

1 NORTH SLOPE FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE REGIONAL

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ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING

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PUBLIC MEETING

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VOLUME II

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Nuqsut Kisik Community Center

10

Nuqsut, Alaska

11

August 20, 2014

12

8:30 a.m.

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15 COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

16

17 Harry Brower, Chair

18 Rosemary Ahtuanguak

19 Gordon Brower

20 Theodore Frankson

21 Lee Kayotuk - Telephonic

22 James Nageak

23 Robert Shears

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28 Regional Council Coordinator, Eva Patton

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P R O C E E D I N G S

(Nuiqsut, Alaska - 8/20/2014)

(On record)

CHAIRMAN BROWER: Good morning, everyone. I'd like to call the North Slope Regional Advisory Council meeting back to order after an evening recess. We're at the Nuiqsut Kisik Community Center. Today is August 20, 2014. We'll let James give us an invocation for a new day today. James, would you like to give us an invocation this morning, please.

MR. NAGEAK: Okay. I do some writing occasionally and one of the things that I wrote was on subsistence and I have a preamble that I kind of like for a group like us to think about when we come together and I'll read it.

(Invocation in Inupiaq)

Which translates to something like this. In order to have a substantial lifestyle without subsidy in the Inupiat culture, you must have a subsistence lifestyle that has substance for you to subsist with dignity. So that's a thought that -- you know, that's what we're always going for when we talk about subsistence. I thought it would be a nice preamble for this morning.

Thank you for this opportunity, Mr. Chair. Amen.

(Laughter)

CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, James. It's a little bit different from what we normally hear.

(Laughter)

CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, James. We also have some participants over the teleconference. Maybe we could ask the teleconference participants to identify themselves at this time.

MR. SHARP: Good morning. This is Dan Sharp with Bureau of Land Management, Anchorage.

MR. CRAWFORD: Good morning. This is

1 Drew Crawford, Alaska Department of Fish and Game in  
2 Anchorage.

3

4 MR. SUMMERS: Good morning. This is  
5 Clarence Summers with the National Park Service.

6

7 MR. JOHNSON: Good morning. Carl  
8 Johnson, Office of Subsistence Management in Anchorage.

9

10 MS. BRAEM: Good morning. This is  
11 Nikki Braem with Division of Subsistence with Fish and  
12 Game in Fairbanks.

13

14 MR. KAYOTUK: Good morning. Lee  
15 Kayotuk, Kaktovik.

16

17 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you all for  
18 identifying yourselves this morning. We're under the  
19 agenda item new business, priority information needs  
20 for the Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program. We were  
21 discussing this with Karen. James, you had indicated  
22 last night that you needed more time to review the  
23 material that was provided to us and maybe provide  
24 additional comments this morning. I'll see if there's  
25 any that you would like to provide at this time.

26

27 MR. NAGEAK: Yeah, I did my homework  
28 last night.

29

30 (Laughter)

31

32 MR. NAGEAK: One of the questions or  
33 clarification is that there are five partnerships  
34 identified and how are they picked for the  
35 partnerships.

36

37 MS. HYER: Good morning, Mr. Chairman.  
38 Council members. My name is Karen Hyer for the record.  
39 We currently have five partners. It's a competitive  
40 process so people submit proposals for having these  
41 partner organizations. The partners are the  
42 organizations and within the organizations are partner  
43 biologists and we've had in the past anthropologists  
44 and educators. So the partner organizations submit  
45 proposals to us and it's a competitive process. We had  
46 enough money at the time to fund five partners  
47 positions. We've funded more in the past depending on  
48 our funding level.

49

50 So those organizations put together a

1 packet saying what they propose to do and those are the  
2 five organizations that won the competitive process.  
3 Then they are given a grant and with that grant they  
4 hire either biologists or an anthropologist or an  
5 educator, depending on what their proposal was. That's  
6 how those five positions came to be. Now we're going  
7 to have another competitive process coming up, so there  
8 will be new partners and people will be allowed to  
9 submit proposals to that process.

10

11 MR. NAGEAK: Are the agencies that are  
12 listed as a strategic plan team?

13

14 MS. HYER: Those are not partners.  
15 Those are people that are just working on the strategic  
16 plan. So they're simply the people that are going out  
17 and asking the questions and helping to write the  
18 document, which is reviewed by multiple different  
19 groups.

20

21 MR. NAGEAK: Thank you.

22

23 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Any other Council  
24 members that would like to provide comments this  
25 morning. Rosemary.

26

27 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: We did a lot of  
28 discussion yesterday on a lot of the concerns that  
29 we're having around this area and concerns that are  
30 foreseeable in the future with efforts to change lands  
31 and waters and change the way animals use our lands and  
32 waters. We added discussion into specific fishery  
33 projects as well as we talked about getting an overall  
34 holistic view.

35

36 For me, I really think we have to think  
37 about prioritizing a holistic view. There are  
38 definitely some species that we're going to have to  
39 take a closer look at, but I think it's really  
40 important, especially with the foreseeable changes  
41 we're having to other important hunting resources that  
42 we have a good understanding of what our villages are  
43 going to be increasing the demand upon our fisheries  
44 and that we have an ability to tier our responses to  
45 the way that changes are occurring and give communities  
46 that have the highest risk some better protections.

47

48 Knowing that the Village of Nuiqsut  
49 went through many years of communications with concerns  
50 to changes to the cisco before there was an adequate

1 response, I don't want to wait for many years like it  
2 took for the cisco response. I want to be really  
3 active in trying to get some of this.

4

5 So that's how I would enter this  
6 discussion. Do we have what we need within our  
7 communications yesterday to be able to go with a good  
8 holistic view? Do we need to add some clarifying  
9 discussion in it?

10

11 MS. HYER: Mr. Chairman. Council  
12 members. When David came up -- David?

13

14 DR. JENKINS: Yes?

15

16 MS. HYER: I might ask you to come back  
17 up again. I want to be sure I'm clear on what I say.  
18 Do you want to give us villages or areas who would be  
19 specifically interested in a holistic view?

20

21 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: I know that  
22 Anaktuvuk is going to be having continued  
23 communications with efforts that are going to affect  
24 the region and our state is discussing changes with  
25 transportation planning efforts and roads that really  
26 affect our migration and those kinds of concerns. So I  
27 think we have to do all of our villages in order to be  
28 proactively prepared because we don't know what's going  
29 to happen with efforts to change with the foreseeable  
30 activity in the ocean. Without having that good  
31 understanding, if we don't look at all of our villages,  
32 we're going to miss out on some key preventative  
33 planning efforts.

34

35 So, for me, I think the biggest impacts  
36 happening right now with Nuiqsut and also Anaktuvuk,  
37 but we know what's coming, what's going to happen  
38 around Wainwright. Barrow has already had tremendous  
39 amount of change with the influx of populations with  
40 the various changes we've had in the region and changes  
41 that have happened with population changes. So those  
42 are the kinds of things that I see.

43

44 Point Hope is already going through a  
45 tremendous amount of change with the climate affecting  
46 the ability to store our foods and those kind of  
47 things, but what does that mean to the hydrology and  
48 our fishing and all those kinds of things.

49

50 CHAIRMAN BROWER: David.

1 DR. JENKINS: Let me make a couple of  
2 comments. I think the larger sort of holistic look,  
3 Rosemary, that you're talking about is very useful and  
4 it's the sort of research that was actually done 30 and  
5 40 years ago among all these villages, especially when  
6 industry was starting. So we do have a collection of  
7 research from 30 and 40 years ago, but the subsistence  
8 research moved away from that larger sort of holistic  
9 vision that it had when the research began.

10

11 So it seems to me that what you're  
12 asking for is a sort of return to that so you  
13 understand all of the village economies, you understand  
14 the whole setting in which they are now functioning,  
15 which is, in effect, a world system that they're a part  
16 of with all the industry that's come through here.  
17 They're not isolated. They're really part of this  
18 large economic system. At the same time, local people  
19 are engaged in their very -- what you called micro-  
20 environment. They're very local subsistence lives. So  
21 what we need to understand is that complete context.

22

23 The Partners Program could be a useful  
24 way to begin that sort of research and the FRMP program  
25 could also be a way to ask for funding for that sort of  
26 research. I know you point out that the North Pacific  
27 Research Board has recently dedicated \$6 million for  
28 research of this sort. So if we could leverage our  
29 FRMP monies and our Partner monies with these other  
30 kinds of research dollars that come from these other  
31 sources, we could actually begin to do some really  
32 useful research for this region. So I think we need to  
33 think about all of these possibilities.

34

35 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Follow up, Rosemary.

36

37 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: Yeah. I also think  
38 that we also have to make sure that we're proactively  
39 making sure that we're looking out for the life, health  
40 and safety of our food sources and that has to be a  
41 component that we bring into discussion. We have  
42 changes from our lands and waters, but we also have the  
43 reality of our location and the increased risk factor  
44 with the global impacts of the air currents and the  
45 accumulation of different things that occur in our snow  
46 and waters.

47

48 So those are the things -- you know, I  
49 worry about the State with the effort to try to create  
50 approvals for preauthorization for use of dispersants

1 and our animals that we depend upon to feed our  
2 families are many generations old and accumulative  
3 effects of traveling great distances for migrations and  
4 having many areas that they could be at risk for  
5 exposure traveling to get back to us, are the kinds of  
6 concerns that we want to just be cognizant of and  
7 continue to prepare.

8

9 We had a lot of people that discussed  
10 concerns over the health of various species over the  
11 many years of participating in this process. It  
12 affects people's willingness to continue our  
13 traditional ways of life and protecting that for future  
14 generations is very important. It's just too important  
15 not to have the grandparents sharing the new taste of  
16 the special parts of our animals that has been  
17 recognized as nutritious, but in other populations  
18 don't feel that they're good things to eat and those  
19 kinds of things are so important for the health and  
20 longevity as we continue to use the species and the  
21 increased competition that are going to come across our  
22 foods and waters.

23

24 CHAIRMAN BROWER: This is all being  
25 recorded as well, David, if you don't catch it all in  
26 the first round.

27

28 (Laughter)

29

30 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Anyway, thank you,  
31 Rosemary. Any other comments. Gordon.

32

33 MR. G. BROWER: Yeah, on these  
34 fisheries issues, there are concerns that have been  
35 expressed about our lakes and the active layer of the  
36 tundra extending and how it impacts the water levels in  
37 the lakes. In some cases where the water level has  
38 gone down sufficiently enough to where sustainability  
39 of fish stocks in lakes it might be alarming. The lake  
40 outside of Barrow called Tusikvoak we had five or six  
41 fishermen that are routine year after year after year.  
42 I know back in the '50s that lake was actually  
43 dynamited for seismic activity by the Navy. The fish  
44 stocks had just started to recovery really good, but  
45 the last couple of years folks fishing in that lake  
46 they're not catching the quantity of fish that we've  
47 seen in the past.

48

49 If any of this has any research level  
50 to look at what's going on with some of these larger

1 lakes. What do you do in a conservation other than  
2 limit the resource to people. It seems like in a  
3 conservation mode -- and there's examples. When the  
4 reindeer herders were roaming around, they would  
5 measure lakes and see how deep they are. I've heard  
6 and listened to elders talk about -- especially these  
7 reindeer herder guys, which I knew very well, they  
8 would move fish and transplant them into lakes that  
9 were deep enough with the intent on making additional  
10 population. The fish changes when you put it in the  
11 lake. It gets more sweet, more fat and tastes  
12 different.

13

14 I'm wondering if any of that could be a  
15 component. I don't know if there is a resource atlas  
16 for lakes within NPR-A or Federal public lands that  
17 have catalogued these lakes for subsistence use. We  
18 know where the lakes are and know some of the stories  
19 from folks that did some of this work. I can go to a  
20 lake where one of these stories are and we put nets  
21 there and catch the whitefish in there and they taste  
22 very different because they're landlocked now and  
23 there's sufficient depth in the lake where they can  
24 survive over the winter.

25

26 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Gordon.  
27 Any other comments from Council members.

28

(No comments)

29

30

31 CHAIRMAN BROWER: I was just looking  
32 over the bullets here in the first page and just trying  
33 to think back in terms of examples where we've applied  
34 this on the North Slope. I think Kaktovik is one area  
35 that I could identify that we had done some fisheries  
36 research there out of Kaktovik regarding the Dolly  
37 Varden in that sense.

38

39 In regard to the following questions, I  
40 mean the questions within these bullets, you know, any  
41 other source funding that could help support the  
42 program, I think that still needs to be researched.  
43 When we're going through our own learning curves and  
44 not having seen it in our other communities, I start to  
45 think back there needs to be more communications within  
46 that community about this program to enhance that  
47 partnership. If we haven't done that, it just sits  
48 there idle. When and where are we going to identify  
49 our partners.

50



1                   So through this Regional Advisory  
2 Council I think we could identify with the fisheries  
3 research that's been done and sharing it too through  
4 the Council and to the other areas that are of concern  
5 at this time; Atqasuk, Point Hope, Wainwright. Maybe  
6 an attractant for creating those partnerships. Just  
7 now I'm just sharing my views just from reading the  
8 first page again, especially the bullets.

9  
10                   Again, following up with more  
11 communications. I know through the Federal Subsistence  
12 Management Program and the sharing of information  
13 through the newsletters and newspapers I see that  
14 occasionally well ahead of time, but I'm not sure if  
15 the entities like the Native Village of Point Hope are  
16 staffed enough to follow through with these kinds of  
17 requests for information.

18  
19                   I don't want to speak for them or any  
20 of the communities, but if there's any means of -- I'm  
21 trying to think back in what we were talking about  
22 through the school education program seeking young  
23 students that are interested in fisheries resource  
24 management or other subsistence key resources that we  
25 use for sustenance are looking to elevate their  
26 education in a specialty field might be another  
27 approach or something for consideration too through  
28 that communications development and trying to get the  
29 students encouraged to identify with these programs,  
30 further their education, learning the key tools that  
31 are needed to conduct these types of projects or  
32 developing programs within their communities might  
33 steer people in the right direction.

34  
35                   I mean it's a few years down the road  
36 to get these kinds of things developed, but it gives an  
37 indication there's a start-up point someplace. I could  
38 see the Federal Subsistence Program being a very big  
39 program. It's kind of hectic for just an individual  
40 trying to learn about all this, this multi-layered  
41 program and the different agencies and their different  
42 mandates within each of these Federal agencies. It  
43 takes quite a bit of learning and understanding of  
44 where all this is going.

45  
46                   But in regards to just the concerns and  
47 taking what Rosemary was talking about, taking the  
48 holistic view, I keep thinking back how do we note the  
49 comments that we've provided before regarding food  
50 security in that sense. Because of all the changes

1 that we're going through and it seems like the  
2 resources are getting just as impacted as we are as  
3 users. You know, the availability of those resources  
4 the numbers are dwindling. They're beyond our control  
5 and yet we try to develop regulations that are  
6 applicable for what we're dealing with.

7  
8 But in regards to fisheries, I think  
9 that's something that I'd like to see furthermore into  
10 the communications with the IRAs -- not IRAs, the  
11 Native Village of Point Hope for example, the Native  
12 Village of Barrow, and use the one from Kaktovik as an  
13 example. This is what was developed -- like when the  
14 Native Village of Kaktovik and the fisheries  
15 monitoring, they helped develop this program and did  
16 the field work. I think that's something that needs to  
17 get shared outside of Kaktovik. They had gone through  
18 and showed the interest and applied for the programs to  
19 be implemented in that area and it was successful.

20  
21 So just having that kind of  
22 communication I think would be helpful and it's just  
23 what I was trying to say. Thank you. Any other  
24 comments. Rosemary.

25  
26 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: Gordon's discussion  
27 about understanding what kind of alternatives we have  
28 on response to changes is also very important for us to  
29 understand. We have to be able to look at different  
30 possible solutions, ways to improve changes to our  
31 important species. When we have to grow it from  
32 ourselves, our elders working with us and deciding  
33 what's our main focus, our children, working to get the  
34 basic information to grow ownership for the data that's  
35 developed and retain that in our young people that are  
36 actually engaged in education institutions, engaging  
37 them in ways to help us obtain information in layers  
38 that are important enough.

39  
40 Also we have to work with other areas  
41 because the reality of our village size is the reality  
42 that we're going to have small datasets and many  
43 incidents of trying to look at the changes that may be  
44 happening to us in our bodies and our future  
45 generations, so it's important that we look at it as  
46 far as we can within the growing ownership for the long  
47 term and building in strength to the information that's  
48 gathered. We want to make sure that it's something  
49 that's going to hold up to evaluations and stands  
50 through the test of time. That's just really

1 important.

2

3 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Rosemary.

4

5 MR. G. BROWER: Mr. Chair.

6

7 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Go ahead, Gordon.

8

9 MR. G. BROWER: Gordon Brower. What I  
10 said a little while ago was intended to try to get  
11 across and maybe I didn't bring it across because it  
12 seems like there was deathly silence and no response.  
13 What I heard and seen in the past of how we have tried  
14 to be conservationists ourselves by creating additional  
15 stocks, that I just wanted to try to bring that point  
16 across because when we have so many studies out there  
17 and you're excluding the very people that are trying to  
18 harvest these fish which in the past have been  
19 instrumental in saving some of the stocks by  
20 themselves, because what the Navy was doing back then  
21 I hear horror stories. You know, I've heard those  
22 stories from people that were eyewitness to trying to  
23 look for oil and using dynamite for seismic and killing  
24 off whole lakes. The springtime come and the whole  
25 lake has dead fish everywhere.

26

27 But I was just trying to bring across  
28 the tribal entities that exist are good places because  
29 I'm a tribal member. There's other folks that I see  
30 and they bring good information because we would be out  
31 there stopping to warm up at a cabin sometimes and  
32 congregate and say how was your fishing. I could  
33 remember talking to Kuniak (ph) and others that say,  
34 man, the fishing is really terrible this year, what's  
35 going on with our fish.

36

37 If it was a tribal program of  
38 monitoring -- and me and Kuniak were talking and we  
39 suddenly were affiliated with a tribe to do monitoring,  
40 we would go to the tribal office, probably fill out our  
41 forms and document our catch rate in the lake and  
42 suddenly we're creating trends and monitoring. Just a  
43 few little things, but you're making people do what  
44 they're normally doing and you're not impacting but  
45 you're collecting data and possibly going to have to  
46 figure out what's going on.

47

48 So, with that, I was really wanting to  
49 just get across that, you know, people have done from  
50 the tribal level and people just subsisting when there

1 was problems trying to fix it on their own when there  
2 was nobody else helping. Moving fish around and trying  
3 to restock lakes after they've been dynamited and  
4 things like that.

5  
6 The other one is who takes the  
7 initiative? This paper is here. Are you just going to  
8 send that paper to the tribes? Maybe you need to think  
9 about that and maybe come with an example project.  
10 Come with a pilot project ready to -- as an example,  
11 this is one example of what can be done under the guise  
12 of this monitoring and partnership program and not pull  
13 things out of a hat. You send something like this and  
14 you might not generate the level of interaction that  
15 you might need by sending a piece of paper than you do  
16 by visiting, talking and looking at an example or a  
17 pilot project and they would say, oh, wow, we could  
18 really do this kind of thing.

19  
20 But keeping in mind like Harry said,  
21 you know, some of these tribal entities are barely up.  
22 Some of them will close for a while, but they're still  
23 tribes and they're Federally recognized tribes. They  
24 exist on the verge all the time except for a few  
25 others. ICAS is the regional one and that might help  
26 facilitate some of these things too.

27  
28 With that, I guess I wrote down a  
29 couple things and I thought maybe I didn't get my point  
30 across in over-talking about what I've heard about  
31 trying to help in our own conservation measures from  
32 the '40s and from the '30s and from listening to  
33 reindeer herders and taking lake depth measurements on  
34 their own. They know, you know, if it's seven feet or  
35 greater you have a very good probability it will  
36 sustain life if you put fish in there and those kind of  
37 things.

38  
39 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Gordon.

40  
41 MS. HYER: Mr. Chairman. Council  
42 members. I would like to clarify that the document  
43 before you is a briefing for a vision document that  
44 we're going to create, so this won't be especially what  
45 we send out to the tribes. This is what we'll use to  
46 develop the call which will have the criteria for what  
47 we're looking for and then that is what we'll send out.

48  
49  
50 It is true that there are some small

1 organizations that do not have the capacity to do this  
2 and we've been talking to people, especially in the  
3 north because there's not been a partner here for some  
4 time. Like when we were in Barrow we went to the  
5 school district and they wanted to contact our former  
6 partners to talk to them to see a little bit about what  
7 they've done and that was a really good way to get  
8 access to what's been done is we provided those  
9 contacts.

10

11 We've just discussed things with people  
12 at this point, but there's the ability to form  
13 partnerships even approaching our Partners Program for  
14 some of the smaller entities maybe to partner with some  
15 of the bigger ones that have more capacity. But that's  
16 one thing we've been talking about as we've been going  
17 around to some of the people who have contacted us that  
18 are interested but maybe might not have the ability to  
19 do everything. The school district in Barrow had  
20 talked about doing some sort of mentorship and maybe on  
21 their own and maybe with this and at this point we've  
22 just been discussing, but they were very interested in  
23 this program and interested in partnering with other  
24 people.

25

26 Anyway, with that, I think David has a  
27 couple comments too.

28

29 DR. JENKINS: Yes, thank you. Gordon,  
30 we actually did hear what you were saying and  
31 appreciate your point. Part of what I heard you say  
32 was that those tribes and villages that could take best  
33 advantage of the Partners Program are least able to  
34 access it. Part of what we need to do as we think  
35 through how to get at those who would be most affected  
36 by this is to improve our outreach.

37

38 You've suggested well bring some pilot  
39 programs or maybe we could bring partners up here to go  
40 to villages and say this is what we're doing somewhere  
41 else, you could do it here too and these are the steps.  
42 So we would need to fund one of our partners to come  
43 through villages or tribes and explain face to face,  
44 not with a piece of paper as you said, but directly,  
45 this is how you do it, this is how you get it off the  
46 ground, this is what's going to happen and I'm here and  
47 I can help you get it started, something like that.

48

49 So I hear it very clearly that we need  
50 to improve that because we are looking to help those

1 who would take greatest advantage of capacity building.  
2 As you've pointed out, those are often the people who  
3 just can't access this program, so we need to, from our  
4 end of things, improve what we do and I hear that.  
5 Thank you, Gordon.

6

7 CHAIRMAN BROWER: James, go ahead.

8

9 MR. NAGEAK: I was just thinking, you  
10 know, we as a group of people here are from different  
11 villages. One of the problems that we have is  
12 reporting back to our communities and how to express  
13 all of the information that we accumulate at a meeting  
14 like this. If there was a way in which we could go --  
15 you know, I've seen the pilots on the plane. They have  
16 a list of things that need to happen before they take  
17 off. There is a list of things that they have to do in  
18 order to fly straight through a destination.

19

20 A guideline in which I as a member of  
21 the Regional Advisory Council could go back home and  
22 say, first of all, these are the definitions that we  
23 need to understand in order to be a better respondent  
24 or a better assistance in the researches that happen.  
25 If there was a way in which I can go step by step like  
26 the pilot that I see all the time, you know, to explain  
27 the information or tell my constituents that this is  
28 what the fisheries monitoring program is and what it  
29 does for our communities. So that's one of the things.

30

31 But the other thing that I'm -- you  
32 know, oh, I've got something that is very different in  
33 our lakes and our rivers that we have never gotten  
34 before, so there's a term that I couldn't remember, but  
35 because of the changes in the habitat of our resources  
36 there are new species that begin to exist with the  
37 indigenous species. How are these new species  
38 affecting the species that are already there?

39

40 I use an example of some years ago they  
41 relocated muskox from Nunivak Island and put them on  
42 the North Slope and one of the comments that happened,  
43 those things are dangerous to the caribou population.  
44 They can't exist together. So is there going to be a  
45 study that these other species that are new are they  
46 affecting the species that we already know and eat. Is  
47 it going to change our diet because of these --  
48 there's a term it has to do with plants. You know when  
49 Dalton Highway was built these new plants started  
50 coming up on the side of the road, there's a term.

1 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: Invasive.

2

3 MR. NAGEAK: Invasive species. Thank  
4 you. So that's one of the questions that I would --  
5 and I'd like to explain to my constituents in Anaktuvuk  
6 Pass that all of these things are happening because of  
7 the changes that are happening in the habitat of our  
8 resources. Thank you.

9

10 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, James.  
11 Any other comments. Rosemary.

12

13 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: I've had the  
14 opportunity to interact with different tribes over the  
15 years and listening to Gordon talk about how some of  
16 our reindeer hunter were in their conservation efforts  
17 before. There are tribes that have been engaged in  
18 conservation efforts and have developed tribal  
19 fisheries and have developed different ways of trying  
20 to assess. There's tribes in Idaho that are successful  
21 in leveraging industries around phosphate mining and  
22 restoration of waterways around their communities and  
23 making sure that they were proactive in doing what they  
24 need to to help protect.

25

26 Learning from other areas that have  
27 already gone through these kinds of things is really  
28 important. Looking at what's going to be happening  
29 with the other regions that are important for our  
30 animals to get up here, the Bering Straits changes that  
31 are being discussed and the Central Yukon changes that  
32 are being discussed are really important to foreseeing  
33 some of the understanding that's going to happen in  
34 being proactive to try to prevent what we know has been  
35 bad in other areas.

36

37 That's just really a reality of what we  
38 have to go through when we're looking at this. We  
39 can't just look at our region because there's a reality  
40 that many of our animals come from a long ways to get  
41 to our area and it's just as important to making sure  
42 they're healthy along the way to us as it is here.

43

44 MS. HYER: Mr. Chairman. Council  
45 members. We've been kind of going back and forth  
46 between two things. One, the Partners Program and the  
47 priority information needs, which is great, we've got a  
48 good dialogue going, but I want to refer you back to  
49 the priority information needs document if you have it  
50 that we talked about yesterday. On the back page we

1 have some multi-regional priorities that have to do  
2 with changes in subsistence fisheries resources and  
3 uses and some of it in the context of climate change.

4  
5 What I heard said a little bit ago  
6 talked about the introduction and movement of species,  
7 so I think we can add that into these bullets because  
8 we're talking about a range change, which is not  
9 included right now, but that particular comment I think  
10 goes back to the priority information needs and needs  
11 to be added in under those last two bullets on the last  
12 page. Which are more general because these apply to  
13 many different regions, but I think that was a very  
14 good point and we'll add that in.

15  
16 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you. Any  
17 further comments.

18  
19 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council.

20  
21 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Eva.

22  
23 MS. PATTON: If I may, to follow up  
24 some of the questions about how to help facilitate the  
25 Partners Program, sharing of information about this  
26 opportunity for the tribes and the communities in the  
27 North Slope. I am very much a resource for you, so  
28 this is a call soliciting feedback for exactly some of  
29 what you've offered here, how to better do outreach,  
30 how to communicate about this program, how to shape the  
31 program so it works for communities in the region. The  
32 call itself will be coming out later, so I can continue  
33 to work both with the Council and the tribes and the  
34 North Slope Region with the regional Native non-  
35 profits.

36  
37 Again this is a partnering program, so  
38 when we met with the school after the North Slope RAC  
39 meeting in Barrow in February, a lot of the  
40 partnerships have been youth education and outreach  
41 fostering science education, collaboration with  
42 communities and youth on the FRMP projects like what's  
43 going on in Kaktovik right now. So we can continue to  
44 work both with the Council and with the tribes, with  
45 your other partners in the region. Fish and Wildlife  
46 Service has an excellent -- James Nageak, Ernest Nageak  
47 is their Native liaison, very active education program,  
48 so there's all sorts of levels of partnerships that can  
49 really help strengthen that work.

50



1                   Even if it was a regional non-profit or  
2 based in Barrow, there's examples through these other  
3 Partners Programs that we can share that they really  
4 work on a regional basis. They help the tribes in the  
5 region get connected or be engaged in the fisheries  
6 research that's important to them.

7  
8                   So we'll be continuing to work with  
9 you. I used to be a Partners biologist out in the Y-K  
10 Delta, so I know the program well and the communities.  
11 So that's a resource for you. We'll continue to work  
12 on that and take your recommendations and contact those  
13 folks as well.

14  
15                   Thank you.

16  
17                   CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Eva.  
18 Rosemary.

19  
20                   MS. AHTUANGARUAK: We had discussion  
21 yesterday from some of the leadership here in Nuiqsut  
22 and how it's important that we come back into the  
23 community to help share education on some of these  
24 issues. I know that we have limitations within our  
25 budget, but I think that if we're going to move forward  
26 with these big longevity promotions of hoping to have  
27 hopes of sustaining our traditional and cultural uses  
28 that it has to be done. Whatever we can do to create  
29 opportunities to engage in coming back in and  
30 educating, it needs to be done and engaging us in the  
31 process.

32  
33                   I know many of us travel to the  
34 villages in part of the process, but we just need to be  
35 able to get through different layers. When I come in,  
36 I come in and work with the city, the tribe and the  
37 school and the corporation and we need to make sure we  
38 get all the entities.

39  
40                   CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Rosemary.  
41 Any other comments from the Council.

42  
43                   MR. FRANKSON: Mr. Chair.

44  
45                   CHAIRMAN BROWER: Teddy.

46  
47                   MR. FRANKSON: I was just wondering if  
48 this Partners Program is being implemented in the  
49 school because this is almost a -- pretty much a  
50 statewide problem and with all the fisheries that are

1 going on down state they're moving upward and they're  
2 coming up and they'll be here in like 10 years. This  
3 would be a good program to be implemented in the school  
4 program for the kids as a required course or something  
5 to that affect. I was wondering if we could do that  
6 with the schools or have someone from the school to  
7 come over and talk with us and see if we can get that  
8 into the school system so that it's a required course.  
9

10 This is a State thing that they want to  
11 make more money down there and this will eventually  
12 impact us up here. It has not reached so far. It's  
13 still down in Nome and below Nome, but they're slowly  
14 coming up and they wanted to find out what kind of fish  
15 we've got up here. So if we can implement this program  
16 into the school, maybe it can work itself to where we  
17 can use it to help our people to keep them educated in  
18 this process.  
19

20 Thank you.  
21

22 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Teddy, for  
23 your comments. I think that's something that's already  
24 in the works. Eva and Karen has been also working with  
25 the North Slope Borough School District folks in the  
26 Barrow office to see if there's interest in that area.  
27 So there's communications going on right now.  
28

29 Any other information, Karen, you  
30 needed to provide.  
31

32 MS. HYER: I don't have anything else.  
33 That's it for me.  
34

35 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Okay, thank you.  
36 Eva.  
37

38 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair. To touch base  
39 on the agenda here, we do have George Pappas online to  
40 address the statewide proposal. George, if you have an  
41 opportunity to do that now, that would be a good  
42 opportunity while we've got all our folks here to take  
43 action on that.  
44

45 MR. PAPPAS: Good morning, this is  
46 George Pappas.  
47

48 MS. PATTON: Good morning, George. So  
49 we have George Pappas online and then in order to make  
50 sure we hear from Vince Mathews prior to his departure

1 today, perhaps we could hear from him next and Carl  
2 Johnson is online for the nominations process.

3  
4 CHAIRMAN BROWER: George, we'll give  
5 you the floor and please identify yourself and who  
6 you're with.

7  
8 MR. PAPPAS: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
9 Members of the Council. This is George Pappas, Office  
10 of Subsistence Management. I am the liaison to the  
11 State of Alaska for fish and wildlife issues. I'm  
12 presenting to you today one statewide fisheries  
13 proposal that will be presented to the Federal  
14 Subsistence Board. This is a very simple proposal, but  
15 the Southcentral Regional Advisory Council wanted to  
16 submit this.

17  
18 I believe you have the supplemental  
19 information, the draft analysis. I'll make this brief  
20 for you, sir. This proposal was submitted by the  
21 Southcentral Regional Advisory Council requesting the  
22 definition of a hook be described in regulation as a  
23 hook with or without a barb. The proposed language  
24 would clarify what type of fishing hook that could be  
25 used by Federal subsistence fisheries users where hooks  
26 and rod and reel are authorized as a methods and means  
27 to take fish.

28  
29 This proposal was put forth by the  
30 Southcentral RAC as a statewide proposal because  
31 adopting this proposal will alleviate any potential of  
32 the fault if the State of Alaska regulations where  
33 methods and means are where Federal regulations do not  
34 exist. On the first page of this handout there you'll  
35 see the existing Federal regulations on the bottom of  
36 Page 1 which basically indicates if you do not have  
37 Federal regulations in place, then all the regulations  
38 default to the State regulations.

39  
40 For the North Slope in your area rod  
41 and reel is a legal means for subsistence, but we do  
42 not have a definition of barbed versus non-barbed  
43 hooks. So if the State of Alaska adopted a regulation  
44 for barbless hooks on the North Slope for one reason or  
45 another, because we don't have a regulation in place,  
46 in theory it would default to requiring or restricting  
47 subsistence users using barbless hooks.

48  
49 The reason the Southcentral RAC  
50 submitted this is for the first time in Alaska a

1 barbless hook regulation was passed by the Board of  
2 Fisheries and that is for king salmon on the Kenai  
3 River during times of low abundance when the sport  
4 fishery is restricted to catch and release. So if  
5 there's enough fish to make the escapement goal but not  
6 much to harvest, they require or restrict to barbless  
7 hooks. In theory, that could transfer over to the  
8 Federal subsistence users regulations.

9

10                   The Southcentral RAC on a sidebar  
11 conversation it didn't make sense to them. Subsistence  
12 users don't use barbless hooks, why would they use  
13 barbless hooks. So they put this as a generic proposal  
14 to go statewide to put it in regulation so it basically  
15 allows subsistence users their choice. If they want to  
16 use a barbless hook, so be it. If they want to use a  
17 barbed hook or continue to use a barbed hook, so be it.

18

19                   If you look on Page 4 of this analysis,  
20 there's an alternative considered. Between the time  
21 the proposal was submitted and the time that the State  
22 of Alaska came out with the regulations defining  
23 barbless hooks this analysis was done. So the  
24 alternative considered would be to adopt the definition  
25 hook means a single shanked fish hook with a single eye  
26 constructed with 1 or more points with or without  
27 barbs. That's what you'll be voting on, taking action  
28 on for the -- that's what OSM supports. OSM supports a  
29 definition that says hook means a single shanked fish  
30 hook with a single eye constructed with 1 or more  
31 points with or without barbs.

32

33                   Now the State of Alaska has developed  
34 their regulations to address the Kenai and if you look  
35 on Page 4 in the middle in the bold section there, the  
36 second half of that is their regulation. A hook without  
37 a barb means the hook is manufactured without a  
38 barb or the barb has been completely removed or  
39 compressed so the barb is in complete contact with the  
40 shaft of the hook.

41

42                   That's an alternative considered to  
43 reduce regulatory complexity by having the same  
44 regulation the State has. They're taking input on it.  
45 The tribal consultation for your region did recommend  
46 basically going along with adopting part of the State  
47 of Alaska's regulation so we have the same definition  
48 of a barbless hook. It's not going to be an issue. If  
49 this proposal passes, whether it's modified or as  
50 submitted here, it really won't make a difference. The

1 bottom line is Federal subsistence users can continue  
2 to use barbed hooks in all fisheries where rod and reel  
3 are allowed.

4

5 That concludes my presentation here,  
6 Mr. Chair. I'm here to answer any questions and I hope  
7 I didn't simplify too much, Mr. Chair.

8

9 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, George.  
10 Any questions from the Council.

11

12 MR. G. BROWER: Mr. Chair.

13

14 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Gordon.

15

16 MR. G. BROWER: This is Gordon Brower  
17 from Barrow. You're saying that this is something born  
18 out of the Kenai catch and release in low abundance  
19 that they have to use a barbless hook?

20

21 MR. PAPPAS: Through the Chair, Gordon.  
22 The current State regulations, if it's really low  
23 abundance, then the sport fishery is required to use a  
24 barbless hook. Now the Federal subsistence fishery  
25 also allows the use of rod and reel on the Kenai.  
26 There's a gray area. If the State went barbless, do  
27 the Federal regulations open a barbless fishery, and  
28 it's a little bit gray, but in theory, if you do not  
29 have a standing regulation or Federal regulation, then  
30 we ought to adopt the State's regulation and we asked  
31 for a special action to correct that, to supercede  
32 their action.

33

34 So it is born out of concern that there  
35 might be future barbless regulations in different parts  
36 of the state where there's Federal subsistence  
37 fisheries and there was a concern from the Southcentral  
38 RAC who did not want to use barbless hooks. They wanted  
39 to continue to use barbed hooks and figured this would  
40 be a good proposal statewide, propose a statewide  
41 definition so anytime you use a rod and reel you have  
42 your choice. If you go barbless, fine. If you don't,  
43 fine.

44

45 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

46

47 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Did that help,  
48 Gordon?

49

50 MR. G. BROWER: Yeah, it helps, but it

1 seems to me that going into minute details of  
2 somebody's fishing opportunities whether it's barbed or  
3 not underlies some future use of these languages that  
4 we cannot foresee right now, but somebody has started  
5 to define at this point. You know, you might as well  
6 start to think about a rod and reel that breaks in half  
7 for a certain size fish, you know, something like that.  
8 That's what I'm starting to feel like. Anyway, that's  
9 just my own take on it.

10

CHAIRMAN BROWER: Any other comments.

12

13 MR. PAPPAS: Mr. Chair. If I might  
14 respond.

15

16 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yes, George, go  
17 ahead.

18

19 MR. PAPPAS: It is a pre-emptive  
20 proposal, so with the barbless hook spread across the  
21 state we won't have to address this again. It will be  
22 a done deal. It will be in our Federal regulations.  
23 We won't have to form comments or respond because the  
24 Federal subsistence users will be allowed to use barbed  
25 hooks.

26

27 Yes, it is way down in the weeds  
28 because the Kenai Federal subsistence fishery is likely  
29 the most complex set of regulations in Alaska. It's  
30 much more complex than just about any river, any system  
31 in the area in the state and that's due to the nature  
32 of the high use. There are millions of people coming  
33 and going in that part of the world. Yes, it might not  
34 make sense to get that far into the minutia up on the  
35 North Slope, but it does make sense in other areas of  
36 high use. If this proposal is adopted, it will be a  
37 statewide blanket proposal. We'll never have to  
38 address this issue again.

39

40 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

41

42 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, George.  
43 Robert.

44

45 MR. SHEARS: Mr. Chair. Good morning,  
46 George. This is Bob Shears. Thank you for this  
47 analysis and draft proposal. For the record, I support  
48 it. I can see how it could in the future benefit those  
49 of us on the North Slope in this regard that I'll  
50 explain to you.

1                   We typically fish our subsistence fish  
2 with jigging with barbless hooks up here. It doesn't  
3 seem like the importance of a barb versus barbless  
4 affects us. However, lead line, long line bottom  
5 fishing has not been really applied as subsistence  
6 means of gathering fish up here yet. It's almost  
7 imperative that long lining absolutely requires the use  
8 of barbed hooks because you're catching the fish and  
9 soaking them for a number of hours before you remove  
10 them from the water.

11  
12                   Long lining, like I said, has not been  
13 applied up here because typically our waterways have  
14 been frozen over eight, nine months out of the year.  
15 However, recent analysis, fishery studies offshore  
16 indicate that it may be a means that we have not  
17 employed yet, we haven't studied well, but it may be a  
18 means of subsistence gathering fish here in our future  
19 due to global warming. An adaptive process.

20  
21                   I'd hate to see that that opportunity  
22 cannot even be considered because of regulations  
23 imposed without foresight that don't define a barbed  
24 versus a barbless hook. That's my comments.

25  
26                   MR. G. BROWER: Mr. Chair.

27  
28                   CHAIRMAN BROWER: Gordon.

29  
30                   MR. G. BROWER: I completely respect  
31 your comments, Bob, but I wanted to just point out some  
32 of the practices I've learned and employ as well,  
33 especially when I'm burbot fishing for tittaaaliq. I  
34 don't know if it's in the magnitude of long lining, but  
35 I do put hooks with barbs with a little bit of blubber  
36 on it and set it across my deep area and I let it be  
37 and then I check them in the morning. I don't stand  
38 there jigging for them, although I've gotten burbot  
39 like that. There's a term for that (in Inupiaq) or  
40 something like that. Most of my fishing I use barbed  
41 hook all the time. I don't like them to go to --  
42 pretend to fish. Sometimes they come off without the  
43 barbs. I catch to catch them and make sure I don't  
44 lose them.

45  
46                   I just wanted to just add that. It  
47 might be a different region. Wainwright has a lot of  
48 different fisheries and where we're at is a little bit  
49 different, so I wanted to add that flavor into that.  
50 Thank you.

1 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Gordon.  
2 James.  
3  
4 MR. NAGEAK: The question is barb or no  
5 barb. There are instances where some of the fishermen  
6 that I go with I wish that they used barbless ones  
7 because they tend to catch their finger with a barb.  
8  
9 (Laughter)  
10  
11 MR. NAGEAK: It's hard for me.  
12 Sometimes they say, James, take this thing off me, you  
13 know, so I have to cut their finger a bigger cut so I  
14 could just pull that hook off. But I guess the  
15 adoption of this proposal would mean that the State has  
16 already given a rule that the State would have the  
17 priority if we don't adopt this, but if we do adopt it,  
18 then we would have a choice of barb or no barb. That's  
19 my understanding. Is that correct?  
20  
21 MR. PAPPAS: Mr. Chair. Absolutely.  
22 Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
23  
24 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Does that help,  
25 James?  
26  
27 MR. NAGEAK: Yeah.  
28  
29 CHAIRMAN BROWER: I just wanted to  
30 comment on some of the hooks that have been used for  
31 subsistence fishing are barbless hooks. That's the  
32 only way they could develop those hooks where they were  
33 barbless, but they used them in a different sense. As  
34 Gordon explained, in burbot fishing they bait the hook  
35 and set it, let it sit in the river bottom and catch  
36 the fish in that sense. I mean I have samples of them  
37 at home of multiple hooks that they use for the  
38 tomcods, when they're jigging for tomcod. We have  
39 burbot hooks that were made from caribou ribs and the  
40 nail just bent over the end of the bone and those are  
41 the types of hooks that have been in existence for our  
42 subsistence fishing.  
43  
44 I'm just thinking back why are we even  
45 thinking about putting barbs in hooks where we couldn't  
46 make barbs. I mean it's just changing the concept of  
47 how we make our tools, barbed versus no barb, as James  
48 put it. So it's just something that we'll have to look  
49 at and decide on to support or not to support. I think  
50 we're going to lose either way and we're still going to



1 catch our fish.

2

3 All right. Thank you. Any other  
4 comments. Rosemary.

5

6 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: I think it's  
7 important to think out into the future. We've got  
8 layers of changes that are occurring and we've listened  
9 to our state and other regions that are really going  
10 through tremendous issues right now. I know with  
11 increased competition that's coming along the Colville  
12 River here it is something that we're going to have to  
13 see. With changes that are occurring to fisheries  
14 throughout our state those fishermen that come to our  
15 state look for other areas and we just have to be  
16 cognizant that we have a tool that we can use in the  
17 future when things become increase in competition.

18

19 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Teddy.

20

21 MR. FRANKSON: Mr. Chair. On barbless,  
22 the only time I use barbless hooks is during the winter  
23 because it gets cold trying to shake the fish out of  
24 that barb trying to get it off. It takes too long, so  
25 I use barbless during the winter for ice jigging. The  
26 only time I used barbed hooks is summertime when I'm  
27 fishing from the river or the ocean and that ensures  
28 that I will get the fish and not lose it because I want  
29 to eat, you know. We're catching that fish to eat, not  
30 for sport to catch and release. So that's how we use  
31 hooks over there at Point Hope. We teach our young  
32 ones. I was taught that way growing up. In order to  
33 hunt good, they teach you when to use barbed hooks,  
34 when to use barbless. Wintertime, if you're ice  
35 jigging it gets real cold sometimes, like 30, 20, 30  
36 below and you can't take your gloves off. With  
37 barbless hooks it just comes right off. That's how we  
38 use those.

