

1 SOUTHCENTRAL FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE
2 REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING

3
4 TELEPHONIC PUBLIC MEETING

5
6 VOLUME I

7
8 Anchorage, Alaska
9 January 13, 2009
10 12:00 o'clock p.m.

11
12
13 COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

14
15 Ralph Lohse, Chairman
16 Doug Blossom - Telephonic
17 Tom Carpenter - Telephonic
18 Fred Elvsaas
19 Greg Encelewski
20 Robert Henrichs - Telephonic
21 James Showalter - Telephonic
22 Willard Stockwell - Telephonic
23 Tricia Waggoner

24
25
26
27 Regional Council Coordinator, Donald Mike

28
29
30
31
32
33
34
35
36
37
38
39
40
41
42
43 Recorded and transcribed by:

44
45 Computer Matrix Court Reporters, LLC
46 700 W. 2nd Avenue
47 Anchorage, AK 99501
48 907-243-0668
49 jpk@gci.net/sahile@gci.net

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

P R O C E E D I N G S

(Anchorage, Alaska - 1/13/2009)

(On record)

MR. MIKE: (Roll call of members on phone and present - noted above)

CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Thank you, Donald, do we have a quorum?

MR. MIKE: Yes, Mr. Chair, we have a quorum.

CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay, we have a quorum. Tom, can you copy me real good?

MR. CARPENTER: Yeah, I hear you Ralph. Me and Bob are here.

CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Just you and Bob, do you have any other people that want to testify?

MR. CARPENTER: Not at this time, no.

CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay. With that I'd like to welcome everybody to this special teleconference. I'll explain why I felt that I should call it when I got back to Cordova and heard about this land sale and then started running into subsistence users in Cordova. The feeling I had was that there was a lot of anxiety over it and so we called the teleconference so that we, as a Council, can decide whether or not we want to take a position as Council, an official position as a Council, and either write a recommendation for or against it or modifications to it. And with that in mind, I got a hold of Donald, Donald worked hard to set this thing up. We're glad to have the people here to explain the ramifications of this.

Some of the concerns that were expressed to me as a Council member I put forward in the past the idea that it's a major deer wintering ground, it's one of the few places that's really accessible to people with small craft and slow craft from Cordova and the kids. And the other thing is our concern with the size of the withdrawal or the opening, and the size of the lots, what we're, I think for most

1 subsistence users that I heard, the biggest concern --
2 I mean everybody would love to have a little homestead
3 over there or a little cabin site but the fact that
4 these are parcels that are big enough to have
5 commercial entities set up, lodges or camps or anything
6 like that, really strikes -- I'll say strikes fear in
7 the heart of subsistence users from Cordova that have
8 talked to me.

9

10 So with that we're going to go on --
11 that gives an idea of why I called the meeting. And
12 with that we're going to go on to the review and the
13 adoption of the agenda that we have in front of us. Do
14 you have a copy of the agenda there, Tom?

15

16 MR. CARPENTER: Yeah, I do Ralph.

17

18 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay.

19

20 MR. SHOWALTER: Ralph. Showalter. I'm
21 going to try and put it on speaker phone so if I lose
22 you I'll call right back.

23

24 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay. Tell us if you
25 made it?

26

27 (Pause)

28

29 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Can you hear us?

30

31 MR. SHOWALTER: Yes.

32

33 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay. What we have
34 here for an agenda, we're at the review and the
35 adoption of the agenda. We've gone through call to
36 order, roll call and I'd like to have some
37 introductions but we'll do that after we tell you what
38 the agenda is -- well, I guess we should have our
39 introductions first.

40

41 So with that you've got Tom and Mr.
42 Henrichs in Cordova, right?

43

44 MR. HENRICHS: Yes.

45

46 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: And where is everybody
47 else and is there anybody else there other than Council
48 members?

49

50 MR. CARPENTER: There's no one here

1 right now, Ralph.

2

3 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: How about in any of
4 the other locations?

5

6 MR. CARPENTER: Actually Tory Baker
7 just walked in from the Advisory Committee.

8

9 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay, at the other
10 locations, is there anybody there other than Council
11 members?

12

13 (No comments)

14

15 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Mr. Showalter, is
16 there anybody else there?

17

18 MR. SHOWALTER: No, I'm sitting at
19 home.

20

21 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay. Okay, well,
22 let's just go around and introduce ourselves. We'll
23 start with the bunch at Cordova and then we'll go to
24 all the rest of you that are on the phone so that
25 everybody here knows where you're from, and then we'll
26 just start at the table here and we'll all introduce
27 ourselves and that way we'll have it on the record.

28

29 So, Tom, if you want to start off over
30 there.

31

32 MR. CARPENTER: Yeah, we have three
33 people here. We have Bob Henrichs, myself and Tory
34 Baker from the Advisory Committee.

35

36 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay, thank you Tom.
37 James, there's nobody else with you and where are you
38 at right now -- where are you right now?

39

40 MR. SHOWALTER: Okay, James Showalter,
41 Sterling, at home.

42

43 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay, you're in
44 Sterling. Okay, who else do we have on the phone.

45

46 MR. BLOSSOM: Doug Blossom, Clam Gulch.

47

48 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay, Doug Blossom.
49 And there was one other, Bill Stockwell.

50

1 MR. STOCKWELL: Yeah, Bill Stockwell,
2 I'm in my wife's condo in Anchorage and the only one
3 here with me is my dog.
4
5 (Laughter)
6
7 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay, thank you.
8 Okay, with that, let's just start at the table and
9 we'll start with the right-hand side of Donald over
10 there and just go around.
11
12 MR. MIKE: Your right or ours?
13
14 (Laughter)
15
16 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: I guess.....
17
18 (Laughter)
19
20 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: He's right, let's take
21 his right, okay.
22
23 MR. van den BROEK: Keith van den
24 Broek, Native Village of Eyak, Cordova.
25
26 MR. BRYDEN: Jeff Bryden, U.S. Forest
27 Service subsistence law enforcement.
28
29 MS. LAMPE: Gretchen Lampe (ph),
30 Cordova law enforcement.
31
32 MS. WAGGONER: Tricia Waggoner, Council
33 member from Palmer.
34
35 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Ralph Lohse, Council
36 member from Cordova, Chitina.
37
38 MR. ELVSAAS: Fred Elvsaas, Council
39 member from Seldovia.
40
41 MR. ENCELEWSKI: I'm Greg Encelewski,
42 Council member from Ninilchik.
43
44 MR. WALSH: I'm Jason Walsh, Department
45 of Natural Resources. I'm the land sales project
46 manager.
47
48 MR. ELUSKA: Tom Eluska, Native Village
49 of Eyak, Cordova.
50

1 MR. JOYCE: Tim Joyce, Forest Service,
2 Cordova.
3
4 MR. MIKE: Donald Mike, Office of
5 Subsistence Management.
6
7 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: One more.
8
9 MR. RABINOWITCH: Sandy Rabinowitch,
10 National Park Service.
11
12 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay. I didn't
13 realize you were behind me Sandy.
14
15 MR. RABINOWITCH: I kind of snuck back
16 here.
17
18 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay, with that we're
19 going to go and take a look at the agenda real quick.
20 I don't know if all of you have it in front of you so
21 I'm going to read it and if it's okay with everybody
22 we'll follow that and this is on the Hawkins Island DNR
23 Proposed Land Project.
24
25 We're going to have an introduction of
26 the meeting materials from the OSM
27 Staff.
28
29 A summary of uses on Hawkins Island by
30 the fisheries service Federal Forest
31 Service Staff.
32
33 The DNR proposed land sale process by
34 the DNR representative.
35
36 And the DNR proposed actions by the DNR
37 representative.
38
39 And then we'll have RAC discussion.
40
41 We'll open it up for public testimony
42 if anybody wishes to testify.
43
44 And then we'll go on to Regional
45 Advisory Council comments and I'll say
46 action. I think we'll add action to
47 that, whether we take -- and that
48 action could be no action, that action
49 could be modified or it could just be
50 opposition.

1 And then we'll go on to other business
2 and adjourn.

3
4 Now, is that okay with everybody.

5
6 MR. ENCELEWSKI: That's good.

7
8 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Does anybody see
9 something they'd like added to it.

10
11 (No comments)

12
13 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay, with that we're
14 going to go on to an introduction of the meeting
15 materials by the OSM Staff.

16
17 Donald.

