

1 SOUTHCENTRAL FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE
2 REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING

3
4 PUBLIC MEETING

5
6
7 Anchorage, Alaska
8 March 13, 2012
9 9:16 a.m.

10
11
12
13 COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

- 14
15 Ralph Lohse, Chairman
16 Tom Carpenter
17 Greg Encelewski
18 Judy Caminer
19 Robert Henrichs
20 Andrew McLaughlin
21 Mary Ann Mills
22 Michael Opheim
23 James Showalter
24 Gloria Stickwan

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28 Regional Council Coordinator, Melinda Hernandez
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P R O C E E D I N G S

(Anchorage, Alaska - 3/13/2012)

(On record)

CHAIRMAN LOHSE: I'll call the winter meeting of the Southcentral Alaska Subsistence Regional Advisory Council into session.....

*** (No Audio - Summary substituted) ***

Roll Call and quorum established

Welcome and Introductions

New Agenda Items added by

Member Henrichs: Railroad moose kill

Member Caminer: Meeting cycle; SCRAC would like to be kept informed (by new coordinator)

Amended Agenda moved by:

Member Carpenter;
Second Member Henrichs;
Agenda approved unanimously as amended

Election of officers

Member Blossom move nominations Chair (Lohse);

Second Member Encelewski;
Nominations closed Member Blossom;
Second Member Encelewski;
Unanimous Consent - (Lohse - Chair)

Member Blossom move vice-Chair; (Carpenter)
Second Member Showalter;
Nominations closed Member Blossom;
Second Member Henrichs;
Unanimous Consent - (Carpenter - vice-Chair)

Member Blossom move Secretary; (Caminer)
Second Member Stickwan;
Unanimous Consent - (Caminer -

1 Secretary)
2
3 Review and adopt Meeting Minutes -
4 October 3 and 4, 2011:
5
6 Moved Member Encelewski;
7 Second Member Carpenter;
8 Minutes approved unanimously
9
10 Council Member Concerns/Reports:
11
12 Member Carpenter: Per Diem has not been
13 resolved from last meeting in Cantwell 10/3 and 4, 2011
14
15 Member Caminer: Would like to see a
16 schedule of events: board meetings, future meeting
17 cycles, et cetera.
18
19 Concerns about sheep in the area North
20 of Anchorage, Fish and Game research, re: what may or
21 may not be going on.
22
23 Member Stickwan: Reasoning for the
24 reverse decision on Saxman.
25
26 Chairman Lohse provided excellent
27 explanation. In a nutshell: Hold on decision until
28 more current data is examined re rural/non-rural
29 determinations.
30
31 Council spent time reviewing the
32 Federal Subsistence Board actions from January 2012
33 meeting.
34
35 Annual Report Draft:
36
37 Move to approve finalized draft
38 Member Carpenter;
39 Second Member Henrichs;
40 Approved unanimously
41
42 (Off record)
43
44 (On record)
45
46 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: We'll call this winter
47 meeting of the Southcentral Alaska Subsistence Regional
48 Advisory Council back into session. And I think we
49 have some public testimony on the phone right now, is
50 that what we have.

1 MS. HERNANDEZ: Robert, was there
2 anything you wanted to testify on?

3
4 MR. STOVAL: No, I was just going to
5 listen on and I'll have my phone on mute.

6
7 MS. HERNANDEZ: Okay, perfect, thank
8 you. And then the second person on the line is Todd, I
9 think I heard your first name, what was your last name,
10 please.

11
12 TODD: I'll just be listening.

13
14 MS. HERNANDEZ: Okay, thanks. If
15 there's anything you guys would like to comment on just
16 let us know.

17
18 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Yeah, thank you for
19 listening in. And if you do have something that you'd
20 like to add, just let our secretary know and we'll have
21 you on speakerphone then.

22
23 Okay, we are on old business. We're
24 going to review and finalize the draft for the 2011
25 annual report. You'll find it on Page 14 in your
26 minutes so if everybody turns to Page 14 and we'll go
27 through that and see if there's any changes, additions
28 or corrections we'd like to make to that, this is a
29 draft.

30
31 Council members.

32
33 (No comments)

34
35 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: I'll give everybody
36 about three minutes to skim through it real quick.

37
38 (Pause)

39
40 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Does any Council
41 member have anything that they see should be added to
42 this or does this look adequate to submit as our
43 letter.

44
45 (No comments)

46
47 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: I only have one
48 question, I was wondering whether -- Gloria, you're on
49 that Chisana Caribou Herd working group or are you not?
50

1 MS. STICKWAN: They decided not to have
2 a working group. They're just going to have Wrangell-
3 St.Elias manage it and they're working with the
4 communities up there to determine how the permits will
5 be issued.

6
7 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: If nobody sees
8 anything they'd like to change, a motion to adopt our
9 draft, Gloria -- my fault, Barbara.

10
11 MS. CELLARIUS: Mr. Chair, thank you.
12 Barbara Cellarius, subsistence coordinator for
13 Wrangell-St. Elias. And I'm going to be providing an
14 update on where things are with the Chisana Caribou
15 Herd harvest in my agency report.

16
17 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Thank you, Barbara.

18
19 MR. CARPENTER: Mr. Chairman. I move
20 we approve and finalize a copy of the 2011 annual
21 report.

22
23 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Do I hear a second.

24
25 MR. HENRICHS: Second.

26
27 MS. MILLS: Second.

28
29 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: It's been moved and
30 seconded that we approve our draft annual report and
31 make it our finalized version.

32
33 MR. CARPENTER: Question.

34
35 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Question's been
36 called. All in favor signify by saying aye.

37
38 IN UNISON: Aye.

39
40 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: All opposed signify by
41 saying nay.

42
43 (No opposing votes)

44
45 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Motion carries.

46
47 Now, we'll go to Page 17 and that's the
48 tribal consultation policy. And this is for us to
49 review and comment on. And so if anybody has anything
50 that they saw in here or anything that they would like

1 to add to it or any questions that they have on it.
2 The questions might not be able to be answered at this
3 point in time, but they can be noted and then we can
4 get an answer at a later date.

5
6 So this is a draft tribal consultation
7 policy. In other words, a draft is available for
8 revision. And the first page tells how it was -- the
9 process that it went through to get to do it and who
10 was involved in it on the first, second and third page.

11
12 MS. MILLS: I have a question.

13
14 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Go ahead.

15
16 MS. MILLS: Mr. Chairman. On the
17 preamble.

18
19 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: That's page?

20
21 MS. MILLS: It states No. 15 -- well,
22 I'll start with 14, Board will collaborate and partner
23 with tribes to protect and provide opportunities for
24 continued subsistence use on public and I'd like to
25 have traditional lands inserted in there as well.

26
27 And on No. 18, executive orders,
28 judicial decisions and treaties; I would like to also
29 add international obligations.

30
31 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: And these would be
32 suggestions that we would forward to the working group,
33 right?

34
35 MS. MILLS: Yes. And, you know, I did
36 have other issues on the tribal consultation policy,
37 you know, to note that the ANCSA Corporations are State
38 chartered for profit corporations and I have concern
39 that they are treated like sovereign tribal
40 governments. And the reason I have concern is because
41 of the issue of regionalization, and regionalization
42 would weaken tribal governments, or tribal governments,
43 so ANCSA Corporations are not tribal governments and
44 they're not political institutions. And in all
45 honesty, you know, ANCSA was the weapon that was used
46 to illegally cleave us from our land to build a
47 pipeline to get the oil out of Prudhoe Bay, and prior
48 to ANCSA we did not have that problem with feeding
49 ourselves. I mean these are concerns that I have as a
50 tribal leader, you know, is to look out for the best

1 interest of our tribal citizens.

2

3 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: So basically the
4 recognition of ANCSA should not be on the same level as
5 tribal?

6

7 MS. MILLS: Yes.

8

9 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: In fact -- Gloria.

10

11 MS. STICKWAN: I just wanted to say
12 that I attended the meeting in October and didn't
13 attend the one in December, but there hasn't been very
14 much discussion about Section .809 of ANILCA. I would
15 like to see that inserted in there. It says on Page
16 22, agreements -- cooperative agreements, but I just
17 want to include Section .809 of ANILCA somewhere in
18 there.

19

20 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Would that be just
21 right under No. 3, where it says for regulations,
22 customary and traditional use determinations, customary
23 trade, .809?

24

25 MS. STICKWAN: It's just before timing,
26 it says agreements, cooperative agreements.

27

28 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay. You think
29 that's where we should suggest it?

30

31 MS. MILLS: What page?

32

33 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Page 22. And it's
34 talking about roles and responsibilities. And one of
35 the roles and responsibilities would be to implement
36 .809, right?

37

38 MS. STICKWAN: Section .809 of ANILCA.

39

40 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Yeah. Yeah, it could
41 go under -- well, that's not an agreement, that's a
42 regulation.

43

44 MS. STICKWAN: Uh-huh.

45

46 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: That'd be an .809
47 determination, right, is that what you're thinking of,
48 Gloria?

49

50 MS. STICKWAN: Uh-huh.

1 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Yeah, that would be
2 one of the roles and responsibilities. So we could --
3 these would be things that we would forward to them as
4 possible things for them to review, that's what we're
5 basically doing at this point in time. And so under
6 roles and responsibilities, we could just -- we don't
7 even have to decide where it goes, we could just put
8 .809 determinations.

9

10 MR. CARPENTER: Just give them a list.

11

12 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: And give them, you
13 know, a list, and that would be -- you know, then they
14 could decide where it would go. But that is one of the
15 responsibilities.

16

17 And the ANCSA thing would go on Page
18 25, and that would be not -- basically not to treat it
19 at the same level as tribal governments, right, that's
20 kind of what you were getting at?

21

22 MS. MILLS: Correct.

23

24 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: That it is not a
25 tribal government.

26

27 MS. MILLS: Correct.

28

29 MS. STICKWAN: I have a question.

30

31 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay, just a second.

32

33 Okay, go ahead, Gloria.

34

35 MS. STICKWAN: It says that customary
36 and traditional use determinations, I had a question
37 about there's difference to tribes but not RACs, is
38 that true? And isn't it -- aren't we supposed to be
39 giving deference to the RACs and not tribes? That's
40 what I understand, anyways.

41

42 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Yeah, the tribes
43 wouldn't be making that determination, they would be
44 giving input to it. You're looking on Page 22?

45

46 MS. STICKWAN: Yeah.

47

48 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Yeah. Yeah,
49 communication and coordination on that subject would be
50 there. That wouldn't -- that would not be their

1 responsibility to make it because that would still come
2 under RAC.

3

4 MS. MILLS: Also with regard to ANILCA,
5 Title VIII of ANILCA, I would like to also see a review
6 of the Congressional records on ANILCA by Stewart Udal.
7 I think it's very important because basically what he
8 was saying was Title VIII of ANILCA is Indian Law, and
9 so there is a fiduciary responsibility by the Secretary
10 of the Interior to protect such rights for the
11 indigenous people.

12

13 Thank you.

14

15 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: So how would you --
16 where would you or how would you make a suggestion that
17 that would go into this draft, or would go to the
18 committee that made the draft?

19

20 MS. MILLS: That they review the
21 Congressional Record of Stewart Udal's testimony during
22 the ANILCA hearings and that to -- to basically make
23 sure that the Secretary of Interior is following
24 Federal law and the mandates with regard to the
25 indigenous people.

26

27 MS. HERNANDEZ: Ralph. I can send that
28 along as a general comment.

29

30 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: You can send that
31 along as a general -- we don't have to find a place to
32 insert that?

33

34 MS. HERNANDEZ: (Shakes head
35 negatively)

36

37 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay. Okay. Judy.

38

39 MS. MILLS: Maybe as a recommendation.

40

41 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Well, if we make it a
42 recommendation then we have to vote on it and
43 everything. What we're just doing is we're putting
44 things for them to review and additions that they can
45 consider in their draft. And then we'll end up --
46 we'll end up making a recommendation on the draft at
47 some point in time, won't we?

48

49 MS. HERNANDEZ: I think so. I wish
50 that we'd have had Crystal Rogers -- I'm sorry Crystal

1 Leonetti, speak to this, but I believe that's -- what I
2 can do is -- I've got down a list of general comments
3 and then as well as we have specific places where we'd
4 like to make edits and then we can discuss how those
5 could be carried along.

6

7 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay. Judy.

8

9 MS. CAMINER: Mr. Chair. Well, I was
10 just looking at Page 19, and maybe this helps answer
11 the question.

12

13 Questions for us.

14

15 Do we feel the policy is going in the
16 right direction, and if not, why not.

17

18 I personally feel it is going in the
19 right direction. I think these are great steps that
20 have -- that needed to be taken for quite awhile. It's
21 a tremendous amount of work for tribes, corporations
22 and for Staff to be doing this process but we hope that
23 it will turn into meaningful input and great
24 improvements for communication and for the end result,
25 which would be the regulations.

26

27 Is there anything else the work group
28 needs to consider.

29

30 I think Mary Ann's comment certain
31 would fit right there, actually.

32

33 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Right, that's just
34 what I was thinking. Is there anything else it needs
35 to consider.

36

37 MS. CAMINER: And do you feel the
38 tribes concerns from the consultation have been or will
39 be meaningful.

40

41 Well, at our October meeting, I think
42 it was Jerry or others, read into the record, the
43 results of the consultations that had taken place on
44 each proposal, if there were comments, and I did find
45 it helpful. I think it was a good start, certainly
46 wasn't complete, but we are just new to this process,
47 but I thought it was very helpful to have that added
48 piece of information when perhaps a representative
49 couldn't come or testify at the meeting but we had that
50 on the record.

1 And I think this is an excellent
2 discussion we're having but let's not also forget to
3 talk about how the implementation of this policy will
4 work best. I know some tribes or corporations
5 represented here have already had some experience with
6 consultation pre this policy, I think it'd be very
7 useful for Gloria and others to say, what has worked in
8 consultation, what's a method or interactions that work
9 well without creating a huge workload but deliver us
10 the information.

11

12 Thank you.

13

14 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Thank you, Judy. And
15 if you'd take a look at the top of Page 19 and it talks
16 about the steps and the timetable, it says the Regional
17 Advisory Council will review and discuss the policy and
18 provide feedback through the Staff to the working
19 group. That's what we're doing right now, is we're
20 getting some feedback, so we're passing it on to the
21 Staff and what we're passing on now will go to the
22 working group. Now, whether or not they adopt what we
23 pass on to them, that's another question, but at least
24 it gives us the opportunity to put some input into it.

25

26 And I thank you for the input that
27 you've been putting into it.

28

29 Greg.

30

31 MR. ENCELEWSKI: Yeah. I just want to
32 add a little input. I think this working group is
33 doing good. The one thing that's lacking, and I think
34 has lacked in the whole consultation process is
35 specific consultation on specific issues of hunt
36 concerns, moose concerns, bear concerns, whatever it
37 may be specific to that tribe in that region, and
38 that's where we're really missing the boat.

39

40 I had consultation with the Federal
41 Board prior to a moose situation and it worked great.
42 The one that's on here, if we would have been able to
43 consult we probably wouldn't be back here before this
44 Board. So I think somehow that needs to be added in
45 there that they consult on the specific issues to each
46 case.

47

48 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Did you get that
49 Melinda.

50

1 MS. HERNANDEZ: (Nods affirmatively)
2
3 MR. HENRICHS: Yeah, I'm going to have
4 to take off because I have some doctor's appointments
5 but I expect to be back.
6
7 But one thing I want to point out while
8 I'm here is, this chart that's in front of us is very
9 misleading because United States claims out 200 miles,
10 yet, on this chart they're just claiming out three
11 miles. And the significance of it is the Supreme Court
12 ruled that ANCSA extinguished aboriginal rights from
13 three miles in, but they also ruled that it did not
14 extinguish tribes aboriginal rights on the Outer
15 Continental Shelf. So we have jurisdiction or input
16 over everything that happens out there, yet, this chart
17 shows -- only goes out three miles.
18
19 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Thank you, Mr.
20 Henrichs. We'll see you this afternoon, hopefully.
21
22 MR. HENRICHS: Yep.
23
24 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Gloria.
25
26 MS. STICKWAN: I don't know if we're
27 going to go over the ANCSA one but I wanted to add
28 Section .809 to that one, too. I don't know if we're
29 going to go over the ANCSA tribal consultation policy
30 after this, but I wanted to add Section. 809 to that
31 one, too.
32
33 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Yeah.
34
35 MS. STICKWAN: And I also have -- are
36 there going to be additional working group members to
37 this ANCSA draft, are they going to add more members to
38 it when they work on that, or?
39
40 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: I think this working
41 group is formed, if I remember right. Are they going
42 to be seeking other members for the working group or
43 not?
44
45 MS. HERNANDEZ: I'm not sure but we can
46 make a call and find out the answer for you. Not that
47 I know of, though.
48
49 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Would you like to make
50 the suggestion that they seek additional working group

1 members?

2

3 MS. STICKWAN: If they could, yeah.

4

5 I just wanted to speak to the process
6 that happened last summer. I was involved in it. I
7 got information and help and further clarification on
8 proposals. I thought it was very helpful. The one
9 thing I would like to see, and I know it was because of
10 timing, was they could do more on reports, you know,
11 during the discussions. That would be -- that would
12 explain the proposals, or more the reports during the
13 consultation, that would be.....

14

15 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Now, Gloria, are you
16 talking about on this draft or are you talking about
17 the consultation on issues?

18

19 MS. STICKWAN: Consultation on issues.

20

21 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: On issues, okay.

22

23 MS. STICKWAN: I'm just saying I
24 thought it was a good process.

25

26 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Yeah.

27

28 MS. STICKWAN: But I would like to see
29 more reports during the discussion with tribes when
30 they're on the phone or with corporations, that they
31 give more reports.

32

33 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: That we seek
34 consultation on issues that we have in front of us for
35 regulations and proposals, directly, and get a report
36 on it directly from tribes involved.

37

38 MS. STICKWAN: No, we get it from the
39 Federal Staff.

40

41 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: From the Federal
42 Staff.

43

44 MS. STICKWAN: That's there, you know,
45 they could give a brief report on the proposals, I
46 mean, while they're consulting with us, you know,
47 status of the population is what I'm talking about,
48 those kinds of reports, when they're consulting with
49 tribes, it would help.

50

1 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay. So provide them
2 with more information.

3
4 MS. STICKWAN: Yeah, that's what I'm
5 trying to say.

6
7 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Yeah. Yeah, that
8 sounds -- I see what you mean. That before you consult
9 with them, give them some information on the proposal
10 and on the effect it could have on the stocks and
11 animals and stuff like that.

12
13 MS. STICKWAN: (Nods affirmatively)

14
15 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Jerry.

16
17 MR. BERG: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Jerry
18 Berg with Fish and Wildlife Service. I just wanted to
19 respond to Gloria's question about the work group
20 members.

21
22 My understanding is this is going to be
23 the Council's chance to weigh in on this draft and then
24 the work group, that group is fairly well set, they
25 tried to incorporate, you know, tribal members from all
26 around the state and they're going to meet again in
27 April and try to incorporate changes that they hear
28 from the Council members and then have another draft
29 that's going to go forward to the Board with the intent
30 to try to finalize something this May. So I don't
31 think that they're going to change the work group
32 members at this point, is my understanding. And I know
33 Nancy Swanton has been working with the work group
34 pretty closely as well. I don't know if you have
35 anything to add, Nancy.

36
37 MS. SWANTON: No, that's the -- I'm
38 Nancy Swanton with the National Park Service. And I
39 have been on the work group since the get-go, and
40 that's my understanding as well. The work group's
41 charge is to take all of the comments received during
42 all of the Regional Advisory Council meetings and to
43 assess those comments and to provide -- to discuss them
44 and provide thoughtful -- to either integrate the
45 comments and if they're not integrated into the policy,
46 to provide good rationale for why they're not being
47 integrated into that policy.

48
49 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: I think a lot of -- if
50 I understood Gloria right what she was asking, too, is,

1 also, though that when you do seek this consultation,
2 you provide the tribes working group with the
3 information it needs to address the proposals that are
4 on the table so that it's not just out of the blue type
5 thing.

6

7 Am I correct on that, Gloria?

8

9 MS. STICKWAN: Additional information
10 concerning the proposals.....

11

12 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Right.

13

14 MS. STICKWAN:I mean not just
15 talking about the proposals, but it would help for the
16 tribes to understand, you know, the population,
17 whatever the proposal is about so they can, you know,
18 write comments on it.

19

20 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Uh-huh.

21

22 MS. STICKWAN: If they understood the
23 issues better they could write better comments.

24

25 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: So I don't think it
26 was directed at this draft as much as it was directed
27 as when we implement this and we go for tribal
28 consultations, for procedures that are brought to the
29 RAC, that we make sure that they have sufficient --
30 that they have the same reports and information that
31 we're going to act on.

32

33 MS. SWANTON: Right. I appreciate that
34 comment, Gloria, and that comment has come through on
35 some of the other tribal consultations we've had on
36 wildlife proposals, for example. Because we did find
37 that tribes, while they were sent proposals, sometimes
38 the timing as to when the analysis is completed, or the
39 person to person communication perhaps hasn't occurred
40 in as timely away as would be useful for tribes to
41 provide meaningful inputs so I'm hearing what you're
42 saying and I will continue to be on that working group
43 working on the implementation portions of this. And I
44 think that's an important piece. Where it can fit in
45 the whole process and the scheduling of things, we'll
46 have to take a good hard look at that and try to make
47 sure that it works.

48

49 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Jerry.

50

1 MR. BERG: Yeah, I guess I would just
2 add that the intent of this draft that you see in front
3 of you is meant to be broad and general to kind of set
4 the framework and then the details of the
5 implementation have still yet to be worked out, but
6 that's the kind of details that are going to be
7 discussed that we want to hear feedback from as well.
8 But I'm pretty sure that, you know, when we come up
9 with an implementation plan, you know, that detailed
10 plan will come back before the RACs as well for you to
11 comment on that. But we just haven't even made it to
12 that stage yet. But certainly we're aware, you know,
13 the devil is in the details and the details do matter
14 on how this gets implemented and there's going to be a
15 group working on an implementation plan separate from
16 this overall policy.

17
18 MS. SWANTON: I can tell you now I'm
19 taking notes on what you're telling me and we'll bring
20 that forward to that group.

21
22 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Gloria.

23
24 MS. STICKWAN: There's a lot of
25 discussion about the timing, too, of when these
26 consultations should occur. I think they should be
27 before the RACs meetings, the Federal Board meetings,
28 they shouldn't be after. I mean people have suggested
29 that they be held during the winter, you know, it needs
30 to be before the RAC and the Federal Subsistence Board
31 meetings and I think if there's a follow up on a
32 proposal, that it should be the tribe's responsibility
33 to follow up on a certain proposal they may have a
34 concern about, to contact the agency or whoever they
35 need to follow through with, that it be their
36 responsibility to do that, if they have a concern about
37 a proposal.

38
39 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Greg, did you have
40 something.

41
42 MR. ENCELEWSKI: Yeah, I just want to
43 make a comment. I know there's 221 tribes in Alaska
44 here, but, you know, this working group is made up of
45 seven tribal members and several Federal members and in
46 looking at it, there's very few, if any representation
47 from the Southcentral RAC on this. And, to me, that's
48 why I made my earlier comment that, you know, the
49 consultation process has to include the tribe it's
50 dealing with. I've been to a lot of public testimony

1 in a lot of places that, you know, people trying to get
2 across their issues. My area is different than yours,
3 et cetera. There are specific issues. And they need
4 consultation with the tribes, that's the whole purpose
5 of getting consultation is to -- you know, there's two
6 sides to consultation, they both get to talk. And so
7 that somehow needs to be in the final draft, included,
8 like Gloria's talking about, prior to meetings that we
9 have a right and opportunity to consult.

10

11 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: That consultation
12 should take place -- direct consultation should take
13 place directly with the tribes that are impacted by a
14 proposal.

15

16 MR. ENCELEWSKI: Exactly.

17

18 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Any other. Judy.

19

20 MS. CAMINER: Well, I know you said
21 we'll be getting to the implementation later but it
22 does say a list of ideas and recommendations raised
23 could be provided to us, and I think that would be
24 useful for us to have. I mean there are some members
25 here who have gone through a consultation and so it
26 would also be very helpful to hear whether a face to
27 face meeting is best, whether it's fine to do it over
28 the phone, whether it's preferred to work with local
29 managers or with Anchorage managers, you know, those
30 kind of specifics. If some of that came out now it
31 might be useful in actually writing the policy as well
32 as the implementation plan.

33

34 So I don't know if Gloria or Greg have
35 other suggestions there or if you'll be able to forward
36 us that list.

37

38 MS. STICKWAN: I thought the
39 teleconference worked well for us. I don't know about
40 other areas of the state of Alaska, but it seemed to
41 work fine with us. And if they have to have meeting to
42 meetings, that's an expense that tribes cannot afford.

43

44 MR. ENCELEWSKI: Yeah, and I'll just
45 add, Mr. Chairman, to that comment. Teleconference
46 worked great for us. We had one that was with the
47 tribe and it was really outstanding, we were able to
48 work on one on one issues and we had good feedback with
49 the Federal guys and it was a good meeting, the one
50 that I had.

1 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay. Any more
2 comments that we'd like to forward on this. What we're
3 doing is we're forwarding comments to the working
4 group. Like it says, we're going to review and discuss
5 this, the working group will then take this, take the
6 comments that we've made and they will come up with a
7 final draft that they're going to present to the Board
8 hopefully by the Board's May meeting, so that the Board
9 can then adopt a policy or not adopt it, depending on
10 what the Board thinks of it. And then after that we
11 can go into implementation and procedures and things
12 like that. But at this point in time, we're looking at
13 this draft policy. We've got some comments that we're
14 going to forward to the working group.

15
16 Do we have any more comments we would
17 like to forward to the working group.

18
19 (No comments)

20
21 MS. SWANTON: I would just say Judy's
22 suggestion about any ideas you might have about what
23 might work best in terms of implementation would be
24 helpful. And if you're -- if you don't choose to
25 provide those comments today, please provide them any
26 time over the next couple of months. That would be
27 really helpful for the working group to know what your
28 thoughts are as individuals, as well as the RAC.

29
30 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Well, I think the main
31 one that's come out that I've heard out of this Council
32 so far is that directly impacted tribes should be
33 consulted, you know, and in other words, if we're
34 making a Southcentral proposal but it deals with the
35 Copper Valley up there, those are the ones that we need
36 to consult with. We don't really need to consult with
37 Greg down on the Kenai, even if he is part of
38 Southcentral because they're not the directly impacted
39 ones. We can still consult with them but the ones that
40 need to be consulted with are the ones that are going
41 to be directly impacted on the resource use. I think
42 that would go a long way.

43
44 And like what it sounded like, from
45 Greg and Gloria, that the teleconference worked good.
46 I think that's what Gloria said, too, didn't she?

47
48 MR. ENCELEWSKI: Yep.

49
50 MS. STICKWAN: (Nods affirmatively)

1 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: But basically what you
2 have to do is you have to make contact and you have to
3 talk to real people, you know, and real people that are
4 impacted.

5
6 Judy.

7
8 MS. CAMINER: Melinda. I wonder if
9 this list of ideas that's already been raised could be
10 circulated to the RAC and that'll certainly help us
11 think of more or confirm those ideas and we can get
12 those back to the working group by whatever date you
13 suggest.

14
15 MS. HERNANDEZ: Sure. I'll work this
16 week on getting kind of a draft list and compile what
17 I've got here and everybody can take a peak at it.
18 Those who aren't on email, we can kind of strategize on
19 how we can get that to you and that way everybody has a
20 chance to look over it because I send it on.

21
22 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: The U.S. Mail Service
23 still works, you know, it doesn't work as fast -- it
24 doesn't work as fast but snail mail gets there,
25 usually, unless it goes to the wrong box.

26
27 (Laughter)

28
29 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Any more comments on
30 this draft policy.

31
32 (No comments)

33
34 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Gloria, do you have
35 another comment on this draft policy?

36
37 MS. STICKWAN: I just think -- I had a
38 question about the directly impacted tribes. I guess
39 the RACs would determine and make recommendations that
40 the agency contact these tribes, it would come from the
41 RACs, I would think, and not the agencies.

42
43 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: So the impacted
44 tribes, the consultation should come to the RACs, not
45 through the agencies?

46
47 MS. STICKWAN: No, I'm saying the RACs
48 should tell in their public meetings to the agencies,
49 they need to contact these tribes because they have
50 concern about these proposals.

1 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Yeah.
2
3 MS. STICKWAN: It should come from the
4 agencies but from the RACs, or even the tribes
5 themselves, I mean.....
6
7 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Uh-huh.
8
9 MS. STICKWAN: Yeah, I would think.
10
11 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay. Any other
12 comments on the draft policy.
13
14 (No comments)
15
16 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: With that we're going
17 to go on to WP12-22a, request for a positive customary
18 and traditional use determination for brown bear by
19 residents of Ninilchik and for Unit -- portion 8
20 deferred by the Federal Subsistence Board. And, Greg,
21 would you like to now go -- oh, somebody else will go
22 through -- okay, go ahead.
23
24 MS. KENNER: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I'm
25 Pippa Kenner with the Office of Subsistence Management.
26 I'm an anthropologist and beside me is Helen Armstrong
27 who is the lead of the division of Anthropology at OSM.
28
29 Today I'm giving you an update on the
30 proposal and it's not an action item, it's just
31 information.
32
33 For new members of the Council,
34 especially, the proposal requested that the Federal
35 Subsistence Board recognize Ninilchik's customary and
36 traditional uses of brown bear in Units 8 and 15. The
37 proposal was supported by this Council, it was opposed
38 by the Kodiak/Aleutians Council, the region in which
39 Unit 18 is.
40
41 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Eight.
42
43 MS. KENNER: Eight, thank you. The
44 Board opted to support the customary and traditional
45 use finding for the residents of Ninilchik for Unit 15,
46 all of Unit 15, but deferred the action on Unit 8 until
47 a later date because of the split Council vote.
48
49 The Board also requested that there be
50 consultation between the two Councils, between then and

1 when the Board met again. In the meantime, in fact,
2 yesterday we received correspondence from the Ninilchik
3 Traditional Council, the proponent of this proposal,
4 requesting the Federal Subsistence Board to withdraw
5 the proposal.

6
7 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Just that portion of
8 Unit 8.

9
10 MS. KENNER: Just the portion for Unit
11 8 that was deferred by the Board. So to withdraw the
12 portion of the proposal that included Unit 8, and
13 that's where we are now.

14
15 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Helen Armstrong,
16 Office of Subsistence Management. I just wanted to add
17 one small comment then.

18
19 The Council -- I mean if the Ninilchik
20 Traditional Council requests a withdraw then it's up to
21 the Board to make the decision whether then it will be
22 withdrawn or not and they do have a meeting scheduled
23 in Juneau in March, the week of March the 18th, and
24 then they have another meeting scheduled in May so I
25 would suspect that they would take this up at one of
26 those two meetings. This just came in yesterday.

27
28 So it's not for sure that it would be
29 withdrawn, but the request is in and then the Board can
30 decide whether they accept that withdrawal request.

