

1 SOUTHCENTRAL FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE  
2 REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING

3  
4 PUBLIC MEETING

5  
6  
7 VOLUME III

8  
9  
10 Crowne Plaza Hotel  
11 Anchorage, Alaska  
12 November 7, 2013  
13 8:30 a.m.

14  
15  
16  
17 COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

18  
19 Ralph Lohse, Chairman  
20 Judy Caminer  
21 Greg Encelewski  
22 Robert Henrichs  
23 Andrew McLaughlin  
24 Mary Ann Mills  
25 Herman Moonin  
26 Michael Opheim  
27 James Showalter  
28 Gloria Stickwan  
29  
30 SC Regional Council Coordinator, Donald Mike

31  
32 SOUTHEAST COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

33  
34 Bertrand Adams, Chairman  
35 Cathy Needham  
36  
37 SE Regional Council Coordinator, Robert Larson

38  
39  
40  
41  
42  
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1 P R O C E E D I N G S

2  
3 (Anchorage, Alaska - 11/7/2013)

4  
5  
6 (On record)

7  
8 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: It's 8:30. I'd like  
9 to call this session of Southcentral Regional  
10 Subsistence Advisory Council back into session. At  
11 this point in time, I've got just a couple little  
12 things to report and then we'll go on with our meeting.  
13 One thing is we have gotten volunteers for our working  
14 group. Greg and Judy and Gloria will be on our working  
15 group to correspond with Southeastern on agenda items  
16 and topics of mutual discussion. I think you guys will  
17 get together later and exchange emails and everything  
18 and get that on its way.

19  
20 With that, I'm going to apologize.  
21 Long before this meeting was scheduled I had scheduled  
22 an appointment to take my mother-in-law in for surgery  
23 today, so I'm going to skip out after I get this  
24 meeting started this morning and I probably will be  
25 back this afternoon, maybe. Judy will take over the  
26 meeting.

27  
28 We were looking at the agenda trying to  
29 think of things that we should possibly get done while  
30 we have everybody here. I'd like to start off by  
31 setting a meeting date on our meeting calendar if  
32 that's agreeable to everybody else. It's on Page 282.  
33 The winter one is on a separate piece. Let's see if we  
34 can't come up with a couple dates here that we can  
35 agree on and get Donald so that he has something to get  
36 started on. The spring one is the one that we're going  
37 to have with the joint meeting and I think we've  
38 settled that one. So let's go to Page 282.

39  
40 MR. MIKE: Mr. Chair.

41  
42 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Yes.

43  
44 MR. MIKE: I provided an updated  
45 calendar on a separate sheet.

46  
47 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay. It's got the  
48 fall and the spring. Okay. So no meetings the week of  
49 October 1st. We don't have that kind of confidence in  
50 our Federal government, is that what we're saying?

1 (Laughter)

2

3 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Who knows if they're  
4 going to have money by the next week, but that week we  
5 could take a chance on that. If we take a look --  
6 let's look at our fall one at this point in time. Our  
7 spring one is pretty well settled. We decided March  
8 11th, 12th and 13th. So the fall one, when I look at  
9 it, there's two weeks that are available. One is the  
10 September 22nd to 26th. A lot of people will still be  
11 doing subsistence activities at that point in time or  
12 the week of October 13th through October 16th.

13

14 The week of October 6th through October  
15 10th has the Northwest Arctic and I think Donald is  
16 involved in one of those, aren't you, Donald?

17

18 MR. MIKE: Bristol Bay selected the  
19 fall meeting date of October 21 and 22.

20

21 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: October 21 and 22?

22

23 MR. MIKE: Yes, that's what they  
24 selected and it's going through approval in our office,  
25 so it may happen.

26

27 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: So they're choosing a  
28 time after the window closes. Okay.

29

30 MR. MIKE: Mr. Chair. At the Bristol  
31 Bay Regional Advisory Council, the AFN haven't set the  
32 fall meeting date according to Joe Chythlook. He's a  
33 board member on AFN, so it's still open.

34

35 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Well, the Council has  
36 the dates in front of them. Anybody want to do it in  
37 August or early September?

38

39 MR. ENCELEWSKI: Mr. Chairman. I would  
40 recommend October 13th through the 16th.

41

42 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: October 15th and 16th.  
43 Do I hear a second on that?

44

45 MS. CAMINER: I'll second that, but  
46 maybe also just ask Donald does the week before work  
47 for you or is it just preferred not to have two  
48 meetings in one week even if you're not the  
49 coordinator.

50

1 MR. MIKE: Mr. Chair. I work for the  
2 Council, so whatever the Council selects I can work my  
3 schedule around it.

4  
5 Thank you.

6  
7 MS. MILLS: What was the date again?  
8

9 MR. ENCELEWSKI: I suggested the 13th  
10 through the 16th and I think Ralph said the 15th and  
11 16th.

12  
13 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Oh, my fault. I  
14 didn't catch the 13th, not the 15th.

15  
16 MR. ENCELEWSKI: I'm just saying that.

17  
18 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Yeah, that sounds good  
19 to me. I'm sorry, Greg. Maybe I do need that hearing  
20 aid. Mary.

21  
22 MS. MILLS: Usually NCAI falls on that  
23 week. It's usually a week before AFN.

24  
25 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: We have a motion on  
26 the table. Did we get a second?

27  
28 MR. ENCELEWSKI: Yes.

29  
30 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: The motion has been  
31 moved and seconded. Any other discussion on that week?  
32 That's a good point that you brought up there, Mary.  
33 That's not a definite meeting date yet either, is it?

34  
35 MS. MILLS: No, but usually NCAI is  
36 before AFN, but sometimes it's after.

37  
38 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Any other discussion  
39 on this date.

40  
41 (No comments)

42  
43 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: A question is in  
44 order.

45  
46 MR. SHOWALTER: Question.

47  
48 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: All in favor signify  
49 by saying aye.

50

1 IN UNISON: Aye.

2

3 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Opposed signify by  
4 saying nay.

5

6 (No opposing votes)

7

8 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Donald, I say  
9 tentatively because we all know how straggled things  
10 are in this day and age, but tentatively I would say  
11 we've got a meeting scheduled for October 13th through  
12 16th, in that time period.

13

14 MS. MILLS: And location?

15

16 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: And location for our  
17 fall meeting. Any suggestions at that time of year.  
18 It's nice to go out someplace, but, boy, when you start  
19 getting -- that's a long time after the normal tourist  
20 season. For lack of a better way of putting it -- you  
21 know, I hate to say this because it's pretty obvious  
22 that the most central place for Southcentral is  
23 Anchorage. I mean that's just about what it boils down  
24 to because we all have access to it from one direction  
25 or the other. Every place else is an outlier somebody  
26 can come up with a place that we can go to that's going  
27 to have facilities and everything that time of the  
28 year.

29

30 I personally have no objection to  
31 Anchorage. I can get here from any direction.

32

33 MS. MILLS: Kenai Peninsula has -- we  
34 could make arrangements either in Kenai or Soldotna.  
35 They have hotels with, I think.....

36

37 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: It's been a while  
38 since we've had one on the Kenai, hasn't it?

39

40 MR. ENCELEWSKI: Yeah, the last one we  
41 had -- I think the last one I recall was down in Homer.  
42 It's been a few years back.

43

44 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: That would be  
45 agreeable. You guys come up with something. I can go  
46 anywhere.

47

48 MR. ENCELEWSKI: I'm not opposed to  
49 that. That might bring in a lot of good controversy  
50 and make an interesting meeting.

1 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Yeah, it did in the  
2 past.  
3  
4 MS. MILLS: Greg, I forgot about that.  
5  
6 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Suggestions. Put a  
7 motion on the table.  
8  
9 MS. CAMINER: Mr. Chair. I think it  
10 would be great to have one on the Kenai Peninsula. We  
11 could also perhaps review the location at our next  
12 meeting and see what issues we may be facing. We won't  
13 have proposals, but we could tentatively set it at  
14 that.  
15  
16 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: This is fall that  
17 we're talking about, so we would have plenty of time if  
18 we decided at our spring meeting, I think. But it  
19 would be something to think about. The Kenai would be  
20 -- it's been a while since we've been on the Kenai.  
21 The Kenai would be the one place that would have some  
22 facilities at that time of the year other than  
23 Anchorage. I prefer to have it at Chenega.  
24  
25 (Laughter)  
26  
27 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Well, if that's the  
28 case, can we just leave location blank at this point in  
29 time or should we tentatively say the Kenai?  
30  
31 MR. ENCELEWSKI: Sure.  
32  
33 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Yeah, we won't say  
34 where. Okay. Tentatively on the Kenai and we'll  
35 discuss it at our spring meeting. Okay. Judy, is  
36 there any other real quick thing that we should take  
37 care of before I skip out?  
38  
39 MS. CAMINER: Do you want to do the  
40 annual report?  
41  
42 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Yeah, we could do some  
43 work on our annual report real quick. We only have one  
44 topic that we've come up with so far. Do we have any  
45 issues that individuals -- let's see, I wrote some  
46 things down. Is there anything we want to put in about  
47 the rural determination in our annual report? Would  
48 that be a good place to put it? Mary.  
49  
50 MS. MILLS: Well, I think another issue

1 is what the State is doing with the Katie John. You  
2 know, appealing the Katie John.

3  
4 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: How would you suggest  
5 putting that in the annual report because the Board has  
6 no -- other than the fact that we are concerned about  
7 it, but the Board has no means of taking any kind of  
8 action on that at all.

9  
10 MS. MILLS: I realize that, but we  
11 could and probably should express our concern for the  
12 subsistence users.

13  
14 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: And that would be the  
15 same kind of categories when we express our concern on  
16 the budget. The Board can't do anything, but we  
17 recognize that it is an issue. Any other one.

18  
19 MS. CAMINER: Mr. Chair. I'll just go  
20 through what I've jotted down real quickly. While I'd  
21 rather this not be in the annual report because I don't  
22 think we really got a satisfactory answer the last  
23 time, but I wonder if there's a way we could work with  
24 OSM to get some better answer or clarification on the  
25 delegation of authority issue that we wrote about last  
26 year.

27  
28 Mary Ann, you had mentioned we should  
29 say something about government to government, the  
30 difference between tribal government and tribal  
31 organizations.

32  
33 MS. MILLS: Yes, I think that would be  
34 very appropriate.

35  
36 MS. CAMINER: I think it would be good  
37 maybe to ask at each RAC meeting for a status of that  
38 Secretarial Review because there are some items that  
39 still haven't been completed. General follow up that  
40 we talked about, not necessarily -- for the annual  
41 report we still want the letter sent, I believe, to  
42 Eastern Interior regarding the Chitina fisheries. We  
43 talked about working with Forest Service on wildlife  
44 studies funding versus fisheries funding. That  
45 wouldn't be annual report, but something that maybe a  
46 couple people on the RAC could do.

47  
48 I think that's about it. So we really  
49 didn't have a lot of items to ask them about.

50

1 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: No, we didn't have a  
2 lot of items to ask the Board. But you have mentioned  
3 a couple of them. Mary mentioned the concern. We've  
4 mentioned the -- I think we should mention the  
5 importance that we see in the rural determination and  
6 the possible disruption that the frequency can have on  
7 subsistence users. I mean that's something that's come  
8 up in everybody's testimony. Everybody is concerned.  
9 I don't know if the Board can do anything. That cyclic  
10 review might be set in regulation for all I know, but  
11 we can still mention our concern on that.

12  
13 MS. MILLS: Another concern that I've  
14 had and I know the Kenaitze Indian Tribe has had is on  
15 customary and traditional and how it varies from  
16 actually the legal definition and the common definition  
17 that's used. I don't know if there's anything we can  
18 do about it, but I know when it first started the  
19 tribes had to go through a very rigorous exercise in  
20 proving our customary and traditional, but it seems to  
21 have a different meaning altogether today.

22  
23 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Would you say it has a  
24 looser meaning or has it become more general or has it  
25 become more rigorous today?

26  
27 MS. MILLS: Well, I think it is not --  
28 I think the State has created a new meaning for  
29 customary and traditional.

30  
31 MS. CAMINER: But just to clarify, what  
32 about the Federal program?

33  
34 MS. MILLS: What?

35  
36 MS. CAMINER: Are you commenting on  
37 this program or the State program?

38  
39 MS. MILLS: It's my understanding that  
40 it is a new State definition that the Federal  
41 government has adopted as well.

42  
43 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Greg.

44  
45 MR. ENCELEWSKI: Yeah, I kind of agree.  
46 It's probably an issue that we should discuss at some  
47 point. To me, it has definitely, to use your term,  
48 probably more loosely been used lately. Good or bad, I  
49 guess that could be argued, you know. There's merits  
50 to both. Definitely the definition is being rewrote.

1 In times of shortage and talking of .804s and other  
2 things, this is going to become a very important issue,  
3 I think, for future determinations.

4

5 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: The Secretary of the  
6 Interior just -- you know, they had that review that  
7 they just went over. Would your comment be that that  
8 review wasn't thorough enough or didn't clarify it  
9 enough or how would you word this to put it into an  
10 annual report? That's what I'm trying to figure out.  
11 I mean we can have this feeling and we all have a  
12 feeling on that, but how would you express it?

13

14 MR. ENCELEWSKI: That's a tough one.  
15 That may take a little work to express it, but from  
16 what I'm hearing, you know, and from the rural areas  
17 and rural including everyone that lives there, but  
18 especially from the Native communities, you know, it's  
19 still broke and we need to do something about it. I'm  
20 hearing more and more that the call for joint  
21 management and with the regional advisories and the  
22 Natives having some say so on decision making. So I  
23 know this is going to get presented to some of the  
24 Feds, but I'm not sure how it's going to go. But  
25 that's kind of where I'm going at it. You know,  
26 there's things that needs to be changed still.

27

28 MS. CAMINER: Mr. Chair. So might  
29 these be topics -- I mean this would be included in the  
30 discussion we have with Southeast on customary and  
31 traditional use determination, so they've kind of  
32 opened the door for further discussions on that.

33

34 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay. So then maybe  
35 it's not something for the annual report as much as it  
36 is for our joint meeting then. Mary.

37

38 MS. MILLS: When I testified at the  
39 Federal Subsistence Board, I did give the definition of  
40 what customary and traditional means in the New Webster  
41 Dictionary as well as the Black's Law Dictionary, which  
42 is a legal dictionary. I stated that the definitions  
43 found in Webster's New World Dictionary and the Black  
44 Law Dictionary is more appropriate and the State's  
45 redefining of customary and traditional is flawed in  
46 that it's a far stretch from the true meaning. So  
47 that's the issue I brought up.

48

49 You know, another issue too is that of  
50 the tribes who have been -- you know, we certainly

1 welcome people into our community, but not to the point  
2 of being completely absorbed. So with the Kenaitze  
3 Indian Tribe, it is important for us to have our  
4 sustenance from the earth like we have for millennia.  
5 So I think the issue of being maybe a classification of  
6 community within a community, our community does not  
7 meet the -- well, could meet the rural determination  
8 that way and then we would not be deprived of our food  
9 and our food rights.

10

11 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: So then this would be  
12 in conjunction not so much with customary and  
13 traditional as it would be with rural determination.

14

15 MS. MILLS: Yes.

16

17 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: The idea of  
18 communities inside communities. And that's a concept,  
19 you know, the concept of community inside of a  
20 community.

21

22 MS. MILLS: And that would also have a  
23 positive effect with Kodiak, with Bethel, now that's  
24 facing these problems and also with Southeast,  
25 with.....

26

27 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Saxman.

28

29 MS. MILLS: Saxman, yes, and some of  
30 the other communities, you know, because we definitely  
31 understand, you know, what they're going through. We  
32 have been denied our subsistence for quite a while and  
33 we feel it's important and it's important for us as  
34 leaders to bring these issues forward in a good way.

35

36 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: I guess I'll have to  
37 say what I said yesterday. You know, we don't have a  
38 long list of things to put into our annual report, but  
39 if somebody comes up with some, run them by Judy and  
40 see whether or not they're annual report type things or  
41 they're just things that we can have in our joint  
42 session or they're things we should put on our agenda.  
43 Like I said, we don't really have -- but we'll see what  
44 the report on the dam is and a few things like that,  
45 but we don't have a lot of real issues for our annual  
46 report at this point in time. We have a lot of issues  
47 that we've been dealing with, but they're not the kind  
48 that we can write the Board and expect to get a reply  
49 other than the fact that they can't do anything about  
50 it, you know.

1 MS. CAMINER: I agree, Mr. Chair. We  
2 don't need to put items in just to have items.

3  
4 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Right.

5  
6 MS. CAMINER: For future meetings, one  
7 item we talked about previously, which we weren't able  
8 to cover in this meeting because of all the proposals,  
9 was the idea of customary trade. I don't know if we  
10 want to take that on at the next meeting when we'll  
11 have a lot of things to do or not and I think we'll  
12 probably want to keep getting briefed on the Susitna-  
13 Watana and we had also asked for some climate change  
14 presentations as time permitted too. Again, this time  
15 was busy, but those are some future meeting agendas.  
16 If other people have suggestions, that would be great  
17 too.

18  
19 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: I would suggest that  
20 the customary trade also be included on our agenda with  
21 our joint meeting with Southeastern.

22  
23 MR. JOHNSON: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I  
24 just want to interject a couple of points. Under the  
25 Secretarial Review, the Secretaries gave direction to  
26 the Board that if the Councils raised issues of concern  
27 that were permitting or other authority that belongs to  
28 other agencies, the Board could and should still  
29 elevate those issues to the Secretaries if they're  
30 outside of the Board's jurisdiction.

31  
32 A good example would be the Southeast  
33 having concern about mining issues going on in Canada  
34 and how that influences downstream communities and  
35 resources in the Southeast in Alaska. It's outside the  
36 Board's jurisdiction, but it's something that could be  
37 elevated to the Secretaries.

38  
39 Another reminder, the reason why we  
40 have this on your fall agenda is so that Donald can  
41 draft for you an annual report for your approval at the  
42 winter meeting. Under the Board's correspondence  
43 policy, pretty much anything that is ever going to go  
44 in official correspondence from this Council needs to  
45 be on the record. So it wouldn't work to have any kind  
46 of post Council meeting email discussions back and  
47 forth about what might be good material for an annual  
48 report.

49  
50 As Council Member Caminer noted earlier

1 in this meeting, you know, sometimes we're a little  
2 confused at what the Council's desires are in their  
3 annual reports. One of the ways we can alleviate that  
4 confusion is by reviewing transcripts to get a better  
5 understanding of the Council's discussion, so that's  
6 another value for having a discussion on the record.  
7 So if there is ambiguity at least we have a chance of  
8 resolving that as we're reviewing the annual reports.

9

10 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

11

12 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Thank you. Mary.

13

14 MS. MILLS: Another topic we discussed  
15 was the Magnuson-Stevens Act. I know Bob Henrichs also  
16 mentioned that and the importance of having at least  
17 one tribal representative on that. I know climate  
18 change again was another issue that I think is  
19 particularly important for Alaska because the climate  
20 change is hitting us pretty fast and pretty hard.

21

22 Most of us realized that the South Pole  
23 and the North Pole is like the air conditioning for the  
24 whole earth and when you start losing your coolness  
25 going to the other parts of the earth, it is going to  
26 greatly affect the whole earth, but right now we have a  
27 lot of concern with that because even a slight raise in  
28 water temperature does affect our fish and our wildlife  
29 -- or mammals.

30

31 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Mr. Henrichs.

32

33 MR. HENRICHS: As far as wanting a  
34 tribal seat on the North Pacific Council, it would only  
35 work if the tribes selected that person. Because if  
36 you let Washington, D.C. do it, it would be just like  
37 this Council where you put your name in and they say,  
38 oh, we'll put these guys on here because they'll do  
39 what we want and that's what's going on here.

40

41 MS. MILLS: I agree with Bob. As a  
42 matter of fact, I think that is spelled out in a  
43 resolution accepted and passed by AFN this year, was to  
44 have a tribal representative selected by the tribes.

45

46 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Greg.

47

48 MR. ENCELEWSKI: I agree with what they  
49 said there and that's kind of where I was going with  
50 that management that I keep hearing, you know. If you

1 don't have the participants on there from the tribes or  
2 the rural areas, then you really don't have a say so in  
3 that management. You do through this process, but a  
4 lot of people don't work the process.

5  
6 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Any other discussion  
7 on this topic.

8  
9 MR. JOHNSON: Thank you, Mr. Chair. A  
10 couple points of illustration. One regarding the issue  
11 of having a tribal representative on the North Pacific  
12 Fisheries Management Council. Actually the Western  
13 Interior Council last year in its annual report  
14 requested something similar and that is a subsistence  
15 delegate on that Council.

16  
17 The Board's response was, A, it's  
18 outside the Board's authority having anything to do  
19 with that, but, B, there are upcoming hearings and  
20 opportunities to provide public input on the Magnuson-  
21 Stevens Act, which is what governs that, and the Board  
22 provided that information. I believe also that was  
23 something that was elevated to the Secretarial level as  
24 well because while the Board doesn't have the ability  
25 or the authority to influence legislation, the  
26 Secretaries could.

27  
28 The second point I wanted to make was a  
29 good illustration of general, kind of vague discussion  
30 that's narrowing down to specific is the issue of  
31 climate change. There are a lot of concerns and issues  
32 related to climate change. So if you wanted to have  
33 something about that in the annual report, it would be  
34 used to narrow it down to something specific, as in  
35 we're concerned about perhaps the ocean acidification  
36 impacts or warming temperature impacts on salmon  
37 stocks, what research is being done about that, can we  
38 get information about that specific impact of climate  
39 change or any other specific impacts that could be  
40 designated as opposed to kind of a general we're  
41 concerned about climate change sort of approach.

42  
43 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Thank you because that  
44 is one that we can be something specific on, especially  
45 through our funding for research. To me, one of the  
46 obvious effects of climate change that's been kind of  
47 documented but not proven is the effect on king salmon  
48 and their very small range of temperature that they  
49 need for spawning and the fact that the streams are  
50 warming up prior to them getting there and things like

1 this. To me, it would be well worthwhile, especially  
2 since king salmon stocks all over the state of Alaska  
3 are in decline. You know, even ones that aren't  
4 exploited are in decline. Some funding for research on  
5 climate change effect on king salmon stocks would be,  
6 to me, very applicable.

7

8 MS. CAMINER: Mr. Chair.

9

10 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Judy.

11

12 MS. CAMINER: Thanks, Carl. I was  
13 using shorthand previously. What we talked about was  
14 DOI strategy on addressing climate change, so a  
15 briefing on that and then special emphasis on  
16 subsistence issues.

17

18 Thanks.

19

20 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Thank you, Carl.

21

22 Mary.

23

24 MS. MILLS: Other things that could  
25 happen with the climate change is, you know, the gases  
26 that would be formed coming from the ocean that would  
27 be particularly dangerous to not only humans but also  
28 other species. Maybe the algae bloom that would be  
29 caused by the warming of the water and the salinity of  
30 the oceans is another concern. I know in the Cook  
31 Inlet when there was research done was the amount of  
32 sharks which have come into the Cook Inlet, which is a  
33 huge increase from before and the concern the  
34 researchers had was the change in the water temperature  
35 that might be bringing these other species.

36

37 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Thank you, Mary. One  
38 of the other things that we have to remember is that  
39 Alaska has a lot of methane stored in the ground  
40 because of permafrost. Like I was illustrating  
41 yesterday, the amount of the depth of the permafrost in  
42 the Kenny Lake area -- I guess I was talking to  
43 somebody else, not this Council, but we attended a  
44 briefing by one of the local long-term Native residents  
45 there and they were talking about in the '50s you  
46 couldn't dig an outhouse hole because you'd hit  
47 permafrost at five or six feet in the Kenny Lake area.

48

49

50 Now the permafrost in my well is at 42

1 feet. You can dig a basement for a house, you can dig  
2 anything like that. And the cession of the trees is  
3 totally different. Also that totally affected the  
4 muskrat population because all the little ponds and  
5 lakes that were there in the '50s are all drained now  
6 because they don't have permafrost holding the water  
7 in.

8

9 So that, to me, is evidence of the  
10 change that's going on up there, but the idea that it  
11 could release methane gas, which would -- and we see  
12 that in our ponds up there. You can just watch the  
13 ponds bubble, you know. That could have a faster  
14 effect on climate change.

15

16 I'm going to have to ask to be excused  
17 at this point in time. I'm sorry, but I made prior  
18 commitments and I need to get my mother-in-law to the  
19 clinic, so I'm going to turn it over to Judy. I thank  
20 you guys for your patience with me. I'll be back this  
21 afternoon if everything works out right.

22

23 CHAIRWOMAN CAMINER: Hopefully so.

24

25 MR. LOHSE: I'm going to leave my  
26 papers here so I know I'm coming back.

27

28 CHAIRWOMAN CAMINER: Very good. We'll  
29 look forward to it, Ralph. Thank you. I think on the  
30 agenda it's probably time to do the Fisheries  
31 Monitoring Plan.

32

33 MS. LARSON-BLAIR: Hello, Ms. Chair,  
34 members of the Council. My name is Kay Larson-Blair  
35 and I'm the new fisheries biologist for the  
36 Southcentral Region with OSM. Because I'm new I'd like  
37 to give a brief introduction about myself just so you  
38 have an idea of who I am.

39

40 My name is Kay, I'm Yup'ik and I grew  
41 up in Dillingham and Bristol Bay subsisting with my  
42 family for moose, caribou, berries and fish. I come  
43 from a commercial fishing family and I commercial  
44 fished with my family too. I have a BS in biological  
45 sciences and I'm finishing my masters in fisheries.  
46 I've worked in fisheries since 2002 and I've worked  
47 with OSM since 2005. I hope I get to talk to each one  
48 of you when we get done here so you guys can ask  
49 questions.

50

1 Starting on Page 206 I'm going to take  
2 you guys through the 2014 Draft Monitoring Plan, which  
3 is composed of the successful investigation plans  
4 submitted to OSM. There is a lot of information in  
5 this book, so I'm going to highlight only a fraction of  
6 the information.

7  
8 Each project that was submitted was  
9 evaluated on four factors. Those four factors are on  
10 Page 207 and 208. The first factor is a strategic  
11 priority. The project must address an information need  
12 related to Federal subsistence management. Technical  
13 and scientific merit. The project is evaluated for  
14 scientific rigor and its clarity of purpose. The  
15 investigator's ability and resources. Investigators  
16 must have the ability to complete the proposed work.  
17 Last, partnership and capacity building. The project  
18 must have participation and support from local  
19 organizations.

20  
21 On Page 220 is Table 5 and contains a  
22 listing of the investigation plans which were submitted  
23 for consideration by the Technical Review Committee.  
24 Of the nine proposals submitted, only three proposals  
25 were recommended for funding from the TRC. The  
26 remaining tables in this section summarized completed  
27 and ongoing projects in the Southcentral Region.

28  
29 On Page 212 starts a description of the  
30 investigation plans submitted for consideration. The  
31 three investigation plans recommended for funding are  
32 project number 14-501 Long Lake Adult Salmon Abundance  
33 and Run Timing. This proposal requests four years of  
34 funding and would assure the continuance of 39 years of  
35 monitoring salmon escapement at Long Lake. Although  
36 this project does not address a 2014 priority  
37 information need, the relatively long time series of  
38 salmon passage, water depth recordings, and temperature  
39 measurements at the Long Lake weir site would continue  
40 to provide useful information to assess management  
41 performance, suggest changes in management strategies,  
42 and monitor effects of climate change. This project  
43 functions at a modest cost and has a significant match.