39

40 I just wanted to put my input on that.

41

42 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Teddy.  
43 James.

44

45 MR. NAGEAK: It comes to mind, you  
46 mentioned the concept of making tools for fishing and  
47 one of the things that we use is get a piece of copper  
48 and put a nail on the end. I wonder whether the State  
49 regulated -- it's acceptable to the State regulations  
50 because it's a piece of metal with a nail turned that

1 way. Does that make it into a barb or is it a barbless  
2 hook? I'm wondering. It's much easier when you have a  
3 lot of grayling and you hook them and you throw them  
4 up, you hook them and throw them up without the barb.  
5 It's an interesting concept.

6

7 Thank you.

8

9 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Gordon.

10

11 MR. G. BROWER: If this rests the  
12 argument and dialogue about this, I think it's so into  
13 the minute thick of things. What I'm hearing is it's a  
14 statewide proposal, but we can use a barb or barbless  
15 hook. It creates a definition of what a hook is, what  
16 it means. But I did want to add when I was a boy my  
17 dad made me a kakkiulnaq (ph). I would fish and if I  
18 caught one of those big, thick ones or something like  
19 that that I can't feel that it's not going to hold on  
20 the hook, I use a kakkiulnaq. I use that too. It's a  
21 fork with little barbs going backwards on it and you  
22 pulled it right up. It's a form of fishing, but it has  
23 barbs. Anyway, so it was not out of the question that  
24 we did make barbed ones too, I think.

25

26 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Gordon.

27

28 MR. NAGEAK: I knew a girl named Barb.

29

30 (Laughter)

31

32 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah. I'm sorry,  
33 James. Just in the review of the justification or the  
34 proposal on the back page it says OSM's preliminary  
35 conclusion support Proposal FP15-01 and there's  
36 justification below that. It's an action item of the  
37 Council that we need to take. We've had some very good  
38 discussion.

39

40 MR. G. BROWER: Mr. Chair. I move to  
41 support that.

42

43 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Motion on the floor  
44 to support.

45

46 MR. NAGEAK: I would second that.

47

48 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Seconded by James to  
49 support Proposal FP15-01. Discussion.

50

1 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair. We also do  
2 have, this is a formal proposal, a process for  
3 addressing.....  
4  
5 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Oh, man, I forgot the  
6 lengthy process.  
7  
8 MS. PATTON: On the back of your name  
9 tag is the process.  
10  
11 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Okay. Sorry.  
12  
13 MS. PATTON: We do have the State  
14 online. We do have an ISC member here and we did  
15 conduct tribal consultation prior to this Council  
16 meeting on this proposal and other issues.  
17  
18 CHAIRMAN BROWER: so in regard to our  
19 presentation procedures of proposals, the presentation  
20 of the analysis has been completed. Second is the  
21 report on the board consultation, which mentioned by  
22 Eva did occur. Were any comments provided?  
23  
24 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council. We  
25 did have a couple tribal representatives call in to ask  
26 questions about this proposal and get clarification  
27 about what the effects would be. We had a  
28 representative from ICAS, from Inupiat Community of the  
29 Arctic Slope, and Joe Sage from the Native Village of  
30 Barrow. Again, they were asking similar questions to  
31 clarify what the impacts may be to subsistence and  
32 we're satisfied that it would be an option to use  
33 whatever means, barbed or barbless hooks for  
34 subsistence. That was the conclusion of their  
35 questions for this. Thank you.  
36  
37 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Eva. With  
38 that, we have number 3, agency comments. Alaska  
39 Department of Fish and Game.  
40  
41 MR. CRAWFORD: Mr. Chair. This is Drew  
42 Crawford with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game,  
43 Federal Subsistence Liaison Team in Anchorage. The  
44 state's recommendation for Fisheries Proposal 15-01 is  
45 that we support this proposal with modification to  
46 adopt similar criteria for hooks as defined in State  
47 regulations. Over.  
48  
49 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you for your  
50 comment. They support the proposal with the

1 modification. Any other Federal agency comments.

2

3 (No comments)

4

5 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Any Native, village  
6 or tribal organization who wish to comment on the  
7 proposal. Eli. We have a participant here from Native  
8 Village of Nuiqsut. Eli.

9

10 MR. E. NUKAPIGAK: Yeah, good morning.

11

12 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Good morning, Eli.

13

14 MR. E. NUKAPIGAK: We do different  
15 types of hooking fish spring, fall. Right now it's  
16 fishing in some small rivers. In some of the small  
17 rivers when some of the grayling come out, we would use  
18 small hooks. Does that mean that barb and barbless  
19 wiring fishing for different kind of fish affect how we  
20 do our subsistence way? How will this one coincide  
21 with our methods of fishing different species of fish?

22

23 CHAIRMAN BROWER: George, he's raising  
24 a question in regards to the impacts of fishing on  
25 subsistence fisheries.

26

27 MR. PAPPAS: Thank you, Mr. Chair. To  
28 clarify, the question was how would this proposal if  
29 not adopted affect the Federal subsistence fisheries?

30

31 MR. E. NUKAPIGAK: Yes.

32

33 MR. PAPPAS: The analysis indicates if  
34 this proposal is not adopted, some studies show that  
35 younger, less-experienced folks using rod and reel are  
36 less efficient. They get fewer fish to the shore.  
37 Some studies show it's easier to unhook a fish. Some  
38 studies show about catch and release mortality.  
39 There's some studies out there it's inconclusive about  
40 how much more survival you'll have by releasing a fish  
41 from a barbed hook. It comes down to experience of the  
42 angler when the person is using rod and reel. The  
43 amount of time the person has of fishing. There's a  
44 lot of studies out there that show support and not  
45 support use of barbless hooks.

46

47 If this proposal is not adopted for  
48 your area and a barbless hook regulation is installed  
49 for one reason or another sometime in the future for  
50 your area and the Federal subsistence users have to use

1 barbless hooks, it will be less efficient, but if this  
2 proposal is adopted, there's no anticipated additional  
3 impacts to the resources because Federal subsistence  
4 users are using the types of hooks they want to. As  
5 one of the Council members indicated maybe barbed in  
6 the summer, barbless in the winter.

7

8 So I hope I answered your question, Mr.  
9 Chair.

10

11 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Did that help, Eli?

12

13 MR. E. NUKAPIGAK: Yes. We have a lot  
14 of homemade hooks for our burbot fishing, also  
15 grayling. We do a lot of ice fishing after the ice  
16 freeze up. I'd like to know the comparison to the  
17 summertime fishing versus ice fishing, what kind of  
18 affect we'll have. Will we be barred from using wired  
19 or wireless?

20

21 CHAIRMAN BROWER: James.

22

23 MR. NAGEAK: The way I understand this  
24 proposal is that the State has a barbless regulation  
25 because of the Kenai chum salmon fishing there. This  
26 proposal is saying that for those of us that have  
27 subsistence activities fishing we could choose either  
28 the barbed or the barbless one. So we could use either  
29 one of those now with this proposal. That's the way I  
30 understand it now.

31

32 Because the State has a barbless one  
33 and it kind of affected those fishermen that fish off  
34 the shore with the rod and reel. If they start using  
35 barbless hooks, then the efficiency of catching that  
36 fish is down. So what this proposal is saying is that,  
37 yeah, I as a fisherman could use the barbed hook if I'm  
38 fishing off the shore, either on the river or the lake,  
39 so it gives me a choice.

40

41 MR. E. NUKAPIGAK: Thank you.

42

43 MR. NAGEAK: Yeah.

44

45 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you for your  
46 comments, Eli. Under our procedures do we have any  
47 Subsistence Resource Committee comments, willing to  
48 provide comments regarding Proposal FP15-01.

49

50 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair. We don't have

1 any comments from the SRC at this time and no comments  
2 that have come in from the State Advisory Committee at  
3 this time.

4

5 MR. SHEARS: Mr. Chair. Are we under  
6 discussion still?

7

8 CHAIRMAN BROWER: We're going over the  
9 procedural process and we'll.....

10

11 MR. SHEARS: Oh, okay. We'll get to  
12 discussion.

13

14 CHAIRMAN BROWER: We'll get back into  
15 discussion. Number 5, summary of written public  
16 comments. Eva, any noted?

17

18 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair. The Native  
19 Village of AHTNA, I believe -- and, George, you may  
20 have more details right in front of you -- had  
21 submitted written comments in support of the proposal.

22

23 CHAIRMAN BROWER: So an indication  
24 there's written public comments in support of the  
25 proposal as well. Number 6, public testimony.

26

27 (No comments)

28

29 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Anybody on the  
30 teleconference wishing to give public testimony.

31

32 (No comments)

33

34 MR. G. BROWER: Mr. Chair.

35

36 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Gordon.

37

38 MR. G. BROWER: On the proposal, it's a  
39 statewide proposal and there was one comment with some  
40 added language that it included State -- I want to get  
41 that a little bit more clarified. It's this language  
42 here plus align with State regulation or something to  
43 that effect. I didn't quite exactly understand what he  
44 was adding for this barb or barbless hook definition.

45

46 CHAIRMAN BROWER: George, Gordon is  
47 raising a question regarding the definition given  
48 earlier. Maybe you could clarify what the additional  
49 language you identified was coming from the State  
50 proposal.

1 MR. PAPPAS: Mr. Chair. Excellent  
2 question. If you look on Page 4 of the handout there,  
3 you'll see bold language in the middle of the page.  
4 This is in the alternatives considered. The first  
5 sentence, a hook means a single shanked fish hook with  
6 a single eye constructed with 1 or more points with or  
7 without barbs. That is the regulatory language that  
8 OSM and the solicitors came up with. That's if you  
9 vote on the proposal as is, that first sentence would  
10 go into regulation.

11  
12 Now if you want to modify it like the  
13 State recommended and add the language that's been  
14 adopted and vetted by their lawyers, what have you, the  
15 second sentence there, a hook without a barb means a  
16 hook is manufactured without a barb or the barb has  
17 been completely removed or compressed so the barb is in  
18 complete contact with the shaft of the hook. The Board  
19 of Fish and the State's lawyers came up with that  
20 language to define a barbed hook. There are  
21 definitions of barbed hooks all over the United States  
22 and this is what they came up with.

23  
24 Now if you vote on this as modified,  
25 you would adopt all that regulatory language. At this  
26 time, we don't foresee any challenges with that.

27  
28 Since you're the first Regional  
29 Advisory Council to review this, I heard several things  
30 that are new here that we haven't considered before.  
31 Homemade hooks. There's definitions of a manufactured  
32 hook with a little barb. Well, what's the definition  
33 of manufactured? Is that someone at home in their shop  
34 making a piece of copper with a nail or is it  
35 manufactured from a factory somewhere? So that's new.  
36 You brought something new to light here that we'll have  
37 to address.

38  
39 If you're interested, just as OSM  
40 recommends, or if you're interested in the modified,  
41 which has a further definition that the State has so we  
42 have matching definitions, it's up to you.

43  
44 I hope I helped.

45  
46 MR. G. BROWER: Mr. Chair.

47  
48 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Gordon, continue.

49  
50 MR. G. BROWER: All right. From that

1 bold language up to the first sentence ending with  
2 barbs with a period that is OSM's language. If we were  
3 adopting it with the modification that the State wants,  
4 it will include that language plus this other language.  
5 It's not either/or. We either agree with OSM up to the  
6 period after barb or the State modifier to include the  
7 rest of the language including after barb. I just  
8 wanted to get that clear because I was a little bit  
9 mixed up on exactly what we were saying. It seems like  
10 there could be some wordsmithing in terms of homemade  
11 hooks versus manufactured hooks.

12

13 Thank you.

14

15 MR. SHEARS: Mr. Chair.

16

17 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Are you done, Gordon?

18

19 MR. G. BROWER: Yeah.

20

21 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Bob.

22

23 MR. SHEARS: To reinforce and to  
24 support what Gordon was saying develop on it, I think  
25 it's very important to define a hook without a barb not  
26 for ourselves and our own specific needs but for our  
27 neighbors on the Kenai. When placed under a barbless  
28 hook order by the State and if they have to abide by  
29 it, they're going to look at the definition in the  
30 Federal subsistence rules what is a barbless hook.

31

32 Currently it requires everybody to get  
33 their wallet and go to the sporting goods store and buy  
34 all new gear and replace the hooks on their lures.  
35 Whereas with this rule we could include it through an  
36 amendment. They could take the gear in their tackle  
37 box and they could compress the barb with their pliers  
38 and get back to the business of subsistence fishing for  
39 their families. Therefore I strongly support amending  
40 the definition as is stated here.

41

42 CHAIRMAN BROWER: With the  
43 modification.

44

45 MR. SHEARS: With the modification.

46

47 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Bob.

48 Rosemary.

49

50 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: I just want to make



1 sure that the wording that we're recommending is going  
2 to allow for the flexibility of our indigenous  
3 ingenuity in utilizing various resources to create what  
4 we need to meet our needs. I've seen a variety of  
5 different things used from various bones as well as  
6 stuff that has been made by modern machinery shops as  
7 well as very creative ivory carving that's been done.  
8 We just want to be able to make sure that we're as  
9 broad as we can and allow us to be as creative and  
10 indigenous as we can.

11

12 MR. NAGEAK: Mr. Chair.

13

14 CHAIRMAN BROWER: James.

15

16 MR. NAGEAK: There's a place called  
17 justification of the proposal and in the second  
18 paragraph it says adoption of this proposal would  
19 protect Federal subsistence fishermen's choice to use  
20 barbed or barbless hooks. Adoption of this proposal  
21 would not result in impacts to Alaska's fisheries  
22 resources by Federal subsistence fishermen. That's the  
23 way I'm understanding that. I either could use my old-  
24 fashioned hook that is made out of ivory with a nail  
25 sticking off on the end of it.

26

27 I could still use that.

28

29 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, James  
30 Nageak. James Taalak.

31

32 MR. TAALAK: Thank you. James Taalak  
33 for the record, city of Nuiqsut. You know, I'm reading  
34 this and looking at this and it seems to me this  
35 applies more to the sports fishing industry,  
36 recreational fishing. We're subsistence people, you're  
37 a subsistence committee. I don't know, maybe they're  
38 reaching out to you to help them decide on what they  
39 should do and how they should apply this.

40

41 I've heard mentioned before that it's  
42 going to become a statewide issue, but it seems to me  
43 that maybe the State Fish and Game is reaching out and  
44 asking for your opinion, your input on how you decide  
45 on this proposal. It makes no difference to me and I'm  
46 sure there's a lot of us here who are local and all of  
47 you who live up here it doesn't matter whether it's  
48 barbed or barbless. It depends on what season of the  
49 year you're fishing and what you're catching. I don't  
50 think a lot of us here are catch and release people.

1                   So I just wanted to put that out and  
2 emphasize that maybe the separation between subsistence  
3 and sport, just like the separation of church and state  
4 maybe, but somehow mingle that. Just think about that.  
5 We're up here for subsistence. You're a subsistence  
6 Council. I don't know, maybe agreement on this one,  
7 perhaps they're just reaching out and saying, hey, what  
8 do you guys think. You know, we're having this issue  
9 with sports fishing in our area down here off the  
10 river, the tourists, locals, you know. There's some  
11 issues to subsistence people down there and sports  
12 fishermen down there. I just wanted to say that.

13

14                   Thank you.

15

16                   CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, James.

17 James Nageak.

18

19                   MR. NAGEAK: I just thought of  
20 something. The bold says hook means a single shanked  
21 fish hook. I know my little grandson who is three  
22 years old has a little fishing pole that has a hook on  
23 it with three shanks. How is that grandson going to be  
24 affected by this proposal that the definition of a  
25 barbed hook is a single shank and my little grandson is  
26 going out with a triple-shanked hook using a -- I never  
27 thought of that until -- thank you, Mr. Brower, Gordon,  
28 for asking that because it just says a single shanked  
29 barbed or barbless.

30

31                   CHAIRMAN BROWER: So we're looking to  
32 the invisible man, George.

33

34                   (Laughter)

35

36                   MR. PAPPAS: Thank you, Mr. Chair. So  
37 a single shank -- a treble hook has three points and  
38 all three of the hooks basically come together or are  
39 welded together into a single shank and there's a  
40 single eye on the hook. The way this regulation is  
41 written, two, three, four, five points on a hook,  
42 that's not the issue. The issue is that all those  
43 hooks end up welded together, coming together in one  
44 spot where you tie your line to it. Maybe there's some  
45 confusion of the definition. I hope I cleared it up.

46

47                   Thank you, Mr. Chair.

48

49                   CHAIRMAN BROWER: James, did that help?

50

1 MR. NAGEAK: Yeah.  
2  
3 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Gordon.  
4  
5 MR. G. BROWER: Along the same line of  
6 question. How would you view a single line with hooks  
7 that are tied maybe a foot apart and I have maybe six  
8 of them and then I leave it underwater to try to get my  
9 burbot. Is that being affected by this language?  
10  
11 MR. PAPPAS: Mr. Chair. No, this has  
12 nothing to do with the number of hooks and or the  
13 number of points on a hook. This just affects whether  
14 or not those six hooks can have barbs. If every one of  
15 them has a barb or every other one does or none of them  
16 do, that's what the focus of this is. It's not numbers  
17 of hooks. Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
18  
19 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Did that help?  
20  
21 MR. G. BROWER: Yeah, thank you. Much  
22 more clarified. I just wanted to ask that since James  
23 was talking about shank, but I think when we're talking  
24 about the shank, we're talking about the barb. The  
25 little barb at the end of the hook.  
26  
27 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you. Any more  
28 public testimony.  
29  
30 MR. FRANKSON: Mr. Chair.  
31  
32 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Teddy.  
33  
34 MR. FRANKSON: It says a hook means a  
35 single shanked fish hook. Will this include the treble  
36 hook that a lot of people use? Will they be allowed to  
37 use a triple shank when we adopt this one or it's just  
38 going to mean a single shank?  
39  
40 MR. PAPPAS: Mr. Chair. George Pappas  
41 again. Multiple hooks -- the definition is single  
42 shanked fish hook with a single eye constructed with 1  
43 or more points. So one or more points. More points  
44 would be a treble hook. It will not impact the use of  
45 treble hooks. Thanks, Mr. Chair.  
46  
47 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Did that help, Teddy?  
48  
49 MR. FRANKSON: Thank you very much.  
50

1 CHAIRMAN BROWER: We have another elder  
2 here.  
3  
4 MR. AHKIVIANA: No.  
5  
6 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Good morning, Archie.  
7  
8 MR. AHKIVIANA: Good morning.  
9  
10 CHAIRMAN BROWER: He's a young man.  
11  
12 MR. AHKIVIANA: Yeah. My name is  
13 Archie Ahkiviana. I'm one of the seniors in Nuiqsut.  
14 Talking about hooks, when we're out hunting with dog  
15 teams a long time ago, we got no time to go back to a  
16 store or anything, so we make our own hooks for  
17 burbot. The best one is the fork. Just turn those  
18 forks over and put a piece of meat at the end. You get  
19 your burbot that way. And then cut off one of them and  
20 then just bend the other one, sharpen the point. Turn  
21 it over. That's for your grayling. The safety pin is  
22 for those tomcods where you go out fishing on the ice.  
23  
24 Like they said today, what are they  
25 talking about how many hooks you have to have?  
26  
27 CHAIRMAN BROWER: They're talking about  
28 barb on a hook.  
29  
30 MR. AHKIVIANA: Oh, barbs on hooks you  
31 mean. But you've got a lot of barbs on the fork. We  
32 catch a lot of burbot that way. It's stainless and  
33 then you put the bait on it. They take the whole  
34 thing. I got one about this big, a big burbot one  
35 time. We were out hunting above Barrow. So there's a  
36 lot of ways to make hooks. So I just wanted to let you  
37 guys know. And then you use sinew for your line.  
38  
39 CHAIRMAN BROWER: That's real  
40 subsistence fishing.  
41  
42 (Laughter)  
43  
44 MR. AHKIVIANA: Yeah, real subsistence  
45 fishing.  
46  
47 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Archie.  
48  
49 MR. NAGEAK: Mr. Chair.  
50

1 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yes, James.  
2  
3 MR. NAGEAK: That gives me a new  
4 perspective on what a forked tongue means. Now we have  
5 a term forked hook.  
6  
7 (Laughter)  
8  
9 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Rosemary.  
10  
11 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: George, after  
12 hearing the different discussions around the types of  
13 hooks that are used, do we have adequacy in the wording  
14 that's being discussed to meet what we actually use?  
15  
16 MR. PAPPAS: Through the Chair,  
17 Rosemary. We're building the record right now and the  
18 record will be taken to those solicitors to see if we  
19 need to wordsmith this. And the Regional Advisory  
20 Councils, all the other nine of them will be listening  
21 to a summary of your position. You have stated and if  
22 you want to restate for the record that in regulation,  
23 if this is adopted, must protect and allow for  
24 traditional manufactured fishing hooks. That's  
25 something that we can modify the language at some  
26 point, but the most important part is to capture the  
27 intent of your statement.  
28  
29 Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
30  
31 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Does that help,  
32 Rosemary?  
33  
34 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: Yes, thank you.  
35  
36 CHAIRMAN BROWER: We are down to number  
37 7. I think that pretty much covered the public  
38 testimony. 7 is Regional Council recommendation,  
39 motion and adoption. I think we got ahead of ourselves  
40 earlier by generating a motion, but I'd like to offer  
41 that again at this time because of all the  
42 communications that we've heard in terms of whether to  
43 include the modification or not or to amend the  
44 proposal as -- or not the proposal, but the motion,  
45 earlier motion. It's just up to the Council.  
46  
47 MR. SHEARS: Mr. Chair.  
48  
49 MR. CRAWFORD: Mr. Chair. Drew  
50 Crawford, Department of Fish and Game, Anchorage.

1 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yes.  
2  
3 MR. CRAWFORD: I heard some concern  
4 about whether homemade hooks are included in the  
5 State's definition of barbless or not. I looked in the  
6 American Heritage Dictionary and the word manufacture  
7 is defined as to make or process a raw material into a  
8 finished product. Therefore, I think the use of a nail  
9 or a piece of ivory or a fork would be included in that  
10 definition, the State's definition of barbless. Over.  
11  
12 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you for sharing  
13 that, Drew. The Council members are nodding their  
14 heads around here as you can't see it.  
15  
16 MR. SHEARS: So are you ready for a  
17 motion, Mr. Chair?  
18  
19 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yes, Bob.  
20  
21 MR. SHEARS: Mr. Chair. I'd like to  
22 make a motion that we adopt the proposal that redefines  
23 the definition of the hook in the Federal regulation as  
24 a definition described in the alternate considered to  
25 match the State regulation definition where the hook  
26 means a single shanked fish hook with a single eye  
27 constructed with 1 or more points with or without  
28 barbs. A hook without a barb means the hook is  
29 manufactured without a barb or the barb has been  
30 completely removed or compressed so the barb is in  
31 complete contact with the shaft of the hook.  
32  
33 Will anybody second me?  
34  
35 MR. G. BROWER: Mr. Chair.  
36  
37 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Gordon.  
38  
39 MR. G. BROWER: I second the motion as  
40 read by Bob Shears.  
41  
42 CHAIRMAN BROWER: We're at discussion  
43 on the motion.  
44  
45 MR. G. BROWER: Mr. Chair. Under  
46 discussion, I would support that because you don't need  
47 to go back to the store. If you've got a hook and a  
48 law enforcement agent came around and said, hey, you  
49 can't use a barb, you should be able to be in  
50 compliance in one second. Get your pliers and compress

1 that barb immediately and then you're good to go. I  
2 think that's a good way to do it. It takes care of  
3 everybody.  
4  
5 Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
6  
7 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Gordon.  
8 Further discussion on the motion.  
9  
10 (No comments)  
11  
12 MR. NAGEAK: I call for the question.  
13  
14 CHAIRMAN BROWER: The question has been  
15 called on the motion. All in favor of the motion  
16 signify by saying aye.  
17  
18 IN UNISON: Aye.  
19  
20 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Any in opposition say  
21 nay.  
22  
23 (No opposing votes)  
24  
25 CHAIRMAN BROWER: The ayes have it.  
26 Thank you, Council members. So that's the first action  
27 item. Eva, is there another one that we need to go  
28 over this morning? I'm supposed to get excused to go  
29 to my next teleconference.  
30  
31 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair. What time will  
32 you be returning from that appointment?  
33  
34 CHAIRMAN BROWER: I have no idea. It's  
35 supposed to be a two-hour teleconference. Depending on  
36 what length it is, it's up to two hours.  
37  
38 MS. PATTON: We do have Vince Mathews  
39 here who will need to depart about 10:30, so if he has  
40 an opportunity to present now, that would be fantastic.  
41 We do have a couple other action items for the Council.  
42 Recommendations on the nominations appointment process.  
43 We have Carl Johnson online and I can also address  
44 that. And then identifying annual report replies for  
45 this year. We can discuss that this afternoon when you  
46 come back. Then selecting meeting dates. So those are  
47 the other action items that are fairly brief and we can  
48 take those up.....  
49  
50 CHAIRMAN BROWER: This afternoon.

1 MS. PATTON: Yes.  
2  
3 CHAIRMAN BROWER: At this time we can  
4 hear from Vince unless you're all up for a break.  
5  
6 MR. G. BROWER: Let's just truck on.  
7  
8 CHAIRMAN BROWER: We'll keep on  
9 trucking.  
10  
11 MS. PATTON: I think we might miss  
12 Vince if we don't get him now.  
13  
14 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Vincent Mathews, you  
15 have the floor.  
16  
17 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, thank you for the  
18 opportunity to bring a little update on the Arctic  
19 National Wildlife Refuge. We had some staffing  
20 changes. We now have a deputy. So you met Brian  
21 Glaspell, the Refuge superintendent. He was struggling  
22 without a deputy. So now the new deputy for Arctic is  
23 Joanna Fox. She used to work in Selawik out of  
24 Kotzebue and she also worked in Galena. So she started  
25 on August 10th.  
26  
27 The other thing to note is on the law  
28 enforcement side of the picture Hollis Twitchell no  
29 longer has his law enforcement capacity. He's still a  
30 pilot. Heather Bartlett had a baby recently, so she is  
31 no longer doing law enforcement. We recently hired  
32 Clay Hamilton, who is going to go through some training  
33 in that, so Arctic will have one law enforcement  
34 officer.  
35  
36 For the other Refuges I work with we  
37 have one law enforcement officer, Mimi Thomas, out of  
38 Fort Yukon. Our other law enforcement officer, Mike  
39 Hinks, also decided to -- because of his age, there's  
40 requirement, give up his law enforcement capacity. The  
41 reason I bring that up is you guys have brought up the  
42 need for law enforcement. So that is the status of it.  
43  
44 The other topic I want to talk to you  
45 about is nominations. I serve on two to three  
46 nomination panels. We need more people to apply. You  
47 are blessed. You can look at it negatively or  
48 positively. I can look at it positively. You are  
49 blessed to have three vacant seats so there's no  
50 feeling that, hey, if I put in my application I'm



1 pushing a standing member out. That at times happens  
2 in other regions. I encourage you to get other people  
3 to apply because it helps the panels and you have  
4 better candidates.

5  
6 The last topic, and I'll give a copy to  
7 Tom and to Geoff, but please do not -- you know, Geoff  
8 would be just the one to share how this is done, but  
9 this is an update on the Porcupine Caribou Herd. They  
10 did conduct various surveys. They conducted a survey  
11 to the manager of the Porcupine Caribou Herd May 31st  
12 through June 2nd. That was to look at if the cows had  
13 given birth or appear to be pregnant and that was  
14 estimated at 86 percent.

15  
16 Then they did a post -- let's see,  
17 during June 26-27 they attempted a three-week calf  
18 survival, however the caribou were too dense in their  
19 post-calving groups and it made identification of the  
20 collared cows and determine whether they were  
21 accompanied by a calf not possible.

22  
23 Then on July 14th they did a photo  
24 census, which Geoff talked about earlier. The herd  
25 size was estimated to be 197,000 and there was a range  
26 in there of 168,000 to 225,000. So the Porcupine  
27 Caribou Herd real quickly -- and I'll get copies of  
28 this, but there was no way to make copies, so I'll get  
29 it to Eva. In 2001, if I can see straight, it was  
30 123,000. In 1987, it was 165,000. Presently it's  
31 197,000, so the herd is increasing.

32  
33 There was a discussion, I think, by Lee  
34 and others of where the calving may have taken place  
35 and I know you can't see this, but you will when you  
36 get a copy of it. Most of the cows with calves and  
37 those judged ready to give birth, they mainly were  
38 found -- this would have been May 31st to June 2nd.  
39 They were found over in Yukon Territory on the Babbage  
40 River and the Firth River and a few up on the Kongakut.  
41 You'll see that when you get a copy of this.

42  
43 MR. SHEARS: What year was that?

44  
45 MR. MATHEWS: That would have been  
46 2013. I wasn't able to get anybody in the office on  
47 2014, but I believe there is a portion of the Porcupine  
48 Caribou Herd in Alaska. You'll see in here where they  
49 actually did the photo census. In Alaska, they were  
50 pretty much around the Sheenjek and Colleen River. In

1 Canada, they were along the border between the  
2 Northwest Territory and Yukon kind of along the  
3 Dempster Highway in that range there. So that covers  
4 that and you'll get this through her, so keep in touch  
5 on that.

6  
7 Finally, on a personal note, when the  
8 comprehensive ethnographic discussion for the North  
9 Slope, that rang really true to me and I'll quickly  
10 cover that. We have a lot of baseline data on a lot of  
11 the wildlife species and, yes, there's some we don't.  
12 I recognize that. But we do have a lot of baseline  
13 data on wildlife species. My understanding, we put a  
14 lot of weight on those 1980 studies that were done.  
15 Things have changed. You've already brought that up  
16 multiple times on resource levels. We need more  
17 baseline data.

18  
19 As I get whiter hair, I tend to listen  
20 a little bit more and remember elders telling me, you  
21 know, we don't look at subsistence as moose. We don't  
22 look at subsistence as caribou. We look at it as going  
23 to get food for the table. I always remember that  
24 because we, as agencies, come in and we want to talk  
25 moose now. Oh, but we're going to talk about bear.  
26 No, we want to talk about moose now.

27  
28 We need to get an understanding how  
29 these are connected, that it's a web, and without a  
30 comprehensive ethnographic view of it, we may not  
31 understand what you're saying. I also know that a  
32 comprehensive ethnographic study would be difficult,  
33 but I think working with you on that the design could  
34 be worked out.

35  
36 Anyway, that's my own personal opinion  
37 on it because in all my jobs I've had to go back and  
38 look at those 1985, 1980 studies, et cetera, and  
39 they're very good, but they were learning too at that  
40 time. So hopefully we can learn from those and build  
41 another baseline.

42  
43 I'm open for any questions.

44  
45 MADAME CHAIR AHTUANGARUAK: Do we have  
46 any questions. James.

47  
48 MR. NAGEAK: Madame Chair. The  
49 question that I had it just came out of my mind. At my  
50 age I get the blank space. I'll come back to it maybe

1 in the discussion. I'm sorry.

2

3 MADAME CHAIR AHTUANGARUAK: Do we have  
4 anyone else on the board that has questions.

5

6 MR. SHEARS: Yes.

7

8 MADAME CHAIR AHTUANGARUAK: Bob.

9

10 MR. SHEARS: Good morning, Vince. Bob  
11 Shears. Red Sheep Creek. There was an application  
12 last year to extend the opening there and the limits.  
13 However, last minute data was coming in and it was very  
14 concerning about the population of sheep there and  
15 perhaps the population there had moved out or the  
16 population had declined. Do you have a status update  
17 on the sheep population in ANWR?

18

19 MR. MATHEWS: No, I don't have an  
20 update on it, but I want to remind you that the  
21 decision before you on the Red Sheep/Cane Creek  
22 proposal was more dealing with the continuation of  
23 subsistence uses. I'm quoting now from .815 of ANILCA  
24 III. So there is biology involved, but that wasn't the  
25 main reason behind maintaining the closure or lifting  
26 the closure.

27

28 To get you up to date on that, there  
29 has been a request for reconsideration from the State  
30 of Alaska on that decision. I personally don't know  
31 where that is at right now, but individuals,  
32 organizations and agencies can do a request for  
33 reconsideration. So that is being analyzed. Does it  
34 meet the qualifications for request for consideration.  
35 So my guess is that it may. So then it comes back to  
36 the Board to look at that closure again.

37

38 There may be others here on staff that  
39 have more detail, but I am watching that one because --  
40 well, next week I'm going to Arctic Village for science  
41 camp. I'm sure in sidebar conversations there will be  
42 a lot of discussions about that issue.

43

44 DR. JENKINS: I do have a little more  
45 detail, Bob, if I may. In fact, the request for  
46 reconsideration is in your books. So the State's  
47 request, there's four or five pages there laying out a  
48 case for the Board to reconsider its decision to keep  
49 that area closed. At this point, OSM has drafted a  
50 response to that request and it's in the solicitor's

1 officer at the moment. So it will go through the  
2 normal review and part of that normal review for a  
3 request for a proposal is for the Federal Subsistence  
4 Board to ask RACs, the affected RACs, for their opinion  
5 on that proposal. So it's going to come up in front of  
6 you again. Including the completed response to that  
7 request for reconsideration, however that falls out.  
8 So it's in process.

9

10 MADAME CHAIR AHTUANGARUAK: Do you have  
11 any follow up?

12

13 MR. SHEARS: No. Thank you very much.  
14 I'm glad I asked that question. It cleared me up.

15

16 MADAME CHAIR AHTUANGARUAK: Any other  
17 questions.

18

19 MR. NAGEAK: Madame Chair.

20

21 MADAME CHAIR AHTUANGARUAK: James.

22

23 MR. NAGEAK: I finally remembered. You  
24 know, we as sociable people have relatives that have  
25 gone from Utukok and gone all the way to Kanuk (ph),  
26 which is near to Greenland. I'm wondering -- you know,  
27 you said there's an increase in the Porcupine Herd from  
28 1984 or something like that, a gradual increase. I'm  
29 wondering the reason why the Western Herd is declining  
30 is because the relatives from that herd are going over  
31 there to visit the relatives in the Porcupine. Is  
32 there any research or are there any collar -- the  
33 movement of the caribou being such that it's getting  
34 easier for the people to keep track of where the  
35 caribou are going? Is that a possibility, that they  
36 have intermingled?

37

38 MR. MATHEWS: Well, I'm not a  
39 biologist, so I'll leave that up to Geoff, but my  
40 understanding there is not that -- you know, the  
41 100,000 or whatever thousands you want to use I doubt  
42 moved over to the Porcupine Caribou Herd. Geoff  
43 discussed that earlier that there may not be that much  
44 intermixing of the herds. That Porcupine Caribou Herd  
45 is pretty far to the east.

46

47 I also know that the understanding of  
48 caribou is difficult. They do what they need to do.  
49 Geoff may have a better answer than that.

50

1 MR. G. BROWER: Madame Chair.  
2  
3 MADAME CHAIR AHTUANGARUAK: Yes,  
4 Gordon.  
5  
6 MR. G. BROWER: You know, it's great  
7 the caribou over there are getting larger and  
8 flourishing. Lincoln Perrett, I think, made a  
9 startling presentation in Anaktuvuk maybe a couple  
10 years ago and I had seen another presentation around  
11 the Red Dog Mine Road and the following winter was real  
12 severe. The Western Arctic Herd had suddenly went  
13 around this way. What is that -- anyway, going by the  
14 Red Dog, going to go past Noatak and Kivalina going  
15 that way and they had major trouble going across. It  
16 became a study by pure chance.  
17  
18 You look at these radio-collar and I  
19 think four collars stopped moving. They died. They  
20 had attempted to return, go around back to Brooks  
21 Range. It turned winter on them by that time. They  
22 had returned back up to the North Slope maybe with  
23 calves, I don't know. But it was startling to do  
24 extrapolation. One collar on that size of the herd  
25 represented about 8,000 animals. Four of the collared  
26 ones I think died trying to come back to the North  
27 Slope in the dead of winter to come across to their  
28 wintering area.  
29  
30 I would think Fish and Game and the  
31 biologists recovering the radio collars from the ones  
32 that had quit moving if they observed in these areas  
33 large die-offs. You know, a science can only say  
34 certain things. When you have 300,000 Western Arctic  
35 Herd, 75 of them collared and one of those collars  
36 could represent between 1,000 and 8,000 animals and  
37 then you're starting to say over time now we lost a  
38 whole bunch.  
39  
40 Anyway, that's another thing that I  
41 recall Lincoln was trying to make the community aware  
42 of that. That was one year that that happened.  
43  
44 MADAME CHAIR AHTUANGARUAK: Do we have  
45 any other questions on the phone?  
46  
47 MR. SHEARS: Madame Chair, one more  
48 comment.  
49  
50 MADAME CHAIR AHTUANGARUAK: Bob.

1 MR. SHEARS: In regards to the  
2 Porcupine Herd, and I'll try to request more  
3 information from you later, Vince, at our next meeting,  
4 but I'm concerned about what I'm hearing about the  
5 recent forest fires over on the Canadian side and  
6 overwintering habitat around Dawson. Some people are  
7 saying it could be a potential disaster for the herd.  
8 I'd like to have more analysis on the effects of those  
9 forest fires this summer in the future.

10

11 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, I'll carry that  
12 forward. I forgot to mention what I quoted from was  
13 from the State of Alaska. So it's a good build-up for  
14 Geoff's slide presentation, so please ask those  
15 questions that you brought. I won't put words in his  
16 mouth, but I think he can respond to the question about  
17 the ratio of collared caribou, et cetera. So hopefully  
18 there will be time for him to get into that discussion  
19 because it is important.

20

21 MADAME CHAIR AHTUANGARUAK: Lee, did  
22 you have any questions.

23

24 MR. KAYOTUK: Good morning. Lee again,  
25 Kaktovik, for the record. We do have different times,  
26 but the Porcupine Herd that came in recently barely  
27 stayed a few days and didn't even see -- usually we see  
28 the calving happening, but that didn't really happen  
29 this year probably due to high winds and took the herd  
30 away into the inner mainland of the Brooks Range all  
31 the way up to the border and found a route that the  
32 mosquitos and that were not so bad, I guess, for them,  
33 so they kind of stayed inland, but we did encounter a  
34 sick caribou that had pus on it and stuff like that and  
35 it was yellow-looking. Is there any way -- or what  
36 causes that or can you determine what kind of a  
37 sickness on the caribou like that?

38

39 MR. MATHEWS: Lee, I'd have to refer  
40 that to the biologist on that on the disease question  
41 that you have. Again, a build-up for Geoff, but let's  
42 not bury Geoff on this.

43

44 MR. KAYOTUK: Okay.

45

46 MR. MATHEWS: But, yes, I don't know  
47 how to answer that. We'd have to find a biologist that  
48 would be looking into disease factors with caribou.

49

50 MR. KAYOTUK: Okay, I'll wait.

1 MADAME CHAIR AHTUANGARUAK: Lee, we do  
2 have a presentation coming up with Geoff on caribou, so  
3 that could be entertained at that time.  
4  
5 MR. KAYOTUK: Okay. Thank you.  
6  
7 MADAME CHAIR AHTUANGARUAK: Do we have  
8 any other questions for Vince? He needs to catch a  
9 plane.  
10  
11 MR. G. BROWER: Madame Chair.  
12  
13 MADAME CHAIR AHTUANGARUAK: Gordon.  
14  
15 MR. G. BROWER: Thank you very much.  
16 It's good to express that -- I thought we had two  
17 vacancies, but we have three vacancies on this panel.  
18  
19 MADAME CHAIR AHTUANGARUAK: One  
20 pending.  
21  
22 MR. G. BROWER: One pending. I hope we  
23 continue to visit other villages. When I heard some of  
24 the folks that made a comment, they didn't know what we  
25 were, if we were the NPR-A staff or North Slope  
26 Borough, Fish and Game. This is the Regional  
27 Subsistence Advisory Council to the Federal Board of  
28 Game for the subsistence management of fish. It can  
29 make proposals and regulations that could be  
30 recommended for adoption. I think it's important to  
31 recognize and differentiate from what the other boards  
32 are doing, like the NPR-A, SAP versus the ones that  
33 affect you on your hunting. The hunting book that  
34 comes in the mail and the regulations you have to abide  
35 by and how we can change those from time to time or  
36 make recommendations to change them.  
37  
38 Thank you.  
39  
40 MADAME CHAIR AHTUANGARUAK: Thank you,  
41 Gordon. I think adding that to our interactions and  
42 future educational opportunities would be appropriate.  
43  
44 Thank you. Appreciate it, Vince.  
45  
46 MS. PATTON: Thank you, Vince.  
47  
48 MADAME CHAIR AHTUANGARUAK: Eva, what  
49 do we need to do next on the agenda?  
50

1 MS. PATTON: Madame Chair. We do have  
2 -- Carl Johnson is online. He was going to address the  
3 nominations and appointment process. That is an action  
4 item. We can take that now while he's online and keep  
5 other action items for later when Harry comes back. We  
6 do also have our Office of Subsistence Program Regional  
7 Director is Gene Peltola, Jr. He'll be on a flight  
8 this afternoon too, so if he has an opportunity to  
9 present the OSM updates before lunch, that would be  
10 good to fit him in as well.

11  
12 MADAME CHAIR AHTUANGARUAK: Okay.  
13 We'll move forward with Carl.

14  
15 MS. PATTON: Carl, are you still with  
16 us online?

17  
18 MR. JOHNSON: Yes, I am. Thank you  
19 very much, Council and Chair and also members of the  
20 community who are attending the meeting. My name is  
21 Carl Johnson. I'm with the Office of Subsistence  
22 Management and one of the things that I'm involved with  
23 every year is our nominations process.

24  
25 The way the system is currently set up  
26 is that each Council has approximately 10 or, in some  
27 cases, 13 Council members and the way our appointment  
28 process is set up right now is that approximately one-  
29 third of each Council is up for appointment every year.  
30 In some cases, it's existing Council members seeking  
31 reappointment or in other cases, such as the case in  
32 this Council, the Council has vacancies that need to be  
33 filled through appointment.

34  
35 So we do this annually. We start our  
36 recruitment effort in the fall with the fall meeting  
37 cycle and it typically concludes in the winter, at the  
38 end of the winter Council meeting cycle, which is  
39 typically the last week of March. What we do is we  
40 receive applications and also nominations from tribal  
41 councils and other groups that have nominated  
42 individuals to serve on the Council.

43  
44 There is a series of interagency  
45 nomination panels that are formed that consist of  
46 Federal staff from the five agencies that are part of  
47 the Federal Subsistence Management Program. Those  
48 individual panels review the applications and then  
49 forward the recommendations to the Interagency Staff  
50 Committee, who then makes their recommendations to the



1 Federal Subsistence Board.

2

3 The way the system is currently set up,  
4 then the Federal Subsistence Board makes its  
5 recommendations to the Secretaries of the Interior and  
6 Agriculture and it is the Secretaries who appoint  
7 Council members. Those Council appointments typically  
8 come in early December.