18
19 MR. MIKE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Prior
20 to this teleconference meeting I had sent out meeting
21 materials to all the Council members and this salmon
22 colored document titled Preliminary Finding and
23 Decision from the Department of Natural Resources and
24 they reference topographical maps just for the Council
25 members reference as far as it relates to the Hawkins
26 Island and city of Cordova.

27
28 And originally I asked the Forest
29 Service Staff in Cordova to summarize the subsistence
30 harvest use of deer on Hawkins Island and we got that
31 document. This was dated January 7th, 2007.

32
33 MR. JOYCE: Nine. 2009.

34
35 MR. MIKE: 2009, I'm sorry. It just
36 basically summarizes the subsistence uses of deer on
37 Hawkins Island and Mr. Tim Joyce from the Cordova
38 Ranger District will explain what the summary's all
39 about. And I had emailed this information to all the
40 Council members and I had attempted to fax it to Mr.
41 Blossom and Mr. Showalter, and I briefly explained the
42 summary to Mr. Blossom over the phone since we couldn't
43 connect on the fax.

44
45 But if anybody doesn't have this
46 document, I have extra copies here if you need them,
47 I'll just go ahead and pass it around.

48
49 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Tom.

50

1 (No comments)
2
3 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Mr. Carpenter.
4
5 MR. CARPENTER: Go ahead, Ralph.
6
7 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Did I hear you say you
8 weren't able to hear?
9
10 MR. CARPENTER: No, we can hear you
11 fine.
12
13 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay. And you have
14 that document on the deer harvest there, don't you?
15
16 MR. CARPENTER: Yes, I do, the email
17 that Donald sent.
18
19 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay, thank you.
20
21 MR. MIKE: And that's all the meeting
22 materials I provided to the Council, and this meeting
23 announcement was posted on our website, on the OSM
24 website and I also shared the meeting announcement with
25 all the Council members.
26
27 And, that, Mr. Chair, concludes my
28 summary of the meeting materials.
29
30 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Thank you. Any
31 questions for Donald.
32
33 (No comments)
34
35 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Hearing none, we'll go
36 on to hear a summary of uses on Hawkins Island by the
37 Forest Service.
38
39 Tim.
40
41 MR. JOYCE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Tim
42 Joyce, U.S. Forest Service from Cordova.
43
44 As you probably all have this summary
45 that was given to me by Milo regarding the deer harvest
46 and he got this from Dave Crowley who's the ADF&G game
47 management biologist in the Cordova area. It's not
48 easy to come up with specifics for the land in
49 particular that we're talking about, it's too small of
50 an area for Fish and Game to actually come up with a

1 harvest from that spot, but they have got it divided
2 into two parts of Hawkins Island.

3
4 As you can see from the email there's
5 kind of a northeast Hawkins and then the southwest
6 Hawkins. And the northeast area is that we're
7 concerned with in this particular discussion. And in
8 2006 from their records, from their harvest surveys
9 they have estimated 169 deer that were harvested in
10 that northeast area. Again, I want to reiterate this
11 is not specific to the area that we're talking about on
12 this land sale but it's a much larger area but it's
13 about 169 deer.

14
15 And then in that same year there were
16 307 hunter days. So, again, as maybe some of you guys
17 on the phone weren't privy to the conversations before
18 we got started, but this is one area where people go to
19 with their small skiffs, slow boats, it's a little bit
20 more weather protected. It's maybe not the most hunted
21 area on the island, some of the larger boats will go
22 around the corner that can take a little heavier water
23 and they'll hunt different areas farther down on
24 Hawkins Island, but it is an area that's readily
25 accessible to people that live in Cordova because it is
26 close, it's within about two miles of the city to go
27 straight across and it's in protected anchorages. So
28 it does get utilized probably from maybe some of the
29 younger folks in town and et cetera, for that area, for
30 deer hunting.

31
32 It is a wintering area, deer do come
33 down to this area off the mountains, particularly when
34 there's heavy snow and come down into this area to
35 winter. As you can see again for the 2006 harvest was
36 approximately 2,600 deer and out of those 390 came from
37 Hawkins Island, both northeast and the southwest. And
38 in 2006 there was 518 hunters from Cordova and about 90
39 of those 100 hunters used that northeast Hawkins Island
40 area. So, again, those hunters may have been back
41 there more than once, they may have made multiple trips
42 to the area but there was about 90 hunters that did
43 utilize that area. There was a slightly more 108 that
44 used the southwest Hawkins area.

45
46 What that relates to, just if you do
47 the statistics is about a little over a third of the
48 deer per day per hunter when they were out hunting in
49 these areas.

50

1 So, again, going down to the summary,
2 this land sale itself is just a very small portion of
3 this northeast Hawkins Island area but it does
4 represent that area that's very close to Cordova and it
5 does represent an area that's very accessible to
6 Cordova with good anchorages for weather and it does
7 get utilized by many residents out of Cordova that have
8 small boats and don't have the larger boats to be able
9 to access other areas.

10

11 So with that, Mr. Chairman, I would
12 entertain any questions.

13

14 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Do we have any
15 questions for the Forest Service.

16

17 (No comments)

18

19 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Thank you, Tim. Okay,
20 with that we're going to go on to Mr. Walsh.

21

22 MR. WALSH: Yes, thank you. Well, a
23 lot's happened with this proposal since I first put it
24 out. I don't know how much I should go into the
25 background of land sales for the State here but just
26 really briefly the State has all the lands they
27 received from statehood. They classify those lands per
28 their best uses through a land use plan. A land use
29 plan that applies in this area was done in 1988, Prince
30 William Sound area plan. Sort of pushing the limits of
31 a shelf life of an area plan but it's not, right now, a
32 priority for the State to revisit this plan. They just
33 dolled out the next plans that will be done, they're
34 working on the Tanana Basin Area Plan, and a few other
35 specific management plans and that's really a staffing
36 issue within the State.

37

38 So this classification was put on this
39 area as settlement in 1988 and what that meant was at
40 the time they decided that this area, they wanted to
41 dispose of this, through one of the land sales
42 programs. At the time the land sales program was a
43 homesite sweat equity program where you live on it, you
44 prove up and then eventually you can buy it from the
45 State. The method that the State sells land has
46 changed over time. And now we have a subdivision sales
47 program which pre-subdivides lots, then offers those
48 lots through a silent bid auction at the appraised
49 value at being the lowest minimum bid and then there's
50 a remote recreation program, which allows people to go

1 stake their property that they want and then buy that
2 property at an appraised value at the minimum bid,
3 appraised value. The staking usually takes place in
4 the Interior or in areas that have a lot more land.
5 It's not very popular in a lot of parts that are
6 coastal accessible or road accessible areas, so we
7 usually do a subdivision process for those land sales.

8
9 So we selected this area based on the
10 classification of settlement from the 1988 area plan
11 and wrote the proposal which outlined, very broadly,
12 sort of what we kind of envisioned 20 acre to two acre
13 parcels and we do that on purpose because the
14 preliminary decision that you have before you that
15 everybody's read is going -- is the document, which the
16 public review to see if it's in the best interest of
17 the State to dispose of this land. So it's kind of a
18 backwards scenario because we don't have all the
19 information on the land that we would like to have,
20 like soils data, more access data, more specific
21 topographic survey data, but we can't spend the money
22 to do that research unless we know that we are going to
23 dispose of the land because they don't want to do soils
24 data and topographic surveys on land that we're just
25 going to keep in public ownership. So that's the
26 situation under which I put out this preliminary
27 decision, which was written broadly and the idea behind
28 the preliminary decision is to get more public input on
29 a proposal.

30
31 While I received with a slew of public
32 input from Cordova residents. You could sit there and
33 watch the emails pour in after I put this out. I went
34 to Cordova, I had a public meeting to kind of explain
35 this process to the residents. I had about 30 people
36 show up at that meeting.

37
38 (Cell phone ringing)

39
40 MR. WALSH: I'll just turn this off,
41 sorry about that.

42
43 And there's a lot of general opposition
44 to this. And so I tried to direct people as opposed to
45 just being opposed to a land sale, which often is the
46 case in Alaska, because people don't want new
47 neighbors, to give me actual reasons why they thought
48 this land sale wasn't appropriate.

49
50 The land sale, people gave me a lot of

1 good data on why they thought this wasn't appropriate,
2 because of the subsistence uses in the area,
3 specifically with deer harvesting and some information
4 on waterfowl and other uses in the area. A lot of,
5 what I'll say socio-cultural significance that the area
6 had as well for people taking their kids hunting, skiff
7 hunting, kayak hunting, all of the reasons everybody's
8 gone over here.

