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NORTH SLOPE SUBSISTENCE REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL
PUBLIC MEETING
February 17, 1995
North Slope Borough Assembly Room
Barrow, Alaska

VOLUME II

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

Edward Itta, Acting Chair
Fenton O. Rexford, Chairman (By Teleconference)
Harry K. Brower, Jr., Secretary
Terry Tagarook, Member
Gordon Upickson, Member
Jim A. Aveoganna, Sr., Member
Ray F. Koonuk, Sr., Member
Frank K. Long, Jr., Member
Jakie T. Koonuk, Member

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Barbara Armstrong, Coordinator

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CHAIRMAN ITTA: Call the meeting to order. The continuation of the North Slope Subsistence Regional Advisory Council meeting here in the North Slope Borough Assembly Room. Today, February 17th. The time is 9:22 a.m. Do we have anybody else on line? Just

MR. BROWER: Just Fenton.

MS. B. ARMSTRONG: I think just Fenton.

CHAIRMAN ITTA: Okay. All right, Fenton. We have -- for your information, we have Jake Koonuk, Frank Long, Jr., Ray Koonuk, myself, Edward Itta, Harry Brower, Jr., Jim Aveoganna, Terry Tagarook, Gordon Upickson; and on our staff we have Bill Knaauer, Steve Kovach, and Helen Armstrong; Barbara, the unrelated Armstrong, is here also. And we have some of our agency people with us, Fenton, and also Mike Pederson from Arctic Slope Native Association.

Fenton, we missed you last night. We even deferred a couple of subjects until you were on line, one of which is the musk ox draft agreement that Geoff Carroll from ADF&G presented today, and we deferred that, and also went ahead and deferred item 6-A-4, the musk ox update by Steve until you were on line. So we'll be getting into those. Where we are -- do you have a copy of the agenda, by the way?

MR. REXFORD: I do.

CHAIRMAN ITTA: Okay. You might want to add on on the agenda that under 7, between B and C is the petition from the Northwest Arctic Regional Council, that Bill I think is going to be presenting, is that correct? Yeah. And this morning -- last night we had stopped at the customary and traditional use update which was presented by Helen Armstrong, and we're now at 6C.

But prior to getting into that, I want to make some time here for Harry Brower, Jr., here from the North Slope Borough -- who works with the North Slope Borough Wildlife Department, to give us an update on the harvest monitoring program, if you could, Harry?

MR. BROWER: Okay, Edward. We've gotten five people hired for the communities on the North Slope. We've gotten Earl Kingik from Point Hope, Frances Hobson from Wainwright, Elis Patkotak from Barrow, Archie Brower from Kaktovik. Let

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we see who else that we've got. Anyway, we've got five identified for now, and we've got two more villages that we're working on. We just submitted our evaluations to Personnel, and then they'll be reviewing our evaluations and they'll send the letters to the person that -- the people that we identify for the other two communities, Nuiqsut and -- not Wainwright. Atkasuk. So that's on the hiring for the subsistence specialist for each of the communities.

9

10 We're planning a workshop for March. It should be from the 22nd or from the 23rd here in Barrow to go over the field manual with the subsistence specialists. Saverre Pederson and Geoff Carroll's been helping us with the -- also Mike Pederson from ASNA has been helping us with the field manual, and Saverre and Geoff are helping us with the workshop that we're going to be doing in March.

17

18 We're, you know, in the process of reviewing our field manual. It's still in the draft form, but we're still making changes to it.

21

22 That's all I've got for now.

23

24 CHAIRMAN ITTA: Uh-huh. Do you want to go ahead and get up to -- I guess we'll have our speaker chair will be over there. We need you to identify yourself?

27

28 MR. ULVI: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, Steve Ulvi with Dates of the Arctic National Park. I just had a question for Harry.

31

32 MR. BROWER: Sure.

33

34 MR. ULVI: Harry, how will it be decided what species you're going to concentrate on with the harvest monitoring?

36

37 MR. BROWER: We've -- we're separated, you know, for the seasons, the four seasons, we're going to be working under those four seasons, and what's being harvested during those seasons is what we're going to be working.

41

42 MR. ULVI: Everything?

43

44 MR. BROWER: Yes. We originally started with only two species at a time, but when we did our introduction to the Fish and Game Management Committee, there were some suggestions that we should work with the species that are being harvested at those times, so that's probably the way we're going to be collecting information.

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1
2 MR. ULVI: Thank you.
3
4 CHAIRMAN ITTA: Any more questions for Harry? Frank?
5
6 MR. LONG: Yeah. Could we -- could the communities
7 somehow have a list of your people so that if in case anyone in
8 our community has some information that you would need, we'd be
9 able to send it?
10
11 MR. BROWER: We're going to -- we'll have the list of
12 people and we'll be going into the villages for informing the
13 community. I've attended two city council meetings so far, to
14 inform the Council members, citizens of the community, and get
15 you know, get their support and begin the documentation
16 process. We'll be doing that.
17
18 MR. R. KOONUK: Mr. Chairman?
19
20 CHAIRMAN ITTA: Ray?
21
22 MR. R. KOONUK: Yeah, all the samples you're going to
23 collect, is that what you're going to do? Collect

24
25 MR. BROWER: Not samples. It's harvest information
26 generally.
27
28 MR. R. KOONUK: Harvest. Oh, just harvest information?
29
30 MR. BROWER: And harvest areas, and identifying our
31 harvest areas and that type information is what we're going to
32 be collecting.
33
34 MR. R. KOONUK: You're not going to collect any kind of
35 samples to analyze?
36
37 MR. BROWER: We're not -- we're not planning to collect
38 any samples. We're just going to be trying to document what's
39 being harvested throughout the seasons is what the project's
40 involved.
41
42 CHAIRMAN ITTA: Helen?
43
44 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Harry, how are you going to handle
45 narrow? Are you going to try to do just a -- or just sample
46 just a certain portion of the population or

47
48 MR. BROWER: Well, we're planning to try and identify
49 the active hunters, and, you know, interview them on -- during
50

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the survey period, so I don't think we'll be able to complete doing Barrow as a whole, since it -- 'cause it's -- since -- being such -- the largest community. We'll probably just target the active hunters, and then go and work from there.

5

6 MR. UPICKSON: Mr. Chairman?

7

8 CHAIRMAN ITTA: Gordon?

9

10 MR. UPICKSON: I guess a question for Harry. Harry, the data that you gather, who will have access to it?

12

13 MR. BROWER: There's going to be some areas where the information -- some information will be confidential, but the harvest numbers and that we'll be making available to like the Federal agencies, the State.

17

18 MR. UPICKSON: Okay.

19

20 CHAIRMAN ITTA: Jake?

21

22 MR. J. KOONUK: Is this a one-time thing, or are you going to keep doing it year after year?

24

25 MR. BROWER: We're starting it off as a project now, but then, you know, it depends on what kind of funding that we get from the Assembly, and if it's -- if they keep funding it, we'll keep going, and eventually -- or hopefully we'll turn -- change it into a program, keep it on-going.

30

31 MR. R. KOONUK: Mr. Chairman?

32

33 CHAIRMAN ITTA: Uh-huh. Ray?

34

35 MR. R. KOONUK: I would like to see a sampling program go along with this harvest, because there's all kind of, you know, contaminants out there, radiation fall out, stuff like that, that, you know, has affected our caribou. You know, who knows what kind of animals out there also have it, you know, because it's passed on, you know, when even a wolf or brown bear that eat the caribou, they get affected, too. And I'd like, you know, to see -- give us a sampling program where you could analyze what kind of contaminants they have, if that's possible.

45

46 CHAIRMAN ITTA: Maybe I can answer that, Harry.

47

48 MR. BROWER: Yeah, go ahead.

49

50

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1 CHAIRMAN ITTA: And have you comment. Ray, and correct
 2 me if I'm wrong, maybe you can talk a little bit if you know
 3 about it, about your little bit of a sampling program that you
 4 had on-going with some sea animals and what not. Maybe that
 5 fits under that program?

6
 7 MR. BROWER: This program we're starting, the project
 8 that we've started, it's a harvest documentation project.
 9 That's all we're -- that's where we're going to focus on, just
 10 collecting harvest information. As to collecting contaminants,
 11 we haven't had any -- where -- or any ideas as to how we're
 12 going to do that, but the North Slope Borough Wildlife
 13 Department is involved in that, so, you know, if you have some
 14 samples that need to be tested or analyzed, you could probably
 15 work with our department, Wildlife Management Department.

16
 17 MR. R. KOONUK: Mr. Chair?

18
 19 CHAIRMAN ITTA: Okay, Ray?

20
 21 MR. R. KOONUK: Would it be -- you know, if we send in
 22 the samples, would you hold confidential information like the
 23 harvest information you're going to hold? You said you would
 24 hold information that's confidential,

25
 26 MR. BROWER: The

27
 28 MR. R. KOONUK: and if we do send samples, would
 29 you guys hold confidential information once you find out
 30 what's

31
 32 MR. BROWER: Ray, let me get some part of this straight
 33 now. The part of the confidential information that we're going
 34 to be holding back is the household numbers and the household
 35 individuals inside the survey that we're doing. There's going
 36 to be a household list and, you know, there's going to be a lot
 37 of names given, birth dates and stuff like that. That's the
 38 part that we're going to be keeping

39
 40 MR. R. KOONUK: Oh, okay.

41
 42 MR. BROWER: confidential. As to the harvest
 43 numbers, that's what we want to get a general idea and keep
 44 that, you know, open for information purposes. We will have
 45 some control over the information, but I'm not really certain
 46 how much of that harvest information we could keep
 47 confidential. I'm hoping that we'll be using that for, you
 48 know, general information to like the Federal agencies, or like
 49 the State, Alaska Department of Fish & Game for harvest

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1 information.

2

3 MR. R. KOONUK: Thank you.

4

5 CHAIRMAN ITTA: Okay. Ray. Frank?

6

7 MR. LONG: Yeah. Speaking on confidential

8

9 CHAIRMAN ITTA: Excuse me. We have Fenton on the
10 phone. You have to speak up, make sure he speaks you. Speak
11 louder.

12

13 MR. REXFORD: Okay.

14

15 MR. LONG: Speaking on confidentiality, let me say
16 something in our own language. (In Inupiat) This is not
17 really confidential, but this has got to be heard in reference
18 to what Ray is saying here. (In Inupiat) Regardless if it's
19 the land or sea animal.

20

21 MR. BROWER: (In Inupiat)

22

23 CHAIRMAN ITTA: (In Inupiat)

24

25 MR. BROWER: (In Inupiat)

26

27 CHAIRMAN ITTA: Okay. Jim Aveoganna?

28

29 MR. AVEOGANNA: (In Inupiat)

30

31 CHAIRMAN ITTA: (In Inupiat) Right?

32

33 MR. BROWER: Uh-huh.

34

35 CHAIRMAN ITTA: You said you had gone to two villages.
36 Which two, and

37

38 MR. BROWER: Kaktovik and Barrow is where we -- I
39 attended the city council meetings.

40

41 CHAIRMAN ITTA: Okay. Are you going to notify the IRA
42 councils also?

43

44 MR. BROWER: We're planning to, yeah.

45

46 CHAIRMAN ITTA: Okay. All right.

47

48 MR. BROWER: Edward, we're always -- we're going to
49 come back, you know, after doing the surveys to inform the

50

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community as to what kind of information that we collected so far to keep them informed. Attending the city council meetings. The subsistence specialist who have that responsibility of reporting to the city council as to what their findings, you know, are on harvest information.

6

7 CHAIRMAN ITTA:

8

9 MR. TAGAROOK: Mr. Chairman?

10

11 CHAIRMAN ITTA: Terry?

12

13 MR. TAGAROOK: What parts of the animals will you be --
 14 like the heart or the liver? When we're sending a sample if we
 15 think that the animal is sick, and what parts do you want?

16

17 MR. BROWER: You would want to get the part that is
 18 noticeable and, you know, what could be analyzed, that's the
 19 samples you want to send to the North Slope Borough Wildlife
 20 Department. You want to send that kind of samples. Like if
 21 there's some kind of pus in the liver and you don't know what's
 22 causing it, you know, you could take a part of that and put it
 23 -- and keep it frozen. You could -- I mean, you could send
 24 here, and we could have it analyzed in our department. The
 25 North Slope Borough Wildlife Management.

26

27 CHAIRMAN ITTA: Jim and then Frank?

28

29 MR. AVEOGANNA: (In Inupiat)

30

31 MR. BROWER: (In Inupiat)

32

33 CHAIRMAN ITTA: (In Inupiat) Wildlife Department.
 34 It's run by the North Slope Borough. (In Inupiat) It's
 35 available. So I want to go ahead and try to stick to this
 36 harvest monitoring report. Frank and then Ray?

37

38 MR. LONG: On your reporting from certain hunters, (In
 39 Inupiat). They withhold a lot of good information, and I'm
 40 assuming that maybe even these young hunters and these older
 41 hunters will withhold a lot of good information that it will
 42 benefit to keep on the safe side, if in case they have in mind
 43 one time to completely stop the caribou hunting. They
 44 realize that it wasn't fair at that point in time when we were
 45 told you cannot hunt caribou any more. Then nowadays they
 46 withhold some real good information, and you talk to them real
 47 serious about collecting information, and not try to harass
 48 them or anything. That's the point I want to make.

49

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1 CHAIRMAN ITTA: Okay. Thank you, Frank. Ray?

2

3 MR. R. KOONUK: Yeah. If we aren't going to talk about
4 sampling program, could we put it on our next agenda?

5

6 CHAIRMAN ITTA: Okay.

7

8 MR. R. KOONUK: To have somebody or anybody from the
9 Borough that can help us address this? And -- because I
10 believe, you know, we're talking about our animals. We eat the
11 animals out there, and I think we have the right to know what's
12 in the animals. And if they're contaminated, then we need to
13 know, because there's been a lot of experimentation going on in
14 the past, and I wouldn't, you know, believe very -- I would
15 believe there would be -- they're still doing it, because if
16 they can hide something for 30 years, you know, the Federal
17 Government, then they can do just about anything on our
18 animals. So I would like to recommend that we defer this until
19 our next meeting and have somebody available that can answer
20 all these questions.

21

22 CHAIRMAN ITTA: Okay. And you're talking particularly
23 the sampling program?

24

25 MR. R. KOONUK: Yes. Sampling.

26

27 CHAIRMAN ITTA: So noted. Thank you, Ray. Thank you,
28 Harry.

29

30 MR. BROWER: Uh-huh.

31

32 MR. J. KOONUK: Mr. Chair?

33

34 CHAIRMAN ITTA: Jake?

35

36 MR. J. KOONUK: Harry, it seems to me like this is
37 counting type program. You're going to go by seasons, and
38 that's what you guys are counting there. Your traditional
39 calendar. You -- that type of thing in your program?

40

41 MR. BROWER: We've got it divided by the four seasons,
42 you know, what's being harvested during that season is what
43 we're going to try and target.

44

45 MR. J. KOONUK: It will be easier that way to go by
46 seasons.

47

48 MR. BROWER: Because in other words there's different
49 animals that are being harvested during the different seasons,

50

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So that's what we want to target there.

2

3 MR. J. KOONUK: So if you're -- if you're documenting
4 caribou, will be seasonal to every village.

5

6 MR. BROWER: Yeah. Well, you know, caribou is kind of
7 a year round thing, so it is always going to be there, caribou
8 being harvested throughout the year, different times of the
9 year, so it will always be on the list of getting that general
10 information.

11

12 CHAIRMAN ITTA: Any more questions for Harry? Fenton,
13 are you still there? I can't see you.

14

15 MR. REXFORD: Yeah. Okay. I'm here.

16

17 CHAIRMAN ITTA: Yeah, I hear you.

18

19 MR. REXFORD: I think it would good there to go ahead
20 and defer that, and I want to thank Harry for giving us a
21 report on that program.

22

23 CHAIRMAN ITTA: Okay. All right. We're going to go
24 right and continue here. And, well, we wanted to just make an
25 announcement here. And Steve I think can help me out if I
26 don't pass this information on just right here, or Dave I
27 guess. One of you.

28

29 But anyway, there's a comment period that's on-going
30 right now in regards to use of firearms for -- during the
31 trapping season, and that's on-going now, and it in particular
32 affects Nuiqsut and Anaktuvuk Pass in particular, but I just
33 want to know that there is a comment period on that proposal
34 that's before who? Maybe you can come up and just talk about
35 very briefly. Give us a quick background.

36

37 MR. HUNTER: Yes, Mr. Chairman. My name is Paul
38 Hunter. I'm a subsistence specialist with the National Park
39 Service in the Anchorage regional office.

40

41 The proposed regulation that you referred to is a
42 combination of a same-day airborne prohibition regulation, and
43 clarification amendment to the Park Service regulations for
44 the existing limitation on the use of firearms by trappers in
45 Park Service areas.

46

47 The proposed regulation started in 1989 around the
48 first time that the increased public interest in wolf hunting
49 from aircraft began. And at that time the Park Service adopted

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an emergency one-year regulation to restrict same-day airborne hunting of wolves in Park Service areas, and began a regular -- a proposed regulation process to make a permanent regulation for same-day airborne hunting, prohibiting same-day airborne hunting in Park Service areas. That was in 1989. That rule making has continued until now. It would -- it would become -- there would be more interest in it for a while, and then something would change in the regulations, the State regulations that would diminish the interest, and then our proposed rule would kind of go on the back burner for a while, and then something else would happen to bring it back to the front of the stove, and, you know, that -- that has gone on since 1989.

14

15 The latest interest in that began about a year ago at about the same time that U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service also began a same-day airborne rule making for wolves and wolverine in wildlife refuges, and that also led to increased interest in the Park Service, bringing our regulation process back to the front burner, and we did.

21

22 The comments that we have received over the years when we started with just the same-day airborne restriction for wolves was there was a lot of interest in extending the prohibition to the other species that are classified in the State regulations as big game, and fur animals. The animals that can be taken under the hunting regulations. And we did expand our proposed regulation from just wolves to include all those species in Park Service areas so that the same-day airborne restriction would be consistent in Park Service areas and would not change as the same-day airborne hunting rules changed on State lands and on other Federal lands.

33

34 And the feeling there was that the Park Service areas are to be managed more conservatively in terms of wildlife management and establishing a long-term consistent rule for those areas was more appropriate than having one that changed periodically.

39

40 The other part of the proposed regulation had to do with an existing rule that the Park Service has where we define trapping as taking wildlife with a trap, and we define a trap as a device designed to entrap animals. And that definition of a trap, the Park Service has taken the position, does not include a firearm, other than to dispatch a trapped animal that's already caught in a trap. So that the practice of shooting free-ranging wildlife that hasn't been caught in a trap, a set trap line, is not covered under trapping in Park Service areas. That activity is covered under hunting

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regulations in Park Service areas.

2

3 And that Park Service interpretation of our trapping
4 definition has not -- has not been widely publicized or
5 understood, and consequently in connection with the same-day
6 airborne rules for wolves in particular, because wolves can be
7 taken under trapping licenses under the State regulations, the
8 authorization of same-day airborne wolf trapping, when it was
9 prevented for hunting under State rules, caused confusion for
10 trappers, thinking that therefore it was allowed to shoot
11 wolves if you had a trapping license in Park Service areas.
12 And that confusion would periodically come up, and then die
13 down. But at the time of adopting our same-day airborne
14 regulation, we thought that it would be appropriate to clarify
15 that taking of wildlife under a trapping license in Park
16 Service areas by shooting when they're not caught in a trap is
17 not authorized. In just Park Service areas. So that's why the
18 two came together.

19

20 We republished the same-day airborne regulation and the
21 trapping clarification in November as a proposed -- as a
22 revised proposed regulation, and it had a 30-day comment
23 period. The comments that we received were generally
24 supportive. There was about -- in the State of Alaska, two-
25 thirds of the comments supported the same-day airborne
26 restriction, including comments from the Borough and from other
27 affected communities in the outlying areas of Alaska as opposed
28 to the cities. And -- but there was also many comments,
29 including from the Borough and Anaktuvuk Pass, the City of
30 Anaktuvuk Pass, asking for more time to comment on our trapping
31 clarification, because many people were unaware of it, and
32 wanted more time to discuss it and submit comments.

33

34 So the 30-day comment period ended on December 15th.
35 The decision was made to go ahead with a final rule for the
36 same-day airborne hunting restriction, and we're in the process
37 of doing that. And at the same time that that final rule is
38 published, it will also extend the comment period for the
39 proposed clarification of the trapping rules. And I expect
40 that that will be published in the Federal Register in the next
41 two to three weeks. It's back at Washington now. It went
42 through review, the legal review, and just before coming to
43 this meeting, I talked to the attorneys in the Solicitor's
44 Office in Washington, and they said they were moving it on to
45 the National Park Service's Director's Office for signature,
46 and then it will go to the Secretary's Office, actually
47 Assistant Secretary Frampton's office for approval. And
48 probably in the next two or three weeks it will be published in
49 the Federal Register and there will be officially at that time

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an extended comment period. And I will notify all of those, including the Borough and Anaktuvuk Pass and individuals that it has formally been extended, and I will send a copy of the materials out to everyone who has expressed an interest so that further comments can be taken on that.

So that's pretty much where it stands right now. Are there any questions?

CHAIRMAN ITTA: Any questions? Yeah, Frank?

MR. LONG: This is the first I've heard of this proposal on firearms. Had you sent any material to my village, Naigsut?

MR. HUNTER: We

MR. LONG: Was any material sent over there?

MR. HUNTER: We did not officially send any materials out to individual villages

MR. LONG: Then what

MR. HUNTER: in November. And that's primarily why we -- I think we received so many comments asking for more time. And we have -- we will when it's -- when the extension published in the Federal Register here in the next couple of weeks, formally announcing that the comment period has been extended, we will correct that mistake and notify all of the villages, all of the advisory commissions and councils, and the local governmental bodies, so that we can get as much feedback and comments as possible on that.

MR. LONG: And your collection data has not been from any of the native villages affected by Federal areas.

I've got a couple of more questions. On firearms, what would be your definition of firearms, per caliber? Are you talking about a small caliber rifle, or are you talking about an elephant gun firearm?

MR. HUNTER: Well, for trapping it would include any firearm. The definition of trapping that the Park Service currently has, and that we are trying to -- that our intention is to clarify so that it's better understood, is that taking wildlife that's not already caught in the trap with a firearm not allowed under trapping in Park Service areas.

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1 MR. LONG: Does it include

2
3 MR. HUNTER: It is allowed under hunting, of course.

4
5 MR. LONG: Does this include handgun?

6
7 MR. HUNTER: It would include any firearm.

8
9 MR. LONG: Okay. Another question on traps. Traps are
10 different forms, shapes and sizes. What is your definition
11 of a trap? We have steel trap, we have snare trap, we have
12 most traps.

13
14 MR. HUNTER: The definition, it's a very basic, generic
15 definition. It just -- the definition is any device designed
16 to entrap animals.

17
18 CHAIRMAN ITTA: Which includes snares, traps?

19
20 MR. HUNTER: Yes.

21
22 MR. R. KOONUK: Right. Right.

23
24 MR. LONG: Yeah, our way of trapping is not like the
25 way the trapping that they did on that wolf kill that just
26 happened not too long ago.

27
28 MR. HUNTER: I'm just speculating now, but I would
29 assume that that basic definition would include any kind of
30 method of catching wildlife. You know, that -- any kind of
31 method that was otherwise allowed under State regulations, or
32 wasn't prohibited under State regulations, that catches the
33 wildlife and restrains it so that the trapper then comes by
34 later to gather the wildlife, as opposed to not catching it,
35 but just going out to try and stalk the wildlife and shoot it.
36 In Park Service areas, that's hunting, and trapping is setting
37 out traps and catching the wildlife that way. So we
38 distinguish more in the Park Service areas the difference
39 between trapping and hunting, than the other Federal land
40 managers and the State.

41
42 MR. LONG: The reason that I'm saying this is our ways
43 are different than the State and the Federal regulatory ways
44 that they impose on us to do. The way that he learned how to
45 trap and the way that I learned how to trap is not from the
46 book. They are very effective, and they will catch anything
47 that we set out to catch, without any harm to the animal.

48
49 MR. HUNTER: Well, and that type of trapping is exactly
50

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What the Park Service considers trapping in Park Service areas,

3

4 MR. LONG: Okay.

5

6 MR. HUNTER: and the Park Service would be very
7- would rely on the local advisory councils and groups to
8 continually advise us on what is appropriate trapping in their
9 areas. And the customary and traditional methods of trapping
10 and the more modern methods of trapping, whatever the local
11 community considers trapping is -- would fall within our
12 definition.

13

14 MR. LONG: All right.

15

16 CHAIRMAN ITTA: Yeah, we're taking on time here, and
17 need to moving on the agenda, but, Helen, you had your hand up?

18

19 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: I just wanted to emphasize so people
20 understand that what Dave's talking about is only on Park
21 Service lands, and if you look at the map behind you, that's
22 just the purple land. It's just a corner of it in 26, so it's
23 probably going to apply mostly to Anaktuvuk. I mean, somewhat
24 -- and a little bit to other places.

25

26 MR. LONG: Yeah, but once it get into the Federal
27 Register, it will affect us, too.

28

29 CHAIRMAN ITTA: Harry?

30

31 MR. BROWER: All these -- you said you had some
32 comments from Anaktuvuk? I would like to hear what kind of
33 comments have been received from Anaktuvuk regarding this
34 clarification?

35

36 MR. HUNTER: The comment -- we haven't really received
37 any specific comments on the rule. What happened is there was
38 it was a relatively short comment period initially, and the
39 comments we received on the trapping clarification were asking
40 for additional time to carefully consider it, to discuss it
41 with the local wildlife groups, and in particular the Borough
42 Wildlife Department wanted more time to consider it before
43 sending in the final comments. So we haven't really gotten any
44 comments about the substance of the definition.

45

46 CHAIRMAN ITTA: Okay.

47

48 MR. HUNTER: It was just "we would like more time" was
49 the basic comment.

50

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1
2 CHAIRMAN ITTA: And -- go ahead, Harry.

3
4 MR. BROWER: I've got one other question. From your
5 Subsistence resource commission, from the Gates of the Arctic,
6 what kind of action did they take on this?

7
8 MR. HUNTER: They did discuss it at the last SRC
9 meeting. Let me defer to Steve if -- Did they make a
10 resolution, Steve? I

11
12 MR. ULVI: Yeah, thank you, Mr. Chairman. Steve Ulvi
13 with Gates of the Arctic Park.

14
15 Harry, yes, they spent considerable time. They were
16 very concerned about that regulation, and they sent a letter in
17 which the Councils are all going to receive soon. We'd hoped
18 to get it to you sooner, but we couldn't get it signed off by
19 Chairman Raymond Paneak. So you'll be receiving that.

20
21 They are very much opposed to continuing with the
22 definition of trapping that the Park Service has on the books.
23 They would like to see that changed so that there isn't that
24 definite split between hunting and trapping when you're out in
25 the winter taking fur-bearing animals.

26
27 So our reason for wanting to bring this up is we do
28 feel that it's a subsistence issue. It is only for park and
29 preserve lands, and for Unit 26 that is only Gates of the
30 Arctic National Park and Preserve, but it affects potentially
31 residents from Nuiqsut who are within the resident zone, and
32 certainly Anaktuvuk Pass. And we feel it's a very important
33 issue, so thought that this Council may want to send in a
34 letter supporting the SRC's position or the -- or however you
35 want to do that. But the comment period will be open, and you
36 will not meet again before that comment period is closed.

37
38 CHAIRMAN ITTA: Okay. The notification will be sent to
39 our SRC here, to all members so everybody will be aware of when
40 it's coming back up, and I'll go ahead and make a note here
41 that we need to respond as a Council formally on -- when that
42 comment period comes on line, and I would just go ahead and
43 note that as an action item to be continued later. I think
44 we're going to support whatever Anaktuvuk and Nuiqsut decide in
45 those town meetings, and we'll support I suppose that position.
46 But we'll get to that, and I'll make a note of it, that that's
47 the one we need to follow up on in relation to that comment period.
48 Okay.

49
50

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1 MR. ULVI: Okay, Mr. Chairman. So you would have to do
 2 that then amongst yourselves without the benefit of a meeting
 3 like this?

4
 5 CHAIRMAN ITTA: Right. We can do it on teleconference.
 6 We can schedule those. Okay. Who's -- how about a ten-minute
 7 break here at this time? We think -- is it too early?

8
 9 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: Please, Edward. Edward? Could you
 10 take a ten-minute break? We need to talk to you. Please?

11
 12 CHAIRMAN ITTA: Gordon?

13
 14 MR. UPICKSON: I'd like the recommendation. Let's take
 15 a ten-minute break before we get to the next agenda item.

16
 17 CHAIRMAN ITTA: All right. Okay. Thank you, Gordon.
 18 We're going to go ahead and take a ten-minute break, Fenton.
 19 See you in a bit.

20
 21 (Off record)

22
 23 (On record)

24
 25 CHAIRMAN ITTA: Call our meeting back to order. Just
 26 a time you walk in. Helen is back in here again.

27
 28 Ray and Jake for your information, Helen and Steve and
 29 Bill are like our staff here, and Helen's mostly in the, what,
 30 anthropological?

31
 32 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Yeah, I'm an anthropologist.

33
 34 CHAIRMAN ITTA: Portions of the Fish & Wildlife
 35 Service, and Steve is the biologist, and you can talk to him
 36 about anything related to any animals here, and they'll tell
 37 you what they're role and function is. And Bill is a jack of
 38 all trades I guess.

39
 40 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Regulations.

41
 42 MR. KNAUER: Primarily regulations and policy and
 43 procedures.

44
 45 CHAIRMAN ITTA: Yeah. Policy, procedures, regulations,
 46 those sorts of things, and about -- you know, I know Ray had
 47 expressed a concern about getting kind of up to speed on where
 48 everything is, and who does what for us here, and we need to
 49 keep that in mind as we're going along.

50

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1
2 I want to go ahead and maybe I'd better ask first,
Fenton, are you back on line?

4
5 MR. REXFORD: Yes, Mr. Chairman, I'm here, so I
6 appreciate your willingness to go ahead and chair it from over
7 there.

8
9 CHAIRMAN ITTA: Okay. Thank you. We'll go ahead and
10 continue, and down to 6-C, the annual report. I don't know
11 who's doing a report on that one? Barbara?

12
13 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: Fenton.

14
15 CHAIRMAN ITTA: And Fenton?

16
17 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: Ee-ee.

18
19 CHAIRMAN ITTA: Barbara, if you could go up to the
20 microphone, please?

21
22 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: Okay.

23
24 CHAIRMAN ITTA: And, Fenton, feel free to comment.

25
26 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: Okay. I talked prior to this
27 meeting to Fenton regarding the annual report, and he and I
28 both agreed that being at the chair and vice chair meeting that
29 they are -- since the Seward Peninsula and the Northwest Arctic
30 annual reports hadn't been answered then at that meeting, they
31 said that they would wait until they get answers, and now that
32 they have been answered, and then last year North Slope waived
33 their annual report, but Fenton said that there will be one
34 written for the North Slope area this fall. This coming fall
35 for annual report. Is that not correct, Fenton?

36
37 MR. REXFORD: Yes, that is true. Yeah, that is true.
38 When -- again, most of our issues with Seward Peninsula and
39 Northwest Arctic generally are about the same issues, the same
40 group of animals and primarily the same concerns that they have
41 are similar to Seward Peninsula, you know, principally, and the
42 Northwest Arctic group, so I'm glad that they finally got an
43 answer, so this year we'll get one forward here.

44
45 CHAIRMAN ITTA: Okay.

46
47 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: Koyana.

48
49 CHAIRMAN ITTA: Thank you, Fenton. Any comments on the
50

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annual report? If not, we'll go ahead and continue on down to D, and that's the Regional Council's Charter renewal. And just very briefly on background information, this charter was initially approved by Secretary Babbitt on January 31, 1995, correct? And, what, every three years we -- two years we get to renew this thing?

7
8 MR. KNAUER: Yes, Mr. Chair.

9
10 CHAIRMAN ITTA: Bill?