31
32 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: So what is the meeting
33 they have in March?

34
35 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: They're meeting in
36 Juneau to address extra-territorial jurisdiction, that
37 issue, and they're meeting with the Southeast Council.

38
39 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: And they could take
40 this up at that meeting?

41
42 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: I believe so. I
43 don't -- I mean I'm just saying that's an option. I
44 don't know how full that agenda is but they could also
45 take it up in May when they're addressing the tribal
46 consultation and the MOU.

47
48 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: So at this point in
49 time, I know we were talking about a joint get together
50 with Kodiak to discuss this. With Ninilchik requesting

1 to withdraw their motion, then there probably is no
2 need to try to appoint somebody to go and get together
3 with the ones from Kodiak at their meeting.

4
5 Greg.

6
7 MR. ENCELEWSKI: Mr. Chairman. That
8 was the reason for our withdraw until we could meet
9 with Kodiak. So that's the only reason we withdraw it.
10 So if I could take my other hat, I'll testify for the
11 council.

12
13 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay. So it was to
14 give time for the two RACs to get together?

15
16 MR. ENCELEWSKI: Correct. We wanted
17 the two RACs to be able to -- the two RACs and also the
18 Ninilchik Traditional Council wanted to discuss the
19 issue with Kodiak for their concerns. We wanted to see
20 what their concerns were before we continued to push
21 it.

22
23 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay.

24
25 MR. ENCELEWSKI: Our feeling, Mr.
26 Chairman, if I could just say it from here, is that,
27 from the Council was that we feel that the C&T should
28 stand, we don't even feel that the Board needed to
29 really hear on our RAC to take action on it, but it's
30 just hung up until something else is done.

31
32 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay. So then you
33 feel like we should still appoint somebody from the RAC
34 to meet with Kodiak, get together with Kodiak then to
35 discuss this at a time that would be convenient also
36 for the Ninilchik Tribe?

37
38 MR. ENCELEWSKI: That was our intent
39 because we're going to resubmit it anyway once we
40 hammer it out.

41
42 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay. Any comments
43 from anyone. Doug.

44
45 MR. BLOSSOM: Mr. Chair. So, Greg, you
46 don't want to enact the rest of the proposal?

47
48 MR. ENCELEWSKI: Doug, Unit 15 is
49 passed, it's accepted, it's in there. The only one at
50 question is Unit 8 on Kodiak.

1 MR. BLOSSOM: Okay.

2

3 MR. ENCELEWSKI: And so that's the one
4 that we wanted to get further information on so we
5 withdrew it just so there wouldn't be a big hassle,
6 because quite frankly our work ain't done. We felt
7 that we needed to consult with them on it.

8

9 MR. BLOSSOM: Okay.

10

11 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: And this would go
12 right along with what we were just talking about,
13 tribal consultation of, you know, especially of a
14 resource that's impacted by the tribe that's right
15 there, you know, too. So at this point in time this is
16 an informational piece. It doesn't take action on our
17 part, other than if we would want to appoint somebody
18 from our RAC to meet with Kodiak when they have an
19 opportunity to do that.

20

21 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: I think that's
22 correct, Mr. Chair. I think at this point probably the
23 next step -- assuming the Board withdraws -- allows the
24 withdrawal, but NTC would work with people on Kodiak
25 Island and develop a new proposal at some point. Am I
26 -- I think I'm going down the right path there, that's
27 what they had talked to me about. They're not
28 precluded from doing it in the future, but doing it
29 after -- with some up front work with people in the
30 Kodiak area so that it doesn't go down a path of
31 resistance the next time.

32

33 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay.

34

35 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: So I'm not sure we
36 need to -- I think maybe it would be jumping ahead a
37 little bit to have a Council member appointed to it,
38 that's my thought.

39

40 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay. I know because
41 when we were at the Board meeting, I got the Chairman's
42 number from over there, we were talking about having a
43 representative from our RAC attend their next meeting.
44 And if that's not necessary at this point in time then
45 we don't need to appoint somebody until this proposal
46 gets straightened out between the tribes.

47

48 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Correct.

49

50 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay. Any other

1 questions -- Doug.

2

3 MR. BLOSSOM: Mr. Chair. Don't we have
4 to vote to defer this proposal because it is a
5 proposal.

6

7 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: No, I.....

8

9 MR. CARPENTER: We already did. We
10 already voted on it.

11

12 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: We already voted on
13 this proposal and then it went to the Board.....

14

15 MR. BLOSSOM: Okay.

16

17 CHAIRMAN LOHSE:and the Board
18 split it.

19

20 MR. BLOSSOM: Okay.

21

22 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: So, okay. Judy.

23

24 MS. CAMINER: Just curious if you have
25 the May dates of the Board meeting or if you could get
26 that to us later.

27

28 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: I don't have it off
29 the top of my head, I'll get it for you later. I can
30 check at the office during lunch.

31

32 MS. CAMINER: Okay.

33

34 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay, with that we go
35 on to new business on the next page, if there's no
36 further comments on this.

37

38 (No comments)

39

40 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay. And we have
41 Unit 7 and 15 moose management from the Kenai National
42 Wildlife Refuge.

43

44 MR. BERG: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I
45 guess I'll start out here. Jerry Berg with Fish and
46 Wildlife Service. And we just wanted to do, well,
47 first of all, give an update to the Council, kind of
48 what's happened since we talked to you last. But I
49 thought I might go back a little bit further because we
50 have a few new Council members and then I know, you,

1 Mr. Chair, were not at the last meeting, so I thought
2 we might just kind of step back a little bit to go over
3 a little bit of the history of what's happened on the
4 Kenai Moose issue.

5
6 So we were before the Council about a
7 year ago trying to figure out which way to go because
8 the Board of Game, I think, was just about to take
9 action on a proposal due to some recent surveys that
10 showed low bull/cow ratios in Unit 7 and 15, I believe.
11 So their action was to eliminate -- so the regulation
12 on the Kenai was spike-fork or 50 and 3-inch brow tine
13 sized bulls. And they -- 50 or three, 50 or three.
14 And so the Board of Game took action to eliminate the
15 spike-fork component of the harvest, and then they also
16 changed the 50 or three brown tine component to 50 or
17 four brown tine for most of the areas. They did leave
18 one area on the east side of 15B to 50 or three.

19
20 So after they took that action -- well,
21 so then we still have the Federal subsistence
22 regulations that are still in place, which basically
23 mirror the spike-fork or the 50 or three, except we
24 have longer seasons, we have a 10 day longer season on
25 the early season and then we have an additional late
26 season that doesn't exist at all in the State books.
27 So those seasons were still in place on the Federal
28 side. So we submitted a special action request to
29 mirror the State regulations for last fall, for both
30 the early and the late season. And the Federal Board
31 took action on those, they approved the request on the
32 early season so the regulations did mirror the State
33 for the early season, but they did not approve the late
34 season special action request. So the late season went
35 forward as planned, and they did that because they
36 realized that, Andy, the Refuge manager, has the
37 authority to close that season when needed. It was in
38 regulation that he had that authority. So those
39 seasons went forward last fall. And that late season
40 was eventually closed after some -- after a couple of
41 moose were taken. And then -- well, I guess actually
42 before the late season happened, we were before the
43 Council up in Cantwell, and we had submitted two
44 proposals to put into permanent regulation, you know,
45 to mirror what the State had in place, which was to
46 eliminate the spike-fork and to go to 50 or three brow-
47 tine, and we withdrew those proposals at your meeting
48 in Cantwell because we were hearing, you know, some
49 comments back saying that people did not want that into
50 permanent regulation. So we withdrew those and

1 decided, okay, well, we'll think about this and try to
2 come forward with a new plan, so we've done that.

3

4 We've kind of talked about it
5 internally. We talked to folks in OSM. We actually
6 went down and talked to folks in Ninilchik and we had
7 some teleconference with folks from Seldovia and Port
8 Graham. And so I think we have kind of a plan to go
9 forward but before we get into some of that, Andy, has
10 some biological information, some updates on that I
11 think he'd like to go over.

12

13 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay.

14

15 MR. LORANGER: Thanks, Jerry. Thank
16 you, Mr. Chair, and Council members. It's good to be
17 here this morning.

18

19 First of all, real quickly, just to go
20 over the actual harvest that took place. I'll qualify
21 this a little bit in terms of the harvest during the
22 general season and that the information is not
23 finalized on the Department of Fish and Game's database
24 yet for 2011 harvest. But in Unit 15, the preliminary
25 information that we have indicates a harvest of 32
26 bulls, which represents approximately a 92 percent
27 reduction in the average harvest, which is typically in
28 the vicinity for Unit 15 of around 400 animals. And in
29 2011 the harvest by Federally-qualified users on
30 Federal lands was four bulls, as compared to an annual
31 harvest by Federally-qualified users ranging from three
32 to eight, and averaging slightly less than six bulls
33 per year.

34

35 I also have some -- summary of moose
36 composition survey data from last fall conducted by the
37 Department in Unit 15C, which is on the southern Kenai
38 Peninsula that I'd just like to pass out.

39

40 (Pause)

41

42 MR. LORANGER: It's all the same there,
43 Jerry.

44

45 (Pause)

46

47 MR. LORANGER: So what you have in
48 front of you is basically three count areas that
49 represent around 500 square miles of area that were
50 surveyed under very similar conditions. Similar survey

1 effort in 2010 versus 2011, of course the difference
2 being the harvest restrictions being in place from one
3 to the other. I think the most important thing to look
4 at there, again, the very similar number of moose that
5 were classified during both of those surveys, 725
6 versus 733. Bull/cow ratios that generated the
7 significant conservation concern on the Kenai were less
8 than 10, at 9 bulls per 100 in 2010 and increased to 14
9 bulls per 100 cows in 2011. Much of that increase was
10 due not surprisingly to the increase in the number of
11 yearling bulls that were observed in 2011 versus 2010.

12

13 So in short, those composition data are
14 fairly consistent with what we saw in 15A as well. So
15 a similar bump up in the bull/cow ratios from 2010 to
16 2011.

17

18 MR. BERG: So as you can -- you know, I
19 mean that was kind of the intent of putting those
20 restrictions in place. If you'll remember from our
21 discussions last fall, you know, I think at the Board
22 of Game meeting, I wasn't at the Board of Game meeting,
23 but I think their intent was to try to address this in
24 the short term and try to get the most gain that they
25 could by taking the action they did, for, I think, was
26 a couple of years so we still have one more fall to go.
27 And then I think the intent of the Board of Game is to
28 readdress the issue after this coming fall.

29

30 So that kind of leaves us as to how to
31 move forward and I was saying, you know, we did go down
32 and talk to both Ivan and Greg in Ninilchik, and then
33 we had a teleconference with folks from Seldovia and
34 Port Graham and, you know, we talked about whether we
35 should submit special actions or just how to move
36 forward with this coming fall season. And where we've
37 kind of landed is to delegate authority to the manager,
38 similar to what we've done in fisheries, and so that
39 basically gives him in-season authority to make
40 adjustments as needed, based on the information he's
41 getting, and it would give him more flexibility. I
42 think last fall, most of the -- almost all the effort
43 and harvest was in one small area so when that harvest
44 got to a certain level, then the whole hunt was closed
45 down, and if we had more flexibility we probably could
46 have left other areas open and just closed that one
47 area. And so I think by -- we would -- so the intent
48 would be to make a request of the Federal Subsistence
49 Board to delegate authority to Andy with the same
50 delegation that they've provided to in-season managers

1 on the fisheries side. And this has also been done --
2 two years ago it was done in Units 1 through 5 in
3 Southeast for almost all Forest Service lands down
4 there and so it's through Subpart B of the Federal
5 Subsistence Board regulations, the Board can delegate
6 authority to in-season managers.

7
8 So, anyway, we think that's the best
9 option that would give the in-season manager more
10 flexibility. He would still work with the local users
11 and talk to them, which we've already done, and I think
12 we had pretty positive responses from folks. I'll let
13 them speak for themselves. So, anyway, that's our
14 intent at this point is to just put a request to the
15 Board to -- that would delegate this authority for
16 management of moose in Unit 15 to the Refuge manager.

17
18 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: But that would be
19 leaving the regulations stand as the regulations
20 currently stand.

21
22 MR. BERG: That's correct.

23
24 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: So the authority that
25 you'd be delegating to the manager would be to close --
26 basically to close the season when sufficient moose are
27 taken, not to change the antler restriction or anything
28 like that?

29
30 MR. LORANGER: Within season they would
31 also -- I think we'd be looking for the ability to
32 differentiate between spike-forked animals and the
33 larger bulls as well.

34
35 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: So like you could
36 close -- if a certain number of spike-forks were taken
37 you could close the close the spike-fork and leave
38 large bull open or something like that.

39
40 MR. LORANGER: Or vice versa.

41
42 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay. Yeah, so
43 basically the authority would be to close the season or
44 a portion of the season.

45
46 MR. LORANGER: And by area as well.

47
48 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: And by area.

49
50 MR. LORANGER: I think that's

1 important. The southern Peninsula represents a
2 different situation than the northern Peninsula.

3

4 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Tom.

5

6 MR. CARPENTER: Yeah, one question.
7 Does your recommendation to ask for the Refuge manager
8 to have this authority, does that have to come in the
9 form of a proposal or do you just directly ask the
10 Board for the authority to do that. Because if you
11 would have to bring it as a proposal, then we wouldn't
12 be able to deal with this for the next fall, right?

13

14 MR. BERG: Right, yeah, that's a very
15 good question. So, no, we don't have to -- it's not a
16 proposal, it's just a direct request to the Board. And
17 it certainly would be helpful if the Council thought
18 that it was a good idea, if you would provide some
19 comments back to the Board, or we might even be seeing
20 if Ninilchik might want to provide some input to the
21 Board to kind of -- so that when we did make that
22 request, you know, we would certainly let the Board
23 know that we've talked to the Council, we've talked to
24 the local users, and this is their input prior to
25 making that request.

26

27 MR. CARPENTER: Well, if I could just
28 follow up on that Ralph.

29

30 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Yes.

31

32 MR. CARPENTER: Well, generally
33 speaking I'd like to hear what Greg has to say because
34 obviously he was in discussions with you. Generally
35 speaking I think it's good for the manager to have some
36 discretion as to how him or her manages a certain stock
37 or herd. In this situation it seems like it's
38 beneficial to the subsistence user that the manager
39 might have this ability to manage this way because
40 otherwise it takes a lot of the power away from him and
41 then the instances last year, you know, the hunt might
42 have stayed open longer if he had that power. And so
43 hopefully that will allow more subsistence opportunity
44 because he'll be able to control the hunt better.

45

46 But, anyway, I'll be interested to hear
47 other comment.

48

49 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Yeah, I know this
50 Council has, in the past, supported that kind of

1 closure or what do you want to -- that authority for a
2 closure like that. In the past we've asked for consult
3 -- you know, not consultation but at least information
4 regarding that it was going to happen. I don't see
5 this as an action thing on our part because we've never
6 opposed anything like this in the past. If the intent
7 is to make it so that it's more manageable to increase
8 opportunity I don't see where we could have an
9 objection if the -- if the intent would be so broad
10 that it would be basically to write new regulations
11 that's a different story, you know, because
12 regulations, I think, need to go through the regular
13 process. But we've never objected to closing anything
14 for a conservation concern in the past, have we Greg?
15

16 MR. ENCELEWSKI: No, Mr. Chairman. But
17 when my turn comes I have a lot to talk on this.
18

19 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay. Would you
20 please talk then.
21

22 MR. ENCELEWSKI: Yeah, Mr. Chairman.
23 Andy and Jerry. Yeah, we had a meeting with Andy and
24 Jerry, Ivan and I.
25

26 And since the meeting one question I
27 have for you is the bull/cow ratio actually went down
28 some so there must have been some adjustment to this.
29

30 MR. LORANGER: Yes, Council member
31 Encelewski, that is correct.
32

33 The table that we provided you was --
34 had a correction that needed to be made and it was in
35 this most recent table.
36

37 MR. ENCELEWSKI: Okay, fine, I just
38 wanted to make sure of that. And then I'm not sure how
39 you'd want to address this, Ralph, but I want to make
40 just a couple statements.
41

42 One, number 1, and foremost, is that
43 Ninilchik wants to preserve their right for subsistence
44 hunting and fishing, and we have that fall season. It
45 was closed last year. Andy made the call after two
46 moose were taken. One may have been taken in addition
47 to that, too, that was not retrieved. But with that
48 said, we have a grave concern that our subsistence
49 rights get diminished. We have no problem, and I think
50 Andy has the authority right now to close in-season

1 management, and we agree with the in-season management
2 tools, but since we talked with you two, and we left
3 here's our dilemma. We're real concerned that, you
4 know, what's to say -- I mean all our faith is going to
5 be having to be put on the in-season management, how
6 you decide and how you perceive the game to be, whether
7 we get to hunt, and we definitely do not want to change
8 what we have preserved right now for the hunt. What I
9 would like to see, and Ninilchik would like to see is
10 if, first of all, I guess a question to you Andy, do
11 you now have the authority to make that on separate
12 areas, like 15C versus 15B, 15A?

13

14 MR. LORANGER: Our understanding and
15 interpretation is we have in-season -- we have the
16 authority close the late season only with no authority
17 to close, under subsistence regulations, the early
18 season that runs from the 10th of August through the
19 20th of September, and that we do not have the
20 flexibility to close or open within individual units on
21 the Refuge, so 15A versus 15B and 15C.

22

23 MR. ENCELEWSKI: Well, with that said,
24 you know, I -- we have no objection if you could
25 request to have the flexibility to do that. But we do
26 have a concern, and I -- you know, after you guys left
27 we talked it over and we actually had a Board meeting
28 and a Council meeting, and I told you we would, and the
29 push from Ninilchik is to get, you know, to maintain
30 their subsistence and get more subsistence use. So we
31 want to do it the best way we can but we have a real
32 concern of just opening it up and taking it away from
33 subsistence and leaving it in the manager's hands.

34

35 As you know, we only got two moose last
36 year, two moose the year before and even that said, we
37 feel that that should have been at least a dozen.

38

39 MR. LORANGER: The -- you know, the
40 average -- or the range of harvest since both seasons
41 were in place, via regulations, has been three to eight
42 with an average of just under six moose taken per year.
43 Again, there were three reported harvest, one taken
44 last year that was not reported, but it was a matter of
45 it had not been recovered before it was unsalvageable
46 but it was found.

47

48 So as Jerry said earlier, the actions
49 that we proposed last year were based on a significant,
50 in our opinion, conservation concern for low bull/cow

1 ratios, and that's, you know, managing the herd
2 relative to the impacts of low bull/cow ratios and
3 potentially on productivity of those moose populations
4 is something that we were -- thought very, very
5 important and continue to believe that that's what we
6 need to do. Within that it is, you know, we are
7 committed to providing a meaningful subsistence
8 priority, that's certainly what this is about from our
9 standpoint, but we need to meet that conservation issue
10 and get that sex ratio back where it needs to be.

11
12 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Andy, what is the
13 ratio you're shooting for?

14
15 MR. LORANGER: The Refuge, for the
16 northern part of the Peninsula, and it varies from east
17 to west in terms of the traditional areas of bull
18 concentrations in the fall but we have, overall
19 bull/cow ratio objectives of 25 to 30 bulls and the
20 Department of Fish and Game manages for overall
21 bull/cow ratio objectives of 15 to 20.

22
23 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay. So your ratio
24 is actually higher than the Fish and Game, is that for
25 productivity or is that for scenic purposes, because
26 the Refuge is managed for other uses than just hunting?

27
28 MR. LORANGER: Certainly that comes into
29 -- Mr. Chair, that comes into consideration. We manage
30 a little bit more conservatively relative to a sex and
31 age structure and the population also, in recognition
32 of our mandate to manage for natural diversity.

33
34 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: And the other question
35 I have is how -- you know, from what I saw of moose in
36 Homer, and run ins I had with them, it looks like your
37 moose down here -- when you look at them sideways, they
38 almost disappear, are you having much of a winterkill
39 down there?

40
41 MR. LORANGER: Certainly this is a
42 severe winter by any standards, throughout Southcentral
43 Alaska and the Kenai is not immune to that, for sure.
44 The Department of Fish and Game has just initiated a
45 major study on moose productivity. They've radio
46 collared 50 cows in 15C on the southern Peninsula and
47 they're about to radio collar another 50 cows in 15A in
48 the coming weeks. So, you know, we should have some
49 good information on the actual condition, the
50 physiological condition of those animals that they

1 captured. It's too early for that but we'll have more
2 information. We are having some winter die off as
3 might be expected.

4

5 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Tom.

6

7 MR. CARPENTER: Yeah, I thought it was
8 interesting when Ralph asked what your bull to cow
9 ratio was you're shooting for and you said the State
10 was managing for about 20 bulls per 100 cows and you're
11 at like 35, on the high end. What has the Refuge
12 managed for like say over the past 20 years. Obviously
13 there's been environmental changes, the landscape has
14 changed, you know, the moose productivity isn't on the
15 Kenai what it once was. That seems pretty high to me.
16 And it seems if you have such a high level of bull to
17 cows. that that has the potential, if you manage that
18 way, to have undue restriction possibly on the Federal
19 side for opportunity. Could you respond?

20

21 MR. LORANGER: Yeah, we haven't reached
22 those objectives for quite some time. And, of course,
23 the genesis of the spike-fork 50 regulation was --
24 prior to that, was an any bull season on the Kenai and
25 it was a concern about skewed sex ratios that led to
26 that, and what we did see was an improvement in
27 bull/cow ratios overall and -- but it hasn't sustained
28 itself and the theory that the reason it hasn't
29 sustained is because the regulation was based on the
30 assumption that about 50 percent of yearling bulls
31 would be legal and 50 percent would not be legal under
32 that approach and it looks like it's more 75/25 that
33 are in the legal class and 25 not, and so with that,
34 over time -- from the standpoint of whether or higher
35 bull/cow ratios, again, you look at the Refuge and how
36 it sits, some of the areas, the higher country, the
37 Tustumena benchlands, and the Kenai Mountains, you
38 know, had bull/cow ratios of 60 to 70 historically.
39 So, you know, our average bull/cow ratio objectives of
40 25 to 30, 35 are for those areas that traditionally had
41 bull/cow ratios in the 50 to 60 or 70 range even.

42

43 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Tom.

44

45 MR. CARPENTER: But those bull/cow
46 ratios those really aren't -- I mean that's not healthy
47 for one, and number 2, it's probably something that
48 cannot be achieved today.

49

50 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Yeah.

1 MR. CARPENTER: I mean just the nature
2 of everything that's gone on it's probably not
3 possible, the habitat probably can't even handle that.
4 Am I correct?

5
6 MR. LORANGER: The bull/cow ratios in
7 that high range were with those areas where you see
8 what we call post-rut bull aggregations so that's why
9 they were so high in those areas, those don't
10 represent, you know, necessarily the bull/cow ratio
11 looking at the distribution of the area as a whole.

12
13 You know, the difference between the
14 State and the Refuge's objectives, again, are really
15 based on the idea that we're going to manage a little
16 bit more conservatively relative to that mandate that
17 we have for managing fish and wildlife and habitats in
18 their natural diversity. We also do provide viewing
19 areas, the Skilak Loop Wildlife Management area is an
20 example of that.

21
22 MR. CARPENTER: Just one final
23 question. So I'm assuming that, you know, you're at
24 about 14 or 15 per 100 right now. If you got to a
25 level of 20 to 25, which is, you know, significantly
26 better and it's also a fairly healthy bull to cow
27 ratio, I would assume that if you got to that level
28 you're not going to have a real concern necessarily
29 about worrying about implementing early closures on the
30 Federal side, if you got to sustainable levels like
31 that, am I right?

32
33 MR. LORANGER: That's correct.

34
35 MR. CARPENTER: All right, thanks.

36
37 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Doug.

38
39 MR. BLOSSOM: It's my turn. Mr.
40 Chairman. Yeah, Andy, to start off with, would you
41 tell us what the 2010 harvest was in area 15, and the
42 2011 harvest in 15?

43
44 MR. LORANGER: In 2010 the harvest was
45 just under 400 animals, 395, I believe is the number
46 and in 2011, again, the information that we have is 32,
47 in the State general season additional four moose
48 harvested in the Federal season.

49
50 MR. BLOSSOM: Okay. Mr. Chair. Andy.

1 You already know what the ratio is, so if you get this
2 permission to manage, how many bull moose are you going
3 to take in Unit 15 this year?

4

5 MR. LORANGER: We feel that there is a
6 need to continue to manage the harvest very
7 conservatively to address the bull/cow ratio where it's
8 at, so that number is going to be a conservative
9 number, Doug.

10

11 MR. BLOSSOM: Mr. Chair. Andy, you
12 have to know what it is now because you've already got
13 all the data so how many you going to take?

14

15 MR. LORANGER: Again, we would go into
16 the season with additional information, the additional
17 information generated through the work that's happening
18 right now that the Department has initiated in terms of
19 productivity, have an understanding at that time how
20 many calves are born and how many calves survive
21 through that first summer, et cetera, et cetera,
22 managing a harvest in exact number, it's going to be a
23 conservative number. We need to insure that we make
24 the maximum progress possible to address the bull/cow
25 ratio, Doug, in the shortest time possible. That's
26 been our goal all along.

27

28 MR. BLOSSOM: Mr. Chair. Andy, you know
29 the bull/cow ratio so there's got to be a number. I
30 don't see how you can fudge on that one. Just so the
31 Board realizes it, because the State thought it was a
32 disaster, no harvest, okay, so what's going to happen
33 this year is I can go on the Federal land and I can get
34 a fork and horn or a 50 inch three brow-tine, right, in
35 regular season.

36

37 MR. LORANGER: Under the scenario that
38 Jerry described that would be correct.

39

40 MR. BLOSSOM: Mr. Chair. So the Board
41 realizes what's going on here is we don't have any
42 moose left. Now, I can bring in people if you want to
43 that hunted on the Federal land for two or three weeks,
44 like Grant Fritz from Kasilof, excellent horse hunter,
45 he couldn't even find a legal bull because it had to be
46 four brow-tine or 50 inch, there's none left, and you
47 couldn't shoot a fork and horn. So this year we got
48 some fork and horns running around, but this coming
49 fall it's going to be a real bad deal when I'm up there
50 shooting a fork and horn, my buddy here has to stand

1 and watch me and go home, and that's what's going to be
2 the problem this coming year. He's lived here all his
3 life, yeah, I've lived here 64 years, but because I'm
4 in this special area, I can get any old moose I want
5 and he can't. And you can imagine the trouble there's
6 going to be over that this fall.

7

8 So I really think we should mirror for
9 the two years, what the State did, and then look at it,
10 and, you know, when you look at the harvest, it doesn't
11 take much to look at this harvest and say something's
12 dead wrong.

13

14 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Question, Andy, from
15 me, is, okay, your harvest in 2010 was 400, that's
16 basically the general harvest, for lack, I'm rounding
17 it off five.

18

19 MR. LORANGER: Uh-huh.

20

21 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: But do you feel like
22 by dropping to 32 this year or 36 or whatever, that you
23 basically saved 350 bull moose or do you feel that
24 those 350 bull moose just don't exist?

25

26 MR. LORANGER: Well, certainly not all
27 of those 300-something bull moose, you know, I mean
28 it's the old question of additive versus compensatory
29 mortality. After this winter, did we see some of those
30 bulls, will we see some winter die off that includes,
31 you know, those bulls, predation will take some of
32 those bulls, but certainly we did add some of those
33 bulls to the population.

34

35 MR. CARPENTER: Judy's got something.

36

37 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Judy.

38

39 MS. CAMINER: Thanks, Mr. Chair. Just
40 going back to some of the earlier statements. So four
41 moose were taken by subsistence users and how was that
42 divided between the two timed seasons?

43

44 MR. LORANGER: Council Caminer there
45 were -- there was one moose taken during the early
46 season and the three other moose were taken during the
47 late season.

48

49 MS. CAMINER: And, if I may, Mr. Chair,
50 a couple more questions.

1 And so did the State end their season
2 early or did it run the full course?

3
4 MR. LORANGER: The State season is the
5 general season that runs from the 20th of August
6 through the 20th of September. There's a 10 day
7 archery season before that. That season ran its normal
8 course.

9
10 MS. CAMINER: Okay. And then just to
11 be clear, especially for our new members, if the Board
12 gives you this authority to manage and to close, will
13 that be to close only for Federal subsistence users or
14 for the general hunt as well?

15
16 MR. LORANGER: If we were -- if we were
17 to, again, differentiate between spike-forks and the
18 larger bulls and, for instance, could close just for
19 the spike-forks, it would then be consistent with the
20 State season. So in terms of allowing -- continuing to
21 allow for the remainder of the season the larger -- the
22 larger bulls, and this is speaking during the early
23 season.

24
25 MS. CAMINER: But, excuse me, just for
26 the -- but if you decided that the hunt needed to end
27 because too many subsistence moose were taken, would
28 that affect general hunting?

29
30 MR. LORANGER: If there was a need to,
31 you know, to completely close the season during the
32 early season I think we would look at closing the
33 Refuge completely to all users under those
34 circumstances biologically if that -- and that would
35 need to be justified biologically.

36
37 MR. BERG: Mr. Chair.

38
39 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Jerry.

40
41 MR. BERG: Yeah, maybe I should go over
42 a few more details of the delegation letters that are
43 pretty standard for other areas. And one of them is
44 that the Board can and almost always does delegate the
45 authority to close to all users in addition to making
46 adjustments in-season. There's also, you know,
47 requirements in there, you know, prior to an action
48 that the Federal official, you know, coordinate with
49 local representatives of Fish and Game, the Chair of
50 the Council, and local Council members to the extent

1 possible, you know, understanding that some people
2 can't be reached sometimes. So, you know, the intent
3 is to work with everybody as closely as possible and
4 then it would just -- you know, you look at the map
5 that Andy provided for Unit 15, you know, so they have
6 these bull/cow ratios that vary by area and it really
7 would give him, you know, that flexibility to leave
8 some areas open and provide more opportunity. So I
9 really -- I mean I really do think that this is a win
10 for subsistence users as well as for trying to make
11 some gains as quickly as possible.

12

13 And I think the intent, you know, maybe
14 just to reiterate, you know, is to readdress this after
15 this coming fall and, you know, hopefully the Board of
16 Game will readdress it and we'll kind of see where we
17 are a year from now to be able to make adjustments and
18 go from there.

19

20 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

21

22 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Doug.

23

24 MR. BLOSSOM: Mr. Chair. Jerry. So
25 you're saying after you shoot 25 or 30 bull moose on
26 the Federal land, you're going to close the Federal
27 land to everybody, not just subsistence, is that what
28 I'm hearing?