9

10 So what you have right now currently is  
11 a system where anywhere from 40 to 45 vacancies occur  
12 every year. The appointment process goes through every  
13 year and then you have these overlapping periods where,  
14 yeah, you may have started a recruitment cycle in the  
15 fall, let's say we're starting one right now 2014.  
16 This will end in the winter of 2015, but during that  
17 time in December the appointments from the previous  
18 nominations process that started last year will finally  
19 be made by the Secretaries of the Interior and  
20 Agriculture.

21

22 Over time, this period of overlapping  
23 appointments has created sometimes confusion in the  
24 public who are waiting for a long period of time for  
25 them to receive their appointment letters or notices  
26 that they weren't appointed. It involves a lot of time  
27 and a lot of staff to do this annual process. In the  
28 last couple of years we had an additional problem where  
29 the appointments are not being completed by early  
30 December when they should be and for the last two years  
31 have lingered actually to the point where they're not  
32 completed until early May.

33

34 As you'll note in your materials here,  
35 this has led to some concern from some of these  
36 Subsistence Regional Advisory Councils. If you note on  
37 Page 87 of your meeting book, it starts a series of  
38 some letters from the Western Interior Council  
39 specifically addressing the problem of the late  
40 appointments in the last two years.

41

42 So what I want to do is just direct you  
43 to the overall briefing that I have on Page 81 where we  
44 talk about some of the problems and the challenges that  
45 we have seen under the current system. At the bottom  
46 of that first page of that briefing you'll see some of  
47 the recommendations that have been considered. Now  
48 these recommendations have been reviewed by the  
49 Interagency Staff Committee, which is the staff that  
50 advises the Federal Subsistence Board, and then the

1 Federal Subsistence Board reviewed them, but wanted to  
2 have input from the Regional Advisory Councils before  
3 making any changes.

4  
5 So there are essentially three main  
6 changes that have been contemplated to the nominations  
7 and appointment process that hopefully will help to  
8 address some of these problems. The first one you see  
9 appearing at the bottom of the first page is change the  
10 terms. Currently a Council member serves for three  
11 years. One of the suggestions is to change that to a  
12 four-year term. In conjunction with that, we could  
13 either keep it on the annual cycle, so it would be  
14 four-year terms on an annual cycle or, in order to  
15 create more separation between the nomination periods,  
16 do four-year appointments on a biennial cycle, so every  
17 two years.

18  
19 What you see on page 2 of this  
20 briefing, on Page 82 of your book, is kind of a  
21 breakdown of what are some of the advantages and  
22 disadvantages of having a four-year annual cycle or a  
23 four-year biennial cycle. I'll just highlight some of  
24 those.

25  
26 One of the issues that have been  
27 expressed to us as to why the appointments have been  
28 taking so long in the past two years is just that when  
29 we send a batch of names -- and, like I said, we send  
30 anywhere from 40 to 45 nominees each year to  
31 Washington, D.C. for consideration -- we're not the  
32 only region in the United States in the Federal  
33 government that has Federal Advisory Committees.

34  
35 There are a lot of other types of  
36 committees that give advice to different Federal  
37 agencies. So not only are our nominees being thrown in  
38 for consideration, but the same office also in D.C.  
39 also has to consider a bunch of other names that are  
40 coming in from different Federal Advisory Committees at  
41 the same time.

42  
43 So one suggestion was, well, if we went  
44 to four years and still kept the annual cycle, that  
45 would then reduce the number of names that are being  
46 submitted every year because instead of having a third  
47 of the Council members up for reappointment or  
48 appointment every year, it would reduce it to 25  
49 percent. So that's one advantage. Also by doing an  
50 annual process it also would keep the process of

1 nomination appointment in constant public attention, it  
2 would give an opportunity to conduct outreach on a more  
3 regular basis.

4  
5                   One of the disadvantages is that  
6 there's no savings cost because if we do it every two  
7 years, then we don't spend money every year on  
8 conducting outreach, by doing paid advertisements in  
9 regional newspapers or on websites or on the GCI  
10 Channel 1 there's a very popular channel for people to  
11 get information. We also pay for advertising on radio  
12 stations. So if we keep an annual cycle, then we don't  
13 have the advantage of having those cost savings.

14  
15                   Additionally, it requires a lot of  
16 work. As I mentioned, those interagency nominations  
17 staff, they have to take time out of their schedule  
18 every year to work on these nominations. I've been  
19 told it takes anywhere from -- it takes about four to  
20 six weeks for them to work on this.

21  
22                   So that kind of then brings us into the  
23 biennial cycle four-year process where you can see the  
24 advantages and the disadvantages kind of opposite of  
25 what the four-year annual cycle would bring. Now the  
26 change in the terms from a three-year to four-year,  
27 those are both reflected -- they both have a charter  
28 and in Secretarial regulations, so it would require  
29 those changes, but I've been told that the change in  
30 the regulations would be very simple to do and they  
31 wouldn't be something that would be a drawn out public  
32 process.

33  
34                   I'm just going to kind of do a quick  
35 overview of this and then I will open up to any  
36 questions if any members of the Council or the public  
37 have any questions.

38  
39                   The next recommendation is why don't we  
40 have formal appointments of alternates to the Councils.  
41 Right now we don't have formally appointed alternates.  
42 What we do is we identify people who could serve as  
43 alternates if needed and they are cleared through the  
44 vetting process in Washington, D.C., but they're never  
45 notified that they're being considered as an alternate.  
46 The only time they would be contacted is if there is an  
47 unexpected vacancy on the Council and now we need to  
48 have somebody fill that seat. Typically that can take  
49 anywhere from one to two months for that appointment  
50 process to be completed. During that time there might

1 have been a Council meeting that happens and,  
2 therefore, the Council doesn't have its full number of  
3 members who are there and able to contribute and bring  
4 their expertise and their knowledge from their part of  
5 the region to contribute to the Council's meeting.

6  
7 Again, here we outline the advantages  
8 and the disadvantages of appointing a formal alternate.  
9 So this person would actually receive a letter from the  
10 Secretary of the Interior saying they have been  
11 appointed as an alternate to the Council. It doesn't  
12 mean they would not actually attend the meetings  
13 because only the members would attend the meetings, but  
14 they would be available to immediately fill in a  
15 vacancy if there was one that happened and, therefore,  
16 we wouldn't have to go back to Washington, D.C. and go  
17 through another process of requesting an appointment of  
18 that alternate.

19  
20 The final recommendation is to provide  
21 in the charter -- the charter is the document that's  
22 required by the Federal Advisory Committee Act that  
23 kind of sets forth the procedures and the purpose of  
24 the Council. Right now the way the charter works is it  
25 says you have a membership for three years and then the  
26 membership expires.

27  
28 This was suggested by the Western  
29 Interior Council that -- well, in these recent years  
30 we've had these delays in appointments that in some  
31 cases have impacted the planning of meetings. This  
32 last year the Northwest Arctic Council had to  
33 reschedule its meeting from where they were originally  
34 in February towards the end of the meeting cycle in  
35 March because they were waiting for five appointments  
36 and their meeting was coming up and they had not heard  
37 as to what was going to happen with those appointments,  
38 so they had to reschedule.

39  
40 So Western Interior Council suggested  
41 in times where we don't have these appointments,  
42 letters issued in a timely manner, perhaps we could  
43 allow for those Council members whose terms are  
44 expiring that their terms would continue to remain in  
45 effect until a new appointment was made. So  
46 essentially they're called carryover terms.

47  
48 The National Park Service Subsistence  
49 Resource Commissions, which is another advisory body  
50 created by Title VIII of the Alaska National Interest

1 Lands Conservation Act, has this in their charters to  
2 provide for this sort of eventuality. If something  
3 happens and there's not a new appointment issued, the  
4 Council member can remain in their seat until a new  
5 appointment is made.

6  
7 So, again, you kind of lay out the  
8 advantages and the disadvantages of those. The primary  
9 advantages, we can continue to plan for Council  
10 meetings and we'll still have Council members  
11 attending. Even though their terms have expired they  
12 still are allowed to continue to serve until the new  
13 appointment is made.

14  
15 The one key disadvantage to that is --  
16 let's say it's an existing Council member who is  
17 waiting for word as to their reappointment and their  
18 travel is being planned and they're getting ready to  
19 attend the meeting and then the new appointment letter  
20 is issued let's say a week before the Council meeting,  
21 but that Council member doesn't get reappointed. In  
22 fact, it's a new applicant who is appointed instead.  
23 So all that planning is made for that member to attend.  
24 They now can't go because they are now officially no  
25 longer a member of the Council, but on the flip side  
26 it's too soon to input a new person in the system to  
27 provide for their travel. So that's the one  
28 disadvantage to that.

29  
30 So that's kind of a quick overview of  
31 some of the mechanical recommendations that have been  
32 considered for how we can change our nominations and  
33 appointment process. There is one last issue if you'd  
34 turn to Page 84 of your meeting books. That is several  
35 Councils have expressed a desire to have more active  
36 and encourage more active involvement of youth in their  
37 Councils.

38  
39 Now, of course, what is youth is  
40 dependant on the perspective. Ralph Lohse, the Chair  
41 of the Southcentral Council, rather amusingly stated  
42 that when he hears youth, he thinks of people in their  
43 30's and their 40's, not people in their 20's. The  
44 idea is to still encourage greater youth involvement in  
45 the Councils. Now there's really no way to have an  
46 actual youth seat on the Council because the laws that  
47 apply to the membership on a Regional Advisory Council  
48 wouldn't allow for that. But there are some different  
49 ways that could -- the Councils could think of having  
50 some type of a mentorship program or maybe a youth

1 liaison to the Council.

2

3 This isn't anything that would really  
4 be done system wide that would affect all the Councils.  
5 This would really be for something for each of the  
6 Councils to look at and, through the assistance of  
7 their Council Coordinator, maybe come up with some  
8 options that could be implemented just for their  
9 region. There are some suggestions in here on how that  
10 could be accomplished.

11

12 So really the main action item that we  
13 are looking for from the Council is their input on  
14 these three main ideas on how to possibly change how we  
15 do nominations and appointments. Again, changing from  
16 a three-year to a four-year term and then either  
17 keeping the annual cycle or going to a two-year cycle.  
18 Next, formal Council alternate appointments and then  
19 finally whether or not the charter should be amended to  
20 allow for these carryover terms.

21

22 That's my initial presentation and I  
23 thank the Council for their attention and I'm happy to  
24 answer any questions.

25

26 MADAME CHAIR AHTUANGARUAK: Do we have  
27 any questions from the Council?

28

29 MR. G. BROWN: Madame Chair.

30

31 MADAME CHAIR AHTUANGARUAK: Gordon.

32

33 MR. G. BROWER: Yeah, I think it's  
34 important to make sure that filling these vacancies  
35 don't lapse too much time because the next vacancies  
36 that might be coming down the line you'll be doing them  
37 back to back so much. I would tend to agree there  
38 needs to be some method of fixing it and making sure  
39 that appointments are timely. I don't know about  
40 sitting on the panel for way too long. It seems like  
41 three years was pretty good, but if the recommendation  
42 is for four years and then stagger those, that's just  
43 one way of making sure you've got somebody there all  
44 the time and I would tend to agree with that.

45

46 MADAME CHAIR AHTUANGARUAK: Do we have  
47 any other comments?

48

49 MR. SHEARS: Madame Chair.

50

1 MADAME CHAIR AHTUANGARUAK: Bob.  
2  
3 MR. SHEARS: Good morning, Carl. Bob  
4 Shears.  
5  
6 MR. JOHNSON: Good morning.  
7  
8 MR. SHEARS: I was reading through the  
9 idea about youth involvement in the Council and  
10 understanding that we feel -- you know, we have three  
11 vacant seats and one to be filled soon, but the  
12 challenges of keeping our seats filled up here and  
13 other Councils throughout the state is well felt.  
14  
15 I see in the final paragraph it talks  
16 about a possibility where a local tribal council could  
17 select a youth to serve as a youth liaison. Well,  
18 that's an idea and a concept with youth, but I've heard  
19 from tribal entities, especially in Barrow but also  
20 Wainwright, they would be open to the opportunity as  
21 tribal councils to select a representative to serve on  
22 the Regional Advisory Council.  
23  
24 In fact, a number of people I've talked  
25 to about possibly asking them to entertain serving on  
26 the Council and said, well, I'd like to, but I'm so  
27 busy working with tribal government right now I can't  
28 take on more work. But, as a tribal member, I know  
29 that they would like to be involved, they'd like to be  
30 here, but they don't really feel -- you know, a tribal  
31 member is not really a component of a Federal Advisory  
32 Committee.  
33  
34 There's four types of membership.  
35 There's a de facto membership like us. We're  
36 representatives selected by the Secretary. Or special  
37 government employees or regular government employees or  
38 ex-members who have had long-standing memberships.  
39 What about adding another type of -- is that a wall  
40 that's too difficult to breach if we were to add  
41 another type of member which is a tribal council  
42 member?  
43  
44 MR. JOHNSON: Mr. Chair, if I may.  
45 Bob, I'll respond to that quickly. There's two  
46 barriers to that. One is the types of membership you  
47 are describing there are prescribed in the Federal  
48 Advisory Committee Act. So it would take an act of  
49 Congress. Secondly, it would take another act of  
50 Congress and that is in Title VIII of ANILCA itself,

1 which describes the rural subsistence priority as  
2 benefitting both Native and non-Native rural residents.

3

4

5                   When you look at the appointment  
6 letters that come from the Secretary of the Interior,  
7 it says you, Bob Shears, are appointed to represent  
8 subsistence users or, in other cases, commercial sport  
9 users of your region. So you are there to represent  
10 everybody broadly in that region, Native and  
11 non-Native, who are subsistence users or, in some  
12 cases, commercial sport users. So having a tribal  
13 council, especially a designated tribal membership on  
14 the Council, wouldn't be permitted under the current  
15 laws that govern Regional Advisory Committees.

16

17                   But I do want to respond to something  
18 else you said and that is -- you know, you have a  
19 tribal council member who is very active and they're  
20 too busy to take on this extra kind of work, but I  
21 would bet you anything that they know someone in their  
22 community who they work with well who perhaps is an up  
23 and coming leader in their community who is very active  
24 in subsistence activities who they would know who could  
25 be a good member to serve on the Council and could  
26 nominate them.

27

28                   This is a very underutilized aspect of  
29 the appointment process. We get maybe three to five  
30 nominations a year out of 60 to 70 applications where  
31 it's a tribal council or a leader or somebody  
32 nominating someone else and that's something I want to  
33 encourage that people use more as an opportunity to get  
34 more names into the hat for potential Council members.

35

36                   To go back to the earlier comment too  
37 about how we need to make sure that we have more  
38 members on these Councils, it's kind of a two-pronged  
39 problem. One, as it's been noted, there's not enough  
40 people applying, not enough people being nominated. In  
41 the last 10 years, there's been a steady decline in the  
42 overall number of Regional Advisory Council  
43 applications statewide, but particularly the decline  
44 has been more deep in the northern regions. Eastern  
45 Interior, Northwest Arctic, Western Interior, North  
46 Slope and Seward Peninsula.

47

48                   In the case of this Council, for two  
49 years in a row you didn't even have enough applications  
50 to fill all of the vacancies. I know you guys have



1 been doing a fantastic job in working with -- you know,  
2 targeting particular communities that haven't been  
3 represented on the Councils and I know that that's  
4 something we could also use your help as Council  
5 members because essentially you are ambassadors for  
6 your communities to these Regional Advisory Councils  
7 and you would be incredible help in generating more  
8 applications or more nominations for people to serve on  
9 the Councils.

10

11 MADAME CHAIR AHTUANGARUAK: Do we have  
12 any other questions or comments?

13

14 MR. NAGEAK: Madame Chair.

15

16 MADAME CHAIR AHTUANGARUAK: James.

17

18 MR. NAGEAK: I was just looking at my  
19 cards here. I'm a tribal member for the Naqsaqmiut  
20 and I'm also also an Arctic Slope Regional Corporation  
21 member and I'm also a UIC shareholder card member. All  
22 of these memberships that I have and my representation  
23 in this thing, you know, to me, you know, I have that  
24 responsibility to respond to all of the questions that  
25 my constituents -- UIC one of them, tribal council one  
26 of them, and the Arctic Slope Regional Corporation the  
27 other, and also the Subsistence Resource Commission  
28 that I belong to for the National Park Service and this  
29 Council. Rural Advisory Council for subsistence for  
30 the North Slope Borough has a really good  
31 representation in all of these subjects.

32

33 One of the problems that I have with  
34 the youth involvement in councils is that we need to  
35 have those youth to be educated before they come to the  
36 meeting. I used to go to bilingual education  
37 conferences and some school districts have a new  
38 person. Oh, yeah, we want to educate these new persons  
39 in the school district to come to the bilingual  
40 education meeting and all we do is just educate those  
41 people that don't know a darn thing about what  
42 bilingual education conference is working on. So we  
43 end up listening to somebody who wants to educate that  
44 particular person to come to par with the knowledge  
45 that we have as a group. We never get to the points  
46 where we really need to act on at a meeting like this.

47

48 So, you know, we have pros and cons  
49 about having youth because they're what do you mean by  
50 that. You know, somebody is going to start answering

1 questions and an answer will take two days to answer a  
2 lot of the questions that the youth are going to ask  
3 us. You know, I've seen a delay in meetings or a delay  
4 in actions because somebody don't know a darn thing  
5 about what we're doing here.

6

7 Like Gordon said, a lot of the people  
8 don't know what RAC means, you know, and that's my  
9 problem because I don't go back and say, hey, I just  
10 went to a meeting and we had a really good discussion  
11 on how the hooks are going to be used. What kind of  
12 hooks are you going to use to go fishing, you know. I  
13 don't go there and tell them. I have to start doing  
14 that and educating our constituents and maybe UIC could  
15 go and pay for my ticket to go to Barrow and educate  
16 them on why we are barbless and we are barbed too.

17

18 (Laughter)

19

20 MR. NAGEAK: It's an observation of  
21 over the 50 years that I've been involved in some kind  
22 of -- you know, I was the charter secretary for Arctic  
23 Slope Native Association back in the 1960s. I've had  
24 some experience in being in meetings like this. I  
25 wanted to say something like that for a long time. Now  
26 that I've said it, I'll keep quiet.

27

28 MADAME CHAIR AHTUANGARUAK: Do we have  
29 any other comments.

30

31 (No comments)

32

33 MADAME CHAIR AHTUANGARUAK: Do we have  
34 comments on the phone.

35

36 (No comments)

37

38 MADAME CHAIR AHTUANGARUAK: Lee, do you  
39 have any comments?

40

41 MR. KAYOTUK: No I don't at this time.

42

43 MADAME CHAIR AHTUANGARUAK: Do we have  
44 any additional comments from the audience.

45

46 MR. G. BROWER: Madame Chair.

47

48 MADAME CHAIR AHTUANGARUAK: Gordon.

49

50 MR. G. BROWER: I'm wondering if this

1 is an action item or if this is informational and what  
2 the presenter is seeking. Are  
3 you looking for Regional Councils approving of the  
4 recommendations?

5  
6 MADAME CHAIR AHTUANGARUAK: Carl.

7  
8 MR. JOHNSON: Okay, I can answer that,  
9 Madame Chair, Gordon. So this is an action item in no  
10 small part because the Federal Subsistence Board didn't  
11 want to undergo a significant revision of how  
12 appointments are done without feedback from the  
13 Councils. Since there are alternative options, for  
14 example a four-year annual cycle versus a four-year  
15 biennial cycle, it's an either/or, so we want a  
16 statement of preference or also a statement of you  
17 don't mind having three-year appointment terms. You  
18 prefer to keep it at three years. We don't need  
19 formally appointed alternates.

20  
21 So any feedback would be helpful in  
22 guiding the final action because this would be --  
23 whatever is done will be something that will affect all  
24 10 of the Regional Advisory Councils. Thank you.

25  
26 MR. G. BROWER: Madame Chair.

27  
28 MADAME CHAIR AHTUANGARUAK: Gordon.

29  
30 MR. G. BROWER: Yeah, I think it's good  
31 to understand what our task is and being able to ask  
32 these questions. I got concerns about being effective.  
33 When you got sheep closures, to better understand how  
34 that impacts the residents on the North Slope. When  
35 you've got -- I thought it was 100,000 caribou missing.  
36 It sounds like 200,000 caribou are missing from the  
37 Western Arctic Herd.

38  
39 When you have big things coming down  
40 that you're going to have to think about how to  
41 conserve those animals, you better have a good board of  
42 people to help even propose a recommendation even to  
43 the State Board of Game on the same issue that we might  
44 be dealing with on the Federal public lands on those  
45 animals.

46  
47 So it's very important to make sure the  
48 Secretary of Interior hears clearly that these boards  
49 are important and they  
50 shouldn't overlook those appointments too long. Not

1 rubber stamp them either, but to make sure the board is  
2 capable of working. That would be the end of my  
3 comment.

4

5 I just want to make sure these folks  
6 are effective when it comes time to be looking at  
7 conservation measures. Maybe we're going to have to,  
8 from the community level, create before an emergency  
9 action comes around and says you can't hunt these  
10 animals. Something to that level might be coming down  
11 for even caribou.

12

13 MADAME CHAIR AHTUANGARUAK: Do we have  
14 any other.....

15

16 MR. FRANKSON: Madame Chair.

17

18 MADAME CHAIR AHTUANGARUAK: Teddy.

19

20 MR. FRANKSON: Yeah, I'm just wondering  
21 about this four-year annual cycle because we only have  
22 one meeting per year and it only involves three or four  
23 days, so I don't know if you can call it a four-year  
24 meeting because we only attend one meeting per year or  
25 two. So I don't know if you can prove that it's a  
26 whole year deal because we only have two or three days  
27 per meeting to do anything. I do believe we need more  
28 time on these other than -- you should change it to a  
29 four meeting cycle or not a year because we don't spend  
30 all year on this. We only spend two or three days. So  
31 you should change the definition on this one to give it  
32 a more accurate thing as how we attend these meetings  
33 and how much time do we have on these meetings. Saying  
34 four years is like we're doing this all year long.  
35 It's not true. It's just two or three days per  
36 meeting. So I think you should make a little bit  
37 change on that subject somewhere.

38

39 MADAME CHAIR AHTUANGARUAK: Do we have  
40 any other.....

41

42 MR. JOHNSON: Madame Chair, if I may,  
43 I'd like to offer clarification.

44

45 MADAME CHAIR AHTUANGARUAK: Okay, Carl.

46

47 MR. JOHNSON: That is, what that refers  
48 to is -- the four-year is -- currently Council members  
49 are appointed to serve for three years on their  
50 Regional Advisory Council. What we're seeing is your

1 opinion as to whether or not extending that to be  
2 serving for four years on a Council would be  
3 beneficial. And then the annual cycle refers to how  
4 long of a process it takes for us to undergo the  
5 process of taking in applications, to have those  
6 Interagency Nominations Panel make their  
7 recommendations, the Board making its recommendation  
8 and then the Secretaries doing their appointments.

9

10 So it doesn't have anything to do with  
11 your meetings, how often you meet or how long your  
12 meetings are, but how long and how often we, as a  
13 program, undergo the process of taking in applications  
14 and developing nominations for new appointments of  
15 members to the Council.

16

17 So I hope that clarifies that. Thank  
18 you, Chair.

19

20 MADAME CHAIR AHTUANGARUAK: Does that  
21 help, Teddy?

22

23 MR. FRANKSON: That's good for me.

24

25 MADAME CHAIR AHTUANGARUAK: Thank you.  
26 So what's the wish of the Council. James.

27

28 MR. NAGEAK: Yeah, it just occurred to  
29 me that sometimes we have -- I was a new member and I  
30 had to learn the process and how often I was going to  
31 have to be away from home to be a part of this Council.  
32 When you start talking about how many years you're  
33 going to be on this Council and a lot of the people are  
34 -- you know, I took out my cards. I'm a UIC member,  
35 I'm a ASRC member, I'm a tribal council member, I'm a  
36 city council secretary and I'm also on the Subsistence  
37 Resource Commission.

38

39 If you put the proposition that, James,  
40 you should reconsider to be a part of the RAC committee  
41 and I see four years, heck, I'm not going to go for  
42 four years. You know, I'm already so busy, the three  
43 year appointment that I have is very efficient for me  
44 as an individual who is involved in all of these other  
45 responsibilities that I have as a community member of  
46 Anaktuvuk Pass and also a shareholder of the Arctic  
47 Slope Regional Corporation shareholder and UIC and all  
48 of these. On top of that I'm responsible for Sunday  
49 services, you know.

50

1 I'm just learning how to be a three-  
2 year member of this RAC and all of a sudden I'm not  
3 going to be -- a change where I'm just learning the  
4 ropes and I have to learn another process because it's  
5 a four-year process that I have to be a part of this.  
6 I would have to reconsider my participation in Regional  
7 Advisory Council for the North Slope because we are  
8 still a very young municipality on the North Slope. We  
9 are still a very young Arctic Slope Regional  
10 Corporation and we are still in the learning process of  
11 how to deal with all the bureaucracy that comes to us,  
12 you know. BLM and how do we deal with a permit process  
13 that they give to the guides that disrupt the migration  
14 of the caribou that we subsist on.

15  
16 I don't know. You know, these are some  
17 of the decisions that I have to make to be a part of  
18 the Regional Advisory Council for subsistence on the  
19 North Slope. Thank you.

20  
21 MADAME CHAIR AHTUANGARUAK: Do we have  
22 any other discussion.

23  
24 MR. G. BROWER: Madame Chair. I would  
25 also support having alternates. You know, I'm tasked  
26 with a lot of different things and have to change hats  
27 myself. You know, I'm going to be part of the drill  
28 rig working group for the State and a PRC committee  
29 member for the mayor and many different things that we  
30 have to juggle our time. Sometimes I couldn't make it,  
31 so I would think about a formal alternate that could be  
32 called if primary members can't be there to give a  
33 quorum and be able to vote.

34  
35 That would be my addition.

36  
37 I think three-year terms are good.  
38 Maybe it's the Secretary of Interior that maybe they  
39 have change-over and maybe it was one of those years,  
40 but certainly the RACs should get formal appointments  
41 in a timely fashion and don't lag too much time. Thank  
42 you.

43  
44 MADAME CHAIR AHTUANGARUAK: Do we have  
45 any additional comments. Bob.

46  
47 MR. SHEARS: I was reading somewhere  
48 that the quality of life in the United States is now  
49 110th in the world. Having been surpassed by other  
50 nations in the last 25 years, by 100 other nations in

1 the last 25 years. Inflation, increased regulation,  
2 crime, health. So many things are putting pressure on  
3 our country like never before. Nowhere else is all of  
4 this amplified and felt to its absolute magnitude as it  
5 is in rural Alaska and in our rural communities in  
6 Alaska.

7

8                   Where just the regulatory effect on the  
9 sale of ammunition has quadrupled the cost of bullets  
10 in our communities. And health and making a living.  
11 We scamper. I mean it is almost a state of desperation  
12 amongst our young people who are involved in  
13 subsistence to stay afloat, to keep food on their  
14 tables and keep their electricity turned on and to keep  
15 their kids in good clothes and schools and their  
16 parents receiving adequate health care. To have the  
17 luxury of serving on a committee like this just doesn't  
18 exist anymore like it did when this committee was  
19 originally formed. The model for this Council was  
20 originally formed.

21

22                   Yeah, we could make it easier to  
23 maintain, easier for the Office of Subsistence  
24 Management to maintain us and to keep us effective by  
25 providing alternate seats, reducing the number of  
26 seats, maybe adopting a four-year annual cycle instead  
27 of the existing cycle. We'd probably carry over terms.  
28 All of these things to keep us functioning, but we're  
29 not addressing the big problem, the big issue. We're  
30 not attracting the people who know our subsistence  
31 lifestyles, the third generation of subsisters that are  
32 out there today in the field hoping that we're doing  
33 our job because they certainly can't step up to help us  
34 on this Council. They're desperate.

35

36                   Office of Subsistence Management should  
37 be paying everybody on this panel \$1,000 a day to be  
38 here and then you'd start attracting the people who are  
39 interested in it and they'd start competing to be here  
40 because then they could use that money to kind of  
41 offset the other pressures in their life so they could  
42 continue maintaining a subsistence lifestyle. But,  
43 yeah, as long as it's a volunteer basis, people have to  
44 take shortcuts in life now. They can't enjoy the  
45 luxury of serving the communities like some of us  
46 fortunate few here at this table.

47

48                   I support whatever you're going to do  
49 here. I see what you're doing here, Mr. Johnson. I  
50 support you for whatever recommendation you make, but

1 you're not addressing the big problem, the elephant in  
2 the room with this.

3

4 MADAME CHAIR AHTUANGARUAK: Do we have  
5 any additional communications.

6

7 MR. FRANKSON: Madame Chair.

8

9 MADAME CHAIR AHTUANGARUAK: Teddy.

10

11 MR. FRANKSON: As far as Council goes,  
12 decisions that we have to decide on determining our  
13 fate as subsistence hunters, we only have two or three  
14 days to make these decisions two times a year, which  
15 makes us the most effective Council on the Slope. You  
16 know, for the kids to come here, to come and take over  
17 our positions, we need to give them a little incentive  
18 maybe like Robert is saying. Even in my community I  
19 don't have any volunteers. We need to get a little  
20 incentive in these communities somewhere along the line  
21 to get our people interested to keep this up.  
22 Otherwise, if we lose interest, the Federal government  
23 will step in and do the job for you. So we need to  
24 make a little more effort with our Council to get more  
25 people interested in this one.

26

27 Thank you.

28

29

30 MADAME CHAIR AHTUANGARUAK: Do we have  
31 any other discussion.

32

33 MR. G. BROWER: Madame Chair.

34

35 MADAME CHAIR AHTUANGARUAK: Gordon.

36

37 MR. G. BROWER: This will be my last  
38 comment. There's a few of us that have been here on  
39 the Council a long time. I don't know how many years  
40 I've served. Maybe 13 years, 15 years on the Council.  
41 Try to get reappointed because I had a concern about  
42 harvest of our animals to make sure we had the right  
43 regulations. If something were to come so that we can  
44 be part of a conservation measure to benefit the  
45 community. Often you'll see even an emergency order  
46 that can cut off those resources. Being able to look  
47 eye to eye with the biologists, with the land managers  
48 and say, hey, we represent residents and their use of  
49 these lands for fish and wildlife. We want to make  
50 sure we're doing justice by them.



1 I would support any measure that would  
2 pique the interest of the younger -- we've got lots of  
3 younger hunters that love to hunt. If they were to  
4 read some of the concerns that are coming up that would  
5 impact them, I think they would want to make sure it  
6 was done to their benefit, to benefit them. That would  
7 be my -- because I think I'm not going to be on this  
8 board forever. You know, 15 years is a long time. I  
9 just want to go to my cabin and fish and don't bother  
10 me anymore.

11  
12 (Laughter)

13  
14 MR. NAGEAK: Madame Chair.

15  
16 MADAME CHAIR AHTUANGARUAK: James.

17  
18 MR. NAGEAK: I know the feeling. My  
19 wife and I have a tent away from the village, you know,  
20 to get away from the pressure of being in a big city  
21 like Anaktuvuk Pass. So we went there and pretty soon  
22 an eight-wheeler came around. Who are you? Oh, we're  
23 tourists from Arkansas and here we are away in the  
24 village trying to be away from the tourists.

25  
26 But don't get me wrong. I love being a  
27 part of this organization. It's very enlightening to  
28 be a part of in which we have a voice in how the  
29 regulations that we abide by in our hunting and  
30 subsistence. I forgot to mention that I'm also on the  
31 Alaskan Municipal League board of directors in which  
32 I'm trying to put together something that I would call  
33 state of the village address to that group. Those guys  
34 say we don't know much about how the villages are being  
35 affected by all of these things that are happening  
36 around them.

37  
38 So, to me, it's a privilege to be a  
39 part. Don't get me wrong. I have to choose and one of  
40 the chosen opportunities for me to be sometimes a local  
41 voice is this committee. Because of this committee  
42 then I get to be a part of the National Park Service  
43 Subsistence Resource Commission in which Anaktuvuk Pass  
44 is right in the midst of a national park. So we have  
45 concerns and that gives me an opportunity to get in  
46 touch with my neighbors, the Allakaket people. They  
47 misspelled or mispronounced that word Aalaa Kkaakk et,  
48 I think is the term that they were trying to convey  
49 because on the other side of the Koyukon River are the  
50 Inupiat and on the south side of the river are the

1 Athabaskan Indians. So they're Aalaa Kkaakk et, not  
2 Allakaket. My mind works always like that. Aalaa  
3 Kkaakk et is a term in our language that Harry and  
4 everybody understands that means it's a mixture. It's  
5 a mixture of people.

6

7                   Anyway, I like being here. Thank you.

8

9                   MADAME CHAIR AHTUANGARUAK: We've had  
10 some very good discussion on this issue. We need to  
11 take some action, so we need some recommendations from  
12 the board on the various actions. We seem to be split  
13 on the issue related to the appointment cycle going  
14 from a three-year term to a four-year term. We've had  
15 discussion on both. We didn't have a real depth  
16 discussion about changing the way the appointments  
17 occur from a four-year annual cycle versus a four-year  
18 biennial cycle. We do have support for the formal  
19 appointment of alternatives and there is support for  
20 carry-over terms and there is some division on youth  
21 involvement. So what is the recommendation the Council  
22 would like to put forward on this?

23

24                   MR. NAGEAK: All of the above.

25

26                   MR. G. BROWER: Madame Chair. I would  
27 kind of look at the four-year annual cycle because  
28 we're kind of picking something out of a hat now.  
29 Because you don't really know how that will work.  
30 Maybe four years from now we're going to come back and  
31 revisit and say let's do a four-year biennial. We've  
32 got to start from somewhere, but I don't know if three  
33 years or four years would make a difference in the  
34 appointment process of the Secretary of the Interior.  
35 If that would make the Secretary of the Interior's job  
36 easier or if it would make us just stay longer waiting  
37 for him.

38

39                   (Laughter)

40

41                   MADAME CHAIR AHTUANGARUAK: I can  
42 understand the discussion that's going on with all of  
43 this process. The reality is our region has had some  
44 of the most difficulty about getting our appointments  
45 and we've had vacancies. So, for me, if we can  
46 increase our longevity of participation by extending it  
47 to a four-year, I don't have a problem with that  
48 because the reality is having people that want to be  
49 here and effectively participate is the goal that we  
50 need to strive to.

1                   For the issue around the four-year  
2 annual cycle versus a biennial cycle, I have  
3 hesitations related to the biennial because there are  
4 issues related to filling in these vacancies. We have  
5 the highest competition for key applicants in our  
6 region. We have good people that have many job offers  
7 and the absorption rate of these key people is very  
8 difficult to deal with right now. If we were delaying  
9 the appointment process by having it done on a biennial  
10 basis, we may have times where the vacancies occur  
11 longer, so I agree with Gordon on going with the  
12 annual.

13  
14                   I think we really have to recognize  
15 that the demands upon our people are extreme and making  
16 sure that we have alternatives to the Council is very  
17 important. Then the carry-over terms I think is a  
18 cognizant response to the reality that we have to be  
19 staggered in this process and making sure that we meet  
20 these needs is a reality of what we're already going  
21 through.

22  
23                   I understand the concern James has for  
24 bringing young people into the discussion, but if we  
25 look at bringing the older young people in as young  
26 adults some of these issues the only way we're ever  
27 going to grow a new James is by getting somebody to  
28 work with James. I don't want to lose James before we  
29 have the new James in place with some ability to take  
30 over the vacancies he's going to take with him. So I  
31 think we have to consider some youth involvement and  
32 that's how I think about that. We just need to come up  
33 with what we want to do as a Council for  
34 recommendations.

35  
36                   MR. G. BROWER: Madame Chair.

37  
38                   MADAME CHAIR AHTUANGARUAK: Yes.

39  
40                   MR. G. BROWER: Well, I think I heard  
41 that we couldn't do that. For our alternates, we  
42 should have youth alternates, but I'm all in favor for  
43 having alternates though and I forgot to mention that.  
44 A formally appointed alternate in case we're not  
45 available. I think the four-year annual and the  
46 recommendation to formally appoint alternates would be  
47 a good way to go.

48  
49                   MR. NAGEAK: And that alternate would  
50 have to stay home if the principal one is going to be

1 here. I understood that the alternate has to be taken  
2 from the village to come to the meeting because one of  
3 us just might have a heart attack, you know. That's  
4 the way I understand what an alternate means. The  
5 alternate doesn't necessarily have to be ferried into  
6 our meetings because the principal has made that  
7 commitment to be here at the meeting.

8

9 But at certain times, you know, like  
10 Gordon said, we sometimes have to make a choice, like  
11 Lee had to make a choice. If Lee had made a choice and  
12 he had an alternate, then that alternate would have  
13 been here to speak for the village of Kaktovik. That's  
14 the definition I have of an alternate person.

15

16 Don't get me wrong. The youth -- maybe  
17 if we define what youth means, you know. Like Sam back  
18 here is 100 and he looks youthful. Wants to be part of  
19 this, you know. That's the kind of person I would be  
20 very amenable for. That a young hunter who is out of  
21 high school, maybe out of college, somebody who is just  
22 getting into the life and activities of the community,  
23 then that person, like you say, could be a disciple.  
24 That's my mentality that always comes up with these  
25 terminologies, you know.

26

27 So there's a different word for it.  
28 Mentoree. You know, it's one of those things that's  
29 very interesting for -- you know, I'm 74 now. Gee,  
30 I've got another 20 years. A young guy I could put  
31 under my wing.

32

33 MADAME CHAIR AHTUANGARUAK: Okay, Carl,  
34 you've heard the discussion that we've had and the way  
35 that we've summarized the discussion. Do you have  
36 additional information you would like us to partake or  
37 have we given you what you need to move forward with  
38 the action on this issue?

39

40 MR. JOHNSON: Thank you, Madame Chair.  
41 I have the information I need as to what this Council  
42 has expressed as its preference for the options that  
43 are presented. I want to thank the Council for its  
44 time and its discussion. I just want to reflect on a  
45 couple things real quickly from what the Council  
46 members have said.

47

48 One, I completely agree with Bob that  
49 aside from this we do need to do whatever we can to  
50 improve recruitment to the Councils, for people to

1 either apply or to be nominated. I definitely look  
2 forward to working with the Council, I am the Council  
3 coordinator, on what we can do specifically for your  
4 region that would help improve that.

5  
6 And then for James and Gordon, I'll  
7 reflect on a couple of comments you made. I think one  
8 of the true things to reflect when people wonder  
9 whether or not it's worth their time to serve on the  
10 Regional Advisory Council is the notion that this is  
11 such a unique opportunity that just does not exist  
12 anywhere else in the United States where people from  
13 the communities have direct and very profound impact on  
14 the changes about the regulations that impact their  
15 ability to harvest fish and wildlife.

16  
17 Specifically, and this is something  
18 that isn't talked about enough, but Section .805 of  
19 ANILCA really does give the Federal Subsistence Board a  
20 very strong directive to accept the recommendations of  
21 the Regional Advisory Councils for changing regulations  
22 except for under certain circumstances. It's such a  
23 strong directive that at the last Federal Subsistence  
24 Board meeting in April there were 52 different  
25 proposals that the Federal Subsistence Board  
26 considered. Out of those, the Board went with the  
27 Council's recommendations on 48 out of those 52  
28 proposals. So what that says is that the people who  
29 serve on the Councils have a very strong opportunity to  
30 influence what regulations are made and how they impact  
31 their ability to harvest fish and wildlife.

32  
33 And I really appreciate the comments  
34 made that it's a privilege to serve on the Council and  
35 I think that's a great sentiment to have in encouraging  
36 people to perhaps consider applying for the Council.

37  
38 So, again, thank you, Madame Chair, and  
39 thank you, Council members, for your time and your  
40 discussion. I really appreciate it.

41  
42 MADAME CHAIR AHTUANGARUAK: Thank you,  
43 everyone. Harry is back, so he's going to take over  
44 the reigns.

45  
46 MR. FRANKSON: Mr. Chair.

47  
48 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Rosemary,  
49 for taking the time to Chair. I'll have to look to you  
50 all. We're on the next agenda item?

1 MR. FRANKSON: Mr. Chair. I've got one  
2 more thing.

3  
4 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Sure, go ahead.  
5

6 MR. FRANKSON: On the alternates, when  
7 we select them, I sure would like to see them come with  
8 us to the meeting because they're not going to know  
9 what we're doing if we leave them behind. They aren't  
10 going to learn anything being home, not attending these  
11 meetings. If we're going to get an alternate, we'll  
12 have to make them knowledgeable and give them the  
13 information beforehand.

14  
15 If we were to let them attend these  
16 meetings and they would have the knowledge and they  
17 wouldn't question some of the things we talk about, say  
18 what are you talking about, I don't know what you're  
19 saying. So as far as alternates are concerned, we  
20 should include them in these meetings to keep them  
21 informed so we don't lose them or they don't lose their  
22 spot on what we're talking about. So I think we should  
23 do something about that too.

24  
25 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you for that,  
26 Teddy. I think those are very good points to bring in.  
27 I think what we need to share with our Office of  
28 Subsistence Management is do we have sufficient funds  
29 to be able to provide means of transportation and  
30 compensation for the alternates.

31  
32 I think somebody is falling asleep over  
33 the mic.

34  
35 (Laughter)

36  
37 CHAIRMAN BROWER: If you'd mute your  
38 mic it would be helpful.

39  
40 MR. JOHNSON: They have to wake up to  
41 mute their mic there, Chair.

42  
43 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah, thank you. So  
44 I like the comments voiced by Teddy in regard to having  
45 our alternates being part of the meeting to further  
46 educate them on the processes we have to go through in  
47 getting their interest piqued or elevated to where they  
48 are continuously interested in being representative to  
49 the Regional Advisory Council.

50

1 James.

2

3 MR. NAGEAK: I was just thinking, you  
4 know, if I had an opportunity to watch how the  
5 Regional Advisory Council acts, you know. Actually  
6 seeing them instead of just hearing them on the  
7 recording. I don't know how much expense it would be  
8 to video such a meeting as this so that the alternate,  
9 when they have to be educated on how we -- what kind of  
10 decisions we made at the last meeting could be able to  
11 educate themselves watching that particular -- you  
12 know, it's an alternate way because, you know, the  
13 money to have 14 people here from around the North  
14 Slope is very -- it's expensive for me to go from  
15 Anaktuvuk to Nuiqsut. So I don't know. It's just a  
16 suggestion that videos are better than just listening  
17 to what decisions are being made here.

18

19 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: Mr. Chair.

20

21 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yes, Rosemary.

22

23 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: It is a very  
24 important discussion. It is the only way that we're  
25 going to build the depth of our participation is by  
26 putting in that additional effort to make sure that our  
27 young people are educated to the depth that we have  
28 been educated.

29

30 I really appreciate all the discussion  
31 in this. There is a reality that we have to defer to  
32 Staff to come out with some clarifications on what we  
33 would want versus what can we actually do and there are  
34 concerns around finance that we'll have to address.  
35 We've got George that's going to be giving further  
36 discussion on that in our meeting as we continue and I  
37 think some of these issues can be addressed through  
38 that.

39

40 Also I know that there is a process  
41 that we go through to give opportunities for training  
42 for our new members. It's a process that can be used  
43 to help train our alternates and to build them up to a  
44 process where they're more effective to come and be  
45 active in the meeting instead of come to a meeting and  
46 learn how to participate. So I recognize that we do a  
47 good process in that also.

