does and he believes subsistence should be
20 based on income and a way of life rather than where you
21 locate your domicile. He normally hunts in August,
22 November or October.

23

24 Proposal 9 would eliminate July deer
25 hunting season for Unit 2 and close the Federal lands to
26 non-Federally-qualified hunters during August 1 through the
27 21st. It would establish an antler restriction on Federal
28 lands in Unit 2 for non-Prince of Wales Island residents
29 hunting in Unit 2 during the August 1st through the 15th
30 portion of the season. This antler restriction would apply
31 to other Federally-qualified hunters, subsistence users
32 having a positive customary and traditional use
33 determination for Unit 2 deer. It is clear that part of
34 the concern over the issue stems from the perception that
35 male fawns constitute a substantial part of the annual buck
36 harvest. Hunter related mortality of male fawns would
37 likely constitute -- would likely substitute for natural
38 mortality because of the high natural mortality fawn -- to
39 fawns from winter kill and predation.

40

41 Additionally, it is currently unclear
42 whether there is an unnatural preponderance of one and a
43 half year old button bucks in the population of deer on
44 Prince of Wales Islands. It is also unclear as to whether
45 or not this cohort is being singled out by the subsistence
46 users. If the proposal were accepted it would constitute
47 a restriction to Federally-qualified subsistence users on
48 Prince of Wales Island without a noted conservation
49 concern. Data do not support a Section .804 limitation of
50 subsistence harvest.

00233

1 Increased competition would also result
2 from the elimination of the early July season that was
3 instrumental in increasing the harvest opportunities for
4 subsistence users this year.

5
6 Proposal 10 would eliminate the July deer
7 hunting season on Unit 2 and eliminate the closure of
8 Federal lands to non-Federally-qualified hunters during the
9 August 1 through the 21st. It would establish a three buck
10 harvest limit on Federal lands in Unit 2 for non-Prince of
11 Wales Island residents hunting in Unit 2. This reduction
12 in the allowable harvest of deer would apply, again, to
13 Federally-qualified subsistence users as would the last
14 proposal.

15
16 Proposal 11 would reduce subsistence
17 hunting opportunities in July by eliminating this portion
18 of the season. Increased competition would also result
19 from the elimination of the early July season that was
20 instrumental in increasing harvest opportunities for
21 subsistence users this year. Removing the current August
22 closure to non-Federally-qualified hunters would also
23 increase competition for subsistence users during this
24 period. The closure of Federal lands to non-Federally-
25 qualified hunters during the last six weeks of the season
26 would benefit subsistence users. Lowering the non-
27 subsistence harvest limit would reduce hunting pressure for
28 non-Federally-qualified hunter and reduce the overall
29 harvest of deer on Prince of Wales Islands. However,
30 during normal winters, the weather on Prince of Wales
31 Island could preclude some hunting opportunities in many of
32 the areas because of the snowfall.

33
34 Proposal 12 would reduce subsistence
35 opportunities by eliminating the current July season ending
36 the antlerless deer harvest and removing the closure of
37 Prince of Wales Island Federal lands to non-Federally-
38 qualified hunters from the 1st of August to the 21st of
39 August. Increased competition would also result in the
40 elimination of the early season that was instrumental in
41 increasing harvest opportunities for subsistence use this
42 year. The proposal eliminates any restrictions to non-
43 Federally-qualified hunters and increases the competition
44 between Federally and non-Federally-qualified user groups.
45 Additionally it would add to subsistence opportunity for
46 Prince of Wales Island residents by opening a January
47 season when non-Island residents would not be permitted to
48 hunt. However, during normal winter years on Prince of
49 Wales, hunting opportunities would be precluded on many of
50 the areas because of the weather and would not necessarily

00234

1 increase the hunting opportunity for Federal users.

2

3

4 Since bucks may lose their antlers in
5 November/December, subsistence harvest of antlered deer
6 during the month of July would be problematic. This would
7 constitute a restriction to Federally-qualified users on
8 Prince of Wales without a noted conservation concern.

8

9

10 Proposal 13 would reduce the season for
11 Federally-qualified users in Unit 2 to only 10 days, August
12 1st to the 10th. During the 10 day period, Federal lands
13 on Prince of Wales would be closed to non-Federally-
14 qualified. Provisions of this proposal present a possible
15 management alternative by reducing the closure of Federal
16 lands on Prince of Wales. It would increase hunting
17 opportunity for Ketchikan residents by providing an
18 additional 11 days for families to hunt on the island.
19 This action would reduce subsistence opportunity for
20 Federally-qualified users because of the increased
21 competition from non-Federally-qualified users between
22 August 1st and the 21st. A single year of data, again, has
23 not produced enough sufficient information to decide what
24 this change would cause.

24

25

26 Proposal 14 would reduce subsistence
27 opportunities by eliminating the July season in Unit 2.
28 Subsistence hunters took a substantial number again during
29 that period of time.

29

30

31 Proposal 15 would maintain the current
32 season and harvest limits for Federally-qualified hunters
33 on Prince of Wales Island and continue the August 1 through
34 21 closure on Federal lands to non-Federally-qualified
35 users. Additionally the antlerless season would remain
36 unchanged. No change would occur for the next regulatory
37 year by adoption of this proposal. A meaningful
38 subsistence priority authorized by this regulation would
39 remain in place as evidenced in Figure 1, which is found on
40 Page 85 of your booklet and is on the table up there -- on
41 the screen. Leaving existing regulations in place would
42 allow evaluation of how well subsistence needs are being
43 met under these regulations.

43

44

45 In conclusion, the Staff supports Proposal
46 WP04-15 and would take no action on Proposals 3 through 14.

46

47

48 There is no clear evidence of a
49 conservation concern for deer on Unit 2. Proposals
50 restricting harvest, reducing season or instituting antler
restrictions are not warranted at this time. Neither does

00235

1 the evidence provide a reason for changing the harvest of
2 antlerless deer or increasing the length of the season.

3

4 Adoption of Proposal 15 would continue the
5 season and harvest limits put into regulations in the 2003
6 season. During the 2003/2004 regulatory season, these
7 restrictions provide a meaningful subsistence opportunity
8 necessary to meet the subsistence user's needs in Unit 2.

9

10 More deer were harvested during the first
11 eight days of the month of -- last eight days of the month
12 of July than any other time of the season.

13

14 The Department of Fish and Game data from
15 the 2002/2003 shows a reduction in overall deer harvest
16 throughout the region and on Prince of Wales Island.

17

18 That concludes my testimony, I'd take any
19 questions.

20

21 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Yeah, there probably
22 aren't any, but, Council, questions.

23

24 (Laughter)

25

26 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Oh, you have a
27 question from Staff.

28

29 MR. JOHNSON: Mr. Chairman, Dave Johnson
30 again. Just a clarification, the restriction that's been
31 referenced to for the period August 1 through 21 is only on
32 Prince of Wales Island. The adjacent islands in Unit 2,
33 there were no restrictions to non-Federally-qualified and
34 also the lands that are corporation lands or private lands
35 on Prince of Wales Island are still under the jurisdiction
36 of the State.

37

38 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Thank you. Council.

39

40 (No comments)

41

42 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: No questions on
43 these proposals, pretty neat. That's great. Okay, thank
44 you.

45

46 MR. DOUVILLE: I've got a question.

47

48 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Oh, okay, Mr.

49 Douville.

50

00236

1 MR. DOUVILLE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My
2 question is, while you did a very good job of counting how
3 many Federally-qualified hunters, how many deer they got,
4 do you see any means of doing the same thing with non-
5 Federally-qualified hunters during the regular season? Is
6 there any vehicle that you can imagine that would help come
7 up with good numbers so we really have a good idea, instead
8 of estimates and so on?

9

10 Thank you.

11

12 MR. BRAINARD: Mr. Chairman. Council
13 member Douville. Yes, sir, I do. The only way I think we
14 could probably do that would be to make it mandatory that
15 all hunters on Prince of Wales that hunt on Federal lands
16 have to have the same permit and would have to abide by
17 those permit regulations, being that they are responsible
18 to return those at the end of the season and after harvest.

19

20 Barring the State from putting the same
21 kind of regulations in, that's the only way I can see to do
22 it.

23

24 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Other Council. Dr.
25 Garza.

26

27 DR. GARZA: Following from Mr. Douville,
28 has that been discussed in any of the Inter-Agency Staff
29 Committees?

30

31 MR. JOHNSON: Dr. Garza. Chair. It's been
32 discussed at some length. And I guess I would defer to
33 Staff Committee to further comment on that if there's
34 someone here would like to comment on that.

35

36 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Yeah, they're on the
37 agenda coming up. Other questions for Staff. Ms. Phillips
38 followed by Mr. Hernandez.

39

40 MS. PHILLIPS: Chairman Littlefield, thank
41 you. Mr. Brainard, I see a lot of data on harvest, what is
42 that in comparison to population?

43

44 MR. BRAINARD: It's very difficult to get
45 deer population numbers. We're in discussions now with
46 research on how to possibly do some of that, but it's very
47 difficult to count deer as I'm sure you're aware here in
48 Southeast. Harry Marium from Fish and Game back in the
49 '60s actually tried quite a few different methods. He used
50 spotlights at night trying to count them and he'd go out in

00237

1 one field in one night and see 500 deer in one field and
2 then in the next three weeks not see a deer. And they've
3 tried flying airplanes. It's just very, very difficult
4 because of the terrain and the vegetation we have.

5
6 We have used some of these numbers as a
7 surrogate for that. And especially using the Fish and Game
8 numbers, I'll show them to you here, these numbers, for
9 over a long period of time, along with the pellet group
10 numbers gives us an idea of what's going on. There are
11 some limitations but that's the best we have at this point
12 in time.

13

14 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Follow up.

15

16 MS. PHILLIPS: Thank you, Chairman
17 Littlefield. Are we within this where stocks would
18 maintain or build in terms of harvest compared to
19 population?

20

21 MR. BRAINARD: Things are going to change
22 because of the harvest that has gone on for -- timber
23 harvest. As the stands go through different growing stages
24 they will eliminate all the food for deer. Deer will still
25 walk through them and use them but there's really nothing
26 in there to keep them there other than maybe some hiding
27 cover. Because of that and with the amount of harvest
28 that's occurred on Prince of Wales there is going
29 eventually be a reduction in the population of deer. How
30 far that will go down, it really depends on the weather we
31 have between now and then. If we continue having warm
32 winters we may not notice that for quite awhile. And about
33 every 20 to 40 years in Southeast somewhere we have a major
34 die-off of deer because of severe winter weather. The last
35 one I'm aware of happened on Unit 3 in '72, so that does
36 occur.

37

38 I think that the population, while it's in
39 a slight decline, is still a good stable hunting population
40 and we shouldn't -- you know, we're going to -- it was
41 pointed out earlier, winter's going to kill a lot more deer
42 than the hunters do and so are the wolves.

43

44 MR. JOHNSON: Mr. Chair. Patty. As a
45 follow up to that, in response to your question, both Mr.
46 Kessler and Mr. Larsen referenced the deer model -- by Mr.
47 Kessler and Mr. Larsen referenced a number, I don't have
48 that number on the tip of my tongue for what you would find
49 in a quality deer stand, if you will, or a quality deer
50 habitat, so many deer per square mile. In the model that

00238

1 Mr. Kessler talked about, if you -- and again this model
2 has not been validated, but there's a correlation between
3 the amount of deer that occur in good habitat and the
4 amount of timber harvest that's occurred once the stand
5 reaches the 30 year plus age class, and by knowing the
6 number of deer being harvested in a given piece of ground
7 or area, you could work your model backwards to say, this
8 area will only support this many deer. So if you are
9 harvesting more than that number, at some point here,
10 you're going to fall below what that area is capable of
11 producing. So that's where we're getting at part of this
12 harvest information that Mr. Brainard spoke to.

13

14 MR. BRAINARD: Also this chart right here
15 shows where the people have hunted this year, the ones that
16 have reported to me where they hunted by wildlife analysis
17 area.

