

1 NORTH SLOPE FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE REGIONAL  
2  
3 ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING  
4  
5 PUBLIC MEETING  
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9 VOLUME II  
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11  
12 North Slope Savaat Center  
13 Barrow, Alaska  
14 August 21, 2013  
15 9:00 a.m.  
16  
17

18 COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:  
19

20 Harry Brower, Chair  
21 Rosemary Ahtuanguaruak  
22 Gordon Brower  
23 Theodore Frankson  
24 Lee Kayotuk  
25 James Nageak  
26 Robert Shears  
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31 Regional Council Coordinator, Eva Patton  
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P R O C E E D I N G S

(Barrow, Alaska - 8/21/2013)

(On record)

CHAIRMAN BROWER: Everyone, I'd like to call the North Slope Regional Advisory Council meeting back to order at this time. Good morning. It's August 21, 2013, a couple minutes after 9:00, so I'd like to get started and start moving with our agenda again this morning. We left off under 9, new business, wildlife regulatory proposals. Taking on WP14-53 regarding moose.

I'm not sure if there's any other announcements to be made before getting started this morning, Eva, or if there's any changes to the agenda items in terms of presentations. Jack had to leave yesterday, so I'm not sure if there's any other requests as of this morning.

MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair. Not as of this morning yet. We'll just have to keep track on the agenda here where we are if there are folks who have traveled here today who may need to go if we go long, but at this moment no changes other than we had put annual report reply on to today as well.

CHAIRMAN BROWER: Right. Thank you, Eva. Good morning, Tom. We'll continue with our proposals and you could introduce the proposal and get it on step, so I'll give you the floor, Tom.

MR. EVANS: Good morning, Mr. Chairman and members of the Council. We'll start off with Proposal WP14-54, then go to WP14-55 and then we'll do the last one, which will be WP14-51.

Proposal WP14-54 was submitted by North Slope Regional Advisory Council, requests that the moose season in Unit 26B remainder and Unit 26C be extended from July 1 to March 31 to July 1 to June 30, the harvest restrictions for Unit 26C be removed, and the harvest limit be increased from three moose to five moose.

The proponent states that the current moose season and harvest limit of three moose is very

1 restrictive and provides little meat for the community  
2 of Kaktovik. Extension of the season will allow more  
3 flexibility to hunt when the weather and travel  
4 conditions are suitable and safe.

5  
6 A little bit on the regulatory history.  
7 Federal and State moose seasons in Units 26B and 26C  
8 were closed in 1996 due to low population of moose  
9 following declines in the early 1990s.

10  
11 In 2004, the Board adopted Proposal  
12 WP04-86b with modification to allow of a harvest quota  
13 of three moose, two bulls and one of either sex, with  
14 the following restrictions that no more than two bulls  
15 may be harvested and cows may not be harvested in Unit  
16 26C. The analysis for Proposal WP04-86 included an  
17 ANILCA Section .804 analysis which the Board used to  
18 give priority to the residents of Kaktovik for  
19 harvesting moose in Unit 26C.

20  
21 Proposal WP08-54 requested a  
22 modification of the moose harvest quota in Unit 26C to  
23 five bulls, four bulls and one of either sex, with  
24 shorter harvest season from July 1 to December 31 vs.  
25 July 1 to March 31 for Kaktovik residents in Unit 26C  
26 and the proposal requested lifting the closure in the  
27 Canning River  
28 drainage of Unit 26B remainder. The Board adopted the  
29 proposal with modification to keep the closure in  
30 place, except for residents of Kaktovik, but changed  
31 the harvest quota from three moose, two bulls and one  
32 of either sex, to three moose, two antlered bulls and  
33 one of either sex. Changing the harvest limit to  
34 antlered bulls was done to protect cows from being  
35 harvested later in the season when bulls have shed  
36 their antlers. The restriction of harvesting a cow  
37 accompanied by a calf was retained.

38  
39 In March 2012, the Alaska Board of Game  
40 adopted Proposal 174A to establish a State moose season  
41 in a portion of Unit 26C which includes the Firth  
42 River, Mancha Creek and the Upper Kongakut River  
43 drainages; however, there has been no State season  
44 because the area consists of Federal public lands that  
45 are currently closed to the harvest of moose, except by  
46 Federally qualified subsistence users. A State season  
47 is contingent on the Board lifting the closure in the  
48 portion of Unit 26C in the Firth River, Mancha Creek  
49 and the Upper Kongakut River drainages.

50

1                   On April 3, 2013, the Board adopted  
2 Emergency Special Action WSA12-12 with modification to  
3 allow Kaktovik residents to harvest one additional  
4 moose in Unit 26B remainder and to extend the season  
5 through April 14, 2013. As Lee mentioned yesterday, no  
6 additional moose were taken during that time.

7  
8                   Unit 26C contains at least two distinct  
9 moose populations, the first occurring on the coastal  
10 plain and foothills in the North Slope portion of Unit  
11 26C, which we'll refer to as the North Slope  
12 population, and the other in the Firth, Mancha, and  
13 Upper Kongakut river drainages in Unit 26C and we're  
14 going to refer to that as the Old Crow Flats  
15 population.

16  
17                  The Old Crow Flats population is  
18 migratory. The moose calve and summer in the Old Crow  
19 Flats in the Yukon Territory and then move to the  
20 Brooks Range during the winter. In the winter, the  
21 moose from the Old Crow Flats population use the Firth,  
22 Mancha, Kongakut, Coleen and Sheenjek river drainages  
23 in Alaska, so they actually use drainages in both Unit  
24 26C and Unit 25A. Fall movement to wintering areas  
25 usually occurs August to early September and the spring  
26 movements back to the calving areas usually occur in  
27 March and April.

28  
29                  A majority of the moose population in  
30 the eastern portion of 26C in the Brooks Range calf and  
31 spend the summer in Old Crow Flats in the Yukon and  
32 they migrate to the river drainages during the  
33 wintertime. Moose in Unit 26B remainder are located in  
34 the riparian areas in the upper section of the Canning  
35 River.

36  
37                  State management goals for moose in  
38 Unit 26B and 26C are to maintain a population of 300  
39 moose with short yearlings comprising at least 15  
40 percent using a three-year average of the population.  
41 The short yearlings is done to kind of get an idea of  
42 recruitment of calves that are a little bit older, that  
43 are like 10 or 11 months old, so it gives a measure of  
44 recruitment into the population.

45  
46                  In Unit 26C, maintain a population of  
47 at least 150 moose with short yearlings comprising at  
48 least 15 percent of the population. Along with that is  
49 to maintain bull/cow ratios of at least 35 bulls per  
50 100 cows when hunting seasons are open for Unit 26B and

1 Unit 26.

2

3 A comprehensive moose survey has not  
4 been conducted for Units 26B and 26C, however the trend  
5 counts in the areas account for a large percentage of  
6 the moose as habitat is fairly limited in the region.

7

8 The moose population in the eastern  
9 portion of Unit 26B declined from peak counts from 2005  
10 to 2008 and 2009, so the population has actually  
11 declined from peak counts in 2009 versus earlier years  
12 in 2005 to 2008.

13

14 The composition of short yearlings  
15 ranged from 15 to 18 percent of the observed moose in  
16 2005 to 2008, but subsequently declined to 11 percent  
17 of short yearlings in 2009.

18

19 The moose population in 26B excluding  
20 the Canning River drainage, so not 26B remainder, may  
21 have rebounded again to approximately 500 moose and the  
22 State acknowledging that due to emergency special order  
23 in March and allowed to take an additional four moose  
24 from February 15th to April 15th of this year.

25

26 The North Slope population has remained  
27 relatively stable at low levels from 2003 to 2011 and  
28 those levels are about 50 moose for the North Slope  
29 population. The Old Crow Flats population of Unit 26C,  
30 which includes the Firth River, Mancha Creek, and Upper  
31 Kongakut River drainages was surveyed in 1991, 2000,  
32 2002 and 2011. The most recent data in 2011 estimated  
33 there were 339 moose in this area within Unit 26C, so  
34 they may have recovered somewhat from the earlier lows  
35 in the early 2000s. The State estimated that based on  
36 that population of 339 that up to 10 bulls could be  
37 harvested from this segment of the population and  
38 that's basically sort of calculated at 3 percent times  
39 350.

40

41 Moose harvest on the affected Federal  
42 public lands in Units 26B and 26C has been limited to  
43 residents of Kaktovik since 2004, with up to three  
44 permits issued annually and a harvest quota of three  
45 moose. Since 2004, nine bull moose have been reported  
46 harvested, with an average of one moose harvested per  
47 year. Currently, there's very little harvest of the  
48 Old Crow Flats population by the Canadian residents.

49

50 For this proposal there was an

1 alternative that we considered. This is the  
2 alternative: The moose season for Federally qualified  
3 subsistence users would be extended from July 1 to  
4 March 31 to July 1 to June 30. The harvest quota Unit  
5 26B remainder and Unit 26C would be five moose, four  
6 antlered bulls and one of either sex, provided that no  
7 more than two antlered bulls may be harvested from the  
8 North Slope population in Unit 26C or from Unit 26B  
9 remainder. Cows may not be harvested from  
10 Unit 26C and a cow accompanied by a calf may not be  
11 taken in unit 26B. Two to four antlered bulls may be  
12 taken from the Old Crow Flats population in the Firth,  
13 Mancha, and upper Kongakut river drainages, upstream  
14 from and including Drain Creek, for the harvest of  
15 moose in Unit 26C. The hunt will be closed in Unit 26B  
16 remainder and 26C when five moose have been harvested.  
17

18 This alternative was not chosen because  
19 it's not the primary hunting area for moose by the  
20 Kaktovik residents and because subsequent surveys are  
21 needed to determine the population trend for the Old  
22 Crow Flats population.  
23

24 If Proposal WP14-54 is adopted, the moose season for  
25 Federally qualified subsistence users would be extended  
26 to a year round hunt. Due to the small number of moose  
27 that inhabit the Canning River drainage, Unit 26B  
28 remainder, increasing the harvest is not  
29 recommended due to conservation concerns. The North  
30 Slope moose population in Unit 26C is a relatively  
31 small recovering moose population at the northern  
32 limits of their range. Any additional harvest from this  
33 population could be a conservation concern because  
34 basically the population has remained at about 50 for  
35 the last 10 years.  
36

37 OSM's preliminary conclusion for this  
38 proposal is to support Proposal WP14-54 with  
39 modification to only allow for the extension of the  
40 harvest season from July 1 to March 31 to July 1 to  
41 June 30.  
42

43 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Tom.  
44 Again, following the presentation procedures for  
45 proposals, the next is agency comments, Alaska  
46 Department of Fish and Game.  
47

48 MS. YUHAS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.  
49 Jennifer Yuhas with the Department participating by  
50 telephone again. Beth Lenart should also be online to

1 discuss the biology of this proposal.

2

3 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you.

4

5 Beth, are you on this morning?

6

7 MS. LENART: Good morning, Mr. Chair.  
8 This is Beth Lenart.

9

10 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Go ahead.

11

12 MS. LENART: This is correct and we  
13 agree with the 3 percent harvest rate on what we call  
14 the central portion of Unit 26C moose population. My  
15 assistant, Mr. Caikoski, has a couple of comments.

16

17 MR. CAIKOSKI: This is Jason Caikoski  
18 at Fish and Game. As Beth mentioned, we concur with  
19 OSM's analysis of the harvest rate and that allowing  
20 additional harvest of the coastal plain moose  
21 population likely would not be sustainable. However,  
22 we do disagree with their assessment of the Firth,  
23 Mancha, Upper Kongakut portion of 26C. Those moose  
24 that calve in the Old Crow Flats, we disagree with  
25 that. There is additional harvest opportunity,  
26 harvestable surplus from that population.

27

28 One thing that should probably be noted  
29 is that Firth, Mancha, Upper Kongakut moose population,  
30 that is not the entire Old Crow Flats calving  
31 population. That's some proportion of it. The moose  
32 that calve in the Old Crow Flats move out of there in  
33 the winter to the north in Yukon, to the east in Yukon,  
34 to the west into the 26C that Firth, Mancha, Upper  
35 Kongakut area, and also into 25A. So just some clarity  
36 there that that Old Crow Flats population, it's just a  
37 portion of it comes up into the Firth, Mancha and Upper  
38 Kongakut.

39

40 That's all I have for now unless you  
41 guys have additional questions.

42

43 CHAIRMAN BROWER: You can hold  
44 questions until we get to our portion following the  
45 procedure on the proposals. Any other agencies,  
46 Federal agencies to provide comments on Proposal  
47 WP14-54.

48

49 (No comments)

50

1 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Native, tribal,  
2 village.  
3  
4 (No comments)  
5  
6 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Interagency Staff  
7 Committee comments.  
8  
9 (No comments)  
10  
11 CHAIRMAN BROWER: None noted. Advisory  
12 Group comments.  
13  
14 (No comments)  
15  
16 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Neighboring Regional  
17 Council comments. Eva, do you know if we've received  
18 any from the other neighboring Councils regarding this  
19 proposal?  
20  
21 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair.  
22  
23 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yes.  
24  
25 MR. EVANS: I can answer that.  
26  
27 MS. PATTON: Go ahead.  
28  
29 MR. EVANS: Mr. Chairman. We haven't  
30 received any comments from the Eastern Council, which  
31 would overlap here, but there is another proposal  
32 concerning the moose harvest in Unit 25A that we won't  
33 discuss here but will take up in the Eastern Council  
34 RAC meeting. It's the same Old Crow Flats population  
35 that's being of concern there as well.  
36  
37 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Local Fish and Game  
38 Advisory Committees.  
39  
40 (No comments)  
41  
42 CHAIRMAN BROWER: National Park Service  
43 Subsistence Resource Commission.  
44  
45 (No comments)  
46  
47 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Number four is  
48 summary of written public comments.  
49  
50 MR. EVANS: There are no written public



1 comments.

2

3 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you. Number  
4 five, public testimony.

5

6 Any public testimony on Proposal WP14-  
7 54.

8

9 MR. EVANS: I don't think we've  
10 received any public testimony on this proposal.

11

12 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you. Number  
13 six, Regional Council recommendation, motion.

14

15 (No comments)

16

17 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Tom, when you were  
18 reading the proposal and the modified language in  
19 there, extension of the harvest season from July 1 to  
20 March 31 and June 30, it doesn't give any indication of  
21 the -- okay, I see it now. One moose by Federal  
22 registration permit by resident of Kaktovik only and  
23 then it continues on, you may not take a cow  
24 accompanied by a calf in Unit 26B. Only five Federal  
25 registration permits will be issued.

26

27 MR. EVANS: That was the proposed  
28 Federal regulation. We basically approved of the -- or  
29 the OSM's preliminary conclusion was to accept the  
30 extended season, year round season, but keep the  
31 harvest limit still at three. The alternative allowed  
32 for additional moose being taken out of the Firth,  
33 Mancha area, but the reason why we didn't choose that  
34 was because basically the Kaktovik residents -- that's  
35 a long way for them to go and they typically don't go  
36 up in that area to hunt moose.

37

38 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Maybe at this time I  
39 could ask the Council to see if you have any questions  
40 to the biologists we have online as well in regard to  
41 the information that was presented to us. If there's  
42 any questions to the biologists, it would be  
43 appropriate to ask them at this time.

44

45 Lee, I'm not sure if you're familiar  
46 with these areas that they've identified with in the  
47 language that's been presented in regards to the areas.  
48 I know there must be some distance between the  
49 community in those hunting areas being quite a distance  
50 for a hunter to travel to take a moose. Lee.

1 MR. KAYOTUK: Chairman and Council.  
2 Yeah, it's quite a distance to go in that area, but we  
3 are still in the area being hunted at several different  
4 times that are open for moose season and we are limited  
5 to the conditions and the travels that we have to go  
6 to. So we are mainly in the area of where the moose is  
7 in the area most of the years. During the farther  
8 season that we try to go to is way off limits. It's  
9 way too far and we are just sticking to the main areas  
10 where the moose migrate and hang around for the winter.  
11 That's the only places that we usually hunt the moose  
12 at. Other further conditions is too far for us to  
13 travel in order to get to these areas that are  
14 recommended.

15  
16 Thank you.

17  
18 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Lee.

19  
20 Any other comments.

21  
22 (No comments)

23  
24 CHAIRMAN BROWER: What's the wish of  
25 the Council at this time.

26  
27 MR. SHEARS: I have a question, Mr.  
28 Chairman.

29  
30 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yes, Robert.

31  
32 MR. SHEARS: So clarify for me again  
33 the significance, you know, Unit 26B remainder way up  
34 there on the Canning River, the Canning River drainage.  
35 Although it's got a very sensitive moose population,  
36 it's included in this proposal because it's  
37 significantly far in distance. As Lee is reflecting,  
38 probably would never be impacted by this rule. Is that  
39 my understanding?

40  
41 MR. EVANS: Unit 26B remainder has been  
42 included in the regulations the way it is along with  
43 26C. Occasionally folks from Kaktovik have gone over  
44 there, but in talking with Lee before, you know, it  
45 basically requires a pretty elaborate -- you know, like  
46 maybe a couple week expeditions to get over there, get  
47 all the sleds prepared, and go over there. So the  
48 population is small. I talked with basically -- got  
49 information from the State and they thought that the  
50 population couldn't sustain any more than the

1 additional one moose hunt.

2

3                   So I think basically in the past the  
4 Kaktovik residents haven't gone over there because they  
5 haven't felt it's worthwhile to take all that effort  
6 just to go get one moose out of that area, but it is  
7 open to them to go do it and moose have been taken out  
8 of that area before.

9

10                   MR. SHEARS: So it was included in the  
11 language simply for expediency because it fits in  
12 context with the old language. Is that why it's  
13 considered in this proposal?

14

15                   MR. EVANS: Yeah. So we just left the  
16 units together as they have been in the past.

17

18                   MR. SHEARS: Okay.

19

20                   MS. LENART: Mr. Chair. This is Beth  
21 Lenart from Fish and Game and I have a comment to make  
22 on Robert Shears' comment.

23

24                   CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yes, Beth, go ahead.

25

26                   MS. LENART: My recollection is that  
27 Kaktovik residents wanted -- there was some evidence  
28 that they would go up into the Canning River and when  
29 that season was originally implemented, they had  
30 requested that that be a part of it. So when we work  
31 with the State regulations in general with the hunt for  
32 26B, we actually exclude the Canning River in Unit 26B  
33 because public residents occasionally went up there and  
34 hunted even though it is a long way. It's further than  
35 some of the other moose populations or moose groups  
36 that might be accessible to them.

37

38                   My recollection is they requested that.

39

40                   MR. SHEARS: Thank you, Beth.

41

42                   CHAIRMAN BROWER: Any further  
43 discussion on the proposal.

44

45                   MR. KAYOTUK: Mr. Chair. Council. The  
46 Canning River area is quite far, but there was an  
47 attempt to try to get up there, but that's when the  
48 follow up of the emergency hunt taking place there.  
49 Due to the weather, the climate changes of dramatically  
50 thawing pretty fast and that's why we wrote a letter to

1 the State to get the emergency hunt to try to get to  
2 the Canning River. There was an attempt, but the  
3 weather was too warm and stuff like that and followed  
4 up too late in the season to go to this area. You  
5 would have to do it in fairly good conditions in order  
6 to get up to the Canning River, but I'd like to see the  
7 extension brought forward or in place of harvest moose  
8 in that area due to the extensive weather we have these  
9 days.

10

11 Thank you.

12

13 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Okay. What's the wish  
14 of the Council on making the recommendation regarding  
15 Proposal WP14-54.

16

17 MR. SHEARS: I guess just one more  
18 question just to reiterate the proposed regulation is  
19 to extend the season to basically an open season, July  
20 1st to June 30th is a completely open season, no  
21 closure dates, and changing it from two bulls and a cow  
22 to five moose of any sex.

23

24 MR. EVANS: No, it would retain still  
25 at three moose. Still three moose unless you pick the  
26 alternative, in which case the harvest at Unit -- the  
27 North Slope population would remain the same. If any  
28 additional bull moose were to be taken, they'd have to  
29 be taken out of the Old Crow Flats population in Unit  
30 26C.

31

32 MR. SHEARS: Okay.

33

34 CHAIRMAN BROWER: I have a question in  
35 regards to the distance in the alternative. I'm not  
36 sure if any of the biologists have been in the area via  
37 snowmachine or winter travel, assuming there's no  
38 aircraft usage in this area. Maybe taking the Old Crow  
39 Flats population in the Firth, Mancha and Upper  
40 Kongakut drainages. I mean I'm trying to understand  
41 the accessibility to the area. You know, trying to  
42 take a large resource and having to travel the distance  
43 that's being identified within this area seems to be a  
44 restraint or a condition that identifies the mission  
45 impossible task. You've got to be a Superman to be up  
46 there and dealing with a resource that big. I'm not  
47 sure if there's been any trial and error steps taken to  
48 access this area that's been identified in the  
49 alternative proposal.

50

1 MR. EVANS: I could answer some of that  
2 just from talking to the residents and from looking at  
3 the history and stuff. There have been hunters  
4 occasionally that have gone up into the Upper Kongakut  
5 and that area to hunt moose, but from talking to the  
6 local hunters and stuff basically it's a really steep  
7 country when you get up into the high mountains there.  
8 It's hard for snowmachines to go up and over. Again,  
9 it's a really long way to go, so basically it hasn't  
10 been done very often, but it can be done. So that's  
11 where we stand on that. And Lee could probably talk  
12 more about that since he knows the area better.

13  
14 MR. KAYOTUK: Chairman. Council.  
15 There was a few attempts in the Kongakut River, but,  
16 again, it takes a good couple days to get up there and  
17 you have to take your whole gear with you into the  
18 Kongakut River to camp up there, to harvest the moose  
19 in this area. It doesn't take just one day to get up  
20 there. You'd have to take a couple days to get in that  
21 area to set up your camp. Again, you need a good day  
22 to identify these moose and where are they going to be  
23 in the area, so you need a good day to just go run  
24 around to see where these moose are really at in these  
25 areas.

26  
27 Thank you.

28  
29 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Lee.  
30 Maybe just to keep the communications going I'm  
31 thinking in regards to looking back at the original  
32 proposal language without the alternatives or OSM's  
33 recommended, just going back to the language that's  
34 written in the Proposal WP14-54, requests that the  
35 moose season in Unit 26B remainder and Unit 26C be  
36 extended from July 1 to March 31 to July 1 to June 30,  
37 the harvest restrictions for Unit 26C (number, sex) be  
38 removed, and the harvest limit be increased from three  
39 moose to five moose.

40  
41 The language continues: Units 26B,  
42 remainder and 26C 1 moose by Federal registration  
43 permit by residents of Kaktovik only.

44  
45 I was going to read the harvest quota  
46 is 35.

47  
48 (Laughter)

49  
50 CHAIRMAN BROWER: I didn't quite see

1 the three being striked there. I was going to read the  
2 harvest quota is 35 moose. That's the problem I have  
3 with bad eyesight. It should read harvest quota is  
4 three to five, I guess. You may not take a cow  
5 accompanied by a calf in Unit 26B. Again, there's 35  
6 Federal  
7 registration permits will be issued. It should be  
8 three to five. The change would be from three to five  
9 Federal registration permits will be issued. Federal  
10 public lands are closed to the  
11 taking of moose except by a Kaktovik resident holding a  
12 Federal registration permit and hunting under these  
13 regulations.

14  
15 OSM's preliminary conclusion is support  
16 Proposal WP14-54 with modification to only allow for  
17 the extension of the harvest season from July 1 to  
18 March 31 to July 1 to June 30. It doesn't discuss the  
19 increased numbers.

20  
21 MR. EVANS: That's correct.

22  
23 CHAIRMAN BROWER: So we're basically  
24 given three options. Two with the original proposal  
25 and the modified language. I was thinking three with  
26 the alternative, but that one seemed to be.....

27  
28 MR. EVANS: That's an alternative.  
29 That could be an option.

30  
31 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Like I said, could be  
32 a proposal, but it's a mission impossible task to get  
33 into the area in terms of the size of the resource  
34 that's being harvested.

35  
36 Again, what's the wish of the Council.

37  
38 MR. J. NAGEAK: Mr. Chair.

39  
40 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yes, James.

41  
42 MR. KAYOTUK: One of the problems I'm  
43 having is I grew up in that area and I can't place the  
44 names. I don't know where Kongakut is. I grew up with  
45 the correct pronunciation of (in Inupiaq), but I can't  
46 -- I don't think the elderly people at Kaktovik  
47 understand where in the heck these places are, you  
48 know, and I'm having a hard time trying to picture  
49 where the moose are.

50

1 MR. EVANS: So if you look at the map 1  
2 for Unit 26.....

3  
4 MR. J. NAGEAK: I'm looking at the map,  
5 yeah.

6  
7 MR. EVANS: So the Firth and Kongakut  
8 are kind of -- you can see the Kongakut is labeled  
9 there and then the Firth and Mancha are kind of in the  
10 southeast corner of that unit down there still  
11 encompassed by the red, so the Firth and Mancha are  
12 down here, Upper Kongakut is here.

13  
14 MR. J. NAGEAK: I'm not having problems  
15 seeing where they are, but it's the pronunciation  
16 problem that I'm having, you know. I'm 72 years old  
17 and I can't understand -- what in the heck, when I was  
18 growing up, why in the heck is that called  
19 (indiscernible). You're changing the landscape to a  
20 different mentality. That's what I'm having problems  
21 with here. I guess we need to have a -- we need to  
22 pass something, right.

23  
24 CHAIRMAN BROWER: A recommendation.

25  
26 MR. SHEARS: I've got one more  
27 question, Mr. Chairman.

28  
29 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yes, Robert.

30  
31 MR. SHEARS: I just keep coming up.  
32 You let us sit here all day. I keep overthinking this.  
33 I'm just waiting for the Council member from Kaktovik  
34 to make a motion, but in that regard do we have any  
35 input from the Council in Unit 25 in the Upper Yukon on  
36 this subject? Are they concerned about increasing the  
37 number from three to five, how that could possibly  
38 compete with their subsistence resource?

39  
40 CHAIRMAN BROWER: You mean our  
41 subsistence resource.

42  
43 MR. EVANS: They basically have been  
44 focusing on the Coleen and Sheenjek because that's not  
45 an area that they would typically hunt in the  
46 Firth/Mancha, so they haven't -- we don't have any  
47 comments from them yet to know whether they were  
48 concerned about the hunt here. I don't think they're  
49 concerned about the take out of the Firth/Mancha area.  
50 If that alternative was chosen and they wanted to

1 harvest moose there, I don't think the residents in  
2 Unit 25A would be concerned with that.  
3  
4 MR. SHEARS: I'll leave it to you, Lee.  
5  
6 MR. KAYOTUK: Mr. Chair and Council.  
7  
8 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Go ahead, Lee.  
9  
10 MR. KAYOTUK: I'd like to make a motion  
11 on this WP14-54.  
12  
13 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Continue. I was just  
14 asking a motion to support WP14-54 and which one are  
15 you supporting; the language of the Regional Advisory  
16 Council, the language from OSM.....  
17  
18 MR. SHEARS: Second, Mr. Chair.  
19  
20 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Excuse me?  
21  
22 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: The motion is  
23 support and he seconded it.  
24  
25 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Second on the motion.  
26 Further discussion on the motion. Lee.  
27  
28 MR. KAYOTUK: No further discussion on  
29 the motion.  
30  
31 CHAIRMAN BROWER: I'm trying to get  
32 some clarification in terms of which language we are  
33 identifying. I'm getting all lost in my pages here.  
34  
35 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair.  
36  
37 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Eva.  
38  
39 MS. PATTON: Lee, if you could please  
40 repeat the motion and I think clarification of whether  
41 you are seeking to support OSM's recommendation or  
42 moving to support the Council's proposal.  
43  
44 MR. KAYOTUK: Chair and the Council.  
45 I'd like to make a motion of recommendation to support  
46 the North Slope Regional recommendation.  
47  
48 CHAIRMAN BROWER: So the original  
49 language in the proposal submitted by the Regional  
50 Advisory Council.



1 MR. SHEARS: And that's what I  
2 seconded.  
3  
4 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Okay.  
5  
6 MR. SHEARS: Are we in discussion?  
7  
8 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yes.  
9  
10 MR. SHEARS: I'm not fully on board  
11 with the entire wording of this. I don't understand  
12 the significance of the need for increasing the harvest  
13 quota from 3 to 5. I thought when we originally  
14 discussed this last year the purpose of this proposal  
15 was to simply extend the season so it's not so onerous  
16 and it doesn't constrain the -- so the residents are  
17 looking over their back or looking at their clock all  
18 the time wondering what day it is on the day they  
19 happen to be hunting, you know, when the opportunity to  
20 take moose there are slim to none.  
21  
22 So why do we need to even consider  
23 increasing the harvest quota from 3 to 5? I'm  
24 considering an amendment to remove that, but I'd like  
25 to hear discussion from other members.  
26  
27 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: Sharing the  
28 traditional knowledge with our community members in  
29 this area there hasn't been a tremendous amount of  
30 hunt, but when the opportunity allows for them to have  
31 the harvest, there has been reports that showed they've  
32 caught up to five within the cycle. Changing this  
33 allows them to take opportunity when the opportunity  
34 exists and the way the animals move in and out of this  
35 area. The community members have had changes in the  
36 way that activities are occurring in the area and I  
37 think that to give them the broadest opportunity is  
38 important because we don't know what's going to  
39 continue to happen around their community with concerns  
40 they've presented in this meeting.  
41  
42 In keeping the proposal open and broad  
43 to allow them to take advantage of what the natural  
44 cycle was in this area occurs. The history shows  
45 there's very little harvest. They don't do many  
46 harvests in one year and most years, but if the  
47 opportunity exists, I think we should allow it to be as  
48 broad as it can be. With the changes that are  
49 occurring, they're getting into other areas and with  
50 decreased availability of other resources, making sure

1 they have the opportunity to be legal in the process is  
2 what we should do.

3

4 I support what they have put forward in  
5 this discussion with increasing the timeline. It's not  
6 a lot of harvesting that is occurring, but allowing it  
7 to be most flexible with the environment and the  
8 reality of availability within the distance that  
9 they're traveling.

10

11 Thank you.

12

13 MR. SHEARS: I understand that logic.

14

15 MR. EVANS: Mr. Chairman.

16

17 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Tom.

18

19 MR. EVANS: Just to reiterate that if  
20 we go with that proposal and we allow the take of five  
21 out of the North Slope population, that's up to 10  
22 percent of the population. So just to let you know.

23

24 CHAIRMAN BROWER: It could be monitored  
25 for a couple years and see what the population does.  
26 Again, opportunity to take the moose is very  
27 opportunistic and whether they take that full five or  
28 just a number or two or three in a given year, you  
29 know, that remains to be seen.

30

31 I think there needs to be some  
32 flexibility given to the community under the  
33 discussion. You know, again to Bob's question on Page  
34 79 in the middle of the paragraph, given the expense  
35 and long distances required to find and harvest a  
36 moose, the current moose season and harvest limit of 3  
37 moose is considered very restrictive and provides  
38 little meat for the community of Kaktovik.

39

40 I mean that's enough justification to  
41 indicate there's a need for a resource when the other  
42 resources have been basically taken off the table. I  
43 mean that's the way I interpret this and that's  
44 something that we were considering because the muskox  
45 hunt has been taken out. The caribou have not been  
46 there in the community like what it used to be, having  
47 a longer season, spending more time there and  
48 availability of caribou at the present, but that's  
49 changed because of climate change again, maybe impacts  
50 or other activities occurring within the area and the

1 availability of caribou is not there. So they're  
2 looking to another resource to help supplement the  
3 community's dietary needs. I just make these comments  
4 in regards to supporting our Council member's  
5 recommendation.

6  
7 Any other comments. James, did you  
8 have your hand up.

9  
10 MR. J. NAGEAK: Oh, I don't know. I  
11 thought Lee over there made it clear that we should  
12 stop discussing this thing. I thought maybe that took  
13 precedent over what we're doing now.

14  
15 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Further discussion on  
16 the motion.

17  
18 MR. KAYOTUK: Council and Chair. Last  
19 spring in the area when there was no caribou in the  
20 area and the caribou was out of our boundaries of the  
21 main hunting area and again the moose population was  
22 closed. Right after closed season there was 12 moose  
23 in the area that we had to -- we found out that when we  
24 came back there was 12 moose in the area that was  
25 spotted. Again, we have to go by the regulations that  
26 are given to us that the season is closed now, but for  
27 during that time the hunt was closed and there was 12  
28 moose spotted in the area. Again, it's going by the  
29 permits and the regulations that we follow that is  
30 being followed by the community and issued to us as  
31 very important.

32  
33 Thank you.

34  
35 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Any further  
36 discussion.

37  
38 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: Mr. Chair.

39  
40 MR. J. NAGEAK: Mr. Chair.

41  
42 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: Go ahead, James.

43  
44 CHAIRMAN BROWER: James.

45  
46 MR. J. NAGEAK: One of the things that  
47 we forget is that we, as conservative people, who  
48 conserve all our resources, don't go out hunting when  
49 they're skinny. We wait until they're in their prime  
50 time. I don't know extending for the whole year, you

1 know. It's something that we used to do because we had  
2 dogs, but now that we have freezers and stuff like  
3 that, we wait until the animals are in their prime  
4 condition.

5  
6 I just wanted to bring that up.

7  
8 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, James.

9  
10 Rosemary.