48

49 Thank you.

50

1 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you for sharing  
2 that, Rosemary. Any other comments.  
3  
4 (No comments)  
5  
6 CHAIRMAN BROWER: If none, thank you  
7 for the presentation. I think it must have been George.  
8  
9 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: Carl.  
10  
11 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Carl, sorry. Thank  
12 you.  
13  
14 MR. JOHNSON: Thank you.  
15  
16 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Another invisible  
17 person that we're talking to and I try to look for the  
18 person at the table, but they're not there. Thank you  
19 again, Carl.  
20  
21 MR. JOHNSON: Thank you, Chair.  
22  
23 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council.  
24 You had just stepped out. Gene Peltola, Jr. is our  
25 Regional Director for the Office of Subsistence  
26 Management. He'll be heading out on a flight this  
27 afternoon and he would like to address the Council.  
28  
29 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Okay. Gene.  
30  
31 MR. PELTOLA: Mr. Chair, thank you.  
32 RAC members. Appreciate the opportunity. There's a  
33 couple things I want to touch upon. First off -- I  
34 have a little list before me. The first thing I want  
35 to address is OSM's budgetary situation. OSM has not  
36 been immune to sequestration like any other government  
37 agency over the last couple years.  
38  
39 The program itself in the heyday was up  
40 to 60 individuals or positions, \$15-plus million. Well,  
41 it's not that way anymore. In the last year we've had  
42 up to 14 vacancies and somewhere along the line a  
43 decision was made to not backfill some of those  
44 positions in order to minimize the effect on the money  
45 we give out through OSM through various programs.  
46 Partners and FRMP being a couple of those.  
47  
48 When I came in a year ago August I  
49 inherited that particular fiscal year's budget. In a  
50 sense, I kind of inherited this year's. Roughly over



1 the last two years subsistence management in Alaska  
2 receives \$12.4 million. OSM doesn't get all that  
3 money. We took a hit out of that fiscal year before  
4 last. Senator Murkowski was successful in re-  
5 incorporating that money into the budget. This year  
6 we're pretty much along the same level and then the  
7 presidential proposed '15 budget that was passed  
8 through about a week or two ago, we're along similar  
9 lines of funding.

10

11 Of the \$12.4 million, OSM receives a  
12 little bit over \$9 million of that, of which we have  
13 over \$5 million which goes to FRMP for existing year  
14 and continuation funding and about three-quarters  
15 through the Partners Program, which leaves OSM a little  
16 over \$3 million to operate throughout the year. Of  
17 that funding we support the positions within our  
18 organization, we support the Regional Advisory Councils  
19 and we support the meetings within the villages.

20

21 Another effect of sequestration is that  
22 because we're seeded with the Fish and Wildlife  
23 Service, like a lot of other government agencies, we  
24 have imposed upon us travel caps. That means that each  
25 individual program can spend up to X amount of dollars  
26 on travel. With our Regional Advisory Council meetings  
27 running upwards of \$30-40,000 per meeting, it goes  
28 towards that cap.

29

30 Over the last few years you've probably  
31 seen a reduced amount of OSM Staff traveling to the  
32 meetings. That's a direct effect of sequestration and  
33 travel cap. We have a lot more people online  
34 listening, trying to provide comment through  
35 teleconference, and we have a lot more meetings in the  
36 regional hubs; Barrow on the Slope, Bethel in the Y-K  
37 Delta, Nome, Kotzebue, Dillingham. That is the direct  
38 effect of the budget environment we're immersed in.

39

40 I don't necessarily see a drastic  
41 increase in the Federal budget in the next couple  
42 years, which means we probably won't see a drastic  
43 increase coming into subsistence funding in Alaska in  
44 the next couple years. So we're going to try to  
45 survive the best we can. Try to provide the best  
46 quality service and support we can to the Regional  
47 Advisory Councils.

48

49 With the exception that when I came on  
50 board in August -- I mean at OSM we have a very

1 passionate Staff, passionate about subsistence, a very  
2 professional Staff and a very good Staff, but being  
3 down that many vacancies a lot of people were asked to  
4 pick up a lot more responsibility. With that being  
5 said, they did an exceptional and an amazing job to do  
6 what they did.

7  
8 We also were missing some deadlines.  
9 Not due to the individual effort at all, but due to the  
10 amount of responsibility we were placing with  
11 individuals. The quality of the product that OSM was  
12 providing some would say was diminished due to the  
13 staffing levels.

14  
15 Now we have worked really hard in the  
16 last year to fill some of those. We had a supervisory  
17 fisheries biologist position vacant for over a year.  
18 We currently selected for that. We have an individual  
19 that's coming from the Midwest. He is a 20-year Fish  
20 and Wildlife Service employee that's been a member of  
21 the Great Lakes Fisheries Commission Technical  
22 Committee chair for years, and also the Lake Michigan  
23 Technical Committee chair.

24  
25 We have a supervisory wildlife  
26 biologist which we recently filled. That position was  
27 -- a vacancy was created there when we filled our  
28 Deputy Assistant Regional Director. Kathy  
29 O'Reilly-Doyle was the former deputy for OSM. She  
30 retired the end of December and Chuck Ardizzone was  
31 selected as our deputy. When he moved into that  
32 position and vacated the supervisory wildlife biologist  
33 position there and we selected Chris McKee for that and  
34 he was the staff biologist we had.

35  
36 We filled early on last winter our  
37 outreach position and that position is basically  
38 responsible for some of the publications that you see.  
39 One being our regs book. The other the RAC meeting  
40 books and such and also the press releases we put out  
41 and also is responsible for some of our web page  
42 content. So we have that position filled.

43  
44 Currently we have a cert or a list  
45 interview for a staff anthropologist. Shortly we'll be  
46 getting a list for a supervisory anthropologist. Our  
47 previous Native liaison moved on to greener pastures.  
48 Our position tops out at GS-13 and he was fortunate to  
49 get a GS-14 position with another agency. Also we'll  
50 have two Council coordinator positions coming open

1 shortly if they're not open now. One was created by a  
2 vacancy due to a retirement. Another was -- we've had  
3 Carl picking up some responsibilities for the last  
4 couple years for one of the Regional Advisory Councils  
5 because we kept that position vacant. So we're hiring  
6 for another position and also adding onto a reporting  
7 requirements to that position, so we're filling there.

8  
9 In the future, we have another  
10 administrative position to fill. We have a  
11 biometrician fisheries biologist to fill, a staff level  
12 fisheries biologist and an administrative records  
13 person. Everything we do within the Federal  
14 Subsistence Program we have to maintain administrative  
15 record, which is just voluminous. This person is not  
16 necessarily keeping track of emails, letters from here  
17 and there, but the record we rely on if and when the  
18 Program ever gets to litigation and for other reasons.

19  
20 So I want to touch on the budget just a  
21 little bit and then some of the positions we have  
22 filled and some we're planning on filling in the  
23 immediate future.

24  
25 Do you have any questions for me at  
26 this time?

27  
28 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Any questions to Gene  
29 from the Council.

30  
31 (No comments)

32  
33 CHAIRMAN BROWER: No hands raised.

34  
35 MR. PELTOLA: Okay. I'll continue on  
36 here. When I came into OSM, like I mentioned to you  
37 the very first day, I've been a staff biologist, a  
38 pilot biologist, an assistant manager, a refuge  
39 manager, a law enforcement officer and I looked upon my  
40 career. When you come into a program and you're the  
41 boss, what is the biggest fear of the staff, and that  
42 is change. You know, I looked upon when I interviewed  
43 for this position at the time -- you know, at one time  
44 the Federal Subsistence Board was described as being  
45 broken.

46  
47 I don't necessarily agree with that  
48 statement, but I think that we could address  
49 subsistence management in a different capacity and a  
50 different manner to increase the efficiencies. So,

1 with that being said, when I came into the Program I  
2 looked upon what is the biggest fear of staff when you  
3 come in, change. But sometimes change has to occur to  
4 make -- especially in a budget environment like now, in  
5 order to make yourself more efficient and to proceed  
6 forward.

7  
8 With that being said, I sat down with  
9 each of our leadership team members and those are the  
10 heads of the divisions and then sat down with each of  
11 the divisions within OSM together as a group and then  
12 made myself available to talk to each and every  
13 individual staff member about what they felt had worked  
14 and what not necessarily didn't work, but what could  
15 benefit from some tweaking. So once we did that,  
16 talked -- and all but two employees pretty much took me  
17 up on that opportunity. So we did a little shuffling  
18 within OSM and we moved a couple positions out of  
19 fisheries into some other divisions, one or two  
20 positions out of a couple divisions into our  
21 administrative support crew and we physically moved  
22 some people around.

23  
24 One of the benefits of -- and one thing  
25 I'd like to thank this particular RAC for is the letter  
26 you provided to OSM with regard to our anthropology  
27 division. When I arrived we had Pippa Kenner, then we  
28 had Jeff Brooks and that was it. We transferred  
29 another individual who happened to hold a PhD in  
30 anthropology into that program. We're recruiting for  
31 another staff anthropologist/social scientist. We are  
32 either in the process or shortly will be in the process  
33 of advertising for a supervisory anthropologist.

34  
35 Why do we rely on that particular  
36 division itself? If anybody who is involved in  
37 fisheries or wildlife management really thinks we  
38 manage fish or manage wildlife, you know, they're  
39 mistaken. We control access and we manage people. We  
40 really don't manage a fish. We don't manage wildlife.  
41 How do you do that? You have to be able to do that to  
42 the best of your ability and capacity with  
43 understanding the people that you're interacting with.  
44 I felt that we couldn't do an adequate, sufficient or  
45 the right job without that division being built up.

46  
47 Also there's a couple programmatic --  
48 actually one big programmatic issue. It's indirectly  
49 related to what was requested from the Southeast about  
50 when they asked the other Regional Advisory Councils to

1 look at C&T versus .804. If you look at the Program  
2 itself -- here recently on the Seward Peninsula we did  
3 several .804 analyses with regard to a muskox harvest.  
4 We did a huge .804 analysis with regard to chinook on  
5 the Kuskokwim. I'd like to mention that in particular.

6  
7           The Federal Subsistence Board back in  
8 '99, 2000 considered a similar action with regard to  
9 chinook on the Kuskokwim back then. As far as I could  
10 gleam from going through letters to the file,  
11 everything else, everybody felt it was too large of a  
12 task, unachievable and just couldn't be done. With  
13 even the bare bones staff that we had at OSM we were  
14 able to come up with a very good .804 analysis in two  
15 and a half months and apply it to chinook on the  
16 Kuskokwim. The one thing I have to say is that I have  
17 and continue to be very proud of that effort by OSM  
18 Staff.

19  
20           Since that time we've had similar  
21 requests for other areas of the state, which  
22 unfortunately we had to say that we could not  
23 administratively address because we would have to do a  
24 similar .804 analysis with regard to their particular  
25 area where the request came from. Now, in two and a  
26 half months, you know, we accomplished that analysis on  
27 the Kusko. With other areas of the state it could take  
28 just as long or even longer to address, so  
29 unfortunately we had to say that.

30  
31           To make a long-winded story short is  
32 that we will probably see similar requests within  
33 wildlife management and fisheries management of the  
34 Federal Program in other areas of the state and the  
35 anthropology division and social scientist division  
36 will be an integral part of that decision-making  
37 process.

38  
39           Another thing that we've been working  
40 on recently is that we had a tribal implementation  
41 committee so to speak that, based on the request of the  
42 Federal Subsistence Board, sat down and looked at OSM's  
43 tribal consultation policy. It took individuals from  
44 outside of the Federal government and sat down at the  
45 table and provided some input that will be forwarded on  
46 to the Board. We were close to presenting something to  
47 the Board at their work session here just recently. We  
48 had a lot of people, like I said, from outside OSM  
49 working on that effort. Crystal Leonetti, which is our  
50 acting ARD for external affairs, regular full-time day

1 job, is our Native contract rep for Fish and Wildlife  
2 Service in Region 7 in Alaska. She was kind of  
3 spearheading that effort with private individuals.

4  
5 We were really, really close to getting  
6 something to present to the Board. We had a couple  
7 ISC, Interagency Staff Committee, members come to OSM  
8 and said we'd like to see this incorporated and a  
9 couple staff members saying we'd like to see something  
10 else incorporated. We're really close to getting to  
11 the point where we have something which may work for  
12 the Alaska Native organizations throughout the state  
13 and also something that's achievable and serves the  
14 purpose of the Federal Subsistence Board and OSM. We  
15 hope to get something forwarded on this winter's round  
16 of meetings to the Board.

17  
18 On a personal note is that my  
19 experience with the Fish and Wildlife Service is I come  
20 from the field. I was a staff biologist, I was  
21 assistant manager, I did law enforcement. Actually,  
22 when you were all talking about the Haul Road, one of  
23 my duties when I was stationed in Fairbanks is I had a  
24 Super Cub and I had a patrol vehicle and I was over on  
25 the Haul Road patrolling. Also doing the sheep patrols  
26 and caribou patrols on the Brooks Range.

27  
28 Now I lost my train of thought here.  
29 So we have a lot facing us within OSM here lately. I  
30 do appreciate the patience that individuals from the  
31 villages have had with OSM because of our budgetary  
32 situation. I do appreciate the patience of the  
33 Regional Advisory Council. It was never the intent of  
34 OSM to diminish the service that we provided. It has  
35 been a challenge and I think the existing Staff have  
36 worked well above and beyond their means in order to  
37 try to maintain a certain quality or level of service  
38 to the RACs and to the Federal process itself.

39  
40 One other thing that we have not  
41 initiated yet that the Board has asked OSM to do is  
42 come up with a strategic plan with regard to the Office  
43 of Subsistence Management. It has never been done. We  
44 started off by looking at the Partners Program. Like I  
45 mentioned yesterday, would like to potentially take a  
46 look at FRMP and see if there's some improvements we  
47 could do there. Eventually we'll probably look at the  
48 program as a whole with regard to OSM.

49  
50 So that's my quick rundown here.

1 There's a lot of information all at once, but  
2 appreciate your patience and listening to me.  
3  
4 If there's any other questions I could  
5 address, I'd be more than happy to.  
6  
7 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: Mr. Chair.  
8  
9 MR. FRANKSON: Mr. Chair.  
10  
11 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Rosemary and then  
12 Teddy.  
13  
14 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: Is there any  
15 flexibility with being able to request additional  
16 funding? Like in our region we've got multiple species  
17 that are in concern with their recent assessments. So  
18 is there any way that we could try to force for  
19 additional funding to help us address some of these  
20 concerns.  
21  
22 MR. PELTOLA: Funding with regard to  
23 the fisheries realm, the wildlife realm or more  
24 specifics?  
25  
26 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: We've got the  
27 caribou issue, the moose issue, the sheep issue and  
28 we're going to be concerned about the fish until we  
29 know what's going on with this mold, so  
30 definitely.  
31  
32 MR. PELTOLA: The answer is yes and  
33 maybe. OSM and the Federal Program is seeded within  
34 the Fish and Wildlife Service. That's the lead agency  
35 with regard to subsistence management in Alaska. Our  
36 funding comes from our fisheries and habitat division  
37 within the Service and their headquarters in D.C.  
38 That's where the majority of our funding comes from.  
39 Also we get funding from the Division of Refuges and  
40 that's a smaller slice of the pie.  
41  
42 So, with regard to fisheries, there's  
43 probably a lot more opportunity, but then also, like I  
44 mentioned earlier, we're in the -- and hopefully it  
45 doesn't last forever -- declining budget scenario right  
46 now within the Federal government and within the  
47 Federal Program and OSM.  
48  
49 Money will still be available in some  
50 capacity at some level, but there's probably going to

1 be a lot more competition for it. Like you mentioned  
2 when we were having the discussion yesterday about  
3 Dolly Varden versus say chinook on the Yukon. We'll  
4 always have to face that type of scenario.

5  
6 I'm not saying that one situation is a  
7 lot more culturally appropriate than any other, but we  
8 have to try to balance out where we get most bang for  
9 the buck. So, with that being said, yes and maybe.

10  
11 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Did that help you,  
12 Rosemary?

13  
14 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: Definitely it's an  
15 area where we need to make sure that we look at  
16 alternatives for what we need to do and what we need to  
17 prepare to do in the future. For our issues,  
18 definitely I would encourage some effort to look at  
19 what are some alternatives that we can try to identify  
20 to help us meet our needs.

21  
22 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Teddy.

23  
24 MR. FRANKSON: I'm getting back to  
25 being a qualified biologist or a qualified scientist.  
26 You have to go to school according to the Federal  
27 government. You have to attend school, read papers,  
28 pass tests, do all your training in a room pretty much  
29 like this one, but out here we've got a lot of people,  
30 a lot of hunters that could do that job and that they  
31 know more about that subject than the person doing to  
32 that school.

33  
34 So I'd like them to look at that kind  
35 of qualifications to make jobs more available to people  
36 up here that live up here, that live this kind of life.  
37 The biologists, they go to school in the school with  
38 papers and passing tests on papers, are not  
39 really qualified to tell you what that animal is about.  
40 Some of these guys are scientists, some of these guys  
41 are biologists in their own right. They'll tell you  
42 what that animal -- inside that animal is, what they  
43 do, where they eat, how they eat.

44  
45 So you need to ask if we can change  
46 some of those qualifications to allow some of our  
47 people to get the job because most of them will not get  
48 that job because of the qualifications and requirements  
49 by the Federal government or the Fish and Wildlife. It  
50 just takes them out of the picture. You have to make



1 considerations for our people too because our people  
2 here are more knowledgeable than all the biologists  
3 that you send up here or the scientists. So I want them  
4 to consider that when they do their hiring.

5  
6 I just had to say that.

7  
8 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you for sharing  
9 that, Teddy.

10  
11 MR. PELTOLA: Mr. Chair, if I may.

12  
13 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yes, Gene

14  
15 MR. PELTOLA: You know, when you look  
16 at the positions we've been filling recently within  
17 OSM, and I'm not saying we've never done it before, but  
18 because we hire through USA Jobs and that's how the  
19 government hires people now, a biologist has typically  
20 been limited to, say, a 482 series. That is a label  
21 the government has for a fisheries biologist. We have  
22 tried to expand that to include other areas that have,  
23 say, not as strict educational requirements by going  
24 through -- and some of our positions we've listed in  
25 the 480 series, which is a management series, 180 is  
26 anthropology series or 0400 series, which is a more  
27 general routing.

28  
29 It also gets back to the general -- and  
30 I'm not discrediting local knowledge because I mean,  
31 like I said, I've lived in Northwest Alaska and I met a  
32 lot of people that know a lot more than people we bring  
33 in, like you mentioned about the local resources. The  
34 same thing where I grew up in Bethel and when I worked  
35 in the Interior with Birch Creek or Chalkyitsik or  
36 something. It's always like that.

37  
38 Like I call it I have a paper and pen  
39 degree, so I may or may not be taken as seriously by  
40 some versus others. I spent a lot of money and time  
41 educating myself because that's what I felt I had to do  
42 in order to be successful in the career that I have  
43 selected.

44  
45 We are definitely under-represented  
46 within our professional series with regard to rural  
47 residents and we are really definitely under-  
48 represented with regard to Alaska Natives, which  
49 comprise the majority of those rural residents which we  
50 serve throughout the state.

1                   The Fish and Wildlife Service via our  
2 Regional Director Geoff Haskett is committed to try to  
3 increase the rural representation with the workforce  
4 but also Alaska Native representation in the workforce.  
5 In the last six to seven months I've been speaking with  
6 NFWF, National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, Rasmuson  
7 Foundation and via our position at OSM we secured a  
8 grant from National Fish and Wildlife Foundation in  
9 order to provide internships via the ANSEP program at U  
10 of A and Herb Schroeder with his program there where  
11 over the next four years we're going to be able to  
12 provide I believe it is 16 summer bridge internships  
13 and those are for students that are going from high  
14 school onto college.

15  
16                   We could place them on projects that  
17 the Fish and Wildlife Service and particularly those  
18 projects that OSM may fund through our FRMP projects or  
19 through Partners projects and put them in positions  
20 where they're able to gain that experience. If we have  
21 a student that's maybe I'm thinking about becoming a  
22 biologist and foster that interest and move them along.

23  
24                   Also we'll have 26 ANSEP internships  
25 throughout that four-year period also. This grant  
26 doesn't only address internships be ANSEP, but also  
27 addresses like the Refuge Information Technician  
28 Program on the Y-K Delta. Why the Y-K Delta? Because  
29 that's where the particular interest was from the  
30 funding source.

31  
32                   If we're successful with the program  
33 with ANSEP over the next year or two, hopefully we can  
34 broaden that reach out to other areas of the state. I  
35 think it's a great opportunity where we could foster a  
36 lot of interest and get a lot more -- not only Alaska  
37 Native, but also rural representation within the  
38 professional series that every one of the Federal  
39 agencies hire with in Alaska.

40  
41                   MR. NAGEAK: Mr. Chair.

42  
43                   CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you. James.

44  
45                   MR. NAGEAK: Can you explain to me when  
46 you say ANSEP.

47  
48                   MR. PELTOLA: Sorry about that. It's  
49 Alaska Native Science and Engineering Program at U of A  
50 in Anchorage basically and Herb Schroeder is the

1 engineer. Actually it's a really good program. They  
2 target students all the way down to the middle school  
3 level where they get them interested in the sciences  
4 and the engineering programs early on. They help them  
5 go through to improve if they need it or to point them  
6 in the right direction with regard to the math credits  
7 or experience they need in order to be successful.  
8 One, to get through high school and, two, to go further  
9 on into postsecondary education. It's a great program.

10

11 MR. NAGEAK: I just wanted Gene to  
12 explain to me. I was at UAF when ANSEP was put  
13 together and was at the University of Fairbanks. So I  
14 just wanted you to explain to the people what the  
15 Alaska Native education is.

16

17 MR. PELTOLA: And there is a branch of  
18 ANSEP up at UAF. I attended UAF and I really like the  
19 school up there, but it's a lot smaller with regard to  
20 number of students they have in Fairbanks versus  
21 Anchorage. For whatever reason, Anchorage seems to be  
22 a better fit for some students coming from the rural  
23 setting into an urban setting and I don't know why. I  
24 mean I enjoyed Fairbanks because of the smaller  
25 community and I go down the Chena and run my burbot  
26 lines during the winter.

27

28 I can pretend like I was at home.

29

30 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Gordon.

31

32 MR. G. BROWER: Yeah, Mr. Chair. You  
33 kind of partially answered my interest I was going to  
34 ask. I work for the Planning Department for the North  
35 Slope Borough and I'm also project administrator for  
36 many different grants for various different things that  
37 we're trying to achieve from remote sensing initiatives  
38 to additional field inspectors and things like that.  
39 So that's what I was going to ask, do you have a grants  
40 administrator that looks out for you to find additional  
41 funding to help look at the programs that you want to  
42 do and then source funding available from grants  
43 outside of your normal budget? You kind of sounded  
44 like you answered part of it, but doing that you can do  
45 a lot. We've seen that in our own declining budget.

46

47 MR. PELTOLA: Mr. Chair, if I may.  
48 Gordon, we do not have a person particularly dedicated  
49 to looking for external funding within the Fish and  
50 Wildlife Service. Here recently, like the one project

1 I mentioned that we're partnering with ANSEP, NFWF, the  
2 Rasmuson Foundation, I kind of filled that role and  
3 capacity. It just turned out that way because our  
4 Regional Director and myself were invited to a meeting  
5 with Rasmuson and NFWF earlier on this winter and there  
6 happened to be someone there from ANSEP and we kind of  
7 put our heads together.

8

9 Here I've been working with Claude  
10 Glascon, which is one of their people in D.C. in NFWF,  
11 and one thing we're trying to formalize is that this  
12 will be and is one of the largest grants NFWF will have  
13 given in the state of Alaska. Also it's the beginning  
14 of I think a very positive, fruitful relationship  
15 between NFWF and the Fish and Wildlife Service  
16 initiating that and for years to come.

17

18 We're trying to come up with like a  
19 point of contact within the Fish and Wildlife Service  
20 where they would have one person that everybody in Fish  
21 and Wildlife Service could go to in order to contact  
22 and dialogue with NFWF just to streamline things. So  
23 we don't have a particular grant person, but we'll have  
24 a similar capacity position here in the immediate  
25 future. Will it be dedicated to just that? No. It  
26 will be like other duties as assigned for an  
27 individual.

28

29 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Any other comments.

30

31 (No comments)

32

33 CHAIRMAN BROWER: If not, thank you,

34 Gene.

35

36 MR. PELTOLA: There's one other thing  
37 I'd like to address and I think I touched on it before.  
38 I've been a big advocate since I arrived at OSM in  
39 holding meetings within -- you know, outside the  
40 regional hubs. We do have a policy that says the only  
41 pre-approved meeting place is the regional hub. Can we  
42 guarantee that every year? Probably not. What we do  
43 is we do a cost analysis and see if we can come up with  
44 something comparable or within reason to meet outside  
45 of those regional hubs. I can't commit that every RAC  
46 would be able to meet in a more rural setting every  
47 year, but what I can say is that we would take  
48 seriously and look at each request we get from the  
49 Regional Advisory Councils.

50

1                   Example this year, of the 10 we're  
2 meeting in three smaller communities outside the  
3 regional hub. Would we be able to do that every year?  
4 Most likely not. Would we be able to do it for  
5 everybody every second or third year? Most likely not,  
6 but we could probably take two to three a year and try  
7 to accommodate those because of the expense associated  
8 with it. I'm not saying it's not an important  
9 endeavor, it's not an important mission to meet outside  
10 those. What I'm saying is that in the fiscal  
11 environment we live in it's kind of a reality and we're  
12 trying to address those desires of the Regional  
13 Advisory Councils as they come through.

14

15                   Thank you.

16

17                   MR. G. BROWER: Mr. Chair.

18

19                   CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yes, Gordon.

20

21                   MR. G. BROWER: Just on that particular  
22 topic, we had often thought because of concerns for  
23 Kaktovik and our representation from these communities  
24 sometimes it was waning for a little bit and, you know,  
25 we really -- and then big issues start to pop up. I  
26 think when you start to make a judgment call on  
27 requests for a more rural setting or a more community  
28 like here, that there are more weight given to the  
29 pending regulations, emergency orders, so that there  
30 are no misconceptions or miscommunication.

31

32                   It's real easy to hear things on KBRW  
33 and then it gets translated ineffectively by the  
34 announcer and it comes out different. It sends a very  
35 wide message because our radio station is Slope-wide.  
36 That's where I always feel that I think we need -- just  
37 from some of the comments and testimony that I heard  
38 yesterday that they didn't know what this RAC was. In  
39 some cases thought we were the North Slope Borough or  
40 BLM, SAP or something like that.

41

42                   The work that goes on in terms of  
43 recommending regulation changes or even proposals and  
44 things like that are very important stuff.

45

46                   Thank you.

47

48                   MR. PELTOLA: Mr. Chair.

49

50                   CHAIRMAN BROWER: Gene, go ahead.

1 MR. PELTOLA: Some of those concerns  
2 that you expressed we do take into consideration when  
3 we look at alternate meeting source. What we  
4 experience with regard to miscommunication on the North  
5 Slope, like be it through radio, that seems to occur  
6 throughout the state. I heard a similar comment from -  
7 - and although it's from my hometown KYAK in Bethel,  
8 similar things occur there too and they're broadcasting  
9 to 56 villages adjacent to the Refuge there, so there's  
10 similar concerns.

11  
12 Now we do not only look at expense, but  
13 that is one of the bigger considerations because of the  
14 budget environment we're immersed in. We also look at  
15 pending regulatory actions that are coming down the  
16 line so to speak and we do take that into consideration  
17 in the totality of circumstances.

18  
19 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Did that help,  
20 Gordon?

21  
22 MR. G. BROWER: Yeah.

23  
24 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Any other comments,  
25 Gene?

26  
27 MR. PELTOLA: No. I just thank you.  
28 Appreciate the opportunity. I mentioned to a couple  
29 people when I was doing law enforcement -- you know, I  
30 used to fly around out here on the Slope quite a bit,  
31 but I've never really spent any time on the ground  
32 outside of Deadhorse and it's been a real experience  
33 for me to be here. Thank you.

34  
35 CHAIRMAN BROWER: James.

36  
37 MR. NAGEAK: Thank you, Gene. You  
38 know, Gordon brought a good point that people don't  
39 know much about what Regional Advisory Council is all  
40 about. I was just wondering if anything from OSM or --  
41 you know, we have a celebration on the North Slope  
42 called Kivgiq and I think that's going to happen next  
43 year, right, in February maybe.

44  
45 CHAIRMAN BROWER: I have no idea.

46  
47 MR. SHEARS: It's the mayor's call.

48  
49 MR. NAGEAK: It's the mayor's call.  
50 But we do have these happenings that the dance groups

1 and people from different villages on the North Slope  
2 get together and sometimes ANSEP has a booth that they  
3 promote the concept of science and education. Why  
4 can't we have a booth in which we are introduced to the  
5 North Slope people that this is the group of people  
6 that represent you in the subsistence resource meetings  
7 or regulations that happen with the Federal Subsistence  
8 Board and show to the world that we are responsible to  
9 the Federal government through the Federal Subsistence  
10 Board. What's his name, Charlie, is part of that  
11 group, you know. It's just a suggestion.  
12

13 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: I appreciate  
14 everyone's discussion in this. I think this process  
15 has been well heard and that we have staff that can  
16 look at ways to improve this process. Don't put  
17 blinders on the process. I mean we may not be able to  
18 extend staff, but maybe we can create a video program  
19 that we send out to villages to help improve the  
20 education and understanding of the role of this board.  
21 But utilize what you can within the process and be  
22 creative and increase the education.  
23

24 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, everyone.  
25 You're hard workers. It's past 12:00 already, 20  
26 minutes after 12:00. Let's take a lunch break until  
27 1:30 or 1:45. 1:45 be ready to convene.  
28

29 (Off record)

30 (On record)

31

32 CHAIRMAN BROWER: I think we can call  
33 the meeting back to order after a brief recess from our  
34 lunch hour. It's 1:46 or 1:48. We're down to our next  
35 agenda item under the -- was it agency report, Eva?  
36 Maybe I'll ask Eva to help with identifying where we  
37 are.  
38

39 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council. We  
40 have just a couple more action items for the Council.  
41 We skipped around a little bit to accommodate some  
42 folks. We do have identifying issues for the fiscal  
43 year 2014 annual report and I can narrate back to the  
44 Council some of the topics that have come up during  
45 this meeting and then if you have other issues you  
46 would like to include in that annual report. Then  
47 really briefly we'll touch on proposals for having an  
48 all-10-Council meeting in the winter of 2016 and just  
49 trying to find dates that might be possible for that  
50 brief discussion on all Chairs meeting. And then, if

1 we can, before we move on to agency reports, confirm  
2 our Council's meeting for the -- reconfirm for winter.  
3 We still have to finalize a date for next fall and that  
4 way we'll be done with picking all of our dates for  
5 meetings and we can move on to our agency reports this  
6 afternoon.

7

8 CHAIRMAN BROWER: So we'll start with  
9 identify issues for 2014 annual report. I'm trying to  
10 think back in terms of what we had discussed before  
11 from our previous meeting on our concerns and we did  
12 forward them through the previous letter of 2013.  
13 Maybe the Council members may have some thoughts they  
14 want to share in terms of issues that could be  
15 identified to be presented under the 2014 annual  
16 report.

17

18 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair, if I may.

19

20 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yes, Eva.

21

22 MS. PATTON: Just quickly highlight  
23 some of the issues the Council has brought up during  
24 this meeting the past two days, issues that you had  
25 indicated you would like to address or like to pursue  
26 further. We have the request from the Council for a  
27 public meeting workshop on ANILCA and on the Federal  
28 Subsistence Program and C&T that would be a joint  
29 workshop with the Council and the public to help bring  
30 understanding to the Federal Subsistence Management  
31 Program and effectively being able to utilize that by  
32 communities.

33

34 Another topic was to express how  
35 meeting in the other villages helps support the work of  
36 the Council and understanding of the Council's  
37 knowledge of subsistence issues and concerns in other  
38 rural villages, particularly those that don't have  
39 representation on the Council or are affected by  
40 management actions.

41

42 That also played into the Council's  
43 concerns about applications to the Council. We've had  
44 some applications from Nuiqsut residents here at this  
45 meeting, which is really wonderful in connections for  
46 Atqasuk.

47

48 Education and outreach, so a lot of  
49 discussion around both youth internship on the Council,  
50 active engagement in the schools and with youth and



1 learning about the Federal Subsistence Management  
2 Program.

3  
4 Then specifically outreach and  
5 networking recommendations to the Partners for  
6 Fisheries Monitoring Program and FRMP process that  
7 would help network with communities and tribes on  
8 subsistence fisheries issues of concern and that tied  
9 into your comments on the Partners Program.

10  
11 Holistic approach to subsistence  
12 research and management. There was a request for  
13 comprehensive ethnographic studies. A broader look at  
14 subsistence issues and concerns. And then we also had  
15 food security was related to that, food security and  
16 subsistence.

17  
18 Lastly, there was more discussion on  
19 the Haul Road and the Dalton Highway and I refer the  
20 Council back. This was on the Council's annual report  
21 for 2012 and starting on Page 76 is your letter to the  
22 Board about concerns about letting the leaders pass  
23 education of traditional knowledge to users of that  
24 highway and  
25 hunters.

26  
27 Page 77, that's your letter to the  
28 Board at that time on that issue. That elevated -- the  
29 Council's concerns on the road to Umiat was elevated to  
30 the Secretary of Interior. So when you were directing  
31 a letter to the Board, the Board responds themselves  
32 and for issues that are outside of their jurisdiction  
33 they'll elevate that to the Secretary of the Interior.  
34 In this case, the Secretary did write back to Councils  
35 both addressing high seas fisheries bycatch concerns  
36 and also the road to Umiat. That letter back to the  
37 Council from the Secretary of the Interior is on Page  
38 79. It was addressed in part in your previous letters,  
39 but if the Council would like to pursue that further we  
40 can address it again in this report.

41  
42 Please let me know other issues or  
43 topics or details around these concerns you've brought  
44 up for this annual report.

45  
46 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Okay. Comments from  
47 the Council.

48  
49 MR. G. BROWER: Mr. Chair.  
50

1 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yes, Gordon.  
2  
3 MR. G. BROWER: I know you were listing  
4 off a whole bunch of different issues that we've taken  
5 up over the course of a couple days here.  
6 Communication for those closures, like sheep, really  
7 needs to be defined clearly so folks like in Anaktuvuk  
8 and Point Hope are not under a different type of  
9 impression. There should be additional language in the  
10 closure or public notice or something concerning C&T  
11 for those communities that can continue to harvest  
12 while all other users are being closed off.  
13  
14 Just like yesterday when there was a  
15 commenter from the community not knowing the RAC and  
16 what we were doing, who we were. That means there  
17 could be issues out there that am I a resident and it  
18 says resident can not be harvesting anymore. Well,  
19 there's further definition under resident and to rural  
20 and then to C&T determinations for those resources.  
21  
22 Just like how you want to define hook  
23 all the way down to a barb. That seems to me the  
24 weight should go on making sure the community knows  
25 that they can still harvest. Put that barb language in  
26 those closures so that they clearly understand what  
27 those things are -- who it is targeting saying non-  
28 residents and resident. Because you know we're all  
29 Alaska resident, but we're not all rural residents and  
30 that's where I think some easily misinterpretations can  
31 come in.  
32  
33 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Gordon.  
34 Any other comments. We're still under the discussion  
35 or identifying issues for the annual report. There's  
36 been several issues that the coordinator provided. Any  
37 comments from the Council members. Rosemary.  
38  
39 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: I think we've  
40 really.....  
41  
42 MR. KAYOTUK: This is Lee from  
43 Kaktovik.  
44  
45 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: Go ahead.  
46  
47 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Okay, Lee, go ahead.  
48  
49 MR. KAYOTUK: I'm sorry about that. On  
50 number 3, establishment of safety cabins for

1 subsistence activities in remote access areas. How  
2 does that work? Like are they wanting to put a  
3 building on BLM land or Arctic National Wildlife land  
4 and is that even acceptable for this matter of  
5 subsistence cabins?

6

7 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Is this referring to  
8 the July 29, 2013 letter to the Federal Subsistence  
9 Board Chair that's on Page 77?

10

11 MR. KAYOTUK: Yes.

12

13 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Page 77 of the  
14 booklet.

15

16 MR. KAYOTUK: Yes.

17

18 CHAIRMAN BROWER: And it's the bottom  
19 sentence that he's referring to.

20

21 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council.

22

23 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yes, Eva.

24

25 MS. PATTON: Lee, to respond to your  
26 question, this letter is actually one that was written  
27 to the Board back in 2013 so this is the previous  
28 year's letter. The Board did reply to that request and  
29 we put that letter back in here because we were  
30 referring the Council to the Secretary's reply. So we  
31 don't have the previous year's Board's response in here  
32 to that letter. But those were points that were  
33 addressed by the Council in the previous round. I  
34 would have to get the Board's reply.

35

36 MS. PETRIVELLI: Here it is, Page 69

37

38 MS. PATTON: There we go, Page 69. So  
39 Page 69 is the Board's response to that issue.

40

41 MR. NAGEAK: 69?

42

43 MS. PATTON: Yes, Page 69. So that was  
44 a topic that was brought up last year. If you feel  
45 it's a topic that should be pursued again beyond the  
46 response of the Board, but essentially, as you  
47 indicated there, it's beyond the authority of the Board  
48 and it is really part of the land manager's actions  
49 that might be able to be pursued through the land  
50 management agencies themselves, but the Board doesn't

1 have jurisdiction over the creation of safety cabins.  
2  
3 MR. KAYOTUK: Okay. I see that letter  
4 on 69.  
5  
6 MS. PATTON: Yeah.  
7  
8 MR. G. BROWER: Mr. Chair.  
9  
10 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Did you have any more  
11 follow up, Eva.  
12  
13 MS. PATTON: Thank you.  
14  
15 CHAIRMAN BROWER: If not, Lee, did you  
16 follow along with the response? Did that help with  
17 your question?  
18  
19 MR. KAYOTUK: Yes, it did. Thank you.  
20  
21 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Okay. Gordon.  
22  
23 MR. G. BROWER: I just wanted to add --  
24 it must have been maybe 15 years ago I was an intern  
25 with the BLM and I got to  
26 visit in Fairbanks for I think two weeks or something  
27 like that and two weeks in D.C. or something like that.  
28 I was impressed with how the White Mountain area in  
29 Fairbanks area had these cabins and you can go sign up  
30 to use them at BLM. I went out -- I forgot the guy's  
31 name. I think his last name was Delaney or somebody  
32 and we went out on snowmachine, on BLM snowmachine. As  
33 part of my intern I went out and helped groom the trail  
34 and maintained the cabins. Why can't they have a  
35 program like that maybe in NPR-A where there is a  
36 safety cabin system having seen that elsewhere?  
37  
38 I do realize there's a lot of camps and  
39 cabins up there and you can use those, but I thought  
40 that was interesting that BLM did that. I don't know  
41 if it's a recreational park or a National Park or if  
42 it's just a piece of land that you're working on, that  
43 White Mountain area over there, and how that was  
44 maintained for accessibility for recreational use by  
45 general public.  
46  
47 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council.  
48  
49 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yes, Eva, go ahead.  
50

1 MS. PATTON: To respond to Lee, the  
2 Board did touch upon in their response to the Council  
3 that within NPR-A and maybe Dr. Dave Yokel knows more  
4 about it that the BLM coordinates with the North Slope  
5 Borough and maintains a list of subsistence related  
6 cabins and structures on their locations throughout the  
7 NPR-A. The Borough also coordinates with oil and gas  
8 developers and others to minimize, to the extent  
9 practical, development activities that might interfere  
10 with subsistence-related activities and structures.

11  
12 So it's certainly worth pursuing again.  
13 It's beyond the Board's authority, but with the  
14 individual land managers that there might be  
15 opportunities there in collaboration with the Borough  
16 and others.

17  
18 Thank you.

19  
20 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: Mr. Chair.

21  
22 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Rosemary.

23  
24 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: In this village  
25 prior years back we did look at this issue for the  
26 village of Nuiqsut. In reality, there were a lot of  
27 changes that were coming on that were changing  
28 traditional use areas and hunters having to go further.  
29 We did do a process in which we worked within the North  
30 Slope Borough City of Nuiqsut and we did apply through  
31 the National Petroleum Reserve Alaska grant application  
32 program to identify areas where we could work with the  
33 North Slope Borough to create funding opportunities and  
34 cabin locations. Archie was involved in identifying  
35 that with search and rescue by increased mission and  
36 breakdowns in areas where we were having to respond  
37 more to.

38  
39 Within our purview there would be  
40 opportunities for us to support the community's  
41 understanding of these issues and the needs to work  
42 with the various land managers on these issues in  
43 response to subsistence changes that are occurring in  
44 traditional use areas where cabins are getting pushed  
45 away with other activities and you're having to go to  
46 areas where there's no cabins. So those kinds of  
47 things can happen and we just have to be cognizant of  
48 it as well as there's areas where we can be engaged  
49 within our local community comprehensive planning  
50 efforts and engage some of these discussions.

1                   Within our process here there's various  
2 land managers that we work with and we can ask Staff to  
3 work with us to identify which ones they are in context  
4 to help us generate supporting letters for this issue  
5 and that way we can work with various communities that  
6 we have in our region to identify with them and support  
7 them in their efforts.

8

9                   MR. SHEARS: Mr. Chair.

10

11                  CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Rosemary.  
12 Bob.

13

14                  MR. SHEARS: Mr. Chair. Lee, can you  
15 hear me?

16

17                  MR. KAYOTUK: Yes, I can.

18

19                  MR. SHEARS: Oh, thank you. Lee, the  
20 Federal Subsistence Board's recommendation is that it's  
21 beyond their authority to promote the establishment of  
22 safety cabins for subsistence activities and recommends  
23 reaching out to the Federal agencies that oversee the  
24 properties in their subsistence regions.

25

26                  Can you relay to the Board, the  
27 Advisory Council here the city of Kaktovik's -- what  
28 the city of Kaktovik learned in reaching out to the  
29 Arctic National Wildlife Refuge managers to develop a  
30 subsistence safety cabin near Kaktovik.

31

32                  MR. KAYOTUK: Yes, there is a cabin up  
33 there right now on ANWR. It's on a private land right  
34 now that someone owns in the village, but he wants it  
35 moved and we've been trying to move it for the last  
36 couple years. It's old and it's tilted over and we're  
37 just trying to get it disassembled. It's a two-story  
38 building that we need to knock down, which it's not  
39 used anymore, which is not safe for any hunters or  
40 stuff like that from the village of Kaktovik in order  
41 to go up there to stay up there. I don't know how that  
42 works on Federal land.

43

44                  That would be awesome to put a building  
45 up there for people to use from the village, but that  
46 would take some -- a lot of work and stuff like that in  
47 order to even get stuff or things like that. There is  
48 a village cabin up there, but it's not being used  
49 anymore. It's a hazard now, which we're going to try  
50 and get knocked down and at least not use for trapping

1 because it's been there since -- oh, it would probably  
2 be 40 years or something like that. It's not safe  
3 anymore.

4

5                   So other than that, you know, that was  
6 just a question. I had seen back in the book for the  
7 letter and stuff like that and see, you know, did they  
8 respond or, you know, to even do something like that,  
9 to put a cabin up there for subsistence use, but it  
10 will probably take some doing or something anyway.  
11 Thank you.

12

13                   MR. SHEARS: Thank you, Lee. I'm  
14 trying to understand -- you know, I have an  
15 understanding that we have a pretty good relationship  
16 with BLM and subsistence and safety cabins on NPR-A and  
17 other Federal properties, BLM-regulated properties.  
18 It's a fairly easy process to work with up here.  
19 However, I've been in hearing testimony over the years  
20 about the difficulty of dealing with Refuge managers  
21 and National Park Service managers in regards to  
22 establishing subsistence safety cabins in regions like  
23 Kaktovik.