9
10 So I went back to the city of Cordova
11 -- no, so I extended the public notice on the original
12 30 days public notice and gave everybody an extra 30
13 days so February 2nd is the end of the public notice
14 now. I talked to our own Fish and Game and got -- I
15 think it was Crowley and got more information from
16 Crowley, which is this information that you've
17 presented here, and I went over the comments and did
18 more research on our own. I talked to the Office of
19 History and Archeology as well. There are history
20 archeological sites there but we don't have the map yet
21 and any land disposal process would go through a
22 mapping first before we did that to protect those
23 sites, it's part of the statutes that we operate under.
24 But when I went back to Cordova I had enough
25 information that I deemed that the Shipyard Bay area,
26 the settlement classification was not appropriate for
27 that area. A subdivision does not make sense to us
28 anymore in the Shipyard Bay area because of all the
29 uses that have been identified and the importance that
30 Cordovans place on this area. And to me it seemed,
31 though, as though any settlement given handling of
32 sewage or whatever, even one or two parcels could, you
33 know, disrupt the current uses as they are, and those
34 uses are more important than the subdivision.

35
36 However, I didn't cancel the
37 preliminary decision because I wanted people to
38 continue to comment because the area I had received
39 comments on initially was just around Shipyard Bay,
40 nobody commented on Deep Bay and I asked residents in
41 that room, which was at the -- I'm sorry, what was the
42 name of where that meeting was held?

43
44 MR. JOYCE: It was the Copper River
45 Watershed Group's office.

46
47 MR. WALSH: Yeah, Copper River
48 Watershed Group had put on this meeting and there was
49 about 25 people at that meeting I would guess as well.
50 And I said I wasn't going to close the preliminary

1 decision because I write decisions to sell land, I
2 don't write decisions to not sell land, I wanted to
3 keep the comment period open so that we could get more
4 information on Deep Bay, to see if there was an
5 appropriate area for more settlement, maybe one, two,
6 three lots, smaller lot sizes, whatever, and I asked
7 people to comment on the entire State land that was
8 classified as settlement because apparently, you know,
9 there's a lot of information out there that says maybe
10 this classification is inappropriate. And I told the
11 residents at that meeting that -- or the attendees of
12 that meeting that I would then, at best case, could
13 pass this information on to our planning department,
14 and that that would be part of the permanent record so
15 that when the Prince William Sound Area Plan was picked
16 up again, hopefully within the next three or four
17 years, this information would be part of how they dealt
18 with the classification of the State land on Hawkins
19 Island.

20

21 So the preliminary decision is still
22 out there. It's still valid. I'm not planning the
23 land sale, however, in Shipyard Bay, and I'm still
24 looking for comments on the entirety of the classified
25 settlement area as well as Deep Bay to see if there is
26 an appropriate area for any type of settlement
27 whatsoever.

28

29 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Thank you. Does
30 anybody have any questions for Mr. Walsh.

31

32 MR. HENRICHS: Yeah, Ralph I got a
33 question, Bob Henrichs.

34

35 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Yep, you're recognized
36 Bob.

37

38 MR. HENRICHS: So are there any
39 archeological sites within any of these proposed land
40 sales?

41

42 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Bob, I think I'll let
43 him answer it, but I think from what he said is they
44 know there are but they haven't been mapped.

45

46 MR. WALSH: That's correct, yeah.

47

48 MR. HENRICHS: Well, you know, Hawkins
49 Island -- every likely spot was used and we've got
50 reinterned -- people who were stolen from their graves

1 over there and brought it back -- and put them back
2 there, there's probably more coming.

3

4 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Thank you, Bob. Do
5 you want to make any direct statement on how that would
6 apply to sales in that whole area that's open? Do you
7 feel like that whole area is valuable enough that maybe
8 there's other uses for it than land sale?

9

10 MR. HENRICHS: Well, if there's
11 archeological sites there I sure would hate to see
12 somebody buy it and build homes over top of graves.
13 Too much of that's happened in the past, even in this
14 town.

15

16 MR. WALSH: If I could make a comment,
17 follow-up.

18

19 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Mr. Walsh.

20

21 MR. WALSH: What I explained to -- in
22 the second meeting in Cordova and what I think's at
23 issue here is my job was to find appropriate areas of
24 settlement and like I said I don't think this is an
25 appropriate area. However, if I drop my proposed
26 project the classification of settlement still exists,
27 and not to say that someone at some other time won't
28 pursue this project, go through the same process, even
29 if I put, you know, notes to file and put people know.
30 Because the settlement classification stands the State
31 will still treat it as an area that they think is
32 worthy of some sort of disposal. So what really is at
33 issue is, I think, the classification and if there's
34 going to be an official comment made to me regarding
35 that, that's how it should be made in regards to the
36 classification in any settlement at any time for this
37 parcel.

38

39 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: That's what I was
40 going to ask you, was, while we're dealing with this
41 and we're looking at this one incident right here,
42 which is basically a small segment, or whatever you
43 want to call it, I mean it's something that could
44 happen any place on this island, which happens to be a
45 very important part of Cordova's pre-history and at the
46 same time is a very important part of Cordova
47 subsistence lifestyle, as you can see from the reports
48 from Hawkins Island. The fact that we're dealing with
49 a land use plan that was made in 1988, which is 30
50 years ago, a lot of attitudes in Cordova and worldwide

1 have changed as far as the importance of historical
2 sites and natural resources for the use of the people
3 that are right in the area and I'm agreeing with you, I
4 think that we need to, while we're addressing this,
5 address the whole idea of land sales on Hawkins Island
6 as part of the land planning use.

7

8 MR. STOCKWELL: Ralph. Bill.

9

10 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Bill, okay.

11

12 MR. STOCKWELL: Yeah, I need to drop
13 off this phone and call in on another one, I'll be with
14 you in a minute.

15

16 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay. Tim.

17

18 MR. JOYCE: Just for clarification,
19 Ralph, if maybe Jason could explain some of the other
20 classifications besides settlement.

21

22 MR. WALSH: Yeah. There's public
23 recreation, wildlife habitat, water resources and
24 there's priv -- well, those are the main
25 classifications that you'll come across. You have to
26 remember that any State classification, say water
27 resources, would recognize that there's certain
28 hydrological values maybe a wetland complex, that this
29 land provides, generally allowed uses on State lands
30 still apply, meaning regardless of the classification
31 there's certain uses meaning camping, hunting, fishing,
32 building a trail five feet wide can take place on any
33 of those lands.

34

35 But those are some of the other
36 classifications.

37

38 Agriculture is another classification
39 but is also type of disposal. Settlement just means
40 that it's a classification that the State would like to
41 -- an area the would like to dispose of its interest in
42 in one fashion or other.

43

44 So there are other classifications, I
45 think, like they do joint, if you did say a public
46 recreation and wildlife habitat, it seems like this
47 area would be more in the classification that's
48 appropriate for that.

49

50 And if you want more information you

1 can go on the DNR website and look at the current area
2 plans, and you can see more how they classify land and
3 what those classifications mean.

4

5 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Yeah, that's
6 interesting because the first three that you mentioned
7 fit this area very good, wetlands, very important chunk
8 of wetlands right there. It's a very important
9 recreational area for Cordova. And it's also a very
10 important wildlife area for Cordova. And probably
11 those things have more importance than the use of
12 private property right there.

13

14 MR. WALSH: Yeah, and I looked in the
15 file for the original 1988 Prince William Sound Area
16 Plan to see what the thinking was behind the settlement
17 and I couldn't find any discussion to this particular
18 parcel. So whatever the time and I knew there were
19 people that had been at those meetings and nobody could
20 quite remember what the impetus was to put settlement
21 in this particular spot, other than identified as
22 expansion lands for the city of Cordova at some time in
23 the future.

24

25 MR. ENCELEWSKI: Ralph.

26

27 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: You're welcome.

28

29 MR. ENCELEWSKI: Okay.

30

31 MR. CARPENTER: Hey, Ralph.

32

33 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: I mean you're

34 recognized.

35

36 (Laughter)

37

38 MR. ENCELEWSKI: Jason, I got a
39 question for you, I mean and maybe I'm off, but you
40 mentioned a lot of the different uses for the land here
41 and stuff, but I guess my question is when you make a
42 decision, like you're talking a settlement here and a
43 development in the Cordova area, how do you look at
44 future impact to the area, socially, culturally,
45 subsistence hunting? I mean this is going to change
46 the whole outlook of the land. And my example is being
47 from Ninilchik I could tell you of areas that, you
48 know, we've had cabins in the hills and pretty soon
49 that's become a village of its own and people, you
50 know, just going helter-skelter every which way, I mean

1 how does the State look at, you know, this is going to
2 impact your -- room for services, development, changing
3 subsistence, all that type of stuff, is it -- I'm sure
4 there's studies that go into that, I don't know how
5 that works?