11
12 MR. KNAUER: Yes, Mr. Chairman. The first charter was approved by Secretary Luhan back in 1993, early '93, and according to the Federal Advisory Committee Act, advisory groups, whether they're called councils or committees or whatever, only have by law a two-year life span, so charters have to be renewed every two years, and it was renewed, and as you said, it was signed on January 31, '95, and it -- this will expire December 2nd, '96. It expires on the two-year anniversary of the enabling legislation, in this case the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act, which was passed in 1980. So December 2nd of the even numbered years it expires, and we have to renew it, and it's at those times that changes can be placed in it. So you are a legally chartered body.

26
27 MR. LONG: Illegal?

28
29 CHAIRMAN ITTA: Pardon?

30
31 MR. LONG: We're illegally chartered bunch?

32
33 CHAIRMAN ITTA: Under ANILCA. Bill, just -- or, Barbara first, if you could come up?

35
36 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: Okay. There's -- if Bill is done, Steve has a short request to make of you regarding your charter for the SRC appointments that they need, and then Bill -- Steve will explain that to you shortly after, just for a few minutes.

41
42 CHAIRMAN ITTA: Okay.

43
44 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: If Bill is done?

45
46 MR. KNAUER: I am.

47
48 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: Okay.

49
50

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1 CHAIRMAN ITTA: Okay. Bill?

2

3 MR. ULVI: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Steve Ulvi, Gates
4 of the Arctic National Park.

5

6 This is an issue that's been going on for a year and a
7 half or so. You have received correspondence in the past.
8 What it boils down to is that for Gates of the Arctic National
9 Park, we have a subsistence resource commission that advises us
10 on subsistence issues. And in the ANILCA, in the Alaska Lands
11 Act, there's a provision for each Regional Council to appoint a
12 member to that subsistence resource commission. And, of
13 course, as you know, things have changed in the last few years.
14 The State regional councils are out, and the Federal Regional
15 Councils are in, so there's a need to change the charter. And
16 what we've requested, and our subsistence resource
17 commission wants, and everyone seemed to agree over the last
18 couple of years, there's nobody in opposition to it, and the
19 Park Service supports it, is that Regional 8, the Northwest
20 Arctic Region, Western Interior, Region 6, and your North
21 Slope, Region 10, will each end up with appointing one of the
22 three members the Federal Regional Councils can appoint to our
23 subsistence resource commission. So the Park has three Federal
24 Councils that we deal with. It makes sense each would have one
25 appointment. It balances things out nicely. That's not the
26 way it is in the law right now. The Western Interior

27

28 MR. KNAUER: Excuse me, Mr. Chairman. Steve, the new
29 charters do reflect that change.

30

31 MR. ULVI: It's already been changed?

32

33 MR. KNAUER: Yes. That was, because of the Park
34 Service and Regional Council requests and SRC request, that
35 change has been affected in the new charters.

36

37 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: Can you show them on the new
38 charters so the Council can see, please?

39

40 MR. ULVI: Okay.

41

42 MR. KNAUER: In your book it does specifically say
43 under duties of the Council, which would be on page two of the
44 charters, it's item number five, "Appoint one member to the
45 Gates of the Arctic Subsistence Resource Commission in
46 accordance with Section 808 of ANILCA."

47

48 MR. ULVI: Okay. So, Mr. Chairman, what that means
49 then, and I wasn't aware that that change had gone through,

50

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What that means then is probably at your fall meeting for this Region, you will want to consider perhaps having some nominations or somehow find out who's interested from the North Slope Region and take a look at that and be able to go ahead and make that appointment. There is a person serving in that seat right now from the community of Ambler, but they serve then until this Council goes ahead and makes a different appointment. So, you know, we will look forward to in the fall perhaps this Council considering appointing someone who can represent the North Slope Region and cultures.

11

12 CHAIRMAN ITTA: All right. Thank you. Bill?

13

14 MR. KNAUER: Yes. Steve, you might wish to explain to them there are certain requirements as to who they can appoint. That way they would know, and they would be able to think ahead.

18

19 MR. ULVI: That's right. Thank you, Bill. Just quickly, Mr. Chairman, that person that you appoint to our subsistence resource commission has to meet two basic tests. Three actually. One, they'd have to be a resident of the region, but the first test is that they need to be a reasonably active subsistence user of the park, not just a subsistence user and a resident of the North Slope, but of the park up here in Gates of the Arctic. And the second factor is they need to be either a member of this Council or a member of a fish and game advisory committee. And I believe that the reasoning there is that they're already familiar with issues and policies and how it all got the way it is and things, so they can kind of step right in and be fairly effective. But I think you have a fairly large body of people that would meet those tests. But, thank you, Bill. That's all I had.

34

35 CHAIRMAN ITTA: All right. We'll go ahead and deal with that

37

38 MR. LONG: Mr. Chairman?

39

40 CHAIRMAN ITTA: issue when it comes up here, and I assume it's going to be in October. Frank?

42

43 MR. LONG: I have a comment on this -- with regards of subsistence resource commission. If we do according to our charter, an appointee of one member to the Gates of National Park Service, that person would be -- would have to gather a lot of information from each community affected by the Federal regulation, isn't it?

49

50

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1 CHAIRMAN ITTA: Maybe you can go ahead and get back up
2 and respond to Frank?

3
4 MR. ULVI: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Steve Ulvi.
5

6 Frank, the way that works is there are nine members on
7 the subsistence resource commission. Three are appointed by
8 the Governor, and three by the Secretary. They don't have
9 those same criteria for those appointments. They could appoint
10 somebody from Anchorage, Fairbanks. They haven't. They're
11 people from Barrow, they're people from Anaktuvuk Pass, they're
12 people from the Athabaskan communities on the south side. So
13 it is generally people who are engaged in subsistence and live
14 locally.
15

16 But the way it works is that if you have a member from
17 Anaktuvuk Pass, they do try to understand the issues in their
18 community, and to the best of their ability understand the
19 issues with adjacent communities who use the park, and try to
20 present those issues. They meet about three times a year.
21 It's a lot like this where we pay the per diem and the travel.
22 We set up the meetings. I'm the coordinator for that. But
23 they're issues that only have to do with the park, not the
24 federal region at large or anything. Only with subsistence in
25 the park.
26

27 MR. LONG: Under the park. Okay.

28
29 MR. BROWER: Mr. Chairman? Mr. Chairman?

30
31 CHAIRMAN ITTA: Yeah. Uh-huh.
32

33 MR. BROWER: Steve, while you're on -- while you're
34 still here, I still need to get a clarification. Do we want
35 somebody appointed that uses the park area, the two eligible
36 people would -- or the communities would be Nuiqsut or
37 Anaktuvuk, right?
38

39 MR. ULVI: That -- yes, Harry, that's pretty much what
40 boils down to, although it's possible for someone from
41 Barrow or another community to have a permit to conduct
42 subsistence activities in the park. As it stands, there is no
43 one that has come forward and wanted one of those permits or
44 has one right now. So essentially it would be someone who's
45 already eligible and using the park for subsistence, and in
46 that case it would be a resident of Nuiqsut or a resident of
47 Anaktuvuk for the North Slope.
48

49 MR. BROWER: Thank you.
50

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1
2 MR. ULVI: Thank you for pointing that out.
3
4 CHAIRMAN ITTA: Okay.
5
6 MR. ULVI: So that's what it boils down to.
7
8 MR. LONG: Yeah. The only reason that I made this
9 comment is that we do have guys that travels all the way
10 through the park, especially during the winter. There's no way
11 that they can get up there unless by plane during the summer.
12
13 MR. ULVI: That's right. Those winter subsistence
14 activities qualify. I mean, it's -- they just want someone
15 who's still engaged and understands the park issues, not
16 general subsistence issues of coastal, those kinds of things.
17
18 CHAIRMAN ITTA: Okay.
19
20 MR. ULVI: And I'll -- if anyone wants to call when you
21 think of people or nominate, please just give me a call and
22 I'll try to help you out or clarify anything you need.
23
24 CHAIRMAN ITTA: Okay. Thank you, Steve. That
25 appointment can be handled this fall, correct? Okay.
26
27 I want to just take -- an esteemed guest has walked in
28 here, and many of you are looking around, where is he. He's
29 right there. Tom Lohman. We're going to give him a few
30 minutes. He came over just to address us, give us an update on
31 the status of the Haul Road as it relates to the North Slope
32 Borough and the residents here. If you could, Tom? Thanks for
33 coming over.
34
35 MR. LOHMAN: I'm glad to be here, Mr. Chairman,
36 gentleman. It's Lohman, L-o-h-m-a-n. I'm with the North Slope
37 Borough, Department of Wildlife Management.
38
39 I just got back from a meeting on Tuesday in Fairbanks
40 of the Dalton Highway Coordination Group, which is a sort of
41 those association of all of the different agencies, State and
42 federal agencies, and interest groups involved or concerned
43 about the opening of the Dalton Highway. It was a particularly
44 strange meeting. We spent most of the morning -- there were
45 even other Borough representatives there from the different
46 Borough departments. We spent the morning identifying all the
47 problems that are going, we think, to occur as a result of the
48 opening of the road. We didn't spend any time developing
49 solutions to those problems. There was a lot of people
50

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pointing at other people saying, "Gee, it would be nice if somebody solved some of these problems, but we don't have the funds to do that."

4

5 The road has essentially been open for about three
6 years. The check point that used to be the only way to stop
7 people from going up the road really has not been operated by
8 the State Department of Transportation for about three years.
9 But now you actually have in print in different places,
10 including in such publications as the Mile Post, which is the
11 sort of main tourist document that a lot of travelers to Alaska
12 get before they come to the State, they say specifically that
13 the road is open.

14

15 There are no rest facilities on the road other than at
16 Cold Foot. There are no toilet facilities. There is nowhere
17 to dump human wastes out of RVs. There's no communication
18 system. There is, I think we all agree, woefully insufficient
19 public safety on the road. Search and rescue is, of course, a
20 concern. We had Borough search and rescue staff, public safety
21 staff, Planning Department, I was there for Wildlife. All of
22 the different agencies have different responsibilities, but
23 none have specific responsibility for providing some of those
24 services along the road.

25

26 We got into a very brief discussion of the fish and
27 wildlife impacts of the opening of the road. Our concern about
28 the increase in both legal and illegal harvest of animals in
29 the area of the road, and the use of the road to expand other
30 hunting opportunities beyond the immediate area of the road.

31

32 Sort of over some of our objections, those concerns
33 were put aside in favor of discussing some of the more
34 immediate concerns like sanitation, public safety, and
35 communication concerns that are in the view of the group, which
36 about 60 or 70 people, are going to have to -- have to be
37 dealt with on right now, because the road is open right now. If you
38 don't do something about the sanitation facilities, obviously,
39 you're going to have, in deference to the recorder, I won't say
40 what I was going to say, but you'll have stuff along the side
41 of the road. You probably already do have some stuff along the
42 side of the road. So those concerns need to be dealt with
43 right now.

44

45 You're going to have to develop some kind of procedure
46 for dealing with both law enforcement concerns and vehicular
47 accident concerns from a public safety standpoint, because the
48 road is open right now. You're going to have to develop some
49 kind of communications system and information system to

50

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communicate to the travelers, both Alaskans and non-Alaskans about what facilities are available, and what facilities are not available along the road. We certainly don't want travelers going up there thinking this is a pleasant drive in the country for a day or two.

6

It looks like BLM, and I give them credit for that, has taken the lead in providing that initial information to travelers. They're producing a fairly rudimentary brochure. It's not going to be one of these glossy multi-colored things that we've seen that BLM produces on a lot of its other activities which are so great. It's going to be a first shot of getting some information out there quickly which they are going to distribute as much as they can within budgetary constraints. This is coming out of existing funds, not out of any new budget. It will be distributed at the visitors center at the Mile 8, Milepost 8. It will be distributed hopefully at Cold Foot. Hopefully somewhat through the Alaska Lands Information Center. It will tell people there are no gas stations. You're not going to find spare tires, you're not going to find fuel past Cold Foot. You're going to need to know the road conditions.

23

You're going to need to know that you can't get to the Arctic Ocean. We think that a lot of people will think they can drive to the Arctic Ocean and dip their little toesies in it, and take a picture and go back home. Alyeska has made it very clear that only tour buses will have access to the ocean.

29

Alyeska is very concerned about the opening of the road, because obviously if you're out there and you have a problem and there's no communication system, you're going to pull off at one of the pump stations and ask for help. Alyeska is in the business of moving oil, they're not in the business of babysitting stranded motorists.

36

The other problem that they see is with the vehicles after motorists are stranded. We all know what the road looks like, or a lot of us do, and it's very difficult to pull off on the shoulder. If a vehicle's left there for any length of time, it will be a hazard to other people using the road, including the industrial truckers who are on a clock. They -- these people can't afford to stop and help stranded motorists.

44

What to do with abandoned vehicles is a concern, because you want it out of there as quickly as you can, but the abandoned vehicle -- abandoned property statutes in Alaska provide for a couple of days of waiting. People got to do what they got to do. They've got to get those vehicles out of the

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way, and the place that DOT most likely would move them is into the little cross roads off to the pump stations. Then they become Alyeska's problem. Those are service roads that they need to access the pipeline.

5

6 So we've got all of those concerns and no solutions. What we concluded the meeting doing was breaking up into three work groups. Actually identifying three work groups that haven't formed yet. One dealing with the public safety concerns, under which the wildlife enforcement concerns fall, the search and rescue concerns fall, and the communications systems concerns fall. Another is the sanitation concerns work group. You can all imagine what those are: solid wastes, human wastes, those kind of things. And the third was this information dissemination work group, which is going to decide how to get the appropriate information to the travelers to make sure they understand what they're getting into when they turn up the Dalton Highway.

19

20 Those groups, all three of them have representatives from the Borough on it. At least we've given them names. Those groups are going to try to meet here within the next couple of weeks. The next meeting of the over-all group will not be until probably early April. Hopefully by that time these subgroups will have some recommendations to make to the over-all group. If the over-all group can then reach consensus, we hope to take those to the Legislature or the Governor, or anybody else that it's appropriate who can act on those recommendations.

30

31 So we stand now in sort of a difficult position with people already able to drive up that road, and a lot of problems that are likely to come out of it. I do not expect that we are going to have additional Troopers added to the road. I don't expect we're going to have additional fish and wildlife enforcement added to the road.

37

38 A great difficulty is going to be in identifying the impacts of the opening of the road, because as a lot of us know, there's not a lot of good baseline information on a lot of what goes on around the road now. There haven't even been good counts of the vehicles going up the road now since the checkpoint closed. And not a lot of good information in fact before that, because the poor fellow manning the checkpoint couldn't watch all the cars going through, and didn't make an attempt to stop all the cars going through. So if you don't know how many cars were going through, and you're not going to know -- sure how many cars are going through once it's opened, it's going to be hard to go to the Legislature and say,

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With the increase in traffic, but we can't tell you what it is, we're seeing these increased impacts, but we can't tell you what those are." So it's going to be important to try to tweak our legislators and talk to the people at the agencies, and try to get some studies funded, try to get a checkpoint perhaps, try to get increased fish and wildlife and State Trooper enforcement along the road.

8

9 But as you know with everybody's budgets being cut, it doesn't look terribly optimistic for any of those things happening in the near term, so we're going to have to live with the road open in the near term.

13

14 The Borough as you know also had a lawsuit, still does have a lawsuit against the State for the opening of the road. We went in and tried to get a preliminary injunction, which is an emergency action to get the action that would have repealed or did repeal the regulations that kept the road closed, that action halted, which would have kept the road closed. We lost on that preliminary injunction motion. The underlying lawsuit is still there. I'm not going to stand here or sit here and speak for the Law Department, but I would not be terribly optimistic about our likelihood of success on that lawsuit.

25

26 So I think we're stuck with the road open. How it is open is going to be something that's going to be debated I think for a couple of years. I think the best approach for the Borough, and again I don't speak for the Mayor's Office or the Law Department that's handling the suit, but the few of us who have been involved a little bit, have talked about perhaps approaching the Governor and saying, "Maybe it's politically difficult for you to turn around and close the road again after it's been opened, but when you threw out the regulations that closed it, you also threw out the permit system that allowed some people to go up it. Would it be so difficult to re-impose a permit system that allows everybody to travel the road, but at least would provide a last sort of check on anybody going up?" You would maybe be able to provide a little information about what they intended to do when they were on the road; keep track of people in case they didn't come back when you expected them to come back; get some additional information about the number of people traveling in the vehicles. Those kind of things that would allow you to build an information base that would allow you then to address some of the impacts a couple of years down the line. We don't think that would be terribly expensive to do. A checkpoint manned by a couple of people. I think that might be a solution that we're going to go to the State with.

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1
2 There was no one from the Governor's Office at this
meeting. We made a point about that, and hopefully there will
be somebody from the Governor's Office at future meetings. The
Governor is going to be up here, as you know, later this week
for his inaugural ball, but I'm sure he'll be able to break
away for a few minutes of meetings, and Mayor Ahmoagak has made
the Haul Road an issue since very early on in the Governor's
campaign, so it's something that we're hopefully going to talk
at fairly high levels to the Governor's Office about, but it's
going to be a problem.

12
13 I would ask any of you that either travel the road or
reside in villages that are nearby the road -- hello, Frank,
how are you doing? -- that you help us document any problems.
That's been a big problem. We've talked about some other
issues like hazardous waste on the Slope. It helps us greatly.
You guys are our eyes and ears. You guys are your own eyes
and ears, too, out there. If you get us as much information as
you can about impacts from the opening of the road, it will
help us make a case to try to address those concerns later on
down the road.

23
24 So that's all I have to report. It's not terribly
cheery news, but we're doing the best we can along with a bunch
of other agencies to see what we can do to keep the impacts
down and to sort of document what goes on with the opening of
the road.

29
30 Any questions, folks?

31
32 CHAIRMAN ITTA: Thank you. Questions for Tom? Frank?

33
34 MR. LONG: I don't have a question, but I do have a
comment to make in regard to the Haul Road. When we decide to
go on that Haul Road, I myself inform the guys that are going
to be utilizing the road to at least go as far Prudhoe Bay and
their vehicle checked before they went on, because it's a long
distance from Prudhoe Bay to Cold Foot, and that's the next
stop for availability of -- if you need a mechanic or the
electrical guy that works on the wiring. It's a long ways out
if you have to -- if you run that Haul Road the best that you
can, but keep out -- keep out of the way of the truckers.

44
45 And I appreciate what you guys are doing toward the
Haul Road. If we have opposed -- against the opening of the
Haul Road for many years, because we wanted to see first if
there would be an extension from the Kuparuk area to our
village before the Haul Road was opened. But I'm glad that we
50

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Have the access to utilize the Haul Road as individual, but like Tom said, there's no facilities, and a break down of any type, even if you blow a tire, you have to do it yourself, and we know from Nuiqsut that we are on that Haul Road at our own risk, without considering anybody. Thank you.

6

CHAIRMAN ITTA: I've got a question. Was there any discussions about private or commercial operations on providing rest stops, hotels, that sort of thing?

10

MR. LOHMAN: Sure. Again I'll credit BLM. A lot of you may have seen a very thick book with a brown plastic binding that was out a couple of years ago. I'm sure there are copies in a lot of our offices. That was the BLM's Haul Road Corridor -- or Utility Corridor Plan, recreation plan. There were several different ones, but the utility corridor plan, management plan.

18

BLM did a lot of work, and then they transferred a lot of the land. BLM really doesn't have the responsibility to do some of the informational work its doing, but it took it upon itself to do that. So in addition to the brochure I talked about, they're also going to have a little AM radio station that is going to be broadcast somewhere just north of Fox, and will for about five minutes I think you will have access to a radio station that will give updated weather and road information, that kind of thing.

28

But it's a difficult situation with land along the road. And there's -- the State has some constraints on what land it can make available for those kind of facilities. Representative James, who I believe is out of North Pole, Shannonette James, is in the process of working with DNR, the State Department of Natural Resources, to draft legislation that will correct that problem, if you can call it that, that will allow for the transfer of land to provide some of those facilities.

38

The difficulty right now even in terms of some things like sanitation facilities is that there isn't land available, and nobody wants those kind of facilities on their land, even if the land was available. So it's difficult.

43

Princess Tours I understand, I may be wrong on this, but I thought at one point, you can probably help me, Mr. Chairman, but ASRC had an interest in Cold Foot Services, I believe. And it -- and that may have been transferred I think to Princess, or at least they seemed to have some strong interest in the road. There were four or five representatives

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from Princess present. They didn't want to talk about their plans for the road. Right now they run tour buses up the road. But if they're planning on expanding, in addition to what they might do as a tour company running tours out of that area, you're also going to have people that are going to want to drive up there, maybe stay over night and then do day trips up and back the road in private vehicles, and that becomes an additional burden on the road.

9
10 But land ownership and ability to transfer land for facility purposes is a difficulty right now.

12
13 CHAIRMAN ITTA: Okay. Thank you, Tom. Any more questions for Tom? (In Inupiat)

15
16 MR. LOHMAN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Gentlemen.

17
18 CHAIRMAN ITTA: Thank you for coming over and giving us an update.

20
21 MR. LOHMAN: Carry on.

22
23 CHAIRMAN ITTA: Okay. Do you want to go ahead and continue down our agenda to -- well, we have the musk ox draft agreement and the musk ox update that we needed to get into.

26
27 Let me just ask at this time before we get into that order new business, Bill, on the first two, and you're also going to be presenting the NARC petition, is that right?

30
31 MR. KNAUER: Yes, Mr. Chairman.

32
33 CHAIRMAN ITTA: Can you give me an idea about how long you think you might require for those subjects?

35
36 MR. KNAUER: I don't think any of these three items will take very long.

38
39 CHAIRMAN ITTA: Okay.

40
41 MR. KNAUER: They're more of an informational nature. There is no action that the Council needs to take

43
44 CHAIRMAN ITTA: All right.

45
46 MR. KNAUER: on any of the items now. They are advisory in nature, and for the Council to consider in their off time.

49
50

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1 CHAIRMAN ITTA: Okay. Then on the proposals, Steve,
 2 how much time do you suppose we're looking at? How many
 3 proposals do we have? We have a number of them I know.

4
 5 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Eleven.

6
 7 MR. KOVACH: We have 11 proposals to go through, and,
 8 yeah, for the Council to deliberate and make decisions on. And
 9 we anticipate that's going to take a fair bit of time.

10
 11 CHAIRMAN ITTA: Okay. So what I'm trying to get is an
 12 idea of how much time we should dedicate to making sure we
 13 finish up our agenda by this afternoon. I think we have a
 14 little over an hour here to go before lunch time, and I would
 15 propose that we go -- head into the musk ox area, to 6-A-2 and
 16 also A-4, and yesterday Geoff was talking, but maybe we'll go
 17 ahead and start with that, and try to finish up, and I'm trying
 18 to save the proposals for -- so that we can do them all
 19 sequentially and not have to break in between here. So if we
 20 can go ahead and do that, if there's no objection from Council?
 21 We'll go ahead and continue on reports regarding the musk ox
 22 raft agreement.

23
 24 And, Fenton, like I say, we kind of saved this one for
 25 you, but you need to

26
 27 MR. REXFORD: Uh-huh.

28
 29 CHAIRMAN ITTA: make sure we get your input on
 30 this. So I'm going to ask at this time for Geoff Carroll to go
 31 back up and just give a very brief over-view of your portion of
 32 the draft -- Fenton, do you have a copy of that management plan
 33 that Geoff's going to be talking about?

34
 35 MR. REXFORD: Yes, I do.

36
 37 CHAIRMAN ITTA: Okay. Good. Then we'll go ahead and
 38 refer to that briefly, and then after Mike gives us his quick
 39 review, over-view, then I'm going to go ahead and ask Steve to
 40 go ahead and update us on the portion of the Fish & Wildlife
 41 Service on the musk ox. Geoff?

42
 43 MR. CARROLL: Okay. Geoff Carroll, the Fish & Game
 44 area wildlife biologist. Well, Fenton,

45
 46 MR. REXFORD: Yes, good morning.

47
 48 MR. CARROLL: Okay. What I spoke about last evening is
 49 what we've talked earlier about developing a musk ox management
 50

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plan for the North Slope, and this isn't really -- it's not a 2- it's not an all-inclusive management plan. What we're trying to talk about now is it's just a -- it's a cooperative musk ox management agreement, and there's an opportunity to make some -- just some administrative changes in the Tier II subsistence hunt in Game Management Unit 26(B). And there's opportunity to make a change in the number of musk oxen that are harvested in that area. At this point in the Tier II hunt, people are allowed to take two musk oxen per year in there. We can increase that by three musk oxen, so a total of -- we can make a total of five per year. And also under the regulations, the musk oxen up to now, it's been a requirement that they have to be harvested to the east of the Haul Road, and we can make a change, too, so that at least two of those are harvested to the west of the Haul Road.

16

17 And all that's really required for us to do this is --
18 have written up this -- it's a draft management agreement.
19 This thing will be rewritten and put in a lot better form.
20 This is just something I wrote up quickly to give us a place to
21 start, but anyway we are going to need to come to an agreement
22 between -- almost all of 26(B) is State lands, so really this
23 is just kind of an agreement that we have written up so far
24 between the Alaska Department of Fish & Game, the North Slope
25 Borough, the Arctic Slope Native Association, and we'd like to
26 include at least the Village of Nuiqsut in that, because
27 they're the ones that will be affected by it the most, because
28 they'll then be allowed to hunt musk oxen much closer to the
29 village. And so that's where it stands now.

30

31 The Borough and ASNA have been -- have helped in
32 writing the agreement, and they're -- and they're somewhat in
33 agreement with this. We haven't, you know, formally signed it
34 anything like that. I've been trying to have a public
35 meeting in the Village of Nuiqsut and so far the meetings have
36 been -- have gotten postponed for various reasons, so that's
37 kind of where that stands right now.

38

39 This is -- by the way, this is a Tier II subsistence
40 hunt, and, you know, the way that's set up, anybody in the
41 State can apply for it. You're given points according to, you
42 know, where you -- how close to the musk oxen you live, how
43 many years you've hunted the musk oxen, what other options for
44 subsistence food are available, how much time is spent hunting,
45 and how much meat you purchase at the store. Now, people get
46 fill out questionnaires and they're scored on these
47 questionnaires. It -- so like I say, anybody in the State can
48 apply for it, but you're given a lot of points for living close
49 to the resource, so actually people from Nuiqsut and Kaktovik
50

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Would be the most likely to get these permits. And -- but, you know, it's also quite possible people from Barrow or other communities could get the permits.

4

5 MR. LONG: I have a question, Geoff. On item two of
6 our proposal, where it says two or three of five musk ox
7 harvest in 26(B) may be taken west of the Dalton Highway
8 Corridor Management area. How far west are you talking about?
9 Are you going all the way to

10

11 MR. CARROLL: All the way to

12

13 MR. LONG: To the River?

14

15 MR. CARROLL: Colville River, yeah. Right up to
16.

17

18 MR. LONG: You're taking off.

19

20 MR. CARROLL: Yeah. Yeah, we're trying to do better.

21

22 MR. LONG: Okay.

23

24 MR. CARROLL: I talked to Pat Reynolds, you know, the
25 Fish & Wildlife Service biologist extensively on this. She's
26 and her -- her feeling is -- is that, you know, there isn't
27 large population of musk ox to the west of the Haul Road, you
28 know, there's that group of 25 to 30 that stay around, you
29 know, at Nuiqsut and mouth of the Akillik area, and then
30 there's just kind of a few scattered bunches, but if we are --
31 kind of what's going on with that population now is the most
32 rapidly growing group of musk oxen on the North Slope now is in
33 that 26(B) east area. They're growing both from musk oxen
34 moving in from ANWR, plus a lot of calves are being produced in
35 here.

36

37 What happened originally is musk oxen were transplanted
38 to the ANWR area. The population grew to about 380 animals,
39 and then it kind of peaked out there, but animals have been
40 subsiding to the east, south and west since that time. So
41 that's starting to happen now with this group in 26(B) east.
42 They're -- they've been growing rapidly, and animals are
43 subsiding from there into 26(B) west.

44

45 And so she feels that if we limit the hunt just to
46 bulls in there, just so we don't are harvesting bulls, that's
47 not going to affect that population in the western part too
48 detrimentally, and so she -- we've kind of needed her okay on
49, and -- but anyway she's gone along with our request that we
50

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could go ahead and take a few more musk oxen in there as long as they are bulls.

3

4 MR. LONG: I have one more comment I think would be
5 referred to Steve there. Do we have any similar or adjacent
6 proposal on NPRA musk ox?

7

8 MR. KOVACH: Yes, we have two proposals that the
9 Council needs to deliberate on today that affect musk ox.
10 They're for 26(A) and 26(B).

11

12 MR. LONG: All right. Thank you.

13

14 CHAIRMAN ITTA: Thank you.

15

16 MR. CARROLL: Thank you.

17

18 CHAIRMAN ITTA: And with that, we'll go ahead and give
19 the floor to Steve here. Before I do, I know -- he just came
20 to, the superintendent of the Gates -- ANWR, right? I forget
21 the name, but

22

23 MR. KURTH: Right. I'm Jim Kurth. I'm the refuge
24 manager of the Arctic Refuge. It's a pleasure to be here. I
25 guess Fenton's hooked up on the conference. He must not have
26 made it?

27

28 CHAIRMAN ITTA: Yes, Fenton is on line.

29

30 MR. KURTH: Good morning, Fenton.

31

32 MR. REXFORD: Yeah, good morning, Jim.

33

34 CHAIRMAN ITTA: Okay. Thank you. Go ahead and

35

36 MR. KOVACH: The only thing we really have for the
37 Council is just that to mention that the Arctic Refuge
38 continues to do their monthly monitoring of musk oxen on the
39 North Slope, and primarily within the refuge and to some degree
40 immediately west of the refuge on the Coastal Plain there.

41

42 The only thing that we had was if the Council was
43 interested, we could provide an update on the status of the
44 musk ox population on the Seward Peninsula and the recent
45 changes that the Board has done for establishing a musk ox hunt
46 here. But in the interest of time, I would recommend that we
47 just defer that, and if anybody's personally interested, to
48 corner me during a break or lunch time or something, and I
49 could update them on that.

50

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1
2 CHAIRMAN ITTA: All right.
3
4 MR. KOVACH: And just to remind the Council, we do have
5 these two proposals where we will be giving you some more
6 specific information at that time.
7
8 CHAIRMAN ITTA: Okay. Okay. Thank you, Steve. And
9 with that I want to go ahead and move along here and go ahead
10 and get into under new business the discussion on the
11 definition of resident by Bill? Or do we have a comment over
12 here I guess?
13
14 MR. KNAUER: Mr. Chairman, you may wish to have the
15 manager from Arctic give his report while you're still under
16 old business.
17
18 CHAIRMAN ITTA: Thank you. Did I miss that somewhere?
19
20 MR. BROWER: We were supposed to
21
22 CHAIRMAN ITTA: Okay. If you could come up,
23
24 MR. KURTH: I didn't know I was going to give a report.
25
26 CHAIRMAN ITTA: identify yourself? We need you
27 at the
28
29 MR. KURTH: What am I going to give a report on? Good
30 morning, Mr. Chair, and I actually didn't know I was supposed
31 to give you a report. Usually the Service sends staff that
32 addresses the issue as, you know, Geoff is always here. And
33 they really have the expertise I think to answer your question.
34 I like to be here so that if any of you have issues about the
35 Arctic Refuge that you want to talk about, then I'm available.
36 And I also think this is a critically important forum, and I
37 think it's a matter of respect to be here and listen to what
38 you have to say to give me guidance.
39
40 CHAIRMAN ITTA: Can't hear you.
41
42 MR. KURTH: He was trying to tell me what I was
43 supposed to say. And actually, you know, I don't really have
44 anything particularly new to bring to your attention, so I'm
45 basically here at your disposal, and would be happy to answer
46 any questions you have.
47
48 CHAIRMAN ITTA: Okay. All right.
49
50

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1 MR. LONG: I have a comment.

2

3 CHAIRMAN ITTA: Frank.

4

5 MR. LONG: When you're talking about the Arctic Refuge,
6 are you referring to the ANWR, or are you referring to this
7 yellow/orange area over here?