29

30 MR. BERG: Well, I think, Mr. Chair --
31 through the Chair, I think it will vary, you know,
32 depending on what the harvest is. You know, I mean I
33 could envision, you know, maybe a couple of moose taken
34 in 15B east and -- or maybe -- and, you know, the moose
35 may be taken sooner in 15B west where it's easier
36 access and you might have to close -- maybe you just
37 close it to spike -- you know, to no more harvest of
38 spike-forks in 15B west and you leave it open to 50 or
39 three, and you -- you know, it just depends on how many
40 moose are taken in each area and Andy will kind of have
41 to access that as the season goes along. I mean it's
42 just kind of hard to, I think, come up with quotas by
43 area. I mean we kind of started going down that path
44 and, you know, it's just almost impossible to try to
45 come up with, you know, what's going to be the scenario
46 that's going to -- that's going to develop next fall
47 for us to come up with a plan. I mean that's what we
48 started down that path of trying to create this special
49 action request for each area and it, you know, we just
50 don't know what's going to happen next fall and this

1 would give Andy the flexibility to kind of assess
2 what's going on and leave areas open when possible and
3 maybe just close the spike-fork harvest portion and
4 leave it open, you know, to some level of harvest to
5 the larger bulls, or, you know, maybe, you know, it
6 might be -- it might get to the point where, you know,
7 the whole area has to be closed to all users, I don't
8 know, but it leaves that flexibility open to be able to
9 do that. And hopefully be able to , you know, allow
10 areas to be open even during that late season for the
11 whole season. It could be -- you know, it could turn
12 out that way especially if there's not much harvest in
13 some of those areas that are harder to get to, in
14 particular.

15

16 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Greg.

17

18 MR. ENCELEWSKI: Yeah, I just got a
19 question. Could you -- I guess I got a couple
20 questions.

21

22 I want to know how many moose were
23 killed on the roadkill, and I got a question of the 395
24 moose that weren't taken in the general hunt, would you
25 say that even with mortality and the rest of them or
26 half of those would survive? Where I'm going is I want
27 the Council to see the full picture of the moose
28 situation on the Kenai. If we had no moose like Doug
29 said we wouldn't have that many roadkill that's for
30 sure.

31

32 MR. LORANGER: Through the Chair.
33 Greg. The latest information we had from the
34 Department as of March 1st, roadkill on the Kenai
35 Peninsula totaled 192 animals, which is comparable to a
36 lot of years, yeah. I think the annual average
37 roadkill on the Kenai is in the vicinity of 250 animals
38 per year and they measure that from the 1st of July
39 through the 30th of the following June.

40

41 MR. ENCELEWSKI: Through the Chair.
42 The second part of that question, Andy, is what do you
43 think -- I think you addressed it a little bit, but,
44 you know, we left a lot of bulls by making this
45 restriction and hopefully they didn't all die and
46 hopefully that half of them, at least half of them are
47 left, at least a couple hundred of them, and where I'm
48 going is, you know, I want to have the flexibility for
49 you to manage it but I also want to be realistic that's
50 there's a reasonable preference for subsistence users

1 to have some opportunity and that's what we're here to
2 provide.

3

4

So, thanks.

5

6 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Andy, I've got a
7 question. And I suppose that's probably under the
8 State Fish and Game Board's criteria, but I wouldn't
9 think so on the Refuge. To me, when I look at that
10 cow/bull ratio, one of the reasons you could have a
11 cow/bull ratio of that, you know, of 14 bulls per cow
12 is because you've got an extremely high cow population,
13 which is what it looked to me like when I was down
14 there, was that there were an awful lot of cows and
15 yearlings running around all over the place, and, why
16 -- why -- if subsistence is a priority, why are we
17 limiting the subsistence hunters basically to the same
18 animals that we're limiting the general sporthunters to
19 if -- if -- and, I'm not saying there is, but when I
20 look at this ratio, if there is possibly a surplus of
21 cows?

22

23

24 MR. LORANGER: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
25 The -- I guess I can't speak to the history of the
26 Federal subsistence regulation and when it came into
27 place and, you know, it mirrored the State regulation
28 at the time. Certainly I think that one of the things
29 that needs to be looked at, again, the northern
30 Peninsula is a different situation than Unit 15C and
31 the southern Peninsula, but I think one of the things
32 that does need to be looked at in the future, given,
33 again, we're in a very severe winter with as yet
34 unknown level of die off and that needs to be an
35 important part of our considerations going forward, but
36 that antlerless moose harvest are, you know, something
37 that needs to be looked at within the scope of the
38 Federal regulations, especially on the southern
39 Peninsula, again, given no major changes in the
40 structure of that population and in population numbers.

41

42 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Yeah, I mean I know
43 I'm just -- it's just personal observation and you're
44 not seeing everything, but there's obviously -- with
45 the winter conditions that you have down there right
46 now, there's not sufficient browse to support the moose
47 herd that you have there right now, that's why they're
48 in my daughter's chicken house, that's why they're in
49 the neighbor's chicken house, that's why they're in
50 town eating all the shrubs and everything else, you
don't have sufficient natural browse with this kind of

1 snow cover to support the moose population that you
2 have on the Kenai right now, they're hungry.

3

4 MR. LORANGER: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
5 This is the kind of winter that even with -- even in
6 the years following, you know, the big fires over the
7 last 150 years and the last 60 or 70 years on the
8 northern Peninsula, a year like this would generate
9 moose mortality in the winter.....

10

11 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Good browse.

12

13 MR. LORANGER:even with the best
14 browse conditions that we've seen. We had severe
15 winters and documented moose die offs, for instance, in
16 the '70s, early '70s, late '80s, again, when the 1969
17 burn in Game Management Unit 15A was at its peak in
18 terms of browse production, so in this kind of winter
19 you're going to have die off and certainly winter
20 habitat, winter range habitat is limiting on the
21 northern Peninsula and in some parts of the winter
22 range, anyways, in 15C, and that which you may be
23 talking about in the Homer bench area, which is a major
24 wintering area for moose on the southern Peninsula.
25 The believe there is that winter range is not in great
26 condition even in a normal winter, you're seeing some
27 die off occur there. So I think you're correct.

28

29 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Tom.

30

31 MR. CARPENTER: That's an interesting
32 point. Has the carrying capacity for the overall moose
33 herd population, you know, does it come down when the
34 habitat has gotten worse?

35

36 MR. LORANGER: You know, our belief is
37 that carrying capacity especially on the northern
38 Peninsula where, again, you saw the majority -- you've
39 seen some significant wildfire in recent years on the
40 southern Peninsula, which should, relatively speaking,
41 bode well for overall moose habitat condition -- or
42 habitat conditions for moose, however, not much of that
43 burning has occurred in the wintering range. On the
44 northern Peninsula, the moose basically, you know, move
45 to those major burn areas, again, we had a major fire
46 of over 300,000 acres in 1947, and another one of
47 90,000 in 1969 and habitat -- or carrying capacity for
48 moose on the northern Peninsula was significantly
49 greater in the years -- you know, eight to 30 years
50 roughly, post-fire are the peak conditions for habitat

1 carrying capacity for moose, and certainly the range at
2 that time supported considerably more moose than it can
3 support today.

4
5 MR. CARPENTER: But I guess my question
6 is, for management purposes, are you still trying to
7 manage for the same population levels now the you did
8 25 years ago?

9
10 MR. LORANGER: There's no way we can do
11 that in the absence of a large scale fire on the
12 landscape. I mean that is what will generate those
13 kind of -- you know, on the Refuge we're not really
14 managing for population objectives. We understand that
15 fire is going to have a major, major impact on the
16 cyclic nature of those populations so.

17
18 MR. CARPENTER: Well, and I guess the
19 only reason I asked that, I think, Ralph, you have a
20 very good point there. I mean habitat can only sustain
21 so many animals. And, you know, all we've been hearing
22 about for the last couple of years about the Kenai
23 Peninsula is that the habitat now is nothing what it
24 was, you know, years ago, when there were large scale
25 fires that ended up producing these incredibly big
26 moose herds. And I think one interesting way to deal
27 with that is by offering -- possibly offering some
28 limited antlerless hunts to subsistence users on the
29 Kenai Peninsula, which would, you know, have an impact
30 in a positive way in a couple of different manners. So
31 I hope that'll be something that you'd entertain in the
32 future and I don't know if you have the ability to
33 authorize that or if that has to be in the form of a
34 proposal that goes before the Board because there's no
35 current season. But that's an interesting idea.

36
37 MR. LORANGER: I think I just heard
38 Jerry say that it would have to be a proposal.

39
40 But certainly I think that, you know,
41 again, the goal relative to addressing the conservation
42 concern is that we would manage harvests, overall, on
43 the Peninsula very conservatively to try to address
44 that issue as quickly as possible with the goal of
45 developing a more comprehensive long-term harvest
46 management strategy across the board. And, again, I'll
47 stress that situations are different from northern
48 Peninsula to the southern Peninsula, but, I think that,
49 again, that needs to be a part of the big picture,
50 ultimately, and the approach that we take.

1 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Yeah, I think what Tom
2 was getting at is that the harvest strategy that's
3 being pursued right now, in order to raise your
4 bull/cow ratio you've got to increase the size of your
5 herd, I mean that's -- I mean if what you're doing is
6 you're not taking as many bulls to increase your
7 bull/cow ratio, then you've got a double problem, your
8 cows are going to be increasing at the same time.
9 They're going to be increasing at the same breeding
10 rate, you're just protecting more bulls so you're
11 basically managing to increase the size of your herd.
12 Where if you went the other way and you said, okay, our
13 bull/cow ratio is at 14 and we need our bull/cow ratio
14 at 20 or 25, there's a simple solution to that, we take
15 X amount of cows, now, instead of increasing your herd,
16 you've decreased your herd, you've put less pressure on
17 the ecosystem, you've put less pressure on the browse
18 and you've accomplished what you say you're trying to
19 accomplish, which is to get a proper bull/cow ratio.

20

21 MR. LORANGER: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
22 Again, I think that that's correct. In the best of all
23 possible worlds, I think you would be managing the
24 moose population somewhere below carrying capacity,
25 that the productivity was, you know, was, I'll use the
26 word, maximized, but I think that's what you're looking
27 to do. Again, things are probably setting up in 15C,
28 with the recent fires that have occurred, on the
29 positive side; on the negative side, we're seeing a lot
30 of conversion to -- Canada Blue Joint meadow type
31 habitat there in the southern Peninsula that isn't a
32 good thing for moose. But in any case, you know, I
33 think it's something to take into consideration is the
34 idea of managing for a productive moose population
35 based on what the habitat is doing out there.

36

37 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Doug.

38

39 MR. BLOSSOM: Mr. Chair. Andy, first of
40 all, this map you're showing us is basically 15B and C,
41 so we shouldn't make 15A into the mix at all, so in
42 this area that you're showing in the map, how many
43 thousand acres have been burned?

44

45 MR. LORANGER: That's -- the map there
46 that you have, Doug, is all of Unit 15C, it's not, you
47 know, I mean the area south of Tustumena, I guess
48 there's a little bit of the map that shows north of
49 Tustumena Lake, but it's really a map of Unit 15C.

50

1 110,000 acres in the last seven or
2 eight years in 15C have burned.

3
4 MR. BLOSSOM: Mr. Chair. Andy. How
5 many hundred thousand acres have been logged in this
6 area?

7
8 MR. LORANGER: Doug, I'm not -- I'm not
9 sure.

10
11 MR. BLOSSOM: Just so the Board
12 realizes it, several hundred thousand. Greg, do you
13 know, how many hundred thousand did they log in that
14 area?

15
16 MR. ENCELEWSKI: I could probably tell
17 you, Doug, on there exactly, but Ninilchik owns 69,000
18 and CIRI owns approximately the same so there's about
19 140,000 acres that was actively logged, not calling --
20 not taking into account private logging. But out of
21 that, not all that was logged. So I would estimate
22 maybe 70 to 80,000 acres would have been logged.

23
24 MR. BLOSSOM: Mr. Chair. Just for the
25 Board's knowledge, is if we were going to have pristine
26 habitat we should be the area that has it, and we
27 shouldn't be talking about 15A because it's a different
28 situation. But in 15C and 15B, they've had fires,
29 they've had logging, we don't have any moose left. And
30 you need to go out and fly it and come back and tell
31 us. I've gotten lots of reports. I'm not able to go
32 out myself this winter, but I just had a guy yesterday
33 at my place, they snowmachined all winter, there's no
34 moose in the high country, and what's up there the
35 wolves are eating. So my prediction is, this fall, us
36 privileged guys that have horses, we're going to go on
37 to your Refuge and we're -- that's the other thing you
38 want to all realize, you can't hunt on the Refuge
39 except on foot or horseback, so us privileged guys,
40 I've got six horses, we're going to go up there and get
41 all the moose shot before Greg and his bunch can do
42 anything because they don't have anything to get in
43 there with. I don't think it's fair. I think we
44 should have followed the State thing and rehab these
45 little moose and got some back.

46
47 So, anyway, I'm going to shut up with
48 that.

49
50 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Greg.

1 MR. ENCELEWSKI: Yeah, I mean I
2 understand Doug's concern and opinions. And I know I
3 sit on the local AC with him as well and there's
4 varying opinions on the amount of moose, local
5 anecdotal information that I could give, and I like the
6 way you summed it up, Ralph, because I do a lot of
7 hunting on the Kenai and I spend a lot of time in the
8 woods and I have seen at times 16, 17 cows to one bull,
9 and I seen some breeding last fall, one had 10 or 11
10 cows, he was just run ragged, a big bull, so I know
11 there's plenty of cows, and I know there's a problem.
12 But looking at it from the RAC's standpoint to provide
13 a meaningful preference, to me, logically, you know,
14 you've saved a lot of moose, you know there's a lot
15 taken with cars, there's a sufficient way to get the
16 subsistence hunters some moose. And, certainly, why
17 should the subsistence hunter go, they can't get moose,
18 they can't hunt, don't have the privilege and all this
19 meat is getting wasted or whatever; it's real
20 frustrating.

21
22 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Any questions for Andy
23 or Jerry.

24
25 MR. CARPENTER: Good luck.

26
27 (Laughter)

28
29 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Good luck, right. I
30 can see that having lived through the first, or having
31 survived the first round of Kenai moose subsistence
32 proposals, I mean I expect to see some proposals come
33 in for an antlerless moose season, I really expect to
34 see it, and I know what that's going to generate on the
35 Kenai, but to me I don't see any other answer. I don't
36 see any other answer for providing a meaningful
37 subsistence priority on the Kenai Peninsula unless --
38 again, unless the entire population of moose is below
39 the carrying capacity of the country. But I know that
40 antlerless moose hunts on the Kenai are an extremely
41 cont -- shall we say extremely controversial subject,
42 and especially if they would be applied to subsistence
43 hunters, but I won't make them, but I sure would expect
44 to see them come in.

45
46 Andy.

47
48 MR. LORANGER: Oh, I was just, you
49 know, going to offer that, you know, the southern
50 Peninsula has had a cow permit hunt under the State

1 system until recently. I'm not sure of the Board of
2 Game's decision on that hunt that was just determined
3 in their meeting up in Fairbanks, but it has been going
4 on, so that's primarily on the Homer bench area, and
5 there is an antlerless season that's authorized on the
6 northern Peninsula but hasn't been any permits issued
7 for quite some time, and that's on the Refuge in the
8 Skilak Loop Wildlife Management Area. It's dependent
9 on a certain number of moose being counted there to
10 open that antlerless hunt, but it continues to be
11 authorized and it's on the books on the State side.

12

13 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Thank you. Greg, do
14 you have another comment.

15

16 MR. ENCELEWSKI: No, I was just going
17 to make the same comment that Andy did, the areas, that
18 antlerless one down in the Homer area. And I know it's
19 a little controversial, but I've hunted it and it's
20 been good meat.

21

22 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Well, I stand
23 corrected then. And I was just under the impression
24 that it was a no-no down there, but evidently it's not.

25

26 So, thank you, any more questions for
27 Jerry or Andy.

28

(No comments)

29

30 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Thank you. Well, the
31 next one looks like an interesting one.

32

33 Is it lunch time? Oh, it's 10 minutes
34 to 12:00, do you think we can get through the Gates of
35 the Arctic proposal regarding per diem in 10 minutes or
36 should we put that off until after lunch.

37

38 MR. CARPENTER: Sure we can.

39

40 (Laughter)

41

42 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Sure we can, okay.

43

44 (Laughter)

45

46 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Barbara.

47

48 MS. CELLARIUS: Mr. Chair. Members of
49 the RAC. My name is Barbara Cellarius. I'm the
50

1 subsistence coordinator for Wrangell-St. Elias National
2 Park and Preserve, not Gates of the Arctic National
3 Park and Preserve. So I am presenting someone else's
4 recommendation. We thought someone should come up to
5 the microphone and say a few words.

6
7 One of the things that Congress, in
8 ANILCA, said that SRCs would do, is that they would
9 make hunting plan requests to the Secretary and the
10 Governor, this is one of those kinds of requests. And
11 so it has been sent to you for your information. If
12 you want to comment, you could send them some comments
13 back, but that's something that's up to you.

14
15 I think the request itself is pretty
16 straightforward. They're requesting an increase in the
17 per diem rate for the SRCs and the Federal Regional
18 Advisory Councils. And so they also sent it out to the
19 other SRCs, it's been to the other RACs and so I'll
20 stop there and see if there are any questions.

21
22 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Thank you, Barbara.
23 any questions for Barbara.

24
25 (No comments)

26
27 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: I just have one. One
28 question, when going through the Federal income tax
29 thing, I notice that there are different per diem rates
30 all over the state of Alaska, and do we apply different
31 per diem rates to different Councils?

32
33 I'll give you an example, if -- because
34 I.....

35
36 MS. CELLARIUS: I can.....

37
38 CHAIRMAN LOHSE:saw there was --
39 no, not really, but.....

40
41 MS. CELLARIUS: I can answer.

42
43 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: But there are. If I
44 take -- if I go down to Southeastern and go fishing I
45 can take off a different per diem rate than I can take
46 off if I fish in Cook Inlet, and so there is no set
47 single rate. The Federal government recognizes that
48 cost of living is different in different places. Is
49 that currently applied -- is that currently applied
50 when they do the per diem for the Councils and the

1 SRCs?

2

3 MS. CELLARIUS: So the per diem is part
4 of travel reimbursement that -- so I think what the
5 RACs would receive is what we would receive as a
6 Federal employee for our travel reimbursement.

7

8 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: If you went there.

9

10 MS. CELLARIUS: So what -- when you
11 read -- when I pull up the chart and I look at the
12 chart, it says M for meals and IE, incidental expenses;
13 it's intended to cover the cost of your meals and your
14 incidental expenses while you're traveling. Meals in
15 Yakutat might cost less than meals in Anchorage, that
16 is why the rates are different. These rates are set
17 back East, in D.C., as you mentioned, you know, there's
18 a list and I could go on line and get the Federal
19 travel rates when I'm trying to, you know, figure
20 something out related to my travel. So there are for
21 different locations -- it doesn't matter what the RAC
22 -- it is -- it's where you're spending the night. So
23 if I'm in Yakutat, I use one rate, if I'm in Tok I use
24 another rate, those are the places I go, besides
25 Anchorage, and so I -- you know, will use the different
26 rates. So the rates are based on the specific location
27 and what has been determined to be the expenses for
28 being in that location while you're on travel status.

29

30 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay. So the question
31 I had was, is that currently the way it is applied to
32 RAC members and SRC members also?

33

34 MS. CELLARIUS: I'm assuming it's the
35 same thing with the RACs, it certainly is with the
36 SRCs. They have basically the same kind of travel
37 reimbursement that I do as a Federal employee.

38

39 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: And that already takes
40 into consideration a cost of living adjustment,
41 basically the cost of doing business in that area as
42 opposed to the cost of doing business someplace else.

43

44 MS. CELLARIUS: That's correct.

45

46 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: So this is what I'm
47 wondering what they're asking for here, if that's
48 already in place. Are they -- you know, unless you
49 would sit down and say, we think we should get 20
50 percent more than a Federal employee, the Federal

1 employee is already getting, and I think State
2 employees also, is already getting an adjustment based
3 on the cost of living in the place that they're going.
4 Am I correct?

5
6 MS. CELLARIUS: Well, the per diem rate
7 is so that when you're traveling on government
8 business, you're not paying out of pocket that your
9 costs because you were asked to travel, are compensated
10 for.

11
12 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Right.

13
14 MS. CELLARIUS: It doesn't have to do
15 with where you live, it has to do with the place you
16 are traveling to and making sure you have enough money
17 to buy meals and pay whatever kinds of incidental
18 expenses you have at that location.

19
20 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: So it is adjusted for
21 cost of living where you're going.

22
23 MS. CAMINER: Mr. Chair.

24
25 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Judy.

26
27 MS. CAMINER: I mean my recollection,
28 these Federal travel rules are set nationally, I mean
29 for individual areas, there's research that goes into
30 it, it's updated, I can't remember, annually, and so I
31 think it's a little bit of reaching quite high to ask
32 that specific rates would be increased here, where, I
33 think an answer might be, well, we look at it every
34 year and we make our evaluation. I know in the past it
35 was hoped that volunteers, such as ourselves, could get
36 some kind of compensation for being on committees but
37 we know that answer has been no, so I'm sure it's
38 correct that people's expenses are not covered, but I
39 think the system may be bigger than all of us but it
40 doesn't hurt to ask.

41
42 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Any comments. Gloria.

43
44 MS. STICKWAN: We talked about it at
45 the Wrangell-St. Elias and we had a question about
46 taxes and I don't think we really got an answer about
47 it, how it would affect our taxes.

48
49 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: About taxes on it,
50 what?

1 MS. STICKWAN: If we would have to pay
2 additional higher tax on this, if there's an increase.

3
4 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Yeah, I would imagine
5 that if it was a rate above what the Federal government
6 considered the rate for that area then you would have
7 to pay taxes on the difference, because that would be
8 compensation above expenses.

9
10 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Mr. Chair. I've
11 gone to a lot of the villages up north and the west
12 coast of Alaska, and in my job, basically, I had to
13 come up with all the money to pay for all my per diems
14 because there was no way of using credit card or
15 anything else and sometimes I'd lay out 2,500 to 3,000
16 bucks for a three week trip around a bunch of different
17 villages. And so over the years there were certain
18 villages where basically the charge that I was getting
19 charged was way above the per diem rates that the
20 government was allowing, and so I looked into that to
21 try to figure out, well, that didn't seem fair because,
22 you know, basically it comes out of my pocket. And so
23 the way those rates were set, they were set by -- at
24 that time the Air Force would go to villages and so I
25 looked into it and what they ended up having to do was
26 you ended up going -- I would go and get the charges
27 for the restaurants, the charges for the hotel, and
28 often it's just one place you can stay so it's not even
29 really much of an option, and submit that back to the
30 Air Force with the idea that the rates would change and
31 they did change in some of the areas. But I think it's
32 still is a problem in some areas that what you're
33 actually being charged and what the per diem rates that
34 are listed in the Federal things are not being updated
35 to reflect the actual cost in the villages. And so I
36 think if you want to change those the thing to do is to
37 document those rates and submit them to the appropriate
38 people and then hopefully the rates will end up
39 reflecting what the individuals have to pay. And that
40 goes for everybody who's on government or State travel.

41
42 Thank you.

43
44 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Thank you. Any
45 questions for Gloria -- not for Gloria, for Barbara. I
46 keep.....

47
48 (Laughter)

49
50 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Do we want to make any

1 comment -- as a Council do we want to just to have
2 looked at this; do we want to make a recommendation on
3 it; do we want to take action on it; or should we just
4 acknowledge it. It's up to the rest of the Council.

5
6 Gloria.

7
8 MS. STICKWAN: I don't think anybody
9 answered my question. Do we get -- if we get an
10 increase is there additional taxes we will have to pay?

11
12 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Gloria, I'm having
13 trouble hearing today.

14
15 MS. STICKWAN: Will we have to pay
16 additional taxes if there's an increase?

17
18 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: We would have to -- if
19 it was an increase above the set per diem we'd have to
20 pay taxes on the difference. That would be my
21 understanding from doing my taxes but I'm not sure.

22
23 Tom.

24
25 MR. CARPENTER: Mr. Chairman. The only
26 comment I have about this is that I can understand
27 after the explanation that we just got, you know, when
28 you look at some of the RACs around the state, you
29 know, there's a lot of people that can't afford to
30 participate in a process like this if the cost
31 associated with being on a RAC in the Western Interior
32 are higher than what you're actually being reimbursed
33 for and I think that goes against the grain of the
34 whole idea behind this, is that, you want the RACs
35 full, you want all the seats full, you want the most
36 input you can have, and so I mean I would -- I think --
37 this is well above our pay grade to make a
38 recommendation about what the per diem rate should be
39 in certain places but I understand where they're coming
40 from. So, I mean, I think it is something that should
41 be looked at, but I think it's probably something that
42 has to be looked at, from maybe an agency point of
43 view, not necessarily us.

44
45 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Well, the gist of this
46 whole letter basically is all summed up in one
47 sentence, and that's the SRC is requesting at this time
48 an increase of per diem rates so that they reflect the
49 actual costs of both living in both urban and rural
50 Alaska communities, and that's -- you know, is that a

1 statement that we, as a Council, can support or is that
2 a statement we don't feel a need to support or is that
3 a statement we don't wish to do anything with at all.

4
5 I mean that pretty well sums up the
6 whole letter right there.

7
8 And to me it's a pretty good statement,
9 whether or not any effect can be taken. It says that
10 it's requesting an increase so they reflect the actual
11 costs of living in rural and urban Alaska. So
12 Council's pleasure on this one here.

13
14 Tom.

15
16 MR. CARPENTER: Well, in that case I
17 would move that we recommend that the letter from the
18 SRC has merit and that this RAC would support the basic
19 fundamental idea that they bring forth in this letter.

20
21 MR. ENCELEWSKI: Second it.

22
23 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: It's been moved and
24 seconded.

25
26 Judy.

27
28 MS. CAMINER: Well, Mr. Chair, I was
29 going to add that I mean I think it is incumbent,
30 probably on our coordinators or whoever tracks expenses
31 for the RACs, it's probably pretty obvious if the per
32 diem is not meeting the expenses that members have,
33 reasonable expenses that members have, and so that
34 could all be funneled into, you know, perhaps one
35 report or database that could separately go forward and
36 provide that information to the Federal travel regs.

37
38 My understanding is that this letter
39 has been signed and gone forward to the Secretary's
40 office, which is great, but I think any support would
41 be probably helpful to all the groups.

42
43 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Well, we have a motion
44 on the table to offer our support to the basic concept
45 of this letter right here, am I correct in my summary
46 of the motion.

47
48 MR. CARPENTER: Right. Question.

49
50 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Question's been

1 called. All in favor signify by saying aye.

2

3 IN UNISON: Aye.

4

5 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: All opposed signify by
6 saying nay.

7

8 (No opposing votes)

9

10 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Motion carries
11 unanimously. With that we're going to take a recess
12 for lunch. I want to quickly take a real quick glance
13 at what we have for the afternoon and I think, for a
14 lack of a better way of putting it, it's just a little
15 after 12:00 right now, would 1:30 look excellent for
16 the rest of you or should we try to get back earlier
17 and try to quit earlier.

18

19 MR. CARPENTER: It doesn't matter to
20 me.

21

22 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Would you like -- I
23 don't know where everybody's going for lunch or how
24 much trouble it is to go get lunch so how about 1:30.
25 We'll recess until 1:30.

26

27 (Off record)

28

29 (On record)

30

31 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Are we all in our
32 places with bright shiny faces.

33

34 (Laughter)

35

36 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Except for Greg.

37

38 MR. CARPENTER: I think he's right back
39 there.

40

41 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Oh, okay. We will
42 call the winter meeting of the Southcentral Alaska
43 Subsistence Regional Advisory Council back in session
44 after our lunch break. And we had just finished new
45 business, Proposal C, no B, and we're going on to
46 Section C, environmental assessment on collection of
47 antlers on Park lands. But one of our Council members
48 had a question he wanted to ask Jerry or Andy, and I
49 think we'll take -- if it's okay with everybody else
50 we'll take that minute or two for him to ask the

1 question and then we'll go on from there.

2

3

Doug.

4

5

MR. BLOSSOM: Mr. Chair, thank you.
6 Jerry, all winter we've been trying to get the
7 composite count on brown bear on the Kenai. It was
8 supposed to have been out several weeks ago, what is
9 it?

10

MR. BERG: Mr. Chair. Jerry Berg with
12 Fish and Wildlife Service. Unfortunately Andy just
13 left and I have no idea, I'm sorry. I'll have to get
14 back to you, Doug, but I'll ask Andy, either he or I
15 will give you a call. Is Andy still out there, maybe
16 we could get Andy to come back in here, I'm sure he
17 could answer it.

18

CHAIRMAN LOHSE: There he is.

19

MR. BERG: Hey, Andy, Doug's got a
22 question over here for you about brown bears.

23

MR. LORANGER: Okay.

24

MR. BERG: Maybe you could just restate
27 your question, Doug.

28

MR. BLOSSOM: My question was, I know
30 by now you've figured it out, what's your estimate of
31 brown bear on the Kenai. I know you've been working on
32 it all winter and I'd like to hear it.

33

MR. LORANGER: Through the Chair.
35 Thank you, Doug. We have an agreement with the
36 Department of Fish and Game that we're going to sit
37 down once we are at a point where we can present the
38 estimate. The work actually -- the genetics work was
39 completed last summer and there's been back and forth,
40 we have a contractor, Dr. Gary White, who's a professor
41 at Colorado State University who is the biometrician,
42 statistician that's been hired to do the analysis, and
43 he has been working on it and we just underwent an
44 internal review of that work, both by the Forest
45 Service, by another independent contractor and the Fish
46 and Wildlife Service and we're at a point now where
47 we're about to meet with the Department of Fish and
48 Game and present that work. So very, very soon here
49 we'll be at a point we're going to be releasing the
50 estimate to the public.

1 MR. BLOSSOM: Okay, thank you.
2
3 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Any other questions,
4 Doug.
5
6 MR. BLOSSOM: No, I was just curious
7 because I thought it was going to be out by now.
8
9 MR. LORANGER: Yeah, it's taken longer
10 than we anticipated as well. But it's an important
11 number and, you know, we want to get it as -- you know,
12 that work to be reflective of everything that it needs
13 to be reflective of and it's a very complicated data
14 set to being with and the analysis that look at things
15 like capture bias and those kind of things that, you
16 know, that we have to consider are pretty complex and
17 pretty complicated and like I say, given the importance
18 of the number we want to make sure the I's are dotted
19 and the T's are crossed.
20
21 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Thank you. Any other
22 questions before we go on.
23
24 (No comments)
25
26 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: I've got one little
27 comment I'm supposed to tell everybody. The Federal
28 Board meeting is going to be in May and it's going to
29 be the 8th and the 9th, and I believe it'll be right
30 here in Anchorage; am I correct?
31
32 MS. HERNANDEZ: (Nods affirmatively)
33
34 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: It'll be right here in
35 Anchorage. Well, at least it's before fishing season
36 opens up.
37
38 Okay.
39
40 Environmental assessment on collection
41 of antlers on Park lands, National Park Service,
42 Barbara and.....
43
44 MR. RICE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. My
45 name is Bud Rice. I'm with the National Park Service.
46 Oh, you have to punch the button here, excuse me.
47
48 Thank you, Chair and Council. My name
49 is Bud Rice. I'm an environmental protection
50 specialist with the National Park Service. I worked

1 closely with Sandy Rabinowitch who's probably been to
2 some of your meetings before, he's out this week, and
3 we assembled this environmental assessment, which looks
4 like this. I believe it was mailed to the RAC members.
5 I'm wondering if everybody's seen this. If you
6 haven't, I got extra copies in the back of the room
7 with a cover letter from the Regional Director. And
8 then also in your packet starting on Page 35 we have,
9 what's called an executive summary, for this
10 environmental assessment.

