

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25  
26  
27  
28  
29  
30  
31  
32  
33  
34  
35  
36  
37  
38  
39  
40  
41  
42  
43  
44  
45  
46  
47  
48  
49  
50

SOUTHEAST ALASKA FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE  
REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING

PUBLIC MEETING

VOLUME III

Petersburg, Alaska  
February 24, 2005  
8:30 o'clock a.m.

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

- John Littlefield, Chairman
- Bertrand Adams
- Michael Bangs
- Michael Douville
- Dolly Garza
- Donald Hernandez
- Eric Jordan
- Harvey Kitka
- Floyd Kookesh
- Patricia Phillips
- Michael Sofoulis
- Richard Stokes
- Regional Coordinator, Robert Schroeder

Recorded and transcribed by:

Computer Matrix Court Reporters, LLC  
3522 West 27th Avenue  
Anchorage, AK 99517  
907-243-0668  
jpk@gci.net

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25  
26  
27  
28  
29  
30  
31  
32  
33  
34  
35  
36  
37  
38  
39  
40  
41  
42  
43  
44  
45  
46  
47  
48  
49  
50

P R O C E E D I N G S

(Petersburg, Alaska - 2/24/2005)

(On record)

CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Go ahead and take your seats.

(Pause)

CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Let's come to order, please.

(Pause)

CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: The meeting will come to order, please. Good morning, it's good to see everybody. I think first we should -- where is our host from last night, Mr. Bangs, I think that was a wonderful meal that he put on for the people and I'd like to give him a hand for that.

Thank you.

(Applause)

CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: We appreciate your hospitality. Mr. Bangs, did you want to say something.

MR. BANGS: Yeah, I appreciated everybody coming. I really enjoyed it. I was a little worried with this crowd that it'd get a little rowdy but fears went away when I found a wine-filled tippee-cup.

(Laughter)

CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Okay. This morning we'd asked Mr. Probasco to make a presentation this morning on marine waters and we'll do so. But if there's anyone else who is leaving today that needs to get on the agenda today, if they would please let Dr. Schroeder or myself know we'll try to fit you in. We're going to try to pick up the pace here and get most of this stuff done today because we've only got a few hours in the morning to get this done if we're going to get out of here.

So with that Mr. Probasco, and I guess you have company there, too, so go ahead.

1 MR. PROBASCO: Good morning, Mr. Chair.  
2 Council members. Actually, based on your lead, Mr.  
3 Chairman, under the marine waters issues, OSM has  
4 identified two issues. One is the marine waters proposed  
5 rule, which Mr. Knauer is ready to address. And the  
6 other issue is what we've been discussing with you, Mr.  
7 Chairman, based on the January Federal Subsistence Board  
8 is the lack of action from OSM and others dealing with  
9 the Yakutat meeting in 2001 where there were specific  
10 questions asked to be included in the annual report,  
11 which for a variety of reasons were not included that  
12 still, if the Southeast Regional Advisory Council wishes,  
13 can be placed back on the agenda, if you will, and  
14 forwarded and OSM, working with the various solicitor's  
15 offices would get responses back to the Southeast RAC.  
16 Those deal with two specific proposals that were  
17 submitted by Mr. Littlefield, Proposals 25 and 37, and  
18 dealing with marine waters jurisdiction in the Tongass.  
19

20 If you recall back then we had a change  
21 of the guard within the Southeast, Staffings were  
22 changed. Dr. Schroeder came on line at that point and  
23 the annual report was never completed. And the annual  
24 report is a very important tool that the Regional  
25 Advisory Councils have in forwarding their concerns, not  
26 only to the Board, but more importantly to the  
27 Secretary's office, and for 2001 that was not done. So  
28 that's still on your plate, Mr. Chair, if you will.  
29

30 And the other issue is the marine waters  
31 Proposed Rule that Mr. Knauer's been working on. And if  
32 you would like he could give you an update on where we're  
33 at with that at this time and we can tackle it then.  
34

35 Mr. Chair.

36  
37 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Mr. Knauer.

38  
39 MR. KNAUER: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
40 Members of the Council.

41  
42 Relative to this proposed rule, you'll  
43 find the material in your booklet starting on Page 186.  
44 We published a proposed rule to revise and clarify the  
45 jurisdiction in coastal waters in the Federal Register on  
46 December 8th. This rule would amend the Federal  
47 Subsistence management regulations to clarify that the  
48 jurisdiction is confined to inland waters and to pre-  
49 statehood withdrawals.  
50

1 (Pause)

2

3 MR. KNAUER: I'm waiting a moment here to  
4 see if our computer specialists can bring up a map that  
5 shows the areas. The amendment would primarily impact  
6 coastal areas within the Yukon-Delta Refuge, the YK  
7 Council area, the Bristol Bay's Council's area, and the  
8 area under the jurisdiction of the Kodiak/Aleutian  
9 Regional Council. In other words, on the Alaska  
10 Peninsula.

11

12 When I say it would primarily impact that  
13 area, it does apply to the entire state, but those are  
14 the areas that have these, what we call saltwater  
15 abayments where the boundaries of the Refuges were drawn  
16 across the mouths of numerous bays in saltwater, but the  
17 intent -- okay -- those are prestate -- can we go to one  
18 of the others -- okay, you'll see on the screen, this is  
19 the Alaska Peninsula and the listed areas are those areas  
20 where there would be jurisdictional changes. Starting at  
21 the north you see Wide Bay, coming on down you see  
22 Kajulik Bay, Castle Bay, Warner Bay, Devil's Bay, you've  
23 got a few others down there continuing, Ivanof and Fox,  
24 going over to the Bristol Bay side, there's Herendeen  
25 Bay, Port Moller, some fairly large ones on the south end  
26 there, Pavlof Bay, Cold Bay and Majorvy Bay and so on.  
27 And these areas, where the boundaries were drawn out --  
28 and the -- for this program there has never been any  
29 intent to assert jurisdiction in those areas, below the  
30 line of mean high tide.

31

32 In the Katie John Decision, the Ninth  
33 Circuit Court of Appeals concluded that the Federal  
34 Subsistence Program must be crafted to reach waters in  
35 which the United States has an interest by virtue of the  
36 Reserved Water Rights Doctrine. Do you want to go ahead  
37 and put that other one up, not the first one but the  
38 third one please.

39

40 DR. SCHROEDER: This one?

41

42 MR. KNAUER: Yes. Can we go down.  
43 You'll see this is in the YK Area, there's Kokachik Bay,  
44 Hooper Bay, Hazin Bay, Toksook, these are the areas that  
45 we are aware of that would fall out of the Federal  
46 jurisdiction for the subsistence management program.

47

48 The regulations which were published in  
49 1999 extended subsistence management jurisdiction to all  
50 navigable and non-navigable waters within the exterior

1 boundaries of Federal reservations in Alaska. That's why  
2 these areas ended up falling within our jurisdiction.  
3 The Federal Board and the Secretaries never intended that  
4 the regulations be construed to include the marine waters  
5 other than prestatehood withdrawals. The entire focus  
6 was on the inland waters. The proposed amendment would  
7 remove those saltwater embayments but it would  
8 specifically identify that these prestatehood  
9 withdrawals, which you'll notice here, it's very  
10 difficult to tell, there's a red line around Nunivak  
11 Island, there is a segment around Afognak Island. There  
12 is a segment at the mouth of the Karluk River. There is  
13 a segment at Woman's Bay. And then there is actually a  
14 block of waters around the Semidi Islands and another  
15 area around the Simeonof Islands. So these are  
16 prestatehood withdrawals.

17  
18 So those would remain within the  
19 jurisdiction of the Federal Subsistence Program under  
20 this Proposed Rule.

21  
22 Currently the Federal Subsistence Board  
23 acting for the Secretaries is asking for comments from  
24 the Regional Councils, asking for Council  
25 recommendations, and the comment period on this rule has  
26 been extended to the public through April 1st.

27  
28 Following this comment period, we will  
29 examine the comments and recommendations we've received,  
30 and the Secretaries will publish a final rule, we would  
31 anticipate sometime in late summer, early fall on this.

32  
33 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

34  
35 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Are there any  
36 questions for Staff. I have some, but I'm going to turn  
37 the Chair over, but if the other Council would like to  
38 comment on this.

39  
40 (No comments)

41  
42 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Dr. Garza, would  
43 you take the Chair please.

44  
45 DR. GARZA: Any questions for any of the  
46 speakers -- Mr. Littlefield.

47  
48 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Thank you, Madame  
49 Chair. In October of 2001, this Council received  
50 information from the Sitka Tribe of Alaska, attorney, Mr.

1 Jude Pate, in which they identified marine waters that  
2 they believed were subject to Federal jurisdiction, and  
3 these were the all encompassing prestatehood withdrawal  
4 which you were talking about in the marine rule,  
5 encompassed all of the waters of Southeast Alaska,  
6 basically from a line 60 miles out in the ocean from Cape  
7 Mouzon to Cape Fairweather, and that's in your packet  
8 that was distributed in the manilla folder, I believe  
9 that's in there, and those lines -- the waters  
10 encompassed by that line from 60 miles due west to Cape  
11 Mouzon to Cape Fairweather are prestatehood withdrawals,  
12 just like you were talking about earlier, these are  
13 prestatehood withdrawals.  
14

15                   The Sitka Tribe, as well as the Council  
16 took action in 2001 saying that we wanted these reviewed  
17 because we believed they were prestatehood withdrawals.  
18 There was, additionally, I believe eight parcels which  
19 are also identified in your handout around the Sitka area  
20 that were identified as World War II withdrawals in which  
21 the uplands were clearly returned to the public domain  
22 but the submerged lands were not. Those submerged lands  
23 are extremely important to the Sitka Tribe and that's why  
24 they put this forward, the submerged around Japonski  
25 Island, McNotty Island is actually the name of it. Those  
26 lands, as most people who have been to Sitka during the  
27 herring egg season know are extremely important to  
28 herring eggs.  
29

30                   And basically, I don't want to draw this  
31 out too long, but basically we accepted as a Council  
32 their recommendations and packet from Mr. Pate. Some of  
33 the things that we asked to be done are also in the  
34 packet, if you want to read through that or if you did it  
35 last night, you could see that we requested petitions to  
36 the Secretaries of Interiors and Agriculture. We  
37 requested copies of these packets, and I have an original  
38 packet from the Sitka Tribe, which I have given to Mr.  
39 Casipit, so that they can compare. We've asked that that  
40 be submitted to every member of the Federal Subsistence  
41 Board, we also asked that that go to both Secretaries.  
42

43                   And what I would like to ask the Council  
44 to do, I hope that they would honor that previous  
45 decision we made and ask the Federal Subsistence Board to  
46 address all of the issues that were brought up in 2001  
47 and were not answered in the annual report. Further, I  
48 would like them to do this immediately. And the reason  
49 is the 4/1 date for the Proposed Rule doesn't give you  
50 much time to react to this, because if it is, in fact,

1 true that those are prestatehood withdrawals then they  
2 need to be in this same Proposed Rule. And this Council  
3 has been on record since its inception as having marine  
4 jurisdiction on every annual report except the one that's  
5 missing, and it was also supposed to be on the one that  
6 was missing.

7  
8 So it's been an issue for us and I would  
9 like to ask the Council to reaffirm the positions we took  
10 in 2001 and I have the assurances of OSM that they will  
11 answer those questions and do what we asked them to do in  
12 2001.

13  
14 I have one additional request I would  
15 like to make Madame Chair, and that's a copy of this  
16 data, that was given to us by the Sitka Tribe of Alaska  
17 also be forwarded to the Special Master in the Alaska  
18 versus Submerged Land Issue. Because even though the  
19 Federal government and the State have claimed there are  
20 no issues between them anymore on the submerged lands and  
21 the tidelands in Alaska, the Special Master has still not  
22 given his report, as far as I know, to the Supreme Court.  
23 So I think it's pertinent that we go ahead and give this  
24 documentation to the Special Master to do as he wishes.

25  
26 Mr. Knauer.

27  
28 MR. KNAUER: Yes, Mr. Chairman. Madame  
29 Chairman, excuse me. And Mr. Littlefield, the Special  
30 Master's report was prepared and released, I believe it  
31 was May of '04. In it there was a disclaimer by the  
32 Federal government for all waters in Southeast, marine  
33 waters, to the State of Alaska. That was an unopposed  
34 disclaimer although it has not yet been accepted by the  
35 Supreme Court in final review. At this point we see no  
36 reason why it would not be. And we are unaware -- we  
37 will provide copies of the materials to all of those that  
38 you request, but at this time we are unaware of any  
39 marine waters that were not returned to the original  
40 managing agencies as a result of those military  
41 withdrawals.

42  
43 DR. GARZA: Mr. Littlefield.

44  
45 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: We submitted this  
46 in 2001, we never got an answer back. And we think it's  
47 appropriate that this paperwork be considered long before  
48 this decision was made. We identified lands, in  
49 accordance with the regs that we believe are marine  
50 waters, and we deserved an answer for that before this

1 Proposed Rule and the Special Master's Report went out,  
2 we believe, at least I believe and the majority of the  
3 Council at that time believed that those lands that were  
4 withdrawn 100 years ago certainly were prestatehood,  
5 belonged to the Federal government when Alaska became a  
6 state. And therefore that's pertinent today to the  
7 Special Master's opinions that he may or may not be  
8 putting forward. I know what he's done today but the  
9 Supreme Court hasn't ruled on it yet, and, so, therefore  
10 I think I'd like to have that done.

11

12 So my request of the Council is we do two  
13 things.

14

15 No. 1 is we ask for.....

16

17 DR. GARZA: John. Perhaps you could make  
18 it in a motion, two separate motions so that we have it  
19 on record.

20

21 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Thank you, Madame  
22 Chair. I would like to make a motion that the Southeast  
23 Alaska Regional Advisory Council request from Federal  
24 Subsistence Board, Office of Subsistence Management  
25 action on all of the items raised at the 2001, October  
26 15th, Regional Advisory Council meeting in Yakutat  
27 concerning Proposals 25 and 37 on the marine waters.

28

29 DR. GARZA: Is there a second.

30

31 MR. KITKA: Second.

32

33 DR. GARZA: Okay, Mr. Kitka seconds. Is  
34 there discussion.

35

36 (No comments)

37

38 DR. GARZA: All in favor of the motion  
39 signify -- oh, Mr. Adams, or BS Adams.

40

41 (Laughter)

42

43 MR. ADAMS: Thank you, Dr. Garza. When  
44 this proposal was presented in Yakutat by Mr. Jude Pate I  
45 had some pretty lengthy discussions with him in regards  
46 to these proclamations, you know, that is evidenced in  
47 this packet here. And I was happy I got those and then I  
48 filed them away and somewhere must have got filed in File  
49 13 and I've been looking for them for the past couple  
50 three weeks now and I'm glad that I have them here before

1 me.

2

3

4 But I wonder if there is anyone here, if  
5 there is an attorney in the room who knows what Article  
6 1, Section 8, Paragraph 17 of the U.S. Constitution is  
7 about?

8

9

10 And let me just say, right off the top of  
11 my head, Article 1, Section 8, Paragraph 17 of the U.S.  
12 Constitution says that -- it authorizes the Federal  
13 government to own certain tracks of land, and it's very  
14 limited. It's very limited to the fact that it should  
15 not -- it has a provision in there where there is land  
16 for a central seat of government not exceeding 10 miles,  
17 that's Washington, D.C. And then any docks, Army posts,  
18 post offices and other Federal facilities that are  
19 necessary, you know, to run the Federal system in the  
20 various states. And then that is bought out. And then  
21 it also says in there that the Federal government cannot  
22 come in and take any lands from the state without the  
23 state legislature's consent. It says that very clearly  
24 in the U.S. Constitution.

25

26

27 And, yet, today we see, you know, under  
28 the management of the Forest Service, Bureau of Land  
29 Management, National Park Service and U.S. Fish and  
30 Wildlife Service that the Federal governments are the  
31 largest land bearings in the country. Which under the  
32 state's, you know, as John has pointed out, you know, was  
33 preselected before statehood. Those proclamations that  
34 President Roosevelt signed off, you know, set aside  
35 certain tracks of land to be under Federal control. And  
36 so as he indicated, they did belong to the government  
37 before we ever became a state.

38

39

40 On that issue where the Federal  
41 government cannot come in and take any properties from  
42 states, you know, without first getting the state  
43 legislature's consent was done through ANILCA, okay, and,  
44 you know, that's fine. But one of the things that I  
45 would like everyone to know is that I am a State's rights  
46 person, I believe in State's rights. But because of the  
47 fact that the State has not come in compliance with  
48 ANILCA, I feel, you know, that the Federal system has to  
49 prevail on this issue.

50

51

52 And I've talked to a lot of people who  
53 have -- who believe that the State will never come in  
54 compliance with ANILCA and so we're stuck with this  
55 issue.

1                   So I just wanted, you know, the Council  
2 and everyone in this room to know I have studied the  
3 Constitution for the last 25, 30 years and there's a lot  
4 of things in there that pops up that I have to share with  
5 individuals, I used to do a column for the Juneau Empire  
6 and brought these issues out on occasion. But I support  
7 this proposal, mainly because the State of Alaska has  
8 refused to come in compliance with ANILCA, and the next  
9 law would be, you know, the Federal law. So I wanted  
10 everyone to be aware of this. Like I said I talked  
11 extensively with Mr. Pate on this issue and other  
12 attorneys and some of them have different views and so  
13 forth, but with this, you know, I want to leave this on  
14 the table as a matter of information.

15  
16                   Thank you, very much.

17  
18                   DR. GARZA: Any further comments on this.  
19 Patty.

20  
21                   MS. PHILLIPS: I'm curious Madame Chair.  
22 Mr. Littlefield. Do you think the response to our  
23 Yakutat meeting is this Proposed Rule that's before us  
24 concerning marine jurisdiction?

25  
26                   DR. GARZA: Mr. Knauer.

27  
28                   MR. KNAUER: Madame Chairman. Ms.  
29 Phillips. This Proposed Rule did not relate to that  
30 action and issues of your Yakutat meeting.

31  
32                   DR. GARZA: It's my understanding that  
33 since that's when Fred left, our request just got lost,  
34 and so I don't think there was any response to it.

35  
36                   Mr. Adams.

37  
38                   MR. ADAMS: Thank you, Madame Chairman.  
39 You know, when I made my first comments, I made a  
40 statement that I don't know if there are any attorneys  
41 here who would have a different interpretation of what I  
42 have gathered from Article 1, Section 8, Paragraph 17 of  
43 the U.S. Constitution, and I'm just kind of curious if  
44 there is anyone, you know, whether they're Federal,  
45 private or members of this Council that has a different  
46 interpretation of that.

47  
48                   Thank you.

49  
50                   DR. GARZA: Lawyer Littlefield.

1 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Thank you, Madame  
2 Chair. I'd like to thank Mr. Adams for bringing that  
3 forward. On the same note the reason why I think this is  
4 important is it's prestatehood. When Alaska petitioned  
5 to become a state, they drafted a Constitution and in  
6 that Constitution, under Article 12, Section 12, they  
7 agreed to certain things that if they became a state that  
8 they would agree to. They made a deal in 1959 and in  
9 Article 12, Section 12 it said that they forever, not for  
10 50 years, 40 years, 30 years but forever, give up all  
11 right, title and claim to any lands owned by the Federal  
12 government at statehood. That was a promise we made to  
13 the Federal government to become a state. And even  
14 filing the action on the submerged land issue, in my  
15 opinion, was a violation of that Act. It further states  
16 in there that any land owned by the Federal government at  
17 statehood is subject to their absolute disposition and  
18 dissolution alone. The Federal government is the only  
19 one that should be determining what happens to the  
20 submerged lands.

21  
22 If we go through a process in the Federal  
23 government, not regulatory, but the Federal government  
24 saying that we want to dispose of that land and return it  
25 to the State then that's okay. But the state of Alaska  
26 should not have been suing for that land because we made  
27 a promise to the Federal government that if we became a  
28 state we would not do that.

29  
30 So I want to thank Mr. Adams for bringing  
31 that up. There's some really strong issues here that I,  
32 personally, have no doubt that those withdrawals 100  
33 years by President Roosevelt clearly were Federal land at  
34 the time the state was accepted for statehood, and  
35 therefore they belong to the Federal government and they  
36 should be included in this program. This Council has  
37 gone on record all the time as claiming jurisdiction.

38  
39 The Federal government is talking out of  
40 both sides of their mouth. They said we agree to give  
41 back the lands but not in the Tongass -- or not in the  
42 Glacier Bay, you can't have it both ways. It was the  
43 same Act that withdrew those lands together. But they're  
44 claiming that the Glacier Bay lands, the submerged lands  
45 belong to the Federal government and that's how they're  
46 keeping all the commercial fishermen and everything out  
47 of there. Well, that same defense applies to the  
48 Tongass, and previous Solicitor Generals have always said  
49 that that land belonged to the Federal government.

50

1 I want this to play out, and it's  
2 important to this Council, because we all know that if a  
3 fish swims around in those waters and it only becomes our  
4 jurisdiction when it sticks its nose over that mean high  
5 water line which is in your definition here of what the  
6 inland waters, that we can only control it. And we've  
7 never thought that that was accurate. I mean we ought to  
8 be able to reach our hand out and make sure that those  
9 fish are available for subsistence. And previous  
10 Solicitor Generals have said that's 60 miles into the  
11 ocean. We need those answers.

12  
13 So that's my request to the Council, is  
14 we let this go ahead and run through its course. We may  
15 not like the answers that you give us, but at least we  
16 deserve the answers. And this Proposed Rule should not  
17 even be on the table now until the answers were given to  
18 us and we were allowed to refute them or whatever, or  
19 support them. The Sitka Tribe certainly did not get due  
20 process here when their requests were thrown away. I  
21 mean they had other avenues to do but first was the  
22 administrative appeal through us to get these resolved.  
23 We haven't got an answer today.

24  
25 So that's my request as we go ahead and  
26 proceed with this.

27  
28 Madame Chair.

29  
30 DR. GARZA: Mr. Adams.

31  
32 MR. ADAMS: Thank you, Madame Chairman.  
33 One of the things that I need to figure out, you know,  
34 is, and just a matter of information, again, I support  
35 this proposal because of the fact that the State has  
36 refused to come in compliance with ANILCA. And, you  
37 know, these lands predate statehood and they were  
38 proclamations. They were proclamations that the  
39 President signed, you know, without any consent with the  
40 Territorial government, and the Constitution says that  
41 they cannot come in and take any property or lands from  
42 states or territories without first conferring and  
43 getting the approval of the state Legislatures. So these  
44 lands, you know, were done through a stroke of the pen.

45  
46 Another thing and, this is, again,  
47 something that we need to really consider deeply, is  
48 that, these proclamations -- see the Federal system has  
49 checks and balances, okay. And it's a duty of the  
50 Legislatures to make the laws, the responsibility of the

1 courts to interpret the laws and it's the responsibility  
2 of the Executive Department to carry out the laws. And  
3 we have seen over the many years, I'd say in the last 20  
4 or 30 years where we've had Presidents making laws  
5 through their executive orders and proclamations. We  
6 have seen courts making laws through their  
7 interpretations. and we need to think seriously about  
8 that. I'm in favor of going back to basics. And when we  
9 have these so-called balance of powers interfering with  
10 one another, it causes a lot of problems, it erodes  
11 states rights, it takes away the responsibility that we,  
12 as citizens of this United States, you know, cannot be  
13 ruled unless it was by our consent. The Constitution  
14 says that no government should make any laws without  
15 first the consent of the government. And I don't think  
16 that these things were done when these proclamations were  
17 signed off by the President.

18  
19 But it's a matter of information. Again,  
20 I support it, but I'm doing some educating here,  
21 hopefully that we'll be able to absorb all of this and  
22 realize, you know, what is really going on here.

23  
24 Thank you.

25  
26 DR. GARZA: Okay, we have a proposal --  
27 not a proposal, a motion on the table. Any further  
28 discussion. The motion is to reaffirm the request that  
29 we made at Yakutat in 2001 in regard to Federal marine  
30 jurisdiction rights. It's my understanding that Pete and  
31 Bill understand what we're asking for, and that there  
32 will be a following motion.

33  
34 Mr. Probasco.

35  
36 MR. PROBASCO: Madame Chair. Also, Mr.  
37 Littlefield refers back to the 2000 [sic] records, but my  
38 plans are also to include, once we, as a Staff go through  
39 the 2001 record and identify those questions that were  
40 asked, I'm going to give Mr. Littlefield a call to make  
41 sure that we're on the same sheet of music to move  
42 forward.

43  
44 Madame Chair.

45  
46 DR. GARZA: Call for the question.

47  
48 MR. ADAMS: Question.

49  
50 DR. GARZA: Question has been called.

1 All in favor of the motion signify by saying aye.  
2  
3 IN UNISON: Aye.  
4  
5 DR. GARZA: Opposed.  
6  
7 MR. JORDAN: Aye.  
8  
9 DR. GARZA: Motion passes, one opposed.  
10 Mr. Littlefield.  
11  
12 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Madame Chair, I  
13 would like to make a companion motion similar to the  
14 previous one, that all of these documents that were  
15 presented by the Sitka Tribe in support of Proposals 25  
16 and 27 be submitted to the Special Master in the Alaska  
17 Quiet Title Submerged Lands Issue.  
18  
19 MR. ADAMS: Second.  
20  
21 DR. GARZA: Mr. Adams seconds. The  
22 request that the documents before us be submitted to the  
23 Special Master in the Quite Title whatever. Discussion.  
24  
25 MR. DOUVILLE: Question.  
26  
27 DR. GARZA: Question has been called.  
28 All in favor of the motion signify by saying aye.  
29  
30 IN UNISON: Aye.  
31  
32 DR. GARZA: Opposed.  
33  
34 MR. JORDAN: Aye.  
35  
36 DR. GARZA: One opposition. The motion  
37 passes.  
38  
39 Mr. Littlefield, did you have any  
40 timelines in time or that will be worked out with Staff?  
41  
42 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Thank you, Madame  
43 Chair. The timelines are immediate and the reason is  
44 April 1st is going to be right on us on this Proposed  
45 Rule. So there's a couple solutions. We can't wait  
46 until the next meeting to get this resolved, it should  
47 get done now, and the other solution would be to hold  
48 back on the Proposed Rule comment date so that it doesn't  
49 proceed ahead of these decisions. So I think maybe Mr.  
50 Probasco might have some ideas of how soon they could

1 respond to our request.

2

3 MR. PROBASCO: Madame Chair. Mr.  
4 Littlefield. The public comment period ends April 1st.  
5 However, your request for information, if you will,  
6 answers to these questions have come in within that time  
7 period. Now, Staff will respond to those questions and  
8 if it goes beyond April 1, that's okay. We're developing  
9 our report to the Federal Board which will definitely  
10 include this information. And that Federal Board meeting  
11 on that proposal is sometime after the 1st of April, some  
12 period of time after determined by the Board, so we have  
13 time.

14

15 Madame Chair.

16

17 DR. GARZA: Mr. Littlefield.

18

19 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: The reason I'm  
20 suggesting that you perhaps wait is because, say, for  
21 instance, your lawyer determines that those prestatehood  
22 withdrawals are, in fact, valid, I suggest that changes  
23 the whole Proposed Rule. You're going to have thousands  
24 of comments on that Proposed Rule, some in favor, some  
25 against. So I think it changes the whole face of the  
26 Proposed Rule if, in fact, any of these lands are  
27 included because right now the position of the State, as  
28 well as the government, the Federal government, is that  
29 they believe there are no issues in Southeast Alaska. If  
30 there are issues I think it materially changes the  
31 Proposed Rule.

32

33 MR. KNAUER: Madame Chairman. Mr.  
34 Littlefield. That's one of the purposes of a comment  
35 period is to allow the public the opportunity to raise  
36 issues like this for consideration during the development  
37 of a Final Rule or recommendation to the Secretaries. So  
38 this information coming in is very important, and it will  
39 be examined by however long it takes to develop the  
40 information and the answers before a Final Rule is  
41 published.

42

43 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Madame Chair.

44

45 DR. GARZA: Mr. Littlefield.

46

47 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: I say again, I  
48 would like an answer as soon as possible and not three  
49 years later, we haven't gotten an answer today and we're  
50 three or four years down the road, still don't have an

1 answer. I think this is a timely manner and I think we  
2 deserve an answer before the next meeting.

3

4 MR. PROBASCO: Madame Chair, if I could.  
5 Mr. Littlefield, we will make it -- it's not going to be  
6 three years, it's not going to be a long period of time,  
7 and I'm going to commit to you that we will juggle our  
8 work schedule so it's a timely response because of the  
9 Proposed Rule.

10

11 Madame Chair.

12

13 DR. GARZA: Okay, I think we're good.

14

15 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Final comment.

16

17 DR. GARZA: One final comment. Mr.

18 Littlefield.

19

20 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Thank you, Madame  
21 Chair. And this hopefully will be my final comment. I  
22 just wanted to tell the Office of Subsistence Management  
23 that I have accepted this as an oversight in my mind and  
24 I firmly believe that you will come forward with those  
25 answers, and we're looking for those and that's all we  
26 ask for and I think you'll take care of that.

27

28 So that's all I have, thank you.

29

30 DR. GARZA: Mr. Kookesh, and then Mr.

31 Adams.

32

33 MR. KOOKESH: When I looked at Title VIII  
34 of ANILCA and read it, I always felt that when we came to  
35 sit here as a body we were doing what was always in the  
36 best interest of subsistence, and for this body to go  
37 against -- to be opposed to seeking solutions and to  
38 getting answers to resolve issues that pertain to  
39 subsistence, I kind of get affected by that because we  
40 should go in here and we should be as a body in support  
41 of subsistence as our highest priority. And to sit here  
42 and to oppose something possibly on behalf of the State  
43 or for whatever reasons, I think is wrong. If you're  
44 going to sit here as a body, we need to represent  
45 Southeast and we need to support subsistence.

46

47 I know we all have differences of  
48 opinions, but we have to reaffirm and we need to focus on  
49 this issue. But as a body you need to sit here and  
50 support subsistence, and if you're not I don't know where

1 you should be sitting.

2

3 I think that we should have had a  
4 majority vote on this. And that's just my opinion,  
5 because I really, really feel strongly about subsistence  
6 being our highest priority.

7

8 DR. GARZA: Mr. Probasco.

9

10 MR. KOOKESH: Mr. Adams was next.

11

12 DR. GARZA: He shook his head no. You  
13 changed your mind?

14

15 MR. ADAMS: I changed my mind because of  
16 his statement, go ahead.

17

18 DR. GARZA: Okay. Pete.

19

20 MR. PROBASCOS: Well, Madame Chair, if  
21 yours is a follow up on Mr. Kookesh, I'm just going to  
22 clarify something with the Board so I'll yield to you.

23

24 MR. ADAMS: Thank you, Pete. Madame  
25 Chairman. I think that's what we are doing, I think we  
26 are putting subsistence first. And, you know, again, the  
27 bottom line here for me, and I think most everyone on  
28 this Council and in this room here will agree that until  
29 the State comes in compliance with ANILCA we have nothing  
30 to do but to move forward on these issues.

31

32 So thank you, Madame Chairman.

33

34 DR. GARZA: Pete.

35

36 MR. PROBASCOS: Madame Chair, just so my  
37 office is clear, we have asked for specific comments on  
38 the Proposed Rule. Based on your action, I'm summarizing  
39 that to mean that the Southeast Regional Advisory Council  
40 feels that there are marine waters within Southeast that  
41 should be included under the Proposed Rule. Now, if  
42 there are additional comments beyond that, you may want  
43 to consider that, or you may have encompassed everything  
44 with these two actions.

45

46 Madame Chair.

47

48 DR. GARZA: Right. That was sort of a  
49 question running through my mind, although we've asked  
50 them to look at these materials, we haven't, as a body,

1 stated anything in terms of our beliefs of marine waters.  
2 And considering that we've had this document four years  
3 ago and then in front of us, we haven't -- we may or may  
4 not have studied it, I'm not sure if this Council's ready  
5 to make that kind of motion.

6  
7 MR. ADAMS: Madame Chairman, I didn't  
8 hear your last statement because he was whispering in my  
9 ear, would you repeat yourself please.

10  
11 DR. GARZA: While we have directed Staff  
12 to review the materials from the Yakutat meeting provided  
13 by Sitka Tribe, we as a Council have not stated that we  
14 believe that there are marine waters that fall in Federal  
15 jurisdiction in Southeast.

16  
17 So Mr. Probasco was saying that's  
18 implied.

19  
20 MR. PROBASCO: And that's how our report  
21 on the Proposed Rule will indicate unless you direct us  
22 otherwise, Madame Chair.

23  
24 DR. GARZA: Five minute break.

25  
26 (Off record)

27  
28 (On record)

29  
30 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: We'll call the  
31 meeting back to order. What we're going to do is.....

32  
33 DR. GARZA: Hey, I didn't give the Chair  
34 back yet.

35  
36 (Laughter)

37  
38 DR. GARZA: I'll call the meeting back to  
39 order and give the Chair back to Mr. Littlefield.

40  
41 (Laughter)

42  
43 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Thank you, Haida  
44 Princess, Madame Chair.

45  
46 (Laughter)

47  
48 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Anyway I have an  
49 announcement from a previous Board member -- Council  
50 member Mr. Harold Martin, and he informs me that there

1 will be a potluck dinner, which we do not have to bring  
2 anything to if we don't want to tonight at 6:30 at the  
3 Salvation Army Hall. And if we walked to Mike's house  
4 last night, it will be right here, and you turn on  
5 Haugen, it's just real close to the building, so that's  
6 an invitation, traditional foods as well as contemporary  
7 foods.

8  
9 And what we're going to do now is take  
10 care of Law Enforcement report because Mr. Pearson has to  
11 leave. We also note that Ms. Caulfield as well as Mr.  
12 Doug Larsen will be leaving today. And I will give you  
13 an opportunity to come up, and then after that we're  
14 going to back on No. 4 so we want to make sure that you  
15 have a chance to give additional information or anything  
16 you want to share with us.

17  
18 So at this time, Mr. Pearson, Law  
19 Enforcement report.

20  
21 OFFICER PEARSON: Mr. Chairman or Madame  
22 Chairman, I'm not sure.

23  
24 (Laughter)

25  
26 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Mister.

27  
28 OFFICER PEARSON: Mr. Chair, and Council  
29 Members. Ken Pearson with the Forest Service, Law  
30 Enforcement Investigations. I'd like to thank you for  
31 giving me this opportunity to just briefly touch on some  
32 law enforcement issues. We're actually going to do kind  
33 of a two-part thing here, I have just a brief report on  
34 law enforcement, an overview, which I just passed out,  
35 and also Steve Kessler and myself worked on a priority  
36 paper for enforcement priorities and we're going to go  
37 over that afterwards.

38  
39 As you know, the United States Forest  
40 Service Law Enforcement Investigation's branch in Alaska  
41 is dedicated to the protection of fish and wildlife  
42 resources on Federal lands and to the protection of  
43 Federal subsistence rights for rural Alaskans. The  
44 Forest Service currently has 10 law enforcement officers  
45 to cover all of Southeast Alaska which consists of  
46 approximately 17 million acres. This last fall and  
47 winter, officers patrolled for hunting and fishing  
48 activity on roads and various creeks and rivers in  
49 Southeast Alaska. After receiving numerous complaints  
50 from subsistence users about illegal night hunting,

1 Forest Service law enforcement officers and State  
2 Troopers conducted numerous night operations in various  
3 locations throughout Southeast Alaska. Officers had been  
4 receiving complaints about illegal night hunting in the  
5 areas of Boswick Inlet, near Ketchikan, Zarembo and  
6 Edeland Islands, Mitkof and Kupreanof Islands, and of  
7 course Prince of Wales Island for many years, and our  
8 plans are being made to step up enforcement in these  
9 areas.

10  
11 For the time period of October 1st, 2004  
12 to the present over 300 hunting and fishing related  
13 contacts have been made by officers, and when I say  
14 hunting and fishing contacts, that means sport and  
15 subsistence. Our figures indicate that approximately 95  
16 percent of our contacts were compliant contacts and we're  
17 working hard to educate the public to improve that  
18 percentage even higher.

19  
20 Mr. Chair and Council, law enforcement  
21 relies heavily on community support and support of this  
22 Council to ensure the resources are protected by fair and  
23 appropriate regulations. The focus of Forest Service law  
24 enforcement is to support the communities in protecting  
25 their subsistence priority, and within that framework  
26 adequately address abuses by any user who takes fish and  
27 wildlife resources.

28  
29 Thank you. I'm willing to take  
30 questions.

31  
32 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Thank you, Mr.  
33 Pearson. The collective gasp you heard when you first  
34 started was when you said you were going to pass out,  
35 many of us here that have ANB roots, we distribute, we  
36 don't like to pass out.

37  
38 (Laughter)

39  
40 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Mr. Kessler.

41  
42 MR. KESSLER: Mr. Chair and Council  
43 members. The second handout, do we give handouts, is one  
44 that was distributed yesterday, this one right here,  
45 Subsistence Related Enforcement on the Tongass National  
46 Forest. And what this goes into is just sort of some  
47 general background on what law enforcement does, the  
48 general patrol and then where enforcement is able to do  
49 some more specific patrols. And it follows from the  
50 overview that Mr. Pearson just gave.

1                   But what we wanted to do was also to hear  
2 your thoughts on which areas should be provided emphasis,  
3 we consider that the Council has a lot of interest, of  
4 course, in what happens with subsistence and what happens  
5 with legal activities related to subsistence, to be sure  
6 that there aren't activities that are occurring that  
7 infringe upon those subsistence opportunities.

8  
9                   So what we did here, and Mr. Pearson can  
10 go through any of these in any more detail that you might  
11 like, is identified what some of those issues are on the  
12 Tongass National Forest, and give you some sort of idea  
13 through these little stars of how much those activities  
14 cost to enforce. And just for reference sake, you can  
15 imagine that maybe we have 10 stars worth of funding that  
16 could be used for some sort of special enforcement, we  
17 can't do everything that's here or perhaps any other  
18 ideas that you might have, and -- well, maybe I'll just  
19 leave it at that.

20  
21                   Ken, is there anything you want to add to  
22 that then.

23  
24                   OFFICER PEARSON: Well, Mr. Chair and  
25 Council members. Like Mr. Kessler said, this is just a  
26 priority list that I've pretty much assembled through --  
27 that's arrived at through public comment and complaints  
28 and I feel pretty confident that this isn't an all  
29 inclusive list and so one of the things we're hoping to  
30 do is to hear from the Council, maybe some issues --  
31 local issues that I haven't heard before and  
32 understanding, of course, there's only a finite amount of  
33 money and a finite amount of officers, and so we need to  
34 prioritize is what we need to do and we need to work in  
35 the areas that the Council feels we need to work in.

36  
37                   And so with that, hopefully everybody's  
38 had a chance to review the list and I'd be willing to  
39 take questions and suggestions at this time.

40  
41                   CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Okay, thank you.  
42 And the money that you're talking about, the finite  
43 amount of money comes out of the subsistence budget; is  
44 that correct?

45  
46                   MR. KESSLER: Mr. Chairman. The money  
47 that is used for enforcement is really out of two pots of  
48 money. One is subsistence dollars that come to the  
49 National Forest and the other is through regular law  
50 enforcement dollars. The subsistence, we do not get

1 enough funds to entirely pay for everything that is done  
2 for enforcement. General patrol covers far more than  
3 just subsistence, but the law enforcement does not feel  
4 that they get as much funds as necessary so that gets  
5 taken out of sort of their regular funds.

6  
7 One thing that did occur this year, as I  
8 think you're aware of, and we'll talk a little bit more  
9 later about, the WIS, is we did receive additional funds  
10 this year. And there are also some changes in budgets  
11 and overheads costs that actually were decreased and that  
12 has given us the opportunity to actually increase  
13 somewhat what law enforcement obtains from the  
14 subsistence budget this year.

15  
16 Does that make sense?

17  
18 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Okay, the reason I  
19 asked that, is because we've had to struggle with no  
20 money on other problems and so when I look this over real  
21 quickly, I see Unit 4 deer on the second page, shooting  
22 boats is also a problem. Well, it's not a problem, and I  
23 don't want to see you spend any more money on it out of  
24 the subsistence program. It's allowed in the regulations  
25 to shoot deer, ungulates from a boat in Unit 4, should be  
26 end of problem. It's a State problem, if they don't like  
27 it, it's not a Federal problem.

28  
29 So I would like to say that, you know,  
30 that Unit 4 is where I'm from and have a lot of -- it's  
31 where I do almost all of my hunting and I would say don't  
32 spend any more money there. I'll let some of the others  
33 talk about their units but that money's hard enough to  
34 come by and it doesn't stretch far enough and we don't  
35 need to be spending any money on trying to find people  
36 shooting from a boat.

37  
38 OFFICER PEARSON: Mr. Chair. Council. I  
39 don't have the regulations in front of me, but I'm pretty  
40 sure that it is against Federal law, as well, to shoot  
41 from a boat in Unit 4, ungulates. I'm pretty sure that  
42 was changed a couple of years ago. I'll have to -- Okay,  
43 I stand corrected, it looks like in Unit 4 it says you  
44 may shoot ungulates from a boat in Federal waters.

45  
46 So I stand corrected.

47  
48 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Don't spend any  
49 more money there. Other Council members. Mr. Jordan,  
50 and then Mr. Adams and then Dr. Garza.

1 MR. JORDAN: Actually I have a different  
2 perspective than John Littlefield. He is correct on  
3 shooting from the boats, but, of course, that means you  
4 have to shoot them on Federal land, so you can't shoot  
5 them between the high tide line or the low tide or on  
6 Native lands or other places, so -- but I think he's  
7 right, that's a minor point.

8  
9 The big point is the night hunting is  
10 going on in Sitka. I was out anchored last year in a  
11 small little secluded cove and observed the spotlighting  
12 going on and it was kind of spooky when the spotlights  
13 arrived on my boat and I don't know, I think there needs  
14 to be maybe more of an educational effort and some  
15 enforcement effort. This is highly dangerous. It's  
16 detrimental to the resource and I really appreciate you  
17 making enforcing the prohibition on night hunting a  
18 priority.

19  
20 The other problem that I see, in the  
21 Sitka area there seems to be a profusion now of buoys, I  
22 suspect they're associated with subsistence halibut but  
23 they could be crab pots or who knows what else, but  
24 there's a profusion of buoys showing up now without any  
25 kind of permit markings on them. And it makes it real  
26 difficult to give the -- when that gear gets tangled up  
27 in your troll gear it makes a total mess of things, it  
28 makes it real difficult to return the gear with an  
29 appropriate message about where they put it. So  
30 enforcement on making sure and educating people that they  
31 have the correct markings on the buoys would be real  
32 helpful in our area.

33  
34 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: That's what our  
35 marine jurisdiction complaint was about. We would claim  
36 jurisdiction over those but right now we don't have any  
37 -- in our program we don't regulate those. So night  
38 hunting.

39  
40 I have Mr. Adams, Dr. Garza, and Mr.  
41 Kookesh.

42  
43  
44 MR. ADAMS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

45  
46 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Mr. Pearson, if  
47 you could respond to that, we should probably do these in  
48 order, if you could respond to Mr. Jordan first.

49  
50 MR. PEARSON: Yes, Mr. Chair. Mr.

1 Jordan. As Mr. Chair said, the buoys are a problem but  
2 we don't have jurisdiction in that, although we do  
3 conduct joint patrols with the State Troopers, and during  
4 our joint patrols that's something that we address. or  
5 the Troopers address.