8

9 MR. KURTH: Well, ANWR is really just an abbreviation
10 for Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, and that's what ANWR is,
11 and ANWR is basically the pink area on the right side. The
12 Arctic Refuge is about 19 and a half million acres that's the
13 northeast corner of the State.

14

15 MR. LONG: Okay.

16

17 CHAIRMAN ITTA: Okay. Thank you.

18

19 MR. KURTH: Thank you.

20

21 CHAIRMAN ITTA: I just got handed another note here,
22 which I neglected while we're under reports. Another one that
23 we had waited on for Fenton here, and that was to go ahead and
24 discuss the moose proposal that was presented to us briefly.
25 we can go ahead and get into that now at this time, Geoff?

26

27 MR. CARROLL: Sure. Yeah. Do you want me to run
28 through what we discussed on the

29

30 CHAIRMAN ITTA: Yes.

31

32 MR. CARROLL: State moose proposal? Okay.

33

34 Actually, does anybody happen to have a copy of that?
35 handed every one of them out that I had last night.

36

37 CHAIRMAN ITTA: I can't give you mine.

38

39 MR. CARROLL: Okay. I've got one. Okay. Well,
40 briefly, moose populations actually all across the North Slope,
41 but particularly the one in 26(A) on the Colville River has
42 been declining during the last three years fairly dramatically.
43 I do counts every spring and fall, and from the spring
44 surveys, since 1991 in the areas that that I survey, the number
45 of moose I've counted have declined from 717 moose to 470 -- or
46 467 moose. It's a 43% decline. And -- but -- and on top of
47 that, and it's even worse, is that the percentage of calves
48 we've been counting during fall surveys has declined from 22 and
49 24% in 1991 and 1992 to only 5% and 3% of the population in

50

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1993 and '94. I've gotten other reports. Oh, Bill Patkutuk for instance has -- who travels in the Upper Colville quite a bit has called me a couple of times reporting seeing many fewer moose in his travels during the winter up there, and I think that most people that spend time on the river agree that there are -- there is a decline in the number of moose there.

7
8 We've -- I've proposed some changes in the moose regulations to the State Board of Game. The changes -- I've tried to, you know, impact the local subsistence hunters as little as possible, and what we've had before in that area has been really kind of a wide-open season from August through the end of March, and -- except that during August you can't use airplanes to hunt in the area, so that really leaves it pretty much to the people with boats that live on the river, and mostly Nuiqsut residents that go up the Colville River to hunt.

17
18 What we've done is we've shortened the nonresident season first of all. We shortened it down to only a ten-day season. That will be from September 5th to September 15th. The resident season, we cut out the part from January 1st to the end of December. We cut out that spring season. And we also changed it so that after September 1st, you cannot take cows and you cannot take bulls, except bulls that are -- that have antler with greater 50 inches or four brow tines.

26
27 So the reason that we took -- that I've proposed not having that spring season is because that's after the moose lose their antlers, so it makes it real difficult to, you know, distinguish bulls from cows, and we have to be very careful to keep as many cows in that population as possible, and with the very poor calf production we've had the last couple of years, we need as many cows as we can to produce calves.

34
35 So -- and a similar proposal has been made also for 26(B) and 26(C), and so the regulations will be fairly similar across the North Slope.

38
39 Anyway, I'm just saying that the moose population really does seem to be in -- you know, it needs to have the pressure taken off of it for a while, to try to -- try to recover. I really don't think that the main problem has been hunting pressure in the past. There are other things that are causing this, probably a combination of heavy predation, possibly some bad weather, and it could be that some of these areas have become over-grazed. But what I'm -- the attempt is to take the pressure off the moose for a couple of years in hopes of figuring out what the other problems are and seeing if we can do something about that. And I just came before your

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Board to urge you to consider this problem and to possibly changing Federal regulations to also take some pressure off the moose for a few years.

4

5 One question I was asked the other night, I hadn't really -- that was how you comment to the State Board of Game if you guys discuss this and want to make any comments to the Board of Game. I'll leave one of these. This is a proposal packet, and inside it it has listed written comments are due to the Juneau address by March 8th, 1995, and it has the address and everything written out inside the book. Or people can go testify at the meetings, which will be held in Fairbanks from March 18th to 31st. If people want to testify, they have to be there by March 18th to sign up to testify on the proposals.

15

16 MR. BROWER: Mr. Chairman?

17

18 CHAIRMAN ITTA: Harry?

19

20 MR. BROWER: Geoff, I still have a concern regarding this nonresident hunt season.

22

23 MR. CARROLL: Uh-huh.

24

25 MR. BROWER: It says it will be reduced from September 26 through -- what does it say here? September 5 to September 25, and at that time when that hunt occurs, there will be a lot of -- the hunters will be allowed to take the cows at that time?

30

31 MR. CARROLL: No, they can't -- after September 1st, no cows can be taken, and only bulls that have antlers of greater than 50 inches.

34

35 MR. BROWER: So that the

36

37 MR. CARROLL: Fifty inches or greater.

38

39 MR. BROWER: So at that time, they'll only be allowed to hunt for bulls?

41

42 MR. CARROLL: Yeah, only bulls.

43

44 MR. BROWER: Thank you.

45

46 CHAIRMAN ITTA: Geoff, the -- kind of related to this, but I was just curious, the data that's provided or generated regarding moose populations and locations and calving rates and all that, how accessible is that information to say like guides

50

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Or anybody that might be interested to see where the moose might be at a certain time of the year?

3

4 MR. CARROLL: Well, it's all sitting in my office. And, you know, the only way people really have access to it is if they call me and request it. You know, I don't give information, for instance, to guides, you know, where the big moose are or where the moose concentrations are. But I might give general -- you know, general guidance, like, for instance, right now the worst -- you know, the biggest problem is right on the Colville River itself. I mean, for instance, there wasn't a single surviving calf on the whole Colville River last spring. So I -- you know, say if people are going to come in and hunt, you know, I'd rather they went to the Anaktuvuk and Chandler tributaries than on the main Colville, so I kind of give people general directions like that. And

17

18 CHAIRMAN ITTA: Okay. I think Frank, then Gordon and Harry.

20

21 MR. LONG: I have a comment and a question. I'm in favor of this proposal that you have before us, but I have a comment that I would like to make and be noted. As you know, the natives that do our subsistence hunt will not hunt, try and harvest moose during rutting season, and I think that is during October and November. And the question I have is on this number five, resident and nonresident will be restricted to moose with 50-inch antler or greater after September 1st. What would happen if I have no alternative to get a moose, harvest a moose that has 50 and a half inches antler? What kind of penalty would be imposed on me?

32

33 MR. CARROLL: Well,

34

35 MR. LONG: If I catch a moose with only a half-inch more than 50 inches, will I be penalized?

37

38 MR. CARROLL: No, that's what we want is for people to take moose with antlers that are 50 inches or greater. It's -- you know, it's kind of an arbitrary number, you know. What we're trying to do is decrease the number of bulls that are harvested,

43

44 MR. LONG: Yeah.

45

46 MR. CARROLL: And so we -- I mean, we could have just as well said you can only take ones that are less than 40-inch antler. You know, we're just trying to set a category so that there are others that are not taken.

50

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1
2 MR. LONG: You know, I'd hate to be like that guy that
3 got killed last fall, walking up to a moose with a tape
4 measure.

5
6 (Laughter)
7

8 MR. CARROLL: Yeah. Well, yeah, and that -- but
9 there's also the -- like we say, greater than 50 inches or four
10 brow tines. I mean, that's something that's easier to look
11 for. It's pretty easy to look at a moose with your binoculars
12 or whatever and count brow tines, and generally, you know, any
13 fifth -- any moose that has 50-inch antlers or greater is going
14 to have four brow tines, but if -- I mean, if it does have four
15 brow tines and it's less than 50 inches, you're still legal.
16 And, you know, these things are

17
18 Your first question is what is the penalty, and I can't
19 tell you exactly what the penalty is. It kind of depends a lot
20 on the circumstances. If a person makes an honest mistake,
21 then that's a lot different than somebody that goes out and
22 shoots three cows, you know, it's

23
24 CHAIRMAN ITTA: Okay. Gordon?
25

26 MR. UPICKSON: Yes. Did you notice a decline in 26(B)
27 and (C) like you noticed in 26(A)?
28

29 MR. CARROLL: Yeah, there's been a dramatic decline
30 over there as well.

31
32 MR. UPICKSON: All the way across?
33

34 MR. CARROLL: Yeah, all the way across the Slope, and
35 actually all through northern Alaska, even in the Kotzebue
36 area, the number of moose are down even, and around Nome. You
37 know, it's just -- it's one of those things. It's kind of hard
38 to explain. I mean,

39
40 MR. UPICKSON: But off hand you don't have any figures
41 like you gave some figures here for 26(A), but you don't have
42 any figures for

43
44 MR. CARROLL: I can give

45
46 MR. UPICKSON: across the Slope as a whole or (B)
47 and (C)?
48

49 MR. CARROLL: Let's see. Well, I can just -- I can
50

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tell you what they say in -- they explain the problem, why they want to change the regulations in 26(B) and (C), too. Okay. Calf survival has been extremely low during the past two years, combined with substantial mortality of adult moose from wolf and bear predation, and at times severe winter conditions. Low recruitment has resulted in a decline in total numbers of moose in most drainages. Between 1986 and 1993 the annual harvest ranged from 25 to 52. Harvest is often influenced by weather. Although moose numbers are about one-third lower than the mid-80s, the harvest has remained --" Okay. There's been a decline in the bull to cow ratio from 62 per 100 to 42 per 100 in 1994. I don't know. I guess they don't give numbers of moose they've counted out there.

14

15 Their problem there it looks like is -- I know the number -- just from talking to them, the number of moose has declined, and I have a report over in the office if you want more details, but they've also had very low calf survival, and, you know, decrease in numbers of moose, and decreasing bull to cow ratios. So -- a decrease in the bull to ratio a lot of times is an indication of over-hunting, because most hunters that go in there do shoot bulls, so that's one reason they want to reduce the hunting level in 26(B) and (C).

24

25 MR. BROWER: Mr. Chairman?

26

27 CHAIRMAN ITTA: Harry, you had a question?

28

29 MR. BROWER: Yes. Geoff, I'm -- I still have this deal that I can't, you know, just get over right off -- just like going over a step. Since the population and the calf ratios are down and the hunting pressure is still in there, it's -- you know, I think to reduce that even more, I think I'd just like to see that nonresident season taken out just for a couple of years, you know, if that might even help for the population to come back up. So, you know, that's just a concern I just can't step over for what's -- what you've mentioned on the statistics there. Cow/calf ratio, then the -- how the female and male percentage in the population there. I think the -- if you -- if it's possible, I'd like to see your proposal amended and taken out -- to have this language regarding the nonresident season taken out just for a couple years to see if that might help, you know, get the population to increase again. I'm not sure if it will or not, but, you know, I think that's one of the first steps. When the population is going down, that's the first thing that usually is attacked, you know, for decreasing the pressure of hunt.

48

49 MR. CARROLL: Yeah, you're saying that you think that

50

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the out-of-state hunters should be -- I mean, the out-of-state
 hunt should be eliminated first, and

3

4 MR. BROWER: Yeah.

5

6 MR. CARROLL: Yeah. Well, I'd suggest you're right.
 If that -- I mean, my personal feeling is that would be fine
 with me if that happens, you know. I -- and I'd suggest that
 if, you know, the majority of the Council feels that way, that
 you write a comment to the Board of Game stating that, and --
 you know, it was -- you know, it's kind of something I wrestled
 with mentally, as to whether that should be done or not. I
 kind of -- my advice was that if we did do that, it would --
 there would be a very strong reaction from the guides who hunt
 in that area, and rather than getting a ten-day season, they
 might come in and raise Cain, and, you know, push for a 15 or
 20-day season or something. I -- you know, you kind of play
 politics with this stuff a little bit. I'm thinking that if we
 propose a ten-day limit, they might accept that; if we propose
 a 15-day limit, that they might go and fight it like crazy and want a
 25 or 20-day season. So -- but I would urge you if, you know,
 you feel that way to go ahead and write a comment to the Board
 of Game and state that.

24

25 MR. BROWER: Uh-huh.

26

27 CHAIRMAN ITTA: Okay. Frank?

28

29 MR. LONG: Yeah, last comment on this proposal. Using
 aircraft during the open season of the moose, which begins
 in August 1st. We do have a super guide out there that does
 not really care what the law says, and he's out there hovering
 and flying the river the night before the moose season opens.
 And I would like it to be noted, and maybe a letter of some
 sort to be sent to each guide that hunts in the Colville area.

36

37 MR. CARROLL: Are you saying that he's flying the

38

39 MR. LONG: I'm not going to name the guy, because you
 know who he is.

41

42 MR. CARROLL: Well, I don't know. But if

43

44 MR. LONG: Well, you should know it, because he's your
 relative.

46

47 MR. CARROLL: Well, maybe we better talk about this.
 But I really don't know, Frank.

49

50

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1 MR. LONG: Okay. Let me name the guy: Hember (ph).
2
3 MR. CARROLL: Okay. Well, he's not really a relative.
4 But are you saying he's flying the night -- I mean,
5
6 MR. LONG: Yeah, he
7
8 MR. CARROLL: he's flying before the August
9 season or before the September season?
10
11 MR. LONG: Just before the August season. He'll be out
12 there on the last day of July.
13
14 MR. CARROLL: Uh-huh. Well, I'll sure talk to him
15 about it.
16
17 CHAIRMAN ITTA: I have a question, you know, we're
18 concerned about that decline. Do you have -- with the State
19 Department of Fish & Game, this thing about the special action
20 similar to the special actions area of emergency closure,
21 temporary closure or a declaration that there is a drastic
22 decline which sets off a whole sequence where nonresidents are
23 eliminated automatically, or what -- I guess my question is
24 what does it take to declare an emergency and protect the
25 stock? Because I know subsistence users, if any of the
26 wildlife populations are threatened, that under our rules, they
27 can declare the season closed, except to subsistence users. Is
28 there something similar there, or
29
30 MR. CARROLL: Yeah, it's -- I can -- you know, I can
31 write up an emergency closure if it looks like there, you know,
32 a very serious problem. And it's done
33
34 CHAIRMAN ITTA: Uh-huh. Where's that number I guess is
35 my question, too. What determines where you're at that stage
36 when you say -- I notice you say "decline," you don't say
37 dramatically declined or have crashed. Are those words that
38 you use to trigger that emergency closure, or what does it take
39 to trigger that?
40
41 MR. CARROLL: Well, there's no magic number, you know.
42 It's a judgment call. And, I mean, I -- yeah, I actually
43 considered an emergency closure last fall, and
44
45 CHAIRMAN ITTA:
46
47 MR. CARROLL: But I wanted to -- I wanted to wait
48 until the fall counts, which always occur after the hunting
49 season, and see what the status of the population was. And,
50

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Well, I don't know, they just -- the results of the fall count were enough to convince me that there should be some regulations changes, and, well, I just made the choice not to have an emergency closure, which, you know, it would have cut off everybody from Nuiqsut hunting, and it would have just cut everybody off.

7
8 CHAIRMAN ITTA: I said with the exception of
9 subsistence users.

10
11 MR. CARROLL: Yeah. Well, yeah, I mean, that is an
12 option. We decided not to do that last fall.

13
14 CHAIRMAN ITTA: All right. Any more -- Gordon? Gordon
15 and then Ray.

16
17 MR. UPICKSON: A question for -- did you notice any
18 increase in the population just south of say like Unit 26(A)
19 there there's a big decline there? Do you have any stats on
20 that? Is there like maybe a big increase in moose population
21 south of 26(A)? Could they have migrated? Maybe there was no
22 you know, that's quite a change in hunting seasons and bag
23 limits. Is that maybe just migrated south?

24
25 MR. CARROLL: Well, they're declining south

26
27 MR. UPICKSON: They are? Okay.

28
29 MR. CARROLL: of 26(A), too, in Unit 23. There's
30 decline there, too, but we -- they did -- they were doing --
31 mean, the fact that population -- they're having problems
32 with that population, and so they put some radio collars on
33 some of the moose that are south of the mountains there, and to
34 well, just to track what the cause of mortality was in some
35 these moose, and it's pretty interesting. Some of those
36 moose on the south side of the mountains did end up up north of
37 the mountains. So some of the -- so they do travel back and
38 forth over the mountains.

39
40 MR. R. KOONUK: Mr. Chair?

41
42 CHAIRMAN ITTA: Yes, go ahead.

43
44 MR. R. KOONUK: I -- Gordon took the words out of what
45 was going to ask, but I'd go along with Harry's proposal of
46 a resident hunt for a two-year span.

47
48 MR. CARROLL: Yeah. What's that?

49
50

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1 MR. R. KOONUK: I'll follow Harry's recommendations of
2 a two-year nonresident take of any moose. Is that what you
3 were recommending?

4
5 CHAIRMAN ITTA: Yeah, that's what he -- Uh-huh. Maybe
6 it -- okay. We have a question or a comment up here? Would
7 you get up to the mike, please?

8
9 MR. YOKEL: Dave Yokel with BLM. Mr. Chairman, last
10 night I had suggested that if this proposal to the State Board
11 of Game is passed, that a similar proposal might go in front of
12 the Federal Subsistence Board next June as a special action,
13 and I thought the Council might want to be on record one way or
14 the other for the -- for that change to the Federal
15 regulations, and you decided last night to defer that until
16 this morning when Fenton would be with us. And this may be
17 your opportunity to do that.

18
19 CHAIRMAN ITTA: Okay. In fact that's what we're going
20 to be doing here.

21
22 Any more questions for Geoff regarding the moose
23 proposal? Jake?

24
25 MR. J. KOONUK: Yeah, I'm in favor of what Harry said
26 about the nonresidents should be pulled out of this proposal.
27 The moose are like -- pretty close to half of moose harvested
28 by nonresidents.

29
30 MR. CARROLL: Yeah, they do take a significant number.
31 You know, with this proposal the only ones that will be taken,
32 you know, the old bulls, you know, they're not taking the cows,
33 which are the most critical ones. But, yeah, that's fine. If
34 you guys want to propose that to the Board of Game, or make
35 that recommendation to the Board of Game on the proposal, I
36 would urge you

37
38 MR. J. KOONUK: Would a motion

39
40 MR. CARROLL: to do so.

41
42 MR. J. KOONUK: would even work here now?

43
44 MR. CARROLL: What's that?

45
46 MR. J. KOONUK: Would a motion work in this -- on this
47 one right now?

48
49 CHAIRMAN ITTA: Go ahead.

50

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1
2 MR. KURTH: Yeah, Mr. Chairman, I'd just maybe add a
3 little bit to this discussion on some of the points raised
4 because of Harry's concern. At least in the areas of 26(C)
5 that we're talking about here, a lot of these areas are way up
6 into the mountains, the Sag River, the Lupine, the Bribdig and
7 those areas, and I think it would be interesting to hear from
8 Fenton and maybe Frank whether the villages go way up there,
9 because what my staff tells me is that mostly the competition
10 in a lot of these areas is between guides and then air taxi
11 operators with other people from outside the area, so I think
12 before you make your decision, you'll want to decide whether or
13 not eliminating nonresidents helps subsistence, or whether it's
14 competition in some of these areas basically between two
15 different kinds of sport hunters. Because I think in many of
16 these areas, it's mostly people that are coming from outside of
17 the area, but I don't know that. That's one of the things that
18 Frank and Fenton will know more about these high mountain
19 valleys and whether the people from the village go that far up.

20

21 MR. UPICKSON: Mr. Chairman?

22

23 CHAIRMAN ITTA: Gordon?

24

25 MR. UPICKSON: One more question. Geoff, do you have
26 any figures on how many moose those nonresidents get as
27 compared to the residents? Do you have any figures?

28

29 MR. CARROLL: Well, let's see.

30

31 MR. UPICKSON: You say the nonresidents took a
32 substantial amount, number, but do you have any figures that
33 say they take three-quarters of the

34

35 MR. CARROLL: Yes.

36

37 MR. UPICKSON: moose that are harvested? Or do
38 you have a figure?

39

40 MR. CARROLL: Nonresident hunters have -- on the
41 average have harvested 49% of the moose out of the Colville
42 river drainage.

43

44 MR. UPICKSON: So if we in fact support Harry's
45 suggestion that the nonresident season be eliminated then in
46 fact we would be eliminating that 49% of the moose that is
47 harvested in 26(A)?

48

49 MR. CARROLL: Yeah, that's -- yeah, that's probably --

50

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maybe it wouldn't be quite that much, because they've already had their season limited quite a bit, so they probably wouldn't be taking 49% of them anyway, but, yeah, it would reduce it substantially. That's true.

5

6 CHAIRMAN ITTA: Go ahead, make the motion

7

8 MR. REXFORD: Mr. Chairman?

9

10 MR. BROWER: Mr. Chair

11

12 CHAIRMAN ITTA: Go ahead, Fenton.

13

14 MR. REXFORD: Yes, thank you. Just to answer Jim Kirth's question on whether we get -- our residents do get up
15 the higher reaches of the Brooks Range on the south side of
16 the Continental Divide there, on the Hulahula and other
17 drainages, and also further west into Canning and maybe into
18 Sag River as well. As a matter of record, I just wanted to
19 point that out. But to also -- I'm in favor of the proposal as
20 presented, and I have one quick question. How long was the
21 original nonresident season, Geoff?

22

23
24 MR. CARROLL: The nonresident season was from September
25 to the end of December.

26

27 MR. REXFORD: Okay.

28

29 MR. CARROLL: But in fact, most nonresident hunters do
30 their hunting during the first two weeks of September. You
31 know, that's when they -- that's when the guides have all their
32 hunts scheduled and everything, so although they were -- you
33 know, it looked like a three-month season, really it was more
34 a three-week season that -- when people really hunted.

35

36 MR. R. KOONUK: Mr. Chair?

37

38 MR. REXFORD: Perhaps then the -- I'll do what the --
39 I'm in favor of the proposal, the other -- I share that the
40 majority of the members of the Council (indiscernible, jet
41 overhead) nonresidents. You know, we can that up. But see,
42 just to make things earlier though, I was going to maybe have
43 this council write a different proposal to yours, or if you
44 have the proposal there in front of us, to adopt that with
45 minor amendments.

46

47 CHAIRMAN ITTA: Yeah, I believe so. I think Ray?

48

49 MR. R. KOONUK: Yeah, Mr. Chair. In fact, I'll make a

50

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motion to approve the proposal

2

3 CHAIRMAN ITTA: 5 AAC is the number

4

5 MR. R. KOONUK: your proposal 5 AAC 85.045(2),
~~6~~ deleting number three of the summary, proposed changes, and
~~7~~ deleting nonresidents on item five. And -- but if I could add
~~8~~ onto number three to the nonresident hunters quit hunting moose
~~9~~ for the next two years on item three.

10

11 MR. REXFORD: I'll second that for purpose of
~~12~~ discussion. Geoff, I think that proposal that you're referring
~~13~~ to, Ray, is the State numbering system, and I don't know what
~~14~~ our proposal number would be. I think that would be like
~~15~~ brought up in June. Is that what Bill was saying? During the
~~16~~ meeting of the

17

18 CHAIRMAN ITTA: Yeah.

19

20 MR. REXFORD: Not this April 1, but some -- for
~~21~~ consideration in June, is that what you were saying, Bill?

22

23 MR. KNAUER: It was actually Dave Yokel that was saying
~~24~~, but there is a potential that there might be a special
~~25~~ action request submitted to the Federal Subsistence Board
~~26~~ similar to this in the spring.

27

28 MR. REXFORD: Is that going to be taken in the summer
~~29~~ after

30

31 CHAIRMAN ITTA: Right. Yeah.

32

33 MR. KNAUER: That would be correct, after the April
~~34~~ meeting.

35

36 MR. REXFORD: Right. Okay.

37

38 CHAIRMAN ITTA: Let me make sure we've got the motion
~~39~~ understood here. The motion is to approve this proposal as
~~40~~ presented in its entirety, with the exception of deleting item
~~41~~ three, and inserting the new language for item three, which
~~42~~ essentially says that no -- nonresident hunting will not be
~~43~~ allowed in 26(A) for two years?

44

45 MR. R. KOONUK: Yes.

46

47 CHAIRMAN ITTA: And the -- under five in the summary
~~48~~ that the words "and nonresidents" should be deleted. Is that
~~49~~ your motion, Ray?

50

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1
2 MR. R. KOONUK: Yes, Mr. Chair.
3
4 CHAIRMAN ITTA: Okay. We have a motion and a second
before you. We're open for discussion on this proposal.
6
7 MR. UPICKSON: I'll second this motion.
8
9 CHAIRMAN ITTA: Yeah, Fenton seconded.
10
11 MR. REXFORD: Mr. Chairman, I think in the
justification I want to further clarify that the reason or the
justification of this Council's recommendation is there's -- I
think there's three questions that are asked, and if someone
can help me with this. I think there's State and the Federal
justification questions are similar, you know, like who's to
benefit, who's to suffer and what will happen if nothing is
done. I think those are the same question, am I correct.
19
20 CHAIRMAN ITTA: That's correct, and those will be
addressed
22
23 MR. REXFORD: Okay.
24
25 CHAIRMAN ITTA: during our development of our
proposal for the Federal side, that's the way I'm understanding
it. Correct. What we're doing right now
28
29 MR. REXFORD: Okay. So
30
31 CHAIRMAN ITTA: Okay. Go ahead, Fenton.
32
33 MR. REXFORD: The benefit I think is an important
question to answer, and that would be all hunters for future
years will benefit from this closure for a couple of years.
36
37
38 CHAIRMAN ITTA: Okay.
39
40 MR. LONG: Mr. Chairman?
41
42 MR. REXFORD: That's all I have to add, Mr. Chairman,
as far as comments.
44
45 CHAIRMAN ITTA: Okay. Thank you, Fenton. Frank?
46
47 MR. LONG: Yeah, I'd like to make a comment on this
proposal. In the deletion of number three and number five,
when we do this, we are faced with another organization that
50

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Does their hunting in a different manner, which is sport hunting. They're a big, strong organization, and they have the dollars and signs to back them up. If this would go on and be passed in the State, I think we should be prepared for such action from the sport hunter.

6

CHAIRMAN ITTA: I'd like to just comment to that, too. I think we made a real strong distinction between nonresident and resident game hunters. I think we'd get a big objection if we took both resident and nonresident out, because those game hunters have a lot that's going on here right in Alaska itself. I don't think they'll have too much of a problem myself with non-residents. And I agree, they -- you know, it might be something to get worried about here, but I think we need to protect our stocks, and nonresidents should -- whether they raise Cain or not, should

17

MR. R. KOONUK: Mr. Chairman?

19

CHAIRMAN ITTA: Go ahead.

21

MR. R. KOONUK: I think we have to stand by our people, too, because, you know, they've been out here, and they existed here for a long time, and they live off these foods, and they don't do any sport hunting. They just try to feed their families, and I think we have to look at -- not just their families, but other families, too. Thanks.

28

CHAIRMAN ITTA: Okay. Any more discussion? Geoff?

30

MR. CARROLL: I'd like to make one comment here. You know, this proposal that I gave you is kind of -- it's written in language that's easier to understand than what's actually in the

35

CHAIRMAN ITTA: Okay.

37

MR. CARROLL: proposal packet. The real proposal is Proposal #132.

40

CHAIRMAN ITTA: Okay.

42

MR. CARROLL: And the proposal that addresses 26(B) and 44) is Proposal 133.

45

CHAIRMAN ITTA: That's Proposal 132 by ADF&G?

47

MR. CARROLL: Yeah.

49

50

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1 CHAIRMAN ITTA: Okay. And so note for the record that
 2 this proposal is tied into

3

4 MR. REXFORD: Yeah.

5

6 CHAIRMAN ITTA: Proposal 132.

7

8 MR. REXFORD: The second concurs with that
 9 clarification on the proposal number. Thank you, Geoff.

10

11 CHAIRMAN ITTA: Yeah.

12

13 MR. CARROLL: Okay.

14

15 CHAIRMAN ITTA: Any more discussion on the motion?

16

17 MR. LONG: Question called.

18

19 CHAIRMAN ITTA: The question called on the motion. All
 20 favor signify by saying aye?

21

22 IN UNISON: Aye.

23

24 CHAIRMAN ITTA: Opposed, same sign?

25

26 (No opposing responses)

27

28 CHAIRMAN ITTA: Hearing none, (In Inupiat). You have
 29 our blessing with the exceptions noted on this Proposal 133 by
 30 ADF&G.

31

32 MR. CARROLL: Okay. Thanks. Yeah, my major

33

34 CHAIRMAN ITTA: Okay. Great.

35

36 MR. CARROLL: concern is just getting the
 37 pressure taken off the population for a while, so

38

39 CHAIRMAN ITTA: And it's noted that we will be
 40 preparing our counter-proposal to match in case this whole
 41 thing -- I think it's going to go through this Board all right,
 42 but -- it will probably go through?

43

44 MR. CARROLL: I think so.

45

46 CHAIRMAN ITTA: Then we'll go ahead and start working
 47 on the proposal to be in standardization with those folks.

48

49 MR. LONG: Mr. Chairman?

50

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1
2 CHAIRMAN ITTA: Frank.
3
4 MR. LONG: Call for a lunch break.
5
6 CHAIRMAN ITTA: Good. I'm going to call a lunch break.
7 We'll meet you all back here at 1:00 o'clock. We'll be ready
8 to work on proposals. Or we'd better get Bill's reports in
9 first I guess, but that will be at 1:00 o'clock. Call for a
10 lunch break.
11
12 (Off record)
13
14 (On record)
15
16 CHAIRMAN ITTA: Good afternoon, we'll call our meeting
17 back to order. Fenton, are you on line?
18
19 MR. UPICKSON: Not yet.
20
21 MR. BROWER: She's still calling him.
22
23 CHAIRMAN ITTA: Okay. We'll give Nancy a minute here
24 to get Fenton on line.
25
26 (Off record)
27
28 (On record)
29
30 CHAIRMAN ITTA: I'm just now calling the meeting back
31 to order, Fenton. We're all back.
32
33 MR. REXFORD: Okay. Good afternoon everybody.
34
35 MR. AVEOGANNA: Good afternoon, (In Inupiat).
36
37 CHAIRMAN ITTA: Okay. With that we want to go ahead
38 and finish the rest of our agenda, given the time that we have
39 the rest of this afternoon. I want to go ahead and start with
40 A, the definition for resident. We'll have discussion on
41 this by Bill. Bill?
42
43 MR. KNAUER: Yes, Mr. Chairman. A little bit of
44 history. The regulations refer to the fact that subsistence
45 users must possess, and I'll quote, "pertinent valid State
46 hunting, fishing and trapping licenses, unless Federal licenses
47 are required." The point in question is the word "pertinent".
48 The current State regulations call for a hunting license if
49 you're going to be hunting, a trapping license if you're going
50

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to be trapping, but the State does not require a fishing license for subsistence fishing.

3

4 The Board -- the Joint Board of Game and -- Fisheries and Game has sent a letter to the Federal Subsistence Board requesting that subsistence users be required to have a resident hunting license, a resident trapping license and a resident fishing license. They feel that ANILCA was not designed to provide the subsistence priority for individuals just immediately coming from Outside, from New York or Chicago or wherever.

12

13 The Bureau of Land Management also sent a letter, and both -- copies of both of these are in your book, to the Board addressing problems especially in roaded areas where individuals may move in and stay in a camp ground or a trailer, especially on a seasonal basis, and because of that, claim residency there.

19

20 So the Federal Subsistence Board has requested that each Regional Council take a look at the issue as to whether or not residency should require a resident license, or whether it should be just the way it is now where an individual moving in, once they're in a rural area, have demonstrated their intent to remain, and they for the first year could actually be a subsistence user using a nonresident license, or whether there should be some other option.

28

29 There are three options described. The current -- the one option says "do nothing, leave the regulations the way they are," which do not specify whether it takes a nonresident or a resident license. A second option would be to actually specify that to be a qualified subsistence user, you would have to have a State resident hunting license, a resident fishing license, or no license for fishing, since that's how the State does it, although the State would like to require a resident fishing license. Or -- another option is to whether maybe there is no need for any license at all. There is some concern over that, especially as it results -- much of the income for wildlife management in the State is derived either directly from license fees or as a result of Federal monies that come to the State based on the amount of fees collected.