11
12 Now, Barbara Cellarius is here with me.
13 She's been to some other -- another RAC meeting and the
14 Wrangell Subsistence Resource Commission and she just
15 passed out a letter from that Resource Commission so
16 you can see what their response has been so far to this
17 environmental assessment.

18
19 I'd like to take you through this
20 executive summary for those that are new to this
21 process. I know that Gloria and others have been
22 watching this process for a couple of years, and it's
23 been a long time coming. We actually had a hunting
24 plan recommendation back in 1999 where the Gates of the
25 Arctic Resource Commission wanted us to address this
26 issue. And let me just start on Page 35, I'll tell you
27 what we're doing, why we're doing it and when we're
28 looking for comments and feedback.

29
30 So on Page 35, in the first paragraph
31 it says, the Park Service is considering a new
32 regulation to allow for the subsistence collections and
33 uses of shed or discarded animal parts and plants to
34 make handicrafts for personal or family uses for barter
35 or to sell. Now, already we have allowances for people
36 to use inedible animal parts from animals that are
37 taken for subsistence purposes to make and sell
38 handicrafts, but shed or discarded animal parts are
39 those things that another hunter might leave out and
40 somebody stumbles upon it or it's an animal that drops
41 its antlers or let's say a sheep dies in the mountains
42 and people find the horn and they want to make a
43 valuable -- something out of the horns, those are shed
44 or discarded type things, from natural mortality or
45 somebody else kills an animal and leaves everything but
46 the meat.

47
48 Right now on paragraph two here, we
49 have a standing regulation that it's in 36 CFR Part 2.1
50 that says:

1 The possessing, destroying, injuring,
2 defacing, removing, digging or
3 disturbing from its natural state any
4 living or dead wildlife or fish or
5 parts or products that are of such as
6 antlers or nests, it's even that
7 specific, is prohibited to pick those
8 things up and taken them.

9
10 So it's kind of the old adage of the
11 Park, you know, take only pictures and leave only
12 footprints. Now that's -- that works for the Lower 48,
13 but up here we have ANILCA, we have subsistence and we
14 recognize it a little different and we've had several
15 requests now from Subsistence Resource Commissions and
16 the Eastern Interior RAC really got us jump started on
17 addressing this, finally. So I'm really glad that
18 we're finally getting, you know, we're finally moving
19 forward.

20
21 So we've got this environmental
22 assessment out. It's got the no action alternative,
23 which means these kinds of collections would still be
24 prohibited. We have three different action
25 alternatives and I'll go over those with you and what
26 we're looking for from the public are comments on those
27 alternatives, you know, what works best for your people
28 and your location and why. And it's really not about
29 voting. We're looking for rationale and good thinking,
30 you know, why would this alternative be better versus
31 another one.

32
33 So we've mailed this executive summary
34 and the EA out to people and posted it on the web page,
35 et cetera, towards the end of January, early February,
36 so the comment period is open from February 7 to April
37 7, and generally we only have an EA open for public
38 comment for 30 days. We've made it longer in this case
39 because we wanted to cover the period of time when the
40 winter SRCs and RACs are meeting, so we wanted you to
41 be able to discuss this as a group and give us kind of
42 a group feedback. So that's the period of time. There
43 is one SRC that's meeting outside that period of time,
44 and it's the Gates of the Arctic SRC, which is the
45 group that really started this back in 1999, so they've
46 asked for an extension, so I'll let you know that. If
47 people need more time, we need to know that.

48
49 Okay, so that's Page 35.
50

1 I'd like you to switch over to Page 37,
2 and this is kind of a summary. We've covered some of
3 this.

4
5 I will mention, if you look under
6 background, the first bullet there, we already have
7 special regulations that allow for the collection of
8 plant materials in Kobuk Valley National Park and in
9 the Kobuk portion of the Preserve and Gates of the
10 Arctic, and those people, early in 1980 right after
11 ANILCA passed, they said, hey, wait a minute, you know,
12 we're making baskets, we're selling this stuff, it's
13 important in our livelihood, we use them for personal
14 uses and you can get these nice birch bark baskets made
15 on the Kobuk River and I have a couple, I love them,
16 people make them all over the state though, too, but
17 they stepped forward and said we want a special
18 regulation, so it's possible to do, we've done it
19 already. What we're doing now is we're trying to just
20 deal with this in a statewide manner, so it covers all
21 the National Park system areas in Alaska.

22
23 Okay, so just to give you that head's
24 up, there's some precedent for this.

25
26 So we put this EA out, people like
27 Barbara Cellarius, who really know our Park area really
28 helped us put this together, she knows her communities
29 and her people, so it was very helpful, and it took us
30 awhile to put it together. If you look at the EA, I
31 would recommend that people just focus on that portion
32 of the state, because we broke it out by State and Park
33 units, so there's certain areas that you use, just
34 focus on that and check it and see if it's accurate, if
35 it's not, and if you see some factual errors, we'd like
36 to hear about it, we want to make sure that we have the
37 best available information because the Regional
38 Director will -- she will read this EA, she's already
39 read a draft version and she will read every comment,
40 she's very, very thorough, and she'll take into
41 consideration everybody's comment on this and then
42 she'll come out with a final decision.

43
44 Now, she's already specified a
45 preferred alternative on this, and that would be
46 Alternative D and I'll go over that and what that
47 means, and I'll explain why she selected that
48 alternative. It's the more restrictive in terms of
49 collections and she had a reason for that. And, one,
50 is we've discussed this with SRCs and I don't know how

1 much RACs have heard about this process before, but,
2 you know, we've discussed it with some of the
3 environmental groups that were, you know, part and
4 parcel to ANILCA as well and they're saying, oh, you're
5 going in a slippery slope, if you do this in Alaska
6 then everybody's going to want to collect these things
7 all over the country and they're worried about sort of
8 the national, but we recognize that Alaska's different,
9 we think we can make that separation. There is a
10 national proposal to allow for tribal collections of
11 materials and Parks outside, it hasn't -- it's being
12 considered for a possible regulation where there were
13 traditional uses of certain materials found in Park
14 areas that people use for celebrations or whatever. So
15 there is a bit of a national effort going on, it's
16 different though. We're dealing with rural residents
17 that have some sort of connection to Park and
18 Preserves, not limited to tribes. It's really for
19 recognized qualified subsistence users. So it includes
20 tribal people in most cases, but it's not limited to
21 tribal people.

22

23 Okay.

24

25 So the key, I'm sort of getting at this
26 here, on the bottom of Page 37, we're talking about key
27 stakeholder's positions of interested parties, you can
28 read that. But we recognize that the subsistence
29 groups probably would prefer alternatives would be the
30 least restrictive, it's fairly predictable. And then
31 you read the second bullet and it says that
32 conservation groups are concerned about liberal
33 collections and what's that going to do to Park areas
34 and are you ever going to be able to see an antler out
35 in the Park again, for example. And there are some
36 places like a lot of -- some Federal public lands you
37 can already collect these things, there's no
38 limitation. BLM lands, they don't have a rule that
39 prohibits collections. Forest Service. Fish and
40 Wildlife Service does, and I didn't know that until we
41 started this process. They have a similar national
42 rule to the National Park Service that technically
43 you're not supposed to pick these things up and remove
44 them unless you have a special permit to do it.
45 They're watching what we're doing and they have told us
46 that they'll probably start a similar process, so
47 they're kind of watching and see how it plays out for
48 the Park Service.

49

50 Okay.

1 So the State of Alaska, I think, in
2 general, supports this, but they've cautioned us that
3 there are some animal parts that they're concerned if
4 people go out and you can make a lot of money selling
5 bear claws and things like that, they're concerned that
6 people will just start killing animals and come out
7 with the parts and they're not using the whole animal.
8 So there's some concern about that. And I know there's
9 some sensitivity around bear claws and gall bladders
10 and all that sort of thing.

11
12 Okay.

13
14 So if we turn to Page 38, what are we
15 looking for from you. First off, if you don't have the
16 EA, there's copies back there, I'd like for you to have
17 one, I'd love to get some comments back on that, you
18 know, see if you see any factual errors and we'd like
19 to correct that, we've already found a couple ourselves
20 even though we've worked on this thing for months.

21
22 The key issues, I think, are what
23 alternative or alternatives or a mix of alternatives
24 would work best for your areas and why. And some of
25 us, like Sandy and I have talked about this, like, oh,
26 we kind of like a mixture of Alternative C and D.
27 Alternative C means that there -- the Superintendent
28 would issue permits to qualified subsistence users
29 after consultation with the local Subsistence Resource
30 Commissions if you think it's needed. We know that in
31 Northwest Alaska, those people, they don't want to deal
32 with permits, you know, they're out in remote villages,
33 on roadside areas, maybe around Denali National Park,
34 we know that that superintendent wants people to have
35 permits because there's so many hundreds of thousands
36 of people that go into Denali, you got to know who's
37 qualified and who's not, and you would like for them to
38 have a permit in hand, otherwise everything disappears
39 and the public goes out there and it's like, oh, we
40 don't see this stuff anymore, we used to see that right
41 there, what happened. So it's more sensitive in
42 probably road side areas in terms of permitting than
43 areas that are remote from roads. So we like -- we
44 thought that flexibility was attractive. We thought
45 the Regional Director would go for it and she didn't,
46 she actually wanted to require permits, and I'll get
47 back to that again and her reasons why.

48
49 So the other -- the third bullet, what
50 we're looking for from here is comments from the groups

1 on how important it is to your communities to be able
2 to collect these non-edible shed or discarded animal
3 parts and plants to make and sell handicrafts. It's
4 probably more important in some parts of the state and
5 others. And some people say, oh, it's just a small
6 little business. Well, we've actually checked in with
7 the State and statewide, State made handicrafts is \$100
8 million industry a year, it's bigger than you think. I
9 was surprised when I read that. We got that from
10 economic surveys that the State has produced.

11

12 Okay.

13

14 Page 39 is just what the cover of the
15 EA looks like, we don't need to -- if you look at Page
16 41, that's a map of the Park system units in Alaska and
17 the green areas are those areas where subsistence is
18 allowed. So these regulations would apply to the areas
19 with green coloration.

20

21 Judy.

22

23 MS. CAMINER: I guess, Bud, just to --
24 I'm just thinking of your comment about Denali.

25

26 MR. RICE: Uh-huh.

27

28 MS. CAMINER: Collection would only be
29 in areas that are currently open to subsistence by
30 people.....

31

32 MR. RICE: Right.

33

34 MS. CAMINER:eligible in those
35 particular areas so.....

36

37 MR. RICE: That's a good point, yeah.

38

39 MS. CAMINER:for the most part,
40 maybe your comment about, let's say the front country
41 about Denali would not actually.....

42

43 MR. RICE: Yeah, Parks Highway.....

44

45 MS. CAMINER:apply.

46

47 MR. RICE:though, or around
48 Cantwell, people hike in there.

49

50 MS. CAMINER: Okay.

1 MR. RICE: Yeah, that's actually
2 reflected in this map on Page 41. So the green areas
3 are where subsistence use is permitted and Denali, the
4 old Park, it's grey, and the map says subsistence
5 prohibited so, you were leading right into my map so
6 that was good. And so you can sort of see with a quick
7 glance of where it's allowed.

8
9 Now, in Glacier Bay, for example -- the
10 old Parks, Katmai, Glacier Bay and the old Mt. McKinley
11 Park subsistence was not allowed for in ANILCA, except
12 for the Park additions it is allowed, and the north
13 part of Denali and the south part it's all allowed.
14 All the Preserve area allow for subsistence activities.
15 And the new Parks and Monuments allow for subsistence
16 like Aniakchak or Cape Krusenstern National Monuments.
17 Sitka National Historic Park, it's actually the oldest
18 Park in the state, 1910, and there's not subsistence
19 there, not ANILCA subsistence anyway. Glacier Bay
20 Preserve allows subsistence, small area by Dry Bay.
21 Anyway, so you can see the areas where this is allowed,
22 and I can see from your map over here, that Wrangell-
23 St. Elias, Lake Clark, the south side of Denali, those
24 are all areas that are serviced by the Southcentral
25 RAC.

26
27 Okay.

28
29 So then the next few pages, 42, this is
30 the letter from the Eastern Interior RAC that really
31 got the Regional Director focused on this issue and
32 said, we got to do something about this, that was still
33 several years ago. I can't believe it's taken this
34 long. But -- and we had some letters that went back
35 and forth and one of the things that the Eastern
36 Interior RAC wanted to be able to do was to collect raw
37 unworked material and sell it and the Regional Director
38 said, no, we're not going to do that, because then you
39 will have kind of an industrial level of activity and
40 you could just clean out the countryside, and actually
41 it already happened, in Northwest Alaska, because
42 Koreans, I think mostly Koreans, Eastern Asians came
43 over to that area and they worked with local area
44 hunters and they just cleaned Western Arctic Caribou
45 Herd antlers off the landscape and loaded up connex
46 boxes and shipped them out for aphrodisiac and stuff.
47 The elders said, whoa, this is -- this is not right,
48 something about this didn't feel right to them, they
49 thought it was not traditional and that's not
50 appropriate for the landscape in the long haul and they

1 came to us and they said, you got to stop this, and
2 actually, I -- I can't remember who all was involved, I
3 think even the State got involved and said this --
4 we're not going to allow this kind of activity so -- so
5 we don't want that to happen. It becomes a big
6 industry. I mean I'm sure a lot of you get Cabela's
7 catalog and you can buy these big antlers of
8 chandeliers and stuff, and they cost thousands of
9 dollars, a lot of them end up in castles, you know, or
10 millionaire homes and stuff, not everybody can afford
11 these things, but people make a lot of money off that,
12 and -- and there are web pages, if you get on the web
13 you can get tips on how to find and collect all this
14 stuff and then sell it, you know, to big buyers. So
15 that's not what we're looking for in the Parks. We're
16 looking to support local small businesses, you know,
17 cottage industry, but we're not interested in seeing
18 big industrial activity in the National Park areas. So
19 that's what that letter was about there. And Marsha
20 Blazak was the Regional Director at the time.

21

22 Then you can see on Page 46, the old
23 Gates of the Arctic hunting plan recommendation,
24 although our solicitor says, well, it wasn't really a
25 hunting plan, it's, you know, a collection plan, but
26 this is the tool they have, so this is how we got the
27 information. And the response letter is kind of at a
28 position -- it's actually Page 48 to Pollock Simon.

29

30 But let's go to Page 47 because this is
31 really the nuts and bolts of the whole thing and this
32 is, of all pages in the EA, this is probably the most
33 critical one to really get a feel for. And this
34 describes the various alternatives and what it means.

35

36 So Alternative A, no action. We don't
37 do anything. You can see down below, there'd be no
38 regulations. Eligible persons would not be able to
39 collect these things, except where it's already allowed
40 for plant materials in the Kobuk Valley National Park,
41 et cetera. So basically it would be an illegal
42 activity to pick up these things and collect it. The
43 interesting thing is when we've been to Northwest
44 Alaska they said, ha, are you kidding we're already --
45 we've been doing this from time immemorial and we're
46 collecting these things now and, you know, nobody knows
47 about it and we're still making things and selling it
48 or using it and so, no action is not very realistic in
49 some ways up here.

50

1 Alterative B. So we'll get into
2 language a little bit here. Alternative B would mean
3 that there'd be broad eligibility and no permits
4 required for collecting these things. We'd have a new
5 regulation that would state that -- and these
6 regulations -- we got draft regulations and what the
7 language might look like and that's at the back of this
8 package, I think it's Page 56. We can -- you can look
9 at that later. But -- so a lot of the discussion
10 boiled down on who would be eligible and it's pretty
11 easy for Parks and Monuments because we have resident
12 zones, resident zone areas, so resident zone
13 communities or somebody can get what we call a 13440
14 [sic] permit and so you're -- if you don't live in a
15 particular community but you live out in the
16 countryside you can get a permit and do all this
17 various subsistence activities. Where it gets really
18 interesting is in the Preserves because we don't have
19 Subsistence Resource Commissions that address Preserves
20 and sporthunting's allowed in there, et cetera, and so
21 -- by the general public, so the way we addressed the
22 Preserve areas is we just looked at the Federal
23 Subsistence Board C&T determinations. And the way it
24 works out for Alternative B, if you have C&T for any
25 wildlife species, something that's really widespread,
26 then you could just collect anything you stumbled upon
27 out in the countryside there while you're hunting for
28 that particular species or you just happened to be
29 there, but you have a reason to be there, you're a
30 qualified subsistence user, collect what you find.

31
32 We got that request from the Wrangells
33 SRC as one of the things they asked for, and a lot of
34 people in discussion with them in the early parts of
35 writing this thing up, they said, well, what about
36 porcupine quills and all these other -- originally we
37 talked -- called this thing the horns and antlers EA,
38 we realized, uh, there's a lot more out there than just
39 horns and antlers, there's bones that are valuable,
40 there's hooves and claws and, you know, quills, I mean
41 people make stuff out of everything out there. You
42 know we talked to people -- the Collins sisters out in
43 Minchumina and we asked them, well -- well, you know,
44 what kind of materials do you use to make, you know,
45 these handicrafts, and they kind of stalled for a
46 second and they said, well, we pretty much use just
47 about everything that's out here so I mean I think
48 that's probably a pretty accurate statement.

49
50 Okay, so that's how B works.

1 We wouldn't have any special conditions
2 to limit collections unless there was something that
3 was -- you know, really minimizing this, Superintendent
4 would publish something in the Compendium and say, you
5 know, don't take this particular item, maybe it's an
6 endangered plant or an endangered species, we want to
7 just leave it there. But generally it's pretty wide
8 open in Alternative B.

9
10 Alternative C, slightly different.
11 Eligibility is restricted by areas and with
12 discretionary permits issued by the Superintendent in
13 consultation with the SRCs. So I mentioned that
14 before.

15
16 Okay.

17
18 So the way this works is that the
19 person would have to have a C&T use finding for any
20 wildlife species in each game management unit. So for
21 big Parks, like Wrangell-St. Elias, there's like three
22 game management units that they deal with and subunits,
23 et cetera. Somebody in Yakutat probably has C&T, you
24 know, for moose and goats and stuff down there in Unit
25 5, but you go up to Unit 12, they don't have any C&T
26 determination for the caribou and everything else up
27 there, they might for wolves but, you know, not other
28 things, and, you know, vice versa, somebody from Tok or
29 Tanacross or wherever wouldn't have C&T, you know, down
30 in Yakutat because they don't traditionally go down
31 there. So you look at the Federal Subsistence Board
32 regulations and that's how that plays out. Now, some
33 other areas, like Western Alaska, NANA region, you
34 know, for Kobuk Valley or whatever, everybody in the
35 region has C&T for everything so it's pretty easy there
36 and some of those Park areas, so it varies across the
37 state in how this alternative plays out. And, again,
38 we use the C&T determinations too -- for Preserves, so
39 you have to have C&T for something before you can
40 collect in a Preserve.

41
42 Well, when we started looking at this
43 pretty carefully, if you look at the Federal C&T
44 determination for wolves, it's pretty much if you're a
45 rural resident you got C&T for wolves, which means you
46 can take anything that you find out there, so we
47 realized, oh, this doesn't -- the language here doesn't
48 work very good, or maybe we should accept wolves, I
49 don't know, but we didn't write it up that way and then
50 we realized later, oh, people all over the state have

1 C&T for wolves, ptarmigan and grouse; so pretty much
2 all over.

3

4 So that's where D seems to make a
5 little more sense for us in some ways. The way this
6 one reads is you have to have C&T finding for each
7 wildlife species in each game management unit before
8 you can pick up animal parts of that animal. For
9 plants it's easy. I mean if you have C&T for anything
10 you can collect plant parts or make things, so we're --
11 we're not so concerned about that. It's a little more
12 sensitive around the animals.

13

14 And in some ways Sandy and I thought,
15 ah, you know, maybe a mixture of D and C, you know,
16 discretionary permitting, if that's the way the
17 superintendent -- or Regional Director, if she wants
18 permits in some cases, we don't think it would work in
19 every place, some of us. So sometimes we think C and D
20 works -- the wolf, ptarmigan, grouse thing goes out of
21 the picture. You have to have C&T for moose -- under
22 this one you have to have C&T for moose before you can
23 grab a moose antler and cart it off the landscape. Or
24 let's say you have C&T for caribou, which tends to be
25 more widespread than the C&T determinations for moose,
26 if you have a C&T for caribou you can take a caribou
27 antler, but you might not be able to take a moose
28 antler, depending on what you have C&T for.

29

30 So that's how that one works out.

31

32 It's a little more limiting.

33

34 But that kind of follows the language
35 that one of our Superintendents threw out once, which
36 kind of resonated with me, it's like, hey, if a person
37 legally can kill an animal then they should be able to
38 collect any parts from that species. That just makes
39 sense. It's easier for Rangers, you know, it's easier
40 to understand for people. I can legally kill this
41 animal, but I just found a dead one out here, or parts
42 of it, I can take it.

43

44 So that's how that -- that's our
45 understanding of that one.

46

47 Question, Tom.

48

49 MR. CARPENTER: Yeah, can I ask you a
50 question before I forget it.

1 MR. RICE: Yeah.
2
3 MR. CARPENTER: Is that for the Hard
4 Park or is that for the Park and Preserve?
5
6 MR. RICE: That language goes for Park
7 and Preserve.
8
9 MR. CARPENTER: So.....
10
11 MR. RICE: That's the way D would read.
12
13 MR. CARPENTER: So in the Preserve
14 you're allowed to sporthunt.....
15
16 MR. RICE: Right. But no
17 sporthunter.....
18
19 MR. CARPENTER:but you're not
20 going to have a C&T for anything.
21
22 MR. RICE: Right.
23
24 MR. CARPENTER: So basically a
25 sporthunter that's sheep hunting could not pick up a
26 winter kill sheep horn and legally take it out of the
27 Preserve.
28
29 MR. RICE: That's correct.
30
31 MR. CARPENTER: Is that.....
32
33 MR. RICE: Unless.....
34
35 MR. CARPENTER:is that.....
36
37 MR. RICE:unless they're a rural
38 resident and they're also -- if they're subsistence
39 qualified for sheep then they could take that out.
40
41 MR. CARPENTER: Is that the regulation
42 now?
43
44 MR. RICE: Well, the regulation now
45 applies to everybody, yeah, you're supposed to leave
46 it.
47
48 MR. CARPENTER: In the Preserve.
49
50 MR. RICE: Yeah. Yeah. Any Park

1 Service area, Preserve, Monument or Park, you're
2 supposed to leave it.
3
4 MR. CARPENTER: Uh.
5
6 MR. RICE: Yeah.
7
8 MR. CARPENTER: I did not know that.
9
10 MR. RICE: I know. This is a learning
11 curve for a lot of people.
12
13 MR. CARPENTER: I thought in the
14 Preserve.....
15
16 MR. RICE: Yeah, people are
17 beginning.....
18
19 MR. CARPENTER:you were allowed
20 to.....
21
22 MR. RICE:to question, so this is
23 good.
24
25 MR. CARPENTER: I actually thought you
26 were allowed to pick up sheds in the Preserve.
27
28 MR. RICE: No. You can in Forest
29 Service lands, you can in BLM lands, you can't even in
30 Fish and Wildlife Refuges, you can on State lands. As
31 far as I know it's allowed.
32
33 Mary Ann
34
35 MR. RICE: Or, it's through the Chair,
36 right.
37
38 MS. MILLS: Does that include people
39 who recently moved into rural areas, would they have
40 C&T?
41
42 MR. RICE: I think if they live in a
43 resident zone community, I don't know if you have to be
44 a resident for a year or not, Barbara can you answer
45 that?
46
47 MS. CELLARIUS: You have to have
48 established your permanent residence in a rural
49 community that has that determination. The C&Ts are
50 based on community's, once you've established your

1 residency. With hunting and fishing there's a one year
2 period to be called a resident. And we haven't
3 actually talked about this, but with things like
4 firewood and berries, basically once you've established
5 your residency in that rural community, if you've come
6 in from -- well, yeah, once you've established your
7 residency in that rural community you would be eligible
8 for subsistence. Things like collection of firewoods.
9 And, I'm assuming that the collection of these
10 resources would fall under a similar kind of
11 eligibility thing.

12

13 MS. MILLS: So do you have a definition
14 for C&T?

15

16 MS. CELLARIUS: We're basically relying
17 on the Federal Subsistence Program C&T determinations.
18 The problem that we face is that for lands that are
19 designated as National Park, we have something called
20 the resident zone, so we have an independent list that
21 kind of -- that's different than C -- it's somewhat
22 similar to C&T, in that, it's based on a pattern of
23 use, but it's a Park Service determination that applies
24 in Parks. We don't have that for the Preserve. So
25 then we're looking at trying to come up with some kind
26 of criteria to use for who can collect these resources
27 in a given Park and since C&T is based on a pattern of
28 use for wildlife resources we're -- we've proposed that
29 as a way to establish that kind of eligibility.

30

31 MS. MILLS; So if you're here for a
32 year you have customary and traditional as long as you
33 live in a rural area, but if you, let's say are
34 indigenous and your area has been designated non-rural,
35 you no longer have C&T; is that correct?

36

37 MR. RICE: Yeah, I think if an
38 indigenous person, say, moved to Anchorage, Fairbanks
39 or Juneau or any of those communities that are not
40 considered -- or Wasilla, those parts, rural areas,
41 then, yes, that's correct, they wouldn't have -- they
42 would not continue to have the NPS rural resident
43 qualification. It doesn't mean they couldn't collect
44 those items elsewhere, just not in Park Service lands,
45 the way we understand it at this time.

46

47 MS. STICKWAN: I had a question about
48 designated wilderness, I didn't think about that
49 before.

50

1 MR. RICE: Okay.

2

3 MS. STICKWAN: How does that apply to
4 this or.....

5

6 MR. RICE: No, wilderness, we show it
7 on the map but it really doesn't make any difference.
8 I mean people -- you can hunt anywhere and you can
9 gather plant materials and berries and stuff of
10 wilderness, it really doesn't have an effect. The only
11 thing that wilderness might affect would be -- well, in
12 some places that manner of transportation but even here
13 it's pretty liberal. In Alaska you can use a
14 snowmobile and a motorboat and an airplane, you can't
15 use a helicopter but you can pretty much get around.
16 So, it's -- yeah, I don't think wilderness really
17 factors in. We looked at it but it -- the only way
18 that it would factor is in the quality of naturalness,
19 so if there were areas where there tend to be lots of
20 antlers and people start collecting and removing them,
21 then it will lose a bit of that naturalness quality.
22 And I can tell you I've been to -- I've hiked and
23 canoed and mushed dogs all over the state, and up near
24 the Gates of the Arctic, the Gates part of the Gates of
25 the Arctic, I was hiking up near a mountain and I found
26 this shed area, there were hundreds of caribou antlers
27 in this one area, it was like stunning to see it, it's
28 like, wow, it's like they all stopped here and they
29 shook everything off their heads. And so there are
30 those places, they're kind of -- it's an interesting
31 natural feature, it made me wonder, it's like, why did
32 this happen here. But -- so I mean if those kind of
33 places -- now, I know where it is, I could send other
34 people there and they could go there, and there was
35 nothing there, yeah, it would kind of detract from --
36 but, you know, a lot of these materials don't last
37 forever either, we know that they'll degrade and fall
38 apart.

39

40 One -- one of our botanist was reading
41 the literature, he was doing the plants part of this
42 thing, it's in this EA, he said that there are unusual
43 assemblages of lichens that grow on caribou antlers in
44 the Arctic and you don't find the same grouping of
45 lichens anywhere else, they're just on the antlers.
46 And so we said, wow, if we remove all the antlers that
47 grouping of lichens is going to start to disappear. I
48 thought that was interesting but it's pretty unusual.

49

50 But, anyway, wilderness is -- I don't

1 think it's a limiting factor.

2

3 Good question.

4

5 MS. STICKWAN: But does it affect if
6 they can pick up antlers on wilderness, right -- no?

7

8 MR. RICE: If we promulgate the new
9 regulation it would be allowed in wilderness, yeah.
10 Uh-huh.

11

12 MS. STICKWAN: It wouldn't -- it isn't
13 allowed and it won't be because it hasn't been
14 addressed?

15

16 MR. RICE: Yeah, oh, so I see -- that's
17 a good question. Well, actually this whole thing is a
18 two step process. The first thing we do is we look at
19 the environmental -- the potential environmental
20 effects. If you look at them that's table -- we looked
21 at the environmental effects of the different
22 alternatives and we just didn't think there was going
23 to be a major effect from these kind of collection
24 activities under any of the alternatives. And so we
25 could pick and choose whatever we think is most
26 reasonable.

27

28 What was my line of reasoning here.

29

30 We just don't think that the amount of
31 material that would be removed would be deleterious to
32 the environment over the long haul. I guess that's the
33 bottom line, yeah.

34

35 Judy.

36

37 MS. CAMINER: Bud, thanks. I have a
38 question about Page 47, the summary chart, and maybe
39 this is -- I'm sure it's just a shortening of your
40 summary. But looking on the plants column, conditions
41 placed on the collection of plant materials to make
42 handicrafts -- into handicrafts and sell, but that
43 would also include for personal use, I assume, it's
44 just not written here?

45

46 MR. RICE: Yeah. You know, some uses
47 are already -- Barbara can answer this better than I
48 can, but some uses are already allowed, like the
49 collection of firewood, you can get a permit for, you
50 know, house logs. Collection of plant materials for

1 food is allowed. I think Barbara can add more to that.
2 Those are already standing regulations that exist.

3
4 MS. CAMINER: Just for consistency
5 sake, it would just seem in that box, in the summary
6 table you would add the words, personal use, just
7 to.....

8
9 MR. RICE: Oh, I see what -- so we're
10 missing.....

11
12 MS. CAMINER:be similar.

13
14 MR. RICE:personal or family use.

15
16 MS. CAMINER: Right.

17
18 MR. RICE: Yeah.

19
20 MS. CAMINER: Just to be similar to the
21 box below it.

22
23 MR. RICE: Yeah. Yeah.

24
25 MS. CAMINER: Okay. Thanks.

26
27 MR. RICE: That's a good catch.

28
29 MS. CELLARIUS: I would add that the
30 definition of subsistence in ANILCA already allows the
31 personal use of plants so in a sense, allows the use of
32 plants for food, shelter, heat, clothing, tools;
33 there's that first -- that first part of the definition
34 of subsistence in ANILCA. The thing that is not
35 allowed is the making of handicrafts to be sold. You
36 can make handicrafts for personal use under the current
37 regulations. The only thing you can't do with plants
38 is sell handicrafts made from them.

39
40 MR. RICE: I think that's why we left
41 that language out now that I remember, yeah.