18

19 The numbers are still very preliminary so
20 I have not tried to figure out how many were successful in
21 each of these wildlife analysis areas. But you will notice
22 that the majority of people have hunted in wildlife
23 analysis area 1422 which is Stany Creek, followed closely
24 by 1319, which is in between Thorne Bay and the Control
25 Lake Junction Area, 1420, which is Coffman Cove, so we
26 have a pretty good idea of where people are hunting. And
27 the next step when we complete getting all the data will
28 give us a pretty good idea of not only where people are
29 hunting but how well they're doing in those areas, at
30 least, for this past year. So that, in effect, will help
31 us also.

32

33 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: I have a follow up
34 by Patty, and then Mr. Hernandez and then Mr. Stokes.

35

36 MS. PHILLIPS: Thank you, Chairman
37 Littlefield. Given that the habitat is going to diminish
38 for deer populations which will create a decline in deer
39 populations, can future forest management practices be
40 initiated which would tend to increase populations of deer?

41

42 MR. BRAINARD: Yes, ma'am, I think so. The
43 problem with that is the expense of doing some of those
44 treatments.

45

46 We have done some experiments with thinning
47 and pruning of stands and have had a marked increase in
48 deer utilization of those stands because we've maintained
49 the under-story regrowth for longer periods of time and
50 especially because under the pruned stands, it's a higher

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1 quality of browse because of the side lighting instead of
2 the direct sunlight. And so, yes, with limited data that
3 does look like we could possibly do that, plus some of the
4 other prescriptions we've used by using partial harvest
5 style, taking out just parts of the stand and research
6 shows that under 50 percent of the stand being removed, the
7 stand recovers fairly rapidly within 40 or 50 years.

8

9 We still don't know exactly how well that's
10 going to hold up because every 150 years or so we have a
11 hurricane that hits Southeast Alaska and blows down a third
12 of the forest in one night, so, you know, and it's been
13 about 125 years since that last happened. So it's really
14 kind of a crap shoot, we don't know at this point what's
15 going to occur in the future. We're working on that, but
16 we really don't know for certain. We have some pretty good
17 indications but we don't know for certain what will happen.

18

19 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Mr. Hernandez, Mr.
20 Stokes, and Ms. Rudolph; in that order.

21

22 MR. HERNANDEZ: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
23 Jim, I was going to follow along kind of the same lines as
24 Ms. Phillips questions there, but you saying your
25 justification there's no clear evidence of a conservation
26 concern for deer in Unit 2. From my perspective and maybe
27 you would agree with this also, I would say there are some
28 conservation concerns in specific areas of Unit 2, and to
29 me a conservation concern in a specific area, which happens
30 to be an area where a lot of people are hunting is a
31 conservation concern. Would you agree with any of that?

32

33 MR. BRAINARD: Mr. Chairman. Mr.
34 Hernandez. I can agree with a lot of that. Trying to
35 quantify that is difficult.

36

37 And some of these areas, while they seem
38 large when you put them in the context of the entire
39 island, you know, some of these, as I can remember off the
40 top of my head, the most harvested in one of these is like
41 30 percent, most of them are much less than that. So, yes,
42 I can see how we could have some problems in certain
43 limited areas on the island. We talked about that last
44 year at the Council with looking at some of those areas,
45 so, yes, I would agree that that is probably correct.

46

47 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Mr. Stokes.

48

49 MR. STOKES: Thank you, Mr. Bennett [sic]
50 for pointing out the possible loss of fawns on that

00240

1 Proposal 4. It never occurred to me that they'd be gone,
2 I just wanted to thank you for pointing it out.

3

4 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Ms. Rudolph.

5

6 MS. RUDOLPH: I was wondering as you were
7 talking about wolves, has there ever been any threat of any
8 kind of from dogs, wild dogs?

9

10 MR. BRAINARD: Chair Littlefield. Ms.
11 Rudolph. I really don't know. I doubt that there's many
12 wild dogs on Prince of Wales, wolves usually kill them very
13 rapidly. I know in Petersburg we've had wolves in town
14 killing dogs on leashes so I don't think dogs -- wild dogs
15 would survive very long on Prince of Wales.

16

17 MS. RUDOLPH: The reason why I was asking,
18 I was asking for Unit 4. Because I've heard -- we had a
19 real good dog catcher the last couple years, had all the
20 dogs go back up into the woods and some kids went out
21 camping and they can hear them all around them. And one of
22 the Elders said that they feel the deer is going to be
23 taking a beating from the dogs.

24

25 MR. BRAINARD: Yes, ma'am, that has
26 occurred in other parts of the country. There have been
27 places where wild dogs are much more dangerous than
28 anything else out there and I've heard the rumors about
29 dogs on Admiralty also. I would defer to Fish and Game on
30 that. Since there are no wolves on those islands to speak
31 of, I would -- that could become a problem.

32

33 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Other Council.

34

35 (No comments)

36

37 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Any other questions
38 for Staff -- this is the end of the Staff presentation so
39 if there's any other questions for any Staff -- Mr.
40 Kookesh.

41

42 MR. KOOKESH: My question kind of goes
43 towards Mr. Hernandez, because when he was talking I was
44 taking it in the context that when -- we have a certain
45 segment that just drives along the road and shoots a deer,
46 right, in our community and then we have a certain segment
47 that hunts on the beach. When those populations decline,
48 to me, that doesn't indicate that there's a conservation
49 concern, it just indicates that I have to go into the woods
50 and get my deer. So I'm taking it that -- I don't know

00241

1 what he's referring to, specifically, a site -- possibly a
2 road side -- but my observation is that we have to always
3 work harder for it. Because I know that there's more
4 people cruising the beaches and more people hitting the
5 roads, so you just have to walk a little further, and I
6 don't believe that that -- just because you don't see them
7 on the beach anymore, that doesn't mean they're there.

8

9 I'm just making a statement because I'm
10 kind of wondering if that's what he's trying to say.

11

12 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Mr. Hernandez, would
13 you want to follow up?

14

15 MR. HERNANDEZ: Sure, yeah, I'd be glad to
16 respond.

17

18 I think the situation on Prince of Wales
19 Island is sort of maybe like what you are thinking about
20 there. The problem is there are areas of the item that are
21 so heavily roaded that it constitutes a significant area of
22 land that is getting depleted, and that forces people to,
23 as you say, go look elsewhere. Unfortunately it's not an
24 endless area, I mean eventually people keep going elsewhere
25 you run out of places to go. So eventually it's going to
26 be a problem.

27

28 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Go ahead, Mr.
29 Johnson.

30

31 MR. JOHNSON: Mr. Chairman. As a follow u
32 to that, if you'll look again at your February newsletter
33 from the IFA on Page 6. At the close of 2003 construction
34 season, Prince of Wales Island counted 113 miles of paved
35 highway. The North Prince of Wales road or Island Highway
36 has been paved 16 miles north of the Control Lake turn off
37 to Thorne Bay. Prior to paving all of these roads have
38 been re-engineered and lined with sweeping curves and heavy
39 shoulders allowing for speedier access and increased
40 access. Highway improvements have been completed within
41 one mile of where the Coffman Cove road leaves the Island
42 highway. If you'll recall last year's bus trip, you
43 encountered some of the improvements that occurred on the
44 Prince of Wales Island. Also that, leaving 20 miles left
45 to complete to the planned Coffman Cove ferry terminal,
46 rebuilding the Coffman Cove Road is an ongoing project with
47 completion and paving planned by late 2007, and the
48 remaining five miles of highway to Naukati is expected to
49 be paved in the near future. There are over 1,100 miles of
50 maintained roads to explore on Prince of Wales Islands,

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1 more than in all of the other communities in Southeast
2 Alaska combined.

3

4 So in terms of the comments about areas,
5 when you begin to look at some of the most important deer
6 habitat and some of the most important hunting areas, many
7 of those have now been changed or modified as a result of
8 these roads and many of these roads access Alpine -- all
9 the way to Alpine. Also even some of the outside islands
10 have also been heavily roaded.

11

12 So I just give you that as additional
13 information, Mr. Chair.

14

15 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Other Council. Mr.
16 Adams.

17

18 MR. ADAMS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'd
19 like the gentlemen here -- these two gentlemen to kind of
20 quantify a couple terms that bothers me every now and then
21 and it's the word, stable and slight decline.

22

23 I know in Unit 5, you know, as I mentioned
24 earlier, you know, the deer were transplanted, you know,
25 from Sitka area up there and they've had a hard time, you
26 know, really building. And I've heard, you know those two
27 terms, you know, in fact I've heard drastic decline when we
28 have had bad winters. But it really scares me when I hear
29 those two terms, you know, maybe you can enlighten me a
30 little bit that I don't get too concerned when I hear them
31 anymore.

32

33 MR. JOHNSON: Mr. Chairman. Mr. Adams. I
34 would defer to both the State and to the Inter-Agency Staff
35 Committee to define those two terms.

36

37 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Other Council.

38

39 Mr. Jordan.

40

41 MR. JORDAN: I just want you guys to take
42 the word back to Ketchikan and Prince of Wales, when
43 they're looking for someplace else to come to to hunt deer
44 that, while we have plenty of deer here, they're very
45 elusive, you've got to hike a long ways and we have very
46 mean brown bear, they're quite a different animal than
47 those little black bears they have on Prince of Wales so
48 you have to guard your kill. It usually takes two or three
49 of us at a time to hike several miles and harvest one deer.
50 So this probably isn't the place you want to go.

00243

1 (Laughter)

2

3 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: And we don't have
4 any roads either.

5

6 (Laughter)

7

8 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Mr. Douville.

9

10 MR. DOUVILLE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I
11 just want to say you both look like hunters.

12

13 (Laughter)

14

15 MR. JORDAN: I have been accused of being
16 a carnivore before, yes, sir.

17

18 (Laughter)

19

20 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Mr. Adams.

21

22 MR. ADAMS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. You
23 know, another ferry going into the islands there, does that
24 cause some concern because it will make it more people
25 going to the islands? And then, you know, last year when
26 we made that trip over there and we went on this field
27 trip, you know, we noticed -- and someone made a comment,
28 you know, that road is going to make it a lot more easier,
29 you know, to access the deer hunting habitat. Is there any
30 concern for that in the future?

31

32 MR. JOHNSON: Again, Mr. Chairman, Mr.
33 Adams, I would reference the Council back to some previous
34 testimony in previous years. There's a plus and a minus
35 with all of these benefits that are coming to the island.
36 And many of the Elders and other longtime residents, for
37 that reason have said, we don't want to have an IFA ferry
38 or any other kind of ferry. In fact, we don't like the
39 fact that we're going to see all this increased access.
40 But that's one faction. That's one side of it. So it's a
41 mixed bag, and certainly there are concerns that have been
42 raised about that, yes.

43

44 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Other Council
45 questions for Staff.

46

47 (No comments)

48

49 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: And you'll be
50 available if we need to call you back later.

00244

1 MR. BRAINARD: (Nods affirmatively)

2

3 MR. JOHNSON: (Nods affirmatively)

4

5 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Okay, thank you very
6 much for your testimony. At this point we're at ADF&G.

7

8 MS. SEE: Mr. Chairman. Members of the
9 Council. We have some comments we'd like to offer, they're
10 fairly brief. We support Proposal WP04-15 and we recommend
11 that there be no action taken on the other Unit 2 deer
12 proposals. At the direction of the Federal Subsistence
13 Board the Fores Service conducted a feasibility assessment
14 that you heard about earlier. It was done in late summer
15 of '03 to determine public interest in using a cooperative
16 management process to address the deer management issues on
17 Prince of Wales. As you heard earlier as well, the results
18 show significant support by a wide range of stakeholders
19 for a joint planning process that would develop long-term
20 solutions to the deer management issues.

21

22 The Department supports this approach and
23 this is primarily due to the success we've seen of other
24 cooperative wildlife management planning efforts in other
25 parts of the state.

26

27 Thus, we recommend that further changes to
28 the existing regulations be deferred now and then referred
29 to the joint planning group for evaluation and
30 consideration. Since the Department doesn't consider that
31 there are any imminent biological concerns with the current
32 regulations, we support leaving them in place until refined
33 recommendations can be made through the cooperative
34 planning process. We note that having the current
35 regulations in place for another year would also provide
36 comparative information about deer harvest.