43

44 So it's an issue paper in your book, something for you to read, think about, and at a later time submit your feelings, possibly in the annual report to the Board on this issue.

47

48 CHAIRMAN ITTA: Okay. And which sections are you referring to? Are they in the back or where?

50

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1
2 MR. KNAUER: It's I believe the second one from the
Back, and it says -- the blue page says, "briefing document,
#esidency and license requirements for participating in Federal
Subsistence hunts." It's a fairly short section.

6
7 CHAIRMAN ITTA: Okay. Uh-huh. Any comments or
Questions for Bill? If not, thank you, Bill. We'll be getting
Back on this I'm sure at a later date.

10
11 MR. KNAUER: Okay.

12
13 CHAIRMAN ITTA: Okay. And I want to go ahead and move
on down to the next agenda item, the nomination process here,
and, Barbara, want to do that along with Bill?

16
17 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: Yeah, it's pretty much the same
process you have used before. And you have three Councils
leaving as of the end of this year, and that's Gordon Upickson,
Tom Allen -- Aveaganna, and Jakie Koonuk, who took George
Ahmoagak's position on this Council.

22
23 And now the -- you are concerned about two other
villages that are not represented on this Board and that's
Atqasuk and Anaktuvuk Pass. And to date I have not received
any applications from those two villages, and I would probably
need your help in giving them calls. I have sent applications
to their mayors at Atqasuk and Anaktuvuk Pass to encourage
people to apply for these positions. And to date -- and the
deadline is the 28th of February.

31
32 And then after this we go through the same process
again of going through the applications, and then we submit the
names after looking through the applications and go through the
same process again, and then we'll hear by August, before the
fall meetings. And then that's when you'll have your new
Council members again.

38
39 CHAIRMAN ITTA: Say that last again?

40
41 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: The new Council members will be
appointed by like in August, before your fall meetings, and
that's when the new Council members will be in place for your
meetings in October.

45
46 CHAIRMAN ITTA: When is the application deadline again,
please?

48
49 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: February 28th.

50

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1
2 CHAIRMAN ITTA: The last day of this month?
3
4 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: Uh-huh.
5
6 MR. LONG: I have a question, Mr. Chairman?
7
8 CHAIRMAN ITTA: Frank?
9
10 MR. LONG: Have these two villages been notified? Or
11 explained to the
12
13 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: The main
14
15 MR. LONG: community the importance of the
16 Federal Advisory Council, also including the importance of the
17 residents themselves, why they should be involved?
18
19 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: Yes. There's a packet that went
20 out, and I sent about five or six of those packets. What you
21 have probably received yourselves, too. The same packet went,
22 five or six applications to Atqasuk and also to Anaktuvuk Pass.
23 Now, I have one application from Anaktuvuk Pass and one from
24 Point Hope and one from Wainwright. And other than that, I
25 need more applicants to be sending in, so I need for you -- for
26 your help to -- because I don't know people in Atqasuk.
27
28 MR. LONG: Yeah. The reason that I'm saying this is
29 the packet or mail, in a letter form,
30
31 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: Uh-huh.
32
33 MR. LONG: can be set aside. But what I'm --
34 what I'm thinking is that if somebody in person would be in the
35 communities explaining to these people the importance of this
36 Federal Advisory Council, which not only talks about our
37 subsistence, but it also includes the State fisheries
38
39 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: Uh-huh.
40
41 MR. LONG: on our subsistence lifestyle.
42
43 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: I would be willing to travel to
44 these two villages, but then right now I have three -- I'm
45 working with three councils, and I have a meeting next week,
46 and then it would just be no time for me to do that. And it
47 would be up to Fenton or Edward, and I know they have prior
48 commitments to doing other things, too, and then -- but you're
49 next door to Atqasuk.
50

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1
2 MR. LONG: Yeah, he's got a better chance of being
3 explained.

4
5 MR. REXFORD: Yeah, Barbara, if I may add to that?

6
7 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: Go ahead, Fenton.

8
9 MR. REXFORD: Yeah, Frank, I think there's been a lot
10 of radio announcements through K-Bear and lately I've been
11 hearing these kind of things. And I'm glad that they're still
12 doing that. Also through our local paper. I think I've seen
13 the announcement as well. I may be mistaken, but I heard
14 Askani K-Bear W and I've talked to some residents in Atkasuk.
15 I know some folks from Anaktuvuk Pass. And they're very well
16 aware of our Council, too, so -- but, yeah, the word needs to
17 be spread around and

18
19 MR. BROWER: Mr. Chairman.

20
21 CHAIRMAN ITTA: Thank you up in the air. We look up to
22 you, Fenton. We're all looking up when you talk. Anyway,
23 Fenton, let me ask you a quick question.

24
25 MR. REXFORD: Yeah, I was just thinking, you know, I
26 know Herman's visited here. I think he's still the mayor,
27 unless there's been recent changes, but the village
28 coordinators are very helpful, you know.

29
30 CHAIRMAN ITTA: Maybe if I could ask a question. I'll
31 ask you, Harry. Who's the representative on the North Slope
32 Borough's Wildlife Management Committee from Atkasuk?

33
34 MR. BROWER: It's Jake Pinyuk (ph).

35
36 CHAIRMAN ITTA: Jake Pinyuk?

37
38 MR. BROWER: Yes.

39
40 CHAIRMAN ITTA: A while ago we mentioned Anaktuvuk
41 Pass, and who's on the Subsistence Council up there?

42
43 MR. ULVI: Raymond Paneak.

44
45 CHAIRMAN ITTA: Raymond Paneak. And Ben Hobson from
46 Anaktuvuk is on the Management Committee, too, correct?

47
48 MR. BROWER: Yes, he's the alternate member.

49
50

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1 CHAIRMAN ITTA: Alternate member.

2

3 MR. BROWER: Yeah. Bob Hauk (ph) was the member for
the Fish and Game Management Committee.

5

6 CHAIRMAN ITTA: Okay.

7

8 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: I think that's the other thing that
they're trying to get in place is alternates for the Council
members, are they not, Bill?

11

12 MR. KNAUER: There is some discussion for that. We're
not sure how that will turn out regarding alternates, because
we don't know whether there -- you know, there's a number of
options regarding alternates, whether it would be an alternate
for each member or alternates for the Council.

17

18 One of the things that the Councils -- we've tried to
do with the Councils is make sure there is good geographic
representation. All areas of a region are represented. And
alternates might alter that situation.

22

23 One thing since I am speaking that I would remind
people, if any of the three Council members whose terms are
expiring desire to be reconsidered for an additional three-year
term, they also do need to submit applications. It's not
automatic. They need to submit applications just like
everybody else.

29

30 MR. LONG: I'd like to say something in that regards on
alternate. I think that would be a pretty good idea, because
I know that I'm not going to get a per diem, I'm going to
send my alternate.

34

35 (Laughter)

36

37 CHAIRMAN ITTA: What I was just thinking here was that
wouldn't it make sense if the representative that's on the
Park's -- what's the name of that committee again? The
subsistence resource

41

42 MR. ULVI: Subsistence resource commission.

43

44 CHAIRMAN ITTA: Commission. And that is Raymond. It
would seem to make sense that he would be the same guy that
we'd want to have on Region Ten to represent their interest in
there. Does that make sense?

48

49 MR. REXFORD: Yeah, that makes very good -- yeah. I'll

50

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Back that nomination, so

2

3 CHAIRMAN ITTA: Okay. Tell you what, Fenton, I'll work
with you, and we'll focus especially on Anaktuvuk and Atqasuk
and get some names submitted here before the deadline, okay?

6

7 MR. REXFORD: Yeah.

8

9 CHAIRMAN ITTA: All right.

10

11 MR. REXFORD: You almost I think hit the nail, too, as
far as Jake, the president (ph) from Atqasuk being on the North
Slope Regional Advisory Council.

14

15 CHAIRMAN ITTA: Uh-huh. Right. I kind of like that,
too, myself.

17

18 MR. REXFORD: Just as a -- so anyway

19

20 CHAIRMAN ITTA: Okay.

21

22 MR. BROWER: Edward, I have a

23

24 CHAIRMAN ITTA: Harry?

25

26 MR. BROWER: Barbara, for your information, I also
sent, you know, copies of the name -- the nomination papers to
each of the village coordinators and the city mayor and the
city clerks in each of the communities for their information.
That's all. I wanted to pass that on to you.

31

32 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: Okay. Thanks. When I get back to
Anchorage, or back to my office, I'll get ahold of Gloria to
see if there are any more applicants. Those were the only
three I received was through my office. (In Inupiat) Koyana.

36

37 CHAIRMAN ITTA: (In Inupiat) Okay. (In Inupiat) All
right. We'll go ahead and do the Northwest Arctic, NARC, what
we're calling the NARC petition, which will be this orange
sheet here, and Bill is going to do the presentation there.

41

42 MR. KNAUER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It is also in
your book. It's the -- right immediately preceding the map in
the book.

45

46 Now, this was a petition that was submitted by the
Northwest Arctic Regional Council, the Stevens Village Council,
Kawerak, Inc., Copper River Native Association, Alaska
Federation of Natives, the Alaska Inter-tribal Council, Rural

50

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CAP, and Dinyee Corporation. This was submitted to the Secretaries of Interior and Agriculture.

3
4 This petition asked that the Secretaries issue a rule
5 that stated that the Federal Government does have the authority
6 to regulate hunting and fishing on non-public lands.

7
8 The second thing that this petition asked was for the
9 Secretaries to issue a rule that includes selected lands, in
10 other words State-selected and corporation -- native-selected
11 lands within the jurisdiction of the Federal Subsistence
12 Program. That has far-reaching significance. That issue is
13 also before the courts. Part of the Katy John case involves
14 that.

15
16 And so what the Secretaries have done is they've issued
17 a Federal Register Notice and said -- and have asked the public
18 to comment, to review these two requests and asked for the
19 public to comment in order that they might have a better
20 understanding of what the issues and concerns are, and how
21 these -- if they were to implement what is requested, how that
22 would impact both the subsistence users and the nonsubsistence
23 users.

24
25 The Federal Register Notice was published on February
26 16, and the comment period on this ends April 30. And anyone,
27 be it Council, be it corporation, be it individual, should
28 submit comments to the Chair of the Federal Subsistence Board
29 on this. They have been requested by the Secretaries to
30 assemble the comments and provide the information to the
31 Secretaries.

32
33 CHAIRMAN ITTA: Can you briefly summarize what the
34 problem was, why this proposal was submitted, and very briefly,
35 too, the main impacts,

36
37 MR. KNAUER: Certainly.

38
39 CHAIRMAN ITTA: both pro and con to the submittee
40 and to others?

41
42 MR. KNAUER: The Federal Subsistence Program right now
43 applies only to Federal lands and waters that the Federal
44 Government has interest in. And by definition Federal lands do
45 not include selected lands. In other words, ones that are
46 currently entitled to the Federal Government, but that have
47 been selected by native corporations or by the State. Both of
48 those entities have over-selected, as was their legal right to
49 do so, and as a result, many of those lands will come back into
50

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Federal title after the conveyance procedure is done.

2

3 Many of the resources that the subsistence user depends
4 upon move on and off of Federal land. And the selected lands
5 also encompass probably about 40 million acres right now.
6 There may be more than that. I'm not exactly sure on the
7 figure. So there is a sizeable amount of Federal land that --
8 or Federal lands that have been selected that are currently not
9 open to the subsistence user under the Federal program. They
10 are still open for hunting under the State regulations, but not
11 the Federal subsistence management regulations. So there was
12 concern there that here is a geographic area that's not
13 available for this priority.

14

15 The other concern is on non-Federal lands. The
16 subsistence user depends on resources that move. Certainly
17 caribou migrate over hundreds and sometimes thousands of miles
18 in their annual migration. Other species may do a north/south
19 or a vertical migration up and down mountains. And they don't
20 recognize boundaries, at least the geographic -- the map
21 boundaries, the ownership boundaries. And that the Federal
22 government should assert authority over management of those
23 resources to protect the subsistence user. In other words, a
24 caribou herd that is moving on and off Federal lands, if it is
25 estimated when it's on private lands, then by the time it gets
26 to the Federal lands, the subsistence user might be hurt. And
27 they have requested the Secretary say that he in fact does
28 have the authority to make regulations to protect the
29 subsistence interest.

30

31 The State, of course, is opposed to both of these
32 proposals, because they believe that management of the
33 resources is a State prerogative.

34

35 Barbara mentioned she wanted me to announce that the
36 current acting chair of the Federal Subsistence Board is
37 Mr. David Allen. As you know, Mr. Hensley was appointed by the
38 Governor to be one of his commissioners. He has resigned, and
39 until another chair is appointed by the Secretary, or a formal
40 interim chair is appointed, Mr. Allen, who is the Alaska
41 Regional Director of the Fish & Wildlife Service is the acting
42 chair. That's just a piece of information that does not
43 specifically relate to this, but is something that would be of
44 interest to you folks.

45

46 CHAIRMAN ITTA: Do you have any specific information on
47 showing us in Region Ten how -- what lands that this is
48 applicable to? I know that the corporation has made selections
49 over the place, but I'm not real sure where they are, and

50

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that sort of thing.

2

3 MR. KNAUER: If the Secretary were to accede to this
 4 request, it would mean any of the corporation-selected lands or
 5 State-selected lands would fall under the purview of your
 6 program, and where you provide advice to the Federal
 7 Government. If the Secretary were to promulgate a rule that
 8 said that he had authority to regulate hunting on non-public
 9 lands, essentially any of the lands on this map in white could
 10 be impacted.

11

12 CHAIRMAN ITTA: Okay.

13

14 MR. KNAUER: The Secretary at that point could make
 15 regulations based on your recommendation that would set seasons
 16 on those lands, or harvest limits different from what the State
 17 has. And could also possibly preclude nonresident or
 18 subsistence users also.

19

20 As you would imagine, if the Secretary did promulgate
 21 regulations in either case, I think we could almost be certain
 22 that it would be challenged in court either by the State or by
 23 possibly some other organizations or entities.

24

25 CHAIRMAN ITTA: Okay. Any questions for Bill?

26

27 MR. UPICKSON: The primary author of this notice, as
 28 long as he's talking, we've learned Bill is the primary author
 29 of this notice.

30

31 MR. KNAUER: What that means is I just prepared the
 32 notice that appeared in the Federal Register telling about it
 33 and asking for the comments. I didn't write the petition or
 34 anything.

35

36 MR. UPICKSON: Just the notice. The notice.

37

38 MR. KNAUER: I prepare most of the Federal Register
 39 documents that relate to this program.

40

41 MR. CARROLL: Would you tell me again what the petition
 42 is called?

43

44 MR. KNAUER: Just for simplification, we normally call
 45 the NARC, N-A-R-C, petition, an abbreviation of Northwest
 46 Arctic Regional Council.

47

48 MR. CARROLL: Okay.

49

50

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1 MR. KNAUER: And we do have copies with us if there's
anybody in the audience that needs a copy.

3
4 MR. LONG: I have a question, Mr. Chairman.

5
6 CHAIRMAN ITTA: Frank?

7
8 MR. LONG: You said that this proposal would include
the State -- part of the State land, which would include the
Point Hope area and 26(B), isn't that right?

11
12 MR. KNAUER: Under the two requests that the
petitioners made, it would include essentially any of the lands
in white on the map.

15
16 MR. LONG: Uh-huh. Would there -- would there be any
kind of affect for to put in changes in what is already in the
book on 26(A)?

19
20 MR. KNAUER: There are some lands up around the
community of Kaktovik that are non-Federal, so it would include
22 if there were regulations promulgated, it would include a
small area up there, and, you know, we don't know what impact
24 would actually have on the regulations. The regulations
25 that are currently in place might be adequate. There might be
26 changes. You know, we don't know. We've not done a thorough
27 review of all of the regulations in all areas of the State.

28
29 MR. LONG: Will these regulations concur with the State
30 regulations or would there be any difference?

31
32 MR. KNAUER: It would depend upon the -- what the
33 regulations were, and whether the priorities for the local
34 subsistence users were being provided for.

35
36 MR. LONG: And also would be affected by the
37 nonresident who mainly is a sport hunter under these
38 regulations?

39
40 MR. KNAUER: If there are -- in general, what the
41 Federal regulation says right now for Federal land, is if there
42 are adequate resources to go around, the nonresident and the
43 general sport hunter or people from outside of the area are
44 allowed to harvest resources also. If there's a shortage of
45 resources, then they are the first ones who are either
46 restricted or eliminated to provide for the subsistence user
47 first.

48
49 MR. LONG: There is a question in a meeting at
50

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Fairbanks that took place. In State land under their regulation there's -- if we get into regulating under the Federal system, that why is the subsistence user able to hunt the caribou, and not them. There is a question on that. And I've listened to it. I don't know if anybody else has heard it, but there is a question of why we natives are allowed to subsist and the, how could I say it, nonresident or the Caucasian or any nationality that resides in the State of Alaska can't.

10

11 MR. KNAUER: Under the State reg- -- under the current State regulations, all of Alaska residents are subsistence users.

14

15 MR. LONG: Yeah, but there is a question on the hunting

17

18 MR. KNAUER: Under the Federal

19

20 MR. LONG: Yeah.

21

22 MR. KNAUER: program, ANILCA, Title VIII says that the priority shall be afforded to rural Alaska residents only.

25

26 MR. LONG: Yeah, that's what's in my mind. When this question was asked, there is one person that demolished the rural preference of subsisting. And it makes me wonder if there will be another super dude that will do that to us again under the Federal law.

31

32 MR. KNAUER: Currently, it is a Federal law, and because it is, it takes an act of Congress to change it. We as Federal employees have no authority to make that change. That's only your Congressmen and Senators in conjunction with the rest of Congress. So as long as that law is on the books, we have to provide regulations that implement it, or if the State somehow is able to come back into compliance, they must provide means to implement it.

40

41 MR. LONG: Okay.

42

43 CHAIRMAN ITTA: Okay?

44

45 MR. LONG: Yeah, thank you. Gordon?

46

47 MR. UPICKSON: I've got to read this petition over and over again, and it would affect my community, the ruling that the petitions request. And I'd have to read this whole thing

50

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over and over again. That would affect my community. That would affect Point Hope.

3

4 MR. BROWER: Edward?

5

6 CHAIRMAN ITTA: Harry?

7

8 MR. BROWER: Bill, have you heard any comments from your solicitors regarding this, and what kind of position have they taken on it, or have they even reviewed it?

11

12 MR. KNAUER: They have reviewed it, and in fact they were the ones that recommended that the Secretaries put it out for public review to ask the people of Alaska their opinions.

15

16 MR. BROWER: Uh-huh.

17

18 MR. KNAUER: Part of the reason for putting it out for review is because some of these issues are also ones that are being litigated in the Katy John case which asks for an extension of jurisdiction, especially into the navigable water area and some of the other areas.

23

24 This was a -- there are currently two efforts to get the regulations to be extended onto either selected lands or other lands. One is through the courts and the other is administratively, directly to the Secretary. This is the administrative way. The idea is essentially like going out and hunting with a shot gun. You throw as many things at the bird as you can, as many pellets, to try and down it. This is what they have done here. They've tried to proceed through the courts. They're also trying to proceed administratively. Either one may be effective. One may be effective. Or neither of them may be effective. We don't know.

35

36 MR. REXFORD: Yeah, Mr. Chairman?

37

38 CHAIRMAN ITTA: Uh-huh. I'm looking around and can't find who's speaking. I've got to look up. Go ahead.

40

41 MR. REXFORD: Yes, I'm happy to see that this petition was sent to the Secretary and others for comment, and various other agencies by Northwest Arctic Regional Council and others, and I'm glad that this -- where local initiative or self-termination can -- and we know that we can manage this, we're heading to it, and we're heading towards cooperative management any day, but also known as co-management and I think the comment period started not too long ago, and I think we have to say after the publication and should be submitted to

50

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Mr. Pospahala in Anchorage. I assume that we're talking about the same petition. That we're able to go this route. Thank you.

4

5 CHAIRMAN ITTA: Okay. I've got a question. It says on
6- in the title that it's selected lands, but not conveyed, and
7 I can understand that. And they're not -- they're still
8 actually under -- if it's Federal lands that selections have
9 been made, they're still holding the title, and therefore
10 they're claiming that they still have the authority. Is that
11 the dispute? And that's my first question.

12

13 The other one was, once conveyance happens, then it --
14 then what happens? Do you know?

15

16 MR. KNAUER: Okay. To answer your questions, the
17 Federal Government -- under selected but not yet conveyed
18 lands, the Federal Government still does hold the title. But
19 Title I of ANILCA where it starts talking about definitions,
20 excludes selected lands, and therefore the Secretary has
21 determined that for purposes of the Federal Subsistence
22 Management Program, those selected lands will not be part of
23 the program.

24

25 CHAIRMAN ITTA: Uh-huh.

26

27 MR. KNAUER: That's -- and the petitioners say, well,
28 since the Federal Government still holds title, they really
29 should be part of the program.

30

31 As far as the second part, once title has been
32 conveyed, they are then private lands. And what the
33 petitioners are saying in that case, in the case of private
34 lands, in other words, non-Federal lands is that these
35 resources that you utilize move on and off, and therefore to
36 protect the resource on the Federal lands where a good
37 percentage of the harvesting goes on, we need to also be sure
38 that nothing is being done that would harm that opportunity off
39 of Federal lands.

40

41 MR. LONG: Mr. Chairman?

42

43 CHAIRMAN ITTA: Uh-huh.

44

45 MR. LONG: Let me ask another question. When you're
46 talking about private lands and land selection, there's quite a
47 number of private lands in our area that was issued under
48 active allotment. Does that include under the permitting
49 system or do we have to hunt in these certain areas, do we need

50

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1 a permit from the owner of these lands?

2

3 MR. KNAUER: Under this -- if this petition were
4 accepted, the Federal Government would be able to make
5 regulation on those. But there is nothing that the Federal
6 Government would do that would say that the allottee or the
7 owner would have to allow access. Access is always the
8 prerogative of the land owner. They are able to say who can
9 and cannot go on their land.

10

11 MR. LONG: Uh-huh. Right.

12

13 MR. KNAUER: And that is still the case today, even for
14 those private lands. Even though there is a State regulation
15 maybe that says you can harvest we'll say one moose, if I own a
16 piece of land out there, I can say, "you cannot trespass on my
17 land to harvest that one moose." Or I may say, "Sure, I will
18 let you, because you're my friend, and -- or my brother-in-
19 law." Or I may say, "If you would like to, I will charge you
20 \$1000.00 for the right to trespass on my land."

21

22 MR. LONG: Yeah. The reason I say this is because we
23 run into the situation that you're indicating in -- at the
24 mouth of the Killik River and the Colville. There is ownership
25 under native allotment. And this one lady goes wild, I'll tell
26 you.

27

28 CHAIRMAN ITTA: Bill, are we expected to take action at
29 this time on this at all?

30

31 MR. KNAUER: If the Council feel comfortable in
32 commenting now because they've read it, that would be fine.
33 If, because you've not had a chance to read it and study it,
34 the comment period is open until April 3rd. You can take it
35 home and study it, and either have teleconference, or
36 communication among yourselves by some other means, and provide
37 comment at a later time. That's your choice as a Council.

38

39 CHAIRMAN ITTA: There are not going to be meetings set
40 up to go with this, it was just asking for written comments?

41

42 MR. KNAUER: That's correct. Written or oral comments.
43 Oral comments at these Council meetings. This particular
44 petition is on the agenda of all of the Regional Councils
45 during this period.

46

47 MR. R. KOONUK: Mr. Chairman?

48

49 CHAIRMAN ITTA: Uh-huh. Ray?

50

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1
2 MR. R. KOONUK: Yeah, I'd like to take this back and
3 introduce this to my -- to the council, and we'll draft our
4 written comments as soon as I get some comments from my people.

5
6 CHAIRMAN ITTA: Okay.

7
8 MR. KNAUER: It's very appropriate both for this
9 council, as well as individual community or IRA councils to
10 comment, or individuals also.

11
12 MR. J. KOONUK: Mr. Chairman?

13
14 CHAIRMAN ITTA: Jakie?

15
16 MR. J. KOONUK: Yeah. How old is this map here that
17 you're showing us?

18
19 MR. KNAUER: This is a draft map that was produced last
20 spring.

21
22 MR. J. KOONUK: It's never been approved?

23
24 MR. KNAUER: And you'll notice it is draft. It is
25 draft, because land selections are changing, and they're trying
26 to get it as accurate as possible. The coordinator has a
27 larger map, a larger version of this, and hopefully by next
28 year we'll have a map that is I'll call it final, but there are
29 as you know, there are changes that are still being made in
30 conveyances and so on.

31
32 MR. J. KOONUK: What are the regulatory procedures
33 concerning coloring this map? How often do you do it?

34
35 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Maybe I can add something. We are
36 actually -- this was done under a contract, and it's -- we're
37 hiring somebody to work on the map as a temporary person, and
38 one of the things they're going to work on is the colors on the
39 map, because it's so difficult to read.

40
41 MR. J. KOONUK: It's up to date then?

42
43 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: The map itself? I don't -- it's
44 considered a draft, and in fact if you have any -- if you see
45 any errors in there, you should let us know so we can correct
46 them.

47
48 MR. J. KOONUK: Because at the last meeting I mentioned
49 that we have Federal land in Point Hope, and it's not there.

50

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It's not colored there. They have 100,000 acres of land that is held in trust by the United States Government.

3

4 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Do you know if it's

5

6 MR. J. KOONUK: It's the same map you showed me last meeting.

8

9 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Is it selected but not conveyed, do you know, or

11

12 MR. J. KOONUK: We bought it from our village corporation in order to save our waterways.

14

15 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Maybe during a break we could talk, and I could pass that on to the people who do this mapping.

17

18 MR. J. KOONUK: Yeah, I have the map at home. It's all laid out.

20

21 CHAIRMAN ITTA: Maybe he can send you a copy of that map?

23

24 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Yeah.

25

26 MR. J. KOONUK: I can fax you one, yeah.

27

28 CHAIRMAN ITTA: Yeah.

29

30 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Okay.

31

32 MR. REXFORD: Mr. Chairman?

33

34 MR. J. KOONUK: Give me your fax number? Just give me your fax number.

36

37 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: What's our fax number?

38

39 MR. KOVACH: 786-3898.

40

41 MR. J. KOONUK: 786?

42

43 MR. AVEOGANNA: Fenton's on the

44

45 CHAIRMAN ITTA: Yeah, but we'll let Jake finish. Jake finish here.

47

48 MR. J. KOONUK: 3998?

49

50

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1 MR. KOVACH: 3898.

2

3 MR. J. KOONUK: 3898.

4

5 CHAIRMAN ITTA: Okay.

6

7 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: You can send it to Helen Armstrong,
8 and I'll forward it to the people doing the maps.

9

10 CHAIRMAN ITTA: Go ahead, Fenton.

11

12 MR. REXFORD: Thank you. Am I loud enough so all the
13 members can hear me?

14

15 CHAIRMAN ITTA: Yes.

16

17 MR. REXFORD: Okay. Thank you. The Northwest Arctic
18 Regional Council and others native groups that are -- which are
19 pointed out in the draft copy I have, Stevens Village, Kawerak,
20 Copper River Native Association, AFN and Rural CAP and also
21 Inter- -- Alaska Inter-tribal Council sending this petition to
22 the Secretary of Interior to change reversion (ph) Federal
23 land, the public lands, and the other one which is very, very
24 important I think, to establish an authority -- that we have
25 the authority to regulate hunting and fishing on those lands as
26 well. So to protect the subsistence or the animals that are --
27 what we need to look after, so I'm in favor of summary draft
28 petition, and submitted by the group, especially headed up by
29 Northwest on the Seward area to ask this determination, so we
30 can individually comment, but I think as a Council,
31 Mr. Chairman, it's appropriate for, what should I say, support
32 this petition as a Council. I think I will move that into a
33 motion, Mr. Chairman.

34

35 CHAIRMAN ITTA: Okay. I understand you have made that
36 into a motion form, correct?

37

38 MR. REXFORD: Yes, that petition submitted by Northwest
39 Regional -- Northwest Arctic Regional Council and other native
40 groups requesting the Secretary initiate rule making to, number
41 one, establish that they have the authority to regulate hunting
42 and fishing on non-public as a subsistence priority afforded on
43 public lands by Title VIII of ANILCA; two, determine that land
44 selected by, but not yet conveyed to native corporations and
45 the State of Alaska be treated as public lands under the ANILCA
46 subsistence priority. And in summary. So that is

47

48 CHAIRMAN ITTA: Okay.

49

50

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1 MR. REXFORD: for discussion.

2

3 CHAIRMAN ITTA: Okay. We have a motion to approve this
4 petition as submitted. Do we hear a second?

5

6 MR. UPICKSON: Mr. Chairman, I second the chair's
7 motion to approve this petition.

8

9 CHAIRMAN ITTA: Okay. Seconded by Gordon. We're open
10 for discussion. Frank?

11

12 MR. LONG: Under this deal, is that we're -- petition
13 that we're working over, including the area of Region Ten.
14 Could we somehow include for more protection towards the
15 subsistence user the aboriginal subsistence right?

16

17 MR. KNAUER: Mr. Chairman, the way the -- and Council
18 members, the way the law is currently written, it addresses
19 rural Alaskans, and also states that in the event of

20

21 MR. LONG: Rural Alaskan.

22

23 MR. KNAUER: resource shortages, the priorities
24 would be for those with customary and direct dependence on the
25 source, local residency, and those having less alternative
26 sources upon which to depend. So I would think that the
27 individuals would qualify as being -- having a customary and
28 direct dependence, and certainly local residency, and they
29 would be less likely to have alternative resources upon which
30 depend.

31

32 MR. LONG: You know, that we have been rural Alaskan
33 since time immemorial, other than Juneau, Anchorage, Fairbanks,
34 and our larger community. I think I would feel comfortable,
35 not only being protected by the Federal Government if I have on
36 the side an additional protection as an aboriginal.

37

38 CHAIRMAN ITTA: Thank you, Frank. Any more comments on
39 the petition? I just have one myself. These petitioners, AFN
40 was part of the petitioners, correct? The Alaska Federation of
41 Natives?

42

43 MR. KNAUER: Yes, Mr. Chairman.

44

45 CHAIRMAN ITTA: In support -- I mean, they are
46 obviously in support of this, but the State is adamantly
47 opposed to this, correct?

48

49 UNIDENTIFIED: That is correct.

50

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1
2 CHAIRMAN ITTA: Okay.

3
4 MR. KNAUER: The State has not officially submitted
5 comments on this petition, but I think that it would be fair to
6 say that they're probably adamantly opposed.

7
8 CHAIRMAN ITTA: Well, I kind of assumed as much,
9 because our colleagues over there in the Northwest did say
10 about this that they feel kind of like you said, Frank, they
11 feel a heck of a lot more comfortable being under the Feds for
12 subsistence than under the State. And I would speak in support
13 of this, but there's still a lawsuit on-going, too, along with
14 this thing, right?

15
16 MR. KNAUER: That is correct.

17
18 CHAIRMAN ITTA: So this would kind of be even like an
19 advisory type of deal. We let them know what we want and what
20 we're in support of. So

21
22 Okay. Any more discussion on the motion?

23
24 MR. LONG: Question.

25
26 CHAIRMAN ITTA: The question's called on the motion.
27 All in favor signify by saying aye?

28
29 IN UNISON: Aye.

30
31 CHAIRMAN ITTA: Opposed? Oops. Sorry, sir. Opposed,
32 same sign?

33
34 (No opposing responses)

35
36 CHAIRMAN ITTA: Hearing none, the motion carries. And
37 we will draft communications to that effect to the proper --
38 draft another one for the Federal Register, Bill.

39
40 Okay. Now, we get to our workday here under the
41 proposals where Steve will be doing the biology analysis and
42 Helen will do the socio-cultural aspects of the proposals, and
43 this will be open for discussion to the public. And you just
44 need to let me know when you want to speak up. So with that,
45 which one of you is going to take the lead on this?

46
47 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: I'm starting.

48
49 CHAIRMAN ITTA: Helen.