11  
12 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: I understand the  
13 concern for conservation and the reality is that this  
14 community and their hunt has shown their effort in  
15 conservation with the lifetime of hunting moose. There  
16 isn't a high harvest. It is a species that they do get  
17 out into an area and if they have the opportunity to  
18 harvest, they will. It does not give them a large  
19 amount of harvest numbers for their community, but it  
20 is a good supplement, especially when you have years of  
21 difficulty of other harvest.

22  
23 I know that this process is important  
24 to consider to allow us to have those that are out in  
25 the lands taking the opportunity to harvest in ways  
26 that are a reality of the availability of it. I  
27 support that we should approve this change. The  
28 community's usage demonstrates that they do have a  
29 number of harvests, they do not get a high number of  
30 harvests. The community's usage demonstrates that they  
31 do have a number of harvests.

32  
33 They do not get a high number of  
34 harvests that the community is sharing of the resource  
35 demonstrates that they will effectively utilize this  
36 resource. It will give the opportunity for those that  
37 are traveling these great distances to have an  
38 opportunity to hunt if the availability occurs and they  
39 happen to be in these areas where they can harvest  
40 them. I don't believe that it will cause additional  
41 restrictions for other uses.

42  
43 Thank you.

44  
45 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Rosemary.  
46 Under the discussion, I'm going to ask a question in  
47 terms of number of moose taken by other types of hunts,  
48 whether it would be just on the south side of the  
49 Brooks Range or by other communities within the unit.  
50 I think it's 25 or 24. Whether there's a sport hunt

1 for moose on the south side of the Brooks Range within  
2 the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.

3

4 MR. EVANS: There has been a sport hunt  
5 in Unit 25A. There is not any additional hunting  
6 allowed in Unit 26A. That's only for the residents of  
7 Kaktovik.

8

9 One other consideration or something  
10 you may want to consider if you do allow for the five  
11 moose is maybe allowing that those additional moose  
12 will all be bulls and not cows, keeping the cow  
13 restriction. That was one of the original proposal,  
14 was to remove the cow/bull restriction. So since it's  
15 a very small population of 50, maybe not harvesting the  
16 cows would be a good thing because that would have more  
17 effect on the population than the bulls.

18

19 CHAIRMAN BROWER: I guess I didn't  
20 clearly ask my question. The number of animals taken by  
21 each of the hunts whether it would be the other  
22 subsistence hunt or a sport hunt that occurs.

23

24 MR. EVANS: I'm not sure I understand  
25 your question exactly, but there are no additional  
26 hunts in Unit 26C for moose.

27

28 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Arctic National  
29 Wildlife Refuge within the south side of the Brooks  
30 Range.

31

32 MR. EVANS: South side of the Brooks  
33 Range and Unit 25A there is a sport hunt and there have  
34 been moose taken there. That's from the Old Crow Flats  
35 population, so it's not from the North Slope  
36 population.

37

38 CHAIRMAN BROWER: And the number taken  
39 by that hunt?

40

41 MR. EVANS: I don't have those numbers  
42 at my fingertips right now.

43

44 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah, that's what I  
45 was trying to get at in terms of the other hunts that  
46 are occurring within the fringes of Unit 26 or south  
47 side of the Brooks Range or in the other sub units. Do  
48 we have any information in regard to the number of  
49 animals that are being taken in these other areas?

50

1 MR. EVANS: There's information  
2 available. I just don't have it.  
3  
4 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Maybe Beth or  
5 somebody online within the resource managers for these  
6 areas might have some information to the question.  
7  
8 MS. LENART: Mr. Chair. This is Beth  
9 Lenart and Jason is going to grab those numbers right  
10 now if you can wait just one second. We have them in  
11 his office.  
12  
13 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Beth.  
14  
15 MS. LENART: You're welcome.  
16  
17 MR. CAIKOSKI: Hi, this is Jason again  
18 with Alaska Department of Fish and Game. I went and  
19 got those harvest numbers for the south side of the  
20 Brooks Range in Unit 25A. About five moose are  
21 harvested a year out of the Sheenjek and then the  
22 Coleen it's 10-15 moose. That would be for the entire  
23 drainage from the headwaters of the divide to the Yukon  
24 River. So the area of each of those drainages is  
25 roughly 4,000 square miles each, 8,000 square miles  
26 total for both of those drainages. The moose are  
27 getting harvested out of both the Coleen and the  
28 Sheenjek are not having effect on the coastal plain  
29 population in 26C.  
30  
31 One additional note, although there are  
32 moose in the Coleen and the Sheenjek that calve in Old  
33 Crow, there's also resident moose there, so it's not  
34 entirely Old Crow Flats summer range moose in the  
35 Coleen and the Sheenjek. There's resident moose there  
36 as well. In the fall, it's a mix of both resident  
37 moose and Old Crow Flats in that Coleen and Sheenjek.  
38  
39 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you.  
40  
41 MR. CAIKOSKI: That's it.  
42  
43 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you for  
44 providing that information. I just need some other  
45 information to think about in terms of what are the  
46 resources being used in different areas.  
47  
48 Any further discussion on the motion.  
49 Motion to support the North Slope Regional Advisory  
50 Council Proposal W14-54, open season from July 1 to

1 June 30. Thank you, Rosemary. And increase from three  
2 to five moose.  
3  
4 Any further discussion.  
5  
6 MR. SHEARS: Call for question.  
7  
8 CHAIRMAN BROWER: The question has been  
9 called on the motion to support the proposal. All in  
10 favor of the motion signify by saying aye.  
11  
12 IN UNISON: Aye.  
13  
14 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Opposed say nay.  
15  
16 (No negative votes)  
17  
18 CHAIRMAN BROWER: None noted. Thank  
19 you.  
20  
21 MR. J. NAGEAK: Mr. Chair.  
22  
23 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yes, James.  
24  
25 MR. J. NAGEAK: I'm going to have to  
26 leave because the family is coming in on the plane.  
27  
28 Thank you for the time.  
29  
30 We'll see you next time.  
31  
32 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you for the  
33 time you spent with us, James. Condolences to the  
34 family.  
35  
36 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair. I'll need to  
37 step out for just a minute to take care of some travel  
38 arrangements.  
39  
40 CHAIRMAN BROWER: We'll take a 10  
41 minute break in that case.  
42  
43 MS. PATTON: Thank you.  
44  
45 (Off record)  
46  
47 (On record)  
48  
49 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Good morning  
50 everyone. I think we have our Council members back and

1 seated. We can call the meeting back to order after a  
2 brief recess. We're reviewing wildlife proposals at  
3 this time. I think we're down to the last one

4

5 MR. EVANS: Two more.

6

7 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Which one am I  
8 missing? Okay. We'll just continue with that and if  
9 you could identify which they are. Before we start I'd  
10 like to make sure we introduce our guest. Have an  
11 opportunity for our guest to introduce themselves before  
12 we get started, Tom. Etok, if you could just introduce  
13 yourself.

14

15 MR. C. EDWARDSSEN: Hi. I'm Charlie  
16 Edwardsen, Jr., born and raised in Barrow. I'm the  
17 incorporator of the Inupiat Community of the Arctic  
18 Slope, Arctic Slope Native Association.

19

20 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Etok.

21

22 Robert, did you want to introduce  
23 yourself.

24

25 MR. R. EDWARDSSEN: Robert Edwardsen.

26

27 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you.

28

29 MR. R. EDWARDSSEN: I'm a former vice  
30 officer for the Inupiat Community.

31

32 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Robert. I  
33 just wanted to make sure we introduced our guests. We  
34 also have teleconference participants. I'm not sure if  
35 we have new attendees this morning, Eva. If we have,  
36 maybe we can identify who they are online.

37

38 MS. PATTON: Sure. Can we please check  
39 in with folks online here. It sounded like we maybe  
40 had some folks coming on in the meeting. Can you  
41 please identify yourself and who you work with or your  
42 village where you're from.

43

44 MS. LARSON-BLAIR: Hi, this is Kay  
45 Larson-Blair with OSM.

46

47 MR. SHARP: Good morning. This is Dan  
48 Sharp with BLM in Anchorage.

49

50 MR. BROOKS: Good morning everyone.



1 This is Jeff Brooks in Anchorage at the Office of  
2 Subsistence Management.

3  
4 MS. LENART: This is Beth Lenart and  
5 Jason Caikoski with the Alaska Department of Fish and  
6 Game in Fairbanks.

7  
8 MS. YUHAS: And Jennifer Yuhas also  
9 with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game stuck in  
10 Fairbanks because of the barge.

11  
12 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair. I'd like to --  
13 we have some new folks in the audience here and some  
14 who will be presenting to the Council. I think some  
15 had some limitations of attending the service this  
16 afternoon too. Maybe we can identify other folks in  
17 the audience.

18  
19 MR. PEDERSON: Mike Pederson, North  
20 Slope Borough, Department of Wildlife Management.

21  
22 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you.

23  
24 MS. WINALSKI: Dawn Winalski, attorney  
25 for the North Slope Borough.

26  
27 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Good morning. I  
28 think that's everybody online as well. Tom, I think we  
29 could continue with where we left off with our wildlife  
30 proposals.

31  
32 MR. EVANS: Okay. The next proposal  
33 we're going to consider is WP14-55. Proposal WP14-55  
34 was submitted by Alaska Department of Fish and Game and  
35 requests the closure be lifted for non-Federally  
36 qualified users in the Firth, Mancha, and Upper  
37 Kongakut river drainages, upstream and including Drain  
38 Creek, for the harvest of moose in Unit 26C. If you  
39 want to look at that, look at Map 1 in your book for  
40 this proposal.

41  
42 Hunting on Federal public lands in Unit  
43 26C and Unit 26B remainder are currently closed to the  
44 taking of moose except by Kaktovik residents holding a  
45 Federal registration permit and hunting under these  
46 regulations. Although the moose season in the portion  
47 of Unit 26C was established under State regulations by  
48 action of the Alaska Board of Game at their March 2012  
49 meeting, the hunt area is entirely on Federal public  
50 lands and currently Federal lands are closed to the

1 harvest of moose, except by Federally qualified  
2 subsistence users.

3

4 In March 2012, as I just mentioned,  
5 Alaska Board of Game opened up this area that had been  
6 previously closed to the harvest of moose based on the  
7 new population data that they got in the fall of 2011.

8

9 The proponent states that there is a  
10 harvestable surplus of moose in the Firth, Mancha, and  
11 Upper Kongakut river drainages in Unit 26C based on a  
12 fall 2011 survey, which indicated the moose population  
13 in this area increased from 227 in 2002 to 339 in 2011  
14 Based on a 3 percent harvest rate and a population of  
15 339, the harvestable surplus of moose in the Firth,  
16 Mancha, and Upper Kongakut river drainages is estimated  
17 to be 10 bull moose.

18

19 The regulatory history and the  
20 biological background for this area was covered fairly  
21 well in the last proposal, so unless the Council would  
22 like me to go over that again I will probably just skip  
23 that for the time being. Basically just to kind of  
24 reiterate, we're talking about the Old Crow Flats  
25 population that basically calves in the Yukon and then  
26 winters in the Firth, Mancha and Upper Kongakut River  
27 drainages during the winter as well as going to the  
28 Sheenjek and Coleen, but the areas that we're  
29 discussing for this proposal just deal with an area in  
30 Unit 26C.

31

32 The bull/cow ratio based on the most  
33 recent count done in 2011 was 70 per 100 cows and the  
34 cow/calf ratio was 31 per 100, so this is also good  
35 information that indicates that this population is  
36 currently fairly stable in this particular area.

37

38 Again, the harvest history is the same  
39 harvest history as I mentioned before, but I'll repeat  
40 it. The moose harvest in Units 26B and 26C has been  
41 limited to the residents of Kaktovik since 2004 with up  
42 to three permits issued annual and a harvest quota of  
43 three moose; two bulls in Unit 26C and one bull in Unit  
44 26B. Again, the average since 2004 has been about one  
45 moose harvested per year.

46

47 If Proposal WP14-55 were adopted,  
48 Federally qualified subsistence users from Kaktovik  
49 would still have the ability to harvest a moose from  
50 the Old Crow Flats moose population in the eastern

1 portion of Unit 26C. However, Kaktovik hunters  
2 typically harvest moose from the North Slope population  
3 along the coastal plain, which is closer to the village  
4 than either the Canning River drainage in Unit 26B or  
5 the Old Crow Flats population in Unit 26C. The  
6 proponent anticipates a highly regulated hunt through  
7 the use of drawing permits which would allow managers  
8 to  
9 monitor and control the number of bull moose harvested  
10 in this area if it was opened.

11  
12 The impacts to the Old Crow Flats moose  
13 population are difficult to predict by lifting the  
14 closure in this unit because of the lack of population  
15 information. The one population count is good, but one  
16 population count doesn't really indicate a trend. We  
17 also contacted the folks over in Yukon Canada and they  
18 kind of felt that more information would be useful to  
19 have on this population before we opened up this area.

20  
21 This population is a little bit  
22 complicated as we discussed in the previous proposal.  
23 It's because this population can be exposed to harvest  
24 pressure in multiple areas, so including the Old Crow  
25 Flats and the Yukon Territory and Unit 26C and Unit 25A  
26 in Alaska.

27  
28 OSM's preliminary conclusion or  
29 recommendation is to oppose Proposal WP14-55. The  
30 basic premise of this was to give biologists and  
31 managers from the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge,  
32 Alaska Department of Fish and Game and the Northern  
33 Yukon more  
34 time to obtain additional information on the population  
35 to ensure that an overharvest does not occur on the  
36 small and potentially vulnerable migratory moose  
37 population.

38  
39 That's all.

40  
41 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you. Again,  
42 following our presentation procedures we have the  
43 agency comments. Alaska Department of Fish and Game on  
44 Proposal WP14-55.

45  
46 MS. YUHAS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.  
47 Jennifer Yuhas with the Department. Jason Caikoski  
48 will also follow up with some of the biological  
49 information. At your spring meeting, there was quite a  
50 bit of discussion about this closed area. What we got

1 to was discrepancies between some of the biologists  
2 between the State and some of the Federal folks. Not  
3 all of them though from my understanding.

4  
5 We discussed that the Department felt  
6 there was an ability to sustain an increased harvest  
7 here and we supported the increased number for Kaktovik  
8 at your spring meeting as well. I'm going to let Jason  
9 Caikoski discuss some of the specifics of the biology,  
10 but the Department doesn't believe that more  
11 information is needed at this time. This would simply  
12 be a lifting of the closure so that any of the  
13 leftovers could be harvested by others.

14  
15 Are you there, Jason?

16  
17 MR. C. EDWARDSSEN: Who's the others?

18  
19 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Jennifer, I think the  
20 question from the audience is can you identify who the  
21 others are.

22  
23 MS. YUHAS: I could not hear the  
24 question because of the teleconference. Others under  
25 the Federal program means those who are not Federally  
26 qualified. So when it's closed, it's only for  
27 Federally qualified, and when a closure is lifted or no  
28 closure is in place, others is everyone else besides a  
29 Federally qualified user.

30  
31 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you.

32  
33 Jason.

34  
35 MR. CAIKOSKI: Yeah, this is Jason with  
36 the Alaska Department of Fish and Game. I guess I can  
37 be as comprehensive and robust as you want me to be. I  
38 guess maybe I'll just start out with the very basics  
39 and if you have additional questions, please ask them.  
40 Essentially what we have is a portion of Unit 26C that  
41 is not currently open to moose hunting by non-Federally  
42 qualified subsistence users.

43  
44 It's an area that's been identified by  
45 your board and others that is not used by residents of  
46 26C, primarily those being in Kaktovik and we've got a  
47 population that's increased over the last 10 years.  
48 The most current population estimate is between 300 and  
49 350 moose. There is certainly a harvestable surplus,  
50 meaning a proportion of that population can be removed

1 by hunting. What we propose is a limited drawing  
2 permit for up to 3 percent of the most current  
3 population.

4  
5 Unless you guys have additional  
6 questions, I think, you know, a lot of things have been  
7 said, written, both in the OSM analysis and said on  
8 record about needing additional information before we  
9 can open this hunt.

10  
11 Most moose hunts in Alaska throughout  
12 the state, whether it's through a Federal hunt, a  
13 Federal subsistence hunt or through State regulations,  
14 trend in the moose population is unknown. In places  
15 where we do have trend information, whether it be  
16 stable, increasing or decreasing, there is almost  
17 always some harvestable surplus of that moose  
18 population, meaning we can remove some moose annually  
19 and not necessarily have an effect on the overall  
20 number of moose.

21  
22 This area that we surveyed in the  
23 Firth, Mancha and Upper Kongakut has a very high  
24 bull/cow ratio. We could probably harvest at a higher  
25 harvest rate than 3 percent, but we want to stay  
26 conservative, use the harvest rate that we've applied  
27 to all the North Slope units.

28  
29 At any rate, the State feels strongly  
30 that there's harvestable surplus in that Firth, Mancha  
31 and Upper Kongakut and we'd like to open a drawing  
32 permit to take some of those moose if hunters want to  
33 go up there and take those moose. I guess that's all I  
34 have for now unless you have any additional questions.

35  
36 MS. YUHAS: Mr. Chairman. As you're  
37 going through the questions, I'd just like to thank  
38 Jason for his testimony and add that for the benefit of  
39 the discussion the safeguards are contained within that  
40 up to 3 percent and by drawing permit and that's how we  
41 would safeguard that there would not be an overharvest  
42 and we would guarantee that we're just looking for  
43 basically the leftovers.

44  
45 MR. CAIKOSKI: I guess I'll add one  
46 more comment. We told the Alaska Board of Game that if  
47 the Federal regulatory process opened this area, that  
48 we would only issue 10 permits. Meaning that every  
49 single hunter that drew a permit would have to go into  
50 the field and every single permit holder would then

1 have to harvest a moose to even get to the 3 percent.

2

3 Typically drawing permits throughout  
4 the state there's some proportion of people that draw  
5 the permits that never go in the field. So they draw  
6 the permit and then don't hunt. Of those hunters that  
7 do go in the field, it's never 100 percent success, so  
8 often we issue more permits than number of animals that  
9 we want harvested. In this case, moose. But we had  
10 told the Board that we would only issue 10 permits, so  
11 at least in the first year if this area was open there  
12 would be no possible way for over 3 percent of the  
13 population to be harvested. That's all I have.

14

15 MS. YUHAS: Jason, wasn't that up to 10  
16 permits and up to 3 percent, that's the max cap?

17

18 MR. CAIKOSKI: Well, there's no up to  
19 on harvest rate. The regulations state up to 30  
20 permits and this is really -- this is very typical on  
21 how the Board and the Department writes drawing  
22 permits. It allows us the flexibility to change the  
23 number of permits issued based on the most current  
24 information we have, so we could issue more permits.

25

26 Let's say that population continued to  
27 grow or, conversely, if that population declined we  
28 could issue less permits or no permits. We'll  
29 basically use the 3 percent guideline and the most  
30 current population estimate to determine how many  
31 permits we will issue. We just have the flexibility or  
32 the authority to vary the number of permits based on  
33 the desired harvest.

34

35 Again, that's it.

36

37 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you for the  
38 presentation.

39

40 Any other Federal agencies.

41

42 (No comments)

43

44 CHAIRMAN BROWER: If there are no other  
45 Federal agencies to comment on the proposal we have the  
46 Native, tribal or village representatives.

47

48 MR. C. EDWARDSSEN: I wish to comment.

49

50 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Okay. If you could

1 state your name for the record, please.

2

3 MR. C. EDWARDSSEN: My name is Charles  
4 Edwardsen, Jr., born and raised in Barrow. I'm the  
5 incorporator of the Inupiat Community of the Arctic  
6 Slope and the petitioner for the creation of the North  
7 Slope Borough and I'm responsible for saying no at the  
8 time of land claims for the entire North Slope. We  
9 have a distinctive boundary.

10

11 On June 19, 1997, Sandra Day O'Connor  
12 cast an opinion on our court case that Arctic Slope had  
13 paid for and provided lawyers for but has not informed  
14 the people of the victory of this court battle that  
15 lasted for 20-some years. To this day the board of  
16 directors of Arctic Slope are completely negligent of  
17 not informing the victory that was achieved.

18

19 I wish to see more coordination and  
20 more concern for the Feds. We have the least Federal  
21 lands -- I mean the least State lands in Alaska up here  
22 and the State lands are a parcel. They don't go back  
23 to Barrow. So the boundary of State selections is  
24 quite significant and it's marginal limitations.

25

26 In that Supreme Court victory, I wish  
27 to cite another Supreme Court case. On the conduct of  
28 the Federal responsibility of the United States  
29 government, it says American Insurance Company vs.  
30 Canter, 26 U.S. 511, Volume 26, number 82, and it's  
31 called American Insurance Company vs. Canter.

32

33 The usage of the world is, if a nation  
34 is not entirely subdued, to consider the holding of  
35 conquered territory as a mere military occupation. Its  
36 fate shall be determined at the treaty of peace. If it  
37 be ceded, the acquisition is confirmed, and the ceded  
38 territory becomes a part of the nation to which it is  
39 annexed, either on the terms stipulated in the treaty  
40 of cession or such a new master shall impose. On the  
41 transfer of the territory, it has been held that the  
42 relations of the inhabitants with each undergo change.  
43 These relations for the former sovereign are dissolved,  
44 new relations are created. The government which has  
45 acquired the territory. At the same time the transfer  
46 of allegiance to whom it remains, the law shall be  
47 denominated politically, is necessarily changed, which  
48 regulates the intercourse and conduct of individuals in  
49 force altered by the newly created state.

50

1                   So this is -- and on June 19, 1997 we  
2 won a Supreme Court opinion. Sandra Day O'Connor ruled  
3 on the PYK line and for the Feds to hear this that the  
4 -- we won a case along -- and State of Alaska lost  
5 whatsoever to have any capacity is limited to State  
6 selections. And for the Feds to commingle with the  
7 State against the indigenous people and cooperating  
8 with the State practice, we want the Federal government  
9 to enforce their own regulation upon the people that  
10 they have a trust responsibility for. To this day, I  
11 believe that the Feds have this responsibility.

12  
13                   I wish to make two submissions. The  
14 insurance case and the nature of what is happening in  
15 the world has affected all of us and we are its first  
16 environmental victims because we were here first. On  
17 top of that, the rights that we have secured in our  
18 litigation is that when the Feds rule on the PYK line  
19 that it behooves the Department of Interior to get back  
20 to servicing Indians, not playing with them. That we  
21 have real rights and we want them affirmed in our favor  
22 instead of Alaska has a disclaimer clause in its own  
23 constitution.

24  
25                   It was the people of the state that  
26 gave these rights to Eskimos, Indians and Aleuts and  
27 how final can it be. This has been continually  
28 violated ever since I was a kid. So we want stronger  
29 Federal reinforcement and if the Feds cannot hear, we  
30 have a Supreme Court order that these bureaucrats must  
31 be busted. That is our next alternative and we will  
32 probably go there to affirm Canter, American Insurance  
33 Company vs. Canter.

34  
35                   I thank you.

36  
37                   CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you.

38  
39                   MR. SHEARS: Thank you.

40  
41                   CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Etok, for  
42 your comments. If there are no other tribal or village  
43 comments, we can move on down to Interagency Staff  
44 Committee comments.

45  
46                   (No comments)

47  
48                   CHAIRMAN BROWER: If there are no  
49 Interagency Staff Committee comments we have the  
50 advisory group comments.



1 (No comments)  
2  
3 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Neighboring Regional  
4 Advisory Councils.  
5  
6 MR. EVANS: There are no additional  
7 comments.  
8  
9 CHAIRMAN BROWER: No other advisory  
10 comments. National Park Subsistence Resource  
11 Commission.  
12  
13 (No comments)  
14  
15 MR. C. EDWARDSSEN: Oh, here's my  
16 submission, but these are my only copies, so if  
17 yourself can make copies for the record, I would  
18 appreciate that.  
19  
20 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Etok. We  
21 will definitely get them back to you once the copies  
22 have been made. Following our numbers, National Park  
23 Service Subsistence Resource Commission has been  
24 excused, so we'll move on to number 4, summary of  
25 written comments.  
26  
27 MR. EVANS: There were no written  
28 comments.  
29  
30 CHAIRMAN BROWER: In the booklet, I  
31 think I seen some written comments.  
32  
33 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair. There is one  
34 comment in the book.  
35  
36 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Eva, are you going to  
37 read the public written comments or summary of written  
38 comments.  
39  
40 MS. PATTON: Yes, Mr. Chair. The  
41 written public comments on this proposal are quite  
42 extensive. It's two pages long. This was a submission  
43 by Fran Mauer, who also had written a letter to the  
44 North Slope RAC in regards to the closure review.  
45  
46 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Okay.  
47  
48 MS. PATTON: Dome of the biology that  
49 he puts forth is similar or statements that he put  
50 forth is similar. Perhaps I could briefly paraphrase

1 his position and he provides supporting documentation  
2 for that position as well if the Council is able to  
3 read that.

4

5 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Uh-huh.

6

7 MS. PATTON: This proponent, Mr. Fran  
8 Mauer, who is a retired biologist, he used to work at  
9 Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, says he is writing in  
10 support of WP14-48 because it -- so 14-48 was a  
11 proposal submitted by the Eastern Interior Council for  
12 this region. He is supporting that proposal submitted  
13 by the Eastern Interior Council and is proposing this  
14 proposal submitted by ADF&G WP14-55 he opposes because  
15 it would increase hunting pressure on the same  
16 population as the moose that the Eastern Interior  
17 Council were concerned about in their Proposal 14-48.

18

19 This s is a critical conservation  
20 concern that warrants appropriate actions by the  
21 Federal Subsistence Board  
22 in order to restore a unique migratory moose population  
23 that is especially vulnerable to harvest pressure.

24

25 Again, if I can try to paraphrase here,  
26 he notes that moose numbers in the Upper Sheenjek,  
27 Coleen, Kongakut and Firth drainages have been  
28 monitored by consistent aerial survey methods since  
29 1977. From 1977 to 1991, moose numbers were relatively  
30 stable, however a significant decline was detected in  
31 2000 when overall numbers for these areas were down by  
32 57 percent. This decline coincided with a widespread  
33 decline in moose throughout northern Alaska.

34

35 He subsequently notes that there's s  
36 been a steady increase in hunting pressure in the  
37 Sheenjek and Coleen areas that is having a significant  
38 negative influence on recovery of the moose population.  
39 A long-time local resident to the Coleen area reported  
40 increasing numbers of hunters and decreasing numbers of  
41 moose.

42

43 Some of his information that's provided  
44 in this letter because they were both combined are  
45 speaking specifically to the Eastern Interior Council's  
46 proposal.

47

48 In conclusion, he says there is still  
49 time to prevent such a loss for the Sheenjek and Coleen  
50 areas for this moose population by enacting and

1 supporting the restrictions, is what he's asking for,  
2 or opposing this Proposal 14-55 would help to restore  
3 the moose population and enable a sustainable harvest  
4 in the future.

5  
6 Again, that's a brief paraphrase, much  
7 of what he's written here is in support of Eastern  
8 Interior Council and he opposes 14-55.

9  
10 Thank you.

11  
12 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Eva.  
13 Following the presentation procedures, we now have  
14 number 5, public testimony. Did we receive any  
15 requests for public testimony on Proposal WP14-55?

16  
17 MS. PATTON: None other than we just  
18 heard.

19  
20 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you.

21  
22 Number 6, Regional Council  
23 recommendation.

24  
25 MR. SHEARS: Mr. Chairman.

26  
27 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yes, Robert.

28  
29 MR. SHEARS: I'd like to entertain a  
30 motion to adopt OSM's preliminary conclusion of  
31 opposing Wildlife Proposal 14-55.

32  
33 CHAIRMAN BROWER: There's a motion on  
34 the floor.

35  
36 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: I second that.

37  
38 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Seconded. Further  
39 discussion on the motion or the proposal.

40  
41 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: I think the  
42 discussion that we have had shows that there's limited  
43 number of availability in this area and the community  
44 of Kaktovik has worked to do their conservation, but  
45 the availability of the population in their migratory  
46 nature takes us to take extreme caution on allowing  
47 additional hunting pressures in this area where there's  
48 low recovery on these moose and I support the  
49 recommendations from OSM to oppose this. Doing so  
50 would not create additional pressure for the

1 subsistence needs. This does have additional  
2 restrictions on other hunters but with the limitations  
3 of the animals and the migratory nature in multiple  
4 units that these animals pass through. It's necessary  
5 to be restrictive in allowing additional hunting  
6 pressures to these animals.  
7  
8 Thank you.  
9  
10 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Rosemary.  
11  
12 Any other comments under discussion.  
13  
14 (No comments)  
15  
16 CHAIRMAN BROWER: We can continue with  
17 the motion if there's no further discussion regarding  
18 the Proposal WP14-55.  
19  
20 MR. SHEARS: Mr. Chairman. I just want  
21 to reiterate.....  
22  
23 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Uh-huh.  
24  
25 MR. SHEARS: .....the motion put before  
26 the Council. A yes vote supports opposing this  
27 proposal.  
28  
29 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you.  
30  
31 MR. KAYOTUK: I second it.  
32  
33 CHAIRMAN BROWER: It's already been  
34 seconded, Lee. We're under discussion.  
35  
36 MR. KAYOTUK: I support the discussion.  
37 Thank you.  
38  
39 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: I'd like to call for  
40 question.  
41  
42 CHAIRMAN BROWER: The question has been  
43 called on the motion to oppose this recommended by OSM,  
44 Proposal WP14-55. All in favor of the motion signify  
45 by saying aye.  
46  
47 IN UNISON: Aye.  
48  
49 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Opposed say nay.  
50

1 (No opposing votes)

2

3 CHAIRMAN BROWER: None noted. Thank  
4 you.

5

6 Tom, do we have another proposal to  
7 consider.

8

9 MR. EVANS: Mr. Chairman. We have one  
10 proposal left. This proposal, as I've mentioned  
11 before, is for Unit 25A, but because Arctic Village  
12 kind of associates with the North Slope we're going to  
13 go over this proposal at this RAC meeting here today.

14

15 Proposal WP14-51 was submitted by the  
16 State of Alaska, requests that the Red Sheep and Cane  
17 Creek drainages be opened to non-Federally qualified  
18 users August 10 to September 20 in the Arctic Village  
19 Sheep Management Area of Unit 25A, and that a person  
20 hunting within the Red Sheep Creek/Cane Creek portion  
21 of the AVSMA, the acronym for Arctic Village Sheep  
22 Management Area, of Unit 25A possess proof of  
23 completion of a department-approved hunter ethics and  
24 orientation course upon hunting in this area.

25

26 In January 2012, the Federal  
27 Subsistence Board closed the Red Sheep Creek and Cane  
28 Creek drainages to sheep hunting except by Federally  
29 qualified residents of Arctic Village, Venetie, Fort  
30 Yukon, Kaktovik and Chalkyitsik. The proponent states  
31 that the Red Sheep and Cane Creek drainages were closed  
32 unnecessarily. The proponent further states that the  
33 area was closed because of user conflicts focused  
34 mainly on issues of trespass. The proponent proposes  
35 lifting the closure to non-Federally qualified users  
36 and requiring hunters to complete an ethics and  
37 orientation course prior to hunting sheep in the Red  
38 Sheep and Cane Creek drainages.

39

40 The Alaska Board of Game adopted an  
41 ethics and orientation course requirement to safeguard  
42 against user conflicts in this area in March 2012. The  
43 proponent states that an ethics and orientation course  
44 would alleviate the need for closing the Red Sheep  
45 Creek and Cane Creek drainages to non-Federally  
46 qualified users for sheep hunting.

47

48 Requests to open and close the Red  
49 Sheep and Cane Creek drainages in the Arctic Village  
50 Sheep Management Area to non-Federally qualified users

1 have been before the Federal Subsistence Board nine  
2 times since 1991. The issue has been contentious.

3

4 In July 2006, the Board adopted the  
5 special action to lift the closure effective for the  
6 2006 season. Subsequent to action on the special  
7 action WSA06-03, Alaska Department of Fish and Game  
8 submitted Proposal WP07-56, which requested lifting the  
9 Federal closure within the Red Sheep and Cane Creek  
10 drainages. The Board adopted this proposal in May 2007  
11 because sheep populations in these drainages were  
12 determined to be healthy.

13

14 In January 2012, the Board adopted  
15 wildlife proposal 12-76 to close the Red Sheep and Cane  
16 Creek drainages to non-Federally qualified users for  
17 sheep hunting. Both the Eastern Interior and the North  
18 Slope Regional Advisory Councils supported this closure  
19 at that time.

20

21 The biological background. The State  
22 objectives for the Unit 25 sheep population are to  
23 manage for a maximum sustainable harvest of Dall sheep  
24 rams with full-curl or larger horns.  
25 Surveys have been conducted in 2006, 2007, 2008, and  
26 2012 within the Red Sheep and Cane Creek drainages.  
27 The densities of sheep have remained stable with at  
28 approximately 1.8 sheep per square mile in 2012. The  
29 count from the Red Sheep and Cane Creek drainages in  
30 2012 was 197 animals.

31

32 Densities in this area are low compared  
33 to other areas in the Brooks Range for sheep and this  
34 is probably due mostly to poor habitat quality.