44  
45  
46 The second project is 14-503 Abundance  
47 and Run Timing of Salmon in Tanada Creek. This  
48 four-year project would continue operation of the  
49 Tanada Creek weir, which has been operational since  
50 2000, to provide escapement estimates for chinook and

1 sockeye salmon, along with age, sex and length  
2 information. This project addresses a 2014 priority  
3 information need. The escapement information is  
4 important for post-season management assessment for  
5 chinook and sockeye. The weir has both practical and  
6 historical importance. The project site is used as an  
7 educational tool for local culture camps.

8  
9 The last project which was recommended  
10 for funding is 14-505 and it is Estimate the Inriver  
11 Abundance of Copper River Chinook Salmon. This  
12 four-year project would continue operation of four fish  
13 wheels on the Copper River to monitor and obtain  
14 reliable estimates of salmon escapement. This project  
15 addresses a 2014 priority information need. The  
16 project is operated and administered by an Alaska  
17 Native organization, provides one of the best examples  
18 of capacity building within the Fisheries Resource  
19 Monitoring Program. The project is well established,  
20 the objectives are quantifiable and measurable, the  
21 study design is sound, and the investigators are well  
22 qualified and have the resources to conduct and  
23 administer the proposed work.

24  
25 While Chinook salmon continue to be an  
26 important resource to many user groups, the principle  
27 investigator has not been able to acquire matching  
28 funds.

29  
30 CHAIRWOMAN CAMINER: Excuse me. Just a  
31 second. Did you have a question, Bob? Excuse me.

32  
33 MR. HENRICHS: You mentioned it was  
34 being done by a tribal organization.

35  
36 MS. LARSON-BLAIR: Uh-huh.

37  
38 MR. HENRICHS: It's not a tribal  
39 organization. It's a recognized tribe.

40  
41 MS. LARSON-BLAIR: Oh, okay.

42  
43 MR. HENRICHS: There's a big  
44 difference.

45  
46 MS. LARSON-BLAIR: All right. And as  
47 operating costs continue to increase the Monitoring  
48 Program cannot continue to support the project at the  
49 increasing funding levels. The Draft Fisheries  
50 Resource Monitoring Program is an action item. We need

1 a motion to recommend the Draft 2014 Fisheries Resource  
2 Monitoring Program for funding.

3

4 Thank you.

5

6 CHAIRWOMAN CAMINER: Thanks very much.  
7 Any questions for Kay or comments. Greg.

8

9 MR. ENCELEWSKI: I just had one  
10 comment. A very good report. Thank you. This first  
11 one, this 14-501, 39 years of monitoring. By God,  
12 you'd think they'd have that one figured out, but I  
13 know it's an ongoing thing.

14

15 MS. LARSON-BLAIR: Yeah.

16

17 MR. ENCELEWSKI: But where I was really  
18 going with that and I'm not trying to be selfish, but  
19 we sure have been wanting to get some of these Kenai  
20 Peninsula subsistence area salmon and non-salmon stuff.  
21 I know we've done a lot up north, but I would sure like  
22 to see some on the Kenai. So that's my comment.

23

24 Thank you.

25

26 CHAIRWOMAN CAMINER: Thank you, Greg.  
27 Other comments.

28

29 (No comments)

30

31 CHAIRWOMAN CAMINER: I guess I have a  
32 couple questions. These are three continuing studies  
33 and there's certainly value in that. Was there  
34 additional possible money that could have been  
35 allocated to Southcentral? But, unfortunately, I  
36 guess, some of the proposals maybe weren't quite up to  
37 the criteria. So in future years with more complete  
38 proposals is there the opportunity for new studies you  
39 think to get funded?

40

41 MS. LARSON-BLAIR: Yes. The  
42 Southcentral Region was allocated \$640,000  
43 approximately and the total projects for these three is  
44 \$488,000. So there was money left over. However,  
45 based on the review requirements, those projects did  
46 not meet the standards, so they weren't suggested for  
47 funding by the TRC.

48

49 CHAIRWOMAN CAMINER: Understand. And  
50 I'm sure the TRC or others are available to help with

1 writing these proposals too.

2

3 MS. LARSON-BLAIR: Yes, they are, and  
4 so is OSM. If any organizations need help or anything  
5 like that, they can come to us.

6

7 CHAIRWOMAN CAMINER: Very good. Any  
8 other comments or questions.

9

10 (No comments)

11

12 CHAIRWOMAN CAMINER: So we'll need a  
13 motion to approve these recommendations for funding for  
14 the Fisheries Monitoring Program.

15

16 MR. HENRICHS: So move.

17

18 MR. SHOWALTER: Second.

19

20 CHAIRWOMAN CAMINER: Thanks. A motion  
21 has been made and seconded by Mr. Showalter. Any more  
22 discussion.

23

24 (No comments)

25

26 CHAIRWOMAN CAMINER: All those in favor  
27 please say aye.

28

29 IN UNISON: Aye.

30

31 CHAIRWOMAN CAMINER: Any opposed say  
32 nay.

33

34 (No opposing votes)

35

36 CHAIRWOMAN CAMINER: Motion passes.  
37 Thanks very much for the good report.

38

39 MS. LARSON-BLAIR: Thank you.

40

41 CHAIRWOMAN CAMINER: Who will be giving  
42 the report on the Partners Program?

43

44 MS. INGLES: Good morning, Madame Chair  
45 and Council. I'm Palma Ingles. I'm an anthropologist  
46 with OSM and I'm also the coordinator for the Partners  
47 Program. If you look in your book on Page 241, I have  
48 the brief in there, but I'm just going to give you a  
49 couple of highlights of the Partners Program.

50

1                   Currently we have five organizations  
2 that have a partner and the purpose of the Partners  
3 Program is to broaden and strengthen partnerships with  
4 rural communities that will facilitate and improve  
5 dialogue between the partners, the RACs, OSM, Federal  
6 and State resource managers and subsistence users.  
7 Tribal and rural organizations can apply for funding  
8 which supports the employment of a fisheries social  
9 scientist, biologist or educator. These are our  
10 partners out in the field. This is a competitive grant  
11 program funded through OSM. The funding cycle is for  
12 up to four years. The Partners provide an important  
13 link between the Federal Subsistence Program and rural  
14 Alaskans.

15  
16                   As far as the role of the Partners  
17 themselves, one of the beauties of the program is we  
18 have the Partners living in the community that receives  
19 the funding, so they're on the ground as a resource to  
20 local subsistence users. They serve as an investigator  
21 on Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program projects, they  
22 work with local youth and provide opportunities for  
23 youth to become involved with fisheries research  
24 through high school summer camps and college  
25 internships.

26  
27                   The college interns end up working with  
28 our FRMP projects during the summer and it's a really  
29 important link for our students out in the rural  
30 communities. They have a good opportunity to work with  
31 these projects. Some decide to go on for college  
32 degrees. Some of them are already in college working  
33 on degrees in biological sciences or fisheries, things  
34 like that. We also find that it's really important  
35 that some students who think they're going to be in  
36 fisheries management of some sort and they get out  
37 there and do one summer and decide that this is not  
38 what they want to do, which is also really important.

39  
40                   They provide timely information to  
41 local communities about fisheries regulations and  
42 research. So it gives communities a person on the  
43 ground, a contact that they can call up. If they've  
44 heard that we may be changing regulations or closing  
45 something down, the Partners are in place to answer  
46 these questions. They provide information to OSM about  
47 local concerns regarding fisheries.

48  
49                   Our next call for proposals will come  
50 out late November, early December next year 2014 and

1 then if we go by the funding cycle we did the last  
2 time, the proposals will be due to OSM late April,  
3 early May and we'll make a decision for September and  
4 then the new projects will start -- the new funding  
5 cycle will start January 2016.

6

7 We're always looking for ways to find  
8 more funding so that we can have more Partners. We  
9 would love to see a Partner in every region. Right now  
10 we're only able to support five. The ones that we have  
11 have continued to do a great job. The regions that we  
12 do have Partners, they participate in the RAC meetings  
13 and usually give overviews.

14

15 We have a new Partner with Native  
16 Village of Eyak and he'll be calling in later to  
17 introduce himself and he's our PI on the Copper River  
18 chinook salmon studies that we do.

19

20 I'm happy to take any questions about  
21 the Partners Program.

22

23 CHAIRWOMAN CAMINER: Mary Ann.

24

25 MS. MILLS: Yes. I see in the Partners  
26 for Fisheries Monitoring Program you have Federal,  
27 State, Native and non-profit organizations and I see  
28 you have five Native organizations and I don't want to  
29 sell the Native organization short, but it's the tribal  
30 governments that have the government-to-government  
31 relationships with us and the Federal government, but  
32 yet I don't see any of that wording in your monitoring  
33 program on Page 241. I was wondering if we could  
34 include tribal governments.

35

36 MS. INGLES: Is your question can we  
37 include funding -- can they apply for the funding to  
38 have a Partner? Is that what your question is?

39

40 MS. MILLS: Well, yes, and also be  
41 recognized. You know, Federal, State and tribal  
42 governments and you can have non-profit organizations,  
43 but I see a lot of times when it comes to a lot of the  
44 programs the tribal government portion is always left  
45 out of the mix, so I would like to request that they be  
46 put in.

47

48 I'm really happy for Eyak. I know  
49 their program gave quite a good report, their  
50 government did. So that is what I'd like to see

1 included in your report.

2

3 MS. INGLES: I understand your point.  
4 Rather than just saying Native organizations you would  
5 like to have it specifically say tribal governments.  
6 We can add that into the call for you.

7

8 MS. MILLS: Thank you.

9

10 CHAIRWOMAN CAMINER: Thanks. Other  
11 questions for Palma. Gloria.

12

13 MS. STICKWAN: Is there a requirement  
14 for them to live in the communities?

15

16 MS. INGLES: It is. They need to be --  
17 most of our people are in hub communities. Well, I  
18 shouldn't say that because we do have -- for KNA, they  
19 live in Aniak. So they need to be in a place where  
20 they -- you know, obviously there's an airport where  
21 they can get in and out to work with the communities  
22 because they're normally working -- most of our groups,  
23 TCC, groups like that, they're working with several of  
24 the villages up and down the river trying to provide  
25 information to the constituents, to the fisheries  
26 resources projects and getting students from the area  
27 involved.

28

29 CHAIRWOMAN CAMINER: When you announce  
30 a year from now the next opportunity, I'm not sure  
31 exactly how that gets done. I'm sure it's posted on  
32 the website, but I wondered if it might be possible to  
33 send Donald information on this so it could be  
34 distributed to all the RAC members and then you can  
35 work with your communities and organizations to see  
36 whether that's an option or something you'd be  
37 interested in applying for.

38

39 MS. INGLES: We will continue to put  
40 something for the Partners for Fisheries Monitoring  
41 Program in each RAC book from now on. We want to  
42 remind people also for the spring meeting -- or  
43 actually for the fall meeting I will do another  
44 presentation and I'll talk some about the specifics of  
45 the call, so that will be a year from now. So that  
46 people can -- I want all the RACs to be well aware of  
47 what the call is and what the requirements are so that  
48 people can start thinking and putting together their  
49 proposals.

50

1                   So, yes, Judy, we will make sure that  
2 every RAC is included next year.

3  
4                   CHAIRWOMAN CAMINER: That would be  
5 excellent. Thank you.

6  
7                   MS. INGLES: Any other questions?

8  
9                   (No comments)

10  
11                  CHAIRWOMAN CAMINER: Okay. Thanks a  
12 lot then. Appreciate it. Office of Subsistence  
13 Management, Fish and Wildlife Service. We have budget,  
14 staffing, et cetera updates. Thank you, Chuck. It's  
15 Page 265.

16  
17                  MR. ARDIZZONE: Madame Chair. All  
18 these briefings are written. I can read through them  
19 if you would like, but I'm sure everybody can read, but  
20 it's up -- oh, you're talking to Donald. I took my  
21 glasses off. I can't see.

22  
23                  CHAIRWOMAN CAMINER: Excuse me, Chuck.  
24 Go ahead.

25  
26                  MR. ARDIZZONE: No problem, Madame  
27 Chair. I was just stating that all these are written  
28 briefings. I can read through them if you would like  
29 or.....

30  
31                  CHAIRWOMAN CAMINER: Just the  
32 highlights.

33  
34                  MR. ARDIZZONE: Okay. I'm going to end  
35 up having to read them because I'm not sure of all the  
36 highlights. I'll start with the budget update. The  
37 Office of Subsistence Management has experienced a  
38 declining budget and level of staffing. There's a  
39 graphic on Page 265 that shows the declining funding.  
40 The overall OSM budget is subject to the same 6.7  
41 percent cut that all Federal agencies are experiencing  
42 as a result of the sequestration. Automatic spending  
43 cuts put in place by Congress and effective January  
44 this year. The budget picture for FY2014 is not  
45 entirely clear, but we anticipate further reductions.

46  
47                  OSM will continue to provide the  
48 Regional Advisory Councils with budget briefings to  
49 help them develop a better understanding of proposed  
50 cuts and how they may affect the Federal Subsistence

1 Management Program. Travel outside of the normal  
2 Council meetings will continue to be limited. Also,  
3 due to budget cuts and the Federal sequestration, the  
4 funding to support the State liaison position has been  
5 cut.

6

7 If there's any questions, I can try to  
8 answer them, but you can see, according to the graphic,  
9 our funding has dropped quite a bit over the years and  
10 it's just projected to get worse unless Congress can  
11 get their act together.

12

13 (No comments)

14

15 MR. ARDIZZONE: So I can move on.  
16 Staffing update. We have some new arrivals. Gene  
17 Peltola, Jr. has been selected to serve as the  
18 Assistant Regional Director for OSM. Gene most  
19 recently served as the Refuge Manager for the Yukon  
20 Delta National Wildlife Refuge in Bethel for five years  
21 and was the in-season manager on the Kuskokwim River.  
22 Prior to that, he was the Northern Zone Officer for  
23 Refuge Law Enforcement. He has a total of 29 years of  
24 service in the Fish & Wildlife Service. He would have  
25 liked to be here, but he's attending another meeting.

26

27 Jeff Brooks has been selected to work  
28 as a Social Scientist in the Anthropology Division. He  
29 previously worked for the National Wildlife Refuge  
30 System in Alaska in the Division of Conservation  
31 Planning and Policy as a social scientist. Jeff served  
32 as the lead planner for the recently published  
33 Comprehensive Conservation Plan for the Selawik  
34 National Wildlife Refuge. He was here earlier and he's  
35 still in the audience. He presented a couple  
36 proposals.

37

38 Derek Hildreth has been selected as the  
39 new permit specialist, replacing Michelle Chivers in  
40 that position. He previously worked in the Anchorage  
41 Field Office for the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service in  
42 Fisheries. Derek is here today.

43

44 Then we had several departures. Helen  
45 Armstrong has retired from employment with the Fish &  
46 Wildlife Service. Under current  
47 budget restrictions, any new hires must be approved.  
48 So basically what we're saying is we haven't filled her  
49 position as of yet. We're hopeful, but we need to get  
50 a waiver to fill positions because of the budget

1 conditions. We're looking at ways to backfill behind  
2 her, but it just hasn't occurred yet.

3  
4 Steve Fried retired from the Fish &  
5 Wildlife Service. He was the Fisheries Division Chief.  
6 We haven't filled behind him as of yet.

7  
8 And Andrea Medeiros, who has been at  
9 OSM for over twelve years and went upstairs in our  
10 building to External Affairs for the Fish & Wildlife  
11 Service as a whole in our region. Her position is  
12 vacant and once again we're looking to fill behind her,  
13 but as we all know budget affects who we can hire.

14  
15 There's also a graphic. You can see  
16 how our staffing over the years has decreased. We used  
17 to be around 50 and now we're heading towards 30, so  
18 we're trying to do the same job with less staff.

19  
20 Madame Chair. There's another briefing  
21 on tribal consultation. It's an update and Mr. Jack  
22 Lorrigan is going to give that for us.

23  
24 CHAIRWOMAN CAMINER: Very good.  
25 Thanks, Jack.

26  
27 MR. LORRIGAN: Madame Chair. Good  
28 morning. For the record, Jack Lorrigan, Native liaison  
29 with OSM. Right at the moment the Tribal Consultation  
30 Implementation Guidelines are going through another  
31 draft. The Board reviewed them in August and we found  
32 that we needed to still work on them. The issue was  
33 what does consultation look like and how should it feel  
34 and how it should come across to the tribes. So that's  
35 something we're still working on. Ms. Stickwan is on  
36 the workgroup with us.

37  
38 Once we have them done and we'll  
39 present them to the Board I think at their January  
40 meeting. Hopefully they'll be accepted and then we'll  
41 move with the ANCSA consultation policy and their  
42 implementation guidelines after that.

43  
44 CHAIRWOMAN CAMINER: Mary Ann.

45  
46 MS. MILLS: I see you have the tribal  
47 consultation workshop consists of a varied group of  
48 Federal staff, tribal members and members from Alaska  
49 Native Claims Settlement Act Corporations. Do you also  
50 include tribal governments?

1 MR. LORRIGAN: Yes. We have at least  
2 four or five tribal governments that are part of this  
3 workgroup. I know Richard Peterson from Kasaan is on  
4 the workgroup. So we have a mix of everybody.

5  
6 MS. MILLS: I notice that it's not in  
7 your report and it would be really helpful if you could  
8 also include the wording tribal governments. I see you  
9 have the ANCSA corporation consultation, but there  
10 should be one for the tribal governments as well.

11  
12 Thank you.

13  
14 MR. LORRIGAN: We'll put it in.

15  
16 CHAIRWOMAN CAMINER: Any other  
17 questions or comments for Chuck or Jack.

18  
19 (No comments)

20  
21 CHAIRWOMAN CAMINER: Chuck has one more  
22 item I think to cover.

23  
24 Thank you, Jack.

25  
26 MR. ARDIZZONE: Madame Chair. I just  
27 wanted to give the Council an update on the regulatory  
28 cycle. At the fall 2012 Regional Advisory Council  
29 meetings, the Board asked all 10 Councils for input on  
30 the regulatory cycle. Eight of ten Councils recommended  
31 that the Board meeting to make determinations on  
32 wildlife proposals occur in the spring rather than in  
33 January. In response, the Board scheduled their next  
34 meeting to make determinations on wildlife proposals  
35 for April 2014.

36  
37 With future wildlife Board meetings  
38 occurring in the spring, the fall Council meeting  
39 window for wildlife proposals will be extended into  
40 early November. The Board has not yet made a decision  
41 concerning dates for their meeting in 2015 to address  
42 the next round of fisheries proposals, so we're not  
43 sure what that date will be as of yet.

44  
45 CHAIRWOMAN CAMINER: We're glad to see  
46 that the Board has accepted the first 50 percent of our  
47 recommendations, so that's really good news for people  
48 who certainly had difficulty traveling in January when  
49 it always seemed to be extremely cold, particularly  
50 Interior Alaska.

1 I guess in general on budget cuts, I  
2 mean we know it's happening nationwide. It's hard to  
3 see it for this program and I know all the agencies are  
4 going through reductions and can't replace staff and it  
5 really hurts. It hurts the program. But it's up to  
6 Congress.

7  
8 Gloria.

9  
10 MS. STICKWAN: Do you know when they  
11 make a decision? Is it on the agenda for the work  
12 session to make a decision or to talk about it?

13  
14 MR. ARDIZZONE: For the fisheries  
15 meeting?

16  
17 MS. STICKWAN: No. For the decision to  
18 change for the -- what did you say, for the wildlife  
19 cycle?

20  
21 MR. ARDIZZONE: The wildlife decision  
22 has been made. The exten.....

23  
24 MS. STICKWAN: The fisheries, sorry.

25  
26 MR. ARDIZZONE: So fisheries I'm not  
27 sure when they might address that. I don't know. Has  
28 there been any talks, Steve? No, I don't think there's  
29 been any talk on making a decision on the fisheries  
30 cycle. The fisheries cycle is a little more compressed  
31 because of the effective date of the regulations.  
32 Wildlife there's a little more flexibility because  
33 fisheries regulations take effect a month earlier than  
34 wildlife.

35  
36 CHAIRWOMAN CAMINER: I guess since the  
37 next meeting would be 2015 they do have some time to  
38 get on that then. Not too much probably.

39  
40 MR. ARDIZZONE: No, not too much.

41  
42 CHAIRWOMAN CAMINER: Thanks.

43  
44 MR. ARDIZZONE: Madame Chair. The next  
45 briefing would be the MOU update and Steve Kessler from  
46 the Forest Service is going to cover that.

47  
48 MR. KESSLER: Good morning, Madame  
49 Chair and Council members. Steve Kessler with the U.S.  
50 Forest Service. I sit on the InterAgency Staff

1 Committee. So this is just a quick update on the  
2 Memorandum of Understanding.

3  
4 Last June the Board and the State of  
5 Alaska met to discuss the revision of the MOU, which is  
6 the template for coordination of management between the  
7 State and Federal governments. Each Council has  
8 reviewed and commented on the MOU revision twice and a  
9 number of the State Advisory Committees have also  
10 commented. At the June meeting, the State of Alaska  
11 said that they would not sign the revised MOU in its  
12 current form. The State is now considering how they  
13 would like the MOU to be rewritten.

14  
15 Modification of the MOU is now on hold.  
16 Just as a note, the current MOU we think will expire in  
17 2014 if there is no further meeting of the signatories.  
18 Any questions.

19  
20 CHAIRWOMAN CAMINER: Any comments or  
21 questions on the State/Federal MOU for Steve. Mary  
22 Ann.

23  
24 MS. MILLS: Is there a copy of this in  
25 this packet?

26  
27 MR. KESSLER: There is no copy in this  
28 package. It is in the Regional Advisory Council  
29 Operations Manual. If you would like us to send you a  
30 version of the current MOU, we can do that.

31  
32 MS. MILLS: Thank you. Maybe they  
33 could send it to the RAC and then have it emailed to  
34 all of the Council members.

35  
36 CHAIRWOMAN CAMINER: That would be  
37 great, Steve and Donald, if you can get together on  
38 that. That would be wonderful. I think Greg had a  
39 question too.

40  
41 MR. ENCELEWSKI: Through the Chair.  
42 Steve, I've got a question. Could you give us a little  
43 insight without going into depth what was the reasoning  
44 with the State in the Memorandum of Understanding?  
45 What I'm looking for is the hangup or where's the  
46 difference?

47  
48 MR. KESSLER: I don't think I'm in a  
49 position that I can do that. I can ask the State if  
50 they're interested in doing that.

1 MR. CRAWFORD: My boss, Jennifer Yuhas,  
2 has been actively involved in that and she is currently  
3 at the Western Interior RAC meeting, but I haven't been  
4 in the loop in this at all, so I have no information  
5 for you.

6  
7 CHAIRWOMAN CAMINER: Steve.

8  
9 MR. KESSLER: You know, I don't know  
10 all the ins and outs of the State's concerns with the  
11 MOU. I do know that a number of the Advisory  
12 Committees had concerns about the MOU, both the current  
13 one and the revisions that ranged all the way from some  
14 of the changes that have been proposed to why do we  
15 need the MOU at all. The complexity of the MOU is very  
16 long. It could be a much shorter MOU. There are a  
17 number of issues that came up, but exactly all the  
18 hangups are I'm not in a position to speak to.

19  
20 MR. ENCELEWSKI: Thank you. That kind  
21 of answered my question. Maybe we just don't need one.  
22 Anyway, I shouldn't say that.

23  
24 CHAIRWOMAN CAMINER: Thanks. Any other  
25 questions for Steve. Mary Ann.

26  
27 MS. MILLS: Maybe Jennifer Yuhas could  
28 maybe give a short report and forward it to our  
29 Southcentral RAC and have it distributed among the  
30 Council members. Thank you.

31  
32 CHAIRWOMAN CAMINER: Yeah, maybe we  
33 could ask Fish and Game to do that. I'm not sure if  
34 they'll be able to do that. I mean these discussions  
35 are somewhat closed door, but I'm sure whatever can be  
36 shared with us -- perhaps we could get just sort of a  
37 Federal/State summary of the last meeting.

38  
39 MR. ENCELEWSKI: Madame Chair. The  
40 reason I ask it is because it's been an issue brought  
41 up at tribal in some of our areas, you know, and how it  
42 affects it. So I know that it's closed door, but it is  
43 very interesting to us to see where it's going, so any  
44 more detailed information would be helpful.

45  
46 Thank you.

47  
48 CHAIRWOMAN CAMINER: Thanks. Whatever  
49 could be shared we'd appreciate being able to read.  
50 Steve, I certainly didn't mean to slight Forest Service

1 when I was asking about a DOI climate change strategy.  
2 If Forest Service has one too, I'm sure in the future  
3 we'd be glad to hear about that as well.

4  
5 MR. KESSLER: Thank you. The Forest  
6 Service, of course, has a big research program, all  
7 sorts of things that are going on with climate change  
8 nationwide. Perhaps if climate change is going to be  
9 on the agenda at the joint meeting, we could also talk  
10 a little bit about what USDA and the Forest Service are  
11 doing with climate change and some of the concerns.

12  
13 CHAIRWOMAN CAMINER: I think that would  
14 be really good. Thanks.

15  
16 So next on our agenda is the -- go  
17 ahead, Carl.

18  
19 MR. JOHNSON: Thank you, Madame Chair.  
20 I'd like to add a supplement to your OSM briefing and  
21 that's regarding the nominations process. As you know,  
22 right now all the members that are seated at the  
23 Council have three-year terms and the way it's designed  
24 is to each year do a nominations process where roughly  
25 one-third of all seats are up for appointment or  
26 reappointment.

27  
28 We typically open this process in the  
29 fall with the Council meeting cycle and we've now -- it  
30 used to end around February, but now we've extended it  
31 to conclude at the end of the winter meeting cycle. So  
32 there are two meeting cycles that get an opportunity to  
33 discuss this issue, to remind seated members that it's  
34 time for them to submit their applications for  
35 reappointment, but also to use the opportunity to do  
36 public outreach in the different communities.

37  
38 Since 2005 there's been a steady  
39 decline in the number of applications for the Regional  
40 Advisory Councils, to the point where twice, and  
41 including this last year, we had to extend the meeting  
42 cycle because we had such an insufficient number of  
43 applications in many regions. Not enough applications  
44 even to fill the vacant or expiring seats.

45  
46 Normally this region has had one of the  
47 higher number of applications regularly, along with the  
48 Y-K Delta and the Southeast regions. However, this  
49 year there was a significant drop, almost 50 percent in  
50 the number of applications for this region. In

1 addition, almost exclusively, all of the applications  
2 coming from new applicants were from the Kenai  
3 Peninsula. When I look at the map of your region,  
4 pretty much the entire western side of your entire  
5 region has no representation on this Council  
6 whatsoever. It's all concentrated around the Wrangell-  
7 St. Elias, Prince William Sound and Kenai Peninsula  
8 region.

9  
10 Obviously that probably says something  
11 about Federal public lands and subsistence use and  
12 patterns. It also just kind of suggests that maybe  
13 there's more we can do with your region for outreach  
14 and expanding membership, but also, again, I'm just  
15 concerned about the trend in the dropping number of  
16 applications and particularly this Council, this region  
17 having a significant drop this year.

18  
19 I also wanted to give you an update as  
20 to the current status of the recent application period.  
21 This is also where it gets confusing because every year  
22 we are starting a new application period before the  
23 previous application period is complete. Because our  
24 process -- the Federal Subsistence Board typically  
25 doesn't meet until August to make its recommendations  
26 to the Secretaries, while at the same time we're  
27 starting a new application cycle beginning with the  
28 fall meeting cycle.

29  
30 Where we're at right now is the Board  
31 did meet in August. It passed on its recommendations  
32 to the Secretaries and those recommendations are now  
33 undergoing their review in the relevant offices in  
34 Washington, D.C. and, as typical, we won't expect to  
35 hear them answer back regarding the 2014 appointment --  
36 or actually 2013 appointments until early December,  
37 along with everyone else.