50

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1
2 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: I'll explain a little bit how we're
3 doing this, and maybe explain that these proposal analyses are
4 in your book, and I don't have a book, so I'm not sure where in
5 the book they are, but

6
7 MR. KOVACH: I've got it right here in front of us.

8
9 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: In their book?

10
11 MR. KOVACH: It's in their book.

12
13 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: It's in their book, okay. And

14
15 MR. KOVACH: It's kind of in the middle of your book
16 there. It's got a blue cover on it with a caribou.

17
18 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: It says draft proposal

19
20 CHAIRMAN ITTA: How many proposals, Helen?

21
22 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: There are 11.

23
24 CHAIRMAN ITTA: Eleven proposals you said?

25
26 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Well, there are some that aren't in
27 this region that we have to talk about that are included. The
28 draft proposal analyses reviews. Okay.

29
30 We're starting with Proposal 62. Before we begin, I
31 wanted to explain a little bit how we do this. We have a team.
32 Each Region has a team, and the team is made up of a
33 biologist, an anthropologist, and a regional coordinator. And
34 the team, your team, and I like to think of it as that we're
35 sort of working together on this, is Steve does the biology, I
36 do the anthropology, and Barb is the regional coordinator, and
37 she's -- she helps -- she's helped write some of these, and
38 reads, reviews them and gives us comments. So we -- the three
39 of us kind of work together, and her role is to try to make
40 sure we've got some local input in there.

41
42 These are absolutely draft analyses, and we want to
43 make sure you know that, that we will be making corrections and
44 changes to them, so if you have anything that you would like to
45 add, and as I go through mine, I have a couple of places where
46 would like to ask some questions of where we need some more
47 information.

48
49 And then the preliminary conclusions are just some of
50

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our thoughts on this, but we need to develop what your ideas on the conclusions are, and your recommendations.

3

4 Bill's -- do you want to go ahead and turn that on?
All right.

6

7 The first proposal is Proposal #62, and this proposal was submitted by the City of Anaktuvuk Pass, and it proposes to close Federal public lands in the dark portion there that you see, the shaded portion of Unit 26(A), south of the Colville River and west of the Anaktuvuk River. They would will to close it specifically to caribou hunting except by Federally-qualified subsistence users, so all nonsubsistence users. They want to close that area.

15

16 Now, unfortunately, we don't have it overlaid with Federal public lands. I need you to refer back to your colored map. But this -- a very significant portion of this is not Federal public lands. The Federal public lands are the purple ones down here, and then over here a little corner of BLM lands, the purple being Gates of the Arctic. So we've roughly estimated about half of it's Federal public lands there.

23

24 As you know, the Western Arctic Caribou Herd is the largest of the three herds in that area. It has -- it -- all three of the herds are quite healthy and are quite large.

27

28 The reason this proposal came to pass as I understand it from Sphere Pederson and I talked at length about it at the ADF&G Subsistence Division, was that this year the caribou didn't pass through the pass. Didn't pass through the pass. They didn't come through the pass. Didn't migrate through the pass, and they had a real poor harvest, and I understood from him that they -- people in Anaktuvuk actually asked for some caribou to be sent into Anak- -- they made a plea to the North Slope Borough and they got 35 or so. Is that right, Harry, do you know about that?

38

39 MR. BROWER: I'm not sure of the number, but there were some.

41

42 CHAIRMAN ITTA: Yeah, I remember it happened.

43

44 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Some number of caribou that were sent in to Anaktuvuk, so it was a fairly -- I think quite a crisis and severe situation. And this isn't a new issue apparently. There's -- beginning in 1991, ADF&G has been trying to document the effects of nonsubsistence hunting on the annual fall migration in there, because there's been this

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question of whether there's -- these nonsubsistence hunters are causing the migration to be affected, and so far ADF&G hasn't found any impacts on that, and I think they're still looking.

4

5 Most of the nonsubsistence harvest of caribou in that region occurs within the Colville River drainage off of Federal public lands. There are about 100 to 150 caribou that are taken by nonsubsistence hunters, and we don't know how many hunters there are. We know how many caribou that are taken, but you could probably assume that, you know, people aren't taking more than one or two caribou, so there could be anywhere from, I don't know, 75 to 100 hunters in that area.

13

14 The past three years they've been doing subsistence studies, and that's been done in conjunction with the Borough and in Anaktuvuk, and about 600 caribou per year are taken. Have been -- An average of 600 caribou per year have been taken in Anaktuvuk Pass, which is pretty significant. And as you know, those people there really depend a lot on caribou, and if they don't get their caribou, then they're really hurting.

21

22 I think from what the ADF&G Subsistence Division studies have shown, and this also was done in conjunction with the Borough, people in Anaktuvuk primarily hunt within 25 to 30 miles outside of the village. I mean, that varies year to year, and obviously in a year when they haven't had the caribou come close, they're going to go much further, but in essence they're not going way over where the nonsubsistence hunters are generally located.

30

31 So I think, just to sum it up, the -- our preliminary conclusion is that most of the area affected by this proposal is not on Federal public lands, and that less than 10% of the nonsubsistence caribou hunting occurs on Federal public lands, and as a result, it's believed that probably this proposal would have very little effect on the subsistence hunting, and that there wouldn't be much benefit to subsistence users to -- for this to go through.

39

40 We had one public comment, and that was from the State Department of Fish & Game, and they opposed this proposal, stating that the proposal refers to a vast area, some of which is over 200 miles west of Anaktuvuk Pass. There is relatively little Federal land north of Anaktuvuk Pass and west of the -- the Colville River. Therefore the proposal as written would have little effect on events occurring near Anaktuvuk Pass.

47

48 Some residents of Anaktuvuk Pass have expressed concern for several years that hunting, aircraft overflights, and other

50

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Human activity north of the village may deflect caribou migration away from Anaktuvuk Pass. The Department staff and local residents are working to evaluate caribou harvest patterns and caribou movements north of the village during the fall. Regulatory change should be delayed until an effective proposal can be developed based on factual data, and which responds to possible user conflicts and the impact of increasing human activity on caribou movements north of Anaktuvuk Pass.

10

11 That concludes our summary.

12

13 MR. REXFORD: Mr. Chairman?

14

15 CHAIRMAN ITTA: Go ahead, Fenton.

16

17 MR. REXFORD: Maybe while we're on the subject or on the Proposal 62 by the City of Anaktuvuk Pass, I think in concept we should support their reasons why they want a regulation changing even though it's quite a ways from them. I think they're talking on the entrance of Anaktuvuk, or towards the land area to the migration through that route. And maybe something needs to be sent into the State, is that what you're saying, Barbara, would be more effective in the State? Also?

25

26 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: I think that's probably -- I think that's probably true, Fenton. I have a feeling that the people who proposed this didn't realize that there was so much non-Federal public lands in that region.

30

31 MR. REXFORD: Okay Well, even though that's the case, I would support this proposal, and if there are any Federal lands within that area, however small it may be, should be defended as they so -- those that live out there actually, they know for a fact that this is (indiscernible). And as the search went on, it might be several years down the road that this stuff is happening. And they know it. So I would be in support of this proposal, Mr. Chairman. Maybe also put it forth to the State, State regulations avenue.

40

41 CHAIRMAN ITTA: Okay. Thank you, Fenton.

42

43 Can you define for me again, I get a little confused here on, on non-Federally qualified subsistence users?

45

46 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: That's kind of a fancy way of saying sport hunters.

48

49 CHAIRMAN ITTA: Sports hunters.

50

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1
2 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: And because the State doesn't refer
3 to themselves as -- they don't -- they're all

4
5 CHAIRMAN ITTA: Okay. And that's Anaktuvuk.
6

7 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: they consider that all State
8 hunters are subsistence hunters, so we call them non -- I know
9 it's very cumbersome, but we're not allowed to use -- say sport
10 hunters in our analyses, so we have to call them non-Federally
11 qualified, so someone who does not live in -- well, someone who
12 doesn't live in that region basically is what it's -- who it's
13 going to be.

14
15 CHAIRMAN ITTA: How about if we give you the okay to
16 insert

17
18 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: This board?
19

20 (Laughter)
21

22 CHAIRMAN ITTA: Okay. Well, I know Anaktuvuk has
23 headed their case about this to all various agencies,
24 including the North Slope Borough Assembly, about their
25 concerns on the migration paths being altered up there, and I
26 think that's largely their intent on getting this restriction
27 apply.

28
29 On this map, on the colored map versus -- about how
30 many percent of this dark area that we're talking about is
31 already the park lands and whatnot? Does anybody know?

32
33 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: We figured about 50%.
34

35 CHAIRMAN ITTA: About 50?
36

37 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Uh-huh.
38

39 CHAIRMAN ITTA: Okay.
40

41 MR. KOVACH: Generally the location of Federal public
42 lands -- let me see, is this thing firing? Yeah, it is, except
43 can't see it on white.

44
45 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: You can't see it up there.
46

47 MR. KOVACH: Our fancy pointer's not going to work.
48 Generally the Federal public lands are kind of in the western
49 third of the shaded area. Bill's

50

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1
2 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: No.
3
4 MR. KOVACH: pointed out -- the western third,
Bill.
6
7 MR. KNAUER: Here?
8
9 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Yeah. Right. That part.
10
11 MR. KOVACH: Yeah, from about that point over, and then
just to the north of the bottom boundary there is the strip of
the park lands in there. So you can see the primary area where
the caribou are coming through towards the Continental Divide
off of Federal public lands, and that's what we believe is
kind of the crux concern area by the people up there. And this
proposal, because it's off of Federal public lands really
wouldn't -- we don't think would afford them the relief that
they're really looking for.
20
21 CHAIRMAN ITTA: Last question for me. You say this is
your draft analysis here?
23
24 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Uh-huh. Uh-huh.
25
26 CHAIRMAN ITTA: In your -- is it your final conclusion
or preliminary conclusions, you state in here that, in the last
sentence, that based upon these factors, it is believed that
implementation of this proposal would not have any significant
impact on the current level of nonsubsistence hunting
activities in the Colville River drainage, and would not
provide a benefit to subsistence hunters in the region. So
based on your analysis here, what you're saying is that you
don't think that even if this was implemented that it's going
to make any difference to the migration of the caribou or
meeting the concerns of Anaktuvuk?
37
38 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Uh-huh.
39
40 CHAIRMAN ITTA: Okay. Geoff Carroll, come on up.
41
42 MR. CARROLL: I'd just like to say a quick word on kind
of the history of the Anaktuvuk Pass situation, and I did fly
surveys up there each fall, '91 through '93, and the idea was
to try to document any effect on the migration. And, you know,
each one of those years there was a substantial migration
through Anaktuvuk Pass, you know, so it's been -- so if they go
through, obviously I can't document the reason that they didn't
go through.
50

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1
2 And we didn't fly this last fall. It's been a
3 cooperative effort between Alaska Department of Fish and the
4 Park Service, and the Park Service generally provided a pilot
5 and a plane, and they had some personnel turn over this year,
6 so that there wasn't a plane up there available to do the
7 surveys.

8
9 I did do a bit of flying around in conjunction to other
10 surveys. My impression was that the tremendous flooding of the
11 Colville River affected the migration more, you know, changed
12 the migration routes more this year than anything else, but I
13 you know, I can't say for sure. It's possible that hunting
14 camps north of the village can affect that migration, too, but
15 like I say, three years in a row I flew up there, and migration
16 went through Anaktuvuk Pass just fine. And that's why there
17 aren't any State regulations to that effect at this point,
18 because I haven't been able to document any real effect that
19 the camps to the north of the village are having on the
20 migrations, so

21
22 CHAIRMAN ITTA: Any more comments on

23
24 MR. R. KOONUK: Yeah, Mr. Chair, did Fenton make a
25 motion to approve this or

26
27 CHAIRMAN ITTA: Yes, we did. Yeah, he made it in the
28 form of a motion and Gordon seconded, right?

29
30 MR. UPICKSON: Yes, and we're in

31
32 CHAIRMAN ITTA: So we are under discussion on the
33 motion.

34
35 MR. R. KOONUK: Okay. Question called for.

36
37 CHAIRMAN ITTA: Question has been called on the motion
38 go ahead and support Proposal 62 as submitted here to
39 proposed regulation for Unit 26(C), Federal land south of the
40 Colville River, upstream from and including the Anaktuvuk River
41 drainage are closed to non-Federally qualified subsistence
42 users from August 1 to September 30th. The question has been
43 called. All in favor signify by saying aye?

44
45 IN UNISON: Aye.

46
47 CHAIRMAN ITTA: Opposed, same sign?

48
49 (No opposing responses)

50

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1
2 CHAIRMAN ITTA: Hearing none, the Region Ten Federal
Advisory Council supports Proposal 62.

4
5 Helen?

6
7 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Steve's next.

8
9 CHAIRMAN ITTA: Is it Steve's turn?

10
11 MR. KOVACH: We're going to trade off here a little
12t.

13
14 CHAIRMAN ITTA: He looks like a brown bear more than
15u do anyway.

16
17 (Laughter)

18
19 CHAIRMAN ITTA: Proposal 63. Steve?

20
21 MR. KOVACH: Yes. Proposal 63 was submitted by
22iqsut, and this proposal is fairly complicated. It has
23several parts to it. The proposal specifically would change
24the current season of September 1 through May 30 -- yeah, it
25ould change the current season of September 1st through May
26st to May 1st through October 31st. So basically instead of
27fall/winter/spring season, it would be a spring/summer/fall
28pe of a season.

29
30 The proposal also requests changes in the harvest
31imits. For 26(A) instead of one bear per year, it would be no
32mit. In 26(B) instead of one bear every four years, it would
33be two bears per year. In Unit 26(C) instead of one bear every
34ur years, it would be one bear per year.

35
36 Now, Federal public lands in Unit 26 are outlined on
37he map in your book there. It covers approximately 60 to 70
38percent of the total area.

39
40 In 1992 the Federal Subsistence Board in a parallel
41ction with the Board of Game created the Northwest Alaska
42own Bear Management Area, which includes Unit 26(A). This
43anagement area eliminated the need to purchase a \$25.00
44esident brown bear tag, and replaced it with a no-cost
45gistration permit available from the Department of Fish and
46me. It also eliminated the sealing requirements, and
47increased the harvest limit from one bear every four years to
48e bear per year. And it established the standard season of
49eptember 1st through May 31st.

50

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1
2 In 1992, the Federal Subsistence Board also reviewed a
3 proposal, Number 77, that requested a no-harvest limit and a
4 year round season for both Units 26(B) and (C). The Board
5 reasoned that such a regulation could result in harvest levels
6 that would be in excess of what the population could support,
7 and denied that specific proposal.

8
9 Overall, brown bear densities on the Coastal Plain are
10 the lowest in the State. They are approximately one bear for
11 every 200 square miles. This is typical of the Coastal Plain
12 south of Barrow here. Densities in the foothills and
13 mountainous portions of the Unit are similar to other Interior
14 populations of brown bears at approximately one bear for every
15 20 square miles. This varies from area to area, but that's
16 kind of an over-all average.

17
18 Federal public lands within Units 26(A) and (C) contain
19 a large proportion of the mountainous terrain within Unit 26,
20 and therefore contain the majority of the brown bear
21 population. Federal public lands in 26(B), however, are fairly
22 limited in extent, and Anaktuvuk Pass is really the only
23 community that's close enough to reasonably access those lands.

24
25 Females are particularly susceptible to harvest during
26 the June through August time period. Shifting the season to
27 include the summer months could result in more females being
28 harvested. The Federal Subsistence Board when they acted to
29 create the management area that included 26(A) specifically
30 avoided the June through August period so as to provide the
31 females with greater protection.

32
33 In general it is believed that the over-all harvest
34 rate of brown bears on the North Slope cannot exceed four to 5%
35 of the over-all population, and more specifically the female
36 harvest cannot exceed one and a half to 2% of female
37 population. We feel harvest rates in excess of these could
38 have a negative effect on the populations and actually result
39 in population declines.

40
41 Reported harvest rates appear to be well within the
42 capability of the estimated populations for Units 26(A) and
43 (C), but have generally met or exceeded the maximum estimated
44 harvest rate for Unit 26(B) annually since 1987.

45
46 You'll notice on -- it will be page seven of the
47 proposal book, there's three graphs there. The horizontal
48 lines indicate the estimated maximum sustained take.

49
50

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1 For Unit 26(A) Fish & Game believes that the reported
 2 harvest may in fact only be 30 to 50% of the actual take by
 3 hunters that are local within the unit. Despite the under-
 4 reporting, the low number of brown bears harvested is probably
 5 attributed -- we believe is probably attributable to the lack
 6 of interest in taking brown bears, and the low reporting rate
 7 may actually be in fact partly be a problem by the fact there
 8 is a lack of certified sealers in each of the communities. The
 9 requirement to salvage the hide and skull of bears taken under
 10 defense of life and property provisions may also discourage
 11 local hunters from reporting such takes. I went through the
 12 sealing records since 1960 for Unit 26, and there is only ten
 13 of the total of those harvests were reported under DLP
 14 provisions.

15

16 It should be noted that residents -- all residents of
 17 Unit 26, Anaktuvuk Pass and Point Hope, have been determined to
 18 have a positive customary and traditional use for brown bears
 19 in 26. Hunters from communities with a positive c&t
 20 determination have reported taking only 10-1/2% of the 711
 21 bears sealed from Unit 26. These same hunters reported
 22 harvesting activities occurring in the spring, about 34% of the
 23 harvest, 13% in the summer and 59% in the fall.

24

25 Bill, if you could show the next graph, please? No,
 26 the next. Thank you.

27

28 This graph just shows a distribution of the number of
 29 bears harvested by month, as these are the bears reported to
 30 the State through the sealing program. As you can see, there
 31 was two harvest -- this is the time period of 1960 through
 32 1993. So it's a 34-year time span.

33

34 Since the inception of the Western Brown Bear
 35 Management Area, less than ten registration permits have been
 36 issued annually for the taking of brown bears in 26(A). In
 37 1992 and 1993 there was two bears and four bears reported from
 38 Unit 26(A) by residents of 26(A); however, none of these
 39 reports were taken under the special regulations under the
 40 Management area.

41

42 If you could show the table, Bill?

43

44 Basically this table summarizes what we have on file as
 45 far as information. The right-most column is the annual
 46 harvest of each of the North Slope communities as reported
 47 through the sealing program. The central column there is
 48 information that we have obtained through the various
 49 subsistence use studies that have been conducted over the

50

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number of years. As is aptly shown here, the subsistence use studies are showing a significant number of more bears being taken than what is actually reported. Where there are blanks in the subsistence use studies column is where subsistence use studies have not been conducted in those specific communities there, so it's not that those communities do not take bears, it's just that no studies have been conducted there. It's information like this that also just confirms our belief that not all the bears harvested are being reported.

10

11 The fact that the proposal does not address the sealing and tagging requirements for Units 26(B) and (C), we assumed that that is not a significant problem; however, this is one point that we're looking to Council members, and specifically Frank to help us in determining if that is in fact a problem that needs to be addressed here.

17

18 As Harry reported this morning, the North Slope Borough Wildlife Department is establishing a harvest monitoring program, and we're hoping that this program provides us with much needed information on the harvest and where it's occurring and when.

23

24 Basically our preliminary conclusions are that increasing the harvest limit from one bear per year to no -- to 26 limit for 26(A) while it may not result in a significant increase in the number of bears what would actually be harvested, it does not follow the established principles of wildlife management for brown bears. In fact, for other -- or for any species, particularly those with very low reproductive abilities, and those that are subject to over-hunting.

32

33 Increasing the bag limit from one bear every four years to one bear per year for Unit 26(C) is within the biological capability of the estimated population. We do not -- and we do not anticipate that it would adversely affect the health of the population in that subunit.

38

39 However, the current reported harvest rates from 26(B) are at or exceed the maximum estimated annual take. The limited extent and remoteness of Federal public lands for most of the communities leaves us to believe that changing the harvest limit and season on that area would not be of much benefit to subsistence users, but again we need input from the Council to help us on this.

46

47 Irregardless, increasing the harvest limit to two bears per year again does not follow the recognized principles of wildlife management for brown bears. As Council members may

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recall, the Federal Subsistence Board is limited to passing regulations that are beneficial to subsistence users, and promote healthy -- the conservation of healthy populations and follow recognized principles of wildlife management.

5

6 The matter of the season is a little more complicated.
7 We do know that the female harvest increase in the summertime,
8 if there is a summer season, the impact of a female take is
9 greater than that of a male take. The Board has traditionally
10 resisted any season proposal change that includes the summer
11 time period. As you remember from the chronology graph, the
12 proposed season of September -- or of May 1st through October
13 1st would incorporate virtually all of the reported harvest,
14 but not all of them.

15

16 Somewhere I've got notes. I believe we got some public
17 comments on this proposal. Yes, we did. We have two comments
18 on this proposal. The first is from the Alaska Department of
19 Fish & Game, they felt -- they opposed the proposal. Their
20 reasons for their opposition are pretty much along the same
21 lines as what I just presented in our staff report. The second
22 comment we got was from the Alaska Wildlife Alliance. They
23 also opposed the proposal, largely they were focusing in on the
24 limit proposal for brown bears in 26(A).

25

26 Oh, okay. And the Subsistence Resource Commission for
27 Dates of the Arctic National Park and Preserve met recently,
28 and they voted to support this proposal as written. And that's
29 all that we have for our staff report.

30

31 CHAIRMAN ITTA: Okay. We have Proposal 62 before you.

32

33 MR. KOVACH: Sixty-three.

34

35 CHAIRMAN ITTA: Uh-huh.

36

37 MR. BROWER: Sixty-three.

38

39 CHAIRMAN ITTA: Sixty-three. Okay. If you insist,
40 I'll go to the right number. Proposal 63 before you, and I'd
41 entertain a motion for -- to approve this proposal. Or to take
42 action on this proposal. This was proposed by Kuukpikmiut,
43 Nigisutmiut.

44

45 MR. UPICKSON: Mr. Chairman, I move that we approve
46 proposal #63 as submitted by Kuukpikmiut Village.

47

48 MR. TAGAROOK: Mr. Chairman, I second.

49

50

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1 CHAIRMAN ITTA: Okay. Moved and seconded to accept
2 proposal 63. Any more discussion? Or any discussion? Fenton?
3

4 MR. REXFORD: Mr. Chairman, yes. Thank you, Mr.
5 Chairman. The proposed regulation, we've heard the word from
6 Steve on biological reasons for management or good management
7 of brown bear in Unit 26. I might have consider maybe either
8 amending it or letting it go through this way for Unit 26(A),
9 this one bear all the way across 26. And rather than call it
10 remainder of 26, just call it Unit 26(C) according to the unit
11 the way it is divided up.
12

13 However, I do have reservations for the remainder of
14 26(C) -- the remainder of 26 proposed regulation for one bear
15 and its season from May 1 through October 31. I think I would
16 rather keep that on reserve, and keep it the way it is, where
17 it says remainder of 26, but (A) and (B) I would have no
18 problems with. So rather than vote the whole thing through, I
19 would offer a kind amendment to -- from the group that
20 presented to see what he things, to let the remainder of
21 26(C) proposed regulation and to see
22

23 CHAIRMAN ITTA: Okay. I caught parts of your
24 conversation. I think we need to turn up Fenton's phone line
25 just a little bit. I'm having a little hard time.
26

27 But, Fenton, you're saying you want to go ahead and
28 amend the proposal, and I wasn't real clear on what you said,
29 although I did hear you say one bear in 26(A) and what was it
30 about the remainder of Unit 26?
31

32 MR. REXFORD: Yeah. Because the way it is written, or
33 the way I had it, would be after remainder of 26 with one bear
34 (undiscernible) and the season, I'm going to have hold
35 reservations, to set a new regulation for that area which I
36 think is 26(C).
37

38 CHAIRMAN ITTA: Are you hearing
39

40 MR. KOVACH: Mr. Chair, that's correct, the
41

42 CHAIRMAN ITTA: Okay.
43

44 MR. KOVACH: the reference to remainder of Unit
45 means 26(C). That's what that means.
46

47 CHAIRMAN ITTA: Like I said, I'm having a difficult
48 time hearing him up there and understanding what he's trying to
49 get. Can somebody help me on what he said here?
50

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1
2 MR. REXFORD: Well, just omit in the proposal, or amend
3 our recommendation with the rest of the Councilmen are
4 thinking, but after hearing the biological reasons, maybe the
5 residents live in 26(C) may submit a proposal, too, instead of
6 having one bear every four years, it will be just one bear
7 yearly, in 26(C).

8
9 CHAIRMAN ITTA: Okay.

10
11 MR. KOVACH: Mr. Chair? Fenton, that's what the
12 proposal is asking for is to change the current harvest limit
13 of one bear every four years to one bear per year.

14
15 MR. REXFORD: Yeah, but the -- you know, the season is
16 the one I'm -- I should have just pointed to the season,
17 because we have difficulty travelling around the interior
18 portion of our Coastal Plain here during the summer months, and
19 when we -- when we're out I think the September 1 through May
20 more fits into our mode of transportation anyway, or when --
21 where the bears are.

22
23 MR. UPICKSON: Mr. Chairman?

24
25 CHAIRMAN ITTA: Gordon?

26
27 MR. UPICKSON: I withdraw my motion. I understand what
28 Fenton is saying. It's impossible because of the way they live
29 on the island, the particular season that -- for the remainder
30 of Unit 26, which is 26(C). I can see why they would have a
31 hard time trying to hunt brown bears in that area. And the
32 other two, 26(A) and 26(B), they're okay. But I understand
33 what Fenton is saying about the seasons. They have -- it's
34 hard for them to get to where the brown bears are probably from
35 May 1 to October 31.

36
37 CHAIRMAN ITTA: Okay. And you stated that you're
38 withdrawing?

39
40 MR. REXFORD: Rather than -- Mr. Chairman, rather than
41 Gordon withdrawing your motion, I would just offer a friendly
42 amendment to omit that proposed regulation with the concurrence
43 of, you know, after hearing what Frank maybe have something
44 else that may change my mind.

45
46 CHAIRMAN ITTA: Okay. Go ahead. We'll go ahead let
47 the motion stay, and if there's to be amendment

48
49 MR. UPICKSON: I like his friendly amendment, yes.
50

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1
2 CHAIRMAN ITTA: Yeah. Okay. Frank?

3
4 MR. LONG: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. What I'd like to
5 say on this brown bear proposal is when we put this proposal
6 together, I was assuming that 26(B) and (C) would come up with
7 a similar or different proposal, and then -- and then -- in
8 regard to two proposal, and amendment or some changes would be
9 made.

10
11 But I will add this, regardless of the bag limit or
12 not, when a brown bear is available or is endangering the life
13 of a human, it won't take no season, no bag limit or it won't
14 at the most times in our area our hunters are being chased
15 by bear. So whether this passes or not, my people will get the
16 bear anyway.

17
18 CHAIRMAN ITTA: Uh-huh.

19
20 MR. LONG: I haven't gotten one, but there are a whole
21 bunch like he said unreported catches of brown bear. It's due
22 to the fact that these people that are out there hunting
23 different species of animal during the spring and summer and
24 fall are being chased by these bears, and they're not -- and at
25 that time they're not out to hunt the bear. Thank you.

26
27 CHAIRMAN ITTA: Thank you, Frank. And there are
28 current regulations now protecting life and limb, isn't there,
29 regard to bears?

30
31 MR. TAGAROOK: Yes, there is. Yes, there is.

32
33 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: In defense of life and property.

34
35 MR. TAGAROOK: In defense of life and property.

36
37 MR. UPICKSON: There's nothing wrong with shooting an
38 animal like a brown bear that's bothering your camp or --
39 because that's where you have your -- like your camp. And when
40 if there's a brown bear, we'll get that brown bear, because
41 it will destroy the camp is what it will do.

42
43 MR. KOVACH: Mr. Chair, if I might suggest, I think it
44 would be appropriate to have Geoff address the defense of life
45 and property provisions, because the Federal Subsistence
46 program defaults to the State DLP laws, and I think it might be
47 appropriate for Geoff just to quickly review those for the
48 council here.

49
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1 CHAIRMAN ITTA: Okay.

2

3 MR. CARROLL: Well, just briefly put, yeah, it's
4 perfectly legal if a bear is endangering a person or a person's
5 property, you're -- it's perfectly legal to kill that bear any
6 time, any place, and -- so it's -- you know, the one hang-up
7 with it I guess is that you're required to turn in the skull
8 and the hide if you do that. So it makes it so, you know, a
9 person can't really utilize that bear. Of course, the reason
10 for that is to discourage people from, you know, using that
11 casually. I mean, it's got -- it's supposed to be, you know, a
12 pretty serious event before you shoot a bear, and, you know,
13 don't want

14

15 MR. LONG: What do you mean by a person casually
16 utilizing bear. We eat that stuff.

17

18 MR. CARROLL: Oh, I know. I'm saying legally you're
19 supposed to turn in the hide and the skull. You know, that's
20 the reason

21

22 MR. LONG: We're not -- we're not in the business of
23 taking out the hide and stuff, or the skull.

24

25 MR. CARROLL: Yes.

26

27 MR. LONG: This skull as far as I'm concerned, and the
28 hide can be elsewhere, as long as the meat is intact.

29

30 MR. CARROLL: Uh-huh.

31

32 MR. CARROLL: Yeah, I mean, you know, one way around
33 all this, if people simply get one of these free subsistence
34 brown bear hunting permits, I mean, they're covered. They can
35 any time they shoot a bear then, you know, they can take the
36 hide and the skull and the meat and everything else if they
37 want, you know, whether it's under a defense of life and
38 property situation or they just want to shoot one. But, of
39 course, that's only in 26(A) that that applies. So

40

41 MR. LONG: Like I said, most bears that are caught out
42 here are not caught intentionally.

43

44 MR. CARROLL: Yeah. Well, I'm telling you it's --
45 you're perfectly legal to shoot a bear at any time that's
46 threatening your life or your property, so

47

48 MR. LONG: I know. They do a lot of damage.

49

50

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1 MR. REXFORD: Mr. Chairman? Frank,

2

3 CHAIRMAN ITTA: Go ahead, Fenton. Thank you, Geoff.

4

5 MR. REXFORD: Yes. I -- you know, I am not against
~~Kuukpikmiut's~~ proposal. That's why there's no limit or two
~~bears.~~ I was just pointing out the fact of making -- rather
~~than~~ omitting it, I haven't made a formal amendment motion yet,
~~see~~ what he thinks -- or what you think, Frank. This Council
~~can~~ support or not support or whatever a proposal, or can make
~~an~~ amendment, and I think that's -- after hearing our staff,
~~that's~~ why we have the anthropologist and the biology pointing
~~out~~ some of the things that as we're doing this, reviewing
~~these~~ proposals before they go to the Federal Subsistence Board
 15 April. So they'll either turn this down or, you know, try
 16 again next fall. I would think, so

17

18 MR. LONG: Fenton?

19

20 MR. REXFORD: Yes?

21

22 MR. LONG: Let me add on to my comment that the reason
~~that~~ I put the date limit or the month limit is because during
~~these~~ times we're out doing subsistence. (In Inupiat)

25

26 MR. REXFORD: (In Inupiat) Yeah.

27

28 MR. LONG: (In Inupiat) Thank you.

29

30 CHAIRMAN ITTA: Okay. I'd like to make a comment here.
 31 On the proposals that are acted upon by the Advisory Council,
 32 like Fenton noted a little earlier, and I had a note from
 33 Barbara, that we have some criteria on justification, and one
 34 of them was sound principles of management and whatever. Can
 35 you add onto that, Helen?

36

37 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Well, actually I just wanted to make
 38 comment on that, on the justification issue.

39

40 CHAIRMAN ITTA: Right.

41

42 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Is that in the AVCP region, they had
 43 similar proposal two years back, and the Board approved it on
 44 the condition that bear harvest information was collected,
 45 because they were concerned about letting them harvest more
 46 than one bear every four years. And I think with this new
 47 harvest monitoring program that the North Slope Borough is
 48 starting, that you could say, although it's not according to
 49 wildlife management -- conservation -- principles of

50

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1
2 CHAIRMAN ITTA: Sound, yeah.