24

25                   James, perhaps you could expand on any  
26 issues that Anaktuvuk has had in building safety and  
27 subsistence shelters on the Arctic National Reserve  
28 properties up there in Anaktuvuk.

29

30                   MR. NAGEAK: Mr. Chair.

31

32                   CHAIRMAN BROWER: James.

33

34                   MR. NAGEAK: As a community, I don't  
35 think we've had any  
36 concerns about setting up those types of -- there are  
37 existing cabins that when -- there's one in the Ula  
38 Lake, which is the headwaters of Itkillik. When they  
39 go fishing there, they have a cabin that they can use  
40 and it's pretty easy to locate. Other than having any  
41 other cabins that are useable for subsistence in the  
42 winter.

43

44                   MR. SHEARS: No issues, no serious  
45 issues or conflict with  
46 government?

47

48                   MR. NAGEAK: No.

49

50                   MR. SHEARS: Oh, okay.

1 MR. NAGEAK: There used to be a cabin  
2 over there in Chandler Lake. Sometimes it gets so  
3 windy sometimes it kind of deteriorated. They don't do  
4 too much camping. When they do, you  
5 know, they get pretty active, the search and rescue  
6 people provide these locator beacons to all the  
7 travelers, so whenever they have any problems they go  
8 out real earnestly. So I haven't -- something we need  
9 to talk about too I think as a village. With the  
10 formation of the Caribou Association, I think that's  
11 one of the issues that we're going to have to deal  
12 with. A lot of the activities happen in the summertime  
13 where you take your tent and you go out and hunt with a  
14 tent, wall tent, and you set up your camp out there and  
15 spend a week or two. It's not a very big issue for  
16 people in Anaktuvuk.

17  
18 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Bob, I think, and  
19 James, just to elaborate a bit on some of the things I  
20 know that happened in the past is the North Slope  
21 Borough has bought a skiff, WeatherPort, to try and get  
22 the hunters from Anaktuvuk to use that Chandler Lake  
23 area more so and providing a boat to bring the Argo  
24 across to get further away if the caribou were at those  
25 distances. There was a WeatherPort that was provided,  
26 but it was never erected to be used by the community  
27 and I think it's still up there. I'm not sure what  
28 state it's at anymore.

29  
30 It was in the mid-'90s we did all this  
31 to try and remedy some of the caribou problems,  
32 situations that were in regards to the movements and  
33 the distance away from the community. They were  
34 occurring at that time. But there was a WeatherPort  
35 provided that they could set it up right at the mouth  
36 of the Chandler Lake, the east side of the Chandler  
37 Lake, to erect that WeatherPort, but I don't think it  
38 ever got to that state and it's still in the crates up  
39 there. I don't think we sought any permission to put  
40 up that structure, but it was there in the event there  
41 was hunting activity.

42  
43 MR. SHEARS: So it wasn't because of a  
44 blanket denial of Refuge managers that it wasn't put  
45 up. It was just because of failure of the  
46 administrators that own it.

47  
48 CHAIRMAN BROWER: I don't think we got  
49 to that level of  
50 communication. It's just the community was seeking



1 assistance and the State of Alaska had provided this  
2 Caribou Harvest Symposium in Girdwood and identified a  
3 bunch of issues at the time and tried remedies to  
4 getting the caribou closer to the community and the  
5 Borough's efforts to try and help the hunters to get  
6 access to the resource was one of the things and the  
7 WeatherPort because of the distance they had to travel  
8 and they probably want to erect that WeatherPort for  
9 safety shelter in a sense and utilizing that little  
10 Carolina skiff to transport the Argo across.

11  
12 This was when Ben Hopson, Jr. and Ray -  
13 - not Ray. Was it Pat Hugo? Anyway, he was one of the  
14 mayors that was there at the time and that's the  
15 information I know about it, but we never sought any  
16 permissions or permit for the use of the land. It was  
17 in the Gates of the Arctic. Unless it was part of that  
18 ASRC exchange segment to the area of the Gates of the  
19 Arctic. I'm not sure to what extent that land was  
20 used.

21  
22 MR. CARROLL: Paul Hugo.

23  
24 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Paul. There you go.  
25 It was Paul

26  
27 MR. NAGEAK: Oh, Paul Hugo.

28  
29 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah. It was him at  
30 the time. He was the mayor. That material is still up  
31 there, but, like I said, it never got erected because  
32 of changes, annual changes happening that kept them  
33 from using the area and caribou coming closer.

34  
35 MR. SHEARS: And Point Hope, when those  
36 two young people died last winter coming from Kotzebue  
37 by snowmachine. I was just wondering, you know, in  
38 Wainwright the volunteer search and rescue is real  
39 active. We throw search and rescue cabins and shelters  
40 up all over the place. We've got a dozen of them. I  
41 was just wondering if -- it's fairly easy, you know, a  
42 fairly effortless process to do it in NPR-A, but I'm  
43 concerned about Anaktuvuk Pass or Kaktovik or Point  
44 Hope having bureaucratic difficulties and doing the  
45 same thing.

46  
47 MR. G. BROWER: Mr. Chair.

48  
49 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Gordon.

50

1 MR. G. BROWER: I think these are worth  
2 talking about and the difficulties. I wanted to point  
3 out that the Federal government was doing that. They  
4 built their cabins around Fairbanks and then make it  
5 available for their residents. You could sign up. I  
6 don't know if you've got to pay a fee or something.  
7 You could use that cabin and do some fishing and some  
8 hunting. They're maintained by the Federal government.  
9 It seems to me we've got severe restrictions in some  
10 parts up here, like Kaktovik.

11  
12 But before designations occurred the  
13 use of these lands was -- there was always use of these  
14 lands for hunting. It seems to me there's got to be a  
15 middle ground somewhere in order to -- you know, it's a  
16 safety issue. I hear Lee talk about an old cabin  
17 that's been there for eons and it's dilapidated. It's  
18 a two-story structure leaning over to the side. Why  
19 can't we build a new one and use it and continue to do  
20 safety shelters and things like that.

21  
22 Thank you.

23  
24 CHAIRMAN BROWER: James.

25  
26 MR. NAGEAK: Yeah, one of the things  
27 that we started doing in Anaktuvuk Pass is -- I've  
28 forgotten that there are some allotments that have  
29 cabins south of Anaktuvuk Pass and others that are very  
30 useful.

31  
32 MR. SHEARS: Yeah.

33  
34 MR. NAGEAK: Because we took a wrong  
35 turn one time and we almost ran out of gas and we had a  
36 camp there that really made it safe for us to be able  
37 to come back home, you know. But one of the things  
38 that residents of Anaktuvuk Pass has is an educational  
39 program where they tell the young people to make  
40 emergency. If you're out there and your snowmachine  
41 breaks down, there are resources around you that you  
42 can make use of the snow in the wintertime to make an  
43 emergency shelter. I have been taught those type of  
44 emergency -- if I get into an emergency situation to  
45 where I can't travel anymore with a snowmachine, that  
46 they tell us, okay, there's resources around you, use  
47 them to stay warm, you know.

48  
49 You know National Park Service tries to  
50 keep the pristine nature of the Park. We haven't had

1 any requests I don't think for a concern like that.

2

3 CHAIRMAN BROWER: In regards to the  
4 response from the Federal Subsistence Board, they're  
5 asking us to look into communicating further with land  
6 managers and Native communities, Native corporations  
7 and private in-holdings where such cabins would be  
8 helpful and explore ways with that agency or owner to  
9 install such cabins. It's kind of throwing it right  
10 back at us to do more legwork on our part before  
11 pursuing the cabin, I guess, is my interpretation.

12

13 Any further discussion on other issues  
14 of concern that could be noted in regards to the annual  
15 report. I'm not trying to cut this discussion off, but  
16 it's something that there's additional work to be dealt  
17 with if we're going to pursue that. Maybe  
18 narrowing it down, identifying land to be made  
19 available would be a start. A letter back requesting  
20 in that sense where land could be identified as to  
21 where a cabin can be built on Federal lands could be a  
22 start.

23

24 Dr. Yokel is really smiling at me over  
25 there.

26

27 (Laughter)

28

29 MR. SHEARS: Or just build it and make  
30 sure you call in and register the location when you're  
31 done.

32

33 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Anyway, is there any  
34 further discussion on the agenda item that we're  
35 covering to further along the discussion. Maybe  
36 identify additional concerns that we need to follow up  
37 on. Identify issues for the 2014 annual report to the  
38 Federal Subsistence Board. I know we've had several  
39 mentioned. Any further discussion on the matter.

40

41 MR. NAGEAK: Mr. Chair.

42

43 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yes, James.

44

45 MR. NAGEAK: One of the things that  
46 always happens with the Subsistence Resource Commission  
47 that we have a person right in the pipeline and road  
48 system corridor. Jack Reakoff has always been a good  
49 resource for identifying problems in that area. One of  
50 the problems, of course, is enforcement policies. You

1 know, we don't have very much ability to enforce the  
2 rules and regulations that are given to us by the Board  
3 of Game, the State, the Federal government and that's  
4 always a concern.

5  
6                   You know, those two Army guys that went  
7 off the road and got stuck really helped seeing the  
8 problem that people have with all these people coming  
9 out who doesn't know a darn thing about how to survive  
10 out there. They think you could drive a truck all over  
11 the state. That really helped in making the issue come  
12 out publicly that there are concerns that we have as  
13 indigenous people I heard the other day. Those types  
14 of accidents sometimes help us.

15  
16                   Thank you.

17  
18                   CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you for that,  
19 James. We've just got to be cognizant of how much  
20 enforcement we want to pursue in regards to getting  
21 enforcement agents up here. They may have a different  
22 agenda once they get here and we might have a negative  
23 effect.

24  
25                   MS. AHTUANGARUAK: Mr. Chair.

26  
27                   CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yes, Rosemary.

28  
29                   MS. AHTUANGARUAK: I think we've had a  
30 good variety of discussion and we've given Staff many  
31 points that we can put into this process of  
32 communications. The area that we didn't get a response  
33 to was in the multi-layered approach, but I think that  
34 we've again added a lot of discussion on the difficulty  
35 of us addressing our issues because of so many layers  
36 in the process of trying to address them.

37  
38                   The big concerns we've got coming out  
39 are also other regions that are going to have changes  
40 to their lands and waters and that are going to affect  
41 whether or not our animals get to us. Those are also  
42 very important as we go forward because we need to look  
43 at the holistic process with all of this. That's one  
44 area that I think that we need to add in some further  
45 communications because we didn't get a response back in  
46 the communications to that area, but it is a constant  
47 issue in our villages that have increased competition  
48 for our lands and waters and changes that are affecting  
49 the animals and our traditional way of life.

50

1                   We need to get better ability to be  
2 able to show the transparency in the process because  
3 we've put a lot of effort to put words in place, but  
4 trying to follow through making sure the words are  
5 doing what we want them to do, making sure that we have  
6 the reaction within the other layers of the complexity  
7 of what we have to deal with response, those are all  
8 big issues in this process we're dealing with and it  
9 really hinders our successful ability to deal with some  
10 of these issues.

11  
12                   CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you for that,  
13 Rosemary. We may have to fall back in terms of the  
14 situations that we've been dealing with. Using  
15 Anaktuvuk as an example in regard to caribou. We're so  
16 focused into the one species we forget about the other  
17 species and create what we thought would work for a  
18 community, but then there's these other resources and  
19 the activity associated to take those resources also  
20 causes an impact that we're not really addressing  
21 because of the timing to take those animals and the  
22 access as well to take those animals. It's been an  
23 oversight.

24  
25                   I mean the comments made by Dora  
26 yesterday, you know, should be reflective of some of  
27 the comments that we heard from the community members  
28 about changing the sport hunting timeframe and  
29 separate them from the subsistence opening dates. If  
30 there's going to be a caribou sport hunting, trophy  
31 hunting, that they be separated from the subsistence  
32 taking of the animals timing-wise. You know, August is  
33 a prime time for people to take their food in terms of  
34 the conditions of the caribou. The rutting season  
35 starts right around mid September and into October.  
36 Maybe segmenting that or separating the times as to  
37 when sport hunting or trophy hunting should occur.

38  
39                   I look to Geoff. Maybe he could help  
40 elaborate a bit more in terms of how sport hunters use  
41 the resource or try to take the game for sustenance is  
42 maybe the word I should be using. If there's the sport  
43 hunters that come in to take animals for food. I don't  
44 really see that perspective being talked about. We're  
45 so focused again on subsistence.

46  
47                   Geoff, if you could elaborate a bit on  
48 that and maybe share some of your opinions or  
49 observations on that would be helpful. I'm just trying  
50 to steer the conversation in ways to how we could

1 address the community concerns on some of these open  
2 dates for stating....

3

4 MR. CARROLL: Can I talk about it when  
5 I'm giving my caribou presentation?

6

7 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Okay. Sure, that  
8 would work too. Thank you. But these are in terms of  
9 something to identify as a concern coming from the  
10 Council. I was trying to be reflective of some of the  
11 comments we heard from the community need to be thought  
12 about and mentioned at this time, I think. Identify  
13 issues for the 2014 annual report. That could be one,  
14 opening dates for caribou. Not to all -- just to all  
15 the general public. It should be specified for  
16 subsistence purposes or sport hunting purposes and  
17 identify the different dates for that.

18

19 MR. G. BROWER: Mr. Chair.

20

21 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yes, Gordon.

22

23 MR. G. BROWER: I don't want to take  
24 too much time on this, but I'm going to do my best to  
25 condense my thoughts here.

26

27 I think this issue on caribou decline,  
28 lots of information should be starting to be generated  
29 and updating a lot of things. Like how many  
30 subsistence use caribou takes is needed for the  
31 community of Anaktuvuk Pass to have a sustainable  
32 harvest for that community. How many out of the same  
33 would be for Barrow, out of Nuiqsut, out of Kobuk area  
34 and those villages that all subsist on this very large  
35 Western Arctic Herd. And I don't know who does that,  
36 if it's Office of Subsistence Management, OSM, to  
37 reevaluate the needs of the community and extrapolate  
38 that into production of the caribou in terms of their  
39 population and their declining trends.

40

41 Those are some of the questions I have  
42 because the trend is kind of alarming, so I want to see  
43 that homework is starting. You need to start to have  
44 updated to effectively manage these things. When I  
45 look at a closure for sheep, to manage them to the  
46 brink is dangerous. To manage them for sustained yield  
47 is common sense. Those are the kind of worries I have  
48 to make sure that -- we'll still continue to harvest  
49 where it's really needed. You know, residents out of  
50 larger communities that come up here, you know, you use

1 this ladder of elimination and the last is the  
2 community itself before it goes extinct, I guess.

3

4                   The other issue I wanted to bring was  
5 there's some conservation initiatives out of Anaktuvuk  
6 Pass right now and that should be shared with other  
7 communities so that we can support together recognizing  
8 declining trends in a major herd. There's many, many,  
9 many villages besides the North Slope that depend on  
10 this and it's times like these that we look from a  
11 grassroots level to conserve these in a way that still  
12 provides food for our communities while restricting  
13 other types of uses, like sport, personal nonrural  
14 resident elimination, those types of things. It's all  
15 wordsmithing when I look at these things. When you  
16 wordsmith something, then it becomes a very powerful  
17 tool. I think it can really work, but you have to put  
18 the effort into doing it right.

19

20                   Thank you.

21

22                   CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you for sharing  
23 that, Gordon. James.

24

25                   MR. NAGEAK: Yeah. Everybody keeps  
26 talking about Anaktuvuk Pass. Gordon has been a real  
27 helpful resource for all the things the Borough can do,  
28 but one of the things that as a community is that we  
29 started coming together as a community. The last  
30 meeting we had was what we call the trilateral meeting  
31 in which the tribal council, the city and the  
32 corporation officers come together and start talking  
33 about what are our priorities. What are the things we  
34 are really concerned about the activities that are  
35 going on around us.

36

37                   That has been a really helpful --  
38 matter of fact just last week the mayor of the city,  
39 the president of the town council, the vice-chair of  
40 the corporation signed a piece of paper, an historic  
41 piece of paper, that will result in putting together  
42 the United Caribou Association of the Nunamiut, a UCAN.  
43 I talked about the subtitle TUTTU, which is the Total  
44 Utilization of the Tuttu -- no. Totally Understanding  
45 the Tuttu Utilization. That makes it -- you know, with  
46 the help of the Whaling Commission of the North Slope  
47 and how they've been able to put together the Whaling  
48 Association, it has been a helpful tool in preserving  
49 the resources and that's the idea that we have.

50

1                   We are trying to mentor a University of  
2 Tulsa Jurisprudence major University of Alaska master's  
3 program person to help us in putting together this.  
4 Rosemary, we're mentoring a person from Point Hope to  
5 help understand the situation that Anaktuvuk people are  
6 facing and that has been a really good tool for us and  
7 we're just starting, so you'll be able to hear how the  
8 community of Anaktuvuk Pass is being kind of a model  
9 for some of the problems that happens in the villages.  
10 That we can come together as different entities within  
11 the community and able to use the legal minds of the  
12 Borough for one thing. The lawyer from the Borough was  
13 there to make us feel that we are doing the right thing  
14 legally putting together something like this.

15  
16                   So we're hopeful that -- there are some  
17 words, of course, in understanding what the oil  
18 companies and people that come into our community they  
19 have been able to utilize some of the interpreters,  
20 which are very active in the community. They  
21 understand terminology used by all of these things and  
22 we have been fortunate in that. I think they  
23 understand what's going on.

24  
25                   Thank you.

26  
27                   CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, James.  
28 Again, just trying to identify what we're discussing is  
29 identify issues for the 2014 annual report. I think we  
30 should also note that we've had multiple species  
31 closures for the taking in our areas. So those species  
32 were sheep and moose. It leads towards the additional  
33 hardship that we've been challenged with in terms of  
34 sharing our resources with others and looking down the  
35 road we're trying to do a conservation measure for  
36 caribou through UCAN. I think those need to be  
37 reflected in terms of what our Council is trying to  
38 address and have been challenged with for this 2014  
39 annual report.

40  
41                   Thank you. I think these guys are  
42 ready for a break. Did that help, Eva?

43  
44                   MS. PATTON: Yes. Thank you, Mr.  
45 Chair. A rich discussion, so I will compile the report  
46 based on all the discussion the Council has had here  
47 and then provide the draft back to you for your review  
48 and ongoing edits.

49  
50                   CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right.



1 MS. PATTON: Thank you.  
2  
3 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you. We're at  
4 a 10-minute recess.  
5  
6 (Off record)  
7  
8 (On record)  
9  
10 MS. PATTON: Who do we have on the  
11 teleconference this afternoon?  
12  
13 MR. ADKISSON: Ken Adkisson with the  
14 National Park Service.  
15  
16 MR. CRAWFORD: Drew Crawford, Alaska  
17 Department of Fish and Game, Anchorage.  
18  
19 MR. SHARP: Dan Sharp with BLM in  
20 Anchorage.  
21  
22 MR. JOHNSON: Carl Johnson, Office of  
23 Subsistence Management, Anchorage.  
24  
25 MR. BROOKS: Good afternoon, Council,  
26 Chair, Eva. This is Jeff Brooks in Anchorage with the  
27 Office of Subsistence Management.  
28  
29 MS. PATTON: Hello, Jeff.  
30  
31 MR. LIND: Good afternoon. This is  
32 Orville Lind, acting Native liaison, Fish and Wildlife  
33 Service, Anchorage.  
34  
35 MS. PATTON: Orville, welcome.  
36  
37 MS. RATTENBURY: Good afternoon. This  
38 is Kumi Rattenbury with the Park Service in Fairbanks.  
39  
40 MS. PATTON: Thank you, Kumi.  
41  
42 MR. RICE: Good afternoon. This is Bud  
43 Rice, National Park Service in Anchorage.  
44  
45 MS. BRAEM: Good afternoon. This is  
46 Nikki Braem with Fish and Game, Fairbanks.  
47  
48 MS. PATTON: Hi, Nikki. Thank you.  
49  
50 MS. PATTON: Welcome. Do we have

1 anyone else who has joined us online this afternoon?

2

3 (No comments)

4

5 MS. PATTON: Okay. Mr. Chair and  
6 Council. Just one last action item here is to select  
7 the meeting dates for the winter 2015 meeting. At the  
8 last meeting the Council had some challenges. We were  
9 waiting on feedback from folks and also people's work  
10 schedules. Due to the overlap of Council meetings, OSM  
11 has a staff and capacity and our important court  
12 reporter to conduct two meetings per week, so we end up  
13 being limited to those weeks that have just one or no  
14 other Council is meeting yet.

15

16 So, for winter 2015 the dates that are  
17 available within the timeframe of the regulatory cycle  
18 is that February 10th, if you look at the calendar in  
19 the back of your books, through February 13th. Then  
20 all the way to the other end of the window which is  
21 March 16 through March 19.

22

23 CHAIRMAN BROWER: I'd like to make a  
24 comment in regard to the February timeframe. It's  
25 about when -- that February 10 through 14 is when we  
26 have our Alaska Eskimo Whaling Commission winter  
27 meeting regarding the mini convention and it keeps me  
28 busy for that whole week. But it's not to keep the  
29 Council from holding meetings around that time.  
30 There's going to be lots of people.

31

32 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: Recognizing that  
33 conflict, I think that it is very important and we also  
34 have others that may be engaged in some of those  
35 discussions, so moving the discussion more to the March  
36 16th, is that going to be an issue around whaling?

37

38 MR. G. BROWER: Mr. Chair.

39

40 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Gordon.

41

42 MR. G. BROWER: Yeah, I think we have  
43 to be cognizant of major meetings like mini convention.  
44 We don't know if Kivgiq -- and it's usually around that  
45 time too, but it's usually the call of the mayor to do  
46 Kivgiq. It could be around there. It usually is  
47 around that time of the year and could easily coincide  
48 back to back with the mini convention. I think that  
49 first week in February -- they're good dates but also  
50 might conflict with major events going on.

1 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council.  
2 Were you suggesting that the March 16th week might be  
3 an opportunity?  
4  
5 MR. G. BROWER: Mr. Chair. I think  
6 March 16 is not too bad, you know. People are just  
7 starting to make trails and working on trails offshore  
8 and it's not too busy.  
9  
10 CHAIRMAN BROWER: March 16 and 17?  
11  
12 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: Yes.  
13  
14 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair. If I may make  
15 a recommendation. March 16th is a Monday, so in terms  
16 of travel, for some of the villages there are not  
17 flights on a Sunday. If we were able to make the  
18 meeting on a Tuesday/Wednesday or Wednesday/Thursday  
19 there's greater flight opportunities for those  
20 traveling from some of the villages with limited  
21 flights.  
22  
23 CHAIRMAN BROWER: 17, 18.  
24  
25 MR. G. BROWER: I would agree with  
26 those dates.  
27  
28 CHAIRMAN BROWER: 17, 18.  
29  
30 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: Yes.  
31  
32 MR. SHEARS: Yes.  
33  
34 MR. NAGEAK: So it would be 17, 18, 19?  
35  
36 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Just the two dates.  
37  
38 MS. PATTON: If the Council wishes to -  
39 - we had discussed earlier. We don't know that it will  
40 be able to be organized, but if the Council wished to  
41 work towards that workshop that was discussed, if we  
42 held the actual meeting on the 18th and 19th, on  
43 Wednesday and Thursday, that would leave open Tuesday  
44 the 17th if we were able to organize a workshop in  
45 advance of the Council.  
46  
47 CHAIRMAN BROWER: So the two dates 17  
48 and 18 March are set for the regular meeting of our  
49 North Slope Regional Advisory Council 2015. That's a  
50 Tuesday, Wednesday winter meeting for 2015.

1 MR. G. BROWER: Mr. Chair.  
2  
3 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yes.  
4  
5 MR. G. BROWER: Are we looking at a  
6 Barrow meeting, the regional hub meeting?  
7  
8 MS. PATTON: That is the likelihood  
9 given the budgets as Gene Peltola, Jr. discussed this  
10 morning. The hope is to be able to meet in rural  
11 communities, but we won't be able to do it each time.  
12 So the likelihood for this winter meeting would be  
13 Barrow.  
14  
15 CHAIRMAN BROWER: So do we need to make  
16 this in the form of a motion because these are action  
17 items.  
18  
19 MR. NAGEAK: Mr. Chair.  
20  
21 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yes, James.  
22  
23 MR. NAGEAK: I would move that we have  
24 the RAC meeting on March 17 and 18, 2015.  
25  
26 MR. G. BROWER: Second.  
27  
28 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Motion on the floor  
29 and second.  
30  
31 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: Question.  
32  
33 CHAIRMAN BROWER: The question has been  
34 called on the motion. All in favor of the March 17,  
35 18, 2015 meeting date signify by saying aye.  
36  
37 IN UNISON: Aye.  
38  
39 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Opposed say nay.  
40  
41 (No opposing votes)  
42  
43 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Only one nay. That  
44 was Lee.  
45  
46 (Laughter)  
47  
48 CHAIRMAN BROWER: No, I'm just kidding.  
49 Thank you, Lee. We got you down for March 17, 18 in  
50 Barrow. Next.

1 MS. PATTON: Next on the agenda is to  
2 select a date for the fall of 2015. Since this Council  
3 is the first to meet this year it's wide open. On Page  
4 107. The window opens on August 17th. This year is a  
5 little different than previous years. The window has  
6 been extended at the request of the Councils, so there  
7 is an opportunity to meet after October. I know this  
8 meeting date early in August was selected to avoid  
9 conflict with both caribou hunting and the fall  
10 whaling.

11  
12 Council has raised concerns about  
13 getting meeting materials, finalization of responses  
14 from the Board to the Council in time for this meeting  
15 since it does meet early. I would encourage the  
16 Council if there is an opportunity later that does give  
17 the Federal Subsistence Program more time to complete  
18 the regulatory cycle and get the materials and  
19 information back to the Council prior to the meeting.  
20 Just something to consider. The window is longer on  
21 the tail end this year.

22  
23 MR. G. BROWER: Mr. Chair.

24  
25 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Gordon.

26  
27 MR. G. BROWER: We're always meeting  
28 earlier in August and it's always -- right now I wish I  
29 was at my camp. It's no wind and little waves to  
30 travel and sometimes I feel like I'm missing the good  
31 weather to travel to my camp. I could really see a  
32 good -- when things died down, like November 2 or  
33 November 3. It gives you a lot of time to put things  
34 together.

35  
36 CHAIRMAN BROWER: November 3 and 4 in  
37 the form of a motion.

38  
39 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: So moved.

40  
41 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Motion on the floor  
42 to have our fall meeting November 3 and 4, 2015. Where  
43 to be determined.

44  
45 (Laughter)

46  
47 MR. G. BROWER: Hawaii. Mr. Chair.

48  
49 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Gordon.

50

1 MR. G. BROWER: Considering budget  
2 constraints, but I think we can choose a village and  
3 the fallback if the budget doesn't allow, go back to  
4 the regional hub. I would suggest we continue trying  
5 to meet in villages like maybe Point Hope or Kaktovik  
6 or Anaktuvuk.  
7  
8 CHAIRMAN BROWER: We attempted to go to  
9 Kaktovik, but it failed.  
10  
11 MR. SHEARS: Anywhere.  
12  
13 CHAIRMAN BROWER: November 3 and 4 in  
14 Kaktovik.  
15  
16 MS. PATTON: Okay.  
17  
18 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: Seconded.  
19  
20 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All in favor of the  
21 motion to hold the 2015 Council meeting November 3 and  
22 4 in Kaktovik signify by saying aye.  
23  
24 IN UNISON: Aye.  
25  
26 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Opposed say nay.  
27  
28 (No opposing votes)  
29  
30 CHAIRMAN BROWER: No nays.  
31  
32 MS. PATTON: November 3rd and 4th of  
33 2015.  
34  
35 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yes.  
36  
37 MS. PATTON: Council, just real briefly  
38 we have one last date. The Federal Subsistence Board  
39 is also responding to the Council's request to meet  
40 with all 10 Regional Advisory Councils. They are  
41 working on both the budgets and the logistics to try to  
42 make that happen in 2016. We're asked to ask the  
43 Councils which dates won't work for you if there's  
44 blackout dates so they could try to hone in on dates  
45 that would work for all Councils. So very briefly I'll  
46 bring up that calendar.  
47  
48 MR. NAGEAK: Define all Council.  
49  
50 MS. PATTON: All 10 Regional Advisory

1 Councils to convene as one and that would be an  
2 Anchorage-based meeting. They're the only location  
3 that can accommodate a group that large. This was a  
4 request that came from many of the Councils to share  
5 information from across the state of Alaska, share  
6 Councils' experiences and those exchanges that happen  
7 with subsistence. So a unique opportunity. The Board  
8 is responding to that. OSM is looking into how to make  
9 that possible. One of the things we need to do is find  
10 a date that worked for all 10 Councils. So they asked  
11 to eliminate dates that don't work for people for sure  
12 so they can focus on those areas that do.

13

14 So February 9th is the first opening  
15 date. As you've indicated often, Alaska Eskimo Whaling  
16 Commission happens through March 18th. So it's  
17 essentially a similar window that you have for this  
18 year, but if you'll be able to identify dates that  
19 don't work for sure, then we can take those out of the  
20 picture.

21

22 MR. SHEARS: Say it again, Eva.

23

24 MS. PATTON: So it's the same schedule  
25 of winter meeting dates starting on that first week of  
26 February running through the second week of March. So  
27 if you look at your calendars there and identify the  
28 timeframe in terms of the month.

29

30 MR. SHEARS: Mr. Chair.

31

32 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Bob.

33

34 MR. SHEARS: Statewide issues boil to  
35 the top during AFN in October. I think with those  
36 issues fresh in the minds of the members of the RACs  
37 across the state a meeting date for a group convention  
38 shortly after AFN would be appropriate.

39

40 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: The time we have  
41 available is during February through March.

42

43 CHAIRMAN BROWER: AFN is usually in  
44 October. The schedule is from February through March.

45

46 MR. SHEARS: Oh, I was thinking the  
47 fall schedule.

48

49 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: Hearing that we have  
50 issues around the whaler's convention the first week of

1 February, I'd throw that week out. I think it's the  
2 BIA Provider's Conference that's also in February or  
3 it's Alaska Forum on the Environment. I forget which  
4 one. I think that's the second week of February, but  
5 that's the only two weeks that I could think of.

6

7 MR. G. BROWER: Mr. Chair. I think the  
8 second week in February would be good.

9

10 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Okay. 17, 18  
11 February.

12

13 MS. PATTON: Council and Chair. You  
14 don't have to select the exact dates, but those weeks -  
15 - as you've identified here, either there's Alaska  
16 Eskimo Whaling Commission, we may have Rural Provider's  
17 Conference. If you're aware of those dates that don't  
18 work.....

19

20 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Right at the end of  
21 those meetings.

22

23 MS. PATTON: At the end of those  
24 meetings. Okay. So better into March than for most of  
25 you?

26

27 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Uh-huh.

28

29 MS. PATTON: That's all we needed, just  
30 a general idea at this point of what are the good dates  
31 to aim towards. Thank you. Now we can get on to what  
32 everybody's been waiting for, I think. The caribou  
33 presentation is up next from Geoff Carroll.

34

35 MR. CARROLL: Geoff Carroll, Alaska  
36 Department of Fish and Game in Barrow. First of all  
37 I'm going to talk about the Colville River moose  
38 population and then we'll talk about the Teshekpuk and  
39 the Western Arctic Caribou Herd situation.

40

41 With the moose population, we count the  
42 moose every year. Every third or fourth year -- well,  
43 every year we count the main Colville, the Anaktuvuk  
44 and the Chandler Rivers. Every third or fourth year we  
45 do what we call a total full census. We count every  
46 little drainage along any one of those rivers and try  
47 to count every moose in Unit 26A.

48

49 As you can see, the population was very  
50 steady from about 1970 up to about 1991. We got up to



1 a maximum of about 1,135 moose. Then in the '90s we  
2 had a dramatic crash. Something like 70 percent crash  
3 and went down to 326 moose. We kind of crawled back up  
4 and got up to 1,180 and then now we're down to 294,  
5 which is the fewest moose I've ever seen in this  
6 population. We're in a very severe population decline  
7 right now.

8

9 This shows a little more detail. This  
10 is what we do every year. We call this a trend area  
11 count. It doesn't include everything, but it does  
12 include kind of the core area of the Colville,  
13 Anaktuvuk and Chandler Rivers. It shows you the same  
14 -- the population numbers are this purple showing the  
15 crash in the '90s and worked its way back up in about  
16 2006 and start down again. Then we thought we hit the  
17 bottom of the decline because we slowly crawled our way  
18 back up for about four years and then all of a sudden  
19 this last year, bam, we like lost half of our moose  
20 again.

21

22 This darker line shows the percentage  
23 of -- we call them short yearlings. These are the  
24 calves that have survived through the winter and you  
25 can see it pretty much follows along. When we start  
26 having a lot less calf survival, that brings the  
27 population right down. When the calf survival gets a  
28 lot better, then population can grow back up. Kind of  
29 had the same thing happen starting 2006. The calf  
30 survival dropped way off and then, you know, as it got  
31 better, it started getting population back up, but now  
32 we found two calves in the entire population that  
33 survived the winter in this 2014 spring survey.

34

35 When we have a severe population crash  
36 like this, then we do what's called an emergency order  
37 and that's because we need to make a change like right  
38 now in regulations and we don't have time to go through  
39 the normal regulatory process with the Board of Game.

40

41 So the reasons for the decline, I  
42 talked about this a little bit the other day, is the  
43 spring of 2013 was really late. It was two to three  
44 weeks late before things started greening up that  
45 spring. Then we had a very hard summer. I did calving  
46 surveys in June. We had 20 collared caribou. They  
47 were all alive. Most of them had calves. I went back  
48 in in November in another radio-tracking survey and  
49 half of those cows were dead and none of the rest of  
50 them had surviving calves, so something really bad

1 happened that summer of 2013.

2

3                   It seemed to have happened all across  
4 the North Slope. All the populations in the Kuparuk  
5 River, the Sag River, the Canning River, all of the  
6 moose populations declined by at least 50 percent. So  
7 whatever the cause was it was very widespread, which  
8 usually indicates weather. You know, it's not some  
9 little disease pocket or predation problem in one spot  
10 or something. It happened all across the North Slope.

11

12                   Then, of course, once the population  
13 declines like that for whatever reason, then all of a  
14 sudden your number of predators compared to how many  
15 moose you have, that percentage is way up and then the  
16 predators really push the population down. We always  
17 do collect blood samples and all kinds of things and  
18 look for disease causes. That first crash back in the  
19 '90s we discovered that there were two major diseases,  
20 Brucellosis and Leptospirosis, that usually aren't in  
21 moose that seemed to trigger that crash, plus all the  
22 other problems, nutritional problems and a lot of  
23 things.

24

25                   Anyway, the bottom line is the moose  
26 population is kind of at an all-time low there. You  
27 know, the hunters can really help the moose out by  
28 harvesting wolves and moose -- or wolves and bears  
29 along the Colville River system. Just be real careful  
30 not to harvest cows.

31

32                   So, like I say, we had to take  
33 immediate action, so basically did an emergency order  
34 which I kind of write up and then it has to be accepted  
35 by the Department. What we did was closed all the non-  
36 resident hunts. We had drawing permit hunts when there  
37 was more moose. People could apply for drawing permits  
38 and if they got a drawing permit, they could use  
39 aircraft to fly into the area. Anyway, we closed all  
40 those. We had a winter hunt where you could harvest  
41 either bulls or cows. We closed that. There's no use  
42 of aircraft allowed in any of the hunts in 26A now.

43

44                   So that in effect eliminates all the  
45 hunters except for the local guys with boats basically.  
46 State regulations, you can't just out and out say  
47 nobody but local residents can hunt here, but  
48 disallowing use of aircraft it has the same effect.  
49 You guys basically will be the only ones hunting  
50 Colville moose. I'll just tell you, I took a lot of

1 heat because everybody else thought we should just  
2 close everything, that this hunt should be closed as  
3 well, but I know how important it is to Nuiqsut, so I  
4 was kind of able to persuade people.

5  
6 We did the same thing back in the '90s.  
7 We closed every hunt except we kept this hunt out of  
8 Nuiqsut open. At that time it was limited to just the  
9 Colville River down the stream from the Anaktuvuk.  
10 This time I was able to keep all that area up there  
11 open, so I didn't seem like it made any sense to  
12 concentrate what harvest there was on the small area.  
13 We might as well spread it out as much as we can.  
14 Nuiqsut hunters can travel up the river as far up the  
15 Colville as they want, up to Anaktuvuk, up to Chandler.

16  
17 I'll just tell you there aren't many  
18 moose up there, but at least that gives you a lot more  
19 area to look for them. Again, just be real careful not  
20 to harvest cows because we really need those to build  
21 the population back up.

22  
23 So anyway, we still have the general  
24 season hunt, which allows Nuiqsut hunters to hunt.  
25 It's like it's been in the past, August 1st to  
26 September 14th. The Board of Game last spring actually  
27 had increased the season so that it went to the end of  
28 September, but everybody had to give up something. I  
29 figured that was pretty easy just to continue on  
30 hunting the way people had in the past.

31  
32 Also the summer hunt allows people from  
33 Point Lay, Wainwright, Atqasuk and Barrow. An odd  
34 moose every few years will wander up next to one of the  
35 villages and that hunt remained open as well just  
36 because moose are hardly ever harvested in that area.  
37 Although somebody already got one in Point Lay this  
38 year.

39  
40 CHAIRMAN BROWER: I have a question.

41  
42 MR. CARROLL: Yeah.

43  
44 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Was there any  
45 necropsies done on any of the animals?

46  
47 MR. CARROLL: What?

48  
49 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Any necropsies done  
50 on any of the animals?

1 MR. CARROLL: Yeah, you know, and it  
2 looked like starvation. We look at the long bones.  
3 Like I say, you know, we take our blood samples and  
4 stuff like that, but the results aren't in on that.  
5 These moose, they always seem not to have enough copper  
6 in their systems. During the earlier part of the moose  
7 decline we were checking out a lot of moose to see if  
8 it looked like -- when this decline started here, we  
9 took a lot of blood samples to see if it looked like it  
10 was Brucellosis and Leptospirosis. There was no sign  
11 that there were any diseases in the moose population.  
12

13 We also did a big browse survey and  
14 sampled browse all through the area and looked at the  
15 willows. A lot of times when you have a moose crash  
16 you can look at the browse and the browse has just been  
17 trashed, you know. Every edible thing has been eaten.  
18 But there was really like a 12 percent browse removal,  
19 which is very typical for health moose populations. We  
20 also took browse samples and had them tested for  
21 quality, how much nutrition did it have, and just got  
22 results in on that and found that digestible protein in  
23 the browse was like the lowest of any place in the  
24 state. For some reason the quality of the browse out  
25 there.  
26

27 Again, I talked about this the other  
28 day, but once again he's the farthest north moose in  
29 the world. This is just almost beyond where -- it is  
30 beyond where moose can live anywhere else. So they have  
31 a very short growing season. You whack two weeks or  
32 three weeks off one end of the growing season and they  
33 just don't make it. But they flourished here for 20  
34 years between '70 and '90 and on, so it's kind of --  
35 you know, you've got to wonder why all of a sudden it's  
36 a roller coaster, but something kind of changed.  
37

38 MR. NAGEAK: In Anaktuvuk Pass I didn't  
39 see the name on the hunt list. Is that a different  
40 unit moose? Unit 24 is the southern unit.  
41

42 MR. CARROLL: Well, as long as you're  
43 hunting to the north and you're hunting in the Colville  
44 River system, you have that August 1st to September  
45 14th season. I just put Nuiqsut in parentheses there,  
46 but actually that's true for Anaktuvuk too. You've got  
47 that general season hunt as long as you're hunting in  
48 the Colville River system.  
49

50 MR. NAGEAK: Do you have any data on

1 Unit 24?

2

3

MR. CARROLL: No, I don't right now.

4

5

MR. NAGEAK: Who does that?

6

7

MR. CARROLL: Glenn Stout or somebody  
8 from that area to the south. I can get that for you in  
9 the future, but I'm not quite sure what that -- I mean  
10 we could look in the book here and see what the season  
11 is for that area, but we've got a lot of stuff to  
12 cover. We probably better move on to caribou.

13

14

MR. G. BROWER: I've got one question  
15 on moose. Barrow is on there and you said the  
16 occasional moose will come down and we can catch it.

17

18

MR. CARROLL: Yeah. If it gets over --  
19 as you know, we've been back and forth over this. It  
20 gets to the west of 156.

21

22

MR. G. BROWER: Yeah, that's the issue  
23 for Barrow because that 156. We wanted to move it over  
24 to 155. Moose won't listen to that, you know.

25

26

MR. CARROLL: Okay. We've been through  
27 this a lot of times. I think we need to move on to  
28 caribou. So Eva, if you can switch out, I've got  
29 something to hand out. This is a questionnaire I'm  
30 going to pass out. You'll be the first ones to see it.  
31 It's kind of a draft copy. We're going to be talking  
32 about caribou and kind of the main theme of the caribou  
33 populations are they're rapidly declining and we're  
34 getting to the point where we're going to have to start  
35 reducing the harvest one way or another and hopefully  
36 we'll have the resident hunters take steps to reduce  
37 harvest, but there's probably also going to be  
38 regulation changes.

39

40

So this is an opportunity for local  
41 people to give us their ideas for what they would like  
42 to see as far as changes. You don't really need to  
43 look at that too much now. Let me go through the  
44 population numbers and all that stuff and get to the  
45 end. I kind of want two things.

46

47

(Phone ringing)

48

49

MR. CARROLL: I'm sorry, this is  
50 Lincoln calling me back.

1 (Pause)  
2  
3 MR. CARROLL: There are changes coming  
4 and we don't want to have this be some kind of result  
5 of -- come from an emergency order. We're trying to  
6 communicate with hunters and local people as much as  
7 possible to get as much input, get proposals from them  
8 as far as what's the best way to change regulations to  
9 start to reduce harvest.  
10  
11 Two things we'd like. One is, if you  
12 could, fill that out quickly. I mean not right now.  
13 But also if you think there should be more questions or  
14 other questions or other possibilities than what we  
15 have outlined there, we'd appreciate any input on that  
16 we can get.  
17  
18 MR. NAGEAK: So if I want to fill this  
19 out, then I take it to the community.....  
20  
21 MR. CARROLL: Yeah.  
22  
23 MR. NAGEAK: ....and we could talk more  
24 about what the community thinks about it.  
25  
26 MR. CARROLL: Right. That's one thing.  
27 Both the North Slope Borough Wildlife Department and  
28 Fish and Game, we're going to be making a circuit of  
29 all the communities and talk to them and that will be  
30 one of the things, we'll have them fill out this  
31 questionnaire. So we'll be having meetings in all the  
32 communities. Jim Dau will be going to all the  
33 northwestern Alaska communities and get as much input  
34 as we can.  
35  
36 MR. G. BROWER: We had a meeting in  
37 Anaktuvuk and there was  
38 a draft that was being prepared by the Wildlife  
39 Department assisting trilateral committee in Anaktuvuk.  
40  
41 MR. CARROLL: Yeah.  
42  
43 MR. G. BROWER: And it spoke to this  
44 problem about it's time to think about conservation  
45 measures.  
46  
47 MR. CARROLL: Right.  
48  
49 MR. G. BROWER: If it comes from the  
50 town, from the community willing to do something, but

1 the concept of sustained yield closing off other users  
2 before you start to do this for the subsistence, what  
3 effort is going on now to look at the healthy  
4 population just for the rural subsistence user?