38  
39 As you know, there was a significant  
40 delay this last year. The bulk of the appointments  
41 were not made until a month late, January 5th, and we  
42 didn't have our final appointments settled -- and this  
43 was for a member of the Seward Peninsula Council --  
44 until one week before that Council's meeting. It was  
45 either late February or early March. I think it was  
46 early March.

47  
48 So there are a variety of different  
49 problems with the current nominations process and we're  
50 going to hopefully work on coming up with some

1 solutions to those. I just wanted to give you an  
2 update as to where things are with nominations and also  
3 to encourage members of this Council to do outreach  
4 within your communities and within your networks to  
5 encourage people to apply.

6  
7 Also remember an underutilized aspect  
8 of this process is that tribes, individuals,  
9 organizations, anyone can nominate someone else and  
10 fill out that application and nominate someone to serve  
11 on the Council. We only had four candidates this year  
12 who were the result of nominations out of a total of 73  
13 candidates that applied for this year. So it's very  
14 underutilized, but I think it would be an excellent  
15 tool to help increase the number of applicants region  
16 wide and statewide.

17  
18 The only note I would have about that  
19 is I would encourage you that if you are going to  
20 nominate someone that you communicate with them that  
21 you're going to nominate them because last year we did  
22 have two nominees who withdrew once they were called to  
23 be interviewed and my guess would be it was because  
24 nobody consulted with them before they were nominated.

25  
26 Anyway, that's all I have and I'd be  
27 happy to entertain any questions that the Council has  
28 for me.

29  
30 Thank you, Madame Chair.

31  
32 CHAIRWOMAN CAMINER: Thank you, Carl.  
33 If all of us took a quick look at Page 4, the people  
34 who -- where it says that their term expires in 2013,  
35 hopefully their applications are in to you right now.

36  
37 MR. JOHNSON: That's where it's  
38 confusing, Madame Chair. Oh, wait. Yes, the ones who  
39 expire in 2013 I do believe everybody -- yeah, there  
40 were several members of this Council who submitted  
41 their applications, so those are in. For those of you  
42 who it says 2014 is your expiring term, make sure to  
43 get your application in to Donald before the end of  
44 March or you can send it just to the address on the  
45 back of the application form and it will get to me.

46  
47 CHAIRWOMAN CAMINER: So that would  
48 include Gloria, James, Michael and Andy, so just a  
49 heads up. We'll be looking for your applications.  
50 Yes.

1 MR. HENRICHS: Ralph told me that Gary  
2 Olson should be given a few minutes to give us a report  
3 from the Moose Federation.

4  
5 CHAIRWOMAN CAMINER: Okay. Very good.  
6 We'll add Moose Federation to our agenda. Very good.  
7 James already has the application and nomination  
8 packet. So in case anyone else needs a copy, see  
9 Donald or Carl. Greg.

10  
11 MR. ENCELEWSKI: Oh, I was just going  
12 to take a quick break.

13  
14 CHAIRWOMAN CAMINER: Okay. Let's see.  
15 We have a couple people who have come in particularly  
16 for this meeting. John is going to talk a little bit  
17 about DOI's climate strategy, I guess, and Moose  
18 Federation representative is here. So get back to the  
19 agenda here.

20  
21 It's up to the group. We could take a  
22 quick break. We could continue with a couple agency  
23 briefings or we could move our guest speakers up and  
24 not take too much of their time. So whatever the group  
25 would like to do. Any thoughts on agenda and then  
26 we'll take a break.

27  
28 Okay, we'll come back at five to 10:00  
29 and then hear from John DeLapp and then the Moose  
30 Federation.

31  
32 (Off record)

33  
34 (On record)

35  
36 CHAIRWOMAN CAMINER: Okay. We're going  
37 to try to start again and reconvene our meeting. We  
38 have a representative from the Alaska Moose Federation  
39 here. Appreciate you taking the time to come and Bob  
40 for helping to arrange this. Please go ahead.

41  
42 MR. OLSON: Thank you, Madame Chair,  
43 for the brief opportunity to come before you guys right  
44 away. To keep this going, I will make it as quick as I  
45 can.

46  
47 For the record, my name is Gary Olson,  
48 executive director and founder of the Alaska Moose  
49 Federation. We provided a packet here of a couple  
50 update worthy items here. In particular, I wanted to

1 let you know as an organization we performed a very  
2 special project this summer where it was the third  
3 season of our orphan moose calf rescue program.

4  
5 We're thanking the Alaska Department of  
6 Fish and Game and other partners for the ability to --  
7 this year had a purpose to it and we were able to take  
8 moose calves down to the Copper River Delta -- which  
9 was the first time in 54 years that moose were taken  
10 down to the Delta -- in partnership with the village of  
11 Eyak, and Bob Henrichs there obviously is the chairman  
12 of the Moose Federation, also working with the village  
13 of Eyak, in the name of getting genetics down there,  
14 more genetics into that herd.

15  
16 We understand from Fish and Game  
17 there's going to be a number of more years that calves  
18 are taken down there, but it was  
19 very special for us to have Moose Henrichs as one of  
20 the volunteers, not only in taking the calves down this  
21 year, but he was also one of the bottle feeders in the  
22 1950s of the original program, so that was a very  
23 special summer this year. So I just wanted to let you  
24 guys know of a good development there.

25  
26 The first handout here is a picture of  
27 the fleet of vehicles as the Moose Federation continues  
28 to grow in capacity. A lot of this is thanks to State  
29 grants in the past that have enabled us to build a  
30 statewide capacity. Some of the achievements down at  
31 the bottom are listed, including the little lady down  
32 on the left side of that page there from Kenai. You  
33 would think that the Moose Salvage Program typical  
34 volunteer would be someone like me, a big burly guy,  
35 but she is five foot nothing and 100 pounds nothing and  
36 she's picked up over 150 moose so far as a volunteer  
37 for the Moose Salvage Program.

38  
39 A lot of the charities have spoken up  
40 about how good the program is, what it's done for law  
41 enforcement and the safety on the corridors. It's also  
42 transitioning into a new arena now. The State of  
43 Alaska has asked the Alaska Moose Federation to pull  
44 some moose out of the salvage program, for the last  
45 attachment here, for the village of Galena for putting  
46 traditional foods in where the village lost 17 tons of  
47 meat this spring due to the flooding.

48  
49 We resumed the program yesterday. So  
50 far the Moose Salvage Program has picked up over 700

1 moose and the record in one day is we picked up 17  
2 salvaged moose in 24 hours between Eagle River to  
3 Talkeetna, just to give you an idea of sometimes how  
4 staggering the number of moose are on these roads. So  
5 this is to make you aware that there is an effort here  
6 to identify the Salvage Program into the Food Security  
7 Initiative, which we have always contended that moose  
8 are not antlers and brow tines, they are food and  
9 safety for the people of Alaska.

10

11                   In addition to this, we are being  
12 contacted by parties that want to use the moose hides  
13 for traditional wear, the bones for the elders. The  
14 schools are wanting some of the gut piles for the  
15 anatomy and biology courses for the organs. So there  
16 is going to be -- hopefully the program will continue  
17 to evolve in something that gets a lot more worth than  
18 just simply the meat on the bone. So it's definitely  
19 moving forward as an organization, so we're pretty  
20 happy about that.

21

22                   One last item is Alaska Village  
23 Initiatives hosted a food security summer about a month  
24 ago and Fish and Game was the guest attendee and Fish  
25 and Game leadership asked Alaska Village Initiatives  
26 for projects that might work for abundance for moose in  
27 the name of food security. This is a request that AVI  
28 has since sent in to Fish and Game and asked Fish and  
29 Game to talk to the OMB office because Fish and Game  
30 made the request for this ask.

31

32                   What this is in a nutshell is a \$2.5  
33 million ask for railbelt abundance. Why would Alaska  
34 Village Initiatives ask for an urban or railbelt  
35 program? The reason is because with abundance and  
36 access in some of these traditional hunting areas on  
37 the road system the potential here is to keep more  
38 individuals in the cities on the railbelt going after  
39 harvesting moose rather than going out in some of these  
40 areas competing for depleted or low resources out in  
41 some of these food areas. Anyway, it's good to monitor  
42 to see how the State takes this request.

43

44                   The last thing is I wanted to thank you  
45 for your dialogue with the Alaska Railroad and talking  
46 about how they are going to take moose into account  
47 with the rail corridor soon to speed up to 60-plus  
48 miles per hour. We have to un-addict these moose to  
49 these transportation corridors, whether they're roads  
50 or railroad tracks. So we understand that the Mat-Su

1 Borough is in charge of the Point McKenzie extension.  
2 Any additional dialogue you may have with the Mat-Su  
3 Borough similar to what you did with the Alaska  
4 Railroad is very appreciated.

5  
6 The Moose Federation stands ready to  
7 help these agencies to work to keep these moose off  
8 these corridors. One of the things we tell everybody,  
9 yes, we have picked up 700 salvaged moose, but the last  
10 thing we want to be thanked for is picking up a dead  
11 moose off a broken car and possibly a hurt person or  
12 worse. We would much rather be proactive and encourage  
13 these moose to be back out in the woods where they  
14 belong rather than living around these roads and  
15 railroad corridors.

16  
17 Thank you.

18  
19 CHAIRWOMAN CAMINER: Thanks. Bob,  
20 thank you for your work on this too. Mary Ann.

21  
22 MS. MILLS: I'd like to thank you and  
23 also Bob too for this program. I know we take  
24 advantage of it on the Kenai Peninsula, the Kenaitze  
25 Indian Tribe, and we have donated to your program  
26 because it's been just a wonderful, wonderful addition  
27 to us, so thank you both very much.

28  
29 MR. OLSON: Thank you as well. The  
30 only reason why I didn't mention that generous donation  
31 is because the last meeting we had they were still  
32 trying to figure out how they wanted to be thanked and  
33 I didn't want to take anything for granted. Just for  
34 the record, the tribe down there has donated \$10,000 to  
35 the Salvage Program. So it is a worthy program and if  
36 any of you would like to go for a ride-along one night  
37 at 2:00 a.m. in a blizzard, including anybody in the  
38 room, you would really understand how good of a program  
39 it is.

40  
41 CHAIRWOMAN CAMINER: Greg.

42  
43 MR. ENCELEWSKI: Through the Chair.  
44 Gary, I want to thank you too. But from the Ninilchik  
45 area I know that we've had some that were delivered  
46 down there, but I do have another request. I know I  
47 talked with you about the potential of developing some  
48 stuff on Native land down there and it's still open.  
49 My whole goal of the Salvage Program is a way that we  
50 could salvage those as hunters and keep them off of the

1 corridors and provide that food because a lot of that,  
2 of course, once you get to the salvage state either  
3 someone's hurt or the moose is totaled and it's not fit  
4 to eat.

5  
6                   Anyway, whatever we can work on to get  
7 those salvaged, I'll be glad to shoot them for you.

8  
9                   Thank you.

10  
11                   MR. OLSON: In response to that, we  
12 have told the agencies shoot them or relocate them, but  
13 don't just watch it. Because if you watch it, then we  
14 go to work pulling a moose off a Subaru and there's  
15 been nine fatalities in the last year and a half  
16 hitting moose with vehicles, five of which were  
17 motorcycles.

18  
19                   The motorcycles should be an indicator  
20 of what life is going to be like when Smart cars are  
21 the prevailing vehicles in this state. Which, by 2025,  
22 fuel standards will be 54 miles per gallon. So Federal  
23 regulations are pulling more and more metal out of  
24 these cars and the cars are getting significantly  
25 smaller while the moose are staying the same size.

26  
27                   So something needs to break. All too  
28 often in the state is tragedy what makes change. If  
29 you've been up here a while, the big debate over  
30 Canadian geese. Were they here first, it was nature's  
31 way. Then an AWACS plane crashed in 1995 killing 24  
32 airmen. Now the geese are no longer on the airports.  
33 We're looking for consistency on these highways.

34  
35                   We definitely appreciate your support  
36 in the past and others that make this their cause.  
37 Please do not make a moose collision that happens to  
38 you or your family as what will make you a supporter  
39 some day. Support it now.

40  
41                   CHAIRWOMAN CAMINER: I was wondering if  
42 you work with the Alaska Zoo when they get orphan  
43 moose?

44  
45                   MR. OLSON: We are actually the only  
46 release facility in the state and we're very cautious  
47 about if an orphan calf comes into another facility  
48 that is not a release facility -- ours sits vacant for  
49 about nine months a year and that's important because  
50 anything that may cause a problem for captive animals



1 MR. OLSON: They also need to put a  
2 stop on planting mountain ash trees on schools.

3  
4 MR. HENRICHS: It's going to stop when  
5 somebody is going to turn around and sue the State for  
6 planting moose food on the highways and somebody gets  
7 killed. That's what happened -- oh, one of the  
8 Phillips when, you know, his wife got killed. He  
9 turned around and sued the State because they didn't  
10 maintain the road very good. All of a sudden they woke  
11 up and decided they better start doing it.

12  
13 That's all I got.

14  
15 MR. OLSON: The next time you drive  
16 down Elmore Extension you can see a moose warning sign  
17 with planted moose food trees all around it. That  
18 would be like warning aviators of geese on the runway  
19 after planting geese food.

20  
21 So the point is that we're pleading  
22 with the agencies. Whether it's State, Federal, it  
23 doesn't matter. Become proactive on these issues.  
24 There's too many people paying the price for not doing  
25 so.

26  
27 Thank you very much for fitting me in.

28  
29 CHAIRWOMAN CAMINER: Thank you for  
30 attending today. We appreciate it and we'll look  
31 forward to future updates too.

32  
33 MR. OLSON: Thanks.

34  
35 CHAIRWOMAN CAMINER: Okay. Department  
36 of Interior climate strategy summary.

37  
38 MR. DELAPP: Madame Chairman, members  
39 of the Council. I'm John DeLapp and I'm the  
40 coordinator of the Northwest Boreal Landscape  
41 Conservation Cooperative. The Landscape Conservation  
42 Cooperative Program consists of 22 self-directed  
43 partnerships that span all the U.S. and adjacent Canada  
44 and Mexico as well as the Caribbean and the Pacific  
45 Islands. We're just one part of the Department of  
46 Interior's climate adaptation strategy and effort. So  
47 I'm not going to be speaking specifically to DOI's  
48 climate change effort, but to my small part of it.

49  
50 There are five LCCs, Landscape

1 Conservation Cooperatives, in Alaska at varying levels  
2 of maturity and development and funding. The Arctic LCC  
3 was one of the first LCCs established in the country in  
4 2010. They were all established as a result of  
5 Department of Interior Secretarial order signed by then  
6 Secretary Salazar.

7  
8           The Arctic LCC actually consists of  
9 five staff, all employees of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife  
10 Service, and a significant amount of funding available  
11 for projects through the university system or other  
12 partners within the scientific community. The Western  
13 Alaska and North Pacific LCCs came along in 2011 and  
14 they were funded at a significantly lower level of  
15 support from the Fish and Wildlife Service and they  
16 have a significantly smaller staffing levels.  
17 Specifically to Western Alaska, there's two full time  
18 employees managing the Western Alaska LCC.

19  
20           In 2012, the Northwest Boreal LCC and  
21 the Aleutian and Bering Sea Islands LCC were both  
22 established at a proportionately lower -- as the budget  
23 situation in D.C. continued to decline and as the new  
24 LCCs came on board, there was less and less new money  
25 available to establish these LCCs. I'm one of the tier  
26 3 LCCs, I like to describe ourselves as.

27  
28           The Southcentral RAC is located within  
29 both the Northwest Boreal and the North Pacific LCCs.  
30 Again, I'm the coordinator of the Northwest Boreal LCC,  
31 which includes pretty much all of Interior -- all the  
32 boreal forest of Alaska, Yukon, northern British  
33 Columbia and westernmost Northwest Territory. We're  
34 about 330 million acres in size. If we were a country,  
35 we'd be the 20th largest country in the world. We're  
36 larger than Peru.

37  
38           We have a diverse membership. We're  
39 governed by a steering committee. It's a self-directed  
40 partnership. We've done our best to conduct outreach  
41 throughout that huge geography to bring in land  
42 managers, whether they're with territorial provincial  
43 agencies, Federal resource management agencies, tribal  
44 entities, universities and NGOs. We have no formal  
45 tribal representation on the steering committee. We  
46 have conducted some outreach, but I think most tribes  
47 just don't have the capacity to play a significant  
48 role, but they are welcome and invited to participate  
49 fully as steering committee members should they choose  
50 to do so.

1                   For now we have representation from  
2 Tanana Chiefs Conference and the Council of Athabaskan  
3 Tribal Governments to provide that tribal perspective.  
4 We also have the Yukon River and Tribal Watershed  
5 Council is also represented on our board, so they work  
6 with us and help provide that tribal perspective on the  
7 Yukon Drainage. We also have been conducting outreach  
8 to First Nations groups in Yukon Canada and B.C. and  
9 western Northwest Territories.

10  
11                   The steering committee meets quarterly,  
12 sometimes electronically, at least once a year in  
13 person and at least one meeting a year in Canada. So  
14 we've had two meetings so far in Whitehorse.

15  
16                   The mission of the LCC is promoting  
17 coordination, development and dissemination of applied  
18 science to inform landscape level conservation in the  
19 face of a changing climate and other stressors. So we  
20 have no management authority. It's purely voluntary  
21 group. With the mission of helping identify and  
22 support applied science needs to better respond to  
23 changing climate and other non-climate change related  
24 landscape scale stressors.

25  
26                   It's really all about increasing  
27 collaboration across the Federal, State, territorial  
28 and tribal resource management communities and try to  
29 work more effectively across the U.S./Canadian borders.  
30 There's a lot of expertise in Alaska that the Canadians  
31 can benefit from and we're finding very much in the  
32 reverse as well. There's a huge amount of technical  
33 expertise and landscape planning and responding to  
34 climate change on the Canadian side of the border.

35  
36                   The steering committee met in  
37 Whitehorse of last year and tried to come to terms with  
38 what are -- we have a limited amount of staff. It's  
39 just myself and a science coordinator working out of  
40 Fairbanks and a very limited amount of funding  
41 available to support projects by agencies, by  
42 universities, by researchers doing applied research to  
43 inform management within the region.

44  
45                   We worked very closely with the  
46 managers as well as the members of our steering  
47 committee to identify what are the highest priority  
48 management information needs within the region. In  
49 this workshop in Whitehorse we came up with more than  
50 120 priorities. When everything is a priority, nothing

1 is a priority, so we continued to further refine those  
2 priorities.

3  
4                   Those information needs down into five  
5 broad categories. Baseline information like, for  
6 example, where are the current and future critical  
7 habitats, where are the important spawning areas, where  
8 are the important migratory routes for caribou, where  
9 is the important overwintering habitat for anadromous  
10 fish, how is the distribution and abundance and timing  
11 of fish and wildlife species going to change into the  
12 future. How is climate change going to affect the  
13 distribution of the plants and the subsistence  
14 resources that we care about into the future.

15  
16                   Another broad category was better  
17 understanding relationships such as better  
18 understanding the impact of climate change on forest  
19 composition and subsistence resources such as moose,  
20 caribou, berry production, salmon, what have you. So  
21 how are those going to change and how does one affect  
22 the other. If the migration pattern of a prey species  
23 changes and the predator to those prey species stays  
24 the same, then is there some sort of temporal  
25 disconnect that's going to impact the resource.

26  
27                   We also are looking at projecting  
28 future states, modeling for the future, trying to  
29 create predictive models of what we can expect to  
30 happen and then more proactively manage for those  
31 predicted changes.

32  
33                   The fifth broad category was adaptive  
34 management and adaptive planning and developing a  
35 series of best management practices for resources which  
36 would certainly include subsistence resources.

37  
38                   I included I think in your packet a  
39 general fact sheet about the Northwest Boreal Landscape  
40 Conservation Cooperative and a list of the projects  
41 that we funded in fiscal year 2013. With such limited  
42 funding we did not have a formal request for proposals  
43 last year. It's anybody's guess as to how much project  
44 funding we're going to have available in fiscal year  
45 '14. We're subject to all the same budget cuts as all  
46 the other Federal entities here, but we do plan to  
47 issue a focused request for proposals early in 2014 and  
48 I will certainly share that with Donald and ask him to  
49 share that with the members of the RAC. We'll be  
50 disseminating that as widely as possible.

1                   There's also within this broader  
2 landscape conservation cooperative effort again, which  
3 again consists of 22 LCCs across the entire U.S.,  
4 there's been several requests for proposals for  
5 projects to benefit multiple LCCs or benefitting the  
6 national network. One of the projects that was funded  
7 this past year under the multiple LCC request for  
8 proposals was to work with the Alaska Department of  
9 Fish and Game to create a geospatial portal to all of  
10 their existing subsistence data online. Restricting  
11 access to sensitive data, of course, but taking this  
12 huge dataset that Fish and Game has and creating a  
13 geographic interface with that information. So I think  
14 there are a number of potential opportunities and areas  
15 of collaboration between all the RACs in Alaska and the  
16 LCC program as a whole.

17  
18                   I'm happy to answer any questions that  
19 anyone might have about specific to Northwest Boreal or  
20 to the larger issues of a landscape conservation  
21 cooperative.

22  
23                   CHAIRWOMAN CAMINER: Questions for  
24 John. Mary Ann.

25  
26                   MS. MILLS: Did you say you have a  
27 handout for us?

28  
29                   MR. OLSON: They should be in.....

30  
31                   MS. MILLS: Oh, they're in our -- okay.  
32 I was going to also see if you had a card. I know a  
33 perfect person that would be so interested in helping.  
34 She's a professor at APU.

35  
36                   MR. OLSON: Oh, excellent. Great. We  
37 have been working closely with UAF and to a lesser  
38 degree at UAA, but it would be great to have a contact  
39 at APU as well. We also have a website I should have  
40 mentioned. I think it's included on your handout, but  
41 it's nwblcc.org and you can actually subscribe to our  
42 newsletter from that website.

43  
44                   CHAIRWOMAN CAMINER: When you mentioned  
45 the Fish and Game data, were you referring to community  
46 subsistence harvests or.....

47  
48                   MR. OLSON: I believe so, yes.

49  
50                   CHAIRWOMAN CAMINER: Okay. That would

1 be really helpful then. Well, we really appreciate you  
2 keeping us in the loop of what activities your and the  
3 other groups are doing because it certainly provides a  
4 lot of helpful information and people may be able to  
5 contribute as well.

6

7 MR. OLSON: Thank you for the  
8 opportunity to share.

9

10 CHAIRWOMAN CAMINER: Okay. I think we  
11 were going to do Chugach National Forest next.

12

13 MR. KESSLER: Thank you, Madame Chair.  
14 Members of the Council. Steve Kessler with the U.S.  
15 Forest Service. I'm the regional program leader for  
16 subsistence for the Forest Service and with me is Milo  
17 Burcham, who you know well, is the Chugach National  
18 Forest lead for subsistence.

19

20 I'm just going to very briefly give you  
21 a little bit of an overview of sort of the bigger  
22 picture for the Forest Service, particularly about our  
23 funding. Also a little bit -- maybe we can have a  
24 little bit of discussion about the item that you have  
25 in your annual report about maybe funding some wildlife  
26 priorities. Then Milo is going to continue on talking  
27 about forest plan revision and then some of the issues  
28 that have been addressed on the districts this year.

29

30 In front of you is a graph that's  
31 somewhat similar to the one that OSM presented for  
32 their funding in sort of a trend since 2005. As you  
33 can see, the funding -- this is the available funds to  
34 spend on the Forest Service side, have gone down rather  
35 dramatically from an actual level of a little over \$5  
36 million to about \$2.5 million last year.

37

38 So, with these changes in funding you  
39 can see that it's quite challenging to keep a program  
40 of the same size that we had back, for instance, in  
41 2005 when we initiated a Wildlife Resource Monitoring  
42 Program. We expect that the 2014 funding would  
43 probably be somewhat comparable to the 2013 level. At  
44 the same time staffing has gone down about a third on  
45 the Forest Service side. Essentially we've lost one  
46 position. On the Chugach we're down about -- I think  
47 it's three positions on the Tongass and down one  
48 position in the regional office.

49

50 So we have in the Forest Service -- we

1 consider that we have three main parts of our program.  
2 We have the regulatory part, which includes working  
3 with the Council, all the permitting process. That's  
4 probably the most important part of the program that we  
5 just have to do. We have the monitoring part of the  
6 program and then we have the law enforcement and  
7 education part of the program.

8  
9 Law enforcement and education we've  
10 pretty much zeroed that out with these funding changes.  
11 The amount of money that's gone to monitoring, about  
12 half of what it used to be and we've been trying to  
13 keep the regulatory part fairly constant with the  
14 amount of money that we spend.

15  
16 I think it was about 2010 no USDA  
17 Forest Service funds have been spent for monitoring in  
18 Southcentral. Prior to that we funded, I believe, all  
19 or close to all of the work in the Copper River and as  
20 our funding levels have gone down, that could be cut  
21 out and then OSM has been able to pick up the funding  
22 for the Copper River. So all the money we have for  
23 monitoring now goes to the Tongass National Forest.  
24 Now this is all the money that's expended through the  
25 Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program.

26  
27 There is monitoring that goes on that  
28 Milo coordinates here on the Chugach and it's through  
29 some contracts, some joint funding with Department of  
30 Fish and Game. I think he discussed earlier that we  
31 have provided some funding to the Department so that we  
32 could be able to fly Kings Bay this year and hopefully  
33 get some numbers. We also try to do some goat surveys  
34 and other things. If you want to know more details,  
35 Milo, I'm sure, could explain those better than I  
36 could. These are just a few thousand dollars here and  
37 there. This is not anything major.

38  
39 So as we consider, well, are we going  
40 to take some of our funding that we do for fisheries  
41 resource monitoring, are there some higher priorities  
42 for wildlife, we're going to have to talk about that  
43 for a little bit and try and figure out what that  
44 process would look like. Decide we're going to take  
45 this little piece of dollars out of fisheries to do  
46 these other projects.

47  
48 Back in 2005 we did establish a  
49 resource monitoring program on the National Forest of  
50 which it was both on the Tongass and the Chugach. We

1 put a strategic plan together, of which this Council  
2 was involved. We came up with some priorities across  
3 both National Forests and as a result there was one  
4 project that was funded in Prince William Sound, which  
5 is uses and needs of goats and black bear and that was  
6 contracted out with the Alaska Department of Fish and  
7 Game with the Division of Subsistence.

8

9 I think that was a very beneficial  
10 report and has been very helpful to us. It's helpful  
11 in the forest plan revision that Milo is going to be  
12 talking about and has been referred to in some of the  
13 analyses that were in front of you at this meeting.

14

15 So we know that there are projects that  
16 are good. We know that there are projects that  
17 probably are high priority. We need to figure out a  
18 way to determine what those are and how to take our  
19 increasingly small amount of money and make sure that  
20 those moneys go to those highest priorities.

21

22 So as we said in the response to the  
23 annual report, we're more than willing to do that  
24 because we really do want to spend the funds on  
25 whatever is the highest priority, whether it's  
26 fisheries or wildlife. So we just have to figure out  
27 how to go about doing that.

28

29 I welcome any further discussions with  
30 the council on that topic.

31

32 CHAIRWOMAN CAMINER: Steve, let me just  
33 ask the Council at this point. I wonder if we want to  
34 appoint one or two people to work with Forest Service  
35 on trying to look at where we might be able to get some  
36 studies done. It's a complicated issue. We'd need  
37 kind of the concurrence of the RAC as to what the  
38 priority is for some of the studies. Steve.