37

38 This Council is extremely well informed
39 about the Department's data and previous comments we've
40 made about these issues, however, if you have questions I,
41 and my colleagues here from the Wildlife and Subsistence
42 Division will certainly attempt to address them for you.

43

44 Thank you.

45

46 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Council comments or
47 questions for the State.

48

49 Mr. Adams.

50

00245

1 MR. ADAMS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
2 Marianne, I'd just kind of like to maybe through those
3 terms out to you, a slight decline and stable, you know, it
4 kind of bothers me and if you could just help me feel
5 comfortable when I hear those terms a little bit more, I'd
6 appreciate it.

7
8 MS. SEE: Through the Chair. Mr. Adams, I
9 think that the way we've tried to use those terms is in a
10 fairly broad context as we look at data that encompasses
11 many smaller areas across Prince of Wales, and that means
12 that we're looking at comparative information through time,
13 some of which was described earlier by Doug Larsen, where
14 we try to get a trend about information in very specific
15 areas and then we generalize that out to the entire Unit 2.

16
17 So, you know, it's a scale predominately.
18 We think that as you look at the entire island, there is
19 some indication in some places that there is a slight
20 decline in terms of population. Is it for the whole
21 island, no, we don't see that in our data. Our data, of
22 course, are not as rigorous as we would like. But I think
23 that, you know, these are scale related terms, in the broad
24 sense we say stable to slight decline. In specific areas
25 you may see very different specific patterns going on.

26
27 However, as a whole we do say that there is
28 not a conservation concern at this time. We've also noted
29 on the record that in the future we expect declines will
30 occur.

31
32 You know, so there's context and there's
33 scale issues here, but I hope that provides a little bit
34 more context for you.

35
36 MR. ADAMS: Thank you.

37
38 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Other Councils.
39 Questions for State. Mr. Kookesh first and then Dr. Garza.

40
41 MR. KOOKESH: On the last comment you made
42 on Page 92, it states that Department Staff will attend the
43 winter 2004 Southeast Regional Subsistence Advisory Council
44 meeting and be available to engage in further discussion of
45 these proposals and of the proposed planning process. Your
46 statement earlier was to allow this process to occur, and
47 what is this speaking more to -- can you speak more to it.

48
49 MS. SEE: Well, that basically says we'll
50 be here, which we are. And that we will -- to the extent

00246

1 that you wanted to discuss the proposed planning process we
2 would make ourselves available to do so.

3

4 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Follow up.

5

6 MR. KOOKESH: As a follow up, I gathered
7 from reading it that you wanted to engage us in this
8 process and that you were looking more forward for it to go
9 forward, this planning process to go forward; is that
10 correct?

11

12 MS. SEE: Through the Chair. We're
13 basically expressing our support for the process, that's
14 correct.

15

16 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Dr. Garza.

17

18 DR. GARZA: I guess I wanted to follow up
19 on the stable versus slight decline and the concerns that
20 Mr. Hernandez brought up. So in the ADF&G Staff biologist
21 from Ketchikan or wherever they're from, do they believe
22 that there are areas on Prince of Wales that there is more
23 than a slight decline that is easily available to hunters?

24

25 MS. SEE: Through the Chair. Could you
26 restate.

27

28 DR. GARZA: Maybe, if some of your
29 biologists could come up as well. So there was the
30 statement is that overall on Prince of Wales there is no
31 conservation concern, which some us wholeheartedly disagree
32 with, so we're trying to find out if there are areas on
33 Prince of Wales, that because of logging, habitat changes,
34 whatever, there is more than a slight decline in deer, and
35 that area is available to many hunters by the road, and so
36 specifically basically to this -- if I remember from older
37 meetings, north of the Honker Divide, whatever that is, but
38 there were specific areas we identified before that we felt
39 were more critical and if that's the truth then we don't
40 want to walk away thinking that there really are no
41 conservation concerns overall, when, indeed, there may be
42 within the island.

43

44 Thank you.

45

46 MR. LARSEN: Dr. Garza, through the Chair.
47 Our biologist in Ketchikan, as in other parts of the region
48 manage populations on a unitwide basis. In the case of
49 Unit 2, certainly not only with deer but other species
50 there are areas that are easier to access, they become

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1 consequently more vulnerable in terms of potential harvest
2 limits that might come out of those places. It's my
3 understanding at this point in conversation with our Staff
4 that, while there are areas that are more heavily hit than
5 others, certainly relative to access, there are no areas
6 that have been identified specifically as having a
7 conservation concern.

8

9 So I translate that into Unit 2 wide as not
10 having a conservation concern for that game management
11 unit.

12

13 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Could you define for
14 me conservation concern, because I know when you're going
15 into the -- when you're looking at fish there's a whole
16 bunch of different criteria. Conservation concern,
17 management concern, whatever. Could you define what that
18 means?

19

20 MR. LARSEN: Mr. Chair. In broad terms, I
21 guess the way I would see it is an issue of whether or not
22 we feel that populations are in a position to have birth
23 rates that are equal to or above the death rates, overall,
24 and that are in sync with what's available for habitat in
25 terms of carrying capacity for the population.

26

27 When I think of conservation concerns, I'm
28 thinking of situations where we find ourselves, in this
29 case with deer, in a situation where the deer numbers are
30 declining to a point where we have a fear that there's not
31 a way to arrest that or turn it around. And I guess
32 probably the best example of that would be in situations
33 where ungulate species, prey species find themselves in
34 what are sometimes termed a predator pit. That, in my
35 mind, would be an example of where a conservation concern
36 for that species could exist and then remedial actions to
37 the extent that they were available and possible would be
38 appropriate to address those.

39

40 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Dr. Garza.

41

42 DR. GARZA: Thank you, Mr. Chair. If I
43 could follow up on that. So I understand the birth and
44 death, if there's just as many being born as dying, then it
45 doesn't change. But when you started talking about the
46 habitat, okay, so it's relative to what the habitat can
47 support. So when you have a habitat that's been
48 significantly altered can now only support 10 percent of
49 the previous population, then can you say there's no
50 conservation concern because it's still maintaining 10

00248

1 percent of that previous conservation and that just happens
2 to be what the new ecosystem looks like, or do you take
3 into account that it actually should be maintaining, you
4 know, 90 percent more of the population and that, in fact,
5 it is less than what the potential is versus what the
6 current is because of the change of habitat.

7

8

Is that making sense to you?

9

10

MR. LARSEN: Dr. Garza. Through the Chair,
11 I think so. And I guess the key element here, I think, is
12 that carrying capacity is going to be dictated -- and I
13 don't mean to be -- speak as if in a lecture because I
14 think this is probably pretty understandable, but I want to
15 point out that carrying capacity is going to be dictated by
16 the most limiting factors.

17

18

In situations where you have limiting
19 factors, then those factors are going to influence how many
20 animals can actually survive there.

21

22

Certainly as we've heard in other testimony
23 today, winter severity plays a big part in that.
24 Availability of food is a consequence of winter conditions
25 will dictate how many animals can actually be supported.
26 When you alter habitat, that does, indeed, alter the
27 ability of that particular landscape to support animals.
28 So where an area might support 100 animals today, when it's
29 modified it might only support let's say 10 or 20 of those
30 animals, so in that sense, then I think the element there
31 is you have fewer animals and therefore it's going to be,
32 number 1, more difficult to get to those animals, but also
33 those animals in that area, there's not as many, perhaps in
34 terms of surplus that could be used for consumption.

35

36

But, again, I think it's important to keep
37 the focus on how many could actually survive there given
38 the limiting factor that exists for them in terms of
39 habitat.

40

41

DR. GARZA: I still need to follow up on
42 that.

43

44

So let's say I'm looking at the differences
45 between carrying capacity versus potential capacity. And
46 I think potential capacity is maybe what some of us have
47 focused on, where you have a beautiful forest and there's
48 lots of deer roaming around looking all cute, you cut back
49 that forest and instead of 100 you only have 10, well, as
50 long as you continue to have, you know, two births and two

00249

1 deaths and you continue to have 10 there, then it is
2 sustainable, but it's sustainable at a much lower level.
3 And so it's easier to say there's no conservation concern
4 because it can hold 10 deer now and it still has 10 deer.
5 But we see it differently, in that, it should be holding
6 100 deer and we're not seeing it so there's 90 deer that
7 are missing. And that's where we're seeing and maybe
8 that's the difference in the terminology.

9

10 And I understand that with fisheries.
11 Because on the Atlantic Coast they say, well, you know, the
12 fish are still sustainable, the population is at a 90
13 percent drop but it's still sustainable at 10 percent, and
14 that's difference when you're looking at, yes, but this
15 island used to hold 20,000 deer and now that we have 60
16 percent drop in habitat, we have, in our opinion, 60
17 percent drop in population even if the remaining population
18 are sustainable, it's still not at that former level that
19 our Elders are used to.

20

21 Thank you.

22

23 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Response.

24

25 MR. LARSEN: Dr. Garza, thank you. And I
26 don't disagree with that. And, in fact, that's, I think
27 the issue that really is in front of us, is, I think we all
28 recognize that over time these habitats have been altered
29 and as they come back in, they will not be able to support
30 the numbers of deer that historically have been there.
31 That, in my mind, speaks to segue somewhat into this whole
32 planning effort. We can put band-aids on situations today,
33 you know, piecemeal, but in the longer terms, I'm not sure
34 that's going to get us where we need to get, recognizing
35 that these changes are in front of us.

36

37 And so it seems like, if I may, just make
38 a pitch for this, some kind of collaborative effort, to
39 figure out how, as these changes occur on the landscape,
40 we're going to collectively respond to them, not react, but
41 respond to them and have a plan to do that. That, in my
42 mind, is the value of doing something at this point, rather
43 than later on.

44

45 DR. GARZA: Okay, I agree with that. So
46 maybe, you know, we keep hitting heads because we have
47 these two different versions and they're both okay, but
48 we're trying to use the same terminology to describe two
49 different things. So when you say that, just as an
50 example, if a clear-cut area can now support only 10 deer

00250

1 and you have two births and two deaths, it's sustainable
2 and that result in saying there's no conservation concern
3 because you still got the 10 deer. One dies, one gets shot
4 every year you still got 10 deer because two are being
5 born. And we're saying, no, that's not right because
6 that's not where it should be.

7

8 And so maybe that's been our problem over
9 the last five years, is we're looking at carrying capacity
10 versus potential capacity, just to throw those words out
11 and because, you know, I have great respect for ADF&G
12 biologists, I have great respect for our Staff biologists,
13 but we've never come to terms and said, okay, we are
14 talking about the same thing and maybe it's because we're
15 not.

16

17 MR. LARSEN: Dr. Garza. Through the Chair.
18 Again, everything you said, I think is totally in synch
19 with what we feel at this point. At the same time we have
20 available data at this point and we've all recognized the
21 limitations associated with that data that we have, the
22 mail out surveys for harvest rates and so forth, the pellet
23 group data, and we recognize, while there are shortcomings,
24 it does give us some sense for what has gone on and what is
25 going on. In that context we don't, at this time, see the
26 kinds of things that we anticipate in the future happening
27 to the point where we feel there's an issue that we need to
28 jump on right now. That's where we're, from our
29 perspective, standing and our conclusion at this point in
30 time.

31

32 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Mr. Jordan.

33

34 MR. JORDAN: Well, you know, I've been
35 around the Fish and Game a long time and I've observed that
36 the habitat and game persons are, at least, as smart as the
37 fisheries people.

38

39 (Laughter)

40

41 MR. JORDAN: But the fisheries people come
42 up with biomass estimates in the ocean. Some of them just
43 based on estimates of habitat that they can't even see.
44 And to me, what Dolly is leading to and where I'm at is,
45 and based on my experience making recommendations on
46 fisheries is that we need to have our best estimate of what
47 the biomass out there by unit. You manage these deer by
48 unit. I think there needs to be some investment in coming
49 up with that and I'm sure the wildlife biologists can do
50 it. I know it's difficult but it can't be that much more

00251

1 difficult than figuring out the biomass of rock fish off
2 the coast of Southeast Alaska, which we do, by species, by
3 area.

4

5 You know and I'm sitting here trying to
6 make recommendations on things and we don't know the
7 biomass, we don't know the percent that's harvested, we
8 don't -- we know that there's going to be less, that there
9 are less now and there's going to be less because we've
10 clear-cut the areas, but we don't have any numbers.