6  
7 And far as the spotlighting goes, that  
8 seems to be universal throughout Southeast Alaska, and we  
9 get many, many complaints from subsistence users and non-  
10 subsistence users alike on that and something that we  
11 feel pretty strongly about. So we're continuing to work  
12 on that.

13  
14 Thank you.

15  
16 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Follow up, Mr.  
17 Jordan.

18  
19 MR. JORDAN: Mr. Chairman, as a follow up  
20 to that. I'm not so much in favor of people being  
21 prosecuted for things. If we could do things in an  
22 education effort to prevent that. And I just don't see  
23 any good from spotlighting deer around the water ways  
24 around Southeast Alaska, and whatever we can do to  
25 publicize that that's both a dangerous and unethical and  
26 not in a subsistence tradition practice, the better.

27  
28 And I don't know what we can do as a  
29 Council to educate people on that. But I'll tell you it  
30 was sure spooky for me this year out there with my  
31 grandchild and family to have people running around  
32 shooting from boats in the dark of the night.

33  
34 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Okay. We  
35 neglected two adjectives there, customary and  
36 traditional. Mr. Adams. I know it's a problem, and I  
37 don't want to make light of it, it is.

38  
39 Mr. Adams.

40  
41 MR. ADAMS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. You  
42 know with the titles of Dr. Garza and Dr. Schroeder, and  
43 we have a Dr. Wheeler in the house, and, you know, all I  
44 got is just a lowly bachelor of science degree, so my  
45 colleague over here has kind of labeled me BS Adams now.

46  
47 (Laughter)

48  
49  
50 MR. ADAMS: But anyhow, thank you, Mr.

1 Chairman. My question is for Officer Pearson. You know  
2 17 million acres of Federal real estate to police during  
3 hunting seasons and you only have 10 law enforcement  
4 officers puts a tremendous amount of pressure, you know,  
5 on your office to make sure subsistence users are  
6 actually subsistence users. I know in our district we  
7 have had some concerns, you know, and I think you're  
8 pretty well aware of it Mr. Pearson. But we are trying  
9 to work with the Ranger District in Yakutat to address  
10 these things.

11  
12 But last year, many, many of our  
13 subsistence hunters did not go hunting during the  
14 subsistence opening mainly because they felt that they  
15 were being a little bit overburdened with law  
16 enforcement. I know that Forest Service and the State,  
17 you know, team up together to provide the enforcement in  
18 the area. Not only was that a problem but the Forest  
19 Service also saw fit to close off a couple of ATV trails  
20 that were really crucial to places where hunters  
21 traditionally went.

22  
23 One good example a place we call Moose  
24 Valley off of Harlequin Lake, and there's a wilderness  
25 area in there and they closed off the trail in that  
26 wilderness area. And so a group of hunters, you know, go  
27 there every year, a mile and a half, maybe two miles away  
28 from the road system and it was always their mode of  
29 transportation was through four-wheeler, and so that was  
30 closed off and so they didn't bother about, you know,  
31 going there because they were told that if they did they  
32 would be cited if they cause any damages, you know, to  
33 the environment and so forth.

34  
35 So, you know, I think I would just like  
36 your comeback on this. I know we were working with the  
37 Ranger District in Yakutat, you know, to address these  
38 issues but please give us your impression on these issues  
39 if you would, please.

40  
41 Thank you.

42  
43 OFFICER PEARSON: Mr. Chair. Mr. Adams.  
44 Thank you for your comment and questions. Talking about  
45 the first part of the question about the enforcement in  
46 Yakutat, that was during the Yakutat moose season, the  
47 subsistence moose season. Most years we try to make a  
48 presence there during that season. I know the rumors  
49 were that there was seven or eight of us there, there  
50 were actually two of us there, two Forest Service

1 officers. We were monitoring the moose hunt, we weren't  
2 there to target subsistence users, we were there to  
3 ensure that there weren't non-qualified hunters hunting.  
4 And so if I recall -- well, in fact, I do recall, that  
5 there were not any citations issued and there were not  
6 even any warnings issued, we found no problems. But,  
7 again, we were there to monitor the hunt and maybe in the  
8 future we can do that a little differently. But it's  
9 unfortunate if hunters didn't hunt because we were there.

10

11 Your second concern on the ATVs. Some of  
12 the ATV closures, I don't have direct knowledge of, that  
13 was a district call on that. The one that you're talking  
14 about in particular, with the Wilderness, if, indeed, the  
15 trail went into the Wilderness, which I think it does,  
16 then by Federal then that is closed to motorized vehicles  
17 and it has always been closed. And unfortunately it  
18 seems like maybe in the past the district may have looked  
19 the other way, so that's unfortunate but hopefully  
20 between the district and the users there something can be  
21 worked out before next year so we don't have this  
22 confusion.

23

24 There was some confusion, I agree, and  
25 that was unfortunate. So hopefully we can work to  
26 address those concerns.

27

28 Thank you.

29

30 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Follow up.

31

32 MR. ADAMS: Yes, we have a memorandum of  
33 understanding, you know, with the Ranger District in  
34 Yakutat and one of the first things that we've agreed on  
35 in that MOU was that whenever there is anything that the  
36 Forest Service, you know, intends to do in our district  
37 that they come to the tribal organization and to the  
38 community and conduct some consultation meetings and so  
39 forth. And the closure of these two trails, which are  
40 crucial, you know, to accessing, you know, the moose  
41 habitat, they never did that. And we're trying to --  
42 well, I've got a commitment, you know, from the Ranger  
43 that she's going to be a little bit more sensitive to  
44 that. But what they did is they arbitrarily went up and  
45 they put no ATV use on these trails. And the hunters,  
46 you know, went and saw those and they were intending to  
47 go out there and they saw the trails and they just turned  
48 around and went back and they never hunted in those areas  
49 on the account of that.

50

1                   So, you know, that matter of information,  
2 I think we're going to resolve it, you know, locally and  
3 hopefully, you know, we'll be able to come out with some  
4 good solutions to that. But thank you for your  
5 explanation and if you have a reaction to that, I'd  
6 appreciate your take on it.

7  
8                   CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Go ahead.

9  
10                  MR. PEARSON: Mr. Chair. Mr. Adams. I  
11 have no further comment.

12  
13                  Thank you.

14  
15                  MR. ADAMS: I have another one.

16  
17                  CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Follow up.

18  
19                  MR. ADAMS: I think it's really important  
20 and maybe this should be a lesson to all of us, is that,  
21 consultation, you know, with tribal organizations and  
22 local people, you know, be a primary issue, you know,  
23 when these kinds of announcements are -- I realize after  
24 the fact that, you know, no ATVs, you know, were allowed  
25 in the wilderness area and that suddenly they decided to  
26 enforce it, it was the same way with the other closure of  
27 that trail, because of the sensitiveness, you know, of  
28 the Yakutat forelands, they felt, you know, that they  
29 needed to close it, but no consultation, you know, with  
30 the tribal organization was done, nor to the community or  
31 any warnings of any sort. And I hope we can, you know,  
32 address this a little bit more effectively in the future.

33  
34                  Thank you.

35  
36                  CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Just as a point, I  
37 hunt occasionally on the Interior, and I found that some  
38 of my competitors, a lot of time, put up no ATV and no  
39 trespassing signs and if you're not aware of the land use  
40 you will turn around.

41  
42                  I have Dr. Garza, Mr. Kookesh and Mr.  
43 Stokes.

44  
45                  Dr. Garza.

46  
47                  DR. GARZA: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Two  
48 questions. The only four star here is the Unit 2 deer,  
49 and the conclusion there is the hunt is the most popular  
50 and the most controversial and then it has the fourth

1 star. And for the controversial, I mean, that really  
2 shouldn't matter, if Ketchikan people grip let them, I  
3 mean that shouldn't cost any more money. So is the  
4 fourth star because there is enforcement issues during  
5 that early opening to make sure that Ketchikan people  
6 aren't hunting earlier or why is there additional concern  
7 there?

8

9 Thank you.

10

11 OFFICER PEARSON: Mr. Chair. Dr. Garza.  
12 Thank you, for your question. First of all I'll talk  
13 about the controversial part. When I say controversial,  
14 it's not only controversial with Ketchikan hunters it's  
15 controversial as well with Unit 2 hunters, or with  
16 subsistence hunters. In other words, the subsistence  
17 hunters think the Ketchikan hunters are taking too many  
18 deer and of course the Ketchikan hunters don't like being  
19 ruled out.

20

21 But to answer your question about the  
22 four stars and the cost of that is the hunt that -- the  
23 subsistence hunt itself itself is only three weeks, or  
24 the subsistence specific hunt, although we know, you  
25 know, by law the subsistence season actually goes to the  
26 31st. So Prince of Wales being a large island it takes a  
27 lot of man power to work Prince of Wales, and it's for a  
28 long period of time, essentially from July 24th through  
29 about November 15th is the primary dates that we work  
30 that area. So it involves a lot of personnel and it  
31 involves a lot of time and that's why it's so costly.

32

33 And again it is the most popular hunt on  
34 the Tongass with the -- I forgot how many permits were  
35 issued last year, I think somewhere around a thousand or  
36 so.

37

38 But, again, we're not obviously targeting  
39 subsistence hunters, but we're targeting hunters in  
40 general and making sure they're compliant to ensure,  
41 obviously that the subsistence hunters are able to be out  
42 there to hunt.

43

44 So, thank you.

45

46 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Follow up.

47

48 DR. GARZA: Yeah, I have two more follow  
49 ups. So in terms of this list here, do the stars also  
50 reflect the enforcement successes? I don't know what you

1 would call it, I mean do you nab more people on Prince of  
2 Wales than other areas for not having permits, not  
3 tagging, for pretending that they're subsistence when  
4 they're not, or if you were to list this by the number of  
5 tickets you issue or people you haul into court because  
6 of it, would this list look different?

7  
8 OFFICER PEARSON: Mr. Chair. Dr. Garza.  
9 That's a good question. I can't say right off the top of  
10 my head if we write more citations over on Prince of  
11 Wales than other areas, I guess you would have to break  
12 it down into, you know, per officer, per hour spent  
13 patrolling. It is a fairly target rich environment over  
14 there, although it's certainly, with our enforcement  
15 efforts in the last few years it certainly has been much  
16 more compliant. We're seeing a drastic reduction in  
17 night hunting and violations in general. But I couldn't  
18 say for sure that there's more violations there than  
19 other areas.

20  
21 DR. GARZA: Thank you. And then one  
22 other question on another area. I mean I do realize that  
23 enforcement is good. I think it, while subsistence  
24 people tend to be a bit fearful, I mean they are there to  
25 make sure that we have subsistence rights and to make  
26 sure that non-subsistence people aren't infringing on  
27 those rights. And in that area one of the issues that  
28 arose yesterday or the day before is the out of state  
29 bear hunters that come in and don't go through the proper  
30 process. And so I think that should be listed on here.  
31 I mean if we were able to get more of those guys then I  
32 think the bear populations would improve and there would  
33 be fewer issues between subsistence and local and guided  
34 hunts.

35  
36 And so we do have to look at this on both  
37 sides and look at the benefit by having good enforcement,  
38 we can reduce illegal takes and hopefully increase  
39 stocks.

40  
41 So I do appreciate your efforts, thank  
42 you.

43  
44 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Okay, I have Mr.  
45 Kookesh, Mr. Stokes, Mr. Bangs. Mr. Kookesh.

46  
47 MR. KOOKESH: One of the problems that we  
48 have in our community is, and I'm sure like my friend  
49 from Sitka said, is night hunting, and I know that for  
50 someone like me who goes out and does it during the day

1 and takes the time to go in the woods and to also -- what  
2 is known as beachcombing, it's becoming to a point to  
3 where it's cost -- because of the fuel costs always going  
4 up, it's becoming very expensive to go out there for me  
5 to day hunt, you know, not being a night hunter, prefer  
6 the day hunter as most people do in our community. In my  
7 opinion most of the people that night hunt are people who  
8 are just too lazy.

9  
10 I think that one of the things that we  
11 need to do to solve our problem is that -- I know that  
12 for Angoon we have Fish and Wildlife enforcement coming  
13 to our community every so often and making a presence,  
14 and that makes people more compliant. I haven't really  
15 seen enforcement from your department making a presence  
16 even just to show up -- they just show up and people are  
17 always aware that, wow, these guys are around.

18  
19 But one of the things that I think that's  
20 going to -- the only way we're going to solve our night  
21 hunting issue is to give them a stiff penalty. It's the  
22 only way they're going to learn. They're not going to  
23 learn if they -- if they don't know what the penalty is,  
24 which, even I don't know what it is myself, by the way,  
25 probably because I haven't taken the time, you know,  
26 probably lazy, but if they know what the penalty is and  
27 if the penalty's not enough to deter them, then maybe we  
28 should stick it to them and let them know that this is  
29 not a game because I believe that they've taken it for  
30 granted and they need to be wakened up.

31  
32 That was one of the things, to give you  
33 some dialogue or to give you some information how we can  
34 approach and resolve our problems because I'd like to be  
35 able to go to less than 10 miles, you know, I have to go  
36 more than 10 miles to start hunting and that's said  
37 because that cost me a lot of fuel. I can afford it,  
38 but, still I shouldn't have to be doing that, I have to  
39 keep going further and further to find deer that don't  
40 respond to motors and we need to stop that. I figure  
41 maybe penalizing them and letting it be known that this  
42 is serious because they're not taking it serious.

43  
44 One of the things that was talked about  
45 is that I never hear, that I always like to hear, is  
46 budget, if I know how much money you have now and how  
47 much money you're going to get in the future and where  
48 we're going with that, that would help me to get a better  
49 idea of your program because I know you talked about --  
50 Mr. Kessler talked about WIS and other programs, but that

1 doesn't help me, I need to know how much money you have.  
2 I know things, we always say, are never getting better  
3 but it tends to get better somewhere and how much money  
4 do we have in our budget and where are we going and what  
5 does our budgets always look like. Because it seems like  
6 we're in here for the haul. And that's one of my other  
7 questions.

8  
9                   And the last one, Mr. Adams, touched on  
10 it a little, so to touch a little on Mr. Adams', I'm  
11 aware of the MOUs that the tribes have with the Forest  
12 Service under government-to-government relationships and  
13 I'm also aware that -- what needs to be done is the  
14 tribes need to reaffirm with the land managers or whoever  
15 they're doing their government-to-government relationship  
16 with is the value of the MOUs. Because they've taken --  
17 I know for a fact that in Angoon we've taken the MOUs,  
18 the government relationship and we're almost treating it  
19 like it's just a -- it's like a standard form document,  
20 here sign this, you're not putting your work into the  
21 document that you're signing off on, and maybe that's  
22 what the tribes need to start being aware of. You need  
23 to go back and have it reaffirmed with your land manager  
24 so they can talk to the Staff so that they can bring the  
25 value of that document back to the table. It's almost  
26 become a standard form where it's not treated as serious  
27 as it should be. That's my opinion. I believe that  
28 that's what Mr. Adams and their tribal government --  
29 every tribal government needs to do, you need to put  
30 value back into the MOU, and it has to start at home and  
31 with the land managers.

32  
33                   That covers it, thank you.

34  
35                   CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Do you want to  
36 respond to that, Mr. Pearson.

37  
38                   OFFICER PEARSON: Mr. Chair. Council  
39 member Kookesh. Thank you for your comments. I've got a  
40 couple of things I'd like to address here.

41  
42                   The night hunting, you mentioned, you  
43 know, the night hunting makes it difficult for you to go  
44 out and harvest your deer legally, that's a constant  
45 compliant that I get from law abiding subsistence users.  
46 That it makes it harder for them and they don't like  
47 that. They don't like to have to follow the rules and  
48 the next guy not, so that's a valid point and it's one  
49 reason why we take this fairly seriously.

50

1                   Secondly, there's an issue of wounding.  
2 I've had subsistence hunters tell me they find a lot of  
3 deer that are wounded that just run inside the woods and  
4 die that are shot by hunters from boats at night and so  
5 that's another issue is there's waste going on, so,  
6 again, that's important.

7  
8                   It's interesting to hear that you say  
9 that you don't see Forest Service enforcement in Angoon,  
10 there's a reason you don't see us there is because we're  
11 hardly ever there. Angoon is kind of in the middle of  
12 nowhere and.....

13  
14                   (Laughter)

15  
16                   MR. PEARSON: .....and.....

17  
18                   (Laughter)

19  
20                   MR. PEARSON: And logistically it's very  
21 difficult. Forest Service has limited capability. And  
22 in fact it must have been about a year and a half ago you  
23 and I actually had a beer together and you brought up  
24 Angoon and the problems there, and I was real excited so  
25 I went back and I talked to some of our officers that  
26 work out of Juneau and one used to work out of Hoonah and  
27 I said, hey, we got to get to Angoon, we got to work up  
28 there and he said, well, we can't do it.

29  
30                   So anyway, I'm glad that you brought it  
31 up again because now it gives me more ammunition to go to  
32 my superiors and we're just going to have to find a way  
33 to get to Angoon. Maybe you can draw me a map.

34  
35                   (Laughter)

36  
37                   MR. PEARSON: As far as the penalties on  
38 night hunting, of course, it's both State and Federal law  
39 that you violate when you spotlight, and I can't speak  
40 for the State but under Federal law the maximum penalty  
41 is \$5,000 fine for night hunting and/or six months in  
42 jail. So the penalties can be high. Now, does that mean  
43 we'll get that, actually in court, ah, probably not, but,  
44 you know, the fines certainly in the past we've gotten as  
45 much as \$1,000 for a first offense.

46  
47                   So that's for that.

48  
49                   As far as the budget goes, I can't tell  
50 you how much we have because I'm pretty low on the ladder

1 and I don't know how much we have. But we do get an  
2 additional about \$500,000 a year, I do know that for  
3 subsistence related work and that has been fairly  
4 consistent and maybe Mr. Kessler can touch on that a  
5 little bit more.

6  
7 And as far as the MOU goes, I don't know  
8 anything about MOUs so I'll have to turn that over to Mr.  
9 Kessler, but thanks again for your comments.

10  
11 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: We're going to  
12 give Mr. Kookesh a chance to shoot back. Mr. Kookesh.

13  
14 MR. KOOKESH: Ha, ha, I get over it.

15  
16 (Laughter)

17  
18 MR. KOOKESH: I don't know how to do that  
19 Indian Medicine, that's why.

20  
21 But I have a question, and to follow up  
22 on penalty. I believe that even though your presence  
23 isn't always, you know, going to be -- it'd be nice to be  
24 able to go everywhere but we can't do that, but when the  
25 season comes along for the benefit of those people that  
26 do do what they do, at night, is it possible to send us  
27 something to be posted around the communities, what the  
28 penalty can actually be to -- you know, if you are a  
29 night hunter, you know, this is -- we need that, because  
30 people don't care, they don't know, I didn't even know  
31 until you just told me what the penalty is. Five-  
32 thousand is a lot of money, time in jail, that's not too  
33 bad, but \$5,000.....

34  
35 (Laughter)

36  
37 MR. KOOKESH: .....three meals a day, you  
38 know.

39  
40 (Laughter)

41  
42 MR. KOOKESH: But I believe that would  
43 help us work on resolving the issue, I think, having  
44 people start realizing it. Because we all know that  
45 we're not going to turn in our neighbor even though we  
46 know they're doing something wrong and you know that  
47 that's a fact and it's unfortunate that we can't go down  
48 that road but people just won't go there, it's my  
49 neighbor, I got to live with him, you know, or it's  
50 people's neighbors and they have to live with them; let

1 me put it that way.

2

3 But, yeah, that's what I would like to  
4 ask of you if anything.

5

6 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Perhaps one  
7 solution would be to put that in the hunting regulation  
8 books, you know, what the violations are because very few  
9 people know what that amount is and it's pretty  
10 significant.

11

12 Mr. Kessler.

13

14 MR. KESSLER: Mr. Chairman. Mr. Kookesh.  
15 There are a couple questions that I don't know the  
16 answers to either, for instance, the memorandums of  
17 understandings, the MOUs. And I'll look at Mr. Johnson,  
18 maybe he knows more about that than I do, I don't deal  
19 with that.

20

21 As far as the budgets are concerned, if I  
22 understand the question, I think you'd like to know what  
23 we spend on the entire subsistence program or just  
24 specifically on law enforcement?

25

26 MR. KOOKESH: Enforcement.

27

28 MR. KESSLER: Enforcement. Normally we,  
29 the subsistence program, and the subsistence budget line  
30 item we receive from Congress, we provide \$500,000 a year  
31 to law enforcement. This year we will be providing an  
32 extra 100,000, so it will be 600,000. And that extra  
33 100,000 is sort of what kicked off sort of this  
34 discussion of, well, what would be the priorities for  
35 \$100,000 more, what would you want to especially  
36 emphasize some areas. And that's why we have this list  
37 and we thought that, well, the managers were going to  
38 provide some input to law enforcement of what we think is  
39 important to put some special emphasis on, but we also  
40 thought that the Regional Advisory Council ought to have  
41 that opportunity also to provide input to law enforcement  
42 of what should some special emphasis should be put on, so  
43 that's why we brought this -- decided this year we ought  
44 to bring this to you and hear what your thoughts are.

45

46 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Follow up.

47

48 MR. KOOKESH: For that extra 100,000, can  
49 you buy 10 maps to Angoon, show them how to get Angoon.

50

1 (Laughter)

2

3 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: I have -- follow  
4 up on this -- okay, I'll allow it, Mr. Adams.

5

6 MR. ADAMS: Just a comment her, Floyd's  
7 brother, Albert, you know, and I meet every now and then  
8 and he's always inviting me to come down to Angoon and he  
9 said I'll get you all of the deer that you want so maybe  
10 you need to go down there and do a little bit of  
11 enforcing.

12

13 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Is he a sport  
14 hunter or.....

15

16 (Laughter)

17

18 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Okay. Okay, I  
19 have Mr. Stokes, Mr. Bangs, and then Dr. Garza. Mr.  
20 Stokes.

21

22 MR. STOKES: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Due  
23 to my disability, the State issues me a permit to shoot  
24 from the boat. IF I'm in Federal water will they honor  
25 it?

26

27 OFFICER PEARSON: Mr. Chair. Mr. Stokes.  
28 Yes, actually under Federal law, not only will they honor  
29 the State's permit, but under Federal law you're also  
30 allowed to do that as well, so you are covered.

31

32 MR. STOKES: Thank you. Now, reading in  
33 the Field and Stream and Outdoor Life, the poachers  
34 really get a stiff penalty. They normally take their  
35 rifles, their four-wheelers, their trucks, whatever they  
36 use in hunting, now, perhaps we should look in that area.

37

38 OFFICER PEARSON: Mr. Chair. Council  
39 member Stokes. That is an area that we've looked at and  
40 in cases we have done that. In general the Federal  
41 courts don't like to go in that direction. But certainly  
42 if the violation is severe enough that's certainly a  
43 possibility and it has been done.

44

45 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: I have Mr. Bangs,  
46 and then Dr. Garza.

47

48 MR. BANGS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr.  
49 Pearson, this idea of night hunting has come up in the  
50 past and please correct me if I'm wrong, but it's not

1 illegal to hunt at night it's the use of artificial  
2 light; is that correct?

3

4 OFFICER PEARSON: (Nods affirmatively)

5

6 MR. BANGS: So is there a movement or  
7 proposals from the Department of Law to change the  
8 regulations to where it's daylight hours or has the  
9 Department tried to do something about that?

10

11 MR. PEARSON: Mr. Chair. Member Bangs.  
12 You are correct, Alaska doesn't have any set hunting  
13 hours like they do in most states for big game, it's a  
14 half hour before sunrise, a half hour after sunset,  
15 that's not the case in Alaska. As you know you can hunt  
16 all night if you wish. There are some provisions, one of  
17 which you can't use an artificial light, you can't use a  
18 night scope and so forth, so it is technically legal.  
19 Realistically it probably doesn't happen very often.

20

21 There is a movement above the public and  
22 there have been some public, I believe in the State side  
23 of the House, to regulate hunting by hours, but there  
24 hasn't been anything go through yet. As far as the  
25 Department itself, we haven't done that. But it is a  
26 movement and it's something that we may see in the  
27 future.

28

29 Thank you.

30

31 MR. BANGS: Thank you.

32

33 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Dr. Garza.

34

35 DR. GARZA: Totally difference now that I  
36 know there's a 100,000 bucks there. I guess what I would  
37 like to see in terms of just separate from this list, but  
38 if we have that type of money available and sort of  
39 following up what some of the other Council members said  
40 is, I think we need some substantial PR, some posters,  
41 some brochures, some educational materials to let people  
42 know what the fines are for shooting at night, to let  
43 people know on Prince of Wales and in Ketchikan what the  
44 new rules are. Because when we get back to the U2 deer  
45 issue, I mean one of my major concerns is that people in  
46 Ketchikan just don't understand what the situation is.  
47 And if we can provide means of providing that  
48 information, I think parts of our problems will be  
49 abated.

50

1                   And so if we can in any way allocate some  
2 money to do that type of work I think it would go a long  
3 ways.

4  
5                   Just a quick follow up on what Mr. Bangs  
6 had mentioned, I think that was one thing, I think, the  
7 U2 group also had talked about, was to submit a proposal  
8 along the lines that Mr. Pearson had talked about, to  
9 make it illegal to hunt on, at least on Prince of Wales  
10 at night.

11  
12                   OFFICER PEARSON: Mr. Chair. Dr. Garza.  
13 Again, thank you for your comments. The public relations  
14 aspect of it or the public education, it's certainly very  
15 important and , you know, as officers we don't get any  
16 more money for writing the number of tickets we write, so  
17 our ultimate goal is compliance. And so education is one  
18 of the biggest tools.

19  
20                   And you and, even Mr. Kookesh, had  
21 mentioned something about posters, and I hadn't thought  
22 of that before but I think that's a very good idea and  
23 I'm going to go back and try to work on that. So  
24 education is very important and I thank you for bringing  
25 that up.

26  
27                   CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Mr. Hernandez and  
28 then Ms. Phillips.

29  
30                   MR. HERNANDEZ: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.  
31 Mr. Pearson, I wanted to ask you about something that  
32 isn't listed on your priorities list and I was wondering  
33 what the level of effort is there and that is bear  
34 hunting by, I think -- I don't know if the proper term  
35 would be either outfitters or transporters, these are,  
36 you know, people that don't have guiding licenses but  
37 take people out bear hunting essentially and a lot of the  
38 complaints I hear that according to the law these people  
39 are not supposed to aid in the hunt in any way. And  
40 there's a belief that, you know, a lot of these people  
41 are acting illegally and that they are providing aid to  
42 the hunters. These are complaints that I hear from both  
43 the guiding people and subsistence hunters, particularly  
44 on Kuiu Island and also on Prince of Wales Island.

45  
46                   I was just wondering if the Forest  
47 Service Law Enforcement is involved in any of these  
48 investigations? I think I, just from my own personal  
49 experience, I seem to see a fair amount of enforcement  
50 taking place on Kuiu Island but I think it's probably

1 mostly State enforcement. I don't know what your  
2 comments are there.

3  
4 OFFICER PEARSON: Mr. Chair. Member  
5 Hernandez. Outfitting and guiding in Southeast Alaska is  
6 big business as Member Sofoulis could probably tell you.  
7 It is an ongoing problem, the illegal side of it is an  
8 ongoing problem and the illegal side goes from everything  
9 from illegal guiding and outfitting to non-residents  
10 shooting bears without salvaging all the meat, and we  
11 spend a lot of time working outfitters and guides, and,  
12 in fact, we have made cases and we have cases ongoing now  
13 and so we spend much time working on that actually.  
14 Probably as much time sent on that as just about any of  
15 our other avenues.

16  
17 As far as Kuiu in particular, we do have  
18 officers that work Kuiu and work it on a fairly regular  
19 basis. In fact, our Petersburg officer, Officer Bolland,  
20 I think is probably in the room right now, but Officer  
21 Bolland has spent quite a bit of time on Kuiu and, in  
22 fact, we try to conduct our patrols with Troopers because  
23 it gives us a larger avenue to work in or a larger scope  
24 and so we get a lot of complaints from Kuiu and so we  
25 spend a lot of time there. But outfitting and guiding is  
26 on our radar screen and we spend a lot of time and a lot  
27 of money actually at that.

28  
29 Thank you.

30  
31 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: I have Ms.  
32 Phillips, and then Mr. Kookesh.

33  
34 MS. PHILLIPS: Thank you, Chairman  
35 Littlefield. Mr. Pearson, how are the enforcement  
36 officers distributed across Southeast, are they stationed  
37 at certain communities?

38  
39 OFFICER PEARSON: Mr. Chair. Council  
40 member Phillips. Yes, they're stationed essentially  
41 throughout the Tongass. We have myself and one officer  
42 stationed in Ketchikan. We have two officers on Prince  
43 of Wales, one of which is in Craig and one is in Thorne  
44 Bay. We have two officers in Petersburg that work the  
45 Petersburg, Wrangell, Edlund and Kuiu area. We have two  
46 officers in Juneau. One's responsible for Hoonah as  
47 well. We have one officer in Sitka. And I think that we  
48 used to have an officer in Yakutat and we no longer have  
49 an officer there. And I think that pretty much covers it  
50 for our officers.

1 MS. PHILLIPS: Mr. Chair. Mr. Pearson,  
2 do you have your own vessels?

3  
4 OFFICER PEARSON: Mr. Chair. Member  
5 Phillips. We do have our own vessels. Currently --  
6 well, I can't tell you right off the top of my head how  
7 many vessels we have. But we have patrol boats, we have  
8 jet boats, we have ocean going boats, and I use the term,  
9 ocean going fairly loosely here.

10  
11 (Laughter)

12  
13 MR. PEARSON: And we also have a Forest  
14 Service Law Enforcement Beaver that's dedicated to law  
15 enforcement and that's just came on line within the last  
16 year. And so that should give us some more room to play  
17 with there with that Beaver. And we obviously have  
18 patrol vehicles for the road system, which for the most  
19 -- other than the Prince of Wales doesn't do us a whole  
20 lot of good.

21  
22 Thank you.

23  
24 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Follow up.

25  
26 MS. PHILLIPS: Mr. Chair. Mr. Pearson, I  
27 want to support members who talked about prevention  
28 education, and perhaps the enforcement could make a  
29 presence in like a booth or a table at certain events  
30 that have gatherings where you could do some education  
31 prevention promotions. And maybe you could have sort of  
32 like a Safety Bear that could go into the classrooms. We  
33 have Safety Bear come out to Pelican and so maybe you  
34 could come up with a Forest Service type bear or work  
35 with the State Troopers, you know, through their Safety  
36 Bear program.

37  
38 Another issue that came up in public  
39 testimony earlier in the week is the potential  
40 overharvest of steelhead in the Petersburg area, that's  
41 just something that was brought up earlier.

42  
43 Thank you.

44  
45 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: They have a fake  
46 deer that moves, they could bring those to the meetings.

47  
48 (Laughter)

49  
50 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Mr. Kookesh.

1 MR. KOOKESH: Mine is just a comment,  
2 it's nothing to enforcement or anyone in particular, but  
3 just to respond a little bit to Mr. Adams. He mentioned  
4 that my brother Albert had said that he could come to  
5 Angoon, I'll get you all the deer you want.....

6  
7 (Laughter)

8  
9 MR. KOOKESH: .....I don't think Mr.  
10 Adams realized that it was an election year.

11  
12 (Laughter)

13  
14 MR. KOOKESH: And that my brother.....

15  
16 (Laughter)

17  
18 MR. KOOKESH: And that my brother Albert  
19 is a politician.

20  
21 (Laughter)

22  
23 MR. KOOKESH: So you know how those  
24 silver tongues work.

25  
26 (Laughter)

27  
28 MR. KOOKESH: Too bad, Bert.

29  
30 (Laughter)

31  
32 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Mr. Kessler.

33  
34 MR. KESSLER: Mr. Chair. Mr. Kookesh.  
35 Ms. Petershoare here can respond to the question about  
36 MOUs that you had, if that would be all right with you.

37  
38 MS. PETERSHOARE: Mr. Chairperson and  
39 Council members. For the record, my name is Lillian  
40 Petershoare, and I'm the tribal government relation  
41 specialist for the regional office. And I would like to  
42 share some information that will respond to Council  
43 member Kookesh's questions and to Council member Adam's  
44 questions regarding MOUs and tribal consultation.

45  
46 The Tongass now has a tribal government  
47 relation specialist and that individual is John Autry.  
48 And John Autry and I have talked about the program of  
49 work that he has devised with his supervisors on the  
50 Tongass and a significant part of that program of work is

1 traveling to the communities to work with the tribes and  
2 to work with the District Ranger in terms of revisiting  
3 the MOUs. And a portion of their job will be to map out  
4 what consultation means in those communities so that it  
5 will be a tailored process.

6  
7                   And then in addition to that, the  
8 regional office is going through an effort of examining  
9 consultation. We are part of a budgeting revision  
10 process called Credibility through Accountability and  
11 we're looking at developing performance measures that  
12 will help us be more accountable to our customers, the  
13 tribes and the District Rangers. So that is an ongoing  
14 effort that is still in the draft stages, but attention  
15 is being given to consultation and advice and counsel.

16  
17                   Thank you.

18  
19                   CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Okay, thanks. I  
20 think we need to make sure that we look at this paper and  
21 do what we've been asked to do, because what they did is  
22 they wanted to know what we thought about spending this  
23 money and which things were important.

24  
25                   So for myself, I think some of these  
26 things that have been mentioned, night hunting, to lay  
27 all of that on subsistence users, I think, is not true.  
28 Some of these other things that are mentioned in this  
29 paper, timber theft, illegal drug use, reckless unsafe  
30 driving, that has nothing to do with the subsistence  
31 program and that should completely come out of the law  
32 enforcement. We're giving you \$500,000 a year out of the  
33 subsistence budget, we don't have any more money, and to  
34 come up with another 100,000, I think is asking a lot  
35 when we've had to cut very legitimate programs out of our  
36 budget because we couldn't fund them, we don't have the  
37 money.

38  
39                   So if I look at this paperwork, I'm going  
40 to say I'm happy with what you're doing right now. These  
41 night things can be addressed through the State system,  
42 and I don't think they need to be borne entirely by the  
43 subsistence program.

44  
45                   And I don't want you taking any more  
46 money from us, that's basically what I would like to say,  
47 and I think somewhere before we end this meeting, the  
48 Council needs to adopt a resolution to who -- who would  
49 you like that resolution to, just to the Forest Service?  
50

1 MR. KESSLER: (Nods affirmatively)

2

3 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: And the resolution  
4 would be that we think where we should spend more money,  
5 we think we should spend -- the money we spend right now  
6 is inadequate, but I think we should give you some  
7 indication of whether we think your -- the level of  
8 enforcement from the Forest Service is adequate and  
9 whether it's adequate or inadequate from the law  
10 enforcement side. In other words, I don't like dipping  
11 into the subsistence part of the pot of pie because we  
12 don't have the money. And I'd like the Council before we  
13 adjourn to take a position, and who would you recommend  
14 that we send that resolution too?

15

16 MR. KESSLER: Mr. Chairman, I think the  
17 appropriate person to send that to would be the Regional  
18 Forester Denny Bschor.

19

20 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: All right. So if  
21 the Council wishes, that's what I would recommend is  
22 because that's what they kind of asked us to do here is  
23 to make a recommendation and we should go on the record  
24 and make that recommendation after we hash it out. We're  
25 not going to do that right now, but if we have time  
26 that's what I think we should do to strengthen the record  
27 of what's been said.

28

29 Mr. Pearson.

30

31 MR. PEARSON: Mr. Chair. Council  
32 members. And just to clarify, the paragraph that talks  
33 about patrolling for timber theft and illegal drugs and  
34 so forth, what I was trying to state there is that often  
35 times our patrols, we don't focus on subsistence because  
36 we have such a large area or such a large amount of  
37 Forest Service-related -- directly related crimes that we  
38 deal with so, you know, we may set out on a day to patrol  
39 for subsistence or patrol for hunting and fishing  
40 violations and may actually get caught up in a timber  
41 theft that may take days. So that's what I was just  
42 trying to say is that, you know, officers aren't just  
43 focused on subsistence or hunting and fishing, we have  
44 actually quite a few different laws we enforce. But it  
45 doesn't come out of subsistence when we do that.

46

47 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Okay. I just  
48 think we should be clear that, you know, there's only a  
49 limited amount of money to go around and I think we need  
50 to have our say in where we'd like it to be sent.

1                                   Any other questions for them -- Mr.  
2 Adams.

3  
4                                   MR. ADAMS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.  
5 Another question for Mr. Pearson is this, one of the  
6 reasons why you have enforcement officers during a  
7 subsistence hunt, you know, is to monitor and to be sure  
8 that legitimate subsistence hunters are hunting during  
9 that period and to single out those who are non-  
10 subsistence hunters. Is there any evidence of any non-  
11 users, you know, coming in and trying to hunt during  
12 those periods?

13  
14                                   Another thing, too, and it's just a  
15 comment, we really miss our officer in Yakutat. I think  
16 that made a real big difference in the perception that,  
17 you know, the people in Yakutat have by having that  
18 person, you know, particularly gone. I don't know  
19 whether this had anything to do with -- it might have  
20 been a budget thing, but this individual knew the people  
21 and he, you know, integrated real well and they respected  
22 him quite a bit. He's still living there but he's no  
23 longer, you know, with the Forest Service as an  
24 enforcement person. But I just wanted to make that  
25 comment as well.

26  
27                                   I think it's really, really crucial that  
28 this be an integral part of a person who is in  
29 enforcement, you know, is to become acquainted with the  
30 people in the community and know their history -- know a  
31 little bit of their history and their customs so that  
32 when they do relate with them, you know, they have that  
33 understanding and so forth about what the community is  
34 all about.

35  
36                                   So with that, you know, maybe you can  
37 answer the question about non-subsistence hunters, you  
38 know, trying to hunt during the subsistence hunt.

39  
40                                   MR. PEARSON: Mr. Chair. Member Adams.  
41 Thank you for your question. We have had documented  
42 cases of non-subsistence users hunting, I think it was  
43 three years ago we cited two individuals plus confiscated  
44 a moose. In the overall scheme of things, that has been  
45 very relatively minute and -- but we didn't know that,  
46 unless we're there. And so, you know, after spending two  
47 of the last three years, I have personally -- you know, I  
48 got a better understanding of what's going on there and  
49 in the future I will probably be the main officer that's  
50 working Yakutat and so hopefully that will give me an

1 opportunity to get to know the people and hopefully,  
2 through you, maybe you can help me out on that to get a  
3 better understanding because that is important because  
4 Yakutat is a very unique community and so it's important  
5 to understand that.

6

7 So that's a good point, thank you.

8

9 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Okay, follow up.

10 He knows where Yakutat is, by the way.

11

12 (Laughter)

13

14 MR. ADAMS: I know where Yakutat is or he  
15 knows?

16

17 (Laughter)

18

19 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Yeah, we've got to  
20 wrap this up here because we've got two people leaving on  
21 a plane. Mr. Adams.

22

23 MR. ADAMS: Okay, I just wanted to say,  
24 you know, that we've been in discussion with the Ranger  
25 there about the possibility of you or someone else coming  
26 in, you know, prior to the subsistence hunt and, you  
27 know, educating everyone about the rules and regulations  
28 and so forth and so I think that's a real good idea.

29

30 Thank you.

31

32 MS. PHILLIPS: Chairman Littlefield.

33

34 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Okay, this is the  
35 last comment. We've got to get two people in here before  
36 the plane leaves. Ms. Phillips.

37

38 MS. PHILLIPS: If you want to station an  
39 officer with a family and kids in Pelican, that'd work  
40 for us.

41

42 (Laughter)

43

44 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Last response.

45

46 MR. PEARSON: Mr. Chair. Council member  
47 Phillips. I've actually heard a lot of good things about  
48 Pelican and I have a wife and four kids so your wish may  
49 come true.

50

1 (Laughter)

2

3 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Okay, I'd like to  
4 thank you for your presentation, Mr. Pearson. We might  
5 take some action on this later, and Mr. Kessler is here  
6 to help us through that.

7

8 At this time I'd like to ask Ms.  
9 Caulfield and Mr. Larsen, I know you have to catch a  
10 plane, so if you want to come and give us some additional  
11 comments, please come forward.

12

13 MR. LARSEN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.  
14 Council members. As I start off, I'd like to first of  
15 all thank Mr. Bangs for a wonderful crab feed, very  
16 enjoyable and the socializing, I think, was extremely fun  
17 and I appreciate that a lot.

18

19 Mr. Chairman, I wanted to bring to your  
20 attention in terms of Unit 2 information that we did get  
21 a copy of 5 AAC 92.010 as you requested and I believe Ms.  
22 Hernandez has distributed those to all of the Council  
23 members. So I just wanted to -- oh, there it comes now  
24 -- so good timing.

25

26 When you get your distributed copy, if  
27 you would look, please, under 5 AAC 92.010 to Section C,  
28 that's what I'd like to bring to your attention. That's  
29 where it states within 15 days after taking the bag limit  
30 for a species, or if the hunter does not take the bag  
31 limit within 15 days after the close of the season, the  
32 hunter shall, and as you see it does say shall, complete  
33 the harvest report and mail it to the Department. This  
34 is why on the Unit 2 deer report, it specifically says  
35 under the reporting, that successful and unsuccessful  
36 hunters must complete and return the hunt report. That  
37 administrative code gives us the ability to put that into  
38 the report form. And I know that there's a CFR that's  
39 related to this, and I would expect that the Forest  
40 Service Staff will provide you with that so you can see  
41 what the specific language is relative to that item.

42

43 So I just wanted to give you that. If  
44 there are any questions about that I'd be happy to answer  
45 those now.

46

47 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Yeah, if you could  
48 tell me what the penalty is, and then Mr. Adams.

49

50 MR. LARSEN: I believe, Mr. Chairman,

1 that the penalty is a \$100 bailable offense -- excuse me,  
2 let me back up. There's a \$100 bailable offense if it's  
3 under a registration permit. In this case there is no  
4 enforcement or any penalty that would be levied to a  
5 hunter who does not report.

6  
7 And what the Subcommittee has discussed  
8 is barring the heavy-handed registration permit, which we  
9 agreed collectively was not in the best interest of the  
10 users nor the agencies to pursue, in lieu of that, we  
11 have this protocol that was described for the Council  
12 yesterday whereby we would go through the two letters, we  
13 would go to phone calling, and then ultimately to the  
14 extent necessary, we would go and actually visit  
15 individuals to get the information. So while it does say  
16 you must, if people don't, and frankly now with our  
17 report forms where we don't get returns, we make our best  
18 efforts, send out a reminder and we basically live with  
19 what we get from that.

20  
21 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Mr. Adams.

22  
23 MR. ADAMS: But doesn't these -- you  
24 know, the return of this document make it important for  
25 you to collect data for the hunt for that particular  
26 season?

27  
28 MR. LARSEN: Mr. Chairman.

29  
30 MR. ADAMS: And let me add on another  
31 thing. I know in some cases, you know, if you don't turn  
32 in a permit, whether it's a subsistence permit for  
33 fishing or hunting and so forth within a timely manner,  
34 that you will not be allowed to have a permit, you know,  
35 for the next season, so maybe that could be considered as  
36 a penalty.

37  
38 MR. LARSEN: Mr. Chairman. Mr. Adams.  
39 You are correct, in that, as I mentioned there is not  
40 only a citation that gets issued. Under the permit  
41 clause, any kind of permit, whether it's in the State  
42 system, a registration permit, a drawing permit or a Tier  
43 II permit, people who don't respond within the timeframe  
44 that's specified on those where hunters actually sign the  
45 condition saying that they agree to these things, then  
46 there is that citation. And more recently one of the  
47 things that the Board of Game has given to the Department  
48 as an additional enforcement tool, is the authority to  
49 deny hunting opportunity the following season. That is  
50 not the case, however, in these harvest reports.