39

40 MR. KESSLER: Well, I have a proposal  
41 and that is that the two Regional Advisory Councils are  
42 going to have a joint meeting the next meeting and  
43 maybe that should be a topic for the joint meeting  
44 because it's one pot of money that affects both  
45 Councils and maybe we could all put that on as an  
46 agenda item. It would be nice to maybe do a little  
47 pre-work. So, from that standpoint, it would be good  
48 to identify a couple people, but maybe those are the  
49 same people that are going to be working on the agenda  
50 already that you've identified.

1 I don't know what you think of my  
2 proposal, but it might be a good way to streamline  
3 between the two Councils.

4  
5 CHAIRWOMAN CAMINER: Okay. So we can  
6 do that as part of the subcommittee or if other folks  
7 are interested in joining us on that aspect, that would  
8 be good too because this, of course, would be only on  
9 Forest Service lands.

10  
11 MR. KESSLER: Correct. It's only on  
12 Forest Service. By the way, I do want to say one  
13 thing. With the monies that Office of Subsistence  
14 Management receives, those monies are primarily coming  
15 through their fisheries budget line, so they're sort of  
16 stuck where they can spend that money. That is not the  
17 case with the Forest Service. We actually get a  
18 congressional appropriation line item that's called  
19 Subsistence Management in Alaska and we have the  
20 flexibility to spend those dollars on wildlife or fish.

21  
22  
23 The way those monies originally came to  
24 us back around 1990 was for fisheries when we had the  
25 change in the fisheries management. Suddenly we  
26 received this big pot of money. So we know that the  
27 idea way back then was -- actually it was in 2000, not  
28 1990 -- was to spend and to make sure that we had the  
29 money that was needed for monitoring for fisheries, but  
30 we are not under any specific direction, congressional  
31 direction or anything else, to spend only on fisheries.  
32 We have that capability to spend on both.

33  
34 So that's sort of the big picture for  
35 where we are. Again, you have a copy of the graph.  
36 It's very difficult. This is not adjusted for  
37 inflation in any way. These are actual dollars so that  
38 the spending power of the money in 2013, the same  
39 amount of money as in 2005 is actually quite a bit less  
40 also.

41  
42 So that's it for me unless you have  
43 some questions.

44  
45 CHAIRWOMAN CAMINER: Any questions from  
46 folks for Steve.

47  
48 (No comments)

49  
50 CHAIRWOMAN CAMINER: Milo, I just

1 wanted to commend you. When we were going through the  
2 proposals yesterday it's clear how much time and effort  
3 you spend in the communities working with subsistence  
4 users and others to really make things happen and it's  
5 really quite impressive. So thanks for your efforts.

6

7 MR. BURCHAM: Thank you, Judy. Milo  
8 Burcham, wildlife biologist and subsistence lead for  
9 the Chugach Forest. It seems like I have a lot to talk  
10 about. I don't like agency reports taking up any more  
11 time than they need to, but there are quite a few  
12 topics to cover today. I'll try to get through them as  
13 quickly as I can.

14

15 The first thing I'd like to talk about  
16 is the Forest Plan Revision process. I hope everybody  
17 at least who lives around the Chugach is aware of that  
18 now. Last winter at our RAC meeting Don Reeves, who is  
19 the Chugach Forest planner, is the lead on the Chugach  
20 Plan Revision team. He gave a presentation on it and  
21 was basically talking about the kick off to the Forest  
22 Plan Revision. He provided me these notes to update  
23 you guys on where that process is now, so I'll give you  
24 some details from there.

25

26 Anyway, the Chugach Forest Plan  
27 Revision started in January 2013. We announced we were  
28 including the Chugach National Forest Plan Revision at  
29 that time and what we're doing is revising the existing  
30 plan, which was implemented in 2002 and has been  
31 amended since then. The revision process is different  
32 than the process that we went through leading up to the  
33 2002 plan. There's a new 2012 planning rule and that's  
34 what's kind of dictating how this process goes.

35

36 The 2012 planning rule is a three-phase  
37 process. Phase one, which is where we are now, is  
38 called the assessment. Phase two is the actual Forest  
39 Plan Revision and it's a NEPA process, and phase three  
40 is the monitoring and evaluation.

41

42 Just quickly, the outcome of phase one,  
43 the assessment, is to produce an assessment report.  
44 That's nearing completion right now. What it intends  
45 to do is rapidly evaluate existing information about  
46 ecological, economic and social conditions, trends and  
47 sustainability related to the Chugach National Forest.  
48 The existing information includes 15 topic areas. It's  
49 pulling together the report -- in pulling together the  
50 report, we'd engage the public and targeted

1 stakeholders.

2

3                   So keep in mind that already at the  
4 beginning of this process we've gone to the public many  
5 times and every phase will involve additional  
6 opportunities to be involved. Public meetings and  
7 deadlines for public comment. Anyway, every phase will  
8 have multiple opportunities for public input.

9

10                   Just recently there were public  
11 meetings planned in several communities around the  
12 Chugach Forest that were cancelled because of the  
13 government furlough and I did want to announce that  
14 they're being rescheduled. Well, there was initiated a  
15 public sensing workshops in spring 2012. They hosted  
16 10 workshops this past spring, February and March. The  
17 second round was what was affected by the furlough.

18

19                   Anyway, the rescheduled meetings are as  
20 follows. Well, we just had one in Hope on November  
21 2nd. Coming up in Girdwood on Wednesday, November  
22 13th, at 6:00 to 9:00 o'clock at the Girdwood Community  
23 Center is another public hearing. Then in Anchorage on  
24 Wednesday, November 20th, 6:00 to 9:00 p.m. at the  
25 Chugach National Forest Visitor's Center, which is  
26 downtown now. The supervisor's office has moved to the  
27 old railroad depo. Anyway, that's an opportunity for  
28 anybody in and around Anchorage.

29

30                   Anyway, I guess the take home message  
31 is there that each of these phases has multiple  
32 opportunities for public input and we hope to hear from  
33 everybody affected throughout this process.

34

35                   Right now the Forest Service staff are  
36 editing the draft assessment report. It's currently  
37 350 pages. I do want to add that I'm part of the  
38 Forest Revision Team and representing subsistence in  
39 this process, so I'm attending the meetings and writing  
40 the subsistence portion of the assessment. In this  
41 assessment, they've identified seven themes from what  
42 we've heard from the public and our staff over the last  
43 year and a half as our forest-wide niche, which begins  
44 to focus and describe our distinctive roles and  
45 contributions.

46

47                   Just real quickly I'll list those seven  
48 themes that have been identified in the process so far.  
49 They include Alaska Native traditional knowledge and  
50 culture; sustaining biodiversity, intact ecosystems and

1 connectivity for global ecological processes; animals  
2 and plants as food and resources; recreation  
3 experiences; wood as renewable resource and fuel; water  
4 quantity and quality; and education and research. So  
5 you can see subsistence is already floated to the top  
6 of this process in several different ways.

7

8 In conclusion, the Chugach National  
9 Forest is important to Alaska Native people who have  
10 lived here since millennia. Chugach National Forest is  
11 the back yard for 50 percent of the state's population.  
12 We've been accepting public feedback and input for  
13 nearly a year during the assessment phase and that  
14 phase is nearing its final stages.

15

16 In revising our plan, we are building  
17 from the 2002 Forest Plan and the amendments. We're  
18 not necessarily throwing out what we already have. In  
19 fact, I think we've recognized that a lot of the 2002  
20 Plan is working. The next phase, phase two, is the  
21 plan revision, which will take place over the next two  
22 to three years with a revised plan approved in 2016 or  
23 2017 is the goal.

24

25 I'll just add one more thing and this  
26 kind of dove-tails off something Steve just mentioned.  
27 He talked about involving a couple people in  
28 identifying priorities for funding of Fish and Wildlife  
29 projects. We also see a need for identifying a couple  
30 people on the Council to act as a liaison for this  
31 forest planning process. Possibly they could be the  
32 same people that Steve was referring to.

33

34 Anyway, you might consider identifying  
35 a couple people that I could keep informed of where we  
36 are in the process since we're only meeting twice a  
37 year. There will be more going on and possibly news of  
38 meetings or updates on the process could be passed  
39 through these liaisons.

40

41 With that, I'll take a quick break in  
42 the presentation and ask if you have any questions or  
43 comments on the forest planning process.

44

45 CHAIRWOMAN CAMINER: I think in terms  
46 of liaisons -- I mean certainly I live close to Chugach  
47 National Forest and Andy would also because the other  
48 members of our group for the Southeast meeting are Greg  
49 and Gloria, so I'm not as directly involved or impacted  
50 perhaps. Anybody else?

1 (No comments)  
2  
3 CHAIRWOMAN CAMINER: So maybe you could  
4 add our two names as contact. Bob, would you like to  
5 also?  
6  
7 MR. HENRICHS: Actually, as the head of  
8 a recognized tribe, we're at the table any time we  
9 want.  
10  
11 CHAIRWOMAN CAMINER: Okay.  
12  
13 MR. HENRICHS: So we'll be there  
14 anyway. We always are.  
15  
16 CHAIRWOMAN CAMINER: Maybe just because  
17 he's not here let's add Tom Carpenter to the list.  
18  
19 MR. BURCHAM: Yeah, I think he would  
20 certainly be interested.....  
21  
22 CHAIRWOMAN CAMINER: Give him one  
23 assignment.  
24  
25 MR. BURCHAM: .....and is active.  
26  
27 CHAIRWOMAN CAMINER: Mary Ann.  
28  
29 MS. MILLS: You had three things  
30 listed. Your assessment and then I didn't get your  
31 second one and then your third was monitoring. What  
32 was your second one?  
33  
34 MR. BURCHAM: The second is the actual  
35 Forest Plan Revision, the actual writing of the revised  
36 Forest Plan and that will be next. After we finish the  
37 assessment, we'll be moving on to the actual Forest  
38 Plan Revision and then the third step was the  
39 monitoring and evaluation.  
40  
41 (No comments)  
42  
43 MR. BURCHAM: The next thing I guess  
44 I'll bring up affects mostly people in and around  
45 Cordova. I wish both Ralph and Tom were here, but we  
46 have Bob and then Andy, who doesn't live far away.  
47 There's a very popular drainage for a couple different  
48 reasons located near Cordova called Ibeck Creek and our  
49 fisheries program on the Cordova District has begun to  
50 recognize, A, its value as a coho fishery. It receives

1 tons of use every fall by sport fishermen and local  
2 fishermen and subsistence users.

3

4                   It also is in an area or the drainage  
5 is in an area that receives a lot of ATV use and over  
6 the past 10 or 20 years a network of ATV trails has  
7 developed that runs up the Scott River Drainage and the  
8 headwaters of Ibeck Creek. The fisheries program has  
9 started to realize that there are an infinite number of  
10 basically illegal stream crossings throughout the  
11 drainage. It's illegal to take motorized vehicles  
12 through recognized salmon streams.

13

14                   So they've started to realize that  
15 there's a problem. It's sort of uncontrolled. The  
16 area is open to motorized use. Forest Service  
17 regulations say that there shouldn't be resource damage  
18 -- motorized use should not cause resource damage, but  
19 there's State laws that affect salmon streams. Anyway,  
20 it's a pretty sprawling network of trails and what the  
21 fisheries program would like to do is kind of reign in  
22 that motorized access and kind of direct it.

23

24                   They've already started a project to  
25 develop an arterial route up the drainage that has  
26 permitted a minimal number of stream crossings and  
27 hopefully will be an easy route that a lot of motorized  
28 users will prefer to get up the drainage, but what has  
29 not been done is nothing has been closed to motorized  
30 use.

31

32                   So, in the coming year, and there will  
33 be some meetings this winter, are some talks about how  
34 to put some teeth to making people use this arterial  
35 route and develop some possible side routes that get to  
36 some areas that are important to subsistence for  
37 fishing, for mountain goat hunting and for bear  
38 hunting, which seem to be some popular uses of  
39 subsistence users in the drainage.

40

41                   We recognize that nothing can be closed  
42 down to subsistence users without hearings and although  
43 we are required to provide access, it has to be  
44 reasonable access. What's reasonable is up to  
45 interpretation and we don't want to make those  
46 decisions without public input. So, in this coming  
47 winter Bob and Andy and Tom and Ralph in particular,  
48 keep your ears open and we'll make sure that you're  
49 aware of these meetings to start to talk about where  
50 we're going to go with this plan for the Ibeck Creek

1 Drainage.

2

3 Is there any questions on that?

4

5 MR. HENRICHS: Well, one of the weird  
6 things is when the Forest Service took over the old  
7 post office. My dad was postmaster for 35 years, so he  
8 ran that building. Where they have a lot of their  
9 meetings is the old court house upstairs. Most of the  
10 time when we were in there we weren't in there for  
11 meetings.

12

13 (Laughter)

14

15 MR. BURCHAM: I think a lot of people  
16 who come into that building have flashbacks of when  
17 they've received a ticket for something in the past or  
18 a summons for one reason or another.

19

20 Okay. With that, I'll go to some  
21 Chugach Forest District specific updates. First, I  
22 always like to brief you on the moose population. I  
23 think that's one of our most popular subsistence  
24 resources in the Cordova area. Our moose population is  
25 doing pretty well right now. It might be at the  
26 highest level it's been ever. It might be over 600  
27 moose.

28

29 This year I issued 50 permits for cow  
30 moose and the cow season is now closed. I think we had  
31 -- I haven't seen the final. Not all the hunt reports  
32 are in or due until the middle of the month, but I  
33 think we had 40 to 45 cow moose harvested out of that  
34 harvest. I'm pretty sure. The bull moose season is  
35 still going. I issued 24 permits for bull moose and I  
36 think it's around 18 or 20, but there's two more months  
37 for the season.

38

39 Also a permit was issued and is issued  
40 every year to the Native Village of Eyak for the  
41 sobriety potlatch that takes place on November 15th and  
42 16th this year. There's a buffalo already coming to  
43 that, but Bob Latt, a local resident, is out looking  
44 for that moose as we speak, I think. Anyway, I'm sure  
45 that tag will be filled.

46

47 Anyway, the population is doing well.  
48 The bull component of the population is recovering. I  
49 think bull/cow ratios are improving. Last year we  
50 never saw a bull -- I only had one bull over 50 inches

1 in the harvest, which is really unusual for what the  
2 Copper River Delta has had in the past up until 2007,  
3 but we have had already many bulls over 50 and even a  
4 few over 60 inches this year. Anyway, we're seeing  
5 some escapement into those older age classes and it  
6 looks like some improvement in the population and the  
7 total numbers seem to be good.

8

9 We have given Fish and Game \$2,500 to  
10 help with their surveys there this year, so we want to  
11 keep our fingers on that population and see where it  
12 is.

13

14 Mountain goats, I've issued 10 permits  
15 so far. Haven't heard of any harvest, but that season  
16 is ongoing. I made visits to Chenega Bay where I meet  
17 with Andy every year and Tatitlek where I meet with  
18 David Totemoff. Anyway, those permits have been issued  
19 and that season runs through January 31st.

20

21 No surveys were completed by the Forest  
22 Service this year. We're having problems finding  
23 airplanes to fly in. We have done some surveys in 206  
24 airplanes in the past. It's not the preferred aircraft  
25 for survey work. They're too fast. A Super Cub is the  
26 preferred aircraft. We don't have a Federally carded  
27 Super Cub available to us in Cordova right now.  
28 Actually we did conduct one survey with Fish and Game  
29 and that was in a helicopter. We had a Forest Service  
30 helicopter. Fish and Game has conducted surveys this  
31 past season. So some surveys were completed, but the  
32 Forest Service contribution to those was smaller  
33 because of this difficulty in accessing aircraft.

34

35 I guess this is a good time to  
36 introduce to you the new Fish and Game area biologist  
37 that we have. She came on in late April or early May  
38 and is from Kotzebue. Her name is Charlotte Westing.  
39 Anyway, we have a new area biologist that replaced Dave  
40 Crowley and she hit the ground running doing the deer  
41 surveys in late May and early June. My initial  
42 impressions are good. I think she's sharp and has a  
43 really good way with the public, I think. Also, I  
44 think she is thirsty for data. She wants to have good  
45 data on all the populations she's monitoring.

46

47 When I say we hit the ground running on  
48 the deer surveys this year, we did, and she wasn't  
49 going to be happy unless we got all the surveys done.  
50 We lucked out with some of the best weather we've ever

1 had this spring for getting surveys done, but it's only  
2 the third time in 20 years that all the deer pellet  
3 transects have been completed in a season. So it was  
4 an aggressive effort and she was real pleased with  
5 that. But I think she has the same attitude towards  
6 getting moose survey data, mountain goat survey data,  
7 et cetera and I think that will be a good thing for us  
8 in coming years.

9  
10 Just to report on the deer pellet  
11 transects, the numbers are down. The deer pellet  
12 surveys showed lowest deer pellet -- the lowest deer  
13 densities or the deer pellet densities that have been  
14 measured since doing these transects and they were a  
15 result of the winter of 2011-2012, the big snows that  
16 we had. Although we didn't measure that loss last year  
17 in the transects, this is the first year we would have  
18 expected to measure it two years after, it showed what  
19 we expected and that's a 50-70 percent decline in the  
20 deer population. It's kind of consistent with what  
21 we're hearing from hunters in Prince William Sound.  
22 Andy is hunting regularly and they're just hard to see  
23 right now. I'll talk about special actions here in a  
24 minute, but we've taken some special actions regarding  
25 the deer population in the Sound.

26  
27 As far as salmon go, I issued 64  
28 freshwater fishing permit on the Copper River Delta  
29 this year. In fact, Bob, let's talk after this meeting  
30 or sometime in town in the near future. You can put a  
31 gillnet under the ice through one of our Federal  
32 subsistence freshwater permits. There is an  
33 opportunity to do that. I can make sure you know  
34 exactly what that opportunity is.

35  
36 Anyway, I don't have data on the  
37 harvest from this fall's season because they're not due  
38 -- the reports aren't due until the end of December, so  
39 I don't have any harvest data for the 2013 season, but  
40 the 2012 season, for comparison, I issued 66 permits  
41 and 392 coho were harvested and 64 sockeye were  
42 harvested.

43  
44 Any questions on the Cordova aspect of  
45 things? The moose, the deer, anything.

46  
47 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: Yeah. I'm curious,  
48 the last year that the mountain goats were surveyed in  
49 western Prince William Sound north of Cape Puget on up  
50 Old Chenega, Kings Bay area. It seems like a lot of

1 folks lately have been up the Tatitlek to Valdez zone  
2 has it been recent.

3

4 MR. BURCHAM: I don't know the date of  
5 the -- that's Unit RG-266 or sub area 266. No, that  
6 hasn't been surveyed in many years. I'll bet you five  
7 or six years. It's a difficult one for us logistically  
8 because it's all the way across the Sound. It's a  
9 priority. We want to get it re-surveyed, but, no, we  
10 don't have recent information from there.

11

12 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: Didn't Pat Kearney  
13 have a Super Cub, but it wasn't Federally approved or  
14 something.

15

16 MR. BURCHAM: Pat Kearney did have one.  
17 It was a Blanca Scout, which was just about like a  
18 Super Cub. It was an excellent aircraft for doing  
19 aerial surveys, but he left town and he was carded. Up  
20 until he left we had an excellent aircraft for doing  
21 surveys, but he's been gone for seven or eight years I  
22 think now. So I've been doing some surveys with 206s.  
23 Fish and Game doesn't really think it's the right way  
24 to go, so we're looking for other avenues to get our  
25 surveys completed.

26

27 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: I just might add I  
28 concur with Judy. Thank you so much for all the  
29 legwork and everything you've done, the consultation,  
30 calling the village. I really appreciate that, you  
31 know, when you're helping manage this resource and all  
32 the data gathering and everything you've been doing.

33

34 Thank you.

35

36 MR. BURCHAM: Thank you. I'll talk  
37 about the Seward District here. There's a little bit  
38 of change going on there. My counterpart who you've  
39 met at some of these meetings, Ruth D'Amico, lives in  
40 Moose Pass and works as the subsistence presence on the  
41 Kenai Peninsula. She actually took a detail to the  
42 Cordova district fisheries program this summer, so I  
43 was filling in for her much of the summer and she just  
44 has taken another detail basically heading the  
45 fisheries program in the absence of the fisheries  
46 program leader and will be there for the next three  
47 months. I don't know if this portends change in the  
48 future or not, but it's possible.

49

50 Anyway, I've been filling in for her

1 work and so has law enforcement on the Kenai, Forest  
2 Service law enforcement. In fact, they've been  
3 incredibly helpful in getting permits. We've held our  
4 typical meetings in Hope and Cooper Landing to issue  
5 fish dipnetting permits for the Russian River and  
6 caribou and moose permits for the hunts this season.

7  
8 As far as moose goes, 37 permits were  
9 issued for moose in Unit 7, 22 to residents of Cooper  
10 Landing. One moose was harvested by a resident of  
11 Cooper Landing. Sixteen permits were issued to  
12 residents of Hope and one moose was harvested by a  
13 resident of Hope. Harvesting a moose in Unit 7 is very  
14 difficult, as many of you on the Council are aware.  
15 It's just difficult. There was a spike fork or 50-inch  
16 and three brow tine requirement and given the  
17 population of moose and the structure of the bull  
18 population, it's just difficult to find legal moose,  
19 but two were harvested this year.

20  
21 Caribou. Nineteen Federal subsistence  
22 permits were issued for caribou in Unit 7 to the  
23 residents of Hope. No harvest to date. The season  
24 ends December 31st.

25  
26 As far as salmon goes, this was  
27 reported by Jeff Anderson from the Fish and Wildlife  
28 Service, 120 Federal subsistence permits were issued  
29 for the Kenai River, 80 permits were issued to the  
30 community of Cooper Landing, 28 permits issued to the  
31 community of Hope and 12 permits to the community of  
32 Ninilchik. Total harvest for the Kenai River was 1,178  
33 salmon, the majority of which was harvested in the  
34 Russian River dipnet fishery.

35  
36 I wanted to add there that as I  
37 mentioned earlier, the Forest Service has given Alaska  
38 Department of Fish and Game \$2,500 to conduct a survey  
39 in the Kings Bay area for moose and try to get a handle  
40 on that population.

41  
42 Any questions about the Seward District  
43 resources?

44  
45 (No comments)

46  
47 MR. BURCHAM: If not, I'll go on to two  
48 more items. One is special actions and the other is  
49 the delegated authority for the Cordova District  
50 Ranger. The special actions that we took this year,

1 first of all, one of them was by the Seward District  
2 Ranger through their delegated authority to modify or  
3 close seasons for wildlife. What they did this year  
4 was to set a quota on the number of spiked fork -- I'm  
5 sorry, fork antlered bulls taken. Spiked bulls were  
6 added in State regulation. Correct me if I'm wrong.  
7 Spiked bulls and not forked, correct?

8

9 MR. ENCELEWSKI: That's correct.

10

11 MR. BURCHAM: Yeah. Spiked bulls were  
12 added to State regulation this year. They were closed  
13 in previous years. What we did in Federal regulation  
14 was allow for a quota of three fork antlered bulls. A  
15 little additional opportunity. So, anyway, that was  
16 done in consultation with the affected RAC members and  
17 I got on the phone with Greg this summer and Doug  
18 Blossom, in fact, and they were supportive of doing  
19 that. So it was kind of a no-brainer and we went ahead  
20 with it and set that quota. So there was a little  
21 additional opportunity, but none of it was -- no fork  
22 antlered bulls were harvested. The two bulls that were  
23 taken by qualified rural residents were both over 50  
24 inches. They met that criteria.

25

26 Another special action that was taken,  
27 this was a request of the Board, not done by the  
28 delegated authority, was to open the Resurrection Creek  
29 closed area. You guys are taking action on a proposal  
30 to permanently do that, but for the second year in a  
31 row it took a special action. That was a fairly  
32 obvious decision since the State is now hunting there  
33 and even the residents of Hope are seeing the writing  
34 on the wall that it's probably necessary to open it in  
35 Federal regulations. Anyway, that was done by special  
36 action. One moose was harvested in that area by a Hope  
37 resident.

38

39 The third special action that was taken  
40 this year was to close the doe season in Federal  
41 regulation. Charlotte Westing with Alaska Department  
42 of Fish and Game issued an emergency order to close  
43 does starting November 1st in State regulation. What  
44 that did is it leaves does open for the whole season in  
45 Federal regulation. I thought it was necessary to do  
46 something in Federal regulation as well.

47

48 Basically the State -- in particular,  
49 the State regulation has no effect on Hawkins Island  
50 since almost all the harvest on Hawkins Island takes

1 place by Cordova residents. The decline of the deer  
2 population is throughout the Sound. It's not, you  
3 know, just in the western Sound even though it might be  
4 more extreme in the western Sound.

5  
6                   Anyway, what I did was went through a  
7 process of consulting the affected RAC members and  
8 tribes and this got a little bit complicated because of  
9 the government furlough. I was hoping to get this  
10 closure in place in the beginning of October so that  
11 rural residents would know that this is coming and have  
12 the opportunity to harvest does during the one month  
13 that they would have been legal in October.

14  
15                   But I talked to affected RAC members,  
16 which included Andy and Bob and two that aren't here,  
17 Tom Carpenter and Ralph Lohse, and two of the four  
18 fully supported it. You two did, in fact. The other  
19 two supported other forms of conservation, but not the  
20 complete closure at that date anyway. Then I talked to  
21 the affected tribal members and all three, Bob, through  
22 you -- help me.....

23  
24                   MR. MCLAUGHLIN: Larry Evanoff.

25  
26                   MR. BURCHAM: Larry Evanoff and then  
27 David Totemoff in Tatitlek all were completely  
28 supportive of the closure of does. So that's what we  
29 did. It wasn't without some controversy. I know Ralph  
30 Lohse and Tom Carpenter had a few different ideas and  
31 there was a couple of people, I consider them a  
32 minority, in town were very vocal and upset about it,  
33 but I've had many people complimentary and very  
34 supportive of what we did. We're trying to get to the  
35 good ol' days again in the Sound and get back to a  
36 healthier deer population.

37  
38                   What we're trying to avoid is a very  
39 heavy harvest of does if there's a snow, which can  
40 happen any time from now through the end of the season,  
41 at the end of the December. It's just not appropriate  
42 I don't feel at this point to take a large toll on the  
43 doe population while we're sitting at such low numbers.  
44 So that was the reasoning behind the closure.

45  
46                   Any questions on that or comments on  
47 how the process went? I wish Tom and Ralph were here  
48 for that. We can bring it back up if you guys thought  
49 necessary when Ralph comes back.

50

1 CHAIRWOMAN CAMINER: Greg's got a  
2 question.

3  
4 MR. ENCELEWSKI: Yeah, I don't have so  
5 much a question. Through the Chair. I just have a  
6 comment, Milo. Your special actions I want to commend  
7 you because I agreed with all of them. I thought that  
8 they were prudent decisions. You know I'm not one too  
9 much for special actions. I just wanted to say that.

10  
11 Thank you.

12  
13 MR. BURCHAM: Okay. Well, thank you  
14 very much. Then the delegated authority rears its ugly  
15 head again and it's not completed yet. We went through  
16 a long conversation at the winter meeting talking about  
17 that. I submitted the letter in August, a few months  
18 past, since we talked about it. Anyway, I submitted  
19 the letter. It appears to have gotten lost. I had not  
20 heard anything from Office of Subsistence Management as  
21 of sometime in September. Anyway, I was wondering  
22 where this process was going, so I think I called Chuck  
23 and he hadn't heard anything about it, so I resubmitted  
24 the letter in September and it's being acted on now.  
25 Do you want to say something, Chuck?

26  
27 MR. ARDIZZONE: I was just going to say  
28 I hadn't seen it, but we got it through the system, but  
29 it has gone before the Staff Committee. Steve is here.  
30 He might know more where it is in the process, but I  
31 know it was addressed at a recent meeting by the Staff  
32 Committee to further it along and give it to the Board,  
33 I believe.