11

12 And here's what I think we should have:

13

14 I think we should have the biomass by unit
15 of deer.

16

17 I think we should have the percent of the
18 biomass harvested by unit.

19

20 I think we ought to have some kind of
21 estimate of the biomass reduced due to
22 habitat alteration by unit.

23

24 And based on that, let me lay it out real
25 simple, I think, and I challenge the Council to challenge
26 the Federal Staff and the State Staff to get us some of
27 these numbers because subsistence harvested deer is real
28 important. I think we ought to have optimum numbers of --
29 if the habitat was pristine by unit for Southeast Alaska,
30 I think we ought to have the optimum, sustainable number,
31 given the existing habitat, I think we ought to have an
32 optimum sustained yield given the existing habitat. And I
33 think we ought to look into the future. What the likely
34 sustained number is predicted by the habitat change and
35 what the likely sustained yield is like it should be --
36 predicted by the habitat change.

37

38 Otherwise our educational efforts don't
39 really mean much out there to average hunter. I mean we're
40 talking about population declines but he doesn't know what
41 that means because he doesn't have a figure in front of him
42 of how many deer live in Southeast Alaska or live on Prince
43 of Wales, how many less he's going to be able to get in the
44 future. And I think, as Dolly said earlier, education is
45 a big part of that.

46

47 And I'm making a speech, I know, Mr.
48 Chairman, but I feel quite strongly about this, that a big
49 problem here is we don't have the numbers in front of us
50 and I think we ought to get the numbers.

00252

1 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: I agree
2 wholeheartedly and we have asked for those numbers.

3
4 Other Council.

5
6 (No comments)

7
8 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: I'll let the State
9 Staff respond.

10
11 MR. LARSEN: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr.
12 Jordan, actually we do have some of that information in
13 terms of habitat capability models that have been
14 developed. And actually your point is very well taken,
15 I've been at hearings where when people hear, for example,
16 that likely by a certain year we can expect, based on the
17 modeling available, that they're going to see in Young's
18 Bay a reduction of 60 percent in the capability of that
19 habitat to support deer. And I agree, that when those are
20 thrown out in that context very specific it gets people's
21 attention.

22
23 We have a lot of that information available
24 and we're happy to make it available to the extent that we
25 do have it.

26
27 There's also information that we don't
28 have. Everything that you've asked for can be obtained.
29 It would take a heck of a lot of money, that, frankly we
30 don't have, but everything could be obtained. All that
31 information, very specific information. But, again, it's
32 time and money that would be required to get to that level
33 of detail. And frankly at this point, given what we know
34 about deer populations and something about their ecology we
35 don't feel that that's something that we -- our number 1
36 position to put a lot of funds into.

37
38 However, if that became in some way a
39 priority through Federal and State government, then
40 certainly we would be directed to do that, and it would
41 mean though in doing that there would be other things,
42 obviously, that we would have to cut back on, given that
43 there's finite resources.

44
45 So number 1, there is information available
46 that we can make available to you.

47
48 And secondly, we can get a lot more
49 information but it's going to take additional funds.

50

00253

1 And let me just add to that, that
2 recognizing the limitations of some of the information that
3 we do have and I will not apologize for the pellet group
4 data work, for example, because that is information I feel
5 has been very useful up to this point for what we needed it
6 for. We're not sure, at this point, it's really the best
7 information that we need in terms of some of these future
8 questions that we're trying to wrestle with.

9
10 Fish and Game Staff will be meeting with
11 Forest Service Staff on April 1st to discuss some of these
12 very things in terms of what are some of the strategies
13 that we might be able to implement to help get a better
14 sense for populations, at least, in Unit 2, which is
15 obviously a very hot spot at this point, but if they could
16 be applied perhaps broader in the future.

17
18 So this is not something that we're taking
19 lightly but again there's finite resources that we have
20 available to pursue this.

21
22 MS. SEE: And if I could just add to that,
23 in our discussion with Federal Staff about the initiation
24 of a cooperative planning effort, we've discussed one of
25 the very initial needs to identify, what are the available
26 and useful data that we have or that we will need to try to
27 get that really identified and the group that will be
28 working on this would then need to weigh in on kind of the
29 priorities that they saw from looking at that overview.
30 But we definitely want to assess where we need to go in
31 terms of improving information collection and how to
32 leverage funds to do it because as Doug points out, there's
33 a cost involved in that which is significant and it's
34 important to apply the money carefully.

35
36 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Other Council.

37
38 Dr. Garza.

39
40 DR. GARZA: So moving on in terms of
41 gathering data, it sounds like, and I did miss part of the
42 presentation, that we're getting pretty good data on the
43 rural users from Prince of Wales but is it my understanding
44 that we don't necessarily have as good a data on deer taken
45 from Prince of Wales by Ketchikan residents?

46
47 MR. LARSEN: Dr. Garza. Through the Chair.
48 That is correct, in that, we have been using, as we
49 mentioned earlier, for several years now the mail out
50 survey. That has been our sole source of harvest

00254

1 collecting information with minor exceptions with some
2 checkstations that you heard a little bit about.

3

4 The difficulty, and frankly we've talked
5 with Federal Staff about this idea, of going into something
6 that would give us better and more reliable harvest
7 information. Again, like with other things there's a cost
8 associated with doing that. We, for example, use
9 registration permits for several of our hunts, specifically
10 brown bear, goats, and -- well, there's at least one other,
11 but across the state we do these for specific species in
12 specific areas where we need fairly quick responses and
13 pretty accurate responses in order, that we feel, to
14 adequately and responsibly manage those species in those
15 areas.

16

17 In this case, to administer a registration
18 hunt, which requires having everybody come in and get their
19 registration permit, which seems like a simple thing on the
20 surface, we have all sorts of nightmares trying to get
21 those out to people through vendors and through our
22 offices, and then to get that information back, which is
23 also a difficult thing to do, and then because they are, as
24 was mentioned earlier in a presentation, because there's a
25 requirement to submit those, then it becomes an enforcement
26 issue, and then people start getting calls and there comes
27 a point where if they don't respond they're liable for not
28 following the guidelines outlining those registration
29 permits and there's actions that could be taken. Obviously
30 we don't want to see that happen.

31

32 So again there's a lot involved in trying
33 to implement something like that that would get us better
34 information than what we get currently through the harvest
35 survey. It can be done. It's costly in terms of personnel
36 and money, and that's the reality.

37

38 MS. SEE: And this is another matter that
39 we would expect would come before the fairly initial
40 discussions of the planning effort.

41

42 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Other Council.

43

44 MR. DOUVILLE: Mr. Chairman.

45

46 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Mr. Douville.

47

48 MR. DOUVILLE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
49 I'm just going to make a comment on trying to get hard
50 numbers on Prince of Wales would be extremely difficult,

00255

1 not just because of the habitat and you throw a 150 wolves
2 into the mixture and I don't see how you could do it
3 personally and I've lived there all my life.

4

5 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Are there any
6 others.

7

8 (No comments)

9

10 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: I'd just like to
11 note that we've been struggling with this for years, the
12 numbers, and have asked for harder numbers as Mr. Jordan
13 has. And one of the things that we, as a Council have to
14 do, is we have to follow this substantial evidence rule,
15 and if we have only a limited amount of data, we have to
16 take that limited amount of data and make our best call.

17

18 We think we could do a better job if we had
19 more data. But if you don't give it to us we're still
20 going to make our best call.

21

22 Okay, so thank you for your presentation.

23

24 Tribal governments.

25

26 (No comments)

27

28 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Are there any tribal
29 governments who would like -- I have two -- I don't know if
30 you want to testify here or under public, why don't you
31 guys just go ahead and come up now. I have first John
32 Morris, Jr., from Craig and then Richard Peterson.

33

34 MR. MORRIS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My
35 name is John Morris, Jr., from Craig Alaska. I work for
36 the Craig Community Association. I'm here to testify on
37 the U-2 deer, some of the proposals that the TEC Tribal
38 Environmental Coalition put together on Prince of Wales.

39

40 I'm hearing a lot of the same stuff that I
41 heard last year, a lot of numbers, a lot of data. I think
42 Mr. Douville's right about, I mean trying to get accurate
43 data from Prince of Wales, it's impossible, I think, too.

44

45 But we submitted a proposal, WP04-03, and
46 it calls for a time change within the timeframe for the
47 subsistence to harvest deer from August 1st to August 21st.
48 When you think of subsistence, when you think of -- I mean,
49 at least me and gathering of food, it's a seasonal thing,
50 at last, traditionally I'm hoping. I mean we're still

00256

1 traditional in the communities, you know, I think that's
2 something that we'll never lose, in August -- August 1,
3 we're not thinking about hunting deer, we don't want to
4 hang our deer in August, you know, we're putting up
5 sockeye, picking berries, things like that.

6
7 But in another sense it gives us -- you
8 know, it's you guys recognizing that there is a problem.
9 That, okay, we got this three week window there where we
10 have no competition from the other users, you know, and
11 that recognizes that there is a problem, but it doesn't, to
12 me, and to the people who I submitted the proposal on
13 behalf of, it should be moved to October, that's when we're
14 traditionally hunting our deer, you know, and we have, you
15 know, no real feelings. I see there's a big number there
16 for the amount of deer taken prior, August 1st, July 31st,
17 and, you know, that's when the State opens their hunt as
18 well. I mean there's almost 200 deer taken just in that
19 one week, more than any other week than the season, you
20 know.

21
22 But I could tell you probably right now
23 that at least 80 percent of the subsistence users were not
24 hunting deer in that timeframe, you know, I mean it's hot,
25 we're putting up our fish and our berries, things like
26 that.

27
28 So that's why I'm here in support and
29 testifying on behalf of WP04-03 proposal, is to get a time
30 change and ask for another -- it asks for a month's time
31 from October 15th to November 15th. So that's why I'm
32 sitting up here, on behalf of that.

33
34 I had some notes written here. Council
35 member Jordan, you can't address the amount of deer without
36 knowing the actual number of what's in decline and what
37 not. I think there's plenty of deer there, but the needs
38 are not being met by the subsistence users. It's becoming
39 harder for the subsistence user to get their deer, you
40 know. Well, it varies. There's so much development on
41 Prince of Wales with logging, with clear-cut, and it's not
42 just on Prince of Wales it's the adjacent islands west of
43 Prince of Wales, you got the biggest land holdings of
44 Sealaska down in that area, you know. You look at Baranof
45 Island, you look at Admiralty Island, Chichagof Island,
46 they don't even have the amount of road systems that we
47 have on Prince of Wales let alone the other islands out
48 there and those islands also support the residents of
49 subsistence with deer, you know, we depend on that.

50

00257

1 And there's going to come a time, I believe
2 this, in the next 10 years that we're going to be wishing
3 that there was something done. This could have been
4 resolved three or four years ago at one time, as it came to
5 the table then. And if it ain't dealt with now, I believe,
6 if it's not, you know, written in stone, we're going to
7 lose it, I believe that. I don't think one year, you can
8 make a determination of one year of having this -- you
9 can't make a determination off this one year of data, I
10 believe, I believe we should keep it going and see how it
11 works in the future.

12

13 And I believe it should be in the timeframe
14 of the users that are requesting it. We're not trying to
15 take away anybody's hunting privileges, we just want our
16 needs being met in the timeframe that we traditionally use
17 and that we traditionally hunt deer. We hang our deer.

18

19 And then on Proposal 11, we also submitted
20 that as well, and that basically calls for the same thing,
21 you know, we want to move the hunt back to August 1st, you
22 know, so obviously there's almost 200 deer taken just that
23 one week of July.

24

25 You know it just don't comprehend to the
26 people who I represent or at least the comments that are
27 coming in to where I work on it, you know, people on the
28 street they talk to you, they say, oh, well, August, July,
29 you know, we're not hunting deer then.

30

31 In your guys' position, in this subsistence
32 type position, it's a seasonal gathering. It was turned
33 down to us by our grandfathers, by our ancestors, you know,
34 so I just hope that you guys take into consideration on the
35 timeframes within this proposal that we're not trying to
36 take away anybody's hunting rights and privileges, is that
37 this Committee and this Council will look at these
38 recommendations on why we're trying to change these dates
39 and think about it and hopefully come up with the best
40 possible answer on addressing this.