5

6 MR. CARROLL: Well, okay. In the State  
7 system we have something called the amount necessary  
8 for subsistence. That been established for -- right  
9 now it's a combination of the Western Arctic Herd and  
10 the Teshekpuk Herd. When the harvestable surplus gets  
11 down below that, then non-resident hunters are  
12 automatically cut out, so that would be the first step  
13 in that.

14

15 MR. G. BROWER: Do you have to do a  
16 quantifying the use of each community that subsists off  
17 of the big Western Arctic Herd, 400 for Barrow, 400 for  
18 Anaktuvuk, 400 for Nuiqsut and extrapolate that into  
19 calf production and sustained yield and then whatever  
20 is left over.....

21

22 MR. CARROLL: Yeah, yeah.

23

24 MR. G. BROWER: .....resident  
25 hunters.....

26

27 MR. CARROLL: Yeah. You know, we  
28 spend all year counting the caribou in various ways.  
29 One of the big weakness right now is just exactly what  
30 the harvest has been. For instance Barrow hasn't been  
31 successfully surveyed for many years and that's  
32 something we really need to work on. We need to work  
33 on getting a lot better harvest information so that we  
34 can determine what the needs for each community are a  
35 lot better.

36

37 MR. G. BROWER: One follow-up question.  
38 I know you've got to do a presentation and it will  
39 probably be answered. Along the line somebody may ask  
40 it. What's the threshold level that you use for  
41 residents of Alaska to hunt off of this? Somebody from  
42 Seward can come down and personal use and subsist up  
43 here as a resident. So you've got all that calculation  
44 to do. Maybe that threshold level is met. They  
45 shouldn't be getting five a day like the rest of us  
46 here that use so much for food because they're  
47 nonrural. They should be limited to one or half of  
48 one. They get a leg or something.

49

50 (Laughter)

1 MR. CARROLL: Well, you know, we're  
2 going to have to work through the regulatory process.  
3 Just in a nutshell the way that's going to work is the  
4 Department is requesting an agenda change for the Board  
5 of Game so that they consider proposals for the  
6 Teshekpuk and Western Arctic Herds in their meetings  
7 coming up in February and March. So there will be a  
8 request go in in the December meeting and then the  
9 Board of Game will decide if they will consider  
10 accepting proposals for changing the regulations at  
11 those winter meetings, February and March.

12

13 MR. KAYOTUK: Mr. Chair and Council.  
14 For your input, I'm not hearing what's happening away  
15 from the mic.

16

17 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Geoff, maybe you can  
18 you get closer to the mic.

19

20 MR. CARROLL: I do, but you guys need  
21 to too apparently. So I guess if you have questions  
22 you're going to need to run up and talk into the mic.

23

24 MR. G. BROWER: So maybe just to follow  
25 up.

26

27 MR. CARROLL: So then the Board will  
28 decide -- they'll give dates for when proposals need to  
29 be submitted if they decide to accept the agenda  
30 change.

31

32 MR. G. BROWER: Lee, this is Gordon. I  
33 was just -- I'm not sure you heard me earlier. I was  
34 trying to talk loud. But I  
35 think it sounds like it's a good time right now for  
36 Anaktuvuk, maybe even Nuiqsut, Atkasuk. They're  
37 trilateral committees too. Think about these things  
38 and how regulation should be changed because of the  
39 decline in the caribou.

40

41 MR. CARROLL: We fully support this  
42 commission in Anaktuvuk. I mean that's exactly what we  
43 need. We need communities to step up and take  
44 responsibility, you know, in conserving the caribou  
45 populations and propose any regulation changes they  
46 think are appropriate. So, yeah, we're all for that.

47

48 Okay. March on. We've got lots and  
49 lots of herds in Alaska. We've got like 31 different  
50 herds, but the ones we're going to be talking about



1 today are the arctic herds, the Western Arctic Herd,  
2 the Teshekpuk Herd, Central Arctic Herd and Porcupine.  
3 Primarily Teshekpuk and Western Arctic Herd.

4  
5 Now I'm going to become Jim Dau for a  
6 while. This is his presentation on the Western Arctic  
7 Herd. He got a new camera, so his pictures are a lot  
8 better. Just imagine me as a little bit shorter, a  
9 little bit less hair, but smarter.

10  
11 This picture basically shows the range  
12 of the Western Arctic Herd. These come from satellite  
13 collared caribou and show all the locations for that  
14 caribou from 1988 to 2014. I'd say they take up a huge  
15 swath of the state.

16  
17 MR. NAGEAK: From '88 to 2014?

18  
19 MR. CARROLL: Yeah. It's every place  
20 they've been.

21  
22 MR. SHEARS: They definitely don't  
23 exist with muskox.

24  
25 MR. CARROLL: Okay. This shows the  
26 census results of caribou and since 2003 they've  
27 declined from 490,000 down to about 225,000, so it's  
28 been a steady decline. If anything, the rate of  
29 decline is getting faster.

30  
31 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: I have a question.  
32 How do you know that -- how do you know about the  
33 caribou, how many caribou? There's caribou and  
34 reindeer at the same time. How do you know all of  
35 these caribou are counted? Maybe you miss counting  
36 somewhere else somewhere.

37  
38 MR. CARROLL: Okay. The question is  
39 that maybe we don't count all the caribou. We have  
40 techniques that we've used for many years and they seem  
41 to be pretty accurate. What we do is during insect  
42 relief times when the caribou aggregate into tight  
43 groups, we go in and we have radio-tracking planes and  
44 we have a photography plane and we use the radio-  
45 tracking planes to determine what percentage of the  
46 collared caribou are in those groups that we're  
47 photographing and if we find that 98 percent of our  
48 collared caribou are in those groups, we figure we're  
49 probably counting most of the caribou. Then we do  
50 transects. We photograph all those caribou and then we

1 have big 8x10 photographs and we count the caribou in  
2 those photographs.

3  
4                   You know, we probably don't get every  
5 single caribou, but we get a very large percentage of  
6 them. We also have statistical tests where we can  
7 determine the distribution of the radio collars and we  
8 can use that to correct for any caribou that we might  
9 have missed. You can look at these numbers. Like the  
10 red one, that's the minimum population estimate.  
11 That's the total number that we counted. The black  
12 number is the corrected count taking into account any  
13 collars that we might have missed or the distribution  
14 of collars and they're usually pretty close together,  
15 but there's no doubt about it the trend is that we're  
16 having a rapid decline in the Western Arctic Herd.

17  
18                   Fortunately we got ahead of the game.  
19 The Department and the Federal agencies and hunters all  
20 got together and we formed the Western Arctic Herd  
21 Working Group and they -- you know, most of the group  
22 are hunters from all the different villages in northern  
23 and northwestern Alaska. There's a representative from  
24 conservation groups, there's one from the guides. Most  
25 of them are hunters from various parts of Alaska. They  
26 developed a management plan.

27  
28                   Kind of the thinking back when it was  
29 formed we had a big, healthy caribou herd, but that  
30 couldn't last forever and we wanted to have this group  
31 of people all working together when the time came the  
32 population declined and we had to make some tough  
33 choices.

34  
35                   UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: I have another  
36 question. You said earlier that -- yeah, you say so,  
37 but you don't know in the near future.

38  
39                   MR. CARROLL: I'm sorry. What's the  
40 question?

41  
42                   UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: You just said  
43 earlier that -- about those caribou that -- things  
44 might change here and there in the near future about  
45 the caribou.

46  
47                   MR. CARROLL: Well, okay. What I said  
48 is that there's no doubt that the caribou herd is  
49 declining rapidly. It's gotten to the point the  
50 numbers are low enough that we're going to have to

1 start reducing the number of caribou that are harvested  
2 and that will be a combination of the responsible  
3 hunters reducing their own harvest and then there will  
4 also be regulation changes to try to slow down the  
5 decline of the herd.

6  
7                   You know, it wasn't hunting that  
8 initially caused the decline in the herd. It was a  
9 combination of things. The herd had reached all-time  
10 highs. It couldn't grow forever. It's got to start to  
11 decline. But the warm winters when temperatures get  
12 above freezing in the middle of the winter and then it  
13 rains, there's been icing. Years of bad icing we saw  
14 big declines in the population.

15  
16                   Also, once the caribou population  
17 numbers start down then your ratio of bears and wolves  
18 compared to how many caribou you have becomes a lot  
19 higher and the predators push the population down. So  
20 there's many factors that can cause the population to  
21 decline and one of those is hunting. I mean we harvest  
22 12 or 15,000 caribou every year. That's a factor.

23  
24                   Anyway, we've gotten to the point if  
25 the decline continues or even maybe speeds up, we're  
26 going to get to the point if we don't reduce our  
27 hunting pressure we can drive the population right into  
28 the ground. We've got to step back and let more of the  
29 cows survive so they can produce calves and get the  
30 numbers started back up.

31  
32                   UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: I have a question.  
33 This paper says that you limit, like one to five limit  
34 caribou.

35  
36                   MR. CARROLL: No, that paper is asking  
37 you what you would recommend as ways to -- and we're  
38 going to talk about that later, okay. Let's not talk  
39 about that question here right now.

40  
41                   UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: I've got a  
42 question, Geoff. You mentioned earlier that global  
43 warming has an effect on the caribou over here and  
44 these past couple years over here we've seen it rain in  
45 February with all that development going on over here  
46 and all that stress going out to the caribou from all  
47 this activity going on over here. With global warming  
48 adding to that effect, what's your synopsis on the  
49 future population of the herds over here?  
50

1 MR. CARROLL: Well, the curious thing  
2 is that of all the herds, the Central Arctic Herd, the  
3 one that's around the oil development, has been the one  
4 that's one of the ones that really hasn't declined  
5 nearly as much. They've been doing better than the  
6 Western Arctic Herd, the Teshekpuk Herd. Maybe they  
7 didn't get the effects of the icing as much as the  
8 Teshekpuk and Western Arctic Herd.

9  
10 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Not just in the  
11 Teshekpuk area. It's all over North Slope.

12  
13 MR. CARROLL: Yeah.

14  
15 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: What's your  
16 synopsis on that that you're saying that the Porcupine  
17 Herd, you know, have never had a dip in their  
18 population. You guys know for a fact that there's not  
19 that much development going on the Canada side over  
20 here and they're not getting -- what do they call that.  
21 I said it earlier, you know, for development over here.  
22 There's nothing bothering them. No chopper activities,  
23 nothing, as compared to the Central and the Western  
24 Arctic Herd over here where we have a lot of activity  
25 going on over here.

26  
27 MR. CARROLL: Yeah. We will talk about  
28 the Porcupine Herd later too, but they did take a dip,  
29 but currently they're recovering and their numbers are  
30 increasing. Okay.

31  
32 Anyway, as far as the Western Arctic  
33 Herd Management Plan that the working group worked out,  
34 they came up with all these different parameters for  
35 when the population is declining or stable or  
36 increasing. Right now it's declining and then  
37 different numbers of the herd. Right now the herd is  
38 between 200,000 and 265,000 and they're declining.  
39 We've been up in the green up until very recently.  
40 That's moved us down into this brownish area to where  
41 we need to start doing conservative management. We've  
42 got to start doing more to conserve the herd.

43  
44 So we measure a lot of other things.  
45 We look at fall bull:cow ratios. The bull:cow ratio is  
46 going down. We look at the number of bulls and cows  
47 that are harvested and you can see there the cow  
48 harvest has stayed pretty stable and bull harvest has  
49 increased as a percentage a fair amount.

50

1                   We have a certain number of radio-  
2 collared caribou and whenever they die we go out and  
3 collect, retrieve the collar and we look at the cause  
4 of death. As you can see there among those the  
5 percentage of them that are killed by predators has  
6 greatly increased in recent years. It's up above 50  
7 percent. Sometimes 60 percent. So predation is  
8 becoming more and more of an issue. Like I said with  
9 the moose, you can all kind of help out the caribou.  
10 If you're out hunting anyway, you can spend more time  
11 hunting wolves and reducing the population numbers.

12  
13                   MR. G. BROWER: Geoff, I've got a  
14 question on the predators. Is it equal on the north  
15 side of the Brooks Range and on the south side towards  
16 Seward Pen area that the predators on that side have  
17 equal predators on the north side?

18  
19                   MR. CARROLL: We don't -- we're not  
20 very good at counting wolf numbers. We don't have good  
21 numbers on the number of predators in various areas. I  
22 mean we can look at the percentage of the collars that  
23 were killed by predators and that seems about the same  
24 north of the Brooks Range as the south of it. The  
25 point is, both places the number of caribou killed by  
26 predators is pretty high.

27  
28                   Okay. This is the number of Western  
29 Arctic Caribou Herd harvested each year and you can see  
30 it kind of jumps up and down, but it's usually up in  
31 that range of 15,000 caribou per year among all the  
32 villages.

33  
34                   UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: I have a question.  
35 How come the caribou have a radio collar?

36  
37                   MR. CARROLL: How come?

38  
39                   UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: How come they have  
40 a radio collar?

41  
42                   MR. CARROLL: Well, for lots of  
43 reasons. Radio collars is our most useful research  
44 tool. We use radio collars for everything. It's  
45 essential to have those radio collars on them so we can  
46 do an accurate census. It's essential when we're doing  
47 our calving surveys to see what percentage of cows are  
48 having calves. It's essential when we're doing our  
49 recruitment surveys to see how many calves have  
50 survived the winter. It's essential for us to

1 determine what percentage of the caribou are dying  
2 every year. They're just our most useful research  
3 tool, so that's why we collar caribou. If we didn't  
4 have collars on -- I mean we collar a small percentage  
5 of the caribou. We have like one collar per 4,000  
6 caribou in the Western Arctic Herd. We can learn an  
7 awful lot from that.

8

9 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: It seems like when  
10 you put a radio collar on a caribou it seems like  
11 you're letting him suffocate or it seems like you're  
12 digging into that animal. It seems like that is not  
13 right.

14

15 MR. CARROLL: Yeah, it's.....

16

17 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: I don't like that.

18

19 MR. CARROLL: Yeah, I suppose the  
20 caribou would rather not have a collar on, but it  
21 almost never -- I mean it never happens that one is  
22 suffocated. You know, they seem to survive about the  
23 same rate as caribou without collars. So, anyway, like  
24 I say, they're an essential part of our ability to know  
25 what's going on with these caribou herds.

26

27 Okay. So what this shows is what  
28 percentage of the herd are we harvesting each year.  
29 You saw from the last slide that the harvest is just  
30 about the same from year to year, but as the herd gets  
31 smaller and the percentage of animals that we're  
32 harvesting gets greater and greater. So now we're up  
33 to the -- where we used to harvest about 3 percent of  
34 the herd, now we're up to where we're harvesting about  
35 6 percent of the herd in the most recent year.

36

37 MR. SHEARS: Even though the annual  
38 harvest quantity is the same?

39

40 MR. CARROLL: Yeah.

41

42 MR. G. BROWER: Because of the decline,  
43 right?

44

45 MR. CARROLL: Yeah, because of the  
46 declining numbers the percentage is going to go up.  
47 And that's why at some point we've got to start  
48 reducing the harvest. If the numbers keep going down,  
49 the percentage that we're harvesting is going to gets  
50 up above the number of calves they produce can allow

1 the population to maintain or to grow.

2

3 Okay. So according to the  
4 recommendations of the Western Arctic Herd Working  
5 Group, when we start moving into the conservative  
6 management from that last page I showed you in that  
7 orange area.....

8

9 MR. SHEARS: This is back in 2011?

10

11 MR. CARROLL: Yeah. Their  
12 recommendation was at that point was stop harvesting  
13 calves. We need those calves to grow up into adults.  
14 No non-resident cow harvest. Cut that completely out.  
15 To restrict non-resident bull harvest and to talk to  
16 local hunters and encourage voluntary reduction in the  
17 resident cow harvest. We have to just on our own go  
18 out there and make a point of not harvesting cows if we  
19 can help it. Take a bull. You know, I know there's  
20 certain times of the year we can't take bulls and we'll  
21 talk about that later, and cows are kind of your only  
22 option, but fore most of the year we really need to  
23 reduce the cow harvest so the numbers can start to  
24 increase again. Then the last thing is to limit  
25 subsistence harvest of bulls only if the percentage is  
26 less than 40 bulls per 100 cows.

27

28 So those are the recommendations from  
29 the working group.

30

31 MR. G. BROWER: I have a little problem  
32 with.....

33

34 MR. SHEARS: That didn't work.

35

36 MR. G. BROWER: If you go back to that  
37 slide, I have a little problem with how that is  
38 theorized in your reduction methodology when you have  
39 non-resident, like people coming in maybe from Montana  
40 and others, and then you've got residents, which are  
41 all of Alaskans, and then you've got rural and rural is  
42 the village. It seems to me like there's an equation  
43 missing somewhere. Before you start limiting village  
44 rural, the residents of these villages, you would have  
45 to have seriously managed away these other users, these  
46 others. In here, I see you're asking voluntary  
47 reduction in resident cow harvest, things like that.  
48 Maybe I'm missing something or misinterpreting  
49 something. In the same way we're arguing about a hook  
50 and a barb detail. These should be very detailed so we

1 understand clearly what is being asked.

2

3 That's my take on it.

4

5 MR. CARROLL: We're just reading off  
6 the page.

7

8 MR. G. BROWER: Yeah, right.

9

10 MR. CARROLL: That's the  
11 recommendations they made. Basically the point is  
12 we've all got to step up right now and we have to  
13 reduce the harvest. We've all got to be more careful  
14 about not shooting cows.

15

16 MR. G. BROWER: Absolutely. I agree  
17 with that, but there needs to be corresponding  
18 regulation changes that say non-resident users are no  
19 longer existent and limit it to rural residents at this  
20 point.

21

22 MR. CARROLL: Okay. Record that as  
23 your recommendations. Okay. This shows the  
24 harvestable -- you know, according to the population,  
25 this is the harvestable surplus of caribou. Of course,  
26 when the population is bigger, your harvestable surplus  
27 is bigger. As it gets smaller and smaller, your  
28 harvestable surplus gets smaller. Harvestable surplus  
29 is calculated by two percent of the cows and 15 percent  
30 of the bulls. Again, this is the estimated total  
31 harvest, which stays about the same year after year of  
32 bulls and cows combined.

33

34 So the estimated harvest for 2013-2014,  
35 13,700 caribou and the harvestable surplus 14,600. As  
36 you can see, it's getting real close. The harvestable  
37 surplus is -- we're harvesting just almost right up to  
38 the harvestable surplus.

39

40 And this is the cow harvest and this is  
41 the harvestable surplus, so we're actually -- with cow  
42 harvest, we're figuring at 2 percent. We're actually  
43 harvesting more cows than the population can sustain.  
44 It's going to drive the population lower and lower at  
45 that rate.

46

47 This is a summary written by Jim Dau.  
48 The Western Arctic Herd has been declining since around  
49 2003 and is now in the conservative management level  
50 according to Western Arctic Herd Management Plan of



1 2011. Cow harvests have likely already exceeded the  
2 harvestable surplus for several years. Bull harvests  
3 will probably exceed the harvestable surplus this year.  
4 Federal law requires Federal public lands to be closed  
5 to all non-subsistence hunting when the harvestable  
6 surplus cannot meet Federally-qualified subsistence  
7 users needs. No clear criteria identified for when  
8 this would occur.

9

10 So like what you're saying, we're  
11 almost to the stage where on all the Federal public  
12 lands no one is going to be allowed to hunt there  
13 except for the Federally-qualified subsistence hunters  
14 in that area, so we're almost there. Basically  
15 everybody but the local hunters will be excluded at  
16 that point.

17

18 MR. NAGEAK: This is on the  
19 conservative perspective, right?

20

21 MR. CARROLL: Yeah.

22

23 MR. G. BROWER: And we're there, I  
24 think. We're at the threshold.

25

26 MR. CARROLL: Yeah, we're really there  
27 at the threshold. And that isn't related to the  
28 Western Arctic Herd Management Plan. That's Federal  
29 regulation with the Federal Board. You know, your  
30 program, the one you guys work with.

31

32 Okay. There's more.

33

34 MR. NAGEAK: I have a question.

35

36 MR. CARROLL: Go ahead, James.

37

38 MR. NAGEAK: I was just thinking, you  
39 know, if this is a conservative perspective, then I'm  
40 wondering whether we need to get into the lowest one.  
41 What was the lowest one down the line?  
42 There's conservative.....

43

44 DR. YOKEL: Conservative and those are  
45 just labels.

46

47 MR. NAGEAK: I know, but I'm trying to  
48 -- do you think that if we.....

49

50 MS. PATTON: Critical management.

1 MR. NAGEAK: .....use the conservative  
2 perspective, then.....  
3  
4 MR. CARROLL: The next is preservative.  
5  
6 MR. NAGEAK: .....critical. Yeah.  
7  
8 MR. CARROLL: Yeah. And then we take  
9 on critical and then basically you shut down  
10 everything. The next stage would be preservative where  
11 we're trying to preserve the herd, so that's another  
12 set of.....  
13  
14 MR. NAGEAK: The question I was going  
15 to ask was that if we use the conservative perspective  
16 now and go back home and tell people, you know, we need  
17 to kind of limit the numbers of harvestable caribou, if  
18 we did that, do you feel that we'll never get into the  
19 critical perspective?  
20  
21 MR. CARROLL: I hope so. I think all  
22 we can do is do our best, you know. It's going to be a  
23 combination of responsible hunters stepping up and  
24 reducing the harvest, plus there's going to be some  
25 State regulations.  
26  
27 The last slide showed what's going to  
28 happen on Federal public lands. This is going to be  
29 more what's going to happen within the State system.  
30  
31 MR. NAGEAK: So we don't know whether  
32 we -- even if we have a conservative harvest, something  
33 could happen that it's going to get into the critical  
34 stage.  
35  
36 MR. CARROLL: Well, it could. I mean  
37 things look so bad right now because the number of  
38 calves being added to the population each year is going  
39 down, the mortality of the adults is going up, so all  
40 the indicators are that the population is going to just  
41 continue to decline. What we're trying to do is do  
42 everything we can to turn that around.  
43  
44 DR. YOKEL: I just wanted to add that I  
45 agree with Geoff. We hope we won't get to that  
46 critical stage, but given the current population  
47 trends, they will probably be in that preservative  
48 stage in a couple years.  
49  
50 MR. CARROLL: Yeah.

1 DR. YOKEL: Because they're decreasing  
2 at a rate that will put them in there in one or two  
3 years.

4  
5 MR. CARROLL: Okay. So caribou  
6 hunting, even for subsistence users, will likely be  
7 restricted by the State within the next one to two  
8 years. When the harvestable surplus falls below 12,000  
9 caribou, the State must close non-resident caribou  
10 hunting. The State must consider intensive management.  
11 That's another thing we need to talk about. Intensive  
12 management means habitat improvement and predator  
13 control. There isn't much we can do for habitat  
14 improvement. Primarily we'll be talking about predator  
15 control, whether we should be getting into that or not.  
16 This does not guarantee that predator control will be  
17 implemented.

18  
19 When the harvestable surplus falls  
20 below 8,000 caribou, the State will manage all hunting  
21 through subsistence Tier II hunts. I don't know if  
22 some of you Nuiqsut people remember we used to have a  
23 Tier II muskox out here and I would come over every  
24 year and people would fill out applications and the  
25 people with the longest history of hunting in an area  
26 got the permits and they were able to hunt the  
27 muskoxen. So if we get down to 8,000, then in the  
28 State system we automatically go into the Tier II  
29 process, which means a lot of paperwork and filling out  
30 forms, but it limits it to just the subsistence  
31 hunters. Everybody else is out of there.

32  
33 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Geoff, I have a  
34 question.

35  
36 MR. CARROLL: Yeah.

37  
38 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Will that be specific  
39 to the herds or is this going to be all the caribou  
40 herds on the North Slope?

41  
42 MR. CARROLL: It will be specific --  
43 like I said, we're going to be requesting an agenda  
44 change so that we can consider the Teshekpuk and  
45 Western Arctic Herds at the February and March  
46 meetings. One of the things we'll want to talk about,  
47 at the Board of Game meeting last spring the Board  
48 decided to combine the Teshekpuk and the Western Arctic  
49 Herd into one unit as far as the amount necessary for  
50 subsistence and that business. We're going to request

1 that they separate them because if the herds are on  
2 different trajectories, they really should have  
3 different regulations concerning them. They should be  
4 managed differently. Right now Teshekpuk and Western  
5 Arctic are considered together. Central Arctic is  
6 separate and Porcupine is separate.

7

8 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you.

9

10 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Caribou and  
11 reindeer.

12

13 MR. CARROLL: Okay. So, anyway, the  
14 one default of the Tier II process is individual  
15 drawing permits. That way people could enter a drawing  
16 and people that get permits are selected through a  
17 drawing.

18

19 In some portions of Alaska the Board of  
20 Game has recently established village harvest quotas  
21 instead of Tier II hunts. So that would be like the  
22 village harvest system like they have in Anaktuvuk for  
23 sheep. The entire community is allotted -- we figure  
24 out what the community needs to harvest and what's  
25 available and combination of that you decide there's  
26 one harvest quota for that community. It's got some  
27 pluses. It kind of makes sure that the community gets  
28 as many caribou as it needs or the population can  
29 withstand. Of course, if you've got a couple really  
30 aggressive hunters that charge out there and harvest a  
31 lot of caribou, there might not be any permits  
32 available for people that come along later. So it's  
33 got pluses and minuses to that.

34

35 MR. SHEARS: Is there also a  
36 requirement under Tier II drawing permit stipulations  
37 that the people that apply have shown a record of -- a  
38 history of using the resource, of the subsistence  
39 resource in the past by having a record of purchase,  
40 registered hunting licenses in that community?

41

42 MR. CARROLL: Oh, we never -- you know,  
43 when we filled out the Tier II paperwork, we kind of  
44 took people's word for it for how long they've been  
45 hunting that area. Yeah, we'd be in trouble if people  
46 needed to show that they've been buying hunting  
47 licenses for the last 10 years.

48

49 As far as the drawing permits, we  
50 usually do some -- you know, like I say, the State --

1 it's hard to say, okay, only people from this area can  
2 hunt here. Just the State constitution and everything  
3 makes it like everybody is a subsistence hunter. So  
4 what we do to make it so that the local people get most  
5 of the permits we will say, okay, permits are only  
6 available in Nuiqsut or someplace where it's really  
7 hard and in the middle of the summer. You've got to  
8 get your permit in July for a hunt in August or  
9 something like that so if somebody from Fairbanks  
10 really wants to get one, they've got to fly up, stand  
11 in line, get a permit and come back up to hunt. We  
12 just make it difficult to get those permits. So it's  
13 kind of one way of trying to make it so that the local  
14 residents get a better crack at it.

15

16 MR. SHEARS: Years ago when I lived in  
17 Anchorage we used to make our -- you know, in July and  
18 early in June, we road-tripped to Glennallen to get our  
19 caribou permit application and get our permit  
20 application for the Tier II hunt there on the Forty  
21 Mile herd.

22

23 MR. CARROLL: Yeah. So it would be  
24 something like that, except we'd make it even harder.

25

26 MR. SHEARS: And the highway would just  
27 line bumper to bumper backing all the way up there out  
28 of Anchorage for people applying for that subsistence  
29 hunt.

30

31 MR. CARROLL: Yeah.

32

33 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: A lot of residents  
34 out there just trophy hunters.

35

36 MR. G. BROWER: Geoff, I wanted to make  
37 a point. Because of  
38 this language it's because the State doesn't have a  
39 rural subsistence priority?

40

41 MR. CARROLL: Correct. Yeah. You  
42 know, we went through that battle many years ago.

43

44 MR. G. BROWER: Like a 1994 battle and  
45 Federal takeover of subsistence management.

46

47 MR. CARROLL: Yeah. Unfortunately, the  
48 State just dropped the ball. They never would agree  
49 to.....

50

1                   MR. G. BROWER: And what do you do when  
2 there's conflicting law for Federal lands? Because at  
3 one point a couple years ago we went through this  
4 exercise to align State regulations with Federal  
5 regulations so that there wouldn't be any overlap and  
6 that effectively took our law and made it a subsistence  
7 for all of Alaskans, not a rural subsistence priority.  
8 I don't think that's the case though.

9

10                  MR. CARROLL: Okay. Rosemary.

11

12                  MS. AHTUANGARUAK: Thank you for  
13 sharing this important information. It's really vital  
14 that we fully understand what's before us and that we  
15 have information on ways that we can try to address our  
16 concerns. For me, I'm very frustrated that we've been  
17 working at this for so many years and yet we have a  
18 severe crisis and not with just one species but other  
19 species and that's difficult because we didn't get the  
20 chance to go through an education and do a process in  
21 which our villages can voluntarily respond to efforts  
22 to control. Now we're in a forced management process  
23 and that's irritating as heck because we put a lot of  
24 time and effort into this process.

25

26                  The reality is, we've got other things  
27 that are happening. Climate change is one of them, but  
28 we also have some real issues with other activities on  
29 our lands and waters that are causing increased stress  
30 to our animals during important times. Such things as  
31 these area-wide seismic activities. When we're  
32 allowing those kinds of activities to go in when the  
33 caribous are at their increased demands for energy  
34 consumption and they're having the least amount of  
35 access, those kinds of things are very important, but  
36 we have no avenue to entertain some of these  
37 communications in this process, but yet that's a very  
38 vital process that has to be considered.

39

40                  We shouldn't be forced to go through  
41 food reductions when we haven't looked at other factors  
42 that we can consider to help with the management of the  
43 species that are so vital for the longevity of the  
44 health of our people. That's another factor that's  
45 really important in this discussion because we don't  
46 have a lot of avenues to even put some of these  
47 communications in there.

48

49                  For me, I would say we have to stop any  
50 of those activities that are really vital to the

1 reproduction of these caribou into this time that's  
2 very vital for their survival as well as for the  
3 increased stress and strain upon us as subsistence  
4 users when we've got other species that we're already  
5 consumed with having concerns about continuing harvest.  
6 The fishery concerns right now. We haven't gone  
7 through a good process so that we can give our villages  
8 alternatives. We're just asking them to continue to  
9 starve and some of our villages have had starvation  
10 issues because of changes that have already affected  
11 their hunting abilities and there are a lot of factors  
12 that are contributing to that.

13

14                   The percentage of the harvest for  
15 subsistence is not a big enough factor that's costing  
16 us so much in this. And I know you've tried really  
17 hard in this process and I know it's really hard for  
18 you in all your decades of involvement in this to have  
19 to deal with this now. I really appreciate that you've  
20 stayed with us because that length of involvement in  
21 this process has been important for us that are going  
22 into this process to understand the layers of decisions  
23 that have occurred.

24

25                   But I really appreciate that we're here  
26 and are able to communicate. I am frustrated. I would  
27 have liked to be able to build into this process  
28 instead of having to go ahead and deal with this. I'm  
29 really concerned about what this stress is going to do  
30 to our bodies and our future generations. That's a big  
31 concern. There's been a lot of stress for some of our  
32 villages right now and that's a big part of the absence  
33 of understanding and changing what we can or cannot  
34 hunt. It's the health of our future generations that  
35 are at the basis of this discussion.

36

37                   MR. CARROLL: Okay. One last little  
38 thing on this page. Managers will need to provide for  
39 limited cow harvest as long as possible. We know it's  
40 important to harvest some cows, particularly when the  
41 bulls are in rut and other times a year, so we want to  
42 provide for some cow harvest as long as we can. I mean  
43 if it gets a lot worse, there might be a time when  
44 we've got to just stop cow harvest altogether.

45

46                   Okay. Jim's summary continues. This  
47 winter ADF&G will provide a Western Arctic Herd  
48 population update to the Board of Game. Additionally,  
49 ADF&G may ask the Board of Game to prohibit the taking  
50 of calves by anyone, including subsistence hunters,

1 close the non-resident cow season, reduce the non-  
2 resident bull season and/or bag limit throughout the  
3 Western Arctic Herd range and eliminate same day  
4 airborne caribou regulations in Unit 22.

5  
6 For some reason, sometime in the past  
7 they passed a same day airborne caribou regulation in  
8 Unit 22 so you could land and still harvest a caribou  
9 that same day. We want to get rid of that.

10  
11 Like I was talking to you before, they  
12 want to determine separate amount necessary for  
13 subsistence levels for the Western Arctic Herd and the  
14 Teshekpuk Caribou Herd. In January 2014, the Board of  
15 Game combined these herds to produce a single amount  
16 necessary for subsistence without increasing the  
17 Western Arctic Herd ANS level.

18  
19 Okay. Other options. Establish  
20 separate reduced seasons for cows and bulls. Cows open  
21 only when bulls are in rut. Bulls closed during and  
22 sometime after the rut, and cows closed April 1st to  
23 June 30th. Cows are currently closed from May 15th to  
24 June 30th. Just the time right around calving. So one  
25 possibility is to increase the length of that closed  
26 cow season.

27  
28 So under reduced caribou bag limits.  
29 Federal bag limit in Unit 23 is currently 15 caribou  
30 per day. Should that be reduced. Federal bag limit in  
31 26A is currently 10 caribou per day. Should that be  
32 reduced. State bag limit for residents is five caribou  
33 per day throughout the Western Arctic Herd range.  
34 Should that be reduced. Can we cap the number of  
35 caribou that can be taken in a year. Currently we just  
36 say five a day. Should we say a person is limited to  
37 30 per year or something like that or should we maybe  
38 just do that for cows.

39  
40 We're just throwing out different  
41 options, things that we need to start thinking about.  
42 Then should we manage bulls and cow bag limits  
43 separately. Should we say we can take five bulls per  
44 day or so many bulls per year. I mean maybe we could  
45 take either five bulls or two cows or something like  
46 that. There's a lot of different options. Or another,  
47 like we talked about, establish village harvest quotas  
48 for cows and bulls. Anyway, other suggestions and  
49 that's something you'll be able to address on your  
50 questionnaire.



1 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Just because  
2 Alaska is part of the State they gave us new  
3 regulations.

4  
5 MR. CARROLL: Yeah, okay. ADF&G is now  
6 asking all hunters to voluntarily reduce their harvest  
7 of Western Arctic Herd Caribou, especially cows.

8  
9 MR. SHEARS: I'm doing my part.

10  
11 MR. CARROLL: All right. One last  
12 little thing. Reducing harvest will not necessarily  
13 stop or reverse this caribou decline. Other factors,  
14 such as weather and predators, are also affecting the  
15 decline. Reducing harvests will be necessary though to  
16 prevent hunting from making the decline even worse.

17  
18 So we're saying even if we do reduce  
19 harvest quite a bit, this decline could continue for  
20 some years into the future and reducing the harvest  
21 will be necessary. If we don't reduce harvest, then  
22 it's just going to push that population lower and make  
23 it less likely that it's going to -- it's going to take  
24 longer for it to ever start to recover.

25  
26 MR. G. BROWER: Geoff, I was looking at  
27 how you would look at the other factors, the predators.  
28 Back in the '50s, somewhere around there, there was a  
29 bounty on foxes, even back then, for I think \$25 and  
30 that was a lot of money back then, you know. My dad  
31 would get hundreds and hundreds of foxes, but there was  
32 actually a bounty where you turn in the skull or  
33 whatever. I know there's always controversy over  
34 predator management, you know, airborne shooting off  
35 aircraft and killing wolves, but incentive for the  
36 local hunters to be part -- they get to use the fur and  
37 plus they get a little bounty.

38  
39 I think out-of-the-box type how you do  
40 potential predator management because it sounds like  
41 predators, human beings, are all contributing to this  
42 and the weather. I think that would be an important  
43 step to look at.

44  
45 MR. CARROLL: Thanks, Gordon. Yeah,  
46 that brings up a very important part, is that, you  
47 know, as the population gets to a certain level, then  
48 we're really required by State regulations to look into  
49 predator control. I think your suggestions are very  
50 good. I mean how do people feel about that. What

1 would you think about people coming in with airplanes  
2 and killing the same wolves that you guys would like to  
3 be harvesting or, you know, helicopters or whatever.

4  
5 I mean my personal feeling is I've  
6 always preferred it be local harvest and your idea to  
7 add a bounty to encourage local hunters to be doing  
8 that harvest, I mean it sounds like a good idea. I  
9 don't know if it can ever -- if you can ever really  
10 harvest enough that way to turn the tide or if you  
11 really need to get people in an airplane to kill enough  
12 wolves to make a difference with the population.

13  
14 The State has been using predator  
15 control in a lot of situations and I think one thing  
16 that people have learned is that if you're going to do  
17 predator control, man, you've really got to do it.  
18 You've got to knock them way back and you've got to  
19 keep them down because wolves can reproduce so rapidly.  
20 If you go in and knock them down once, they're going to  
21 be right back up a couple years later.

22  
23 Anyway, that's another big thing for us  
24 to think about, is predator control something that  
25 people would want or not want.

26  
27 MR. NAGEAK: My name is James Nageak.  
28 I'm from Anaktuvuk Pass and we have had a problem of  
29 getting bulls because the bulls are coming into the  
30 valley after they have rutted and that necessarily  
31 restricts us to animals that we can eat and one of them  
32 is, of course, the cow population of the caribou that  
33 come through Anaktuvuk, that get close to Anaktuvuk  
34 Pass. So even though we have a conservative or  
35 commitment for not killing those animals that produce  
36 other caribou, but we never get a choice. That's where  
37 we're at at Anaktuvuk.

38  
39 But now if there was a mechanism in  
40 which we could -- you know, October 1 is a critical  
41 time. If it gets close to October 1, people start  
42 shaking because the bulls aren't there and they start  
43 smelling by about the middle part of October. If there  
44 was some mechanism in which we can go farther north of  
45 Anaktuvuk to catch the bulls before they rut, that's  
46 the idea that's been going around. You know, if you  
47 bring me over to Akhaluruk (ph) or a group of people  
48 from Anaktuvuk to hunt bulls before they rut, that  
49 would be the place to go.

50

1 But people are having a hard time  
2 getting far away from home because to get to Akhaluruk  
3 I don't know how many gallons of gas it would take for  
4 an Argo to go there. When you fill up a tank of an  
5 Argo, that's about nine gallons. When you pay \$10.65 a  
6 gallon for it, you know, it gets kind of restrictive  
7 for a person to go far from Anaktuvuk Pass to conserve,  
8 on the conservative perspective of the harvesting. I  
9 don't know how we can address that.

10

11 MR. CARROLL: Yeah, that's a tough  
12 dilemma and I certainly sympathize with you and  
13 hopefully that's something your new Caribou Commission  
14 can kind of hash over and come up with some ideas on  
15 how to get to where the bulls are before the rut. It  
16 was also stated earlier that, yeah, we want to conserve  
17 the cows, but we also understand that there's  
18 situations like at Anaktuvuk that, gosh, you guys just  
19 don't have a choice. You know, if the bulls don't show  
20 up until they're in rut, I mean you really have to  
21 harvest some cows. We can't just say no cow harvest.  
22 That's a tough choice.

23

24 So, yeah, if we can make some progress  
25 and figure out how to get hunters to a place where they  
26 can harvest the bulls before rut time, maybe we'll get  
27 lucky and the bulls will start showing up earlier to  
28 Anaktuvuk.

29

30 MR. NAGEAK: I hope so.

31

32 CHAIRMAN BROWER: I'm just trying to  
33 think back, Geoff -- this is Harry Brower for the folks  
34 that are listening. I'm just thinking back in terms of  
35 what would it take to get to the state of what we're  
36 trying to do to manage caribou. It seems to me that  
37 just remembering back in terms of how other resources  
38 were going through the decline and regardless of what  
39 was happening with regulations the decline continued  
40 and to no avail in a couple instances. Now we're left  
41 without a resource.

42

43 The reintroduction of species or  
44 reindeer or caribou is something that could be thought  
45 about in terms of the amount of money that you're  
46 thinking of utilizing. Maybe subjecting that husbandry  
47 of caribou, getting the Board to think about that as  
48 well. For reindeer anyway. This is something that  
49 could be thought out. You know, it's not so much to  
50 focus into the subsistence hunting community.

1 I have a different scenario of an  
2 impact that's being generated from listening to the  
3 amount of caribou to be taken by hunters. You know, as  
4 a whaling captain, I need sinew from the caribou to sew  
5 the skins of the umiaq together. When we start putting  
6 restrictions in the low numbers, I'm not going to be  
7 able to meet my needs and that gets me to start  
8 thinking about what is it going to take for me to meet  
9 my needs for this amount of caribou or the sinew I need  
10 to sew those skins together. I could think about  
11 different avenues, other synthetic materials to use,  
12 but those are not the type of things that I would like  
13 to use because there's different properties. The  
14 reason for using that sinew is very crucial. It has  
15 different properties than the synthetic materials.

16  
17 Anyway, in regard to predators and  
18 weather controls, those are things we don't have no  
19 control over. In terms of what happens with caribou  
20 and people and there's a lot of other activity that's  
21 going on besides subsistence. Research projects,  
22 aircraft flying out there, up and down, right into the  
23 midst of the caribou. We hear from activity from  
24 outside influences that are causing impact to those  
25 resources when they could be storing up their  
26 energetics for the coming winter and yet nothing seems  
27 to be brought into in terms of that kind of minimizing  
28 the impacts to the resource as well.

29  
30 You know, I have to think back in terms  
31 of if we do get into this Tier II hunt and that process  
32 is utilized, who's going to be doing all the managing  
33 if we're meeting the criteria within the conditions  
34 imposed on the Tier II hunts? I don't see that effort  
35 in here. Is this going to take more law enforcement  
36 agents to have a presence in the communities to conduct  
37 to see if we're following what's identified as part of  
38 the criteria for managing the resource or reporting?  
39 You know, those kinds of things I'm trying to think  
40 back in terms of what all is entailed in the reduction  
41 of taking of caribou.

42  
43 MR. CARROLL: You know it would be a  
44 huge step to have to go there and none of us want to go  
45 there. I guess we're all hoping that we can reduce  
46 harvest in the next so many years and get that  
47 population turned around and coming back. We've had so  
48 many years of ample populations and really no  
49 restrictions and that's the way people are used to  
50 living. To move into a period where we're kind of

1 tightly regulated, that's a huge, huge change  
2 culturally in what we can harvest and everything else.

3  
4 I don't know. It's a new day and we'll  
5 just have to see how it all plays out.

6  
7 CHAIRMAN BROWER: So to be somewhat  
8 successful there needs to be some efforts in reducing  
9 the impacts from outside. The research that comes for  
10 all the other things that research is being conducted  
11 for.

12  
13 MR. CARROLL: Yeah. I was just kind of  
14 thinking here at the same time. If we're going to  
15 request all local hunters to try to reduce harvest to  
16 some degree, we need to request all researchers to  
17 reduce impact to the caribou at the same time.

18  
19 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Different means of  
20 providing access into where research is being conducted  
21 or limit it to communities. If you can land into a  
22 community, that's the furthest you can go in terms of  
23 flying. You can't take helicopters beyond that  
24 community. You've got to take a different means of  
25 access, either hiking or boating. That kind of  
26 situation. I think that this free access of having  
27 aircraft by industry or other types of research that's  
28 happening, it's seen its heyday.

29  
30 You know, we see their impacts and  
31 communications and all the interactions that we have  
32 from community members about why is this happening and  
33 why is this not happening. In all fairness to  
34 appropriately manage, I think there needs to be some  
35 consideration to that as well in terms of the amount of  
36 research that's being permitted into the impacted area.

37  
38 Thank you.