34  
35 MR. BURCHAM: And what I'm referring to  
36 is delegated authority for the Cordova District Ranger,  
37 so it's being acted on now. I don't have it as a tool  
38 to use this season, which is why I had to go through an  
39 emergency special action request to close the doe  
40 season. Anyway, there still are a few issues and one  
41 that I'll pose to the Council. Do you want to say  
42 anything first, Steve?

43  
44 MR. KESSLER: You're probably going to  
45 say what I was going to say.

46  
47 MR. BURCHAM: Okay. So when I went to  
48 write the letter, I even went through the transcripts,  
49 which were lengthy, of our discussion and I know a lot  
50 of you had some heartfelt thoughts on that and

1 concerns, but I wanted to capture it all. As a result  
2 of the meeting, your Council wrote a letter signed by  
3 Ralph Lohse representing your thoughts on it. That  
4 letter talked about supporting a delegated authority  
5 for moose.

6  
7 Now my memory of the conversation that  
8 we had was that wildlife -- a delegated authority for  
9 all wildlife is what we were talking about. That was  
10 my memory. I went through the transcripts of that  
11 conversation and, indeed, we were discussing a  
12 delegated authority for all wildlife in our  
13 conversation. So I wanted to go back to you guys and  
14 make sure because it will be a little difference in the  
15 end result there. I still think it's important to have  
16 a delegated authority for all wildlife. This deer  
17 issue this season is an example of that.

18  
19 I don't want to speak for you. I  
20 wanted to see if that letter was basically an oversight  
21 or if it was an intentional thought to steer that  
22 delegated authority to be only for moose. I don't know  
23 if you guys would like to vote on that or take action  
24 on it, but I think it's important.

25  
26 What I've done is left it to the Board,  
27 presenting your letter and what it said and our  
28 conversation and what was represented in the  
29 transcripts, but I don't want to make that call for  
30 you. It would be easier for the Board, I'm sure, if  
31 you could speak to that now.

32  
33 CHAIRWOMAN CAMINER: I'd have to go  
34 back to my notes from last year from our meeting to  
35 remember our precise discussion. Do other people have  
36 a particular memory of the delegation? Do you or,  
37 Donald, do you have some info on it or Greg?

38  
39 MR. ENCELEWSKI: Well, my comment was,  
40 Milo, and I know your delegation was a little  
41 different. Ours was very specific with Andy down on  
42 the moose and we were trying to keep that very specific  
43 and reviewable, just the moose, so it didn't cover all  
44 the species. That was my recollection of the Kenai  
45 one. Yours, I think, was a little more broader. That  
46 was my recollection.

47  
48 CHAIRWOMAN CAMINER: I'm sorry, Greg.  
49 I was reading this and sort of missed part of what you  
50 said. I think our discussion was more on having

1 adequate time once a special action was being  
2 considered for review. We were also asking that -- and  
3 this may be what Greg said, sorry -- that the current  
4 delegations of authorities be part of an overall review  
5 process. We also had mentioned kind of a sunset clause  
6 for some of them.

7

8 MR. BURCHAM: Yes. And that was the  
9 next thing I was going to bring up. I captured that in  
10 the letter also that you had concerns and even  
11 suggested a time limit. That's before the Board in  
12 this request. When they're making this, they'll have  
13 that information, that that was a concern of yours.  
14 Specifically, there was a discrepancy between your  
15 letter and my memory of it and what I think the  
16 transcripts say as to whether this delegated authority  
17 request is for moose or for all wildlife and I think  
18 that's an important one.

19

20 CHAIRWOMAN CAMINER: It is and Donald  
21 brought the letter here. It's not the complete  
22 solution because it says moose, to protect moose/deer  
23 population. So, I mean I would assume, but I need to  
24 check with the Council, that we're talking about all  
25 wildlife because, obviously.....

26

27 MR. BURCHAM: And when I say for all  
28 wildlife and delegated authority, you realize that it  
29 involves the same level of consultation that we've gone  
30 through before and whatever species it was, we would go  
31 through the same process especially with tribal  
32 members, affected tribal organizations, tribal  
33 governments, excuse me, Bob, and also affected RAC  
34 members.

35

36 CHAIRWOMAN CAMINER: Greg.

37

38 MR. ENCELEWSKI: My comment on that  
39 was, you know, we went through great debate on this as  
40 we all know.

41

42 MR. BURCHAM: Oh, yeah.

43

44 MR. ENCELEWSKI: And part of the great  
45 debate was from the Kenai side of it. Never was  
46 intentionally give delegation of authority for all  
47 wildlife. I mean to me that would be -- I mean you  
48 wouldn't need us. That was my argument. You don't  
49 need a RAC. You just need one delegated authority and  
50 call us once in a while. And we wanted a sunset

1 clause. In your case, we knew that you had the deer  
2 and the rest of it and I remember we went into moose  
3 and deer.....

4  
5 MR. BURCHAM: And black bears and  
6 mountain goats. There's conservation issues with  
7 various species.

8  
9 MR. ENCELEWSKI: Yeah. And I  
10 personally felt that that was a separate delegation for  
11 each, but that was my thought. I'm not sure how yours  
12 come out. So, anyway.

13  
14 CHAIRWOMAN CAMINER: I guess just to  
15 review so we don't get caught up in the specifics of  
16 the species, once again, I believe our concern last  
17 year was we wanted notification and for the person with  
18 delegated authority to seek consensus with the Council  
19 Chair and we also wanted a review process in general  
20 for delegation of authority letters.

21  
22 MR. BURCHAM: And those are both  
23 captured in the request exactly as you're saying. I  
24 don't think there's any dispute on that.

25  
26 CHAIRWOMAN CAMINER: Andy.

27  
28 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: Madame Chair. I like  
29 the sunset clause as well. I was going to mention  
30 that. I'm glad you brought that back up again.  
31 Somebody such as yourself, who is a consulting type  
32 person, might not be in your position in the future.  
33 You're going to go away somebody and there's going to  
34 be somebody else who might not follow that type of  
35 thing. I like the idea of reevaluating this again in  
36 the future.

37  
38 CHAIRWOMAN CAMINER: I guess our  
39 concern with our annual report last year is -- well, we  
40 tried to express that and it really didn't get  
41 resolved, so I'm glad you're bringing it up again  
42 because I think we do need to have further discussion.  
43 Not through the annual report, but, again, maybe one or  
44 two people on our Council can work with OSM and Forest  
45 Service to talk about our concerns about delegation of  
46 authorities.

47  
48 MR. BURCHAM: That's clearly captured  
49 and in front of the Board in the decision-making  
50 process for this delegated authority, your concerns are

1 loud and clear on the thought of a sunset clause or a  
2 review or a time limit. That's well known. I do want  
3 to resolve this discrepancy between your letter, which  
4 refers to moose mostly and all wildlife.

5  
6 CHAIRWOMAN CAMINER: Council comments  
7 on that. Mary Ann.

8  
9 MS. MILLS: I do like the review  
10 process and also the sunset clause.

11  
12 MR. BURCHAM: Thank you.

13  
14 CHAIRWOMAN CAMINER: Andy -- or Greg.

15  
16 MR. ENCELEWSKI: Yeah, I know it might  
17 be kind of cumbersome, but I mean I think that if you  
18 have -- you may want to take a look at resubmitting  
19 that and spell out specifically what you wanted in  
20 there.

21  
22 MR. BURCHAM: Well, I have, but I think  
23 -- I would like clarification from the Council over  
24 what you would like to see in terms of what species  
25 this affects. I think the Board would like to hear  
26 that. It would make their job easier.

27  
28 MR. ENCELEWSKI: Okay. Now you're  
29 going to make me talk more.

30  
31 (Laughter)

32  
33 MR. ENCELEWSKI: I was trying to stay  
34 away from that. One of the things that concerns me in  
35 the delegation of authority and I mentioned that to my  
36 fellow RAC members is, you know, it's basically giving  
37 the in-season manager the authority to open and close  
38 the seasons. They try and call you. Sometimes they  
39 get you, sometimes they don't. Sometimes local  
40 knowledge has good information that could help and be  
41 shared on that, so that's part of the whole process.

42  
43 You know, I know from my village and  
44 from Ninilchik area, people are real leery of giving  
45 away delegations of authorities to manage things. When  
46 there's a set process, there's a set thing to be  
47 brought to emergency actions, yes. But, anyway, we  
48 wanted ours very limited on moose and that was the  
49 Kenai portion.

50

1                   Now on your situation, I don't see why  
2 it couldn't come back as a specific thing, but I truly  
3 do believe it should be reviewed every year. That's my  
4 thought.

5  
6                   CHAIRWOMAN CAMINER: Andy.

7  
8                   MR. MCLAUGHLIN: I kind of like keeping  
9 it at the species specific moose and deer, like the  
10 letter stated. I recall Mr. Blossom and other things  
11 from the previous three years about the whole Kenai  
12 delegation issue and I'm like, whoa, red flag.

13  
14                  CHAIRWOMAN CAMINER: Gloria.

15  
16                  MS. STICKWAN: He mentioned other  
17 species like bear were conservation concern. I just  
18 wondered if you wanted to add that in there.

19  
20                  CHAIRWOMAN CAMINER: Milo, did you have  
21 a comment?

22  
23                  MR. BURCHAM: Most importantly,  
24 especially given very pertinent recent history, deer  
25 and moose I think in the very least would be important  
26 to have. Deer, in coming years, hopefully the deer  
27 population will be recovering, but I think there still  
28 might be need to react on very short notice, say after  
29 a big snow event. Having delegated authority for deer  
30 I think would give us the ability to react quickly to  
31 certain situations like that and just give us a lot  
32 more flexibility and allow us to give subsistence users  
33 more opportunity rather than close the season like we  
34 have this year for does on November 1st. We may be able  
35 to leave it open longer as long as we can avoid heavy  
36 hunter harvest or when deer are forced to the beach  
37 after big snowfalls.

38  
39                  So, in the very least, I think it would  
40 be helpful to have delegated authority for moose and  
41 deer. Bears are a new subject that's coming open and  
42 you're dealing with a proposal in front of you right  
43 now that might open a bear season with a quota and we  
44 know there's conservation concerns for bears in general  
45 in Prince William Sound. So that would be another  
46 species to possibly consider. You always try to  
47 predict what's coming ahead, but what happens is  
48 something you never saw and that seems to happen over  
49 and over again and that's my reasoning for asking for  
50 the authority for all wildlife.

1 In the very least, deer and moose are  
2 the species we're working with day in, day out and I  
3 think that would be really important.

4  
5 CHAIRWOMAN CAMINER: Bob.

6  
7 MR. HENRICHS: It seems to me like a  
8 few years ago we put in a Federal subsistence hunt for  
9 does earlier than the State doe hunt and they had to go  
10 up and get the permits from Forest Service and the fish  
11 and game was going ballistic and all of a sudden they  
12 changed theirs back to match what we put in. Our  
13 reasoning was we're meat hunters, we're not trophy  
14 hunters. Do you recall anything about that?

15  
16 MR. BURCHAM: No, I don't. That would  
17 predate me.

18  
19 MR. HENRICHS: It may have. You're  
20 just a short-timer.

21  
22 (Laughter)

23  
24 MR. BURCHAM: Yeah, at 12 years in  
25 Cordova with the Forest Service I do feel like a  
26 newcomer still, given how long the residents have been  
27 there and even people in my office sometimes.

28  
29 CHAIRWOMAN CAMINER: Andy.

30  
31 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: While this is being  
32 discussed, I'm curious how would that delegation of  
33 authority make things different for you on this recent  
34 this year closure on the does?

35  
36 MR. BURCHAM: What it could have done  
37 is sped up the process. I could have got the closure -  
38 - and I believe we're doing the right thing November  
39 1st even if this is a warm fall and we don't get the  
40 snow right away, it will happen before the end of the  
41 season and I think there's still a strong conservation  
42 concern. So what I could have done is basically issued  
43 the closure. I would have consulted you all just the  
44 same way I did and possibly modified it as a result of  
45 what I heard back and I could have had the closure in  
46 place at the end of September or early October and  
47 given people more time to plan on it.

48  
49 Or, if I heard different comments or  
50 more dissension in opinion from the people I consulted,

1 I could have not gone with the closure and with  
2 emergency action just closed it if a snow event took  
3 place. It would have given me more opportunity. Given  
4 the information that I had and the consultation that I  
5 had with you guys, I could have got this in place at  
6 the end of September and given people more advanced  
7 notice to plan.

8

9 CHAIRWOMAN CAMINER: Chuck, do you have  
10 something.

11

12 MR. ARDIZZONE: Madame Chair. I was  
13 just going to help with this answer. So Milo had to  
14 submit it to our office, so our office had to analyze  
15 the proposed special action, had to go before the Staff  
16 Committee, which all that takes time, you know,  
17 multiple weeks. Whereas if it's a delegated authority,  
18 Milo, he can do it much quicker. He can write the  
19 analysis himself, consult and take action versus having  
20 to run it through our office and all the other staff  
21 that it has to go through. If the Staff Committee had  
22 agreed, it would have gone to the Board and that would  
23 add another week or so. So it's a much more timely  
24 response if there's a delegated authority.

25

26 CHAIRWOMAN CAMINER: Greg.

27

28 MR. ENCELEWSKI: I understand the more  
29 timely and the rest of it. I still have a concern and  
30 that concern being that one of the things is we don't  
31 ask you to be -- you know, tell us the future, but to  
32 pre-plan and to be able to kind of foresee. I mean  
33 you've got the heavy snow, whatever, and the RAC can  
34 make adjustments to the seasons and hunts and then  
35 there's always, you know, the managers have the right  
36 to close seasons. That's kind of my other point.

37

38 Thank you.

39

40 MR. BURCHAM: Yeah, I understand. I  
41 want to clarify. Steve just pointed out I might be  
42 saying I could close or this or that. It's the Cordova  
43 District Ranger that will have that delegated  
44 authority, not myself. We, of course, will be advising  
45 the Cordova District Ranger.

46

47 CHAIRWOMAN CAMINER: Well, in terms of  
48 consistency, we did say moose and deer last year and it  
49 sounds like that would be acceptable for most of us at  
50 this point. I guess one -- I mean you brought up a

1 good point about the bear with this new hunt. Andy, do  
2 you have a thought on that?

3

4 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: I like the moose and  
5 deer thing and I like, say, a five year renewal.

6

7 CHAIRWOMAN CAMINER: Let's see,  
8 previously I guess we did just say we would like the  
9 Board to place time limits on these delegations.

10

11 MR. BURCHAM: And that information is  
12 before the Board right now, your exact letter is, and I  
13 captured that in my request as well.

14

15 CHAIRWOMAN CAMINER: Okay. Really, I  
16 think in terms of our comments, the most important  
17 comment, which I don't think has become lost at all, is  
18 that the RAC or the local residents want consultation  
19 in a timely way, but also understanding that even in  
20 our instantaneous age everybody is not reachable that  
21 moment, you know, allow for a reasonable amount of time  
22 to reach people to ask in that consultation when  
23 possible.

24

25 MR. BURCHAM: That's what I bent over  
26 backwards to do.

27

28 CHAIRWOMAN CAMINER: Right. And then  
29 secondly we would like a review, a set time period.  
30 Gloria.

31

32 MS. STICKWAN: A question. If Ralph is  
33 not available, then who would they contact next.

34

35 CHAIRWOMAN CAMINER: Well, I probably  
36 shouldn't answer for you, but I mean it certainly  
37 depends what area it's in also and maybe Tom gets  
38 contacted a lot. I don't really know. I know Greg has  
39 been contacted. Andy has been contacted.

40

41 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: I think the wording  
42 was set at affected RAC members.

43

44 MR. BURCHAM: Yes.

45

46 CHAIRWOMAN CAMINER: Greg.

47

48 MR. ENCELEWSKI: Yeah, I believe it's  
49 affected RAC members, but I think it's the Chair they  
50 notify. They're just being kind and notifying the rest

1 of us.

2

3 CHAIRWOMAN CAMINER: Well, perhaps the  
4 Chair asks that as well or it makes common sense. Is  
5 that enough clarification for you or some clarification  
6 for you, Milo?

7

8 MR. BURCHAM: Would the Council want to  
9 take a vote on the language for deer and moose for what  
10 they would like to see for delegated authority?

11

12 CHAIRWOMAN CAMINER: If that's helpful  
13 for getting this through the Board process.

14

15 MR. BURCHAM: Yeah, I think that's  
16 easier than saying Judy said, Andy said.....

17

18 CHAIRWOMAN CAMINER: Okay.

19

20 MR. BURCHAM: If the Council came up  
21 with a unified response, if you are unified on this, I  
22 think that would be helpful.

23

24 CHAIRWOMAN CAMINER: I guess I'd also  
25 suggest since we mentioned time limit in our letter  
26 before, Greg said one, Andy said five. Since the  
27 wildlife cycle is two years, it seems like maybe at  
28 least two years would be reasonable. Let someone make  
29 a motion.

30

31 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: I would make a motion  
32 to include the wording with two year renewal on deer  
33 and moose.

34

35 CHAIRWOMAN CAMINER: Chuck.

36

37 MR. ARDIZZONE: Madame Chair. I was  
38 just going to suggest maybe a little bit longer, maybe  
39 four or six years. Two years, I mean that's basically  
40 every wildlife cycle we'd have to review it, which -- I  
41 don't know. It's up to you, but I was just thinking a  
42 little bit longer would be better and make it a  
43 two-year increment, whatever that is.

44

45 CHAIRWOMAN CAMINER: Excuse me. I know  
46 one -- I thought that we had last time, which was  
47 expressed again this time, is some of this, quite  
48 honestly, is personality driven. So one thing we  
49 talked about last time was as personnel change, that  
50 might be the time to review the delegation of

1 authority. I think for this one we need to be a little  
2 specific and say we are talking about the Cordova  
3 District Ranger's delegation of authority. Gloria.

4

5 MS. STICKWAN: I guess I have a  
6 question about the changes we're going to make now. He  
7 said there's a letter before the Board, so our new  
8 changes, how will that -- will that be a new letter or  
9 a change to our existing letter?

10

11 CHAIRWOMAN CAMINER: Chuck, how would  
12 you transmit this information to the Board?

13

14 MR. ARDIZZONE: I'd just say, Madame  
15 Chair, the Board has not acted on the delegation  
16 request, so if the RAC takes some action here, I'll  
17 ensure with the help of Donald that it makes it before  
18 the Board before they make any decision on the  
19 delegation letter. It could be a simple short letter  
20 that we took a vote at this meeting, this is what the  
21 RAC recommends.

22

23 CHAIRWOMAN CAMINER: Donald.

24

25 MR. MIKE: Thank you, Madame Chair. If  
26 the Council passes this motion and the letter is sent  
27 out, we can just refer to February 2013 letter  
28 delegation of authority that the Council approved.

29

30 Thank you, Madame Chair.

31

32 CHAIRWOMAN CAMINER: Okay. So Andy  
33 started to make a motion, but we really (turned off  
34 mic).

35

36 MR. JOHNSON: I think it's also a good  
37 opportunity to refer to the Federal Subsistence Board's  
38 annual report reply because the Board expressed some  
39 confusion about your desire and one of the things  
40 suggested in that reply is transmitting a letter about  
41 specific issues related to a specific delegation, which  
42 is what it sounds like you're doing here, so the Board  
43 has already invited you to essentially communicate this  
44 letter to the Board.

45

46 Thank you, Madame Chair.

47

48 CHAIRWOMAN CAMINER: Thanks. Although  
49 that opens it up to perhaps we have comments on other  
50 specific delegations, but we won't go there this

1 moment, I think.

2

3 Carl.

4

5 MR. JOHNSON: And, actually, there's  
6 two approaches the Board suggests. One is if you have  
7 general comments about delegated authority in general,  
8 you can comment on that, but also if you have specific  
9 concerns about a specific delegation, you can  
10 communicate that. So you can do both, Madame Chair.

11

12 CHAIRWOMAN CAMINER: Okay. Very good.  
13 So could we -- we had a motion, but it wasn't seconded,  
14 so is there perhaps -- now that we've been given a bit  
15 more of advice, perhaps a little bit more comprehensive  
16 motion available.

17

18 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: Yeah, that wasn't  
19 seconded, so I would make a motion to -- I'll rescind  
20 that motion, but I agree the four year as a time as  
21 more reasonable for, you know, a reevaluation or  
22 renewal of that delegation of authority. I still would  
23 specifically support it being specie specific in the  
24 Chugach Region according to this one, not blanket, for  
25 the deer and the moose.

26

27 CHAIRWOMAN CAMINER: A motion has been  
28 made regarding the delegation of authority to the  
29 Cordova District.

30

31 MR. HENRICHS: Second.

32

33 CHAIRWOMAN CAMINER: And Bob seconded  
34 it. Is there some more discussion on this. Gloria.

35

36 MS. STICKWAN: Did he use the word  
37 review? Is that different from sunset clause?

38

39 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: No. I used the word  
40 renewal, so the delegation of authority would have to  
41 be renewed in a four-year.

42

43 CHAIRWOMAN CAMINER: With renewal we'll  
44 assume includes review. Renew and review in four  
45 years. Comments.

46

47 MR. ENCELEWSKI: I guess my only  
48 comment is I'm going to oppose it and I'm going to  
49 oppose it because of the four year and the delegation  
50 of authority of the other things I talked about

1 earlier.

2

3 Thank you.

4

5 CHAIRWOMAN CAMINER: Okay. Any other

6 comments.

7

8 (No comments)

9

10 CHAIRWOMAN CAMINER: Okay. So the  
11 motion is for the Cordova District only four-year  
12 delegation of authority for moose and deer with  
13 renewal, us understanding that to mean also review, in  
14 four years by the RAC and others for approval. Carl.

15

16 MR. JOHNSON: Never mind.

17

18 MR. HENRICHS: Question.

19

20 CHAIRWOMAN CAMINER: The question has  
21 been called. All those in favor say aye.

22

23 IN UNISON: Aye.

24

25 CHAIRWOMAN CAMINER: Any opposed.

26

27 IN UNISON: Opposed.

28

29 CHAIRWOMAN CAMINER: I think we better  
30 do a show of hands because I think that may have  
31 failed. All those in favor signify by saying -- or  
32 raise your hands, please. That's three. Okay. And  
33 opposed. Four opposed.

34

35 MR. ENCELEWSKI: Can't the Chairman  
36 vote to make a tie or break a tie?

37

38 CHAIRWOMAN CAMINER: I can vote, but a  
39 tie would fail too. Could we make another motion,  
40 please.

41

42 MR. ENCELEWSKI: Madame Chair. I would  
43 make a motion for the same motion, but for a two-year  
44 period only, with the review brought back less than two  
45 years.

46

47 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: Second.

48

49 CHAIRWOMAN CAMINER: Any discussion on  
50 this motion with the two-year sunset review clause.

1 James.

2

3 MR. SHOWALTER: Yeah, I voted for the  
4 four year because the motion came from an individual  
5 from the area and my thought was that they know more  
6 about it than I do in this area.

7

8 CHAIRWOMAN CAMINER: Thank you.

9

10 MR. HENRICHS: Question.

11

12 CHAIRWOMAN CAMINER: The question has  
13 been called. So all those in favor of recommending to  
14 the Federal Subsistence Board delegation of authority  
15 to the Cordova District Manager for deer and moose for  
16 a two-year period.....

17

18 MR. BURCHAM: You may include for the  
19 Cordova Ranger District if you want to specify an area.

20

21 CHAIRWOMAN CAMINER: Right. For the  
22 Cordova Ranger District with the two-year renewal and  
23 review in consultation with the RAC and others. All  
24 those in favor please say aye.

25

26 IN UNISON: Aye.

27

28 CHAIRWOMAN CAMINER: All opposed same  
29 sign.

30

31 (No opposing votes)

32

33 CHAIRWOMAN CAMINER: Okay. Motion  
34 passes with a two-year review then. I still would  
35 like, Chuck, maybe one or two members of the RAC to  
36 talk to OSM about other delegations of authority where  
37 we might suggest sunset reviews. Maybe just let me  
38 ask, does the RAC want to talk about or make a motion  
39 having to do with as personnel change who have these  
40 letters of authority, delegated authority, do we want  
41 to say anything about that. Greg.

42

43 MR. ENCELEWSKI: Well, Judy, I think we  
44 really need a little work session, a little talk, a  
45 little homework and we need to talk to our home regions  
46 and other things on delegation of authorities. I've  
47 been advised by my council and others that they're  
48 really opposed to delegating authorities, also by our  
49 attorneys and that's one of the reasons. I mean I  
50 didn't want to get into it, but I think we need to kind

1 of think this thing through and do a little studying on  
2 it. I'm fine. I think we're covered for now. I would  
3 prefer we bring it up at another meeting.

4

5 CHAIRWOMAN CAMINER: Okay. So Donald  
6 will add that to our next meeting. For those who would  
7 like to, maybe there's some pre-work that can be done  
8 before that meeting to prepare for that. Okay, thank  
9 you. Gloria.

10

11 MS. STICKWAN: I don't know if we added  
12 that on there, but maybe we want to add that to the  
13 Southeast joint meeting too.

14

15 CHAIRWOMAN CAMINER: Yeah, that's a  
16 good suggestion. We can add it to the joint meeting  
17 because they may or may not have similar concerns.  
18 Chuck.

19

20 MR. ARDIZZONE: Madame Chair. I was  
21 going to say that the Southeast takes a different  
22 stance. They just went through this process of  
23 delegation of authority letters for their regions, so  
24 they would have really good insight on what their  
25 opinions are. It seems to be a little different than  
26 this Council's.

27

28 MS. STICKWAN: How is it different?

29

30 MR. ARDIZZONE: Madame Chair. I'm not  
31 -- I can't remember all the specifics, but their  
32 district rangers or delegated authorities are for deer,  
33 moose and several other species down there and they're  
34 all on a letter like we're proposing for here. Bob  
35 might be able to speak to it a little bit better. He's  
36 more familiar with what's gone through the Southeast  
37 RAC.

38

39 MR. LARSON: The Southeast Council  
40 actually asked for the Forest Service District Rangers,  
41 the land managers, to have in-season management  
42 authority and it's been assigned to all fish, but it's  
43 not all wildlife. So it's deer and moose and goats and  
44 wolves. So it's.....

45

46 MR. ARDIZZONE: (Away from microphone)

47

48 MR. LARSON: Right. It's assigned to  
49 the position, so it's not assigned to a person. It  
50 doesn't really matter. Positions change fairly

1 regularly. There's actings and there's people moving  
2 in and out, so you never know from day to day who the  
3 person is that is going to be charged with making a  
4 decision.

5  
6 In the briefing document that you saw  
7 from Cathy and Bert, there's a list of in-season  
8 actions that have been initiated this calendar year.  
9 We put that in there for an example of the kind of  
10 things that are faced on an emergency basis in the  
11 Southeast region.

12  
13 One of the things that is somewhat an  
14 issue, but it's not specific and the Council really is  
15 for sort of working around it is, well, where does the  
16 direction come. At what point do you do an in-season  
17 action.

18  
19 So the idea of having a Council's  
20 directed management plan that provides some direction  
21 to in-season managers, that is -- well, we did that  
22 with Yakutat moose and we said this is the conditions  
23 that we'd like to see. This is the conditions that we  
24 have right now. Until we move from this to that, this  
25 is the process we're going to work through for working  
26 with the State and the Council approved that process  
27 and it works. Once we have a quota established and a  
28 moose hunt that's closed, it seems to be pretty  
29 seamless and that's because it's gotten approval for  
30 that process from the RAC well in advance of any kind  
31 of action.

32  
33 CHAIRWOMAN CAMINER: Chuck.

34  
35 MR. ARDIZZONE: And the other  
36 difference is those letters are in place. There's no  
37 set review cycle. If the RAC wanted them reviewed,  
38 they could ask for that, but there's no like two years  
39 we're going to review it.