1 Now, you're correct, in that, we want to  
2 get as many of these reports back as we possibly can,  
3 certainly that helps us in estimating the overall  
4 harvest. What we typically have gotten is anywhere from,  
5 with a reminder letter, anywhere from 60 to 75 percent  
6 responses, and frankly to this point in the populations  
7 that we've managed under the reporting system that has  
8 been sufficient for our needs. In situations where we  
9 have, as what was described yesterday, isolated  
10 populations with limited numbers and we want to be very  
11 strict about what those harvests are, that's when we  
12 impose the more heavy-handed registration and drawing and  
13 Tier II permits.

14 MR. ADAMS: Follow up, Mr. Chairman.

15 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Go ahead.

16 MR. ADAMS: The very last phrase in  
17 Section C says, the hunter shall complete the harvest  
18 report and mail it to the Department.

19 MR. LARSEN: Mr. Chair. Mr. Adams. That  
20 is correct. And that's why in the report form we say  
21 hunters must, but recognize that if a hunter doesn't  
22 there is currently no recourse that we have in terms of  
23 an enforcement action to force them to do that.

24 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Are there any  
25 other questions on just this comment.

26 (No comments)

27 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Okay, please  
28 proceed.

29 MR. LARSEN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.  
30 The other thing I wanted to bring to your attention  
31 regarding Unit 2 deer is that I was faxed a copy of the  
32 Wrangell Advisory Committee's minutes from their February  
33 7th meeting, and I want to make this copy available to  
34 the Council.

35 I just wanted to indicate for the record  
36 that there was a motion to support for adoption the ADF&G  
37 and Forest Service harvest report for GMU 2 in lieu of a  
38 straight registration hunt and that was passed 9-0 by the  
39 Advisory Committee. I know that that was asked yesterday  
40 if there were any Advisory Committee comments, I failed  
41 to report that at that time and I haven't heard anything

1 from what Petersburg has done or other ACs at this point,  
2 but I did have this one from Wrangell and I wanted to  
3 make that available to the Council.

4

5 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: We will accept  
6 that as written comments when we go through that  
7 proposal.

8

9 MR. LARSEN: Mr. Chairman, the.....

10

11 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Ms. Phillips.

12

13 MS. PHILLIPS: Thank you, Mr. Chair. You  
14 said that there currently is no enforcement action on  
15 turning in the harvest report, what would be the process  
16 to get enforcement action down, you know, as time goes  
17 by?

18

19 MR. LARSEN: Mr. Chairman. Ms. Phillips.  
20 That would require action by the Board of Game to make  
21 that a bailable citation and at this point that hasn't  
22 been the case. And I guess from our perspective at this  
23 point it's not a problem so we wouldn't necessarily bring  
24 that forward to the Board at this time, recognizing that,  
25 again, where we have situations where we're concerned  
26 about harvest, we have other tools that we can implement,  
27 such as the permit process.

28

29 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Go ahead.

30

31 MR. LARSEN: Thank you, Mr. Chair. The  
32 other thing I wanted to bring up and the last thing in  
33 terms of Unit 4 [sic] deer was that I wanted to inform  
34 the Council that it's my understanding and in working  
35 with Federal Staff and the Subcommittee RAC members that  
36 we will be providing -- we, meaning the Forest Service,  
37 Fish and Game and a RAC representative, to the Board of  
38 Game at their upcoming March meeting on March 4th, which  
39 is Staff report day. Our intent is to report to the  
40 Board of Game what has gone on with Unit 2 deer, as Mr.  
41 Hernandez reported to this body, so that they're aware of  
42 it.

43

44 They are aware that this process is going  
45 on, there was a report given to them in November by Mr.  
46 Littlefield, and I think it was well received. I know  
47 the Board has been very supportive of the process and I  
48 think giving them an update on where we are and in light  
49 of the proposal that the Regional Advisory Council has  
50 submitted for the registration permit, I think it will be

1 very timely to provide the Board with whatever  
2 information and outcome you have as a result of your  
3 meeting, and I would anticipate that we would do that  
4 then at that March 4th period.

5  
6 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Okay, that's Unit  
7 2, not Unit 4.

8  
9 MR. LARSEN: I stand corrected, thank  
10 you.

11  
12 The other thing, not related to Unit 4  
13 [sic] that I wanted to just bring up.....

14  
15 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Unit 2.

16  
17 MR. LARSEN: Excuse me, Unit 2. Why do I  
18 think Unit 4, it must be Mr. Kookesh and all the talk  
19 about Angoon, that's in Unit 4, I know that.

20  
21 (Laughter)

22  
23 MR. LARSEN: The other thing is I  
24 understand that before I came to the meeting there was a  
25 question or two about the proposed license tag fee  
26 increase that the Division of Wildlife Conservation is  
27 proposing. And I know that it's not on the agenda, and  
28 Mr. Chairman I don't want to take time away from your  
29 other agenda topics, but I did want to mention that if  
30 you had specific questions it's a fairly -- I mean it  
31 could be a fairly lengthy discussion, I suspect, we do  
32 have materials on our website that I can make available  
33 to Council members. I just wanted, in general, to let  
34 you know that if you need information or have questions  
35 in one way or another, if not right now, we'd be happy to  
36 do what we can to provide you with information about the  
37 rationale and the details associated with that proposal.

38  
39 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Is that  
40 information the draft Q&A about increased hunting and  
41 trapping fees?

42  
43 MR. LARSEN: Mr. Chairman, yes, that is  
44 part of the packet that we have made available for the  
45 public.

46  
47 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Okay, I have a  
48 copy here, I'll just make sure that the Council has that  
49 before we discuss it.

50

1 MR. LARSEN: Mr. Chairman, that's all I  
2 have at this point. I guess I'll ask if Ms. Caulfield  
3 has anything.  
4  
5 MS. CAULFIELD: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.  
6 Actually I don't have any additional information to bring  
7 to you, but I appreciate being invited up to the table  
8 and if there's questions I can answer I'm happy to do  
9 that.  
10  
11 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Okay. For the  
12 Council, any questions.  
13  
14 (No comments)  
15  
16 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Further questions,  
17 they're not going to be here for the remainder of our  
18 deliberations.  
19  
20 Mr. Bangs.  
21  
22 MR. BANGS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I  
23 might have missed this, but are both of you going to be  
24 at that Board of Game meeting or not?  
25  
26 MR. LARSEN: Mr. Chairman. Mr. Bangs. I  
27 will be at the Board of Game meeting, Ms. Caulfield, I do  
28 not believe will be there.  
29  
30 MS. CAULFIELD: No.  
31  
32 MR. LARSEN: And I heard, although I  
33 don't know that it's been confirmed that Forrest Cole is  
34 planning to attend the meeting. I have not heard who,  
35 from the Council, is planning to attend so I'm not  
36 certain about that. But Mr. Littlefield is attending.  
37 So I think we have all of the bases covered, I assume Dr.  
38 Schroeder will be there, so I think in terms of the joint  
39 nature of this effort, I think we've got that covered.  
40  
41 MR. BANGS: Okay, thank you.  
42  
43 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Any other  
44 questions from the Council.  
45  
46 (No comments)  
47  
48 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Okay, well, we  
49 appreciate your information -- go ahead.  
50

1 MR. LARSEN: Mr. Chairman, thank you. I  
2 would just like to, if this is my last opportunity to  
3 speak to the Council, I'd like to thank the Council for  
4 what I believe to be a very productive discussion on  
5 several issues. I really appreciate the sense of welcome  
6 that I felt and I believe others feel coming to the  
7 Council.

8  
9 I'd like to commend, you, Mr. Chairman,  
10 for an outstanding meeting in the way that you interact  
11 with guests and presenters, and I just want to tell you  
12 that the State remains committed to working closely with  
13 the Council and with the Forest Service to do what we  
14 can, not only in Unit 2, but also in other parts of the  
15 region as we're able to cooperate.

16  
17 Thank you.

18  
19 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Gunalcheesh,  
20 uukatongee (ph). Thank you for your words.

21  
22 We have one more question from Mr. Adams,  
23 if you'll stay with us.

24  
25 MR. ADAMS: I would be at that meeting  
26 too if the Governor would have accepted my application to  
27 be on the Board.

28  
29 Thank you.

30  
31 (Laughter)

32  
33 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Yeah, we need 30  
34 percent of the seats on the Board of Game and the Board  
35 of Fish.

36  
37 (Laughter)

38  
39 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Ms. Phillips.

40  
41 MS. PHILLIPS: Thank you, Chairman  
42 Littlefield. I don't have a question, I have a comment.  
43 I appreciate the diligence of the Unit 2 Deer  
44 Subcommittee. The recommendations are not made in haste.  
45 The harvest report will provide the necessary relevant  
46 data for any changes in management regulations for the  
47 harvest of deer in Unit 2. Non-action would be  
48 detrimental to the satisfaction of subsistence needs of  
49 local residents.

50

1 Again, I appreciate your efforts in the  
2 Subcommittee process.

3  
4 MR. LARSEN: Thank you.

5  
6 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Okay, thank you  
7 very much. Let's take a real quick break. We're going  
8 to come back with Proposal 4 and we're at -- I have other  
9 Federal, State and agency comments.

10  
11 (Off record)

12  
13 (On record)

14  
15 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Back to order two  
16 announcements. Lunch here and it's a donation to this  
17 building today. Then a potluck dinner tonight, 6:30 p.m.  
18 by the Salvation Army, which is, of course, just right  
19 around the corner, just two reminders. And we'll  
20 probably work until 6:00 o'clock tonight, I suspect, we  
21 want to try to get as much done today as we can so that  
22 we can get out of here tomorrow morning.

23  
24 So with that, I believe the record was  
25 made clear to me by Tina, when I asked her, that we were  
26 at public testimony on 4, which is where I think we're at  
27 also. But what I would like to do is go back and, at  
28 least to Fish and Game Advisory Committee so that the  
29 comments of the Wrangell Fish and Game Fish and Game  
30 Advisory Committee could be entered on the record, and  
31 that were just given to us, and then we'll go back to  
32 public testimony if anybody wants to comment and then  
33 we'll go into Regional Council deliberations.

34  
35 So Dr. Schroeder, if you could please  
36 read the Fish and Game Advisory Committee comments.

37  
38 DR. SCHROEDER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.  
39 I just received this from Mr. Larsen a moment ago and I'm  
40 seeing where the mention is.

41  
42 (Pause)

43  
44 DR. SCHROEDER: The next topic of  
45 discussion was harvest of deer in GMU 2. Tom Simms is on  
46 the Federal Subsistence Subcommittee for deer in GMU 2.  
47 Tom reported to the group about problems with dual State  
48 and Federal management of this hunt and proposed changes.  
49 The State biologists need more data on deer harvest on  
50 Prince of Wales and have proposed a registration hunt for

1 deer on Prince of Wales Island. The Federal Subsistence  
2 Subcommittee for GMU 2 deer recommends the use of a new  
3 report form titled ADF&G Harvest Report and Federal  
4 Registration Permit for GMU 2 Deer Prince of Wales -  
5 Island. It's a tool to gather more information on deer  
6 harvested.

7  
8 The Subcommittee was not in favor of the  
9 proposed registration hunt on Prince of Wales Island, and  
10 thinks the harvest report is a good solution.

11  
12 Let me see if there's something else in  
13 here.

14  
15 And that's the relevant part of the  
16 Wrangell Advisory Committee's action on this item at  
17 their February 7th, 2005 meeting.

18  
19 Mr. Chairman.

20  
21 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Okay, thank you.  
22 So we do have at least one Advisory Council as a comment,  
23 and we will consider that in our deliberations.

24  
25 There were no other written comments,  
26 have you received any since yesterday?

27  
28 DR. SCHROEDER: Mr. Chairman, there are  
29 no written public comments.

30  
31 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Are there any  
32 members of the public who have requested to testify, Ms.  
33 Hernandez?

34  
35 MR. HERNANDEZ: (Shakes head negatively)

36  
37 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Is there any  
38 member present who would like to testify, any member of  
39 the public who would like to testify on Proposal 4.

40  
41 (No comments)

42  
43 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Okay. The  
44 Regional Council deliberation, recommendation and  
45 justification on WP05-04, the executive summary starts on  
46 Page 111, and Council's wishes.

47  
48 (No comments)

49  
50 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Perhaps Mr.

1 Hernandez could give us a short summary of what his  
2 recommendations were from the U2 Subcommittee.

3

4 MR. HERNANDEZ: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
5 The Subcommittee's final recommendation was to implement  
6 the Unit 2 deer harvest reporting system that was jointly  
7 developed by the U.S. Forest Service and the Department  
8 of Fish and Game, and that is what was detailed to you  
9 yesterday afternoon.

10

11 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Okay, so is there  
12 a page that you refer to in the book on that?

13

14 MR. HERNANDEZ: Page 130, Mr. Chairman.

15

16 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: It's on Page 130,  
17 is that what you were talking about as the recommended  
18 language?

19

20 MR. HERNANDEZ: Yes, that would be the  
21 language on Page 130, under the preliminary conclusions,  
22 support with the modification.

23

24 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Okay, thank you,  
25 Mr. Hernandez. So I think the proper process for the  
26 Council would be to move to adopt WP05-04 as shown on  
27 Page 111, and then to substitute language that's shown on  
28 Page 130 and then we could debate that up or down and  
29 what we want to do with the permit. I think that would  
30 be the proper process.

31

32 Mr. Bangs.

33

34 MR. BANGS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I  
35 move to adopt WP05-04 as written on Page 111.

36

37 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Is there a second.

38

39 MR. KOOKESH: Second.

40

41 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: It's been moved  
42 and seconded to adopt WP05-04 as shown on Page 111. Is  
43 there any discussion.

44

45 (No comments)

46

47 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Are you ready for  
48 the question.

49

50 MR. DOUVILLE: Question.

1 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: The question  
2 before you is to adopt WP05-04 as shown on Page 111. All  
3 those in favor please signify by saying aye.  
4  
5 IN UNISON: Aye.  
6  
7 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Those opposed,  
8 same sign.  
9  
10 (No opposing votes)  
11  
12 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: 04 is on the  
13 floor.  
14  
15 MR. BANGS: Mr. Chairman.  
16  
17 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Mr. Bangs.  
18  
19 MR. BANGS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'd  
20 like to propose adopting the language on Page 130,  
21 substitute language.  
22  
23 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: There's a motion  
24 to substitute language on 130.  
25  
26 MR. STOKES: I'll second it.  
27  
28 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Okay, the motion  
29 before you is to substitute the language shown on Page  
30 130. Is there any discussion.  
31  
32 (No comments)  
33  
34 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Okay, hearing  
35 none, all those in favor of adopting the substitute  
36 language of Page 130 for Page 111, please signify by  
37 saying aye.  
38  
39 IN UNISON: Aye.  
40  
41 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Those opposed,  
42 same sign.  
43  
44 (No opposing votes)  
45  
46 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: The motion is  
47 adopted. The language before you now for WP05-04 is the  
48 language on Page 130 and that is up for discussion,  
49 amendments or the Council's wishes.  
50

1 (Pause)

2

3 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Dr. Schroeder.

4

5 DR. SCHROEDER: Mr. Chairman, the  
6 language on Page 130 did reflect Staff discussions and  
7 our best attempt at coming up with language that would  
8 work when this was written. Subsequent to this we've had  
9 a number of discussions about whether or not a Federal  
10 registration permit is needed for this hunt in Unit 2.  
11 Recalling that the reason why we have a Federal  
12 registration permit on the books is that we wanted to  
13 make sure that we used that permit process to gather good  
14 harvest information.

15

16 Staff now would like to offer up the  
17 suggestion that a Federal registration permit may not be  
18 necessary at this time since the harvest report system  
19 that will be instituted would cover our needs for  
20 information.

21

22 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Thank you, Dr.  
23 Schroeder. And I guess to accomplish that, what would be  
24 required would be to delete the bottom portion of this  
25 permit. So what I'd like to do is let Mr. Hernandez  
26 respond and see what his thoughts are. I guess as long  
27 as everybody was carrying this adopted combined permit,  
28 there's no reason for the Federal subsistence user to  
29 have to carry an extra piece of property.

30

31 If you could address that, Mr. Hernandez.

32

33 MR. HERNANDEZ: That is my understanding,  
34 Mr. Chairman. If the Council adopts the recommended  
35 language to substitute a State harvest report for a  
36 registration permit on the actual harvest report form  
37 that was distributed yesterday, that portion of the  
38 report form on the lower left-hand corner that is listed  
39 as a Federal registration permit required by hunters in  
40 the field will no longer be necessary, that will be  
41 removed from the permit and all hunters will have just a  
42 joint harvest report form in their possession.

43

44 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: And do you see  
45 this as a significant affect or drawback to the  
46 recommendations of the Subcommittee?

47

48 MR. HERNANDEZ: No, I don't, Mr.  
49 Chairman. I think that was the intent of the  
50 Subcommittee, that all hunters would have the same

1 harvest report in their possession, and there would be no  
2 additional requirements for subsistence qualified  
3 hunters.

4  
5 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Okay, thank you  
6 for that help. Dr. Garza.

7  
8 DR. GARZA: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I  
9 think we could reach that in the language on 130 where it  
10 starts four deer by joint Federal, if we take out the  
11 words, registration permit, it would just read four deer  
12 by joint Federal/State harvest report, put that at the  
13 beginning there and then it would have to be repeated at  
14 the very last sentence in the second paragraph, and we  
15 would meet that goal.

16  
17 So Mr. Chairman, I would move that we  
18 amend the language on Page 130 and strike, in the first  
19 line, registration permit, and in the last line of the  
20 second paragraph, registration permit.

21  
22 MR. DOUVILLE: Second.

23  
24 DR. GARZA: So, Mr. Chairman, it would  
25 read four deer by joint Federal/State harvest report,  
26 however, no blah, blah, blah. In the end it would say  
27 qualified subsistence users holding a joint Federal/State  
28 harvest report.

29  
30 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Dr. Schroeder, can  
31 we get that up on the board so that everybody's clear.  
32 Any other discussion on this, I think I understand it,  
33 but we need to make sure we have it on there and the  
34 Council members that are on the Subcommittee, we'd like  
35 to get your thoughts on this.

36  
37 Mr. Douville, and then Mr. Bangs.

38  
39 MR. DOUVILLE: I just have a question is,  
40 how is this going to affect, maybe you could explain how  
41 it will affect designated hunter, that program?

42  
43 DR. SCHROEDER: Mr. Johnson.

44  
45 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Mr. Johnson, could  
46 you help us there, please.

47  
48 MR. JOHNSON: Yes. Mr. Douville, through  
49 the Chair. It would have no affect on the designated  
50 hunter permit whatsoever. A person would still need to

1 obtain a designated hunter permit if they're going to  
2 hunt for someone else who's Federally-qualified.

3  
4 Also, Mr. Chairman, as far as the  
5 antlerless deer harvest, that's included on this same  
6 piece of paper. And also for point of clarification  
7 there was some discussion previously about requirement to  
8 carry this in the field. There would be no requirement  
9 to carry this in the field by either Federally-qualified  
10 or hunters hunting under State regulations. And for  
11 further clarification, in your book, Pages 168 and 169,  
12 provide an excellent summary of how this will actually  
13 take place beginning about halfway down the page on over  
14 into Page 169.

15  
16 DR. SCHROEDER: Mr. Chairman.

17  
18 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Dr. Schroeder.

19  
20 DR. SCHROEDER: Mr. Chairman, I have  
21 language that may possibly achieve the goals of the  
22 Council with respect to this proposal on the screen. The  
23 wording is slightly different from the version offered by  
24 Dr. Garza. As Mr. Johnson pointed out, a harvest report  
25 is not something that either subsistence hunters or non-  
26 subsistence hunters would be required to carry in the  
27 field. The requirement would be that they have to report  
28 harvest using the joint Federal/State harvest report.

29  
30 Should I make that slightly larger?

31  
32 (Council nods affirmatively)

33  
34 DR. SCHROEDER: Okay.

35  
36 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Dr. Garza and Mr.  
37 Douville, does that capture your motion?

38  
39 (Pause)

40  
41 (Ms. Garza and Mr. Douville nod  
42 affirmatively)

43  
44 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Okay, Dr.  
45 Schroeder, if you would please read that for the record.  
46 For the record the maker of the motion and the second  
47 agree that that captures their intent.

48  
49 DR. SCHROEDER: Mr. Chairman, this is in  
50 the strikeout version that the Office of Subsistence

1 Management likes to use to track changes. And the goal  
2 here is to eliminate the reference to a Federal  
3 registration permit, in that, if passed, the requirement  
4 for a Federal registration permit would go away, it would  
5 no longer be required. And the addition shown in red and  
6 yellow would be stating that hunters are required to  
7 report harvest using a joint Federal/State harvest  
8 report.

9  
10 Just to read through for the record, this  
11 would now read the regulations -- this would apply to  
12 Unit 2, four deer, however no more than one may be an  
13 antlerless deer, antlerless deer may be taken only during  
14 the period October 15 through December 31 by Federally-  
15 qualified hunters and then that states the season July  
16 24th to December 31. The Federal public lands on Prince  
17 of Wales Island are closed to hunting of deer from August  
18 1 to August 15, except by Federally-qualified subsistence  
19 uses. And as I said the final sentence would be, hunters  
20 are required to report harvest using a joint  
21 Federal/State harvest report.

22  
23 Mr. Chairman.

24  
25 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Okay, that's the  
26 amended language before the Council. Mr. Douville.

27  
28 MR. DOUVILLE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.  
29 I have another question, how are we going to determine  
30 who is a rural user and who is not a rural user with this  
31 system in the field?

32  
33 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: We'll go to Dr.  
34 Schroeder and then Mr. Johnson, you will also be able to  
35 comment on it.

36  
37 DR. SCHROEDER: Mr. Chairman. Mike. We  
38 discussed this at some length with Officer Pearson, and  
39 when someone's in the field they need to be carrying  
40 their hunting license with them. Your hunting license  
41 includes information on your mailing address as well as  
42 the physical location of where you live, and so Officer  
43 Pearson believed that that would give him sufficient  
44 accuracy to know whether or not someone was a Federally-  
45 qualified subsistence hunter.

46  
47 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Mr. Johnson, would  
48 you like to further comment.

49  
50 MR. JOHNSON: Dr. Schroeder's covered it.

1 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: If there's no  
2 follow up.....

3  
4 (No comments)

5  
6 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Mr. Bangs.

7  
8 MR. BANGS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'd  
9 just like to make a point of the public's response to our  
10 original proposal for the Federal registration permit.  
11 Wrangell's Advisory Committee voted against it and then  
12 they've since changed it to support it with this new  
13 permit system. And Petersburg's Advisory Committee will  
14 meet tonight and we have it on the agenda to take that  
15 up, and so we'll have hopefully more support for this to  
16 go to the Board of Game with.

17  
18 Thank you.

19  
20 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Other Council.  
21 Dr. Garza.

22  
23 DR. GARZA: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I  
24 will be supporting this motion. I did miss the January  
25 meeting, however, at the Ketchikan meeting we heard  
26 overwhelmingly from Ketchikan people that they did  
27 support a registered hunt. And the other surprising  
28 difference that I found was that the Ketchikan people  
29 thought that there should be teeth in it, so that if you  
30 didn't report, you got your butt kicked. And in the  
31 report that was provided, we decided not to do that, and  
32 so that's a bit of a change from what the majority of the  
33 Ketchikan people who testified in Ketchikan said.

34  
35 But I will go along with this.

36  
37 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Okay, as a matter  
38 of process, what this motion would do would be to accept  
39 this in principle, and then what we need to do next is we  
40 need to look at that form that was given to everyone and  
41 make corrections to that that we think are -- because  
42 we're going to use that format if this passes, and then  
43 we will correct that and make any changes that we have  
44 to.

45  
46 Because this is a recommendation like any  
47 other, we should go through our Council recommendations  
48 here just for the record.

49  
50 If we could cover those, maybe Mr.

1 Hernandez, could you start off on the Council  
2 recommendations criteria.

3

4 MR. HERNANDEZ: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.  
5 Yes, I'll be voting in favor of this motion. This action  
6 does not address a conservation concern with deer on  
7 Prince of Wales Island, it deals more with better  
8 management of the hunt. The recommendation will be  
9 beneficial to subsistence users. It was agreed by all  
10 that better information in regards to how, who and where  
11 deer are being taken in Unit 2 is beneficial information  
12 to all users. And there was substantial data that we  
13 relied on to support this conclusion. And we do not  
14 believe that this will have any negative effects on the  
15 non-subsistence users as this is a system that will treat  
16 subsistence and non-subsistence users equally.

17

18 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Okay, thank you.  
19 I think that summarizes it pretty good. Is there any  
20 other Council that would like to comment.

21

22 Mr. Jordan.

23

24 MR. JORDAN: Mr. Chair, I just want to  
25 add a couple of comments here, briefly.

26

27 I think this is the kind of work that  
28 benefits all of us, especially benefits conservation when  
29 people get together and work things out. I think this is  
30 the kind of direction fish and wildlife management should  
31 be going. I think subsistence and all users stand to  
32 greatly benefit from this kind of energy and this kind of  
33 collaboration.

34

35 I'm really happy to see the good work  
36 done by this committee under the auspices of the Regional  
37 Council. And I think everybody involved deserves some  
38 credit.

39

40 Thank you.

41

42 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Thank you, Mr.  
43 Jordan. Are there other comments.

44

45 (No comments)

46

47 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Are you ready for  
48 the question.

49

50 MR. ADAMS: Mr. Chairman.

1 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Mr. Adams.

2

3 MR. ADAMS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I  
4 just want to note for the record that I'm going to vote  
5 in favor of this as well for all of the reasons that Mr.  
6 Hernandez gave in his outline.

7

8 I'd also like to just maybe direct our  
9 attention to a couple of pages in the book, if you could  
10 turn to Page 116, please.

11

12 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: What page?

13

14 MR. ADAMS: 116. Right up at the very  
15 top of the page there under current events involving  
16 species. It says that the National Forest has been  
17 maintaining data for subsistence hunts on National Forest  
18 lands since 2002. Then down under biological ground, I  
19 guess one of the concerns that I might bring to point  
20 here is the old growth that is being lost, that it might  
21 take, you know, a considerable amount of years to build  
22 back up again, therefore, it definitely will affect the  
23 deer population in the next 20, 30 or even 50 years or  
24 so. Also down toward the middle of that paragraph under  
25 biological background, it says, based on pellet data it  
26 does not appear that there was significant change in deer  
27 population between 1990 and 2004, so that gives me reason  
28 to believe that there is no conservation problems with  
29 this proposal at all.

30

31 Let's go over to Page 117 under harvest  
32 history, the second paragraph about middle ways down. It  
33 makes note that deer are a key prize species for Unit 2  
34 wolves and black bears. I wish when we were taking  
35 comments back earlier I wish I could have asked some  
36 questions in regards to that, that kind of provides  
37 concern with me along with the old growth loss thing.  
38 And then down below it says, while extensive clear-cut  
39 logging on Federal and Native Corporation lands will lead  
40 to long-term degradation of deer habitat, those are  
41 things that, you know, I think managers are really going  
42 to need to look at and be mindful of those things.

43

44 And then down on the middle of the page  
45 where it says based on -- somebody must have put -- gave  
46 me a cup of regular coffee, I drink decaf and my tang  
47 sometimes gets tongued when I.....

48

49 MR. KOOKESH: That was me.

50

1 MR. ADAMS: That was you, I know it was.  
2  
3 (Laughter)  
4  
5 MR. ADAMS: Based on ethnological studies  
6 and public testimony, the deer herd has been in decline,  
7 subsistence users have had to spend more time hunting and  
8 some portion of subsistence hunters have had difficulties  
9 meeting their needs for deer. That also raises a red  
10 flag to me, Mr. Chairman.  
11  
12 But I think, you know, managers would do  
13 well in keeping a close eye on those things.  
14  
15 Thank you.  
16  
17 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Other Council.  
18 Mr. Douville.  
19  
20 MR. DOUVILLE: I have a couple things, I  
21 guess, I need information for. I plan to vote for this,  
22 but there's still some things that aren't quite clear to  
23 me. Can I ask?  
24  
25 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Yes, go ahead.  
26  
27 MR. DOUVILLE: Some of this changed in  
28 the Wrangell meeting and I didn't participate in that  
29 meeting. There was discussion of requiring you to report  
30 before you could receive a permit for the following year,  
31 you know, that was, if not teathy, at least you could get  
32 a report, you know, it wasn't heavy-handed or anything,  
33 and that's not included in any of this. I guess that's  
34 the one thing.  
35  
36 The other is, the system that we have  
37 now, the reporting is done, it seems to me in two ways.  
38 One as a designated hunter, I fill out a report and send  
39 it to Petersburg. The person that I hunted for also has  
40 to do that, I believe, and they shouldn't have to because  
41 I'm making the report; is that correct? And the  
42 designated hunter should be the one that has the burden  
43 of reporting and not the person that you're hunting for  
44 because as a general rule they are older elders that  
45 can't hunt and are not good at paperwork and the burden  
46 should not be on them to do this and I don't like to see  
47 them frightened or jostled in any way to extract this  
48 information.  
49  
50 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Okay. That

1 probably should be taken care of next, in other words, if  
2 we adopt this language we will bring that on and then the  
3 very next action we're going to do is we're going to  
4 bring this permit on and that's where these questions  
5 should come up. We can direct Staff that we do not want  
6 them to be heavy-handed, we do not want, you know, your  
7 exact questions. I think that would be something we  
8 should take care of next, immediately after this, the  
9 permit conditions.

10

11 Mr. Douville.

12

13 MR. DOUVILLE: Well, thank you, Mr.  
14 Chairman. I was looking for direction and clarification  
15 as to when we could take care of some of these things.

16

17 Thank you.

18

19 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Mr. Brainard,  
20 bring us up to speed here.

21

22 MR. BRAINARD: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.  
23 Mr. Douville. The way the system works currently is  
24 there are two different permits issued on Unit 2. The  
25 designated hunter permit and the Unit 2 deer permit.  
26 It's difficult at times to cross reference those two  
27 because people in the designated hunter permit hunt for  
28 quite a few different people. And when they report that  
29 permit a lot of times they don't report the Federal deer  
30 tag numbers, they report the State deer tag numbers, so  
31 at that point it's very difficult to correlate those two  
32 together, and that has a problem, and I hope it will be  
33 eliminated or at least reduced through this one.

34

35 And we send the letters out and most of  
36 the time we do have the names of the people who did the  
37 designated hunting and we have the names of the people  
38 who had the permit and if the permit wasn't returned for  
39 one reason or another and we didn't catch the correlation  
40 between the who hunted for who, then we send the reminder  
41 letter out just trying to make sure that we have  
42 collected all that information.

43

44 Does that help you?

45

46 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Mr. Douville.

47

48 MR. DOUVILLE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.  
49 Sort of. Some of these people don't go get a State tag,  
50 they just go and get the Federal tags, so, you know, but

1 I guess you don't know that, but I don't know if you have  
2 the -- can cross reference that. Like in most cases  
3 these people don't need to buy a hunting license anymore  
4 they have a permanent one.

5  
6 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Mr. Brainard.

7  
8 MR. BRAINARD: Mr. Chairman. Council  
9 member Douville. That is true. But it is -- you know,  
10 you're talking several thousand names and different  
11 numbers and it is very difficult at times to correlate  
12 all that together. Maybe I'm just not smart enough to do  
13 that with the data base I have but a I know that a lot of  
14 things can be done. But, you know, it just hasn't been  
15 technically feasible for me to do it at this time.

16  
17 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Follow up, Mr.  
18 Douville.

19  
20 MR. DOUVILLE: When I submitted my report  
21 I wrote who that I harvested a deer for, there shouldn't  
22 have been any confusion.

23  
24 Thanks.

25  
26 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Mr. Johnson, can  
27 you add to this.

28  
29 MR. JOHNSON: Yeah, Mr. Chair. Council.  
30 Also what Mr. Douville raised a question about, follow  
31 up, or what happens to people that don't report. In the  
32 past we've sent letters, what would happen now, as Dr.  
33 Schroeder pointed out yesterday, working with the  
34 Department and Mike Turek, there would be a systematic  
35 follow up with some number of respondents that would be  
36 contacted, and so not everyone would necessarily get a  
37 letter.

38  
39 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Okay, the way I  
40 see this motion is that if it is adopted, what it will do  
41 is, if you're looking at the form, the U2 deer form, the  
42 only thing it's going to do is adopt that as the method  
43 to gather the information that the Council originally  
44 asked for. We originally asked for a Federal permit.  
45 This will get the information that we asked for.  
46 Additionally it will strike everything on the bottom  
47 where that Federal subsistence permit will go away, there  
48 will be no need for it.

49  
50 But what I'd like to do next is then

1 bring this Unit 2 deer report up for discussion and the  
2 Council should have their input on what parts of this  
3 they like or don't like, recognizing that if we pass this  
4 motion, we will be using some form that's very close to  
5 this.

6  
7 Any other Council who would like to  
8 comment on the motion.

9  
10 MR. ADAMS:S: Question please.

11  
12 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: The question's  
13 been called, WP05-04 as shown on the screen -- excuse me  
14 it's not -- okay, there it is, as shown on the screen is  
15 before the Council at this time. All those in favor of  
16 adopting, please signify by saying aye.

17  
18 IN UNISON: Aye.

19  
20 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Those opposed,  
21 same sign.

22  
23 (No opposing votes)

24  
25 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: So WP05-04,  
26 modified language is adopted as a recommendation to the  
27 Federal Subsistence Board. It would be in order now for  
28 the Council to discuss this single report now and  
29 recommendations for changes would be in order.

30  
31 Dr. Schroeder.

32  
33 DR. SCHROEDER: Mr. Chairman, in going  
34 through the development of this permit form, Staff did  
35 find that there was a difference in requirement for  
36 showing evidence of sex in harvested animals. And Staff  
37 believes that this is basically a housekeeping matter but  
38 it would probably be good if the Council made a  
39 recommendation that would fix this situation.

40  
41 At the present time the evidence of sex  
42 requirement under State regulation is different from that  
43 under Federal regulations and Staff believe that it may  
44 be useful to adopt the State regulation with respect to  
45 evidence of sex for deer to have consistency and make it  
46 easier in the field.

47  
48 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: I think we need  
49 Mr. Johnson's comment on this.

50

1 MR. JOHNSON: Yes, that's correct, Mr.  
2 Chairman. The current State requirement is less  
3 restrictive than the Federal definition for evidence of  
4 sex and by adopting the State it would make it consistent  
5 between both law enforcement agencies when checking  
6 animals in the field. And so the recommendation is to  
7 adopt the language currently in the State, evidence of  
8 sex, portion of the report form.

9  
10 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: So the language  
11 that's shown on the screen, is that a correct  
12 interpretation of both laws as we're looking at them?

13  
14 MR. KOOKESH: No.

15  
16 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Mr. Kookesh.

17  
18 MR. KOOKESH: No, that's not right.

19  
20 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Mr. Kookesh.

21  
22 MR. KOOKESH: The way I read the State  
23 one yesterday that's written here, if you read it, I  
24 believe that Mr. Larsen said there needed to be some  
25 wordsmithing done to it, because this one is wrong. It  
26 sounds like you got sex organs hanging off the rack, if  
27 you read it, the way I read it.

28  
29 (Laughter)

30  
31 MR. KOOKESH: Uh?

32  
33 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: I think you're  
34 right, it says attached to the meat or the antlers, so we  
35 know it shouldn't be attached to the antlers.

36  
37 (Laughter)

38  
39 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: And you can  
40 wordsmith that and get that, that's just housekeeping,  
41 they'll take care of that, but you're correct. Are  
42 these, in fact, the regulations that are correct, do we  
43 know that?

44  
45 Mr. Johnson.

46  
47 MR. JOHNSON: Mr. Chairman. Council.  
48 Without checking the actual regulations, this is what's  
49 being proposed on this report form and I don't know if  
50 that's currently what's in regulation or not. I think,

1 again, what we would like to do is be able to have a  
2 consistent definition of evidence of sex, and that would  
3 need to be worked out between the Department and, in this  
4 case, Forest Service, if the Council so wishes.

5  
6 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Okay, so the Staff  
7 recommendation is to adopt the language that's shown  
8 under current State with appropriate commas, or  
9 semicolons after the word, meat, so that it's clear where  
10 it's attached.

11  
12 Council wishes.

13  
14 MR. ADAMS: Mr. Chairman.

15  
16 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Mr. Adams.

17  
18 MR. ADAMS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I  
19 have a problem with that first one. You may not possess  
20 or transport the carcass unless sufficient portions of  
21 the external sex organs remain attached. He did give me  
22 -- he gave me a double shot.

23  
24 (Laughter)

25  
26 MR. ADAMS: Attached to show conclusively  
27 the sex of the animal. A carcass is an animal that has  
28 been shot and killed already, am I correct in that, and  
29 that you cannot transport it or possess it, I mean I have  
30 a little problem there, you know?

31  
32 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: That's what we're  
33 trying to replace. We're trying to get rid of that  
34 current Federal and put in the current State in its  
35 place.

36  
37 MR. ADAMS: So that it would be a little  
38 bit more clearer?

39  
40 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Yes.

41  
42 MR. ADAMS: Okay. My BS degree is in  
43 English, so, you know.

44  
45 (Laughter)

46  
47 DR. SCHROEDER: Although I'll point out  
48 that I am not a wildlife biologist, the main difference  
49 between the two definitions is that under State  
50 regulations presence of antlers counts as identifying a

1 male deer, and under the Federal regulation the presence  
2 of antlers don't count to identify a male deer, a buck,  
3 so that's the main thing that we're fixing up.

4  
5 Under current Federal regulations it's as  
6 stated there, simply carrying out an obvious buck could  
7 potentially get someone in trouble if they didn't have  
8 the sex organs attached.

9  
10 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: So are we clear  
11 what's going on here because I've taken deer with antlers  
12 that were not male and I've carried them out -- usually I  
13 cut the head off, and I did not cut the head off that one  
14 because I could have been nabbed.

15  
16 Mr. Brainard.

17  
18 MR. BRAINARD: Yes, sir, Mr. Chairman.  
19 If I can explain this correctly, some people, depending  
20 on where you are will boat a deer out and carry it out,  
21 when you do that you have to remain -- a portion of the  
22 sex on the deer. If you're just carrying the whole deer  
23 out, the antlers would take care of that. So if you cut  
24 the animal up you would still, under State law, have to  
25 retain an external sex organ also, so that maybe would  
26 help explain this a little better.

27  
28 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Council's wishes  
29 on the State regs versus Fed.

30  
31 (No comments)

32  
33 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Are we happy with  
34 the language that's on the report.

35  
36 (No comments)

37  
38 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: What we're looking  
39 for is, I think a motion would be in order to adopt the  
40 State language so that we don't have two differing -- in  
41 other words, right now we have a State and a Federal on  
42 there and they should be the same, why should they be  
43 different, and we addressed that by getting rid of the  
44 Federal subsistence permit so that the two classes don't  
45 have to carry different regulations and this would do the  
46 same thing, would simplify it so that if you were a  
47 hunter and you had one of these permits you would know  
48 what a buck was. So it seems to me that it would be in  
49 order to adopt the State regulations.

50

1 MR. KOOKESH: As written or do you want  
2 us to change it a little bit?  
3  
4 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Mr. Kookesh.  
5  
6 MR. KOOKESH: It would seem like you  
7 don't need.....  
8  
9 REPORTER: Floyd, microphone.  
10  
11 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Microphone.  
12  
13 MR. KOOKESH: It would seem like you  
14 don't need with or without viscera and the word, the, as  
15 the word or and you would have it.....  
16  
17 REPORTER: Floyd.  
18  
19 MR. KOOKESH: .....you know evidence of  
20 sex, you know.....  
21  
22 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Okay, just for  
23 process right now we do not have a motion so if we want  
24 to wordsmith this before we make a motion that's in  
25 order.  
26  
27 Mr. Kookesh.  
28  
29 MR. KOOKESH: I'll speak to -- because  
30 being a hunter, speaking as a hunter, evidence of sex  
31 must remain naturally attached to the meat or the antlers  
32 must remain naturally attached to the entire carcass,  
33 period. That was what I would like to see, because you  
34 don't want to carry around the towel and, you know, the  
35 heart and liver, and, you know, the viscera stuff. I  
36 propose that if we're going to do this we should do it  
37 the easiest way because we're all average guys, you know,  
38 doing above average things but we have to, you know, keep  
39 it simple is what I would say and that is simple.  
40  
41 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: We'll go to a  
42 response to that by Dr. Schroeder, and then we'll go to  
43 Mr. Jordan.  
44  
45 DR. SCHROEDER: Mr. Chairman. Floyd.  
46 Mike Turek brought up the State regulation book and what  
47 is on the permit is an attempt to get what is in the  
48 State regulation book in a manageable form. So basically  
49 what Doug and his Staff were doing was trying to get  
50 something down to one line so we didn't fill up the

1 permit.

2

3

4 The way the regulation reads in the  
5 handy-dandy is if you kill a big game animal where the  
6 bag limit is restricted to one sex, you must keep enough  
7 of the sex organs naturally attached to part of a rear  
8 quarter to show the sex of the animal, period. Antlers  
9 are not proof of sex except for deer when the antlers are  
10 naturally attached to an entire carcass with or without  
11 the viscera.

11

12

13 So I think in terms of Council action, if  
14 the Council is comfortable adopting the State definition  
15 here, you could leave it to Staff to do our homework a  
16 little bit better so that we come up with a regulation  
17 that works appropriately.

17

18

CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Mr. Jordan.

19

20

21 MR. JORDAN: Are we ready for a motion on  
22 this, I mean I'm ready to make a motion.

22

23

24 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: I think we're  
25 ready.

25

26

27 MR. JORDAN: Dr. Schroeder, did you have  
28 a recommendation there, as I understood it?

28

29

30 DR. SCHROEDER: Mr. Jordan, my suggestion  
31 would be that the Council would direct Staff to modify  
32 the Federal definition of evidence of sex for deer such  
33 that it coincided and matched with the State definition  
34 for evidence of sex for deer.

34

35

36 MR. JORDAN: Mr. Chairman, I so move.

36

37

38 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Is there a second.

38

39

39 MR. KITKA: I'll second it.

40

41

42 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Okay, its been  
43 moved and seconded to adopt the State language with the  
44 understanding that Staff will craft that so that it is  
45 easily read and not misunderstood and I think those  
46 directions should be clear enough to Staff that that's  
47 what the Council intends. So is there any further  
48 discussion on this issue.

48

49

49 Mr. Hernandez.

50

1 MR. HERNANDEZ: Yeah, thank you, Mr.  
2 Chairman. I guess my question is, are we proposing with  
3 this action to change regulation regarding sex  
4 identification on an animal, I mean that's existing  
5 regulation. The conditions of permit language here is  
6 just informing the public what the regulations are and  
7 informing the public that there are differences between  
8 what they are required under State and Federal  
9 regulations.

10  
11 So is that our intent, to actually change  
12 the regulation or just change the wording, I'm confused?

13  
14 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Thank you, Mr.  
15 Hernandez. My read on this is we are changing the  
16 regulations, the Federal regulations so that they mirror  
17 the State regulations as far as evidence of sex is  
18 concerned.

19  
20 Dr. Schroeder, can you clarify that, I  
21 think that's the intent of this motion.

22  
23 Dr. Schroeder, and then Dr. Garza.