42
43 So just a little bit of business I
44 didn't finish up with, and why did the Regional
45 Director select Alternative D as preferred. And we had
46 a pretty rigorous discussion with her about that and
47 she had her associate directors and they're all saying,
48 well, how are we going to know how much materials are
49 removed from the Parks and whether or not it's going to
50 have an affect. Is there any way we can get

1 information other than getting a permit and we kind of
2 looked around and said, well, probably not, but I mean
3 you could -- somebody could go sample the landscape and
4 maybe you could figure it out but that would be
5 difficult. Getting permits would be the most direct
6 way to get the information, how much is removed by whom
7 where. And so the Regional Director's looking around
8 and Sandy and I thought, we thought Alternative C made
9 the most sense but her associates said that, well, we
10 ought to start off trying to get the information and
11 then we can just do away with permits if we don't think
12 there's a problem, but we ought to start that way and
13 then the Regional Director said, yeah, you know, we
14 don't allow this kind of activity anywhere else in the
15 U.S., and so it's going to be different in Alaska, and
16 I prefer to start off cautiously rather than just
17 jumping in with both feet, you know, into the fire.

18

19 So she -- and she also recognizes that
20 environmental groups are going to get after her if she
21 goes too fast, too far, so she's planning -- she's
22 trying to play the game. Anyway, so I think she's
23 looking for comments and in some ways, I don't know,
24 maybe it was her strategy to pick D to get people to
25 speak up, like, we don't like that and here are the
26 reasons why, and that's what she wants to hear. If you
27 don't like Alternative D, then the Regional Director,
28 needs to hear why. Not that you just don't like it,
29 but why don't you like it.

30

31 Let's see what else do I have here.

32

33 Yeah, so we do have some other tables
34 in this and they're pretty interesting ones, you've got
35 the impacts one, that's on Page 50, and we thought the
36 impacts were pretty low. I thought a really
37 interesting table is 3.3, starting on Page 51, in there
38 we look at the very species, you know, the antlered and
39 horn species what people are really most interested in,
40 and we threw wolf in there so you could see who has,
41 you know, C&T for wolves, and it's widespread. So
42 anyway this goes down through -- there's probably a
43 couple little errors in this table but we pulled it
44 basically from the Federal Subsistence Board
45 regulations, that's how we got that table.

46

47 Okay, and I think we got a question.

48

49 MS. MILLS: You said that nationwide
50 tribal collection, there were provisions for tribal

1 collection where traditional uses were done nationwide,
2 but, yet, you know, the suggestion for Alaska -- it
3 seems like customary and traditional would be a long
4 history of use patterns. And so that's my concern. I
5 know in other parts of the United States that you did
6 bring out that, you know, this was accomplished through
7 allowing certain tribes in certain areas for collection
8 of these things where traditional use was met.

9

10 MR. RICE: Not yet. It's a proposed
11 regulation.

12

13 MS. MILLS: Proposed.

14

15 MR. RICE: It's actually being vetted
16 and it hasn't gone out for national comment yet, but it
17 probably will. We're actually a step ahead of them.
18 And it's addressed in a little comparative table on
19 Page 1-12 of the full EA. And if you don't have a copy
20 there's one behind you there on the desk. But you can
21 see how our proposal is a little bit difference, about
22 subsistence uses versus tribal uses of resources.

23

24 Plus, the national rule is only
25 addressing uses of plant materials, and, I don't know,
26 maybe it's for peyote or, I don't know what it's for,
27 but, you know, different kinds of plant materials.
28 Some people actually were proposing the use of eagle
29 feathers for headdresses and all that kind of thing.
30 And I'm not sure that the national rules you're going
31 to go that far in Park areas. But our rule is
32 addressing animal parts and plants, all plants, and
33 all shed or discarded animal parts. So it's a little
34 broader than even the national proposal.

35

36 MS. CELLARIUS: If I could add, what
37 we're proposing to do is under the auspices of
38 subsistence, and Congress was very clear that
39 subsistence is by local rural residents, so we have to
40 work within that framework in responding to the request
41 for the Eastern Interior RAC. As Bud mentioned there
42 is a national effort that is looking at a different
43 kind of issue, recognizing these traditional uses.
44 That will be -- there'll be a whole other set of
45 discussion in terms of that, but for this EA, we have
46 to work within the constraints of subsistence as
47 defined by Congress. And so the non-rural residents
48 don't fit into that.

49

50 MR. RICE: Some people that that, you

1 know, these activities should be allowed already
2 because if you read ANILCA and the definitions of take,
3 the definition of take includes to collect, you know,
4 kill, you know, whatever, shoot, trap, but our lawyers,
5 our solicitors told us, well, a definition is not the
6 rule, it's not a regulation so that's why we have these
7 special regulations for collections of plant materials
8 to make and sell handicrafts in the Kobuk River area so
9 we want to do the same thing for the whole state, for
10 all Parks, Monuments and Preserves.

11

12 Lots -- lots of questions.

13

14 MS. STICKWAN: So if this tribal law
15 passes, it won't really affect us up here because we'll
16 have a more broader -- if this passes, we'll have a
17 more broader things that we can collect, even if the
18 tribal goes through and passes then it won't really
19 affect us up here, right?

20

21 MR. RICE: I think that's correct.
22 Barbara might have something else to add. And uses for
23 tribal groups might be a little different than for
24 subsistence uses, I'm not sure that for tribal groups
25 you would be able to make something and sell it, you
26 could use it for tribal purposes, but maybe not for
27 commercial purposes.

28

29 MS. CELLARIUS: There may be, in some
30 of the Park units for some tribes, there may be some
31 impact, but between what's allowed under subsistence
32 regulations, and then there's also some regulations
33 under 13.35 [sic] that allow for collection of plant
34 materials for personal use by basically everyone and
35 there are some provisions in 13.5 [sic] that talk about
36 traditional ceremonies. So there's -- within the Park
37 Service regulations we already have some of the things
38 in place that allow the activities that might happen
39 under this proposed change at the national level, which
40 really is just a proposed -- a proposal at this point.
41 There hasn't -- there hasn't been anything that's been
42 released for comment. I think when, you know, as a
43 separate effort it's really -- it's very unrelated to
44 subsistence. I mean we're talking about resources that
45 are used by subsistence users but we need to think
46 about it in a really different way. And, you know, I'm
47 happy to have -- maybe it would be better to have
48 individual conversations outside of the meeting, if
49 people want more information about that, if that's
50 okay. We haven't actually got very far with that

1 process and it's something that's been talked about but
2 it's -- it's sort of preliminary.

3

4 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Tom.

5

6 MR. CARPENTER: Yeah, a couple of
7 comments. Number 1, I'm glad the Park Service is doing
8 this. I think it's probably something that's a good
9 regulation.

10

11 The one thing I don't agree with is,
12 when you say that the Regional Director preferred
13 Alternative D, and you stated why she felt that way, I
14 disagree with the reason that she thought that way.
15 And the reason I say that is, I think that ANILCA puts
16 Alaska in a different place when you talk about
17 National Parks and Preserves. Number 1.

18

19 Number 2. One of her points was is
20 that there's a lot of places down south that, you know,
21 you're not allowed to do these things and she wanted
22 everything to be, you know, copasetic throughout the
23 National Park system. Well, once, again, I think
24 ANILCA throws that for a loop. And the reason I say
25 that is, there's a lot of practices that take place in
26 Alaska through ANILCA that already aren't allowed in
27 the Lower 48 and all the Parks and Preserves. So using
28 the rationalization for collection and for barter and
29 sale, I really don't see that there being a point, in
30 regards to the issuance of permits. I think that for
31 collecting plants, or horns or antlers or whatever a
32 person's going to do to try and make some additional
33 money for themselves is potentially an undue hardship,
34 depending on where you are in the state. And I'm
35 assuming this is going to be pretty much a statewide
36 regulation, so, you know, somebody that lives along the
37 road system that has access to the Park is a lot
38 different than somebody that lives, you know, 100 miles
39 from the closest National Park Service office or
40 something.

41

42 So in those regards, I don't really
43 prefer Alternative D, because of the permitting
44 process.

45

46 The other question I had was something
47 that you said earlier about in Western Alaska there
48 were people that collected all the caribou horns and
49 shipped them out in connex boxes. Are you going to put
50 limits on how much people can take out, per, you know,

1 I mean caribou horns might be one of the only things
2 that you can, you know, collect in mass quantities,
3 besides plants or something like that, but are you
4 going to put a limit as to what an individual person
5 can collect and sell?

6

7 MR. RICE: Well, that would be
8 addressed in Appendix C on Page 58 of your executive
9 summary. And if that's if we go that route and require
10 permits. The permits could have various different kind
11 of limits. It may not have a numbers limit, it might
12 have a poundage limit. The other thing we were talking
13 about, as indicates for subsistence hunting, you might
14 have designated collectors, so maybe one person can
15 collect a bunch and give it to elders who are making
16 stuff out of it, so that person can take more than the
17 average person. But there's a lot of different ways we
18 can slice and dice this. It might be by species,
19 certain species are limited and others are not.

20

21 So that's' what Appendix C is, possible
22 management conditions for collections, and it's a list
23 of things. And if you can think of other things, or if
24 you think some of these are bogus, that's -- you know,
25 we need to hear those kind of comments as well. But --
26 and in the case if we had Alternative C, whereas -- in
27 consultation with SRC, the superintendent would work
28 with their local groups, or local rural residents. In
29 the case of Preserves, like Bering Land Bridge, there's
30 a lot of subsistence going on there, too, it's pretty
31 remote, the superintendent is going to talk to those
32 local communities and get -- if we're required to do
33 permits, she's going to talk with them, well, what's
34 reasonable. We might not put very much in the way of
35 permit requirements in there at all, just sign your
36 name, tell us that, you know, you were out there
37 collecting stuff.

38

39 You know, I'll mention something. A
40 lot of you probably read about that muskox die off that
41 occurred in Bering Land Bridge, speaking of Bering Land
42 Bridge, you know, like 50 muskoxen got trapped in a sea
43 surge and it froze and they got stuck. Man we got a
44 lot of calls. Of course, it got front page news, that
45 didn't help us any. But everybody wanted to go there
46 and collect muskox horns. Everybody.

47

48 MR. CARPENTER: Hum.

49

50 MR. RICE: So that's why -- and they

1 told us, you know, hey, I want to go out and get that,
2 you can't. We got a national rule. And then we put
3 Rangers out there, and we patrolled it, and so it's --
4 I mean the interest is there. And people will -- if
5 they hear about stuff like that they'll take it all,
6 it'll go fast.

7

8 But, anyway, so -- we're not sure how
9 the permitting, it's -- it would vary between areas and
10 depending on what resources are out there, but, yeah.

11

12 MR. CARPENTER: Could I just -- maybe a
13 comment in regards to what I said about the Parks down
14 south versus the Parks in Alaska and ANILCA, and the
15 differences between management in the Parks down there
16 versus the Parks here. I mean obviously the Regional
17 Director knows quite clearly that that's going on.

18

19 MR. RICE: Uh-huh.

20

21 MR. CARPENTER: So why would the
22 rationale be, that it's not like that down south so we
23 have to -- you know, what I mean, I.....

24

25 MR. RICE: Uh-huh.

26

27 MR. CARPENTER:don't understand
28 that rationale.

29

30 MR. RICE: Well, the Regional Director,
31 when we're in meetings, she doesn't tell us everything
32 that's going on in her mind, I just know she selected
33 that and that was part of the discussion, there may
34 have been other things. And she has a big picture,
35 political picture, and she goes to a lot of national
36 meetings so she's got to deal with people all over the
37 country and she's dealing with a national system. So,
38 I mean I think that was her sense, she was interested
39 in taking this step, but maybe not taking a giant step
40 right off. And it -- you know some of us had talked
41 about permits, you know, some superintendent might just
42 issue a blanket permit for all rural residents
43 associated with Wrangell-St. Elias, you're allowed now
44 to collect for this period of time or something,
45 anything you happen to find out there. I mean permits
46 could go -- they can be issued in different ways. It
47 doesn't have to be a permit to each individual. It
48 usually is and that's the closest, easiest way to
49 manage it, but it could be a blanket permit. People in
50 these communities can go collect now.

1 Judy.
2
3 MS. CAMINER: Thanks. I guess I'd be
4 interested in hearing from RAC members who are out
5 hunting and fishing.....
6
7 MR. RICE: Yeah.
8
9 MS. CAMINER:how often do you
10 come across shed antlers or horns and how often, and
11 we'll have amnesty here, no matter what lands you're
12 on, how often have you.....
13
14 (Laughter)
15
16 MS. CAMINER:been out, seen
17 antlers and horns, how often have you bothered to take
18 any amount back, or a significant amount back? Just
19 curious, I think that would be good feedback.
20
21 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Well, I'm old enough
22 you can't throw me in jail long enough to do anything
23 to me.
24
25 (Laughter)
26
27 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: So I'll be point blank
28 honest, I didn't, to a certain extent didn't even
29 realize this existed and I think any kind of permit
30 system that you put in is going to make an awful lot of
31 rural residents illegal people.
32
33 I mean I can think of -- I can think of
34 a few moose horns that are sitting around on some piece
35 of our property that were picked up because we were out
36 running a trapline or doing something on that order,
37 and I know I've carved wooden spoons by going out and
38 cutting a piece of birch without knowing that I wasn't
39 supposed to cut a piece of birch to make a wooden spoon
40 or -- that I sold, I mean it's not bad enough that I
41 make it for myself.
42
43 (Laughter)
44
45 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: I think what the SRC,
46 from Wrangell-St. Elias says is very true, and that's
47 that -- and I look at the Park and Park Rangers and
48 everything, that, if there is a problem and this is a
49 problem we've had in the subsistence thing in the
50 start, oh, my gosh, all of these people are able to do

1 this, this is going to cause a disaster we better do
2 something ahead of time, and then nothing happens and
3 then nothing happens. Why don't we recognize the fact
4 we have Park Rangers, we have people looking at the
5 Park and if we start having an impact that's the time
6 to say, oh, wait a second, they're hauling them out by
7 the connex load, we need to go do something. But in
8 the meantime, I mean the fact that I suppose maybe a
9 mouse starved to death someplace along the line because
10 I picked up a moose horn or something like that, but I
11 honestly think that if you put any kind of mandatory
12 permit on most of rural Alaska for -- it's not like
13 you're going out and harvesting a truckload of birch,
14 you just happen to see this nice little birch that
15 would be just perfect for carving some wooden spoons
16 and you went out and you didn't have any intention the
17 day you went out when you cut it, so why are you going
18 to go get a permit ahead of time. Now, I got to think
19 ahead of time to go get a permit to go do it, you know.

20

21 I think you're just going to make a
22 bunch of illegal rural residents.

23

24 If you're actually managing it and
25 you're actually watching the resource, you'll see that
26 there's an impact and if there is an impact do
27 something about it. But prior to having a problem,
28 it's typical micro-management is what it is, you know,
29 for lack of a better way of putting it.

30

31 So.....

32

33 MR. RICE: Well, it's interesting what
34 you say, in terms of the Kobuk River Valley where
35 people are allowed to collect birch bark and spruce
36 root materials, et cetera, and talking to Peter Nylak,
37 who's been a botanist up there for decades, he says, we
38 just don't see any evidence of damages, we just don't
39 see it, and that's been going on for three decades now,
40 so there is -- that makes your point there and we
41 recognize that in the EA. We make that statement in
42 here.

43

44 The caribou collection -- the connex
45 box fulls, I mean it's just people just taking caribou
46 antlers off -- and frankly in the '70s, I don't know,
47 some of you may have heard about this in the '70s, the
48 Western Arctic Caribou Herd took a dive, people were
49 slaughtering caribou, hauling them out there, I don't
50 know if there's any limit, they'd start heading home,

1 they'd see some caribou closer, they wouldn't -- they
2 couldn't take them all out in their sleds in their
3 first shot, you know, they go back find some other
4 caribou closer, well, fuel's expensive, take the ones
5 that are closer, they left the ones out there, wolf
6 population went up, Western Arctic Caribou Herd took a
7 nose drive and went down from, you know, several
8 hundred thousand to 75,000 fast, and that's about when
9 antlers were being shipped out, too, and the elders
10 said this is has got to stop and it stopped, and the
11 herd's gone back up.

12

13 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: See, to me that is a
14 rare exception. I.....

15

16 MR. RICE: Yeah.

17

18 CHAIRMAN LOHSE:think of -- you
19 know I think of what the moose population was up in the
20 Wrangells back in the late 60s and 70s and even then
21 you would never have gone up there and -- I mean there
22 was moose all over the place but you still would have
23 trouble collecting enough moose antlers.....

24

25 MR. RICE: Yeah, uh-huh.

26

27 CHAIRMAN LOHSE:to fill a connex
28 box with one.

29

30 MR. RICE: Yeah. Yeah.

31

32 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: But what I'm thinking
33 of is -- and, see, this is the part probably that I
34 didn't realize that I cut a dimond willow to make a
35 walking staff or a cane and sell it, that's illegal if
36 it's on Park or Preserve.....

37

38 MR. RICE: Yeah.

39

40 CHAIRMAN LOHSE:land at this
41 point in time.

42

43 MR. RICE: Yeah.

44

45 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: But I would challenge
46 anybody to go out and find out and see the impact where
47 I cut that piece of dimond willow and if I didn't cut
48 it it's going to be dead in 10 years anyhow type thing,
49 you know.

50

1 Judy.

2

3 MS. CAMINER: I think this is a great
4 effort but it needs to go hand in hand with an
5 education effort and I think, you know, everybody would
6 support proceeding with changing the current
7 regulation, especially because it's really responsive
8 to some activities that are going on right now and
9 perhaps it's legalizing activities where people did not
10 know it was not right, and it also satisfies the need
11 for those people who do want to make customary and
12 traditional products for themselves or for sale, so --
13 but I really think a big educational effort needs to be
14 done at the same time just to make it go smoother.

15

16 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: I agree with Judy
17 there. And I do like -- I like the first steps that
18 you've taken in D or C, whichever one you want to call
19 it, whichever one you look at that, but when you're
20 dealing with subsistence you're supposed to make the
21 regulation the least hardship that you can. And the
22 idea -- and one of my ideas has always been, is you
23 don't do things to make people do things illegally, if
24 at all possible. And if there's not a problem, I mean,
25 I was reading the other day it says that currently -- I
26 can't 'remember what city it is, we have 43,582 laws
27 written to enforce the 10 Commandments, you know, I
28 mean that's -- basically we can do that, and to me --
29 and I see that a lot of times in fishery stuff and
30 biology stuff, it's just micro-management. Now, oh, my
31 gosh, the ptarmigan are going down this year we better
32 shorten the season, ptarmigan are going up this year,
33 we better lengthen the season, but in 100 years the
34 ptarmigan go up and down, and up and down, and up and
35 down and up and down and they end up the same at the
36 end of 100. Why not take -- I mean you do need to know
37 who's eligible, and you should have discretionary
38 powers, if there's a problem, to apply the
39 discretionary powers, but you shouldn't have mandatory
40 reporting if there's no problem, or mandatory
41 permitting if there's no problem, or mandatory
42 conditions if there's no problem. I mean if there's a
43 problem with one, if there's a -- if there's something
44 that's a problem you address the problem, you don't sit
45 and try to figure out ahead of time, what are all the
46 potential problems we can have with this, now let's try
47 to address them by making laws to address them.

48

49 And I think from a subsistence
50 standpoint D would be a hardship.

1 MR. RICE: Well, that's an interesting
2 point. We got a really interesting letter from the
3 Cape Krusenstern and the Kobuk Valley SRC already.
4 Alex Whiting is working with Maniilaq Association and
5 he's saying, well, you're trying to make it legal for
6 people up here that are -- that have been collecting
7 these materials from time immemorial, was the language
8 in his letter, he said but now if you're going to
9 require a permit, they're still going to be illegal, so
10 now you just make them from one set of illegal to
11 another set of illegal, he says, we don't think that
12 makes any sense for us.

13

14 (Laughter)

15

16 MR. RICE: So that was his comment, and
17 that's what we need to hear.

18

19 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Yeah, that's.....

20

21 MR. RICE: It didn't make any sense and
22 so he said, you know, if the -- we can support
23 Alternative C, they said, if the Regional Director
24 really thinks there's certain key areas where there's a
25 lot of public access and use, then that superintendent
26 can work with their local communities and figure out
27 what works for but -- but don't make it mandatory
28 permitting for everybody all over the state, it just
29 doesn't make any sense. He says, we -- we're leaning
30 on our superintendent to not require permits in
31 Northwest Alaska, we're pretty certain we can get that
32 done, and the superintendent was sitting there and he
33 was kind of nodding his head, he didn't say anything,
34 but he's not going to fight them on that, it's not
35 worth it.

36

37 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Tom.

38

39 MR. CARPENTER: Sometimes I always like
40 to remember and sometimes we forget that subsistence
41 hunting and gathering and fishing is also a very
42 opportunistic thing.

43

44 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Yeah.

45

46 MR. CARPENTER: You may be sheep
47 hunting, that may be your goal, but when you're out
48 sheep hunting you may come across something else that
49 satisfies you. And all the forethought that has to go
50 into going out in the woods anymore, you have to have

1 two lawyers and three backpacks to carry all the
2 permits and regulations that you need, and I just think
3 that sometimes it gets a little carried away. You
4 know, I mean I'm glad we mentioned the word amnesty,
5 and the reason I asked that question for you is, I
6 found numerous sheep sheds in the Park before, I mean
7 last year I found three. I didn't -- and usually I'm
8 pretty up on the regulations but, you know, somebody
9 isn't going to go into the mountains to look for sheep
10 sheds, it's just an opportunistic thing. And so for
11 somebody that's going to qualify to do this, which
12 isn't me, but for somebody that is going to qualify, to
13 pick up a sheep horn, you know, to make something out
14 of it, and the sheep horns are somewhat valuable,
15 depending on what you're going to do with it, I think
16 it just needs to be the less restrictions on that
17 person to do it, the better.

18

19 MR. RICE: I agree with that mostly but
20 we did have an occasion on the north side of the Gates
21 of the Arctic, the guy's flying around in small planes
22 in the springtime and he was hunting for sheep horn
23 sheds, and they die in avalanches, you know, steep
24 north slopes. And I've seen that in mountain goats in
25 Kenai Fjords, too, they get caught in avalanches and
26 you'll find them at basically chutes if you look at the
27 right time of year. So this guy was flying around,
28 finally the Rangers caught him, he was not a local
29 subsistence hunter by any means, but he was out there
30 and he was getting a lot of horns and he was selling
31 them and he was making a bundle and so we put a stop to
32 it. But that wouldn't -- we're not addressing that
33 here.

34

35 But I have talked to local folks on the
36 Cape Krusenstern SRC and I won't mention names, but
37 there's a guy who says, wow, I go out in the mountains
38 and I find -- I know where to find the sheep sheds and
39 I got museum people that know that I find this stuff
40 and make, you know, sheep stuff and various museums
41 call me up and they're giving me a pretty penny for
42 these things so I'm already doing this, he's doing it.
43 It's not a whole bunch of money but he can make, you
44 know, a few thousand bucks here and there.

45

46 So we have to be careful -- we do have
47 to be careful that we don't blow it open, wide open to
48 the whole public and then pretty soon we do have people
49 flying around in planes and picking stuff up.

50

1 Another report of a guy out of
2 Wrangells, over towards out of Yakutat, our Ranger
3 there knows of a guy that flies around in his SuperCub
4 and he is hunting for moose antlers and he finds a lot
5 and he's got a garage full of them in Yakutat. That's
6 not what we're -- I'm not sure that's what we want, you
7 know, we want to facilitate the person to do the
8 opportunistic collection and make something that's
9 valuable for personal or family use or maybe make
10 something and sell it, that's fine. But if you're out
11 there scouring the countryside with airplanes and stuff
12 then that takes the opportunity away from others,
13 nobody else is going to find that stuff.

14
15 MR. CARPENTER: No, I understand that.

16
17 MR. RICE: One guy's taking it all.

18
19 MR. CARPENTER: I agree with you there,
20 but.....

21
22 MR. RICE: Yeah.

23
24 MR. CARPENTER:you also have to
25 remember that there's going to be certain restrictions
26 on who's going to be able to do this, this isn't just
27 the general public, any Joe Blow with a SuperCub isn't
28 going to be able to do this. So the amount of people
29 that are going to be able to do it is pretty limited
30 anyway. So I think you have to take that into account.

31
32 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Judy.

33
34 MS. CAMINER: Thanks, Mr. Chair. I
35 mean it would seem like -- first of all I don't know if
36 the person from Yakutat was making them into
37 handicrafts or people are just taking these and selling
38 them, which would not be allowed under the regulation,
39 and secondly if the regulation would include something
40 about an amount that's allowed, and maybe that could be
41 done in consultation with the RACs or SRCs, I think
42 that's reasonable to people here, too, rather than --
43 it sounds like the permit system is just too much of a
44 burden for folks.

45
46 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Can I ask you a
47 question, is -- if I remember right an airplane is not
48 a legal subsistence thing.....

49
50 MR. RICE: True.

1 CHAIRMAN LOHSE:for taking
2 subsistence game in a National Park or Preserve -- you
3 can for the Preserve.

4
5 MR. CARPENTER: In the Preserve.

6
7 MR. RICE: I think in the Preserve you
8 can because a regular sporthunter can so if a
9 sporthunter can use an aircraft, why shouldn't be a
10 subsistence person be able to, why would they be more
11 handicapped than somebody from the general public.

12
13 So in Preserves that's not correct, but
14 for Parks and Monuments that is correct.

15
16 MS. CELLARIUS: What the regulation
17 says is that you can't use aircraft to access the Park
18 for the purposes of harvesting fish or wildlife. In the
19 EA, what we have proposed is that there be a similar
20 restriction if you're accessing the Park. I'm not sure
21 what -- about -- I'm not sure about scouting. So you
22 would have to walk or take a horse or an ATV if you
23 were in the Park for the purposes of doing the
24 collection but I don't know that we've addressed the
25 issue of scouting.

26
27 MR. RICE: Barbara thought of something
28 new again.

29
30 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Well, I think under
31 Federal law you couldn't -- under FAA law you couldn't
32 very well restrict scouting because there's no way you
33 can restrict the flyover.

34
35 MR. RICE: We don't control the air
36 space, that's right.

37
38 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: You know. Unless --
39 Gloria.

40
41 MS. STICKWAN: I was reading Page 23,
42 it says the superintendents would restrict collections
43 under the closure authority and use of compendia to
44 protect resources and with evidence of damage or
45 scarcity. From what I understand, from reading that,
46 the superintendent would have the authority to do
47 closure if there's a scarcity of the resources, right,
48 so if they see someone scouting from -- and they know
49 they're up there, you know, you can tell who's scouting
50 and not scouting I would think, and they would be out

1 there protecting the resources, I mean that's what they
2 do, that's their job to do, is to protect the
3 resources.

4

5 I don't really think we need to have a
6 permit in place and I don't think we need to have an
7 amount in place of how much you can collect. I think
8 we need to just -- I like B, and I like the part about
9 the education part of it, educate the public on what
10 they can collect and just to respect the resources and
11 not place the burden on the subsistence users to have
12 to go to get a permit just to get an antler off the
13 ground.

14

15 MR. RICE: The other issue I didn't
16 talk about, we had an interesting discussion with
17 Denali SRC and a woman from Cantwell said, and I've
18 been to her house and she's got antlers all over the
19 roof, everything, moose, caribou, she says, well, how
20 do you know where I got these antlers, I got BLM land
21 over here, I got Park Service land here, you know, and
22 State land over here, it's like, uh, I mean how are you
23 going to track this and it's like -- and am I supposed
24 to do something different with the antlers I got out of
25 the Park and the ones I got over in BLM land and
26 everybody kind of chuckled and we looked around and
27 it's like, yeah, that's kind of ridiculous.

28

29 And then the other comment from Martha
30 Whiting, up the Borough Mayor, the Northwest Arctic
31 Borough, she's like, I don't always know exactly when
32 I've stepped over the line from BLM into Park Service
33 or State land or NANA land, I mean we just treat the
34 whole place as our own, and we're not going around with
35 GPS units, we don't know exactly when we're in the Park
36 or out of the Park so this is just a little bit
37 ridiculous. So one of the things we're trying to do
38 with this regulation is to be a little bit more
39 consistent with how neighboring lands are treated so
40 that people are allowed to collect these things,
41 because they're doing it elsewhere and they don't
42 always know where they are exactly.

43

44 Now, if you're in the middle of
45 Wrangell-St. Elias, a big area, then you should know
46 you're in the Park, but even there you might have AHTNA
47 Corporation lands so I mean it gets confusing to people
48 out there and we recognize that and so we want to be
49 reasonable. But I appreciate this conversation. I
50 think, you know, I'm hearing a lot of good stuff,

1 getting some good feedback and I encourage you people
2 to put a letter together and it should go to the
3 Regional Director, not to me, the cover letter says
4 send it to Bud Rice, it'll come to me, and I'll gather
5 all this stuff and give it to her, but it really should
6 be directed to the Regional Director with your thoughts
7 and your comments.

8

9 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Any more questions.
10 Greg.

11

12 MR. ENCELEWSKI: Well, I was just going
13 to make a comment, and we've been going a long time.
14 Very interesting subject but, you know, all my
15 collecting is on State land, but, anyway.....

16

17 (Laughter)

18

19 MR. ENCELEWSKI:just wanted to
20 let you know that.

21

22 (Laughter)

23

24 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay.

25

26 (Laughter)

27

28 MR. ENCELEWSKI: But, you know, I'm for
29 the least regulations and allowing the opportunity for
30 the subsistence user to pick up what he finds and as he
31 goes. But the problem being, I'm seeing a little bit,
32 even on the Kenai, I'm just going to throw this out
33 there, you know, it's just not the subsistence user
34 that's opportunists, it's everyone. And I know moose
35 horns, we talked about it this morning, the shortage of
36 moose, everyone on the Kenai collects moose horns,
37 snowmachines, they fight for them, you can't find them
38 anymore, that may not be a bad thing because like Ralph
39 said the mouse is going to get the leftovers anyway,
40 but the other thing is, in things that happened, like
41 the birch bark and the bowls, I do burrows and I do --
42 I cut spoons for the Banya and so on and so forth, but
43 -- in State land again.

44

45 (Laughter)

46

47 MR. ENCELEWSKI: But, anyway, that has
48 become a thriving business. And they are cutting those
49 birch up like it's going out of style, everywhere. And
50 the only reason it ain't got to the Federal lands, even

1 though it's not a Park, it's just a little further to
2 go, but they're getting there.

3

4 Just for thought.

5

6 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Uh. And I thought I
7 was the only one doing it.

8

9 (Laughter)

10

11 MR. CARPENTER: When will this
12 determination be made?

13

14 MR. RICE: Good question. So we'll
15 have -- the comment period ends April 7 for most unless
16 we have an extension, and one of the things we're
17 discussing, if we have an extension for the Gates SRC,
18 maybe we should just extend it for everybody. But the
19 Regional Director hasn't made that decision yet. We
20 got the letter, we've drafted a response, but we're
21 having some internal discussion.