6

7 MR. WALSH: Yeah, there are studies,
8 and actually I'm in the process of developing a matrix
9 that can make this a more.....

10

11 MR. ENCELEWSKI: Uh-huh.

12

13 MR. WALSH:quantifiable and
14 transparent process.

15

16 MR. ENCELEWSKI: Uh-huh.

17

18 MR. WALSH: Because to-date land sales
19 in Alaska have had kind of a tumultuous history.

20

21 MR. ENCELEWSKI: Uh-huh.

22

23 MR. WALSH: There's been big land
24 grabs. The legislators back in '78 said we want all
25 Alaska land to go for sale, we don't want any private
26 land or any public land anymore.....

27

28 MR. ENCELEWSKI: Regardless of what
29 happens to the State.

30

31 MR. WALSH: Regardless of what
32 happens.....

33

34 MR. ENCELEWSKI: Yeah.

35

36 MR. WALSH:and they wanted DNR to
37 only have 100,000 acres and they wanted to sell it all
38 by '82. So there was huge pushes for land sales with
39 no research whatsoever that went into that.

40

41 MR. ENCELEWSKI: Uh-huh.

42

43 MR. WALSH: They just created
44 subdivisions all over the state and we're still kind of
45 seeing repercussions from that access issue, you know,
46 lots of parcels.....

47

48 MR. ENCELEWSKI: Uh-huh.

49

50 MR. WALSH:that never got proved

1 up on or sold, followed through on. So now we're
2 trying to kind of do, take a better approach to this, a
3 little more of a scientific approach.

4
5 We look at -- one of the major factors
6 for us is, are there areas of comparable use, say I
7 have a land in -- say I have 80 acres in Talkeetna,
8 just as an example, that people say, oh, no, it's a
9 very important area for us to hunt on, you know, and we
10 -- you could almost say the same thing about it as
11 people are saying about this property in Cordova but I
12 can say in Talkeetna while you're surrounded by 80,000
13 acres with the same access, the same attributes as this
14 place.....

15
16 MR. ENCELEWSKI: Uh-huh.

17
18 MR. WALSH:so the State's not
19 really interested in keeping this parcel because it
20 doesn't have a significant use that's higher and better
21 than the uses that surround it. So that's one of the
22 things we look at.

23
24 We look at the past cultural uses of
25 it.

26
27 MR. ENCELEWSKI: Uh-huh.

28
29 MR. WALSH: If there's trails on it,
30 how significant are those trails, how often have they
31 been used, how old are they. We look at the soils
32 data, we look at wildlife habitat, we get as much
33 information as we can. All the internal agencies
34 comment on it, mining, Division of Environment --
35 Department of Environmental Conservation, Fish and Game
36 comments as well, and we try to see if our mandate,
37 which is in the Constitution.....

38
39 MR. ENCELEWSKI: Uh-huh.

40
41 MR. WALSH:which is to sell and
42 promote.....

43
44 MR. ENCELEWSKI: Right.

45
46 MR. WALSH:the settlement of land
47 and we try to balance that with its current uses and
48 make the best decision possible.

49
50 MR. ENCELEWSKI: Yeah, well, thanks. I

1 mean I understand that portion of it. But I see a big
2 conflict of a development in the subsistence use or the
3 possibility of subsistence use and fitting all those
4 together. I just was wondering what, you know.....

5
6 MR. WALSH: Right. Which is why, in
7 this case.....

8
9 MR. ENCELEWSKI: Yeah.

10
11 MR. WALSH:you know, we made the
12 decision to not put a.....

13
14 MR. ENCELEWSKI: Right.

15
16 MR. WALSH:subdivision in the
17 Shipyard Bay area.

18
19 MR. ENCELEWSKI: Okay.

20
21 MR. WALSH: However we often, and I
22 tell people, you know, argument that I don't want more
23 neighbors isn't a valid argument, we need data, we need
24 information as to why this isn't a good proposal and
25 then in this case.....

26
27 MR. ENCELEWSKI: Uh-huh.

28
29 MR. WALSH:I got a lot of good
30 data on the subsistence uses and we were able to say,
31 well, if you do put houses in this area, how will that
32 impact -- potentially impact.....

33
34 MR. ENCELEWSKI: Uh-huh.

35
36 MR. WALSH:the future uses and we
37 took kind of a precautionary approach in this situation
38 saying there's too much potential for impacting
39 negatively this area, but I can't say that that's
40 always the case for a lot of our subdivisions.

41
42 MR. ENCELEWSKI: Right. Right.

43
44 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay.

45
46 MR. BRYDEN: This is Jeff Bryden,
47 subsistence law enforcement. Just one thing to remind
48 everybody, the area we're looking at is DNR land,
49 so.....

50

1 MR. ENCELEWSKI: It's all State.
2
3 MR. BRYDEN:it's all State land
4 so subsistence deer harvest, under the Federal system,
5 isn't allowed on that anyways. So just to keep in
6 mind, you know, we brought in a lot of the data here
7 about the animals and stuff but you couldn't legally
8 subsistence harvest upland animals on that area
9 anyways.
10
11 MR. ENCELEWSKI: Okay.
12
13 MR. BLOSSOM: This is Doug Blossom,
14 Clam Gulch.
15
16 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Go ahead, Doug.
17
18 MR. BLOSSOM: While we got you on the
19 phone, I heard that it was a wintering area for deer,
20 is this true?
21
22 MR. JOYCE: Yes, that's what -- this is
23 Tim Joyce -- and that's what has been portrayed to us
24 from Department of Fish and Game and other people in
25 the area, residents of Cordova that have familiarity
26 with that area.
27
28 MR. BLOSSOM: Okay. And going along
29 with that same thing, over here at Ninilchik and Clam
30 Gulch area, you heard Greg talk about the cabins and
31 the hills, well, the Ninilchik natives sold a bunch of
32 land and that's where all the cabins came from but we
33 were smart enough that we put a, I think 27,000 acres,
34 into recreation there, and it's for moose habitat and
35 for recreation and so far that's worked well. The
36 cabins are all around it but it still gives all the
37 people from all over the place to recreate and it does
38 give the moose a place. So that's my curiosity, is if
39 it's important for deer it's probably a good idea.
40
41 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Thank you. Jeff, in
42 response to that, while I realize that it doesn't come
43 under the idea of being Federal land and a Federal
44 subsistence area, our Federally-qualified subsistence
45 users have to take part in State sporthunting for some
46 of their subsistence use and that's pretty much what
47 that area -- I mean that's -- we recognize while it's
48 not under Federal subsistence, our Federally-qualified
49 subsistence users are the ones that are involved in
50 using it under State regulations and so I feel that --

1 I feel it's appropriate for us as representatives of
2 the subsistence community in the area to be able to
3 make a comment on it even if we are not capable of
4 using it as a Federal area.

5

6 Tim.

7

8 MR. JOYCE: One other thing I just
9 wanted to point out, too, Ralph, is that adjacent to
10 this land, upland from this land is the National
11 Forest, it's EVOS acquired lands that were deeded over
12 to the National Forest, of which those uses -- you
13 know, those lands are available for subsistence use and
14 one of our issues, of course, will be access, being
15 able to reach those lands from the shoreline which
16 would have to cross some of this sales land.

17

18 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Yeah. And the uplands
19 are no good if they're covered with snow in the
20 wintertime, the deer don't have any place to winter.
21 You can have all the subsistence hunting you want, if
22 there's no deer there it doesn't make any difference.

23

24 MR. JOYCE: That's true.

25

26 MR. WALSH: Can I make one more
27 comment.

28

29 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Mr. Walsh.

30

31 MR. WALSH: This is Jason Walsh again.
32 The State, when they do pick up this plan again and
33 I'll kind of speak for the planners here, there's not a
34 lot of State land in Prince William Sound. And so one
35 of -- and as I said before, in the Constitution and
36 under statute for the State is providing for settlement
37 areas, so one thing they are going to look at is
38 looking for settlement lands and so I think this patch
39 of State land being surrounded by Federal lands is an
40 issue that will come up, again, and so they will look
41 for other lands in the area, if not these.

42

43 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: There is limited land
44 available in the Cordova area for residents.