24  
25 DR. SCHROEDER: Mr. Littlefield. Mr.  
26 Hernandez. That would be the effect, if the Council  
27 recommendation as proposed by Mr. Jordan. And when Staff  
28 brought this up we considered this to be much more of a  
29 housekeeping proposal, which basically makes things  
30 easier -- makes regulations more clear and easier to  
31 understand, but does not involve a major change for  
32 users. So that's what a housekeeping regulation would  
33 be.

34  
35 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Dr. Garza.

36  
37 DR. GARZA: Thank you, Mr. Chair. And  
38 that's a good point to bring up. And I guess the way I  
39 see it is the Federal Subsistence Board will either allow  
40 us to do it or it won't, it will say we have to go  
41 through the regulation process. But if we can clean it  
42 up through this process I think it's great, because we  
43 did have a hunter point it out to us in Craig and so they  
44 are concerned about it.

45  
46 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Yes. And one of  
47 the things that was mentioned earlier was that this form,  
48 format may well be used in Southeast and in other areas,  
49 and so I think it's better that we're in line. In this  
50 particular place I don't see it as being, you know,

1 having any big value to have the Federal being different  
2 than the State.

3

4 Any further discussion.

5

6 (No comments)

7

8 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Are we ready for  
9 the question.

10

11 MR. DOUVILLE: Question.

12

13 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Ms. Phillips.

14

15 MS. PHILLIPS: Thank you. If this has  
16 the effect of changing regulations then it does need to  
17 go before the public. Having served on the SERAC since  
18 1993, I'm familiar with having made proposals,  
19 recommendations of proposals to the Federal Subsistence  
20 Board that they've come back to us because those  
21 recommendations had not gone out for public review and  
22 comment.

23

24 I do support the efforts of the Deer  
25 Subcommittee. It was a big sacrifice on your part to  
26 participate in those series of meetings that were held in  
27 the various communities and I very much appreciate your  
28 efforts to collaborate and bring us a recommendation.

29

30 I think what would probably happen is  
31 this recommendation that's been placed before us to list  
32 both the State and the Federal regulations for  
33 informational -- for the hunters will probably be what  
34 happens the first season and the SERAC could have a  
35 proposal put in to change the Federal regulation to  
36 mirror the State regulation for evidence of sex.

37

38 But I will support the motion to try to  
39 clarify. The intent is to have State and Federal  
40 regulations more in line with one another for the  
41 evidence of sex.

42

43 Thank you.

44

45 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: All right. And  
46 the reason I think it's okay is because this is basically  
47 a housekeeping proposal and it is not going to change the  
48 main effect of any regulations that we have that differ.

49

50 So are you ready for the question.

1 MR. KOOKESH: Mr. Chairman.  
2  
3 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Mr. Kookesh.  
4  
5 MR. KOOKESH: I'd like to see the  
6 housekeeping change, please, when they're done with it,  
7 the work.  
8  
9 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: I don't know if we  
10 can get that done before the end of the meeting, when  
11 would you -- you'd like it before the end of the meeting,  
12 I don't know if we can do it.  
13  
14 MR. KOOKESH: Well, not in the next three  
15 years.  
16  
17 (Laughter)  
18  
19 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Dr. Schroeder.  
20  
21 DR. SCHROEDER: Mr. Chairman, I'd have to  
22 call on Mike Turek and Marianne See to see if they could  
23 come up with the actual regulation as opposed to what's  
24 in the handy-dandy and if they're able to do that I'm  
25 sure we could present that to you before the meeting's  
26 over.  
27  
28 MR. KOOKESH: We want them soon.  
29  
30 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Okay, well, the  
31 intent is we want them soon and if you could get them to  
32 us before the end of the meeting, we would appreciate it,  
33 otherwise Dr. Schroeder can email those to us and make  
34 sure we have them.  
35  
36 Mr. Jordan.  
37  
38 MR. JORDAN: I really hope that we do  
39 this, I have, sometimes, been accused of being negligent  
40 in housekeeping, and I want to have this on the record to  
41 bring over to Sara and show that I was diligent in  
42 housekeeping today.  
43  
44 (Laughter)  
45  
46 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Are you ready for  
47 the question.  
48  
49 MR. KOOKESH: Question.  
50

1 DR. GARZA: Question.

2

3 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: The question  
4 before you is to adopt the State regulations in lieu of  
5 the Federal regulations for evidence of sex with the  
6 understanding that the Staff will craft that so that it's  
7 easily wordable and easily understood by all of the  
8 residents of Unit 2. All those in favor please signify  
9 by saying aye.

10

11 IN UNISON: Aye.

12

13 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Those opposed,  
14 same sign.

15

16 (No opposed votes)

17

18 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Okay. Staff will  
19 take that and we'll get that back soon.

20

21 Let's look at the rest of that permit. I  
22 know Mr. Douville had some questions there, and for  
23 Staff, hopefully you will stay with us and answer  
24 questions and if there's anything else that the Council  
25 doesn't like or has recommendations or additions to this  
26 permit, now is the time.

27

28 Mr. Douville.

29

30 MR. DOUVILLE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.  
31 My question is for you, I wasn't picking on you when I  
32 was asking you about your informational gathering  
33 methods. I know they need some refinement. However, I  
34 think you guys have been doing a good job and you're  
35 getting some good numbers.

36

37 Do you feel that with the tools that come  
38 along with this new harvest report are adequate to get  
39 you the information you need? I ask this because I  
40 missed the last meeting and I was in favor of a person  
41 not being able to receive his next year's license until  
42 he did make a report, maybe at the time that he went to  
43 get his license, do you know what I mean, and that went  
44 away and I don't see it in here. So I guess without  
45 that, do you still feel that you can adequately do your  
46 job, get the numbers you need? It wasn't real teeth but  
47 it was an incentive to report. And I didn't think it was  
48 an unfair burden on anybody.

49

50 MR. BRAINARD: Mr. Chairman. Council

1 member Douville, I think we can. The process we've done  
2 before, is, as you've said, we have sent out two letters  
3 and then a third letter that was certified so we knew who  
4 did receive them and who did not, and we have denied  
5 hunting permits to people in the last year or so because  
6 of that. We weren't out there trying to really  
7 inconvenience people we just really wanted the  
8 information. And I think with the new method and plus  
9 with all of the expertise the State has in collecting  
10 this kind of information, that we will get the  
11 information we need at a high enough level to meet our  
12 needs and we should not have to go and use these heavy-  
13 handed methods. They still are available to us because  
14 it is in Federal law, we can do that still, but we're  
15 trying to do it a little easier so we don't have to --  
16 but that is available if we find that this doesn't work,  
17 we can always institute it back in.

18

19 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Dr. Garza.

20

21 DR. GARZA: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr.  
22 Brainard, so that is a tool that is available to you as  
23 Fish and Wildlife -- Forest Service?

24

25 MR. BRAINARD: Mr. Chairman. Dr. Garza.  
26 The Federal permit side, the State side they have to have  
27 a registration permit to do that, so we're trying not to  
28 have to go that extra mile if we don't have to. But the  
29 Federal system, as I understand it, still has that  
30 ability.

31

32 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Dr. Garza.

33

34 DR. GARZA: I guess that was the main  
35 reason it was changed, to not have the heavy hand is  
36 because the State is not able to do that and so we would  
37 be unfairly potentially be negative to subsistence but  
38 not urban?

39

40 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Mr. Johnson, can  
41 you help us here?

42

43 MR. JOHNSON: Two things, Mr. Chairman.  
44 Dr. Garza. There's inconsistencies between the  
45 requirements of a State registration permit and the, what  
46 we were calling, a harvest report or Federal registration  
47 permit, we wanted to have a reporting system that was  
48 consistent between both agencies but took a softer  
49 approach, if you will, with the respondents while still  
50 getting the information that's needed.

1                   And what's important about the follow up  
2 is that we may not have to contact every single hunter  
3 and there, again, I come back to Dr. Schroeder and Mike  
4 Turek to be working on the methodology, if you will, and  
5 the number of respondents that would need to be followed  
6 up with to get the accuracy that we need for that  
7 information.

8

9                   CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Dr. Garza.

10

11                   DR. GARZA: Just as a follow up, thank  
12 you, Mr. Chair. So I guess if part of the concern is  
13 that, I mean so we're going for a soft sell, however,  
14 that wasn't what Ketchikan wanted. I mean clearly we  
15 heard 40 times that if there's going to be a registration  
16 permit, and maybe they would have a different opinion  
17 with a reporting requirement, but they wanted teeth, and  
18 it would seem like if the issue is that the State doesn't  
19 have teeth but the Feds have, wouldn't this be the time  
20 that we would put it in, the proposal now to provide the  
21 Board of Game to allow for teeth for a reporting system  
22 for U2 deer?

23

24                   MR. JOHNSON: I guess I'll let the State  
25 respond to that Mr. Chairman.

26

27                   CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: State response.

28

29                   MR. TUREK: This is Mike Turek, Division  
30 of Subsistence, Fish and Game. Chair. Dr. Garza. The  
31 only way the State could require have any kind of  
32 enforcement involved with it it would have to go to a  
33 registration permit and the State doesn't want to go  
34 there.

35

36                   CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Right. I look at  
37 this, the way we crafted it, to be a matter of fairness.  
38 I think what we're looking at is everyone is going to be  
39 treated the same here, no matter where you're from  
40 hunting, and so I think that's positive. If we were to  
41 go to a registration permit, then they could have the  
42 teeth to, you know, apply their \$100 fine or whatever  
43 they said earlier, but we've already told them, and I  
44 think Staff is well aware that this Council does not want  
45 heavy-handed approaches used on subsistence users. We've  
46 said that in the past and I think that's consistent with  
47 what we've done.

48

49                   Mr. Hernandez.

50

1 MR. HERNANDEZ: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.  
2 You just said what I was going to say. I mean the  
3 Council has expressed their wishes that there be no  
4 heavy-handed enforcement against subsistence users and,  
5 you know, regardless of the fact that people in  
6 Ketchikan, non-subsistence users did ask for heavy-handed  
7 enforcement, I think our obligation is more to the  
8 subsistence users and to go with the Council's wishes  
9 that there not be heavy-handed enforcement.

10  
11 And when we were in Ketchikan discussing  
12 this, we were discussing it as a registration permit,  
13 which required enforcement, and as opposed to what that  
14 enforcement would be, whether it would be fines or  
15 whatever, the feeling there was to, you know, deny a  
16 permit the following year as the alternative, and that  
17 essentially went away when we decided not to go with the  
18 registration permit, it was no longer necessary.

19  
20 You know, whether or not at some point  
21 enforcement actions would want to be added to this system  
22 is another question, but as of right now it's not  
23 necessary and it doesn't seem to be the wish of the  
24 Council either.

25  
26 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Dr. Garza.

27  
28 DR. GARZA: Thank you, Mr. Chair. And I  
29 guess my concern there is that what we're proposing now  
30 as a reporting system, we were just told that we can  
31 still use a heavy hand on Federals on subsistence, that  
32 opportunity is still there, but by using this particular  
33 system we have absolutely no mechanism to have any kind  
34 of teeth for urban. So, in fact, we're not being fair.

35  
36 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Mr. Brainard.

37  
38 MR. BRAINARD: Mr. Chairman. Dr. Garza.  
39 I'm not sure I understood that question completely. We  
40 think with the methodology that we're developing we're  
41 going to get more than enough information. Even with the  
42 current Federal system we're not getting 100 percent of  
43 the people, people move, people die, there's -- some  
44 people just refuse to respond. So we're still getting a  
45 very high response rate, and realistically anything much  
46 over 75, 80 percent is outstanding. And I think we can  
47 really do this, through this methodology, so we don't  
48 have to be the bad guys and come down on somebody.

49  
50 DR. GARZA: If I could follow through

1 please.

2

3

CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Follow up.

4

5

DR. GARZA: Okay. So, I mean what you reported was that last year we had two people that didn't get permits issued again because they didn't turn in their report, that tool still continues for rural residents in Unit 2, so, therefore, we have additional enforcement capability on rural residents that we do not have in any mechanism on urban or non-U2 residents; that's my concern.

13

14

MR. BRAINARD: Mr. Chairman. Dr. Garza. It's still there but we are saying that with this new system we're not going to use that and that's why we voted to take that permit off the bottom of that -- of the permit -- the Federal registration permit. IF we're not doing the registration permit, we're doing this other permit, we're not using that authority even though we still have that authority.

22

23

MR. DOUVILLE: Mr. Chairman.

24

25

CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Mr. Douville.

26

27

MR. DOUVILLE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm not 100 percent sure what Dolly's talking about but I think that this -- what we're talking about is subsistence users. This system includes urban users. Does the same law apply to them, can you enforce it on urban users or say Ketchikan hunters the same as you can subsistence hunters? Is there a loophole there?

34

35

CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Mr. Johnson.

36

37

MR. JOHNSON: Mr. Chair. Mr. Douville. My understanding is that by taking away the Federal registration permit language we take away the teeth on the Federal side as well, and that's the reason for doing the dual harvest reporting between the State and Federal so that there would not be a need to do that.

43

44

(Pause)

45

46

MR. JOHNSON: I stand corrected. I can say this, Mr. Killinger has made it clear that by implementing this system, that there are no plans to do any heavy-handed enforcement with any Federally-qualified subsistence user while we're implementing this pilot

50

1 project between the Forest Service and the State through  
2 the Federal program.

3

4 DR. GARZA: Follow up.

5

6 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Go ahead.

7

8 DR. GARZA: But I mean how long is  
9 Killinger going to be there, I mean you guys turn around  
10 -- except for you, the rest of you guys turn around like  
11 every two years, and so that enforcement capability still  
12 remains. And if we have a change in personnel in Prince  
13 of Wales District, someone may choose to use it again and  
14 so we're using enforcement tactics against rural  
15 residents when we have none against Ketchikan and I'm a  
16 Ketchikan person, and if we're trying to be fair on this  
17 Council, I don't think that's a fair process.

18

19 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Okay, the way I  
20 see this, at the present time we've gone on record many  
21 times that we're not in favor of heavy-handedness and  
22 that's what we expect out of this Council. We will take  
23 action and change that language if you insist, that's the  
24 way I look at it. And in the meantime, we have a 20 year  
25 resident here or so, Mr. Johnson, telling us that's the  
26 way it's going to be, Mr. Killinger, I don't know how  
27 long he's lived here, I've known him a long, long time,  
28 although he's new to the Ranger District, I'm taking them  
29 at their word that they're not going to be heavy-handed  
30 to any users. This is a pilot program, we're putting it  
31 out to see how it works, and so I want to see how it runs  
32 and I'm going to take the Forest Service and Federal  
33 Staff and the State on their word on this permit.

34

35 Is there any other discussion on this.

36

37 (No comments)

38

39 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Okay, the way I  
40 see it is we've told you we wanted to make a little  
41 change on the evidence of sex. Obviously the  
42 registration permit goes away and that was such a long  
43 number, I couldn't believe you had that many hunters  
44 anyway, so we'll get rid of that, and if it's possible  
45 could we have this soon also to look at. In other words,  
46 we should be able to look at a report that says this is  
47 what it's going to look like, real close, so that the  
48 Council knows what we did, and I think you could craft  
49 that hopefully before the end of the meeting; could you  
50 do that?

1 DR. SCHROEDER: (Nods affirmatively)

2

3 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: All right, we'll  
4 look for that before the end of the meeting, and that's  
5 this Proposal 47 that we submitted to the Board of Game,  
6 and it was asking for a registration permit. What we're  
7 going to do, is obviously we're going to support the  
8 action that we took at this Council today to adopt this  
9 permit. What I would like to do is get permission from  
10 the Council to withdraw that proposal if the Board of  
11 Game issues the directions to ADF&G to implement this  
12 program in accordance with what we've all agreed to.

13

14 I think it's premature to pull that  
15 request right now because I know that if the Board of  
16 Game tells the Department to do something, they're going  
17 to do it. Just like if the Federal Subsistence Board  
18 told us they wanted this U2 deer permit done and it's  
19 getting taken care of.

20

21 If the Board of Game goes on the record  
22 telling wildlife conservation that we want this to  
23 proceed and we want it to work in Unit 2, I think that's  
24 stronger and then I would like to have permission to pull  
25 that proposal at that time if they will make that ruling,  
26 and the Council needs to give that authority to me  
27 because I don't have it otherwise because I can only do  
28 what we've said here.

29

30 Dr. Garza.

31

32 DR. GARZA: Mr. Chairman, thank you. In  
33 terms of process, I mean it is a proposal that is before  
34 the Board of Game and I don't know if pulling or  
35 substituting might be the best, that you would substitute  
36 something. Otherwise, I'm not -- I mean someone could  
37 easily tell me I'm wrong, but I'm not sure if we have a  
38 legal mechanism to bring a reporting process forward  
39 separate from a registration requirement.

40

41 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Mr. Turek, could  
42 you address how this would work at the Board of Game.

43

44 MR. TUREK: Chair. Dr. Garza. I believe  
45 you can ask to have a proposal pulled. You can pull a  
46 proposal. I don't know if the proposer can ask to change  
47 the proposal, that can happen once it gets on the table  
48 at the meeting, but I don't think you can do that  
49 beforehand the way I understand the system.

50

1 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Dr. Garza.

2

3 DR. GARZA: And so my concern is, I mean,  
4 like you said, you couldn't pull it before otherwise  
5 you're just not at the table and so you need to go  
6 forward with that, that's our only mechanism right now is  
7 that particular proposal to be seated at the Board of  
8 Game. And so just trying to think logically you would  
9 substitute not a registered hunt, but whatever this is  
10 called, a harvest report requirement.

11

12 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: I saw the process  
13 and it was explained to me is the Board of Game has let  
14 us come at the very beginning. They're going to make  
15 that available for us so we don't have to wait through  
16 the whole meeting, that this is going to take place  
17 immediately under Staff reports. We'll make a  
18 presentation on that. If the Board, in fact, says, we  
19 like this idea and we were going to direct the Board of  
20 Game to take care of it, I see no reason why we should  
21 not pull that proposal, that's my thought processes here.  
22 As long as the Board of Game says we're going to do this,  
23 I feel comfortable in doing that.

24

25 DR. GARZA: Then I guess it's just  
26 through whatever mechanism, just ensuring that we don't  
27 lose our seat at that table.

28

29 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Once the Board of  
30 Game gives us the word of what they're doing, I'm  
31 satisfied with their word.

32

33 Dr. Schroeder.

34

35 DR. SCHROEDER: I had one item with  
36 respect to presenting to the Board of Game. Mr.  
37 Littlefield, when you were at the Federal Subsistence  
38 Board you requested support for two people from the  
39 Council to be at the Board of Game meeting, someone  
40 representing quite clearly the Council, but also someone  
41 who had participated in the Subcommittee process, and I  
42 was just wondering whether you'd like that to move  
43 forward or whether you would handle this report with the  
44 Board of Game yourself.

45

46 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Thank you, Dr.  
47 Schroeder.

48

49 When I was in Anchorage that was before  
50 all of this took place and I felt it was appropriate for

1 the Chair of the Subcommittee, Unit 2 Subcommittee as  
2 well as myself to be there. We've adapted this a little  
3 bit and I'm comfortable presenting it although Mr.  
4 Hernandez said he couldn't go and I told him I would. So  
5 I think one person would be acceptable. But if it had  
6 been what we originally proposed I would have asked for  
7 the two. So I think one would be okay.

8

9 But I still need the Council to give me  
10 some sideboards of what I could do at the meeting and  
11 that needs to be on the record.

12

13 MS. PHILLIPS: Chairman Littlefield.

14

15 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Ms. Phillips.

16

17 MS. PHILLIPS: Clarify what you would  
18 like the motion to read, you want permission to pull  
19 Proposal 47 at the Board of Game?

20

21 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Yes, that would be  
22 correct. Because it's our proposal, the Southeast  
23 Regional Council developed this proposal and submitted  
24 it, the Southeast Regional Advisory Council can pull it  
25 if they want to, I can't pull it without the Council  
26 saying that's okay, and the okay would be based on the  
27 sideboards that -- and under Staff reports in the  
28 beginning of the meeting that the Board of Game will make  
29 a commitment to direct the Wildlife Conservation that  
30 we're going to implement this program that we just talked  
31 about and if I have those assurances, I think we would  
32 feel fairly safe in going ahead and pulling that  
33 proposal.

34

35 MS. PHILLIPS: Chairman Littlefield, the  
36 Board of Game will direct Wildlife Conservation to  
37 adopt.....

38

39 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Implement the.....

40

41 MS. PHILLIPS: .....implement.....

42

43 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: .....what do you  
44 call this thing, the joint harvest report, if they  
45 implement that program and direct Wildlife Conservation  
46 to do that in cooperation with the Federal side, I'm  
47 happy with that, and I think we should, as a Council, be  
48 happy with that.

49

50 MS. PHILLIPS: Chairman Littlefield. I

1 make motion to give Chairman Littlefield the authority to  
2 pull Proposal 47 from the Board of Game if the Board of  
3 Game makes the commitment to direct Wildlife Conservation  
4 to implement the joint harvest report for Unit 2.

5  
6 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: I think that's  
7 correct, is there a second?

8  
9 MR. HERNANDEZ: Second.

10  
11 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: We have a second.  
12 Under discussion, does anybody need any further  
13 discussion on what we're doing here?

14  
15 (No comments)

16  
17 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Are you ready to  
18 eat or.....

19  
20 (Laughter)

21  
22 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: .....I mean are  
23 you ready for the vote.

24  
25 (Council nods affirmatively)

26  
27 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: All those in favor  
28 of the motion please signify by saying aye.

29  
30 IN UNISON: Aye.

31  
32 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: All those, opposed  
33 same sign.

34  
35 (No opposing votes)

36  
37 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: And the motion has  
38 been adopted and we will, like I said, the sideboards  
39 will be pretty clear we're not going to do this until we  
40 get a commitment, but once I do I intend to withdraw it  
41 so we don't have any more time and I can go back home.

42  
43 Thank you.

44  
45 And I think what we'll do is go to our  
46 lunch now and -- Mr. Bangs.

47  
48 MR. BANGS: Thank you. Just a brief  
49 comment, I know that the Board of Fish and Board of Game  
50 really don't like placeholders and they may view this as

1 a placeholder if we pull that, I don't know, just keep  
2 that -- that's something that we should think about.

3

4 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Proposal 47 is a  
5 deferred proposal from the previous meeting, they didn't  
6 take any action on it because they knew that this U2  
7 process was going on and so they're fully prepared to act  
8 on it as far as I know.

9

10 Take a recess, lunch.

11

12 (Off record)

13

14 (On record)

15

16 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Call the meeting  
17 back to order. Mr. Lopez, I'd like to express our  
18 thanks for the meal that you provided. I think everybody  
19 had a good meal. I've got some stashed away for later,  
20 so thank you very much.

21

22 Right now we're going to finish up this  
23 last little bit of Unit 2 stuff, and that would be the  
24 recommendations of the Subcommittee and see if the  
25 Council wants to comment on any of those.

26

27 We'll follow that up with the FIS, Mr.  
28 McBride, on the Fisheries Resource Monitoring.

29

30 I think the annual report items can be  
31 moved to Council topics for the Board meeting, that  
32 should all take place about the same time and we'll have  
33 heard everything, all the other issues.

34

35 And then we'll go into the agency  
36 reports. I think we're doing fairly well, and depending  
37 on how long these take, we're going to run until about  
38 6:00 o'clock tonight because I think everybody has to --  
39 what time do we have to leave in the morning Dr.  
40 Schroeder.

41

42 DR. SCHROEDER: Mr. Chairman, our flight  
43 is scheduled for about -- let me see here, 11:52, I  
44 believe, and so we should definitely be out of here no  
45 later than one hour prior to that time, so that would be  
46 a quarter to 11 would be the absolute drop dead time.

47

48 Council members or anyone who is flying  
49 out should have luggage here in the morning and we'll  
50 have Forest Service vehicles to take us out there.

1 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Okay, thank you.  
2 So what we're going to do is we'll run until 6:00 to  
3 night, if it looks like we need a little bit more time  
4 tomorrow morning, we might come in at 8:00 but I'm hoping  
5 we can come in at 8:30 just like we've been doing the  
6 other days. So at this time I'll turn it over to the  
7 Subcommittee Chairman, Mr. Hernandez, for his  
8 recommendations and I believe we all have a copy of that.  
9

10 MR. HERNANDEZ: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.  
11 In your handouts, the report from the Unit 2 Deer  
12 Subcommittee, on Page 4, is the Subcommittee  
13 recommendations to date. And just as a recap, yesterday  
14 I went over all of the actions and discussions that we've  
15 undertaken so far in the Subcommittee, and as of right  
16 now we have finalized three recommendations that we would  
17 like to pass on to appropriate agencies and we would ask  
18 that the Council review these and accept them, make  
19 comments if necessary or accept them so that they can be  
20 passed on with the full approval of the Council.  
21

22 On Page 4 the No. 1 recommendation was  
23 the harvest reporting form which we just dealt with in  
24 relation to the proposal for the permit requirement.  
25

26 No. 2 deals with the Federal funding for  
27 wildlife and subsistence use research, WIS funding.  
28

29 No. 3 deals with U.S. Forest Service  
30 access and travel management planning in Unit 2.  
31

32 And No. 4 is potential management of  
33 young growth stands for deer benefit.  
34

35 So it's the Council's pleasure.  
36

37 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Does everybody  
38 have a copy of the report.  
39

40 MR. STOKES: I don't have one.  
41

42 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Do you have  
43 another copy of the report, Melinda?  
44

45 MS. HERNANDEZ: (Nods affirmatively)  
46

47 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: So what we have  
48 before us is the recommendations to date and we should  
49 give the Subcommittee some idea of whether we oppose  
50 these or endorse these or whatever. First, Mr. Adams.

1 MR. ADAMS: I really appreciated the  
2 report and hard work that this committee has put into  
3 this. So I want to make a motion that we accept the  
4 recommendations of the committee.

5  
6 Thank you.

7  
8 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: There was a motion  
9 to accept the Subcommittee recommendations to date, is  
10 there a second.

11  
12 MR. KITKA: Second.

13  
14 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: It's been moved  
15 and seconded to accept the Subcommittee recommendations  
16 to date, which I show in my U2 Deer Planning Subcommittee  
17 Draft on Page 4 and 5; is that correct, 4 and 5?

18  
19 MR. HERNANDEZ: That is correct.

20  
21 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Okay. Under  
22 discussion. Council discussion on these issues.

23  
24 Mr. Hernandez.

25  
26 MR. HERNANDEZ: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.  
27 Federal funding for wildlife and subsistence use  
28 research, as I said this deals with WIS funding, the  
29 recommendation from the Subcommittee was that the  
30 Wildlife Information Services funding available to the  
31 Tongass National Forest for wildlife research related to  
32 subsistence management in fiscal year 2005 be prioritized  
33 for research related to Unit 2 deer management. Funding  
34 should be targeted to meeting the priority information  
35 needs identified by the Unit 2 Deer Planning Subcommittee  
36 which include:

37  
38 The harvest information, how many deer  
39 are taken, where and when.

40  
41 MR. KOOKESH: Could you kind of move the  
42 mike to your mouth a little.

43  
44 MR. HERNANDEZ: Okay, sorry, I'll get a  
45 little closer here.

46  
47 The first priority was harvest  
48 information, how many deer are taken, where, when, by  
49 whom and the level of effort.

50

1                   The second would be deer population,  
2 population trends and factors that influence the  
3 population.  
4

5                   The third one is subsistence use and  
6 need, what is the subsistence use and need for Unit 2  
7 deer relative to the provisions of ANILCA Title VIII.  
8

9                   CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Okay. There's a  
10 couple things here. The motion is to adopt all these  
11 recommendations, but some of them actually have some  
12 action items that we probably are going to have to  
13 decide, in other words like three and four may well be a  
14 resolution. The Council may want to send a resolution to  
15 the Forest Service.  
16

17                   Under two, I think we should we  
18 definitely get that money, but perhaps one of the things  
19 the Council could do is have Mr. Kessler come forward and  
20 quiz him or maybe even give him some directions from the  
21 Council of how, you know, they would split that funding  
22 up. In other words, do we want all the money on harvest  
23 information. Do we want all the money on the deer  
24 population or the subsistence needs. And maybe we could  
25 have a discussion on that. Plus I think we're still  
26 going to need a couple resolutions, even if we adopt  
27 this.  
28

29                   Mr. Hernandez.  
30

31                   MR. HERNANDEZ: Mr. Chairman, that's  
32 probably true, you may want to address these through  
33 resolution, that'd be fine.  
34

35                   CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Let's do No. 2  
36 first with Mr. Kessler because we probably need a little  
37 bit more information on the WIS for the Council's  
38 information here and then maybe your suggestion of what  
39 you think the way to split that money up would be.  
40

41                   MR. KESSLER: Mr. Chair. I was going to  
42 give a presentation on the WIS, Wildlife Information  
43 Services under Item 14B1 and I have a short presentation  
44 and just tell you the status of where things are, would  
45 you like to do that there or like that presentation now  
46 or what would you like?  
47

48                   CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: What's the  
49 Council's wishes. I think we could do it either way so  
50 what's the Council's wishes.

1 (Pause)

2

3 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: If you're  
4 prepared, Mr. Kessler, why don't we just go ahead and  
5 proceed with that. We have a motion to adopt this so it  
6 kind of makes sense to do it right now.

7

8 (Pause)

9

10 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: In your Board Book  
11 it's 14B1 the way I see it so we'll be able to mark that  
12 one off, we can take care of that right now as part of  
13 this process.

14

15 (Pause)

16

17 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Okay, we'll be a  
18 couple minutes getting this ready and while they get it  
19 ready I think we need to give a resolution to the Forest  
20 Service here to express our intent on this travel  
21 management planning as well as the potential management  
22 of growth, even though we adopt this recommendation, we  
23 then need to do something to let the Forest Service know  
24 that that's our intent.

25

26 So I don't know if we want to do that  
27 right now or have that resolution later at the end of the  
28 meeting, have it drafted up correctly, but what's the  
29 Council's wishes on that.

30

31 Mr. Adams.

32

33 MR. ADAMS: I would just recommend that  
34 maybe a resolution be drafted up for action later on.

35

36 Thank you, sir.

37

38 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: I think that's a  
39 good idea. Does any member of the Council object to  
40 that, that we ask Staff to work with us and we'll write  
41 up a resolution to capture three and four so that we have  
42 a resolution ready for us toward the end of the meeting.

43

44 Mr. Hernandez.

45

46 MR. HERNANDEZ: I think that would be  
47 fine if the Council expresses its wishes now on the  
48 recommendations and then wording and resolution is  
49 drafted for the end of the meeting, that should work  
50 fine.

1 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Yes, the motion  
2 was to adopt all of these recommendations, this would  
3 just be housekeeping. We've adopted them, we just can't  
4 leave them hanging there in the air, so unless  
5 anybody else has any other things on three and four -- is  
6 there anything about three or four that bothers anybody?

7  
8 (No comments)

9  
10 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Okay, then we'll  
11 go to two. Mr. Kessler.

12  
13 (Pause)

14  
15 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Go ahead Mr.  
16 Kessler.

17  
18 MR. KESSLER: Okay. Mr. Chairman.  
19 Members of the Council. I'm Steve Kessler with the  
20 Forest Service. I'm here to talk to you a little bit  
21 about the Wildlife Information Services. Up on the  
22 screen there I have a few little slides.

23  
24 Just to remind you that the idea here is  
25 that his program would be parallel to the FIS program,  
26 the Fisheries Information Services and the Fisheries  
27 Monitoring Program that we've been doing for a number of  
28 years, but in this case it's for wildlife and it would be  
29 Forest Service only.

30  
31 Again, to remind you what we talked about  
32 at your last Regional Advisory Council meeting. A couple  
33 of the key draft guidelines associated with this program  
34 would be that there'd be a direct linkage to the  
35 management and sustainability of subsistence wildlife  
36 resources on the Tongass National Forest and on the  
37 Chugach National Forest. In keeping in sort of the  
38 parallel with the Fisheries Program, two categories,  
39 traditional ecological knowledge and population status  
40 and trends types of projects. We would continue to  
41 emphasize partnership funding with other governmental  
42 agencies, local organizations and private sources, and  
43 with the idea of enhancing capacity building among local  
44 rural organizations.

45  
46 Since the last Council meeting, finally  
47 Congress passed the appropriations bill that was in  
48 December 2004. We didn't feel comfortable moving  
49 anywhere on this program until we were sure that the  
50 additional dollars were in place. And as anticipated,

1 there was a \$500,00 increment that we received from  
2 Congress in the subsistence funding to the Forest  
3 Service.

4  
5                   What we're doing right now is we're  
6 hiring a manager for this program, and that's going to be  
7 a temporary position through the end of this fiscal year  
8 so essentially through October 1st. The idea is we don't  
9 want to have a permanent employee associated with this  
10 for any longer than that if at all possible so that we're  
11 as able to get as much money to the ground and to  
12 projects as we possibly can.

13  
14                   What this person will be working on is  
15 developing the final guidelines, there was some draft  
16 guidelines that I'd handed out at the last meeting. Will  
17 work on an initial call for proposals and evaluating  
18 proposals that come forward and I think that we have  
19 somewhat a beginning of basis for a call for proposals  
20 based on the recommendation of the Unit 2 Planning  
21 Subcommittee. That person will also be coordinating  
22 development of a Technical Review Committee, very similar  
23 to what we have for FIS, and then we will undertake  
24 wildlife strategic planning. The Office of Subsistence  
25 Management will assist us as they are doing for fisheries  
26 strategic planning right now.

27  
28                   And then at your last meeting you also  
29 identified, I believe it was three members for me to  
30 consult with on this entire program, recognizing that we  
31 would not be having Regional Advisory Council meetings at  
32 necessarily the timing and the appropriate spots when we  
33 would need those assistance and advice from the Regional  
34 Advisory Council, so at this point we will still be  
35 contacting those three people at the appropriate times.

36  
37                   In future years, a little bit of the  
38 funding has come into question. The President's proposed  
39 fiscal year 2006 budget was released earlier this month.  
40 The increase that we received for fiscal year 2005 was  
41 not in the President's budget for 2006. And so Congress  
42 will be working on that budget over the next few months,  
43 hopefully before the end of the fiscal year we'll know  
44 what our budget is for next year. But at this point that  
45 \$500,000, it appears that it may be just a little blink  
46 for this fiscal year and may not be into future years.  
47 We have not yet figured out how to continue with the  
48 funding for the wildlife side of this, should that  
49 reduction occur back to the fiscal year 2005 levels.

50

1                   One of the things that's under  
2 consideration is that we might want to take a look at the  
3 entire program for fisheries and wildlife and see, well,  
4 what really are the highest priorities across all the  
5 different subsistence resources that we manage under this  
6 program.

7  
8                   And I think all I had now, was questions,  
9 so that's just an update where we are. We have not made,  
10 obviously a lot of progress since our last meeting and  
11 that was mostly because it took so long for Congress to  
12 pass the appropriations bill. And I think with that,  
13 questions, and if we want to move into some specifics  
14 about Unit 2 that'd be great.

15  
16                   CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Okay, thank you,  
17 Mr. Kessler. One of the things, you know, we moved to  
18 adopt the recommendations and the recommendations are  
19 asking us to prioritize those three items and maybe  
20 others, if the Council has wishes to prioritize something  
21 else. So that's what we're going to do.

22  
23                   I'll go first to Mr. Kitka.

24  
25                   MR. KITKA: Mr. Chairman, thank you.  
26 Before we go any further, I just wanted to know who the  
27 names were he was going to contact.

28  
29                   CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Mr. Kessler.

30  
31                   MR. KESSLER: I actually don't remember  
32 who the three names were. I think Dr. Garza was one, I'm  
33 trying to remember one, I think Mr. Kookesh was one. And  
34 was it -- Mr. Kitka was the third, okay.

35  
36                   CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: I believe so. And  
37 I don't know if there's been any consultation but the  
38 Council has the ability to prioritize these.

39  
40                   What's the Council's wishes. Because the  
41 Subcommittee asked us, at least, Mr. Hernandez, that's  
42 what I get out of this, that you're asking us to  
43 prioritize at least these three and maybe others that the  
44 Council thinks are appropriate?

45  
46                   MR. HERNANDEZ: The Subcommittee believes  
47 that these would be the priorities for any monies that  
48 would be allocated towards the Unit 2 research. If there  
49 were other priorities by other Council members for other  
50 areas those could be included. But as far as Unit 2

1 goes, this would be our priorities.

2

3 DR. GARZA: Mr. Chairman.

4

5 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Dr. Garza.

6

7 DR. GARZA: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Right.  
8 So it was the intent of the Subcommittee to ask the  
9 Council to make the Unit 2 the number 1 priority for the  
10 Wildlife Information System money in this cycle. That's  
11 the main intent of this No. 2. And then these three  
12 points are part of what we would look at.

13

14 In looking at them, personally, I would  
15 put subsistence use and need as the first one of the  
16 three.

17

18 And the question I have to Mr. Kessler,  
19 is there any way we can add Ketchikan use and patterns as  
20 part of it in the effect that urban populations have on  
21 rural users, could that be a fourth?

22

23 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Mr. Kessler.

24

25 MR. KESSLER: Mr. Chairman. Dr. Garza.  
26 I think that we're wide open right now as far as what  
27 could be put in there. I think when you ask the question  
28 about Ketchikan users, I assume you're talking about  
29 Ketchikan users that are using Federal lands, Federal  
30 public lands that are used by others also so I, you know,  
31 if that's the wish of the Unit 2 Subcommittee and others,  
32 we certainly can consider that in the various funding  
33 strategies for this.

34

35 I do want to remind the Council also that  
36 this is not just Tongass National Forest, it's also  
37 Chugach National Forest and we're going to have to go  
38 through some sort of process as far as evaluating all of  
39 the priorities. But we hear you loud and clear that Unit  
40 2 is a priority and in our opinion it's a priority also.

41

42 So I think when I take a look at the  
43 projects and what needs to occur across the National  
44 Forest here in Alaska I see Unit 2 as just coming up at a  
45 very high level of need.

46

47 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Does anybody have  
48 any problem with subsistence use and need in Unit 2 being  
49 No. 1.

50

1 (No comments)  
2  
3 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Okay, we will put  
4 that as No. 1. We have two others there, anybody want to  
5 rate those?  
6  
7 Ms. Phillips.  
8  
9 MS. PHILLIPS: Chairman Littlefield. Mr.  
10 Kessler. Council member Hernandez. Why do we want to  
11 include those under WIS, because those are going to be --  
12 that information is going to be compiled once harvest  
13 reports start to come in and won't it be part of the  
14 annual process of data compiling harvest from deer in  
15 Unit 2?  
16  
17 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Mr. Kessler.  
18  
19 MR. KESSLER: Chairman Littlefield. Ms.  
20 Phillips. I'm not aware of all the details of what were  
21 being asked by the Unit 2 Planning Subcommittee.  
22 However, what the report's going to give us will tell us  
23 who's hunting where and how much hunting is occurring. I  
24 don't think that that report will tell us anything about  
25 need, and I think that's what part of the objective of  
26 that item is; is that correct, Mr. Hernandez?  
27  
28 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Follow up.  
29  
30 MS. PHILLIPS: Well, I understand  
31 subsistence use and need is No. 1 priority. What I was  
32 talking about, number 2 or 3 priority, why would we want  
33 to include harvest information or deer population,  
34 particularly harvest information when that data is going  
35 to already be compiled and analyzed?  
36  
37 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Members of the  
38 Subcommittee. I think she may have a valid point.  
39  
40 Dr. Garza.  
41  
42 DR. GARZA: Dang you, Patricia, you're  
43 trying to take money away from us.  
44  
45 MS. PHILLIPS: But it could be used in  
46 other areas.  
47  
48 DR. GARZA: But I think when I look at  
49 harvest information, that as a WIS program would allow  
50 tribes to further look into this type of information and

1 perhaps look into past information. We do have a lot of  
2 grey areas, and if we implement this report, this  
3 required report, I mean we're not going to get data for  
4 three years. And so if we have the opportunity to -- I  
5 mean the way I see data coming out, I mean it's never at  
6 the end of the season, it would give tribes like Hydaburg  
7 or Kasaan or whatever to do end of the season surveys  
8 with their members or community members and figure out,  
9 you know, almost instantly what's being taken and perhaps  
10 additional information on whether or not they took what  
11 they wanted and blah, blah, blah, and that may fit into  
12 the subsistence use and need.

13

14 But I think by leaving it in there, I  
15 mean it gives the opportunity for, not just ADF&G to do  
16 the work, but as well for others to fill holes that they  
17 think are there.

18

19 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Okay. I think  
20 you're both right. And what I envision this as is the  
21 blue book that we've got, 1987 data and I believe it's  
22 1996 data on the use of deer, and I'm hoping that we  
23 would be able to target similar type action, you know,  
24 through the whole -- I don't know how much money that  
25 would take, I don't have any idea, but that type of  
26 information definitely had some holes in it, and  
27 hopefully this would fill it on Unit 2 use.

28

29 These are all three tied together, it's  
30 pretty hard to separate one from the other, but if we had  
31 to make choices and we only have \$500,000 and it's a one  
32 time allocation so the Council should say what they think  
33 about those other two items if we were competing with the  
34 Chugach or competing with Unit 4, maybe Unit 4 wants some  
35 work or other units.

36

37 We'll go to Mr. Adams and then Dr. Garza.

38

39 MR. ADAMS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. You  
40 know I think that committee did a pretty good job of  
41 working on these, in my opinion, in order of importance,  
42 and so I think, you know, that they have identified our  
43 priorities for us and why don't we just make it real  
44 short and sweet and go with that.

45

46 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: You're saying that  
47 the way they're listed there is the order?

48

49 MR. ADAMS: That is correct, Mr.

50 Chairman.

1 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Okay. Dr. Garza.

2

3 DR. GARZA: The other point I wanted to  
4 make, I'm certainly not going to argue with Mr. Adams,  
5 but the other point I wanted to make was from my  
6 understanding that the report made at the January U2  
7 Subcommittee, that the WIS monies would be allocated  
8 similar to the FIS monies and that it would have to  
9 involve a tribe and that Fish and Game isn't going to  
10 sweep in and take 500,000.

11

12 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Mr. Kessler, and  
13 then Mr. Adams.

14

15 MR. KESSLER: Mr. Chairman. Dr. Garza.  
16 We plan to have similar criteria for evaluation of  
17 projects as what's done in FIS. Is there an absolute  
18 requirement to involve local tribes, well, no, there  
19 isn't, but that's one of the criteria that's considered.

20

21 We have not finalized the guideline for  
22 the WIS at this point. We will be doing that, hopefully,  
23 in the next few months. And my guess is that as part of  
24 that process, to quote, finalize them, we'll probably be  
25 wanting to come back to the Council again to show the  
26 Council what those guidelines are and see if you have  
27 different opinions on what those final guidelines should  
28 be. So that probably means that we won't finalize it  
29 until fall.

30

31 But we've got to start allocating some of  
32 this money to priority projects before that time.

33

34 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Okay. Soon we'll  
35 get that information.

36

37 Mr. Adams.

38

39 MR. ADAMS: Given the fact that Dr.  
40 Garza, you know, mentioned that she wasn't going to argue  
41 with me, she did give me that look.

42

43 (Laughter)

44

45 MR. ADAMS: But I think she brought out a  
46 real good point, too, and that is, I think, the  
47 importance of working with tribes. Realizing the fact  
48 that many tribes would probably not have the capability  
49 of doing that, but some tribes do, and I think that needs  
50 to be investigated.

1 Thank you.

2

3 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Other Council.

4

5 (No comments)

6

7 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: The subsistence  
8 use amounts have been a charge of the Council for quite  
9 some time, and I think this is an opportunity to come up  
10 with funding that we haven't had in the past to  
11 accomplish what's in our charter and also in our  
12 directions from ANILCA. So I'm happy with them all  
13 together, I don't have any problem with that, they're all  
14 equally valuable.