39  
40 MR. CARROLL: I'm going to have to  
41 hurry through Lincoln's. This is Teshekpuk Herd and  
42 that's a lot of the same information. This kind of  
43 shows the Teshekpuk Herd's seasonal ranges. We've kind  
44 of been through this before. I'm not going to spend a  
45 lot of time on this. This shows the accumulative  
46 wintering density. That shows where the Teshekpuk Herd  
47 has wintered from 2008 to 2012. Anaktuvuk, Wainwright,  
48 Barrow, pretty close to Nuiqsut and around Anaktuvuk  
49 Pass in recent years.

50

1                   This is the Teshekpuk abundance. It's  
2 the same deal as what you saw with the Western Arctic  
3 Herd. It got up near 70,000 at one point and now  
4 they're down in the range of 32,000. What's driving a  
5 lot of that is increased female mortality. We're  
6 having a higher percentage of females die each year and  
7 the calf production is dropping. The female mortality  
8 it looked the last two years have been up there almost  
9 off the charts. It kind of chugged along there at  
10 about 15 percent and now all of a sudden we're up to  
11 like 30 percent. That's one-third of the cows died  
12 during the last two years. So for some reason we're  
13 having real high cow mortality recently.

14  
15                   Then calf production. It's been  
16 declining, the number of calves. Back in the day we  
17 were having 80 percent, sometimes over 90 percent of  
18 the cows would have a calf each year. This year was  
19 the worst we've ever seen, about 20 percent of the cows  
20 even had a calf. That's just awful. I think that's  
21 the lowest anyone has ever recorded anywhere in the  
22 state.

23  
24                   This is recruitment. This is the  
25 percentage of caribou that we count in the spring that  
26 are nine month old calves, the ones that survived the  
27 winter. So these are the ones being added to the  
28 population and it's going down. So all the indicators  
29 -- I mean that shows you why the population is  
30 declining and that it's probably going to continue to  
31 decline.

32  
33                   The conclusions. The decline is due to  
34 a combination of low and declining calf production,  
35 it's poor calf survival, less than 30 percent, and high  
36 adult mortality rates, especially recently. Underlying  
37 mechanisms are not totally clear, but are likely  
38 related to poor summer and winter nutrition, high  
39 levels of predation on calves in winter, nutritionally  
40 mediated risk of predation.

41  
42                   There's one interesting note. When  
43 Lincoln was looking at the predation of calves in  
44 winter, a fair number of those were killed real late in  
45 the winter and a fair number of them were killed by  
46 wolverines.

47  
48                   Because the population has gotten to a  
49 certain level, recently preparing an intensive  
50 management feasibility assessment. That means we've

1 got to talk about the pluses and minuses of doing  
2 predator control and the Board of Game will consider  
3 changes to caribou regulations starting in July 2015.

4  
5                   The estimated harvest compared to  
6 harvestable surplus. The bull harvest is about the  
7 same, about 1,800 for the Teshekpuk Herd, and  
8 harvestable surplus was much higher when the numbers  
9 were higher, but the harvestable surplus is now lower  
10 than the number that we're harvesting. And the same  
11 with cows. The harvestable surplus of cows is now  
12 lower than the number that we're harvesting, so we're  
13 dipping into the area where we're actually reducing the  
14 population through harvest.

15  
16                   So some Teshekpuk Caribou Herd  
17 management options. Changes in season or bag limits.  
18 These are some options he's throwing out there to think  
19 about. One would be a change in the season or the bag  
20 limit. One short-term example would be bulls only from  
21 July 1st to September 30th. Cows open only in October  
22 and March. The reduction of non-residents can only take  
23 one bull.

24  
25                   Another possibility was a registration  
26 permit with a quota. Hunters get a free permit with  
27 some bag limit, say 5-10 caribou, when the season is  
28 open until the quota is filled. Reporting would be  
29 required in 72 hours, for example. So we figure out a  
30 safe number of caribou that can be harvested and there  
31 would be a quota. It's kind of like the whale quota.  
32 There's only so many that can be harvested and then you  
33 have to stop.

34  
35                   It could be a community harvest quota.  
36 Hunters register and hunt towards a community-based  
37 quota. Based on State law, we cannot eliminate non-  
38 residents until the harvestable surplus of both the  
39 Teshekpuk and the Western Arctic Herd are less than  
40 12,000. It is more than that now, but it's probably  
41 not for long. We're almost to the 12,000 level for  
42 harvestable surplus.

43  
44                   Another option we talked about before  
45 is a Tier II with a structured permit system and  
46 applications. This system is what happens when  
47 competition between subsistence hunters is high.  
48 Applicants are ranked against one another based on  
49 multiple criteria such as a history of use.

50

1 More things to think about for the  
2 future. If predator control is approved, where, when  
3 and how. And changing harvest reporting. Increased  
4 pressure to move away from community harvest surveys to  
5 self-reporting. We need to get accurate harvest  
6 information, so I don't know. People often say that we  
7 should, rather than use the community harvest, which  
8 works pretty good, harvest surveys, that we need to get  
9 to a self-reporting system where hunters all report how  
10 many caribou that they've harvested.

11  
12 Then possible changes to Federal  
13 regulations would be to change the bag limit for  
14 Federally-qualified subsistence users. For the  
15 Teshekpuk Herd, it's now 10. Should that be reduced to  
16 five. More closures on cows. It's currently closed  
17 from May 16th to June 30th in 26A. Should that time be  
18 longer. And should we close Federal lands to non-  
19 qualified subsistence users. So those are all options.

20  
21 So that's kind of Lincoln showing the  
22 Teshekpuk Herd. It's pretty similar to the picture for  
23 the Western Arctic Herd. Both are declining  
24 dramatically and probably going to be -- you know, both  
25 places we need to try to reduce harvest and do it  
26 voluntarily and then there's probably going to be a  
27 need for some regulation changes.

28  
29 Central Arctic Herd update. Central  
30 Arctic Herd has been one of the fastest growing herds  
31 in the state. The most recent count indicates a fairly  
32 substantial decline, from 70,000 to 50,000. Part of  
33 that is due -- actually, when they made their first  
34 count, they counted about 70,000 caribou, but by  
35 looking at radio collars they figured out that about  
36 15,000 of those that got photographed were from the  
37 Porcupine Herd.

38  
39 We've talked earlier there is mixing of  
40 the herds, but there isn't a lot of exchange. We don't  
41 see a lot of collars from one herd going to another.  
42 There is some and we're seeing more of that. Anyway,  
43 we really don't know if that's just a blip. That was  
44 done in the spring of 2014 and we had that bad spring  
45 in 2013 and we're kind of wondering if that severely  
46 affected the caribou like it did the moose and the  
47 sheep. Maybe this is just a temporary downturn and the  
48 Central Arctic Herd is going to start getting better,  
49 but it also could be the beginning of a decline for the  
50 Central Arctic Herd.



1                   Okay. Then Porcupine Caribou Herd  
2 update. Porcupine Herd reached high levels back in  
3 1989, 1990 and they declined in 2001 and went from  
4 180,000 down to about 110,000, but recent counts it's  
5 gone back up into the 160,000 range. The 2013 estimate  
6 could be as high as -- well, I just heard it was  
7 197,000. So the Porcupine Herd seems to be on an  
8 upward trajectory.

9

10                   Okay. So that's the information for  
11 all the caribou herds.

12

13                   MR. NAGEAK: I've seen the number  
14 increase in the Porcupine Herd. Are there predator  
15 control systems that are on the other side of the  
16 border in Canada? Do you know any?

17

18                   MR. CARROLL: I'm not aware of any  
19 predator control programs over there. Just like the  
20 Teshekpuk and the Western Arctic, they were climbing  
21 steadily for many, many years until the last 10 years  
22 or so. I don't know if conditions are better over  
23 there in the Porcupine area. I'm not sure what all the  
24 issues are. I couldn't tell you why the Porcupine  
25 Caribou Herd is doing well now compared to others.

26

27                   MR. NAGEAK: Thank you for the  
28 presentation, but this presentation reminded me of a  
29 situation in probably 1915, 1920 where the residents of  
30 Anaktuvuk Pass, you know, the caribou weren't there  
31 anymore, so they just started following the caribou and  
32 they ended up on Firth Creek, Sheenjek Creek, and  
33 that's where my mother-in-law was born over there  
34 because of the decline in the caribou. She was born in  
35 1921, 1922. So it reminded me. But the citizens of  
36 Anaktuvuk Pass can no longer follow the caribou because  
37 it's a sedentary community anymore. So I'm preparing  
38 myself to have a supplemental way of -- I found a place  
39 in North Pole that sells meat.

40

41                   MR. CARROLL: You know, you asked that  
42 question earlier. We do have a lot of radio collars in  
43 each of the herds and there hasn't been any movement of  
44 any of the collared caribou from the Western Arctic  
45 Herd, for instance, moving to the Porcupine Herd. I  
46 mean if there were 50,000 or 100,000 caribou that moved  
47 from one herd to the other, a fair number of those  
48 would be collared caribou and there's no indication of  
49 that.

50

1                   Between each of the herds that are  
2 right next to each other there's a bit of exchange  
3 between the Western Arctic and the Teshekpuk. We end  
4 up with some of the Western Arctics in the Teshekpuk  
5 calving grounds once in a while and Teshekpuk and even  
6 some Central Arctic Herd caribou end up in the Western  
7 Arctic Herd calving grounds. So there is some  
8 exchange. It seems like in recent years there's been  
9 more than past years, but maybe it's just because we're  
10 looking at it more carefully. We all listen for the  
11 other herd's collars in each one of our herds and  
12 there's been no indication that there's a big movement  
13 of Western Arctic or Teshekpuk Caribou into the  
14 Porcupine Herd for instance.

15  
16                   There is a lot of mixing. We've had  
17 years where there's just a big mixture of Central  
18 Arctic, Teshekpuk and Western Arctic Herd in that area  
19 just to the southeast of Anaktuvuk. They all mix it  
20 up. They get together, you know, but they generally  
21 separate back out into each of their own calving areas  
22 when the time comes. So there's definitely mixing and  
23 there's some exchange, but there's no indication that  
24 there's been a mass exchange from Western or Teshekpuk  
25 Herd into the Porcupine Herd to cause that growth. The  
26 growth in the Porcupine Herd can easily be explained by  
27 good calving and good calf survival and not too high  
28 mortality among the adults.

29  
30                   MR. SHEARS: Geoff, just a quick  
31 question.

32  
33                   MR. KAYOTUK: Yeah, just for your input  
34 -- it's Lee for the record at Kaktovik. On the  
35 Porcupine Herd I noticed that there's 110,000 on the  
36 coast. Be aware that the communities are hunting them  
37 before they pass the borders, so the Porcupine Herd is  
38 being hunted in June. That's when they start hunting  
39 their caribou and it's already affected in that area  
40 before they even come to the calving grounds.

41  
42                   Anyway, two weeks ago we seen -- I want  
43 to say it's the Porcupine Herd, that we seen a caribou  
44 that was floating in the ocean and we think it's by a  
45 predator. Other than that it might have been a wolf  
46 chasing it or a wolverine. Other than that we did see  
47 a caribou in the ocean last week that was probably  
48 being chased by a predator. Other than, you know, when  
49 it hit the ocean, I'm sure it either got hypothermia or  
50 drowned. For that Porcupine Herd that's coming to or

1 trying to make it to the calving grounds anyway is  
2 hunted across the border before they reach Alaska  
3 anyway.

4

5 Thank you.

6

7 MR. CARROLL: Thank you.

8

9 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you for your  
10 presentation, Geoff.

11

12 MR. SHEARS: One question for Geoff.  
13 About a year ago Lincoln was talking about getting into  
14 some health studies of the caribou and trying to  
15 collect jaw bones from resident hunters up here. I  
16 guess you can get a lot of information about the health  
17 of an animal by analyzing the jaw bones. Are there any  
18 summaries or conclusions from those studies?

19

20 MR. CARROLL: Jim Dau has done a lot  
21 better job at collecting jaw bones than Lincoln and I  
22 have and he's learned an awful lot from that. That  
23 could be presented at a future meeting. North Slope  
24 Borough Wildlife Department and -- well, we just  
25 haven't been real successful in collecting a lot of jaw  
26 bones to this date. It's something we'd like to  
27 improve on, but I haven't done too well with the  
28 Teshekpuk Herd so far. But, yeah, we can give you a  
29 report on what's been learned about the Western Arctic  
30 Herd from the jaw bones.

31

32 MR. SHEARS: Thank you.

33

34 MR. CARROLL: And anybody that filled  
35 out the questionnaire I'd appreciate getting that. If  
36 you don't, if you're still working on it, you could  
37 hand it to Eva and she could mail them to me or  
38 something like that.

39

40 MR. AHNUPKANA: I'm Clarence Ahnupkana,  
41 Nuiqsut resident. Caribou migrated from north northeast  
42 heading southwest. So far so good. We had caribou  
43 this summer. There was helicopter flying during right  
44 season. Helicopter flying over and over, day and  
45 night, around Nuiqsut, inland, out in the ocean,  
46 outland. I see that. Even the planes flying. In the  
47 right season, right season, there's helicopter flying,  
48 plane, even little planes flying. Me and my brother  
49 named Roger we went out inland towards Umiat to go  
50 caribou hunting. I see airplanes flying, helicopter

1 flying, a little plane flying, tourists. They're all  
2 over.

3

4 And then one time I see a caribou with  
5 a radio collar. That really hurts me. I wanted to  
6 shoot it down, but I didn't do it. I didn't try. I  
7 don't want to see a caribou with a radio collar  
8 anymore. I don't like that. It seems like things are  
9 changing here and there. Am I losing my law, Eskimo  
10 law, way of life? There's so much regulation, white  
11 man regulation, just because Alaska is part of state.  
12 They've given us these rules, these regulations. Me, I  
13 don't need them. I don't need them. I heard that from  
14 my grandma. My grandma taught me. Even my dad.  
15 Someday soon life will change. White man people will  
16 come to your town and give you your regulation.  
17 They're going to give you their regulation, not your  
18 regulation.

19

20 Am I losing my Eskimo law? Uh-huh.  
21 Surely. Why? Too much white man regulation because  
22 Alaska is part of state. Why they giving us rules,  
23 this and that? Just because of oil and gas? Uh-huh,  
24 yes. Getting stronger and stronger. But I ain't going  
25 to give up my way of life, way of hunting. This new  
26 regulation, I don't need them.

27

28 Thank you.

29

30 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you for sharing  
31 your opinion, Clarence. We'll definitely keep it in  
32 mind. Any questions to Geoff regarding the  
33 presentation.

34

35 (No comments)

36

37 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Geoff.

38

39 MR. CARROLL: Thank you.

40

41 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: For me I think the  
42 biggest issue is that the longer a restriction goes on,  
43 the worse it's going to be for our families. So I  
44 would err on the side of considering ways to decrease  
45 the length of restriction by being very proactive in  
46 trying to consider management decisions early as well  
47 as enforcement. There's a lot of discussion that  
48 occurred with the importance of the cows, but the  
49 reality that we have, communities that need to continue  
50 to harvest them at times of the year, but we also have

1 to decrease cow interactions that cause adverse effects  
2 to calf survival.

3

4 We really have to jump ahead and go  
5 right into considerations for increased predator  
6 control measures as well as I would like to see if we  
7 could increase the management assessment. So as soon  
8 as we get an improvement that we don't wait for five  
9 years on a regular management assessment, that we have  
10 followup assessments that allow us to amend as soon as  
11 we can restrictions that we put in place.

12

13 We have to also get our villages  
14 prepared. We didn't have enough time to do some  
15 proactive work in educating our villages about  
16 management plans in ways that we could allow for this,  
17 so we have to get some workshops out into our villages  
18 to help them adapt to this process as well as get their  
19 communications on ways that we can address this. We  
20 have to have exemptions that we can discuss  
21 specifically with villages, such as Anaktuvuk Pass. If  
22 the bulls don't make it through, that we don't have to  
23 go back and change it for them, to allow them to have  
24 the cow harvest.

25

26 My second youngest son has been doing  
27 my caribou hunting. As soon as we got the notice in  
28 the mail about the concerns for the caribou, he said  
29 right away I won't get any more cows. He was willing  
30 to make that choice. I know many of our hunters will  
31 make those choices if we have to, do the  
32 communications, because we look out for the longevity  
33 of our families and the sustainability of our foods for  
34 the long run and that's how we've always been. So I  
35 know our families will work as best we can.

36

37 When you've been a health aid that had  
38 to open up the doors and you've already lived in a  
39 village who's had subsistence restrictions and you have  
40 people that come to the clinic every day asking for  
41 help to get food for their families, it's a very, very  
42 painful burden to bear. I went through that in this  
43 village with caribou concerns, with fish concerns, with  
44 whaling concerns. It's a burden that I carry with me  
45 and you can feel the pain in my voice because it's  
46 trembling because those were many painful days. It  
47 wasn't just a day, it wasn't just a week, it was months  
48 and it's a reality that some of our villages have gone  
49 through in the past.

50

1                   Many of our elders have stories where  
2 it went through their families, but many of the young  
3 people haven't had some of those concerns. But for our  
4 families that have the greatest needs for our tradition  
5 and culture, for our families that don't have the  
6 enjoyment of a year-round employee working, this is  
7 going to be the hardest thing for them. I know that we  
8 have to make these decisions, we have to make some  
9 changes and we have to listen to those people who are  
10 going to have empty ice cellars, empty freezers.  
11 They're not going to have enough money to buy things  
12 from the store to replace them. We're going to hear  
13 the difficulties in our school because our children are  
14 going to have hardships when they don't have enough  
15 food in their stomachs to concentrate well in school.

16  
17                   All of these factors weigh in as well  
18 as the families that are going to have their  
19 traditional knowledge affected, as well as the  
20 education of the viability of our way of life because  
21 we don't have these foods to give our new babies the  
22 tastes. All of these things are going to be in effect.  
23 But the pain of having to suffer through people having  
24 no food is something I've tolerated and I'm willing to  
25 take those stands to make these changes because I know  
26 how bad it is. I know how much we've already suffered  
27 and how many people are not here today to share those  
28 stories because they came to us and I had no food bank,  
29 I had no food stamps, I had no money to keep giving to  
30 all the different people that needed help.

31  
32                   Again we're facing this and again we'll  
33 find ways to try to address it.

34  
35                   CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Rosemary.  
36 Any other thoughts on the presentation from the Alaska  
37 Department of Fish and Game.

38  
39                   MR. G. BROWER: Mr. Chair.

40  
41                   CHAIRMAN BROWER: Gordon.

42  
43                   MR. G. BROWER: I still have a concern  
44 on even the guidelines for survey, have trouble with  
45 their methodology because we may have had an argument  
46 in 1994 when the State impasse on rural subsistence use  
47 priorities, but that never went away on Federal public  
48 land. That's my understanding. There is a rural  
49 subsistence priority on Federal public land. If it's  
50 on Federal land, that should be the law. There should

1 be levels in which it happens before we get severely  
2 impacted within Federal public lands.

3

4 When we had that meeting to align  
5 Federal and State regs several years ago, the State  
6 should have adjusted their regs on rural subsistence  
7 priority because ours can't change. Those are my  
8 concerns.

9

10 This harvest guideline, I'm trying to  
11 fill it out but I'm having trouble with it because  
12 there's no dialogue about rural preference. There's no  
13 -- it's just telling me what I should do voluntarily  
14 maybe. I don't know. Certainly there should be a  
15 box. Do you think it's time now for non-residents to  
16 be cut off from this heard. I would check off, yes,  
17 non-residents should be cut off at this point because  
18 of that threshold that's being met for subsistence use.  
19 You don't want to reach that threshold. You want to  
20 start acting before that threshold because when you're  
21 at the threshold, the State wants to limit non-resident  
22 users and then reduce your subsistence bank limits. We  
23 don't even want to go there. We want to reduce non-  
24 resident use, resident use, all the way down to  
25 reducing resident use. If you're living in Fairbanks  
26 or Anchorage, you shouldn't be allowed to hunt up here.  
27 That's sustained yield principle if you follow that  
28 correctly.

29

30 So those are my concerns. This  
31 reinterpreting things is very alarming in how you look  
32 at resident, non-resident, rural, those types of  
33 things. Thank you.

34

35 DR. JENKINS: Mr. Chair.

36

37 CHAIRMAN BROWER: David.

38

39 DR. JENKINS: Could I briefly just  
40 respond to Gordon's comments.

41

42 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yes.

43

44 DR. JENKINS: He's correct. On Federal  
45 public lands there remains a Federal subsistence  
46 priority. That's not gone away. The State manages  
47 fish and wildlife typically unless there is a conflict,  
48 unless there's not enough to go around and then the  
49 Federal Subsistence Board, once sport and commercial  
50 hunting is curtailed or stopped and the Board can

1 actually take some action toward that end if  
2 subsistence users are being impacted by sport and  
3 commercial uses.

4  
5 So you could, for example, put in a  
6 proposal to the Federal Subsistence Board if you were  
7 really concerned about the declines of these caribou  
8 populations and ask for some Board action. Whether  
9 you'll get that, I don't know. It will take an  
10 analysis by the biologist to say where we're at, but  
11 it's certainly a way of getting the attention of the  
12 Federal Subsistence Board to let them know you have a  
13 concern.

14  
15 So there are some mechanisms in place  
16 for you to pursue here, Mr. Brower.

17  
18 MR. G. BROWER: Mr. Chair.

19  
20 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Go ahead, Gordon.

21  
22 MR. G. BROWER: I like that guy. He  
23 can help us write it. I think it's time to start  
24 writing these things because by the time you're done  
25 writing it will be another year before they act. By  
26 that time -- you know, I often have dialogue with  
27 Northwest Arctic Borough planning and hear their  
28 concerns. They are inundated with guides, non-resident  
29 hunters for money. They have Squirrel River area where  
30 they're practically shooting at each other over that  
31 way.

32  
33 There is a big impact to subsistence.  
34 When I'm on the Haul Road -- I know when they're  
35 talking about the Central Arctic Herd, but if you look  
36 at the Haul Road and its use, I went and looked at  
37 these jet boats and opened them up even when they  
38 didn't want us to take a look. Nothing but caribou  
39 heads. I looked closer and he's still got his tongue  
40 in there. I said can I take the tongues off and I got  
41 about four tongues to take home with me. I'm not a  
42 game regulator. All I was checking for was commercial  
43 permits. They said they weren't going to do anything  
44 with their tongues and let them spoil, so I took them  
45 home and cooked them all, so they were real good.

46  
47 But that's just the kind of example,  
48 the type of pressure that nonresident hunts are doing  
49 in these areas where the Western Arctic Herd is  
50 foraging and going back and forth. A lot of it I think



1 is not reported. I think a lot of it is actually not  
2 reported.

3  
4 Those are my concerns and I'm going to  
5 do my best to fill out this caribou harvest guideline  
6 for the State, but I think it's troubling that we're in  
7 Federal public land areas and this would be assisting  
8 them maybe somewhere else. I don't know.

9  
10 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Gordon,  
11 for your comments. Clarence.

12  
13 MR. AHNUPKANA: Yes, I'm Clarence  
14 Ahnupkana, resident of Nuiqsut. Yes, right now -- I  
15 bet right now there's a lot of trophy hunters at the  
16 Haul Road using bow and arrow. Just leave the meat on  
17 the ground. Just the head. They take the head home.  
18 That's my report. Thank you.

19  
20 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you again,  
21 Clarence, for your comments. I'm looking to Eva to see  
22 what other item we need to cover before we get too far  
23 off. Sam, go ahead while Eva is looking it up.

24  
25 MR. KUNAKNANA: Okay. For the record,  
26 my name is Sam Kunaknana. You know, just looking at  
27 this caribou harvest guideline survey over here and  
28 looking at these numbers over here on the caribou count  
29 over here, you know, clearly the state knows there's a  
30 decline in the caribou over here. They're still  
31 pushing for development. My concern here is why didn't  
32 someone from the State send a red flag. You know,  
33 there's too much conflict within the State of Alaska  
34 when it comes to this kind of stuff over here on  
35 development. And my concern is that if Alaska  
36 Department of Fish and Game is going to wait until the  
37 caribous go down further, which, in my opinion, you  
38 know, my opinion on that would be the ANILCA Act over  
39 here. We're talking about Tier II over here, which, to  
40 me, my opinion, contradicts ANILCA .810.

41  
42 Future generations over here are going  
43 to be feeling the brunt of this over here. It's  
44 already on a downward spiral over here. I'd like to  
45 know what the Federal side is going to do on the State  
46 side when it comes to a State legislature over here.  
47 It's just too much conflict, especially when it came to  
48 that coastal management system that they were trying to  
49 pass over here, the State legislature over here. There  
50 was too much conflict on that.

1                   My opinion on all this stuff over here  
2 is that there's conflict, too much conflict going on  
3 over here. They're not telling the whole story on  
4 what's going on over here with our food security.

5  
6                   Thank you.

7  
8                   CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Sam. So I  
9 look to you, Eva. I know we're getting crunched on  
10 time again.

11  
12                  MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council. We  
13 have just two more reports to the Council that  
14 requested specific information from Gates of the  
15 Arctic, including updates on sheep closure and  
16 community harvest and then we have Dave Yokel with BLM  
17 was prepared to give the Council updates on the recent  
18 Moose's Tooth EIS and BLM research. Those are the last  
19 two and that's it for the day. We took care of the  
20 other action items.

21  
22                  CHAIRMAN BROWER: Okay. Thank you.

23  
24                  MS. AHTUANGARUAK: Before we leave this  
25 discussion we need to make a recommendation to the  
26 Board of Game and reduce outside hunting and that's the  
27 recommendation. We also have other management  
28 decisions that we can consider, but before we leave  
29 today I want to make sure that we get a proposal in to  
30 the Board of Game.

31  
32                  CHAIRMAN BROWER: Okay. Thank you,  
33 Rosemary. Marcy. Was it you?

34  
35                  MS. OKADA: Tom Evans.

36  
37                  CHAIRMAN BROWER: Oh, Tom. Sorry.

38  
39                  MR. EVANS: Mr. Chairman. Members of  
40 the board. I'm going to give a brief overview of the  
41 special action request on the sheep. I've been asked  
42 to give this little summary and then Marcy will follow  
43 up with a summary of the Gates of the Arctic. If Kumi  
44 is still online, she can call in any time she wants if  
45 there's any additional information she'd like to add to  
46 the conversation. Given this late hour, I'm not sure  
47 if she's on the line still.

48  
49                  So I'll try to make this short as I  
50 know it's getting late, so we'll go ahead with it. I'm

1 going to give a brief overview of the special action  
2 request requested by the National Park Service on  
3 August 7th.

4

5 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: Tom. Let me cut you  
6 off first because we didn't get a second to my request  
7 to get a proposal in to the Board of Game and I want to  
8 make sure we get that discussion in before we go on to  
9 another topic.

10

11 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All I heard was a  
12 recommendation.

13

14 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: We need to get a  
15 proposal. The recommendation is to get a proposal in  
16 to the Board of Game to address this concern about  
17 caribou, but we need to get us to say we second that or  
18 not.

19

20 MR. G. BROWER: Mr. Chair. I concur  
21 with that. I second that easily that there's  
22 substantial concerns with caribou.

23

24 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Okay. So we'll  
25 follow up on that.

26

27 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: Thank you. Okay.

28

29 MR. EVANS: Okay. Like I said, this is  
30 going to be a brief overview of the special action  
31 request submitted by the National Park Service on  
32 August 7th requesting that the sheep season in Unit 23  
33 and 26A, that portion west of Howard Pass and the  
34 Etivluk River, i.e. the DeLong Mountains, be closed for  
35 the 2014-2015 season.

36

37 Special action requests are typically  
38 done when there's some unusual circumstance that  
39 requests that a closure or some kind of changes to the  
40 harvest limit need to be done outside the regulatory  
41 cycle. If a proposal was going to go in, like you said  
42 before, it wouldn't go into effect until a year from  
43 now.

44

45 The sheep season opened on August 10th.  
46 The special action was drafted in two days. It was  
47 given to Ken Adkisson and Kumi Rattenbury of the  
48 National Park Service for review. A public hearing was  
49 heard on the 14th of August in Kotzebue. It still has  
50 to be submitted to the ISC and then to the Federal

1 Subsistence Board for action. So this is still a  
2 special action that's in progress.

3  
4 The reason for the rapidity of it was  
5 because the season opened on the 10th and obviously the  
6 season is already open right now. The proponent stated  
7 that the preliminary results from the sheep surveys,  
8 which were done in coordination with Alaska Fish and  
9 Game, indicated that the sheep population in the  
10 Western Arctic National Park lands declined by over 70  
11 percent. This overall decline is likely greater than  
12 when the full State and Federal closure was implemented  
13 in 1991 to 1997 at DeLong and Baird Mountains. So this  
14 is a severe decline compared to what they were. We're  
15 talking 50 percent declines in the moose population.  
16 We're talking 70 percent declines here.

17  
18 The proponent believed that the larger  
19 decline in the overall population, low numbers of rams  
20 in the population and the very low recruitment rate of  
21 rams in the population suggest that any additional  
22 harvest could be detrimental to the overall population  
23 or could prolong or worsen the current recovery or  
24 hamper the recovery of the population.

25  
26 So this is kind of in line with what  
27 Geoff was saying earlier about the caribou things and  
28 the relation of hunting to the population. So that's  
29 the brief overview of that and I'm  
30 open to questions or we can go on with Marcy's summary  
31 for the National Park.

32  
33 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Any questions to Tom  
34 on the sheep emergency closure.

35  
36 MR. G. BROWER: Mr. Chair.

37  
38 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Gordon.

39  
40 MR. G. BROWER: I didn't quite  
41 understand the breadth of  
42 what you said. There's a drastic decline in sheep.  
43 There's an emergency order in place or in progress?

44  
45 MR. EVANS: The emergency order is in  
46 progress. There is a decline in the sheep population  
47 based on the surveys that the Park Service and Fish and  
48 Game conducted just before the request for the special  
49 action went into effect.

50

1 MR. G. BROWER: So it's in progress?  
2  
3 MR. EVANS: Yes, it's in progress  
4 still. It hasn't been submitted to the Federal  
5 Subsistence Board yet.  
6  
7 MR. G. BROWER: Who is going to be  
8 impacted?  
9  
10 MR. EVANS: The subsistence hunters are  
11 going to be impacted along with all hunters that would  
12 hunt in these areas basically. The State already  
13 closed the drawing -- or it used the emergency closure  
14 to close the same area in Unit 23 and 26A for sheep  
15 already.  
16  
17 MR. G. BROWER: So Nuiqsut,  
18 Anaktuvuk.....  
19  
20 MR. EVANS: Oh, okay. For Unit 23 --  
21 if you're asking who has C&T for these areas, for Unit  
22 23 includes all the residents of 23 north of the Arctic  
23 Circle and Point Lay. For Unit 26A includes all the  
24 residents of 26, including Anaktuvuk Pass and Point  
25 Hope.  
26  
27 MR. G. BROWER: Beings that this is a  
28 Federal closure?  
29  
30 MR. EVANS: Yes, we're talking about a  
31 closure on Federal lands.  
32  
33 MR. G. BROWER: You haven't said rural  
34 C&T folks and I want to know about those. It says a  
35 severe conservation measure that includes those that  
36 have customary use determinations. What is that, .804?  
37  
38 MR. EVANS: No, there's no .804  
39 analysis. This is a closure to everybody for sheep  
40 hunting in these areas. Closure within Unit 26A that  
41 portion west of Howard Pass and Etivluk River and  
42 DeLong Mountains. In the Gates of the Arctic there  
43 will be some sheep hunting available.  
44  
45 MS. OKADA: Mr. Chair.  
46  
47 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Marcy.  
48  
49 MS. OKADA: Just for the record, Marcy  
50 Okada with Gates of the Arctic National Park and

1 Preserve. So it's Unit 26A that portion west of Howard  
2 Pass and the Etivluk River, DeLong Mountains. So that  
3 does not affect Anaktuvuk Pass. The community sheep  
4 harvest hunt started in Anaktuvuk on July 15th and it  
5 goes until December 31st and it will not affect that  
6 community harvest hunt.

7

8 CHAIRMAN BROWER: It will not?

9

10 MS. OKADA: It will not.

11

12 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Did that help,  
13 Gordon?

14

15 MR. G. BROWER: I wanted to just  
16 understand clearly what was being said. I always get  
17 really concerned when we're going to close a resource  
18 to those folks that really need to bring it home on the  
19 table. How did we get to that level of severe -- I  
20 don't know if it's preservation or critical. The  
21 action it is seems like it's a mandatory type across  
22 the board, nobody hunts these in your designated area  
23 altogether, whether it's non-residents, residents,  
24 rural, everybody that has a customary and traditional  
25 use determination. Everybody across the board. I  
26 don't know if these areas were open to non-residents or  
27 to residents for a period of time and that harvest in  
28 this area was maybe not monitored as well to why the  
29 drastic decline. I don't know. But it seems like  
30 there's supposed to be a step somewhere from able to  
31 harvest to closed to everybody.

32

33 MR. EVANS: So I think kind of the same  
34 thing has been going along. This was a decline from  
35 2011 to 2014. We had that severe winter in 2013, which  
36 hurt all the populations. We had those icing events,  
37 which hurt some of those populations. So I think  
38 that's what we're seeing the result of. So the last  
39 time they did the survey was 2011 and when they did the  
40 survey this spring they found the low numbers. So, for  
41 biological reasons, that's the reason for the request  
42 to close the areas right now.

43

44 MR. G. BROWER: Just one follow-up  
45 question. And I don't mean to be nitpicky or anything  
46 like that. Was there non-resident and resident hunts  
47 in these areas in 2011 as the decline was being noted  
48 or was it closed? It seems like right now it's closed,  
49 closed for everything.

50

1 MR. EVANS: Yes, there were some hunts  
2 going on from 2011 on by both residents and non-  
3 residents. Just to give you an idea of the total  
4 harvest from 2011, the total harvest was 26, 2012 was  
5 17 and 2013 was 17, so there was some hunting going on.  
6

7 MR. G. BROWER: Mr. Chair. I think I'm  
8 satisfied and trying to learn. I really wanted to  
9 understand that. I really believe in making sure these  
10 resources are managed in the way that the law set out  
11 to manage it, to sustain yield. Where there's not  
12 enough, then you conserve it and those that really need  
13 it are the ones to be lastly affected like this.  
14

15 Thank you.  
16

17 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Gordon.  
18 Any further comments.  
19

20 MR. FRANKSON: Mr. Chair.  
21

22 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Teddy.  
23

24 MR. FRANKSON: My name is Teddy  
25 Frankson. I'm from Point Hope. This one is in our  
26 area. It's really going to affect us. It's putting us  
27 in a real bad crunch and I'm giving you a heads up  
28 right now that we will be probably turning into outlaws  
29 because we've got to eat. The reason is this. From  
30 2011 on big game hunters have been affecting our  
31 ability to get caribou every year for the last -- since  
32 I was a kid, every year. It's not a rumor, it's a  
33 fact. We didn't get enough, but we just got enough to  
34 get a taste, but that's not enough to feed a community.  
35 The big game hunters that went up to our sheep up there  
36 in DeLong Mountains we didn't even know. We depend on  
37 that as a last resort to get meat. If we don't get  
38 caribou, we'll depend on Dall sheep. We're in a crunch  
39 time now with this closure.  
40

41 So I just wanted to give you a heads up  
42 we might be having problems in Point Hope because of  
43 this and I apologize right now for this year because  
44 we're hungry. Just to let you guys know.  
45

46 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you for that,  
47 Teddy.  
48

49 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: Mr. Chair.  
50

1 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Rosemary.

2

3 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: I think we've heard  
4 enough concern and we've provided enough concern that  
5 we also need to expand the communication with finding  
6 ways to help address our village nutritional needs. We  
7 have to get some communication within our region. Go  
8 into the Borough and have the resources to look at.  
9 What are we going to do for our people? We can't wait  
10 until they're knocking at our clinic doors and looking  
11 for food. We have to try to be proactive in it. So I  
12 would encourage us to look at making sure we get a  
13 communication to the Borough and others within the  
14 process that may help us find ways to help our village  
15 nutritional needs.

16

17 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you. Tom,  
18 there wasn't any action by the Council to be considered  
19 under this emergency closure.

20

21 MR. EVANS: That's true, but that's  
22 because of the short timeframe that we were given and  
23 when the season opened. When we do these emergency  
24 special actions sometimes we -- like this time, we  
25 basically had -- we only used two days to write it and  
26 then we submitted it back to the Park Service for  
27 review and then we had to arrange for the special  
28 hearing, which was done in Kotzebue and to get  
29 comments. I don't know what those comments were  
30 because I came up here. That was done on Thursday. So  
31 they'll be incorporated into the final draft and then  
32 that will be submitted to the Board for consideration.  
33 That's just due to the nature of a special action  
34 that's done at the very last minute. If we have time,  
35 we always consult the Councils when we do these things  
36 and the communities too.

37

38 CHAIRMAN BROWER: I guess one  
39 suggestion might be as to what's been suggested, to  
40 provide some outreach in terms of what's happening with  
41 this closure to people that are going to be impacted.  
42 If there's just been a notice paper developed and it's  
43 not been disseminated out, we're looking to be illegal  
44 hunters in a sense that we're not abiding by our own  
45 regulations.

46

47 Gordon.

48

49 MR. G. BROWER: Yeah, Mr. Chair. You  
50 had non-resident hunts and resident hunts, but to cut



1 off across the board, there should be some  
2 responsibility of the Federal government. When you cut  
3 off the people that are depending to put food on the  
4 table, you have a responsibility to do something to  
5 mitigate that.

6

7 I could remember when my folks talked  
8 about the caribou couldn't be harvested, so the Federal  
9 government provided beef for the community. Maybe it  
10 didn't work, but they tried something. When you're  
11 taking away the food from the table from these areas  
12 that you're closing off where there's hunters like  
13 Teddy that might set out that way with his son and now  
14 it's an illegal activity because of the closure, to me  
15 they should have never had a non-resident hunt. It  
16 should have been closed off maybe six years ago to let  
17 the steady population to rise. All the while just  
18 making sure the residents were able to still conduct  
19 their subsistence activities.

20

21 I don't know about you guys. I smell a  
22 major fart somewhere.

23

24 (Laughter)

25

26 MR. G. BROWER: It's distracting my  
27 thoughts. I'm almost dying. It's almost permeated my  
28 mind there. But anyway.....

29

30 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Gordon.

31

32 MR. G. BROWER: I'm sorry I put that in  
33 the recording.

34

35 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Just close your eyes  
36 for a minute.

37

38 MR. NAGEAK: Okay, it was me.

39

40 (Laughter)

41

42 CHAIRMAN BROWER: I was going to say it  
43 wasn't me.

44

45 MR. NAGEAK: I admit it.

46

47 (Laughter)

48

49 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Anyway, thank you,  
50 Tom and Marcy. Is there another item we need to cover.

1 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: I would just like to  
2 get the staff to look at this issue and see if there's  
3 triggers that we could identify earlier on to help us  
4 instead of waiting for us to get to this point. You  
5 know, if we can be proactive in looking at this process  
6 and give a report to help us better manage things.

7  
8 MR. EVANS: One possibility is to do  
9 surveys instead of every three years do them more  
10 frequently and then maybe you can see the trend going  
11 down at a sooner period and you can do that kind of  
12 graduated response to it.

13  
14 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: As well as getting  
15 us some communication as to what it requires for you to  
16 get your survey done and what we can do in off years to  
17 help us with cost control issues. What do we need to  
18 help us get a basic assessment as well as to be a more  
19 thorough assessment. Give us some latitude in some of  
20 this discussion.

21  
22 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Rosemary.  
23 Eva, I think maybe we could also identify this as part  
24 of one of our issues and concerns in regard to how  
25 we're being approached to this type of closure under  
26 our identify issues for 2014 annual report, that this  
27 types of approach, you know, need to be revisited in  
28 terms of trying to adequately address these issues  
29 instead of being responsive to something that comes in  
30 in a short period of time without any real data  
31 provided in the in-between, in the meantime. We're  
32 being responsive to a closure generated by biologists,  
33 you know, just on the fly so to speak.

34  
35 Thank you.

36  
37 MR. G. BROWER: Mr. Chair.

38  
39 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Gordon.

40  
41 MR. G. BROWER: Was this informational  
42 or was this an action item or some sort of.....

43  
44 CHAIRMAN BROWER: It didn't have an  
45 action.....

46  
47 MR. EVANS: It's not an action item  
48 because the Federal Subsistence Board will decide on  
49 this because it's a temporary special action because  
50 it's over 60 days -- an emergency special action less

1 than 60 days and it's not even finalized yet. So this  
2 is not an action item for this meeting here.  
3  
4 This is more informational.  
5  
6 MR. G. BROWER: Thank you.  
7  
8 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair, if I may.  
9  
10 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Go ahead.  
11  
12 MS. PATTON: Just to clarify for the  
13 Council. So the Board has not received a final  
14 analysis at this point?  
15  
16 MR. EVANS: That's my understanding  
17 though I've been up here for four days and I -- but I  
18 don't think it has.  
19  
20 MS. PATTON: But it's in progress so  
21 they would be making a decision prior to any  
22 recommendations from the Councils.  
23  
24 MR. SHEARS: Would this decision be  
25 finalized before our next.....  
26  
27 MR. ADKISSON: Mr. Chair. This is Ken  
28 Adkisson with the Park Service in Nome, if I could add  
29 something.  
30  
31 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yes, Ken, go ahead.  
32  
33 MR. ADKISSON: Yeah. Actually the  
34 Board got the final draft, I believe, late Monday or  
35 early Tuesday and the Board has acted on the proposal  
36 and it was -- my understanding from OSM is was an 8-0  
37 vote to support the special action closure.  
38  
39 If we have a few minutes I could give  
40 you a little more background than perhaps what you're  
41 getting from the, you know, the current picture. But,  
42 you know, sheep in that area, the northern range, are  
43 highly susceptible to, you know, weather and these  
44 periodic events that affect the range and so forth.  
45 You know, human harvest may be a factor in the, you  
46 know, overall situation that we're looking at but it  
47 probably isn't the primary factor.  
48  
49 Back around the early 1990s the sheep  
50 population did a similar thing, crashed severely, there

1 were State and Federal closures put in place and it was  
2 over eight or nine -- about eight years that it  
3 remained closed until the population started to recover  
4 again and then the harvest was gradually expanded as  
5 the population continued to recover and opportunities  
6 were increased through various regulatory changes.  
7 What's gone on this time is that when sheep hunting was  
8 resumed in the late 1990s the Baird Mountains hunt area  
9 in Unit 23 remained closed to non-subsistence uses so  
10 the only people who could harvest sheep from the late  
11 '90s up until now in the Baird Mountains hunt area were  
12 Federally-eligible subsistence users. However, in the  
13 DeLongs Mountains, which would include part of that 26A  
14 area, west of the Atugaluk River that was mentioned  
15 harvest remained relatively low and the State was able  
16 to maintain, both a subsistence hunt and a general  
17 hunt, as well as a Federal subsistence hunt was  
18 provided in the DeLongs.

19  
20 I could just give you a little bit of  
21 harvest figures that you may not have in front of you.  
22 I'm looking at the table from the latest analysis and,  
23 for example, in 2011 there basically was a drawing -- a  
24 small harvest of about five general harvests sheep  
25 taken out of everything in the unit, three drawing  
26 sheep hunt which were the sportshunters really from  
27 outside the area and then one subsistence registration  
28 hunt and there were 17 animals that were harvested  
29 under Federal subsistence regulations.