3
4 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: sound conservation, whatever,
5 that with this harvest monitoring program, that you'll be able
6 to assess whether or not too many bears are being harvested,
7 and then if they are, then you could go back and look at it
8 again next year or the year after, whatever, you know, in the
9 future. So -- but that could be a way to justify your
10 approving it, even though it's perhaps not according to
11 principles of sound wildlife management.

12
13 CHAIRMAN ITTA: Okay. I think we'll come back to the
14 Bill?

15
16 MR. KNAUER: Yes, Mr. Chairman, you were asking about
17 justifications, and any proposal that you -- or any vote that
18 you take, whether it's to modify, to support in its entirety,
19 or to oppose, one of the things that ANILCA states is that the
20 Secretary, in this case the Federal Subsistence Board, may
21 choose not to follow any recommendation, in other words, any of
22 our recommendations, which he determines is not supported by
23 substantial evidence, violates recognized principles of fish
24 and wildlife conservation, or would be detrimental to the
25 satisfaction of subsistence needs. And what that's saying is
26 that for any vote that you take, you should provide some
27 justification on the record that in fact the vote you've taken
28 adequately supported with justification, does support
29 principles of wildlife conservation, which includes conserving
30 healthy populations of wildlife, and does in fact support
31 satisfaction of subsistence needs. Without that, the Board is
32 less likely to support a recommendation that the Council might
33 have.

34
35 CHAIRMAN ITTA: One more question for Frank. You
36 mentioned that you thought that 26(B) and (C) you were thinking
37 were going to submit a proposal on you, so you were just
38 submitting on behalf of 26(A)?

39
40 MR. LONG: 26(A) and 26(B).

41
42 CHAIRMAN ITTA: 26(A) and (B), okay.

43
44 MR. LONG: Because we know when we go out during the
45 summer months, we only hunt in our area, which is the Colville.
46 We don't go on the other side of Prudhoe Bay or we don't go on
47 the west side of Pruhoe Bay.

48
49 MR. BROWER: Mr. Chair?

50

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1
2 CHAIRMAN ITTA: Harry?

3
4 MR. BROWER: Frank, I have a question, just if we --
5 regarding this no limit, how would you feel if we just inserted
6 that one bear every year regarding hunts instead of having no
7 limit on it here?

8
9 MR. LONG: Well, that doesn't mean -- like I said, it
10 really don't matter to me what -- how you guys do it, because
11 the person don't go out on a weekend. The whole community goes
12 out, and if there's half a dozen or more people that goes out
13 on a weekend, that's the only opportunity they get away from
14 work. They're not going -- they're not going to open the books
15 and say, "Oh, yeah, I'm supposed to get one bear." When I see
16 these bears won't wait for you to come -- go and look at
17 them. They're there. And nearly everywhere we hunt, there's a
18 lot of tall brush. You can't see -- most times you can't see
19 50 feet, which are in the willows. And that's where the --
20 that's where the bears, other than being high up on top of the
21 cliff on the west side of the Colville where you have to climb
22 from 50 to 200 feet. And additional to that, while you're
23 doing proposals, I'd like to be excused.

24
25 CHAIRMAN ITTA: You can be excused. I'd just like to
26 say here what we're trying to do is

27
28 MR. LONG: And the reason I want to be excused is that
29 after we're done with these proposals, they're going to go to
30 somebody's table that don't even understand what was here and
31 how we live. To be put in books that we have to abide by.

32
33 CHAIRMAN ITTA: We're trying to help you. Let me make
34 that absolutely clear first and foremost.

35
36 MR. LONG: I understand that, Mr. Chairman.

37
38 CHAIRMAN ITTA: I do not see in here on the -- in the
39 information proposed that you're worried about life and safety.

40
41 MR. LONG: I'm a subsistence hunter. I lived a
42 subsistence lifestyle

43
44 CHAIRMAN ITTA: Right.

45
46 MR. LONG: all my life. I don't abide by
47 anybody's regulations, rules or purposes. Thank you.

48
49 CHAIRMAN ITTA: Okay.

50

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1
2 MR. AVEOGANNA: Mr. Chairman?

3
4 CHAIRMAN ITTA: Uh-huh. Jim?

5
6 MR. AVEOGANNA: You know, about the areas where each
7 village stays on hunt for -- we're talking about the boundary.
8 In the open country in our area when you've got prowling
9 around your area, on your hunting area, sometimes they come in
10 in three -- three brown bear together. And I've seen down -- a
11 few down in Anchorage and where else. You can't see very far,
12 but the people when they had to follow the rules here, the laws
13 say so, they can't truly much have -- to help their family.
14 There's a lot of times it comes in around our -- three, four
15 bears comes around at the same time, the same hour. So this is
16 something we protect our families and our hunting equipment and
17 everything as we're supposed to use it. That's how we do, we
18 go about in our -- what we have learned from the elders, for
19 generations way back years ago. On land every year. To keep
20 on alert. Because you'd see long ways in the country up here,
21 in the land, a long ways you can see them. But once you go on
22 the Manulu (ph) or something like that down in Anchorage, you
23 can't see very far. You don't know exactly how many brown
24 bears around that area, because they -- once they got some
25 caribou in them for feeding, they bunch them together a lot of
26 times. That's true. Thank you.

27
28 CHAIRMAN ITTA: Okay. I never get an answer on how did
29 this last line on remainder of 26(A), Steve, get to be? Was
30 this proposal submitted like that by Kuukpik (ph)

31
32 MR. KOVACH: I'd have to

33
34 CHAIRMAN ITTA: or where did the one bear in the
35 remainder of Unit 26 come to be? 'Cause he was talking just
36 (A) and (B).

37
38 MR. KOVACH: I'm going to defer to Bill 'cause he's the
39 one who typed these up.

40
41 CHAIRMAN ITTA: Okay.

42
43 MR. KNAUER: Mr. Chairman, it may not have been the
44 intent when they submitted it but it was the way it came in in
45 writing. And so we -- it's very hard for us to read the mind
46 of an individual or an organization.

47
48 CHAIRMAN ITTA: Uh-huh.

49
50

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1 MR. KNAUER: And we have to put in the proposal what
 they submitted unless they have, in looking at them, come back
 and told us no, that's not what we intended.

4
 5 CHAIRMAN ITTA: Um-hum.

6
 7 MR. KNAUER: And so this is -- now is an opportunity to
 make the changes, you know, based upon what he stated that it
 was not their intent, then it would be appropriate for the
 Council, with the amendment, to revise it to the way they had
 actually intended it to be. But that's the case with any
 proposal.

13
 14 CHAIRMAN ITTA: Okay. We still have a motion before
 us. And for your information, Fenton, Frank Brown -- I mean
 Frank Brown -- Frank Long has asked to be excused and is
 excused. But I think it's pretty clear to me what they were
 trying to do was protect life and limb and property here, but I
 did not see in here, that that's why they didn't want to be
 limited to one bear. And also, that, you know, they're
 threatened, they're not going to wait and say we got my one
 bear. And I think maybe that's unfortunate, there's been some
 misunderstanding. But this proposal is still before us and
 open to any amendments at this time.

25
 26 I might just note for the record, too, that the
 Subsistence Resource Commission for the Gates of Arctic went
 ahead and unanimously supported this proposal. And again, this
 will go -- this -- we're advisory, we can forward this on and
 the Federal Advisory Board will take their final action on this
 proposal.

32
 33 MR. REXFORD: Yeah. I wish Frank didn't leave. I
 didn't mean to offend him but I had to (ph). But anyway, I
 told him before that I'm in support of their proposed
 regulation. That I did have reservations for Unit 26(C) rather
 than the -- in order to have a prudent management policy, I
 think we need to listen to that. And rather than have no
 proposal for Kuukpikmiut, I think we ought to listen to what
 they say as far as they hunt during the spring, summer and
 fall. And I understood them that these are the times that they
 42 they are out when the bears are out and they are out of
 their dens, springtime. And that's when they're out
 subsisting. And they need to understand that there is for
 safety, life and limb or whatever, you have that protection. I
 think that needs to be brought out.

47
 48 And -- but to be prudent, I think we ought to have -- I
 have no problems with Unit 26(A), one limit or one bear with
 50

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their proposed May 1 through October 31. I didn't quite hear whether two bears was prudent but I'll go with that. And I'd be in favor of one bear with a season of September 1 through May 31st in the remainder of 26. My (indiscernible - telephone cutout)

6
7 CHAIRMAN ITTA: So is that coming in the form of an amending motion, Fenton?

9
10 MR. REXFORD: Yes.

11
12 CHAIRMAN ITTA: Okay. An amendment to amend this proposal to place instead of no limit under 26(A) one, one bear.

15
16 MR. REXFORD: Um-hum.

17
18 CHAIRMAN ITTA: Same seasons, May 1 through October 31st. 26(B), the same; one bear, same time periods. Is that correct?

21
22 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: He said two bears.

23
24 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Two bears.

25
26 CHAIRMAN ITTA: Two bears.

27
28 MR. REXFORD: Two bears.

29
30 CHAIRMAN ITTA: Okay. Two bears, May 31st through October 1. And what was that last one? You said something about one bear between

33
34 MR. REXFORD: Yeah. One bear, September through May 31st, (indiscernible) season.

36
37 MR. BROWER: I'll second that amendment.

38
39 CHAIRMAN ITTA: Okay. We have a second on the amending motion by Harry Brower, Jr. Any discussions on your amending motion? Geoff.

42
43 MR. CARROLL: I just heard you say October 1st, I think he said October 31st.

45
46 CHAIRMAN ITTA: October 31st, okay.

47
48 MR. CARROLL: Okay.

49
50

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1 CHAIRMAN ITTA: October 31st. I'm sorry.
2
3 MR. BROWER: Call for the question.
4
5 CHAIRMAN ITTA: The question's called on the amending
6 motion. All those in favor signify by saying aye.
7
8 IN UNISON: Aye.
9
10 CHAIRMAN ITTA: Opposed, same sign?
11
12 (No opposing responses)
13
14 CHAIRMAN ITTA: Hearing none, the amending motion is
15 approved. We're back to the main motion.
16
17 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: The question's called for.
18
19 CHAIRMAN ITTA: The question's called on the main
20 motion on Proposal 63, all those in favor signify by saying
21 aye.
22
23 IN UNISON: Aye.
24
25 CHAIRMAN ITTA: Opposed, same sign?
26
27 (No opposing responses)
28
29 CHAIRMAN ITTA: Hearing none, motion carried.
30
31 MR. UPICKSON: Mr. Chairman.
32
33 CHAIRMAN ITTA: Gordon.
34
35 MR. UPICKSON: Take a 10 minute break.
36
37 CHAIRMAN ITTA: Okay. We're going to call for a 10
38 minute break at this time.
39
40 MR. REXFORD: Okay.
41
42 CHAIRMAN ITTA: Okay. See you, Fenton.
43
44 (Off record)
45
46 (On record)
47
48 CHAIRMAN ITTA: So we'll go ahead and call our meeting
49 back to order. And we'll go on to the next proposal. Helen.
50

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1
2 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Okay. This is Proposal 64. We've
also joined this one with Proposal 65 because they are both
dealing with increasing the harvest limit for caribou in
Unit 26.

6
7 Proposal 64 which was submitted by this Regional
Council, as you probably remember, would increase the harvest
limits from car- -- for caribou from five to ten per day in
Unit 26(A), from five total to ten per day in Unit 26(B), and
from ten total to ten per day in Unit 26(C). We also had
Proposal 65 submitted to us by the Kuukpikmiut Village
Corporation, and they asked for the same, for an increase of
limits in Unit 26(A) from five to ten per day which is the same
as the North Slope proposal. But the harvest limit for 26(B)
would be increased from five total to ten total. They did not
request a change for 26(C), so it was only (A) and (B).

18
19 These proposals were made because it's more efficient
to be able to take 10 caribou per day than to have to do so in
two days. And the Inupiat custom and tradition has been to
take the number of caribou needed and the maximum number that
could be carried in one day.

24
25 As Steve mentioned earlier, Federal public lands in
Unit 26 are about 60 to 70 percent of the lands in the unit.
There are four caribou herds in 20- -- Unit 26; the Western
Arctic Caribou Herd, the Central Arctic Caribou Herd, the
Teshekpuk Caribou Herd and Porcupine Caribou Herd. They are
all considered to have very high or high populations, with the
latest estimates of the Western Arctic Caribou Herd are
420,000, the Central Arctic is 23,400, the Porcupine is 27,686
and the Teshekpuk is 160,000.00.

34
35 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: You reversed them.

36
37 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Did I reverse those numbers?

38
39 MR. CARROLL: The last two.

40
41 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: The last two were reversed, sorry.
They're big, how's that?

43
44 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Twenty-seven thousand for
Teshekpuk.

46
47 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: I think in the interest of time, I'm
going to try to just summarize this, because I think you all
know

50

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1
2 CHAIRMAN ITTA: Right.

3
4 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: a lot about caribou hunting,
and that I don't need to go into that. I think that the main
point -- I mean the only additional points maybe to be made
were -- are that the amount of the information we have on
subsistence from subsistence use studies on caribou harvests
are that in 1985, Nuiqsut took 513, that's only one year but
that's all we have. Kaktovik, in 1987, took 178. Anaktuvuk
Pass has averaged about 600 over the past three years. And
Barrow averaged 1,595 from '87 to '90, and Wainwright 608 from
188 to '89.

14
15 In the non-subsistence harvests, with the exception of
the Porcupine Caribou Herd, at least 80 percent of the harvest
occurs off of Federal public lands. And the non-subsistence
harvest of the Porcupine Caribou Herd occurs entirely on
Federal public lands. Non-subsistence harvest in 26(A) average
200 to 150 per year and 200 to 400 per year and less than 50
per year for Units 26(B) and (C).

22
23 I wanted to mention that in 1992, the Federal
Subsistence Board looked at a similar proposal which had a no
harvest limit for caribou in Unit 26. At that time, the Board
did oppose that proposal based on the lack of evidence to
support that the change was needed and a concern that such a
limit would result in waste and the requirements of ANILCA to
maintain healthy wildlife populations.

30
31 The existing harvest limits were adopted by the Board
on July of 1990. The five caribou per day harvest limit was
implemented by the State of Alaska, Board of Game in 1984,
after the Western Arctic Caribou Herd recovered from its crash
in the late 1970s, early 1980s at the request of local hunters.

36
37 There -- there's another proposal similar to this that
I wanted to mention, and it's also in your book at the very
end; it's Proposal 51. And it's -- was -- it's for the Western
Arctic Caribou Herd but in Unit 23. And the people in the
Northwest Arctic Regional Council had requested an increase
from five to fifteen caribou a day instead of five to ten. And
we had that meeting a couple of weeks ago, and they also
supported that proposal. So that will be going before the
Board at the same time as your two proposals.

46
47 CHAIRMAN ITTA: For 10?

48
49 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: For 15.
50

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1
2 CHAIRMAN ITTA: For 15.

3
4 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Now, one question I had. We had a
5 lot of discussion at that meeting about how many caribou you
6 could take on a boat. And apparently, the boat -- some of the
7 boats in that region, because they're going out in the Norton
8 Sound, are pretty large. And they were talking about is
9 sometimes being able to carry as many as 20 caribou in a boat.
10 And it's because of the putting them in a boat that they
11 really were more interested in the higher limits, not so much
12 putting them -- at least that was my impression -- not so much
13 carrying them in the winter on a sled.

14
15 And so I guess that was where I didn't -- I don't have
16 good information is how much people -- how much they could
17 carry or they would want to carry in a day, you know, with --
18 and actually, it would be useful to know is could you actually
19 carry 15, would people carry that? Not that that's -- I mean I
20 think it's important to put in there what people -- what
21 peoples do do or what they would do if the regulations allowed
22. And I was interested to know that they could. I didn't
23 realize they could carry that many caribou in a boat.

24
25 Anyway, our conclusion was that there's no biological
26 reason to not adopt this proposal as long as we continue the
27 current restriction on the Dalton Highway Corridor, which --
28 where firearms are not expanded beyond the currently -- those
29 currently living in and adjacent to the Corridor. We want to
30 make sure that people aren't going to come up the highway and
31 just start taking, you know, 10 caribou a day from there. So
32 we want to make sure that restriction stays in place. And then
33 the way the restriction currently reads is you're not allowed
34 in 26(C) you cannot export more than five caribou per year.
35 And so we want to make sure that that stays in place, that we
36 don't start getting all kinds of people driving up the highway
37 and taking lots of caribou.

38
39 CHAIRMAN ITTA: All right. We have Proposal 64

40
41 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: I'm sorry.

42
43 CHAIRMAN ITTA: before us.

44
45 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: I need to -- public comments.

46
47 CHAIRMAN ITTA: Okay.

48
49 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: I need to tell you, I'm sorry, ADF&G
50

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is opposed to this proposal. They feel that it's -- that although it's biologically acceptable, they -- in Unit 26(A), 26(C) to increase it to 10 per day, that increasing the limit from five to ten per day and five annually to ten per day in Unit 26(B) is unacceptable because of the more localized distribution of the Central Arctic Herd, and the limited amount of Federal public land, and the uncertainty about to whom -- where and to whom the regulation applies. And then on Proposal 65, they said -- opposed it even though it was more conservative than 64 but for the same reasons.

11

12 And then the Gates of the Arctic Subsistence Resource Commission, they supported Proposal 64 and made no co- -- I assume by supporting 64, they didn't support 65 was their choice.

16

17 MR. KOVACH: Correct. That's what this is.

18

19 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: That's it.

20

21 CHAIRMAN ITTA: They didn't support 65

22

23 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: 65, they

24

25 CHAIRMAN ITTA: because they felt their action on 64 took care of that problem already,

27

28 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Right. Right.

29

30 CHAIRMAN ITTA: correct?

31

32 MR. KOVACH: Correct.

33

34 CHAIRMAN ITTA: Okay. All right. We have Proposal 64 before you then. Entertain a motion for approval.

36

37 MR. R. KOONUK: So moved.

38

39 CHAIRMAN ITTA: Moved by

40

41 MR. TAGAROOK: Second.

42

43 CHAIRMAN ITTA: Ray Koonuk, seconded by Harry Hower, Jr.

45

46 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: No, Terry, Mr. Chairman.

47

48 CHAIRMAN ITTA: Approve Proposal 64 and the existing regulation for Unit 26 regarding caribou, and the changes were

50

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noted by Helen, largely from five to ten caribou per day for 2A) and (B), and for 26(C), also, the change is 10 caribou per day with a stipulation staying intact that not more than five caribou may be transported from 26(C) per regulatory year. Any discussion?

6

7 Fenton.

8

9 MR. REXFORD: Mr. Chairman, yeah. I'm trying to look for the -- we made something to that effect in our meeting to put it in last fall. And I'm trying to find out exactly what page or what area that might be. And I was going to ask Harry if he recalls about what part of the meeting or the transcript this action was taken. I -- so I can see that (ph) somebody with the main motion. It may -- let's see.

16

17 MR. BROWER: Are you on the second day's transcript, Fenton?

19

20 MR. REXFORD: A copy of the whole transcript. I'm trying to see the main motion or the -- where this proposal is coming about. Can't recall. So that everything will be okay or just -- you know, just in case there may have been a typo is what I'm saying.

25

26 CHAIRMAN ITTA: I, myself -- this is Edward. You're talking about when we had our joint meeting, huh?

28

29 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Yeah.

30

31 MR. REXFORD: Yes, that's correct.

32

33 CHAIRMAN ITTA: And I recall specifically we went ahead and did 10 caribou per day based on the actions of the North Slope Bureau Wildlife Management Committee. If you remember, we had lengthy discussions about no limit, maybe even 20, 15, and we all settled at 10 per unit. And I think it reflects

39

40 MR. REXFORD: Okay.

41

42 CHAIRMAN ITTA: that in our conversation. There's Geoff, will you get up?

44

45 MR. CARROLL: I'd just like to make one suggestion. I don't have any biological problem with any of this, except that you might want to add in 26(B) also that not more than five caribou may be transported from 26(B) so that we don't end up with a lot of subsistence hunters from other areas coming up

50

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the Haul Road and taking a lot of caribou out. I mean I think it'd be better to keep it so that it's the local hunters hunting in there rather than people coming in and hauling caribou out. So

5
6 CHAIRMAN ITTA: Ray. Ray raised his hand first and then Harry.

8
9 MR. R. KOONUK: Yes. Well, in the past years back when we haven't caught, you know, more than five caribou. And this is the first year that we ever, you know, got more than five caribou. And the caribou finally reached our place, and I don't think it will hurt, you know, 10 caribou. And I hope (ph).

15
16 CHAIRMAN ITTA: I think, Jakie, you were there at that meeting, huh, with the one we had at ASRC, right?

18
19 MR. J. KOONUK: Yeah. We started out by talking about the Western Arctic Caribou Herd.

21
22 CHAIRMAN ITTA: Um-hum.

23
24 MR. J. KOONUK: It was believed to be over-populated and we kind of slid over to 26, and that's where all these -- what we're looking at now it came from. We still don't know if 200,000 is over-population for some area here.

28
29 CHAIRMAN ITTA: Okay. Harry.

30
31 MR. BROWER: Mr. Chairman, I just wanted to answer Benton's question. It's regarding the discussions in the transcript, it starts on Page 251 on the second day's transcript. Did you hear that, Fenton?

35
36 MR. REXFORD: Yes, I see that. I was just reading all of that, and -- okay. It's 10 per day. And the reason why I say that 'cause Unit 26(B) had five caribou, and we started out with amending 26(A) to 10 per day and it carried on where the other one, 26(B), the gentleman referred to five caribou per year. I think that's pretty -- that's not enough for a family for five per year. So I'm in favor of this proposal, too.

43
44 CHAIRMAN ITTA: Okay. You heard and understood Geoff Carroll's comment here under Unit 26(B) that we might want to consider similar language that's in 26(C), that stipulation that not more than five caribou may be transported from 26(B) per regulatory year, with the intent being that it's on one side of the Corridor where (A) is on the side. That's your

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point, right? Is that what it is? Geoff, go ahead.

2

3 MR. CARROLL: I -- well, actually what I was referring
4 to is that you probably want to set up a situation where carib-
5 - or you don't want to set up a situation where subsistence
6 hunters from other parts of the State can drive up the Haul
7 Road and take caribou and haul them back down to wherever they
8 live, I mean at a rate of 10 a day. You probably want to keep
9 it so that they can't take more than five out of there.

10

11 Dave Yokel just made a good point. That there isn't
12 really anybody that lives in 26(B). You better write that so
13 that you can't transport more than five caribou out of Unit 26
14 rather than 26(B), 'cause that would keep Nuiqsut people, for
15 instance, from crossing the line or Kaktovik people from
16 crossing the line and going back. A good point.

17

18 CHAIRMAN ITTA: So -- okay. Does somebody care to make
19 an amending motion to that effect? If not

20

21 MR. REXFORD: Now, we're cutting off and on now. I so
22 move for the amendment.

23

24 CHAIRMAN ITTA: Okay. We have a motion to amend the
25 language so that not more than five caribou may be transported
26 from Unit 26 per regulatory year. That's the correct language
27 for Unit 26. And do we hear a second?

28

29 MR. R. KOONUK: Second.

30

31 CHAIRMAN ITTA: We have a second by Ray. Any
32 discussions on the amending motion?

33

34 MR. BROWER: Call for the question.

35

36 CHAIRMAN ITTA: The question's been called by Harry
37 Brower, Jr. All those in favor of the amending motion signify
38 by saying aye.

39

40 IN UNISON: Aye.

41

42 CHAIRMAN ITTA: Opposed, same sign?

43

44 (N opposing responses)

45

46 CHAIRMAN ITTA: Hearing none, the amending motion
47 carries. We're back on the main motion.

48

49 MR. R. KOONUK: The question called for.

50

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1
2 CHAIRMAN ITTA: Question called for on the main motion.
3 All in favor signify by saying aye.
4
5 IN UNISON: Aye.
6
7 CHAIRMAN ITTA: Opposed, same sign?
8
9 (No opposing responses)
10
11 CHAIRMAN ITTA: Hearing none, Proposal 64 is approved
12 with noted justification. You got that, right? Okay. We're
13 on Proposal 65, which is essentially the same proposal
14
15 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Less caribou.
16
17 CHAIRMAN ITTA: regarding Unit 26 caribou.
18
19 MR. BROWER: KOONUK: Mr. Chairman.
20
21 CHAIRMAN ITTA: Uh-huh.
22
23 MR. BROWER: I would make a motion that we don't take
24 any action on Proposal 65 similar to what the Subsistence
25 Regional Council
26
27 CHAIRMAN ITTA: Okay.
28
29 MR. BROWER: Commission did, since it already
30 addresses on Proposal 64 the same concern.
31
32 MR. R. KOONUK: Second that.
33
34 CHAIRMAN ITTA: Okay. We have a motion to take no
35 action on Proposal 65 and a second, any discussion on the
36 motion?
37
38 MR. TAGAROOK: Question.
39
40 CHAIRMAN ITTA: The question's called on the motion.
41 All in favor signify by saying aye.
42
43 IN UNISON: Aye.
44
45 CHAIRMAN ITTA: Opposed, same sign?
46
47 (No opposing responses)
48
49 CHAIRMAN ITTA: Hearing none, motion approved to do
50

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nothing for 65.

2

3 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Mr. Chairman.

4

5 CHAIRMAN ITTA: Okay. Unit 26, sheep.

6

7 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Mr. Chairman.

8

9 CHAIRMAN ITTA: Unit 66. Aren't I terrible with
 numbers today here.

11

12 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Now, I'm really going to confuse
 you. I thought while we're on the subject of caribou with bag
 limits, we might -- we're supposed -- you're supposed to take
 some sort of action. And the action could be either to take no
 action or to vote on Proposal 51 on the Unit 23's proposal to
 have a bag limit of 15 caribou per day.

18

19 And you know, while we're on that topic, I don't know
 if you wanted to -- what you wanted to do with that. We do
 have to go -- since it address -- since it has to do with the
 Western Arctic Caribou Herd and because as the C&T
 determinations are right now, you have C&T for that herd, what
 happens in 23 affects you. And so the Board has -- any council
 that's affected by a proposal, even if it's not their area,
 they would like to know how at that council who's affected by
 how they feel about it. So you -- now

28

29 CHAIRMAN ITTA: You said that's in the back of our
 package here?

31

32 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Yeah. And it's essentially the
 same --

34

35 CHAIRMAN ITTA: Okay.

36

37 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: the same analysis that we just
 gave you for 64 and 65. And it's the same proposal except it's
 with 15 caribou per day. And when just as when we took -- we
 did the same thing with Northwest Arctic Regional Council, we
 took 64 and 65 before them and they voted to leave it up to you
 guys. They said they didn't want to take any action at all.
 And you know, it's the same sort of thing, you can either
 decide not to take any action or you can decide to support the
 proposal or to not support it.

46

47 CHAIRMAN ITTA: So we're going to -- while we're on the
 same subject which deals with caribou, you're saying we take
 care of 51 and

50

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1
2 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Yeah.
3
4 CHAIRMAN ITTA: take action or no action?
5
6 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Right.
7
8 CHAIRMAN ITTA: We have Proposal 51 before us submitted
9 by the Northwest Arctic Federal Subsistence Regional Advisory
10 Council. What is the wish of the Board?
11
12 MR. UPICKSON: Move that we take no action.
13
14 CHAIRMAN ITTA: There's a motion to take no action on
15 Proposal 51.
16
17 (Off record comments)
18
19 CHAIRMAN ITTA: Do we hear a second before I
20 dispense (ph)
21
22 MR. REXFORD: Seconded.
23
24 CHAIRMAN ITTA: Seconded by Fenton. I have a question.
25 On additional information, it says on there that this is
26 consistent with the North Slope proposal to increase harvest
27 limits. I mean we're 10, they're 15, but -- okay.
28
29 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: It's not the same harvest limit,
30 it's -- but it is an increase, yeah.
31
32 CHAIRMAN ITTA: That we -- in essence by taking no
33 action, we'd just be leaving it on their table?
34
35 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Right.
36
37 CHAIRMAN ITTA: Okay. You have a motion before you to
38 take no action on Proposal 51. Any discussion?
39
40 MR. J. KOONUK: What's the reason for no proposal?
41
42 CHAIRMAN ITTA: Pardon?
43
44 MR. J. KOONUK: What's the reason for no proposal?
45
46 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: No action.
47
48 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: No action.
49
50

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1 CHAIRMAN ITTA: No action. So that this deals with
 Unit 23 which is the Northwest District over there. And they
 were looking either for support, no support or no action; one
 of three that we can take, correct? And what we're saying is
 that we'll leave it up to them over there by your motion to
 take no action, correct?

7
 8 MR. UPICKSON: We have no idea how many people live in
 that area, and they can decide

10
 11 CHAIRMAN ITTA: Okay.

12
 13 MR. UPICKSON: how to act on this proposal.

14
 15 MR. R. KOONUK: Second.

16
 17 CHAIRMAN ITTA: Okay. We have a second here. Any more
 discussion?

19
 20 MR. TAGAROOK: Question.

21
 22 CHAIRMAN ITTA: The question's called on the motion.
 All in favor of no action signify by saying aye.

24
 25 IN UNISON: Aye.

26
 27 CHAIRMAN ITTA: Opposed, same sign?

28
 29 (No opposing responses)

30
 31 CHAIRMAN ITTA: Hearing none, the motion to take no
 action is approved. Okay. Proposal 66.

33
 34 MR. ULVI: Mr. Chairman?

35
 36 CHAIRMAN ITTA: Uh-huh. Go ahead.

37
 38 MR. ULVI: Yeah. Mr. Chairman, Steve Ulvi. Sorry, I
 was following along there. On Proposal 64, the action you took
 to amend the language to say that no more than five caribou
 could be taken out of GMU 26 per regulatory year, is that
 correct?

43
 44 CHAIRMAN ITTA: Yes.

45
 46 MR. ULVI: And that kind of puts Anaktuvuk Pass in a
 bad way, they're in GMU 24.

48
 49 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Okay. Whoops.

50

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1
2 CHAIRMAN ITTA: Geoff, you got us into it.
3
4 MR. CARROLL: You better have one of your Federal
Wizards figure out the wording on that.
6
7 CHAIRMAN ITTA: Bill, if you'd get up where we -- or
Somewhere where you can be
9
10 MR. KNAUER: Mr. Chairman, it would be very easy to
amend your statement to say out of Unit 26 or Anaktuvuk Pass.
In other words, just include Anaktuvuk Pass within that area.
So that way, they are protected.
14
15 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: With the exception of Anaktuvuk
Pass.
17
18 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: Well, say it in a sentence. Not
more than five caribou may be transported from Unit 26 and
Anaktuvuk Pass? Okay.
21
22 CHAIRMAN ITTA: Okay. We have a clarification, and I
want it on record that if there is no objection, we'll go ahead
and put in the appropriate language to protect subsistence
users from Anaktuvuk Pass to not be adversely -- to not be
included in the five bag per regulatory year limit. And that's
the amendment. And if we have consensus, if there's no
objection, we so note it and it will be written into our final
proposal.
30
31 No objection, so noted. Okay. Thank you. 66.
32
33 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Okay. Proposal 66, this is a
proposal to change a customary and traditional use
determination. This is one of our first. And you'll notice in
the proposal booklet, it has -- the discussion varies a little
bit. And I'm actually going to change it in another way by
adding the eight factors when I do the final. I decided it
needed to be done a little differently.
40
41 But anyway, this proposal was submitted by Kuukpikmiut
Village again. They were busy this year. It requests that
Niqsut be added to the customary and traditional use
determinations for hunting sheep in Unit 26(C). I think
there's -- well, I'm going to back up a little bit here.
46
47 There are eight factors that we use to determine
whether or not a community has a customary and traditional use
determination. And the first factor, which is not listed in
50

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here, but I'll read to you is a long-term, consistent pattern of use excluding interruptions beyond the control of the community or area. If you go back in the literature, there's a lot of evidence that people in Barrow and, assumably, people on the Colville River hunted sheep to the east, and there were references as far back as 1892. And you know -- and there's evidence that people lived in that region, as you know, for a long time. I think there's no doubt that people in the Nuiqsut area had a long-term, consistent pattern of use.