35

36 A little summary of the harvest. The  
37 Arctic National Wildlife Refuge staff have engaged in  
38 outreach efforts on reporting compliance. In general,  
39 the compliance with the harvest permit system has been  
40 generally low by the residents of Arctic Village. In  
41 2005 to 2007, 27 Federal registration permits were  
42 issued for the management area; 4 sheep were reported  
43 harvested and 23 harvest reports were not returned. No  
44 permits were issued in 2008 and 2009. Four permits  
45 were issued in 2010 with one sheep being harvested.

46

47 There is some information from  
48 household surveys and Bob Childers at the January 2012  
49 Board meeting indicated that typically between two and  
50 five sheep are harvested each year for this population.

1 Harvest success by non-Federally  
2 qualified subsistence hunters between 2006 and 2009 was  
3 approximately 65 percent. During the same time period  
4 approximately 18 rams were taken.

5  
6 There are five communities with  
7 recognized customary and traditional uses of Dall sheep  
8 in Unit 25A. This is a prestigious food source and  
9 becomes a critical food source when caribou are  
10 unavailable for the Arctic Village residents, who are  
11 the primary hunters for this population in these two  
12 drainages. Sheep are normally taken in the fall when  
13 they taste best and when they're also accessible by  
14 snowmachine.

15  
16 Concerns have been raised in the past  
17 that the planes spook the sheep and local people have  
18 testified that the plane activity causes the older rams  
19 to climb to higher elevations and makes it harder for  
20 them to access those rams.

21  
22 Arctic Village residents have also  
23 testified that non-Federally qualified users adversely  
24 affect their ability to hunt in their traditional  
25 hunting area and impairs their ability to successfully  
26 harvest sheep. There's been public record for over 20  
27 years of their use of sheep in this area.

28  
29 Another alternative was considered.  
30 The alternative that was considered would be to open  
31 the season from July 31st versus August 10th and this  
32 would give the Federally-qualified subsistence users an  
33 extra 10 days at the beginning of the season without  
34 competition from non-Federally qualified users to  
35 harvest sheep in this area. The earlier timeframe was  
36 also brought up may not be all that conducive because  
37 it might be too warm to preserve the sheep at that time  
38 of the year. The Board considered this proposal, but  
39 did not adopt it in 2012.

40  
41 If Proposal WP14-51 were adopted, it  
42 would open the August 10th to September 20th sheep  
43 hunting season to non-Federally  
44 qualified subsistence users and would require all sheep  
45 hunters to possess proof of completion of an  
46 ADF&G-approved hunter  
47 ethics and orientation course incorporating State  
48 regulations into Federal regulations. It would also  
49 increase the competition for Federally qualified  
50 subsistence users.

1                   The proposal would probably not affect  
2 the Dall sheep population. Non-Federally qualified  
3 users would be limited to one full curl ram. A harvest  
4 of full curl rams would not be expected to reduce the  
5 productivity of the local sheep population.  
6

7                   The OSM preliminary recommendation is  
8 following the Board's suggestion. We oppose Proposal  
9 WP14-51. Although there's no clear conservation  
10 reasons to close Red Sheep and Cane Creek to  
11 non-Federally qualified subsistence users, it is based  
12 more on the potential adverse effects to subsistence  
13 users to harvest in their traditional hunting areas and  
14 impairs their ability to harvest sheep. Efforts by the  
15 State to require hunter education and ethics  
16 orientation course is not enough to assure that Arctic  
17 Village residents have continued opportunity to harvest  
18 sheep. As far as I know to date, this course has not  
19 been developed.  
20

21                   That's it, Mr. Chairman.  
22

23                   CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Tom, for  
24 presenting the proposal. Again, following the  
25 presentation procedures we have the agency comments.  
26 I'll start with Alaska Department of Fish and Game.  
27

28                   MS. YUHAS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.  
29 Jennifer Yuhas with the Alaska Department of Fish and  
30 Game. We did submit this proposal. I have several  
31 comments related to the analysis. One of those is that  
32 at the end there there was a discussion that Federally  
33 qualified users would be limited. This proposal does  
34 not limit anyone, so any limitations are already in the  
35 Federal regulations.  
36

37                   This proposal seemed very simple when I  
38 first looked at it two years ago when I saw that there  
39 was a closure. It looked simple to just compare the  
40 biology and see that everyone agreed there was no  
41 conservation concern. Then I heard a lot of testimony  
42 at two of the RAC meetings regarding some very  
43 unreasonable issues that people were dealing with, with  
44 trespass and hardships related to that.  
45

46                   Then it became not very simple and I  
47 spent a lot of personal time and energy trying to find  
48 a solution given that the major issue was trespass and  
49 so many people were affected, but that the Federal  
50 Subsistence Board really didn't have any jurisdiction



1 over restricting people for the use of the trespass.  
2 Really only the land managers did. When we hear from  
3 the land managers, it's very difficult to prosecute or  
4 even cite someone who may be suspected of trespass.

5  
6 I worked very closely with Al Cane  
7 (ph), our enforcement officer at Fish and Game, to see  
8 what could we do to make it easier to educate the  
9 people who wanted to know better and do better and then  
10 for enforcement to be able to effectively use their  
11 time and energy and expensive gas to be able to make a  
12 citation when they do catch someone to encourage some  
13 of the enforcement because we had no conservation  
14 concerns in this area.

15  
16 The language that we came up with for  
17 the course may not solve all of the problems, but  
18 people who don't obey the law. We feel at Fish and  
19 Game and talking to enforcement that it provides them  
20 the tool to be able to give the citation and not just a  
21 warning and to be able to prosecute someone for being  
22 where they aren't supposed to be, doing something  
23 they're not supposed to do that's affecting the  
24 subsistence users. This is really an effort to try and  
25 make sure that we could satisfy everyone's needs at the  
26 same time.

27  
28 There was some testimony in the  
29 analysis that the proposal would increase pressure to  
30 the subsistence users. Given the abundance of sheep  
31 and the very low numbers of State users or  
32 non-Federally qualified users that Jason Caikoski has  
33 all the numbers for here, the Department doesn't see  
34 that undue pressure. The majority of the testimony  
35 centered around disrespect and inability to cite those  
36 people.

37  
38 The reason that we have not yet  
39 developed the course is because should the Federal  
40 Subsistence Board approve this course, we want to work  
41 with the local people and be able to develop that  
42 course with their input. We're not going to bother  
43 everyone who is busy going to all the meetings that you  
44 go to if the course is not going to be a reality, so we  
45 haven't put the effort into that.

46  
47 A proposal like this can be adopted to  
48 take place once the course is developed and we only  
49 want to do that with the input of the local area. If  
50 you have any questions regarding the biology, I don't

1 know that you will, we've been over that several times  
2 in the last few years and there really is no  
3 conservation concern, but we do have our ADF&G  
4 biologists, Beth and Jason, online for that, Mr.  
5 Chairman.

6  
7 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Jennifer.  
8 I'll continue with any other agency reports. We have  
9 the Federal agencies.

10  
11 Go ahead, Pat.

12  
13 MS. PETRIVELLI: Hi. This is Pat with  
14 BIA. I just wanted to make one slight correction and  
15 it's just with Tom when he was saying why you're  
16 listening to this proposal and it's not because Arctic  
17 Village is close to the North Slope, it's because the  
18 residents of Kaktovik have a C&T determination.  
19 Because of that, that's why your region is considering  
20 this proposal and then the Eastern Interior Region will  
21 hear it. They're the home region, but you get to hear  
22 it because the residents of Kaktovik have a C&T  
23 determination. Just for the record.

24  
25 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you for sharing  
26 that, Pat.

27  
28 MS. YUHAS: Mr. Chairman. This is  
29 Jennifer again. If the timing off all the  
30 bureaucracies had been better aligned, you wouldn't  
31 have to hear this again now. The timing was such last  
32 cycle two years ago that the Federal Subsistence Board  
33 met before the Board of Game met and when they made  
34 their determination and when the RACs met, the State  
35 side had not adopted this. Consequently, six weeks  
36 later after the Federal side met and said the proposal  
37 doesn't go far enough because the State doesn't have a  
38 requirement. Six weeks later the State met and made a  
39 requirement, so the new information came a little too  
40 late and we had to wait for a whole new cycle to bring  
41 it back to you.

42  
43 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you. Any other  
44 Federal agency comments on the Proposal WP14-51.

45  
46 (No comments)

47  
48 CHAIRMAN BROWER: We have none.  
49 Native, tribal, village comments.

50

1 (No comments)  
2  
3 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Interagency Staff  
4 Committee comments.  
5  
6 (No comments)  
7  
8 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Advisory group  
9 comments. Have we received any from either that  
10 advisory council that is in the neighboring region?  
11  
12 MS. PATTON: No, we have not received  
13 any comments from the advisory council.  
14  
15 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you. Etok.  
16  
17 MR. C. EDWARDSSEN: I wish to comment on  
18 our boundary. The Arctic Slope litigation and the  
19 Sandra Day O'Connor opinion. I wish that the  
20 bureaucracy would come to realization that we have some  
21 real rights and instead of being a supplement. I'm  
22 tired of that attitude we don't need it. We have been  
23 affirmed by the Supreme Court of the United States, so  
24 we want to see the tightest, strictest construction  
25 that the Federal government can provide and we want  
26 strict enforcement and for the tribes to develop  
27 completely with the Feds without the State of Alaska.  
28 State of Alaska is only good for its own lands. Let's  
29 get that thing straight once and for all. The Federal  
30 responsibility at this present moment is at large. We  
31 want the trust responsibility to be strictly enforced.  
32  
33 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you for your  
34 comments, Etok. We didn't have any other advisory  
35 group comments from neighboring regions.  
36  
37 (No comments)  
38  
39 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Local fish and game  
40 advisory committees.  
41  
42 (No comments)  
43  
44 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Any responses  
45 from.....  
46  
47 MR. EVANS: No, Mr. Chair.  
48  
49 CHAIRMAN BROWER: .....those two  
50 identified. Yes, Tom.

1 MR. EVANS: No, I just answered your  
2 question.  
3  
4 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you.  
5  
6 Moving on down to 3(c), National Park  
7 Service Subsistence Resource Commission.  
8  
9 Any comments.  
10  
11 MS. PATTON: No comments.  
12  
13 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you. Four,  
14 summary of written comments.  
15  
16 MS. PATTON: There are no written  
17 comments.  
18  
19 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you. Public  
20 testimony. Any requests for public testimony this  
21 morning.  
22  
23 MS. PATTON: No other public requests  
24 other than we just heard.  
25  
26 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you.  
27  
28 Regional Council recommendation.  
29 Regional Council recommendation on WP14-51.  
30  
31 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: Mr. Chair. I'd like  
32 to make a motion to oppose WP14-51.  
33  
34 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Motion on the floor  
35 to oppose.  
36  
37 MR. SHEARS: Second.  
38  
39 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Further discussion on  
40 the proposal. Rosemary.  
41  
42 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: This process has  
43 gone through extensive discussion. We had really good  
44 testimony from the two villages near this area where  
45 this hunt is. This is the only area that has had a  
46 restriction. It is a very narrow area and the  
47 discussion supports the need to consider these changes.  
48 While the effort of the State to allow an opportunity  
49 for education to occur, it is an idea that is good to  
50 consider. We don't know the benefit of that process

1 and we do know that there are problems with the  
2 subsistence hunts with additional users in that area,  
3 such a small, narrowed area, that do impact their  
4 availability to their hunting.

5  
6 So my recommendation is to not support  
7 opening it to additional hunting pressures. The  
8 traditional and culture uses there, the medicinal value  
9 was stated in previous testimonies. My Uncle Connick  
10 (ph) from Kaktovik, the first time I got to try one of  
11 these sheep was from this area and he shared with me  
12 that during times when it's extremely cold and there's  
13 hard hunting going on, they could depend on going into  
14 this area to harvest sheep. They would go into this  
15 area because of the salt licks and mineral licks that  
16 are in this area. This also has value for traditional  
17 people with illnesses that this food helps to replace  
18 minerals that our bodies need at certain times of the  
19 year and it is important with those uses as well as the  
20 other discussions that came through that other village.

21  
22 The area has been shown that there is  
23 numbers there, but because of this small area the  
24 pressures from other users do react to the subsistence  
25 use. It's not fair to us to give the process over to  
26 the State with just the educational process that  
27 they're putting forward. We want to see the benefit of  
28 this process assessed out as to be a real benefit, as a  
29 means to reduce the pressure in this area before we  
30 consider that.

31  
32 There will be restrictions for other  
33 users in this area, but because this is such a small  
34 area and limited access, there are many other areas  
35 that could be considered and should be for that  
36 process, not within this area that has traditional  
37 value and well demonstrated reasons for restrictions.

38  
39 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Rosemary.  
40 Any other discussion on Proposal WP14-51.

41  
42 (No comments)

43  
44 CHAIRMAN BROWER: The motion is to  
45 oppose the proposal as presented.

46  
47 MR. SHEARS: A question to our Kaktovik  
48 residents who subsistence hunt sheep in Arctic National  
49 Wildlife Refuge. The area up there at the headwaters  
50 of Red Sheep, is that area up there on the Unit 26C

1 side hunted for sheep by North Slope residents?

2

3 MR. KAYOTUK: Chairman. Council. For  
4 26C for that hunting in that area is being hunted  
5 during that time in the fall. It's the only time when  
6 we can get up there and the only access to that area is  
7 by snowmachine during the open season of the first of  
8 the winter. Other than that, during the later season  
9 is when we can't get up there. We don't know what's  
10 really going on up in that area other than we have  
11 heard that a lot of other hunters are getting up there  
12 that we don't know about in that area. Specifically  
13 that should be entered at all times during the hunts  
14 when we can get up there and we don't really know  
15 what's going on during the open season during that  
16 time.

17

18 Thank you.

19

20 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Does that help with  
21 your question, Bob.

22

23 MR. SHEARS: Yeah, it does. So I was  
24 looking through the regs and understanding how our  
25 rural subsistence residents use that area. I'd like to  
26 put it up for discussion. They indicated in the  
27 testimony if it comes out of Arctic Village -- that,  
28 you know, when this area was being used before it was  
29 Federally closed. The aircraft traffic and the sport  
30 hunters were driving the large rams up into higher  
31 ground, areas unreachable by Arctic Village residents.  
32 Well, looking at the map, high ground is Unit 26C where  
33 we hunt. I don't know if that's necessarily such a bad  
34 thing for us.

35

36 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Just a comment. I  
37 mean I get Robert. It's just to availability at the  
38 time the subsistence hunters are getting to the area,  
39 the consequences of other users having an advantage  
40 flying, cause the noise disturbance, creating the  
41 situation of what you've heard in regards to the  
42 comments. That's the only thing I could interpret in  
43 terms of the information that's been provided.

44

45 Any further discussion on the motion.  
46 Tom.

47

48 MR. EVANS: No, Mr. Chair.

49

50 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Were you indicating

1 you wanted to make a comment?  
2  
3 MR. EVANS: No, Mr. Chairman.  
4  
5 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Okay. Council  
6 members, further discussion on the motion.  
7  
8 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: Fenton did get  
9 involved with this process and gave a lot of good  
10 testimony that should be available in the record if  
11 you'd like to look at that. It was very important that  
12 he was able to get on to this part of the meeting and  
13 provide testimony at that process. He supported the  
14 recommendations that we put forward for having the  
15 restriction.  
16  
17 CHAIRMAN BROWER: I was just indicating  
18 that I remember Fenton being available at the time this  
19 proposal or this area was being discussed. I wasn't  
20 quite sure if the proposal was submitted then.  
21  
22 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: Hearing no further  
23 discussion, I'd like to call for the question.  
24  
25 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Rosemary.  
26 The question has been called on the motion to oppose  
27 Proposal WP14-51. All in favor of the motion to oppose  
28 signify by saying aye.  
29  
30 IN UNISON: Aye.  
31  
32 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Opposed say nay.  
33  
34 (No opposing votes)  
35  
36 CHAIRMAN BROWER: None noted. Tom, any  
37 remaining proposals?  
38  
39 MR. EVANS: That's the last proposal,  
40 Mr. Chair.  
41  
42 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you. Following  
43 our agenda as to where we are, we just got done with  
44 new business under 9A, wildlife regulatory proposals.  
45 We've taken action on the ones we've heard.  
46  
47 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair.  
48  
49 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yes, Eva.  
50

1 MS. PATTON: If I may, we do have a  
2 representative here from the North Slope A.C. at the  
3 request of the Council to have more communications and  
4 collaboration with the A.C. He will be attending the  
5 services this afternoon and is in this morning, just  
6 for the Council's consideration on the agenda.

7  
8 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you. Mike,  
9 we'll give you the floor and give you the opportunity  
10 at this time since you're going to be attending the  
11 funeral this afternoon.

12  
13 MR. PEDERSON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.  
14 Members of the Council. My name is Mike Pederson. I'm  
15 the subsistence research coordinator for the North  
16 Slope Borough Department of Wildlife Management. I was  
17 asked to talk about cooperations that we do with  
18 various agencies.

19  
20 The North Slope Borough Department of  
21 Wildlife Management has a regional management board  
22 called the Fish and Game Management Committee. That  
23 was created in 1976. In our records, in working with  
24 Alaska Department of Fish and Game going back previous  
25 to 1997, we have interacted with agency personnel on  
26 various issues regarding proposals, regarding research  
27 activities and also with those research activities they  
28 provide us updates on what they're doing with muskox,  
29 wolves, caribou and such.

30  
31 In 2007, the Board of Game allowed the  
32 Fish and Game Management Committee to become the Arctic  
33 Advisory Council, so what we did was we proposed to the  
34 Board of Game that they eliminate the 30-member Eastern  
35 Arctic and Western Arctic Advisory Councils and merge  
36 them into one and utilize the Fish and Game Management  
37 Committee and that proposal was approved.

38  
39 Since then we've played an active role  
40 in working with Department of Fish and Game on  
41 providing proposals, submitting them. They've come to  
42 us asking for advice on research activities. For  
43 instance, when they were collaring caribou calves, they  
44 asked our opinion of that and our input while they were  
45 doing also similar health assessment. So we've worked  
46 with them. I think working with them on some of these  
47 issues has been great for our people relating to  
48 subsistence. Not only do we work with them on  
49 terrestrial animals, we've worked with them on marine  
50 mammal tagging of beluga whales and bowhead whales. So



1 we've worked with them a lot over the years and I think  
2 it's been a great working relationship.

3  
4 As for working with the Federal  
5 Subsistence Board, when we get the packets of proposals  
6 and if you didn't hear from us, that kind of means that  
7 I wasn't going to waste anyone's time by commenting on  
8 something that we agree with. We would comment on  
9 issues that we would oppose in the proposals that you  
10 guys are considering. We haven't come across any of  
11 those types of things in the last few years, so maybe  
12 that's why we've been a little bit too quiet in this  
13 process with you guys.

14  
15 Although Harry is the Barrow  
16 representative, he also works for our department and  
17 I've coordinated some of the issues as they come up  
18 with him. If they don't impact our subsistence  
19 hunters, then I won't bother commenting. I view that  
20 as just a waste of everyone's time.

21  
22 Again, our working relationship with  
23 the State, even though they don't -- constitutionally  
24 can't recognize a rural preference for subsistence,  
25 we've been working with them on our issues in our  
26 region very successfully over the past 20 or so years  
27 since the Fish and Game Management Committee was  
28 incorporated as part of the Borough.

29  
30 Basically that's all I have to say and  
31 we continue our working relationship as the Arctic  
32 Advisory Council with them and there have been times  
33 where the Board has not supported our proposals, but  
34 that's just the way it is. So we continue to work with  
35 them as the advisory council and we probably will take  
36 a more active part in working on the Federal  
37 Subsistence Board process, but a lot of the issues that  
38 we work on deal with the species that are under Federal  
39 management, such as ice seals, polar bears, whales and  
40 also migratory birds, which you guys don't deal with.

41  
42 What I passed out to you was my  
43 testimony from last night's public hearing on the rural  
44 determination process and I share that with you for  
45 your consideration and your deliberations as you deal  
46 with that process in the next few months.

47  
48 I don't have anything else, Mr. Chair,  
49 unless you guys have any questions.

50

1 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Mike, for  
2 providing the information. I'd like to ask the Council  
3 members if they have any questions to Mike in regards  
4 to what you've heard this morning.

5  
6 (No comments)

7  
8 CHAIRMAN BROWER: There are none.  
9 Thank you, Mike, for providing that information. It's  
10 always good to hear agencies or representatives in  
11 regard to wildlife management in terms of where the  
12 alignments could be made to support each other in  
13 regard to our subsistence resources that we take for  
14 subsistence. Again, thank you, Mike, for taking the  
15 time to be here with us.

16  
17 Eva, I look to you in terms of where we  
18 are in regards to our regional proposals. We've  
19 covered our wildlife proposals and now we have the  
20 statewide proposals. Is that something we're  
21 addressing this morning?

22  
23 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair. The Council  
24 did address the only statewide Proposal WP14-01  
25 yesterday, so that concludes all the wildlife  
26 proposals, both statewide and for this region.

27  
28 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Okay. Down to 9B.  
29 Draft 2014 Fisheries Resource Monitoring Plan.

30  
31 MS. PATTON: Yes, Mr. Chair. We have  
32 Kay Larson-Blair online to present briefly on the FRMP  
33 proposals. These are the research proposals that have  
34 been put forward for the North Slope and Northwest  
35 Arctic Region for the Council to review.

36  
37 CHAIRMAN BROWER: I'll open the floor  
38 and give her the opportunity to provide the monitoring  
39 plan for 2014.

40  
41 MS. LARSON-BLAIR: Thank you, Mr.  
42 Chair. Members of the Council. I'm Kay Larson-Blair  
43 and I'm filling in for Karen Hyer with OSM. Starting  
44 on Page 108, I'm going to take you through the draft  
45 2014 monitoring plan, which is composed of a successful  
46 investigation plan submitted to OSM. There is a lot of  
47 information in those books. I'm going to highlight  
48 just a fraction of the information and you guys can go  
49 through the rest on your own later.

50

1                   Each project submitted was evaluated  
2 for four factors. Those four factors are on Page 109.  
3 The first factor is a strategic priority. The project  
4 must address an information need related to Federal  
5 subsistence management. Number two, technical and  
6 scientific merit. The project is evaluated for  
7 scientific rigor and clarity and purpose. Number  
8 three, investigator ability and resources.  
9 Investigators must have the ability to complete the  
10 proposed work. Number four, partnership-capacity  
11 building. It must have participation and local support  
12 from local organizations.

13  
14                   On Page 132, Table 5, continuing a list  
15 of investigations submitted for consideration by the  
16 Technical Review Committee. Of the five submitted,  
17 three proposals were recommended for funding. The  
18 remaining tables summarized completed projects and  
19 ongoing projects in the Northern Alaska Region.

20  
21                   On Page 101, there's a description of  
22 the investigation plans submitted for consideration.  
23 The three investigation plans recommended for funding  
24 are number 14-101, the Unalakleet River chinook salmon  
25 escapement assessment. Funding for this project would  
26 be used to continue operation of the floating weir on  
27 the Unalakleet River to monitor chinook salmon passage.  
28 Daily counts from the weir are used for inseason  
29 chinook salmon management. The long-term goal of the  
30 weir is to develop biological escapement goals.

31  
32                   Project 14-103, Beaufort Sea dolly  
33 varden dispersal pattern. This project collects  
34 baseline information on the movement patterns of dolly  
35 varden in their summer oceanic habitat using satellite  
36 technology. The investigators will use the information  
37 to describe temporal and spacial distribution of dolly  
38 varden in the Beaufort Sea. The information will be  
39 used to help managers better understand potential  
40 interactions among dolly varden populations and human  
41 activities.

42  
43                   The last project is 14-104, the Selawik  
44 River sheefish population assessment. A large  
45 permafrost thaw has slumped into the Selawik River  
46 causing the river to become turbid and potentially  
47 destroying the habitat for spawning sheefish.  
48 Information from this project will be used to assess  
49 the long-term effects of permafrost slump on the  
50 spawning success of sheefish. This is a continuation

1 project started in 2012. Because this is an action  
2 item, the Draft Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program  
3 will need a motion to recommend the Draft 2014  
4 Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program for funding.

5  
6 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

7  
8 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Kay.

9  
10 Do the Council members have any  
11 questions to Kay regarding the information presented.

12  
13 MR. SHEARS: Mr. Chairman.

14  
15 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yes, Robert.

16  
17 MR. SHEARS: Good morning, Kay. Bob  
18 Shears.

19  
20 MS. LARSON-BLAIR: Good morning.

21  
22 MR. SHEARS: As I'm following along  
23 with you and you know, of course, the primary one that  
24 concerns us, that directly affects us on the North  
25 Slope is 14-103, the Beaufort Sea dolly varden  
26 dispersal pattern, which was recommended for funding.  
27 I'm reading the synopsis on Page 114 indicating that  
28 while this project does not address a specific priority  
29 information need in Northern Alaska, dolly varden are  
30 listed as a general priority for all three Northern  
31 Councils in the 2014 Priority Information Needs  
32 document.

33  
34 Could you provide me with some more  
35 information on how these general priorities are  
36 established and who are the three Northern Councils and  
37 how these projects -- the review process is conducted  
38 to recommend or not recommend them for funding?

39  
40 MS. LARSON-BLAIR: I'll try to answer  
41 this as best as I can. The priority information needs  
42 were decided back a few years ago. We get suggestions  
43 from the Councils, local input. And the three Councils  
44 that are up in the Northern Region are the Northwest  
45 Arctic, North Slope and Eastern Interior.

46  
47 This is not the region I work in.  
48 Karen Hyer knows a lot more about this. I work  
49 typically in Southcentral. If you have any more  
50 specific comments to that, I could have Karen get in

1 touch with you.  
2  
3 MR. SHEARS: Yeah, Kay. I was just  
4 trying to understand, you know, fairly new to the  
5 Council here, only been here for a little over a year,  
6 but I guess the North Slope Council had an opportunity  
7 to review these projects in the past and recommend them  
8 for funding?  
9  
10 MS. LARSON-BLAIR: Yes.  
11  
12 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair. If I may, I  
13 could help fill in a little bit there.  
14  
15 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Eva.  
16  
17 MS. PATTON: The Northern Regions --  
18 it's actually Seward Peninsula which covers some of the  
19 Northern Region. That Council, the Northwest Arctic  
20 Council and the North Slope Council. For these  
21 proposals, the Northwest Arctic and North Slope  
22 research proposals are submitted to the Council to  
23 review since it's within your region.  
24  
25 The strategic priority information  
26 needs are developed in advance of sending out a call  
27 for research proposals. So at the August meeting last  
28 year the Council weighed in on this Council's issues of  
29 importance and concern for fisheries. We did hold a  
30 subsequent teleconference with some of the Council  
31 members to further elaborate on exactly what river  
32 drainages or lakes those concerns were in.  
33  
34 When the strategic plan gets developed,  
35 the criteria are fairly general, so it doesn't list the  
36 priorities that specific, but at least the information  
37 is out there for researchers to identify the needs of  
38 the community. As Kay mentioned, there are also the  
39 input from biologists too in terms of fishery declines,  
40 other information other than the Council's input that's  
41 considered in the strategic priority information needs.  
42  
43 Karen Hyer is not online today. She's  
44 actually the biologist that oversees this proposal  
45 process and for the region. David, did you participate  
46 in the Technical Review Committee process?  
47  
48 DR. JENKINS: I did.  
49  
50 MS. PATTON: Because I know the Council

1 had had questions about how the Technical Review  
2 process functions with this. Perhaps David may be able  
3 to highlight that process further.

4  
5 MR. SHEARS: Thank you. Thank you very  
6 much, Eva. That really explains -- I feel a little  
7 clearer on it now. David, I'd really appreciate your  
8 testimony on what comprises the Technical Review  
9 Committee and what the process is that's undertaken to  
10 approve projects for funding.

11  
12 DR. JENKINS: David Jenkins with OSM.  
13 Yeah, the Technical Review Committee is made up of  
14 experts in fisheries and social sciences and it reviews  
15 all of the proposals and makes recommendations on which  
16 ones to fund or prioritizes which of these proposals to  
17 fund. So there are representatives from ADF&G,  
18 representatives from Fish and Wildlife Service. We had  
19 folks from the Forest Service and the National Park  
20 Service.

21  
22 So agency experts who provide their  
23 expertise in this Technical Review Committee and then  
24 they make a recommendation on prioritizing these  
25 proposals. Then it comes out to the RACs, their  
26 recommendations. The Regional Advisory Councils then  
27 make a recommendation to the Federal Subsistence Board  
28 and then the Board forwards that on. It's all  
29 contingent on funding.

30  
31 MR. SHEARS: Is there any consultation  
32 between the Technical Review Committee in regards to  
33 the North Slope science projects that are being  
34 considered for funding? The North Slope Science  
35 Initiative established by the Department of Interior  
36 maintains a Science Technical Advisory Panel that  
37 reviews and recommends projects for research on the  
38 North Slope. Is there any consultation with the STAP?

39  
40 DR. JENKINS: Not from the Technical  
41 Review Committee. That committee meets specifically to  
42 address the proposals that are in front of them, so  
43 that committee is sort of autonomous in that sense.  
44 Whether or not committee members themselves have  
45 outside conversations I can't speak to.

46  
47 MR. SHEARS: Thank you very much. That  
48 answered my questions, Dave.

49  
50 DR. JENKINS: Okay.

1 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Good morning. Before  
2 I recognize you, Robert, I just wanted to acknowledge  
3 that we have three additional guests that come in this  
4 morning. We had an introduction this morning. I could  
5 give you the opportunity to introduce yourselves. I  
6 just wanted to be fair for everybody to be recognized  
7 and get on record.

8  
9 MR. PRATT: Who are you being fair to?  
10

11 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Being fair to the  
12 participants here to identify themselves or we'll just  
13 ignore you the rest of the day.

14  
15 MR. PRATT: My name is Lincoln Pratt.  
16 I work for the Alaska Department of Fish and Game and I  
17 study caribou and I'm here to hopefully talk to you  
18 guys about caribou a little bit later.

19  
20 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you.

21  
22 MS. RUTHERFORD: And I'm Brittany  
23 Rutherford. I work for Fish and Game as well for the  
24 Subsistence Division.

25  
26 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you.

27  
28 Robert, did you want to make a comment  
29 in regards to our discussion topic?

30  
31 Come down to the mic, please.

32  
33 MR. R. EDWARDSSEN: My question is on  
34 14-102 North Slope climate change and do not fund. I'm  
35 just curious who's funding all these projects that are  
36 ongoing. That's my question.

37  
38 CHAIRMAN BROWER: These are Federal  
39 funds that are subjected to for research.

40  
41 MR. R. EDWARDSSEN: Anyway, you should  
42 at least mention that here.

43  
44 MR. SHEARS: Yeah, Mr. Chairman.

45  
46 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Robert.

47  
48 MR. SHEARS: That's a good point that  
49 Robert brings out. It's always nice to follow the money  
50 to see who's research agenda is being met. I'm a

1 little confused here why such an obscure project would  
2 be recommended for funding when we have so many other  
3 more immediate priority needs.

4

5 I'm a little disappointed in myself if  
6 I endorsed this project as one of our general  
7 priorities. The Beaufort Sea dolly varden dispersal  
8 pattern is not a very important subject. Not for  
9 \$650,000 or how much was it funded for, over a period  
10 of three years. Just my opinion on that subject.

11

12 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Bob, for  
13 sharing that.

14

15 Eva, did you have a comment you wanted  
16 to make on the question.

17

18 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair. I was just  
19 going to respond to the question earlier. These funds  
20 are Federal funds from U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.  
21 There are funds allocated to the Office of Subsistence  
22 Management to manage the research program. So the  
23 funding does come from the Federal government to Fish  
24 and Wildlife Service and then these grant proposals are  
25 reviewed and the funding then goes to the researchers  
26 who may be local tribes, maybe university researchers,  
27 maybe other Federal researchers or State researchers.  
28 So the funds then go out to the researchers themselves.

29

30 Thank you.

31

32 MR. C. EDWARDSSEN: What is the nature  
33 of the Federal process.....

34

35 REPORTER: Wait, wait.

36

37 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Come up to the mic,  
38 please, Etok.

39

40 MR. C. EDWARDSSEN: What is the nature  
41 of the Federal process of these funds? Are they  
42 earmarked or are they just wishful thinking by the  
43 bureaucracy?

44

45 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair. If I may.

46

47 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yes, Eva.

48

49 MS. PATTON: The funds are not secure,  
50 so this program needs to advocate to continue to get



1 funding. The money is specifically to go to  
2 subsistence fisheries research, so that is the  
3 priority. It's unique from other general research  
4 funds that may do other fisheries research. The intent  
5 of this research program and the funds are to be  
6 utilized to address the subsistence fisheries concerns  
7 and observations throughout Alaska.

8

9 Thank you.

10

11 MR. C. EDWARDSSEN: How does the Fed  
12 select these scientists?

13

14 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair. This is part  
15 of the process. The Councils, with the support of the  
16 communities, weigh in on what the research priorities  
17 are for their region. Those research priorities are  
18 then put out in the call for proposals. We don't  
19 always get people that apply to develop research, so  
20 oftentimes there's research needs that we don't get  
21 applications for. So somebody either doesn't have the  
22 expertise or hasn't come forward or hasn't been able to  
23 organize to do that.

24

25 So the research proposals that we get  
26 are open to the whole public and tribal collaboration  
27 and consultation is encouraged. It's a part of the  
28 criteria with the communities. This is part of the  
29 review process. So the comment from the public and  
30 from the Council on whether these research proposals  
31 that have been put forward meet the needs or are  
32 considered the priority of the community or if they  
33 need modifications for how they work with the  
34 community. This is part of that process to have input  
35 on those proposals that have been developed and put  
36 forth to the Council and the communities.