15

16 Is there any other Council.

17

18 (No comments)

19

20 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Okay, thank you,

21 Mr. Kessler.

22

23 So the motion is back for Council wishes,  
24 we have a motion on the floor to adopt the Subcommittee  
25 recommendations to date. Any further discussion on these  
26 issues.

27

28 Dr. Garza.

29

30 DR. GARZA: So we're now looking at the  
31 entire set of recommendations?

32

33 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Yes, ma'am.

34

35 DR. GARZA: Okay. And I do apologize, I  
36 mean I did miss the January meeting but what I see is  
37 good, but the two things that I have to keep bringing up  
38 because I'm from Ketchikan is that we need Ketchikan  
39 education.

40

41 We need Ketchikan education. Ketchikan  
42 people just do not understand ANILCA. If there were a  
43 better understanding of ANILCA and a better understanding  
44 of the changing environment on Prince of Wales, the  
45 change in habitat, the likely decline in deer by  
46 Ketchikan people, we're going to have fewer issues in the  
47 future. And so I'd like to, as a Council, put that back  
48 in there because the Subcommittee may not be thinking of  
49 that because they don't have to look at these proposals  
50 year after year after year after year after year as we,

1 as a Council, do.

2

3 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Are you prepared  
4 to make a motion or an amendment.

5

6 DR. GARZA: I'll work on it.

7

8 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Mr. Adams.

9

10 MR. ADAMS: And I fully agree with Dolly  
11 with the education process. But while she's working on  
12 the motion and everything, maybe she can address how that  
13 could be done.

14

15 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: We'll just take a  
16 second here for Dr. Garza to come up with that motion.

17

18 (Pause)

19

20 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: While she's doing  
21 that, is there any other issues on here.

22

23 MR. DOUVILLE: Mr. Chairman.

24

25 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Mr. Douville.

26

27 MR. DOUVILLE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.  
28 A lot of work went into these but I agree with Dolly,  
29 that Ketchikan is going to be the next major problem and  
30 needs to be really focused on. Everything else we can  
31 handle easily but Ketchikan is the one that's going to  
32 suffer the worst should the need to reduce bag limits to  
33 anybody, Ketchikan will be eliminated, and they should,  
34 therefore, be of the highest priority to deal with now.

35

36 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Dr. Garza.

37

38 DR. GARZA: Just a minute.

39

40 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Any other Council  
41 who wants to -- is there any other issue on the  
42 Subcommittee draft that anybody would like to bring up.

43

44 (No comments)

45

46 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: With the  
47 understanding, of course, that we are going to develop a  
48 resolution for later in the meeting.

49

50 Mr. Douville.

1 MR. DOUVILLE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.  
2 Just as further comment, I don't know how we could do it,  
3 if Ketchikan does not show any initiative to -- every 10  
4 years as we know, rural status is up for review, and a  
5 lot of these problems we have with dealing with bag  
6 limits down the road would be greatly reduced if  
7 Ketchikan, as we've supported in the past, as being  
8 rural, would become rural. So I don't know how that we  
9 could encourage them, maybe the Forest Service has some  
10 idea. If they became rural it would certainly make  
11 things easier for all concerned.

12  
13 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Okay. Mr.  
14 Johnson.

15  
16 MR. JOHNSON: Well, Mr. Chairman, Mr.  
17 Douville. We've indicated on several different  
18 occasions, both at this Council and in other public  
19 forums that the Forest Service is available to provide  
20 information to any group or organization in Ketchikan and  
21 all it takes is a request from someone there to have us  
22 come, in fact, Staff from OSM have also indicated  
23 availability to do that. So I don't know what else,  
24 other than I think the meetings we've been having with  
25 the Unit 2 Deer Subcommittee, there was a lot more  
26 interest at that meeting that was in Ketchikan, and so  
27 we'll continue to have that discussion with some folks  
28 there in Ketchikan to see if they would like to have us  
29 come meet with them.

30  
31 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: You're correct.  
32 This Council, several times, has expressed its  
33 displeasure with the amount of information that's in the  
34 public domain on ANILCA. IT's really hard for people to  
35 understand. I definitely would like to see more  
36 information on that.

37  
38 But I think what we're doing here is  
39 we're talking about wildlife information studies which I  
40 suspect the guidelines are going to restrict this to some  
41 type of rural use, similar to the FIS projects. But how  
42 Ketchikan fits in here is, in this, they are users of  
43 deer in U2, that's how we get them involved here and we  
44 can, therefore, gather that information.

45  
46 So are you prepared to -- I guess you're  
47 getting real close to it.

48  
49 Other Council.

50

1 (No comments)  
2  
3 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: We're going to put  
4 Dr. Garza's motion up on the screen.  
5  
6 (Pause)  
7  
8 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Dr. Garza.  
9  
10 DR. GARZA: Mr. Chairman, there's a  
11 matter of protocol, I mean we do have a report from the  
12 Subcommittee and perhaps that should be accepted as it is  
13 and then just add this as a request to the Subcommittee  
14 of something else they need to do, because otherwise they  
15 may say that I'm kind of jumping in at the end, while  
16 they worked diligently at a meeting that I missed.  
17  
18 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Are you ready for  
19 the question.  
20  
21 MR. DOUVILLE: Question.  
22  
23 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: And the question  
24 before you is to adopt the Subcommittee recommendations  
25 to date, which means that we're going to develop a  
26 resolution before the end of the meeting and we will  
27 discuss further issues immediately following this motion.  
28  
29 Further discussion.  
30  
31 (No comments)  
32  
33 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: All in favor,  
34 please signify by saying aye.  
35  
36 IN UNISON: Aye.  
37  
38 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: All those opposed,  
39 same sign.  
40  
41 (No opposed votes)  
42  
43 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: The Subcommittee  
44 recommendations are adopted as belonging to the Council  
45 so they're now our recommendations. Further action, Dr.  
46 Garza.  
47  
48 DR. GARZA: Mr. Chairman, while we should  
49 applaud the efforts of the Unit 2 Subcommittee and it is  
50 substantial, they have worked tirelessly, I mean we were

1 quasi-attacked in Ketchikan and there was some education  
2 that went on but it was clear that a lot more education  
3 is needed. So I think it would be helpful if, we, as a  
4 Council, would ask the Subcommittee to also consider  
5 developing -- or the idea of developing and implementing  
6 educational and outreach materials on ANILCA 811  
7 subsistence requirements and on the changing status of  
8 Prince of Wales habitat and the effects on deer  
9 populations, and set a schedule to conduct education and  
10 outreach in Ketchikan and other communities.

11

12 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Is there a second.

13

14 MR. HERNANDEZ: Second.

15

16 MR. STOKES: I'll second it.

17

18 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Okay. The motion  
19 before you is shown on the screen, and, Dr. Garza, does  
20 that capture what you said, I believe it does?

21

22 DR. GARZA: Yes, it does. And in terms  
23 of discussion on this, I think it can go to the Unit 2  
24 Subcommittee but I also would like to hear from Staff,  
25 Fish and Wildlife Service, either regional or statewide  
26 on what kind of materials are available, what kind of  
27 outreach has been done, and what's available to us  
28 because this is something that perhaps could be started  
29 either in conjunction with U2 or just started as a  
30 process that needs to happen.

31

32 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Staff. Mr.  
33 Knauer.

34

35 (Laughter)

36

37 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Ms. Clark.

38

39 MS. CLARK: Mr. Chairman. My name is  
40 Maureen Clark and I'm the public affairs specialist with  
41 the Office of Subsistence Management, and that would fall  
42 on me. So I'm happy to work with Forest Service  
43 representatives to develop some educational materials  
44 specific to ANILCA and to Unit 2 deer.

45

46 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Just stand by, are  
47 there any questions of what's going to go on here.

48

49 Dr. Garza.

50

1 DR. GARZA: Thank you very much. And  
2 that's great that something like that could be done. And  
3 I guess my preference would be in addition to you is to  
4 have someone from the region, like Dave Johnson, work  
5 with you so that we can get some materials that look good  
6 to Ketchikan eyes and Prince of Wales eyes, but I also  
7 want to make sure that we set up some times and actually  
8 conduct workshops or have materials available at upcoming  
9 Ketchikan events. And that's something I can help you  
10 look for as well.

11  
12 Thank you.

13  
14 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Go ahead.

15  
16 MS. CLARK: I can do that. I'll get  
17 together with Dave Johnson and if we have a schedule of  
18 things that we can have informational materials there or  
19 do presentations, we can do that as well.

20  
21 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Mr. Bangs.

22  
23 MR. BANGS: My question has been  
24 answered, thank you.

25  
26 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Other Council  
27 questions.

28  
29 (No comments)

30  
31 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Mr. Johnson.

32  
33 MR. JOHNSON: Mr. Chairman, I guess I  
34 would like the Council to direct me to involve the  
35 district as well because I think we need to have the  
36 Ketchikan Ranger District Staff involved in this and if  
37 it comes from the Council I think it would mean a lot  
38 more than just coming from me.

39  
40 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Hearing no  
41 objection, you're so directed.

42  
43 DR. GARZA: I want the chance to boss him  
44 around.

45  
46 (Laughter)

47  
48 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Madame Haida  
49 Princess you have the floor.

50

1 (Laughter)  
2  
3 MR. ADAMS: Mr. Chairman.  
4  
5 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Mr. Adams.  
6  
7 MR. ADAMS: Yeah, I think this goes ahead  
8 and answers my question about who and how this is going  
9 to be addressed. So with Dave's coming up to the plate  
10 there, my question is answered here, so, thank you.  
11  
12 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Any further  
13 discussion on this motion. Mr. Adams, and then Ms.  
14 Phillips.  
15  
16 MR. ADAMS: Yeah, notwithstanding the  
17 fact that Ketchikan, you know, doesn't seem to be very  
18 interested in learning more about this, the educational  
19 process, you know, I think is really going to be  
20 important. Perhaps that will motivate them, you know, to  
21 be more involved in this process.  
22  
23 So, you know, hopefully that will work  
24 and I don't know where we're going to go after that if  
25 they don't respond. But if we can make every effort from  
26 this level through the agency, you know, to provide that  
27 education to them, then we'll have done our work.  
28  
29 Thank you.  
30  
31 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Ms. Phillips.  
32  
33 MS. PHILLIPS: Thank you, Chairman  
34 Littlefield. I think this motion ties together all the  
35 recommendations of the Subcommittee, and gives it that  
36 follow through that we need to get the information out.  
37 And I like the chart on the wall over there, if something  
38 like that could be put together and maybe like put on the  
39 Prince of Wales Ferry, you know, that would be pretty  
40 good.  
41  
42 Good job.  
43  
44 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: I have a question  
45 on funding, would you fund this or would the WIS be  
46 funding this because it's something that we need to get  
47 out, whether we had a WIS project or not.  
48  
49 MS. CLARK: I don't know. I guess I'd  
50 probably have to talk to Steve and Dave as well and to

1 Tom Boyd.

2

3 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Because this is  
4 not the first request from the Council to have this type  
5 of action take place and we really want to see this. We  
6 recognize there's a need for information for the general  
7 public. When I read through 122 letters at the Juneau  
8 meeting and about 85 percent of them were totally off  
9 base, that, to me, was an indication that we haven't been  
10 doing our job.

11

12 So any other discussion.

13

14 Mr. Hernandez.

15

16 MR. HERNANDEZ: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.  
17 Yeah, I'd just like to say that through the course of the  
18 Subcommittee discussions, you know, the need for  
19 education has come up quite often. We did not address it  
20 specifically but the Council, you know, we are a  
21 Subcommittee to the Council, the Council can take any  
22 action that they feel necessary that they would like to  
23 see and this certainly doesn't go against anything the  
24 Subcommittee has decided, so I don't see any need to  
25 worry about what the Subcommittee might feel about this  
26 change. So it should be no problem.

27

28 Thank you.

29

30 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Are we ready.

31

32 (Council nods affirmatively)

33

34 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Okay, the motion  
35 before you is to adopt the language as shown on the  
36 screen. And, Dr. Schroeder, for the record, can you read  
37 that into the record.

38

39 DR. SCHROEDER: Mr. Chairman, the motion  
40 before you as presented by Dr. Garza and seconded by Mr.  
41 Stokes and reads as follows:

42

43 Develop and implement educational and  
44 outreach materials on ANILCA Title VIII  
45 subsistence requirements and on the  
46 changing status of Prince of Wales  
47 habitat and the affects on deer  
48 populations. Conduct education and  
49 outreach in Ketchikan and other  
50 communities.

1                                   And I believe from the discussion the  
2 intent is clear.  
3  
4                                   CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: All those in favor  
5 of this motion please signify by saying aye.  
6  
7                                   IN UNISON: Aye.  
8  
9                                   CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: All those opposed,  
10 same sign.  
11  
12                                   (No opposing votes)  
13  
14                                   CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: The motion is  
15 adopted. And we'll hope the funding comes out of the law  
16 enforcement budget.  
17  
18                                   (Laughter)  
19  
20                                   MR. ADAMS: Mr. Chairman.  
21  
22                                   CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Mr. Adams.  
23  
24                                   MR. ADAMS: I just need to make a  
25 correction up there on a statement that I made, it says  
26 Adams who and how questions are answered, anything --  
27 another thing we need to -- I didn't mean to say that  
28 way, maybe it came out of my mouth, it must have been  
29 that decaf, you know, that I was drinking this morning,  
30 but I just said that if we -- what I really meant is that  
31 if we do our work then we will have done our job, you  
32 know, made that educational process, you know, available  
33 to Ketchikan through Staff and so forth, then we will  
34 have done our work.  
35  
36                                   Thank you.  
37  
38                                   CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: The transcripts  
39 never lie but we understand what you mean now.  
40  
41                                   MR. ADAMS: Okay. I'm going to go find  
42 myself a real cup of decaf.  
43  
44                                   CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Okay, are we done  
45 with U2, are there any other issues that the Council  
46 would like to bring up?  
47  
48                                   (No comments)  
49  
50                                   CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: I want to -- Dr.

1 Schroeder.

2

3 DR. SCHROEDER: Mr. Chairman, at our fall  
4 meeting you heard -- let's see back in June at the  
5 special teleconference meeting, and then later at the  
6 fall meeting the Council heard the plan for how the U2  
7 Deer Planning Subcommittee would proceed, we're well  
8 along in that process having completed three meetings and  
9 there are two meetings scheduled, one for Thorne Bay in  
10 March and a final meeting under this sequence in April,  
11 and then a report coming out of that should be produced  
12 in June under the current plan.

13

14 Over the last number of days, there's  
15 been some Council discussion about scheduling and just if  
16 the Council -- the Council may wish to spend a few  
17 moments on that and to reaffirm its commitment to its  
18 earlier decisions or to suggest any changes at this time.

19

20 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Council's wishes.

21

22 (No comments)

23

24 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Hearing none, does  
25 anyone -- we want to wrap up this U2.

26

27 MR. DOUVILLE: Mr. Chairman.

28

29 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Mr. Douville.

30

31 MR. DOUVILLE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.  
32 It's coming spring, I'm involved in fishing and other  
33 things, I have a lot of conflict and will not be able to  
34 attend the upcoming meeting. However, I have a  
35 suggestion as to, I don't know when the Ketchikan meeting  
36 was scheduled, but I would recommend that that one would  
37 be scheduled for fall so we could all attend it that are  
38 on the committee.

39

40 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Ketchikan, you  
41 suggest that that be deferred to fall?

42

43 MR. DOUVILLE: (Nods affirmatively)

44

45 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Mr. Hernandez.

46

47 MR. HERNANDEZ: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.  
48 As you noted or Bob noted, we did set a pretty ambitious  
49 schedule to conclude all of our work this spring. I  
50 guess it's unsure at this time whether or not we will be

1 able to accomplish that. A lot depends on what the  
2 wishes of the Subcommittee members are. We here that,  
3 you know, Mr. Douville's time constraints are probably  
4 going to preclude him from attending. Our intent at this  
5 time is to hold this March meeting that's been scheduled  
6 for about two weeks from now, and to accomplish what we  
7 can at that meeting.

8

9                   Before we decide what to do as a  
10 committee, we really have to consult with the rest of the  
11 members and see what their time constraints are, whether  
12 or not they can commit to time next fall, and we should  
13 be able to make a decision after our March meeting as to  
14 what we feel is necessary. If there is any specific  
15 direction from the Council at this time, how they would  
16 like for us to proceed, that's my intention at this  
17 time, Mr. Chairman.

18

19                   CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: I'm certainly not  
20 going to tell the Subcommittee how to proceed because I  
21 realize everybody's time's important and I'm going to  
22 follow the Subcommittee's lead on this. And if I  
23 understand you correctly, are you saying that you would  
24 consider the postponing of the meeting in Ketchikan at  
25 the next meeting in Thorne Bay; is that what you said?

26

27                   MR. HERNANDEZ: Yes, we would discuss  
28 postponing that final Ketchikan meeting until the fall at  
29 our March meeting in Thorne Bay and decide at that time.

30

31                   CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Okay. Mr.  
32 Douville.

33

34                   MR. DOUVILLE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.  
35 As a RAC member, one of the things that we needed most  
36 was information on Unit 2 deer, and we have the tool in  
37 place that looks like it's going to go to do that. There  
38 seems to be a wide number, a variety of things that are  
39 presented to this deer planning committee to take care of  
40 and it's a bit overwhelming for me.

41

42                   One is Forest practices, I mean it goes  
43 on and on, and I'm not an expert in any way on the roads  
44 or those things, I'm primarily a subsistence user. And I  
45 find myself a bit reluctant to dive into those things  
46 because it appears to me that the Forest Service is doing  
47 a good job with, you know, their programs, but, however,  
48 that's just some of my thoughts.

49

50                   I would also be reluctant to try to make

1 any changes to what we have in place at this time as far  
2 as deer regulation in Unit 2 for any of the users that  
3 use it now until we have had an opportunity to gather  
4 this data for four or five years and then we could make  
5 some sense out of it and make intelligent decisions.  
6 Until then I'm not encouraging any significant change.

7  
8 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Other Subcommittee  
9 members.

10  
11 DR. GARZA: Mr. Chairman.

12  
13 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Dr. Garza.

14  
15 DR. GARZA: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I just  
16 request that at that March meeting, that those that are  
17 not in attendance be contacted in terms of postponing so  
18 that if some people aren't at the March meeting because  
19 they have other spring commitments, they may have those  
20 same commitments in April.

21  
22 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Mr. Bangs.

23  
24 MR. BANGS: One of the things, Mr.  
25 Chairman, that we talked about at the last meeting when  
26 we approached the subject of not being able to make the  
27 meetings or whether the postponement should happen, the  
28 idea came that if we could, possibly, carry out the  
29 schedule, it might be better, in order to keep the same  
30 group of people involved in it from the other  
31 communities, and I think that's one of the points that  
32 Mr. Hernandez said, that we were going to make that  
33 decision after the March meeting, just to make sure that  
34 everyone is aware. We also wanted to keep the continuity  
35 and everyone have the same ideas fresh in their mind  
36 rather than to skip the summer and then try to get back  
37 into the project.

38  
39 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: I'm content to let  
40 the Subcommittee determine what goes on at their next  
41 meeting. But along the line of Mr. Douville, let's make  
42 sure that we confine what we're doing to the goal  
43 statement that the Council gave that direction and  
44 charged you, and try not to stray too far from it. Some  
45 of the things I don't have any problem with, but we want  
46 to come up with a subsistence-based management approach  
47 for U2 deer. So we just don't want to stray too far from  
48 that because everybody has to spend the time there. But  
49 I don't know if the other Council members want to weigh  
50 in on this, but they're the ones that are volunteering

1 their time and I would like to let them determine their  
2 own destiny at the next meeting. And I, for one, am  
3 willing to accept that unless any other Council wants to  
4 comment, that's how it will be.

5  
6 Mr. Hernandez.

7  
8 MR. HERNANDEZ: Just maybe as a final  
9 comment, the goal statement, as you noted, says that we  
10 were going to attempt to come up with a management plan.  
11 At our last meeting in Wrangell we took the first steps  
12 necessary towards what would essentially be the  
13 management plan of identifying management alternatives.  
14 So we just got started on that process.

15  
16 I think it's necessary to at least make  
17 an attempt to see if we can accomplish that goal of an  
18 actual management plan. Whether or not we're capable of  
19 doing that remains to be seen but we only took the first  
20 steps here, so -- or at least say that we -- I feel that  
21 we need to at least continue on and see what kind of  
22 process we can make towards that part of the goal  
23 statement.

24  
25 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: One thing I will  
26 note for the record is you've actually taken another  
27 step, and that's the last sentence of the goal statement  
28 that says that this management approach will include  
29 public education on deer management, habitat issues and  
30 subsistence protections found in ANILCA. And we're going  
31 to do that. We've already directed that that take place.  
32 So you've accomplished a couple things and I applaud you  
33 for that.

34  
35 MR. DOUVILLE: Mr. Chairman.

36  
37 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Mr. Douville.

38  
39 MR. DOUVILLE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.  
40 I've sat on this RAC for quite a while and we've dealt  
41 with Unit 2 deer issues for a long time, and I feel like  
42 I have a lot of experience but I want to say again, and  
43 this is what brings us here, until we have enough  
44 information to make intelligent decisions how can we make  
45 a plan.

46  
47 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: I agree. Are we  
48 done with this?

49  
50 (No comments)

1 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: We'll let the  
2 Subcommittee internally work this out and you guys can  
3 discuss that and I'm willing to do whatever you -- I'll  
4 support whatever your decision is.  
5  
6 Okay, I think we desperately need a short  
7 break and we will come back with Mr. Doug McBride, and he  
8 will be giving us the FIS component. Take 10 minutes.  
9  
10 (Off record)  
11  
12 (On record)  
13  
14 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Come back to order  
15 please.  
16  
17 (Pause)  
18  
19 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: I'd like to ask  
20 Mr. Suminski to come forward or grab the mike over there  
21 by Mr. Johnson, and if you could just give us a real  
22 short speech on what's back there, try to keep it under  
23 20 minutes please.  
24  
25 (Laughter)  
26  
27 MR. SUMINSKI: Mr. Chairman. Council  
28 members. I'm Terry Suminski with the U.S. Forest  
29 Service. I just wanted to talk about the display in the  
30 back of the room. On Friday, Teri Rofkar asked me to  
31 bring that over for you to look over. And I'm sure most  
32 everyone's aware that last spring the Sitka Ranger  
33 District issued a permit for the taking of three goats in  
34 the spring and that was to Teri Rofkar and the Sitka  
35 Tribe, and the Southeast Alaska Indian Cultural Center.  
36 And the idea was that by taking the goats in the spring  
37 that the wool would be easier to get out of the hide than  
38 it would in a hide that's taken during the fall, the  
39 regular hunting season. It worked out really well, and  
40 if anybody has any questions about the process, I'm not  
41 an expert at weaving or anything like that, but I've  
42 talked to Teri enough to kind of, I could guide you  
43 through some of her display back there.  
44  
45 If there's any questions I'd be happy to  
46 talk about it.  
47  
48 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: So the display is  
49 in the back underneath the ANB logo and if there's any  
50 questions you can direct them to Mr. Suminski about that.

1 And that's an action that the Council has weighed in on.  
2  
3 And then secondly, we have an  
4 introduction, Dr. Garza.  
5  
6 DR. GARZA: Thank you, Mr. Chairman for  
7 allowing me this opportunity. Most of you know I do work  
8 for the University of Alaska Marine Advisory Program and  
9 we do have a Marine Advisory Program office here in  
10 Sitka, the agent is Sunny Rice right here.  
11  
12 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Petersburg.  
13  
14 DR. GARZA: Petersburg, sorry. She  
15 replaced Brian Paust who many of you may know. We've had  
16 a hard time getting him out of the office but Sunny's  
17 there. Sunny has worked on educational materials on  
18 Albatross, bird deterrence, for longline, she's worked on  
19 direct marketing, and her and I have also been doing the  
20 TIA (ph) workshops in Southeast. So if this is sort of  
21 your area or if you want to reach her and you're tired of  
22 talking to me, 772-3381. Thanks Sunny.  
23  
24 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Thank you, and  
25 welcome. And we have one other introduction, there's a  
26 member of Staff who's been coming in and out, and he  
27 knows who he is and I'd like him to get up and introduce  
28 himself at this time.  
29  
30 MR. LARSON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My  
31 name is Bob Larson, I'm the subsistence fisheries.....  
32  
33 REPORTER: Bob.  
34  
35 MR. LARSON: .....biologist for.....  
36  
37 REPORTER: Bob.  
38  
39 MR. LARSON: .....Petersburg and Wrangell  
40 -- oh, okay -- for the Forest Service District.  
41  
42 Thank you.  
43  
44 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: I knew I'd catch  
45 you eventually. Thank you very much, it's good to see  
46 you.  
47  
48 Okay, are there any other members,  
49 anybody else that's showed up that we haven't introduced.  
50 (No comments)

1 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Okay. Mr.  
2 McBride, Dr. Wheeler, it's your show.

3  
4 MR. MCBRIDE: Mr. Chairman. Members of  
5 the Council. Thank you very much. For the record, my  
6 name is Doug McBride. I'm with the Office of Subsistence  
7 Management, Fisheries Information Services. And with me  
8 is Dr. Polly Wheeler with the same organization. And  
9 what we're here to talk to you about is Item 11 on the  
10 agenda, the Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program. And I  
11 don't think we'll be spending a tremendous amount of  
12 time, but the time that we do have we'll be spending most  
13 of our time on Item 1, just a project performance report.  
14 And basically what we're here to do, this is just an  
15 informational item, it's not really an action item for  
16 the Council at this time of year, but it's a summary of  
17 basically how the program is performing, how we're doing,  
18 where we've been, and then also we'll touch on where  
19 we're likely to go in the near future. Issues that we've  
20 got coming up, what will be coming up when you meet again  
21 in the fall, those kinds of things. We'll also be  
22 touching, as part of that, where we're going, if you look  
23 at Item 2 in the agenda under 11, or A2 is strategic  
24 planning, we'll just give you a very brief update on  
25 that.

26  
27 And then the other thing that we've  
28 historically done at these winter meetings is invited  
29 investigators to speak, and, in fact, we had Mr. Ben  
30 VanAlen with the Forest Service who was going to be here  
31 to talk about one of the sockeye projects that was done  
32 in conjunction with the Hoonah Indian Association up at  
33 Neva and Pavlof. Unfortunately Ben couldn't be here at  
34 this meeting. But we do have Mike Turek and he's already  
35 referenced the steelhead work on Prince of Wales Island,  
36 which was a Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program. So,  
37 if you'd like, that would be a real logical one to follow  
38 when we're done if you'd so like, Mr. Chairman.

39  
40 To get to the meat of what we're talking  
41 about we've prepared a performance report, it begins on  
42 Page 175 in your book and what I'll do -- Polly and I  
43 will do is we'll very briefly just go through some of the  
44 highlights in this report to give you a broad overview of  
45 the program and then after all of this, have a more  
46 detailed report about a specific project by Mr. Turek  
47 would make a lot of sense.

48  
49 Speaking just to the background of the  
50 program, and it's hard to talk about this program without

1 talking about money. But if you'll look on Page 175 what  
2 you'll see is some figures there at the bottom center  
3 part of the page. And what that is is the amount of  
4 money that has been spent by the program for new projects  
5 in each individual year. And in just a minute here I'm  
6 going to get to the table that's on Page 177 so this will  
7 become a little clearer, but the thing to remember about  
8 the Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program, particularly  
9 here in Southeast, the money that's available all comes  
10 through USDA Forest Service, and there is a set amount of  
11 money available and it's basically \$2 million a year, but  
12 that funds both Southeast and the Southcentral regions.  
13 It's roughly divided two-thirds into Southeast, one-third  
14 into Southcentral, and then a little bit of Interior  
15 money also goes into Southcentral. But then when we talk  
16 about the amount of money available for new projects  
17 every year, it's that amount of money minus any prior  
18 commitments that we've made on projects. And, again,  
19 when we talk about this table on Page 177 I'll show you  
20 how that works.

21  
22 Let me just go through the broad  
23 overview. What you can see is it's kind of a cyclical  
24 thing that we go through. The program started in 2000,  
25 and these are statewide figures, \$2.5 million was put  
26 into the program to get it off the ground in the year  
27 2000. And then in 2001 we got the full allocation  
28 statewide, which was about a little over \$7 million, and  
29 that money was all allocated out. But you've got to  
30 remember one of our sideboards is we allow program  
31 commitments of up to three years in duration. So some of  
32 the projects actually last three years, some last two,  
33 some only last one. And when you subtract those  
34 commitments out, those year two and year three  
35 commitments out, that's why the money drops, for instance  
36 in 2002, there was \$1.8 million, then \$1.9 million 2003,  
37 then by the time 2004 came around all those commitments  
38 from 2001 had expired because we only allow them up to  
39 three years. So there was a lot of money available again  
40 to consider new projects, and those projects were just  
41 implemented or just started here this past summer. And  
42 then in 2005 we had a \$1.9 million amount of money  
43 available, that was the program that was just approved by  
44 the Federal Subsistence Board at their January meeting  
45 and that we discussed last fall. And it was those  
46 projects that were implemented. And then upcoming, right  
47 now, we have a call out and we have just received  
48 proposals for 2006, and we actually have the smallest  
49 amount of money we've had available since the inception  
50 of the program. This is a statewide figure, \$1.3 million

1 available for consideration of new projects to start in  
2 2006.

3  
4 If you turn the page and look at this  
5 table on Page 177, what you will see are the projects,  
6 the history of what this program has funded in Southeast.  
7 And I apologize for the small print, I'm almost to the  
8 point where I've got to put my reading glasses on to read  
9 this, but let me just walk you through this table real  
10 quickly so that you can see how this works.

11  
12 Let me just talk about the columns to  
13 begin with. On the far left they're just simply the  
14 project the numbers, that's just our way of doing the  
15 accounting on the projects. In the next column you'll  
16 see data type and you'll see two acronyms, one is SST,  
17 that stands for stock, status and trends; and what that  
18 means are projects like the sockeye projects that we've  
19 been funding. Where we're going in and we're looking at  
20 trying to measure parameters like how many fish are  
21 there, what's their distribution, what's their age  
22 composition; those kinds of parameters. The other  
23 acronym is HMTEK, that's harvest monitoring and  
24 traditional ecological knowledge. And that's basically  
25 measuring parameters about the fishery and looking at  
26 traditional ecological knowledge and addressing either  
27 stock, status and trend questions or questions about  
28 harvest use patterns, historical trends; those kinds of  
29 subject matter. Then the third column, the wide one  
30 there, the project title, that's simply the project  
31 names, I think that's self-explanatory. The next column  
32 over are the investigators and that's actually  
33 information that's not only important to us but  
34 information that the Council has requested in the past in  
35 terms of who's actually conducting the project. The  
36 first organization there is what we call the principle  
37 investigator, they're the lead investigator and then we  
38 have the co-investigators following that. And then all  
39 the numbers to the right are the budget figures, those  
40 are the annual budgets for each project.

41  
42 And so to sort out what projects are we  
43 funding right now if you go over to the column that's  
44 labeled 2005, which is the third from the end, anything  
45 that's got a number in that column is something that is  
46 currently being funded right now in this year. So if you  
47 do the intersection here and look at the first one that  
48 has a number, there's 88.7, that's \$88,700 and that  
49 relates to Project 04-605 Kanalku, Sitkoh Lakes Sockeye  
50 Stock Assessment, so that's the project that we do in

1 conjunction with Angoon Cooperative Association to look  
2 at basically abundance and composition of sockeye stocks  
3 in those lakes, Kanalku and Sitkoh Lakes.

4  
5                   And so if you look at that, what you'll  
6 see is right now we're funding a block of sockeye  
7 projects. Most of these projects have a number that  
8 starts with 04, that was part of the 2004 Monitoring  
9 Program and we're looking a whole series of sockeye lakes  
10 and then we added a few more in this last go around that  
11 will start just again this year, in 2005, and so that  
12 block of figures that I've outlined in yellow on my table  
13 over here, that's what we're funding right now. I'm  
14 going to give you just a real brief summary of the  
15 overview of those projects, and then following that Polly  
16 is going to then talk about the ones that are being  
17 funded currently under the harvest monitoring, TEK,  
18 looking at the documentation of subsistence use patterns  
19 in this region.

20  
21                   I think the next important thing to talk  
22 about, particularly for these sockeye projects, if you  
23 turn the page to Page 178, you'll see this figure that's  
24 got a whole bunch of horizontal lines on it. What that  
25 is is just a picture of which sockeye systems we're  
26 looking at and what years we look at them in. I think  
27 it's a better way, at least for me, to look at what we've  
28 done, where we've been. And we organized this figure by  
29 the community around which those stocks occur and the  
30 primary community that utilizes those stocks for  
31 subsistence. So for instance, if you look at the top of  
32 the page we've got the systems that we looked at around  
33 Hoonah which have been Neva Pavlof and Hoktaheen, and  
34 then you can see which years we have funded assessment  
35 work for those systems. And then you can just simply go  
36 down the figure and you can see which ones we're looking  
37 at right now, again, that would be anything under 2005,  
38 and then which ones we've made commitments for off into  
39 the future.

40  
41                   The third thing, I'd like to just give  
42 you an overview of is if you turn the page then, to Page  
43 179, Table 3, what this is is a summary of the  
44 partnerships, the financial partnerships that we have had  
45 with the Southeast Sustainable Salmon Fund and this has  
46 been a very important factor in terms of how much work we  
47 can fund and it's going to be a really important factor  
48 when we do the next request for proposals, which will be  
49 for next year, which will be for 2007. And the reason  
50 that I say that is if you look at that table what you'll

1 see is on the left, the year in which we have received  
2 money from the Southeast Sustainable Salmon Fund, then  
3 you'll see the system that the money was put into and  
4 then you'll see two columns of figures, how much money  
5 this program put into that project and then how much  
6 money we got from the Southeast Sustainable Salmon Fund.  
7 And the salient point here is the table doesn't go beyond  
8 2006. We are in the last year of receiving money from  
9 the Southeast Sustainable Salmon Fund. Right now we're  
10 getting money for both the Klawock and the Falls Lakes  
11 projects, it totals about \$115,000 for 2006, but after  
12 this year, after the 2006 year there will be no more  
13 Southeast Sustainable Salmon Fund money.

14  
15                   And I've spoken with actually Sue Asplen  
16 in the Commissioner's office with Fish and Game, and the  
17 reason for that is these funds come through the Pacific  
18 Salmon Coastal Recovery Fund, it's something close to  
19 that, if I didn't have it right, that's close, but the  
20 bottom line is Southeast, by and large, has been cut out  
21 of that process, and that's something that goes on at a  
22 much higher level, certainly than me or actually than  
23 Sue, either. But at any rate, the take home message here  
24 is there will be no additional Southeast Sustainable  
25 Salmon Fund money. So what this, at least, means to me  
26 is when we're looking at projects that we can fund  
27 starting in 2007, we're going to have about 100 to  
28 \$150,000 less to spend than we had because the cost of  
29 the projects doesn't go down, but we've done a co-funding  
30 arrangement with this program so we leveraged our funds,  
31 if you will, to make our dollars go further by, you know,  
32 combining forces with this program, but this program  
33 basically no longer exists after 2006.

34  
35                   Let me just give you a real brief  
36 overview of the sockeye programs. There is kind of a  
37 blow-by-blow, if you will, of the currently funded  
38 projects that starts on Page 180. It's just every  
39 project that's current and what's going on with that  
40 project. I'm not going to go through that in detail,  
41 I'll leave that to you to read and if you have questions  
42 here that would certainly be fine.

43  
44                   But I think there's a couple things that  
45 I could say, just overall, about the sockeye stock  
46 assessment program. I think overall it's been a  
47 resounding success. If you look at the systems that  
48 we're looking at on Page 178, Table 2, what you'll see is  
49 we've done assessment on about 20 sockeye systems around  
50 the region. I think if you look at systems that support

1 subsistence use, I think you'd be hard-pressed to see  
2 major systems that aren't on this list. Now, there are  
3 some major systems, I mean for instance in the Yakutat  
4 area, the Situk would be an obvious one, but there  
5 already is an assessment program funded by the State on  
6 that system. Another big one would be Redoubt Lake, and,  
7 again, another funding source is doing the assessment  
8 work on that system. But I think we've done a -- I  
9 think, so far, a good job of focusing the money on  
10 systems that support subsistence use.

11  
12 I think by and large we're getting the  
13 information that we're paying for. And the big piece of  
14 information that we're paying for are estimates of  
15 escapement. There are some notable exceptions, and if  
16 you look at some of the summary information on the bottom  
17 of Page 176, we talk about there, that they're -- if I  
18 had to pick one system that I'd say we just so far it's  
19 been too tough of a nut to crack, we have not gotten good  
20 information, it would be Gut Bay, which is one of the  
21 systems by Kake. We tried to do a tagging, mark,  
22 recapture estimate in there and it just didn't work. We  
23 really don't have a good idea of the size of the spawning  
24 escapement in Gut Bay. I also listed Virginia Lake there  
25 which is one of the systems over by Wrangell. I think we  
26 have a -- we don't have a precise estimate of the  
27 escapement in there but we got a pretty good idea, it's  
28 on the order of one to probably 2,500 sockeyes, and then  
29 we did some real good work there to finish that project  
30 looking at the distribution of fish within the system and  
31 also the success of the fish going past the fish pass and  
32 making it up through the Barrier Falls into the lake.

33  
34 There have been some other systems that  
35 have been problematic for us, that, I think, by and large  
36 we're making progress on. The one we've talked about the  
37 most has been Klawock. We funded an assessment program  
38 in Klawock since the first year of study in 2000  
39 basically we're funding operation of the weir at the  
40 Klawock Hatchery. There have been problems, both, with  
41 the weir and the mark/recapture study as we've gone  
42 through time but I feel right now, I think we've got that  
43 program under control. In fact we used Southeast  
44 Sustainable Salmon Fund money to do some capital  
45 improvements to the weir. I think we've got the weir  
46 fish tight and we've got the drill down, if you will, on  
47 the mark/recapture part of the program to do the backup  
48 estimates so I feel much better about Klawock than I did  
49 a couple years ago.  
50

1                   We're going through a similar kind of  
2 exercise right now for Salmon Lake, which is a small  
3 system near Sitka. And there, we've had a weir since  
4 2001. What we're finding is in some years there's  
5 significant leakage of fish through the weir. In other  
6 words, fish are getting either through, around or over  
7 the weir that we're not counting and we're picking that  
8 up in the mark/recapture but I feel -- both I and Terry  
9 Suminski, I think, feel pretty confident that we're going  
10 to get on top of that and get that weir so that we're  
11 getting reliable information.

12  
13                   I know Patty was quizzing me about this  
14 earlier, in terms of, well, when we say things are  
15 problematic, I mean what does that really mean, does that  
16 mean we're not getting information? No, it doesn't. In  
17 each one of the examples that I talked about Klawock and  
18 Salmon Lake and -- those two in particular, we are  
19 getting the back up mark/recapture estimates, we're  
20 getting good estimates of escapement in those examples.  
21 The reason I think they're problematic is we're paying a  
22 relatively high price for that information because we're  
23 funding a weir. And if we're going to pay for a weir,  
24 one of the things that we have worked real hard with the  
25 investigators on is we want all the advantages of a weir.  
26 We want daily counts. We want the in-season information.  
27 We want all that. We don't want just a platform just to  
28 mark fish, it's a very expensive platform to mark fish.

29  
30                   So when I say things are problematic,  
31 what I mean is that there has been leakage through the  
32 weir, we're working real hard with the investigators to  
33 get that fixed so that if we're going to pay for a weir  
34 we get the information that should come with a weir.

35  
36                   As we look off into the future, one of  
37 the projects that we're funding right now is Hetta, which  
38 is one of the systems over by Hydaburg, we have done  
39 mark/recapture in there. In some years it's worked, in  
40 other years we've had a real hard time capturing fish.  
41 There's been a lot of work that's happened there with the  
42 Forest Service and with, particularly, Tony Christianson,  
43 who's the executive -- or the natural resource director  
44 for Hydaburg Cooperative Association. And what we're  
45 going to do there is put a weir in on Hetta to get around  
46 the problems we're having with the mark/recapture.

47  
48                   And one of the programs that we just  
49 recently funded in 2005 for Kook Lake which is up by  
50 Angoon, that historically was a mark/recapture, again, it

1 was questionable how good the information was and so  
2 we're going to go with a weir in that system as well.

3  
4 Mr. Chairman, at this point I'm going at  
5 least pause and ask if there are any questions on  
6 anything that I've covered so far and then Dr. Wheeler is  
7 going to get into the summary of the harvest monitoring  
8 and TEK projects.

9  
10 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Any questions.  
11 Mr. Adams.

12  
13 MR. ADAMS: Thank you. Thank you, Doug,  
14 for that report. One of the questions I was going to ask  
15 you before you even came up here, when you did come up  
16 here was, you know, the projects that were kind of  
17 planned for the East Alsek River, you know, many years  
18 ago, we were going to go after about four different  
19 grants, and the first one was a TEK project which I know  
20 you're going to report on in a little bit, and then we  
21 were going to do some other projects there. And you  
22 answered the question for me when you said that the  
23 assessment projects are coming from other sources of  
24 funding. And, you know, I know that the State has been  
25 doing some work down on East Alsek and has been showing  
26 some real good progress down there as well as the  
27 Ahrnklin and Italio Rivers.

28  
29 So I just wanted to let you know that,  
30 you know, we are concerned about those systems because  
31 if, and when and I guess it's no matter if it's a matter  
32 of when the Hubbard Glacier, you know, closes off  
33 permanently it's going to overflow into the Situk River,  
34 which is going to devastate, you know, the fisheries in  
35 that system for many, many years. And so our tribal  
36 concern was we're going to have to start moving down to  
37 our old traditional fishing and hunting grounds in order  
38 to provide for subsistence resources.

39  
40 But it looks like there is some good work  
41 going on down there right now, and, you know, this  
42 project started it all off. And so I just wanted to  
43 inform you and the Council about that.

44  
45 Thank you.

46  
47 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Other Council.  
48 Ms. Phillips.

49  
50 MS. PHILLIPS: Thank you, Chairman

1 Littlefield. Thank you, Mr. McBride. My concern that I  
2 was trying to bring forward to Doug was like the Klawock  
3 Lake has been bringing in some good information that we  
4 need, but his report identifies that there's been some  
5 problematic issues going on down there in the systems  
6 with their data gathering or with their science work  
7 anyways. And like Klawock Lake we started funding in  
8 2000, they got funding 2000, 2001, 2002, and then Klawock  
9 Lake got funded in 2004, and it looks like we're going to  
10 give them more money in 2005 and 2006. And if there were  
11 weir issues going on, and I realize it takes at least a  
12 season to figure out that you have weir issues going on,  
13 then why did it take so long to get the weir, you know,  
14 so you could get the counts, numbers that you need.

15  
16 I'm not familiar with Klawock Lake so  
17 there are probably issues going on that I don't know  
18 about. But if there is problematic issues going on, I  
19 would hope that they could be caught early on. Because  
20 if we've got multiple years of funding then we want to  
21 get the best data that we can through those multiple  
22 years.

23  
24 On the Hoktaheen, it says a preliminary  
25 comparison of mark/recapture index results for Hoktaheen  
26 Lake indicates that the 2004 escapement was the smallest  
27 of the past four years. Well, Hoktaheen Lake was a  
28 series of years, it looks like one, two, for sure, how  
29 many years was Hoktaheen, one, two.....

30  
31 MR. MCBRIDE: Three.