10

11 They currently have a C&T determination for Unit 26(A) and (B). So what they're asking for is to have (C) added to it. The other villages that have a customary and traditional use determination for Unit 26(C) are Kaktovik, Venetie, Fort Yukon, Chalkyitsik and Arctic Village. In 26(A) and (B), the residents who have a customary and traditional use determination are Anaktuvuk Pass, Kaktovik, Nuiqsut and Wasean.

19

20 I think it's worth noting that some of those communities are as far away as 200 miles. So -- and you know, while we did not make those determinations, that these were ones that were adopted from the State. And I think that they were adopted from the State because -- I mean that they were made originally by the State because people have in the past gone that far, whether they go that far today is a little bit unknown. But I just wanted to point out that they do -- we do have existing determinations where people are traveling long distances.

30

31 We -- this is where I wish -- I kind of wish Frank hadn't left. The -- we don't know what the harvest level of Dall sheep in Unit 26(B) is. There have been some subsistence use studies done in Nuiqsut, and there were -- there have never been any reported harvests of Dall sheep. That doesn't mean that they don't harvest them, we just don't have any record of it. There's nothing that's been in the literature that they harvest Dall sheep. And there -- when mapping was done, there was no mapping of traditional use areas for Dall sheep. So when I look at the literature, I can't really see where it's showing up that Nuiqsut uses sheep. But I think they probably do, but it's probably very small. And I mean -- and it could be very recent. I don't know.

44

45 I also know that in talking to Shere Pederson, he feels that the use patterns of the people in Nuiqsut have been shifting since they did some studies in 1985, partly because of Mudhoe Bay being there. He said he wants to go back in and do some more studies because he says the people are definitely

50

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traveling differently than they did because they've had to kind of go around Prudhoe Bay. And you know, it's -- they -- he said they definitely make a big, you know, curve around that whole area. So it could be that their uses are changing.

5

6 We have some -- this isn't cited in the literature, but we found out from someone through the Refuge that apparently the reason this was proposed is that there are two Nuiqsut hunters who have in the past two years been traveling very long distances, into the Brooks Range, primarily for hunting wolf and wolverine. And the guess is, and this is where if he were here, maybe he could verify this, that those two hunters have been saying gee, you know, wish we could get some of those sheep.

15

16 So the question I think that's before you is did they have -- do they have customary and traditional use of it. And because there are two hunters who are going in that area now and perhaps more hunters, we don't know; I mean there are lot of unknowns in this whole issue; does that mean that they should be able to hunt -- consider 26(C) as their customary and additional use area.

23

24 And because the -- we don't have any record of Nuiqsut hunting sheep, I can't answer the additional questions that you have to ask in order to have a customary and traditional use determination. But I can look at Kaktovik who does hunt sheep and say well, if this is the way Kaktovik does it, it could be assumed that if Nuiqsut got sheep, that they would do it the same way.

31

32 The next factor that has to be covered is a pattern of use recurring in specific seasons for many years. In Kaktovik, they are of course driven somewhat by regulations, but their sheep harvests occur in late October through late November and March and early spring in conjunction with fur bearing and caribou hunting. The -- so that they do have -- they have had for many, many, many generations that they -- and they continue to have a pattern of use recurring in specific seasons.

40

41 The third factor is a pattern of use consisting of methods and means of harvest which are characterized by efficiency and economy of effort and cost conditioned by local characteristics. And in Kaktovik, people travel in family groups. They -- extended family groups, they travel and hunt together up into the mountains to go sheep hunting. They primarily use snow machines and much less often ATVs. They travel into the mountains together to establish a camp near the primary sheep hunting areas.

50

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1
2 The fourth factor is a consistent harvest and use of
fish or wildlife as related to past methods and means of taking
near or reasonably accessible from the community or area. This
issue of whether it's reasonably accessible is kind of a factor
to look at, because 26(C) is a long distance from Nuiqsut, and
they'd have to travel a couple hundred miles by snow machine to
get up into the mountains there. And I guess it's a question
to me as, you know -- as to whether or not people are actually
doing that.

11
12 But the fifth factor is a means of handling, preparing,
preserving and storing fish and wildlife which have been
traditionally used by past generations, including consideration
of alteration of past practices due to the recent technological
advances where appropriate. And in Kaktovik, which I'm using
as our example, as with all take of large terrestrial mammals,
the harvest is quartered in the field and brought back to the
community for final processing and distribution. And Dall
sheep meat is preferred fresh but is also frozen and
occasionally processed into dried meat. I think it's
considered a highly desired meat by North Slope Inupiat as
well.

24
25 The sixth factor, a pattern of use which includes the
handing down of knowledge of fishing and hunting skills, values
and lore from generation to generation. I think there's no
doubt that the people in Kaktovik and -- certainly have
particular hunting skills and knowledge regarding hunting and
processing Dall sheep, and the appropriate ways of handling the
meat and the principles of resource conservation such as over
avoiding over-harvest and waste.

33
34 The seventh factor is a pattern of use in which the
harvest is shared or distributed within the definable community
of persons. And in Kaktovik, the Dall sheep meat is shared
throughout the community and as well as throughout the North
Slope Region. And it's an essential part of community feasts
such as Thanksgiving, Christmas and Nalukatak. And I think
with all of these, we're using Kaktovik as an example, but --
because of the close similarities of the Nuiqsut people. If
they do, in fact, harvest Dall sheep, we can see that they
would do things in a very similar way. And I don't have any
reasons to not believe that, I think they would.

45
46 The eighth factor, and the last factor, is a pattern of
use which relates to reliance upon a wide diversity of fish and
wildlife resources of the area and which provides substantial
cultural, economic, social and nutritional elements to the
50

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community or area. And Nuiqsut residents do, in fact, depend upon a wide diversity of resources; caribou, moose, brown bear, bowhead whale, seals, walrus, polar bear, birds, fur bearers, small game and fishes. And about -- we know from subsistence use studies that about 97 percent of all the households harvest some sort of subsistence resources, and 90 percent harvest some type of big game. All of the households use the subsistence resources in Nuiqsut.

9

10 And I think as in all North Slope communities, when -- while resources may not provide a large percentage of the total pounds of meat consumed, they do provide some variety to the diet. So while there may be a very low number of Dall sheep actually harvested, I think it does provide some variety to their diet. We also know in Kaktovik, in years when the bowhead whale harvest has not been -- has been poor that then we can expect that those years, there's a higher level of sheep harvest since the bowhead whale is harvested in the fall.

19

20 I think that while there's no documentation in the literature of Nuiqsut residents customary and traditionally hunting Dall sheep, since it settled -- was settled in 1973 that people in the region were known to have hunted Dall sheep earlier in the century. And that's -- I think it's up to this council to make a recommendation as to whether they think that they should have C&T in 26(C) or not.

27

28 MR. REXFORD: Mr. Chairman.

29

30 CHAIRMAN ITTA: Go ahead, Fenton.

31

32 MR. REXFORD: I move to approve Proposal 66 as presented by the Kuukpikmiut Village or per this discussion.

34

35 CHAIRMAN ITTA: Okay. You have a motion before you. Do we hear a second?

37

38 MR. UPICKSON: I second it.

39

40 CHAIRMAN ITTA: Seconded by Gordon. We're open for discussion.

42

43 MR. REXFORD: Thank you.

44

45 CHAIRMAN ITTA: Fenton.

46

47 MR. REXFORD: Mr. Chairman.

48

49 CHAIRMAN ITTA: Go ahead.

50

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1
2 MR. REXFORD: I thank you. Yes, there have been recent
uses from the residents, for instance, an elderly couple named
Mr. and Mrs. Neal Allen is a very good example. And his family
are using our area for, like you said, diverse usage or
diversity of the resources used. And I think there would be
other examples. There have been folks coming to -- in the fall
time by boat or marine, so there would be either trading or --
of that nature. So but I do know there are -- there have been
several trips by Mr. Allen and Mrs. Allen through Canada. And
I know, like you said, centuries ago -- early part of the
century, their -- I think their children and their children
would like to pick that up again as far as getting the resource
from this part.

15
16 So I'm in favor of the motion.

17
18 CHAIRMAN ITTA: Okay. Thank you, Fenton. More
discussion?

20
21 MR. R. KOONUK: Question called.

22
23 CHAIRMAN ITTA: Question called for on the motion. All
in favor signify by saying aye.

25
26 IN UNISON: Aye.

27
28 CHAIRMAN ITTA: Opposed?

29
30 (No opposing responses)

31
32 CHAIRMAN ITTA: Hearing none, motion carried. Thank
you. Here's our favorite one coming up.

34
35 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: I get a break, it's Steve's turn.

36
37 CHAIRMAN ITTA: You're going to let Steve handle this
one, huh? Muskox.

39
40 MR. KOVACH: Unh-unh.

41
42 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Wait, sorry. Wait, wait. Sorry.

43
44 CHAIRMAN ITTA: Proposal 67.

45
46 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: I take that back.

47
48 CHAIRMAN ITTA: You didn't get away from that one,
Allen.

50

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1
2 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: I didn't get away from it, no.
3
4 MR. KOVACH: This one's C&T.
5
6 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Yes.
7
8 MR. KOVACH: That's why you took it.
9
10 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Yeah, sorry, I was hopeful, you
11 know.
12
13 All right. Another proposal from the Kuukpikmiut
14 Village, this is Proposal 67. And it was asked for -- or this
15 proposal would provide Nuiqsut, Barrow, Atkasuk, Wainwright,
16 Point Lay and Point Hope with a customary and traditional use
17 determination for muskox in Unit 26(A) and would provide
18 Nuiqsut and Kaktovik with a customary and traditional use
19 determination for muskox in 26(B). Kaktovik already has one
20 for 26(C).
21
22 The proposal also asks for the hunt to be by Federal
23 registration only with up to 10 permits issued to eligible
24 residents in each village. And it would close Federal public
25 lands to the taking of muskox by non-subsistence hunters.
26 Additionally, this proposal would provide for a season for
27 hunting muskox in 26(A) from July 1st through June 30th and in
28 26(B) from October 1st through November 15th and from March 1st
29 through March 31st.
30
31 Now, we have a map. I'll just start out from the very
32 beginning with the map. It's not in your booklet, we just got
33 this the day before we came up here from the --
34
35 CHAIRMAN ITTA: Before we do it,
36
37 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: from Pat Reynolds.
38
39 CHAIRMAN ITTA: Harry has a question, Helen.
40
41 MR. BROWER: Helen, I didn't clearly understand what
42 you said by the 10 permits for each of the villages or just 10
43 permits for all the villages, for
44
45 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: It's
46
47 MR. BROWER: the villages named above.
48
49 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: It says with up to 10 permits issued
50

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1 to eligible residents in each village.

2

3 CHAIRMAN ITTA: So you're saying 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 --
4 40?

5

6 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: That was the request.

7

8 CHAIRMAN ITTA: Sixty would be harvest limit?

9

10 MR. KOVACH: That was the proposal.

11

12 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: That was the request.

13

14 CHAIRMAN ITTA: Okay.

15

16 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Okay. You've heard over and over
17 today that there's not much Federal public land in 26(B), and
18 this is 20- -- this is all 26(B) here. And this map shows you
19 where the groups -- each one of those little circles is a group
20 of muskox. And then the sort of dots, which is hard to tell
21 cause they kind of blend together, are bulls. And I don't --
22 Well, can you point on there, there's only one circle as I
23 call where -- in the 20- -- where the Federal public lands of
24 muskox.

25

26 MR. KNAUER: Right down here.

27

28 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: That's the only sighting that has
29 occurred on Federal public lands of muskox. And this -- I'm
30 showing you this right up front to show you the problem we have
31 in 26(B) is that while there are muskox in 26(B), and you've
32 heard today about the 20 to 30 muskox that are kind of resident
33 around Nuiqsut, there are very few in -- on Federal public
34 land.

35

36 Now, that doesn't mean you can't give them a positive
37 G&T determination. I mean I'm just letting you know what your
38 options are. You could say people in Nuiqsut have -- has
39 customary and traditional use of muskox; however, there are
40 none on Federal public lands so, therefore, they don't have a
41 hunt. I mean, you could do that. But as -- or you can just --
42 you can do whatever you want. But you cannot give them a
43 customary and traditional use determination. But in any case,
44 that's the situation we have in 26(B).

45

46 There's -- in 26(A), there's a large perc- -- well,
47 most of 26- -- and I don't know if most is the right word, but
48 very large percentage of 26(A) is Federal public land. But
49 of right now, there aren't enough numbers of muskox to hunt.

50

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1 And I know we've heard Geoff talk before about flying to look
2 for muskox and not having seen any. We do know from reports
3 from people who live in the region that they see muskox, we
4 know they're there, but the population is still too small to
5 allow a hunt at this time.

6

7 Because we -- there hasn't been a hunt of mus- -- or
8 there hasn't been muskox hunting in -- except with the
9 exception of Kaktovik in the North Slope for probably way over
10 100 years or more. Anything that -- everything that I'm going
11 to say about muskox hunting is based, again, on what they've
12 done in Kaktovik and not what's been done currently.

13

14 We do know that muskox were on the North Slope. They
15 were -- occupied much of the western and all of the northern
16 Alaska during the Pleistocene era. We don't know exactly why
17 they've declined, but by -- we do know that by the 19th
18 century, muskox were really only occurring in Northern Alaska.
19 And there is some archaeological evidence that they occurred
20 east of Wainwright. There were reports in the 1850s of muskox
21 skulls, and they that peop- -- while no muskox were taken,
22 people knew about muskox but they had never actually seen one
23 alive.

24

25 In mus- -- in Kaktovik, muskox has been integrated into
26 their annual pattern of subsistence activities. And I think
27 it's an excellent example of where there's a resource that was
28 introduced and people have made it a subsistence resource.
29 They participate directly in the harvest. They use it, the
30 Bòdes, the furs, their horns. They trade, barter -- they trade
31 and barter it. They utilize all parts of the muskox as they do
32 with other resources. And they share it, it's distributed
33 amongst people at special gath- -- celebrations like
34 Thanksgiving and Nalukatak and Christmas. In fact, when I was
35 at Nalukatak last June, I got to have -- help make the muskox
36 soup which was great.

37

38 Anyway, in Kaktovik, ever since muskox has been --
39 they've had a hunt, it has been regulated heavily. And so,
40 therefore, there's not what we call a customary and traditional
41 season, but they do hunt it in -- from October -- the end of
42 October to the middle of November and then in March. Hunting
43 muskox occurs by snow machine into the area and then often
44 by foot once the herd is seen. And there's at least one bow
45 hunter in Kaktovik, and I don't know if there are any more.
46 Most of the hunting is done by small groups of hunters
47 traveling to the area by snow machine.

48

49 As with all large terrestrial mammals, the harvest is
50

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quartered in the field and brought back to the community for final processing and distribution. Muskox meat also is preferred fresh but it is also frozen and occasionally processed into dried meat. It is a highly desired meat by some residents, although, there were people I know who said they didn't care for -- who I talked to there who didn't care for the meat I think because it's relatively new, and sometimes new things take a little longer to -- for people to accept.

9

10 It is recently accessible to the people in Kaktovik. And the -- while it's a new thing, a new resource that they're harvesting, they do have particular hunting skills and knowledge regarding hunting and processing muskox similar to the -- to other hunting skills that they have for other resources. The people in Kaktovik, as well as the other North Slope residents, harvest a wide diversity of resources; caribou, moose, brown bears, bowhead whales, beluga whales, seals, walrus, polar bears, birds, fur bearers, small game and fishes. And in all of the North Slope, a very high percentage of people, with the exception of Barrow which is somewhat lower, over 90 percent of the households harvest subsistence resources and also consume them.

23

24 I think in conclusion, I think it's up to the Council
25 decide whether or not because there's not a significant
26 number of -- a significant enough number of the muskox to hunt
27 26(A), if that precludes you from having a positive C&T
28 determination. And then because in 26(B) while there are
29 muskox, there are virtually -- there are very, very few on
30 Federal public lands, that that also would prohibit you from
31 having a positive C&T determination.

32

33 This is something new for us to deal with and it's
34 something new for the Councils to deal with and the Board as
35 well. And we haven't had this situation come up, you know, of
36 what you do when there's not enough to hunt but somebody wants
37 C&T on it.

38

39 CHAIRMAN ITTA: Okay. Thank you, Helen.

40

41 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Do you want public comments?

42

43 CHAIRMAN ITTA: I suppose we

44

45 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: I guess.

46

47 CHAIRMAN ITTA: It might be a little important.

48

49 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Well, Proposal 67, ADF&G opposes

50

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Because there aren't enough muskox to hunt in 26(A). And that in 26(B), the issue of Federal land is a long distance for Nuiqsut people, and that there aren't enough muskox in 26(B) to hunt.

5

6 I mean to say, actually, not being a biologist, I didn't know these things and I thought it was sort of interesting. The muskox that are in 26(B) on Federal public lands tend to be bachelor males. These muskox, the bachelors, go out and seek new grounds, you know, and then they go back and tell the other people -- other muskox come on with me, you know, there's good land over here. And they go back and get other mixed age groups and mixed sexes and they migrate into that area. And so the theory is that if you hunted the few muskox that are available on Federal public lands in 26(B) that then you would probably be curtailing expansion into that area.

17

18 So

19

20 MR. UPICKSON: That's a scientific theory or

21

22 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: I don't know. Those bachelor males, you know, going out seeking new territory.

24

25 MR. UPICKSON: I tried to understand how it applies to muskox, we're not sure.

27

28 CHAIRMAN ITTA: I was going to say that this muskox issue up here, it gets people pretty worked up here because nobody wants to take credit on managing them and, yet, nobody wants them killed off up here. And obviously, the large bulk of them are on State lands, and I think it wasn't the State that introduced them anyway, I think it was some Federal agency that introduced them, was that correct?

35

36 MR. CARROLL: It was both, both State and Federal people involved.

38

39 CHAIRMAN ITTA: But there's one overriding concern that I hear that these muskox are chasing away our caribou from their traditional grounds, and that's what we keep hearing from the people that are actually out there and watching and observing. And I know even on this customary and traditional use, if nothing is documented, then they say it's not worth anything, and I say that's a bunch of baloney.

46

47 But nonetheless, we have this proposal before us, and I notice the Gates of the Arctic Resource Commission went ahead and approved it with another addition, and that is to include

50

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Anaktuvuk Pass in there as a part of the villages here.

2
3 But -- and on your preliminary -- your conclusion, you
4 essentially say that there is no basis for this --

5
6 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Well, there's no basis for

7
8 CHAIRMAN ITTA: this proposal.

9
10 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: a hunt, but I don't know if
11 that means -- I mean, I don't know what you do, whether that
12 means you don't give C&T at this time and do you wait and defer
13 it until the time when there is a basis for a hunt. That's
14 what the State did. The State only did C&T determinations in
15 Kaktovik because there were enough muskox to hunt there but
16 avoided the issue of would other communities qualify. And
17 we've never done this. This is new to everybody.

18
19 So -- and you know, I don't know what this Board is
20 going to say to the question of well, they haven't hunted them
21 for a long time so, therefore, you know, they could say,
22 therefore, they don't have C&T or they -- there is the little
23 pause in there, a long-term, consistent pattern of use
24 including interruptions beyond the control of the community or
25 area. And in fact, if muskox had not disappeared, people would
26 have continued to hunt them, I'm certain of that. So I think
27 the Board could use that as the reason why they could allow it,
28 but they may not. I don't know. This Board is completely --
29 almost completely new, they're even new to this program. So
30

31
32 MR. REXFORD: Mr. Chairman.

33
34 CHAIRMAN ITTA: Go ahead, Fenton.

35
36 MR. REXFORD: Yes. I know there is a concern or wishes
37 I've heard that they want to open it up around Point Hope and
38 Point Lay area. And I think, like they did in 26(C), they made
39 zones in Unit 26(C) for the residents of Kaktovik so they won't
40 deplete those that travel in zones, you know. So they might be
41 the hot spot and they might all be there, and we want to do
42 away with that, but keep away from zones. But I think maybe
43 the whole 26(A) could handle 20 permits rather than say 10 for
44 each village. I'm just thinking out loud. Five for Point Lay
45 and five for Point Hope, and Barrow, Atkasuk and Wainwright
46 maybe could get five and Nuiqsut could take five and/or put
47 26(B) for Nuiqsut getting five. That kind of thing.

48
49 MR. BROWER: There's the -- Mr. Chairman.
50

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1
2 CHAIRMAN ITTA: Harry.

3
4 MR. BROWER: I don't think there isn't much Federal
5 land around Nuiqsut just for a muskox hunt, isn't that right,
6 Bill?

7
8 MR. REXFORD: 20- -- yeah, what was that one? Oh,
9 what's Tier II, I'm sorry. Okay. Yeah, I understand now.

10
11 CHAIRMAN ITTA: Harry.

12
13 MR. BROWER: I don't have a problem with this permit
14 system up to 60 permits being issued where there are that many
15 muskox herd within our boundaries here. I don't think 60 of
16 them would be suffi- -- or that's too much from the way I see
17 it.

18
19 MR. REXFORD: Yeah.

20
21 MR. BROWER: It's

22
23 MR. REXFORD: I was thinking 20 for the whole 26(A).
24 Twenty permits for whole 26(A) and divide it between Point Lay
25 and Point Hope getting five each. Barrow, Atqasuk, Wainwright,
26 five and Nuiqsut five.

27
28 CHAIRMAN ITTA: Okay. Are you looking to amend or do
29 we even have a motion here? We don't even have a motion for
30 approval yet, so we're just still on discussion. We're just
31 talking here.

32
33 MR. REXFORD: Mr. Chairman, I think especially
34 important is the C&T issue, if we could get that determined.
35 Really, that needs to be set forth. And I think Kaktovik and
36 all the other folks along the Slope are the same people and
37 customary and traditionally, we've hunted the muskox. And
38 their precedence has already been set by the ADF&G as well as
39 the Subsistence Board.

40
41 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Edward?

42
43 CHAIRMAN ITTA: Helen.

44
45 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: I thought maybe I should just
46 mention, in the Seward Peninsula we just had this discussion
47 about allowing a muskox hunt. And if I'm -- Steve can correct
48 me I'm remembering my biological facts wrong. But there are
49 something muskox in that region, and they estimate they can
50

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harvest about three percent of the population, and they're allowing 24 permits. So that gives you some idea of -- you know, of what you might be able to allow. And since they haven't even -- Geoff can maybe speak to this. But I don't think they thought -- they know that there just aren't that many muskox in 26(A), that that gives you some idea of if you're only looking at three percent of the numbers that are there,

9

10 CHAIRMAN ITTA: Thank

11

12 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: it doesn't leave very many.

13

14 CHAIRMAN ITTA: Okay. What was the number that three percent would be

15

16 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Three percent

17

18 CHAIRMAN ITTA: the sustainable yield?

19

20 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Yeah.

21

22 CHAIRMAN ITTA: And that's 27, right?

23

24 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Twenty-eight.

25

26 CHAIRMAN ITTA: Twenty-eight.

27

28 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Twenty-four

29

30 CHAIRMAN ITTA: Twenty-four.

31

32 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: in the Seward Peninsula, yeah.

33

34 CHAIRMAN ITTA: I can't even multiply right here.

35 Okay. Bill.

36

37 MR. KNAUER: Mr. Chairman, procedurally to make it easier on yourselves, you may wish to split this into two issues. The first issue being C&T and then once you've made a decision there, the second issue a season.

38

39 CHAIRMAN ITTA: Um-hum.

40

41 MR. KNAUER: That might make it a little easier on the Council.

42

43 MR. REXFORD: Yes. I agree with that.

44

45

46

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1 MR. BROWER: Yeah.

2

3 CHAIRMAN ITTA: Okay. We'll see if we can split this
4 up in two parts here and see if we all agree on customary and
5 traditional use

6

7 MR. R. KOONUK: Mr. Chair, so move.

8

9 CHAIRMAN ITTA: issue here. And the motion to
10 formally accept there has been customary and traditional use
11 patterns by Nuiqsut, Barrow, Atkasuk, Wainwright, Point Lay and
12 Point Hope as well as Kaktovik -- I said Nuiqsut and Kaktovik's
13 given (ph).

14

15 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Anaktuvuk Pass.

16

17 CHAIRMAN ITTA: And Anaktuvuk Pass, I'm sorry, right.
18 And there is a motion to that effect, do we hear a second?

19

20 MR. TAGAROOK: Second.

21

22 CHAIRMAN ITTA: Seconded by Terry. We're open for
23 discussion on this customary and traditional use issue. Any
24 discussion?

25

26 MR. REXFORD: Yeah. Yeah, just real quickly. There's
27 been a precedent already set, like I said,

28

29 CHAIRMAN ITTA: Okay.

30

31 MR. REXFORD: customary and traditional
32 determinations for Arctic Village and our neighbors on the
33 south side of the Brooks Range, Fort Yukon and Venetie as far
34 as we export Yukon (ph) too. So I don't think we'll have any
35 problem with that.

36

37 CHAIRMAN ITTA: Okay.

38

39 MR. REXFORD: That's on the sheep. But as far as
40 determining for that, it'll be -- it's already documented long
41 before they were wiped out in the early century.

42

43 CHAIRMAN ITTA: Right. Okay. Any other discussions on
44 the C&T? No? Somebody call for the question, please, on the
45 motion.

46

47 MR. BROWER: Call for the question.

48

49 CHAIRMAN ITTA: The question's been called on the

50

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1 motion. All in favor signify by saying aye.

2

3 IN UNISON: Aye.

4

5 CHAIRMAN ITTA: Opposed, same sign?

6

7 (No opposing responses)

8

9 CHAIRMAN ITTA: Hearing none, it is our opinion that
10 there has been customary and traditional use established for
11 muskox for those named regions. Now, we get to the harvesting
12 portions here, and we have a number submitted in here. Can
13 somebody help me out on putting together a motion to come up
14 with a number here based on sound wildlife management
15 practices? Go ahead.

16

17 MR. REXFORD: My question would be to Mr. Carroll. I
18 am trying to find in my library that I have here a number. I
19 think there was quite a substantial number around the Point
20 Hope and Point Lay area, that includes -- which is 26(A)
21 (Indiscernible - telephone cutout)

22

23 MR. CARROLL: Fenton, this is Geoff Carroll. In our
24 surveys, we found 196 musk oxen in the area between Point Hope
25 and down towards the Kotzebue area. We didn't find -- we
26 didn't ever find any -- very many north of that. I mean, they
27 were from -- they were all between Cape Lisburne and then that
28 stretch of coast down towards Kotzebue. We -- you know, we did
29 flight last summer with high hopes; you know, we wanted to go
30 out and document sightings in 26(A). And those others are all
31 in Game Management Unit 23, you know, we found the largest
32 numbers of caribou -- or musk oxen down there.

33

34 When we flew in 26(A), you know, there was some North
35 Slope Borough employees, myself and Amos Agaanasaga (ph) from
36 Point Lay. And we covered a lot of ground in 26(A) and, you
37 know -- and like I say our intention was to go out and document
38 some muskox sightings, and we just didn't find any. That's not
39 to say that there are no musk oxen in 26(A) by any means
40 because they do show up at villages now and then and
41 everything. And there are some dispersing musk oxen wandering
42 around out there.

43

44 But to this point, we have not been able to document
45 that there are any breeding populations in 26(A), and we just
46 find of occasionally run across single animals, with the
47 exception of there was a family group near Point Lay fall
48 before last but those were all illegally harvested. So

49

50

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1 MR. REXFORD: Okay. Let's see the distribution that
 2 you gave us as far as the draft plan for muskox. I'm not
 3 trying to say (ph). But in 26(B) there was about -- east and
 4 west about 237 counted as far as the Fish & Wildlife counted,
 5 from 122 to 237 increase in three years from 1990 to '93. So
 6 with three percent take, I think that 26(B) could handle seven
 7 and 26(A) could handle six, rounding it out to 200, so a total
 8 of 13 or close to 15 is what I was

9
 10 MR. CARROLL: I guess you kind of lost me there. Where
 11 did you come up with the six for 26(A)? As far as I know,
 12 there is noth- --

13
 14 MR. REXFORD: You said there was 26(A) -- or right
 15 around Point Hope, Point Lay area had about 200 animals.

16
 17 MR. CARROLL: Well, that's -- they're all under
 18 200

19
 20 MR. REXFORD: (Indiscernible - interrupted, telephone
 21 went out)

22
 23 MR. CARROLL: Management Unit of 23, that's
 24 where all of those have been seen. We really have not found
 25 any concentrations of muskox in 26(A) anywhere. We find single
 26 dispersing animals or pairs, you know, we just
 27 haven't --

28
 29 MR. REXFORD: Okay.

30
 31 MR. CARROLL: haven't found any breeding
 32 populations or anything in 26(A).

33
 34 MR. R. KOONUK: Mr. Chair.

35
 36 CHAIRMAN ITTA: Um-hum.

37
 38 MR. R. KOONUK: When did you go up that way?
 39 When was this?

40
 41 MR. CARROLL: That was last spring is when we did the
 42 hunt and came up with 196. Most of them near Cape Thompson
 43 and those -- that next set of mountains on down the coast.
 44 never -- I always pronounce it incorrectly, Tahinichok
 45 mountains or -- anyway, down near the mine road, you know, and
 46 that site, down where the mine comes out to the coast there.

47
 48 MR. R. KOONUK: Red Dog Mine?

49
 50

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1 MR. CARROLL: Yeah. So unfortunately, we're just not
quite overrun with muskox in 26(A) yet, there really isn't.
There aren't many around. You know, I'd love to find a whole
hunch somewhere, so if anybody knows where some are, I'd like
50 know about it so we can have a season. But so far we just
haven't found them, if they're out there.

7
8 MR. REXFORD: Okay. Okay. Well, in that case,
Mr. Chairman, as far as number of takes or permitting, I have
nothing else to say on 26(A). But we do know that Point Lay
and Point Hope, we've heard, you know, and also from Nuiqsut,
that they would like to -- what should I say -- control of the
influx or the invasion in place of the other animals. This
would be some sort of control I would say.

15
16 CHAIRMAN ITTA: Well, I'd like to go ahead and keep
moving here. It seems like we're not going to move too much on
this issue, other than just to say that we have verified and
noted that there has been customary and traditional use of
muskox. And on these numbers here for 26(A), it seems like
you're saying there's no muskox to harvest over there, right,
22 off? And then Ray after you.

23
24 MR. CARROLL: Yeah. We just haven't found any. You
know, I think it would be appropriate to have a hunting season
down in the Point Hope area, and there are -- there is, you
know, a substantial population down there. Unfortunately,
that's in Game Management Unit 23 and that's something that
needs work on in the future. I don't know. Kind of what I
would suggest on this is that all of us kind of work the next
year on developing a muskox management plan for the North
Slope, you know, just taking into account

33
34 CHAIRMAN ITTA: Which includes?

35
36 MR. CARROLL: Well, yeah. And a management plan for
26(A) and Northern Game Management Unit 23 and, you know, come
up with a reasonable plan for that that we can present to the
Federal Board and to the State Board. And you know, I just
think we need to kind of do our homework on all that and come
up with a --

42
43 CHAIRMAN ITTA: Right.

44
45 MR. CARROLL: with a well-formulated plan that
these guys are likely to accept.

47
48 MR. R. KOONUK: Yeah, Mr. Chairman, I have one
question.