37

38 Thank you.

39

40 MR. C. EDWARDSSEN: I believe that there  
41 is an absence of tribal participation at this moment.  
42 The Inupiat Community of the Arctic Slope and Native  
43 Village of Barrow. The Federal responsibility -- the  
44 Federal government has no responsibility to the North  
45 Slope Borough whatsoever. Let's get the thing  
46 straightened out here. And so they are -- so this  
47 process is fully artificial because of the failure of  
48 trust responsibility. If I have to go to court on this  
49 matter, I will file as soon as possible.

50

1 Thank you.

2

3 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Etok, for  
4 your comments. I have to say that we had a  
5 representative from ICAS here present yesterday and  
6 she's not here this morning. We did have tribal  
7 consultation addressed through several agencies,  
8 Federal agencies.

9

10 David, are you wanting to make a  
11 comment as well.

12

13 DR. JENKINS: Well, I'd like to clear  
14 up some of the confusion, I think. If you'd turn to  
15 Page 110, you can see where the policy and funding  
16 guidelines are. So the projects we fund are up to four  
17 years long and they can't duplicate existing projects  
18 and most of the funds go to non-Federal agencies. A  
19 great deal of it to the State of Alaska as a matter of  
20 fact.

21

22 You can see a list of activities that  
23 are not eligible for funding, so we don't fund habitat  
24 protection and restoration and enhancement. We don't  
25 fund hatchery propagation or restoration. We don't  
26 fund contaminant assessment and we don't fund primarily  
27 -- where the primary objective is capacity-building.  
28 So those are funded by other mechanisms.

29

30 If you can see in the next paragraph,  
31 monitoring program started in 2000 with an allocation  
32 of \$5 million. In 2001, there was \$6.25 million. Most  
33 recently we have about \$4.25 million for these  
34 monitoring programs, but funding is uncertain. At this  
35 point we were funding the 56 proposals that we got.  
36 The Technical Review Committee ranked them and  
37 allocated them based on that ranking across this \$4.25  
38 million figure.

39

40 If you turn to the next page, you can  
41 see the categories that we look to fund. One of the  
42 categories is stock status and trends in the fisheries.  
43 So looking at abundance, composition, timing, behavior  
44 and status of fish populations that sustain subsistence  
45 fisheries with linkages to Federal public lands. So  
46 two-thirds of the current \$4.25 million is for stock,  
47 status and trend studies. The second category is  
48 harvest monitoring and traditional ecological knowledge  
49 studies and a third of the \$4.25 million goes to those  
50 types of studies.

1                   So I hope that addresses Mr. Shears  
2 questions and any confusion that the Council may have.  
3 Eva is right, at this point the Council is in a  
4 position to provide recommendations to the Board on  
5 which of the proposals you have in front of you for  
6 funding are ones that you think should be funded with  
7 greatest benefit to the subsistence users in your  
8 region. Mr. Chair.  
9  
10                   CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, David. I  
11 just have to recall. We did go through a  
12 prioritization of research projects and the ones we had  
13 prioritized are not even listed is what's wrong.  
14  
15                   MR. C. EDWARDSSEN: It's insane.  
16  
17                   CHAIRMAN BROWER: The justification for  
18 not funding North project has not been derived and  
19 shared with us, yet we identify -- there's been  
20 identified other monitoring projects, like the one  
21 that's been identified for the North Slope Northern  
22 Area. It's just that dolly varden.  
23  
24                   And I was trying to figure out as to  
25 where our list went in terms of the prioritization we  
26 had gone through at one of our Regional Council  
27 meetings and looking to address our concerns from --  
28 Atqasuk was one in regards to the fish die-off in a  
29 couple years that were identified regarding broad  
30 whitefish and round whitefish that are used for  
31 subsistence by the community. Another one was from  
32 Point Hope for our previous representative Ray, he's  
33 passed on, in regards to the fisheries in the river  
34 right near Point Hope. I can't recall what the name of  
35 that river was that they did the grayling fishing.  
36  
37                   MR. FRANKSON: That's the Kukpuk River.  
38  
39                   CHAIRMAN BROWER: Excuse me.  
40  
41                   MR. FRANKSON: Kukpuk River.  
42  
43                   CHAIRMAN BROWER: Kukpuk River. I  
44 think that's the name that was given. I just couldn't  
45 recall what the name was. Those are the two. I'm just  
46 trying to think if something had come about regarding  
47 Wainwright. I know there's a question about smelt.  
48  
49                   MR. SHEARS: Yeah.  
50

1 CHAIRMAN BROWER: I just recall those  
2 three being identified as part of our prioritization  
3 process that we had taken and something else comes up,  
4 so I'm kind of in the same boat you are, Bob, as to  
5 this other research in regards to Beaufort Sea dolly  
6 varden dispersal pattern came about and where did our  
7 list go.

8  
9 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: Harry. At this  
10 point I think it's important to bring in that we've had  
11 some changes to staffing and without working with Helen  
12 in this process there are concerns of our region that  
13 are not getting into various decision-making processes  
14 that allow our priorities to stay at the table for  
15 consideration.

16  
17 It's very concerning that we don't have  
18 a replacement for that position. The problem is within  
19 our region we don't have appropriate assessment  
20 information, written data for our usage and we have to  
21 do a historical review in order to show support for  
22 some of our concerns, some of the failures to get  
23 support of things like Bob had brought up on the  
24 veteran's process are some of those issues.

25  
26 It is very, very important that we work  
27 extensively to make sure we stay in the process where  
28 our priorities are engaged in the decision-making  
29 process because this is definitely an area where our  
30 decisions were put into the discussion process, but  
31 they're not reflective in what we're discussing today.

32  
33 MR. C. EDWARDSSEN: Failure of  
34 bureaucracy.

35  
36 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Rosemary.  
37 I guess there's been some transition occurring within  
38 the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in keeping up with  
39 communications. I'm not sure as to when or how we need  
40 to progress on -- you identifying Helen Armstrong?

41  
42 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: Uh-huh.

43  
44 CHAIRMAN BROWER: She had been working  
45 with us fairly closely on some of our issues in regards  
46 to anthropology and others and to documenting the  
47 research needs for our northern areas and specifically  
48 to our communities here. I mean these are the ones  
49 that we shared because of our observations and the  
50 needs that we're being asked for by representatives

1 that were representing those specific villages at the  
2 time.

3

4 MS. LARSON-BLAIR: Mr. Chair.

5

6 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: Just a moment,  
7 please. It also shows with this process that we've  
8 gone through today and yesterday without the  
9 Interagency Staff contributions that really was pulled  
10 out with that Staff member making sure that connections  
11 were made to allow for that information to be included  
12 as well as the limitations that have come with the Park  
13 Service Subsistence Resource Commission in this  
14 process. It has to be included as part of the effort  
15 to come before us prepared in a way that we are  
16 considering all these issues.

17

18 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Rosemary.

19

20 MS. LARSON-BLAIR: Mr. Chair. This is  
21 Kay Larson-Blair with OSM.

22

23 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Go ahead, Kay.

24

25 MS. LARSON-BLAIR: I have some  
26 background information that was listed as the Northern  
27 Alaskan Region priority information needs. That was  
28 distributed with the call in December 3rd, 2012. If  
29 you'd like, I can read some portions pertaining to the  
30 fisheries and fish that were identified and priority  
31 information needs expressed by the Council.

32

33 MR. SHEARS: Are we getting locked in?

34

35 CHAIRMAN BROWER: I think we're at our  
36 lunch hour and I think we could recess for lunch and  
37 come back after and pick up on that note. Eva, I think  
38 we're right at our lunch hour here again. So, Eva.

39

40 MS. PATTON: Sure, Mr. Chair. I think  
41 that would be fine to conclude after lunch. Maybe we  
42 could also revisit the agenda after lunch. We do have  
43 many presenters that have traveled here today to  
44 present the information to the Council. I can  
45 deliberate with our Staff to see if we can move some of  
46 the OSM. There are some action items. But if we're  
47 able to switch that around so that you're able to hear  
48 all the information that you had asked for from  
49 presenters too, we could take a look at the agenda  
50 then.

1 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Okay. Maybe if we  
2 could get a fax number for Kay to share that material  
3 or information would be helpful in regards to having  
4 paper material here for the Council members.  
5  
6 Thank you.  
7  
8 We'll go on recess until 1:00 p.m.  
9 Thank you.  
10  
11 (Off record)  
12  
13 (On record)  
14  
15 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Good afternoon,  
16 everyone. If we could take our seats. I'm not sure  
17 who all we have online, but I'd like to call the  
18 meeting of the North Slope Regional Advisory Council  
19 back to order after lunch recess. We were dealing with  
20 our Draft 2014 Fisheries Resource Monitoring Plan.  
21 It's an action item the Council needs to take, whether  
22 to support or not support the proposed research  
23 activities.  
24  
25 We left off with the information that  
26 was to be presented by Kay. I'm not sure if she's back  
27 on or not at this time. I'll ask to see if she's  
28 online.  
29  
30 MS. LARSON-BLAIR: Yes, I am. Right  
31 here, Mr. Chair.  
32  
33 CHAIRMAN BROWER: You indicated you had  
34 information you wanted to share in regards to our North  
35 Slope Regional Advisory Council's priority list. Is  
36 that something that you were looking at?  
37  
38 MS. LARSON-BLAIR: Yes. I have the  
39 2014 priority information needs that was submitted from  
40 the Regional Advisory Council. I think we were going  
41 to have it back to you guys to save on time.  
42  
43 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair. If I may. I  
44 did give Kay a call over lunch. In order to meet all  
45 of the other information that the Council is interested  
46 in, we weren't able to get a fax here or print a copy  
47 of those priorities. Those priorities are identified  
48 online for the region as well. So if we're not able to  
49 get a print copy for the Council later today, I can  
50 make sure you have access to the online and I can send

1 you a PDF copy of those priorities that were identified  
2 for the region also.

3

4 CHAIRMAN BROWER: I wish we had the  
5 information before us because it's something that we  
6 all need to see again in terms of what happened to our  
7 priority list. Maybe if we could just have Kay read  
8 them off for now and see how we progress with the  
9 discussion on the Draft 2014 Fisheries Resource  
10 Monitoring Plan.

11

12 MS. LARSON-BLAIR: I could, Mr. Chair.  
13 It won't take very long. There's only three sentences.  
14 If that's fine with everybody.

15

16 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yes, it is. Go  
17 ahead, Kay.

18

19 MS. LARSON-BLAIR: The Seward Peninsula  
20 and Northwest Arctic Councils have identified salmon  
21 and char fisheries as being the most important  
22 fisheries for their areas. The North Slope Council  
23 identified Arctic char, dolly varden, whitefish, lake  
24 trout and Arctic grayling fisheries as the most  
25 important for its area. A high priority expressed by  
26 these Councils, particularly the North Slope Council,  
27 is concern about effects of climate change on  
28 subsistence fishery resources. That's all, Mr. Chair.

29

30 CHAIRMAN BROWER: I didn't get the last  
31 species that you identified. Arctic char, dolly  
32 varden, whitefish and.....

33

34 MS. LARSON-BLAIR: Grayling.

35

36 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Okay. Thank you.  
37 Was there any other information you wanted to provide,  
38 Kay, in regards to the monitoring plan.

39

40 MS. LARSON-BLAIR: Those are the  
41 subsistence fisheries that were identified by the  
42 Regional Advisory Councils. There was also three  
43 priority information needs for the Northern Alaska  
44 Region. If you want, I can go through those three.

45

46 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yes, go ahead with  
47 that, Kay.

48

49 MS. LARSON-BLAIR: The first one is  
50 gathering baseline and ongoing harvest assessment and

1 monitoring a subsistence fishery in the Northwest,  
2 Arctic and North Slope Regions to supplement available  
3 information. The second one is historic trends and  
4 variability in harvest locations, harvest and use of  
5 non-salmon fish, particularly for North Slope  
6 communities. Number three is the Inupiat natural  
7 history of fish, land use, place name mapping, species  
8 distribution and methods for and timing of harvest and  
9 Inupiat taxonomy of non-salmon fish species.

10

11 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

12

13 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you. What's  
14 the wish of the Council at this time.

15

16 MR. SHEARS: Mr. Chair.

17

18 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yes, Bob.

19

20 MR. SHEARS: In light of this  
21 information, perhaps my concern is just -- lies at the  
22 procedural level. Overall, the priorities are  
23 generally aligned with subsistence and protecting and  
24 informing the subsistence users of the use of fish  
25 stocks. The project that was approved for funding  
26 appears appropriate. Perhaps I should be going through  
27 this, mentioning this in the discussion phase for the  
28 motion I'm about to make.

29

30 Mr. Chairman, I'd like to make a motion  
31 to approve the 2014 Fisheries Resource Monitoring Plan.

32

33 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Motion on the floor  
34 to approve 2014 Fisheries Monitoring Plan.

35

36 (No comments)

37

38 CHAIRMAN BROWER: This is an action  
39 item by the Council. If there's no second to the  
40 motion, the motion fails.

41

42 (No comments)

43

44 CHAIRMAN BROWER: What's the wish of  
45 the Council if that's going to be the case.

46

47 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: Mr. Chair.

48

49 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Rosemary.

50



1 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: With the discussion  
2 that we've had, we have a lot of concerns into the  
3 process and how the decision was made in that. We  
4 really need to get better involvement to make sure that  
5 the issues and concerns that we're putting forward get  
6 to be assessed in the decision-making criteria to allow  
7 us to feel that our concerns for subsistence fisheries  
8 are being looked at and helping us to maintain the  
9 sustainability for continued usage. We have other  
10 involvements in the decision-making process that  
11 allowed these studies to occur, but without having the  
12 response to why our processes were not effectively  
13 considered, it's not appropriate for us to move forward  
14 with a plan that's being presented that does not look  
15 at the concerns that we're putting forward.

16  
17 MR. SHEARS: Well worded.

18  
19 CHAIRMAN BROWER: So is that an  
20 indication that we still need to seek additional  
21 information and communication regarding the Interagency  
22 Staff Committee on the research proposals.....

23  
24 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: Yes.

25  
26 CHAIRMAN BROWER: .....before we take  
27 any action?

28  
29 MR. SHEARS: I believe so. I see this  
30 motion is dying in its infancy and we're going to be  
31 reconvening on this. I would like to request the OSM  
32 when they resubmit the 2014 Fisheries Resource  
33 Monitoring Plan at our next meeting in December, you  
34 know, that it better define the procedures for  
35 prioritizing and reviewing projects and perhaps should  
36 add to the procedures. More coordination with local  
37 tribal wildlife department, especially Department of  
38 Interior's North Slope Science Technical Advisory  
39 Panel, which would very specifically apply to the  
40 review process. The qualifications of the Technical  
41 Review Committee to approve projects or to recommend  
42 projects for this plan are somewhat at question. I'd  
43 like to see the full qualifications of the entire  
44 panel.

45  
46 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you.

47  
48 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: I appreciate the  
49 discussion that's been added in and agree that we need  
50 to be further engaged in this discussion to see what we

1 can do to address the concerns that we have and the  
2 lack of the reflection of concerns in this process of  
3 research that's going to be funded for this area.  
4 Thank you for bringing this information forward. I  
5 know that there were changes that have occurred that  
6 changed this meeting process of information and it's  
7 really important that we look at the absence of the  
8 participation that engaged us more effectively in the  
9 process and look to remedy the process to make sure  
10 that we're effectively engaged.

11  
12 CHAIRMAN BROWER: So at this time the  
13 Council defers to take any action on this 2014  
14 Fisheries Resource Monitoring Plan. Moving on with our  
15 agenda, we'll go on to our next agenda item. Review of  
16 rural determination process on Page 133. Dave, will  
17 you be presenting this to the Council, David?

18  
19 DR. JENKINS: Mr. Chair. Yes. I could  
20 go through and present the material that I presented to  
21 the Council last night, but in the interest of time,  
22 since you've already been presented that material,  
23 perhaps I could just respond to questions or give a  
24 brief overview of what this rural review is about.

25  
26 CHAIRMAN BROWER: I guess you can  
27 proceed with that. I guess you can go into an overview  
28 and following up with that.

29  
30 DR. JENKINS: Okay, Mr. Chair. I  
31 handed out to you the paper copy of the PowerPoint  
32 presentation I presented last night, so you can follow  
33 along quickly. If you recall, the Federal Subsistence  
34 Board was tasked by the Secretaries of Interior to  
35 review the rural determination process in 2010. So we  
36 began to review that process and the Board elected to  
37 start that review with public input.

38  
39 So the current process -- let me back  
40 up a little bit. So the Board elected to review the  
41 current process of rural determinations and asked for  
42 public input, it's asking for Regional Advisory Council  
43 input, it's conducting tribal consultations and ANCSA  
44 corporation consultations on the rural determination  
45 process. So that's begun.

46  
47 Let me remind you that what we're  
48 working with is Title VIII of ANILCA, which provides a  
49 rural subsistence priority and only residents of rural  
50 communities or areas are accorded that subsistence

1 priority. So the question is what is a rural area,  
2 what is a rural community.

3  
4 We are limited by a 9th Circuit Court  
5 of Appeals decision which defines rural as used in  
6 ANILCA as referring to sparsely populated areas. The  
7 Court of Appeals decision also indicated that a  
8 subsistence economy or hunting and gathering resource  
9 use is not the primary indicator of a rural area. So  
10 sparsely populated, but a subsistence economy is not  
11 the primary indicator of what is rural and what isn't.

12  
13  
14 If you recall last night I read to you  
15 two sentences from the court's opinion. The court  
16 noted that Congress did not limit the benefits of  
17 ANILCA to residents of areas dominated by a subsistence  
18 economy. Instead, Congress wrote broadly, giving the  
19 statutory priority to all subsistence users residing in  
20 rural areas.

21  
22 So how does the Board determine what is  
23 a rural area. Well, it aggregates communities together  
24 and it does so by looking at three aggregation  
25 criteria. It aggregates them together because it's  
26 interested in how communities are economically,  
27 socially and communally integrated. So the three  
28 criteria that the Board has used are do 30 percent or  
29 more working people commute from one community to  
30 another, do they share a common high school attendance  
31 area and are the communities in proximity and road  
32 accessible to one another.

33  
34 So the Board has asked RACs and the  
35 public and tribes and ANCSA corporations are these ways  
36 of grouping communities together, are these aggregation  
37 criteria useful for determining rural status. If not,  
38 could you give the Board other ways for thinking about  
39 aggregating communities together.

40  
41 The Board groups or aggregates  
42 communities together in order to ascertain a population  
43 threshold. So populations of 2,500 and below in these  
44 aggregated communities are presumed to be rural  
45 communities. Those between 2,500 and 7,000, there's no  
46 presumption of rural or nonrural status. The Board  
47 applies other criteria to determine rural status and  
48 then above 7,000 in population the Board presumes  
49 communities to be nonrural.

50

1                   So, again, are these population  
2 thresholds useful for determining rural status. The  
3 Board is asking the RACs this question. And if not,  
4 are there other population thresholds that you would  
5 recommend.

6  
7                   So between 2,500 and 7,000, the Board  
8 looks at rural characteristics to determine rural  
9 status. Remember, between 2,500 and 7,000 there's no  
10 presumption of rural status. So the characteristic the  
11 Board looks at includes use of fish and wildlife,  
12 economic development and diversity, infrastructure,  
13 transportation and educational institutions. Are these  
14 useful in thinking about rural characteristics. Are  
15 these five characteristics or are there other better  
16 characteristics to use. So the Board is asking for  
17 Regional Advisory input on that question.

18  
19                  Finally, there is a timeline issue and  
20 an information source issue. The Board reviews rural  
21 determinations on a 10-year cycle based on the 10-year  
22 census and out of cycle in special circumstances. So  
23 communities can request the Board for a review of their  
24 rural determination status out of this 10-year cycle.  
25 So the Board asks is a 10-year review necessary or  
26 useful in determining rural status. Should the Board  
27 do this every 10 years or is there some other period of  
28 time that the Board should use or just do it in a  
29 permanent way and then reassess particular communities  
30 as the need arises.

31  
32                  Finally, information sources. The  
33 census provides a lot of the information that the Board  
34 uses. However -- and augmented with Department of  
35 Labor statistics, however, the census itself no longer  
36 collects some of the information that the Board in the  
37 past has used to determine rural status. One of the  
38 things -- one of the data points that the census does  
39 not collect is commuting data because the census no  
40 longer uses the long form. Commuting data is no longer  
41 accessible to us from the census.

42  
43                  So are there other information sources  
44 that the Board should use. For example, are there  
45 local community needs assessments that could be useful  
46 sources of information for thinking about what is rural  
47 and what isn't.

48  
49                  So the Board is asking the public and  
50 RACs and ANCSA corporations and tribes the questions

1 that I posed to you and await your input on these  
2 particular questions. I can answer questions if you  
3 have any on this process.

4  
5 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

6  
7 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you.

8  
9 DR. JENKINS: I raced through that.

10  
11 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Any questions from  
12 the Council to David at this time.

13  
14 MR. FRANKSON: Mr. Chair.

15  
16 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yes, Teddy.

17  
18 MR. FRANKSON: Yeah, on the timelines,  
19 the rural determinations on a 10-year cycle is pretty  
20 good. I think we could go on that one because, you  
21 know, every 10 years the population changes and this  
22 would be a good timeline we could use for now.

23  
24 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Etok. Charles, if  
25 you could come up to the mic, please, and state your  
26 name, please.

27  
28 MR. C. EDWARDSSEN: I'm of the opinion  
29 that looking at.....

30  
31 CHAIRMAN BROWER: You need to turn on  
32 the mic. Thank you.

33  
34 MR. C. EDWARDSSEN: I'm of the opinion  
35 that the rural status doesn't solve anything and that  
36 the tribal government and the Federal relationship that  
37 we have is being eroded in the name of rural status.  
38 We should get back to the local norms of local reality  
39 of Federally-recognized tribes as a criteria, sole  
40 criteria, otherwise that you're going to be subject to  
41 indiscriminate hunters coming up here and so we must  
42 defend our rural status as tribes.

43  
44 And I think that this portfolio is a  
45 sham and it has become to a nomenclature that is  
46 insulting to tribes and so let's get back to the strong  
47 Federal relationship outside of the State of Alaska  
48 because the people of Alaska had already surrendered  
49 hunting and fishing rights to us forever. That's a  
50 very long time and we cannot extinguish that.

1 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Etok. Any  
2 other comments in regards to Council participation in  
3 this discussion.

4  
5 Rosemary.

6  
7 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: This process has the  
8 reality of impacting our region in many different ways  
9 because of efforts to change our lands and waters by  
10 others and the reaction we will have to decisions to  
11 these changes. I worked to help build a cabin in the  
12 area where my ex-husband's father taught him to hunt.  
13 They would go out there by walking from Nuiqsut to this  
14 area for geese hunting. It also used to be a good area  
15 for caribou hunting. Now we have changes with major  
16 infrastructure and hundreds of acres of gravel  
17 placement and personnel in that same area and these  
18 kinds of activities affect decisions about these  
19 criteria.

20  
21 These are not activities that we asked  
22 to come to our subsistence use area. These are  
23 activities that were allowed to come into these areas  
24 to change or lands and waters for resource extraction.  
25 Tribal people, they didn't vote for statehood. You had  
26 to have non-Native people saying it was okay for tribal  
27 people to vote for statehood. Tribal people did not  
28 vote in our area in support of Alaska National Interest  
29 Lands Conservation Act. This was a national interest  
30 process that occurred. We didn't also vote for the  
31 ANCSA process and yet these are reactions to changes  
32 and affecting regulations and usage and traditional way  
33 of life up here.

34  
35 The risks for us are very high with the  
36 continued effort to change our subsistence lands and  
37 waters. We have to be very engaged in this process.  
38 We have to look at the complexity of the issues and I  
39 agree with the discussions we had earlier in our  
40 meetings that said that we should let the communities  
41 decide with whether or not it should be open for  
42 consideration for discussions because the communities  
43 are not in control of the changes that are coming  
44 around with these such changes, but our way of life is  
45 very much affected with these such changes and it's  
46 very hard to sit here and go through this process when  
47 we're looking at generations of change.

48  
49 Living in Nuiqsut for 24 years and  
50 seeing the failures to protect traditional hunting.

1 Having the community harvest of 120 caribou in the area  
2 to watching the village hang only three caribou. Three  
3 houses hung caribou to dry with the changes that  
4 happened. We didn't ask for these changes, but it was  
5 a real hardship to the community.

6  
7 Watching the failure to help the  
8 community and respond to that with other resources was  
9 a reality of what happened and having to fight in local  
10 community meetings to have it recognized and having  
11 Western science not support our concerns. Having  
12 industry control the process that gave studies that  
13 didn't support our concerns. Having failure to release  
14 information that was supposed to guide decision-making  
15 processes.

16  
17 Social research project for Alpine has  
18 not officially been accepted because the community did  
19 not like the information that industry was willing to  
20 allow to occur in that, yet future studies limiting  
21 subsistence harvest information to a 30-mile radius  
22 belittles the elders' response of Sam Tolluk (ph)  
23 saying it took 1,000 miles to subsist.

24  
25 The historical value continues in the  
26 health of our bodies and the future generations and  
27 needs to continue because there's change in the stories  
28 of our generations of usage and the stories of recovery  
29 is not coming along with these changes and yet we're  
30 continuing to put out discussions with a fragmented  
31 process that is not allowing us to get the strength of  
32 all of our issues at the table to fully address them.

33  
34 Thank you.

35  
36 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Rosemary.

37  
38 Any other comments by the Council.

39  
40 MR. R. EDWARDSSEN: Mr. Chair.

41  
42 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Robert.

43  
44 MR. R. EDWARDSSEN: I have a question  
45 for.....

46  
47 CHAIRMAN BROWER: If you could come up  
48 to the mic, please, and state your name for the record.

49  
50 MR. R. EDWARDSSEN: I have a question

1 for this technical man here. My concern is do not fund  
2 and then these places are so close to this arsenic  
3 poisoning that this Red Dog Mine is using. My question  
4 is why aren't we looking at that?

5  
6 MR. SHEARS: Point of order.

7  
8 CHAIRMAN BROWER: That's something out  
9 of the discussion point, Robert.

10  
11 MR. R. EDWARDSSEN: No, we were  
12 discussing.....

13  
14 CHAIRMAN BROWER: We're under agenda  
15 item on review of a rural determination process.

16  
17 MR. R. EDWARDSSEN: Right.

18  
19 CHAIRMAN BROWER: We've moved on from  
20 the Fisheries Research.

21  
22 MR. R. EDWARDSSEN: Anyway, that's my  
23 question on poison activities going on and not being  
24 funded.

25  
26 CHAIRMAN BROWER: So again, in regard  
27 to our agenda item, we've moved on from the fisheries  
28 proposal and asked to table it for more information to  
29 be provided. We have moved on within our agenda to  
30 address the rural determination process.

31  
32 MR. SHEARS: Mr. Chairman.

33  
34 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yes, Robert.

35  
36 MR. SHEARS: The rural determination  
37 process as written today works for, on the North Slope,  
38 a majority of the population that resides here. It's  
39 better in relation to, when compared against ANILCA,  
40 Section .804 requirements, which are quite onerous and  
41 limiting to who can perform subsistence activities. In  
42 lieu of that, the rural determination process allows  
43 some options for how subsistence is exercised. It  
44 doesn't have to be a single means of income. It could  
45 be just partially maintained as a lifestyle and a dual  
46 economy system. However, there's significant problems  
47 with specifics in it.

48  
49 We lose a lot of the population of our  
50 villages to the big cities where the jobs are, where



1 advanced education opportunities are. There's a lot of  
2 ASRC shareholders, you know, living in Fairbanks,  
3 Anchorage and the Lower 48 that have family that come  
4 from this region. They have families in the villages.  
5 If they wanted, you know, to return their children to  
6 teach them traditions and customs, to return and move  
7 back here, to reside here, they can't exercise their  
8 subsistence rights for a period of six months until  
9 they're established residency. Six months is a long  
10 time when you've just spent a lot of money moving and  
11 you're hungry.

12  
13 The street people, the ones that really  
14 want to come home to get healthy, and they find that  
15 when they return home to their village that they're an  
16 outsider in their own community because of the way the  
17 rural determination process is written.

18  
19 I would promote reducing the residency  
20 period and rewriting the rural determination process  
21 where it acknowledges, you know, people with familial  
22 ties to a rural subsistence area.

23  
24 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Are you done, Robert?

25  
26 MR. SHEARS: I'm done.

27  
28 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you for your  
29 comments.

30  
31 Any other comments.

32  
33 (No comments)

34  
35 CHAIRMAN BROWER: So, David, when do  
36 you expect that we'll have some kind of turnaround in  
37 terms of communications or comments that have been  
38 provided and where the Federal Subsistence Board  
39 addresses those and consider to making those changes if  
40 there's been some recommendations for changes?

41  
42 DR. JENKINS: Mr. Chair. The process  
43 is lengthy and the initial public comment period ends  
44 November 1st and after that time the Office of  
45 Subsistence Management will analyze the comments that  
46 we've received and present those comments to the Board  
47 in 2014. The Board at that point can develop  
48 recommendations to the Secretaries of the Interior and  
49 Agriculture to make changes to the process of making  
50 rural determinations. It's under the Secretaries'

1 purview to make those changes in regulation.

2

3                   If the Secretaries decide to make those  
4 changes, then there would be what's called a proposed  
5 rule on those regulations and that would provide the  
6 opportunity for public comment once again. Once the  
7 proposed rule becomes a final rule -- now I'm speaking  
8 bureaucratese here, right. I'm speaking like a  
9 bureaucrat. Once the proposed rule becomes a final  
10 rule and it's made into regulation, then the Board  
11 would use the new process for making rural  
12 determinations and then go about the business of  
13 actually determining which areas in Alaska are rural  
14 and which are not.

15

16                   So ultimately those -- and at that  
17 point there could be -- the Board would publish a  
18 proposed rule on those determinations and there would  
19 be the opportunity for public comment again. So we  
20 have a five-year window in which to do all of this, so  
21 2017 would be the presumed end of this process. So  
22 it's very lengthy, it's very slow, it's very laborious.

23

24                   CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you. I'd like  
25 to ask Council if there's any other questions to David  
26 in regards to this agenda item.

27

28                   (No comments)

29

30                   CHAIRMAN BROWER: I'm not sure whether  
31 we're taking any kind of action at this time or whether  
32 -- with the information just presented I think there  
33 needs to be some time to absorb this and to generate  
34 some comments accordingly since you've indicated,  
35 David, it's going to be a long time in the process. I  
36 think we have sufficient time to take any action at  
37 this time. I'm not sure why we have an asterisk on the  
38 topic indicating that this is an action item.

39

40                   DR. JENKINS: Mr. Chair. I can respond  
41 to that. It's because there's a November 1st deadline  
42 for this first round of public comment. We were really  
43 interested in Regional Advisory Council's opinions on  
44 the criteria that I just laid out for you.  
45 Aggregations, population thresholds, characteristics of  
46 rural communities, timelines and information sources  
47 and whether or not you have any suggestions for  
48 modifying those to better improve the process of  
49 determining rural status.

50

1                   So because of the initial cutoff is  
2 November 1st for public comment we have an asterisk for  
3 you and an action item in your agenda. Mr. Chair.

4  
5                   CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you for that  
6 clarification.

7  
8                   Any other comments from the Council.  
9 Rosemary.

10  
11                  MS. AHTUANGARUAK: Much of this process  
12 that the State and the recommendation is put in for  
13 gives us high concern for decisions that can affect our  
14 way of life in this area. I know that there's been a  
15 lot of discussion. I want to see some of the  
16 information that comes from this process given back to  
17 us to allow us to fully absorb the level of  
18 communications that are coming on to all of the ways  
19 that this is going to affect our state and our people  
20 and our way of life in the areas that we depend upon  
21 for subsistence and giving our families the healthiness  
22 of future generations.

23  
24                  The understanding to me is that we have  
25 a very, very high reason to be concerned and I want to  
26 see us be fully engaged as to the process, receiving  
27 the information and being engaged to discussing how we  
28 can effectively affect the way these criteria are being  
29 put forward. I am really, really worried about this  
30 for us.

31  
32                  CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Rosemary.  
33 I'd just elaborate a bit on some of the contents of  
34 this information. I was wondering in my own mind --  
35 you know, I think the question has been raised before  
36 in terms of the previous discussions on this rural  
37 determination in regards to the North Slope and the  
38 ranges that were identified from 2,500 to 7,000, not  
39 knowing how expeditious the process would address the  
40 population going above 7,000. We have our fluctuations  
41 of people being born and people dying.

42  
43                  So the question come about in terms of  
44 what would occur in an event that the population for  
45 Barrow was at 7,025 and how long of a time period would  
46 that be? It would take, I guess, the Federal  
47 Subsistence Board to consider that number increase of  
48 25. Is that something that would be addressed in a  
49 timely manner or is it going to take another 10 years  
50 to generate the responses to that population? You know

1 within that 10 years it could go right back down, back  
2 down to maybe 6,999. Like I said, the population  
3 fluctuates in a given year or in a time period.

4  
5 I'm just trying to converse on some of  
6 the thoughts that were provided before in some of these  
7 discussions regarding the population thresholds. I  
8 think that's something, you know, I've not really  
9 clearly understood as to what kind of responses would  
10 be generated to that.