32  
33 MS. PHILLIPS: .....three years, and it's  
34 showing that we're now -- the escapement's at the lowest  
35 level. Well, this system gets heavy hit by subsistence  
36 use and we're going to make management decisions that's  
37 showing a declining trend in populations, we don't have  
38 any more funding for that.

39  
40 So as future FIS projects come forward,  
41 if we could get requests for proposals to continue  
42 projects that we've already started because those are  
43 heavily hit areas, now we're going to be making decisions  
44 based on low escapement levels for the Falls Lake sockeye  
45 stock assessment escapement was estimated through a fish  
46 pass at 1,640 sockeye, yet the estimated harvest was  
47 3,000 sockeye. I mean that kind of -- but the Falls Lake  
48 -- I mean even though we're showing that it's going to  
49 continue through '06, something's telling me right there  
50 that right now escapement is half of what harvest is, and

1 that's go me concerned.

2

3                   Anyways, those are just comments I wanted  
4 to make and thanks for answering my previous questions.

5

6                   CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Mr. McBride.

7

8                   MR. MCBRIDE: Mr. Chairman. Ms.

9 Phillips. Yeah, I guess what I could say is I agree with  
10 your concerns. But let me address the Klawock issue.

11 There's -- some of these systems, they're just hard to  
12 deal with. They're just difficult to deal with, it's not

13 easy work. And in that particular case, like I say,

14 there's a weir right there at the hatchery, the weir was

15 never put in to stop all the fish originally, you know,

16 it was just simply put in to gather some of the fish to

17 do brood stock, that kind of stuff, so some modifications

18 were made on it early on, and it took a couple of years

19 to figure out that the modifications weren't quite good

20 enough. In fact, if you look on Table 3, which you'll see

21 in 2004 there, right in the middle of the page, it says

22 Klawock weir, we got nearly \$30,000 from the Southeast

23 Sustainable Salmon Fund, Mr. Ben VanAlen with the Forest

24 Service who is really good at building weirs, he went

25 there, made some very specific design modifications in

26 the weir, we used this money to buy the materials,

27 fabricate it and then install it and so -- and that was

28 all just done a year ago. And it looks like after just

29 this last year, it looks like what we got now is the weir

30 that we'd hoped we had, you know, back in 2001. So

31 that's why I'm saying that I think Klawock is back on

32 target. The other thing that we did, also, just to make

33 sure that we weren't just kind of stuffing money down a

34 rat hole, so to speak, is in 2004, when we did the

35 monitoring plan, when we brought the proposals to you, we

36 had a proposal for Klawock, you know, it was a three year

37 proposal starting in 2004. But it was before we did this

38 weir modification and in our recommendation and what the

39 Council supported was we only gave a funding commitment

40 for one year because we wanted to see what happened. We

41 weren't willing to make that three year commitment

42 because we weren't sure. And then when we did the 2005

43 plan, which is what we discussed last fall then at that

44 point we basically knew we had it. You know, we did the

45 weir improvements, we knew what happened last summer, it

46 looked good, and, you know, we invited them to give us a

47 two year proposal which they did and which we recommended

48 funding, so I think -- I say I feel pretty good between

49 the Staff and the Council, you know, to the extent we

50 could, you know, we were controlling the money. We

1 weren't willing to make a commitment, a long-term  
2 commitment on a project that I think everyone would agree  
3 is an important system to monitor when there was some  
4 major technical issues.

5  
6 We basically said, okay, we're going to  
7 deal with this one year at a time and see where we're at.

8  
9 So those are some of the actions that we  
10 took.

11  
12 And then, I guess, just speaking to  
13 places like Hoktaheen, I fully agree. I think one of the  
14 things that we're going to have to do over the course  
15 here in the next year or two, this kind of gets us into  
16 the discussion on strategic planning is we're going to  
17 have to really look at this list of systems and figure  
18 out which ones are the critical ones to look at. And  
19 personally I agree, I think you could make a pretty  
20 compelling case that Hoktaheen needs to be looked at some  
21 more. It's a major subsistence destination particularly  
22 for Hoonah and, you know, we kind of left it not at a  
23 great, you know, it's not like you can look at that  
24 information and go, oh, okay, everything's fine, I don't  
25 know that everything's fine.

26  
27 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: I note that the  
28 recent news articles about smart fish, it seems like  
29 quite a few of them got through our weir.

30  
31 (Laughter)

32  
33 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Mr. Adams.

34  
35 MR. ADAMS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.  
36 Just realizing here that you said that after 2006, you  
37 know, these funds are going to sunset. And I think that  
38 everyone on the panel here agrees that we're never going  
39 to solve our problems, you know, between now and 2006,  
40 and so I'm wondering, you know, what provisions there is  
41 going to be for after that date, if there is going to be  
42 another cycle of funding that will be forthcoming, and if  
43 not where will these projects go and who's going to fund  
44 them?

45  
46 MR. MCBRIDE: Mr. Chairman. Mr. Adams.  
47 Like I said the Southeast Sustainable Salmon Fund  
48 effectively goes away after 2006. And also a lot of the  
49 projects that you referenced in the Yakutat area like for  
50 the Ahrnklin and the Lost and those, I mean those

1 programs that you're talking about are being funded under  
2 the Southeast Sustainable Salmon Fund, they will go the  
3 same way as -- I mean the amount of money that's going  
4 into our program is, I don't want to say a pittance, but  
5 is a very small amount of the Southeast Sustainable  
6 Salmon Fund, they're funding a lot of work around  
7 Southeast. But those programs that you just referenced  
8 are, to my knowledge are being funded under that program,  
9 so they will go away basically after 2006.

10

11 Our funding, to my knowledge, is going to  
12 remain flat. I don't think it's going to go down, but  
13 it's also not going to go up. So what that tells us is  
14 that we need to be really strategic about which projects  
15 we fund.

16

17 MR. ADAMS: Thank you, Doug. Just  
18 looking at this at a glance you could see where funding  
19 was going to disappear here and so forth, but thanks for  
20 answering that question. And I was just wondering if you  
21 guys were doing such a great job that you were going to  
22 be working yourself out of a job here soon.

23

24 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Question on the  
25 funding. You heard that law enforcement was basically  
26 grabbing about \$650,000 this year, 600,000.

27

28 DR. SCHROEDER: Utilizing.

29

30 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Utilizing, not  
31 grabbing, excuse me.

32

33 (Laughter)

34

35 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: I think they were  
36 utilizing those from the FIS Program; is that correct, or  
37 the same pot, anyway?

38

39 MR. MCBRIDE: Mr. Chairman. I'm going to  
40 let somebody from the USDA Forest Service answer that. I  
41 mean there has always been a set aside, if you will, for  
42 the Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program so that  
43 funding, I don't think came out of anything that was ever  
44 part of the FIS Program to my knowledge but, again, I'm  
45 going to let Cal or somebody else answer that.

46

47 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Mr. Casipit.

48

49 MR. CASIPIT: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.  
50 Doug is correct that we've dedicated \$2 million to FIS

1 Program and that's not going to change. And the extra  
2 100,000 that went to law enforcement, that came out of  
3 the regular -- you know, our regular subsistence program  
4 that Mr. Kessler is in charge of and that was just kind  
5 of, again, that was just a blip, I don't think they're  
6 going to get that extra 100,000 in the future especially  
7 if we use the WIS money, again, like Steve was  
8 mentioning. So did that answer that part of your  
9 question, I mean we are dedicating \$2 million to FIS and  
10 we have been and as far as I'm concerned we will continue  
11 to.

12

13 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Okay. But when  
14 you look at the graph, it's steady downhill and then  
15 we're losing more money out of the subsistence program,  
16 it just concerns me. That was why I said that.

17

18 MR. CASIPIT: I also wanted to mention  
19 that it's not here in your -- for good reason it's not  
20 here in this report because we have just started working  
21 on it, just issued the contracts. But as you know the  
22 Federal Subsistence Board supported the Council's  
23 recommendation to keep the closure to non-subsistence  
24 users in Bay of Pillars, Kutlaku Lake. A part of that  
25 decision on the part of our Board member was to invest  
26 some money into continuing the stock, status and trends  
27 project at Kutlaku Lake. Based on our Board member's  
28 direction I modified the contracts going to Fish and Game  
29 and the Organized Village of Kake for their Falls Lake  
30 project to include Kutlaku for this upcoming field season  
31 as well, and I know also that Fish and Game and Organized  
32 Village of Kake has submitted a proposal through the FIS  
33 Program to continue that funding 2007 and beyond. So,  
34 you know, that's going to be in the mix in the future.

35

36 So I just wanted to let you know that we  
37 have taken some action to increase our funding there at  
38 Kutlaku and that's outside of the regular \$2 million  
39 appropriation to FIS.

40

41 Thank you.

42

43 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Other Council.

44

45 (No comments)

46

47 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Thank you. Okay,  
48 Dr. Wheeler.

49

50 MS. WHEELER: Thank you, Mr. Chair. It's

1 Polly Wheeler, for the record. As I mentioned yesterday  
2 I have responsibility statewide for all of the harvest  
3 monitoring and traditional knowledge projects that are  
4 funded under our program. We've actually hired another  
5 anthropologist in the past year so she's taking over some  
6 of the region so hopefully you'll see me at more of the  
7 Council meetings so that I can be more directly involved.

8

9                   Just a little bit about the harvest  
10 monitoring, traditional knowledge projects, kind of  
11 statewide because I think it's important to get that  
12 perspective. There's been about 60 plus projects funded  
13 in that data type since the start of this program. And I  
14 would say overall they've met with mixed success. There  
15 has been some that have been -- well, we've terminated  
16 some of them for lack of performance. We've had some  
17 that have had some problems but I'm happy to report in  
18 recent -- in about the last six months we've started to  
19 see some really good reports coming out of some of our  
20 projects. And I think it's important to note that this  
21 program is unique. There's very few programs around that  
22 fund, as sort of a data type, that fund these harvest  
23 monitoring, traditional knowledge projects in addition to  
24 the standard weirs, sonar counters, genetic projects,  
25 whatever, so I think this program took a risk in funding  
26 those programs right out of the chute and it's expected  
27 that there's going to be some mixed success because these  
28 projects are actually in some ways harder to do than some  
29 of the weirs, projects, sort of the standard biological  
30 projects because you're dealing with people and there are  
31 smart fish but let's face it, the people are probably a  
32 lot smarter and it's a lot more difficult and a lot of  
33 these projects have had -- there's been, maybe not enough  
34 time built in on the front end for planning and for  
35 consulting and collaborating with people. And so a lot  
36 of our investigators have kind of learned a lot of  
37 lessons in working on these projects. And now, instead  
38 of asking for two years of funding they stretch it out  
39 over three years recognizing that the first year may  
40 require a lot of planning effort.

41

42                   So with that said, we've funded in  
43 Southeast about 12 projects since the beginning of the  
44 program. We do have a couple of final reports that are  
45 just recently, that are out or about to be out. One of  
46 them is Judy's report, the East Alsek report, and that  
47 was finalized in the past, I think it was finalized about  
48 six months ago, and that is out for distribution. We are  
49 waiting to get some of the final little quirks out of it  
50 so we need a PDF file in order to distribute it.

1                   But I'm sure the Council members are  
2 interested in that and I'd be happy to provide copies --  
3 or I will provide copies to all Council members when it  
4 does finally get out.  
5

6                   As a side note, too, in the Office of  
7 Subsistence Management newsletter we do highlight  
8 successful projects, successful, you know, anything of  
9 success that comes out of the program. In our most  
10 recent newsletter the cover story was on a traditional  
11 knowledge project that we did up in the Koyukuk River and  
12 so you might be interested in that. If you're interested  
13 in a copy of the report I can provide that to you.  
14

15                   We also just got another project that  
16 just finished up on whitefish in the Kotzebue Sound  
17 region where they interviewed 57 knowledgeable people in  
18 that part of the world, and it's a pretty interesting  
19 report.  
20

21                   So with that said, like I said we have  
22 some really good success stories that are coming out,  
23 and, again, the program is only five years old so it's to  
24 be expected to kind of start out slow and move forward.  
25

26                   I will say that we've been working --  
27 that Fish and Game has been a major contributor on the  
28 harvest monitoring, traditional knowledge projects. And  
29 along with being a major contributor there's always  
30 deliverables that are due, so poor Mike has on his  
31 shoulders a lot of reports that are promised in the next  
32 six months. So if you look in the little project  
33 summaries on Pages 181 to 184 you'll see that there's a  
34 lot of projects that are going to be due in the next six  
35 months or so. Mike turned in the draft final report for  
36 the Prince of Wales subsistence steelhead harvest use  
37 pattern project that he worked on just -- he turned in  
38 the final report last week and I think he'll be talking  
39 about that, that's the poster over there. We're real  
40 happy with the work that Mike's done and we look forward  
41 to all the reports that are going to be coming across my  
42 desk for review here in the next little while.  
43

44                   Mike has done some excellent  
45 collaborative work in all areas and projects that he's  
46 worked on and I guess of note Sitka Tribe of Alaska has  
47 been working very hard at getting some projects coming up  
48 from the local level, kind of from the grassroots level.  
49 And I know at the last RAC meeting Roby Craig had  
50 organized the conference prior to and during the RAC

1 meeting where tribal representatives were there to learn  
2 about the program, learn about what kind of projects they  
3 could do. Roby and Jack Lorrigan came up in early  
4 December to Anchorage to meet with Doug and myself and  
5 talk more about that project, that was part of the  
6 project that they were funded for in '04, was to actually  
7 work with people to get projects going or to propose  
8 projects. And we are working and will continue to work  
9 with Sitka Tribe to generate some projects there.

10

11                   Along those lines, when Roby and Jack  
12 came up we also did meet with Dr. Langdon on the  
13 customary trade project. I know that's an issue of  
14 intense concern for the Council. We share that concern.  
15 As you probably remember from last fall's meeting, the  
16 one project that we have in customary trade had some  
17 issues, so we're working to resolve those issues and  
18 we'll hopefully have a stellar investigation plan coming  
19 before you in the fall saying this is a great project we  
20 ought to go with it. We did get a proposal and we're,  
21 again, working with the investigator to iron out some of  
22 the issues that exist with the proposal.

23

24                   So I guess with that, Mr. Chair, I'd be  
25 happy to answer any questions on any of the projects and  
26 also to provide you with reports on them. But I just  
27 want to assure you that I feel really strongly that this  
28 is a really critical part of the program, and I think  
29 we've addressed a lot of the problems that we've had kind  
30 of with a lot of these projects. I've been here now for  
31 almost three years and I think that's really helped  
32 because one of the issues with our program has been that  
33 they've had somebody sort of part-time, if at all,  
34 working on these projects and a lot of these projects  
35 need a lot of care and support and helping them along.

36

37                   So I think that we are moving forward and  
38 I fully anticipate that in the next round I know we  
39 already have one proposal to be looking at in 2006 for  
40 customary trade but I hope that after that we'll have a  
41 selection of projects to pick from like you do on stock,  
42 status and trend side, because it's always nice to have  
43 your pick of great projects.

44

45                   So with that I guess I'll turn it over to  
46 you for any questions, and then you can go to Mr. Turek.

47

48                   Mr. Chair.

49

50                   CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Council questions.

1 Mr. Adams.

2

3 MR. ADAMS: I don't mean to dominate the  
4 conversation here, Mr. Chairman, but I just needed to add  
5 something to the Yakutat project, or the East Alsek  
6 River. We got \$25,000 from that funding and that  
7 allowed, you know, our anthropologist to do that project.  
8 But we were also able to get some additional money from  
9 the Forest Service and that resulted in doing not just  
10 the East Alsek River TEK project, but encompassed all of  
11 Yakutat. So we were able to do that very successfully.

12

13 The real purpose of that was to document,  
14 you know, the way that our people historically monitored  
15 their programs. We had ways and means of managing our  
16 resources. And being the tribal president, you know, I  
17 made it a point that Judy, you know, really document that  
18 as an important part of the project. Because when we  
19 start doing management schemes for, like for instance,  
20 the East Alsek River in the future, then we can take that  
21 TEK and, you know, bridge it with Western Science and  
22 then I think we'll be able to come up with some real good  
23 management schemes for those areas, and that was the  
24 whole purpose of our TEK project.

25

26 Thank you.

27

28 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Dr. Wheeler.

29

30 MS. WHEELER: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
31 Member Adams. Yeah, that was a unique project in that we  
32 had an anthropologist from the community working in the  
33 community and I would also say that she worked a lot with  
34 Freddie DeLaguna who is a renowned anthropologist who  
35 just recently passed away and included in that report is  
36 some correspondence that Judy had with Dr. DeLaguna and  
37 that was kind of neat. But you raise an interesting  
38 point, too, the whole intersection between traditional  
39 knowledge and Western Science and also application of the  
40 information.

41

42 Because it's not only collecting the  
43 information it's then presenting it in a way that can be  
44 used in management because that's the whole goal here, is  
45 that we all know that there's all this information out  
46 there that could be used in management so how do we get  
47 at it and how do we present it in a way that can be  
48 useful in management because it's out there, we know it,  
49 so how do we get there. And that's been a challenge of  
50 the program, but Judy's project is definitely a big step

1 in that direction, and I commend you for supporting her  
2 in doing that, too.

3

4 Mr. Chair.

5

6 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Other Council,  
7 comments, questions.

8

9 (No comments)

10

11 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Are we ready for  
12 Prince of Wales trout?

13

14 (Council nods affirmatively)

15

16 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Mr. Turek.

17

18 MR. TUREK: Good afternoon, I'm Mike  
19 Turek, Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Division of  
20 Subsistence. And I distributed a copy of the Prince of  
21 Wales Island steelhead draft review report earlier today  
22 and I'll just very briefly discuss it but I'd like to get  
23 comments back by March 15th so we could have the final --  
24 we're targeting the end of March for getting a final  
25 report completed. So if you've got comments I'd  
26 appreciate it if you get them back to me by March 15th.

27

28 This project is a collaborative project  
29 between the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Division  
30 of Subsistence, the Southeast Regional Advisory Council  
31 because you initiated this project and without that  
32 initiation from you and the support from the RAC this  
33 project would never have happened. We also worked with  
34 the Craig Community Association, Hydaburg Community  
35 Association and Klawock Community Association on this  
36 project. I'd like to thank the many residents of Prince  
37 of Wales Island who graciously allowed me into their  
38 homes, onto their boats, and into their work places to  
39 discuss steelhead. I'd especially thank to the following  
40 individuals for their time and their interest and help.  
41 Mike Douville with Southeast Regional Advisory Council  
42 from Craig, Alaska. Professor Steve Langdon, University  
43 of Alaska-Anchorage. John Morris and Lisa Trimmer, Craig  
44 Community Association. Ricky Miller from Craig. James  
45 Rowan and Don Yates from Klawock. Anthony Tony  
46 Christianson from Hydaburg. Ginny Tierney and Bill  
47 Welton from Thorne Bay. Robert Sanderson, Robert Price  
48 and Claude Morrison from Hydaburg. Jeff Reeves and Terry  
49 Fifield from the U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest  
50 Service, Craig Ranger District. Tom Brookover, Steve

1 McCurdy, Steve Hoffman from the Alaska Department of Fish  
2 and Game, Sportfish Division.

3  
4 Steelhead were harvested by Southeast  
5 Alaska Natives long before European contact and they  
6 continue to be harvested for subsistence by residents of  
7 Prince of Wales Island. Traditionally they were  
8 harvested in the winter and steelhead are still a source  
9 of fresh fish in the winter and early spring.  
10 Subsistence harvesters take between two and five  
11 steelhead a year sharing harvest with family and friends.  
12 Steelhead have been harvested by a variety of means over  
13 the many years that people have harvested them. They've  
14 been speared and gaffed, snagged with handlines or caught  
15 in weirs, traps and nets along with salmon.

16  
17 Since the 1950s and perhaps earlier, rod  
18 and reel tackle have also been used to catch steelhead,  
19 although most contemporary steelhead fisheries prefer rod  
20 and reel tackle, Prince of Wales Island's small  
21 brushlined and log choked creeks are difficult to fish  
22 with rod and reel. So handlines, snagging gear, spears  
23 and gaffs are the preferred gear for these smaller  
24 creeks. The snagging gear, handline and treble hook,  
25 which has pictures in your report and also on the poster  
26 that we made, they've been used for probably 75 years or  
27 longer. Bob Sanderson said that they've been around  
28 since he was a kid and probably younger and he thought  
29 that they came about when the Euro-American fishers came  
30 in with the J-hooks. Prior to that Tlingits-Haidas were  
31 using their traditional spear/gaff and has been used as  
32 recently as the 1980s on Prince of Wales Island. Barbed  
33 hooks, as well as hooks lacking barbs were found in the  
34 uses of spears and gaffs.

35  
36 Hydaburg fishers today use spears and  
37 gaffs and snagging gear, with the snagging gear more than  
38 the spears and gaffs. And they use this gear more than  
39 any other island community.

40  
41 Klawock fishers also use spears and gaffs  
42 and snagging gear but less frequently than do Hydaburg  
43 fishers. And I also spoke with one Craig fisher who is a  
44 spear fisher.

45  
46 Since 1989 the State has recognized  
47 customary and traditional use of steelhead in marine and  
48 some freshwaters of Prince of Wales Island. The State  
49 regulations also prohibit the issuance of subsistence  
50 permits for steelhead. In 1994 due to conservation

1 concerns, regionwide sportfishing regulations were  
2 changed to prohibit the use of bait and to limit the  
3 harvest to one fish per day and two fish per year with  
4 the 36 inches or greater in length. These regulations  
5 effectively eliminated the legal harvest of steelhead on  
6 Prince of Wales Island.

7  
8 Steelhead harvest occur on a number of  
9 Prince of Wales Island rivers, streams and creeks. The  
10 water bodies most heavily used are the Klawock, Thorne  
11 and Hydaburg Rivers. Island residents also use the  
12 Klawock and Thorne Rivers for subsistence and sports  
13 steelhead fishing. These two rivers are also popular  
14 with non-resident sport steelhead fishers from both out  
15 of state and in state.

16  
17 Hydaburg River, used primarily by  
18 Hydaburg fishers for subsistence steelhead fishing  
19 attracts little sportfishing activity.

20  
21 All three of these major rivers are road  
22 accessible.

23  
24 Subsistence steelhead harvests have  
25 declined since the 1980s, early 1990s for a number of  
26 reasons. The 1994 State regulations and resulting  
27 enforcement actions contribute to this decline,  
28 particularly in the communities of Craig and Klawock.  
29 The decline of logging on the island in the late 1990s  
30 resulting in a number of steelhead fishers, very active  
31 steelhead fishers from Washington and Oregon leaving the  
32 island further reducing steelhead harvest. Today there  
33 are also more options for fresh winter and spring fish  
34 due to the Federal Subsistence halibut regulations and  
35 IFQs.

36  
37 Subsistence steelhead harvest continue in  
38 Hydaburg, Craig, Kasaan and Klawock but do not appear to  
39 be growing. Limited harvest also occur in Coffman Cove  
40 and Thorne Bay. But the majority of Thorne Bay and  
41 Coffman Cove residents that I spoke to consider  
42 themselves sports steelhead fishers and do not support or  
43 participate in subsistence steelhead harvest.

44  
45 According to key respondents, tribal  
46 staff and local subsistence harvesters that I spoke to,  
47 the Federal subsistence permit data may be less accurate  
48 than previously assumed. ADF&G harvest survey data also  
49 suggest that Federal subsistence permit data may be  
50 inaccurate and not accounting for the number of steelhead

1 that are being harvested. Most of the respondents  
2 interviewed for this research said that they thought  
3 Prince of Wales Island stocks were abundant. Respondents  
4 added that steelhead runs can vary greatly from year to  
5 year. A long-term resident of Thorne Bay commented on  
6 the increase in steelhead run strength in the Thorne  
7 River and Eagle Creek which he attributed to the  
8 restrictive regulations instituted by the State in 1994.

9  
10 A minority of respondents did say that  
11 they thought steelhead runs had declined in the Klawock  
12 River and in some of the rivers and creeks near Hydaburg.  
13 A long-term Hydaburg resident and steelhead fisher  
14 commented on what he believes to be the two primary  
15 causes for the decline in steelhead on the creeks where  
16 he fishes, which are negative impact to spawning beds due  
17 to forestry practices and river otter predations. A  
18 Klawock respondent also commented on the river otters  
19 preying on steelhead. I found that very intriguing  
20 because I hadn't heard that from anybody, it hadn't been  
21 mentioned by any biologists or anything else. But what  
22 this one gentleman said is that there's been a real  
23 decline in trapping of river otters in Hydaburg over the  
24 years. There used to be very active trapping of river  
25 otters and that's declined. Since that decline he's  
26 noticed more river otters and he's also noticed more  
27 steelhead which have been taken by river otters. He's  
28 watched the otters chasing steelhead. I also discussed  
29 this with Robert Sanderson and he said you can tell -- he  
30 can tell the fish that were taken by river otter because  
31 they'll be turned inside out, there's a very tough skin  
32 on the steelhead and the only way that the river otter is  
33 going to get to the meat is by actually turning the fish  
34 inside out. And so he said you can tell a fish that's  
35 been taken by a river otter. And so I found that very  
36 interesting and that may warrant future research, more  
37 research into that area.

38  
39 I haven't discussed this with any of the  
40 wildlife biologists so it would be interesting to discuss  
41 that with a wildlife biologist who has a background in  
42 river otters. But I thought that was a very interesting  
43 component of the research that nobody would have known  
44 about if we didn't talk to local people with a long  
45 history of fishing and knowledge of the area.

46  
47 One concern from everybody I talked to,  
48 both the subsistence fishers and the sportfishers in  
49 Thorne Bay and Coffman Cove, everybody -- and one of them  
50 was actually a charter operator who takes people on to

1 the Thorne River for steelhead fishing. They were all  
2 very concerned about the growing number of non-resident  
3 sportfishers, both Alaska resident and outside fishers  
4 coming to the island, so people know about it. As a  
5 matter of fact, when I was in Ketchikan on Monday in the  
6 book store there, there's a book Fly-Fishing in Alaska  
7 and it came out in 2003, published by a Montana  
8 publishing house and there's a chapter on Prince of Wales  
9 Island, and all these rivers and creeks that we've been  
10 discussing are included in that book and they give you  
11 very detailed descriptions on how to fish these creeks.  
12 And so the word's out and you can get to Prince of Wales  
13 Island fairly inexpensively and you can rent a vehicle  
14 there or you can bring one over on the ferry and you can  
15 go steelhead fishing.

16  
17                   And one of the big concerns from both the  
18 subsistence fishers and, again, the sportfishers that I  
19 spoke to what they've seen is a number of these people  
20 that are practicing catch and release fishing don't know  
21 what they're doing. And these fish that they're  
22 releasing may not be surviving. It's a skill to be able  
23 to do that and a number of these people, and, again, this  
24 is not just from subsistence fishers that I've heard  
25 this, this is from people who consider themselves  
26 sportfishers, catch and release fishers who do not  
27 support the subsistence fishery who have seen  
28 sportfishers who don't know how to release fish and are  
29 probably killing -- may very well be killing these  
30 steelhead.

31  
32                   So that's all I'll discuss today on this  
33 but I'm looking forward to your comments from the report  
34 and like I say this was a very enjoyable project for me.  
35 I started this, took this on from the beginning and  
36 through to the end and enjoyed doing the work very much  
37 and it was a very, I think like Polly said, we're  
38 beginning to learn how to do these projects better and  
39 better. And plus the tribes are learning how to work  
40 with us on these projects. A couple of these people that  
41 I worked with on this project had worked with us on other  
42 projects so they had already been trained and they knew  
43 how to do some of these -- help us with the interviews or  
44 do interviews themselves. They knew what we were looking  
45 for when we wanted to speak to key respondents so they  
46 could direct us to the correct people. So this project  
47 went much better and much more timely than the other  
48 earlier ones we worked on and I hope that this is the way  
49 future projects will go where I can keep you updated on  
50 them, where I can have periodic reports before the

1 project is completed. The posters will be part of all of  
2 our projects. Now, Matthew Brock, one of our new Staff  
3 in the office is really a very creative person and he  
4 does a very good job on these and so we're going to  
5 continue to be creating these posters, which I think what  
6 we'll do is we'll make a number of these posters for all  
7 the Prince of Wales Island communities, for the tribes  
8 and distribute them because I think this one way that the  
9 local people will actually read the material that we've  
10 -- the research that we've done. Even a brief report  
11 like this, I think most people -- a lot of people aren't  
12 going to bother reading it, but something like this I  
13 think they will read, especially with pictures of people  
14 they recognize and they're attractive and they're  
15 interesting. So this will continue to be a part of all  
16 of our projects.

17  
18 That's about all I have for today if you  
19 have any questions.

20  
21 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: That was great.  
22 Council comments.

23  
24 Mr. Jordan.

25  
26 MR. JORDAN: Just briefly the  
27 observations on the otters are something that some of us  
28 who have steelhead fished for a long time have observed  
29 and there does seem to be an increase in the otter  
30 populations, and boy they are tough on steelhead, and  
31 they also -- when the steelhead are being worked over by  
32 the otter in these small rivers they don't bite very  
33 well.

34  
35 So, you know, just to let the people down  
36 south know that you've got subsistence fishermen up there  
37 chasing them around with spears, treble hooks and you got  
38 otters chasing them around and they aren't biting very  
39 well and you probably won't have as much effort on Prince  
40 of Wales. I know my friends that used to fish there  
41 don't go there anymore, not because of the subsistence  
42 harvest in their case but because of the, pretty much the  
43 devastation to the ecosystem by the logging and the  
44 blatant violation of the rules by various parties on the  
45 island, not subsistence fishermen per se that we deal  
46 with here, but a different kind of subsistence fishermen,  
47 I would say.

48  
49 Anyway, the word I've heard on Prince of  
50 Wales and I used to fish there, I've fished Hydaburg

1 Creek, I've fished the Klawock River, we lived one summer  
2 in Kasaan Bay, is that, it's not such a great place to go  
3 fly-fish steelhead anymore. And I hope that changes in  
4 the future, but, you know, for me the aesthetics of fly-  
5 fishing steelhead are what's more important than whether  
6 you catch them or not.

7  
8 The other thing that I'm thinking is in  
9 Alaska it seems to me, and especially sitting here on  
10 this Council the ethic of catch and release, that whole  
11 idea of going out there and playing with the wonderful  
12 resource and then releasing it, and a certain percentage  
13 of those die, I think steelhead die at a less rate than a  
14 lot of other species, but still it just, at least for me,  
15 as I became to understand that ethic, the whole idea of  
16 going around and exercising 40, 50 steelhead a day, which  
17 I have done, rather make me feel embarrassed about the  
18 whole thing.

19  
20 So anyway I'm hoping that the ethic of  
21 people who want to come fly-fish exercise this wonderful  
22 resource and have a good percentage of them die, I hope  
23 that somehow maybe we could educate people, maybe that  
24 isn't such a good thing to do.

25  
26 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Mr. Turek.

27  
28 MR. TUREK: Chair. Mr. Jordan. Thanks  
29 for your input, Mr. Jordan. Especially on the river  
30 otters because this was the first that I'd heard anybody  
31 talking about the impacts of river otters on steelhead.  
32 I've heard a lot about the sea otters on other resources  
33 so I thought this was very interesting that their cousin  
34 up the river is also a predator that conflicts with human  
35 use.

36  
37 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Follow up.

38  
39 MR. JORDAN: One more follow up. You  
40 know if you ever get an opportunity to watch some otters  
41 work and stuff, if you can get up high enough to -- you  
42 know, that's an amazing thing. Steelhead are pretty  
43 elusive and fast fish, but, you know, those otters get  
44 them.

45  
46 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Mr. Bangs.

47  
48 MR. BANGS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr.  
49 Turek, thank you for your report. I'm curious, many of  
50 us refer to it as a harass and release or whatever, but

1 it's the catch and release, and I was wondering if there  
2 was any educational pamphlets or films or videos or  
3 anything like that that is available for educational  
4 purposes to, you know, people that want to exercise that.

5  
6 MR. TUREK: Council member Bangs. I  
7 believe the Sportfish Division does have those materials.  
8 And actually I think they even have a Staff person who  
9 goes around discussing fly-fishing and catch and release  
10 methods, but I'd have to talk to people in the Sportfish  
11 Division to give you more detail on that.

12  
13 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Follow up.

14  
15 MR. BANGS: Yes, thank you. I just think  
16 it would be good if it was available, you know, along  
17 with all the other pamphlets and stuff or maybe even in  
18 the fishing regulations, just something that kind of  
19 explains it. It might help. Maybe it's something you  
20 could look at.

21  
22 Thank you.

23  
24 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Mr. Douville.

25  
26 MR. DOUVILLE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.  
27 I just wanted to thank you for your work and I'm looking  
28 forward to reading it. And I'm sure you had a lot of fun  
29 with Meju and Robert or Shnoze as we call him, I imagine  
30 that was a lot of fun interviewing him.

31  
32 (Laughter)

33  
34 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Other Council.  
35 Ms. Phillips.

36  
37 MS. PHILLIPS: Chairman Littlefield. Mr.  
38 Turek, I thank you for this draft report.

39  
40 I'm curious when you did the household  
41 surveys, on Page 60 it talks about, why not report  
42 harvest, you followed up the mail in, I guess and you did  
43 face-to-face household interviews to randomly draw  
44 households to estimate wild resource harvest. Do you  
45 think the households were more -- were they more evasive  
46 or less evasive than in the past?

47  
48 MR. TUREK: Council person Phillips. I'm  
49 referring to the household harvest surveys we did on POW  
50 from '97 to '99 and I think that they were better than in

1 the past, people were more open, partly because we were  
2 working so closely with the tribes and hiring local  
3 people to do surveys and assist us with surveys. And a  
4 critical part of it is -- and people understood that  
5 these were all confidential so nobody could come back to  
6 get them.

7

8 And I think also the growing concern on  
9 the island of difficulties with harvesting different  
10 species because of the logging and the growth on the  
11 island itself and impacts from the increasing  
12 transportation system, people were -- they wanted us to  
13 know how much that they harvested.

14

CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Other Council.

15

(No comments)

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

27

28

29

30

31

32

33

34

35

36

37

38

39

40

41

42

43

44

45

46

47

48

49

50

So thank you very much for your reports,  
we're going to take a short break and stretch.

1 (Off record)

2

3 (On record)

4

5 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: I'll call the  
6 meeting back to order. I'll go over some changes and  
7 announcements.

8

9 The first is the correct location of the  
10 Salvation Army dinner for the Council members at 6:30  
11 p.m. is actually down the road this way, okay, the  
12 Salvation Army that's this way is the Thrift Store. The  
13 place we'll actually be eating dinner is down this way  
14 and up the corner. So that's number 1, and I think we'll  
15 follow Mr. Martin and we'll get to the right place.

16

17 The next item on the agenda was scheduled  
18 to be the annual report. We're going to move that to  
19 14F. So after we do the agency and organization reports  
20 we'll come back to our annual report.

21

22 The next item on the agenda is going to  
23 be the SRC report, which you've just gotten a copy of  
24 that, and Mr. Bert Adams will be giving that report.

25

26 The next item on the agenda will be 15D,  
27 we will reconfirm Wrangell as our meeting place and set  
28 the time and date, and Mr. Schroeder will run us through  
29 that in the book later.

30

31 And the next item after that will be,  
32 well, we'll go back to 14 A and we're going to go with  
33 the TransBoundary River issues with Mr. Larson.

34

35 So right now we are at the SRC report,  
36 and Mr. Adams.

37

38 MR. ADAMS: Mr. Chair, would you like me  
39 to go up there like everyone else or could I just talk  
40 here?

41

42 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: That's fine.

43

44 MR. ADAMS: Thank you. Thank you, Mr.  
45 Chair. I think that this morning's double dose of  
46 coffee, you know, has wore out now so I should be able to  
47 do pretty well with my report.

48

49 The meeting of the SRC was held in  
50 Chistochina on February 16th and 17th. Ray Sensmier who

1 is a resident of Yakutat is a member of that Commission  
2 and he was appointed by the Secretary of the Interior.  
3 We flew up there on the 15th of February and Judy  
4 Gottlieb drove us up there. Before that, you know, for  
5 many years another National Park Service person was  
6 responsible for getting us up there and bringing us back,  
7 but it was good to have her with us this time. We, as  
8 always stayed at the Caribou Hotel in Glennallen, and the  
9 Caribou Hotel has been our base camp, you know, over the  
10 years and then we've traveled to various communities in  
11 the area. Probably not more than an hour and a half or  
12 two hours away from our base camp, and some of the places  
13 that we've had meetings in were Copper Center, Slana,  
14 Chitina, Tazlina, Tok, Gulkana, Yakutat, Dot Lake,  
15 Tanacross and Glennallen. And then we drove back to  
16 Anchorage on the 17th and returned back home on the 18th.

17  
18 We do have a new superintendent, his name  
19 is Jed Davis, he replaced Gary Candalaria. And this man  
20 was transferred from Glacier Bay National Park. During  
21 his opening remarks he reminded us that the Commission's  
22 purpose is to recommend and advise the Secretary and the  
23 Governor of Alaska about subsistence regulations in  
24 Alaska. Of course, you know, proposals are recommended  
25 from this body, talking about the SRC, for adoption to  
26 the Federal Subsistence Board, and the most important  
27 part of this process, however, is to consult with local  
28 people by getting their input on those issues that  
29 directly affect them.

30  
31 We had the election of the Chair and  
32 vice-Chair. It came up pretty quickly on the agenda and  
33 I was reelected to serve another year. I remembered when  
34 I came back from my very first meeting and gave my report  
35 to the RAC, Chairman Thomas wanted to know why I didn't  
36 come back with the Chairmanship. I guess he expected a  
37 lot out of me. At that time I wasn't even coveting it,  
38 and I wasn't at the time I was elected either. But I  
39 also remember telling him, just give me a little bit of  
40 time and we'll see that reality happen. Well, I've been  
41 serving in that capacity for the last two years now and  
42 it has been a real big pleasure for me to do so. One of  
43 the reasons why Raymond Sensmier and I have been serving  
44 in that capacity over the years is because of our  
45 training, you know, as ANB leaders and knowing how to  
46 conduct meetings and, you know, the people in that area  
47 weren't too familiar with parliamentary procedure and  
48 Robert's Rules, so we were able to help them in that  
49 area. And we have a lady by the name of Suzanne McCarthy  
50 who has served as the vice-Chair under Raymond and has

1 been under the two times that I have been elected  
2 Chairman and she's coming along quite well. I've turned  
3 the meeting over to her, you know, quite a bit and she is  
4 about ready to take over the Chairmanship almost any day  
5 now.

6  
7                   In October Barbara Cellerious and I went  
8 to Anchorage to participate in an SRC Chair's workshop  
9 and some of the important issues we discussed during this  
10 meeting were the use of ATVs. All over Alaska there's a  
11 growing concern of the potential damage ATVs are causing  
12 in sensitive areas of the fish and game habitat. And one  
13 of the things that we discussed was if it could be  
14 regarded as a traditional use. Section 811 in ANILCA  
15 identifies snowmachines and motorboats and other means of  
16 surface transportation as appropriate means of  
17 transportation, however, the opinion of many are that  
18 ATVs, and I'm specifically talking about four-wheelers,  
19 are recent modes of transportation. A note of interest  
20 here in Yakutat we discussed this considerably with the  
21 Forest Service and are in the process of still conducting  
22 a survey in the community to help us understand how long  
23 ATVs, and, again, particularly four-wheelers were used in  
24 our area, and if we could determine that there is a  
25 history of use for the last 25 or 30 years, then the  
26 Yakutat Tlingit Tribe would probably submit a proposal to  
27 have it recognized as traditional. So far we have not  
28 gathered enough information or evidence.

29  
30                   Some of the other issues that we talked  
31 about were bear baiting has been a serious problem on  
32 Parks land and it appears that many people are abusing  
33 it.

34  
35                   There was also considerable discussion on  
36 predator control, particularly in the Interior in regards  
37 to wolf population.

38  
39                   Some leaders asked about hiring local  
40 people into the National Park Service, not only the  
41 National Park Service but, you know, in the Federal  
42 system in general. They feel that there is a need to be  
43 more of this taking place. As it is now, jobs people are  
44 taking are seasonal and are only temporary and it is felt  
45 that locals should be able to enjoy the benefits of a  
46 full-time job with the Feds along with the benefits and  
47 pay raises and so forth and there's some footnotes down  
48 there that you can refer that to.

49  
50                   Another serious issue that people are

1 experiencing in Wrangell-St. Elias is this issue of user  
2 conflict. There is competition between the sportfisher  
3 and hunters and the subsistence users. It is difficult  
4 to monitor, which is because of lack of enforcement. The  
5 enforcement issue up in that area is the same as here,  
6 you know, there's a limited amount of enforcement  
7 officers and as well as State Troopers who are supposed  
8 to monitor and police the private and Native Corporation  
9 lands. So this has been a serious problem up there and  
10 it doesn't look like there's going to be any real  
11 solution in the future.

12  
13 Another thing is designator hunter  
14 problems, and the abuse of it seems to be a growing  
15 concern to many people up there. I know it's a concern  
16 in our area, in Yakutat. And we have a history of a  
17 proxy hunter who has been able to designate hunt for as  
18 many people as he wanted, this is in Yakutat in  
19 particular. And this caused him to have too many moose  
20 in his shed at a time and as a result a lot of the meat  
21 has been spoiling. A new regulation has addressed this  
22 by allowing a designated hunter not to have more than two  
23 animals in possession and that the game must be  
24 immediately delivered to the person being hunted for. So  
25 this takes the game immediately out of the designated  
26 hunter's possession. It is felt at this workshop that  
27 more information needs to be gotten on the government-to-  
28 government relationship with tribes, and that this will  
29 be addressed in future Chair workshops.

30  
31 There's a Tier II hunt that the State  
32 conducts and this is causing some concern among the  
33 residents in Wrangell-St. Elias. The conflict is that  
34 because it is a State regulation, or on State lands this  
35 allows people, for instance, from Anchorage, to come into  
36 the Interior and subsistence hunt on State lands and the  
37 people in the area are not happy about this and I guess  
38 there is a proposal in the works to take care of this  
39 through the Fish and Game Proposal 155. We'll be  
40 watching that very closely.

41  
42 On a government-to-government  
43 relationship, Barbara Cellerious gave a report on the  
44 general agreements that the National Park Service has  
45 with three tribes, and this is just the beginning and  
46 will be forthcoming with other tribes in the future. The  
47 Yakutat-Tlingit Tribe has had a GA for a year now and  
48 this April the superintendents from Glacier Bay and  
49 Wrangell-St. Elias will be having their annual meeting  
50 with the Tribe to review this GA.

1                   When we were working on this GA, as a  
2 side note here, we were going to do a separate general  
3 agreement, you know, with Wrangell-St. Elias and with  
4 Glacier Bay and began to talk with both sides of us, talk  
5 to the superintendents on both sides of us and realizing,  
6 you know, that maybe we can just work with one general  
7 agreement with the National Park Service in general, that  
8 would encompass Glacier Bay and Wrangell-St. Elias and  
9 that came fruition last year and we signed off on that  
10 and we had our first meeting in April to go over that.

11  
12                   There's a letter in the packet from the  
13 SRC signed off by me about the proposals that were  
14 considered during this meeting. WP05-1 was passed by the  
15 Commission. We considered, like we did here, you know,  
16 Proposal 3, and like we did here we did not do anything  
17 with that, it died for a lack of a second. And then  
18 WP05-2, proposal reducing the wolf hunting season did not  
19 pass as well. However, all of the others mentioned, you  
20 know, in the packet here, in this report here were taken  
21 care of in a positive manner.