22

23 In any event, we get all the comments,
24 and then the Regional Director would make a decision on
25 what we finding and no significant impact. Because
26 when we did the analysis, we just didn't find there was
27 going to be a significant impact to, you know,
28 wildlife, vegetation or anything from these kinds of
29 activities, so we don't think we're going to have to do
30 an EIS for this thing, which is why we started with an
31 EA in the first place. So then we could proceed right
32 to that decision. The next step then is we would look
33 at these draft regulations, depending on the
34 alternative we select or a mix of alternatives, if we
35 mix B and C, or C and D, whatever, then we'll start
36 drafting some regulations, we go out for public comment
37 on the regulations.

38

39 So I would recommend you folks look at
40 this Appendix A that has the draft regulations, if you
41 think it's B or C, it's like, is that really how we
42 want this to read, and we have a definition, by the
43 way, of handicrafts, what a handicraft is and we're
44 using the same definition that the State uses on State
45 lands so that it's not confusing again, so it's the
46 same definition for all lands, you know, Federal and
47 State lands. And we did that on purpose so that the
48 State wouldn't beat us up on the definition of
49 handicraft, we're already using their language, and we
50 think it's fine language.

1 (Laughter)

2

3 MR. RICE: So the next step is to do
4 the regulation. And usually what we do is a lot of
5 times we'll -- what's the right word, we'll do a
6 package of regulations in one shot for the Alaska
7 region because it's a big effort through the Federal
8 Register and stuff.....

9

10 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: A bundle.

11

12 MR. RICE: Yeah, in a bundle, that's
13 the word, a bundle. We'll bundle some regulations and
14 put them out there and get comments. But I think, you
15 know, the EA and if we get a reasonable alternative, if
16 we get the Regional Director selecting an alternative
17 that, you know, works for everybody, the next step is
18 the regulation, and we've already sort of drafted the
19 language, I don't think it's going to take that long.
20 We were kind of wanting to do this as one step, but
21 everybody said, no, we can't do that, because we might
22 want to tweak that language and give the public another
23 shot at the language, but it's not very big. The
24 regulations is just a small little piece. The EA --
25 we'll just refer people to the EA, here's the analysis,
26 not much impact, we're not going to go through all that
27 again, we're going to focus on the language in
28 regulation and it's just fine-tuning that and I think
29 then it's accepted, once the regulation passes, good to
30 go.

31

32 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Any other questions.

33

34 (No comments)

35

36 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Do we want to take
37 action as a Council. I'm sitting here looking at our
38 Wrangell-St.Elias National Park Subsistence Resource
39 Commission's letter and I could see us putting in
40 something similar that addresses some of the concerns
41 that we've put -- brought forward at this point in
42 time. We could use some of it, we could do our own, we
43 could take a look at -- we could, quickly, as a
44 Council, take a look at those alternatives or at least
45 take a look at the elements of those alternatives and
46 see what we would think of as a Council, which way to
47 go, or we could each submit our own personal
48 recommendations or I'm sure all of the comments that
49 have been made here go to her, too. It's just that I
50 think it might have more of an impact if we, as a

1 Council, have a letter directly to her.

2

3 So first of all, do we think we even
4 need a regulation.

5

6 MR. CARPENTER: Uh-huh.

7

8 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: And I think that's
9 been shown that we need a regulation. A lot of us have
10 been doing things that we didn't even have any idea you
11 couldn't do, you know, so I would say, yes, we do need
12 a regulation.

13

14 I think that the part on the edibility
15 of the persons, and I'm looking at the SRC's letter and
16 it says the number potentially -- potentially eligible
17 individuals in the Park under Alternative B is
18 relatively small. As has been pointed because of the
19 wolf issue, it's not as small as we thought, but if we
20 took Alternative C or Alternative D, that would limit
21 it to a smaller number, and it would actually be people
22 who are subsistence qualified for that individual Park
23 or Preserve.

24

25 Any other comments.

26

27 Does anybody else have any comment on
28 that.

29

30 Judy.

31

32 MS. CAMINER: I think that's a good
33 point, Mr. Chair. I was looking at that myself, that
34 perhaps we'd take a look and recommend, and almost the
35 hybrid here, and that maybe the eligibility as
36 described in C would make more sense.

37

38 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Well, the eligibility
39 described in C would go along with our SRC, and I say,
40 our, because I'm a resident of Wrangell-St. Elias
41 National Park, our SRC's recommendation in their
42 letter, they say the number of potentially eligible
43 individuals in the Park under Alternative B, or you
44 could say under C or D, is relatively small. And
45 that's why I don't think the impact -- and I'll have to
46 go along with that, I don't believe that the impact is
47 going to be any conservation concern.

48

49 So I think that if it's okay with
50 everybody in our letter, we could go to the slightly

1 more restrictive eligibility, if that's okay with the
2 rest of the Council.

3

4 Do I hear any comments on that.

5

6 MR. BLOSSOM: You're saying D?

7

8 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: No, I'm taking a look
9 at -- no, we're looking under the elements on
10 eligibility and C and D are the same and they're a
11 little bit more restrictive than B, because B basically
12 makes everybody in the State eligible because
13 everybody's qualified to hunt wolf in Wrangell-
14 St.Elias.

15

16 Tom.

17

18 MR. CARPENTER: Thank you, Mr.

19 Chairman.

20

21 Actually I might tend to agree with the
22 Wrangell-St.Elias SRC more picking Alternative B, and
23 the reason I say that is I understand what you're
24 saying in regards to the way they have it written,
25 finding for any wildlife species, but in Alternative C
26 it's discretionary, up to the superintendent in
27 consultation with the SRC if permits are to be issued.
28 And I think from the discussion that I've been hearing,
29 that one of the big things here is the permit
30 qualifying factor. And I'm just not a real big
31 proponent of that idea.1

32

33 If that language wanted to be rewritten
34 to where it -- instead of any wildlife, it was very
35 specific and left wolf out so that it was very specific
36 to the people that really have, you know, a 1344
37 community or a personal permit, I think that takes the
38 whole permitting question out of it. But, you know, it
39 still is going to really limit the amount of people
40 that are going to be able to participate.

41

42 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: I agree with you Tom
43 in some ways. I would stick with, like they said in
44 Wrangell-St. Elias, I would stick with B for the first
45 one and I'd stick with B for all of the last ones, but
46 I would use -- I think they did a good job in C and D
47 on the eligible persons because what they did was they
48 refined what was said in B. So I think what Judy was
49 saying, if we do a hybrid.....

50

1 MR. CARPENTER: Okay.
2
3 CHAIRMAN LOHSE:and we take --
4 and we go through each one of these parts and we take
5 the part out of any one of them that we like best we
6 could do that and I would say that at this point in
7 time if we have -- we do think there's a need for one,
8 we want to make a potentially eligible numbers fairly
9 small, and what -- the way it's written in C or D does
10 that and still allows anybody who is a subsistence user
11 in the Park area to do it. And then we go down to
12 address requests to allow collections and we would want
13 -- we probably would agree with a yes, we want to
14 address those things.
15
16 MR. CARPENTER: I gotcha.
17
18 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: But then we come down
19 to conditions placed, and which of those would we want,
20 a, no, a discretionary or a mandatory.
21
22 MR. CARPENTER: I gotcha. No, I would
23 agree with that. I see what you're saying now.
24
25 So basically we would go with
26 Alternative B but we would include for eligibility
27 persons for Parks and Preserves, we would include the
28 language that's submitted in Alternative C, to
29 substitute for that.
30
31 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: If that's the wish of
32 this Council.
33
34 MR. CARPENTER: I would be in favor of
35 that.
36
37 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Anybody else.
38
39 (No comments)
40
41 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Do we have a motion.
42
43 MR. BLOSSOM: Mr. Chair.
44
45 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Doug.
46
47 MR. BLOSSOM: I would rather go with
48 the Wrangell-St. Elias and go B all the way. But
49 that's my opinion.
50

1 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Gloria.

2

3 MS. STICKWAN: When we talked about it,
4 we didn't see this as a conservation concern and so
5 that's why we chose B. You know the Wrangell-St.Elias
6 Park in our area, we haven't seen it so far, an impact
7 to the resources, we don't think that it will be in the
8 near future and if and when it does, the superintendent
9 has the authority to close the -- closure of whatever
10 resources that are going to be maybe potentially harmed
11 in the future. They have that authority to close it.
12 And because of that authority, you know, if there's
13 damage to the -- you know what I'm saying, they have
14 that authority to close it.

15

16 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: That's the way I would
17 look it Gloria. They have that authority right now.

18

19 MS. STICKWAN: And they -- to make
20 people to go and get a permit just to get something off
21 the land, that just doesn't, I don't know, I just think
22 that a lot of education should be done to the public if
23 they're going to, you know, to educate the public is
24 the best way to do it.

25

26 It just makes a hardship on people that
27 live off the road system, have to go to Wrangell-St.
28 Elias to get a permit, you know, to have to drive up
29 there, I mean it just adds a burden to the people that
30 have to live there, and, I don't know.

31

32 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Well, if anybody would
33 like to make a motion, set something up, we could --
34 Greg.

35

36 MR. ENCELEWSKI: Well, I'd make a
37 motion and I hope this will fly but I make a motion to
38 use the eligibility restrictions in C, and the reason
39 for that is it allows the subsistence users -- and then
40 using the rest of no exception to all the other
41 conditions to be placed under B.

42

43 MR. CARPENTER: Second.

44

45 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay. It's been moved
46 and seconded that we support Alternative B, using the
47 eligibility requirements for C.

48

49 Any further discussion.

50

1 (No comments)
2
3 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Does anybody see a
4 need for anything else at this point in time.
5
6 (No comments)
7
8 MR. CARPENTER: Question.
9
10 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Question's been
11 called. And we'll have you write the letter for us --
12 okay. Question's been called, all in favor signify by
13 saying aye.
14
15 IN UNISON: Aye.
16
17 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: All opposed, signify
18 by saying nay.
19
20 (No opposing votes)
21
22 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Motion carries
23 unanimously and we'll send that letter in support. And
24 so basically we're supporting our Resource Council with
25 just a slight change in eligibility requirements.
26
27 And I thank.....
28
29 MR. RICE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
30 Good conversation, we appreciate your time.
31
32 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: And I thank you for
33 the work that you've done on this, and the education
34 you've just provided some of us.
35
36 MR. CARPENTER: Yeah, no kidding.
37
38 (Laughter)
39
40 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: I'll make sure that do
41 cut my dimond willow on either road right-of-way,
42 private land or university land from now on.
43
44 (Laughter)
45
46 MR. CARPENTER: I'm pretty sure you
47 won't need to worry about that.
48
49 (Laughter)
50

1 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Now, with that we are
2 going to review changes to the Council charter. Do we
3 have any changes to our Council charter that anybody on
4 this Council wishes to bring up, and, Melinda, have you
5 got something for us?
6

7 MS. HERNANDEZ: I do. In your folders
8 that I placed before you this morning, it's either a
9 yellow or a red color, I printed out an email that Carl
10 Johnson had sent to the Washington office, that he
11 noticed some changes to the charter this year when he
12 received the charters and the appointment letters.
13 Unfortunately I meant to print off the one that had the
14 responses that he received from the Washington office,
15 I'm not sure if the Council's had a chance to kind of
16 review those but I've got the email here on my computer
17 and I can speak to those changes now.
18

19 For number 1, the Southeast,
20 Southcentral and the YK-Delta, the membership had been
21 reduced from 13 members to 10, that one, Carl, has
22 taken care of that. So that one doesn't -- that one
23 isn't really concerning to us.
24

25 Number 2 -- oh, I'm sorry, Judy, go
26 ahead.
27

28 MS. CAMINER: But taken care of it how?
29

30 MS. HERNANDEZ: Carl had -- back in
31 December Carl had sent an email to Krista there in the
32 Washington office, and number 1 they went ahead and
33 left the 13 members as it was on those three Councils.
34

35 And then in Number 2, the second change
36 in section 4A of the charter, the words, recommend the
37 initiation of were replaced with initiate. So it
38 doesn't really seem like much has changed there. The
39 response from the Washington office states, these RACs
40 are advisory and their duties should reflect that.
41 Everything they do is a recommendation, it doesn't keep
42 them from sending anything to the Federal Subsistence
43 Board.
44

45 Number 3, just a quick highlight. If
46 the Council does need to call a meeting they should
47 just do it through the Council coordinator out of the
48 one to two meeting cycles that are scheduled, to make
49 that request, to go ahead and put that through the
50 process at OSM.

1 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: So that would
2 basically give the Council Chair the authority to call
3 an emergency meeting.....
4
5 MS. HERNANDEZ: Yeah.
6
7 CHAIRMAN LOHSE:if he felt it was
8 necessary?
9
10 MS. HERNANDEZ: Yeah. And you'll just
11 do that through your DFO. Not a whole lot is changing
12 there.
13
14 Number 4. With the procedures for
15 filling of vacancies, it actually worked really well
16 for this Council. Elsie originally had been an
17 alternate, the person who was originally appointed
18 turned out that she actually lived in the boundary of
19 the Eastern Interior Council, so the response from the
20 Washington office with that change was, this year
21 alternates were vetted so it was really easy to go
22 ahead and place someone like Elsie who had already been
23 through the process, and through that last minute
24 vacancy, through the resignation of that member who
25 wasn't actually living in the Western Interior -- or
26 I'm sorry, the Southcentral region.
27
28 And then in the last one, regarding the
29 removal of members. That language is going to be
30 placed into the regional operations manual, that's
31 going through a change and review, and as soon as we
32 get a new version of that, we'll get that out to the
33 RACs immediately.
34
35 But if there's any other questions that
36 any of the Council members have, I can try to answer
37 those or find an answer for you. But Carl did a really
38 great job of catching these changes. Normally, Ralph,
39 I'm sure you know that the charters come through and
40 they usually are just the same from year to year but
41 Carl noticed these changes this year so we appreciate
42 that.
43
44 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: So these are the
45 changes that are being recommended or were recommended?
46
47 MS. HERNANDEZ: They were recommended.
48
49 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay.
50

1 MS. HERNANDEZ: And what I'll do is
2 this email that has the responses, I'll make sure that
3 the Council members get a copy of that. I printed off
4 the wrong document last night.

5
6 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay. So there's no
7 action needed on our part?

8
9 MS. HERNANDEZ: No.

10
11 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Thank you. So we're
12 -- any questions or any comments on any of these at
13 this point in time. Does anybody have a problem with
14 the Council Chair being able to call a meeting?

15
16 MR. CARPENTER: Unh-unh.

17
18 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay.

19
20 Then we had E and F. E was one that
21 Mr. Henrichs wanted to put on, remember.

22
23 MR. HENRICHS: Yeah.

24
25 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Do you remember what
26 it was?

27
28 MR. HENRICHS: I know exactly what it
29 was.

30
31 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay. Would you give
32 it to us.

33
34 MR. HENRICHS: There's a lot of people
35 that have concerns over the number of moose that the
36 Alaska Railroad has killed. And this year it's an
37 alarming number. Every moose that they kill puts more
38 pressure on the other moose herds in the state. And
39 they have been approached to do diversionary feeding to
40 get the moose off the railroad tracks. The State has
41 backed diversionary feeding to get the moose off the
42 highways to cut down on the number of collisions. And,
43 you know, and the moose kill -- and then people getting
44 hurt. But the railroad executive said they weren't
45 interested in doing that. And they go across Federal
46 lands, State lands, Native Corporation lands. They may
47 be required to do EIS and follow NEPA, yet, they don't
48 seem to be a very good neighbor. And I think that they
49 need to start working to cut down the number of moose
50 that they kill. And with the price of oil being what

1 it is today, the value of a moose in rural Alaska is
2 about 8,000 bucks for meat. And it's the difference
3 for a family in rural Alaska whether they eat good that
4 winter or they don't and it may even mean that they are
5 able to stay in the village and not have to move into
6 Anchorage.

7

8 And to waste this very valuable
9 subsistence resource, it's a crime. I mean they're
10 slaughtering those moose. They need to show us that
11 they're going to be a good neighbor to us.

12

13 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Have they got any
14 requirement to recover and distribute those moose or
15 they just allowed just to kill them and let them lay.

16

17 MR. HENRICHS: Let them lay. Hell, in
18 the spring go look at all of those bridges on the
19 railroad and see how dead moose carcasses are at the
20 bottom of them. I don't think they recover any of
21 them. I don't know but I don't think they do. I know
22 that the Moose Federation has picked up a lot of dead
23 moose on the highway and in one 24 hour period we
24 picked 15 of them up, and they all go to charity. And
25 the best part about that is half an hour and they're
26 gone. In the old days, these troopers would lock down
27 the highway and you'd get people out there from a
28 charity that had never cut up a moose in their lives
29 and they're blocking that highway up and then you get
30 them at 2:00 in the morning and some of those people
31 had been drinking, you know, so it's pretty
32 interesting. That part has worked real well.

33

34 But we need to kind of jab the Alaska
35 Railroad in the butt and tell them to start being a
36 good neighbor and stop killing the moose like they're
37 doing.

38

39 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Has diversionary
40 feeding worked?

41

42 MR. HENRICHS: They're doing it right
43 now.

44

45 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Has it worked?

46

47 MR. HENRICHS: Yeah, it's working.

48

49 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Because we have a lot
50 of diversionary feeding in our area but it's not called

1 that, it's called trying to feed your animals, and
2 basically what it does is it brings the moose back and
3 forth across the road to get into different hay piles
4 and I'm just wondering how the railroad could put
5 enough hay out in different places to keep the moose
6 away from the railroad when the reason the moose are on
7 the railroad is the same reason they're on the road, is
8 because there's no snow. I mean that's -- they get on
9 to the railroad, you got four of snow, five foot of
10 snow on each side and they get down onto the railroad
11 and they run ahead of the train rather than go off,
12 just like they do on the road.

13

14 MR. HENRICHS: Well, we've got Sno-Cats
15 and we put trails, five miles off of the road and areas
16 for them and then we haul this haylage out there.....

17

18 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: I love it.

19

20 MR. HENRICHS:it comes in four
21 foot bales and they get out there and they're
22 accustomed -- they can get out there and it's kind of
23 changing their behavior, that they know there is
24 something to eat out there. NC, Northern Commercial,
25 has donated a tractor for us to go make trails off the
26 road, you know, and it's something that we're going to
27 do every year. We may not feed them every year but
28 there's a good chance we may. And the goal is to
29 increase the moose population in Alaska and making a
30 sustainable resource, because it's a very, very
31 valuable resource. And they do this in Norway.

32

33 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Yeah. Well, they like
34 the haylage, there's no question about that. They'll
35 pass up the hay for haylage.

36

37 MR. HENRICHS; Yeah. And they pack it
38 in bales with visqueen to keep it moist and they can
39 smell that a long ways away.

40

41 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Oh, you bet they can.

42

43 MR. HENRICHS: So that's what we're
44 feeding them. And actually we've had over 100 people
45 donate money to buy that stuff. And then the State
46 approved us using some of the money that we got in our
47 grant to buy haylage so we're doing it now and we've
48 established several feeding stations.

49

50 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: You must have one on

1 the Chickaloon Road.

2

3 MR. HENRICHS: Probably do.

4

5 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Yeah, I think.....

6

7 MR. HENRICHS: I don't know exactly
8 where they are. We had some guys here earlier that
9 were going to talk about it but they had a meeting to
10 go to. But I'm all for giving the Alaska Railroad
11 little jab in the butt and tell them to start being a
12 good neighbor.

13

14 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: How would you suggest
15 that they do it, considering the fact that a lot of the
16 railroad goes through the areas that's not road
17 accessible?

18

19 MR. HENRICHS: Well, you could get in
20 there, just figure a way, we could do anything, all we
21 got to do is figure a way to do it. I mean you know
22 that. Hell, you've been around a little while.

23

24 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: I want you to put it
25 on the table, that's what I'm asking you for.

26

27 MR. HENRICHS: Yeah, I don't see a
28 problem, we have Sno-Cats, we got snowmachines, we got
29 everything we need to go do it and the main thing is,
30 like make a trail five miles off of the right-of-way
31 and then put haylage out there for them to feed, hell,
32 they'll come to that, it's just a matter of doing it.

33

34 You know, we have private individuals
35 call us up and say, we got some moose in our yard and
36 they're starving and I said well we can't tell you to
37 feed them but if you want to store some of this haylage
38 on your yard, if they break into it, that's not your
39 fault.

40

41 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Yeah, they do.
42 There's no question. We have a lot of problems around
43 that issue with exactly that, and they like the haylage
44 much better than just the round bales, that's for sure.

45

46 MR. HENRICHS: A guy's got 4,000 bales
47 out here.

48

49 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Now, does the Alaska
50 Railroad even have to report the moose that they hit?

1 MR. HENRICHS: I don't think they do.
2 You got somebody down there.

3
4 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Go ahead.

5
6 MR. McLAUGHLIN: Mr. Chair. Is there
7 an annual mortality that the Railroad does, or do we
8 know numbers, you know, if these moose are \$8,000
9 apiece in meat, apply that to how much hundreds of
10 moose are killed and hit up the Railroad and say, hey,
11 this is how much dollars -- is there an annual
12 mortality rate that we know, on average.

13
14 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Yeah. Well, how --
15 okay, this is -- you've come up with the idea, how
16 would you suggest that we, as a RAC, approach this or
17 what would you like to see coming from the RAC, Mr.
18 Henrichs.

19
20 MR. HENRICHS: I'd like to see us write
21 a letter to the Railroad and tell them they're killing
22 too many moose and they ought to consider some ways to
23 cut down on moose mortalities, and give them kind of a
24 warning shot. At some point some tribe is going to
25 write the Federal agencies and ask for government to
26 government tribal consultation over this, at some
27 point.

28
29 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Especially where it
30 crosses Federal land, or private.....

31
32 MR. HENRICHS: Well, if you put -- the
33 killing of moose on the Railroad affects the moose
34 herds in your area, whether you're there or not, it
35 affects the moose in your area because it puts more
36 pressure on it, so you don't have to be right there.

37
38 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Would there be any way
39 to provide them with an incentive to salvage as much
40 moose as they can -- I mean it seems to me that they've
41 got track walking machines that have got cranes on
42 them, that if they were required to, when they hit a
43 moose, go out with one of those machines and retrieve
44 that moose as soon as possible. That'd put a lot of
45 incentive on them to do something to keep the moose off
46 the tracks to start off with.

47
48 MR. HENRICHS: I'm sure it would and
49 maybe that's something that a guy would want to throw
50 in there. Although I think when they -- you know, some

1 of those trains that you're talking about are going to
2 be doing 60 miles an hour, you ain't going to have much
3 left if you hit a moose. I don't think I'd want to put
4 it in a food bank.

5

6 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Yeah. Judy.

7

8 MS. CAMINER: Well, it seems like it
9 would be good -- it certainly would be good, I think,
10 to write a letter to the Railroad, but before that we'd
11 probably need to do some research and find out if there
12 are numbers of how many have been killed and what their
13 requirements are for salvage and then invite them to
14 come and talk to us and see if we can come up with some
15 possible solutions. But I just don't -- we may not
16 have all the information at our disposal right now but
17 it would be good to find it out.

18

19 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Have they been willing
20 to talk to the Moose Federation?

21

22 MR. HENRICHS: We went to one of their
23 board meetings and asked them to consider diversionary
24 feeding to get the moose off the tracks and the board
25 never made a decision but the manager made the decision
26 they weren't interested. I always thought management
27 worked for the board, but who am I.

28

29 They just need a little prompting.

30

31 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Well, I agree with
32 Judy from the standpoint that we don't have all the
33 information that we need to be very specific, but we
34 could write a letter that it has been brought to our
35 attention that the impact of the Railroad on the moose
36 populations in Alaska is significant and we would
37 appreciate anything that they would do to alleviate
38 that impact. And that would at least let them know
39 that we're -- that we've heard about it, that we're
40 considering it, without, you know, going into numbers
41 or threats or anything like that, just let them know
42 that we have.

43

44 Would something like that be acceptable
45 to the rest of the Council.

46

47 MR. SHOWALTER: Also isn't that the
48 State, in other words, the people's railroad. Can we
49 also address that standpoint.

50

1 MR. CARPENTER: It's a private
2 corporation.
3
4 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: But it is a private
5 corporation now. It's supposed to be a profit making
6 corporation, too, I think.
7
8 Mr. Henrichs.
9
10 MR. HENRICHS: Many of the directors on
11 the board, the head of State agencies, so I just -- we
12 just need to get their attention a little bit.
13
14 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Tom.
15
16 MR. CARPENTER: Mr. Chairman. I agree
17 with you, I agree with Mr. Henrichs also, and some of
18 Judy's comments.
19
20 I recommend that we draft a short
21 letter saying that it's come to our attention that the
22 moose populations along the railroad corridor are being
23 significantly impacted in the winter and have an impact
24 on subsistence and State moose populations and that we
25 would encourage the Railroad to take any action
26 possible to lessen the impact the Railroad has on the
27 moose populations. And I also think that maybe at our
28 next meeting, the next time we're in Anchorage, that we
29 would ask them to come to our meeting and speak to our
30 concerns, just to see if they show up. I think maybe
31 that's a first step we could take and we'll see if we
32 get any response.
33
34 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Mr. Henrichs.
35
36 MR. HENRICHS: It doesn't have to be at
37 a meeting in Anchorage, either.
38
39 MR. CARPENTER: Well, that's true.
40
41 MR. HENRICHS: The next meeting.
42
43 MR. CARPENTER: The next meeting, yeah.
44
45 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay.
46
47 MS. MILLS: I know on the Kenai, it was
48 probably several years ago, we had a lot of snow and a
49 lot of the moose were dying, you know, just because
50 they couldn't get to their feed. And so I think it was

1 a group of snowmachiners took it upon themselves to go
2 out and make trails for the moose and then cut down
3 some of the trees and vegetation and I know that helped
4 them a lot. I mean it would be better than nothing.
5 And maybe something like that -- you know some
6 suggestions to the Railroad as to ideas of what they
7 can do to help mitigate the problem.

8
9 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: You could tell them
10 that they like sunflower seeds a lot better than they
11 like haylage.

12
13 (Laughter)

14
15 MR. CARPENTER: We had a motion.

16
17 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay. We have a
18 motion on the table. Any further discussion.

19
20 MR. CARPENTER: You need a second.

21
22 MS. MILLS: Call for the question.

23
24 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Do we have a second
25 for it.

26
27 MR. BLOSSOM: Second.

28
29 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: It's been seconded.
30 Okay.

31
32 MS. MILLS: Call for the question.

33
34 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Call for the question.
35 All in favor signify by saying aye.

36
37 IN UNISON: Aye.

38
39 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: All opposed signify by
40 saying nay.

41
42 (No opposing votes)

43
44 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: So we will have a
45 short letter -- Judy can you help Melinda and get that
46 out?

47
48 MS. CAMINER: Sure.

49
50 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay. Thank you, Mr.

1 Henrichs.

2

3 And, now, Judy, you had some things you
4 wanted to bring to our attention.

5

6 MS. CAMINER: Yes, thank you, Mr.
7 Chair.

8

9 I guess I got pretty spoiled by K.J.,
10 our former Council coordinator, and really appreciated
11 all of the information she sent out to us and I know
12 everybody's different and sometimes maybe lots of
13 information is not what you want in your inbox, but one
14 can pick and choose. I thought she did a great job
15 about informing us about Board actions and activities,
16 executive sessions, special actions, OSM news, I mean a
17 whole variety of topics, the Secretarial Review, and
18 she also branched out and gave us information on what
19 the Boards of Game, Boards of Fish were doing,
20 fisheries management council, military overflights,
21 where we had commented on that, you know, other
22 activities like mining or the natural gas pipelines,
23 just -- she really took a big picture and thought of
24 all the different proposals and activities that are out
25 there that might have an affect on this region, and I
26 think it really improved our connection to the Federal
27 Program to have that kind of information.

28

29 So I've been encouraging, Carl, that
30 with the new hire, that hopefully that person would
31 continue it, but I thought it would maybe be a good
32 idea to ask you all what kinds of information would be
33 valuable to you, just to help you stay involved in the
34 program, we only meet every six months, so what helps
35 you stay informed or involved?

36

37 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Gloria.

38

39 MS. STICKWAN: The Susitna Dam is
40 going to be built eventually, I'd like to see more
41 information about that. And the oil and gas -- the gas
42 line's going to be built someday and there's -- I'd
43 just like more information about that kind of stuff.

44

45 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Greg.

46

47 MR. ENCELEWSKI: Yeah, I just wanted to
48 kind of ditto what Judy said, I hate getting that
49 influx of mail but I can pick and choose and I do look
50 at some and trash some, but it was very helpful. I did

1 get an awful lot of information. And I know we're
2 going through a process of getting a new coordinator,
3 so I mean anything that I think that they could find
4 that might be relevant to our areas, or that we might
5 be taking and dealing with, it'd be good to get a
6 head's up on it, or some information.

7

8 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Judy.

9

10 MS. CAMINER: Mr. Chair. A couple more
11 thoughts would be, it's really helpful when we have
12 these meetings to see what the SRCs have done, or
13 perhaps what other RACs have done, but as those
14 summaries come out from each of the meetings, that'd
15 maybe be another example of what could be circulated to
16 us, just so we know what other Councils are doing and
17 what ideas are.

18

19 And one of the specifics that I forgot
20 to mention was climate change. We've been interested
21 in that for many years. Now, there are these new --
22 and Glenn says he's going on a detail to these
23 landscape climate centers, if that's the right name for
24 them, as well as I mentioned there is a new strategy
25 that's come out by the Federal government, that I think
26 it would be really useful for us to have a briefing on
27 at our next meeting.

28

29 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: I think a briefing on
30 that would be real good for our next meeting. You
31 know, one piece of information that I really hope our
32 next coordinator makes sure and gets to us is any
33 tribal consultation that takes place because that's on
34 issues that we're going to have on our plate.

35

36 Thank you, Judy.

37

38 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Do we want to have a
39 break -- oh, you got another one?

40

41 MS. CAMINER: I had one more issue,
42 it's a separate item.

43

44 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay.

45

46 MS. CAMINER: I had one more issue that
47 I mentioned earlier and that's a separate issue, and
48 that has to do with the regulatory schedule, probably
49 mostly for fisheries.

50

1 I think we all understand and accept
2 now that we're on a two year cycle for both wildlife
3 and fisheries but it seems like every January at the
4 fisheries meetings, when we have them, either several
5 people can't make it in or are really on edge because
6 it's so darn cold, particularly in the North and in the
7 Interior, sometimes they're preventing from getting to
8 the meetings on time because of the low temperatures or
9 they can't come because they're worried about their
10 family managing while they're away. So something for
11 consideration would be to make both, the fisheries
12 cycle and the wildlife cycle cover July 1 to June 30th,
13 it would be every other year but that might help the
14 workload for OSM and others just before the holidays;
15 something to consider, to have a little bit more lead
16 time, and it also may adjust the times of the RAC
17 meetings to not be, perhaps, inconvenient for some
18 subsistence activities.

19

20 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Tom.