45

46 MR. WALSH: Which is one of the impetus
47 behind our putting this proposal forward initially was
48 knowing that there's not a lot of private property
49 opportunities in the Prince William Sound area.

50

1 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: That's interesting
2 because that was one of the main comments I got from so
3 many people in Cordova, that I'd love to have a house
4 over there, I'd love to have a cabin over there but I
5 don't want it to affect the deer hunting and I think
6 that most Cordovans that I talk to and I think Tim
7 could probably go along with that, if it was available
8 they would want to -- they would like to have a place
9 there themselves but they're willing not to have a
10 place there to keep it as what it is. And I think that
11 you'd find that very common in Cordova and maybe you've
12 got those same kind of comments on the things that
13 you've heard.

14
15 MR. WALSH: Yeah, exactly the same
16 thing.

17
18 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: It's a very valuable
19 piece. Okay, so we can go on now. We can go on to RAC
20 discussion so any more discussion that anybody wants to
21 -- any questions anybody wants to ask, any comments
22 anybody wants to make, anything that you would like to
23 see, you know, included in any kind of statement we
24 make, the floor is open for that for now for RAC
25 members.

26
27 MR. HENRICHS: Ralph, Bob Henrichs.

28
29 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay, Bob.

30
31 MR. HENRICHS: You know, Teddy
32 Roosevelt created the Chugach National Forest in the
33 early 1900s which covered the entire Prince William
34 Sound and in the 1930s the Chamber of Commerce in
35 Cordova got some deer hauled up here from Southeastern
36 and turned loose because they felt that this would be
37 good deer habitat and it would be a good to add that as
38 a source of meat for the people who lived here and when
39 they did that it was all Forest Service lands. All of
40 a sudden the State got a chunk that they want to sell
41 it off and create a subdivision or some damn thing.

42
43 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Thank you, Bob. What
44 is your point right there, that in the past they
45 actually looked at Hawkins Island as a place to provide
46 resources for the community or more than a place to
47 live on or what?

48
49 MR. HENRICHS: Yeah, because, hell, I
50 remember when I was a kid most people had a little

1 skiff and a 9.8 outboard motor and Hawkins Island is
2 about as far as you wanted to go. But, yeah, I see it
3 as kind of a grocery store for the town myself.

4

5 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Thank you, Bob. And I
6 think that they have those small skiffs and kickers a
7 lot later than when you were a kid.

8

9 MR. HENRICHS: Hey, easy there.

10

11 (Laughter)

12

13 MR. BLOSSOM: This is Doug Blossom,
14 Clam Gulch. And, you know, I looked at this and I
15 really would like to see it stay as a recreation area
16 and wildlife habitat area and that way everybody can
17 use it and it sounds like the people there want that
18 too, so that's kind of my thought so far.

19

20 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Thank you, Doug.
21 Trish.

22

23 MS. WAGGONER: My comment is getting
24 back to the archeological, I mean the comment is that
25 they've got four recorded sites within the subdivision
26 at the Office of History and Archeology, and Bob's
27 comment about it too, there's a tie between cultural
28 settlement sites and game, you know, I mean how a lot
29 of areas that are settled and the reason that they have
30 archeological significance is because that's where the
31 game was. And so in order to protect that game, you
32 also protect the cultural sites. But it's saying that
33 it's an archaeologically sensitive area, so -- and I
34 don't know if that's a land designation or you have
35 that cultural protection as a wildlife habitat or.....

36

37 MR. WALSH: Not -- not -- no, we don't,
38 and it's not a land designation that I'm aware of
39 specifically for archeological sites. I know in the
40 past when we've had settlement areas, which as you kind
41 of note, settlement now is we find attractive for the
42 same reasons people in the past found it attractive so
43 it's what draws us to an area, good views.....

44

45 MS. WAGGONER: Right.

46

47 MR. WALSH:access. We have
48 created subdivisions in areas that have archeological
49 sites, home sites, house pits, et cetera, and we've
50 just carved those out, put them in green spaces, put

1 them in retain -- retained those lands around those and
2 just kind of developed around those is how we've done
3 it in other places.

4

5 MR. STOCKWELL: Ralph, this is Bill.

6

7 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Bill.

8

9 MR. STOCKWELL: I've got a question.
10 If the deer were stocked into this area sometime in the
11 1900s, what was -- the people that were living there,
12 what were the prehistoric, past history of food there
13 for people for subsistence, what kind of animals were
14 there before the deer?

15

16 Thank you.

17

18 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Well, I can talk --
19 maybe somebody can give you more information than I can
20 but from what I've heard from the Midden files that
21 have been observed and investigated on Hawkins Island
22 and Mummy Island and places like that, the shellfish
23 were a big thing. The Midden files are composed mostly
24 of shellfish bones and sea mammal bones. The fact that
25 you've got shallow water like that it's a good place to
26 take seal, porpoise, sea otters, those are all in the
27 Midden files, and just lots and lots of shellfish. We
28 had muscles, razor clams, regular clams, that was
29 pretty much the basic -- and fish bones, pretty much
30 the basic composition of the Midden files. We had no
31 deer or moose in the Cordova area at that time. The
32 only large land mammal was a bear and other than
33 certain individuals in certain families as a normal
34 society thing, the average individual didn't hunt bear.

35

36 MR. STOCKWELL: So it was mostly
37 various forms of sea life that were being harvested,
38 correct?

39

40 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Right. And most of
41 the archeological sites on the islands have been right
42 on the -- you know, land little things like Shipyard
43 Bay and stuff like that, in sheltered bays and coves,
44 Filipino Lagoon, Shipyard Bay, Deep Bay, places like
45 that.

46

47 MR. STOCKWELL: Okay, thank you.

48

49 MR. HENRICHS; Ralph, Bob Henrichs.

50

1 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Mr. Henrichs.
2
3 MR. HENRICHS: Yeah, the other things
4 that were being harvested, and this area is famous for
5 is the waterfowl.
6
7 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Yeah.
8
9 MR. CARPENTER: Hey, Ralph. Tom
10 Carpenter.
11
12 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay, Tom.
13
14 MR. CARPENTER: Yeah, I just got a
15 couple of comments. You know I'm looking at this map
16 and, you know, I'm grateful to DNR that they withdrew
17 Section 17 and the Shipyard Bay area because I do think
18 there are multiple concerns there. When you look at
19 the map and you look at Section 8, which is in the Deep
20 Bay area, I think myself that there are just as many
21 concerns with that section. And a couple of my reasons
22 behind that are, understanding that it is State lands
23 and there's no Federal subsistence opportunities on
24 State land, access to the Forest Service land or the
25 EVOS land what is currently managed for subsistence in
26 the higher elevations, I think that you could
27 potentially have land owner user conflicts in regards
28 to getting that access, and I think that's a big
29 concern because Deep Bay is a protected bay and a lot
30 of the small boats, as was said earlier, use these
31 areas to get access from town.
32
33 The big thing is, is, I think, with
34 Section 8, is the two spits that go out towards Knot
35 Point and to Salmo Point are transition areas for the
36 deer into their wintering habitat from the higher
37 elevations when the snow's real deep and they need to
38 have these areas to survive, to be frank about it, when
39 we do have bad winter conditions. And I think that we
40 need to really consider this as a critical habitat area
41 in regards to these deer being able to have that
42 without a lot of conflicts between, you know, land
43 owners and the such.
44
45 I do think, also, as Bob said that
46 these are very interesting waterfowl areas that a lot
47 of people access and I think a lot of times we forget
48 about that.
49
50 So those are my concerns.

1 Thanks

2

3 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Thank you, Tom. And
4 thank you for bringing up the Knot Point and Salmo
5 Point issue. That's something that I'd forgotten
6 about. On our really hard winters that's where you
7 find the deer because they're narrow enough that
8 they've got sea water on both sides to at least melt
9 the shoreline and I agree with you 100 percent on that,
10 that those two areas, the Knot Point, point, and the
11 Salmo Point, point, are extremely critical from what
12 I've seen in the past. So thanks for reminding us on
13 that.

14

15 MR. ELVSAAS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
16 First of all, what about the rest of Hawkins Island,
17 who owns the island basically?

18

19 MR. WALSH: There's the Federal -- most
20 of it's Federal under the Forest Service. There is a
21 State marine recreation area, Canoe Pass, which has
22 some private property ownership with it and the State
23 owns that area and I'm not sure how much land that is.
24 It's on the west side of the island, and they manage
25 that as a State marine rec area for kayaking and
26 hunting. And then that's it, the rest is EVOS lands
27 and very few private property, small private property
28 parcels.