22  
23                   Other stuff and wrap-up, there were no  
24 calls for proposals. The Park is developing a brochure  
25 for the Park and Barbara Cellerious gave a report and  
26 asked for comments from the Commission which we took a  
27 break and the Commission went up on the wall and made  
28 their notations on it and they should be coming out with  
29 that sometime in the near future.

30  
31                   Hunter Sharp gave an update on the draft  
32 policy on caches. I guess there's been some problems  
33 with caching in that area. People have been building  
34 little cabins and putting their equipment in it and then  
35 leaving it and not going back and taking care of them,  
36 and so they're trying to address that so that it doesn't  
37 take too much. I mean it's becoming a problem, like for  
38 instance leaving full gas cans in their areas and not  
39 taking care of them has been something that they've been  
40 concerned with. If it hasn't been taken care of in a  
41 reasonable amount of time then it's up to the Park  
42 Service, you know, to come and take those out of there  
43 and they don't like taking, for instance, 50 gallon drums  
44 of gas in helicopter and flying it out of there.

45  
46                   There is a letter that we all have here  
47 from Governor Murkowski, it was dated January 10th of  
48 this year addressing the problems relating to dual-  
49 management of fish and game resources. It was very  
50 briefly discussed in this Commission and the feeling was

1 that we do not have anything to talk about with the  
2 Governor until the State comes into compliance with  
3 ANILCA, and a letter is forthcoming and it will have my  
4 signature on it to the Secretary of Interior with copies  
5 to appropriate places.

6  
7 The next SRC meeting will be in Tok on  
8 September 22nd and 23rd. The RAC meeting, this RAC  
9 meeting will be in Wrangell the very next week which  
10 means that I will probably not have a chance to get home,  
11 I will probably zip right on down from there to here and  
12 attend this meeting, and that's going to be pretty  
13 interesting to see happen. If I'm a day late you'll know  
14 why.

15  
16 The reason why the Commission feels that  
17 they need to have it on this date is because of some  
18 conflict, you know, with some of the Commission members  
19 who have hunting that's ending around the 20th of that  
20 month.

21  
22 And I made a comment that it's about time  
23 that we had an SRC meeting in Yakutat sometime.

24  
25 That concludes my report, Mr. Chairman,  
26 thank you. I know I talk real fast but I wanted to get  
27 this over with so I don't have to be asked any questions.

28  
29 (Laughter)

30  
31 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Thank you. That  
32 was a very good report. Are there any Council comments  
33 or questions for Mr. Adams other than how much he gets  
34 paid for the SRC Council, about as much as we get paid.

35  
36 (No comments)

37  
38 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Okay, thank you  
39 for that report. The other handout that you have is the  
40 draft .805(c). We'll let you look at that and tomorrow  
41 if there's any questions we can address those at that  
42 time.

43  
44 What we'll do right now is go to Item  
45 15D, which is to reconfirm the Wrangell date that Mr.  
46 Adams just talked about. I believe that's in the back of  
47 the book and I'll let Dr. Schroeder lead us through this.

48  
49 DR. SCHROEDER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.  
50 In the back of your book on Pages 196 and 197 you have

1 calendars for the meetings. At our last Regional  
2 Advisory Council meeting we established the dates for our  
3 next meeting and location, the location is Wrangell, and  
4 the dates we set were three days between September 26th  
5 and 29th, respecting Office of Subsistence Management's  
6 desire to complete travel within the fiscal year, which  
7 ends on the 30th.

8  
9 I believe we should meet the probably  
10 Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday of that week and I'd like  
11 the Council to give Staff flexibility to do what's best  
12 in working out travel arrangements for Wrangell for that  
13 meeting.

14  
15 So are there any comments or questions  
16 concerning the fall meeting and those dates?

17  
18 (No comments)

19  
20 DR. SCHROEDER: And so we're expecting to  
21 be hosted very well by Mr. Stokes at that time.

22  
23 There was discussion among some Council  
24 members last night and at breaks about a possible field  
25 trip in connection with the Wrangell meeting, either on  
26 the -- it would probably be the day before or the day  
27 after we meet as a Council. We've heard that there's a  
28 river fairly close to Wrangell that has some salmon in it  
29 and that it might be possible to take a field trip over  
30 there and see what the fishing conditions were, like on  
31 the Stikine.

32  
33 So is there general interest in that sort  
34 of a trip?

35  
36 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Up the Stikine,  
37 right?

38  
39 DR. SCHROEDER: Yes, that would be on the  
40 Stikine, some place or another, and Staff will work on  
41 that and see what we can do and I'd be counting on Bob  
42 Larson and Cal Casipit to assist in setting that up.

43  
44 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Dr. Garza.

45  
46 DR. GARZA: One question Bob.

47  
48 DR. SCHROEDER: Go ahead, Dr. Garza.

49  
50 DR. GARZA: Just to clarify, what days

1 did you think they would be again, the actual meeting?

2

3 DR. SCHROEDER: I think the actual  
4 meeting should be Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday.

5

6 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: The end of FY'05.

7

8 DR. SCHROEDER: And that would allow  
9 people to return to get back home on Friday and that  
10 makes life quite a bit easier for our travel Staff.

11

12 The next item would be I would like you  
13 to look at the calendar, winter 2006, Regional Advisory  
14 Council meeting window, the meeting window opens on  
15 February 20th and continues for a little more than a  
16 month, the last possible date is March 24 and we should  
17 entertain suggestions, both for the location and the  
18 dates for that meeting.

19

20 The meeting we're holding right now, of  
21 course, is right at the front end of the meeting window  
22 this year and that seemed to work pretty well with  
23 people's other events that are going on in people's lives  
24 except for the dive fishermen and the people who want to  
25 catch king salmon.

26

27 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Okay, we've got a  
28 calendar there. Let's first try to figure out a venue,  
29 are there any invitations that anybody would like to  
30 extend at this time.

31

32 (No comments)

33

34 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Any invitations.  
35 Any suggestions.

36

37 MR. KOOKESH: Maui.

38

39 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Maui.

40

41 MR. ADAMS: Mr. Chairman.

42

43 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Mr. Adams.

44

45 MR. ADAMS: Mr. Chairman, thank you. I  
46 thought he was trying to shut me up.

47

48 (Laughter)

49

50 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Maybe he was

1 trying to tell you something.

2

3 MR. ADAMS: Yeah.

4

5 (Laughter)

6

7 MR. ADAMS: I just want to, you know, put  
8 on the burner, Yakutat, not this time but maybe after  
9 that. Right now we are in the process of going after  
10 grant money to renovate our ANB Hall and it's going to be  
11 real extensive. We're going to put about 1.5 to \$2  
12 million into it and we're going to jack it up and put a  
13 full-size basement in there and have offices and rooms  
14 downstairs and about 1,800 square feet of it is going to  
15 be dedicated, you know, to a small museum and then we're  
16 going to tear out the kitchen and bathroom area so that  
17 we'll have a larger meeting space and it's going to go  
18 out on the side. I'm thinking maybe if you do it, I  
19 don't know, in the fall of 2006, we might be ready for it  
20 by then.

21

22 But other than that, maybe -- how about  
23 Juneau.

24

25 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: How about Juneau.  
26 Dr. Garza.

27

28 DR. GARZA: Mr. Chairman, thank you. I  
29 would like to invite the Regional Advisory Council to  
30 Saxman. The tribal house, the new community hall is  
31 almost, almost, almost finished and they're reporting to  
32 have it done for this season since they will use it for  
33 tourism so we would have a new hall to use. And in the  
34 event that it's not available, we would be able to meet  
35 in Ketchikan.

36

37 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: We have one  
38 Juneau, one Ketchikan. Other Council.

39

40 (No comments)

41

42 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Juneau was  
43 mentioned first, we're going to have a show hands between  
44 Juneau and Ketchikan.

45

46 So all those in favor of having the  
47 meeting in Juneau raise your right hand.

48

49 (Show of hands)

50

1 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: All those in favor  
2 of having the meeting in Ketchikan, raise your right  
3 hand.  
4  
5 (Show of hands)  
6  
7 MR. DOUVILLE: I thought you were.....  
8  
9 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: You're in favor of  
10 everything, you agree with everything.  
11  
12 (Laughter)  
13  
14 MR. DOUVILLE: I wanted to make sure I  
15 was counted.  
16  
17 (Laughter)  
18  
19 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Okay, is Ketchikan  
20 okay with the Council, does that sound -- actually the  
21 request was.....  
22  
23 DR. GARZA: Saxman.  
24  
25 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: .....Saxman. And  
26 Saxman first and we'll put it Saxman/Ketchikan to fall  
27 back on. Any problems with that?  
28  
29 (No objections)  
30  
31 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Okay, let's come  
32 up with a date. I know we lost Mr. Wright because of  
33 crab and I don't know when it's going to be next year but  
34 probably the same time.  
35  
36 MR. BANGS: February 15th.  
37  
38 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: February 15th to  
39 what?  
40  
41 MR. BANGS: 23rd.  
42  
43 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: 15th to the 23rd  
44 is crab season. So any suggestions here guys.  
45  
46 MS. PHILLIPS: I don't know, when is the  
47 dive fishery?  
48  
49 MR. BANGS: It's today.  
50

1 MS. PHILLIPS: Today. Oh, my.....  
2  
3 (Laughter)  
4  
5 MR. KITKA: Mr. Chairman.  
6  
7 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Mr. Kitka.  
8  
9 MR. KITKA: I don't know about when to  
10 have it but I just have a date that I didn't want taken  
11 and that was probably the last week of March, usually  
12 about herring time and I don't want to give that up.  
13  
14 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Unless they have  
15 the meeting in Sitka.  
16  
17 (Laughter)  
18  
19 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Okay. I need some  
20 suggested dates here.  
21  
22 (Pause)  
23  
24 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Dr. Garza.  
25  
26 DR. GARZA: Mr. Chairman, this is about  
27 the time that the eulachon boat could be coming down from  
28 the Unik so if we were looking at the week of the 27th or  
29 even possibly March 6th then we would either have very  
30 fresh or a week old eulachons.  
31  
32 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: So 27th to March  
33 10th is pretty broad. We'll go to Mr. Kookesh and then  
34 Mr. Sofoulis.  
35  
36 MR. KOOKESH: My question was what was  
37 the discussion about Ketchikan and the Saxman building,  
38 was that discussion.  
39  
40 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Dr. Garza.  
41  
42 DR. GARZA: Mr. Kookesh, the Saxman  
43 community hall started and was put on hold for lack of  
44 funds, they're just finishing it, and it should be  
45 available this summer so by next February it will be up  
46 and available to us for use.  
47  
48 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Follow up.  
49  
50 MR. KOOKESH: Yeah, what I'd like to see

1 is, we've just been to Ketchikan, so it should be Saxman  
2 or nothing. We shouldn't have to go back to Ketchikan,  
3 especially -- that's what I'm saying. That we should we  
4 confirm it through that. We shouldn't be going to  
5 Ketchikan when we say Saxman.

6  
7 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: I have no problem  
8 with that. It's my understanding it is Saxman but if  
9 they do not have the hall open we're going to have the  
10 meeting in Ketchikan. But I think it's clear that Saxman  
11 is the place we're going to have the meeting.

12  
13 Mr. Sofoulis.

14  
15 MR. SOFOULIS: How about the week of  
16 March 6th.

17  
18 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Okay, we've  
19 narrowed that down a little bit, how about March 6th.

20  
21 MR. ADAMS: Mr. Chairman.

22  
23 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Mr. Adams.

24  
25 MR. ADAMS: I don't think that would be  
26 very good for me, Mr. Chairman.

27  
28 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: What is good?

29  
30 MR. ADAMS: What?

31  
32 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: What is good?

33  
34 MR. ADAMS: The week before that, the  
35 week of February 27th.

36  
37 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Mike, could you  
38 explain why you wanted the week after, is that a conflict  
39 to you?

40  
41 MR. SOFOULIS: No, it really doesn't  
42 matter to me.

43  
44 DR. GARZA: What?

45  
46 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: We're looking like  
47 maybe the week of the 27th of February, I guess, is  
48 everybody okay with that?

49  
50 MR. STOKES: It would be fine with me.

1 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Okay. We're never  
2 going to make everybody happy on these and we realize  
3 there's sacrifices so let's just give Staff the ability  
4 to set it for some time from the 27th to the 3rd with one  
5 of those or two of those five days, two day meeting.

6  
7 Dr. Garza.

8  
9 DR. GARZA: In thinking ahead, Mr.  
10 Chairman, I was thinking for the possible field trip I  
11 can take you all to Wal-Mart.

12  
13 (Laughter)

14  
15 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: The Federal rural  
16 Subsistence Advisory Council goes to Wal-Mart, okay.

17  
18 (Laughter)

19  
20 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Okay, the venue is  
21 Ketchikan, mark that on your book.

22  
23 MR. KOOKESH: Saxman.

24  
25 DR. GARZA: Saxman.

26  
27 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: We'll fly into  
28 Ketchikan and go to the rural community of Saxman which  
29 is the venue and it's the week of the 2/27/2006. The  
30 Staff can pick, you know, maybe the first four days, or  
31 the last four, we'll give them the latitude of setting up  
32 what exact day it is and we also have to look at the  
33 amount of proposals that come in. I hear there's a bunch  
34 coming on the Stikine.

35  
36 (Pause)

37  
38 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Okay, where are we  
39 now. We're back to 14 -- okay, we're skipping over 13  
40 and the call for proposals is going to be right after  
41 14A1, the TransBoundary River issues because we need to  
42 hear that first because there are going to be several  
43 proposals that come forward out of that TransBoundary.

44  
45 So Mr. Larson if you would do the  
46 TransBoundary River.

47  
48 MR. LARSON: Good afternoon, Mr.  
49 Chairman. My name is Bob Larson, I work for the USDA  
50 Forest Service here in Petersburg. And my job and

1 function is to support the subsistence fisheries program  
2 for Wrangell and Petersburg area.

3  
4 About a week ago the Pacific Salmon  
5 Commission met in Portland and they approved the pretty  
6 much in tact the proposal that Dick Stokes proposed to  
7 the Federal program in 2000 that would allow for a  
8 subsistence salmon fishery on the Stikine River,  
9 specifically for chinook and sockeyes and cohos. Melinda  
10 is distributing two items to you. One is the news  
11 release that has been distributed by the Alaska  
12 Department of Fish and Game and the other is a copy of  
13 the salient points about this arrangement that is  
14 specific to the subsistence program.

15  
16 There's one change that, other than what  
17 the Board passed in 2003, and that's that the subsistence  
18 sockeye fishery that was initiated in 2004 will retain  
19 the July 1st starting date, the same as it was this year.  
20 As you recall in the 2000 cycle that Dick proposed a June  
21 15th starting date and there was a request by the  
22 Canadian Government, that was changed to start on July  
23 1st.

24  
25 The Federal Subsistence Board will take  
26 actions necessary to implement these regulations during  
27 their March 4th work session in Anchorage.

28  
29 On the handout there is a short  
30 description of the background, how we went from where we  
31 were to where we are reminding us that the Board approved  
32 these regulations in 2003, subject to coordination with  
33 the Pacific Salmon Commission. In February the  
34 Commission agreed to the sockeye fishery that was again  
35 implemented by Board action in April of 2004. As a  
36 reminder 2004, there was 40 permits issued for this  
37 fishery and we harvested 243 sockeye and 21 chinook  
38 salmon. Myself and Larry Buklis from the Office of  
39 Subsistence Management traveled to Vancouver, B.C., in  
40 January and presented an oral report to the TransBoundary  
41 Panel and that was very well received. The Panel itself  
42 was very interested in seeing members of the Federal  
43 Subsistence Program at the table putting a face with a  
44 name and had a broad range of questions concerning, not  
45 only the specific proposal concerning the Stikine River  
46 but the entire Federal Subsistence Program.

47  
48 Rules governing the fisheries are  
49 contained primarily within Federal regulations. Now,  
50 portions of those Federal regulations have been

1 incorporated into the Pacific Salmon Treaty, they're part  
2 of Annex 4, that deals with the TransBoundary Agreement.

3  
4 The second page of the handout reminds us  
5 that within the Federal system only residents of  
6 Petersburg, Wrangell and Meyers Chuck are qualified users  
7 of salmon, Dolly Varden, trout, smelt and eulachon for  
8 the Stikine River.

9  
10 There's also a summary of the regulations  
11 as they will probably appear for this year.

12  
13 If the regulations were adopted in this  
14 fashion, all the bolding would be new regulations, the  
15 unbolded, italics portions is the portion that is  
16 currently in the regulations.

17  
18 And on the last page is a summary of the  
19 Annex language that is not contained within the fisheries  
20 regulations that has passed by the Board but is an  
21 expectation of how we're going to conduct our fishery.  
22 The first is that the stock assessment sites need to be  
23 protected and we had no problems with compromising the  
24 assessment programs last year with the sockeye fishery,  
25 the way it was conducted, and I don't anticipate that we  
26 would really close any areas this year as well.

27  
28 Catch was reported weekly. The catches  
29 reported, that's my obligation to report to the local  
30 Department of Fish and Game and then they forward that  
31 information on to the DFO, Department of Fisheries and  
32 Oceans in Whitehorse. We're obligated to supply a  
33 written report to the TransBoundary Panel. There's no  
34 mention in the Annex itself, in the Treaty that we would  
35 show up in person but there is language there that we're  
36 obligated to supply a report. There is also a provision  
37 that any changes that were contained within the Annex  
38 would be brought up before the TBR, the TransBoundary  
39 River Panel for ultimate approval by the Pacific Salmon  
40 Commission prior to implementation.

41  
42 The items that are in the Annex, I did  
43 not include the Annex here, but items in the Annex would  
44 be fishing dates and harvest limits.

45  
46 For this 2005 season we anticipate a  
47 presence on the river similar to what we did last year to  
48 document use of where and when the fishermen were trying  
49 to access these fish and how successful they are. But  
50 primarily it will be done through a system of fishing

1 permits where we issue a permit and then they're  
2 obligated to report back to us every two weeks so those  
3 permits can be revalidated, and then that way we would  
4 have an ongoing harvest estimate that we could report  
5 then to Fish and Game and DFO.

6

7 And that concludes my report.

8

9 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Thank you, Mr.  
10 Larson. And it's great news for us although I thought it  
11 was a little long in happening, I'm certainly glad to see  
12 this and it basically, again, validates something that we  
13 always thought was okay to do.

14

15 There's several Council members, Council  
16 member Garza as well as Stokes who basically pushed this,  
17 that I can remember since I've been on the Council,  
18 they've been the ones pushing this and I think we really  
19 need to thank them for sticking with this as well as the  
20 Council needs to be commended for -- and Staff, and Mr.  
21 Bedford, all of them, they need to be thanked for this,  
22 because this was a long battle and I'm certainly happy to  
23 see what it is, and if you could join me in thanking our  
24 two Council members Stokes and Garza I'd appreciate it.

25

26 (Applause)

27

28 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Are there other  
29 Council who would like to comment on this.

30

31 MR. BANGS: Mr. Chairman.

32

33 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Mr. Bangs.

34

35 MR. BANGS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr.  
36 Larson, I'm curious as to I've gotten a few phone calls  
37 from local residents that question the opening date for  
38 sockeyes and they were hoping that that fishery would  
39 have been brought in closer to what the original proposal  
40 was. And if it does remain the same and we reach the  
41 chinook allotment before the sockeye fishery opens, what  
42 happens when we catch king salmon during the sockeye  
43 fishery; does that change anything?

44

45 MR. LARSON: Mr. Chairman. The way I  
46 understand the treaty is going to be interpreted in that  
47 regard is that, yes, there is -- currently there's a  
48 break between fisheries, there's 10 days when there's no  
49 subsistence fishing allowed on the river, and that's from  
50 June 21st through June 30th. The harvest quota is

1 specific to the fishery, so for instance if you were to  
2 catch a sockeye during the king salmon fishery that would  
3 not count against our sockeye quota, but if we catch a  
4 king salmon during our sockeye fishery then that wouldn't  
5 count against that, you know, the king salmon quota  
6 either. Now, you know, we've never done that and I'm  
7 sure that since that's not specifically addressed then  
8 we'll have other opinions, but that's the way I think it  
9 would be run.

10

11 MR. BANGS: Thank you.

12

13 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Dr. Garza.

14

15 DR. GARZA: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I  
16 would like to get a copy of the Annex. It's my  
17 understanding that there is a little bit of wiggle room  
18 in those numbers, you can be 15 percent over or something  
19 like that, and so there may not be a problem there.

20

21 The other point is it is an Annex, and so  
22 it is re-doable and it's my understanding the next time  
23 that Annex will be considered is in 2008, and that may  
24 seem like a long ways away but we need to monitor what  
25 we're doing on the Stikine over the next couple years and  
26 be prepared as a Council to either ask for more or have  
27 some types of clarifications when we do, possibly take  
28 too many king salmon if during the sockeye fishery or  
29 something like that.

30

31 So, you know, even though we have taken a  
32 grand step here we're not done.

33

34 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Other Council.

35 Mr. Bangs.

36

37 MR. BANGS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I  
38 have a question and I'm not sure who to direct it to.  
39 But when we came up with this -- when the proposal came  
40 out with this number of 125, that's not based on an  
41 abundance type of situation. So for instance this year  
42 they're expecting maybe up to 100,000 chinook up the  
43 river, I'm wondering if we could propose for a State  
44 subsistence fishery based on an abundance supply so that  
45 that number would vary.

46

47 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Mr. Larson.

48

49 MR. LARSON: Mr. Chairman. I don't want  
50 to speak for the State, I know that that is generally

1 what they do is provide for, you know, all the user  
2 groups. I have heard no discussion to this point of a  
3 State subsistence fishery.

4  
5 I would like to maybe address Dolly's  
6 question about the wiggle room. The numbers are a  
7 number, but they're a guideline harvest, and as such we  
8 don't really discuss, you know, how much you can be under  
9 or over that target number. But we feel obligated that  
10 we would manage for that number and, knowing that you're  
11 never going to hit it, but you need to be able to, you  
12 know, explain to somebody that in fact you were managing  
13 towards that number.

14  
15 Now, one of the primary concerns that I  
16 heard from the Canadians was that this number is  
17 unrealistic. They said, why would you want only 125 king  
18 salmon, why would you want only 400 cohos or 600  
19 sockeyes, you know, that's an unrealistic number. And  
20 our response to them was that this number was generated  
21 as our best guess at need for the subsistence fisheries  
22 for the Stikine River, and if we find that the need is,  
23 in fact, greater than that or different than that somehow  
24 then we would come back to that body and adjust it  
25 accordingly. And I had the impression that that was fine  
26 with them, that they expected that to happen.

27  
28 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Mr. Bangs.

29  
30 MR. BANGS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.  
31 When we look at an abundance of such in the next two  
32 years, they're talking about trying to stop up to 30,000  
33 chinook by a gillnet fishery here just around District 8  
34 and, you know, they only project this large run for two  
35 years, and if we're always behind that we would miss the  
36 opportunity to get some of those fish as a subsistence  
37 fishery which the State has to -- I mean their job is to  
38 provide for subsistence and I just wondered if a proposal  
39 was to go to the Board of Fish for a subsistence fishery  
40 saying that, hey, we want some of those fish, why we  
41 couldn't do that.

42  
43 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: My answer to that  
44 would be, yes, because what we've got is an allocation  
45 issue here and the Board of Fish allocates their share,  
46 is the way I see it, so I think you're exactly correct,  
47 that you would petition the Board of Fish to give more  
48 fish to subsistence users.

49  
50 Mr. Larson.

1 MR. LARSON: Mr. Chairman. That appears  
2 to me like a reasonable request. There was some  
3 discussion a couple of years ago by the Canadians that  
4 when they were concerned about the scope of this fishery  
5 that a State subsistence fishery would not be restricted  
6 to local residents and, in fact, there would be people  
7 from Anchorage or Fairbanks or somewhere flocking to the  
8 Stikine River and we would be uncontrollable and that,  
9 you know, practically speaking I don't think that that's  
10 true and that wouldn't happen, but I can remember that  
11 discussion. And they were much more comfortable with a  
12 fishery that had a limited population.

13  
14 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: And I think the  
15 Council could do that through action to the Board, to our  
16 Board as well as the Board of Fish, we could make those  
17 requests.

18  
19 Other Council.

20  
21 Mr. Stokes.

22  
23 MR. STOKES: The Tahltan Band was against  
24 the fisheries for quite awhile until I met with them a  
25 couple years ago and explained to them that it wouldn't  
26 be open to all the communities in Southeast Alaska, this  
27 is what they were told by the Pacific Fisheries and then  
28 they changed their thinking. And that 600 sockeye that  
29 we're allowed is just a drop in the bucket. I have a  
30 friend that is a Canadian and he fishes just across the  
31 border and he got over a thousand in one night, or in one  
32 day and they put in 10,000 fish for one week, and for the  
33 2005 season they admitted to 60,000, and those fish were  
34 sold in Wrangell. So they're getting 30 cents a pound  
35 more for their fish there. But I don't deny them that,  
36 they worked hard for it.

37  
38 And I have a proposal, would it be.....

39  
40 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: (Nods  
41 affirmatively)

42  
43 MR. STOKES: I have a proposal to change  
44 the fishery dates for the Stikine River subsistence  
45 sockeye. I propose to change the opening date for the  
46 sockeye season for the Stikine River subsistence salmon  
47 fishery from July 1 to July 21 -- or June 21. The new  
48 regulation would read:

49  
50 You may take sockeye salmon from June

1                   21st to July 31st, the reason, current  
2 regulations result in a 10 day time  
3 period when no subsistence fishery is  
4 allowed. The chinook fishery ends on  
5 June 20 and a June 21 start date would  
6 allow for an uninterrupted fishery.

7  
8                   That's my proposal.

9  
10                   CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Mr. Casipit, could  
11 you please give us the sideboards of the call for  
12 proposals, what we can do here and how we can accommodate  
13 that proposal as a Regional Advisory Council proposal?

14  
15                   MR. CASIPIT: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.  
16 We're skipping ahead a little to 13, but that's fine, I  
17 can go ahead and do that right now, it will only take me  
18 a few minutes. The proposal period is for changes to the  
19 Federal subsistence fisheries regulations are open right  
20 now, the due date for those proposals is March 25th.

21  
22                   I wanted to mention that Staff is  
23 available to assist Council and the public for preparing  
24 those proposals, we've always offered that service and  
25 we'll continue to offer that service.

26  
27                   I just wanted to mention to the Council  
28 of potential proposals that I've heard about just for  
29 your information, and you just heard one of them from Mr.  
30 Stokes for changing the start date for the sockeye  
31 fishery.

32  
33                   There also may be a proposal in regards  
34 to the mesh restrictions for that Stikine fisheries,  
35 gillnet mesh restrictions. And maybe more proposals  
36 regarding the Stikine based on the concern of only 125  
37 chinook out of a run of possibly 100,000, but that all  
38 can be discussed.

39  
40                   Also there has been discussion around a  
41 proposal and, you know, it still requires quite a bit of  
42 work with the community involved here but we may have a  
43 proposal that deals with the situation about steelhead in  
44 Hydaburg that perhaps there may be support for a  
45 community harvest system for steelhead in Hydaburg. But  
46 those are the only proposals that I've heard of up until  
47 now and I just wanted to make the offer for Staff to  
48 assist with proposals.

49  
50                   And that's my report there.

1  
2 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Okay, thank you.  
3 So we have until the 25th to submit proposals, of course,  
4 we're meeting now and Mr. Stokes is proposing that, I  
5 believe that the Regional Advisory Council adopt this  
6 proposal; is that correct?  
7  
8 MR. STOKES: Yes.  
9  
10 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Okay. So the  
11 request of Mr. Stokes is that we take ownership of this  
12 proposal, and the way I understand it it would be to  
13 extend the sockeye fishery from June 21st to the 30th, so  
14 are there any members that want to speak to this.  
15  
16 Dr. Garza.  
17  
18 DR. GARZA: I guess I would like to ask  
19 Mr. Larson if those dates are in the Annex or if they are  
20 up for review from this Council and Federal Subsistence  
21 Board?  
22  
23 MR. LARSON: Mr. Chairman. The dates  
24 that are in the Annex are the dates from the same as the  
25 2004, that is July 1st to July 31st for the sockeye  
26 season. The dates for king salmon, chinook season, is  
27 May 15th to June 20th. So those are actually in the  
28 Annex, that's correct.  
29  
30 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Dr. Garza.  
31  
32 DR. GARZA: So a proposal from us to the  
33 Federal Subsistence Board at this time would be moot?  
34  
35 MR. LARSON: Mr. Chairman. I don't  
36 believe that there is a mechanism in place to change that  
37 for this year. I believe that those changes would be  
38 made during their January -- they would be discussed and  
39 deliberated during their January of 2006 meeting and  
40 finalized in February of 2006 for the 2006 season.  
41  
42 Now, there needs to be a mechanism to put  
43 that proposal before them -- before the panel, and I  
44 believe this would be a suitable vehicle for that.  
45  
46 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Yeah, barring the  
47 time that it takes to get this adopted and through all  
48 the various boards, it took three or four years to get  
49 where we are now, I don't see anything wrong with going  
50 this way unless you see something that won't work, I

1 don't see any reason why we couldn't adopt this.

2

3 Any other comments from the Council, I  
4 would recommend that we allow Mr. Stokes to work with  
5 Staff. I think.....

6

7 MS. PHILLIPS: That's why we're where we  
8 at, we asked.

9

10 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: I heard that. I  
11 think we got the gist of this, that it was to extend that  
12 season and I think if we just give him the latitude to  
13 work with Staff and correctly come up with the language  
14 then I don't have any problem just asking him to do that  
15 as a Council proposal.

16

17 Mr. Hernandez.

18

19 MR. HERNANDEZ: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.  
20 I might also ask the Council to entertain a proposal  
21 dealing with the mesh size restriction in that.....

22

23 MR. KOOKESH: Can we do this one first?

24

25 MR. HERNANDEZ: Oh, sure.

26

27 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Let's put this  
28 into bed first. Is there any problem with asking Staff  
29 to work with and put this proposal in, does anybody have  
30 any objection to that?

31

32 (No objections)

33

34 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Okay. So Staff  
35 understands that they will work on this proposal. Mr.  
36 Hernandez, go ahead.

37

38 MR. HERNANDEZ: Thank you, Mr. Chairman,  
39 and sorry. As a related issue, the mesh size restriction  
40 in that proposal, I was wondering if the Council would  
41 entertain proposing a change to the mesh size five and a  
42 half inches doesn't seem to be a very effective mesh size  
43 for a king salmon fishery as a maximum and we might want  
44 to look at an alternative to that restriction.

45

46 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Mr. Larson, I  
47 believe the request is to, in the chinook fishery,  
48 looking at the five and a half inch mesh size; could you  
49 comment on that, please?

50

1 MR. LARSON: Yeah, again, the merits to  
2 selective fishing by mesh size is, you know, Don is well  
3 aware of how critical that is to maximize harvest and  
4 look at vulnerability and things like that. So it is a  
5 -- the five and a half inch is a perfectly reasonable  
6 size to catch sockeyes, it's small for cohos and very  
7 small, you know, to maximize harvest rates for king  
8 salmon.

9  
10 The mesh size is a gear, and that is not  
11 in the Annex, that's up to the Federal Subsistence Board  
12 to determine that. That's not something we need to bring  
13 to the panel. But that, I would guess, is something that  
14 they would act on again in January of 2006.

15  
16 But there is really no conservation issue  
17 that would be addressed by having any mesh size in there.

18  
19 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: I agree. The  
20 Council's wishes here. I think five and a half is fairly  
21 small for a king salmon, we'd be catching a lot of  
22 sockeyes in that earlier season. So did you have a  
23 suggested mesh size?

24  
25 MR. HERNANDEZ: Mr. Chairman, we may want  
26 to consult with Staff on this again but just as a  
27 proposal maybe I would say change the wording to -- with  
28 a mesh size no larger than seven and a half inches.

29  
30 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Okay, seven and a  
31 half. Mr. Bangs.

32  
33 MR. BANGS: Yeah, thank you, Mr.  
34 Chairman. Mr. Larson, was there any concern about  
35 steelhead incidental take during that time or any of  
36 these fisheries that are going to take place?

37  
38 MR. LARSON: Mr. Chairman. I have not  
39 heard anything, any discussion concerning steelhead  
40 except for that exact question, do we know if there's  
41 going to be a concern, and the only evidence that we  
42 really have regarding that issue is that, one, I think  
43 most of the fish that are in the upper river are fall run  
44 steelhead and our experience with both the king salmon  
45 and sockeye test fisheries and during the course of our  
46 subsistence fishery last year showed very low incidents  
47 of harvest of steelhead, we caught one fish last year.  
48 And that is generally the -- the test fishery catches  
49 none.

50

1 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Mr. Casipit, did  
2 you have something to add?

3  
4 MR. CASIPIT: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Terry  
5 just whispered in my ear and I noticed after he whispered  
6 it in my ear I had it right here in my notes and I should  
7 have mentioned it before, but the Council may want to  
8 consider what we might want to do with potential chinook  
9 fisheries in Southeast. As you know the Council was not  
10 able to take an action on last year's proposal dealing  
11 with directed chinook fisheries in Southeast and the  
12 Board actually ended up rejecting that proposal. So  
13 basically the slate's clean if the Council would like to  
14 do something with chinooks in Southeast, that's avail --  
15 Staff would be willing -- is willing and able to work  
16 with the Council on that one, too.

17  
18 Sorry for being out of order here,  
19 but.....

20  
21 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: That will be part  
22 of the .805(c) when we look over that.

23  
24 Mr. Larson.

25  
26 MR. LARSON: Mr. Chairman. Steve Kessler  
27 reminded me that if this is the -- amending or deleting  
28 the mesh restriction for gillnets is a high priority item  
29 for the Council, then that discussion could take place at  
30 the Board meeting and a special action could be issued  
31 because it's one of those items that does not have to be  
32 brought before the TransBoundary Panel and the Pacific  
33 Salmon Commission again.

34  
35 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: I think we're  
36 unwilling to wait three years or we want soon action, so  
37 I would say, yes, if they could do that, all of these  
38 issues are appropriate for the May meeting.

39  
40 Is there any other discussion on this.

41  
42 (No comments)

43  
44 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: I'm comfortable  
45 with the seven and a half inches and comfortable that  
46 Staff can generate the language to back up why we want to  
47 do this. Is there any other Council member that would  
48 like to talk to this.

49  
50 (No comments)

1 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Is it okay to  
2 direct Staff to generate this Board proposal to changing  
3 the mesh size to up to seven and a half inches.

4  
5 (Council nods affirmatively)

6  
7 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Okay, we'll do  
8 that.

9  
10 Okay, additional proposals, Mr. Stokes.

11  
12 MR. STOKES: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I  
13 have an additional proposal, to delete the mesh size  
14 restriction for Stikine River subsistence chinook,  
15 sockeye and coho fisheries.

16  
17 I propose to delete the mesh size  
18 restriction for the chinook, sockeye and  
19 coho subsistence fishery on the Stikine  
20 River. The gear restriction would read:  
21 only dipnets, spears, gaff, rod and reel,  
22 beach seine, or gillnet, not exceeding 15  
23 fathoms in length. The reason: There is  
24 no conservation or biological reason to  
25 specify the mesh size. This amendment  
26 would allow a range of meshes to fish.

27  
28 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: This fits real  
29 well with what we just talked about, the seven and a half  
30 inches mesh for chinook. We're limited, we have a  
31 guideline harvest level here and there really is -- how  
32 you get those fish it doesn't make any difference to me,  
33 I mean I'd like you to comment on the two sizes for the  
34 sockeye and coho if you see a problem with that and maybe  
35 we could just ask Staff to look at that all encompassing.

36  
37 Mr. Larson.

38  
39 MR. LARSON: Yeah, Mr. Chairman. If it  
40 was the will of the Council to maximize the effectiveness  
41 of a gillnet, then you would use the smallest size for  
42 sockeyes and then a larger size, typically six or six and  
43 a half inches for cohos and then a larger size than that,  
44 seven or eight inches maybe even for king salmon, but I  
45 think that one of the -- I can remember in 2001 one of  
46 the discussion points was that the residents of -- the  
47 local residents may not have access to a broad variety of  
48 mesh sizes and different kind of nets and typically the  
49 most common gillnet would be one used for summertime use  
50 and that would be a five and a half inch, or a five and

1 three-eighths inch mesh. And I think that's why that  
2 kind of a discussion took place was that it was just  
3 convenient, a convenient size so we wouldn't specify and  
4 make it a hardship on the users to look for different  
5 mesh sizes.

6  
7 But if it's the will of the Council to  
8 specify an optimum or a maximum mesh size specific to  
9 each fishery we can certainly do that. There's lots of  
10 good information out there to provide those exact numbers  
11 for, you know, how large a mesh should be.

12  
13 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Mr. Stokes, would  
14 it be acceptable to allow Staff to come up with the  
15 correct size there, we've got seven and a half already on  
16 the table, which probably.....

17  
18 MR. STOKES: Yes.

19  
20 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: And Mr. Larson is  
21 correct, you should not have to have three different  
22 gillnets to participate in all three of these fisheries.

23  
24 MR. STOKES: Right.

25  
26 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: One gillnet should  
27 suffice. I mean we're poor subsistence fishermen.

28  
29 MR. STOKES: That's fine.

30  
31 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: So is there any  
32 objection to allowing Staff to come up with the  
33 recommended gillnet mesh size for all three of these.

34  
35 (No objections)

36  
37 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Okay. Staff will  
38 work with Mr. Stokes and others that are interested on  
39 this mesh size that give you some input, develop the  
40 right thing and justify it appropriately for the  
41 Southeast Regional Advisory Council proposal. I  
42 understand you have another proposal, Mr. Stokes?

43  
44 MR. STOKES: I got a motion.

45  
46 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: You want to.....

47  
48 MR. STOKES: I want to make a motion.

49  
50 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: .....make a

1 movement or a motion?  
2  
3 MR. STOKES: A motion, I think.  
4  
5 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Okay, go ahead.  
6  
7 (Laughter)  
8  
9 MR. STOKES: I don't need a movement.  
10  
11 (Laughter)  
12  
13 MR. STOKES: Okay, thank you, Mr. Chair.  
14 I'd like to make a motion to express the Council's  
15 appreciation to all the Federal subsistence Staff, the  
16 Deputy Commission of the State of Alaska of Fish and Game  
17 for the continuing effort to successfully negotiate  
18 through the Pacific Salmon Treaty Process to obtain  
19 subsistence fishery for chinook, sockeye and coho salmon  
20 on the Stikine River. I further recommend that the  
21 Council send a letter of thanks to Cal Casipit, Bob  
22 Larson, Dr. Dolly Garza, Dr. Bob Schroeder, and the  
23 Deputy Commission, David Bedford.  
24  
25 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: There's a motion,  
26 is there an amendment to add Mr. Stokes.  
27  
28 MR. DOUVILLE: Second.  
29  
30 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Mr. Bangs.  
31  
32 MR. BANGS: I make a motion to amend to  
33 include Mr. Richard Stokes.  
34  
35 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Is there a second.  
36  
37 MR. HERNANDEZ: Second.  
38  
39 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Any discussion.  
40  
41 (No comments)  
42  
43 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: If there is no  
44 opposition we will just say that Mr. Richard Stokes  
45 should be included in this as well.  
46  
47 Dr. Garza.  
48  
49 DR. GARZA: Mr. Chairman. Dick, I wasn't  
50 sure if you referred to the TransBoundary Panel in there?

1 MR. STOKES: Say that again?  
2  
3 DR. GARZA: The TransBoundary Panel.  
4  
5 MR. STOKES: Oh, yes, I guess we should  
6 put the TransBoundary on there since we met with them  
7 three times.  
8  
9 DR. GARZA: And the TransBoundary Panel,  
10 once they took this up and fought for it, I mean the  
11 Pacific Salmon Commission had one whole meeting dedicated  
12 to this, I mean they are sick of our pity little 600 fish  
13 that we got and they spent more time on it than they  
14 spent on a lot of other subjects which they think are far  
15 more important, so we do need to make sure we thank the  
16 TransBoundary Panel, both the Alaska and the Canadian  
17 side, and probably Pacific Salmon Commission as well.  
18  
19 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: If there is no  
20 objection we would add the TransBoundary Panel and any  
21 other comments on this, I think it's a great idea, and if  
22 there's no objection I would direct the Staff to write  
23 the letter to themselves.....  
24  
25 (Laughter)  
26  
27 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: No, actually if  
28 they would please get a copy of this letter from Mr.  
29 Stokes and incorporate also Mr. Stokes name in this  
30 letter as well as the TransBoundary and we will send that  
31 out, and, again, with our thanks. If there is no  
32 objection, there was a member that Mr. Larson mentioned  
33 that was also lobbying on our behalf and that was a  
34 member from the OSM Staff, Mr. Larry Buklis, if there was  
35 no objection I would like to include his name in this as  
36 well.  
37  
38 (No objection)  
39  
40 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Okay, so ordered,  
41 we'll do so.  
42  
43 Good job guys, appreciate it, all of you.  
44  
45  
46 (Applause)  
47  
48 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Let's take a  
49 little quick break and we're going to come back and go to  
50 6:00 o'clock so go ahead and take a short break.

1 (Off record)

2

3 (On record)

4

5 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Melinda just  
6 distributed what will be used in Item 5 that we added,  
7 we're under agency and organization reports. We're under  
8 OSM right now and the rural determination briefing will  
9 be given by Maureen Clark.

10

11 Dr. Wheeler will do the subsistence use  
12 amounts protocol.

13

14 Mr. Knauer, Bill Knauer will do the  
15 hunting, what we had added, hunting licenses, tags,  
16 information and that type of stuff.

17

18 So Ms. Clark.

19

20 MS. CLARK: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.  
21 Council members. My name is Maureen Clark. And I am  
22 here to talk to you today about the rural review process.  
23 And if you look in your Council books on Pages 192 and  
24 193, you'll see a two page news release that we sent out  
25 at the end of last month.

26

27 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: 192/193.

28

29 MS. CLARK: And at the end of that news  
30 release, you'll notice in the last line it says  
31 additional details are available, those additional  
32 details you have them in your supplemental materials.  
33 It's the informational summary of initial steps in the  
34 review of rural determinations. That's the additional  
35 material that's referred to at the end of the news  
36 release.

37

38 Not to go over things, obviously you've  
39 seen this news release, I think everyone received it in  
40 the mail, so I'll just kind of go over it quickly. I  
41 think you probably are pretty familiar with what's in  
42 here. Basically the news release outlines a two-stage  
43 approach. There will be an initial review of Alaska  
44 communities looking at what has changed since 1990. And  
45 then from this initial review, a list of communities will  
46 be developed for further analysis. And there will be an  
47 opportunity for public comment on that list. Then once  
48 the Board finalizes that list, decides whether or not  
49 communities should be added or taken off, in-depth  
50 analysis of those communities on the final list will be

1 done and from those in-depth analysis the Board will  
2 decide if the rural or non-rural status of any  
3 communities in Alaska should change. And, again, there  
4 will be an opportunity for public comment then.  
5

6 I guess what I want to emphasize is that  
7 the public comment period that is going on now and it  
8 closes April 1st is intended mainly to get comments about  
9 the approach and the process being used. And this issue  
10 will come up before you again in the fall, and at that  
11 time you will have a preliminary list of communities that  
12 maybe need further analysis.  
13

14 And then the last thing to come before  
15 you will be in the fall of 2006, a proposed rule with any  
16 communities that would see a change.  
17

18 And so you have additional opportunities  
19 for public comment, public and Council comment, I should  
20 say, over the next almost two years.  
21

22 One thing I might want to point out to  
23 you, also, it says the Board evaluated several options  
24 for conducting this review and decided to adopt an  
25 approach similar to that taken in 1990. I know you know  
26 that there had been different alternatives that had been  
27 looked at and the Board has basically gone with a method  
28 very similar to what was used the first time around.  
29

30 And I'll just stop there, if anyone has  
31 any questions.  
32

33 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Are there any  
34 questions on the rural process?  
35

36 MR. DOUVILLE: Mr. Chairman.  
37

38 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Mr. Douville.  
39

40 MR. DOUVILLE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.  
41 When you review these communities, are you reviewing only  
42 the ones that have had rural status or do you look at all  
43 communities, and I guess we'll try that first, okay.  
44

45 MS. CLARK: For communities -- the review  
46 will focus on changes in the population first of all.  
47 For a community that's currently considered rural, we'll  
48 look at whether or not the population increased above  
49 7,000 or how much further above 7,000 between 1990 and  
50 2000. And if that's the case then the community would be

1 considered for further analysis, it would go on that  
2 list.