30  
31 So that was kind of the picture in  
32 2011. So the drawing part of the hunt run by the State  
33 in the DeLongs is fairly minimum. The general hunt  
34 could have included a number of other things and we'd  
35 have to really go into the data more to separate out  
36 what was going on up there. The problem that we had,  
37 you know, was that between 2011 and 2013, we have some  
38 indication in the reports of potential issues with  
39 sheep. We really tried to get in and do surveys and we  
40 were weathered out basically from completing the  
41 surveys in 2012 and 2013, so, you know, we really tried  
42 to get the data but we just weren't able to get it. So  
43 when we finally got in in 2014 it was a pretty big  
44 shocker but it was something that was being  
45 experienced, not just in that area, but all across the  
46 Brooks Range, apparently. So, you know, it's fully our  
47 intention to try to continue to do surveys in the  
48 Bairds and DeLongs Mountains area focusing mostly on  
49 the Bairds as an index every year now. But, you know,  
50 like I said we tried two years in a row and we got

1 weathered out both years.

2

3                   So I find the comments that you're  
4 providing very helpful to me as a Park Service employee  
5 involved in subsistence management. You know, I wish  
6 we had better answers for you right now except that the  
7 population thing was probably driven more by weather  
8 than anything else. It was, you know, an event that we  
9 really couldn't predict and, you know, we were hampered  
10 from conducting and collecting data, which is  
11 understandable up there.

12

13                   As the sheep population recovers, I,  
14 personally, would take it very interestingly the kind  
15 of comments you're providing today as how to provide  
16 that opportunity to subsistence users when it's  
17 possible to restore that opportunity.

18

19                   I guess that's about it. I don't want  
20 to take up a lot of your times but if you have any  
21 questions or anything I'd be glad to try to answer  
22 them.

23

24                   MR. G. BROWER: Mr. Chair.

25

26                   CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, for  
27 sharing that Ken and we do have a question. Gordon.

28

29                   MR. G. BROWER: Yeah. I appreciate the  
30 dialogue and, you know, we always have questions and at  
31 least I do. I try to think about the residents that  
32 would be impacted. And I would really like to find  
33 out, you know, what constitutes a population recovery.  
34 Is it 5,000 sheep, is it 1,200 sheep, is it 10,000.  
35 And even if there was a subsistence hunt of 17, and I  
36 think most likely hunters would go after full curl then  
37 those are the rams, including the non-residents and  
38 taking out in a small, trying to struggle population in  
39 my books, that's a struggling population even though  
40 you had an opening for non-residents, the trophy  
41 hunters, which I really think should have never taken  
42 place in these areas with concerns. There needs to be  
43 real methodology adopted. What is adequately  
44 recovered, sustainable and what subsistence use on top  
45 of that and the threshold level for other users to be  
46 liberal about the take of these resources. There  
47 really needs to be some good methodology.

48

49                   And by the way, I believe that if you  
50 don't count them and you don't know it should be closed

1 that season. You don't get a count, you close it, I  
2 think, that's -- because you don't know what's going on  
3 with those things if you don't adequately monitor  
4 something that is a struggling population and a prized  
5 subsistence resource.

6  
7 Thank you.

8  
9 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you for that  
10 Gordon.

11  
12 Any other Council members.

13  
14 James.

15  
16 MR. NAGEAK: Mr. Chair. I think I've  
17 heard this before. My grandfather Andrew died in 1951  
18 and there was a tribute by Rusty Haraland, I don't know  
19 if you know who Rusty Haraland is, he's an artist, and  
20 he wrote in March of 1951 this statement I want you to  
21 hear.

22  
23 My grandfather had seen much happen in  
24 his life then came the evil.....

25  
26 REPORTER: James, your microphone  
27 please.

28  
29 MR. NAGEAK: Oh, I'm sorry.

30  
31 My grandfather had seen much happen in  
32 his life then came the evil day and  
33 troublesome happenings beset him with  
34 deep worry over the future existence of  
35 his people.

36  
37 This is 1951.

38  
39 It was the only trouble we have ever  
40 had in our long living at Barter Island  
41 said he, while here but a few days ago,  
42 strict game laws had been imposed upon  
43 him and his people. Our aboriginal  
44 rights have been taken away from us he  
45 sighed. But maybe some day the warden,  
46 the game warden will see things our  
47 way, for hunger knows no law in the  
48 Arctic.

49  
50 Thank you.

1 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, James.  
2  
3 MR. FRANKLIN: Mr. Chair.  
4  
5 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yes, Teddy.  
6  
7 MR. FRANKLIN: I just wanted to let the  
8 Board of Fish and Game about DeLong Mountains, they can  
9 only sustain about 40 to, you know, maybe not even 40  
10 sheep a year because there's not enough food on those  
11 mountains. They're too low and too small, they're not  
12 long enough even though it's called DeLong Mountains.  
13 It cannot sustain more than those numbers because  
14 there's not enough food for those sheep there. And,  
15 yet, we still have to depend on them in times of  
16 hardship and today is a hardship day for us over there.  
17  
18 I just wanted to let you know that if  
19 you go over there, these are the numbers that you  
20 should be looking for, anywhere from, I would say,  
21 arguably a good number, 40 to 60, maybe even 80 sheep,  
22 you can't do more than that.  
23  
24 And I think we should close DeLong  
25 Mountains to sportshunting, period, that's what I would  
26 like to see.  
27  
28 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, for  
29 sharing that Theodore.  
30  
31 MR. EVANS: Mr. Chairman.  
32  
33 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Go ahead.  
34  
35 MR. EVANS: So at least for the Federal  
36 subsistence regulations for that area, the DeLong  
37 Mountains, the harvest was eight, of which five may be  
38 rams and three may be ewes, so it was a low harvest  
39 limit to begin with.  
40  
41 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Uh-huh.  
42  
43 MR. EVANS: So they recognize that it's  
44 not a great area for the -- not a big population.  
45  
46 And I'd also like to mention that the  
47 Federal Subsistence Board made that decision on this  
48 special action and it's effective as of the 19th of  
49 August, which would have been yesterday, I guess.  
50

1 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right.  
2  
3 MR. EVANS: Thank you.  
4  
5 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you. Was there  
6 another item to be covered in regards to National  
7 Parks.  
8  
9 Clarence, we're trying to finish our  
10 business, if we could wait to make any comments,  
11 please. Let these folks finish what they're trying to  
12 identify in regards to our business.  
13  
14 Thank you.  
15  
16 MS. OKADA: So, Mr. Chair, even though  
17 Gates of the Arctic, our community sheep harvest hunt  
18 for Anaktuvuk Pass hasn't been closed this season,  
19 because of the surveys that were done in Ikilik  
20 Preserve in areas in the proper Park of Gates, there's  
21 a future chance that the harvest hunt could be closed  
22 and so we would take the time between now and then to  
23 do government consultation with the community, bring  
24 them into conversation about management of the sheep  
25 populations. We felt like we couldn't do it this  
26 season because it wasn't enough time. So should action  
27 be taken for next season, consultation would be  
28 conducted from now until then. Because the survey  
29 numbers didn't show it to be any better than the Unit  
30 23 mountain ranges.  
31  
32 And I do have more Gates of the Arctic  
33 Park updates but I can make it really speedy, as speedy  
34 as I can.  
35  
36 (Laughter)  
37  
38 MS. OKADA: We do have a caribou  
39 biologist for the Western Arctic Caribou Herd, his name  
40 is Kyle Joly. Some of you might have met him at the  
41 caribou meetings in December. Grizzly bears have been  
42 collared, this relates to the road to the Ambler Mining  
43 District. So they're collecting information on the  
44 diets and the health of grizzly bears and the movements  
45 since bears are considered to be an indicator species.  
46  
47 Our Gates of the Arctic National Park  
48 Subsistence Resource Commission held its meeting in  
49 Bettles on April 8th and 9th. And most of our meetings  
50 have really been focused on this road to the Ambler



1 Mining District, just because it's on everybody's minds  
2 and it'll have strong impacts on some of our southern  
3 communities, or communities located to the south of  
4 Gates.

5  
6 The reason why I'm here in Nuiqsut is  
7 because Nuiqsut is actually one of our resident zone  
8 communities for Gates of the Arctic, as mentioned in  
9 ANILCA, and I've never been out here before so I  
10 thought it'd be a good chance to get out here.

11  
12 And then I'm just going to give an  
13 update on the Ambler Mining District road. I've given  
14 updates in the past but now that I'm here physically  
15 and not calling in via teleconference, I'm here to  
16 answer any questions about the road, but I just want to  
17 say right now the status is that there's a -- the lead  
18 on this project is the Alaska Industrial Development  
19 and Export Authority, AIDEA. And right now we're  
20 looking at two routes. This map was handed out, we're  
21 looking at two routes that would go through the  
22 southern Preserve Unit of Gates. It's maybe, at the  
23 most, maybe a 24 mile stretch, and there's been many,  
24 many meetings by AIDEA, and these southern communities.  
25 We've also sent a representative for Park Service to  
26 the meetings that have been occurring. And right now  
27 we're just waiting for a right-of-way application. So  
28 they have to submit an application to get permission  
29 for right-of-way to go through Gates of the Arctic.

30  
31 And for those of you that may be  
32 wondering how this can be, this was also stated in  
33 ANILCA, that should the time come and the interest  
34 arises for a road to go through Gates it will be  
35 granted. But Park Service realizes that we have, not  
36 only an obligation to allow for this right-of-way, but  
37 we have a responsibility to look out for our  
38 communities, since they have a -- you know, they have a  
39 strong, strong opinion that this will affect their  
40 subsistence way of life.

41  
42 So -- oh, go ahead.

43  
44 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Gordon.

45  
46 MR. G. BROWER: You mentioned to me --  
47 Mr. Chair, if I may.

48  
49 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yes.

50

1 MR. G. BROWER: You mentioned to me,  
2 somebody from your office was trying to call me and  
3 left a message and I had -- is this about the same  
4 topic or is this something different? I had inquired  
5 about access to Native allotment areas for Anaktuvuk  
6 that Hugos had mentioned during our roundtable meeting  
7 about a year ago, and their wish to access was  
8 hampered, severely, I think, limited to wintertime or  
9 something like that.  
10  
11 MS. OKADA: So this is a different  
12 topic, access to Native allotments locating within  
13 Gates. So if we -- if we're good with the Ambler  
14 Mining District road discussion, I can go ahead and  
15 answer your question.  
16  
17 MR. G. BROWER: Yeah, Mr. Chair, I  
18 didn't mean to hijack the.....  
19  
20 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yes, Gordon.  
21  
22 MR. G. BROWER: .....dialogue here.....  
23  
24 (Laughter)  
25  
26 MR. G. BROWER: .....I was just reading  
27 between the lines here but we can stay on the Ambler  
28 Mining District Road so that people can have adequate  
29 time for questions.  
30  
31 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you.  
32 Questions.  
33  
34 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: Mr. Chair.  
35  
36 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Rosemary.  
37  
38 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: There was  
39 communications at the Western Arctic Caribou Herd  
40 Working Group, a request from Nuiqsut and Ambler to get  
41 some communications in preparations for changes that'll  
42 come from this road. I think we really need to  
43 facilitate that communication as well as getting  
44 Anaktuvuk into that communication because our villages  
45 are going to be affected by the migration and this road  
46 going in and it's important that we are proactive in  
47 trying to communicate ways to try to decrease the  
48 impacts that we'll go through. But I wanted to make  
49 sure we shared that.  
50

1 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you.  
2  
3 MR. FRANKLIN: Mr. Chair.  
4  
5 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Teddy.  
6  
7 MR. FRANKLIN: If you want to look at  
8 the impact of what a road will do all you have to do is  
9 look at the Haul Road and listen to all of the people  
10 complaining about the people, doing what they ain't  
11 supposed to be doing. So the impact will be the same,  
12 maybe worse, because there's no pipeline there. And  
13 there's going to be a lot of people going through there  
14 without even checking in or anybody even making a toll,  
15 you know, you can't -- you don't know who's going to  
16 come in, it's going to be even worse now. And with  
17 that effect, along with the effect the road will cause,  
18 making a deflection in our herds, there's going to be a  
19 lot of hungry people out there, statewide, not just up  
20 here, but statewide, now.  
21  
22 That's my thought on that one.  
23  
24 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you. Marcy,  
25 I'm not sure if this is the acronym, AIDEA, the name  
26 that's been given to this, AIDEA is currently  
27 evaluating, is that a company name or is that a AIDEA?  
28  
29 MS. OKADA: It's a public corporation  
30 of the state of Alaska.  
31  
32 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Public corporation,  
33 okay.  
34  
35 MS. OKADA: So the state of Alaska  
36 assigned them to be the lead. Initially it was  
37 Department of Transportation Public Facilities but now  
38 AIDEA is the lead.  
39  
40 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Okay, thank you. Any  
41 other questions, comments to Marcy.  
42  
43 MR. G. BROWER: Yeah, Marcy -- Mr.  
44 Chair.  
45  
46 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yes, Gordon.  
47  
48 MR. G. BROWER: Who's land is on this  
49 road, is it State land, is it corporation lands, is it  
50 Federal public lands, is it a State Park or Federal

1 Park?

2

3 MS. OKADA: It's a mixture of land.  
4 Initially, you know, five miles off the Dalton, that  
5 would be BLM land, and then they were kind of headed  
6 towards Evansville Corporation land, they might need to  
7 veer around that and then a good chunk of it is State  
8 land. Between Evansville and then when they hit the  
9 Kobuk Boot, which is what we call the Preserve, that's  
10 National Park Service land, and then as they head out  
11 of National Park Service land, it's a mixture of State  
12 and then NANA Corp lands. So it's really just a mish-  
13 mash of different lands.

14

15 MR. G. BROWER: And then one other  
16 thing is.....

17

18 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yes, Gordon.

19

20 MR. G. BROWER: .....are they trying to  
21 find gold or what are they looking for? Because if  
22 they're finding gold I want to go goldpanning.

23

24 (Laughter)

25

26 MS. OKADA: So within the Ambler Mining  
27 district, the mineral deposits are zinc, copper, I  
28 think copper is the main one that they really want  
29 access to, maybe some silver -- yeah, zinc and copper.

30

31 MR. G. BROWER: And just a followup,  
32 Mr. Chair.

33

34 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yes, Gordon.

35

36 MR. G. BROWER: You said that in  
37 ANILCA, that when the time comes and a road is proposed  
38 that you would have to accommodate that, does it mean  
39 that you have to allow it through or you accommodate  
40 the review or what does it actually state in terms of  
41 they foresaw that?

42

43 MS. OKADA: So straight out of ANILCA,  
44 Section .201(4)(b) it states literally, Congress finds  
45 that there's a need for access for surface  
46 transportation purposes across the Western Kobuk River  
47 Unit of Gates of the Arctic National Preserve from the  
48 Ambler Mining District to the Alaska Pipeline Haul Road  
49 and the Secretary shall permit such access in  
50 accordance with the provisions of this subsection.

1                   So it's written straight into ANILCA  
2 and so Gates of the Arctic has to provide this right-  
3 of-way but because they have two routes in mind, we're  
4 doing studies on both routes to see which ones would,  
5 you know, have less negative impacts on the area. I  
6 mean it's a little tricky because, you know, you still  
7 have two routes going through and you still have a road  
8 that's 2,200 -- 220 miles long and so we just have a  
9 small little section and you have migratory animals  
10 passing through, we don't know where they're going to  
11 pass thru so you got to take into consideration the  
12 whole road but we only have jurisdiction over that 24  
13 mile section that would go through Gates.

14  
15                   MR. G. BROWER: All right, I just  
16 wanted to understand and I would think that this would  
17 go through a NEPA process.

18  
19                   MS. OKADA: And that's the other thing,  
20 what was written into ANILCA for Gates of the Arctic  
21 was that, we don't have to go through a NEPA process  
22 but we have to do an environmental and economic  
23 analysis. So the data we collect and a report that we  
24 draft up would go to the Secretary of Interior and the  
25 Secretary of Transportation whom then would make a  
26 decision based on the information we give to them, but  
27 we are not required to do a NEPA process, but the other  
28 agencies are, just not Gates of the Arctic.

29  
30                   MR. G. BROWER: Yeah, that was going to  
31 be my next question is, how will that impact the review  
32 of the remaining road, they would have to do a NEPA  
33 process and go through that, at least, environmentally  
34 damaging alternative.

35  
36                   CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you.

37  
38                   MS. AHTUANGARUAK: Mr. Chair.

39  
40                   CHAIRMAN BROWER: Rosemary.

41  
42                   MS. AHTUANGARUAK: Mr. Chair. This  
43 gives us much concern. We've had tremendous amount of  
44 concern over the last two days and these are the type  
45 of fragmentation that makes us very ineffective in  
46 trying to address our issues so for me this is very  
47 fearful. I am very worried we're going to have a  
48 similar time to the past as we've had and I wish that  
49 we could put forward some recommendations that -- I'm  
50 sorry, we're in hardship right now, we have multiple

1 species, we have families who are not going to be  
2 eating, this is not a good time to be pushing forward  
3 this road because we already know there's going to be  
4 an amount of impacts and now it's another big factor  
5 that's going to contribute to our impacts.

6  
7 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you for sharing  
8 that Rosemary. It's all around us.

9  
10 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: Yeah.

11  
12 MS. OKADA: Mr. Chair. And I just  
13 quickly want to address Gordon's question about Native  
14 allotment access.

15  
16 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Uh-huh.

17  
18 MS. OKADA: There are other things that  
19 I could cover but we don't have time today so.....

20  
21 (Laughter)

22  
23 MS. OKADA: We have kept conversations  
24 open with Esther Hugo and her request for access to her  
25 Native allotment on the John River. You know, even --  
26 I personally have called and asked if she's flying  
27 through Fairbanks, you know, can we schedule a time to  
28 meet with her. Unfortunately with access to a Native  
29 allotment there's paperwork that has to be filled out  
30 and we're willing to sit down with her. Our NEPA  
31 planner, Joe Shucuchin and I are both willing to sit  
32 down with her, just to go over the form because, I,  
33 myself, have looked at the form and can't figure it  
34 out. And so that opportunity arose earlier this year  
35 but she ended up getting diverted and headed down to  
36 Anchorage. So, informally, I ran into her in town in  
37 Fairbanks and she still would like access to her Native  
38 allotment but it wasn't going to be this summer. And  
39 so we do have to allow for access to Native allotments  
40 on Park Service lands, it's just we have to figure out  
41 a way on how to compromise between the request and then  
42 our obligations to preserve and protect our land, so  
43 that's not going to be an easy road to travel down but  
44 as long as we keep in touch with her and then anyone  
45 else who puts in a request.

46  
47 So.....

48  
49 MR. G. BROWER: And was that the phone  
50 call that I got that left a message?

1 MS. OKADA: And so your meeting that  
2 occurred awhile back with Pat Pourchot and a bunch of  
3 other people, someone from the regional office, or our  
4 Native Affairs Liaison had attended that meeting and  
5 she had notified us to say that you had a concern about  
6 that request to access a Native allotment, and so our  
7 NEPA planner, Joe Shucuchin has been trying to contact  
8 you because he has more details about how we can  
9 fulfill that request than I do.  
10  
11 MR. G. BROWER: Yeah, Mr. Chair. I  
12 just wanted to thank Marcy on that part. I would like  
13 to find out clearer detail how that's done so if I got  
14 the chance I could sit down with her, too.....  
15  
16 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Uh-huh.  
17  
18 MR. G. BROWER: .....and, you know, the  
19 more of these fires that we put out, I think, the  
20 better off, good faith efforts that we put together is  
21 good for the community over there.  
22  
23 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Gordon.  
24 Thank you, Marcy.  
25  
26 MS. OKADA: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
27  
28 CHAIRMAN BROWER: And we have our final  
29 presenter is BLM update.  
30  
31 MR. G. BROWER: Dr. Yokel.  
32  
33 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Five minutes.  
34  
35 (Laughter)  
36  
37 DR. YOKEL: Mr. Chair. I have a slide  
38 presentation if you want to move so you can see the  
39 screen.  
40  
41 CHAIRMAN BROWER: I'm going to go to  
42 sleep.  
43  
44 (Laughter)  
45  
46 DR. YOKEL: Well, you can do that, too,  
47 it's your option.  
48  
49 (Laughter)  
50

1 MR. NAGEAK: It was 5:00 o'clock a  
2 while ago and, you know, the restaurant closes at 7:00  
3 o'clock and it's steak night.  
4  
5 (Laughter)  
6  
7 DR. YOKEL: Well, in response to that,  
8 Mr. Chair, I'm here.....  
9  
10 MR. NAGEAK: It's steak night.  
11  
12 (Laughter)  
13  
14 DR. YOKEL: .....at your request and at  
15 your pleasure. If you don't want to hear me, that's  
16 your choice.  
17  
18 CHAIRMAN BROWER: It's my elders I'm  
19 hearing responses from.  
20  
21 (Pause - PowerPoint set up issues)  
22  
23 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Dr. Yokel, go ahead.  
24  
25 DR. YOKEL: Well, maybe you won't have  
26 to look at the projection afterall.  
27  
28 CHAIRMAN BROWER: It's fried, the light  
29 bulb, so we got to go cook our steaks.  
30  
31 MR. G. BROWER: If you pull the wire  
32 out, spit in it and put it back it'll work.  
33  
34 (Laughter)  
35  
36 (Pause - PowerPoint set up issues)  
37  
38 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: You're dating  
39 yourself.  
40  
41 (Laughter)  
42  
43 DR. YOKEL: Well, let me try to begin  
44 without the map.  
45  
46 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Go ahead.  
47  
48 DR. YOKEL: I was asked -- most of  
49 everything I've brought here today is information I  
50 provided to you at your February meeting, I'm just here



1 to give you some updates.

2

3 And the first thing I was asked to do  
4 is to give you an update on our environmental impact  
5 statement for the Greater Mooses Tooth One Development,  
6 also known as GMT1, which is right outside of Nuiqsut  
7 here.

8

9 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Uh-huh.

10

11 DR. YOKEL: Okay, here we go. So let's  
12 see here, I don't have a pointer and if I go up there  
13 the microphone won't hear me.

14

15 CHAIRMAN BROWER: So what did you need?

16

17 REPORTER: You're fine there, Dave.

18

19 DR. YOKEL: I can't stand up behind the  
20 map and put my finger on it with that thing in my --  
21 okay, so this map shows Nuiqsut in the right-hand side,  
22 you can see the CD5 development up there at the north  
23 end, then you see a yellow and black and white hash-  
24 line, that's the proposed route to the GMT1  
25 development. And then the map shows an extension on  
26 down to the GMT2, which is not yet proposed, but,  
27 assumed in the BLM's EIS that it will be proposed at  
28 some time in the future if GMT1 is built.

29

30 So this is what we're talking about,  
31 this is just one of the four alternatives in the draft  
32 EIS.

33

34 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Uh-huh.

35

36 DR. YOKEL: We completed the draft EIS  
37 at the end of February and we had a 60 day public  
38 comment period in March and April and during that time  
39 we had public meetings in Point Lay, Wainwright,  
40 Atqasuk, Barrow, Nuiqsut and Anaktuvuk Pass, as well as  
41 Fairbanks and Anchorage. And we've taken the comments  
42 from the -- all the written comments, and from those  
43 meetings and we've used those to revise the draft EIS  
44 into what will be released, eventually, as our final  
45 EIS.

46

47 One of the comments that we received  
48 recommended that we include an alternative that has  
49 seasonal drilling only, that will be included in the  
50 final EIS. It will be called Alternative D2.

1 I was also asked to tell you about the  
2 Section .810 analysis, Section .810 of ANILCA, which  
3 requires that we state whether or not this -- any of  
4 the alternatives of this EIS will have a significant  
5 restriction on subsistence activities. The .810  
6 analysis for the draft EIS concluded that all four  
7 alternatives and the cumulative case, which would be  
8 GMT1, plus other developments in the area, all five of  
9 those, each, would have a subsistence restriction -- or  
10 a significant restriction on subsistence activities.  
11 This would be primarily in terms of the harvest of  
12 caribou and the restriction would be due to some  
13 combination of avoidance of this area by hunters,  
14 because they may not want to hunt in the developed area  
15 and also redistribution of caribou resources as a  
16 result of the construction of a pipeline and maybe a  
17 road.

18  
19 The same conclusions will be found in  
20 the final EIS, that there will be significant  
21 restrictions on subsistence activities as a result of  
22 this development.

23  
24 On the other hand, one thing that has  
25 been mentioned by some commenters is that there may be  
26 a positive outcome for some caribou hunters if one of  
27 the roaded alternatives is chosen, then Nuiqsut hunters  
28 that would choose to do so, would be able to drive out  
29 to the GMT1 and hunt from the road there.

30  
31 That's all I.....

32  
33 MR. G. BROWER: Could I have a  
34 question?

35  
36 DR. YOKEL: Sure.

37  
38 MR. G. BROWER: Okay. So you spark  
39 conversation very quickly.

40  
41 (Laughter)

42  
43 DR. YOKEL: I assumed I would.

44  
45 (Laughter)

46  
47 MR. G. BROWER: Yeah. The positive  
48 side of the road, that you may be able to have  
49 increased access by use of the road itself, so I would  
50 lead to think that in that alternative, in the use of

1 the road, that there's going to be adequate pull-outs  
2 or pads that you could stage from in order to be off  
3 the way of construction, be off the way of oilfield  
4 security and the work forces that may have to conduct  
5 routine work in that area.

6

7 DR. YOKEL: Well, that's a good point  
8 but it's not one of the alternatives in the EIS that  
9 hunters would be allowed to use the road. That would  
10 be a choice of ConocoPhillips and BLM would not  
11 prohibit that. So I don't believe there are turnouts  
12 in the road plan other than where there are any access  
13 to the pipeline, or wide spots because of a bridge,  
14 anything like that, there won't be any, as far as I  
15 know, any special turnouts built for hunters to park.

16

17 CHAIRMAN BROWER: So that conversation  
18 would have to be held between Nuiqsut residents and  
19 Conoco, if that's something that would be developed.

20

21 DR. YOKEL: I don't want to commit  
22 myself to something I'm not certain of here.....

23

24 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Uh-huh.

25

26 DR. YOKEL: .....especially on the  
27 record. If turnouts are to be built and they're not  
28 included in this environmental analysis, then that  
29 would require some additional environmental analysis on  
30 our part.

31

32 MR. G. BROWER: Oh, you're going to get  
33 them in there now.

34

35 (Laughter)

36

37 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Rosemary.

38

39 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: We've had tremendous  
40 amount of discussion over concerns in the existing  
41 Prudhoe Bay and Kuparuk River Unit and we've also had a  
42 lot of discussions around the Alpine Development Unit  
43 and this expands into that.

44

45 Local community meetings we had many  
46 times where Conoco would say there are not going to be  
47 hunting restrictions, but they're not the only ones  
48 that have enforcement or response into this area, so  
49 they would mislead us and say, don't worry, your  
50 hunting's going to be just fine to have us get into the

1 area after construction and there are signs that say  
2 you cannot hunt here. So it is misleading to think  
3 this because there are a tremendous amount of  
4 restrictions that are occurring. Look at what's  
5 happening right now with us unable to keep our  
6 subsistence equipment in the Prudhoe Bay area now. We  
7 had vehicles, snowmachines, boats carted off the North  
8 Slope. It's a misnomer for us to think we're going to  
9 have this because, yeah, we might get a little bit at  
10 the beginning but as increased activity occurs and as  
11 increased restrictions and regulatory enforcement,  
12 they're words on paper, it's not words that lead into  
13 actual hunting activities.

14

15 Also this is really hard for us to  
16 discuss because the reality is, this is something  
17 that's being forced upon us with the efforts to promote  
18 this activity. And many of the discussions that we've  
19 done with us, we've listened to decades of discussions  
20 around this and, yet, we're still here with this  
21 project going forward with significant impacts.

22

23 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Go ahead, Gordon.

24

25 MR. G. BROWER: One more. And I'm  
26 sure, you know, you can't change what's already been  
27 reviewed because you're in a final stage, you said?

28

29 DR. YOKEL: Yeah. The final EIS is  
30 now being written by the contractor and is supposed to  
31 come to the BLM for our review of it at the end of this  
32 week.

33

34 MR. G. BROWER: Uh-huh.

35

36 DR. YOKEL: And we're supposed to do  
37 our review and have it back to them in about three  
38 weeks.

39

40 MR. G. BROWER: Right.

41

42 DR. YOKEL: And I.....

43

44 MR. G. BROWER: Will that go another  
45 public round of review or is that just to publish  
46 it.....

47

48 DR. YOKEL: No, that is to.....

49

50 MR. G. BROWER: .....putting out the

1 recommendation?  
2  
3 DR. YOKEL: .....publish the final EIS  
4 sometime in October.  
5  
6 MR. G. BROWER: Record of Decision.  
7  
8 DR. YOKEL: The record of decision  
9 would follow after that at some legal period of time.  
10  
11 MR. G. BROWER: Right.  
12  
13 DR. YOKEL: But there's not -- after  
14 the final EIS is published there's not a comment period  
15 on it per se, but there is a legal opportunity to voice  
16 some opposition, I think, to the Interior Board of Land  
17 Appeals.  
18  
19 MR. G. BROWER: You know when we were  
20 reviewing Meltwater back in 2001, somewhere around  
21 there, you know, Meltwater was a significant.....  
22  
23 DR. YOKEL: Uh-huh.  
24  
25 MR. G. BROWER: .....development before  
26 Alpine came this way, I believe -- or, no, it was after  
27 Alpine, but it was going southeast, I think, from the  
28 time development, and the big question on the new core  
29 calving for the Central Arctic Herd was at question and  
30 our old data showed it to be way up there, it moved 25  
31 miles, it's new core area. But in the master plan  
32 review, we may have -- I don't know if it went through  
33 a full scale EIS or it was just an EA at that point,  
34 but in the master plan review, the planning department  
35 argued with the developer, in that, we thought the  
36 Central Arctic Herd would be less likely to traverse  
37 over to the Colville River with a 16-mile pipeline  
38 being built going further south with a road. And we  
39 made staff recommendations that were different than the  
40 master plan recommending the assembly adopt this  
41 concept of put it above the surface for one mile, put  
42 it in the permafrost or in the road for one mile, so  
43 you didn't have to put up a little sign that said,  
44 caribou ramp, and, you know, I don't think the caribou  
45 can read anyway, you know, they're -- you don't have to  
46 put those little ramps up. But the effort was to make  
47 larger areas available for movement of major herds.  
48 You know one mile is a great distance, open, and then  
49 you stitch it up. And then we were in great opposition  
50 -- had great opposition, I think it was Phillips at the

1 time, before it was ConocoPhillips, and with that  
2 opposition, we got a third-party opinion to develop a  
3 white paper, an opinion, a third-party opinion to say,  
4 can pipelines with hot oil be inside the permafrost and  
5 function, and today's technology, yeah, you can do  
6 that. Anyway there was a major compromise. The Mayor  
7 said the -- the Industry said to the Mayor, well,  
8 you're not going to get your tax base because we're  
9 just not going to do it, it's too expensive to do it  
10 that way, tied the Mayor's hands, and the compromise at  
11 the end was a seven foot elevated pipeline average and  
12 convoying as a stipulation during peak calving periods.

13

14 All kinds of efforts to do that but I  
15 don't even know if it really made an effect on the  
16 movement of that caribou because I think some of the  
17 biologists concluded that it didn't make a measurable  
18 difference on crossing probability.

19

20 So those were some of the issues that  
21 we dealt with in terms of that, but, this would have  
22 been a great candidate to do a stitched approach, bury  
23 it for a mile, surface it for a mile, or something to  
24 that affect. Just -- I'm sorry.

25

26 DR. YOKEL: Do you want any response to  
27 that or are you just.....

28

29 MR. G. BROWER: Oh, yeah, sure, yeah,  
30 fine.

31

32 DR. YOKEL: I think the studies showed  
33 that the convoying did not make any difference in terms  
34 of caribou moving through the area.

35

36 What I know from the studies in Prudhoe  
37 Bay and Kuparuk area are that, when you have a pipeline  
38 built along side of the road, the two together can  
39 have, what we call a synergistic effect, you know, like  
40 the sum is greater than the parts, so it can have a  
41 synergistic affect on caribou movement through the  
42 area. But the studies also showed that if they're  
43 separated from each other by 350 feet or more, that  
44 there wouldn't be any additive affect of the road and  
45 the pipeline. Our own rules would require a separation  
46 of at least 500 feet. And so it's the BLM's belief,  
47 correct or not, that if we -- that there will be an  
48 affect on caribou movement, but having both the road  
49 and the pipeline will not make an additive affect on  
50 that movement because we'll keep them far enough apart.

1 CHAIRMAN BROWER: How much more of the  
2 presentation do you have?  
3  
4 DR. YOKEL: I think I have eight more  
5 slides but none of them -- I'm sure none of them will  
6 be as controversial as this one.  
7  
8 (Laughter)  
9  
10 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Okay. My elders are  
11 asking that we go on a dinner break and cut the meeting  
12 off so I want to know how much if you can shorten the  
13 presentation in a sense.  
14  
15 Clarence (In Inupiaq)  
16  
17 CLARENCE: Okay.  
18  
19 CHAIRMAN BROWER: (In Inupiaq)  
20  
21 DR. YOKEL: I'll go as fast as I can.  
22 I could have been done now but I'm trying to give you a  
23 chance to say your questions.  
24  
25 CHAIRMAN BROWER: We're learning as you  
26 go on.  
27  
28 MR. G. BROWER: I'm shutting up now.  
29  
30 (Laughter)  
31  
32 DR. YOKEL: Okay, well, I just wanted  
33 to say that ConocoPhillips did drill two exploratory  
34 wells in the area this winter as I said they had  
35 planned to. One this map they're the Flattop 1, that  
36 golden star out in the middle and then Rendezvous 3 at  
37 the southwest end. With these two wells they're  
38 learning more about that oil that they hope to develop  
39 through -- got them.  
40  
41 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah, got them.  
42  
43 DR. YOKEL: Through GMT1 and perhaps  
44 future developments. And this slide here is a photo of  
45 the Flattop Well 1 that I took a couple of weeks ago,  
46 you can see the outline of the -- or maybe you can see  
47 the outline of the ice drilling pad on the tundra  
48 there.  
49  
50 MR. G. BROWER: Yeah, I could see that.

1 DR. YOKEL: And this is a little bit  
2 easier to see, this is the Rendezvous 3 Well, and you  
3 can see the outline of the drilling pad and also the  
4 access ice road to that drilling pad.  
5  
6 And then also at the Umiat area, Link  
7 drilled only one exploratory well this winter, and  
8 that's the 23H up in the upper left-hand side of the  
9 map there. And they -- here's a look at the 23H well  
10 from a couple of weeks ago, and they want to meet with  
11 the BLM next month to discuss mitigation measures for a  
12 potential development plan of Umiat.  
13  
14 And that's all I can tell you about  
15 that at this time. I don't know any more about it.  
16  
17 Okay, you've asked about the Central  
18 Yukon Resource Management Plan before, a land use plan  
19 for the area outlined in red there. I have no new  
20 information since last February. I can just say this  
21 plan is moving along very slowly. They anticipate that  
22 a draft EIS will come out sometime in 2015, so several  
23 months out, and there would be a final EIS in 2016.  
24 And if you're interested in tracking the progress of  
25 that plan for yourself, you can use the URL that's up  
26 there on the right side of the screen.  
27  
28 I also mentioned that we would be  
29 involved in several projects out in the NPR-A this  
30 summer, and this lists them.  
31  
32 I was also asked to give you an update  
33 on the caribou, but Geoff Carroll did a great job of  
34 that already.....  
35  
36 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Uh-huh.  
37  
38 DR. YOKEL: .....so I don't need to do  
39 that.  
40  
41 And that's it for my presentation.  
42  
43 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Dr. Yokel,  
44 for your presentation.  
45  
46 Next time we'll put you at the top of  
47 the agenda.  
48  
49 MR. SHEARS: Yeah.  
50



1 (Laughter)  
2  
3 MR. G. BROWER: So we can have a longer  
4 time.  
5  
6 MR. SHEARS: All day with us, the first  
7 day.  
8  
9 DR. YOKEL: I won't hold my breath,  
10 I've been at the tail end of every one of these  
11 meetings I've been to.  
12  
13 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you for taking  
14 the time.  
15  
16 Rosemary.  
17  
18 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: For those of you that  
19 commented on your concern to being delayed for a meal  
20 today, remember there are many meals that are going to  
21 be missed in this village, as well as others, with  
22 traditional foods and it's a reality of the discussion  
23 that we're having today.  
24  
25 ELI: On your marker on Umiat, in the  
26 future, you had delayed so much of your clean up part  
27 in Umiat, and now all of that, Legacy Wells, up river  
28 from us, now we see a lot of debris like we never seen  
29 before all the way from here, all the way to Umiat.  
30  
31 MR. NAGEAK: Mr. Chair.  
32  
33 ELI: Major clean up needs to be done  
34 before development of Umiat happens.  
35  
36 MR. NAGEAK: Mr. Chair.  
37  
38 ELI: Also CD5, that we had just  
39 phased, in that development phase, you can't even go  
40 around it this spring. When we go out hunting, no turn  
41 around, no nothing for us to go out, but to go around  
42 the CD5 and if that will happen with 6 and 7, how much  
43 more hardship do we have to face in this village on  
44 this development process.  
45  
46 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Eli.  
47 Dave, I don't think you need to respond at this time,  
48 these questions you need to elaborate a little bit more  
49 with the parties involved in what's happening around  
50 the Colville. I think it's not just on your shoulders,

1 it's also above -- in regards to your supervisors that  
2 also need to hear these concerns as well. So we'll  
3 definitely look forward to having that conversation in  
4 trying to address the concerns. There's been other  
5 attempts to voice similar concerns to BLM. There must  
6 have been some responses that were generated to those  
7 concerns from BLM.

8

9 So at this time, you know, we've had an  
10 opportunity to provide public comments earlier and I'm  
11 not using that as an excuse but we've gone well over  
12 our time in trying to address all the agenda items that  
13 we have before us, that we need to be mindful of where  
14 we are in regards to our time of day.

15

16 So, thank you, Eli, for providing what  
17 you've stated and -- yes.

18

19 ELI: I want to point out that our fish  
20 is now being heavily contaminate and you guys are  
21 responsible in the future if something happens to our  
22 fish and our way of life, our health.

23

24 Thank you.

25

26 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Eli. So  
27 what -- I'm trying to close down -- getting down to  
28 closing our meeting and, Eli, I look to you in terms of  
29 what -- where we are in that sense, we've pretty much  
30 covered all our agenda items, and I don't think we have  
31 any other -- because we've already identified our next  
32 meeting dates.

33

34 MS. PATTON: That -- that was it for  
35 the agenda and action items. Rosemary had requested  
36 for a second to a proposal to Board of Game, if the  
37 Council wishes to have more discussion and to prepare  
38 this, we can continue to work on -- on developing.....

39

40 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Getting a draft  
41 proposal?

42

43 MS. PATTON: Yes.

44

45 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: Uh-huh.

46

47 MS. PATTON: And then.....

48

49 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Uh-huh.

50

1 MS. PATTON: .....the Council can take  
2 that up and work on it at the next meeting, to take  
3 action on it, but we can continue to work on developing  
4 it.....

5  
6 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Uh-huh.

7  
8 MS. PATTON: .....and the Council would  
9 then be able to take action at the winter meeting if  
10 the Council wishes.

11  
12 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Was that right,  
13 Rosemary?

14  
15 MR. G. BROWER: Yeah, Madame -- Mr.  
16 Chair.

17  
18 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Gordon.

19  
20 MR. G. BROWER: Do we have to be at a  
21 meeting to have a proposal done? It seems like we made  
22 a motion earlier, and, that, we should, in fact,  
23 develop a proposal, why don't we just develop it over  
24 the email and it seems like between now and the time  
25 that the Board of Game and others have to discuss this,  
26 that ours should be in line with the tri-lateral  
27 committee at Anaktuvuk is putting together.....

28  
29 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Uh-huh.

30  
31 HEATHER: .....perhaps this community  
32 might put something together, maybe the Borough will  
33 put something together, but the -- I would hate to be  
34 late on this one.

35  
36 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yes.

37  
38 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair.....

39  
40 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Rosemary, would  
41 that.....

42  
43 MS. PATTON: .....and Council, as  
44 long.....

45  
46 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: I agree.

47  
48 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Okay, go ahead.

49  
50 MS. PATTON: .....as the intention of

1 the Council is on the record, you have made a motion  
2 and seconded to submit a proposal to the Board of Game,  
3 if the Council wishes to -- to also address the Federal  
4 Subsistence Board or.....

5  
6 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Uh-huh.

7  
8 MS. PATTON: .....through a proposal  
9 that way, as long as that intention is on the record  
10 here, we can continue to work on it.

11  
12 CHAIRMAN BROWER: So I think that  
13 that's something that we can definitely share through  
14 emails and get that proposal generated in accordance  
15 with the verbiage being shared, I think you'll have an  
16 opportune time to review the draft and identify what  
17 the crux of the proposal will be.

18  
19 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: Just to clarify,  
20 definitely we want to work on getting the proposal for  
21 the Board of Game, but we also need to get a follow up  
22 with the Federal Subsistence Board on this concern, and  
23 I just wanted to add that.

24  
25 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Okay.

26  
27 DR. JENKINS: And, Mr. Chair, can I  
28 just jump in just for a second, I want to make sure we  
29 clarify what the intent of the Council is for these  
30 proposals.

31  
32 What I understand is that you heard  
33 about the declining caribou populations and there are  
34 significant 50 percent declines and what I heard is  
35 that you're interested in insuring that Federally-  
36 qualified users continue to get subsistence access to  
37 these herds and that non-Federally-qualified users no  
38 longer have access to these herds, that's the gist of  
39 what I understand you're saying. So as long as we know  
40 that and that's.....

41  
42 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Uh-huh.

43  
44 DR. JENKINS: .....part of the record,  
45 I think we can proceed from here.

46  
47 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you for that  
48 clarification. Go ahead, Rosemary.

49  
50 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: Yes.

1 DR. JENKINS: Okay, thank you.  
2  
3 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: Yes. Thank you.  
4  
5 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Mr.  
6 Jenkins. The last item is a motion to adjourn.  
7  
8 MR. G. BROWER: So moved.  
9  
10 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Clarence, we're done  
11 with public comments.  
12  
13 (In Inupiaq)  
14  
15 CHAIRMAN BROWER: We're done with  
16 public comments.  
17  
18 MR. SHEARS: Second.  
19  
20 CHAIRMAN BROWER: We have a motion to  
21 adjourn.  
22  
23 MR. NAGEAK: I do.  
24  
25 MR. SHEARS: Second.  
26  
27 MR. NAGEAK: I do, I move to adjourn.  
28  
29 MR. SHEARS: Second.  
30  
31 CHAIRMAN BROWER: And, Bob, seconded.  
32 All in favor of the motion signify by saying aye.  
33  
34 IN UNISON: Aye.  
35  
36 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Opposed, say nay.  
37  
38 (No negative votes)  
39  
40 CHAIRMAN BROWER: None noted. Thank  
41 you. Thank you all you on.....  
42  
43 MS. PATTON: Thanks for hanging on Lee.  
44  
45 CHAIRMAN BROWER: .....the  
46 teleconference.  
47  
48 DR. JENKINS: And you'll all be happy  
49 to know I called the hotel and told them we'd be late  
50 for our dinner so they'll hold it for us.

1 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right, thank you.  
2  
3 MR. KAYOTUK: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.  
4  
5 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Have a good evening  
6 Lee.  
7  
8 (Off record)  
9  
10 (END OF PROCEEDINGS)

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C E R T I F I C A T E

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA                    )  
  )ss.  
STATE OF ALASKA                                )

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