11  
12 Thank you.

13  
14 DR. JENKINS: Mr. Chair. I'll respond  
15 briefly to that. The population thresholds are  
16 guidelines. They're not absolute. So if you're at  
17 7,025 or 6,999, these are just a guidelines that we  
18 use. The 7,000 is not an absolute guideline either.  
19 If you go above that, it doesn't automatically mean  
20 you're nonrural. It means that you're presumed  
21 nonrural unless you have rural characteristics. So the  
22 Board every 10 years would make an assessment on those  
23 communities that shift in those population thresholds.  
24 But population is just a guideline, it's not an  
25 absolute marker.

26  
27 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Like I stated, these  
28 are some of the concerns that are being voiced and  
29 didn't have the answer at the time in terms of how  
30 these are defined as guidelines to be worked into the  
31 process. So I'm just referring back to some of the  
32 comments that were made at the time and trying to  
33 muster up some more conversation on the subject. I'm  
34 not sure how much further we want to go on this, the  
35 Council, and whether to take action on where we are  
36 right now with this information.

37  
38 Any thoughts from the Council.

39  
40 MR. FRANKSON: Mr. Chair.

41  
42 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Teddy.

43  
44 MR. FRANKSON: Yeah, on this rural  
45 determination process it's not really good, but the  
46 only way I could deal with it is to agree with it right  
47 now because these are the only voices that we have,  
48 given to us by the Federal government. It's hard to  
49 live with this because I'm a human just like them. My  
50 color is brown, but all the considerations of our

1 lifestyle, our food that we eat, we've been fighting  
2 for now since statehood and we still haven't been given  
3 any considerations, any thought as to how we want to  
4 live.

5  
6 To me, I would rather have no license  
7 because, you know, I don't overhunt, I'm not a sports  
8 hunter, I don't hunt for the antlers. You can't eat  
9 them, you know. The only reason I'm on this Board is  
10 because maybe I have a chance to make some difference,  
11 but usually it just goes right under the table once we  
12 leave here and we're not making any difference  
13 anywhere.

14  
15 But at least here we have some kind of  
16 voice that somebody might hear and that's why I'm here.  
17 I don't like it, don't want it, but we have no choice.  
18 So I'm just trying to do the best I can anyway to help  
19 our people try to live the way we've been living for  
20 thousands of years, the animals that we hunt, my  
21 ancestors hunted are still here, except for the  
22 dinosaurs. Nature took care of those because they're  
23 too big.

24  
25 As far as being a human, I want to live  
26 in my own home without being labeled a criminal. If I  
27 want to go hunt now, I have to have a license, which is  
28 terrible. So the only way I can get something done is  
29 to -- maybe they can try and listen to us for once. At  
30 least in this way I have a chance of getting our people  
31 to eat something. That's what I think of even though  
32 they might not listen to us and throw this all on the  
33 table and throw it away once this is over. At least I  
34 made my stand here somewhere.

35  
36 That's what I have to say.

37  
38 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you for sharing  
39 that, Teddy. I'm kind of reluctant to take any action  
40 at this time. We still need some more communications  
41 in regards to where and why we need to make a  
42 determination to the questions. You say it's going to  
43 be a timely process. You know, is it that urgent that  
44 we make a decision today? Could it be heard and give  
45 us some time and opportunity to communicate with our  
46 constituents on some of the language that's provided?  
47 There's other things to be discussed with our  
48 constituents as well. I think it would only be fair to  
49 our constituents to identify with what their thoughts  
50 are in the process.

1                   You heard Mr. Edwardsen's comments in  
2 terms of our tribal organizations and the process of  
3 these things that should be considered and that level  
4 of communication, you know, with our tribal  
5 organizations as well.

6  
7                   Dave, did you have a comment you wish  
8 to make and then Eva.

9  
10                  DR. JENKINS: Just very briefly. If  
11 that's the direction you want to take, to talk to your  
12 communities, I think that's a good direction to take  
13 and then encourage them to submit comments the various  
14 ways that I've outlined that you could submit them,  
15 either by mail or electronically or however. The more  
16 public comments the Federal Board has to work with I  
17 think the better the process is. The Board elected to  
18 start with public comment and we're working hard to  
19 encourage as much public comment as we can get for this  
20 process. The Board is very responsive to what people  
21 have to say.

22  
23                  Mr. Chair.

24  
25                  CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, David.

26  
27                  Eva.

28  
29                  MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair. I was just  
30 going to follow up with David on that. If the Council  
31 wanted to develop its own comments as a Council, as  
32 David has noted, the Council can work with the  
33 community for individuals to submit their comments and  
34 that engagement is very important. The deadline for  
35 public comment at this stage is still November 1st. So  
36 if the Council wanted official comments as a group, as  
37 a Council, that would have to occur in a Council  
38 session.

39  
40                  Thank you.

41  
42                  CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you.

43  
44                  Robert, did you wish to make comment on  
45 this rural determination process.

46  
47                  MR. R. EDWARDSSEN: Yes.

48  
49                  CHAIRMAN BROWER: Would you state your  
50 name for the record, please.

1 MR. R. EDWARDSSEN: For the record,  
2 Robert Edwardsen, Sr. I'm a Barrow resident. My  
3 question is before the record of decision, ROD, I think  
4 we should be given more time for these public comments.  
5 I would like to know the ROD day, record of decision,  
6 and see how much time we got.

7  
8 Thank you.

9  
10 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Robert.  
11 We'll probably look into that. I'm not seeing anything  
12 on that comment at all in regard to record of decision  
13 being made. This is something that's being pursued by  
14 the Federal Subsistence Board.

15  
16 David and then Etok.

17  
18 DR. JENKINS: Mr. Chair. As I  
19 mentioned before, the timeline is extensive and there's  
20 several years of process in front of us. This is the  
21 initial stage and we're looking for public response  
22 simply on the process at this point and that deadline  
23 opened on December 31st in 2012, so there's been an  
24 extensive period of time for public to comment, and  
25 then it closes on the 1st of November. There will be  
26 more opportunities for public comment as the process  
27 proceeds.

28  
29 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you. Charles.

30  
31 MR. C. EDWARDSSEN: The public comment  
32 process has to terminate and the sooner that it is  
33 terminated that we can review their bad legal work that  
34 they have done to us. It will take a lawsuit. These  
35 bureaucrats are stuck in their own game and so we may  
36 have a better chance with the Secretary of Interior at  
37 the moment since she was so courteous about what she  
38 did in Alaska not too long ago and maybe that she has a  
39 kinder heart than these bulldog bureaucrats.

40  
41 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you. I think  
42 at this time if there's no further discussion on this  
43 subject I think we can move on to our next agenda item  
44 and move on with what's remaining. Eva, I look to you.  
45 You were asking to see if there was something that we  
46 could move forward because of time constraints for some  
47 of the participants.

48  
49 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair. The next items  
50 on the agenda were the OSM briefings, which we can move

1 to the end of the day to make sure we have an  
2 opportunity for the agency reports, some of the  
3 specific information the Council had requested on  
4 subsistence and caribou. Along with the OSM reports is  
5 identifying report topics and the Council has brought  
6 those up throughout the meeting. The annual report  
7 reply, which we can also address, it's informational  
8 for the Council. Again, since you received that  
9 yesterday, we can touch on that at the end of the  
10 meeting and have an opportunity to follow up with the  
11 Council further so I can make sure that your needs have  
12 been met and the questions have been answered  
13 sufficiently for you.

14

15 At this time, we could move on to our  
16 agency reports if the Council wishes, if that change in  
17 the agenda would work for the Council.

18

19 CHAIRMAN BROWER: What's the wish of  
20 the Council. Do you have any problem with the change.

21

22

23 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: No.

24

25 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Lee.

26

27 MR. KAYOTUK: No.

28

29 MR. FRANKSON: We can let them to their  
30 thing, which we wanted to find out about, which is not  
31 too much, but I think we can get that one done today.  
32 But the rest of the stuff I think we've got to table it  
33 and we need to work on a lot of this stuff they've  
34 presented to us.

35

36 CHAIRMAN BROWER: So are we starting  
37 with 10B?

38

39 MS. PATTON: Sure.

40

41 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Agency reports.  
42 We'll go down to item B, Native organizations, Inuit  
43 Circumpolar Council, Inuit Food Security Assessment  
44 project update. If you could state your name for the  
45 record, please.

46

47 MS. BEHE: Hi. I'm Carolina Behe with  
48 the Inuit Circumpolar Council.

49

50 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you.



1 MS. BEHE: I made a presentation for  
2 you guys, but maybe you'd like me just to talk to you  
3 because you seem to be running short on time.

4  
5 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Uh-huh.

6  
7 MS. BEHE: If you would like a copy of  
8 the presentation, I can give that to you. In your  
9 packet you'll see some slides there and that's from the  
10 presentation. Just in case any of you didn't know, ICC  
11 was founded in 1977 by Ebon Hopson, Sr. here in Barrow  
12 and it was founded because there was the idea that  
13 Inuit needed to come together with a common voice on  
14 concerns that were similar. So, in saying that, the  
15 term Inuit became a compromise between the circumpolar  
16 countries, but in this country it's referring to the  
17 Inupiat, St. Lawrence Island Yupik, Central Yupik and  
18 Cupik. Of course, we have an office in Chukotka,  
19 Greenland and Canada as well.

20  
21 So I think that some of you are pretty  
22 familiar with this project actually, but I'm going to  
23 just briefly go over a couple things about it. So it's  
24 building a conceptual framework of how to assess food  
25 security from an Inuit perspective. It's not actually  
26 doing the assessment, but creating a framework on how  
27 to do the assessment.

28  
29 The reason why that is is because most  
30 of our work is done at the Arctic Council in  
31 international meetings. It became very clear that  
32 there were tons of assessments taking place within the  
33 Arctic and there were a lot of decisions being made  
34 that my leadership didn't agree with. We believe a lot  
35 of this is happening because it's not incorporating  
36 traditional knowledge or the values found within this  
37 culture. All of that comes down to food security.

38  
39 So when my boss, James Stotts, was  
40 looking at food security and addressing the Arctic  
41 Council about it, he realized that he had a very  
42 different view of what food security is than the rest  
43 of the people. So, with that, we found out there's  
44 about 800 definitions to food security and none of them  
45 came from any indigenous group. Most of them came in  
46 the '80s in response to the famines occurring in Africa  
47 as a result to introduce grains by the World Bank. So  
48 they've always been based, the majority of them have  
49 been based on a Westernized culture.

50

1                   So, for example, in the United States,  
2 most of it is based on what they call purchasing power.  
3 Do you have enough money to go to the store and buy  
4 food. Most of the analysis that is taking place within  
5 the Arctic, the Canadian and Alaska Arctic on food  
6 security, is often on nutrition or calories. The whole  
7 point here is that we know food is much more than  
8 calories. Actually, everything that the board has been  
9 talking about for the last two days is food security.  
10 It is exactly related to why we think this type of  
11 framework is needed.

12  
13                   So in this project we're able to visit  
14 16 villages and we've visited 14 of them so far. Just  
15 in case you don't know, our regions run from the Y-K  
16 Delta up to the North Slope Borough, so there's four  
17 regions.

18  
19                   In this region, the villages we have  
20 visited is Point Lay and Kaktovik and we still would  
21 like to go to Anaktuvuk Pass, but we've had some  
22 difficulties in making arrangements with the tribal  
23 council. So maybe we're going to hold out until  
24 December and then maybe go out to a different village.

25  
26                   Three of the criteria that are listed  
27 for asking our advisory council for the food security  
28 project to suggest villages where, one, the amount of  
29 activity that residents are involved in in obtaining  
30 food sources and, two, the environment, because not  
31 everybody just lives on the coast, right, so it's  
32 important to have a diversity in that. And, three,  
33 that the tribal council wanted us to be there, that  
34 they wanted to work with us on this project.

35  
36                   So we've gone to 14 of the villages so  
37 far and in each village we have a community meeting to  
38 start with. We also suggest that we go to the school  
39 and speak with children about the project, but also  
40 tell them about ICC or anything else that the kids want  
41 to ask us. They ask lots and lots of questions, which  
42 is wonderful.

43  
44                   We then meet with experts one on one  
45 and those people are usually identified by the tribal  
46 council and the elder's councils. Because we are not  
47 trying to gain statistics for this report, it's more  
48 important that we speak to the people that have the  
49 expertise. So this means it's very, very important  
50 that we speak to both men and women because the

1 processing of food has a lot to do with food security,  
2 right. We also need to speak to elders and adults.

3

4 Now on this advisory council, because  
5 we do -- this project is not so much about the youth.  
6 It is about the youth in the sense that the adults and  
7 elders are sharing their traditional knowledge to  
8 identify where the concerns are within food security,  
9 but to make up that gap we have a youth advisor from  
10 each region on the advisory committee. We're lacking  
11 the youth advisor for this region. If any of you know  
12 of anybody, they just have to be 30 years old and  
13 younger, that would be great.

14

15 CHAIRMAN BROWER: That's not me.

16

17 (Laughter)

18

19 MS. BEHE: So, in doing that, we have  
20 these one-on-one conversations and there's quite a bit  
21 of process involved in all of that. The next step that  
22 we need to do, there are 95 villages that ICC advocates  
23 on behalf of in Alaska, but we've only engaged 16 of  
24 them. We have sent information to all 95 villages,  
25 I've called all 95 villages. I haven't talked to 95  
26 villages because sometimes I have to call over and over  
27 again, but I've talked to most of them. We still need  
28 to further engage them.

29

30 The other way we're going to do that is  
31 by having a regional workshop and this will serve two  
32 purposes. One, to allow experts from those villages to  
33 give input and, two, as a catch point in the project so  
34 that they can say you're missing this or that or  
35 whatever is going on.

36

37 Now there's three objectives to this  
38 project. Number one is defining food security. We  
39 know that food security in both the Inupiat and Yup'ik  
40 culture means environmental health. As one elder  
41 described it to me, he said it's like a puzzle and all  
42 the pieces have to fit together. When all of them fit  
43 together, then there's a healthy environment and  
44 there's food security. If you try to take a piece and  
45 stuff it in there or cut out a piece that's already  
46 there, then you have insecurity. That means that the  
47 culture is part of the environment. If the culture is  
48 not doing well, then there's going to be a problem. If  
49 the environment is not doing well, then there's going  
50 to be a problem.

1                   So, in saying that, there's quite a few  
2 things that both Point Lay and Kaktovik brought up  
3 while I was there. Again, you guys have covered almost  
4 all of the points. Like the conversations you were  
5 having about caribou, you could just replace it with  
6 beluga and it was the exact same.

7  
8                   So there was lots of concern about the  
9 way that scientific research is taking place; that  
10 there's being shown disrespect to the animals and that  
11 it's disrupting migratory patterns and potentially even  
12 mating patterns between marine mammals. There's lot of  
13 concern about accessibility. Accessibility means  
14 multiple things, not just how it's interpreted within  
15 the Westernized definition of food security.  
16 Accessibility might be stopped because of a loss of  
17 transfer of knowledge or because of a loss of language.  
18 So there's multiple things that could cause one not to  
19 have accessibility to the food.

20  
21                   So in doing this we need to come up  
22 with a definition and then identify what the drivers  
23 are or what causes insecurity and security. So those  
24 are some of the things that Kaktovik and Point Lay  
25 identified as drivers of insecurity, but really  
26 importantly are the drivers of security, which is  
27 largely based on the sharing systems, right. People in  
28 Point Lay told me they were sending beluga to Anaktuvuk  
29 Pass when they weren't able to get enough food. These  
30 are really important for maintaining a sense of  
31 community and taking care of each other.

32  
33                   People in other regions have reported  
34 concerns of impact of regulations on cultures. That  
35 doesn't necessarily mean that the regulation was  
36 stopping people from going to attain food. They felt  
37 that it was causing a separation in the culture of  
38 people feeling the need to take care of themselves as  
39 opposed to their community. That the stronger the  
40 regulation got, the more closed in villages got. So  
41 two villages that were nearby each other in another  
42 region normally would trade food that they were unable  
43 to get. Then last year came when nobody could get  
44 oogruk in one area and the other village wanted to  
45 charge money for the oil. This was considered very  
46 negative and considered to be a repercussion of  
47 stricter regulations of people starting to compete with  
48 each other.

49  
50                   So after we're done having the

1 workshop, then we'll go through and write up the  
2 framework. Our advisory committee will do the review  
3 of the project. What's very important is that our  
4 advisory committee is made up of six traditional  
5 knowledge holders and one cultural anthropologist.  
6 This is really important because although this report  
7 is not going to say Rosemary said this, it's not going  
8 to say this is TK, it's all coming out of traditional  
9 knowledge. That means that experts of traditional  
10 knowledge needs to evaluate their report.

11  
12 This is an important point for us to be  
13 able to make to the Arctic Council because the people  
14 who have the expertise need to evaluate that  
15 information. So we think it's pretty important because  
16 there's tons of change as we all know, there's lots of  
17 assessments taking place and we don't think it's  
18 incorporating enough traditional knowledge. We don't  
19 think it's actually incorporating the traditional  
20 knowledge holders or the values that are found within  
21 the Inupiat and Yup'ik culture.

22  
23 As my boss says, Jimmy says, everything  
24 here is viewed through a food security lens. So,  
25 Harry, when you talked about this term subsistence,  
26 Jimmy doesn't even want me to use the word subsistence  
27 anymore because he says, no, it's just food security.  
28 It is the entire way of life. So how do we articulate  
29 that and make that be part of these assessments that  
30 are taking place. How do we really find out about what  
31 the changes are and what those changes mean if this  
32 part of the culture is not incorporated into those  
33 research project. So in making this framework we're  
34 hoping that those are some of the things that we're  
35 able to achieve.

36  
37 Now ICC is working on a political side  
38 to this. That's what Jimmy does because I definitely  
39 don't fall under politics. He'll use this as a  
40 foundation to part of the political things that he's  
41 working on that ultimately goes towards equality, I  
42 guess, would be the best words to use for that.

43  
44 That's a really fast rundown of the  
45 project and I'm happy to answer more questions or to  
46 provide you with the PowerPoint, but I know you guys  
47 are running short on time too.

48  
49 On a complete side note, I just wanted  
50 to clarify something about a meeting you guys were

1 talking about in Iceland. It's not an ICC meeting.  
2 It's an Arctic Circle meeting. ICC will not be  
3 involved in the Arctic Circle. We were just asked to  
4 relay a message by the former premier of Greenland to  
5 the AMNC board to see if they would like to send  
6 representation to find out what's going on there.

7

8 Thank you.

9

10 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Carolina,  
11 for your presentation. I'd like to ask the Council  
12 members and see if they have any questions or comments  
13 they'd like to share with Carolina at this time.

14

15 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: This also supports a  
16 lot of the discussion that we've had on our concerns  
17 and I also am aware of how a lot of these different  
18 studies are being done in different ways and the  
19 reality is that when these things are being done and we  
20 are not at the table, it is a very impactful process  
21 for our way of life and our future generations.

22

23 I'm very concerned in a way that all of  
24 the layers of decision-making processes are being  
25 engaged and the fragmentation that we're facing with  
26 these issues. This is one area that can pull together  
27 information and provide information, but the priority  
28 of the process of the decision-making process still  
29 leaves room for concern.

30

31 The effort has many good points to the  
32 process, but we have to be engaged in it. We have to  
33 provide discussion as to the process and the  
34 information that's being discussed and the information  
35 has to go back out to the communities that are giving  
36 the information, is that the understanding they were  
37 trying to portray because the rapidity of this process  
38 can fragment the notetaking process and when that is  
39 done it really is much more impactful to us.

40

41 I know for myself I've gotten engaged  
42 in many other ways to try to affect some of these  
43 decisions. Getting involved with the National  
44 Conversation on Chemical Toxins is part of that  
45 process. Getting involved in the National Tribal  
46 Environmental Health Think Tank process is part of that  
47 process. Because we cannot get to every one of these  
48 tables it is hurting us in many different ways. We  
49 have to be diligent as best we can to try to protect  
50 our way of life because we're trying to protect the

1 health of our future generations.

2

3                   Parts of these processes look at  
4 various ways of affecting decision making with criteria  
5 being developed, but as tribal people looking out for  
6 the health of those new little eyes that every one of  
7 our families bring into this process. When we go  
8 without our traditional foods, the bright shine changes  
9 in those new little eyes. The shine of our communities  
10 change in many different ways. It becomes very dark  
11 and it's important to prevent this as strongly as we  
12 can because it's a reality of what's happening with  
13 others affecting the way our life is and our lands and  
14 waters.

15

16                   Thank you.

17

18                   MS. BEHE: Thank you, Rosemary. I'd  
19 just let you know that an important part of this  
20 project for my office is to relay to the Arctic Council  
21 how we expect traditional knowledge holders and  
22 indigenous peoples to be engaged, so we're laying out  
23 the process for them. So that means when I go to a  
24 community, it is with tribal Council permission and it  
25 means that when I speak with somebody and the  
26 information is recorded, that information is sent back  
27 to that person because sometimes you get really  
28 comfortable in a conversation and say something that  
29 you think, ah, maybe I shouldn't have said that, so  
30 they can cross it out and say I don't want it to be a  
31 part of it.

32

33                   All of those people I forgot to say are  
34 contributing authors because another important part of  
35 this entire process was that it needed to be flexible  
36 so that it could incorporate new methodologies as it  
37 was defined by the people that we interacted with.  
38 It's really important to understand that the project  
39 does not belong to ICC, it's just being enacted by  
40 them. So it's all the people that are engaged in it.

41

42                   So there's about 86 authors and they  
43 will read the report and they will say if it's okay or  
44 not before it goes to the advisory committee for peer  
45 review. The tribal councils will receive it after the  
46 ICC Alaska Board. ICC Alaska Board will approve it and  
47 then it will go to the tribal councils.

48

49                   CHAIRMAN BROWER: Any other comments  
50 from Council members.

1 (No comments)

2

3 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you for the  
4 presentation, Carolina, and sharing that information  
5 with us.

6

7 MS. BEHE: Thank you. If you guys want  
8 to know more information about the workshop, I think  
9 it's going to happen in November for this region.

10

11 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Our next agenda item  
12 C got crossed out regarding the Foothills West  
13 Transportation Access. We're now down to Alaska  
14 Department of Fish and Game. I think that's what that  
15 acronym stands for. Wildlife and Subsistence  
16 Division's report.

17

18 MS. YUHAS: You guys are moving right  
19 along, Mr. Chairman. This is Jennifer Yuhas with the  
20 Alaska Department of Fish and Game. As you know, I  
21 represent the policy team. Geoff Carroll and Lincoln  
22 Parrett are available for the wildlife report and  
23 Brittany Rutherford is here today to talk to you about  
24 an exciting new project she was working on before she  
25 took her leave.

26

27 Thank you.

28

29 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yes, we do have  
30 Lincoln here and Geoff had stepped out and will be  
31 probably coming forth. Did we need a 10-minute recess  
32 before you get started? I'm looking to the Council.  
33 Do we need a 10-minute recess or do we just continue.  
34 Okay, they're asking for a 10-minute recess, Lincoln.  
35 That will give you time to get Mr. Carroll.

36

37 (Off record)

38

39 (On record)

40

41 CHAIRMAN BROWER: I'd like to call our  
42 Regional Advisory Council meeting back to order after a  
43 brief recess. I know it's been a long couple days.  
44 We're getting down to near the end of our agenda, so  
45 we'll have a presentation from Alaska Department of  
46 Fish and Game. We have Lincoln Parrett and Geoff  
47 Carroll who are here with us. Also our teleconference  
48 participant, Jennifer. I forget the other lady's name  
49 now, sorry. Brittany and Beth. I'm not sure if  
50 they're all going to take part, but, Geoff, you can



1 come and sit down. I'll give the floor to Lincoln so  
2 he can arrange your presentation.

3

4 MR. PARRETT: Okay. Thanks, Harry.  
5 Eva asked Geoff or I to come and give this talk. She  
6 relayed some of the topics that you were interested in,  
7 Harry, so I tried to put the talk together around some  
8 of those subjects. That being said, I could probably  
9 talk for like three hours on this. You can see from  
10 the title it's pretty general. Anyway, obviously we  
11 don't have time for that.

12

13 I'm not sure how to best proceed here.  
14 Maybe I'll just try to go and then if you want to hear  
15 about something hopefully I have slides ready to talk  
16 about that and we can jump to it, but I'll just start,  
17 I guess.

18

19 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Lincoln, I think  
20 Council members requested that we hear an update on  
21 caribou, different herds within the North Slope and how  
22 they're being managed and how the populations are  
23 doing. It's not something that we've heard recently.  
24 Geoff may have presented some information last year or  
25 last spring. I just faintly recall. We keep getting  
26 requests for information on caribou and see how they're  
27 doing. I know the Western Arctic Caribou Working Group  
28 share the mailout, but we don't hear too much of the  
29 other caribou herds. So that's basically what I wanted  
30 to say about having the Council appraised of how the  
31 other caribou herds are doing.

32

33 MR. PARRETT: No, that's a great idea.  
34 So here's the outline I have. I was going to talk  
35 about Teshekpuk Herd first and just have a little  
36 segment on calf survival study. Mike Pederson  
37 mentioned talking to the AC about that before we got  
38 started and that's funded mostly by the BLM and a  
39 little bit by Fish and Game itself. And then brief  
40 updates on the other three herds; Western Arctic,  
41 Central Arctic and Porcupine. A few slides about  
42 caribou movements. In the email it said something  
43 about hunting south of Anaktuvuk Pass, so I put a few  
44 numbers together just kind of guessing what you might  
45 be interested in there.

46

47 I'll just start with the Teshekpuk  
48 Herd. So that's the population estimates since the  
49 early '80s. You can see this herd grew at a pretty  
50 good clip for a long time, 30 years basically. Just

1 recently this last estimate in 2011 was the first time  
2 that we observed a real decline, we think. Some of the  
3 other dips there we're not really sure if that was a  
4 real decline or just bad counting and the photos,  
5 basically bad photos.

6  
7 Then we took photos almost a month ago  
8 now, July 16th, so we will be counting those this fall  
9 basically to see if this decline is continuing or not.  
10 So that's what the population status of this herd is.  
11 The last count in 2011 was about 55,000, so that's  
12 where this herd is at.

13  
14 You can't really see the title there on  
15 the left access there, but what this is is the  
16 proportion of adult females, meaning three years old or  
17 greater, that we observed with a calf during calving  
18 surveys and you can see that this has declined a lot  
19 over the last 30 years. Even as it continued to grow,  
20 that slowly was declining. Productivity has just  
21 continued to go down. Productivity in the last two  
22 years are two of the three lowest years we've observed  
23 yet. Basically only about 50 percent of the adults are  
24 seen with a calf during calving surveys, so that's  
25 really not very productive. That's not a very  
26 productive herd by any means.

27  
28 What this is is the proportion of the  
29 population in the spring that are made up of 10-month-  
30 old calves. So you can see that when it was really  
31 starting to grow rapidly, it was about 20 percent of  
32 the herd was calves basically. They were so productive  
33 and survival is so high, they just make up a huge  
34 proportion of the population. Of course, when you have  
35 that, it just continues to grow because those calves  
36 become adults and they start producing. So that real  
37 ramp up in growth rate actually occurs after you start  
38 piling those calves up in the beginning.

39  
40 Again, more recently, in the last three  
41 or four years, we've seen pretty low recruitment.  
42 That's both a product of the fact that there are not  
43 very many calves being born and then survival is only  
44 the same or maybe even worse than it has been in the  
45 past. That's another indication that this next number  
46 that we get is probably going to be lower. It's  
47 basically something that sets itself up over a very,  
48 very long time period. It's not something that  
49 necessarily happens very fast.

50

1                   This is adult female mortality. On the  
2 left axis you can see that this number is about 15  
3 percent on average and there's some indication that it  
4 may be climbing, but you can see by those error bars  
5 that our estimate in any given year is not very  
6 accurate because we just don't have that many animals  
7 collared. So there may be some indication that it's  
8 increasing.

9  
10                   The last point there for 2012-2013,  
11 this actually is going to be the highest number we've  
12 observed so far. It's over 25 percent adult female  
13 mortality. Another indication that this population is  
14 probably headed down and maybe in a hurry now. That's  
15 just a quick overview of the population status because  
16 we can't spend too much time on any herd.

17  
18                   I wanted to spend a little bit of time  
19 on this calf survival study. It's basically a three-  
20 year study. We're looking at calf survival in relation  
21 to where those calves are born, what causes mortality,  
22 when and where it occurs and a few other things along  
23 the way, but those are the primary things.

24  
25                   What we do is we fly along in a  
26 helicopter, we jump out when we see a calf, grab the  
27 calf, throw a collar on it, weight it, let it go, so  
28 you can see that cow, she's starting to run away there.  
29 I'm probably about two seconds from letting this thing  
30 go and then she'll usually stop at some point there,  
31 look back and if that calf is standing up, she'll just  
32 run right back to it usually. So it goes pretty well.  
33 We try to keep that capture at about 12 seconds. It's  
34 very, very fast. And then start monitoring them.

35  
36                   We monitor every day after they're  
37 captured for about two weeks because that's when a lot  
38 of mortality tends to occur, is right in those first  
39 couple weeks when they're really small, and then we  
40 back off there and start looking every two weeks and  
41 then winter hits and we kind of slow down to once a  
42 month and then there's a little period in the middle of  
43 the winter where we can't do anything because it's too  
44 dark, then we pick it up again in the spring.

45  
46                   I just threw this in there as sort of  
47 an example. This is not a collared calf. It's just  
48 something we ran upon while we were there. Basically  
49 up on the Slope there's bears, wolves, wolverines, a  
50 few eagles. What we come upon usually is not this. We

1 don't find it until that collar has been still for an  
2 hour and, of course, if something is eating it, then  
3 the collar is not still, so we have to wait until it's  
4 over. So usually when we show up, whatever has been  
5 doing whatever it was doing is gone, so we have to try  
6 to reconstruct from what's left what happened there, so  
7 we rarely or never get to have the advantage of  
8 actually seeing what killed it.

9  
10 This is just a summary of two years,  
11 2011-2012. So through October about 80 percent of the  
12 calves survive and this is pretty typical for North  
13 Slope herds basically. When calves are born, there's  
14 hardly any predators compared to almost anywhere else  
15 in the state, so survival is really high for the first  
16 few months. When we expand that 20 percent of those  
17 calves that actually died to look at what they actually  
18 died of, you can see that it's kind of split evenly.

19  
20 There's a couple wolf predation events,  
21 there's a couple bears, there's a few incidents where  
22 they have some birth defect or they get caught in a  
23 creek and they drown or they just starve. They can  
24 starve because the mother isn't producing milk or  
25 because the mother abandons them for some reason. Then  
26 there's another section where we just don't know what  
27 happened. We know something killed it, but we don't  
28 really know exactly what happened or who did it. So  
29 there's actually a fairly large segment of that that's  
30 unknown.

31  
32 So that's just 14 calves out of all the  
33 ones we capture out of 70 in 2011 that died through  
34 October. So there's not a lot of mortality that  
35 happens in the summer.

36  
37 In 2012, it's almost the same thing, 76  
38 percent of them survived and then when you look at the  
39 proportion of things, there's a couple wolf predation  
40 events, a couple bear predation events, a couple of  
41 those accidents or starvations and then in this case  
42 again another big section of unknown.

43  
44 That is because last year there were  
45 quite a few mortality events in August and we don't  
46 necessarily visit them in August. Partly that's money,  
47 partly it's just because, you know, it's kind of a bad  
48 time to be flying around in a helicopter in August  
49 usually just from a local perspective. So there's a  
50 lot of reasons why we haven't really focused on that.

1 The other thing is it's unexpected. Having a bunch of  
2 mortality in late July and August is not normal.

3  
4 It was interested talking to Bob Shears  
5 at the Western Arctic Working Group conference last  
6 fall. He talked about a lot of weak calves he observed  
7 and some other problems with calves. Maybe that was  
8 what was going on. That time of mortality late July  
9 and August really is not normal, so there may have been  
10 some other issues with the health of those calves that  
11 prompted some of that mortality.

12  
13 This summer it's really similar. It's  
14 on track to be about the same as the other years, 81  
15 percent survival through the end of this last month.  
16 Again similar causes of death. A few more bear and a  
17 few less wolf. That's probably because they calved  
18 further north than they had in the last two years, so  
19 they got away from those wolves. So that's kind of the  
20 only thing that really changed. Other than that, the  
21 proportions looked to be about the same so far.

22  
23 Another thing that we really wanted to  
24 do -- like I said, only 20 percent of these calves or  
25 so died during the summer, but a lot die over the  
26 winter. So we tried to put a lot of effort into  
27 visiting those sites and figuring out what happened.  
28 Here's worst case scenario basically. You've got to  
29 dig a 10-foot hole in the snow and try to figure out  
30 what happened and hopefully your hole hits in a good  
31 spot and you can learn something from what's at the  
32 bottom of that hole. Sometimes you come upon something  
33 like this, you know, where it's right on the surface  
34 and that happened a lot last year.

35  
36 If there's some sort of nutritional  
37 thing going on so that we're being less productive,  
38 less calves are surviving, well, if all that adds up by  
39 the end of the winter, mortality starts picking up for  
40 whatever reason, whether it's the fact that they're  
41 just starving or that they're just really vulnerable to  
42 predators at that point. So we were able to visit  
43 quite a few that were very, very fresh and a few where  
44 actually the predator was still there.