21

22 MR. CARPENTER: Yea, I think that's a
23 good point. And I think that one other point that we
24 were talking about when we were in Cantwell at the end
25 of the meeting, was, you know, of course this Council
26 likes to get out to as many different communities as we
27 can, but seeing how the regulatory makeup is now once
28 every two years, we were in Cantwell and we had this
29 very large agenda that mainly dealt with the Kenai
30 Peninsula and, you know, more southcentral towards the
31 Gulf proposals, and we were in Cantwell and there was
32 literally no people that participated in Cantwell
33 because, really, the issues on the table before us
34 dealt with nothing up there. So I think it's important
35 that next year when we have our, you know, fisheries,
36 our bulk of our fisheries and our wildlife proposals,
37 that we need to remember that we need to pick a
38 community that we're going to get the most
39 participation in, you know, Anchorage, the Kenai
40 Peninsula, somewhere that it's a lot easier for people
41 to get to, and then maybe in the off cycle, like this
42 meeting, we could have it in a smaller community where
43 it's not going to be as crucial that we have, you know,
44 the people be able to participate as much.

45

46 So just an idea.

47

48 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Mr. Henrichs.

49

50 MR. HENRICHS: Yeah, that was an

1 interesting meeting at Cantwell because I didn't see
2 any big game guides or fishing guides show up there. I
3 don't know why.

4
5 (Laughter)

6
7 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Any other comments on
8 Judy's suggestion.

9
10 (No comments)

11
12 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: The only thing I can
13 think on that, Judy, is if we do the fisheries that way
14 will it delay implementation of those regulations for
15 another year, will it -- or can we get it so the cycle
16 still -- because by the time -- if we have a late --
17 you know, I see what you mean, January's not a good
18 time, but if we have a later meeting for fisheries,
19 it's going to be pretty hard to get any regulations in
20 place prior to the fisheries of that year, but I don't
21 think we do anyhow when I think about it.

22
23 I think.....

24
25 Tom.

26
27 MR. CARPENTER: Well, I was just going
28 to say, I mean, the State fisheries and hunting
29 regulations all change July 1st, so they just.....

30
31 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Yeah.

32
33 MR. CARPENTER:the Board of Fish
34 and Board of Game meets all winter long and they always
35 implement them on July 1st, so I mean I think it's
36 possible that we could do it. It just may be a little
37 bit later than we've been accustomed to.

38
39 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Yeah.

40
41 MR. CARPENTER: But I think for most of
42 the year it would probably work.

43
44 MS. CAMINER: And that was my thought,
45 too, that it's then consistent with the State cycle for
46 fisheries and game, as well as our wildlife cycle.

47
48 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: It sure would make it
49 handier, that's for sure.

50

1 Any other comments on new business.

2

3 MS. YUHAS: Thank you for recognizing
4 me out of order, Mr. Chairman. Jennifer Yuhás with the
5 State of Alaska. And I just wanted to point out that
6 our Board Support Staff, Sherry Wright passed out a
7 calendar for you with our upcoming Board meetings, and
8 that's in an attempt for you to be able to better plan
9 your meetings so we brought that as a resource for the
10 RAC today. Just thought that this was the proper time
11 to bring that up.

12

13 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Thank you. Okay.
14 Let's -- shall we take a break before we go on to
15 agency reports -- five minutes.

16

17 (Off record)

18

19 (On record)

20

21 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: I'd like to call this
22 winter meeting of Southcentral Alaska Subsistence
23 Regional Advisory Council back into session, but I see
24 we're missing some of our people right now, but I think
25 we will go on anyhow.

26

27 Does anybody see -- are they out in the
28 hall. Okay, well, they'll be back in a second, let's
29 just give them a minute. It's not going to make that
30 much difference and then we'll get started.

31

32 (Pause)

33

34 MR. HENRICHS: Ralph.

35

36 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Mr. Henrichs.

37

38 MR. HENRICHS: If we got a minute, you
39 know, a few years a back we had a housing meeting in
40 this same room, and it was the same time of the year
41 and they had a cow and calf bedded down outside this
42 window and they had a magpie that would come down and
43 land on the butt of that cow and pull hair out and it
44 was just far enough where the cow couldn't get it, and
45 at the end of the day the cow had a bare spot on its
46 butt and the magpie had a nice warm nest up in the
47 tree.

48

49 (Laughter)

50

1 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay. I think we'll
2 start. We have agency reports. The OSM.

3
4 MR. FRIED: Good afternoon, Mr.
5 Chairman and Council members. My name is Steve Fried.
6 I work for the Office of Subsistence Management. And
7 I'd like to cover, briefly, basically three topics.

8
9 One is the ongoing Secretarial Review.

10
11 One is OSM Staffing.

12
13 One is about the upcoming Fisheries
14 Resource Monitoring Program, request for proposals
15 cycle, that'll probably start this coming November.

16
17 First I'd like to turn your attention
18 to Page 59 in your books, and on that page there's a
19 status report on three issues on the Secretarial
20 recommendations on the Federal Subsistence Management
21 Program and what their status is at this point in time.

22
23 The first one refers to a proposed
24 regulation to increase the membership on the Federal
25 Subsistence Board to include two additional public
26 members that represent subsistence users. And that's
27 been done and on the -- on Page 60 is the news release
28 that came out concerning that. The two new members,
29 one member is Anthony Christianson of Hydaburg, the
30 other one is Charles Brower of Barrow. It does provide
31 some information on their backgrounds. They've been
32 appointed to these two Board seats and I'm assuming
33 they'll be at the Board meeting next week in Juneau,
34 and if not probably at the Board meeting in May. They
35 were hoping to have them seated earlier than that but I
36 guess there were some difficulties in the process.

37
38 Second item is the review with Council
39 input of the December 2008 memorandum of understanding
40 with the State and they were going to determine whether
41 there was a need for actually continuing the MOU,
42 changing the MOU, clarifying it, et cetera, et cetera.
43 The status was that the existing memorandum of
44 understanding provided to all the Regional Advisory
45 Councils for comments. The Board, after receiving
46 those comments proposed to the State that a joint work
47 group be reestablished to address the Council
48 recommended changes and the State did accept the
49 Board's proposal, work group has formed, it's already
50 had several meetings and they're going to report back

1 to the Federal Subsistence Board during this May's
2 meeting. So that's where that one is at this point.

3
4 The third item is the Review with
5 Council input of the rural determination process with
6 any kinds of recommendations for regulatory changes.
7 And the Board's already held several executive and work
8 sessions in 2011 to try to better inform themselves
9 about the process and try to continue to develop and
10 review where they might go with it. At their January
11 2012 meeting there was a long discussion about the
12 rural determination process, and the review, and the
13 Board asked the Staff to publish a proposed rule to
14 solicit comments from the public on the process and the
15 current non-rural determinations. And essentially,
16 too, they wanted to be sure to extend the compliance
17 date of the May 2007 rule until the current review is
18 complete or for a period of five years, whichever one
19 came first. And that's actually been done, it's been
20 published and I don't know if anybody wants a copy of
21 it, I did bring copies. It was published in the
22 Federal Register March 1st, 2012.

23
24 So that sort of completes the
25 information on where we are now in that Secretarial
26 Review process of the Program.

27
28 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Any questions.

29
30 Gloria -- oh, Judy.

31
32 MS. CAMINER: On the rural review, so
33 is there a general schedule at this point, not of the
34 reg, but of the future process?

35
36 MR. FRIED: I am not sure if they've
37 actually got a schedule together yet, that I'm aware of.
38 Unless there's somebody in the audience from one of the
39 agencies that knows more about it than I do, which is
40 probably fairly.....

41
42 MR. HENRICHS: Ralph.

43
44 CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Gloria.

45
46 MS. STICKWAN: I am still confused
47 about what's in the register, what is it -- what's --
48 is it for Saxman only or is it just on the rural?

49
50 MR. FRIED: Well, I think this was

1 discussed earlier during this meeting. It was really
2 in particulars, a lot of comments and public testimony
3 on the Saxman C&T finding. And since the Board was
4 going to -- they review this every time there's a
5 census that's done and they were kind of afraid to
6 possibly change some of the rural determinations now
7 and then have to go back after they do -- you know
8 change the regulations which they're reviewing, and
9 then maybe change them back or not, so all this does is
10 just kind of extend the period where they can consider
11 these changes before making, you know, changes to these
12 communities. So the communities will kind of, you
13 know, stay where they are right now until they either
14 develop a new process to evaluate the communities or
15 five years go by. So I'm assuming they're going to
16 develop a new process, hopefully a lot sooner than five
17 years and then they'll be -- then they'll go through
18 and they'll reevaluate all the C&Ts in light of that
19 new process. So right now there won't be any change,
20 and the communities will just have the C&T
21 determination that they have.

22

23 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Not so much the C&T
24 but the rural status.

25

26 MR. FRIED: Right. The rural status,
27 excuse me, yeah, that's more correct. That's all this
28 did was just extend that period. It didn't change the
29 process or anything like that.

30

31 MS. CAMINER: Mr. Chair.

32

33 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Judy.

34

35 MS. CAMINER: I guess just one more
36 question, moving back to the work group, do you have
37 any information about the kinds of discussions that
38 have taken place or if you haven't, maybe once that
39 report is made to the Board, perhaps that could be
40 circulated to the RAC.

41

42 MR. FRIED: Yeah, I don't have any
43 information right now but I can certainly go back and
44 see if there's anything available and make sure it's
45 provided to you through the Council coordinator.

46

47 (Pause)

48

49 MR. FRIED: Okay, if there's no more
50 questions about that, I'll just very briefly turn your

1 attention to Page 61, Page 62, and it just sort of
2 outlines some of the Staff changes that have been going
3 on in the Office of Subsistence Management, which sort
4 of -- not really an excuse but I mean it does show why
5 we've had problems in some cases, you know, keeping up
6 with, you know, all our responsibilities and duties.
7 We've been -- some of the people have been trying to
8 fill in for two or three other positions. We've had
9 people in acting status for people that were in acting
10 status. It's been kind of interesting but we're
11 finally getting there.

12

13

14 And maybe of interest to the Council is
15 that they are getting fairly far along in the process
16 to hire a Native liaison position. They've actually
17 gotten to the point where they've got some certified
18 lists of candidates from Human Resources so basically
19 they can now start doing interviews and make selections
20 and make a job offer. And usually there's about a 30
21 day period from the time you receive that list until
22 the time when it expires so you have to -- unless you
23 get an extension, so you have to move on a list and
24 make a selection. So hopefully in the next month or
25 two they'll at least have somebody hired, if not, you
26 know, maybe not on the job but somebody that's been
27 offered the job and accepted it.

28

29 What else might be of interest. We do
30 have a new deputy assistant Regional Director of
31 Subsistence that's coming on board in April. Chuck
32 Ardizzone has been acting in this position after Polly
33 Wheeler left to take a position in Refuges and the new
34 person that's going to be the Deputy Assistant Regional
35 Director will be Kathleen O'Reilly-Doyle. So she
36 should be here in April.

37

38 So unless anybody has any other
39 questions I don't really want to belabor this but just
40 sort of give you an idea, we've had about 13 vacancies
41 or so, it's been a real interesting time.

42

43 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Any questions or any
44 comments.

45

46 (No comments)

47

48 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Do you have more for
49 us?

50

1 MR. FRIED: Just one more item and,
2 again, just information.

3
4 We are in the fisheries regulatory
5 cycle now and so the proposals are due by the end of
6 this month but also for fisheries come November 2012
7 we'll be in the cycle where we're looking for project
8 proposals and so generally in November sometime is when
9 the request for proposals comes out. And we will be
10 coming in front of all the Councils during the next
11 meeting cycle to try to get some more ideas to make
12 sure -- what we do is, along with the RFP we have this
13 priority information need document that comes out, the
14 investigators. It provides them an idea of what sort
15 of project -- what the project should focus on for each
16 region. And it's not that we don't want to accept
17 projects that will focus on other topics, it's just
18 that we've got some priorities and we're kind of hoping
19 that we'll get some projects that will focus on those.

20
21 In 2010, the last time we had an RFP,
22 you know, we had a general statement in there which
23 will probably still be in there about the importance of
24 understanding the affects of climate change on
25 subsistence fisheries, both how they're -- you know the
26 uses and how people are adapting to this and what the
27 changes are, how they're being affected by it and that
28 will still stay in that call just in general. That
29 we're just interested in this.

30
31 Last time around, I think we only had
32 two issues that came up for Southcentral region. One
33 was mapping of lifetime and current subsistence use
34 areas for harvest of salmon and non-salmon, and this
35 was focused on Ninilchik, Hope, Cooper Landing, The
36 other one was on the harvest use and associated
37 contextual information for salmon and non-salmon in the
38 communities of the Copper River Basin.

39
40 Just to give you an idea, we do have
41 some strategic plans in place. One is for the Copper
42 River area. For Cook Inlet it's really kind of an
43 abbreviated process we did. Usually what we do is we
44 make sure we get input from the -- not only from the
45 managers of the fisheries and other Staff members but
46 outside from the Council, the public, to try to make
47 sure that -- there might be some issues out there and
48 what we can address with the projects. So just
49 something for the Council, if they don't have any ideas
50 now just to think about. Because at the next Council

1 meeting we'll present you with what we've got to date
2 and ask you if these make sense, if there's any
3 additions, if you don't agree with some of these
4 things. So just to make sure we're trying to cover all
5 the basis. Like I said, it doesn't exclude any
6 proposals that have come up but it sort of helps to
7 focus on some people -- you know, the potential
8 investigators.

9

10 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Any questions.

11

12 (No comments)

13

14 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Comments.

15

16 (No comments)

17

18 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Thank you.

19

20 MR. FRIED: Yeah, thanks for your time.

21

22 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay, with that we go
23 on to U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, doesn't have
24 anything.

25

26 The National Park Service, Wrangell-
27 St.Elias, and I know Barbara's got something for us.

28

29 MS. CELLARIUS: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
30 Barbara Cellarius, subsistence coordinator for
31 Wrangell-St.Elias. And I don't know of Judy Putera was
32 able to call in, she would be on the phone.

33

34 (Pause)

35

36 MS. CELLARIUS: Well, I'll start with
37 the two things that are on the agenda and then we have
38 some other updates for you as well.

39

40 So the first thing on the agenda talks
41 about the Record of Decision on the Nabesna off road
42 vehicle environmental impact statement and plan. And
43 so that -- the Record of Decision was signed. The main
44 change for subsistence users initially will be the
45 designation of trails in designated wilderness.
46 There's just a couple of places where this is going to
47 happen at the end of the Tanada Lake Trail and the
48 Copper Lake Trail. There are more changes for
49 recreational users, including some closures until trail
50 repairs occur and in some cases permanent closures. We

1 will start work on some trail repairs this summer,
2 specifically there will be both improvements and
3 maintenance on the beginning of the Copper Lake Trail,
4 the Caribou Creek Trail and the Lost Creek Trail and
5 we're going to also be working on the Soto Lake reroute
6 (ph). We do have money for monitoring in 2013, that's
7 one of the things that's talked about in the EIS.

8

9 So that's what I had on that topic. I
10 will stop and see if there are any questions, and that
11 is on Page 63, I think in your meeting book.

12

13 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Barbara, what is the
14 long-term -- what is the long-term schedule for how
15 many years to get these trails -- the improvements that
16 are done. I was kind of shocked at the amount of money
17 that was involved in it so I figured it has to be
18 spread over quite a while.

19

20 MS. CELLARIUS: It is. What I talked
21 about, for this summer we have money for, I'm not sure
22 what funding has been secured beyond this summer.
23 That's certainly something I can ask and get back to
24 you about. But I think that we're sort of doing -- we
25 have proposals in to get funding for a number of the
26 trails, it's simply a matter of when we're able to get
27 the money that's required for what needs to be done.

28

29 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay. There is no
30 long-term timetable then, as the funding becomes
31 available?

32

33 MS. CELLARIUS: There may be a
34 timetable in terms of what trails were prioritized for
35 improvements and their funding requests were put in for
36 them before other kinds of trails. I know that we want
37 to -- the SRC certainly wants to see access maintained
38 and reopened on the recreational trails, on the trails
39 that, you know, have been used by both subsistence and
40 recreational users.

41

42 I simply don't know that specific
43 detail of kind of -- I'm sure that Bruce and Wayne have
44 some kind of long-term framework in mind. It will
45 depend on what money actually comes open, but I don't
46 know what that is.

47

48 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Uh-huh. I saw that
49 there was kind of a prioritization but the thought of
50 coming up with 4.3 million and donations and volunteer

1 time just made it look to me like maybe this is a long-
2 term project, not a short-term project.

3

4 MS. CELLARIUS: I think there's a
5 commitment to getting -- working on it but exactly what
6 we're going to get funding for when, I couldn't tell
7 you.

8

9 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: I was just thinking,
10 they built -- I think they built the whole Kennicott
11 Railroad for less money than that.

12

13 (Laughter)

14

15 MS. CELLARIUS: That was a long time
16 ago.

17

18 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: It was.

19

20 (Laughter)

21

22 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay. Any other
23 questions for her on the ORV.

24

25 (No comments)

26

27 MS. CELLARIUS: The second thing I want
28 to talk about is a handout that you should have
29 received, it's got typing text on the front, including
30 the Park address at the very bottom and there's a map
31 on the back.

32

33 So at the Federal Subsistence Board
34 meeting in January, the Federal Subsistence Board
35 established a Federal subsistence harvest opportunity
36 for the Chisana Caribou Herd beginning in the fall of
37 2012. A lot of the handout talks about what the
38 parameters are of that hunt, including the list of
39 eligible communities, there are six; Chisana,
40 Chistochina, Mentasta, Northway, Tetlin and Tok, both
41 Chistochina and Mentasta are located in Unit 13 so it
42 would be the southcentral region. So the hunt itself
43 is in Unit 12, but there are people within your region
44 who have C&T.

45

46 The Federal Subsistence Board delegated
47 several things related to the management of the hunt to
48 the Park Superintendent. And at the Federal
49 Subsistence Board meeting there was a discussion of
50 your recommendation to create a working group. And

1 what the Park Service proposed, given some of the time
2 constraints with putting together a working group and
3 also having a hunt this fall, we offered to do outreach
4 to the communities -- eligible communities and relevant
5 advisory bodies about their thoughts about how the
6 permits are allocated, and so that's what I am here to
7 do today with you, as one of the relevant advisory
8 bodies.

9

10 I've talked to two tribal councils and
11 I'm on the agenda for two more tribal councils. I've
12 talked to one AC and I'm on the agenda for another AC
13 meeting. And I've been to the Eastern Interior RAC
14 meeting. I'm also trying to get out to Chisana. So
15 that pretty much covers the tribal governments and
16 advisory bodies in the relevant area.

17

18 We anticipate -- so you will recall
19 that under the provisions of the management plan, the
20 harvest quota in the U.S. will be seven animals, based
21 on the 2010 census. And so we anticipate that we will
22 issue a limited number of permits. What I've written
23 down here is 10 to 14, that's sort of a preliminary
24 number. I just wanted to put something down, we
25 haven't made the decision about how many permits.
26 That's in our delegation of authority, that's one of
27 things we'll do, is announce the number of permits.

28

29 So this brings us to the question, if
30 we have six communities and 1,800 residents of those
31 communities how do we allocate the seven permits.

32

33 I did a little bit of checking around
34 with other people with limited hunts, I think a lot of
35 people here are familiar with the Cordova moose hunt,
36 which is a drawing permit, so that's certainly one
37 option. It is also possible just to issue permits
38 first come first serve and when the permits run out,
39 you stop. Another thing that has happened, for
40 example, the last hunt with the Mentasta Caribou Herd,
41 permits were allocated to the communities and a
42 decision was made at the community level about how to
43 allocate permits. Those aren't necessarily -- that's
44 not necessarily all of the options, there might be
45 others out there, they're the ones that I found that
46 had been used, either currently or sort of in recent
47 memory with the Federal subsistence hunts.

48

49 So my question for you is whether the
50 Council wants to weigh in on your opinion about, or

1 recommendation about how the permits be allocated.

2

3

CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Tom.

4

5

MR. CARPENTER: Thank you, Barbara.

6 That was one thing I was wondering about myself, was, I
7 looked at this list and there's six communities and you
8 said you're going to give out seven tags and I was
9 like, what are you going to do, flip a coin to see
10 which one gets the seventh tag or rotate it or -- but
11 anyway, I mean it wouldn't really matter to me. I mean
12 I think at least when you talked about the Cordova
13 drawing, I mean that was our idea, we came up with it
14 as a community, we asked the RAC, the Federal Board
15 passed it, it's worked well. You know, over time some
16 people get drawn more than others, but, you know, I
17 think it -- it could almost be left up to the
18 communities to come to a way, you know, because it is
19 such a small amount of animals.

20

21

22 But the one -- and I know we talked
23 about this because we came up with this list of
24 communities at our last meeting, I believe, or we
25 talked about them, just explain to me again because I
26 can't remember why Nabesna wasn't included.

26

27

MS. CELLARIUS: There was not
28 sufficient information when the .804 analysis was done
29 to add Nabesna. I've talked to some folks out there
30 and offered to help them document their use of the
31 resource. Some of the communities we have in the
32 Wrangells area, the data on their use of resources is
33 kind of hard to track down. The State harvest ticket
34 data is based on zip codes and where you get your mail,
35 and sometimes Nabesna gets included separately in
36 harvest surveys and sometimes it's done like combined
37 with other places. So I think that part of the issue
38 is simply that the data wasn't very good, and so I've
39 offered to help folks out there, if they want to, you
40 know, write down some testimonials that are about the
41 use of that resource so that we can improve the data,
42 you know, we made a decision in the .804 analysis that
43 was based on the information that was available. If
44 there's more information out there that folks want help
45 documenting, I've made that offer that I will help them
46 and then a proposal could be submitted to add them to
47 the list. It would go through the same process but
48 there would be additional information.

49

50

I do want to -- if I could respond to

1 one of the comments that you made.

2

3 The quota -- the harvest quota is seven
4 but we'll probably issue more permits than that. We
5 probably won't issue a lot more but it'll probably be
6 more than just seven permits. It's a very difficult
7 area to access, as you know.

8

9 MR. CARPENTER: Yeah. Yeah.

10

11 MS. CELLARIUS: So -- and if you're
12 interested I can share with you what I've heard so far
13 with the communities I've talked to.

14

15 So I've had -- so the Eastern Interior
16 RAC and the two tribal councils like the idea of doing
17 a allocation -- distribution to the communities and let
18 the communities have some say in how the permits, you
19 know, say there's two permits per community or
20 something like that, are allocated.

21

22 The SRC didn't come to a conclusion
23 about drawing versus distribution to the community, but
24 they thought that no more than 50 percent of the
25 community -- 50 percent of the permits should go to any
26 one community.

27

28 And then the AC that I went to felt
29 that simply issuing permits to folks who were qualified
30 and having a short reporting period was sufficient.

31

32 And so that's sort of the feedback I've
33 gotten so far.

34

35 MR. CARPENTER: I would just make one
36 suggestion to you, just from experience that we've had
37 in Cordova with drawing tags, if you do decide to go
38 that way, only issue the amount of tags through a
39 drawing system that you actually want animals harvested
40 because once you give somebody a permit that they draw
41 in a lottery for, it's very complicated and very
42 devastating when you have to get knocked on your door
43 and say sorry we're closing the hunt. You know what I
44 mean.

45

46 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: The other thing is, I
47 think, what is our -- what is the success rate ratio on
48 the tags in Cordova, somewhere in the 90 percent?

49

50 MR. CARPENTER: Oh, most of the time

1 it's about 100 percent. Last year I think it was
2 probably the lowest it's ever been just because, you
3 know, people did have a little bit of trouble finding
4 bulls but typically it's probably the highest in the
5 state, I would assume.

6

7 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: And in this case
8 you're dealing with a small quantity of animals.....

9

10 MR. CARPENTER: That are hard to get.

11

12 CHAIRMAN LOHSE:that are hard to
13 get so anybody that puts in for a drawing permit,
14 whether it's through the communities or whatever is
15 going to make the effort and I would figure that if you
16 don't have 100 percent success on these tags you're
17 going to be awful close to it. And at least for the
18 start, I wouldn't issue twice as many tags as you want
19 to take animals because I think Milo can talk to that
20 on some of our goat hunts and stuff like that, too,
21 that it -- on a limited amount of animals, on a small
22 hunt, you better figure close to 100 percent take.

23

24 Gloria.

25

26 MS. STICKWAN: Some of the members at
27 the SRC were concerned about bigger communities getting
28 more permits through a drawing permit than the smaller
29 communities and they were concerned about that so
30 that's why they said no more than 50 percent of the
31 permits could go to any one community.

32

33 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: I was thinking that
34 what they all -- if I was going to do it, which I'm
35 not, I would probably give each community basically
36 what the ratio is and let them have their own drawing
37 in the permit. Because for one thing if the community
38 who decides who gets it then you've got politics
39 involved and somebody that's in the community that's
40 not in the good graces of whoever is making the
41 decision may get left out but if you, you know, if
42 there would be a permit for -- if there would be a
43 permit for Northway, and Northway could have a drawing
44 for that permit then, you know, everybody in the
45 Northway community would have an equal chance to get it
46 but there at least would be one taken for Northway, and
47 the same way with Tetlin. I notice that there's no
48 population in Chisana at this point in time so you
49 wouldn't want to have one person move to Chisana and
50 then offer Chisana one permit, you know.

1 MR. CARPENTER: Is there a room to
2 rent.
3
4 (Laughter)
5
6 MR. CARPENTER: I'd love to have one of
7 those permits.
8
9 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Tom will move there
10 tomorrow and spend the rest of the year there.
11
12 MR. CARPENTER: I would. I would.
13
14 (Laughter)
15
16 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: But I mean something
17 like that, I agree with Gloria that way, it would --
18 and that's the other thing, is, the first come first
19 serve, we've had that on some of our goat permits in
20 Cordova and you got people camping out on the doorstep
21 the day before so if you had a first come first serve
22 and you issued the permits in Tok, you'd have this long
23 line of people and somebody that lived out at Northway
24 wouldn't have a chance. So I think the idea of a
25 combination thing with the communities and the drawing
26 would work pretty good because you do have an isolated
27 group of communities there. Four of them are almost,
28 you might say, the same size or close to the same size
29 and then one of them is quite a bit larger, you know,
30 and it would be totally unfair if Northway got all the
31 permits or if Tok got all the permits. But I think
32 you'll have your hands full. But I wouldn't give out
33 too many permits because -- any other comments -- any
34 other questions you want to throw to us on the Chisana
35 Herd, Barbara.
36
37 Gloria.
38
39 MS. STICKWAN: I have a question, did
40 we answer your question about our recommendation?
41
42 MS. CELLARIUS: I've heard.....
43
44 MS. STICKWAN: What we think.
45
46 MS. CELLARIUS: I've heard some
47 comments that I've written down as comments from
48 individuals, which is great, if the RAC chooses to make
49 a motion with a recommendation, you could do that as a
50 Council. It's really up to you. The feedback I've

1 gotten has been good. But if you want to do something.
2 as a RAC you're welcome to do that as well.

3

4 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Can you.....

5

6 MS. STICKWAN: I would like to.....

7

8 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Can you share the
9 general content of the comments that you have got, what
10 seems to be the direction that the communities involved
11 would like to go?

12

13 MS. CELLARIUS: Well, I've been to two
14 of the communities, two of the villages, and they both
15 like the idea of allocation. I have not gone to the
16 upper Tanana Fortymile Fish and Game Advisory Committee
17 yet, which is based in Tok, but does have some members
18 from some of the outlying communities. So I haven't
19 been to them.

20

21 The Eastern Interior RAC liked the idea
22 of the allocation of the permits to the communities,
23 and then distribution in some fashion at the community
24 level.

25

26 That's -- you know, other than the --
27 the Tok cutoff Nabesna Road AC felt that the
28 participation would be very low and that's why they
29 were suggesting not limiting the number of permits.

30

31 So, you know, it kind of has gone sort
32 of a wide range of opinions.

33

34 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: A wide range of
35 opinions.

36

37 MS. MILLS: On your map of the eligible
38 communities, and then there's the population I presume
39 after that, and Chisana has zero population, could you
40 explain that please.

41

42 MS. CELLARIUS: Chisana is a small
43 remote community. It's off the road system, although
44 they do have quite a large airstrip. And the census,
45 those figures are from the U.S. Census. The same
46 population figure was found by the U.S. Census when
47 they did the census in 2000 and the State's community
48 profile database had this asterisk after it, that said
49 local residents population of 10. There are a few
50 folks living out there. They may not have been there

1 when the census taker went out there. I'm trying to go
2 out there with one of our pilots. I did talk to him
3 and he was talking about a couple of households that
4 are out there. It's a handful of people who live out
5 there as their permanent residence, but I'm not sure
6 that the population of zero is accurate.

7
8 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Any questions,
9 comments from any other Council members.

10
11 Gloria.

12
13 MS. STICKWAN: I like the idea of
14 allocating to the communities so that, you know, let
15 them decide what they want to -- a drawing permit, I
16 think that's the most fair way to do it, I would think.

17
18 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Well, it's interesting
19 we have six communities, four of them about the same
20 population level, one we don't know what the population
21 is, and one quite a bit larger and we have basically
22 seven permits. And if you allocate it to the
23 communities that comes out pretty close to one per
24 community, plus one extra. Then where do you go -- how
25 do you.....

26
27 MS. STICKWAN: Maybe the last one could
28 be a drawing permit.

29
30 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: What?

31
32 MS. STICKWAN: Maybe the last one could
33 just be a drawing of all the communities.

34
35 (Laughter)

36
37 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Yeah, that's a good
38 idea. That's an excellent idea.

39
40 MR. ENCELEWSKI: I got a comment,
41 Ralph.

42
43 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Greg.

44
45 MR. ENCELEWSKI: I'm just throwing this
46 out there just for grins, but if you have one community
47 that's got 1,258 versus all these other ones with 100
48 and 200, it seems to me like they would be qualified
49 for a couple permits.

50

1 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: That would be one way
2 to do it, too.

3
4 Or you could do, like Gloria was
5 talking about, originally, was talking about putting a
6 quota on how many permits any one community could get,
7 and you could just open it up, totally open it up for
8 drawings and the first two people from a community
9 closes that community, you know, or something like
10 that, too. So I think you have a lot of options.

11
12 Do, we, as a Council, have any that we
13 would like to recommend as a Council, or are we going
14 to leave it to the SRC and the local communities.

15
16 Tom.

17
18 MR. CARPENTER: I think we should leave
19 it up to the communities. It's a new hunt. In the
20 future, if the amount of animals that can be harvested
21 increases, I'm sure there's going to be some of these
22 other communities that are going to want to be
23 eligible, they're going to ask for an analysis done,
24 and I think we'll become more involved then. But I
25 think Gloria's right, I think the communities should be
26 given the permits and they should handle it on a local
27 level.

28
29 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay. We don't need
30 to put that in the form of a motion and a letter, but
31 you have that done as our comment then.

32
33 MS. CELLARIUS: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
34 I did have a couple of other things.