40  
41 CHAIRWOMAN CAMINER: My observation for  
42 Southeast is that so many communities have Forest  
43 Service people living in them and Fish and Game people  
44 living in them, so it's somewhat different in some of  
45 our communities too. But I think that would be a good  
46 topic to speak jointly with. Steve.

47  
48 MR. KESSLER: Just to add a little bit  
49 more. So what we do in Southeast is we're very careful  
50 about giving the Council a report on all actions that

1 were taken using our delegated authority every year.  
2 Just as proposed here, that delegated authority  
3 requires us to consult with tribes, with appropriate  
4 Regional Advisory Council members, with the Chairman,  
5 all that is exactly the same thing, but the key is we  
6 give a report, a detailed report on the actions that  
7 are taken so there's an opportunity for feedback with  
8 the Council. The Council knows exactly what we've  
9 done.

10  
11 If the Council has concerns with what  
12 we've done, we take that back to our managers who are  
13 responsible for those in-season actions and we'll  
14 modify if we need to, we'll change. It's more of this  
15 sort of loop process of manage, monitor, review and  
16 keep doing that, but it doesn't require that these  
17 delegation letters be rewritten. They're good  
18 indefinitely. But if the Council's got concern, we  
19 know it and the Council, of course, can always  
20 communicate with the Board on any specific issues.

21  
22 Again, I think you heard that the  
23 impetus for these letters in Southeast actually was the  
24 Council. The Council wanted this to happen, so now  
25 every single one of our 10 District Rangers on the  
26 Tongass National Forest have both fish and wildlife  
27 authorities within their districts.

28  
29 CHAIRWOMAN CAMINER: Greg.

30  
31 MR. ENCELEWSKI: No, I think it's  
32 obvious -- I mean you're all in favor of it for  
33 Southeast and whatever and I think we made our case  
34 here. I still think we need our review, so I stand by  
35 where I stand. Whatever the Chair wants to do, that's  
36 fine. I'm going to have to leave here in about 10  
37 minutes.

38  
39 Thank you.

40  
41 CHAIRWOMAN CAMINER: Bob.

42  
43 MR. HENRICHS: You know, it almost  
44 seemed like the Staff is trying to herd us around in a  
45 certain direction here and I don't like it. I've known  
46 Bert Adams for years and he's a great guy. I know a  
47 lot of the Southeast RAC members. I've gone to several  
48 Southeast RAC meetings and I could care less how they  
49 do things at Southeast. We're going to do things here  
50 our way. That's my feeling.

1 CHAIRWOMAN CAMINER: Chuck.  
2  
3 MR. ARDIZZONE: Madame Chair. I  
4 apologize if it feels like we're trying to herd you.  
5 We're just trying to inform you of how things are done  
6 in other areas. We don't mean to push the Council in  
7 one direction or another. I apologize.  
8  
9 MS. STICKWAN: We asked the question,  
10 so I guess it's kind of -- I just wanted to know. I  
11 don't think the Staff was trying to herd us around.  
12  
13 CHAIRWOMAN CAMINER: Before Greg  
14 leaves, Milo, did you have other items to cover with  
15 us?  
16  
17 MR. BURCHAM: I'm sorry for belaboring  
18 this issue, but I thought it was important to get  
19 clarity so there's no discrepancy in your letter and  
20 the request in front of the Board. That concludes my  
21 presentation on the Chugach National Forest and thanks  
22 very much for your time.  
23  
24 CHAIRWOMAN CAMINER: Thank you. And I  
25 did notice you reported back on special actions and,  
26 yeah, I think we would like to see that from other  
27 agencies as well. So that will be some follow up from  
28 this RAC that asked for that in future agendas.  
29  
30 Greg.  
31  
32 MR. ENCELEWSKI: I just had one  
33 question because I'm a little bit confused here and I  
34 know I need to do some more homework. The managers  
35 have in-season management emergency authorities on some  
36 things, do they not?  
37  
38 MR. ARDIZZONE: Madame Chair. Managers  
39 for wildlife do not have in-season management authority  
40 unless it's been delegated, so they can't take their  
41 own actions unless it's been delegated. There are some  
42 delegations in the CFRs and the regulations. Some are  
43 on letter, but they can't just take in-season  
44 management actions. That's kind of a fish thing. When  
45 the fish program got set up, they were delegated that  
46 authority in the beginning and wildlife was not set up  
47 that way.  
48  
49 MR. ENCELEWSKI: Okay. That helps me.  
50

1 Thank you.

2

3 CHAIRWOMAN CAMINER: Several people  
4 have to leave. I just wanted to ask maybe Carl or  
5 Chuck or Donald, the Cook Inlet subsistence season  
6 summary, is that separate from what -- is that a  
7 different presentation? I didn't know whether we  
8 wanted to try to do that before Greg and Mary Ann have  
9 to leave.

10

11 MR. MIKE: I think we have Staff on  
12 behalf of -- are you going to speak on it? We have  
13 Staff in the Refuge to speak on that summary.

14

15 MR. ANDERSON: Madame Chair. This is  
16 Jeff Anderson on the phone and able to give this  
17 presentation if it pleases the Council.

18

19 CHAIRWOMAN CAMINER: Yes, I think it  
20 would be important for Mary Ann and Greg to hear before  
21 they head out, so if you could, that would be great.

22

23 Thank you.

24

25 MR. ANDERSON: Thank you, Madame Chair.  
26 I apologize for not attending in person. Previous  
27 commitments prevented me from being there, but I hope  
28 to be at the March meeting to give more of a formal  
29 introduction. I have a quick summary report to talk  
30 about, but I guess briefly I'll give you a little  
31 background.

32

33 I replaced Doug Palmer as the field  
34 supervisor in the Kenai Fish and Wildlife Field Office  
35 for the Service and also as the Cook Inlet Federal in-  
36 season manager. I've been in the Kenai office here  
37 since 2009 as a supervisory fishery biologist. Prior  
38 to that I was with the Fish and Wildlife Service  
39 Fishery Program in the Anchorage Field Office and also  
40 out in King Salmon for about five years before they  
41 closed the office out there. Prior to that I worked  
42 for tribal government in Idaho, working on salmon and  
43 steelhead recovery efforts.

44

45 Just a quick report that's on Page 268  
46 of your booklet there. I think Milo briefly talked  
47 about the permits issued and harvest numbers  
48 specifically for the Kenai River, which included the  
49 Russian River dipnet fishery. My tables also include  
50 numbers for the permits issues for the Kasilof River

1 and also harvest for the Kasilof River fishery. We did  
2 issue a total of 142 permits in 2013, which is very  
3 similar to the previous few years. Overall harvest was  
4 also similar, but, as Milo mentioned, we're still  
5 waiting for harvest cards to be returned, so these data  
6 are preliminary at this point. We have a total of  
7 about 1,276 fish that were reported through early  
8 September when I prepared this report.

9

10 Of interest also, the Kasilof River  
11 fish wheel fishery became part of the published  
12 regulations in 2013. The Ninilchik Traditional Council  
13 did operate a wheel, but they were not successful again  
14 this year and I'm awaiting a final report on that.

15

16 For in-season management, we did  
17 actually have to take three emergency special actions  
18 this year and also they were all related to the early  
19 run chinook salmon on the Kenai River. Runs have  
20 declined in the past few years and resulted ultimately  
21 in the closure of the subsistence fishery for chinook  
22 salmon on Federal public waters of the Kenai River  
23 drainage. There was ample time to communicate with  
24 Chairman Lohse and other RAC members prior to issuing  
25 the special action and also to talk to other affected  
26 subsistence users specifically with the Ninilchik  
27 Traditional Council and also worked with the Alaska  
28 Department of Fish and Game.

29

30 I think that's it for my report and I'd  
31 be happy to answer any questions.

32

33 CHAIRWOMAN CAMINER: Any questions for  
34 Jeff from the Council. Greg.

35

36 MR. ENCELEWSKI: I was just going to  
37 thank you for your consultation. I know you did get a  
38 hold of the tribe. This is Greg Encelewski and we did  
39 talk about all this stuff ahead of time.

40

41 Thank you.

42

43 CHAIRWOMAN CAMINER: Thanks, Jeff. I'm  
44 noticing that these numbers on the table certainly  
45 don't pose any threat to the health of the fisheries  
46 population, so that's good news.

47

48 We have another presentation from Fish  
49 and Wildlife.

50

1 MR. ESKELIN: Thank you, Madame Chair.  
2 Todd Eskelin. I introduced myself the first day of the  
3 meeting from the Kenai Refuge. Manager Andy and Steve  
4 wished they could be here, but couldn't. As I said,  
5 they sent me as a sacrificial lamb. I only say that  
6 jokingly. We have had several issues that have come up  
7 in the last month, so we've been pretty busy.

8  
9 I have four topics to talk to you guys  
10 about. One was just the 2013 subsistence moose hunting  
11 season so far. We have an early season and a late  
12 season. The late season is currently still going on.  
13 We have most of the results back from the early season.  
14 It was pretty much just an average year as far as the  
15 harvest goes.

16  
17 Over the last 10 years or so we had 54  
18 permits issued for the early season and that was kind  
19 of distributed 30 to Ninilchik, 20 to Cooper Landing  
20 and 4 to Seldovia. Reported 25 of those 54 that  
21 actually hunted; 19 from Ninilchik, 3 from Cooper  
22 Landing and 3 from Seldovia. The harvest was 5 moose,  
23 4 from Ninilchik and 1 from Seldovia residents. That's  
24 pretty much right on the average.

25  
26 Another important note there is that  
27 all five of those moose would not have been legal using  
28 the current general hunting regs under State regs.  
29 There was certainly the three brow tine rule and the  
30 fork rule came into effect positively for subsistence  
31 hunters this year.

32  
33 Some of these numbers are misleading  
34 and I'm sure Councilman Encelewski can speak to this  
35 too. There's probably a lot of Ninilchik members who  
36 don't bother to go get a subsistence permit and just  
37 hunt under the general hunting permit, but in this case  
38 subsistence did provide certainly a positive advantage  
39 for those hunters.

40  
41 In the late season, we really rushed to  
42 get permits out to people because of the furlough  
43 period. We basically were called at 9:00 o'clock at  
44 night saying that we were going back to work the next  
45 day and I think that was on a Thursday night and the  
46 season opened on Sunday. So we did manage to issue 30  
47 permits. We had people come in on the weekends and  
48 whatnot. So far there's been one moose harvested from a  
49 Ninilchik resident. Again, that was also a moose that  
50 would have not been legal under general State hunting

1 regs.

2

3 That's pretty much it for the hunting  
4 season so far. The season continues on until November  
5 10th, so we'll wait for any further results. Any  
6 questions about hunting so far?

7

8 CHAIRWOMAN CAMINER: Greg.

9

10 MR. ENCELEWSKI: Yeah, I'll just make a  
11 comment that that has worked real well. What I'm  
12 saying here is because the State regs change to a spike  
13 only, the Feds still allow the fork and then they  
14 changed to a four brow tine where the Feds allowed the  
15 three brow tine. That did create the better  
16 opportunity. Fortunately you got five extra moose for  
17 the Ninilchik residents. If I had persevered and shot  
18 one of those State moose, you would have had six.

19

20 MR. ESKELIN: And I can speak to being  
21 a subsistence hunter trapped in a nonrural area, so I  
22 would have loved to have that opportunity myself.

23

24 So the next section I have is on oil  
25 and gas. Steve and Andy wanted me to just give you a  
26 real brief update on oil and gas projects that are  
27 occurring on the Refuge. Ultimately I reviewed a bunch  
28 of the NEPA documents on this stuff specifically for  
29 impacts to subsistence hunters and most of the work is  
30 occurring in the wintertime and there really is not any  
31 anticipated impacts to subsistence hunters. Especially  
32 looking at the areas where the projects are occurring,  
33 there's just really not a lot of likely conflicts  
34 there. There may be members of the communities who  
35 also benefit from the fact that these corporations will  
36 now be able to have projects going on.

37

38 We have three major projects going on.  
39 Nordaq Energy was given a permit for a -- well,  
40 ultimately there's a finding of no significant impact  
41 to approval of a 3D seismic exploration on 30,000 acres  
42 of CIRI-owned minerals within the Refuge. That was  
43 completed in February 2013.

44

45 The other one is Apache finding of no  
46 significant impact and subsequent approval for a 3D  
47 seismic exploration on 142,000 acres of CIRI-owned  
48 minerals within the Refuge was recently granted to  
49 Apache Corporation after the environmental assessment  
50 was completed in July 2013. Apache is planning on

1 using advanced seismic technology to conduct their work  
2 with drilling of source point holes, deployment of  
3 receivers and source point detonation is occurring in  
4 winter. It's anticipated that Apache will begin their  
5 work in February 2014.

6  
7           The third project we have is Hilcorp.  
8 Two active production facilities, Swanson River and  
9 Beaver Creek Oilfield, are currently operated by  
10 Hilcorp Alaska, following the sale of these assets by  
11 Marathon and Chevron. During winter 2013 and '14 it's  
12 anticipated that the exploration work on the Birch Hill  
13 Unit will be undertaken. Birch Hill Unit is located  
14 within the Tyonek lands, but access will occur through  
15 the Refuge from the north end of Swanson River Unit.  
16 Work within the Birch Hill Unit is covered under an  
17 earlier EIS for the Swanson River East Satellite  
18 Project. So it's been on the books for a while now.  
19 Now that Hilcorp is paying those assets are going to be  
20 working in that area.

21  
22           I really didn't provide Donald with any  
23 of the documents or maps. I thought it was kind of a  
24 passing interest for most folks, but if there is  
25 interest, you know, people can certainly have me send  
26 stuff to Donald to you.

27  
28           Then on to the fun part. Brown bears.  
29 As everybody knows, the Refuge did an emergency closure  
30 of the general brown bear hunting season on the Refuge.  
31 I'm sure all of you probably read the press releases  
32 and whatnot, but ultimately the Refuge completed a  
33 study that indicated in 2010 how many brown bears there  
34 were on the Refuge and on the Peninsula. I was really  
35 actually kind of moved by Ralph's acceptance of that  
36 award because it kind of spoke to what I feel our role  
37 is with this brown bear season. Under the current  
38 harvest regime, my kids will not have an opportunity to  
39 go brown bear hunting and likely your kids won't  
40 either.

41  
42           So, you know, overall the Refuge's goal  
43 is we have a healthy brown bear population right now  
44 and we would like to manage it so that there is hunting  
45 opportunities, both subsistence and general hunting,  
46 for a long time. We went through a period of 15 or 20  
47 years where there was no hunting on brown bears on the  
48 Peninsula. Under the current hunting strategy, we're  
49 going to very rapidly find ourselves back there.  
50 That's the Refuge's goal. We want to work with the

1 State this spring and come up with a hunting or harvest  
2 strategy that works for everybody that maintains  
3 hunting opportunities for subsistence for a longer  
4 period of time than just a couple years and then we're  
5 depleted and shot down again.

6  
7 The strategies that nationally and in  
8 Alaska have all focused on is reproductive -- is  
9 females as the confining part of the population and  
10 currently we have no restrictions on age or sex under  
11 the current brown bear hunting strategy for 2013. 2014  
12 was going to employ a cap of 70 bears, but, again, no  
13 focus on reproductive age females. This year through  
14 the DLPs we had 22 or 23 at last count of DLPs and 43  
15 registration hunt harvest of brown bears. Of those, 22  
16 were adult females. So of 66 bears, 22 are adult  
17 females. The Department biologist and the Refuge have  
18 been working on a harvest strategy that employed around  
19 10 adult females.

20  
21 You know, long term, if you look  
22 through the literature, to maintain a brown bear  
23 population they used -- I can't remember exactly, but  
24 it was 4 to 6 percent of the overall population and  
25 there's a lot of debate as to where that line is for  
26 the reproductive age females. The highest that the  
27 State had employed at one point was 9 percent. On the  
28 Kenai this year we're already at 11 percent if you  
29 believe the population estimate that we have from 2010.

30  
31  
32 So we just kind of felt like we were in  
33 a position where we had to do something to protect  
34 reproductive age females. If you look at last year's  
35 registration hunt, there was 31 bears harvested. This  
36 season it started a lot earlier with the earlier  
37 season, but in both cases we're running about 50  
38 percent females and about 50 percent juvenile bears.  
39 So, you know, we haven't done anything to incentive-ize  
40 the harvest in a direction that allows us to maintain a  
41 harvest strategy that brown bears can be hunted for a  
42 long time. So that's kind of where we're at with that.

43  
44 Any questions so far about that or  
45 comments?

46  
47 MR. ENCELEWSKI: Yeah, I'd just like to  
48 make a comment. I know Andy Loranger had called me and  
49 I want to clarify something I may have alluded to  
50 earlier. When I got a call about the brown bear being

1 closed on the Federal Refuge, when I got called in  
2 Fairbanks a week or so ago, my understanding it was  
3 even closed to subsistence users and it wasn't, so that  
4 I wanted to clarify. You could still subsistence hunt  
5 the brown bear on the Refuge.

6

7 MR. ESKELIN: Correct.

8

9 MR. ENCELEWSKI: So it is not closed to  
10 them, so that was -- and I'm not going to go into who  
11 made that decision, but that was part of my other  
12 arguments. Anyway -- and the other thing I wanted to  
13 tell you, Todd, you know, you're a very fortunate man  
14 that Mr. Blossom went on to higher ground because brown  
15 bear was his passion and he would argue that we have a  
16 lot higher population.

17

18 MR. ESKELIN: I know he would. You  
19 know, we can go back and forth on whether the  
20 subsistence season should have been closed as well.  
21 The subsistence harvest on the Kenai, I think in the  
22 past seven years they've harvested two brown bears.  
23 One of those involved some violations. We won't get  
24 into that, but, you know, it's a resource that I think  
25 probably is underutilized by subsistence hunters and I  
26 don't know the reason for that other than in 15C access  
27 is a little bit difficult.

28

29 I drive to Ninilchik all the time. I  
30 didn't see a lot of guys with boats and there doesn't  
31 seem to be the interest to go to Tustumena Lake and go  
32 brown bear hunting. I guess it's not a surprise and I  
33 don't think people would have probably been upset one  
34 way or another whether we closed it, honestly.

35

36 Then the last thing I have is Skilak  
37 Loop. We had to do a clarification on Skilak Loop.  
38 Skilak Wildlife Management Area has been managed as a  
39 predominantly wildlife recreation area for about 30  
40 years and then, as many of you know, recently the Board  
41 of Game in March passed the hunting of wolves, lynx and  
42 coyotes in Skilak Loop. Ultimately what we did was we  
43 reiterated in the Congressional Record that Skilak Loop  
44 is closed to all hunting with the exception of small  
45 game with falconry, archery and a youth hunt that was  
46 put in place a few years ago that provides opportunity  
47 for youth to hunt with a shotgun and rimfire rifle.

48

49 Then we also still have a permitted  
50 moose hunt on the books at any point when the winter

1 count reaches a certain threshold, then we institute a  
2 moose hunt. It's certainly been quite a while since  
3 we've reached that threshold, but with the lack of fire  
4 in 15A it's not surprising that we haven't had that  
5 moose hunt.

6  
7 That's basically what I have for you on  
8 the wildlife side.

9  
10 CHAIRWOMAN CAMINER: Thank you.

11  
12 Any questions or thoughts.

13  
14 (No comments)

15  
16 CHAIRWOMAN CAMINER: We appreciate you  
17 waiting us out and giving the report and Jeff for being  
18 online. I know a couple of you have to leave. Why  
19 don't we reconvene at 1:15 because I know some people  
20 probably have to check out and all that kind of thing  
21 too. Thanks.

22  
23 (Off record)

24  
25 (On record)

26  
27 CHAIRWOMAN CAMINER: Welcome back from  
28 lunch everybody. If only I had the knife. Thank you.  
29 We're going to reconvene the Southcentral Regional  
30 Advisory Council. I know there's various people who  
31 still need to drive a distance home, so let's proceed  
32 and hear the report from Park Service. After this  
33 we'll hear about Susitna-Watana.

34  
35 Barb, likewise, I wanted to thank you  
36 very much for the work you do in communities and with  
37 the government-to-government consultation that I know  
38 the Park Service started many many years ago and it  
39 really makes a difference in the region. So thank you.

40  
41 MS. CELLARIUS: Thank you and thank you  
42 for the opportunity to present. I'm representing the  
43 Park Service right now, not the SRC. The first thing I  
44 want to draw your attention to is there should be a  
45 report in your packet from Denali National Park and  
46 Preserve. It's a fish and wildlife update. This is  
47 from my colleague Amy Craver. It's for another  
48 National Park, so I would -- it's likely I wouldn't be  
49 able to answer questions on this report; however, if  
50 you have any questions, we can certainly pass them on

1 to Amy and ask her to get answers to Donald. Even if I  
2 think you come up with questions along the way, we can  
3 make sure that Amy gets the questions and she has a  
4 chance to get back to you.

5  
6 CHAIRWOMAN CAMINER: I think just for  
7 people's information this was left on our packet maybe  
8 this morning. I know we're kind of inundated with  
9 files here, but if people aren't finding it, it looks  
10 like Donald has extra copies too.

11  
12 MS. CELLARIUS: Anyway, if you have any  
13 questions, I can pass them on to Amy or get them to  
14 Donald and he can pass them on to Amy and she can try  
15 to get responses for you.

16  
17 A very similar report, same buffalo,  
18 same Department of Interior at the top of the page, but  
19 there's a piece of paper that says fall 2013  
20 subsistence report and the address is actually for  
21 Wrangell-St. Elias. That's in smaller type and that's  
22 for me.

23  
24 I'm not going to read through the whole  
25 thing, but I do want to quickly mention a couple of  
26 things. While you were discussing the Chisana Caribou  
27 Herd I kept thinking, oh, I should get up and give them  
28 my Chisana Caribou Herd report. I'll just do that now.  
29 The hunt was established for the Chisana Caribou Herd.  
30 It's in the southern portion of Unit 12, but there are  
31 residents of the Southcentral Region who have C&T for  
32 this herd and are included in the .804 for this herd.

33  
34 The hunt was authorized in January of  
35 2012. There's a delegation of authority to the Park  
36 Superintendent essentially to manage the hunt. We also  
37 put a fair bit of effort in response to this RAC's  
38 recommendation in terms of working with stakeholders to  
39 figure out how to distribute the permits. We put a  
40 fair bit of effort into coming up with a plan for  
41 allocating the permits, which involves some  
42 distribution to villages as well as a first come/first  
43 serve issuing permits in Tok and Chisana.

44  
45 Pippa I think already mentioned that in  
46 2012 nine permits were issued. The quota is set at  
47 seven. That comes out of the management plan. So  
48 we've decided that we're going to -- the last two years  
49 that we would issue 14 permits for the hunt. We want  
50 to be very careful not to overharvest. Last year we

1 actually only issued nine permits. Eight of the  
2 permittees reported hunting and two caribou were  
3 harvested. That was in 2012. In 2013, we also issued  
4 nine permits. Seven of the permittees reported hunting  
5 and three caribou were harvested.

6  
7 Are there any questions for the hunt  
8 for the Chisana Caribou Herd?

9  
10 (No comments)

11  
12 MS. CELLARIUS: Okay. Moving on to the  
13 Federal subsistence hunting permits. In addition to  
14 issuing a new joint State/Federal permit for moose in  
15 portions of Unit 11 and 12, Park Staff in Copper  
16 Center, Kennicott, McCarthy and Slana issued 214  
17 Federal registration permits for caribou, goat, moose  
18 and sheep in Units 11 and 12.

19  
20 The final page of my handout summarizes  
21 -- it's a table summarizing the number of permits  
22 issued and harvest for the last decade essentially.  
23 We're still getting reports in from 2013 hunts. The  
24 goat hunt is still open, so those data are preliminary,  
25 but it gives you an idea of the kind of Federal  
26 subsistence hunting we have going on in our area.

27  
28 I would also note that the Slana Ranger  
29 Station also issues Federal registration permits for  
30 moose and caribou in Unit 13. Those hunts are managed  
31 by BLM, so I'll let BLM report on those permits.

32  
33 On the joint State/Federal permit, and  
34 this is not written down in your report because it came  
35 in after the report was completed, in the northern part  
36 of Unit 11 and the southern part of Unit 12, we had 245  
37 permits issued, 20 moose were harvested. We have  
38 reports from 122 unsuccessful hunters, 62 permittees  
39 did not hunt and there were 41 people who haven't  
40 reported yet. So that's that hunt.

41  
42 Moving on. The next thing I have on my  
43 handout is the Copper Basin community harvest  
44 assessment. We've been working to provide updated  
45 community harvest information for the Copper Basin  
46 communities. It's a cooperative project involving the  
47 Park Service and the Alaska Department of Fish and  
48 Game, Division of Subsistence, with funding from the  
49 Park Service. We completed a report for Chistochina in  
50 2012. The report for the second communities was

1 completed last month. I've given most of the Council  
2 members copies of that report. You should have a  
3 four-page executive summary from that report as well.  
4 That page has a bar chart on it. Front page has a Fish  
5 and Game logo on it.

6  
7 So this is a summary of this year's  
8 report. I've got a couple additional copies of the  
9 full 300-page report, so if anybody else wants a copy,  
10 get in touch with me. In winter/spring 2013, we  
11 surveyed Chitina, Gakona, Kenny Lake, Willow Creek and  
12 McCarthy, so a report on those communities will be  
13 forthcoming. I think the Fish and Game, when they do  
14 their presentation, will have some of the preliminary  
15 data from -- or some of the data from the surveys  
16 they've done for the Park Service. Which page is it.

17  
18 So if you look at the Figure 3 on the  
19 back page, it's per capita harvest in pounds over time  
20 for the Copper River basin communities. It shows the  
21 continuing importance of subsistence resources in our  
22 area. I think it's really important to document that  
23 people are continuing to use subsistence resources. In  
24 most cases, the use has actually increased in terms of  
25 pounds of usable weight per person. These figures  
26 don't include firewood, but we also see a lot of  
27 firewood harvest.

28  
29 So that's all I will say about that  
30 project unless there's questions. Like I said, you're  
31 going to be getting a little more information about  
32 this project in the next presentation.

33  
34 (No comments)

35  
36 MS. CELLARIUS: Okay. I will move on  
37 to the Subsistence Resource Commission. I threw this  
38 in here because sometimes new Council members aren't  
39 familiar with what an SRC is and so I put this report  
40 together for all the RACs I work with. So I just  
41 wanted to give you a little information about the SRC.  
42 We talked about this actually on the morning of the  
43 first day that the SRC is in some ways similar to the  
44 RACs and that they advise a Federal agency about the  
45 management of subsistence. On some things they're  
46 advising the Secretary of the Interior and the  
47 governor. Since the Federal program was established,  
48 they've also been writing to the Federal Subsistence  
49 Board.

50

1                   At the spring 2013 meeting, the SRC  
2 elected Karen Linnell of Kenny Lake as its new chair.  
3 Your appointee to the Wrangell-St. Elias SRC is Gloria  
4 Stickwan. Some of our Secretary of Interior  
5 appointments are expiring next year, so I'm always  
6 interested in getting applications from folks who are  
7 interested in possibly serving on the SRC. There's a  
8 nominations process, but I like getting candidates, so  
9 anyone who -- any subsistence users who are interested  
10 in applying for a seat on the SRC can contact me and my  
11 contact information is in this report.

12  
13                   The next SRC meeting is going to be the  
14 first week of March, probably in the Copper Center  
15 area. Judy doesn't have the data analyzed from -- Judy  
16 is our wildlife biologist. She was here yesterday.  
17 She's not been able to analyze the data from the  
18 wildlife survey she did this summer. She also has a  
19 moose survey that's coming up later this month, but she  
20 will try to have those data available for you in her  
21 report for your next meeting.