29

30 MR. ELVSAAS: Then how much does DNR
31 have?

32

33 MR. WALSH: This is 2,600 acres
34 from.....

35

36 MR. ELVSAAS: Basically within this
37 line?

38

39 MR. WALSH:line, yeah, to almost
40 Mud Bay there, and then east. And then the area here
41 that's outlined in the blue hatches is just almost 300
42 acres.

43

44 MR. ELVSAAS: It kind of raises a
45 question, why was the line drawn in.....

46

47 MR. WALSH: It's a good question. This
48 is the old -- because actually if you look at the
49 Federal surveys, the Cordova -- the original Cordova
50 city boundary is a circle like this. Cordova is the

1 center and they drew a two mile circle around it and
2 said everything within this is the city boundary and
3 that that's circle lines, the Feds made that line, and
4 so when the State got it during selections in '59 they
5 just used that line as the boundary and selected
6 everything east of it.

7

8 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Do you think that's
9 part of the reason that that was looked at as -- in
10 1988 as land for settlement because it was considered
11 part of the city of Cordova?

12

13 MR. WALSH: I think at the time in '88
14 it was not, they dropped that.

15

16 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay.

17

18 MR. WALSH: They moved the boundary. I
19 think the boundary now is in the middle of Orca Inlet
20 here.

21

22 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay.

23

24 MR. WALSH: So I don't think that was
25 one of the factors.

26

27 MR. ELVSAAS: I believe the two mile
28 boundary was because of Native selections.

29

30 MR. WALSH: Oh, okay.

31

32 MR. ELVSAAS: They couldn't select
33 within the two mile boundary.

34

35 MR. WALSH: Oh.

36

37 MR. ELVSAAS: So that's most likely why
38 the arc was made. But, you know, looking at that, if
39 that's all the land DNR has wouldn't it be more --
40 well, I guess the next thing is what would the people
41 of the area, the users of the land like, would they
42 like it to be part of the Chugach National Forest, you
43 know, is it.....

44

45 MR. WALSH: That's a good question.

46

47 MR. ELVSAAS:possible for the
48 State to do a trade with the Federal government at this
49 point?

50

1 MR. WALSH: I'm not allowed to say
2 that.
3
4 (Laughter)
5
6 MR. WALSH: Anytime anybody says land
7 exchange I'm told to shut up.
8
9 (Laughter)
10
11 MR. ELVSAAS: But it raises a good
12 question because as long as it's DNR land, if it's not
13 sold, put up for sale at this time, like you mentioned
14 earlier.....
15
16 MR. ENCELEWSKI: It'll come back.
17
18 MR. ELVSAAS:five years, 10
19 years, 15 years, you know, and by that time people will
20 be so used to this as public lands, you know, and then
21 all of a sudden there's a sale and Cordova needs to
22 grow, it needs room to grow so there's more to it than
23 just subsistence. My feelings on it is the land should
24 be protected, but how is it best protected from
25 settlement, you know, I think that would be something
26 to look at as to what's the final disposition of the
27 land. And I think, you know, we're sitting here with a
28 problem because of a sale, or potential sale, but yet
29 we need to look at what is the long-term use of the
30 land. What is best in the long-term.
31
32 If this is part of the Forest Service
33 land now, is this?
34
35 MR. WALSH: Uh-huh, yes.
36
37 MR. ELVSAAS: So this is the only thing
38 that isn't within the arc, within the two mile and, you
39 know, why wasn't this offered?
40
41 MR. WALSH: Oh, in this proposal?
42
43 MR. ELVSAAS: Yeah.
44
45 MR. WALSH: Because the settlement area
46 is just so large. I mean when I originally sat down
47 and started looking at this it makes sense, waterfront
48 lots are the more desirable land that people want to
49 own so I selected an area that primarily had potential
50 access and this doesn't have a lot of really good

1 access right here, so we just kind of carved this area
2 out to put in this initial proposal.

3

4 MR. ELVSAAS: Uh-huh.

5

6 MR. WALSH: If it would have gone well
7 three years down the road, four years down the road
8 then we would have started look at other areas within
9 here.

10

11 MR. ELVSAAS: Right.

12

13 MR. WALSH: Which would also happen,
14 you know, if this stayed in settlement.

15

16 MR. ELVSAAS: It raises the same
17 problem all over again.

18

19 MR. WALSH: Exactly.

20

21 MR. ELVSAAS: Yeah.

22

23 MR. WALSH: Because that's what we
24 would look at. We would do it in a phase development
25 over time.

26

27 MR. ELVSAAS: Uh-huh.

28

29 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Yeah, the areas you
30 picked are the most logical for having flat enough land
31 that you could have the time of set backs you were
32 talking about, if you take a look at the topography on
33 the other part, it's steeper and everything else.

34

35 MR. WALSH: Uh-huh.

36

37 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: But I think you
38 brought up a very good point, in that, it's possible
39 that we should include something like that in any kind
40 of letter or report that we make, if we decide that
41 this land is more valuable as wildlife habitat and
42 subsistence use and recreation. One of the things we
43 could probably include in our letter would be a
44 suggestion that if at any time the State is interested
45 in making a land trade with the Federal government,
46 this would be a piece of land that would be better
47 served to Cordovans if it was in the National Forest
48 Service, you know, National Forest. I mean that was
49 something that we could include in our letter.....

50

1 MR. ENCELEWSKI: Uh-huh.
2
3 MR. ELVSAAS: Uh-huh.
4
5 CHAIRMAN LOHSE:if we decide to
6 have a letter, you know. So the consensus seems to be
7 from everybody that I've heard so far that's part of
8 this RAC is that this land is more valuable from a
9 Federal subsistence standpoint, subsistence users
10 standpoint I'll say, not Federal subsistence. that this
11 land seems to be more valuable for wildlife and for --
12 and I'll say recreation, meaning -- recreation meaning
13 harvest.
14
15 MR. ELVSAAS: Yeah, that was going to
16 be my other part, was that it's a valuable recreation
17 as well as subsistence.....
18
19 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Yeah.
20
21 MR. ELVSAAS:hunting and so forth.
22 But I would really like to see some kind of a long-term
23 solution to the problem. And maybe -- is somebody here
24 from Eyak?
25
26 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Yeah.
27
28 MR. van den BROEK: And Mr. Henrichs
29 is a better spokesman at this time.
30
31 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Mr. Henrichs is on the
32 phone.
33
34 MR. ELVSAAS: I'm sure Eyak would love
35 to have this if there was some way of getting it.
36
37 MR. van den BROEK: Particularly with
38 the culturally sensitive sites that have been
39 discussed, but I think that absolutely if can hand over
40 management to the tribe that would be -- Mr. Henrichs
41 could probably back me if I'm -- but it would probably
42 be a good potential.
43
44 MR. ELVSAAS: Yes, how about the city
45 of Cordova?
46
47 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: How about the city of
48 Cordova, you mean as.....
49
50 MR. ELVSAAS: Transferring it to the

1 city for recreation purposes.

2

3 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: I don't know what.....

4

5 MR. ELVSAAS: You'd have to have an

6 option to it.

7

8 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: I don't know what kind

9 of option there is on something like that.....

10

11 MR. ENCELEWSKI: The city could build

12 on it.

13

14 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Yeah, I was going to

15 say you don't want to transfer it to the city

16 personally.

17

18 MR. ENCELEWSKI: Yeah.

19

20 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: This is myself

21 personally speaking.

22

23 (Laughter)

24

25 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: I wouldn't want to

26 transfer it to the city of Cordova as fee simple land.

27 I'm afraid that, you know, politics change and just

28 like we were talking before, on land sales, you know,

29 the right person could come along and offer the city

30 enough money for a development plan and so I mean if

31 you could put it in as a greenbelt or something like

32 that, that would be okay, but personally, myself, I

33 think I like your idea of continuing it in the Forest

34 Service, and that would be a potential for a Forest

35 Service/State, you know, land trade. Maybe it's not a

36 potential.

37

38 Tim.

39

40 MR. JOYCE: Mr. Chairman. Just on that

41 topic of trading to the Forest Service, once thing the

42 Forest Service will not do is trade for land that's

43 disjointed from their boundaries. So any trade that

44 would have to occur, that land would have to be

45 adjacent to the Forest Service boundaries. So for

46 example in this particular parcel that's being offered

47 for sale at the moment, there's chunks of land above

48 that that would separate that from the Forest Service

49 boundary to the Forest would not be interested in just

50 that parcel. Whatever parcel would have to be adjacent

1 to the Forest Service boundary. So if the whole thing
2 was being discussed for some transfer for some other
3 property somewhere else, that might be something that
4 would be put on the table, but for just little pieces
5 that are disjointed, the Forest would not be
6 interested.