41

42 So we appreciate, we're not -- we
43 appreciate that we did get a timeframe and we'll continue
44 to use it if it don't change, because it does address the
45 issue, but it doesn't address the timeframe of the harvest.

46

47 And that's all I have to say, Mr. Chairman,
48 thanks.

49

50 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Thank you, John, for

00258

1 your testimony. Council comments, questions for Mr.
2 Morris.

3

4 Mr. Jordan.

5

6 MR. JORDAN: And I'm cognizant of trying
7 not to speak too much and I'm not going to make a speech,
8 but, John, I hear you, and I hear you loud and clear, and
9 I understand the difference between abundance and how for
10 subsistence you need the resource available in an economic
11 manner and present in the traditional areas and traditional
12 amounts.

13

14 For example, we wrestled with that for
15 halibut here in the face of an increasing biomass according
16 to the International Pacific Halibut Commission, it didn't
17 do the local guy with the 16 foot skiff any good that there
18 were plenty of halibut out there in 80 fathoms five miles
19 off the cape. He needed them available in here in July
20 where he could get them out of his skiff. And it's the
21 same situation for you and your deer. It doesn't do you
22 any good if there's plenty of deer overall, if they're not
23 available where you can get them in your traditional areas
24 at your traditional times with your traditional equipment.

25

26 And I understand that completely. But I
27 thank you for bringing it up.

28

29 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Mr. Kitka.

30

31 MR. KITKA: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Thank
32 you for your presentation.

33

34 I just wanted to know one thing, this July
35 hunt, I know that it's so hot that the deer couldn't be
36 hung and I know what you mean by hanging the deer, because
37 the deer, if I understood it right, that they don't really
38 get proper until they're hung proper because the muscles
39 don't relax soon enough so this timeframe thing is
40 important.

41

42 Thank you.

43

44 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Mr. Hernandez.

45

46 MR. HERNANDEZ: Yeah, John, I also concur
47 with your seasonality. I don't, myself, I don't even hunt
48 in August either, you know, I wait until the fall, which I
49 notice in your proposals is what you prefer to have the
50 season closed for the non-subsistence hunters. Of course

00259

1 we also know that the non-subsistence hunters seem to like
2 that August hunt. So do you think that essentially giving
3 them back that August hunt but shoving them off in October,
4 November when you and I like to do our hunting, do you
5 think that change will be enough to give the subsistence
6 people an advantage again? I mean we were trying to give
7 subsistence people an advantage, you know, last year, so
8 you're kind of giving up some of that. Do you think in
9 your mind that the change to that later closure will
10 essentially balance out what we were trying to gain last
11 year, can you get some feeling for that?

12

13 MR. MORRIS: Mr. Chair. Yeah, Don, I think
14 it will. I think that the August deer are high and it's a
15 challenge to get them. And during that timeframe that
16 we're asking for they're coming to the call, which is
17 another traditional method. And also something I didn't
18 elaborate on is it falls in line with the other Federal
19 regulations of the antlerless deer season. It creates less
20 confusion for the agencies that are doing that, but that's
21 beside the point, I just thought of that as well.

22

23 I think it will create an advantage for the
24 subsistence users. I think it can.

25

26 Thank you.

27

28 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Other Council
29 questions for Mr. Morris.

30

31 (No comments)

32

33 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Thank you. Oh,
34 excuse me, Dr. Garza.

35

36 DR. GARZA: Thank you, Mr. Chair. So I
37 guess I'm a little bit confused as to why two proposals
38 were submitted, one with the October, the November end date
39 and the other one with the December 31st end date.

40

41 MR. MORRIS: Yeah, Mr. Chair. There were
42 two proposals submitted. I believe there was a timeframe
43 on the 04-11, that the non-qualified users were exempt from
44 October to the end of December, without that one month
45 window.

46

47 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Just for the
48 Council, if they would like to look at those, the proposals
49 are on Page 65 and 73.

50

00260

1 Any other Council have questions or
2 comments.

3
4 Mr. Kookesh.

5
6 MR. KOOKESH: I have a question. And my
7 question is, it's not necessarily speaking to these
8 proposals, but I've been looking at the other proposals out
9 there and we have one -- well, to speak to yours a little
10 bit, you stick to the thing about antlerless deer being
11 taken only during the period October 15th to December 31st,
12 and being a hunter myself I recognize the value of that.

13
14 I'd like to ask your opinion about No. 4
15 and No. 4 asks for antlerless deer to be taken only during
16 the period of August 1st to September 15th, Page 66. How
17 do you feel about -- I have opinions about it, very strong,
18 that I don't agree with because of the Bambi being with the
19 mother and being such a young age to me. How do you feel
20 about an August 1st to a September 15th hunt for antlerless
21 deer speaking as a hunter?

22
23 MR. MORRIS: Mr. Chair. Mr. Kookesh, I
24 don't agree with this proposal, I didn't write it.

25
26 MR. KOOKESH: I know you didn't.

27
28 MR. MORRIS: Yeah. But I feel the same way
29 you do, especially during this timeframe of the season.
30 It's early in the season, I mean the deer still have their
31 spots, you know.

32
33 I don't agree with this proposal at all, to
34 answer your question, as a hunter, and probably as a
35 subsistence user, it would probably be hard for me to do
36 something like that.

37
38 MR. KOOKESH: Thank you.

39
40 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Other Council.

41
42 (No comments)

43
44 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: I just want to note
45 that one of the criteria for establishing C&T designations
46 is the seasonality of the use. In other words, as you're
47 describing, everything has its time and place in the
48 subsistence calendar. You know, the cohos come in, the
49 kings, the sockeye, everything, and the deer, when they're
50 coming to a call. Because the way I look at it, that's a

00261

1 long time ago before there were rifles, the way that you
2 got a deer was you called it in closer, you got it swimming
3 and there's a specific time for that and it's cool and it's
4 not the beginning -- I just -- there is a traditional time
5 to do that, so I just wanted to make that clear.

6

7 Okay, thank you, Mr. Morris, we appreciate
8 your testimony.

9

10 DR. GARZA: Hey.

11

12 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Uh-oh, Dr. Garza.

13

14 (Laughter)

15

16 DR. GARZA: Well, I guess just a comment.
17 I'm not sure where I stand on these proposals, however, one
18 thing that I have noted in past Council deliberations which
19 are primarily related to deer. A long time ago one of the
20 biggest problems with deer was Unit 4 because everybody
21 kept trying to close the January season and then the next
22 thing was once we got doe in then everybody was trying to
23 take away doe and our response is simply we cannot take
24 away from subsistence opportunities. But this proposal
25 actually asks us to do that by getting rid of the July 24th
26 to August 1 opportunity, and if you look at the data that's
27 a big hunt week. It's my understanding because it was this
28 new Federal permit, that all of those permits did come from
29 Prince of Wales and none came from off island. And so
30 maybe I need to get a clarification on that from Federal
31 Staff because, you know, we added the -- the Federal
32 Subsistence Board added this one week ahead, it looked like
33 there was a good take and now we're getting a request to
34 take that week away.

35

36 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Mr. Brainard or Mr.
37 Johnson, can you answer that question of whether those deer
38 were by POW residents?

39

40 MR. BRAINARD: Yes, sir, the way it reads
41 is anyone who has a customary and traditional use. That
42 would be people in Unit 1(A), 2 and 3 who are rural
43 residents. So any of those people could have harvested
44 deer during that period of time.

45

46 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: And your follow up
47 was to try to find out how many from POW?

48

49 DR. GARZA: Right. So it does also include
50 on it the address, so I'm assuming that 184 were not taken

00262

1 by Petersburg guys that came over?

2

3

4 MR. BRAINARD: I can tease that out of the
5 data. I can't do it easily right now, but I can report on
6 that at a later date because I do have each individual name
7 and when they hunted and who took what where and where they
8 live. I would probably suggest that, yes, most of them
9 weren't from Petersburg, Petersburg routinely hunts later
10 in the season. And it's probably a pretty good guess that
11 most of those were from Prince of Wales but I can't
12 quantify that at this point in time.

12

13 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Mr. Morris, would
14 you like to respond to that, too.

15

16 MR. MORRIS: Yes, thank you, Mr. Chair.
17 Dolly, I think that -- well, I'd like to respond to that
18 for one, I don't -- excuse that comment.

19

20 I think you're going to get those numbers
21 whether if it's open July 24th or August 1st, it don't
22 matter. I mean I think a week later you're still going to
23 get those big numbers. And to my understanding this July
24 24th season was put in a year ago, and I believe -- I may
25 be wrong on this, it was kind of a temporary type thing on
26 how it would work. And I don't want to try and change
27 anything that's already been there or established, but I
28 don't believe that this July 24th has been accurately
29 established to where I'm affecting anything -- or this
30 proposal affects anything.

31

32 I believe that, like I said, I believe if
33 you count the deer taken from August 1 to August 7, you're
34 going to still get a high number.

35

36 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Do you want to
37 follow up on that Dr. Garza?

38

39 DR. GARZA: Okay, I got you, so the first
40 week is always going to be a big week. But the concern --
41 I mean the proposal that I remember overwhelming a year ago
42 was that that first week was important to people on island
43 and they wanted off island people there [sic] because they
44 came earlier, they staked out sites, they basically had
45 camps set up even two or three days before the season
46 opened and when you went up that morning of the first day
47 there was basically no available site that you could go to
48 and so that would, in effect, bring that situation back.

49

50 MR. MORRIS: Mr. Chair. You're right on

00263

1 that Dolly, that was one of the components of putting the
2 proposal together and it's still like that when we go up
3 there July 24th, there's somebody in our hunting spot.

4

5 So it's a -- it don't matter which date you
6 move it to, but if you moved it to the date where -- if the
7 hunting season were to start off with just subsistence
8 users to use it it wouldn't happen, but this July 24th does
9 open the season up for non-Federally-qualified to come in
10 July 24th and hunt until August 1st.

11

12 Am I wrong on that?

13

14 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: I don't think that's
15 correct. I believe that's only restricted to Federally-
16 qualified on the 24th to the 1st. Federal Staff, could
17 you.....

18

19 MR. BRAINARD: Yes, sir, that is correct.
20 It's only for Federally-qualified users from the 24th of
21 July to the 21st of August, only Federally-qualified people
22 can hunt.

23

24 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Follow up.

25

26 MR. MORRIS: Mr. Chairman, well, then I'd
27 apologize for that comment then. But there are pressure
28 put on there. And you're right about that people getting
29 the first jump on a lot of the good spots, you know, and
30 there's such a complex situation that we will take that
31 first week, you know, but I'm saying seasonally and
32 traditionally that we -- we'll take what we can get is what
33 we're saying, you know. And if we can get it moved to that
34 date then that would be great. Because I know we get a lot
35 of pressure during that mid-rut as well in October. And
36 then with the upcoming -- other ferry coming to the island
37 and what not, I think it's going to get worse.

38

39 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Mr. Kookesh.

40

41 MR. KOOKESH: Mine is just basically a
42 comment. For someone who subsists, if you get a deer on
43 August 1st, you can -- the deer are not in their prime, the
44 best prime deer are usually taken at the end of -- near the
45 end of September forward. If you want to get a big deer.
46 Most of the deer, in my experience, for where I live, the
47 first day hunters are usually the ones that are going after
48 the racks and they're not after the meat because there's
49 not that much meat. I've seen a lot of skinny deer out
50 there.

00264

1 If you're really subsistence oriented, the
2 August 1st is not our day, August 1st is the first day of
3 hunting that's all August 1st is. September -- end of
4 September forward is when all the bucks with all the racks
5 and all of the bigger does are out there, that's when we
6 target them and we don't bother the Bambi's and the does
7 until after that September, because I believe that's the
8 right one.

9

10 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: As I said everything
11 has its season and August 1st is not it for subsistence
12 users. So, Mr. Hernandez.