22  
23                   We are continuing to implement the  
24 Nabesna Trails plan. That's something we've reported  
25 to the RAC in the past. A plan for managing off-road  
26 vehicles on trails off of the Nabesna Road.

27  
28                   I wanted to point out that you have an  
29 additional report that has fish on it. It has a big  
30 picture of fish on the front. It's a picture from our  
31 underwater camera. I believe that's from the Tanada  
32 Creek weir. I'm not going to go over in detail Molly's  
33 report. It's quite extensive. I did want to thank the  
34 RAC for their continuing support for our fisheries  
35 monitoring projects that are funded through the Federal  
36 Subsistence Program.

37  
38                   The Long Lake weir and the Tanada Creek  
39 weir and this is a picture from one of those weirs.  
40 Certainly, if anybody is interested in having a chance  
41 to go out and visit one of those weirs, we could try to  
42 make arrangements if you were able to come to us.  
43 Folks in the local areas come and see those weirs.

44  
45                   So that's pretty much what I had. I'm  
46 happy to answer any questions about Molly's report. We  
47 did have a record number of fish return to the Tanada  
48 Lake weir this summer. This weir is located very close  
49 to Katie John's fish camp at Batzulnetas and we had  
50 52,000 sockeye, which was the highest number that we've

1 ever recorded, I believe.

2

3 Thank you for your time.

4

5 CHAIRWOMAN CAMINER: Thanks, Barb. Any  
6 questions or comments. Sounds like a great variety of  
7 work going on. Bob.

8

9 MR. HENRICHS: Yeah. You had 52,000  
10 sockeyes. How did you do on kings?

11

12 MS. CELLARIUS: There weren't any.

13

14 MR. HENRICHS: What?

15

16 MS. CELLARIUS: No kings this year.

17

18 MR. HENRICHS: All those ones I let go  
19 by and you never got any?

20

21 MS. CELLARIUS: You know, that's the  
22 problem with a multi-set fishery. We don't know when  
23 they go up the river where they're going to end up.  
24 You know, there was one year when we had quite a number  
25 of kings come through, but typically the king count at  
26 the Tanada Creek weir is very low.

27

28 CHAIRWOMAN CAMINER: Thanks very much.  
29 I think a good follow up will be the Susitna-Watana  
30 presentation and we're going to have a couple people do  
31 that.

32

33 MR. HOLEN: Thank you. Robbin is just  
34 going to check on the technology here for a sec. We  
35 may have to tag team. We do have a presentation for  
36 you, which is on the screen here. Thank you for having  
37 us. My name is Davin Holen. I'm the subsistence  
38 program manager for Southern Alaska for the Department  
39 of Fish and Game.

40

41 I'm going to talk to you a little bit  
42 today about the harvest assessment surveys we've been  
43 doing in the Susitna Basin communities this past year  
44 and then what we plan to do next year in the Copper  
45 River Basin. I was asked to give this presentation by  
46 the Susitna-Watana Project. The Alaska Energy  
47 Authority asked me to come and share this with you.

48

49 Up on the screen what you have here is  
50 a map of the Susitna Basin and the Copper Basin. We

1 have delegated these two communities into two different  
2 study years by watershed. What you can see here is  
3 that for year one these are the communities that are  
4 being studied in the Susitna watershed and then for  
5 year two we'll be moving over to the Copper Basin to do  
6 surveys over there. Right in the middle is the  
7 proposed dam site for the Susitna-Watana project.  
8

9  
10 The reason that the Copper Basin is  
11 included here is although on the left you have these  
12 communities that are downriver from the proposed dam  
13 site, what we've found and what they wanted to do was  
14 look at communities that also may have harvesting  
15 activities in the area around the dam site and that  
16 does include communities of the Copper Basin. They do  
17 traditionally harvest caribou in that area, whitefish,  
18 berries and other resources, so it was really important  
19 for us to capture the harvest amounts for all  
20 communities for all wild resources.

21  
22 This is a short summary of what we plan  
23 to do. This is our study schedule. We did the project  
24 plans last year and provided them with a scope of work.  
25 I should mention that we're working also with a private  
26 firm called Steve Braund & Associates who's doing a  
27 more detailed traditional knowledge interviews in some  
28 communities throughout this area. This project is  
29 being managed by a consulting firm called HGR, which is  
30 managing the entire aspect of the Susitna-Watana  
31 project that deals with subsistence and traditional  
32 knowledge.

33  
34 We did scoping meetings at all the  
35 communities that we were going to go to. We did a  
36 series of those in places like Talkeetna, Trapper  
37 Creek, Chase, Cantwell. In January and March, we did  
38 household surveys in these communities and also  
39 conducted key respondent interviews or what we call LTK  
40 interviews. These are more in-depth interviews with  
41 folks about their history and the history of the  
42 community because one year of harvest survey data  
43 doesn't tell you the entire story, so we wanted to  
44 capture that.

45  
46 The data has been entered. We had some  
47 review workshops. We prepared a draft findings report  
48 and the draft of that is actually sitting on my desk  
49 right now and I'll be delivering that tomorrow to the  
50 Alaska Energy Authority, Steve Braund & Associates, and  
HDR for their review. The communities have already

1 reviewed the study findings. That's one of our  
2 protocols, is the community gets to look at the  
3 information first and sign off on it before we deliver  
4 it to the granting agency. We anticipate having a  
5 final report out sometime late in the year or early the  
6 following year.

7  
8 This is the population area. This is  
9 quite an interesting study to do because we're on the  
10 road system. I also have to mention that the  
11 communities of Talkeetna and Trapper Creek and  
12 Alexander Creek or Susitna are actually outside of what  
13 we consider to be the subsistence area. They're within  
14 the Anchorage, Mat-Su Borough, Kenai Peninsula non-  
15 subsistence area. But they do harvesting activities  
16 within the subsistence area or outside the non-  
17 subsistence area, so it was very important for us to  
18 capture that. Alaska Energy Authority was very  
19 thoughtful in making sure that we did do this. They  
20 listened to a lot of community comments and concerns  
21 when putting this study together to make sure they  
22 addressed that.

23  
24 So this is the population. We have a  
25 wide diversity of population. We also have road access  
26 communities and we have a couple communities that are  
27 off the road that utilize rivers and airplanes to get  
28 to different places. So a really diverse set of  
29 communities.

30  
31 This is the per capita harvest. Per  
32 community you can see it did vary widely with the high  
33 in Susitna or Alexander Creek of a little over 200  
34 pounds per person. Talkeetna, Trapper Creek were  
35 lower, but they're still well above what we consider to  
36 be usual harvest for urban areas. For example, in  
37 Anchorage, the average per capita harvest is about 22  
38 pounds per person, so you can still see it's much  
39 higher. This is also higher than the Mat-Su Borough  
40 average, which I believe is around 45 pounds per  
41 person. So higher than those communities. I wanted to  
42 mention that because people were really adamant in  
43 their interviews that they feel that they are rural  
44 communities in Talkeetna, Trapper Creek and that they  
45 rely on wild resources for their way of life.

46  
47 This is the composition of harvest.  
48 The blue on the bottom is salmon and the larger part up  
49 there is large land mammals. So these typically, for  
50 most communities throughout Alaska, salmon and large

1 land mammals make up the bulk of the harvest. You can  
2 see salmon harvests are a little bit low. A lot of  
3 these folks actually had to travel to places like the  
4 Kasilof and the Kenai River to get their harvest.

5  
6 Chinook salmon in the Kenai -- in the  
7 Susitna Drainage is of a concern in a lot of  
8 communities, places like Chase, for example, which used  
9 to harvest a great deal of chinook salmon, no longer  
10 are able to harvest that resource because of  
11 restrictions. Also they're a community concern about  
12 the chinook salmon. They want to make sure that those  
13 salmon go by.

14  
15 Interestingly, I did some fishing in  
16 that area this year, Montana Creek, and when a king  
17 came through people yelled that the king was coming  
18 through and everybody kind of pulled their lines and  
19 got out of the way. So people are really cognizant  
20 about the fact that they're concerned about chinook  
21 salmon in the area.

22  
23 Large land mammals. This is mostly  
24 caribou and moose. This is actually smaller than it  
25 probably would have been, especially for places like  
26 Talkeetna, Trapper Creek and Chase. People had to go  
27 outside the area during the study year. This was 2012.  
28 A flood event happened right during the hunting season  
29 and flooded the area for quite an extended period of  
30 time and people were more focused on saving their homes  
31 than they were about hunting. So they took  
32 opportunities elsewhere in the state to hunt.

33  
34 Household income also was very  
35 different. I just briefly want to throw this up there.  
36 We collect demographic information, we collect  
37 information about jobs and income because it does take  
38 an income to do subsistence. You have to have the  
39 means to get out on the land to do that.

40  
41 We also look at jobs in the community,  
42 what's available locally. Jobs also affect people's  
43 ability to harvest. Sometimes those jobs are seasonal  
44 and the bulk of the money is made during the summer,  
45 for example, or in the fall, interfering sometimes with  
46 activities. It's important also to show this that  
47 people -- that there are quite a few jobs that are  
48 actually available in the communities except for the  
49 community of Chase, for example. Actually most those  
50 people work in neighboring Talkeetna. They're about 10

1 miles by trail, ATV trail, from the community of  
2 Talkeetna. A lot of people go back and forth each day.

3  
4 Robbin, go ahead and hit it one more  
5 time forward. Okay. I'm going to skip that table  
6 because it's so small. I put that in there because I  
7 just wanted you to see that we do have a wide diversity  
8 of statistics for these communities in terms of  
9 demographic, economics and harvest.

10  
11 What I did is I had somebody put  
12 together all of the harvesting locations for all six  
13 study communities and you can see this is the harvest  
14 of salmon in the area and where people are going to  
15 harvest. What you see here is almost the entirety of  
16 Southcentral Alaska. People really move. There's a  
17 high degree of mobility in these communities, but you  
18 can see obviously the majority of the harvest is  
19 happening in the Susitna Basin.

20  
21 This is for another species. You can  
22 see the people went down to Lower Cook Inlet and over  
23 to Prince William Sound.

24  
25 So this is the harvest of moose and I  
26 wanted to show this to you because you could see the  
27 people really had to travel long distances to harvest  
28 moose. Some of those communities in the Upper Susitna  
29 Basin, whereas the communities of like Skwentna and  
30 Alexander Creek a lot of the harvesting was during the  
31 -- locally during the hunting season.

32  
33 I do want to mention that there's two  
34 opportunities in that area to hunt. We have the  
35 general hunt in the fall and then we have a  
36 registration hunt during the wintertime that people can  
37 sign up for. It's a Tier II hunt. That's really  
38 important because a lot of those harvests in Skwentna  
39 and Alexander Creek were harvested actually during the  
40 winter hunt. People did have a lot of concerns about  
41 the season especially because in order to -- you know,  
42 they harvest their moose and they want to hang it, but  
43 it's just too warm still oftentimes during the general  
44 season to hang their moose. These are some other  
45 hunting maps here. Like I said, this is for all six  
46 communities.

47  
48 One of the things that I think is  
49 always interesting is looking at the harvest of  
50 berries. About 5 to 10 percent of the overall pounds

1 harvested in terms of edible weight is usually berries.  
2 If you've ever picked berries. I'm not very good at  
3 it. I can pick a couple pounds. Most people pick, you  
4 know, 5 to 10 percent of their harvest. You're talking  
5 about anywhere from 50 to 200 pounds. That's quite a  
6 bit of harvest of berries, which demonstrates a  
7 considerable amount of effort that's going into  
8 harvesting wild foods.

9

10                   Go ahead and skip this one. Robbin is  
11 going to talk a little bit more about this table, but I  
12 just wanted to throw this up there. This table shows  
13 the gap analysis we did for the communities, looking at  
14 all the communities within the Susitna Basin and the  
15 Copper Basin and what studies have been done over time  
16 in each of those communities. So we first did a gap  
17 analysis, looked at this to see what we needed to do  
18 and we'll be doing the bulk of the communities in the  
19 Copper Basin next.

20

21                   The Alaska Energy Authority is actually  
22 going to pay for the rest of the surveys that need to  
23 be done. We started this project in cooperation with  
24 the Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve. To  
25 do the Copper Basin, we got quite a bit of those done  
26 as you can see at the top part of this chart.

27

28                   Through the Susitna-Watana Project,  
29 through the Alaska Energy Authority, they provided the  
30 funding to do the balance of the communities. However,  
31 this will still be done in partnership with the  
32 Wrangell-St. Elias. They have some additional  
33 questions they'd like us to ask and they've been a  
34 really good partner on this and we'll continue that  
35 through the rest of this project.

36

37                   The two communities that we didn't do  
38 originally, Tyonek and Beluga, were because I actually  
39 did them back in 2006 and it was relatively recent, but  
40 we're also putting together a new project for the  
41 Alaska LNG Project or Liquid Natural Gas Project. A  
42 proposal to run an LNG line basically down through  
43 Southcentral Alaska and the requirements for the  
44 Federal Energy Regulatory Commission state that you  
45 need information that's no less than three years old.  
46 So we're going to go ahead and try to work with Tyonek  
47 and Beluga to do those two communities again because  
48 it's been seven years now.

49

50                   So the next steps will be conducting

1 the Copper Basin communities this coming winter. We  
2 already have people on the grounds doing things. Like  
3 one of the communities is Glennallen, which is  
4 incredibly difficult to map and do a sample there.  
5 We're doing a sample of the community. In order to do  
6 that, we have to know where every residence is first  
7 and there's not a lot of data out there. So we've got  
8 people running around trying to use aerial photography  
9 and Google Maps and all sorts of stuff and basically  
10 just have to drive around to do it.

11  
12 Tazlina presents a similar challenge.  
13 Most of the other communities are small. We've had  
14 some good feedback so far. People are interested in  
15 this project and would like to see it go forward. So  
16 we'll have a similar type of schedule with a final  
17 report to the Alaska Energy Authority in 2015.

18  
19 What I would like to do now is I'm  
20 going to switch with Robbin here. She's going to talk  
21 about what's already been done in the Copper Basin and  
22 give you some of those highlights.

23  
24 CHAIRWOMAN CAMINER: Thanks a lot.  
25 Were there any questions on what we've heard so far?

26  
27 MR. HOLEN: I can answer questions  
28 afterwards as well.

29  
30 CHAIRWOMAN CAMINER: Okay. Robbin.

31  
32 MS. LAVINE: Good afternoon, Madame  
33 Chair. Members of the Board. I'm Robbin LaVine with  
34 the Division of Subsistence. I have been working in  
35 partnership with the National Park Service to conduct  
36 comprehensive subsistence surveys in the Copper River  
37 Basin. That project started prior to my arrival within  
38 the Division. The community of Chistochina was  
39 surveyed before my arrival and I started on year two in  
40 the following communities. This again Davin just talked  
41 about it, but if you look closely you can see now our  
42 updated communities include those that were done under  
43 the umbrella of the Su-Watana Project, under the  
44 umbrella of the NPS project.

45  
46 Chistochina was our first year. 2009  
47 was the study year. Mentasta Lake, Mentasta Pass,  
48 Slana and Copper Center were the year two study year  
49 and that was for 2010. We just completed comprehensive  
50 subsistence surveys in McCarthy, Gakona, Willow Creek,

1 Kenny Lake and Chitina. That data is forthcoming.  
2 We're just about ready to go out and do community  
3 reviews for that.

4  
5 Our sample goal for the project  
6 communities. It varies. We go by the census from  
7 2010. We have found in the past that the census varies  
8 from what we actually find on the ground when we are  
9 there in the communities in the middle of winter and we  
10 are meeting with people who are residents year round.  
11 This is our survey goal for this coming year, 50  
12 percent in Glennallen, 90 percent for the remainder of  
13 the communities. You can see off to the right our  
14 target for households that we are hoping to talk to.

15  
16 This is the data that is written up in  
17 the recent report and also the four-page summary that  
18 you have with you in your package. As Davin said, we  
19 collect a lot of data. Not just how people use wild  
20 resources, but demography, cash economy and indeed  
21 resource harvest and use information.

22  
23 This is the per capita harvest. You  
24 can see that actually per capita harvest use of wild  
25 resources is high and, again, this does not include  
26 wood, firewood or any non-edible resources, although we  
27 document those as well and firewood is really important  
28 to the Copper River Basin.

29  
30 This is harvest composition. One thing  
31 I find really interesting about how harvests are  
32 composed throughout the Copper River Basin and we're  
33 seeing a similar trend in the third year communities is  
34 that you can see Copper Center and Slana/Nabesna Road  
35 are both communities that are actually on the river, on  
36 the Copper River and have in-community access to  
37 fishwheels and rod and reel, et cetera.

38  
39 You can see that the bottom portion,  
40 that blue bar, is highest. That's salmon. In the  
41 other remaining communities, actually it's all  
42 preliminary yet, but our data fellow, Dave Costner and  
43 I lined them up from furthest down the Copper River and  
44 all the way up to the peripheries. It's almost a  
45 beautiful line of the most harvested fish being the  
46 lowest, let's say the lowest down the river, Chitina,  
47 has got some of the highest salmon harvest of any  
48 community in the Copper River Basin.

49  
50 These are the top 10 resources used.

1 Again, as I said, the trend for Slana and Copper Center  
2 is primarily sockeye salmon as far as the resources in  
3 pounds. You can see also the significance of blueberry  
4 or vegetation. While it's actually a small  
5 contribution to the overall harvest, it's actually  
6 widely used.

7

8 This is our chart documenting the  
9 harvest and use of wild resources. You can see the bar  
10 to the left and to the right using, attempting to  
11 harvest, actually successfully harvesting, giving and  
12 receiving. I should say successful harvest is not  
13 necessarily what it sounds like. A lot of people can  
14 go out and attempt to harvest. In particular, let's  
15 say for hunting. Folks will go out with partners.  
16 Only one person can claim the harvest of, let's say,  
17 that moose or caribou, so that may indicate a slight --  
18 what might be seen as an unsuccessful harvest and yet  
19 those folks, when they come back, are sharing the  
20 harvest of that large land mammal.

21

22 You can see here that almost all of the  
23 households are using. Mentasta Lake and Mentasta Pass,  
24 every single household is using and Mentasta Pass --  
25 this is actually -- it's because also it's a small  
26 sample, 12 households out of 14, and every one were  
27 active users, harvesters. Everyone was giving and  
28 receiving and that's why you see Mentasta Pass is 100  
29 percent in all those categories. Regardless, every  
30 single community is using wild resources almost every  
31 household.

32

33 This is just -- I did not throw in all  
34 the various maps that we have. This is just an example  
35 of the use patterns. Davin's I think is much more  
36 illustrative of just an area resource use harvest  
37 pattern. This is Slana's map for Dall sheep and moose.  
38 You can see that it's quite localized. For our 2010  
39 study year, we were using paper maps. For the 2013  
40 survey efforts that we did, we have a new technology,  
41 which is mapping using the tablets. We can zoom in and  
42 out. There's a lot more that we can do with that. We  
43 can record a lot. A lot of harvest patterns, including  
44 folks that may potentially go way far away from their  
45 own areas. We had to take notes if anyone went outside  
46 the area when we were using paper maps.

47

48 This is caribou. You can see the  
49 significance of actually the Denali Highway and yet  
50 folks in Slana had a hard time and it was quite a

1 hardship driving all the way up to Paxson and out to  
2 the Denali Highway to harvest their caribou. There was  
3 great preference for being able to access those  
4 resources locally, but not a lot of freedom for that.

5  
6                   Brown bear and black bear. Again,  
7 quite local.

8  
9                   This is the per capita harvest  
10 comparison of all resources over time. This is  
11 reported harvest keep in mind. But, as Barbara said,  
12 and you have this in your four-page summary, what we're  
13 seeing is not only that subsistence harvest remains  
14 significant in the Copper River Basin, but reported  
15 harvests are actually increasing except for Slana.  
16 There's a number of different reasons for that, but if  
17 you looked at this side by side with the increase in  
18 salmon harvest, they almost directly mirror each other.  
19 So a lot of the harvest that you see, the increase in  
20 harvest, is actually salmon.

21  
22                   This spring we are going to be  
23 continuing the efforts that we started in partnership  
24 with the National Park Service. As I said, we are just  
25 about ready to take our preliminary data to the  
26 communities that we surveyed this spring in 2013 and  
27 the report will be out next year. By April of 2014 we  
28 hope to have updated every single community within the  
29 Copper River Basin through our partnership with the  
30 Park Service and now through the Su-Watana Hydro  
31 Project.

32  
33                   If anyone has any questions, Davin is  
34 joining me also at the table.

35  
36                   CHAIRWOMAN CAMINER: That was really  
37 very interesting and obviously very helpful  
38 information. Whether the project happens or not, it's  
39 still very, very useful information for the communities  
40 and our Council.

41  
42                   Are there any questions for the  
43 presenters. One question from the back there.

44  
45                   MR. BROOKS: Thank you, Madame Chair.  
46 My name is Jeff Brooks. I'm with the Office of  
47 Subsistence Management. My question to the presenters  
48 is it looked like that caribou hunting area was near to  
49 the project site. Is that correct or did I misread it?  
50

1 MR. HOLEN: No, that's correct. That's  
2 one of the reasons it was really important to document  
3 the Copper River Basin harvest because there is quite a  
4 bit of caribou. There are also -- I didn't put up the  
5 caribou map or if I did, I skimmed through it really  
6 quickly, for the communities in the Susitna Basin, but  
7 they also -- especially the community of Chase goes up  
8 there. They're outside the non-subsistence area and  
9 they actually have -- they're a resident community of  
10 that area. They also have the ability to go up there  
11 to harvest, so they were harvesting in that area as  
12 well.

13

14 MR. BROOKS: Are there any probable  
15 impacts to the herd or the hunters due to the project?

16

17 MR. HOLEN: That's a question I can't  
18 answer actually. Our job really is to just document  
19 the harvest. There will be an environmental impact  
20 assessment done and that is being done by Steve Braund  
21 & Associates. It's being prepared by them for the  
22 overall project. They'll look at the entirety of the  
23 datasets that are available and make recommendations of  
24 any potential impacts for resources in that area.

25

26 I should also mention that besides --  
27 one of the things that they wanted us to document is  
28 for the first time we've actually documented access to  
29 resources because you're going to have a river that's  
30 frozen over, you know, for most of the winter. When we  
31 did the research in January, it wasn't completely  
32 frozen over. We'd actually drive around between  
33 Talkeetna, Trapper Creek instead of taking a  
34 snowmachine straight across and it wasn't frozen over.

35

36

37 But you will have that river flowing  
38 year round, so that's a real question that people have,  
39 is how will that affect their harvesting patterns. So  
40 our map application using iPads we added a field for  
41 that, so every time we asked about a resource we asked  
42 how did you get to harvesting that resource or get to,  
43 you know, whether you're walking, taking an ATV, a boat  
44 or whatever.

45

46 I did want to mention that there are  
47 three potential routes to actually get to the dam site  
48 because to build a dam you actually have to get there  
49 and provide materials. One of those routes is off the  
50 Denali Highway with a couple other routes coming off

1 the Parks. So that's a real questions that I had as  
2 well, is building a road in that area. There  
3 definitely were different opinions on access. Some  
4 people liked the idea that they would have more access  
5 to that area. Some people didn't like that idea that  
6 there would be more access to the area.

7  
8 CHAIRWOMAN CAMINER: I'm glad you're  
9 bringing up those points, especially the winter travel  
10 because I think that is one of the points we made in  
11 our comments last year at least to Alaska Energy  
12 Authority or to FERC. I'm not sure which one it was.  
13 Gloria had a question, I believe.

14  
15 MS. STICKWAN: I think you went too  
16 fast for me. You said you were going to do communities  
17 and.....

18  
19 MS. LAVINE: We're going to do the  
20 remaining communities that have not already been  
21 surveyed and that will be Paxson, Gulkana, Glennallen,  
22 Tulsona, Nelchina, Mentasta, Lake.....

23  
24 MR. HOLEN: Not Mentasta.

25  
26 MS. LAVINE: I mean Mendeltna, Lake  
27 Louise, then Tazlina and Tonsina, which is over by  
28 Willow Creek and Kenny Lake area. It's a good lot of  
29 work to do this spring. We're going to be busy.

30  
31 CHAIRWOMAN CAMINER: If there's  
32 opportunities, once your reports are approved or  
33 finalized, anything you can send to Donald, I mean even  
34 a reference that he could send to us, there are people  
35 who would like to follow these kinds of results.

36  
37 Gloria.

38  
39 MS. STICKWAN: You said you were going  
40 to set up community meetings next to meet with the  
41 communities?

42  
43 MS. LAVINE: There's community review  
44 meetings for Kenny Lake, Willow Creek, Chitina and  
45 Gakona for the work we did this spring and we're  
46 awaiting the remainder of the preliminary figures and  
47 tables for that and maps. Then we're going to be doing  
48 community scoping meetings and I have already been in  
49 contact with Tazlina and had a letter of support from  
50 the Board there and everyone else -- there's a number

1 of different leads for the communities, so I'm  
2 thankfully not lead in all of these communities. I,  
3 myself, will be working in Gakona, Tazlina and Tonsina  
4 this spring. I mean Gulkana. We've already worked in  
5 Gakona.

6

7 MR. HOLEN: And we've already had our  
8 meetings in Paxson, Mendeltna and Lake Louise as well.  
9 Those were recent. The rest of them are planned.

10

11 CHAIRWOMAN CAMINER: One information  
12 need I think we had identified previously had to do  
13 with habitat analyses. I'm not sure if that's covered  
14 in your report or something we could get a hold of.

15

16 MR. HOLEN: That's a good question. So  
17 this is just one small component. I've been involved  
18 in several of these environmental impact assessment  
19 projects, such as the Pebble project, being the big  
20 one, of course. I've never seen a project that goes  
21 into so much detail about different aspects and maybe  
22 it's because this area is also highly used for  
23 recreation. So there will be those kind of things that  
24 are being done for habitat. It's being done by the  
25 Alaska Department of Fish and Game. We're doing  
26 habitat assessments. There's also a number of private  
27 firms out there that are doing those studies as well.

28

29 Of course, the focus is on the river  
30 itself and especially the fish habitat. There's also  
31 numerous studies going on about recreation, people that  
32 may come into the area. We study people mainly --  
33 communities that live there year round, but they're  
34 also looking at there's a lot of good commute trails up  
35 off of the Denali Highway, for example. There's a lot  
36 of recreational snowmachiners and weekend users that  
37 have cabins in the area, things like that, that may not  
38 be part of these studies, but they're going to be  
39 contacted as well. So there is a wide variety.  
40 They're looking at sound, how the impact of sound will  
41 actually affect people, for example. So, some pretty  
42 incredible work coming out of that.

43

44 One thing I wanted to mention is our  
45 former researcher in our department, Dr. Bill Simeone,  
46 is also working with Jim Kari and they're doing some  
47 ethnogeography of the area. If you know Jim Kari, his  
48 work is quite detailed and he's had the opportunity  
49 through this to collect some more place names and talk  
50 about especially the Ahtna use of the area over time.

1                   CHAIRWOMAN CAMINER: Certainly the Cook  
2 Inlet fisheries is a huge concern of this Council as  
3 well. I know over the summer, I guess with some of the  
4 study planned chapters were available and there was a  
5 subsistence chapter, but it was different from the work  
6 that you're doing.

7  
8                   MR. HOLEN: Yes. And I did want to  
9 mention -- somebody mentioned to me -- I'm sorry I  
10 wasn't here yesterday. I was down in Southeast. But I  
11 did hear that there was some concern also about work  
12 going on in the Kenai Peninsula. I did want to mention  
13 that the Alaska Department of Fish and Game is doing a  
14 chinook salmon initiative. It's part of the Governor's  
15 Initiative to document chinook salmon throughout the  
16 state. The Kenai is one of those locations and the  
17 Division of Subsistence is involved.