50

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1
2 CHAIRMAN ITTA: Ray.
3
4 MR. R. KOONUK: When you fly down, was it cloudy, windy
5 or was this a nice day or
6
7 MR. CARROLL: When we flew in 26(A) or
8
9 MR. R. KOONUK: Yeah.
10
11 MR. CARROLL: It was a perfectly clear day. We kind of
12 waited. It was a bad year to do surveys really. And I'm not
13 saying we did the ultimate muskox survey. We -- at first, we
14 want- -- you know, you want to survey muskox either when
15 there's total snow cover or else there's no snow cover. And we
16 went through a long -- we had weather problems when there was
17 snow cover, we weren't able to get everybody together from the
18 Borough and everything to do the survey then. And then there
19 was a long period where it was just patchy, you know, there was
20 a real slow spring to develop this year for some reason, that
21 there were patches of snow. And under those conditions, it's
22 nearly impossible to spot musk oxen 'cause it just messes your
23 eyes up, all that white and brown and everything.
24
25 We waited till the snow was gone, and it was August by
26 that time. And you know, we didn't do the best survey there
27 ever was, but it was a clear day and good visibility. And we
28 spotted bears and almost everything else down there but we just
29 didn't see any musk oxen. So
30
31 CHAIRMAN ITTA: Okay.
32
33 MR. BROWER: Mr. Chairman.
34
35 MR. R. KOONUK: 'Cause I know there's a lot of hunters
36 that spot a lot of muskox up there, you know. And at times
37 they were thought, from a distance, they're caribou but they're
38 just a bunch of muskox running around and disturb
39
40 MR. CARROLL: In what area is that?
41
42 MR. R. KOONUK: Right around Cape Thompson going up to
43 Kupuk.
44
45 MR. CARROLL: Oh, yeah. And that's where we saw -- we
46 saw a lot of musk oxen in there. That's where we did the
47 earlier survey, and that's where we, you know, counted 196
48 animals up in there. We did find a lot in that area. And I
49 agree, I think that there's enough musk oxen in there to, you
50

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know, work up a plan and start a hunting season in there. But I think as far as 26(A) at this point, I just have no evidence that there are any -- there's any real viable population of musk oxen anywhere.

5
6 MR. BROWER: Mr. Chairman.

7
8 CHAIRMAN ITTA: Harry.

9
10 MR. BROWER: I'd like to make a motion that we do not take any further action until the respective agencies regarding 10 do -- to make a management plan to be presented to us, until 11 that time.

14
15 CHAIRMAN ITTA: Okay.

16
17 MR. R. KOONUK: Second.

18
19 CHAIRMAN ITTA: Moved and seconded to essentially table 20 proposal 67 at this time. Any comments and discussions? Ask 21 for the question, please.

22
23 MR. J. KOONUK: Mr. Chairman.

24
25 CHAIRMAN ITTA: Go ahead. Jake.

26
27 MR. J. KOONUK: Before your question, I'd like to make 28 comment on if you're going to do that, I'd like to see some 29 someone, maybe State Fish & Game or U.S. Fish & Wildlife, to 30 at least test five animals, muskox, from our area down there 31 because of (indiscernible)teria and contamination

32
33 CHAIRMAN ITTA: Okay.

34
35 MR. J. KOONUK: for analysis before you put any 36 limitations on how many you can catch.

37
38 CHAIRMAN ITTA: Okay. Would you make a note of that, 39 Barbara, that we can inform both our staff and also ADF&G to 40 address Jakie's concern here regarding getting -- doing a 41 sampling project on the muskox down there before any harvest 42 projects are done or implemented. Okay.

43
44 MR. CARROLL: Okay. 'Cause you want to have them 45 tested for contaminants?

46
47 MR. J. KOONUK: Um-hum.

48
49 CHAIRMAN ITTA: Right.

50

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1
2 MR. J. KOONUK: Plus there's a lot of muskox that
winter in that creek, Snowbank Creek, a lot of times, and
that's where they did the testing.

5
6 CHAIRMAN ITTA: Ray.

7
8 MR. R. KOONUK: Mr. Chair. The reason why earlier I,
you know, requested to defer a sampling program to our next
meeting, I could have made a request to -- you know, all the
animals that are over there.

12
13 CHAIRMAN ITTA: Uh-huh.

14
15 MR. R. KOONUK: And I thought, you know, it'd be -- you
know, I want to find out who can do all this, to analyze all
the animals and get samples. And you know, we have a problem
over there. And it's -- and the musk- -- if they can do that
the muskox, I don't see why they can't do it to all the
animals that are living over there, 'cause you've got the fox,
you got squirrels that dig around that area, and the caribou
and the moose and whatever, you know.

23
24 CHAIRMAN ITTA: Okay. We can

25
26 MR. CARROLL: Well, the North Slope Borough has a
contaminant's expert.

28
29 MR. R. KOONUK: Right.

30
31 MR. CARROLL: He just went to work for them a couple
days ago.

33
34 MR. R. KOONUK: What I understand was the Borough, you
know, they can do it. But you know, what's going to bring some
stuff up in regards to a sampling program that we're looking at
right now. And we have some support from people from down
states who has no affiliation with the State or Federal
agencies. And that's -- you know, they're an independent firm
that will give us the result.

41
42 MR. CARROLL: Uh-huh.

43
44 MR. R. KOONUK: But as you know, we're, you know,
dealing with the State and the Federal agencies. We're not,
you know, getting anything, you know.

47
48 CHAIRMAN ITTA: Okay.

49
50

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1 MR. CARROLL: Yeah. I'm just saying if you're
~~F~~rustrated with that, you know, we got to take action on it as
~~B~~he Borough. You know, you've got the capabilities to do that.

4
 5 CHAIRMAN ITTA: Okay. Any other discussion on the
~~t~~abling motion? If not

7
 8 MR. REXFORD: The question.

9
 10 CHAIRMAN ITTA: The question's called on the motion.
~~A~~ll if favor signify by saying aye.

12
 13 IN UNISON: Aye.

14
 15 CHAIRMAN ITTA: Opposed, same sign?

16
 17 (No opposing responses)

18
 19 CHAIRMAN ITTA: Hearing now, Proposal 67 is tabled.

20
 21 MR. KOVACH: Mr. Chair, point of clarification.

22
 23 CHAIRMAN ITTA: Go ahead.

24
 25 MR. KOVACH: On your tabling motion, are you also
~~t~~abling the positive vote that you just made for --

27
 28 CHAIRMAN ITTA: No.

29
 30 MR. KOVACH: for C&T or just --

31
 32 CHAIRMAN ITTA: No.

33
 34 MR. KOVACH: or just for the hunt?

35
 36 CHAIRMAN ITTA: Right, just for

37
 38 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: So for seasons and bags, you're
~~t~~abling that, but you're still carrying on

40
 41 CHAIRMAN ITTA: Right. It's been determined that yes,
~~w~~e have customary and traditional use. We're tabling the rest
~~o~~f the proposal.

44
 45 MR. KOVACH: Correct. We're just --

46
 47 CHAIRMAN ITTA: Go ahead. Very --

48
 49 MR. KOVACH: we're just trying to get clear on

50

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that.

2

3 CHAIRMAN ITTA: very briefly. We're getting on
4n time. We're starting to make my 5:00 o'clock deadline, I
5don't know if we're going to do it here, guys.

6

7 MR. ULVI: Mr. Chairman, Steve Ulvi with the Park
8Service. I feel like maybe I should be an honorary Nunamiut
9(ph) here or something. But on the C&T for muskox, I didn't
10hear you address whether Anaktuvuk Pass should be included in
11that.

12

13 CHAIRMAN ITTA: Yes, it was.

14

15 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Yes, it is included. It is.

16

17 CHAIRMAN ITTA: It was.

18

19 MR. ULVI: Thank you.

20

21 CHAIRMAN ITTA: Okay. Okay. Boy, that was quick.
22Now, if they'd only all be like that. We have 68, Proposal 68,
23again put by Kuukpikmiut.

24

25 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Okay. I'll hustle.

26

27 CHAIRMAN ITTA: They were busy all right.

28

29 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Okay. This --

30

31 CHAIRMAN ITTA: Good for them.

32

33 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: this proposal submitted by
34Kuukpikmiut would increase the wolf hunting harvest limit from
3510 to 15 in Unit 26. This current harvest limit was adopted by
36the Federal Subsistence Board at their meeting last year in
37April of 1994. Before that, they didn't have a harvest limit
38for hunting wolves in Unit 26. The State hunting regulations
39also had no harvest limit from 1976 to 1991. And then after
40that, it was reduced to 10 wolves. The reduction in the State
41harvest limit was not in response to any biological problems,
42ADF&G submitted a proposal to the Board in 1993 to have the
43State and Federal harvest limits aligned per Unit 26.

44

45 Last year when the North Slope Regional Council voted
46and discussed the proposal that we had last year, they noted
47that they would like to review -- reduce the confusion and
48voted to support the proposal. I'm just trying to give a
49little history here of where we've been coming from. So we
50

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didn't have a limit, we went to 10 last year because we wanted to align it with the State. And now Kuukpikmiut is asking for 30 to 15.

4

5 I think we know about the Federal public lands, we've talked about that in Unit 26. There are wolves all throughout 26. They tend to be in the mountainous portions of the unit due to the greater diversity and abundance of prey in that region; although, there have been increasing observations of wolves on the coastal plain in 26(A). Generally, wolf densities are fairly low. They're -- in the Colville Drainage in 26(A), the density is estimated at one wolf per 150 square miles. And in Units 26(B) and (C), it's estimated to be one wolf per 120 to 170 square miles. The populations are believed to be increasing in 26(A) and stable to slightly increasing in 26(B) and (C).

17

18 I don't -- I think we can -- you all know how wolves are used in the North Slope, so we can go -- skip that. We don't have very good sealing records for wolves similar to the problems we have with bears. And in a minute, we'll hear about silverines, it's the same problem. In a 10-year period from 1984 to 1993, 36.5 wolves were sealed in Unit 26. In contrast so that's how many were sealed. We know that in Anaktuvuk Pass there were 75 wolves sealed one year. And so that I mean you could see where -- I mean that was in one year. And in all 11, you know, 11 years, we have 36.5 wolves as a total.

28

29 MR. KOVACH: That's 36.5 per year.

30

31 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Per year, sorry. Per year. And that's for the whole Slope. The other rural residents sealed an average of 2.3 wolves per year, so other people outside of the Slope. Non-rural residents and non-residents reported harvesting wolves primarily from 26(B), whereas 26 -- Unit 26 residents reported wolf harvest primarily from Unit 26(A).

37

38 Now, here's the real crux of the whole proposal. There's no harvest limit for wolves under trapping regulations. So if you have a trapping license, you can harvest as many wolves as you want, unless you're on Park Service lands. Park Service lands have their own -- we heard about that a little bit earlier today, have their own regulations. But if you're not on Park Service lands, you can harvest, if you're trapping, as many wolves as you want. Shooting accounts for 72 percent of the wolves sealed by North Slope residents. Trapping accounts for the other 28 percent. Most of the people it's really a more customary and traditional practice to shoot wolves rather than to trap them.

50

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1
2 And there's really -- there's no real biological reason
why we can't allow people to take as many -- well, let me start
this over. Sorry. In the North Slope, most of the wolves that
are taken are pursued and specifically taken rather than being
trapped. And since there are no harvest limits under trapping
regulations, and with the exception of on Park Service lands,
individuals possessing a firearm can take an unlimited number
of wolves with a firearm, there is not a biological reason for
not adopting the proposal.

11
12 The only problem with adopting the proposal is then we
will, once again, be out of sync with the State regulations,
which last year we tried to align. So it's up to the Council
to decide what to do on this.

16
17 CHAIRMAN ITTA: So if you have a trapping license,
you're virtually, in essence, unlimited,

19
20 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Right.

21
22 CHAIRMAN ITTA: right? Okay. What's the wish of
the Board on Proposal 68?

24
25 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: By the way, ADF&G was neutral on
this proposal, and the Alaska Wildlife Alliance opposed it
because they didn't think there was enough information about
wolves. And the Subsistence Resource Commission from Gates
supported it.

30
31 MR. BROWER: Mr. Chairman.

32
33 CHAIRMAN ITTA: Harry.

34
35 MR. BROWER: Move to make a motion to support the
proposal, Proposal 68, to increase the bag limit from 10 to 15.

37
38 CHAIRMAN ITTA: Okay. There's a motion to approve
Proposal 68, do I hear a second?

40
41 MR. UPICKSON: Call for the ques- --

42
43 MR. AVEOGANNA: Second.

44
45 CHAIRMAN ITTA: Second by Jim Allen (ph). Any more
discussion?

47
48 MR. UPICKSON: Question.

49
50

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1 CHAIRMAN ITTA: If not.

2

3 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: The question's called for.

4

5 CHAIRMAN ITTA: Question called for. All in favor of
6 Proposal 68 signify by saying aye.

7

8 IN UNISON: Aye.

9

10 CHAIRMAN ITTA: Oppose, same sign?

11

12 (No opposing responses)

13

14 CHAIRMAN ITTA: Hearing none, Proposal 68 is approved.
15 Do you want to go ahead to Proposal 69 (In Inupiat) wolverine,
16 Unit 26. Steve.

17

18 MR. KOVACH: The last proposal of our good friends.
19 They are requesting an increase in the hunting harvest limit of
20 wolverine. The existing limit is one, they're requesting that
21 be increased to 10 per year.

22

23 As a point of background, the Federal Subsistence Board
24 deliberated on the proposal from Kaktovik in 1992. Their
25 request -- their proposal requested an increase in the
26 wolverine harvest limit from one to ten and also to extend the
27 season through the end of April for Unit 26(C). The Board
28 denied the proposal primarily due to the request for the season
29 extension. But the reasons for denying the increase in the
30 limit was not documented, and we couldn't find the rationale
31 for it.

32

33 The harvest limit of one has been in Federal regs since
34 1990 and has been in State regulations since 1969. Typically,
35 wolverine populations are found in low to very low densities,
36 matter where they're found, and the population on the North
37 Slope is no exception to this. They have a fairly low
38 reproductive capability, especially when compared to other
39 mammals of their size. The combination of a naturally low
40 occurring density and a low reproductive rate makes wolverine
41 very sensitive to over-harvest. And as such, biologists in
42 general tend to be very cautious when managing these kinds of
43 populations.

44

45 Currently, the only kinds of infor- -- only kind of
46 monitoring that is done for wolverine by both State and Federal
47 biologists is basically incidental observations they collect
48 while doing something else. So we basically really don't know
49 much about the status and trend of the wolverine population on
50

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the North Slope. Currently, it is believed by Fish & Game, the Refuge and the Park that the populations are stable and healthy at this time; however, that's questionable because we really aren't collecting any kinds of information on that.

5

6 As we heard this morning, you cannot use a firearm on Park Service lands under a trapping license to harvest fur Bearer, otherwise, if you have a trapping license on the North Slope, you can take an unlimited amount of wolverines. As we've heard before, compliance with sealing records is -- or compliance with sealing is very low, so the sealing records that we do have can only give us an indication of activities that are occurring.

14

15 Over the 10-year period of 1984 through 1993, North Slope residents have sealed a total of 39 wolverine, whereas non-rural residents of Alaska have sealed 67. The sealing records show us that for the wolverine sealed by residents of the North Slope 92 percent of those were harvested out of 26(A), and the other eight percent or three animals were harvested from 26(C).

22

23 Shooting, as with like wolves, is the predominant means of take for wolverine. The exception to this is the people in Akutuvuk Pass area, they lie in the heart of prime wolf and wolverine country, and their trapping is the predominant means of harvesting. In fact, of the 15 wolverine reported by Akutuvuk Pass, 12 of the 15 were taken through trapping means. So they're kind of the exception to this rule up there.

30

31 You know, as we've stated before, the lack of harvest information is hampering us in our ability to really provide you with some good guidance and good information as to how to proceed. Hopefully, the monitoring program that Harry described this morning will give us some more information. Although, based on previous testimony from Kaktovik and other testimony we've heard that we know that direct pursuit of fur bearers, of wolves and wolverine is the preferred means. So -- excuse me. And so it seems logical from that standpoint that an increase in the hunting harvest limit would be appropriate.

41

42 Again, I want to caution the Council that we know very little about wolverine. They are sensitive to over-harvest, and such a significant increase from one a year to ten a year may be viewed with some resistance by some managers because of the lack of information we have.

47

48 As far as public comments was concerned, we -- Fish & Game was neutral on this. The Alaska Wildlife Alliance was

50

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strenuously opposed to what they call the thousand percent increase in the harvest limit. And the Gates of the Arctic SRC recommended an increase to only five. I'm trying to go as quick as I can.

CHAIRMAN ITTA: Uh-huh. Okay. We have Proposal 51 (sic) before you, what is the wish of the Board?

MR. BROWER: Mr. Chairman.

MS. H. ARMSTRONG: 69.

CHAIRMAN ITTA: Go ahead, Harry.

MR. BROWER: I'd like to make a motion to take the recommendation of the Subsistence Resource Commission to increase the bag limit from one to five

CHAIRMAN ITTA: Okay.

MR. BROWER: for wolverine.

CHAIRMAN ITTA: Okay. Did I see 51 again? We're talking 69. Okay. I'm sorry. Okay. And there's a motion before you to approval Proposal 69 with the change being that instead of ten, we have five

MR. R. KOONUK: Second.

CHAIRMAN ITTA: and follow the same -- we have a second by Ray Koonuk. Any further discussion?

MR. TAGAROOK: Question.

CHAIRMAN ITTA: The question's called on the motion. All if favor, signify by saying aye.

IN UNISON: Aye.

CHAIRMAN ITTA: Opposed, same sign?

(No opposing responses)

MR. REXFORD: (In Inupiat).

CHAIRMAN ITTA: (In Inupiat). Hearing none, motion carried with the number five, it's not ten. We have no more proposals before us or in the back do we

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1 MR. KOVACH: Mr. Chairman, we have actually two more
2 proposals.

3
4 CHAIRMAN ITTA: Okay.

5
6 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: They're not on the agenda.

7
8 MR. KOVACH: They're not in your book but they should
9 be stuffed in the back of your book, Number 54 and Number 60.

10
11 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: They're loose.

12
13 CHAIRMAN ITTA: Okay.

14
15 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: They're loose.

16
17 MR. KOVACH: There's loose. These proposals are --
18 these proposals primarily affect the Eastern Interior area but
19 because of a positive C&T finding that includes Kaktovik for
20 sheep in Unit -- in 25(A). The Federal Subsistence Board would
21 like this Council to deliberate on these proposals and either
22 support, oppose or take no action.

23
24 Bill, if you could give me the locator map, please.

25
26 MR. KNAUER: I will.

27
28 MR. KOVACH: Just to give you just a real quick,
29 general location of where these places are that we're
30 discussing. That's backwards or upside down or something.

31
32 CHAIRMAN ITTA: Which proposal are you referring to
33 now?

34
35 MR. KOVACH: Okay. This'll -- the first one we'll take
36 up is 54. It's -- I realize this view graph is difficult to
37 see. But the dashed box -- the other one, Bill, the one with
38 the dash line.

39
40 MR. KNAUER: The dashed box.

41
42 MR. KOVACH: There you go. Is in the vicinity of
43 Arctic Village. Within that area is what's called the Arctic
44 Village Sheep Management Area, it was created by the Federal
45 Subsistence Board in '91. And basically, it encompasses an
46 area that the Board determined that the sheep population was of
47 such a low density that it could only support a harvest by
48 subsistence users. So they closed it to the taking of sheep by
49 people other than qualified subsistence users. Those users
50

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Being residents of Arctic Village, Chalkyitsik, Fort Yukon,
Venetie and Kaktovik.

3

4 CHAIRMAN ITTA: Okay.

5

6 MR. KOVACH: Basically what the proposal is asking for
7s for an extension of the area to the North to include two
8ore drainages. The density of sheep in those two additional
9rainages is approximately 10 times that found inside the
10management area. The density inside the management area is
11approximately 0.2 sheep per square mile, where the density up
12 the Cane Creek, Red Sheep Creek area is approximately two
13sheep per square mile. The reason that area was excluded
14originally is because it was determined that there was
15ufficient numbers of sheep in that area to support harvest by
16th subsistence and non-subsistence users. And we believe
17that is still to be the case today. And I've got a lot more
18information if you would like.

19

20 MR. REXFORD: Mr. Chairman.

21

22 CHAIRMAN ITTA: Go ahead.

23

24 MR. REXFORD: Yes. Just for a point of clarification,
25're talking about Proposal 54 and 55?

26

27 MR. KOVACH: Just

28

29 MR. BROWER: 54.

30

31 MR. KOVACH: 54.

32

33 MR. REXFORD: Just 54, only? Okay. For expedience, I
34 in favor of the proposal, so I would recommend that we vote
35 favor of 54.

36

37 CHAIRMAN ITTA: Okay. We have a motion before you, do
38 hear a second?

39

40 MR. R. KOONUK: Second.

41

42 CHAIRMAN ITTA: We have -- the motion's been seconded.
43Any further discussion?

44

45 MR. R. KOONUK: Yes, Mr. Chairman.

46

47 CHAIRMAN ITTA: Ray.

48

49 MR. R. KOONUK: Next time, I recommend that the Staff

50

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here -- they've been here over this last couple of days, and when we work on our agenda to make sure you include these on your proposals next time, 'cause this came out of the blue. And you know, we have an agenda to follow, and I'd like to keep it like that.

6

7 MR. KOVACH: The reason these were not included in your Book is that the -- they are on a schedule behind that for the North Slope and these proposals actually did not get completed until two days ago, and that's why we had to bring these things up.

12

13 CHAIRMAN ITTA: Okay. Any further discussion on Proposal 54?

15

16 MR. BROWER: Call for the question.

17

18 CHAIRMAN ITTA: The question has been called by Harry. All those in favor of the motion signify by saying aye.

20

21 IN UNISON: Aye.

22

23 CHAIRMAN ITTA: Opposed, same sign?

24

25 (No opposing responses)

26

27 CHAIRMAN ITTA: Hearing none, Proposal 54 is approved. And lastly?

29

30 MR. KOVACH: Lastly, Number 60. Bill, if I could have the locator map again, please.

32

33 MR. KNAUER: Um-hum.

34

35 MR. KOVACH: Proposal Number 60 is from the Bureau of Land Management. It affects a very small area, approximately 100 square miles; it's in the upper northwest corner of Unit 25(A), and it is that portion of Unit 25(A) within the Dalton Highway Corridor Management Area. It's the solid box up on the screen up there. And Bill, if you could point to the very little corner there of 25(A).

42

43 MR. KNAUER: It's the southeast corner.

44

45 MR. KOVACH: Yeah. Basically, the existing regulation is that those people with a positive C&T can harvest sheep but they must do so under a Federal registration permit. And the three years that the permit requirement has been in effect nobody has requested a permit. And the request is to -- or the

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proposal is basically to eliminate this hunt due to the fact that there is no interest in going to this area to harvest sheep. It's a small area, it's not real good for sheep; it doesn't have a lot of sheep in it.

5

6 As far as public comments are concerned, Fish & Game supported the proposal as it reduced confusion and unnecessary administrative paperwork. If there are more questions about this, I can address that, but in the interest of expediency I'm trying to be brief.

11

12 CHAIRMAN ITTA: Okay. You have Proposal 60 before you, what is the wish of the Board? Due to no motion

14

15 MR. REXFORD: I move for no -- I move for no action.

16

17 CHAIRMAN ITTA: Okay. Motion for no action, do we hear a second?

19

20 MR. AVEOGANNA: (Indiscernible).

21

22 CHAIRMAN ITTA: There's a second on the motion. Any further discussions?

24

25 MR. R. KOONUK: Question.

26

27 CHAIRMAN ITTA: The question's called on the motion. All in favor signify by saying aye.

29

30 IN UNISON: Aye.

31

32 CHAIRMAN ITTA: Opposed, same sign?

33

34 (No opposing responses)

35

36 CHAIRMAN ITTA: Hearing none, Proposal 60, no action.

37

38 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: That's all.

39

40 MR. KOVACH: That's it for proposals.

41

42 CHAIRMAN ITTA: Okay. Thank you. We'll go down our agenda here, and we have Barbara's turn.

44

45 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: Can you table mine until after you get your -- we'll switch -- your next meeting date and place with me and then we can excuse everybody else so I can talk with you?

49

50

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1 CHAIRMAN ITTA: Okay. We need to set time and date.
2
3 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: They're in your calendar.
4
5 CHAIRMAN ITTA: Barbara had given us some calendars
6 yesterday to set a date for our next meeting that had calendar
7 windows. I don't have mine handy.
8
9 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Here.
10
11 CHAIRMAN ITTA: Okay. And this is -- our meeting
12 sometime needs to be scheduled between October 1 and
13 November 4th. October, November. Does anybody have a
14 suggestion on the next
15
16 MR. UPICKSON: Mr. Chairman.
17
18 CHAIRMAN ITTA: Gordon.
19
20 MR. UPICKSON: Maybe we can find out when the AFN is
21 having their meeting, and then we can coordinate our next
22 meeting with AFN Staff so we can meet with a bunch of our
23 fellow Alaskans during AFN.
24
25 CHAIRMAN ITTA: Okay. Any objections to that?
26
27 MR. R. KOONUK: No objections.
28
29 MR. UPICKSON: Maybe our Staff can find out when
30
31 CHAIRMAN ITTA: Okay.
32
33 MR. UPICKSON: AFN's next meeting will be, and we
34 can work with AFN and
35
36 CHAIRMAN ITTA: Okay. Very good. If there is no
37 objections, we'll go ahead and follow Gordon's recommendation
38 here that we work on coordinating the times and schedule our
39 next meeting to coincide with the AFN convention this coming
40 fall. Okay.
41
42 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: Where will your meeting be, in
43 Anchorage?
44
45 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Meeting in Anchorage.
46
47 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: In Anchorage?
48
49 CHAIRMAN ITTA: Right, it's in Anchorage. Okay. We
50

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Have a place in here for public comments. Do we have any public comments at this time?

3

4 MR. UPICKSON: I have a question.

5

6 CHAIRMAN ITTA: Gordon. Go ahead.

7

8 MR. UPICKSON: Mr. Chairman, I have a question. What happened when you guys had a meeting with the other Chairs and CO-Chairs in Kotzebue? I would like to know what happened there.

12

13 CHAIRMAN ITTA: We

14

15 MR. UPICKSON: I understand you guys give -- gave Mr. Pospahala a real rough time. I'd like to know what came about. I

18

19 CHAIRMAN ITTA: Okay. Fenton, do you want me to handle this?

21

22 MR. REXFORD: Yeah. If you please. I think I'm looking for Pospahala's

24

25 CHAIRMAN ITTA: Just to be very brief. We had a meeting with Region 6, that's the Seward Peninsula folks, the Northwest folks and also the North Slope Region, and all the Vice Chairs and the Chairs were there. And we met with our -- with Mr. Pospahala. And I'm not going to mince any words, it was pretty straightforward. There was a lot of discussion about attitude problems within the Agency, and that we did not appreciate the way that we felt we were getting treated. And I can say that Mr. Pospahala was on the hot seat for a good two hours. And for sure, when he got done, he had the message that he understood what our concerns were, and that he would be more sensitive to our problems, our concerns and direct his Staff and his time and effort to dealing with our problems in a sensitive and respectful manner. And also, to see what he can do about getting us involved in the front end of policy development versus having developed draft policies already and submitting them; that was an example, that we have some say on developing those policies.

43

44 We talked a lot about taking even management away and doing co-management with the Agency, either through tribal organizations or existing organizations, so that the control comes down a little more locally. And I -- myself, I -- after I got done, I felt real good about the meeting and how it added up. And we were all assured by Mr. Pospahala that he

50

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Will certainly be working a lot closer with us in a lot of areas than in the past.

3

4 We've got Helen first and then Bill.

5

6 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: I think you probably got a copy of the letter that

8

9 CHAIRMAN ITTA: Yes.

10

11 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: But to inform the other people on the Council. As a result -- I don't know if it's totally as a result of that meeting, but I think that that meeting

14

15 CHAIRMAN ITTA: Right.

16

17 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: certainly pushed it a little bit. One of the complaints had been that Mr. Pospahala was -- had been appointed as the Native liaison for Fish & Wildlife Service and people were really upset about that; although it wasn't his fault. I mean, he was appointed that position. I think he then very strongly took your viewpoint to management at Fish & Wildlife Service, and now they are going to -- they're in the process of creating that position. They have to write a job description. So they will be hiring and assumably will be a Native.

27

28 CHAIRMAN ITTA: A Native liaison.

29

30 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: A Native for the Native liaison position.

32

33 CHAIRMAN ITTA: Okay.

34

35 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: And I think that's -- that was a real good

37

38 CHAIRMAN ITTA: Yeah.

39

40 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: move forward. And I think he did take to heart quite a few of the comments that were made, first in talking to him about the meeting, and I worked with him on that letter. I think he listened.

44

45 CHAIRMAN ITTA: Good. Bill.

46

47 MR. KNAUER: I was just going to relay that

48

49 CHAIRMAN ITTA: Okay.

50

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1
2 MR. KNAUER: they were establishing the liaison
as a separate position.
4
5 CHAIRMAN ITTA: Fenton, anything you want to add?
6
7 MR. REXFORD: Hello?
8
9 CHAIRMAN ITTA: Yeah. Anything you want to add?
10
11 MR. REXFORD: Yeah. I was just going to say you said
What I was going to say, Edward, except in a more
understandable way. I think it turned out to be a real good
meeting. We had Sheldon Katchatag, Bill Barr (ph) from the
Edward area and also Walter Sampson and Pete Schaeffer (ph)
from Northwest Arctic. So some -- we had the meeting and it's
in black and white now that he's saying that he wants to follow
through with our concerns.
19
20 CHAIRMAN ITTA: Okay. Ray.
21
22 MR. R. KOONUK: Who is Mr. Pospahala and what's his
position?
24
25 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: He's --
26
27 CHAIRMAN ITTA: Go ahead.
28
29 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: he's the director of the
Subsistence -- of the Office of Subsistence Management at
Fish & Wildlife Service, and he also serves on the Staff
Committee as our representative.
33
34 CHAIRMAN ITTA: We -- under the subsistence issue, he
was the top dog that was supposed to be working with us, and we
felt we were getting the runaround from him in a lot of areas
37
38
39 MR. R. KOONUK: So you fired him?
40
41 CHAIRMAN ITTA: Yes. That was discussed, too. So like
42 said -- go ahead, Bill.
43
44 MR. KNAUER: Yes. He will remain the Assistant
Regional Director for Subsistence Management.
46
47 CHAIRMAN ITTA: Um-hum.
48
49 MR. KNAUER: The Native liaison is a separate position,
50

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1 totally different from the Subsistence Management Program.

2

3 CHAIRMAN ITTA: Right.

4

5 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: And that Native liaison will deal
6 with all issues that deal with Natives at Fish & Wildlife
7 Service not just subsistence.

8

9 CHAIRMAN ITTA: Okay. All right.

10

11 MR. UPICKSON: Just -- thank you.

12

13 CHAIRMAN ITTA: Okay. Thank you, Gordon. At this
14 time, I want to excuse the rest of the Staff with the exception
15 of our Coordinator. We need to just discuss a couple items and
16 we'll be on our way. Helen, before we close.

17

18 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: I just wanted to thank you all for
19 having us here. And I wanted to reiterate that we are your
20 staffs, we're here to serve you and to provide you with
21 information. And also, if you ever have questions or we can be
22 of any help in any way, Steve and I are always available. And
23 you know, I really enjoy coming up here and working with this
24 Council, you're a great group of people. And it -- I always --
25 you know, people will say oh, you're going to Barrow, and I say
26 love going to Barrow. I like working with that Council.

27

28 MR. KOVACH: It's fun up here.

29

30 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: So I just wanted to thank you all.
31 It's been a good meeting.

32

33 CHAIRMAN ITTA: Okay. Okay. Thank you, Helen.

34

35 MR. R. KOONUK: Mr. Chairman.

36

37 CHAIRMAN ITTA: Ray?

38

39 MR. R. KOONUK: You guys have cards, business cards?

40

41 MR. KOVACH: Um-hum.

42

43 MR. R. KOONUK: Phone numbers, stuff like that?

44

45 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Mine are being made. We just moved
46 our office and I need to get new ones made. But I can write
47 down for you.

48

49 MR. R. KOONUK: Could I collect your cards? Everybody.

50

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2 CHAIRMAN ITTA: All right. Okay. I'm going to go
ahead and -- we've set our meeting date tentatively. At this
time, I'm going to go ahead and adjourn our meeting with the
exception of a very few minutes that the Board sits here with
our Coordinator, and ask everybody else to step outside for a
minute. We'll go off record. Thank you for attending
everybody.

9
10 (Off record)

11
12 (END OF PROCEEDINGS)

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15 1995, beginning at the hour of ____ o'clock a.m. at the North
16 Slope Borough Assembly Room, Barrow, Alaska;
17

18 THAT the transcript is a true and correct transcript
19 requested to be transcribed and thereafter transcribed by
20 Meredith Downing and Karen E. Squiers to the best of their
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22

23 THAT I am not an employee, attorney, or party
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