13

14 MR. HERNANDEZ: Maybe we can get another
15 number from Staff. I don't know if it'd be State or
16 Federal, but there was a big -- as I recall from all the
17 data, I don't want to go looking for it, but, there was,
18 you know a large number of non-Federally-qualified on
19 August 1st and then there was another big influx of non-
20 Federally-qualified hunters later in the season. Could
21 somebody give me an idea of what the numbers are for that
22 October 15th to November 15th timeframe that John's
23 proposal deals with.

24

25 MR. BRAINARD: Mr. Chair. Mr. Hernandez.
26 Jim Brainard again. It's really difficult for me to give
27 you numbers, all I can give you are the numbers from the
28 Federally-qualified hunters. I know that we do have some
29 of those numbers in some of the other books, I don't have
30 them with me at this point in time, the blue book talks
31 about seasonality in which communities hunt during which
32 period of time, and that's -- that was in last year's
33 proposal. And I just -- I don't have that information.
34 This is the best information I have even though it is not
35 extremely good.

36

37 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Follow up.

38

39 MR. HERNANDEZ: Maybe during deliberations
40 when this whole issue comes up, maybe we could have that
41 information, it might be helpful.

42

43 MR. BRAINARD: Okay.

44

45 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Yes. If you could
46 quantify that data, the permit data for that first part,
47 that would be really helpful if you could do that.

48

49 Any other questions for Mr. Morris.

50

00265

1 Dr. Garza.

2

3

4 DR. GARZA: Thank you, Mr. Chair. So the
5 other significant change, John, on these two proposals,
6 Proposal 3 and 11, is that the number of deer that the non-

7

8

9

10 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Any other questions.

11 Mr. Stokes.

12

13

14 MR. STOKES: This is not really a question.
15 If I remember correctly, the reason why this season was
16 initiated was to give the Hydaburg people a chance to
17 subsistence hunt prior to the opening of the regular
18 season.

18

19

20 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: If my recollection
21 is -- is that the Federal Subsistence Board changed the
22 dates from the dates that we had -- the Regional Advisory
23 Council had recommended and took away the two deer and gave
24 what they thought was an approximation, lengthening the
25 season longer than we'd asked for so that it was kind of --
26 they thought maybe it was an equal of number of deer -- so
27 it was extended from what our original recommendation was.

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00266

1 last year. I do know that we recommended something less
2 than the 21st of August.

3

4 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Dr. Garza.

5

6 DR. GARZA: Yeah, I think we ended up
7 combining two proposals, so one proposal was ours that said
8 open for rural residents only on July 24th, the other one,
9 I can't remember who submitted it, if it was us or
10 Hydaburg, asked for.....

11

12 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: It's Proposal 5 and
13 Proposal 4. Proposal 5 was submitted by Craig and Klawock
14 Associations. Proposal was submitted by the Southeast
15 Regional Advisory Council and you are correct, it was a
16 combination of the two and then it was further refined at
17 the Federal Subsistence Board level.

18

19 I'll remind everybody that we've got to get
20 out of here by 5:30 and I was hoping to finish up with this
21 today.

22

23 (Laughter)

24

25 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Any other questions.

26

27 Mr. Adams.

28

29 (Laughter)

30

31 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: It's not so funny.

32

33 (Laughter)

34

35 MR. ADAMS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. John,
36 you know, you've got two proposals here, No. 3 and No. 11,
37 if you had your druthers, which one of these would you
38 prefer?

39

40 MR. MORRIS: Mr. Chair. Mr. Adams. I'd
41 prefer Proposal 3, due to that it doesn't limit the other
42 hunters for the rest of the -- for the remainder of the
43 season through December 31st, that's why.

44

45 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Any other questions
46 for Mr. Morris.

47

48 (No comments)

49

50 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Comments.

00267

1 (No comments)

2

3

CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Thank you, Mr. Morris, we appreciate that. The next one on the agenda is Richard Peterson, would you like to come forward and testify.

7

8

MR. PETERSON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My name is Richard Peterson. I am a lifelong resident of the Organized Village of Kasaan.

11

12

I want to first start by thanking you all for allowing me to speak and to also thank my tribal brother John Morris for his words. We're in agreement.

15

16

I would like to give people a picture of what it was like in Kasaan seven years ago before we had road access. We were able to access our traditional use lands unobstructed by other people. Since we've had a road, we are kind of the virgin territory on Prince of Wales Island, and we've been barraged by outsiders.

22

23

I have strong family ties to Ketchikan and Saxman, as that's where my family comes from and I know a lot of those people. I don't want to say anything disparaging about Ketchikan users, but a lot of them are my family and I know the truth, I see the truth. I've seen a lot of people misuse the subsistence resource of deer.

29

30

But right now since we've had a road into Kasaan, on numerous occasions we've found bucks left off the side of roads with their antlers cut off and their hindquarters and backstraps cut out. Subsistence people find that very, very hard to swallow. And that happens in the beginning of the year where the heat's already ruined the meat so you can't salvage it. It hasn't been properly taken care of.

38

39

The reason we want the change in the season, I think, John made that pretty well, Mr. Kookesh and others understand quite well, traditionally we didn't hunt in the beginning of what is the now hunting season. We hang our deer, we let it age in the proper amount of time for what our customary use is. We can't do that August 1st.

46

47

Some of our people, of course, do hunt August 1st and that's because they're hungry for the first taste of deer meat. But then they get their first deer and they wait until October to go back out.

00268

1 As I said I've lived in Kasaan pretty much
2 my entire life other than when I went to Mt. Edgecumbe and
3 worked a year or two here and there in Ketchikan. I'm not
4 here to say that there's a decline in the deer population,
5 I don't know that there is or isn't. I know that
6 traditional knowledge, which I value higher than modern
7 science tells me that there's a drastic decline. You know,
8 I have Elders in our community that told me there were an
9 abundance of deer at one point where there is no longer,
10 that's my personal knowledge, that's theirs, but I value
11 it.

12
13 I think right now the biggest problem we
14 face on Prince of Wales is competition from outside people.
15 We work very hard to make our island a better place of
16 living for our people, you know, and that means upgrading
17 roads and that has, you know, unfortunately sometimes roads
18 go both ways, you know, they're not just for us, people
19 besides us use those roads.

20
21 I ride the ferry. I have told you I'm the
22 President of the tribe, I'm the Mayor of my city and I
23 travel quite a bit and I take the ferry. There are a lot
24 of hunters. I wish I saw families. I heard the arguments
25 earlier for families to hunt and spend that time hunting,
26 I don't see that. It's good 'ol boy hunters, and I'm going
27 to be real frank when I say that, it's a bunch of good 'ol
28 boys who are out there taking more than what they're
29 reporting and, you know, it's a big hunting for them. Some
30 of them, unfortunately are some of my family and friends,
31 so I know the truth of it, and that's what they're doing.

32
33 We're competing against those people, and
34 in 2006 I don't know what it's going to be like when that
35 other ferry comes on for the northern end, but, you know,
36 I realize Prince of Wales is a pretty good target for
37 people. We have over 1,100 miles of road. And people are
38 going to come from communities where they have a couple
39 dozen miles of road, you know, and they are road hunters
40 and they're going to come and they're going to take
41 advantage of that.

42
43 So that's what I have, thank you.

44
45 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: If I could ask you
46 to state which of these proposals you have for the record,
47 that you would support. There were two of them that Mr.
48 Morris mentioned, 3 and 11, is there any one that you would
49 support?

50

00269

1 MR. PETERSON: Well, I support both of
2 them, but if I had to -- if the same question was posed to
3 me, I think -- which I prefer more, I'd say 03.

4
5 Like I said earlier, I'm not sure that a
6 decline is the real issue here, as it is competing for our
7 resources. I get my deer in October on, you know, like Mr.
8 Morris stated, we're too busy working on fish and, you
9 know, we're a very traditional community in Kasaan. Our
10 families go out together and collect berries and sea
11 asparagus, all the things that we need to get to last
12 through the year. We're too busy to get deer in August.

13
14 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Okay, Council
15 questions for Mr. Peterson. First, Mr. Jordan.

16
17 MR. JORDAN: Thanks. What was your name
18 again?

19
20 MR. PETERSON: (In Tlingit)

21
22 (Laughter)

23
24 MR. PETERSON: Richard Peterson.

25
26 MR. JORDAN: Thanks Richard.

27
28 (Laughter)

29
30 MR. JORDAN: I'm not going to tell you my
31 Norwegian name, I don't even know it.

32
33 (Laughter)

34
35 MR. JORDAN: And I'm not going to tell you
36 what some of these people call me either.

37
38 (Laughter)

39
40 MR. JORDAN: But I'm struggling here. I'm
41 inclined to just support the status quo and I want to get
42 right to the heart of the matter. I'm intrigued based on
43 the testimony from you people on island about 3 or 11.
44 Now, when you guys have been asked which one you prefer,
45 you're going with 3 even though 11 is the one that gives
46 you the most time. I mean it's closed to off island users
47 after October 16th, so then you've got the rest of the year
48 to get your deer, why wouldn't you prefer that to the one
49 that let's those guys back in after November 15th?

50

00270

1 It seems to me that the greatest advantage
2 to the subsistence users would be 11. Is that because you
3 guys are just naturally magnanimous or what?

4

5 MR. PETERSON: You sound suspicious.

6

7 (Laughter)

8

9 MR. PETERSON: Maybe you've asked two
10 Native people and our backgrounds come from sharing, just
11 my in sight.

12

13 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: I have Mr. Hernandez
14 and then Ms. Rudolph.

15

16 MR. HERNANDEZ: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
17 Yeah, Richard, I want to thank you for making this trip
18 here and taking the time and effort to come and testify for
19 us. We really appreciate that.

20

21 Also, you know, it's really important for
22 us to hear your very, you know, candid descriptions of what
23 goes on out there. I think that's a big help to us.

24

25 Kind of along those lines you talked about
26 the good 'ol boys coming in August and probably a fair
27 amount of trophy hunters in that kind of a group, what do
28 you see say come October, mid-October, what kind of -- what
29 do you see out there on the roads that time of year, maybe
30 you can give me an idea.

31

32 MR. PETERSON: You know, that's actually a
33 tough question, Mr. Chairman, Mr. Hernandez. In Kasaan,
34 like I said we're kind of virgin territory to hunters. In
35 the last seven years, we're hit pretty much year-round but
36 as -- the hunting season, because of that we're forced to
37 go to other areas of the island. We used to be able to
38 skiff to areas that were still untouched, but due to
39 logging there's no such thing in our Bay anymore. We're
40 surrounded by logging roads.

41

42 I guess I'm giving you a long answer, I
43 really can't -- I can't say that there's a whole lot of
44 difference for us but if you go across the island it slows
45 down that time of year, I think. You see a lot more of the
46 trophy hunters at the very first of the year.

47

48 And then there's, of course, some of the
49 holidays, I think what is it Labor Day or one of those
50 holidays falls in there and they get those three, four day

00271

1 weekends and there's a lot of people.

2

3

CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Ms. Rudolph.

4

5

MS. RUDOLPH: Yes, I was just make a
6 comment because we have the same problems similar to --
7 well, it's like what Ed Thomas said it looks like a city in
8 itself out the road. There's so many roads out there and
9 there's a lot of camping areas but during that time, during
10 those first openings, there's that wanton waste all over
11 the place. And trying to figure out how to deal with
12 something like that is, I think, something I don't
13 anybody's ever tried to figure out what to do.

14

I know there was more -- the last few years
16 there's been more wanton waste than ever before and it's
17 not just with the big ones it's with the small ones, too.
18 So I can sympathize with the problems that you guys are
19 having because it's the same thing that we're encountering
20 and there's been a long cry for Unit 4 to complain and talk
21 about but it doesn't seem to go anywhere. But I don't know
22 it seems to -- I don't know whether our people are just
23 more vulnerable because they seem to get caught when they
24 do something and when you get all this wanton waste, I
25 can't understand how this wanton waste can keep going on.

26

27

CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Response.

28

29

MR. PETERSON: Yeah, that's one of the
30 hardest issues for us, bar none, not the competing, nothing
31 else, the wanton waste. I was blessed to grow up in a
32 village from infancy where there was an abundance of Elders
33 and they, you know, taught me a lot. And my very next door
34 neighbor to my parents was an Elder and I used to bring her
35 all the hides and everything for her basket -- for her
36 drums, you know, we started finding this waste and, you
37 know, if you don't gut a deer it spoils the hide.