7
8 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Well, I think what
9 Greg.....

10
11 MR. ELVSAAS: Is this not Forest
12 Service?

13
14 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: No, what I think what
15 Greg was talking about was, if you're going to do it
16 put the whole thing in protection, and that's all.....

17
18 MR. JOYCE: Yeah, if the whole
19 thing.....

20
21 CHAIRMAN LOHSE:adjoined to the
22 Forest Service.

23
24 MR. JOYCE:yes, if the whole was
25 parcel that would be a discussion but just little
26 pieces out of that parcel the Forest would not be
27 interested.

28
29 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Yeah.

30
31 MR. JOYCE: And if I could put on my
32 other hat.....

33
34 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Yeah.

35
36 MR. JOYCE:for the city. The
37 city has got land from the State, I believe from DNR
38 before, that has had covenants on it for recreation
39 purposes and the city cannot develop that land except
40 for recreation purposes, you know, might be a camping
41 area or something like that. We can't sell it or
42 subdivide it for housing. There are covenants that can
43 be placed on properties. Understanding where you're
44 coming from a fee simple is an entirely different issue
45 but there are ways to transfer lands that would
46 consider those covenants.

47
48 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay.

49
50 MR. ENCELEWSKI: Mr. Chairman.

1 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Greg.
2
3 MR. ENCELEWSKI: Yeah, I just wanted to
4 make a couple of comments on my thoughts on this. But
5 I, too, think it should be -- tried to be protected,
6 you know, for wildlife, recreation and historical
7 reasons. But what I also see is, you know, you got a
8 whole bunch of user groups that want to use this land
9 and when you develop land a lot of times you limit the
10 users. I mean you limit the State's access too, I mean
11 because it becomes private and it becomes this smaller
12 group that actually has use to that land.
13
14 So I mean it could work both ways that
15 way.
16
17 But I don't see why you couldn't pull
18 together, you know, the Federal land and the Parks, the
19 State, DNR lands, the city of Cordova, the Eyak
20 Corporation, all of them to come up with a land use
21 plan and maybe make a trade and a win/win for all, but
22 truly you'd need to look at some way, I think, that
23 would protect it somehow. I don't know how you'd do it.
24
25 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: I think basically what
26 you're saying is we need a new land use plan for that
27 area, Hawkins Island.
28
29 MR. ENCELEWSKI: That's kind of what
30 I'm saying, yes.
31
32 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: And I think that from
33 the consensus that we seem to be getting I think we
34 ought to include that in any kind of comments that we
35 make in our -- if we make a letter that -- you know,
36 and that we're not just against this land sale.....
37
38 MR. ENCELEWSKI: Right. Right. Right.
39
40 CHAIRMAN LOHSE:or against this,
41 but that this land is valuable enough for these reasons
42 that we think that we need a new land use plan for the
43 land that -- that sets this aside for.....
44
45 MR. ENCELEWSKI: Uh-huh.
46
47 CHAIRMAN LOHSE:future
48 subsistence users, recreational users and members of
49 the community of Cordova and things like that.
50

1 MR. ENCELEWSKI: You summed it up
2 great, that's what I was trying to say.

3
4 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Trish.

5
6 MS. WAGGONER: In the interim, between
7 -- say a land exchange ever happened, but in the
8 interim, how hard is it to change that designation from
9 settlement to public recreation, wildlife habitat to
10 ensure that this area does not get subdivided between
11 now and the time you get some future protection on it,
12 I mean does it have to wait for the land use plan to
13 come up again?

14
15 MR. WALSH: Well, actually that's a
16 good question. Within the Prince William Sound Area
17 Plan it says that a land reclassification can be
18 initiated by the public or by another entity. So a lot
19 of times things will have to wait for the plan to come
20 up for it to change, but in this case because the plan
21 says that I believe -- I know what I told the residents
22 of Cordova that were at the meeting is if I get enough
23 comments, if people comment to that effect and they
24 pointed out the passage in the plan that said that then
25 I would then turn this over to the planners and we
26 would have an immediate meeting regarding the
27 reclassification and what the steps were that need to
28 take place, but I am not in a position to make any
29 promises as to where on the pile that would end up.

30
31 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Yeah.

32
33 MR. WALSH: And what kind of priority
34 that would be. But I would say that that's why I kept
35 this process open because at least now I will have a
36 paper record of the comments that I've received so that
37 when it actually does get to the top of that pile we
38 won't have to go through this process again in this
39 fashion.

40
41 So that's an option, is to pursue the
42 reclassification, I think, and those comments should be
43 made to me through the address and everything on the
44 preliminary decision. So if not a land sale, and if
45 not the current classification then what, what would
46 people like to see on that.

47
48 And also a couple other things. I'm
49 not sure about how lands given to cities, I know it's
50 happened in the past, of course, we give lands to the

1 boroughs and the boroughs form -- as part of the
2 disposal process they're entitled to a certain amount
3 of land, cities I'm not quite sure when a city forms
4 how much land they got so the land that Cordova had, we
5 don't -- there's a few processes for land, people to go
6 through, preference rights process, but we don't often
7 sell land with restrictive covenants anymore that I'm
8 aware of often.

9

10 And also the land here in Section 7, 12
11 and part of Section 8 is EVOS and that EVOS is owned,
12 as I think -- all the EVOS lands are slightly
13 different, I think it's owned by Eyak with a
14 conservation easement from both the Federal -- Feds and
15 the State to manage it in conjunction, so I don't know
16 if those are not -- they're not necessarily NSF, yeah
17 NSF lands.

18

19 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Just managed by.

20

21 MR. WALSH: Managed, yeah.

22

23 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: That's what I was -- I
24 thought that but I wasn't sure. We've been talking
25 about it like it was Forest Service land.

26

27 MR. WALSH: But this is though.

28

29 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Yeah.

30

31 MR. WALSH: Down here.

32

33 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Yeah. Okay, with that
34 information on the table I don't know if we need -- I
35 think we need to take a vote on it if we're going to do
36 anything. I don't know if we can do it by consensus
37 but with all of the things that have been brought
38 before us, is it the wish of this Council -- does
39 somebody on this Council wish to make a motion that we
40 submit a letter on this land sale issue and on the land
41 use in general on this parcel from the Subsistence
42 Council to the DNR stating the positions that we've
43 expressed.

44

45 MR. ENCELEWSKI: Mr. Chairman, I'll
46 move.....

47

48 MR. BLOSSOM: This is Doug Blossom from
49 Clam Gulch, Ralph. You know, I guess I would move that
50 we write a letter and ask that the entire 2,600 acres

1 be put in as a recreational site for the people in the
2 area and it's a wildlife habitat area and that way it
3 stays open to all public users and should solve a lot
4 of the problem.

5
6 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay. There's a
7 motion on the table, do we have a second to it and then
8 we could discuss it.

9
10 MR. CARPENTER: Second.

11
12 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay, it's been moved
13 and seconded. Tom Carpenter seconded it.

14
15 Okay, discussion as a Council, is there
16 anything else others would like to include in that
17 motion or object to that motion or anything like that?

18
19 MR. ELVSAAS: Mr. Chairman.

20
21 MR. HENRICHS: Mr. Chairman, Bob
22 Henrichs.

23
24 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay, Bob, we'll take
25 you and then we got Greg here.

26
27 REPORTER: Fred.

28
29 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Not Greg, sorry, Fred.

30
31 MR. HENRICHS: Years listening to our
32 elders in our tribe, whatever species you were after
33 for food, we never cleaned out the areas close to the
34 village, you always tried to go further afield because
35 you saved the species that were close to the village in
36 case you ran into tough times, and this is close to the
37 village of Cordova, and I believe we need to save those
38 for -- and we might be headed for tough times too the
39 way that things are going.

40
41 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Thank you, Bob. I
42 think we can include something like that in the letter.
43 The fact that it is very easily accessible even in the
44 economic situation where fuel becomes higher and things
45 like that. So I think you've made a very worthwhile
46 point and if there's no objection from the rest of the
47 Council I think I'll include something like that in the
48 letter.

49
50 MR. ELVSAAS: It sounds fine to me.