18  
19                   We submitted a proposal actually to OSM  
20 to do a study in Kenai, which wasn't recommended for  
21 funding, but what we did is took that project and  
22 turned it into something that looks at chinook salmon  
23 specifically by a variety of users all over the Kenai  
24 Peninsula, including sport fishing, anglers in Soldotna  
25 and Kenai, people down in Homer. So looking at their  
26 knowledge of the environment and what their perceived  
27 ideas about why there is a reduction in chinook salmon  
28 going on and that will be part of a larger study that's  
29 being done by the Department, so this will just be one  
30 small component of that.

31  
32                   CHAIRWOMAN CAMINER: Okay. Any other  
33 questions.

34  
35                   (No comments)

36  
37                   CHAIRWOMAN CAMINER: Thank you both.  
38 We appreciate Fish and Game spending the time with us  
39 on this. We hope you'll be back if it's appropriate  
40 timing wise. Our next meeting is middle of March  
41 about. If your studies are final by then, it might be  
42 helpful either for us to have copies or a summary or  
43 have you come back.

44  
45                   MR. HOLEN: Yes. The one for the  
46 Alaska Energy Authority for the Susitna Basin will be  
47 finished and we can provide you with copies of that.  
48 As Robbin mentioned, we're still in collaboration with  
49 the Park Service for the Copper Basin and Barbara will  
50 make sure that you get copies.

1 CHAIRWOMAN CAMINER: Excellent.  
2 Gloria.  
3  
4 MS. STICKWAN: Were you asking for  
5 habitat -- a study of research and habitat for people  
6 to be here, give us a report on that? Is that part of  
7 your question?  
8  
9 CHAIRWOMAN CAMINER: If that might be  
10 possible or might be of interest to us.  
11  
12 MR. HOLEN: Yeah, I don't have that  
13 information, but you can get it -- the Alaska Energy  
14 Authority has a great website and you can download all  
15 those studies. This has been a publicly funded  
16 project, so all that is public information available  
17 for you.  
18  
19 MS. STICKWAN: But you can't understand  
20 what you're reading. Well, I can't anyway, all of it.  
21  
22 CHAIRWOMAN CAMINER: Well, maybe we'll  
23 find out because we know it's not you who's doing that  
24 part of the research work and see if we could arrange  
25 for them to come and give us a briefing, Gloria.  
26  
27 MR. HOLEN: That's a good idea.  
28  
29 MS. LAVINE: Thank you.  
30  
31 MR. HOLEN: Thank you for having us.  
32  
33 CHAIRWOMAN CAMINER: Thanks so much.  
34 Excellent information can be useful for many aspects of  
35 the program. Okay. BLM, you've been patiently waiting  
36 for us.  
37  
38 MS. BULLOCK: Thank you, Madame Chair  
39 and Council members. This is Sarah Bullock, wildlife  
40 biologist with the Glennallen Field Office of the BLM.  
41 I just wanted to give you an update on subsistence  
42 harvest out of the Glennallen Field Office. For 2013  
43 our moose harvest was a little lower this year than the  
44 five year average. It was 50 animals as we've recorded  
45 so far and the five year average is around 67. The  
46 permits we've issued is right on par with the five year  
47 average. We only have 72 percent hunter feedback, so  
48 that's 72 percent of the hunting reports have been  
49 turned in, so the data is technically incomplete. So  
50 that bull harvest may go up one or two for late hunter

1 report feedback.

2

3 Other than that, we expect that -- so  
4 far we've had 434 permits attempted, which is about 36  
5 percent. We do expect that percent of permit users  
6 that actually attempt to go hunting to go up because we  
7 have a little under 300 permits that have not been  
8 turned in yet. From that we do expect hunter success  
9 to go down either within that 11 percent or perhaps  
10 maybe 10 percent since it is a little lower than the  
11 five-year average.

12

13 Other than that, that's all I have on  
14 the moose harvest, so if you have any questions.

15

16 (No comments)

17

18 MS. BULLOCK: Okay. I'll go to the  
19 caribou harvest. Our 2012-2013 harvest was pretty high  
20 at 537 individual caribou taken. That is quite a bit  
21 higher than our five-year average, around 397. For  
22 this year, however, it's pretty low with only about 157  
23 taken thus far as of Monday. I didn't put any  
24 percentage of permits attempted because we only have 11  
25 percent, but that's because the hunt is still going on.  
26 There's a lot of hunters out there that are still  
27 trying to get those animals.

28

29 Other than that, this year -- I mean,  
30 again, the harvest is pretty low comparatively speaking  
31 with other years because the caribou haven't really  
32 been in the unencumbered lands to be available to  
33 subsistence hunters this year, so I'm not surprised  
34 that the hunter harvest is down.

35

36 Does anybody have any questions over  
37 caribou harvest.

38

39 MS. STICKWAN: I do. I didn't hear  
40 what you said. You said the 537 was what?

41

42 MS. BULLOCK: That was the 2012 total  
43 season harvest, 537 individuals, which is quite a bit  
44 higher than the five year average of 397. As the  
45 Nelchina Herd on the 2012 year was estimated at 46,500  
46 individuals, which is about -- I think 40,000 is the  
47 upper limit and, of course, there was a herd correction  
48 over the spring and now that's been back down to about  
49 -- I think the latest I've heard is around 35,500,  
50 which is right at the lower end. So, again, that's

1 another reason why I'm not very surprised that the  
2 hunter harvest is down this year.

3

4 MS. STICKWAN: You said 157 have been  
5 taken so far?

6

7 MS. BULLOCK: Yes, ma'am.

8

9 CHAIRWOMAN CAMINER: You'll have to  
10 forgive us, Sarah. We've sort of been buried under  
11 papers. There is a handout of part of your  
12 presentation somewhere in front of us, but some of us  
13 are having a hard time finding it. If we can't find it  
14 and need another copy, I'm sure you have a copy or we  
15 have some here.

16

17 MS. BULLOCK: Yes, Madame Chair, I do.  
18 Okay. With that, just a couple little small things.  
19 We did have a land conveyance this year. It's a very  
20 small one square mile section in a fairly remote area  
21 just south of Fish Lake around 13A. Just to let you  
22 know that BLM Glennallen Field Office is still actively  
23 participating in the Susitna-Watana Hydro Project by  
24 attending the working group meetings and hopefully some  
25 of the initial study reports, wildlife study reports  
26 will be out in February or March of next year. So be  
27 looking for those. That will have a comment period as  
28 well, so you can take a look at those.

29

30 The Glennallen Field Office instituted  
31 an online hunt reporting service for our hunters this  
32 year. So now basically our hunters have physically  
33 mailed in their hunt reports. They can either call our  
34 office and we have a drop box. This right here is just  
35 another tool in the toolbox for them to be successful  
36 if they just want to stay in the comfort of their own  
37 homes and log on to report their hunt. So we're hoping  
38 that will help with hunter reporting so we don't have  
39 to restrict anybody for that.

40

41 Other than that, that's it. Any  
42 questions?

43

44 CHAIRWOMAN CAMINER: That's great.  
45 That sounds like an excellent service and I'm sure the  
46 other agents will work that way too eventually. You  
47 mentioned keeping track of Susitna-Watana, which we  
48 really appreciate. Hopefully, as you perhaps see any  
49 possible problems for subsistence uses or habitat,  
50 you'll keep us informed even in between meetings. That

1 would be great.  
2  
3 MS. BULLOCK: Absolutely.  
4  
5 CHAIRWOMAN CAMINER: Gloria.  
6  
7 MS. STICKWAN: Do you have an update  
8 map?  
9  
10 MS. BULLOCK: Update map.....  
11  
12 MS. STICKWAN: Of your land.....  
13  
14 MS. BULLOCK: Oh, of the new conveyed  
15 area?  
16  
17 MS. STICKWAN: Yeah.  
18  
19 MS. BULLOCK: I do not have one on me,  
20 but I am happy to -- we do have those that we give out  
21 to the hunters that come in and we usually point that  
22 out for the Glennallen folks to let them know that that  
23 area is available. I'll be happy to get that to you if  
24 you'd like.  
25  
26 CHAIRWOMAN CAMINER: Thanks. Anything  
27 else you were going to cover?  
28  
29 MS. BULLOCK: That was about it unless  
30 I have any questions.  
31  
32 CHAIRWOMAN CAMINER: Okay. There's a  
33 note in our book about scoping period on hunting guide  
34 capacity analysis.  
35  
36 MS. BULLOCK: Uh-huh. I did talk to  
37 Bill Overbaugh. He's leading up that effort and there  
38 was a scoping period back in 2012 and we were kind of  
39 mirroring what the State was doing with -- they're  
40 doing a guide, a similar study. That project for the  
41 State is on hold, so we're basically in a holding  
42 pattern as well.  
43  
44 CHAIRWOMAN CAMINER: Very good. Thanks  
45 very much. Chuck, did you have something to add for  
46 us?  
47  
48 MR. ARDIZZONE: If BLM is done, I do.  
49  
50 MS. BULLOCK: I'm done.

1 MR. ARDIZZONE: I just wanted to  
2 mention to Gloria and the Council we've had discussions  
3 in the past about adding some additional information to  
4 permits, like brow tines and antler size. We did get  
5 that through and approved, so that is on this year's  
6 permits. I just want to make sure especially Gloria  
7 was aware because Ahtna requested that, so we did get  
8 that added. It just took a while because it had to go  
9 through the government process. I just wanted to make  
10 sure everybody was aware it was done.

11  
12 CHAIRWOMAN CAMINER: Thanks for being  
13 responsive on that. Drew, do you have further Fish and  
14 Game report for us?

15  
16 MR. CRAWFORD: Not at this time.

17  
18 CHAIRWOMAN CAMINER: Okay. So Fish and  
19 Game, thank you for all your comments at the meeting  
20 over the last couple of days. I think there's a  
21 representative from the Partners Program perhaps online  
22 who was going to introduce themselves to us.

23  
24 MR. WHISSEL: Ma'am, that would be me.  
25 I'm John Whissel from the Native Village of Eyak.

26  
27 CHAIRWOMAN CAMINER: Thanks, John. I  
28 guess you've been listening in to quite a bit of our  
29 meeting and we're glad to support the Partners Program.  
30 Appreciate your work on it.

31  
32 MR. WHISSEL: Sure. I actually was  
33 calling in -- Palma had asked me to present the  
34 preliminary escapement data for chinook on the Copper  
35 River.

36  
37 CHAIRWOMAN CAMINER: Okay. Go ahead  
38 then.

39  
40 MR. WHISSEL: We have a preliminary  
41 estimate of 44,000, just above 44,000 chinook  
42 escapement. That's pretty high. I'd like to just sort  
43 of impress on you this is a preliminary number. We  
44 haven't even calculated our error in that estimate yet,  
45 so the number is likely to be real similar to that, but  
46 just sort of looking our statistics over again and  
47 doing sort of notebook statistics, we probably have a  
48 fairly high level of error this year compared to other  
49 years. Maybe on the order of 10,000 fish, but probably  
50 less than that. So it's likely we met our escapement

1 goals, but it may not have been the same level of  
2 additional fish above escapement that we saw for  
3 sockeye in the drainages. We have concern, but I think  
4 it's all in all pretty good for the chinook on the  
5 Copper.

6  
7 CHAIRWOMAN CAMINER: Very good. Any  
8 other comments, John.

9  
10 MR. WHISSEL: That was it.

11  
12 CHAIRWOMAN CAMINER: Well, thanks very  
13 much for participating and we hope to see you next time  
14 perhaps.

15  
16 MR. WHISSEL: Sure. Yeah, I'll be  
17 coming to present the final data at the spring meeting.

18  
19 CHAIRWOMAN CAMINER: Very good. I look  
20 forward to that then. Thank you.

21  
22 MR. WHISSEL: Thank you.

23  
24 CHAIRWOMAN CAMINER: Well, our Chair  
25 has returned, thank goodness. Ralph, we're just at  
26 almost the last agenda item. If there are any Native  
27 organizations or tribal representatives who would like  
28 to speak or add anything to the meeting.

29  
30 (No comments)

31  
32 CHAIRWOMAN CAMINER: Donald, anything  
33 else? I'd like to conclude by maybe just doing a  
34 little bit of -- just a quick review of what we need to  
35 follow up on because we have a huge list. Donald,  
36 things that we might have missed at this point.

37  
38 MR. MIKE: Madame Chair. No, I looked  
39 over the meeting agenda and we're close to the end and  
40 item number 12, future meeting dates, we've already  
41 taken care of that. There's a lot of follow up  
42 information I'll be typing up and be sharing with the  
43 Council. Mr. Robert Larson and I will have a pre-  
44 meeting on Friday and we'll get a hold of the committee  
45 that will be helping develop the agenda for our March  
46 meeting.

47  
48 Thank you, Madame Chair.

49  
50 CHAIRWOMAN CAMINER: Thanks, Donald. I

1 think maybe Gloria and Bob and Cathy and I can meet for  
2 just a few minutes after this meeting to toss around  
3 some agenda items. If it's okay, just let me read  
4 down. I've got a lot of notes here and I'll try to  
5 make better sense of them, Donald, and put them in  
6 better order.

7

8 Gloria.

9

10 MS. STICKWAN: The next meeting is a  
11 three-day meeting, right? 11, 12, 13 March, we said,  
12 right?

13

14 CHAIRWOMAN CAMINER: Tentatively a  
15 three-day meeting.....

16

17 MS. STICKWAN: We've got a long list.

18

19 CHAIRWOMAN CAMINER: .....depending on  
20 agenda items, I guess.

21

22 MS. STICKWAN: We have a long list of  
23 stuff.

24

25 CHAIRWOMAN CAMINER: We do have a long  
26 list. If we can get it a little bit organized, maybe  
27 we'll be able to streamline it as much as possible  
28 perhaps.

29

30 I guess just in terms of follow up I'll  
31 mention just a few things that maybe hadn't been  
32 mentioned before. One thing I think that would be  
33 helpful, Carl, would be once the rest of the Councils  
34 have met if we could get copies of what the other  
35 Councils have said about the C&T process and about the  
36 rural determination process. I think we'd all be  
37 interested in that and I'm sure -- hopefully all  
38 Councils might be interested in all Council comments.

39

40 MR. JOHNSON: Yes, Madame Chair. We  
41 were certainly planning on providing a summary of each  
42 Council's C&T comments for the Southeast Council's  
43 benefit. We wanted to have that for them as they  
44 prepare for their winter meeting, but it certainly  
45 would be conceivable while we're doing that to do the  
46 same thing for the rural determination comments.

47

48 Several Councils have done as this  
49 Council has done and adopt part of the public comment  
50 from the rural hearing as their own comments. So, in

1 some cases there was some pretty involved meetings,  
2 like in the Southeast they had a big turnout down there  
3 and also Kodiak had a good turnout whereas others are  
4 not as extensive. So we'll provide that for the  
5 Council's benefit and share it with the others as well.

6

7 CHAIRWOMAN CAMINER: Great. Gloria.

8

9 MS. STICKWAN: Maybe I didn't  
10 understand or didn't hear, but I thought we were going  
11 to get back to our annual report because we were  
12 talking about -- we said we're going to think about it  
13 and get back to that.

14

15 CHAIRWOMAN CAMINER: Yes, we will. We  
16 will. I'm just trying to go through a list of some of  
17 the other things we said and then, you're right, we  
18 should end with any additional items we want to put in  
19 the annual report.

20

21 One thing that was mentioned while you  
22 were out, Ralph, was that we would appreciate -- it  
23 might be helpful for us to hear what special actions  
24 might have taken place in the last six months or  
25 however long since our last meeting. I think people  
26 would like -- found that informative.

27

28 One thing for our future meeting, which  
29 is left over I think from our last meeting, we had had  
30 someone the last time who I believe kind of wrote us a  
31 letter about customary trade and we said that was  
32 something we wanted to take up. Obviously this was too  
33 busy a meeting to do that and I don't know if whether  
34 we'll be able to do it at the next meeting, but this  
35 region did seem to feel that we had some comments on  
36 customary trade that we would want to discuss, so we'll  
37 put that on a future agenda.

38

39 Are there other items people remember  
40 as follow up. Some of the ones I've already said  
41 before, so I'm not going to repeat them.

42

43 (No comments)

44

45 CHAIRWOMAN CAMINER: Okay. Any other  
46 thoughts then on what should go in our annual report  
47 and we will try to be more specific this time on our  
48 annual report requests.

49

50 (No comments)

1  
2 CHAIRWOMAN CAMINER: I know Mary Ann  
3 had brought up that we should write a supportive  
4 statement to the Federal government about them  
5 continuing to stay in court if need be on that Katie  
6 John State's appeal.

7  
8 MR. LOHSE: I think we need to again  
9 express our appreciation and our support of the  
10 Fisheries Monitoring Program and the information that's  
11 been gathered by it and express our opinion that we  
12 would like to see some of the same things happen with  
13 game. Same kind of a program.

14  
15 CHAIRWOMAN CAMINER: Gloria.

16  
17 MS. STICKWAN: I just thought it was  
18 good to have Southeast's Chair here in the working  
19 group. I think it's helpful to hear from other RACs,  
20 their opinions. I thought this was a good meeting  
21 inviting them. If it could be done in the future, that  
22 would be good.

23  
24 CHAIRWOMAN CAMINER: I agree, Gloria.  
25 It seems like -- I mean, as you know, a lot of overlap  
26 sometimes with Eastern Interior proposals, so I think  
27 that might be something for us to consider at some  
28 point.

29  
30 MR. LOHSE: That would be something  
31 that could be put in our annual report too is the  
32 benefit of having the guests here and that it would be  
33 nice -- it would be just nice to have a couple guests  
34 at every meal -- at every meeting from other Councils.  
35 At every meal, yeah.

36  
37 (Laughter)

38  
39 MR. LOHSE: At every meeting from other  
40 Councils just so we can get an appreciation of what  
41 other Councils face. It doesn't have to be Southeast.  
42 It could be Eastern Interior. It could be even up on  
43 the North Slope. All of them would be -- you know,  
44 when we first started this, one of the things that I  
45 thought was the most beneficial thin we did and this is  
46 a long time ago, they called a meeting in Anchorage of  
47 all 10 Councils and all 10 Councils and their Chairs  
48 came to Anchorage and we had a joint session with the  
49 Board and everybody else.

50

1                   It was just so good to be able to talk  
2 to people from other parts of Alaska that shared the  
3 same concerns, were dealing with the same kind of  
4 issues and things like that. I really thought that was  
5 good. Then for a while we had joint Chair meetings and  
6 then gradually all of that has kind of -- when you look  
7 at the funding thing right here, as the funding has  
8 gone down, so have those joint type sessions. I always  
9 felt that they were extremely beneficial just because  
10 you found ideas from other areas.

11  
12                   You know, what we had this time just by  
13 having two people here from some place else, if we  
14 could -- even if we don't have a joint meeting, if we  
15 could just have a couple of -- if we were allowed to  
16 have a couple of guest Council members from some place  
17 else just to come sit in, share, give us insights and  
18 give us things that they're doing where they are, I  
19 think it would be well worthwhile. I don't know what  
20 the rest of the Council feels on that, but I think it  
21 would be worthwhile.

22  
23                   Could we put something like that in our  
24 annual report?

25  
26                   CHAIRWOMAN CAMINER: Great. Those are  
27 excellent ideas. Donald will look to you to sort out  
28 the difference between what will go in the letter and  
29 what can be for future meetings and what follow up  
30 we're requesting. We do want to thank Cathy for being  
31 here at our meeting. We did gain a lot of insight from  
32 what you had to say. All the Staff who contributed to  
33 making the books and the materials happen. It's really  
34 been very helpful.

35  
36                   Other comments from Council members.

37  
38                   (No comments)

39  
40                   CHAIRWOMAN CAMINER: Thank you  
41 everybody for your participation and Donald will be in  
42 touch with all of us and see you soon. Safe travels  
43 home.

44  
45                   Any closing comments by anybody.

46  
47                   (No comments)

48  
49                   CHAIRWOMAN CAMINER: Okay. So our plan  
50 is our next meeting will be a joint meeting with the

1 Southeast RAC. Cathy, do you have any closing comments  
2 for us from your perspective of being here at the  
3 meeting?

4

5 MS. NEEDHAM: Thank you, Madame Chair.  
6 Members of the Southcentral Council. Again, my name is  
7 Cathy Needham from the Southeast RAC Council and I just  
8 want to say what a pleasure it was to be able to be  
9 here for all of your proceedings. I learned a lot  
10 about the similarities that we have but also about the  
11 differences, which I think sometimes can be even more  
12 important because now I can take ideas and thoughts and  
13 considerations that you guys have worked on some issues  
14 maybe a little more in depth than we have in the past  
15 and to share a different perspective.

16

17 So I think it's great that you want to  
18 bring forth this idea of having more communications and  
19 works between RACs because I think it could be  
20 beneficial for all of us. Especially, you know, in  
21 Southeast we don't have border neighboring Councils to  
22 work with like you guys have more proposals that deal  
23 with that, so I could see where it would be even hugely  
24 more beneficial up in these areas.

25

26 Again, thank you for the invitation and  
27 it was a pleasure to be here to see your good work.

28

29 CHAIRWOMAN CAMINER: Thanks for  
30 spending the time with us too. I'm sure we'll all  
31 learn a lot at the next meeting. Chuck.

32

33 MR. ARDIZZONE: I just wanted to say  
34 one more time thank you to the Council and Donald for  
35 rescheduling this meeting and taking time out of your  
36 busy schedule.

37

38 We really appreciate it.

39

40 Thank you.

41

42 CHAIRWOMAN CAMINER: I'd say we all  
43 appreciate the support because not only did we  
44 reschedule, but then with the power failure the other  
45 day we really had to reschedule, so thanks for  
46 scrambling and we didn't lose too much time in that  
47 transition.

48

49 Gloria.

50

1 MS. STICKWAN: Did you say you had a  
2 copy of this or you got a copy of this that we could  
3 have because this was your copy?

4  
5 CHAIRWOMAN CAMINER: That was in the  
6 newspaper. You're welcome to keep it if you like. But  
7 they are right, I've gone a few times to the website  
8 for the Susitna-Watana and it's very impressive.  
9 There's tons of information on there, but it would be  
10 good to follow as well.

11  
12 MS. STICKWAN: I had something else  
13 about the government shutdown. You know, it affected  
14 our Council. We had to postpone our meeting. I don't  
15 know if it's under the Federal Board's purview, but how  
16 much did that cost, the whole budget, their employees,  
17 by shutting down? You know, I'd be curious to know  
18 what that cost was. I don't know if that could be  
19 included in our letter or if it's out of their purview  
20 to do that or what.

21  
22 CHAIRWOMAN CAMINER: Carl, what was the  
23 almost three weeks of Staff time worth?

24  
25 MR. JOHNSON: Well, one cost I can tell  
26 you for sure is that every time we change anybody's  
27 travel we are charged a \$30 fee per person. So we had  
28 to change the travel for five Councils worth of people.  
29 So take let's say 50 x 30 and that is one tangible  
30 cost. Certainly there's work time loss, which we can't  
31 really quantify because of the time spent getting  
32 prepared for the shutdown because we knew it was coming  
33 and then the time spent after the shutdown trying to  
34 reorganize the rest of our fall meeting cycle.

35  
36 Other intangible costs, again, I can't  
37 stress how, for me, difficult it was to face the fact  
38 that we could have presented Doug Blossom in person the  
39 recognition of his service and we lost that opportunity  
40 because of the shutdown. We could probably come up  
41 with a concrete number cost once we're done processing  
42 the post shutdown period. If the Council is  
43 interested, we could provide that.

44  
45 CHAIRWOMAN CAMINER: Well, I think we  
46 know it was substantial and the whole thing was really  
47 a shame. Hopefully not the way the government runs in  
48 the future. Gloria, do you really want a number or do  
49 we realize.....

50

1 MS. STICKWAN: I'd be curious.  
2  
3 CHAIRWOMAN CAMINER: .....that whatever  
4 it is it was really a waste.  
5  
6 MS. STICKWAN: You don't have to waste  
7 your time doing that.  
8  
9 CHAIRWOMAN CAMINER: Carl.  
10  
11 MR. JOHNSON: I'll add as well, and  
12 thanks to Steve for noting this, this meeting was  
13 originally going to be held in Copper Center, so there  
14 was a loss of economic opportunity for those  
15 communities in that area as far as the lodging, stores,  
16 supplies, food, all that to that region. We also, in  
17 the process -- I think that was the only meeting where  
18 there was the change of location. The other meetings  
19 are being held in their original planned locations.  
20 But that's also another cost. Not to us, but to the  
21 communities themselves.  
22  
23 MS. STICKWAN: Yeah, we were looking  
24 forward to that public hearing in our area, but that's  
25 okay.  
26  
27 CHAIRWOMAN CAMINER: Well, let's just  
28 hope in January things go smoothly or the next few  
29 months after that whenever they kick the can down the  
30 road so to speak. Anyhow, any other comments from  
31 folks.  
32  
33 (No comments)  
34  
35 CHAIRWOMAN CAMINER: Thanks everybody  
36 for your patience and getting through a huge agenda. I  
37 think we did our diligence on the proposals and on the  
38 other issues too.  
39  
40 Ralph, I hope everything went well  
41 today.  
42  
43 MR. LOHSE: Thank you, Judy. Thank you  
44 much for taking over for me. Yeah, everything did go  
45 well. My mother-in-law already has the bandage off her  
46 eye and claims that she can see better than she could  
47 before she went in. It's just amazing to me what they  
48 can do, but it's also amazing to me how complicated it  
49 is to get in to do something. I think she spent way  
50 more time filling out paperwork ahead of time and

1 afterwards than she did in surgery, but it was good. I  
2 just appreciate the fact that that stuff is available  
3 and it's amazing what can be done.

4  
5 I thank you all for allowing me to skip  
6 out and I sure appreciate the award that you gave me.  
7 It's been a pleasure working with everybody here. It's  
8 been a real pleasure working with Donald. I'll have to  
9 pat him on the back again. As a Council, I don't know  
10 what we would do without our coordinators. And I don't  
11 just mean that for Donald. I mean just in general. I  
12 think back on our coordinators and I think back and I  
13 look at other Councils and those people put in a lot of  
14 work and I think we, as Council members, really need to  
15 express our appreciation.

16  
17 Thank you.

18  
19 Donald.

20  
21 MR. MIKE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. The  
22 reason I'm sitting here is because I like calling you  
23 and we exchange subsistence stories along with the rest  
24 of the Council members, so that's why I keep sitting  
25 here.

26  
27 Anyway, just for those that are  
28 traveling, you know, if you don't feel like traveling  
29 back home tonight, you're paid for this time until  
30 tomorrow.

31  
32 Thank you.

33  
34 MR. LOHSE: Thank you, Donald. I keep  
35 trying to talk you into coming down to Cordova to do  
36 your sea otter hunting and you keep going someplace  
37 else.

38  
39 MR. MIKE: I'm working on my wife with  
40 that.

41  
42 MR. LOHSE: Shall we adjourn?

43  
44 CHAIRWOMAN CAMINER: We shall adjourn.

45  
46 MR. LOHSE: I don't know if we need a  
47 motion to adjourn or not. A motion to adjourn is in  
48 order.

49  
50 MR. SHOWALTER: So move.

1 MR. LOHSE: We don't need to vote on  
2 it.  
3  
4 We're adjourned.  
5  
6 (Off record)  
7  
8 (END OF PROCEEDINGS)

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C E R T I F I C A T E

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 )ss.  
STATE OF ALASKA )

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Salena A. Hile  
Notary Public, State of Alaska  
My Commission Expires: 9/16/14