38

39

You know, I remember the very first time I
40 found one, my best friend and I tried salvaging it and you
41 just couldn't. And she saw us working on it and she asked
42 us what had happened and we told her and she started
43 crying, you know, that's traumatic for us, you know, when
44 you see your Elders crying over something that's going on.

45

46

CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Follow up.

47

48

MS. RUDOLPH: I know with the tribal
49 members when they hunt they manage to get it to the Elders
50 and get it around to the needies and this is the reason why

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1 I have so much problem with the wanton waste, with the
2 others, I'm trying to figure out how to get them to at
3 least bring it into town and donate it to the Senior Center
4 or something, but, like I said I don't know how to fight
5 the problem.

6

7 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Other Council
8 comments. Questions.

9

10 MR. DOUVILLE: Mr. Chairman, I'll make a
11 couple of comments.

12

13 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Mr. Douville.

14

15 MR. DOUVILLE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
16 I'd like to point out for some of this Council that this
17 road system was really a plus for a few years and now it's
18 becoming a negative in more ways than one.

19

20 I'd like to point out that it created two
21 or three generations of drive-by hunters. And now, when
22 those hunters are going out and driving down the road with
23 their elbow out the window you're not able to get the same
24 amount of deer if they're competing with non-rural hunters
25 for the same road system.

26

27 I do a lot of hunting there and probably as
28 successful as anybody. But we, for the most part, roll up
29 our sleeves and go out in the boat and do honest hunting.
30 And I'm afraid that that's a talent that has gone by the
31 way side for a greater part. Yet, the subsistence users
32 are saying we're not getting our deer but on the other hand
33 they are not using the same methods that I grew up with and
34 it causes an uncomfortable situation. But this is a real
35 problem.

36

37 And I was glad to see you say it, you
38 really didn't think there was a shortage of deer, but the
39 methods and the way you're hunting is creating the problem,
40 not so much that there is a shortage of deer. I just
41 wanted to make that understood.

42

43 Thank you.

44

45 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Do you want to
46 respond to that, go ahead.

47

48 MR. PETERSON: Just to say I completely
49 agree. Like I said earlier in Kasaan we used to be able to
50 go by boat and go to places, but unfortunately we're

00273

1 surrounding by logging roads now and it's pretty darn hard
2 to hike through the clear-cuts without breaking something
3 of your own.

4

5 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Mr. Douville, follow
6 up.

7

8 MR. DOUVILLE: But there is still area that
9 you can go to that does not have road, there's islands and
10 you can hunt off the road and go up into the woods and
11 still be successful, which fewer and fewer people are doing
12 because they are so accustomed to driving down that road
13 and looking over the clear-cuts.

14

15 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: You probably ought
16 not to put that place in the record.

17

18 Any other Council.

19

20 (No comments)

21

22 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Okay, thank you for
23 your testimony, Mr. Peterson.

24

25 Any other tribal governments that would
26 like to testify at this time.

27

28 (No comments)

29

30 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: No tribal
31 governments. Any other agencies that would like to comment
32 at this time.

33

34 (No comments)

35

36 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Moving right along,
37 we're to the Inter-Agency Staff Committee.

38

39 MR. KESSLER: Good afternoon, Chairman and
40 Council. I'm Steve Kessler with the Forest Service and
41 Inter-Agency Staff Committee. I have just a couple of
42 short comments for you.

43

44 First of all, I'd like to let you know that
45 the Board has been reluctant to reduce bag limits for non-
46 Federally-qualified subsistence hunters especially where
47 there isn't a clear conservation concern.

48

49 Secondly, as you know the Board fully
50 supports a planning process, and that the Staff Committee,

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1 I didn't say the Board, but the Staff Committee believes
2 that maintaining the status quo is appropriate pending a
3 cooperative process.

4

5 And that's all I have.

6

7 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Question's for the
8 Inter-Agency Staff Committee.

9

10 Dr. Garza.

11

12 DR. GARZA: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I guess
13 I wanted to follow up on some earlier questions in terms of
14 getting the big picture of rural/non-rural harvest we were
15 talking about. What would it take to set up a system to
16 monitor the actual number of deer taken by primarily
17 Ketchikan residents, and the response I got was it might be
18 difficult. But it seemed like it would have been just as
19 difficult to set it up for the Prince of Wales residents
20 since they don't all live in the same town and they all
21 have to travel probably greater distances than Ketchikan
22 residents, I mean we're all on 16 miles of road and you
23 guys have 1,100 miles of road. So I'm not sure that I was
24 buying into that it's difficult to set it up for non-rural
25 residents.

26

27 And then the other question was it may be
28 difficult to enforce and I guess I would like to hear from
29 Mr. Meyers on that. It seems like one of the biggest
30 enforcement capabilities and monitoring capabilities is
31 right there at the IFA dock, you know, and it seems like I
32 have heard in the past, not publicly but on the side, that
33 there's been no interest in trying to set up a monitoring
34 situation or station at the IFA dock, but people continue
35 to tell me that there's, you know, a dozen, two dozen deer
36 in the back of trucks and there should be some easy way to
37 count them.

38

39 Thank you.

40

41 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Okay. This is a
42 question more suited to Mr. Brainard and Mr. Meyers and if
43 they could, from there, go ahead and address this, please.

44

45 MR. MEYERS: Thank you, Chairman and Dolly.
46 As far as checkstations go, I mean we're able to do those
47 and we do do those at times as long as they're on Federal
48 lands. And we've also done checkstations in cooperation
49 with the State Troopers as far as being able to check for
50 that permitting process. Now, that's just to make sure

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1 everybody's in line with the regulation. Now, as far as
2 where people come from and where they get their --
3 specifically where they get their deer is a little
4 different story. We're doing more of a compliance check as
5 far as following the regulations. But we do do those.

6

7 Again, we're only talking -- we've got a
8 couple of officers on the island and I believe Ken was out
9 there in the first part of the season, primarily during the
10 opener to make sure there wasn't those conflicts with the
11 non-rural residents out there during the season.

12

13 DR. GARZA: I'd like to follow up, Mr.
14 Chair. So even aside from compliance, I mean what is the
15 difficulty of standing at the IFA dock and counting off the
16 number of deer that are going on that ferry say during the
17 seven days in August which non-rural residents currently
18 have and the month of November which seems to be the other
19 stretch of high hunting?

20

21 MR. MEYERS: No, in that respect any
22 Federal employee can actually do that if they're just
23 counting numbers. And I think that might be something that
24 we could work with the Forest Service Staff on probably
25 doing something that we could do that, that counting aspect
26 of it. Our folks would focus on trying to make sure that
27 the other aspects of the regulations were followed out
28 there. But we could do something in conjunction with that.

29

30 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Mr. Johnson and then
31 Mr. Brainard.

32

33 MR. JOHNSON: Mr. Chairman and Council. A
34 couple comments. We are cooperating with the State this
35 year, as we have in the past on checkstations that will
36 look primarily at the biological aspects of what
37 information obtained at the checkstation for deer
38 management. The other aspect of checkstations, of course,
39 is more of a law enforcement or checking the numbers of
40 deer and size of deer, et cetera.

41

42 Secondly, the issue or the question of the
43 difficulty, I believe, that Dr. Garza raised the question
44 of, the difficulty of implementing a registration permit
45 hunt or required harvest reporting, we have repeatedly
46 indicated to the Department that the Tongass would be
47 willing to take on that cost and work with them in
48 collecting that information. We don't know what the cost
49 of that would be. We did not know what the cost would be
50 for the current permit issuance and administration that we

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1 took on last year. I will say that there were a number of
2 difficulties and issues that we had to overcome and we are
3 still overcoming some of those, we've talked about some of
4 them today with respect to how many pieces of paper and
5 where they get sent and how we view that data and input
6 that data and Mr. Brainard has done a super job in staying
7 on top of that. And also the numbers of Staff across the
8 Forest, particularly on the Wrangell, Petersburg, Thorne
9 Bay, Ketchikan, Misty and Craig Ranger Districts in the
10 front office have pulled their hair out on administering
11 permits, but they've been very glad to do that because they
12 know it's important and we've made it a priority in terms
13 of what we do with the discretionary funding that we get in
14 subsistence at the Forest level.

15

16 So I would just reiterate that on the
17 Tongass, we're more than glad to support and work with the
18 Department for collecting that sort of information.

19

20 DR. GARZA: I have one follow up on that,
21 Dave. So are there any checkstations at the IFA ferry?

22

23 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Mr. Brainard.

24

25 MR. BRAINARD: Dr. Garza, Matt Moran has
26 done some of these and he's probably the best person to ask
27 that question of and he is here with us.

28

29 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Matt Moran.

30

31 MR. MORAN: Mr. Chairman. Council members.
32 I don't have exact numbers in my head. In 2002 I did set
33 up checkstations. There were 11 checkstations that we set
34 up across Prince of Wales Island. What we tried to do
35 instead of making people come to us is make it very easy
36 for them to go some place. So we would set it up in, say,
37 the grocery store in Naukati or in Point Baker/Port
38 Protection, Thorne Bay, Coffman Cove, a couple places in
39 Craig and Klawock.

40

41 That particular study did not have one at
42 the Hollis Ferry Terminal. We did go down there twice and
43 randomly check on -- during periods of high use,
44 specifically the first week and the first week of the rut.
45 Those were two times we did check those areas.

46

47 When we went down there people were very
48 reluctant to interact with us. We did not take law
49 enforcement down there. We wanted to be as less
50 threatening as possible and hopefully people would be

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1 willing to talk to us. A few people were very generous,
2 they had no problems talking to us. Most people had their
3 gear packed in their trucks and they'd have been willing to
4 talk to us but their gear was packed on top of their gear
5 and they didn't want to pull everything out. And then
6 there were a few people that were very unreceptive to the
7 idea at all.

8

9 In previous surveys in conjunction with
10 Fish and Game, they have run checkstations at the Hollis
11 Ferry Terminal and they received similar results.

12

13 There needed to be some way of interacting
14 with those hunters before they got down to the Hollis Ferry
15 Terminal because typically they were packed up and ready to
16 get on board.

17

18 And those are the best results I have on
19 the top of my head. I haven't reviewed that information in
20 about a year.

21

22 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Dr. Garza, is that
23 good enough?

24

25 DR. GARZA: So those checkstations are not
26 a requirement they're a courtesy?

27

28 MR. MORAN: That's correct. At all times
29 during those stations they were voluntary by hunters, we
30 didn't -- there was no requirement.

31

32 DR. GARZA: So if we want to, for sure get
33 an accurate count, at least during the peaks of how many
34 deer are going off island through the ferry system, we
35 would need to enact a regulation requiring that so if they
36 didn't like it it would be tough stuff, just as we've done
37 with king salmon where we've required that you can't fillet
38 it anymore or with any other species where we've said you
39 have to make that available for observation.

40

41 MR. MORAN: To the best of my knowledge
42 that is correct. You would also have to consider in State
43 areas if you were going to do it in conjunction with the
44 State, and it would be most advisable to do that. If
45 someone was hunting under State license to have the State
46 do a similar motion.

47

48 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Mr. Johnson, could
49 this fit under what you said about funding?

50

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1 MR. JOHNSON: Yes.

2

3 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: In other words, like
4 we asked earlier for more information, this is another
5 piece of the puzzle. So you think this could be done at
6 the station right now?

7

8 MR. JOHNSON: Well, there's a couple of
9 different aspects to this, Mr. Chairman.

10

11 The first question, if I understand it
12 correctly, the checkstation part of this, again, would
13 require the cooperation and involvement of the law
14 enforcement Staff, which we work with closely as you know.
15 And the question would be in terms of what that additional
16 cost would be for that additional work.

17

18 Secondly, the administration of an actual
19 permit, if I understand the question correctly, we would be
20 able to take that on.

21

22 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Mr. Brainard.

23

24 MR. BRAINARD: Yes, sir, we also have a
25 problem of personnel. We'd like to have trained personnel
26 work on the animals, it makes things much simpler. And we
27 would have to bring, because of the length of the season
28 and the difficulties, we'd really have to bring more
29 biologists from other parts of the Forest down, so that
30 would also add to the costs of this, just as a side line.