45  
46 This one is just a calf that's curled  
47 up there. The next picture would be basically digging  
48 that out and it's in that classic starvation pose where  
49 their neck is curled back toward their backs. I don't  
50 really know why they do that, but basically when they

1 starve they have a tendency to look very similar.  
2 Always kind of with their head curled back. This is a  
3 case where this animal basically just succumbed to  
4 starvation and died at some point late in the spring.

5  
6 This is one where it's extremely fresh.  
7 This is like hours old basically and a wolverine had  
8 killed this animal. This is a case where it just ate  
9 part of the neck and the head and a little bit of that  
10 top rear leg basically and that's all it had gotten to  
11 at this point and maybe it was going to cache it or  
12 whatever, but then we showed up and I'm sure it  
13 probably came back after we left.

14  
15 One of the amazing things that we found  
16 this last year was that wolverines were a pretty  
17 significant predator. Not just scavenging but killing  
18 calves. That surprised me a little bit. People I  
19 don't think have seen that very much elsewhere. I'd be  
20 interested to hear if people thought there was a lot of  
21 wolverines on the landscape last spring because I sure  
22 thought there were.

23  
24 MR. SHEARS: Yes. Yes.

25  
26 MR. PARRETT: I thought there were an  
27 incredible number of wolverines. I think maybe this is  
28 unique to have this much mortality caused by  
29 wolverines. Anyway, it's a pretty interesting aspect  
30 of what happened last spring.

31  
32 So in 2012 we were only able to visit  
33 eight of those late winter mortalities. Predation was  
34 the predominant cause. The text there at the bottom  
35 says that I thought five of the six that were predation  
36 were wolves. In that year they were mostly in the  
37 Brooks Range that year, well into the mountains  
38 wintering there, so there was quite a bit of probably  
39 wolf predation that year.

40  
41 This is this last winter. There's  
42 again a big segment, 43 percent, where you can't really  
43 tell whether it's a wolf or a wolverine. It's  
44 basically one of those deals where it's at the bottom  
45 of a hole and all you can really tell is that something  
46 killed it, but there's no track or scat or anything  
47 like that to kind of help you put the rest of the story  
48 together.

49  
50 But wolves made up a small proportion

1 of it and wolverines made up a fifth of the mortality,  
2 which was pretty impressive to me. Again, like I  
3 mentioned, those mortalities accelerated over the  
4 course of the winter. When we got out of the winter  
5 and started radio tracking in February, March, not that  
6 many calves had died yet, but then through the course  
7 of March, April, May just a tremendous number of them  
8 started to die, so that was fairly impressive to see  
9 that.

10

11 Let me jump to the Western Arctic here  
12 really quickly. Like Harry said, some of you guys get  
13 to see some of this stuff at the Western Arctic Herd  
14 Working Group meeting, but I'll run through it really  
15 quickly here.

16

17 This is what that population has done.  
18 It probably peaked sometime in the early 2000s and then  
19 began to decline since then. I showed you the adult  
20 female mortality rate for the Teshekpuk Herd and it  
21 averaged about 14 percent. They've had much higher  
22 mortality rates in recent years, so they've started  
23 their decline much earlier, but probably the same  
24 things are going on in terms of setting up that age  
25 structure and long-term changes in recruitment of  
26 calves.

27

28 They also conducted a photo census this  
29 summer in early July, so hopefully those numbers will  
30 be ready this winter as well. This is a similar slide,  
31 but the top line is calving, same kind of a deal. The  
32 percentage of the population of adult females that are  
33 observed with calves in early June for calving. I put  
34 a star in there for what happened this year.

35

36 Calving was not particularly good for  
37 that herd, low 60 percent. That middle line is the  
38 number of calves per 100 cows that are present in the  
39 population in the fall and that's been declining and  
40 then, of course, the spring, which is the same number  
41 that I showed you for the Teshekpuk Herd, that's been  
42 declining over the long term as well. So that's why  
43 I'm saying that I think both these populations have  
44 similar age structure issues where the animals are  
45 probably pretty old right now and there's just not as  
46 many young animals in the population as there could be.

47

48 This just compares two of those things  
49 right on the same slide. The red is adult cow  
50 mortality, so that's been climbing. Unlike the

1 Teshekpuk Herd, which really had fairly stable  
2 mortality, this one has been climbing quite a bit  
3 recently. You mix that with that climbing adult female  
4 mortality.....

5  
6 MR. C. EDWARDSSEN: That's the Western  
7 Arctic?

8  
9 MR. PARRETT: That's the Western Arctic  
10 Herd, yes. Then on that black line is the declining  
11 recruitment, the number of calves in the population.  
12 He's divided this up into three sections there. That  
13 period when there was 13 percent annual growth all the  
14 way through the early '90s. We're kind of stabilized  
15 in the mid '90s and early 2000s and then we're starting  
16 to see a fairly rapid decline here. He's just sort of  
17 wanting to compare how those two things compare to each  
18 other during those different phases of population  
19 growth.

20  
21 One thing that Jim has been really  
22 successful at doing in recent years is getting people  
23 to turn jaws in. These jaws are interesting for lots  
24 of reasons. You can look at bone marrow if they're  
25 fresh and kind of see what body condition they're in.  
26 You can look at the size compared to the age and that  
27 sort of morphometric date will tell you basically how  
28 well that animal has been growing over the course of  
29 its life.

30  
31 In the early period of that herd's  
32 growth after it crashed in the '60s and '70s, caribou  
33 were larger. So that's another indication that there's  
34 some nutritional issues going on with that herd, which  
35 is not entirely unexpected after it's been big for a  
36 really long time.

37  
38 To me, the best thing you can get out  
39 of it, the most interesting thing is age structure. You  
40 kind of have to ignore the youngest animals because  
41 people select against them because they're little.  
42 They want a bigger, fatter animal. Let's just say  
43 people can't tell the difference between a three year  
44 old and a 12 year old, then that's a pretty good  
45 indication of what's out there in the population.  
46 That's a random sample.

47  
48 This is just another indication -- if  
49 you're picking up out of only 92 individuals here a lot  
50 of 13, 14, 15 year olds, that means there's relatively



1 a lot of those out there and another indication that  
2 this age structure is not exactly set up for continued  
3 growth. At any point you're probably still going to  
4 have more younger animals because they just started  
5 their lives and they haven't had a chance to die yet  
6 other than as a calf. If this population was a more  
7 stable age structure, those 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8 year olds  
8 would be a much greater proportion of this plot  
9 basically.

10

11 And this is something I wish we could  
12 really get going in the Teshekpuk Herd too, if we could  
13 somehow start getting a hold of cow jaws and looking at  
14 that, that would be a very, very interesting piece of  
15 information and something people could basically take  
16 part in, you know.

17

18 Jumping again to the next herd, Central  
19 Arctic Herd. Beth put these slides together for me.  
20 Their population has not begun to decline at all. It's  
21 grown continually since it was first really surveyed.  
22 Not continually, but basically the long-term growth  
23 pattern has been positive since the early '80s and  
24 their last estimate in 2010 was 70,000. They also got  
25 a photo census this year and I might as well mention  
26 it. This is, as far as I know, the first year we've  
27 ever done all four herds in one year. It's kind of an  
28 amazing thing actually.

29

30 MR. SHEARS: Great.

31

32 MR. PARRETT: Yeah. So we'll be able  
33 to hopefully get numbers for all four of them in one  
34 year and kind of have an estimate of the whole North  
35 Slope population. Again, this herd was last estimated  
36 at about 70,000 in 2010.

37

38 This is again the productivity, the  
39 number of adult cows observed with calves and that's  
40 much higher than either of those other two herds. They  
41 are much more productive over the long term and much  
42 more productive recently than either the Teshekpuk or  
43 the Western Arctic Herd. Their growth rate is among  
44 the highest in the world right now.

45

46 Some harvest data that Beth put  
47 together for me. I think you guys are aware that  
48 there's been some regulatory changes that have occurred  
49 in the hunts off the haul road. Bag limit changes.  
50 Basically you can see the result of that there. There

1 probably was an increase in harvest there and a slight  
2 increase in the number of hunters that are going into  
3 that area as well. That herd harvest has gradually  
4 climbed over the last 15 years or so.

5  
6 This is looking at that regulatory  
7 change basically. It used to be the bag limit was two  
8 and now it's up to five. This is just looking at  
9 basically what proportion of people kill how many  
10 animals. Still the vast majority of people are only  
11 shooting one or two animals very few people take more.  
12 The effect of that bag limit change has been pretty  
13 slight really. There's hardly any people that go all  
14 the way up there and take more than two caribou.  
15 What's really probably changed more than anything is  
16 that there's more hunters there than there used to be.

17  
18 Porcupine Herd. So that's the last  
19 estimate for that herd in 2010, 169,000. There was a  
20 little bit of mixing between the Central Arctic and the  
21 Porcupine. I should say that as these herds are fairly  
22 large right now, we've had that happening more and more  
23 everywhere. Basically it's almost impossible to do a  
24 photo census without having at least a couple collars  
25 from a different herd in your count basically. There's  
26 just a lot of mixture going on.

27  
28 Caribou are moving differently.  
29 They're moving more than they have been. Presumably  
30 that's because those populations have been really high  
31 and maybe they're looking for new ranges and just  
32 running into another range that's already used by other  
33 caribou basically. Again, this herd was photographed  
34 this summer as well, so we should have an estimate for  
35 this herd this winter.

36  
37 I didn't show calving locations for the  
38 other herds, but I guess I should say just briefing the  
39 calving distribution for the Western Arctic was really  
40 strung out to the south. With this late spring that we  
41 had this year, caribou are strung out all over the  
42 place. Other than the Teshekpuk Herd, which was sort  
43 of a normal calving distribution, all the other herds  
44 showed some sort of oddity in their distribution in  
45 terms of being fairly far away from where they  
46 typically have been in recent years.

47  
48 The Porcupine is pretty interesting  
49 because they've had a pretty dramatic shift in where  
50 they calve in the last 20 years or so. Starting around

1 2010 they gradually -- I shouldn't say gradually --  
2 some of those late springs that they had at that time  
3 seemed to cause a shift in calving that they've never  
4 really changed back from. So you can see here that in  
5 that pink to the right there, that concentrated calving  
6 area where a lot of the blue dots are, which means that  
7 there's a cow with a calf, you can see they're way over  
8 in Canada near the Babbage River. Same thing in 2012.

9  
10 They just put in this slide for me just  
11 to show wintering areas. This is the last four or five  
12 years basically. They've been using an area around  
13 Arctic Village pretty heavily and then just last winter  
14 used those Old Crow Flats and Ogilvie Mountains pretty  
15 heavily. This year, right now in the fall, those  
16 animals are really far east into Canada already. They  
17 were along the Dempster Highway all last month. So it  
18 looks like the majority of that herd is probably going  
19 to be in Canada for this winter as well, although it's  
20 possible they could come back.

21  
22 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Any mixing of the  
23 two, like the Central and the Porcupine?

24  
25 MR. PARRETT: Yeah, there is. There's  
26 some mixing for sure. There's a few Porcupine collars  
27 that are east of the haul road there. They're kind of  
28 mixed in with the Central Arctic Herd. I guess I'm not  
29 totally sure if there's Central Arctic Caribou that are  
30 in Canada. I'm not sure about that.

31  
32 This is just harvest for that herd. It  
33 basically is showing that harvest in Alaska is really  
34 pretty small, especially by sort of non-local residents  
35 and non-residents. Arctic Village, Venetie and  
36 Kaktovik have a pretty significant harvest there and  
37 then the Canadian harvest is much, much larger than  
38 either of those two even put together.

39  
40 Okay. So some slides about caribou  
41 movements. I focused mostly on fall just because that  
42 seems to be a lot of the subject of discussion.

43  
44 MR. C. EDWARDSSEN: Is this fall  
45 migration?

46  
47 MR. PARRETT: Yes, fall migration is  
48 mostly what I'm going to talk about although I have  
49 some slides of summer movements in there as well for  
50 some of the herds.

1 I'll start with Teshekpuk really  
2 quickly. We've had a big effort. Basically DOT gave  
3 me a bunch of money to try to summarize as much of this  
4 movement data as I could. Recognizing basically that  
5 it comes from a lot of different sources, so that's  
6 been a real struggle to kind of pull it together. Of  
7 course, since I work on the Teshekpuk Herd and Dave and  
8 Brian, you know, are huge parts of -- Brian Person,  
9 Dave Yokel, are huge parts of that program in terms of  
10 satellite collars.

11  
12 On this map you can see some of the  
13 proposed roads. Again, this study was funded when the  
14 State was still planning on building this road or had  
15 applied for this EIS to build this road, so all this is  
16 based on some assumptions that may or may not be  
17 relevant anymore basically. You can see that hatch  
18 line on the top basically coming from what it would be  
19 Meltwater to Umiat, that would be one version of the  
20 road that they would get in there, and then the other  
21 version would be from Galbraith to Umiat.

22  
23 This is just showing that a big part of  
24 the Teshekpuk Herd would cross either one of those  
25 corridors during their migration because a huge portion  
26 of that herd winters in the mountains in many years.  
27 You can see on the left we've also plotted the Red Dog  
28 Road, a buffer around that, and you can kind of see  
29 that those caribou in some years move through there as  
30 well.

31  
32 I know Geoff last winter gave a slide  
33 show that Jim had put together on movements in relation  
34 to Red Dog, so that obviously has attracted a lot of  
35 attention and is a good example for us basically to try  
36 to understand what's going on if we can try to account  
37 for other factors that influence movement there. If we  
38 can try to quantify what's going on with that road  
39 there, if there is a delay, if there is a diversion, if  
40 that movement can be accounted for by natural factors  
41 or something like that. We've been trying to study  
42 that lately as well and we're basically in a phase now  
43 where we have preliminary results, but they're  
44 preliminary enough that I probably shouldn't talk about  
45 them yet. They need to be reviewed by people.

46  
47 So that's kind of where we're at with  
48 that. I guess all I would say with that is that we're  
49 actively, actively working on this question right now.  
50

1                   This is spring. I should mention too  
2 that this is all females. I have some other slides  
3 looking at males. Males are a little different and  
4 they rarely come down the coast down by Point Lay,  
5 Point Hope and into the Noatak drainage. They have a  
6 tendency to go into the mountains near Anaktuvuk Pass  
7 or near the Dalton Highway.

8  
9                   You can see it's mostly just a reversal  
10 of the fall except one big difference is that they tend  
11 to move together in the fall because these movements  
12 are happening during rut. In the spring, they're not  
13 really moving together as much. The other thing is  
14 that they tend to go straight back. Instead of  
15 following each other and following some route along the  
16 coast, they just go straight from wherever they  
17 wintered back to wherever they want to go to calve.

18  
19                   Some Central Arctic movements. There  
20 was a big study they put out. Quite a few GPS collars  
21 from 2001 to 2007. So this is basically the same map.  
22 It's looking at intensity of migration. Red is much  
23 higher use relative to yellow or the two greens. In  
24 this case, red is again high use, yellow is moderate to  
25 high use and blue is lower and then green is very low.  
26 This is a map they put together recently. Steve  
27 Arthur, before he moved on to the Park Service, was  
28 working with the University of Idaho on this study.

29  
30                   This is that era and then this is  
31 basically immediately following that. These are a  
32 bunch of collars that ConocoPhillips paid for and Fish  
33 and Game put out. You can see basically that although  
34 the analysis wasn't done the same way, this is just  
35 lines and that's sort of an aggregation of a modeling  
36 of that movement. The real pattern is not very much  
37 different. There's a lot of crossing that happens  
38 right where that road starts to move east to west  
39 rather than north/south.

40  
41                   Again, these are all things that we've  
42 been trying to put together so that we have a little  
43 bit more information to talk about when these road  
44 issues come up and we can be a little bit more informed  
45 in terms of basically understanding where are places  
46 that we need to think about and look at in terms of  
47 potential mitigation and routing and things like that.

48  
49                   For Western Arctic movements, what Jim  
50 sent me are basically annual movements from 2008 on.

1 I'll just run through these really quickly. This is  
2 basically late summer through about November. It's  
3 just showing how animals are coming off the coastal  
4 plain or off from the mountains back down to the Seward  
5 Peninsula or Kobuk or Noatak where they've been  
6 wintering mostly. Some go to the Koyukuk.

7

8 Here's 2009. A similar pattern. You  
9 can see where that animal basically walked right  
10 through Anaktuvuk Pass way to the right. 2010 a little  
11 bit farther east than they had been in the previous two  
12 years. In 2011, out of that short period from 2008 to  
13 2012, that's really the only year that we observed  
14 where satellite collars were crossing basically one of  
15 those corridors that I was just talking about. One out  
16 of five years showed some significant movement through  
17 that area.

18

19 MR. C. EDWARDSSEN: Is that for food?

20

21 MR. PARRETT: Why are they doing that?

22

23 MR. C. EDWARDSSEN: Yeah.

24

25 MR. PARRETT: That's a tough question.  
26 Yeah, I don't know. My impression is that a lot of  
27 these movements are driven by whatever summer  
28 conditions are happening, July, August. That  
29 determines where they end up when things finally cool  
30 down. You know, for example, it just cooled down a few  
31 days ago really.

32

33 MR. C. EDWARDSSEN: Yeah.

34

35 MR. PARRETT: So that's going to change  
36 basically in any given year where they start moving out  
37 from the mountains, how far they get on the coastal  
38 plain and then when it turns colder again when they  
39 start moving south and that's my impression. Of  
40 course, that's not necessarily data driven.

41

42 Summer movements. I grabbed these from  
43 Jim's Western Arctic Working Group talk. The summer  
44 movements of the Western Arctic Herd kind of  
45 demonstrated what I was talking about. They have a  
46 tendency to kind of streak eastward during the course  
47 of the summer and my impression is that the longer the  
48 summer goes and the hotter it is, the farther east they  
49 go.

50

1                   So you can see here are two average  
2 summers where they're just barreling along kind of on  
3 the crest or on the north side of the mountains there.  
4 2011 there was a bit more time spent up near Cape  
5 Lisburne. That was the year we did a photo census  
6 right up near Cape Lisburne. Then 2012 again showing  
7 that kind of movement far to the east. It's kind of  
8 silly that I put summer after fall because I really  
9 should have done it the other way.

10

11                   CHAIRMAN BROWER: Did you ever consider  
12 what kind of wind directions is occurring in terms of  
13 driving the caribou?

14

15                   MR. PARRETT: Yeah. You know, that's a  
16 big part of trying to understand movement at a really  
17 fine scale, but of course getting weather data at a  
18 fine scale is not that easy. There's broad patterns,  
19 you know. Obviously around here northeast winds are  
20 prevailing. I think for this herd, other than what's  
21 happening when they're in the very early part of the  
22 summer, July, they're really affected by the wind then  
23 and might decide whether they head up to Cape Lisburne  
24 or down toward the Kukpuk or something like that.

25

26                   Once they get into the mountains I  
27 think they're just kind of in the mountains and the  
28 wind is not as relevant anymore. They're looking for  
29 altitude. They've traded choosing the coast or wind for  
30 altitude basically. So they're making these altitudinal  
31 movements trying to get up above where it's cooler and  
32 windier too. So I think just the fact that there is  
33 wind or isn't wind is what they're looking for in that  
34 case.

35

36                   CHAIRMAN BROWER: Uh-huh.

37

38                   MR. PARRETT: Because you'd asked about  
39 this, I tried to put together some numbers for  
40 basically harvest ticket harvest. What would be  
41 considered kind of non-local harvest out of 24B, which  
42 is the area just south of Anaktuvuk Pass and 24A.

43

44                   I guess maybe I should stop right now  
45 and ask what you were interested in.

46

47                   CHAIRMAN BROWER: That's basically what  
48 -- I was wanting our representative from Anaktuvuk to  
49 get a basic idea what are the other uses within the  
50 boundary of AKP because it serves 24 and 26, AKP being

1 right in the boundary, and how caribou movement  
2 might be impacted from other users as well.

3

4 MR. PARRETT: Okay.

5

6 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Basically that's the  
7 reasoning, to get them to realize that there's a number  
8 of caribou herds and the different movements and the  
9 patterns and users as well.

10

11 MR. PARRETT: Okay. So I guess  
12 seasonally, if my estimate in most years, if they're  
13 catching caribou in July, August, September, those are  
14 almost always going to be Western Arctic animals. You  
15 can look back at these slides here and you can see that  
16 that's what happens. At the end of the summer, they're  
17 just right on the edge of hitting that village and  
18 probably different years vary on how far east they end  
19 up and then, of course, all those weather patterns  
20 affect where they're going to end up shortly after  
21 that.

22

23 This is a year where I would expect  
24 they probably saw a lot of caribou. I don't even know  
25 if that's true actually in my memory. Anyway, that's  
26 kind of what happens there. So the Western Arctic is  
27 probably what they're harvesting then. As the winter  
28 moves on, I think that they could still be harvesting  
29 Western Arctic. By the time spring rolls around, if  
30 they start going out and catching caribou again in  
31 March, April, they're probably Teshekpuk that have  
32 ended up wintering down there in most years.

33

34 Of course, the harvest that's happening  
35 in 24B, the big thing I need to point out here is that  
36 big green thing. That's a park obviously and almost  
37 nobody is hunting in there unless they're from  
38 Anaktuvuk. There's a huge area to the south of them  
39 that there really is no sport harvest or whatever you  
40 want to call it happening.

41

42 Now, of course, the road to the east  
43 there, there can be quite a bit there. If you look at  
44 the patterns in 24B, 24B is that area to the south and  
45 it has Bettles and Alatna and Allakaket. There's some  
46 harvest there. Not all of it is reported, of course,  
47 but it's pretty small. It's 45 caribou in the last 10  
48 years, 4.5 per year. So in that whole area an average  
49 of 4.5 are reported every year. It's really not very  
50 much.



1                   Now Huslia, Allakaket and even Bettles,  
2 you know, they can be under that blue harvest ticket  
3 where they don't have to report their harvest, but  
4 that's, again, really far south of Anaktuvuk, so I  
5 don't know if people would be as concerned or  
6 interested there.

7  
8                   CHAIRMAN BROWER: So that's basically  
9 one side of the coin.

10  
11                  MR. PARRETT: Yeah.

12  
13                  CHAIRMAN BROWER: The other side would  
14 be the unreported harvest.

15  
16                  MR. PARRETT: It could be. Yeah, it  
17 sure could be. That would depend basically on what  
18 Bettles, Alatna, Allakaket, what they were kind of  
19 getting access to in that year and that's pretty far  
20 south for those caribou. Bettles isn't necessarily,  
21 but Allakaket is. Although, in the last couple years,  
22 they certainly have seen quite a few caribou and there  
23 have been caribou all the way into the Kanuti Flats.  
24 So there could be in like, for example, 2012, a pretty  
25 decent unreported harvest, but it's way down on the  
26 Koyukuk basically.

27  
28                  And then 24A, because it again is road  
29 accessible, it has way higher harvest, but only 147  
30 caribou reported in the last 10 years, so 14, 15 per  
31 year, and then only 73 in the last five years, so it's  
32 been basically the same over the past 10 years. Again,  
33 I should mention that this includes some, but probably  
34 not all of the harvest of those people that live in  
35 Allakaket, Huslia, Bettles, that area.

36  
37                  I don't know if that necessarily  
38 addresses what you were interested in, but that's what  
39 I pulled together with ESP.

40  
41                  CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yes, it does. Like I  
42 said, I wanted him to represent from AKP, but  
43 unfortunately he's not here.

44  
45                  MR. PARRETT: Well, shoot, I ran into  
46 him at Sam's Club right before I came up here. I  
47 should have just talked to him.

48  
49                  CHAIRMAN BROWER: Maybe we'll have  
50 another opportunity to hear the presentation. I'm not

1 sure how your travel arrangements are at this time to  
2 have you present the AKP community and provide the  
3 information.

4

5 MR. PARRETT: Yeah. Well, and that's  
6 definitely something that we want to do here in the  
7 near future when we pull this information together. I  
8 went to one meeting right when that scoping process  
9 started. People are pretty dissatisfied with the level  
10 of information that we had. Given the amount of data  
11 that we've collected, especially in recent years, it's  
12 a little under analyzed I guess I would say, so we're  
13 trying to make efforts to make up for that now.

14

15 MR. FRANKSON: I can give you a  
16 possible mortality reason for some of the caribou. We  
17 had a situation a few years back that we had late rain  
18 during the fall time. It froze up the tundra and made  
19 it hard for the caribou to dig through to get some  
20 food. Next time you run into some of those you might  
21 want to check down to the bottom and see if it's hard,  
22 frozen hard, because that's what happened to us.

23

24 MR. PARRETT: That is one of the cool  
25 things about digging something out of the snow like  
26 that. You learn a lot about what happened over the  
27 course of the year and certainly we did see that in a  
28 few instances. Way down at the bottom basically there  
29 could be an ice layer three-quarters of an inch thick.  
30 I don't think last year was really bad for icing, but I  
31 did see it in a few places. Of course Jim Dau talks  
32 about it all the time as being responsible for some of  
33 those tremendous 25, 30 percent mortality rates that  
34 he's seen in recent years more to the west.

35

36 MR. SHEARS: Mr. Chair.

37

38 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Bob.

39

40 MR. SHEARS: Last fall Alvin Bodfish  
41 took a female collared caribou in Wainwright. I was  
42 talking to Brian about it. He said that the track log  
43 on that old collar was incredible, the distance that  
44 that caribou covered in its life span or during the  
45 period that it carried that collar. I notice some  
46 herds seem to travel a lot more distance than other  
47 herds. Is there a correlation between mortality and  
48 the distance that they migrate?

49

50 MR. PARRETT: We actually got a paper

1 out about that. Well, it sort of addresses that  
2 basically, but looks at did the amount of movement that  
3 you had in that year affect whether or not you had a  
4 calf or whether or not you died and actually neither of  
5 those. It didn't affect either of those.

6

7 MR. SHEARS: Walking machines.

8

9 MR. PARRETT: Yeah.

10

11 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: I agree that there's  
12 a lot of information that we can glean from this  
13 process. I know the way the information has been  
14 allowed to be used does give us some good views, but I  
15 know that if we can take out different activities and  
16 timeframes of what's happening in the Arctic areas of  
17 where we're having concerns, we'll also be able to  
18 glean additional information.

19

20 It is very important to making sure  
21 that the communities are involved in this process  
22 because it can give insight to various issues such as  
23 the Department of Transportation going through, efforts  
24 to change the Arctic with efforts to study for road  
25 placement and those kinds of activities and what did  
26 that do with some of the research and monitoring that  
27 was occurring as well as what was the reaction with  
28 increased activities associated with other changes to  
29 the lands and waters.

30

31 I think that it's important that you  
32 get the information out to Anaktuvuk Pass so that you  
33 can get their feedback and if you can get out there to  
34 interact with the community, it would be very  
35 beneficial. I'm very worried about the changes to the  
36 regulations that allowed for increased activity along  
37 the Dalton Highway. I also worry about the Scenic  
38 Byways designation and what does that do with the  
39 animals movements. I think we can gather some of this  
40 information associated with that, but until we get some  
41 better enforcement of getting this information, we only  
42 have pieces of information and there are other factors  
43 that can affect things and we have to be cautious in  
44 how we're utilizing this information in the way that  
45 decisions are being made.

46

47 We want to continue our way of life  
48 and teaching the future generations and we need the  
49 resources to continue to be there to allow us to do so.  
50 The stories and the teachings are changing in some of

1 our villages right now and it is very concerning, but  
2 if we can continue to work really hard to allow hopes  
3 of being able to continue this way of life, we have  
4 hopes that even with changes that are happening we can  
5 bring recoveries back to areas and allow traditional  
6 and cultural activities to continue into the future.

7

8 Thank you.

9

10 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Lincoln,  
11 for your presentation.

12

13 MR. KAYOTUK: Can I make a comment.

14

15 CHAIRMAN BROWER: I'm sorry, Lee. Go  
16 ahead.

17

18 MR. KAYOTUK: Thank you, Chair and  
19 Council. For the Porcupine Caribou I notice that big  
20 change in number of years in Kaktovik. The first thing  
21 that happened a few years ago is when the big  
22 starvation happened and we had over three or four  
23 hundred caribou that starved in the area because of  
24 climate change in our area. Most of the time in  
25 December we get rain and then it rains so bad that  
26 those caribou starved to death that came on the island  
27 a few years ago. It was so bad seeing that. It was  
28 devastating that these caribou couldn't access food due  
29 to the rain and it froze after that. That's why all  
30 these caribou died in that area.

31

32 Again, we noticed that the bears and  
33 the wolves and the wolverine do catch these caribou  
34 along the coast and a couple weeks ago one of my uncles  
35 was watching a bear that did catch a caribou on the  
36 lagoon that was seen by his own eyes. He wished he had  
37 a camera. But that was part of the decline, predators  
38 chasing these caribou around, but that was seen with an  
39 eye of a person just watching a bear maul a caribou.  
40 It was pretty interesting. You've got mosquitos in the  
41 area that when it's calm days out there they're going  
42 to higher elevation to try to get more wind because the  
43 mosquitos are driving them crazy too, you know. That's  
44 what you have to think about, in order to get higher  
45 elevation for them to try and at least get out of the  
46 mosquitos.

47

48 Another thing we see is the caribous  
49 going to the coast to get to the ice to go to the salt  
50 water. I don't know why, but they always have the salt

1 in the ocean that brings them to the coast. We also  
2 see herds on the Canadian side by the Icy Reef area  
3 that's just on this side of the border that we see a  
4 big change now. They're more staying in that area  
5 because the ice or glaciers are protecting the caribou  
6 to keep cold due to climate change. It's pretty  
7 interesting.

8

9 Again, we have a lot of aircrafts in  
10 the area that are depleting our caribou away from the  
11 coast that people try to harvest, but the aircraft in  
12 the area is pretty high and is going to be an ongoing  
13 thing for studies. Whoever is in the area with these  
14 planes are flying below 200 or 100 feet and is driving  
15 these caribou away from the coast. A couple weeks ago  
16 we seen five private planes flying together on the  
17 coast, which is totally wrong and below 200 feet is,  
18 the way we see it, is wrong for other people that could  
19 access these areas and people that try to hunt along  
20 the coast is trying to survive or get caribou for the  
21 long winters.

22

23 Other than that, that's all I got for  
24 now.

25

26 Thank you.

27

28 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Robert.

29

30 MR. SHEARS: In regard to wolverine,  
31 Wainwright enjoyed a second stellar wolverine season  
32 this last winter. To my count, 24 taken in the  
33 Wainwright area. That's what I know. There might be a  
34 few that I'm missing there. That's outstanding. A  
35 tremendous quantity, but they're small. They're young.  
36 What's feeding the population boom on this wolverine as  
37 we're conjecturing and sitting around at night during  
38 blizzards in cabins is that there's a lot to scavenge  
39 on, indicative of the declining population of the  
40 Western Arctic Caribou Herd. It's creating a lot of  
41 fodder for the predators and scavengers.

42

43 I had a question in regards to  
44 predation. How much study on infanticide is conducted  
45 at the point of birth cycle? Is there any idea on how  
46 many are lost or abandoned immediately by their mothers  
47 because they've outlived their maternal instincts or  
48 don't have maternal instincts? What about ravens and  
49 other birds, foxes, predating on newborn calves?

50

1 MR. PARRETT: So we've got a selection  
2 of collared animals, adults, so some portion of them  
3 have a calf and then that calf dies or they abandon it.  
4 If they abandon it and we never saw it, then we can  
5 only basically guess by the fact that they lost their  
6 antlers, she has an udder, something happened, but we  
7 don't know obviously what happened. During the course  
8 of our collaring we actually pick up a lot of dead  
9 calves that are just either abandoned or just their  
10 dead and the mother is still standing there.

11  
12 What we've been trying to do there is  
13 just basically take advantage of the fact that we have  
14 those to learn more about what is happening other than  
15 predation, you know, and what is killing them, are  
16 there disease issues. Pneumonia can be a real problem  
17 in some years and stuff like that, so there can be a  
18 significant what we call perinatal mortality, like  
19 right around birth. But as far as what proportion that  
20 constitutes.....

21  
22 MR. SHEARS: Difficult to study.

23  
24 MR. PARRETT: .....it's very difficult  
25 to estimate. Really, even in a big year, it's small.

26  
27 MR. SHEARS: Oh, okay.

28  
29 MR. PARRETT: If I show you that slide  
30 that says 60 percent of them were seen with calves, I  
31 could also show you another estimate of what proportion  
32 we thought actually had calves and it's not a whole lot  
33 higher.

34  
35 MR. SHEARS: Okay.

36  
37 MR. PARRETT: If it was 60 in one year,  
38 it might be 70 for that other number, a little bit  
39 higher, that lost their calf immediately basically.

40  
41 MR. SHEARS: Okay.

42  
43 MR. PARRETT: Yeah. Then there was  
44 another thing you asked. It was like a four-part  
45 question.

46  
47 MR. SHEARS: The birds, ravens, yeah.

48  
49 MR. PARRETT: Yeah. So we've not seen  
50 anything I would conclusively say was like raven

1 predation or like ravens harassing a weak calf or  
2 anything like that. Mostly gulls is what we've seen on  
3 the calf and then very little even fox scavenging or  
4 predation as far as we can tell. Very little. And  
5 then I think an owl might have gotten one, but really  
6 that would be so strange I really don't want to hang my  
7 hat on that, but it's possible anyway. There were a  
8 bunch of owl feathers and a dead calf and it was  
9 obviously eaten by a bird.