1 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Does anybody.....
2
3 MR. ENCELEWSKI: Yeah, Mr. Chairman.
4
5 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Greg, go ahead.
6
7 MR. ENCELEWSKI: Yeah, I'm fine with
8 that I just want to make sure we include -- don't just
9 restrict it to a recreational area, I mean I think we
10 need to include in that letter that, you know, to look
11 at a land use plan and the other things we discussed
12 here.....
13
14 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Yeah.
15
16 MR. ENCELEWSKI:so they're all
17 inclusive.
18
19 MR. ELVSAAS: Yeah, you want to include
20 hunting.
21
22 MR. ENCELEWSKI: Oh, absolutely, you
23 don't want to restrict it.
24
25 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: So the idea is
26 that.....
27
28 MR. ELVSAAS: Recreation and
29 hunting.....
30
31 CHAIRMAN LOHSE:we want to
32 preserve this area for those uses but we also think
33 that the land use plan needs looked into so that this
34 becomes not a reoccurring issue.
35
36 MR. ENCELEWSKI: Uh-huh.
37
38 MR. ELVSAAS: Uh-huh.
39
40 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: So that we can do it
41 so we can at least present our ideas that we think this
42 land needs to be reclassified so that we don't have to
43 come back to this issue again in the future.
44
45 MR. ENCELEWSKI: You know and where I'm
46 going on this is you end up -- if you don't really
47 think about it you're going to end up with conflicts of
48 users and different things and so I think it should be
49 really thought about. I know like in the snowmachine
50 area in the hills, you know, people use it for cabin

1 hoppers (ph) and the dog mushers and then the
2 subsistence hunters can't get through there, you know,
3 it becomes a real mess.

4

5 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Yeah.

6

7 MR. ENCELEWSKI: So if you don't
8 identify it early on you might have a problem.

9

10 MR. ELVSAAS: The comments you've
11 received to-date are basically against a public land
12 sale?

13

14 MR. WALSH: Yes. The comments are in
15 line with what you've kind of come to, the same things
16 you've discussed here.

17

18 MR. ELVSAAS: And with that I would
19 recommend that we preface this letter with opposition
20 to a public land sale.

21

22 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Uh-huh.

23

24 MR. ELVSAAS: And then make the
25 recommendation.

26

27 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Uh-huh.

28

29 MR. ELVSAAS: That's.....

30

31 MR. SHOWALTER: Ralph, James Showalter.

32

33 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Yes, Mr. Showalter.

34

35 MR. SHOWALTER: Yes, also you might
36 could put in that letter about ceremonial burial sites
37 in predominate -- or in different areas of the island.

38

39 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: I think for sure we
40 need to include something like that, the archeological
41 importance of the area too, the cultural and -- the
42 long-term cultural and archeological importance of the
43 area.

44

45 We've presented a lot of things that
46 we'd like in the letter and we've got a motion on the
47 table to submit a letter, I'll ask a question at this
48 point in time, would it be -- would it be agreeable to
49 the rest of the Council members if Donald and I worked
50 on this letter and included the points that you guys

1 have been making?

2

3 MS. WAGGONER: Uh-huh.

4

5 MR. ELVSAAS: Yes.

6

7 MR. ENCELEWSKI: Uh-huh.

8

9 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Do I have a consensus

10 on that?

11

12 MR. CARPENTER: Yes.

13

14 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay, then what we
15 need is we need a -- we've got a motion on the table
16 and we need to vote on the fact that we're going to be
17 submitting this letter as a Subsistence RAC, and that's
18 why we called this meeting so that we could do it
19 officially as the Subsistence RAC. We have that motion
20 on the table so I'm going to call a roll call vote on
21 it so that we have a record that we have the authority
22 to do this.

23

24 So, Donald, do you want to call the
25 roll call.

26

27 MR. MIKE: Okay, the motion is for a
28 letter to the DNR for the Council's comments, in
29 general, to oppose the land sale.

30

31 Mr. Carpenter.

32

33 MR. CARPENTER: Yes.

34

35 MR. MIKE: Mr. Henrichs.

36

37 MR. HENRICHS: Yes.

38

39 MR. MIKE: Mr. Stockwell.

40

41 MR. STOCKWELL: Yes.

42

43 MR. MIKE: Mr. Blossom.

44

45 MR. BLOSSOM: Yes.

46

47 MR. MIKE: Mr. Showalter.

48

49 MR. SHOWALTER: Yes.

50

1 MR. MIKE: Ms. Waggoner.
2
3 MS. WAGGONER: Yes.
4
5 MR. MIKE: Mr. Encelewski.
6
7 MR. ENCELEWSKI: Yes.
8
9 MR. MIKE: Mr. Elvsaas.
10
11 MR. ELVSAAS: Yes.
12
13 MR. MIKE: Mr. Lohse.
14
15 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Yes.
16
17 MR. MIKE: And, Mr. Chairman, we have
18 three absent members and one vacancy and the majority
19 is in favor of the recommendation as stated.
20
21 Thank you.
22
23 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Thank you. I'd like
24 to thank all of you people out there that showed up and
25 here, that showed up for this conference call meeting
26 that I called. I really appreciate it. I think it's
27 something that has an impact on the subsistence users
28 in the Cordova area and a lot of you don't have any --
29 you know, you have no stake in it, you're not going to
30 gain anything one way or the other because you're not
31 going to probably come over and hunt the deer there or
32 take the waterfowl there but I just think it really
33 shows the consistency we have in Southeastern [sic] in
34 sharing each others concerns and I really appreciate
35 that.
36
37 Does anybody else have any comments
38 that they'd like to make on the meeting on this right
39 here.
40
41 MR. ELVSAAS: Well, based on your
42 comments, I would take a stake if they did share it.
43
44 (Laughter)
45
46 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: You want me to bring a
47 deer to the next subsistence meeting, is that what
48 you're saying.
49
50 (Laughter)

1 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: How about other
2 business, has anybody else got anything else that as a
3 Council, since we have a quorum right now, if we have
4 something else as a Council that's of concern that we
5 -- that we can't take action on it because it hasn't
6 been pre-publicized but we can at least bring those
7 concerns up so that we can put them in another meeting.

8

9 (No comments)

10

11 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Hearing none, I'll
12 adjourn this and I thank you all again for your
13 participation.

14

15 MR. CARPENTER: Thank you, Ralph.

16

17 MR. BLOSSOM: Thank you.

18

19 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Donald.

20

21 MR. MIKE: Mr. Chairman, I'd like to
22 thank Sandy Rabinowitch from the National Park Service
23 for allowing us to meet in this building. Thank you,
24 Sandy.

25

26 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: And I'd like to thank
27 Mr. Walsh for being here and presenting, and broadening
28 our idea of what our options are. I mean a lot of
29 these things spring on us in a hurry and we don't
30 really have time to know what all's going on.

31

32 You know, I mean this came as a real
33 shock to me to come back to -- I was gone trapping,
34 came back to Cordova and found out that they'd had the
35 meeting and the time period was almost up for comments
36 and everything else and everybody in town was panicking
37 and I called him and he said he'd already extended the
38 time period which gave us time to have our meeting and
39 I'd really like to thank him for his taking into
40 consideration the concerns of the people of Cordova.

41

42 MR. MIKE: And for the Forest Service
43 Staff to provide the summary on the subsistence issues
44 in the area.

45

46 MR. JOYCE: Well, I got to give credit
47 to Fish and Game for pulling those numbers out.

48

49 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: It's interesting
50 because both people involved in that also like to hunt

1 right in that area.

2

3 (Laughter)

4

5 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay, we're done.

6

7 (Off record)

8

9 (END OF PROCEEDINGS)

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28
29
30
31
32
33
34
35
36

C E R T I F I C A T E

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA)
)ss.
STATE OF ALASKA)

I, Salena A. Hile, Notary Public in and for the state of Alaska and reporter for Computer Matrix Court Reporters, LLC, do hereby certify:

THAT the foregoing pages numbered 1 through 43 contain a full, true and correct Transcript of the SOUTHCENTRAL FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING, VOLUME I, taken electronically by Computer Matrix Court Reporters on the 13th day of January 2009, beginning at the hour of 12:00 o'clock p.m. at Anchorage, Alaska;

THAT the transcript is a true and correct transcript requested to be transcribed and thereafter transcribed by under my direction and reduced to print to the best of our knowledge and ability;

THAT I am not an employee, attorney, or party interested in any way in this action.

DATED at Anchorage, Alaska this 19th day of January 2009.

Salena A. Hile
Notary Public, State of Alaska
My Commission Expires 9/15/2010