31

32 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Dr. Garza.

33

34 DR. GARZA: I guess there's two ways to
35 approach that. I mean in terms of people working on it, I
36 am more interested in actually just counting heads or tails
37 or whatever is left of the animal. But in terms of
38 collecting biological data because of course that's useful,
39 we have a plethora of examples from Fish and Wildlife
40 Service, from other Federal agencies, not so much State
41 agencies, where locals have been trained to collect that
42 type of information and are there and ready to do that.
43 The Alaska Sea Otter Commission, the Eskimo Walrus
44 Commission, the Harbor Seal Commission all train local
45 people to do that kind of work and we have people sitting
46 at this Council who have done that kind of work, so it may
47 be possible to train locals to man those stations and that
48 would cost less because generally we hire labor at much
49 less than we hire biologists.

50

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1 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Mr. Johnson.

2

3 MR. JOHNSON: Mr. Chair. Dr. Garza.

4 Actually I would commend the State, last year and the
5 previous year, Boyd Porter and other Staff from the State
6 worked cooperatively with the Forest Service and with Craig
7 Community Association and with some of the other vendors in
8 actually getting some of this biological information.

9

10 I think some of the problems we ran into
11 was the temperatures surrounding some of the timeframes
12 when people were harvesting deer or not, the check stations
13 were set up and the deer weren't coming in but I know that
14 Mr. Krieger who has Krieger Meats processed a number of
15 deer there and so some of that information should be
16 available through the Department. But, again, that's more
17 of the biological side rather than the check station law
18 enforcement side.

19

20 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Other questions for
21 the Staff.

22

23 (No comments)

24

25 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Matt Moran, did you
26 want to say something else?

27

28 MR. MORAN: Mr. Chairman, I do have an old
29 presentation that Boyd Porter and I put together about a
30 year, year and a half ago after we collected all the
31 information. The only thing it does not have is the age
32 data. At that time we did not have the age data that I
33 could present if you felt it was necessary. It would only
34 be for the 2002 deer check stations.

35

36 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: If that is available
37 it might be useful to have that while we're in
38 deliberations if someone wants to call on that. Could that
39 be available in the morning?

40

41 MR. MORAN: (Nods affirmatively)

42

43 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Okay. Any other
44 questions from the Council.

45

46 (No comments)

47

48 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Before we go to Fish
49 and Game Advisory, while the Staff is still here, I have a
50 question for legal Staff. And that question is, we have

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1 three through 15 ahead of us and they have a whole bunch of
2 different things that they address, and one of them is
3 going from four bucks to two bucks, we have some new
4 members on the Council, and I guess what I'd like you to do
5 is give us the range of options that are available to the
6 Regional Advisory Council to make recommendations on, say,
7 that we chose to support three which goes from four bucks
8 to two bucks; is that possible?

9

10 What is the range of actions that this
11 Council can recommend?

12

13 MR. USTASIEWSKI: The Council can recommend
14 any action that will affect subsistence priority that's
15 needed. I mean the range is only limited by what's
16 necessary in order to provide a subsistence priority. And
17 that's what the Council did last year. The existing
18 regulation provides a subsistence priority.

19

20 The issue that you get into in terms of the
21 range is really a question of what's necessary in this
22 circumstance. I think as a guiding principle, the RAC
23 should look at doing the minimum that's necessary but not
24 going beyond that and affecting non-subsistence users
25 unnecessarily. If there's a need to restrict non-
26 subsistence hunters, that restriction can be justified on
27 the basis of that need and we have to have substantial
28 evidence to support the need. But it's not as simple as
29 saying subsistence users aren't getting their deer and,
30 therefore, we're going to eliminate all non-subsistence
31 users. I mean the question that would raise is, is that
32 really necessary.

33

34 Some of the proposals that I -- and I've
35 just sort of been looking at them here as this discussions
36 been going on, but some of the proposals seem to go much
37 farther than the existing regulation and I think that does
38 sort of raise the question, is that really necessary?

39

40 I would encourage the Council to really
41 focus on doing the minimum that's needed. If people still
42 aren't getting the deer that they need or they're not
43 getting them at the time that they want to get them, to
44 look at tailoring the discussion, the proposal, to those
45 kinds of issues that really address getting the need met.

46

47 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Thank you. Are
48 there other questions while Mr. Ustasiewski is up here.
49 Mr. Hernandez.

50

00281

1 MR. HERNANDEZ: Yeah, just one. What
2 about, seems like somebody mentioned, Mr. Kessler
3 mentioned, I guess, that the Board would be necessary to
4 see some kind of a conservation concern. How strongly
5 would they weigh just a diminished opportunity as, you
6 know, for subsistence users, isn't that also kind of an
7 important factor in all this, that subsistence users need
8 to be able to essentially get what they need, and if they
9 don't have the opportunity for a number of a reasons, isn't
10 that weighed into it as well?

11
12 MR. USTASIEWSKI: Yes, obviously, the
13 opportunity, you have to have an opportunity in order to
14 meet a need. If you don't have the opportunity you're not
15 going to get your needs met. But when you talk about
16 diminished opportunity, it does raise the question, at what
17 point are you really impacting the subsistence needs?

18
19 There was some discussion earlier about how
20 subsistence hunting patterns have changed with the
21 introduction of roads on Prince of Wales Island, that
22 people maybe in recent years have gotten used to driving on
23 the road system and getting the deers easily and now
24 they're not as easy to obtain off of the existing road
25 system. The goal of the Subsistence Program is not to make
26 subsistence easy, it's to provide for subsistence needs.
27 It obviously isn't to make subsistence hard, I mean I'm not
28 suggesting that hard or easy is not relevant to the
29 consideration. But the bottom line is are subsistence
30 needs being met, and if they're not to look the ways -- the
31 minimum ways to go about meeting those needs. The ways
32 that are maybe less of an impact on subsistence -- or non-
33 subsistence users.

34
35 In other words there's no call to do things
36 that are unnecessary to non-subsistence users. And I think
37 in order to affect those non-subsistence users, you need to
38 show a diminishment in the ability to get deer that really
39 is substantial to the point that some action is needed and
40 that this action will address that need.

41
42 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Mr. Hernandez, would
43 you like to follow up.

44
45 MR. HERNANDEZ: Yeah, just a quick follow
46 up. I wasn't necessarily talking about making it easy or
47 hard, but in a lot of cases we're talking about people who
48 are no longer practicing their traditional methods and are
49 not being able to utilize traditional areas, they're forced
50 to go elsewhere. I know in my community, you know, the

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1 needs are being met but to a certain extent they're not
2 being met in traditional areas, we've gone elsewhere. Some
3 of my neighbors travel -- they don't even hunt on Prince of
4 Wales Island anymore, they get in their boats and they go
5 clean to Baranof Island every year. They've been doing it
6 for a number of years now.

7

8 Is that an unreasonable thing to have to
9 do?

10

11 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Any other questions.

12

13 (No comments)

14

15 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: We appreciate this,
16 thank you very much.

17

18 Ms. See, did you want to address the
19 Council.

20

21 MR. USTASIEWSKI: Mr. Chair, if I could
22 just mention, also, that I will be here tomorrow if there
23 are any other questions, I'm going to stay longer.

24

25 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Great. Thank you.
26 Thank you for your help.

27

28 MS. SEE: Yes, Mr. Chairman. For the
29 benefit of the new Council members. This kind of question
30 came up in Ketchikan. And on the advice of the State's
31 attorney we disagree with the last speaker on one legal
32 point, and I'm not a lawyer, I'm just representing what the
33 State's -- assistant attorney general has clarified for us,
34 which is that if there is an intent to restrict to non-
35 subsistence users, that becomes problematic because the
36 State considers, on the legal side of this anyway, the
37 State considers that that authority rests with the State,
38 with the Board of Game in this particular case, and so that
39 would be a point of significant disagreement, and hopefully
40 I made that point clear.

41

42 If you need to question me about it, please
43 do so.

44

45 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Are there any
46 questions for the State.

47

48 (No comments)

49

50 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: We disagree, it's

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1 not the first time.

2

3 (Laughter)

4

5 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Thank you very much
6 for clarifying that. The reason it was important, this may
7 come up on Proposal 3, the very first one. So thank you
8 very much.

9

10 We're at Fish and Game Advisory Committee
11 comments. Are there any members of the public, Fish and
12 Game Advisory Committee here.

13

14 (No comments)

15

16 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Summary of written
17 public comments.

18

19 DR. SCHROEDER: Mr. Chairman, in contrast
20 to previous years the public has been remarkably trusting
21 in the Council's wisdom and quiet in terms of written
22 public comments.

23

24 We have none.

25

26 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Public testimony.
27 Any members of the public here that would like to testify
28 on any of these proposals, Proposals 3 through 15.

29

30 (No comments)

31

32 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: With that, we're
33 going to adjourn -- or, excuse me, Dr. Garza. Not
34 adjourn.....

35

36 DR. GARZA: Before we recess.....

37

38 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD:recess.

39

40 DR. GARZA:Mr. Chair, and go off and
41 eat this lovely dinner at 12 bucks a plate for Bill Thomas,
42 a fundraiser to help defray some of his costs as he has
43 gone through significant health issues. I would like to
44 thank Board Member Edwards for coming down here, and I'm
45 sure you've understand to come the depth and the breadth
46 and the chaos of U-2 deer. And I would hope that, since we
47 will likely be doing this next year, I'm not convinced
48 we're going to solve it all, that perhaps you should send
49 the rest of the Board down so that they have a better idea
50 of what we go through as well.

00284

1 Thank you.

2

3 BOARD MEMBER EDWARDS: I will certainly
4 take that back. And I can assure you, for me, it was a
5 very fascinating day, and everything everybody ever said
6 about this Council is absolutely true.

7

8 (Laughter)

9

10 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: I don't know how to
11 take that, but are you going to be with us tomorrow?

12

13 BOARD MEMBER EDWARDS: Unfortunately I have
14 to go back, I'm sort of the only one minding the shop in
15 Anchorage.

16

17 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Well, thank you very
18 much for spending the time with us, we appreciate us.

19

20 BOARD MEMBER EDWARDS: I'll be at dinner
21 tonight.

22

23 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: And we'll see you
24 tonight at the reception for Mr. Thomas.

25

26 We are going to recess until tomorrow
27 morning at 9:00 a.m., at which time.....

28

29 DR. GARZA: 8:00.

30

31 MR. DOUVILLE: 6:00.

32

33 DR. GARZA: 8:00.

34

35 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD:at which time
36 we will go into Regional Council deliberation,
37 recommendation, and justification.

38

39 DR. SCHROEDER: Mr. Chairman, Dolly would
40 like to start earlier, I believe.

41

42 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Would the Council
43 want to meet at 8:30 or 8:00 o'clock?

44

45 (Council nods affirmatively)

46

47 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: 8:00 o'clock,
48 tomorrow morning.

49

50 (Council nods affirmatively)

00285

1 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: You better not party
2 too late tonight, it's 8:00 o'clock tomorrow morning.

3

4

(PROCEEDINGS TO BE CONTINUED)

00286

1 C E R T I F I C A T E
2
3 UNITED STATES OF AMERICA)
4)ss.
5 STATE OF ALASKA)
6

7 I, Joseph P. Kolasinski, Notary Public in and for
8 the state of Alaska and reporter for Computer Matrix Court
9 Reporters, LLC, do hereby certify:

10
11 THAT the foregoing pages numbered 122 through 285
12 contain a full, true and correct Transcript of the VOLUME
13 II, SOUTHEAST FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL
14 MEETING, taken electronically by Salena Hile on the 18th
15 day of March 2004, beginning at the hour of 9:00 o'clock
16 a.m. in Sitka, Alaska;

17
18 THAT the transcript is a true and correct
19 transcript requested to be transcribed and thereafter
20 transcribed by under my direction and reduced to print to
21 the best of our knowledge and ability;

22
23 THAT I am not an employee, attorney, or party
24 interested in any way in this action.

25
26 DATED at Anchorage, Alaska, this 1st day of April,
27 2004.

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29
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31
32
33
34

Joseph P. Kolasinski
Notary Public in and for Alaska
My Commission Expires: 03/12/08 _