10

11 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Rosemary, were you  
12 looking to make a comment.

13

14 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: I really appreciate  
15 you working with this process and listening to our  
16 concerns and bringing more information back and I look  
17 forward to working with you and trying to identify some  
18 of the concerns that we've brought up over decades  
19 engaged in this process. With having someone who  
20 understands our people and our usage, it really helps  
21 and the way that information is assessed and researched  
22 upon. You bring a lot to the table just because of  
23 your experience in the Arctic and the reality of your  
24 connections to the communities and I really appreciate  
25 that. It's very important to have this depth of  
26 involvement with people in our assessments of studying,  
27 but making sure that you come back and communicate with  
28 our communities as you work forward for us.

29

30 It's really important for us to take  
31 ownership of this information, to give us education as  
32 to what's happening with the scientific information and  
33 then allowing us to give insight with other factors  
34 that may not be included in what you've got funding for  
35 to do this research and I really thank you.

36

37 MR. PARRETT: Thank you, Rosemary.

38

39 CHAIRMAN BROWER: I could share some of  
40 my observations, but I'm just going to take up more  
41 time from another presentation, so I'll just keep quiet  
42 and continue with our agenda.

43

44 Lincoln, I was out for a couple weeks  
45 and I did see a large number of wolverines and my group  
46 that we were out with we harvested six out of a pack of  
47 12 and then we seen several other packs that we  
48 couldn't get to because of the snow conditions as to  
49 where we were at. Large groups of wolves, 25, 30 in a  
50 pack, and some others were 15 to 20. There were some

1 large groups out there. As we were chasing them  
2 around, they'd knock a caribou down and have a quick  
3 bite to eat and just keep going.

4  
5 (Laughter)

6  
7 CHAIRMAN BROWER: I mean I was impressed  
8 with how fast they could move and tear an animal down,  
9 I mean specifically a caribou, and just keep moving. I  
10 mean I could tell just from their prints on the snow.  
11 They were looking pretty light for a while and then all  
12 of a sudden they're three inches deeper in the same  
13 type of snow that we were traversing on. Man, it was  
14 pretty impressive. My boys were noticing that as well.  
15 You see how deep they're going now. I said, yeah, move  
16 faster.

17  
18 (Laughter)

19  
20 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Lincoln.  
21 That was very well presented.

22  
23 MR. PARRETT: Thank you.

24  
25 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Eva, don't go too far  
26 out. I was just going to look to see what were the  
27 communications you were asking. There was another  
28 presenter online or something.

29  
30 MS. PATTON: No, right here. We have  
31 Brittany.

32  
33 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Okay.

34  
35 MS. PATTON: She has a brief update.

36  
37 CHAIRMAN BROWER: She's also with  
38 Alaska Department of Fish and Game?

39  
40 MS. PATTON: Just a verbal update.  
41 While she's giving that brief update I'm going to help  
42 bring Dave Yokel's presentation up here.

43  
44 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Okay. Brittany, you  
45 have the floor.

46  
47 MS. RUTHERFORD: Thank you. Again,  
48 this is Brittany Rutherford. I work for the  
49 Subsistence Division for Fish and Game. I just wanted  
50 to quickly provide a quick update on some of the



1 projects that I've been involved with on the North  
2 Slope and a few different villages. Just a quick  
3 update because at the moment a lot of data is still  
4 being processed, so I don't have any results to give.  
5 As of this morning, I actually got an email with  
6 Wainwright's results, which was kind of exciting, but I  
7 haven't had a chance to even open it and look at it.  
8 At the next meeting I will definitely provide those  
9 results.

10

11 This spring we went to Point Lay and  
12 Wainwright. In Point Lay we conducted a comprehensive  
13 harvest survey and I think we are in the process of  
14 kind of sorting through some of those results. In  
15 Wainwright, we actually just did a fisheries harvest  
16 survey and then conducted a few TEK interviews.  
17 Hopefully that will be put together pretty soon.

18

19 The other project that actually is  
20 something that's brand new is we went to Kaktovik. It  
21 was actually my first time going up to Kaktovik and we  
22 sought approval from the tribal council to go up and do  
23 some traditional knowledge interviews to get a better  
24 understanding of some of the moose populations up there  
25 and also get a better understanding of some of the  
26 other large land mammal issues. We went in June, just  
27 a few months ago, for about a week and conducted  
28 interviews with about six individuals and then we also  
29 had a community meeting and presented at the city  
30 council meeting. I think that project went pretty  
31 well.

32

33 We're trying to sort out some funding  
34 issues to be able to figure out how to actually finish  
35 that project and come up with a report with the  
36 assistance and feedback from people in Kaktovik about  
37 what that should look like.

38

39 So that's just a quick update on the  
40 kinds of things that we're working on. If you guys  
41 have any questions or anything like that, then I'd be  
42 happy to answer them.

43

44 CHAIRMAN BROWER: I'd rather have it in  
45 black and white so we could digest the information to  
46 provide meaningful communications. Just giving an oral  
47 presentation, it doesn't sink in right away. I think  
48 that's a process that needs to be taken for our  
49 Council. I think it's only appropriate that if we're  
50 going to be responsive to hearsay, how do we make sure

1 that we're following through or giving direction to see  
2 how these reports are being generated.

3

4 MS. RUTHERFORD: No, that's a good  
5 point and I hear you. I just didn't have any results  
6 to provide, so I just wanted to make sure that I was  
7 keeping you guys updated.

8

9 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you.

10

11 MS. YUHAS: Mr. Chairman.

12

13 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Can you state your  
14 name.

15

16 MS. YUHAS: This is Jennifer at the  
17 Department of Fish and Game.

18

19 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yes, Jennifer, go  
20 ahead.

21

22 MS. YUHAS: I just wanted to let  
23 Brittany give the initial update that she had conducted  
24 some of the work and I wanted to let this RAC know that  
25 that last project that she did was with some of the  
26 liaison dollars. It was the project I spoke to last  
27 spring where we reserved some of our travel back and we  
28 didn't do a few other things because we thought it was  
29 very important to go out to the areas, Kaktovik and the  
30 moose areas we've been discussing this last couple of  
31 years here.

32

33 It was quite enlightening to hear some  
34 of the testimony from the RAC, especially from  
35 Rosemary, that nobody had ever gone out there and I  
36 thought that meant nobody had ever gone out there in  
37 recent statehood history. It turns out from looking at  
38 some of the records that nobody ever went out there.  
39 So we tried to get some of the records from BIA from  
40 interviews in that area before the State would have  
41 gone out there and there weren't any.

42

43 So we really prioritized Brittany's  
44 ability to go out and talk in a broad manner to people  
45 and she concluded the last of her interviews right  
46 before she was forced into her seasonal leave, so  
47 she'll get an opportunity to sort through everything  
48 that she collected. We're quite excited that her  
49 interviews were so broad because we are learning things  
50 we might not have known we were going to learn going

1 into it, which is exactly what we want to do.

2

3 She heard some things about different  
4 ways that the State and the Federal regulations aren't  
5 coming together that had really nothing to do with the  
6 original questions and we're excited about how valuable  
7 that information is going to be once we have a chance  
8 to sort through it and find out what everyone's issues  
9 were in the area.

10

11 Thank you.

12

13 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Jennifer.

14

15 Does the Council have any questions to  
16 Brittany on the presentation she provided.

17

18 MR. SHEARS: Thank you.

19

20 MS. RUTHERFORD: Thank you.

21

22 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Brittany.  
23 Next on our agenda item, Mr. -- Department of Wildlife  
24 Management.

25

26 MS. PATTON: What?

27

28 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Is it? I'm seeing  
29 something in black and white, right? Wildlife and  
30 Subsistence Division report.

31

32 MS. PATTON: That was what you just  
33 heard, Mr. Chair. Next on the agenda we had.....

34

35 CHAIRMAN BROWER: And we had modified  
36 the agenda to give Department of Wildlife Management,  
37 Brian Person, and that's what I had scribbled in onto  
38 my.....

39

40 MS. PATTON: Brian Person was here also  
41 to answer questions if the Council had any on  
42 collaborative projects. Mike Pederson also addressed  
43 the Council earlier on the work of the North Slope  
44 Borough and the ACs. So Brian was here if the Council  
45 had any additional questions, but that was the report  
46 for the caribou for the region.

47

48 Thank you.

49

50 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Are you just waving

1 at me, Brian, or are you wanting to come up to the mic  
2 and.....  
3  
4 DR. PERSON: Just waving.  
5  
6 MS. PATTON: So, Mr. Chair, my mistake.  
7 We had invited Mike Pederson from the North Slope  
8 Borough AC and he.....  
9  
10 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Moved him up because  
11 of the funeral this afternoon.  
12  
13 MS. PATTON: And we moved him up  
14 because he was attending the service.  
15  
16 Thank you.  
17  
18 CHAIRMAN BROWER: So we're down to 10E,  
19 BLM.  
20  
21 DR. YOKEL: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
22  
23 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Man, that's a big  
24 agenda item. Gee whiz.  
25  
26 Dr. Yokel, you have the floor.  
27  
28 DR. YOKEL: Thank you. I actually  
29 wanted to introduce our new Barrow employee at the  
30 start of this little thing and that person is Roy  
31 Nageak. Unfortunately he cannot be here this  
32 afternoon.  
33  
34 Much of what I'm going to talk about  
35 today is review from what I presented last winter. I'm  
36 going to go through this kind of quickly. I showed  
37 this slide last February. This is some of the projects  
38 that the BLM participated in this last summer and the  
39 NPR-A. In addition to these, I was just informed last  
40 week that our Central Yukon field office conducted a  
41 sheep survey in the Dalton Highway area. That's all I  
42 know about that. That's all I can tell you. They told  
43 me that the data would be analyzed and reported on this  
44 coming winter.  
45  
46 This is also something I presented in  
47 February. This is the outcome of our most recent plan  
48 for the NPR-A, which was just completed in -- the  
49 record of decision was signed in February. I showed  
50 you then the outcome of that. Unfortunately we don't

1 yet know, we don't have an indication of what impact  
2 this new plan will have on the interest of the oil  
3 industry in NPR-A because we haven't held another lease  
4 sale in NPR-A since that plan was completed six months  
5 ago.

6

7 This map shows a lease sale that we had  
8 in November of 2012, our most recent lease sale. We'll  
9 have another one this coming November and then maybe  
10 we'll get an indication if the oil industry strategy  
11 will change any in NPR-A.

12

13 If we do eventually have oil  
14 development in the NPR-A, this is where it's most  
15 likely to happen first because it is planned in this  
16 area already just west of Nuiqsut. Here's a close-up  
17 of that area. I apologize, this is a repurposed map. I  
18 grabbed this from a polar bear biological assessment.  
19 What it shows here is the existing infrastructure for  
20 the Alpine development out in the delta. Here's the  
21 Alpine pad and the CD2, the two original pads and then  
22 3 and 4 were built in the last several years.

23

24 At present, ConocoPhillips would like  
25 to develop the CD5 pad, but they're being held up by  
26 some lawsuits. It is their plan if they are able to  
27 complete CD5 they want to move immediately thereafter  
28 to what they're now calling GMT1, which is on BLM-  
29 managed lands in the NPR-A.

30

31 MR. SHEARS: Greater Mooses Tooth?

32

33 DR. YOKEL: Yeah. It used to be called  
34 CD6 and 7, but they unitized several of the tracts  
35 there and when you unitize it, you have to name it and  
36 they named it the Greater Mooses Tooth Unit and that's  
37 what the GMT stands for.

38

39 So anyway we right now are beginning a  
40 planning phase for GMT1 because ConocoPhillips wants to  
41 start the ball rolling so that they can go ahead with  
42 that development if they prevail in the lawsuit on CD5  
43 and if their corporate headquarters then grants them  
44 the funding to move ahead with GMT1. So I just want to  
45 let you know that we are starting an EIS right now.  
46 We're in the very early phases for the development of  
47 GMT1.

48

49 Our Central Yukon field office asked me  
50 to present these next two slides to you. They are in

1 the very beginning stages of a land use plan for the  
2 area outlined in red on this map. Just like we just  
3 finished the land use plan for NPR-A, they are starting  
4 a land use plan for this area. Only the yellow shaded  
5 areas in here are managed by the BLM, so they will be  
6 the only areas actually affected by the decisions in  
7 this plan, but they outline the whole area that -- when  
8 we do plans, we cover the whole state even though it's  
9 not all BLM land.

10

11 This next part is a close-up of the  
12 portion of that new plan that's on the North Slope. I  
13 included this slide to show the people in Anaktuvuk  
14 Pass because they would be the ones most affected by  
15 this plan. Even though Nuiqsut is close to the  
16 boundary of this planning area, there's no BLM lands  
17 within this planning area boundary close to Nuiqsut.  
18 Only the yellow lands again are BLM lands and would be  
19 affected by this plan.

20

21 Now in your booklet there is an  
22 introductory letter from the Central Yukon field office  
23 explaining that this planning process is beginning and  
24 also the map showing the planning area. I think that's  
25 about it for me.

26

27 Yeah, real quick today.

28

29 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Dr. Yokel.

30

31 Any questions from the Council with  
32 regard to the presentation.

33

34 (No comments)

35

36 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Oil and gas  
37 exploration and then into the -- what did you call it,  
38 GMT.

39

40 DR. YOKEL: Greater Mooses Tooth 1.

41

42 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Greater Mooses Tooth  
43 1.

44

45 DR. YOKEL: That's the name that they  
46 have given to the proposed drill pad in NPR-A. It,  
47 under the proposal, would be connected to CD5 by road,  
48 which would be connected by road to the Alpine  
49 facility.

50

1 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Then the second  
2 portion was in the early stages of starting your  
3 environmental impact statement process for the  
4 development of that same unit.

5  
6 DR. YOKEL: Yes, we are right now  
7 beginning that planning process for the GMT1  
8 development.

9  
10 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Questions or comments  
11 of Dr. Yokel.

12  
13 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: This process has  
14 really put a lot of stress and strain on the village of  
15 Nuiqsut and the divisions that have occurred. The  
16 process went through a lot of meetings, a lot of  
17 communications back and forth. There was early on  
18 uniting of the village in the process.

19  
20 With the push to continue to get the  
21 development going, it caused a lot of divisions within  
22 the village. The stress and strain upon the people  
23 engaged in the lawsuit has been really, really bad.  
24 The stress and strain upon all of the leadership has  
25 been really bad. The repercussions of the social  
26 reactions within the community are a part of what's  
27 happening with this continued effort to change the  
28 lands and waters there.

29  
30 It's a beautiful area. Early plans for  
31 this process would have put the road between the camp  
32 for my family and my sister-in-law and her husband's  
33 family. We would have had to cross this major road to  
34 go and see each other when we're at fish camp. It's  
35 very concerning the number of fishnets that are in this  
36 area that are at risk with the bridge placement to  
37 occur and the increased traffic to occur and the  
38 increased stress and strain on an area that has now  
39 become very vital to continuing a way of life near the  
40 community.

41  
42 There's been so much change to the  
43 lands and waters in their traditional hunting areas, it  
44 really has increased the amount of usage in this area.  
45 Prior to the development occurring, we showed that many  
46 of our houses harvested in that area of Nuiqsut for  
47 Nuiqsut and yet it did not halt the decision to push  
48 forward with these development processes.

49  
50 I'm very concerned on what it is doing

1 for the future of our communities that are facing  
2 increased stress and strain to our way of life. The  
3 regional process leadership said they don't want to end  
4 up like Nuiqsut and we can't let those kind of  
5 communications lead this process. We have to do a lot  
6 better than what we've done and we cannot allow the  
7 sacrifice of this area.

8  
9 I'm greatly concerned. I know the  
10 leadership is trying very hard to find ways to identify  
11 things that they can do within their community. We  
12 need this information brought to us to help us in our  
13 process for decisions because our regional leadership  
14 needs to work together in this process and we can't  
15 have the way it was done continue to guide the way  
16 decisions are going to lead into the future. I don't  
17 want to see our communities put through this.

18  
19 The strength of the communications of  
20 our elders in this process showed the vitality of what  
21 it is. Nuiqsut means someplace beautiful on the  
22 horizon. Part of that beauty comes from the beauty of  
23 the lands and waters, but also because of the beauty of  
24 the beauty of the biodiversity that allows the life of  
25 the people who live there to be Inupiat people with a  
26 way of life that was sustained from the lands and  
27 waters and has threats of change affecting their daily  
28 lives every day.

29  
30 DR. YOKEL: I'm hesitant to respond  
31 because I'm afraid my sympathy would be taken as  
32 insincere, but I can understand how difficult it must  
33 be. I think what's going on in Nuiqsut is not atypical  
34 of any community. There are going to be people that  
35 disagree with each other. But when it happens in such  
36 a small and isolated community, it greatly magnifies  
37 the difficulties. All I can say is I'm sorry that that  
38 has to happen.

39  
40 You can't see it because of the yellow  
41 color on the map masking it, but the CD5 is on Cup'ik  
42 lands and the BLM is not a part of that decision, so  
43 here in my professional capacity I cannot address  
44 what's going on there. The GMT1 is on our lands and we  
45 are responsible for what happens there.

46  
47 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Any further comments  
48 or discussion regarding the presentation from BLM.

49  
50 (No comments)



1 CHAIRMAN BROWER: There are none.  
2 Thank you, Dr. Yokel, for your presentation.  
3  
4 MR. C. EDWARDSSEN: I have a question  
5 for NPR-A on the hydrates issue. What are you doing  
6 with hydrates in NPR-A?  
7  
8 DR. YOKEL: For the record, there was a  
9 question from the audience what is the BLM doing in the  
10 NPR-A with hydrates. That's not in my area of  
11 expertise, but I think the answer to that is nothing or  
12 little to nothing. Most of the hydrates research that  
13 I'm aware of on the North Slope is going on on State  
14 lands and that's being done by private industry and/or  
15 the State. The U.S. Department of Energy may be  
16 involved in that in some ways, but I'm not sure. I  
17 really don't know the answer.  
18  
19 MR. C. EDWARDSSEN: When can we find  
20 out?  
21  
22 DR. YOKEL: Well, if the BLM is not  
23 doing anything with hydrates, then there's nothing to  
24 find out. If the Council wishes me to pursue this  
25 question, I will, and come back with an answer at your  
26 next meeting or email a response to Eva for you to get  
27 earlier.  
28  
29 CHAIRMAN BROWER: The latter portion  
30 might be an appropriate step to take in order to see  
31 where the response will be coming from.  
32  
33 DR. YOKEL: I will follow through with  
34 that then.  
35  
36 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you.  
37  
38 Eva, were you asking to be recognized.  
39  
40 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair. There's two  
41 further agency reports on the agenda. I have talked  
42 with both of those presenters, Arctic National Wildlife  
43 Refuge and Gates of the Arctic National Park and  
44 Preserve. We have a handout for you from Arctic  
45 National Wildlife Refuge and they are available to  
46 briefly answer any questions the Council has. There  
47 were no specific updates other than that the Council  
48 had requested a muskox update in particular.  
49  
50 And then Gates of the Arctic, the

1 written information is provided in your meeting books  
2 and I spoke with Marcy. She has been online for the  
3 whole meeting. She wanted to let the Council know she  
4 is here and available for your questions. Given our  
5 very limited timeframe here, they were both willing to  
6 provide you with the written information but not  
7 provide a whole presentation.

8

9 DR. YOKEL: If I may interrupt, Mr.  
10 Chair. It's under the BLM in your agenda, but it's  
11 really North Slope Borough. There is another  
12 presentation that's under BLM on your agenda.

13

14 MS. PATTON: Pardon. My mistake. Yes,  
15 there was the Teshekpuk Caribou Herd update as well  
16 with BLM.

17

18 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Are you going to  
19 follow through with that?

20

21 DR. YOKEL: I think Dr. Person is going  
22 to give that.

23

24 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Can you restate that,  
25 please.

26

27 DR. YOKEL: I think Dr. Person is going  
28 to give that presentation.

29

30 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Dr. Person. BLM has  
31 another presentation and Dr. Person is with the United  
32 States Fish and Wildlife Service, is he.

33

34 DR. PERSON: Thank you very much.

35

36 (Laughter)

37

38 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Could you please  
39 introduce yourself for the record. I might have  
40 misspoke here saying you were with Fish and Wildlife  
41 Service.

42

43 DR. PERSON: For the record, my name is  
44 Brian Person. I'm a wildlife biologist with the North  
45 Slope Borough, Department of Wildlife Management.  
46 Harry is my boss.

47

48 CHAIRMAN BROWER: You have the floor  
49 Dr. Person.

50

1 DR. PERSON: Thank you, Harry. Good  
2 afternoon. I'll try to be conscious of your time  
3 constraints and go through this rather quickly. I  
4 provided you with printed handouts. Really this is  
5 just an introduction to a joint project that we have  
6 with -- our department has with Borough of Land  
7 Management. Dave Yokel was able to find some funding  
8 to help get this project started.

9  
10 On the title page you can see we're  
11 looking at Teshekpuk Caribou health and body condition  
12 status. We're trying to -- this is sort of a prototype  
13 study. We're trying to get it up and going within the  
14 community of Barrow concentrating on the community of  
15 Barrow, but also trying to include outside villages as  
16 well. We're using CARMA standards and what this means  
17 is it's the CircumArctic Rangifer Monitoring  
18 Assessment. So there's this group of scientists and  
19 indigenous hunters. Some of you may have been to some  
20 of these meetings. For several years they got together  
21 and came up with these different ideas and projects and  
22 how to work together.

23  
24 One of the very nice things that  
25 dropped out of it was this health assessment program.  
26 It's our hope that we can get this developed where it's  
27 really the hunters who are collecting this information  
28 and bridging this gap that Rosemary talked about  
29 between Western science and you guys. This is a nice  
30 little quick, hopefully, presentation.

31  
32 I should acknowledge Dr. Stimmelmayer,  
33 who is the lead for this project. Right now she's out  
34 of town, but she put this together and I pulled 20  
35 slides out of it already.

36  
37 So a little bit of background. This is  
38 really focusing on the Teshekpuk Caribou Herd. Why?  
39 Because there isn't a single community on the North  
40 Slope that has not harvested from this herd.  
41 Definitely Barrow, Atkasuk, Wainwright and Anaktuvuk.  
42 The more I look at it, even in the '90s, the Teshekpuk  
43 Caribou Herd has really been bailing those guys out in  
44 years when the Western Arctic doesn't get that far to  
45 the east. So we're trying to focus on this herd right  
46 now.

47  
48 Some of our staff. Here's Raphaela to  
49 the left. The goals of this initial project are really  
50 to get 40 to 50 animals, it actually started in 2012,

1 and trying to work with the hunters to come up with  
2 different sampling protocols. These protocols that  
3 CARMA, this network, developed and it works well, they  
4 can be catered to any community and every hunt is  
5 different, so sometimes people can't collect all the  
6 specimens. There's a nominal fuel voucher. It's not  
7 huge. I think it's 30 or 50 bucks that we provide the  
8 hunter if we get a full set of samples.

9

10 I've got a detailed slide for each one  
11 of these, so in light of time I'm just going to zip  
12 through them. Basically you'll have this data sheet or  
13 the hunter and the hunter will fill it out in the  
14 field. We've got these kits that we can hand off to a  
15 hunter. We've done about 10 or 15 so far already.

16

17 As Lincoln mentioned, we really want to  
18 get age class. It's important for this herd  
19 especially. We think that it's declining. In the  
20 field we're hoping that you can take a photo of the  
21 animal's teeth as well as examples of the incisors. So  
22 young animal on the left, very old animal on the right.  
23 Then overall just characterize whether it's a skinny,  
24 not bad, fat, very fat animal by talking about presence  
25 of fat on the kidneys, fat around the intestine, if it  
26 has that nice net around its guts. So just some basic  
27 good information that you guys are collecting already  
28 but just recording it.

29

30 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Good.

31

32 REPORTER: Brian. Brian. Could you  
33 turn that back on.

34

35 DR. PERSON: I turned this off.  
36 Thanks. I was trying to advance the slide. See how  
37 many times I do that.

38

39 (Laughter)

40

41 DR. PERSON: And we provide a ruler  
42 where you can measure the depth of the back fat if it's  
43 present. Simple body fat -- I won't run through it too  
44 quickly, but you can really predict whether or not an  
45 animal is going to have a calf in the following year  
46 depending on a number of these parameters that we hope  
47 to collect.

48

49 Also take note of presence of various  
50 parasites or any other abnormality, collect a blood

1 sample just with this filter paper. It's amazing what  
2 you can do with just -- it's quite simple, but the  
3 hunter has to do it right there. Certainly in the  
4 winter it's going to freeze pretty quick. Blot clots  
5 don't work as well for a lot of other things.  
6 Determine whether or not -- you know, if it's a cow, if  
7 it's still nursing or if there's milk present and  
8 collect a reproductive tract. This allows Raphaela to  
9 determine what the reproductive history of this animal  
10 is.

11  
12 Combined with age and the jaw  
13 collection, it provides a lot of good information. And  
14 collecting a jaw in the field, from this we can -- Jim  
15 has done a very nice job. I've done a lousy job of  
16 trying to get this particular bit of information and  
17 it's a shame. I live here in Barrow. I should be able  
18 to get this, but it's tough to get jaws for some  
19 reason, but you can learn a lot of information.

20  
21 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Favorite foods.

22  
23 DR. PERSON: I know, I know. I see a  
24 lot -- I won't go into it. I see a lot that aren't  
25 eaten. I'll put it that way.

26  
27 (Laughter)

28  
29 DR. PERSON: But we can get age from  
30 the tooth and, as Lincoln mentioned, we can also get  
31 size and really growth rate of the animal by taking  
32 different measurements of the jaw. Mind you, this is  
33 being collected hopefully throughout the whole Arctic.  
34 Canada has done an excellent job of doing this. It's a  
35 neat, neat project.

36  
37 CHAIRMAN BROWER: I have just a  
38 question in regard to the jaw. Would it matter if it's  
39 already been boiled?

40  
41 DR. PERSON: No. I mean we'd get some  
42 information. The tooth for sure, we could still get an  
43 age. We could probably still get some measurements.  
44 We wouldn't get the marrow, but -- perfect timing as  
45 I'm pointing out the metatarsus. That's the preferred  
46 place to get marrow from. I'll let Lincoln interject.

47  
48 MR. PARRETT: Yeah, the jaw is actually  
49 not very good. I mean it's okay, but it's not very  
50 good. I mean of those three things I want the age.....

1  
2 DR. PERSON: For marrow.  
3  
4 MR. PARRETT: .....the measurements  
5 and then the bone marrow, but the bone marrow is way  
6 low compared to the measurement and the age. I'd take  
7 a boiled jaw any day.  
8  
9 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Okay. Thank you.  
10  
11 DR. PERSON: Good question, Mr.  
12 Chairman. And bone marrow, the ideal place to get it  
13 is from the hind leg and I recognize and also  
14 appreciate that's pretty good too. But from this we  
15 can get measurements. We can also get bone marrow  
16 samples and that's a great indicator of how healthy  
17 this animal is.  
18  
19 Also muscle tissue. We don't need a  
20 huge amount of tissue for a lot of the disease testing  
21 and it's only if somebody really would like us to go  
22 into some radionuclide testing before we would ask for  
23 a big two-pound chunk of meat from your animal. You  
24 know, just bag everything and try to keep it frozen and  
25 get it to us.  
26  
27 Dave asked where are we to date. We've  
28 sampled 25 caribou, 10 of which were hunter concerns.  
29 I think there's a starved animal in Wainwright that we  
30 shipped back here and did a necropsy. I think one came  
31 from Nuiqsut and several other ones around town. Just  
32 hunters bringing in animals with sores. This animal we  
33 ruled out or Raphaela ruled out that it was foot and  
34 mouth disease and really couldn't determine where these  
35 lesions occurred. You can see on the lip in the upper  
36 right, but it is starting to heal around the edges.  
37 It's healing.  
38  
39 One example of besnoitia. I'm sure a  
40 lot of you have seen this. It's kind of that sandpaper  
41 stuff on the back side when you're skinning a caribou,  
42 great for -- yeah, it occurs quite frequently. It's  
43 not a great concern to the hunter. It can be in severe  
44 cases rough on the animal.  
45  
46 I think this is the animal we got from  
47 Wainwright. It was in very bad shape. You can see the  
48 bone marrow in the upper slide C. It's terrible body  
49 condition. It had starved.  
50

1                   And then finally these are three  
2 examples of bone marrow from a couple different caribou  
3 shot earlier this summer. The one on the right, that  
4 animal had been walking around wounded for a couple  
5 weeks. Somebody had shot it and didn't catch it and so  
6 the hunter put it out of its misery and utilized the  
7 meat.

8  
9                   With that, if you have any questions,  
10 I'll try to answer them.

11  
12                  Thank you.

13  
14                  MR. C. EDWARDSSEN: What's the  
15 radioactive content of bone marrow?

16  
17                  DR. PERSON: Through the Chair.  
18 There's a question in the audience asking what is the  
19 radioactive content of bone marrow. I don't know. We  
20 find very low to no nuclides. These animals have not  
21 been exposed to radiation. Todd O'Hara did a big study  
22 out near Point Hope about a decade ago where there was  
23 a large die-off and sampled a lot of those tissues and  
24 found incredibly low levels of radionuclids.

25  
26                  Similarly, we've done some testing in  
27 conjunction with the University of Fairbanks of  
28 radionuclids in caribou muscle from an animal collected  
29 near Anaktuvuk and it had extremely low levels as well.  
30 I can't specifically speak to bone marrow. Thanks.

31  
32                  CHAIRMAN BROWER: Any other questions  
33 or comments from the Council.

34  
35                  MR. SHEARS: What does CARMA stand for?

36  
37                  DR. PERSON: Bob had a question --  
38 maybe I should say Gordon had a question.....

39  
40                  (Laughter)

41  
42                  DR. PERSON: .....what does CARMA stand  
43 for. It's an acronym. It stands for CircumArctic  
44 Rangifer, which is caribou or reindeer) Monitoring and  
45 I believe Assessment. So it's a catchy acronym, I  
46 guess.

47  
48                  CHAIRMAN BROWER: So is it spelled out  
49 in your presentation information in terms of the  
50 acronym?

1 DR. PERSON: No, it's not. I didn't  
2 put the presentation together.  
3  
4 DR. YOKEL: Google it.  
5  
6 (Laughter)  
7  
8 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Excuse me?  
9  
10 DR. YOKEL: Google it.  
11  
12 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Google it, huh.  
13  
14 MR. FRANKSON: I had a question. Is  
15 there any way of -- indication of census studies have  
16 occurred. Is there any way of -- ever heard of like a  
17 cancerous caribou?  
18  
19 DR. PERSON: I don't know. I'm not a  
20 veterinarian and I can't -- let me ask somebody else in  
21 the audience. Dave, Geoff, ever heard of a caribou  
22 with cancer?  
23  
24 DR. YOKEL: I don't think so.  
25  
26 DR. PERSON: It looks like you stumped  
27 the chumps.  
28  
29 CHAIRMAN BROWER: A good question to  
30 bring back to -- what are you calling them?  
31  
32 DR. PERSON: CARMA? Dr. Stimmelmayer?  
33  
34 CHAIRMAN BROWER: You called another  
35 scientist a different.....  
36  
37 DR. PERSON: Oh, Todd O'Hara?  
38  
39 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: No, your.....  
40  
41 CHAIRMAN BROWER: You said you were a  
42 biologist and you called the other person.....  
43  
44 DR. PERSON: Chumps.  
45  
46 CHAIRMAN BROWER: No, no.  
47  
48 DR. PERSON: Is this on record?  
49  
50 (Laughter)



1 CHAIRMAN BROWER: You gave him another  
2 title as to what you were calling the other scientist  
3 that probably could know the answer to the question.  
4 You can ask an anthropologist.  
5  
6 DR. YOKEL: Oncologist?  
7  
8 CHAIRMAN BROWER: No, he called -- I  
9 just can't recall what it is. You identified a  
10 different researcher.  
11  
12 MS. PATTON: Oh, veterinarian.  
13  
14 DR. PERSON: A veterinarian would know  
15 the answer to that.  
16  
17 CHAIRMAN BROWER: There you go. Yeah,  
18 that.  
19  
20 DR. PERSON: Oh, okay.  
21  
22 CHAIRMAN BROWER: I couldn't pronounce  
23 it, so I need you to help.  
24  
25 Thank you.  
26  
27 MR. FRANKSON: Is there anybody that  
28 can do that kind of study within your unit somewhere?  
29  
30 DR. PERSON: I'm sorry, could you  
31 repeat.  
32  
33 MR. FRANKSON: Is there any way of  
34 finding out whether or not some of these might have  
35 cancer or can we put out a study so that we can find  
36 out from someone. Maybe take samples from here and  
37 there and find out if there's any.  
38  
39 DR. PERSON: One way we can find out is  
40 by asking the veterinarian who would have normally been  
41 giving this talk. And also from this project I mean  
42 some of that information may come out. If we find an  
43 unusual growth or something, we can try to determine  
44 what caused that, what caused the ailment. It sounds  
45 like Lincoln might have.....  
46  
47 MR. PARRETT: I've heard this question  
48 asked before and then Kimberly, the State veterinarian  
49 answered. What she said basically is that they usually  
50 don't live long enough basically. They just don't live

1 long enough to get cancer. Probably like humans a long  
2 time ago too and dogs and all kinds of things. Now  
3 that people stay alive and dogs stay alive you get  
4 cancer and you wouldn't have otherwise. You'd have  
5 died for some other reason.