3  
4 For a community currently considered non-  
5 rural, we would look at whether or not the population  
6 decreased below 2,500, and if so that community would  
7 also go on the list for further analysis.

8  
9 And then for communities with populations  
10 between 2,500 and 7,000, we'll ask whether we know of  
11 changes that have taken place in those communities that  
12 might warrant their inclusion on that list for further  
13 analysis. And in that case we'll be looking at the  
14 characteristics in the communities, the diversity and the  
15 development of the local economy, use of fish and  
16 wildlife, educational institutions, a variety of factors.

17  
18 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Follow up Mr.  
19 Douville.

20  
21 MR. DOUVILLE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.  
22 Then you're not really looking at any communities with a  
23 population over 7,000, and if you weren't looking at them  
24 and a community was interested in their rural status, how  
25 would they get on your list, so to speak, to be  
26 considered?

27  
28 MS. CLARK: The list that is being  
29 compiled by Staff at this time is a proposed list, and it  
30 will be put out for public comment. And if folks in  
31 Ketchikan say, we think we should be on that list for  
32 further analysis and possibly to have our status changed,  
33 they can submit comments and the Board will consider  
34 those comments.

35  
36 Those are just the communities that are  
37 going on to the list automatically, those, the criteria  
38 that I talked to you, but it's entirely possible that  
39 other communities could go on there.

40  
41 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Other Council  
42 comments.

43  
44 MR. KOOKESH: I have a question.

45  
46 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Mr. Kookesh.

47  
48 MR. KOOKESH: I'm kind of curious, what  
49 is the population of Sitka and Ketchikan, do you know  
50 just off the top of your head? I mean I live in

1 Southeast and I don't even know.

2

3 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: 8,835 for Sitka.

4

5 DR. GARZA: 16K.

6

7 MR. KOOKESH: What?

8

9 DR. GARZA: Sixteen Thousand, Ketchikan,

10 city and borough.

11

12 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Does Ketchikan

13 city and borough include Saxman?

14

15 MS. CLARK: Saxman is considered rural in

16 our program so it's not included.

17

18 DR. GARZA: Saxman has their own

19 government beyond tribal, their own community government,

20 village government, whatever.

21

22 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Okay, they're

23 surrounded by the borough and part of this process has

24 communities that are contiguous to or rely on those so,

25 you know, of course this Council has gone on record

26 supporting Ketchikan as being a rural community because

27 it met the eight criteria. I know for a fact that Sitka

28 is requesting that you consider them a rural community.

29 And further, they're requesting that you come to their

30 community and that request I believe went out from the

31 local Fish and Game Advisory Committee which is already

32 on the record. I saw it on the web page already. And

33 the city and borough is doing that. And I suggest that

34 for any community above these very small levels here,

35 2,500, probably ought to get on there, too, because as we

36 all know it's harder to jump on the boat after it gets

37 moving and you want to be on this initial review when it

38 comes out in August. It would probably be less of an

39 uphill battle if you were already on there as one that

40 was considered for rural status.

41

42 Any other Council.

43

44 (No comments)

45

46 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Okay, thank you

47 very much. Dr. Wheeler.

48

49 MS. WHEELER: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

50 Polly Wheeler with the Office of Subsistence Management.

1 I'm here just to give you an update on the subsistence  
2 use amounts protocol work group. I currently serve as  
3 the Federal Staff person on the group as does Dr.  
4 Schroeder, so he can certainly fill in if I miss any of  
5 the key points here.

6  
7 On Page 194 and 195 of your books, there  
8 is two pieces of information. One is an update, or a  
9 status report on the subsistence use amounts protocol  
10 work group, the other is a letter to the State Federal  
11 subsistence liaison team members and subsistence use  
12 amounts protocol working group and it was signed by  
13 former Commissioner Duffy of the Alaska Department of  
14 Fish and Game and Tom Boyd, the Assistant Regional  
15 Director for OSM, and that sort of provides some  
16 guidelines for what the work group is supposed to do.

17  
18 As you might remember in July of 2003  
19 Governor Murkowski wrote a letter to the Office of  
20 Subsistence Management -- well, I don't remember who it  
21 was to, but anyway it was providing direction that work  
22 on all other protocols would cease until work on this  
23 protocol worked forward. He felt that this was the most  
24 important protocol to be worked on so that work on other  
25 protocols wouldn't occur until this protocol was signed.

26  
27 I will say, having said that, however,  
28 the work has proceeded somewhat slowly and I think  
29 deliberately, which is probably a good thing. We had one  
30 meeting last summer and I think it was August 1st or July  
31 31st or somewhere around there, that was before your fall  
32 Council meeting, we had another meeting in early December  
33 of 2004. So we're meeting regularly but not frequently.

34  
35 The charge of the work group is to  
36 develop a process for recognizing subsistence use amounts  
37 in the Federal Subsistence Management Program, and to  
38 coordinate these with the amounts necessary for  
39 subsistence in the State program. The letter from former  
40 Commissioner Duffy and Tom Boyd provided direction to the  
41 work group and that is there is sort of a three-point  
42 directive from them.

43  
44 The first is to review the need for and  
45 develop newer updated subsistence use amounts. And  
46 basically the goal there is to seek agreement on  
47 priorities for studies that need to be done, both for  
48 fish and for wildlife. So to look at existing amounts  
49 necessary for subsistence and agree as a group on what  
50 numbers need to be updated, what numbers need to be

1 completely revisited, what numbers are okay.

2

3 The group is also supposed to reach  
4 agreement on what research is the highest priority for  
5 addressing amounts necessary for subsistence or  
6 subsistence use amounts. And also a big priority of  
7 everybody in the working group, I think, is to develop a  
8 strong public outreach program, and that's certainly  
9 mentioned in the memo from former Commissioner Duffy and  
10 Tom Boyd. A strong program of public outreach which  
11 obviously would involve Council input.

12

13 As I said the charges have been laid out,  
14 the process is still in the works. There has been  
15 subgroups whose membership has been assigned, based on  
16 the membership of the working groups, I will say I was  
17 assigned to one of the working groups -- or to one of the  
18 subgroups and to my knowledge no work has proceeded. Dr.  
19 Schroeder may have different information than I but  
20 that's the information that I have, that is I haven't  
21 gotten any emails assigning me work or anything to read.

22

23 So basically work is proceeding  
24 deliberately, although slowly. We'll keep you informed  
25 as we move forward. I expect that this spring there  
26 probably will be some work done, this spring and maybe  
27 early summer so that we will have more to report to you  
28 next fall. But that's the status of the subsistence use  
29 amounts protocol working group.

30

31 Mr. Chair. Board members.

32

33 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Could you please  
34 tell me who is on the subsistence use amount protocol  
35 work group?

36

37 MS. WHEELER: Mr. Chair, I can try, and  
38 if I fail I'm sure Dr. Schroeder can jump in with his  
39 incredible memory.

40

41 But as I remember it's Mike Rearden who  
42 is the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta Refuge manager. And I'll  
43 give you the Federal membership first. Myself. Dr.  
44 Schroeder. Dr. Glenn Chen with the Bureau of Indian  
45 Affairs. Janet Cohen with the National Park Service who  
46 is the Federal Chair or co-Chair. And I believe  
47 that's.....

48

49 DR. SCHROEDER: Marianne See.

50

1 DR. WHEELER: Well, I'm just listing the  
2 Federal membership first. State membership has been a  
3 little bit in flux, and I think that was one of the  
4 questions that Janet had. I don't know if Marianne See  
5 wants to come up here, but -- actually it probably would  
6 be good if Ms. See came up and said who the State  
7 membership was because I understand it has been somewhat  
8 in flux.

9  
10 Mr. Chair.

11  
12 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: There are no  
13 Council members involved; is that correct?

14  
15 MS. WHEELER: Mr. Chair, that is correct.  
16 If you remember when the first membership -- several  
17 years when OSM put Regional Advisory Council Chairs on  
18 the different protocol working groups, that prompted the  
19 Solicitor's Office to get involved and then FACA was  
20 invoked and as a result RAC membership has been basically  
21 removed from all of the protocol working groups basically  
22 because of FACA concerns, which is why the public  
23 outreach component is such a critical component of all  
24 these protocols.

25  
26 Mr. Chair.

27  
28 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Dr. Schroeder.

29  
30 DR. SCHROEDER: Just by way of  
31 background, the Southeast Regional Advisory Council had  
32 requested to have a member on this subcommittee and --  
33 excuse me, on this protocol working group and that was in  
34 place, that was beginning to be implemented and Mr.  
35 Kookesh offered to serve and subsequently Dr. Garza I  
36 believe was going to be on this protocol working group,  
37 and then the ruling changed that eliminated Council  
38 members. Prior to that time Gerald Nicholia and Mr.  
39 Brower had been on this working group since its inception  
40 about two years ago or two and a half year ago.

41  
42 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Okay, the reason  
43 for the question, of course, is because one of the duties  
44 of the Regional Council is to develop these subsistence  
45 use amounts to give you our recommendations on how to  
46 implement these policies and your statement at the end is  
47 you're asking us how can you engage, well, you can engage  
48 by asking the Regional Councils because they're the ones  
49 that are supposed to be involved with this. And for  
50 myself, I can tell you, I'm quite disappointed. There is

1 a way around this, we've talked about this several times  
2 before and I think it's inappropriate to exclude the  
3 Regional Councils from this, and I think that my  
4 recommendation to you in accordance with that is to  
5 figure out a way to do it. Because it can be done. I  
6 know it may be cumbersome to you, but you're losing the  
7 grassroots input, the people who actually have their  
8 hands on subsistence use amounts. And we could have five  
9 people from Arkansas sitting there on this thing deciding  
10 what somebody on the Koyukuk needs for Federal  
11 Subsistence Board use amounts, and it's not correct.

12  
13 So anyway, that's my comments. And I'm  
14 not happy with it.

15  
16 Other Council.

17  
18 I'm not getting any help.

19  
20 DR. GARZA: We're waiting to see what  
21 Marianne is going to say.

22  
23 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Ms. See.

24  
25 MS. SEE: Mr. Chair. I wanted to offer  
26 two things. One regarding the State members of the  
27 group. They are actually the members of the State's  
28 liaison team that works on these issues in the  
29 Department. There's a representative from each division,  
30 Geron Bruce from Commercial Fisheries. And we have kind  
31 of an alternate arrangement for the Board of Game, Board  
32 of Fish executive director role, whichever one is  
33 available, either Diana Cody or Linda Bailey. Myself.  
34 Larry Boyle for Sportfisheries and Terry Haines for  
35 wildlife. And then as Polly Wheeler noted there is  
36 representatives on the Federal side from all the  
37 different involved agencies.

38  
39 One of the things that troubled us  
40 considerably about the result of the decision that  
41 Council members couldn't actually be on the committee  
42 group was that then how are we going to get a direct link  
43 back to the Councils. And so we wrote this kind of  
44 generic statement knowing that this was going to go in  
45 all of the Council books asking for Councils to think  
46 about, or make specific recommendations on what you  
47 wanted because Councils really vary in their thinking  
48 about this as to how they would like to engage. Maybe  
49 you want to have a work shop with the committee, maybe  
50 you want to have specific proposals or ideas provided to

1 you that you then feedback to the group.

2

3 But we find it very frustrating that we  
4 can't have direct involvement on the committee from  
5 Council members. So we would very much appreciate how --  
6 suggestions for how this Council wants to interface with  
7 this effort because by all means we agree that you are  
8 the closest in the region to the kind of information and  
9 we want to make sure that we really engage appropriately  
10 with each Council on this.

11

12 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Are any of those  
13 members, either on the State or Federal side, are any of  
14 them rural residents?

15

16 DR. WHEELER: Well, I was going to be  
17 able to say yes because Mike Rearden lives in Bethel,  
18 which is a rural community but I was just told that he's  
19 been replaced by Rod Simmons who works for the Fish and  
20 Wildlife Service in Anchorage so, Mr. Chair, the answer  
21 is no.

22

23 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: I rest my case.  
24 Other Council.

25

26 Mr. Adams.

27

28 MR. ADAMS: I rest my case along with  
29 you, thank you.

30

31 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Dr. Garza.

32

33 DR. GARZA: I'm not resting Mr. Chairman,  
34 I've never been kicked off a committee before and I  
35 really didn't appreciate it. I've served on many  
36 committees in the 20 years of my life with the University  
37 and I have never, ever been treated that way to all of a  
38 sudden just state that you can't be there.

39

40 However, putting that aside, I think we  
41 just need to be more proactive, and I think what we  
42 should suggest is that we create a Southeast subsistence  
43 use subcommittee that's FACA that we run, we invite two  
44 people from ADF&G, two people from Federal subsistence  
45 and we just do our job.

46

47 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Are you making  
48 that in the form of a motion, that we ask the Federal  
49 Subsistence Board to authorize a subsistence use amount  
50 subcommittee under the auspices of the Regional Advisory

1 Council?

2

3

DR. GARZA: I so move.

4

5

CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Is there a second.

6

7

MR. KITKA: Second.

8

9

10

discussion.

11

12

(No comments)

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

27

28

29

30

31

32

33

34

35

36

37

38

39

40

41

42

43

44

45

46

47

48

49

50

And if there's no objection I would just like to make sure that we submit that request to the Federal Subsistence Board to authorize the formation of that subcommittee.

Is there any objection to that.

MR. KOOKESH: Mr. Chairman, I wanted to say something.

CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Mr. Kookesh.

MR. KOOKESH: Mr. Chairman, I agree with Dr. Garza, she is correct that the ball is in our court, that if this is ever going to get resolved it's going to be resolved by us, it's not going to be resolved by five people from Arkansas.

Thank you.

CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Are there any other members who would like to comment on this.

(No comments)

CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Then if there is

1 no objection then we will direct Staff to prepare that  
2 letter to the Federal Subsistence Board.

3

4 (No objections)

5

6 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Dr. Schroeder.

7

8 DR. SCHROEDER: Mr. Chairman, I would  
9 also point out that over the past few years we've had  
10 quite a few very productive interactions with tribal  
11 governments in Southeast Alaska who have been working  
12 closely with the Federal program on harvest assessment  
13 and harvest monitoring projects and they also have a good  
14 deal of information that would be relevant to the  
15 question of how much subsistence foods do people use and  
16 need, and I'm certain that the intention of this motion  
17 was to include contact with the tribal governments as  
18 well.

19

20 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: The Regional  
21 Advisory Council will include the people that need to be  
22 included, I think that's a given. And the record should  
23 show that if you think it's needed, but this Regional  
24 Advisory Council knows where that information is and  
25 we're going to seek it out and come up with it.

26

27 Would you like the last word or anything  
28 on this?

29

30 DR. WHEELER: (Shakes head negatively)

31

32 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: So that's our  
33 recommendation, you have our recommendation.

34

35 Okay, so we'll go to No. 5, Mr. Bill  
36 Knauer will cover the hunting licenses.

37

38 MR. KNAUER: Mr. Chairman. This Council  
39 had questions and the requested information regarding the  
40 Governor's proposed increase in the hunting license fees.

41

42 According to the news release the  
43 increase was to generate revenue needed to address major  
44 funding shortfall, to generate new funds to expand  
45 hunting and trapping opportunities in Alaska. Additional  
46 information can be found on the State of Alaska website.

47

48 The Governor is proposing a doubling of  
49 the resident hunting license fee, which is currently \$25,  
50 it would be -- they're proposing to be \$50. They're

1 proposing the resident trapping fee which is currently 15  
2 to go to 30. And the combination hunting/trapping  
3 license which is currently 39 go to 75.

4  
5 They are not proposing a change in the \$5  
6 low income license or proposing any institution of a  
7 charge for the permanent ID cards for senior 65 and  
8 older.

9  
10 This is an action that will -- it will  
11 require action by the Alaska State Legislature. And if  
12 it is proposed -- if it's approved and signed would go  
13 into effect January 1st. I have heard no information  
14 whether the Legislature has taken this issue up yet.

15  
16 As individuals, and members of the  
17 public, the ADF&G web page advises that you can comment  
18 to your local area biologist, regional supervisor or the  
19 public relations staff either in Anchorage or Fairbanks.  
20 Regional Councils, as a Council can make their concerns  
21 known by submitting a letter to the Federal Subsistence  
22 Board. Councils are reminded that they may not, through  
23 correspondence or other means of communication attempt to  
24 persuade any elected or appointed political official to  
25 take particular action on an issue.

26  
27 As you're aware Federal regulations do  
28 require that subsistence hunters and trappers hold a  
29 resident hunting or trapping license as appropriate.  
30 This is a requirement found in Subpart A, which is a  
31 Secretarial, the prerogative of the Secretary to change  
32 or not.

33  
34 Upon the implementation of the Federal  
35 Subsistence Program and upon various reviews since then  
36 -- since the initiation, particularly in 1999, the Board  
37 and the Secretaries have previously acknowledged that the  
38 Federal requirement is consistent with sound management  
39 principles. They recognize that the information obtained  
40 from the issuance of licenses allows managers to estimate  
41 hunting and trapping pressure which might be directed at  
42 wildlife populations in certain areas and that the  
43 revenues obtained from licenses directly support the  
44 Alaska Department of Fish and Game providing for the  
45 wildlife surveys research, habitat improvement, education  
46 and information upon which our Regional Councils depend.  
47 The license sales also result in millions of dollars of  
48 matching Federal funds that go specifically to the -- for  
49 habitat acquisition and improvement and wildlife  
50 management.

1 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Okay, thank you  
2 for the presentation. The Council should have a handout,  
3 there's two of them that I had faxed over to me. One of  
4 them was the draft hunting and trapping fees that Mr.  
5 Knauer touched a little bit upon those, the value of  
6 those, and the other was for the sportfish license  
7 increases. So you can look at those and see that the  
8 hunting fees are going to be doubled for residents. And  
9 they're not going to be doubled for the rest of the non-  
10 residents. And a similar, although not quite as -- they  
11 put a modest increase for non-residents.

12  
13 Is there any discussion on these items as  
14 well as questions for Mr. Knauer.

15  
16 (No comments)

17  
18 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: I have a question,  
19 somewhere in Part D it says if you are hunting under the  
20 terms of a Federal permit that you do not need to have  
21 State hunting and sportfishing licenses; is that correct  
22 or not?

23  
24 MR. KNAUER: No, Mr. Chairman. A Federal  
25 permit does not replace the requirement for a hunting  
26 license. It may or may not replace the requirement for a  
27 State permit or a State registration or drawing permit,  
28 something like that, but it does not replace the  
29 requirement for a license.

30  
31 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: If the conditions  
32 of the permit so stated that nothing else was required,  
33 would that be legal?

34  
35 MR. KNAUER: There is a provision that  
36 has yet to be examined legally that the Board may have  
37 some authority in very limited circumstances to eliminate  
38 that requirement on a very limited geographical area or  
39 for a very limited hunt. But overall the Secretaries  
40 have expressed that they do wish to have the requirement  
41 for a hunting license for subsistence users.

42  
43 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Okay, thank you.  
44 Other Council.

45  
46 Mr. Hernandez.

47  
48 MR. HERNANDEZ: Thank you. Mr. Knauer,  
49 does the State have any provisions for low income people  
50 purchasing licenses, do you know?

1 MR. KNAUER: Mr. Chairman. Mr.  
2 Hernandez. Yes, it does. There is a provision for what  
3 they call a low income license which cost \$5. And there  
4 are either an income level or a public assistance  
5 requirement that qualifies an individual for this.  
6  
7 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Follow up.  
8  
9 MR. HERNANDEZ: Yes, thank you, Mr.  
10 Chairman. Was there any proposed change in that  
11 provision?  
12  
13 MR, KNAUER: No, there is not.  
14  
15 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Other Council.  
16  
17 MR. KOOKESH: I have a question.  
18  
19 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Mr. Kookesh.  
20  
21 MR. KOOKESH: Mr. Knauer, I didn't see it  
22 in this document but has the trend on sales been going  
23 like this in sportfish? And I have another question, my  
24 other question is if we do see an -- if we have an  
25 increase, will we see a decrease?  
26  
27 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Mr. Knauer.  
28  
29 MR. KNAUER: Mr. Chairman. Mr. Kookesh.  
30 I do not know what the trend is in sportfishing license  
31 sales. I do know that under our -- under the Federal  
32 regulations, subsistence users are not required to have a  
33 sportfishing license to participate because it is just  
34 that, it is a sport license, whereas a hunting license is  
35 a general license. There is no such thing under the  
36 State regime as a sport hunting license.  
37  
38 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Mr. Turek.  
39  
40 MR. TUREK: Chair. I am Mike Turek with  
41 Fish and Game, Division of Subsistence. Council member  
42 Kookesh, interestingly the sportfish licenses in the  
43 state of Alaska, resident licenses have been declining  
44 over the years quite precipitously in the last few years.  
45 Out of state licenses have been increasing, continue to  
46 increase and dramatically so, in particular in Southeast  
47 Alaska. I may have some information on that in my  
48 computer, but I'd have to check but I don't think I do --  
49 I can get that information for you from some work that we  
50 did to look at that.

1                   So it's interesting because fewer people  
2 in the state of Alaska are getting licenses, but more  
3 people from outside are getting licenses for  
4 sportfishing.

5  
6                   CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: You want to follow  
7 up.

8  
9                   MR. KOOKESH: I had another question. I  
10 know that it was mentioned by Bill Knauer that the money  
11 was going to be used for research and other items such as  
12 that, but I kind of have a -- what do you call it, a  
13 nine-tenths of a page, where one whole side is missing,  
14 and it says something about need 5.3 million in  
15 additional revenues annually to adequately address our  
16 aging hatchery. It says in there -- well, I thought the  
17 money was going to be used for research and habitat  
18 restoration but it sounds like it also says under here it  
19 says, I believe it says proposed -- I only see posed  
20 sportfish fee increases to meet 5.3 million bond payment.

21  
22                   CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Ms. See.

23  
24                   MS. SEE: Through the Chair. Member  
25 Kookesh. There are different ways the money would be  
26 applied, depending on whether you're looking at the money  
27 for the sportfishing side or the wildlife side. The  
28 wildlife side is a huge deficit regarding research funds.  
29 And in this region, for example, it's a \$500,000 deficit.  
30 That kind of money would buy back some of the work that's  
31 needed on deer, bear, and other pressing research  
32 questions in this region. And it's a general fund  
33 problem because general fund dollars have been required  
34 by the Legislature to be spent on shooting ranges, for  
35 which they didn't allocate additional funding. So the  
36 Division has had to take money that could be used for  
37 research and put it into this other activity.

38  
39                   On the fish side there are hatcheries  
40 that are necessary in urban areas, essentially, and based  
41 on the need for funding for those, there is a fee --  
42 primarily there's a fee increase on the fish side. So  
43 there -- the holes are different, the financial way that  
44 the money would get allocated is quite different between  
45 the two kinds of fees. But they all have to do with the  
46 fact that there isn't general fund money already  
47 available to use for those other purposes.

48  
49                   CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Follow up on that  
50 or is that.....

1 MR. KOOKESH: No.  
2  
3 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Mr. Stokes.  
4  
5 MR. STOKES: I don't approve of them  
6 charging the military anything. They're protecting our  
7 way of life and they could be in harm's way and if  
8 they're hit, you know, they don't get anything for it and  
9 they get less than the people that were killed in the  
10 Twin Towers.  
11  
12 And I just don't approve of the military  
13 being charged.  
14  
15 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Other Council.  
16 Mr. Douville.  
17  
18 MR. DOUVILLE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I  
19 have a couple questions I guess. One, I guess would be  
20 for Marianne. Is there an increase in the sportfishing  
21 fee for like non-residents?  
22  
23 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: We have a handout  
24 and I think it's the one that's shown on Page 5, it's the  
25 second sheet that does have the proposed increase on  
26 that. You should have a copy of that.  
27  
28 MR. DOUVILLE: Okay.  
29  
30 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: And if you don't,  
31 Melinda has some copies.  
32  
33 Mr. Douville.  
34  
35 MR. DOUVILLE: Okay. I guess that  
36 information is there, I'll look at it later. My other  
37 question for Mr. Knauer, is there a Federal permit issued  
38 in any part of the Federal system that allows you to hunt  
39 any Federal species without a State hunting license? Is  
40 there any mechanism in the Federal system that would  
41 allow that or does allow that today or could allow that  
42 in the future?  
43  
44 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Mr. Knauer.  
45  
46 MR. KNAUER: Mr. Chairman.  
47  
48 REPORTER: Bill.  
49  
50 MR. KNAUER: Sorry. To a limited extent,

1 yes. Individuals 15 years of age and younger do not need  
2 to have a resident license and individuals 65 years of  
3 age and older may obtain a free State identification  
4 which also serves as a replacement for the hunting  
5 license.

6  
7 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Thank you. Mr.  
8 Bangs.

9  
10 MR. BANGS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.  
11 Looking through this, on mine, it says that -- it's  
12 crossed out on the non-resident fee increases, so I guess  
13 that's not -- but it looks like almost half of the  
14 sportfishing license are non-resident and then up here it  
15 looks like most of the money is going to non-rural areas  
16 from what I get, and I would imagine that that's probably  
17 where most of the licenses are coming from. So it just  
18 seems like that should be increased to generate the  
19 funds.

20  
21 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: If I can explain  
22 why the cross out is on there. Where this came from is  
23 we were given these forms at a Fish and Game Advisory  
24 Committee in Sitka and that was one of the  
25 recommendations that these be crossed out, they got a  
26 horrible reception in Sitka because they don't spend a  
27 single penny there, yet, they were requesting these  
28 increases and the feeling there was that these one day,  
29 three day, seven days should be down to maybe two  
30 licenses. In other words, there they felt you were  
31 giving the fish away. You have three king salmon for a  
32 \$25 stamp for a non-resident and the one day sportfishing  
33 license they felt that obviously should be much higher  
34 and that was why that was crossed out. So it wasn't  
35 because the State had it crossed out, it's something that  
36 we did at the meeting.

37  
38 And we also did not agree with what Mr.  
39 Stokes said, we thought the military should pay their  
40 way.

41  
42 First let me say that I'm a Vietnam  
43 Veteran and I agree with Veteran's rights, but when we  
44 look at our program, in particular, they certainly don't  
45 qualify for that, but if the State wanted to give them a  
46 free license, I have absolutely no objection but some of  
47 the members at that Regional Advisory -- or the local  
48 Fish and Game did.

49  
50 As we look at this, if you have time to

1 go through this, because I would like to -- hopefully the  
2 Council will take Mr. Knauer up on his suggested approach  
3 to write that letter to the Federal Subsistence Board  
4 asking them to intervene on our behalf and perhaps even  
5 asking the Secretary, you know, to relieve those license  
6 fees of rural residents. So those are some things we'll  
7 probably discuss tomorrow but as you look through this,  
8 if you look at what they're doing with that money,  
9 they're building new shooting ranges, they're using this  
10 money for predator control, which is outside the Federal  
11 Subsistence Board -- has a directive that they cannot do  
12 this, they call it intensive management, all of these  
13 things are prohibited in our program to do that, predator  
14 control, they're building hatcheries, these hatcheries  
15 are in Anchorage, the Elmendorf hatchery, they're closing  
16 one of them and they want 35 million to build a new one  
17 at Ft. Rich or somewhere like that. All of these things,  
18 these shooting ranges and viewing areas at Creamer's  
19 Field are of zero benefit to the people that we  
20 represent, the rural residents. There is an exception  
21 there on the Crystal Lake Hatchery, they intend to put  
22 some money into that, that does benefit the people here  
23 in Petersburg. But it's very limited. And in Sitka they  
24 said they probably could support these had they been more  
25 fair to residents. They've doubled the fees to residents  
26 and if you'll look at some of these changes that they  
27 have, a moose is going from \$400 to \$500 for a non-  
28 resident, that's a 25 percent increase, I believe, and at  
29 the same time you're doubling your residents fee. So  
30 they didn't think that was fair at all. They thought it  
31 would be fairer if you just doubled everybody or if you  
32 read their data, they said they're 30 percent low on  
33 money, well, then why didn't you raise everyone's fees by  
34 30 percent because that would have covered the shortfall.

35

36 So I guess for resolutions, we need to  
37 have those in by first thing in the morning so that we  
38 can grasp those. One of them would be, hopefully to the  
39 Federal Subsistence Board on this asking them to go over  
40 our concerns, and we need to capture what those concerns  
41 are. I think certainly a letter to the Federal  
42 Subsistence Board is in order, and Council comments and  
43 whether that should be a resolution or a letter tomorrow.

44

45 Any objections.

46

47 (No objections)

48

49 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Dr. Garza.

50

1 DR. GARZA: Thank you, Mr. Chair. The  
2 copy that I have is a fax and so it's a little bit  
3 difficult to read but in general I certainly agree that  
4 as Mr. Turek said, if the resident licenses are stagnant  
5 or actually going down a bit, we're not going to make the  
6 money off of almost doubling resident licenses. But we  
7 are increasing sport licenses and I think -- I agree with  
8 you, though, one day, three day, seven day, 14 day king  
9 salmon stamps for non-residents, the increase is just  
10 minimal. So I would certainly support increasing there.

11  
12 And so I would be in support of some type  
13 of resolution or letter asking that any increases that  
14 take place be more across the board for everyone.

15  
16 But I also think further that this  
17 Council should point out that none of it is benefitting  
18 us and that it really -- I mean if it's going toward an  
19 indoor shooting range, it isn't even benefitting the  
20 Department of Game which desperately needs this kind of  
21 money to do their research and I think that needs to be  
22 pointed out.

23  
24 Thank you.

25  
26 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Ms. See.

27  
28 MS. SEE: Mr. Chair. One thing I  
29 neglected to mention was that on the wildlife side of  
30 this one of the other impacts that has been identified is  
31 that if this full deficit has to be absorbed by the  
32 Department that it will result in the closing of some of  
33 the offices in Southeast. We don't know which ones.  
34 They are currently trying to evaluate the impacts, and  
35 there would be statewide impacts elsewhere obviously.  
36 But just for this region, we currently have in the  
37 Division of Wildlife Conservation, the Department has  
38 offices in Ketchikan, Petersburg, Sitka and Juneau with  
39 support Staff, in other words, not full offices, but  
40 Staff support in Yakutat, Wrangell and Haines, there  
41 would be some reduction potentially closing out of Staff  
42 in some of those potential locations. But that's still  
43 under identification.

44  
45 I mean this is sort of -- we've sort of  
46 gone beyond cutting to the bone on this, this kind of  
47 money means there'll be some definite impacts that would  
48 affect the kind of rural effort that's made in this  
49 region, and that is different than the kind of impact  
50 statement that you would see under the sportfish

1 reduction.

2

3

4 Also there was some research done and  
5 it's just important, I think, to just make sure you have  
6 this information, I don't have the handout in front of me  
7 so I don't know how well it's mentioned there, but there  
8 was research done on national fees for wildlife licenses  
9 -- for hunting licenses, and nationally the non-resident  
10 fees in Alaska are already at the upper end of the range  
11 of fees for non-resident hunting compared to other  
12 states.

13

14

15

16 Thank you.  
17 And the resident fees were well below the  
18 national average for resident kinds of fees. Now,  
19 whether you agree with that or not is another story, but  
20 I just wanted you to know that it was researched along  
21 those lines that led to some of the thinking behind the  
22 proportional kinds of fee increases that were proposed.

23

24

25 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Okay, thank you.  
26 Other Council.

27

28

29

30

31

32

33

34

35

36

37

38

39

40

41

42

43

44

45

46

47

48

49

50

1 don't. When we have a bad winter, then we'll have some  
2 management problems. Up until that time we're not going  
3 to have any management problems. The goats are protected  
4 by a 4,000 foot mountain in Sitka and it takes quite a  
5 bit of people, you know, to go get these, they're all in  
6 good shape and they definitely have not been taking very  
7 much of the herd. So if you didn't go fly over them in a  
8 couple years, you know, if that was -- that's something  
9 bad to threaten us with anyway, I didn't think they were  
10 very good examples.

11  
12 The rural residents are getting nothing  
13 out of this and I'm real concerned that if you double --  
14 if you look at the fees for a hunting, sportfishing,  
15 trapping license plus a king salmon stamp and a waterfowl  
16 stamp, which most people usually get, that's \$119. And I  
17 submit that in the rural communities, the smaller ones in  
18 the Interior and in Southeast as well that are not based  
19 upon a cash economy, \$120 is hard to come by I would say.  
20 And if you had \$120 in your pocket and if you were lucky  
21 enough to do that and it was shall I go give it to the  
22 State or the right to go get a deer or shall I buy two  
23 boxes of bullets and one tank of gas, or a half a tank of  
24 gas, I think I know what the answer is going to be. So  
25 you're going to be making crooks and criminals out of the  
26 people that cannot afford to do this. And that's why I  
27 think it's appropriate to ask for some relief here from  
28 the Secretary for those communities. I think this is  
29 going to be a major hardship to come up with \$120 per  
30 community member in some of these smaller rural  
31 communities, maybe not so much in the larger ones, but  
32 the smaller ones I really think are going to suffer for  
33 this.

34  
35 Other Council.

36  
37 DR. GARZA: Mr. Chair.

38  
39 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Dr. Garza.

40  
41 DR. GARZA: Thank you, Mr. Chair. If we  
42 are going to write a letter or something, following along  
43 those lines the other two things we may consider is to  
44 ask for, on this list of license categories, to have a  
45 separate rural license category and those fees would be  
46 the same and the urban ones would increase, since that's  
47 where the benefit is going.

48  
49 Secondly, we might also suggest that the  
50 income level for low income status be increased. I'm not

1 sure what it is but I'm sure it's not very much and, you  
2 know, if you make 35,000 in a rural community that's not  
3 a lot of money, so we might consider increasing that  
4 amount or suggesting that it be increased in terms of  
5 ways to mediate this issue.

6  
7 Thank you.

8  
9 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: That sounds like a  
10 good idea to me and we're going to draft this, I would  
11 suggest that we go ahead and have this tomorrow morning  
12 for under resolutions that the Council would adopt.

13  
14 Are there any other recommendations --  
15 I'm sure that Dr. Schroeder will be able to capture most  
16 of these thoughts, and we don't have to have it  
17 completely wordsmithed on any of these, what we need to  
18 capture is the intent of the Council of how to proceed  
19 here.

20  
21 Dr. Schroeder.

22  
23 DR. SCHROEDER: Just while everyone's  
24 attention is on this issue, is the intention of the  
25 Council to address something to the Federal Subsistence  
26 Board on the license issue or to the Alaska Department of  
27 Fish and Game or to both?

28  
29 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Mr. Knauer, I  
30 understand we can't send this to the Legislature who is  
31 actually going to make this decision, and I think your  
32 recommendation was the Federal Board?

33  
34 MR. KNAUER: That is correct, Mr.  
35 Chairman. Any correspondence should be directed to the  
36 Federal Subsistence Board.

37  
38 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: I believe that we  
39 have the authority to send to the Board of Game and Board  
40 of Fish, I believe that's under our standard procedure so  
41 I see no reason why we couldn't copy them with -- address  
42 it to both of them unless you see a protocol issue there,  
43 but that authority had been granted to us earlier.

44  
45 If you have comments, go ahead.

46  
47 MR. KNAUER: No comment.

48  
49 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Okay, so I think  
50 we'll.....

1 MR. DOUVILLE: I have a comment.  
2  
3 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Mr. Douville.  
4  
5 MR. DOUVILLE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.  
6 I just wanted to thank you for your effort to supply us  
7 with this information, I hadn't seen it before.  
8  
9 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: However it bad it  
10 is, uh?  
11  
12 MR. DOUVILLE: However bad the copies  
13 are, thank you.  
14  
15 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Okay, thank you.  
16 And then I want to remind the Council that we need to  
17 have these resolutions tomorrow and we don't have to have  
18 the exact language but if you can get with Dr. Schroeder  
19 or somebody tonight and say we need to pencil these in so  
20 that when it comes up it's not a total shock to everybody  
21 to try to write these resolutions. We'll have the proper  
22 whereases and the proper bonafides and how's formed in  
23 these and Staff has already got directions on how to take  
24 care of that.  
25  
26 So resolutions we talked about, for  
27 instance, the three and four on the U2 Deer Subcommittee,  
28 we'll have those. Any other resolutions, get them to  
29 Staff so we can get some action on them tomorrow.  
30  
31 I'd like to thank you for your agency  
32 reports. We're at general issues by Dave Johnson, I  
33 don't know if you can do that in five minutes, but Dr.  
34 Schroeder.  
35  
36 DR. SCHROEDER: Mr. Chairman, just on the  
37 question of letters and resolutions, which is basically  
38 the to do list that follows our meeting. The things I  
39 have right at this moment would be concerning the license  
40 fee increases. We have an issue concerning BLM and the  
41 plan that was presented on Day 1 and that's pretty far  
42 along here. I believe the Council wanted to say  
43 something about expenditure on enforcement for  
44 subsistence. We have something on second growth  
45 management concerning WIS priorities perhaps. And then  
46 to the Federal Subsistence Board concerning subsistence  
47 use amounts. But without going through my notes I may  
48 have missed something, are there other items that are in  
49 people's minds in this moment?  
50

1 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Other Council, can  
2 you remember anything else that we discussed as  
3 resolution items?

4  
5 (No comments)

6  
7 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Okay, well, we'll  
8 review our notes and see if there's any more, and we'll  
9 have some talking points on those tomorrow so we can  
10 clarify those. So we got a couple minutes, Mr. Johnson,  
11 can you handle these in a few minutes?

12  
13 MR. JOHNSON: (Nods affirmatively)

14  
15 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Okay, let's go  
16 with it.

17  
18 MR. JOHNSON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.  
19 Council. I think the Council knows pretty much what the  
20 Forest Service has been involved with, particularly in  
21 Southeast in the subsistence program.

22  
23 Unit 2 deer, with respect to the  
24 Subcommittee, Greg Killinger, again, asked me to convey  
25 his appreciation to the Council for the process that  
26 seems to be working very effectively with all the  
27 stakeholders and particularly the support from the  
28 Regional Council in that endeavor.

29  
30 The second area that has resulted in some  
31 discussions in some meetings but is currently waiting for  
32 more information, as you know, from the State has to do  
33 with steelhead on Prince of Wales and the FIS project  
34 that's been funded there. And that's another important  
35 part of this involving the tribes as well in some of the  
36 new regulations as well as in some of the permitting that  
37 will be occurring later on.

38  
39 Lastly is the tribal coalition on Prince  
40 of Wales from each of the four tribes has taken a much  
41 more active participation in a number of things that are  
42 going on with the Forest Service that relate indirectly  
43 to some of the things that this Council is doing, and so  
44 I just wanted to make the Council aware of that.

45  
46 And lastly the Forest Supervisor also  
47 expresses his appreciation for the work that the Regional  
48 Council is doing with some of the Unit 2 deer work in  
49 particular.

50

1 Thank you.

2

3 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Any comments from  
4 the Council for the Forest Service.

5

6 (No comments)

7

8 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: I thanked Mr.  
9 Bschor at the Federal Subsistence Board for the Forest  
10 Service helping us out and I attended a meeting in Sitka  
11 with the leadership management team and I did that as  
12 well. And in there I asked them to also make sure that  
13 the people that are on the grassroots level were included  
14 in that and I hope I didn't miss any, but Mr. Casipit and  
15 Mr. Johnson, Mr. Suminski, Mr. Larson, Dr. Schroeder and  
16 others that are right in the Forest Service here and  
17 working with us, we appreciate all the help that you've  
18 given us and additionally to Mr. Forrest Cole, I told him  
19 that we appreciated his stance on Unit 2 deer and being  
20 steadfast, I think brought the State to the table and we  
21 were appreciative of that. Anyway, I really thank the  
22 Forest Service for the work they've been doing. They've  
23 been putting their money forward to do this, too, and I  
24 think that's important and deserving of a thank you.

25

26 MR. JOHNSON: One last comment, Mr.  
27 Chair. Mr. Forrest Cole has completely rearranged his  
28 schedule and it was a fairly full schedule to be able to  
29 come to the Board of Game meeting on the 4th, this next  
30 week, so again he's looking forward to participating with  
31 the Staff and the Subcommittee representatives and State  
32 in presenting that information that will go forward to  
33 the Board of Game.

34

35 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Okay. And one  
36 other thing, after the last Board of Game meeting which I  
37 had the pleasure of attending from the very opening  
38 minute to the end, I noticed there were some things that  
39 were snuck through while there was nobody there from the  
40 Forest Service and I made a request through an email that  
41 the Forest Service, in the future, send someone to these  
42 -- the Southeast Board of Game meetings and Board of Fish  
43 because they take action at these meetings that greatly  
44 affects the rural users. In other words, from now on --  
45 I don't know if you guys know this yet, but you're going  
46 to have to have a little plastic baggie that goes around  
47 your deer tags, you're going to have to use your deer  
48 tags sequentially, all of these things they serve no  
49 effect and no purpose for rural residents. And I think  
50 we should have been kept apprised of those and hopefully

1 we will in the future and the Council will take a  
2 position on these because these were just things that I  
3 just think they're aggravating to rural users.

4  
5 They also tried to move into Pack Creek  
6 (ph) in your area, the Board of Game did, and I think  
7 that's something that we should have looked at, or at  
8 least been informed.

9  
10 Other than that, thank you very much.

11  
12 Okay, we're going to recess, we're going  
13 to start with National Park Service in the morning, 14C.

14  
15 Again, the directions have changed a  
16 little bit for the Council members, you're all invited to  
17 dinner out the road, turn right and go up the hill to the  
18 Salvation Army, 6:30.

19  
20 Tomorrow morning we're going to start a  
21 little early, we're going to go at 8:30, we've got a --  
22 or excuse me, 8:00 o'clock, we're going to try to get the  
23 rest of these done and hopefully not be running out of  
24 here. As Dr. Schroeder suggested, I would bring your  
25 baggage here in the morning, we'll stack it all up and  
26 hopefully somebody can have that waiting for us if we get  
27 really up on time.

28  
29 Thank you very much, goodnight.

30  
31 (PROCEEDINGS TO BE CONTINUED)

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25  
26  
27  
28  
29  
30  
31  
32  
33

C E R T I F I C A T E

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

I, Joseph P. Kolasinski, Notary Public in and for the state of Alaska and reporter for Computer Matrix Court Reporters, LLC, do hereby certify:

THAT the foregoing pages numbered 275 through 464 contain a full, true and correct Transcript of the VOLUME III, SOUTHEAST FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING, taken electronically by Salena Hile on the 24th day of February 2005, beginning at the hour of 8:30 o'clock a.m. at Petersburg, Alaska;

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

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

DATED at Anchorage, Alaska, this 16th day of March 2005.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Joseph P. Kolasinski  
Notary Public in and for Alaska  
My Commission Expires: 03/12/08