6

7 But she did mention, and this is where  
8 I'm going to fall apart here, is that she did mention a  
9 few things that do occur and do happen, so it's not  
10 like they never get cancer. I guess that's the only  
11 thing I'd say about that, but it's just really rare.

12

13 MR. C. EDWARDSSEN: Seals get cancer out  
14 there as we hunt. Cancerous seals all over the place.

15

16 MR. SHEARS: This is hearsay, but I've  
17 heard the only animal that does not get cancer is  
18 sharks.

19

20 CHAIRMAN BROWER: So I think we can  
21 bring that to the group of veterinarians to provide an  
22 answer to the question.

23

24 Any other comments or concerns from the  
25 Council.

26

27 MR. SHEARS: Brian, could you clarify  
28 what the participant hunter, the fuel vouchers are.  
29 How the fuel voucher program works so I could share  
30 this information with my boys.

31

32 DR. PERSON: Yeah. I can't recall if  
33 the fuel voucher is for 30 or 50 dollars, so that I'm  
34 not sure about. But effectively the way we're hoping  
35 it will work and through word of mouth is we get in  
36 contact with each other, your boys, and then we go out  
37 together and actually go through an animal together and  
38 get an idea and then as they harvest, if they see fit,  
39 feel up to actually carrying out some of this stuff,  
40 this project, however it works. How do I say this. We  
41 don't want to disrupt your actual activities, but if  
42 you could fit it in, if they were just hanging out, it  
43 was a great day and they dropped another caribou and  
44 said, hey, what do you say we chop this up. So we're  
45 trying to cater it to the community.

46

47 My contact information is on the  
48 presentation. Feel free to contact us and we can work  
49 it out.

50

1 MR. SHEARS: Okay.

2

3 DR. PERSON: Thank you.

4

5 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: There has been a lot  
6 of discussion over the years from various hunters and  
7 our elders. Lydia Sovalik brings to mind some of her  
8 testimony. She had talked about a two-headed caribou  
9 at one time and she also talked about concerns to  
10 harvesting near her Native allotment with changes to  
11 the taste of the meat from the caribou being harvested  
12 in that area.

13

14 There have been elders that have talked  
15 about concerns about differences in the meat and  
16 various organs of the animals and not sure where some  
17 of these concerns are. It is very important that we  
18 are getting these kinds of studies done to assess. Our  
19 concerns are increasing and frequency and concentration  
20 to the reality of the changes that are happening to the  
21 animals. I'm very glad that we've got this process  
22 going forward.

23

24 I think that there's additional  
25 information that we're going to glean over time. There  
26 is generations of information that didn't get put into  
27 this process that could also be historically obtained  
28 with some interview processes. Lydia's story of that  
29 two-headed caribou was a very important discussion that  
30 needs to be considered as you're looking at some of  
31 these concerns.

32

33 I've had hunters tell me that they're  
34 reluctant to hunt caribou. There aren't a lot of them,  
35 but there has been a repeat of that concern and I'm  
36 glad that we're looking to help support. We know many  
37 of our animals are healthy, but some of them are being  
38 changed and there are stresses that are occurring that  
39 give reason for concerns in our feasting and sharing  
40 methodologies of the ways that we share these foods.  
41 It is very important to understand what is happening to  
42 the health of our animals and I'm glad that we've got  
43 that.

44

45 If there's ways that we can contribute  
46 to help with this process, please keep us engaged, keep  
47 us informed as information is being generated to allow  
48 us to review this information in a timely manner to be  
49 effective in bringing these concerns to this process.  
50 It's really important how our villages can contribute

1 to the way that additional information is being gleaned  
2 from information that is being collected and how it's  
3 being used. Our villages have to react in so many  
4 different ways. It's really important that we're at  
5 these tables where some of these activities are  
6 occurring and decisions are affecting the lives of our  
7 future generations.

8

9 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Rosemary.

10

11 Eva.

12

13 MS. PATTON: Just next.

14

15 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Dr. Person  
16 and Lincoln for providing the presentation on caribou  
17 along with Dr. Yokel.

18

19 We're down to item F.

20

21 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair. As I had  
22 mentioned earlier, we have a handout for Arctic  
23 National Wildlife Refuge and Gates of the Arctic also  
24 has written information in your meeting books. I'll go  
25 ahead and hand this out for the Council. We do have  
26 some action items and conclusion from the OSM agency  
27 reports. Unfortunately we're on a very limited  
28 timeframe here. We do need to conclude here. They  
29 close the building down. So we would need to conclude  
30 the meeting at 5:00 p.m.

31

32 I'll hand out these written materials  
33 from Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. They are  
34 available here for questions and then we need to  
35 address some of the final action items and OSM before  
36 the conclusion of the meeting.

37

38 Thank you.

39

40 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Okay. While we have  
41 Geoff and Dave and Brian here, I commented to Eva about  
42 muskox and the Muskox Working Group that you had  
43 discussed muskox before. Is that group still in  
44 existence or is it that we don't have any more muskox  
45 on the North Slope that it's not needed anymore? I  
46 asked the question because there's other community  
47 members that have asked about muskox, what can we do  
48 about muskox or are we legal to take them. I guess  
49 there's just been no communications to answer the  
50 questions in terms of whether they've been taken out of

1 the books forever or what's happening.

2

3 MR. CARROLL: It was a muskox harvest  
4 working group and once the population declined so far  
5 that we didn't have harvest anymore on the North Slope  
6 I guess there hasn't been a reason to reconvene the  
7 group. Gosh, it's probably been 10 years since the  
8 North Slope Muskox Working Group has gotten together.  
9 Yeah, it just sort of faded out.

10

11 There's an active Seward Peninsula  
12 Muskox Working Group, but our little group up here just  
13 -- yeah. Once there weren't any more animals to --  
14 once there wasn't a legal harvest, then the working  
15 group kind of disbanded.

16

17 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Geoff.

18

19 Brian.

20

21 MS. LENART: Mr. Chair. This is Beth  
22 Lenart from Fish and Game and I'd like to comment on  
23 that also.

24

25 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yes, Beth, go ahead.  
26 Sorry, Brian.

27

28 MS. LENART: Last spring I presented  
29 some updates on what was going on with the Unit 26B  
30 muskox and tried to update folks on one of the concerns  
31 about what we were going to do with muskox or when we  
32 would be able to open a season again. As Geoff  
33 mentioned, the population is still down and around 200  
34 muskox. From the Advisory Committee and the RAC, we  
35 did come up with a population number that we were  
36 shooting for so that we could reopen muskox hunts if  
37 they ever got to that number and that number is 300  
38 muskoxen.

39

40 When I talked to the RAC last spring,  
41 we talked about if we got closer to that number, then  
42 we would want to reform that muskox working group to  
43 talk about different harvest strategies and what folks  
44 kind of wanted to do from there. So right now we're  
45 not near that number, but we haven't, you know,  
46 completely left out people from making those decisions  
47 once we get, if we even ever get closer to that number.  
48 So that's kind of what we were thinking at the time  
49 anyway.

50

1 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Beth, for  
2 that information.  
3  
4 MS. LENART: You're welcome.  
5  
6 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: I appreciate that  
7 update. This is something our family did get to  
8 partake in, harvesting of muskoxen, the traditional  
9 usage of the animal as well as the sharing that  
10 occurred, as well as the craftmaking that occurred, the  
11 collection of the Qiviut and sharing of that is very  
12 important to many of our traditional ways. It is  
13 important to keep our communities informed as to the  
14 progress of that, so if we can plan to make sure we get  
15 routine communications on it, it is important to do.  
16  
17 Thank you.  
18  
19 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Rosemary.  
20  
21 I'll give the floor to Brian.  
22  
23 MR. GLASPELL: Good afternoon. I just  
24 wanted to take a quick moment and introduce myself and  
25 let you know that Arctic Refuge has been here the last  
26 couple days listening and if you have any questions or  
27 follow-up items, you're welcome to contact me or  
28 anybody on my staff. My name is Brian Glaspell. I'm  
29 the Refuge Manager at Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.  
30 I've just been there since April, so I'm new to Refuge  
31 and new to the area, but not new to Alaska. Also  
32 representing the Refuge is Vince Mathews, who you are  
33 all familiar with.  
34  
35 Thank you.  
36  
37 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Brian.  
38  
39 MR. MATHEWS: Harry.  
40  
41 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yes, Vince.  
42  
43 MR. MATHEWS: Just real quick. If you  
44 look at that report, see if that meets your needs.  
45 Then maybe we need to look at having that report more  
46 available at your next meeting when you don't have so  
47 many action items. So in your free time, which I know  
48 you don't have much, convey to Eva if this is something  
49 you'd like, this pattern continued maybe a little bit  
50 better, and then that we would maybe have more

1 discussions at your winter meeting. If I remember  
2 correctly, you don't have as many action items. So let  
3 Eva know because it's difficult -- right now we have  
4 staff out in the field and throughout summer. To put  
5 this report together was a bit of effort.

6

7 Thank you.

8

9 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Vincent.

10

11 MR. EDWARDSSEN: Welcome to the Arctic.

12

13 (Laughter)

14

15 CHAIRMAN BROWER: I'm drawing a blank.  
16 I'm trying to review the handout.

17

18 MS. PATTON: The OSM update is really  
19 brief. David was going to give a really brief update  
20 and then completion of the meeting.

21

22 CHAIRMAN BROWER: So we're going back  
23 to OSM?

24

25 MS. PATTON: Yes, and it's very brief.

26

27 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Okay. Thank you.

28

29 David.

30

31 DR. JENKINS: Mr. Chair. Very briefly,  
32 let me give you a couple of updates. A budget update.  
33 Let me point out to you that our budget continues to  
34 decline and our staffing declines. Since 2001 we've  
35 had about a 40 percent reduction in Staff and about a  
36 \$2.7 million reduction in our budget. The budget will  
37 remain flat in the near future or continue to decrease.  
38 It's hard to predict, but you should be aware that the  
39 impacts are travel and your ability to travel. One of  
40 the reasons that we've seen so few OSM Staff here at  
41 this meeting is that our travel has been severely  
42 curtailed. We're not happy with that, you're not happy  
43 with that, but we're living within our sequestration  
44 and budgetary limits.

45

46 Staffing updates. We do have a new  
47 Assistant Regional Director. Gene Peltola arrived a  
48 week ago. He's been selected to be the new ARD. He  
49 most recently served as the Refuge Manager for the  
50 Yukon Delta National Wildlife Refuge in Bethel, where

1 he was the manager for five years, I think, and he's  
2 been with Fish and Wildlife for nearly 30 years.

3  
4 We have a new social scientist, Jeff  
5 Brooks, who has come onboard about six months ago and a  
6 new permit specialist. As you know, Helen Armstrong  
7 retired and she worked with this Council for probably  
8 20 years. A long time. At this point, we do not -- to  
9 fill behind people who have retired, we need to file a  
10 waiver request in our office and that waiver request  
11 has not been granted. So at this point Helen's  
12 position as the supervisor anthropologist at OSM is not  
13 going to be filled. I don't know how long that will  
14 stay in that status, but at this point we do not have a  
15 supervisor anthropologist waiver for that position.

16  
17 CHAIRMAN BROWER: A question. What  
18 will it take to get that waiver put aside to see about  
19 filling the position?

20  
21 DR. JENKINS: Well.....

22  
23 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Am I reading the  
24 message wrong?

25  
26 DR. JENKINS: No, you're not. OSM has  
27 been granted two waivers to fill two positions. One is  
28 the fisheries chief and the other is a fisheries  
29 biologist. We have many vacancies in OSM. We  
30 requested a waiver for the chief of the Anthropology  
31 Division and it was not granted. So Fish and Wildlife  
32 is dealing with its general budget issues. And your  
33 question is, well, how can you, as a Council, address  
34 that. It's certainly within your rights to send a  
35 letter, make a recommendation, suggest if you think  
36 that anthropology is an important component of what we  
37 do, that this is a position that should be filled. Any  
38 of those actions you can take.

39  
40 I think at this point the Director of  
41 Fish and Wildlife in Alaska is the official where that  
42 waiver stops. It used to be that the Director of Fish  
43 and Wildlife nationally that all waivers went up to  
44 that office, but I believe -- I may be wrong, but I  
45 believe they are.....

46  
47 MR. EDWARDSSEN: Regionalized?

48  
49 DR. JENKINS: Well, they may stop at  
50 the regional level, but they may also be forwarded by



1 the region up to the national level at this point. I'm  
2 uncertain of where that status is.

3

4 If that helps answer your question, Mr.  
5 Chair.

6

7 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you.

8

9 DR. JENKINS: Steve Fried retired. He  
10 was chief of the Fisheries Division and Andrea Medeiros  
11 is moving on to another position. You received a  
12 tribal update from Jack and then, as you know, the  
13 regulatory cycle for wildlife is changing, so the  
14 Federal Subsistence Board will be meeting not in  
15 January but in April to discuss the wildlife issues  
16 that you've been talking about.

17

18 So that was very quick.

19

20 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you.

21

22 DR. JENKINS: While I'm sitting here,  
23 let me briefly mention again the FRMP issue that you  
24 were concerned with in particular, Mr. Shears. In the  
25 Northern Region, we only received five proposals total.  
26 Those proposals were based on information needs, some  
27 of which were priorities from this Council. Only two  
28 of those proposals for funding were about North Slope  
29 issues. The Technical Review Committee forwarded one  
30 for funding and recommended not to fund the other  
31 proposal. You can find those summaries of those in  
32 your Council books. So you can get the information  
33 that's in there and you can see what that process was  
34 like.

35

36 So it wasn't that your priorities were  
37 being ignored at all, it's that we're limited by the  
38 number of proposals that we receive and scientific  
39 organizations like the one you mentioned earlier, Mr.  
40 Shears, could certainly put in proposals for funding  
41 from our office and in that way participate in making  
42 sure your regional issues are addressed.

43

44 MR. SHEARS: Thank you.

45

46 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you.

47

48 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: Mr. Chair.

49

50 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Rosemary.

1 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: We did have some  
2 discussion about these concerns and changes that have  
3 happened. The responsibility of our process is so very  
4 important that it is necessary to take our issues to  
5 bat on the reality of these funding changes. The  
6 effectiveness of our engagement is greatly hindered and  
7 I think we have demonstrated effectively in this  
8 meeting process how some of these changes were not  
9 being provided information that was -- could contribute  
10 to the way that we're assessing information and making  
11 our decisions.

12  
13 The changes for staffing, it is very  
14 important to recognize that we do have a lot of  
15 resources available with Staff in their additional  
16 educational opportunities, but if they are not allowed  
17 to utilize their skills more effectively because they  
18 have labels and positions that prevent them from  
19 utilizing their skills, it's not a resource that's  
20 effective for our utilization. We need to have people  
21 that can get out into our areas to help fully assess  
22 the information and give us information back.

23  
24 When you have only one person, an  
25 anthropologist to deal with the State, and we have  
26 meetings that are going back to back or at the same  
27 time, you can't participate effectively in all of these  
28 ways of having meetings. We have had people that can  
29 contribute communications, but they're doing so within  
30 fragmentation of the process and it isn't something  
31 that we can accept.

32  
33 We have to get some better process for  
34 funding. We have to recognize the responsibility that  
35 we have and we have to recognize that the fragmentation  
36 of our process is preventing us from fully effectively  
37 working with the issues before us. We need our process  
38 at a higher level that allows us to interact with all  
39 of the various agencies and interactions that can  
40 effectively allow us to address the tribal subsistence  
41 concerns.

42  
43 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Rosemary.

44  
45 Any other comments.

46  
47 (No comments)

48  
49 CHAIRMAN BROWER: None. Thank you,  
50 Rosemary. I'm not trying to put that aside, but I

1 think that we could direct Staff to help generate a  
2 letter in regards to filling the anthropologist  
3 position to help with our needs on the North Slope  
4 Regional Advisory Council and work from there on. I  
5 think that's the way forward to have a letter to  
6 identify the position.

7  
8 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: Yes, I agree with  
9 getting a letter. I think that there should be a  
10 process on the staffing process as well as the budget  
11 process. I think they're both very important in having  
12 letters towards both issues are very important.

13  
14 Thank you.

15  
16 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you.

17  
18 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair. If I could,  
19 just to help clarify the direction of the letter.

20  
21 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yes, Eva.

22  
23 MS. PATTON: Who you would like the  
24 letter addressed to and.....

25  
26 MR. EDWARDSSEN: Department of Interior.

27  
28 MS. PATTON: .....both the staffing and  
29 the budget information.

30  
31 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Regional director and  
32 the Secretary of Interior. Including the Board as  
33 well. I'm getting a nod from Tina.

34  
35 (Laughter)

36  
37 CHAIRMAN BROWER: I think that letter  
38 should be directed to the higher levels, Secretary of  
39 Interior and the Regional Director and the Federal  
40 Subsistence Board as well to hear the concern. I think  
41 this is something that we could also identify in  
42 regards to our -- what was I reading earlier, the  
43 annual report. Identify issues to be included in the  
44 annual report. I think that's the next agenda item.  
45 This could be one I guess we could start with.

46  
47 It's agenda item 10(h), identify annual  
48 report topics. We've identified the funding and the  
49 need for an anthropologist for -- and I look to the  
50 Council to see what other items you would like to

1 identify to be included in the annual report. I'm  
2 trying to recall what Gordon was indicating or that we  
3 missed from the -- or it was still in the works, that  
4 we had not completed the task yet. I think that's what  
5 we needed to.....

6

7 MS. PATTON: Sure, Mr. Chair. Those  
8 items that were identified by the Council over the  
9 course of this meeting will also be included in the  
10 annual report reply and I'll check back in with the  
11 Council to concur. He had asked for an analysis on the  
12 C&T and the Council also wanted to follow through on  
13 the Road to Umiat information.

14

15 So those topics that have been  
16 identified by the Council over the course of the past  
17 couple days as key and important will be included also  
18 and I'll check back in with the Council on that. So  
19 additional topics that you would you could mention.

20

21 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you. Just  
22 before we go any further I'd just like to acknowledge a  
23 thank you to Mr. Edwardsen for taking the time and  
24 having a presence here. (Door closes) I guess he's  
25 having a little hard time hearing at this moment.

26

27 (Laughter)

28

29 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Anyhow, I'll catch up  
30 with him again and thank him for being here with us.  
31 Let me ask the Council again if there's any other topic  
32 that you'd like to have included in our annual report  
33 to the Federal Subsistence Board Chair.

34

35 MR. FRANKSON: Mr. Chair,

36

37 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yes, Teddy.

38

39 MR. FRANKSON: I was informed by a  
40 private source that we can have other places to look  
41 for for money to provide some of these services so we  
42 can do some of these studies, but it's not from the  
43 Federal government, but from private places that we can  
44 look into. I do have some names, but I can't recall  
45 them offhand, but I will get them when I get home so I  
46 can find out where some of these -- I think NOA might  
47 be one of them. So we could look there to provide  
48 money so we can have some of the services that we need,  
49 such as an anthropologist, which I think we need one of  
50 those to provide us and then proof that we do use these

1 resources for a long time and have evidence of it. So  
2 that could help us and determine whether or not we're  
3 just talking through our teeth and not lying. Say that  
4 we're speaking the truth here.

5

6 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Teddy. So  
7 if you could share that information, we'll definitely  
8 look into the matter. Maybe working with Eva as well.  
9 Being our regional coordinator, she could help and  
10 direct us with the communications.

11

12 Robert.

13

14 MR. SHEARS: Mr. Chair. In regards to  
15 the annual report to the Federal Board, what position  
16 are we going to take on the rural determination process  
17 review? And we acknowledge that it requires re-working  
18 the customary and traditional description before we can  
19 accurately appraise it, right. C&T analysis.

20

21 CHAIRMAN BROWER: An analysis to be  
22 done on it in regards to your comment, right?

23

24 MR. SHEARS: Uh-huh.

25

26 CHAIRMAN BROWER: So I think that's  
27 what we're communicating. We'll have it on record.  
28 We'll just make sure it's reflecting the concern that  
29 is being discussed.

30

31 MR. SHEARS: Yeah.

32

33 CHAIRMAN BROWER: I think I made a  
34 comment earlier. Robert, you might have stepped out  
35 during that time regarding the C&T. No, it wasn't the  
36 C&T. The rural determination.....

37

38 MR. SHEARS: Rural determination.

39

40 CHAIRMAN BROWER: .....that we would  
41 like to table it until a later time to at least  
42 communicate more with our constituents to hear their  
43 input on a way forward. They may have some other ideas  
44 that we're not appraised of at this time. We had the  
45 presentation from Mr. Pederson yesterday. I mean that  
46 was a very well detailed presentation in regards to the  
47 level of input that was generated for the response for  
48 comments on that rural determination process. So  
49 that's something that I'm not sure about even our  
50 tribal members have.....

1 MR. SHEARS: As a consensus, do we  
2 agree that the current rural determination process is  
3 not adequate and that we need more information to  
4 define it?

5  
6 CHAIRMAN BROWER: You have to look to  
7 the Council.

8  
9 MR. SHEARS: I think I got a nod from  
10 Teddy.

11  
12 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: We definitely have a  
13 lot of concern around the issues and that we need to  
14 have better input into the process as well as some  
15 assessment of the information that's being received  
16 from the various areas that could help us in our  
17 decision-making process. I don't want to push forward  
18 with this at all right now. I think we really need to  
19 be cautious in the process and the approach we  
20 recommended is where we want to go with it.

21  
22 I did want to add that in the report  
23 the multi-layered approach to management of our issues  
24 is something that needs to be assessed and reported  
25 upon as part of our process to make sure that we're  
26 looking at ways to be more effective in this process  
27 and not have the inability to address the concerns when  
28 we are dealing with our Federal subsistence issues.

29  
30 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you. I'm not  
31 sure if we have any more items to identify into the  
32 annual report topics, but we could also think about the  
33 next agenda items, future meeting dates. Confirm dates  
34 and location of winter meeting 2014. Item B is select  
35 date and location for fall meeting 2014.

36  
37 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair. In your  
38 meeting books, you'll see on Page 160 is the winter  
39 meeting dates. The North Slope Regional Advisory  
40 Council had tentatively selected February 12th and  
41 February 13th, Wednesday and Thursday, for the winter  
42 meeting dates.

43  
44 CHAIRMAN BROWER: I may have a conflict  
45 on those dates because of the other hat I wear in the  
46 community being the commissioner for the Alaska Eskimo  
47 Whaling Commission. I think that's about the timeframe  
48 of holding our annual mini convention. I'm not going to  
49 say not to hold the meeting. I think the meeting can  
50 continue and happen within those dates. I personally

1 may have time constraints or a conflict with the dates,  
2 but I'm not going to say not to hold the meeting on  
3 those dates. The more the merrier in Barrow.

4  
5 (Laughter)

6  
7 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: Eva, we did have  
8 discussion to consider the meeting in a village. I  
9 think we should bring that back into consideration  
10 because we weren't able to do so at the previous  
11 process. These issues that we have been discussing are  
12 very important to some of our villages and if we can  
13 bring this process into the villages we'll have a  
14 better presence of those that are living with the  
15 reactions to these decisions. If we can do that, I  
16 think we should consider that.

17  
18 CHAIRMAN BROWER: With the sequester in  
19 place, I don't know what.....

20  
21 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: No, but we have to  
22 put the request in.

23  
24 CHAIRMAN BROWER: We can continue to  
25 try. I was just trying to think in terms of why we  
26 couldn't hold it the last round. Bob.

27  
28 MR. SHEARS: If we were to consider a  
29 village, of all villages, because of their lack of  
30 representation here, I would recommend Nuiqsut.

31  
32 MR. FRANKSON: I believe last year I  
33 think we picked Kaktovik to go to.

34  
35 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: That's what I was  
36 thinking. We did have Kaktovik.

37  
38 MR. FRANKSON: I thought it was going  
39 to be this year. I thought it was going to be for this  
40 meeting, but I guess it's for the next meeting.

41  
42 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: Also with the issues  
43 that are going on with Anaktuvuk Pass and the road to  
44 resources, that's also another location that's  
45 important to consider. I think that the last time,  
46 because we were dealing with the sheep issue and that  
47 was pertinent to Kaktovik, that was part of the reason  
48 why we were encouraging the process to occur in  
49 Kaktovik. With the process of scheduling the proposals  
50 that we're going to be dealing with at the next meeting

1 I think we can work with that and see what the response  
2 is as to where we can make this happen. If not, we can  
3 still come back to Barrow. But I encourage considering  
4 the village if we can do so. Eva, we would be working  
5 towards this.

6

7 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Eva. I was just  
8 looking at you. You've got your light on for the mic.

9

10 MS. PATTON: Sorry.

11

12 CHAIRMAN BROWER: I was just trying to  
13 think back. I'm sorry if I overlooked it, but was  
14 Marcy supposed to provide any kind of information or  
15 was she just having a presence in case there was some  
16 questions to be asked that she may be able to respond  
17 to?

18

19 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair. Yes, Marcy had  
20 provided written materials, general updates from the  
21 Park Service in your meeting book. She would have  
22 provided a general overview verbally of those National  
23 Park Service updates if there was time. When I spoke  
24 with her on the phone, she said those materials are  
25 there. To highlight some of the things, there's a  
26 notice on -- you know, the Road to Ambler is in there.  
27 She wanted to make sure the Council did see that and if  
28 there were any questions on it, there's no timeframe on  
29 that for any feedback or comment. It's just a notice  
30 that she is available for questions.

31

32 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you. Like I  
33 said, the name just keeps coming back in my mind and  
34 wasn't sure if I had an oversight in progressing  
35 forward with our agenda items. So I was just making  
36 sure I didn't sidestep and continued with our agenda.

37

38 Maybe at this time I'd just like to  
39 thank all the participants that were participating  
40 through the teleconference to be spending the amount of  
41 time that you've spent with us for the past couple  
42 days. Even though we can't see you, you're invisible  
43 to us right now, but thank you for taking the time.

44

45 In regards to our participants here as  
46 well in our meeting, thank you all for taking the time  
47 and taking time away from your busy schedules to be  
48 here with us. I don't want to oversight that, but I'm  
49 still looking at confirming the date for our winter  
50 meeting. Is that something that we want to look at.



1                   Another thing I was wanting to mention,  
2 I had received a complaint about subsistence hunters up  
3 in the Ikpihpuk and the Chipp River about research  
4 happening near the Chipp River, causing disturbance to  
5 resources, our caribou, and making them unavailable  
6 being so close to the river. I made mention with  
7 Dr. Yokel on this, a little bit of it, and shared with  
8 him the complaint.

9  
10                   The person is a little bit upset. They  
11 spent a lot of money to go conduct their subsistence  
12 activities, but there's this research happening out  
13 there near the lakes and flying aircraft. I'm not sure  
14 if it's both helicopter and amphibious aircraft. She's  
15 complaining that if there's something that could be  
16 done about stopping that research or moving it,  
17 shutting it down while subsistence activities are  
18 occurring, it would be greatly appreciated. I wasn't  
19 sure how.....

20  
21                   MR. SHEARS: I read that letter and it  
22 lacks the necessary information to act on it.

23  
24                   CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yes.

25  
26                   MR. SHEARS: You need a tail number.  
27 If it's an aircraft related problem, we need some  
28 identification of the source, otherwise it could be  
29 anybody in the world.

30  
31                   CHAIRMAN BROWER: It's in a given area  
32 on the Chipp River, so it's something that could be  
33 noted, but without the aircraft numbers or any of that,  
34 it's a little bit -- the only thing that it could be is  
35 identify the research project that is happening within  
36 this area.

37  
38                   Thank you, Rosemary, for bringing that  
39 up. Are you all comfortable with the dates that are  
40 identified for the winter meeting.

41  
42                   MS. AHTUANGARUAK: Yes. I encourage  
43 you to make sure you communicate with us before you go  
44 to your other meeting if you have issues related to  
45 that agenda.

46  
47                   CHAIRMAN BROWER: I just seen the email  
48 this afternoon when I went driving over to my office at  
49 the lunch hour. They're looking to confirm the date  
50 for our winter meeting with our Alaska Eskimo Whaling

1 Commission and I seen those dates, February 11 through  
2 14.

3

4 I think there's another question  
5 regarding to extend it for another day, onto Saturday,  
6 and I didn't even reply. I'll get back with you later.  
7 So as to the Council, are we happy with the February 12  
8 and 13 dates.

9

10 MR. FRANKSON: If it doesn't interfere  
11 with you being there, because.....

12

13 CHAIRMAN BROWER: There's a vice chair.

14

15 MR. FRANKSON: ....I'd like to have you  
16 sitting here with us.

17

18 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Teddy.  
19 And then the other date was select a location for the  
20 fall 2014.

21

22 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: Before we leave the  
23 letter I'd like to make sure that we respond to the  
24 writer of what we need in every report to help us  
25 better assess the concerns that she's putting forth,  
26 making sure she gets the documentation. That we want  
27 to get the tail number of the plane, the date and time  
28 of what's happening in the area, where it's happening,  
29 so that we can look into it better.

30

31 It is important to make sure that we're  
32 giving these people a response and if there's a way  
33 that we can amplify where to connect these concerns  
34 with to try to effect some change would be helpful.

35

36 Thank you.

37

38 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you. Any  
39 dates selected for the -- do we have another calendar  
40 for the fall season, Eva, or is it just.....

41

42 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair. We have a  
43 calendar in your book for the winter season. The fall  
44 season dates were not constructed yet. In working with  
45 our communications outreach folks, the window that was  
46 established for the meeting cycle based on the  
47 recommendations of the Council because of when  
48 subsistence hunting and fishing occurs, the meeting  
49 cycle begins in the second week in August. So that's  
50 within the timeframe of the Office of Subsistence

1 Management and the Board being able to consider the  
2 RACs. We can look at the second week of August or the  
3 third week of August and then we're open up until the  
4 second week of October. I know it's a long ways to  
5 schedule out, but, again, similar to this meeting  
6 occurring on August 20th and 21st, that's the beginning  
7 of the opening of the window.

8

9 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Does the Council have  
10 any problem to retain the dates that we have already  
11 identified for this meeting.

12

13 MR. SHEARS: Sounds good.

14

15 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: I think that is a  
16 good timing with the reality of what we have for us we  
17 need to consider it early in the cycle so that week of  
18 August 18th would be a good time to consider. Looking  
19 at the availability for flights for Teddy and the  
20 reality of that, working with Eva and choosing the  
21 dates in that week would be appropriate.

22

23 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you.

24

25 Eva.

26

27 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair. If I may,  
28 because of the flight restrictions, the earliest we can  
29 meet in the week and get Council members here is  
30 Tuesday and then we're open Wednesday, Thursday as  
31 well.

32

33 Thank you.

34

35 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Closing comments.

36 Thank you.

37

38 (Laughter)

39

40 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council.  
41 Again, the Council had received the annual report  
42 reply. Again, just at the beginning of the meeting,  
43 since that reply came back from the Board, please do  
44 take the time to review it so that if you have any  
45 questions and responses that we're able to follow up on  
46 that for you.

47

48 CHAIRMAN BROWER: I think we can  
49 communicate via email.....

50

1 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: Uh-huh.  
2  
3 CHAIRMAN BROWER: .....to you, Eva, and  
4 see where we are with that. With the conscience I have  
5 to tell the truth, I haven't even looked at it.  
6  
7 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: Just give us a  
8 follow-up email to remind us.  
9  
10 MS. PATTON: Sure. You bet.  
11  
12 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: I know I looked at  
13 it a little bit, but I need the reminder to make sure I  
14 get a reply to you.  
15  
16 CHAIRMAN BROWER: 13, adjournment.  
17  
18 MR. SHEARS: Mr. Chair.  
19  
20 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yes, sir.  
21  
22 MR. SHEARS: Motion to adjourn.  
23  
24 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Motion on the floor.  
25  
26 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: Seconded.  
27  
28 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Seconded the motion.  
29 Discussion.  
30  
31 (No comments)  
32  
33 CHAIRMAN BROWER: No discussion. The  
34 question has been called. All in favor of adjourning  
35 signify by saying hello.  
36  
37 IN UNISON: Hello.  
38  
39 (Laughter)  
40  
41 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: I'm awake. I heard  
42 that.  
43  
44 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Adjourned.  
45  
46 (Off record)  
47  
48 (END OF PROCEEDINGS)

1  
2  
3  
4  
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C E R T I F I C A T E

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA                    )  
  )ss.  
STATE OF ALASKA                                )

I, Salena A. Hile, Notary Public, State of  
Alaska and reporter for Computer Matrix Court  
Reporters, LLC do hereby certify:

THAT the foregoing pages numbered 139 through  
290 contain a full, true and correct Transcript of the  
NORTH SLOPE FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE REGIONAL ADVISORY  
COUNCIL MEETING, VOLUME II taken electronically by  
Computer Matrix Court Reporters on the 21st day of  
August 2013 at Barrow, Alaska;

THAT the transcript is a true and correct  
transcript requested to be transcribed and thereafter  
transcribed under my direction and reduced to print to  
the best of our knowledge and ability;

THAT I am not an employee, attorney, or party  
interested in any way in this action.

DATED at Anchorage, Alaska, this 2nd day of  
September 2013.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Salena A. Hile  
Notary Public, State of Alaska  
My Commission Expires: 9/16/14