35
36 The Park has a new superintendent, he
37 arrived in December. And at some point I hope I can
38 get him to a RAC Meeting. He has been actually now to
39 two SRC meetings. We got him to a meeting when he was
40 up for his visit when he just got the job in October
41 and then he was at the meeting that we had in late
42 February.

43
44 Let's see, and the other thing is that
45 there is a wildlife report that was distributed and
46 I'll just check again to see if Judy's on the line.

47
48 (No comments)

49
50 MS. CELLARIUS: Okay, I wasn't sure.

1 There was a possibility she was going to try to do a
2 survey today but I wanted to give her a chance if she
3 was there.

4

5 We're really happy that we were able to
6 do a survey, a moose survey of the Nabesna Road. It's
7 a very -- it's an area that's pretty hard hit by both
8 subsistence and -- subsistence hunters as well as folks
9 hunting on State general hunting regulations and it was
10 the subject of some proposals that were before the
11 Federal Board in January and proposals that actually
12 just went to the Board of Game. So we were able to get
13 some funding, kind of at the last minute, to do a moose
14 survey in that area. It's an area that hasn't been
15 surveyed recently. So we got some money for some
16 additional radio collars and so we put them on in
17 October and then we did a moose survey in late
18 November, into early December. And so the first page
19 or so of the report talks about that. And I think
20 there should be a table -- yeah, so there's a table at
21 the bottom of the second page and it has -- let's see,
22 yeah, so where it says Nabesna -- wait, is that
23 right.....

24

25 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Uh-huh.

26

27 MS. CELLARIUS: Nabesna, 2011, yes, I'm
28 -- I don't know what year it is.

29

30 So we were actually pretty pleased that
31 -- we know that it's a low density population it's not
32 a high density population but it actually -- the
33 numbers look pretty good all things considered, because
34 it's such a high -- there's such a high hunting
35 pressure there. So as a result of the -- the survey
36 results, the proposal to the Board of Game was actually
37 able to be liberalized based on the results. And so a
38 longer season than had initially been proposed was able
39 to be instituted for Unit 12 at the end of the Nabesna
40 Road and the Board of Game just did that.

41

42 The other thing -- let's see, Page --
43 so any questions about the moose survey?

44

45 Gloria.

46

47 MS. STICKWAN: Not about the moose
48 survey. But is it a joint Federal/State hunt now by
49 the Board of Game or what?

50

1 MS. CELLARIUS: I need to ask Torsten
2 and Jeff that question. The language that went to the
3 Board of Game talked about a registration permit, it
4 didn't talk about the nature of the registration
5 permit. That has been what has been discussed, is a
6 joint State/Federal permit, but I need to confirm with
7 the folks from Fish and Game, because the language in
8 the -- what sort of the proposal language that I've
9 seen was ambiguous on that point.

10

11 So I can go on to sheep if there are no
12 more questions about moose.

13

14 (No comments)

15

16 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Uh-huh.

17

18 MS. CELLARIUS: You've been hearing
19 from us, actually for the last couple of years about a
20 sheep survey that we've been working on in Wrangell-
21 St. Elias using what's called a distant sampling method.
22 And the goal of this survey, or at least one goal of
23 the survey was to come up with a population estimate
24 for the entire Park. It's been awhile since we've had
25 a population estimate for the Park as a whole. And so
26 on the page, the final page on Page 4, at the table at
27 the top, shows the estimate is 12,930 sheep in the
28 Park, and there's some information about the north part
29 of the Park and the south part of the Park, and
30 approximate sort of age category for the sheep.

31

32 So it's mostly for your information, we
33 just wanted to share that with you since it was a big
34 project that the Park worked on and sheep are an
35 important subsistence species in our area.

36

37 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay. And this would
38 be the estimate for -- this is all 2011 or is this all
39 -- or is this just total from the three years that
40 they've done the survey?

41

42 MS. CELLARIUS: So we surveyed the
43 north part of the Park, it says here in 2010 and then
44 in 2011 we surveyed the south part of the Park, so any
45 one transect was only surveyed once. The first year we
46 had some really awful weather. And Judy and Cumi were
47 sitting around and waiting for the weather to clear up,
48 I mean I just sort of remember around the office we had
49 folks come in from other Parks to help us and they
50 couldn't fly because the weather was so bad. So we

1 were able to go back this summer and complete the
2 transects that were not surveyed the previous year. So
3 it took us two years to go to all the transects but we
4 now have an estimate based on all of the transects.

5
6 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay.

7
8 MS. CELLARIUS: And it was just 2010
9 and 2011.

10
11 And then the last thing on the page,
12 we've been working with the Department of Fish and Game
13 on a brown bear project down in Yakutat and so there's
14 some information about that survey. It's still ongoing
15 we don't have a final report yet but we have gotten
16 some interesting information about the movement of the
17 bears there. At least some of the collars, I think,
18 yeah, are GPS collars, and so they give us -- we get
19 sort of realtime information -- or maybe it's not real
20 time, but we get information about where they were when
21 at a fairly -- a fairly frequent interval so you can
22 kind of see a bear's wandering up on the Malaspina --
23 edges on the Malaspina forelands. So it's kind of
24 interesting to see how far they move, and it appears to
25 be that there are some bears swimming Disenchantment
26 Bay if you look where it's labeled Disenchantment Bay
27 and there's some dots out in the water.

28
29 (Laughter)

30
31 MS. CELLARIUS: So that's, again, for
32 your information, another project -- wildlife project
33 we've worked on recently.

34
35 And that's all I have.

36
37 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Anything that anybody
38 would like to ask Barbara.

39
40 (No comments)

41
42 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Thank you for that
43 information Barbara, that's interesting.

44
45 Thank you.

46
47 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Chugach National
48 Forest. It must be Milo.

49
50 MR. BURCHAM: That would be Milo and

1 Ruth. This is Milo Burcham from the Chugach National
2 Forest, subsistence biologist in Cordova. And I'd like
3 to introduce my new counterpart for Moose Pass on the
4 Kenai, Ruth D'Amico. She started just this past year.
5 She has a term position and works, let's say roughly
6 March through November, October something like that.
7 And, anyway, she deals with our issues on the Kenai
8 now. She deals more directly with the Russian River
9 fishery permits and the Hope and Cooper Landing moose
10 and caribou hunts. So, anyway, I'd like to introduce
11 her and she'll be a regular face at these meetings I
12 think here in the future.

13

14 I didn't dream we'd still be here after
15 4:30 and we're probably all anxious to get on with our
16 evenings. I'm going to do this as fast as I can.

17

18 The first thing I'd like to mention is
19 we've tried to do this with the RAC in the past and
20 this is to give you guys a head's up on proposed
21 activities for the Chugach National Forest that might
22 affect subsistence uses.

23

24 We've printed up a list, it's called a
25 schedule of proposed activities, or a SOPA, and it's
26 several pages of activities that the Chugach Forest has
27 planned. What I'll suggest is that you guys go on line
28 to the Chugach National Forest website and look it up
29 yourself if you have specific interests. What I'll do
30 right now is just real quick list a couple of projects
31 that might get your attention, you know, it might cue
32 some interest. Feel free to contact us if you have
33 more information, or go to this website and look at the
34 SOPA if you want to see more detailed information or
35 see everything that's going on on the Forest.

36

37 The first one is the land management
38 planning rule. The Department of Agriculture has
39 rewritten the rules for planning on National Forests.
40 And that will affect how National Forest plans are
41 written. And my suggestion there -- and that affects
42 everybody, from motorized use to, you know, what
43 happens with timber and wildlife and priorities and
44 stuff like that. The Chugach Forest is due to revise
45 their Forest plan under these new rules now and all I
46 can say to everybody here is get involved in that
47 process.

48

49 MR. HENRICHS: I remember the last one
50 when they were talking about making wilderness area

1 down there as part of the Copper River Delta, and that
2 didn't go over too good.

3

4 MR. BURCHAM: Yeah. We ended up with a
5 small wilderness area in the Power Creek Drainage, I
6 think is what resulted from that, but get involved.
7 Anyway it's an open process. It's a lengthy process.
8 And there'll be plenty of opportunity for
9 participation.

10

11 The next one is -- and this has caught
12 the attention of Cordova residents already, the Ibek
13 Creek offhighway use vehicle trail. There's concerns
14 with salmon spawning streams and crossing of those
15 streams with motorized vehicles. We're taking a new
16 look at that. So anyway that has the potential to
17 affect some subsistence uses.

18

19 A proposal to cut mature shrubs on the
20 Copper River Delta, the hydroaxing to improve moose
21 habitat is something that we're starting, and the
22 Native Village of Eyak is doing a similar -- has a
23 similar project on Eyak Corporation lands.

24

25 From the Kenai, on the Seward District,
26 the Bean North Fuel Reduction project, this is a
27 thinning of an area to reduce fire danger, could have
28 an impact to subsistence users or people who might hunt
29 in the area.

30

31 Those are the ones that I put an
32 asterisk next to, but like I say, it's lengthy and I
33 might not know the impacts of all the things on here.
34 A lot of them are just formalities, outfitter guide
35 proposals -- or permit renewals or mining project
36 permit renewals, things that are ongoing, but like I
37 say get involved. Call us if you have questions or go
38 to the website if you want to see a more complete list.

39

40 Another thing -- before I get to
41 district level I guess I'll talk about this. Given
42 conservation concerns that Fish and Wildlife Service,
43 the Kenai Refuge was talking about, with moose in Unit
44 7 and then possible concerns coming up in Unit 6 or
45 overall Southcentral with the severe winter that we're
46 having, their idea of delegating in-season management
47 authority to local managers, in our case it would be
48 district rangers, I think is a good idea. Right now
49 I'm holding off on drawing the Unit 6C moose permits
50 because I don't know how many moose are going to make

1 it through the winter, even though our population is
2 sitting pretty good. I guess I'm not looking for a
3 formal response from you guys but a head's up that we
4 might be looking for the same sort of authority that
5 they are to deal with the same problem on the Kenai in
6 Unit 7, which is mostly Forest Service and not Refuge,
7 and if we see the -- which has the same management
8 concerns of low bull/cow ratios that Unit 15 does, see
9 if we should approach the Board with a letter and ask
10 for the district ranger on the Seward District to have
11 in-season management authority to adjust, you know,
12 harvest quotas as they see fit for when management
13 concerns arise and then the same for our district
14 ranger in Cordova, to have some authority over the
15 moose harvest on the Copper River Delta. Right now
16 these rangers have authority to do in-season fisheries
17 management and I guess for caribou, for the Hope hunt,
18 but not for moose or other game harvest.

19

20 So anyway that's something that, after
21 seeing what the Refuge is doing, that we thought would
22 be a good idea and we could be submitting something to
23 the Board to ask for that as well.

24

25 Yeah, Judy.

26

27 MS. CAMINER: One question. I was
28 thinking of this earlier. I mean usually that
29 delegation of authority is to open or close, but it
30 looked like we were also saying that the in-season
31 manager for the Kenai might need to have the authority
32 to say the number of brow-tines or the number of
33 inches, so that would be a little bit different, I
34 think, from past delegations of authority.

35

36 MR. BURCHAM: Yeah, you're probably
37 right. I need to learn more about this process myself.

38

39 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Tom.

40

41 MR. CARPENTER: Yeah, Milo, not that I
42 have a real concern with doing that but you're dealing
43 with a drawing permit and you have the ability to issue
44 the amount of tags that you feel necessary, why would
45 an in-season management tool be necessary?

46

47 MR. BURCHAM: Well, for things that
48 arise that we're not aware of. If, for some reason,
49 through the middle of the season, you know, hunter
50 reports come back and sometimes, you know, before we

1 knew we had a bull/cow ratio problem on the Copper
2 River Delta the hunters were telling us they saw a
3 concern.

4
5 Right now we don't know how many moose
6 we're going to have next fall and I'm putting the
7 drawing off until April for -- just for that reason.
8 But at some point we're going to have to pick a number
9 and we still might not have the best idea of what's
10 going to make it through the winter. So if we issued
11 30 cow tags this year and saw a kill that brought the
12 population below the harvest objective, or the
13 management -- you know the population objective, we
14 could, at the last meeting, going into the season, want
15 to change the number of cows that we wanted to see
16 killed. So that would just give the most flexibility
17 for, you know, on the ground management and responding
18 to real life situations without having to do special
19 actions which are timely. I think they would be used
20 sparingly and in times of conservation concern, you
21 know, when more or less emergencies come up and that
22 would just be an extra tool in the box is how I see it.

23
24 With that we'll go to things on the
25 districts and I'll talk about Cordova first.

26
27 I passed out this map to everybody and
28 there's a stack on the table. I apologize because
29 there's no title on it, people are wondering what the
30 heck this is. Because of conservation concerns,
31 because of the amount of snow that we've got in Cordova
32 this winter, we expanded on the area that's closed to
33 motorized use in the wintertime. On the books we've
34 had a closure on the west side of the Alaganik Road,
35 the dark green area west of the Alaganik Road has been
36 closed for some time to motorized use in winter because
37 it's core moose winter range. Well, this winter with
38 the snows that happened fairly early on we saw, you
39 know, the need to reduce disturbance. We got reports
40 of moose not getting off the road and floundering or
41 jumping off the road and disappearing in snow over
42 their heads and, you know, early on there was pretty
43 dire concerns about what our moose were faced with.
44 And so we extended -- just for this year we extended
45 this closed area to this portion east of the Alaganik
46 Road and also expanded that to include subsistence
47 motorized use. So this green area, for this winter is
48 closed to subsistence and non-subsistence motorized
49 uses because of the, you know, relative emergency we
50 saw with the moose this winter.

1 And then any questions on that.

2

3 Does anybody want to comment on the
4 closure.

5

6 (No comments)

7

8 MR. BURCHAM: So that's just a head's
9 up of what we've already done.

10

11 And then I just wanted to give you some
12 real quick results on permits and harvest. This year
13 we issued 13 subsistence bull moose permits through the
14 drawing. Nine bulls were harvested, it is one of our
15 lower harvests. And we've had a relatively low harvest
16 on bulls for the last couple of years because of the
17 lower bull/cow ratios, people -- that hunt has
18 generally run close to 100 percent but they've had a
19 little bit harder time filling new tags. We issued 10
20 antlerless permits and all 10 were harvest. In
21 general, Cordovans don't have a hard time, they're very
22 good at filling their tags, but, anyway with the low
23 bull/cow ratios late in the season it got to be hard to
24 find a legal bull.

25

26 With the fresh water fishing permits
27 for the Copper River Delta, or actually Prince William
28 Sound, we've seen an increase, 67 permits were issued.
29 I only have 47 reports so far. But anyway the previous
30 high number of permits was 52. Like I said we issued
31 almost 70 this year. And there was -- more and more
32 people are realizing the opportunity. There was a
33 little run on permits later in the season or in
34 September, and this year five -- 495 coho and 35
35 sockeye were harvested. The previous high was 231. So
36 we've seen a pretty good jump in the number of coho
37 harvested with this permit, a lot of it from the Ibek*
38 Drainage, you know, just outside of town. It's become
39 popular and I don't think there's a conservation
40 concern. I shared this information with Fish and Game
41 and other fisheries biologists in the area and they
42 realize it's a healthy productive run, but, anyway I
43 just wanted people to be aware of the increase here
44 recently.

45

46 And then the most recent information we
47 have for the Copper River Delta moose, earlier in the
48 winter, this survey took place, January 27th through
49 the 29th, the fish -- Dave Crowley with the Alaska
50 Department of Fish and Game got up with funding from

1 subsistence and came up with a population estimate on
2 the west Delta, this is where we have the drawing hunt
3 of 600 moose, our population objective is 400, so here
4 recently we've had bull/cow ratio problems, low
5 bull/cow ratios and we've been slightly under or just
6 last year, just approaching the population objective,
7 we suddenly see that as a moose population on the whole
8 is, we're doing okay, we're a little bit above. But
9 this is early in the winter, before any winter
10 mortality, or any significant mortality would be
11 expected to take place, so that's the big thing we're
12 watching right now, is to see what happens with the
13 rest of the winter. But going into it we're sitting
14 okay. And there was a 21 percent calf ratio, 21
15 percent of the adults were calves, which is a decent
16 calf ratio. And there was no bull/cow ratio because
17 the survey took place in January when most moose
18 would've dropped their antlers, so we don't have recent
19 data on the bull/cow ratio. Oh, and then he noted, the
20 density in Alaganik and Sheridan, which is the core
21 winter range was too high, is what he said, eight moose
22 per square mile. The last time he saw that density
23 they had very heavy use on the willow, you know, heavy
24 browsing on the willow. So we're approaching a high
25 density of moose for our core winter range and a severe
26 winter, I think.

27

28 With that, I'll pass it to Ruth to talk
29 about the Kenai and we'll be done.

30

31 Oh, questions.

32

33 MR. HENRICHS: Yeah, on those silvers,
34 it doesn't seem like a lot of silvers but that's not
35 just the only ones that are harvested up there. When I
36 go out the road and I see 70, 80 vehicles parked there,
37 it's hard for me to believe there's not a significant
38 impact on the spawning areas up there. But time will
39 tell.

40

41 And as far as those moose, it sounds
42 pretty good, but our tribe is going to get a plane and
43 go out and make our own count here real soon.

44

45 MR. BURCHAM: Yeah.

46

47 MR. HENRICHS: We'll let you know what
48 we come up with.

49

50 MR. BURCHAM: Okay.

1 MR. HENRICHS: Seeings how they're my
2 moose.

3
4 (Laughter)

5
6 MR. BURCHAM: As far as the fishery
7 goes, I recognize this 500 fish reported in Federal
8 subsistence -- as Federal subsistence harvest is a drop
9 in the bucket to what we know is harvested out there.
10 Still, though, Fish and Game surveys of the spawning
11 grounds show no escapement problems, you know, the
12 thought is that escapement is goal and there isn't a
13 resource concern in that drainage, yet. But there's no
14 denying how heavy the pressure has become at Ibek, you
15 know, I agree with you 100 percent there.

16
17 It'll be interesting to see what you
18 find with moose. I think Dave's numbers are good. His
19 surveys are systematic and produce, you know, good
20 estimates but it was early in the winter and a lot can
21 happen, you know, in the next month and a half of
22 winter that we have left.

23
24 Ruth.

25
26 MS. D'AMICO: So I'm just going to
27 report on the dipnet fishery up at Russian River. Out
28 of the community of Cooper Landing we issued 69 permits
29 and there was a total harvest of 836. The community of
30 Hope, 19 permits were issued with a total harvest of
31 159.

32
33 And then we have the Federal moose
34 permits for the August 10th through September 20th
35 timeframe. Cooper Landing was issued 23 permits with
36 only one moose harvested. And then the community of
37 Hope had 28 permits issued with no harvest.

38
39 And then the Federal caribou hunt that
40 was for the community of Hope, there were 28 permits
41 issued with no harvest.

42
43 And that's all I have.

44
45 MR. BURCHAM: Any questions.

46
47 (No comments)

48
49 MR. BURCHAM: Thank you.

50

1 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Thank you. Okay, BLM.

2

3 (No comments)

4

5 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Nobody here from BLM.

6 ADF&G.

7

8 MS. YUHAS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

9 It looks like I'm stuck racing the clock a little bit
10 here.

11

12 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: You don't need to race

13 the clock.

14

15 MS. YUHAS: Jennifer Yuhas, Alaska

16 Department of Fish and Game.

17

18 You have in your possession both a
19 calendar for both sides of our Boards to try and help
20 you with your meeting scheduling, let you know what
21 subjects are coming up, at what time, and we also
22 passed out a list of the recent decisions at the Board
23 of Game meeting last week in Fairbanks.

24

25 So if you have any questions on that, I
26 will try to answer them.

27

28 For Member Stickwan, I did put in an
29 email to our Staff, I can't recall whether the
30 extension of the Nabesna Moose was also passed as a
31 joint permit or not. So if my cell phone gets an email
32 I'll peak at it and see if I've got an answer yet, but
33 I did put that question in for you just now.

34

35 For Member Caminer's questions
36 regarding the MOU, I am part of that InterAgency Staff
37 Committee and we have met three times to review all of
38 the RAC comments and the public comments and see where
39 they would affect the existing document. And, really,
40 I don't want to call it busy work, but we've been doing
41 the technical assessment of that and I'm currently
42 awaiting a document from my Federal counterparts to
43 review so we can both take back to our respective
44 agencies and then come before the Board in May. And
45 the intent is to bring that to the Board, send that
46 back out to all of the RACs so that it can be discussed
47 at the fall meeting schedule.

48

49 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Gloria, did you have a
50 question.

1 MS. STICKWAN: I had a question about
2 the trophy. What happened to the trophy proposals?
3
4 MS. YUHAS: I wasn't there for those
5 particular proposals, through the Chair.
6
7 I understand that some form of sale may
8 be allowed for trophies in divorce cases, and I'm not
9 up on.....
10
11 (Laughter)
12
13 MS. YUHAS: I'm just reading what they
14 passed.
15
16 (Laughter)
17
18 MS. YUHAS: But I'm not up on the
19 specifics of that but I would be happy to dig a little
20 deeper and get an email to you tomorrow, Member
21 Stickwan.
22
23 MS. STICKWAN: So only divorce people
24 can sell trophies?
25
26 MS. YUHAS: I'm unsure.
27
28 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: So if you want to sell
29 your husband's trophies you got to get a divorce, uh.
30
31 MR. CARPENTER: It's actually.....
32
33 MS. YUHAS: I'm unsure on the
34 specifics.
35
36 MR. CARPENTER: It's actually on the
37 front page of the newspaper.
38
39 MS. YUHAS: Yeah.
40
41 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Really.
42
43 MS. YUHAS: There's a newspaper
44 article.
45
46 MR. CARPENTER: The front page, there's
47 an article about it.
48
49 (Laughter)
50

1 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Wow. Good threat.
2
3 (Laughter)
4
5 MS. YUHAS: Once, again, that would be
6 a State Board regulatory process decision, not a
7 Department decision.
8
9 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: All right.
10
11 (Laughter)
12
13 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Doug.
14
15 MR. BLOSSOM: Yeah, Mr. Chair. I see
16 you reauthorized the antlerless moose hunt in 15C, do
17 you know how many permits the biologist intends to
18 issue?
19
20 MS. YUHAS: Through the Chair, the
21 Board of Game authorized that and I will inquire with
22 the biologist how many permits.
23
24 MR. BLOSSOM: Okay.
25
26 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Any other questions
27 for her?
28
29 (No comments)
30
31 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Any more that you
32 would like to give us.
33
34 MS. YUHAS: Just that our comments will
35 be out soon on the National Park Service shed antler
36 plan that you folks discussed fairly heavily. They're
37 going through their processing, just to be formatted so
38 we can submit those hopefully this week. The condensed
39 version of that is that the State will be advocating
40 for a modified Option B. It's currently allowed to
41 collect these things on State lands, unless there's a
42 specific prohibition, the State wildlife regulations
43 would apply on public lands, and it's the State's
44 position that that should be allowed on all public
45 lands the same way it's allowed on the State, unless
46 there is a documented conservation concern or a user
47 conflict that's been documented to show a negative
48 impact to subsistence uses. So slightly different than
49 what was recommended here. We would be recommending no
50 restriction on users unless there is a conservation

1 concern or a negative impact to the subsistence user,
2 same way a hunt would be open unless there's not enough
3 and it has to be reserved just for subsistence users.
4 And we think that, as Member Stickwan pointed out, that
5 should there be an incident of someone going around
6 trying to collect all those things, or doing a lot of
7 scouting and the manager knows that that would happen,
8 they would have the authority to close that, and so why
9 close it until there's a problem. But we didn't think
10 that there needed to be a package of regulations, that
11 it should simply be allowed.

12
13 That's all I have for you, Mr.
14 Chairman, unless you folks have something for me.

15
16 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Anybody have any
17 questions for her.

18
19 (No comments)

20
21 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Thank you.

22
23 MS. YUHAS: Thank you.

24
25 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: But you didn't have to
26 race the clock.

27
28 MS. YUHAS: I still beat 5:00 o'clock,
29 Mr. Chairman.

30
31 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay. We now have the
32 Native Organizations, I saw the Native Village of Eyak
33 here.

34
35 MR. VANDENBROEK: Thanks, Mr. Chairman.
36 Keith VandenBroek, Native Village of Eyak. I'll see if
37 I can beat 5:00 o'clock as well.

38
39 I didn't really prepare anything
40 formal, I just wanted to give a real brief update on
41 some of our projects that are relevant to this program
42 here.

43
44 I'll start out with the Fisheries
45 Resource Monitoring Program. For those who are new on
46 the Council and those who have forgotten, the Native
47 Village of Eyak has been involved in this program since
48 2001 and our longest running and still active program
49 through that is the chinook escapement monitoring
50 program on the Copper River. That's a mark/recapture

1 study. We use fishwheels to catch and tag king salmon
2 returning to the Copper, and it's the main management
3 tool and use for the Copper River Chinook Management
4 Plan. And all of our reports for that program are
5 available on line through the OSM website and the
6 Native Village of Eyak website as well. So if you want
7 any more information it's out there or feel free to ask
8 me questions any time.

9

10 So that program is continuing pretty
11 much status quo. Gearing up for a mobilization
12 probably on May 8th. The main barrier we're going to
13 be running into, of course, is snow load at our lower
14 site. I'm not sure exactly what we're in for yet but
15 it's not going to be good.

16

17 (Laughter)

18

19 MR. VANDENBROEK: But it'll be fun and
20 we'll get it going and I don't expect anything major to
21 be held up.

22

23 We also have a new program coming on
24 line. I guess a little bit of background, the tags
25 we've been using on our mark/recapture study since
26 about 2006 have a transponder integrated in an external
27 tag. I don't know if you've heard of a PIT tag at all,
28 but basically it allows us to do real rapid data entry
29 into a PDA and it also opened up the potential for
30 expansion of the program to do some distribution
31 monitoring work with it. And we did just get the
32 proposal funded through the FRMP as well, to do some
33 feasibility work on that. So starting this season
34 we're going to be installing some antenna rays up at
35 the Gulkana counting tower. We've got a cooperative
36 agreement that we're working on with Fish and Game to
37 let us work there. So that'll allow us to kind of
38 validate some new technology that's becoming available
39 and offer the visual counts to validate the numbers
40 that are being recorded by the antennas that are being
41 put in place. So it's pretty exciting. I'm very
42 optimistic that it's going to work out and that opens
43 up a lot of potential, basically for a real low
44 incremental cost on our current program to -- once
45 we've got the infrastructure in place to allow very
46 long-term distribution monitoring throughout the entire
47 drainage. It's pretty cool so keep your eye out for
48 that and I'll be giving updates over the years.

49

50 Also just very briefly, we've got some

1 moose work that we're doing. It's the hot topic around
2 Cordova right now. We started up the orphan moose
3 guardian program a few years ago through volunteer
4 efforts and it's had some growing pains and we've had
5 issues, you know, getting the permitting and what not
6 and it looked real promising last year to be able to
7 bring some moose calves across from the Valley here and
8 at the last minute there was some medical concerns from
9 the Vet and that was held up but we're real optimistic
10 that's going to get going strong this year. We just
11 got a grant from Fish and Wildlife Service, through the
12 Tribal Wildlife Grant Program, should give us some
13 funding to put in a decent facility and really get the
14 ball rolling on this. So the idea behind that is that
15 you've got moose that are killed on the road system
16 that leave orphaned calves, and by bringing those
17 across to Cordova you can boost up the genetic
18 diversity of our herd and add a few numbers as well.

19

20 And then the other program Milo alluded
21 to already, we're going to be starting up next winter
22 doing some hydroaxing on Eyak Corporation land and
23 hopefully beef up the overwinter habitat for the moose
24 and it's been real successful on the Forest Service
25 land so far. So this is a prime example of those harsh
26 winters that we were worried about. Hopefully we can
27 do something to help them in the future.

28

29 Back to the Chair.

30

31 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Any questions.

32

33 (No comments)

34

35 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Can you even see your
36 lower site?

37

38 MR. VANDenBROEK: I don't know. I
39 hopefully have one of my Staff members flying over that
40 site today if they had a long enough window in the
41 weather. But the last time we flew over was in January
42 after the first big dump and it looked pretty similar
43 to what it normally looks like in late April, and we've
44 gotten a lot of snow since then. So it's up to the
45 eaves on the cabin at that point and we probably can't
46 see the cabin now.

47

48 (Laughter)

49

50 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: That's what I was

1 thinking. Any other comments, questions.

2

3 MR. MILLS: Where are the calves that
4 you're getting the -- the orphaned calves from the --
5 from what area?

6

7 MR. VANDenBROEK: They'll be anywhere
8 throughout the Mat-Su Valley. Basically we've been
9 working with Alaska Moose Federation, cooperation with
10 them, so they'll be collecting the calves and sort of
11 nursing them at their facility until they can be
12 transferred across to Cordova.

13

14 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: These are the ones
15 that you're going to pain orange so that they can stay
16 there so that we can get some genetic diversity?

17

18 (Laughter)

19

20 MR. VANDenBROEK: The ones that I'll be
21 training to come when I whistle.

22

23 (Laughter)

24

25 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: I'm glad to see you
26 doing it.

27

28 Any other comments or questions.

29

30 (No comments)

31

32 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Thank you.

33

34 MR. VANDenBROEK: Thank you.

35

36 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay. Do we have any
37 other speakers, any other things to bring before us.

38

39 (No comments)

40

41 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: I don't see anything
42 on the agenda.

43

44 MS. HERNANDEZ: Mr. Chairman. I forgot
45 to mention to the Council, I got a message from Carl
46 Johnson a little while ago, we did hear from Mr. Lee
47 Adler. He's not feeling well, which is why he wasn't
48 able to drive in from Glennallen today, so he sends his
49 apologies.

50

1 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay. With that we
2 need to confirm the date and location of the fall 2012
3 meeting.

4
5 Tom.

6
7 MR. CARPENTER: I just had a question.
8 I know we set this date tentatively in Cantwell and
9 maybe somebody can answer this question. I see that
10 the window closes on the October 12th, but the Eastern
11 Interior meeting is the week after that. Is there any
12 reason why our meeting couldn't be after that, is there
13 -- what's going on there?

14
15 I mean the reason I bring that up is I
16 mean I know we scheduled it for here. I am personally
17 going to have a conflict on those two days. I was
18 looking at it at home and if it can't be worked out,
19 fine and if it's an inconvenience for more people,
20 then, fine. But I was thinking if we could have it on
21 the 18th or 19th of October I would be able to make it,
22 but I didn't know if that was possible.

23
24 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Helen Armstrong,
25 OSM. I don't believe it would be a problem unless it's
26 running into AFN, and I'm not sure, AFN is usually
27 right around then. We don't have a problem with going
28 a little bit outside the window, but does anybody know
29 when AFN is.

30
31 MR. ENCELEWSKI: Right around then.

32
33 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Right around then,
34 yeah, that's the answer to that question.

35
36 MR. CARPENTER: Yeah, okay, I was just
37 curious. Well, I won't be able to be there on the 2nd
38 to the 3rd, so, whatever works for the most people.

39
40 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Any comments for any
41 other Board members.

42
43 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: AFN is the 18th to
44 the 20th, so you could do it before that if you wanted
45 to.

46
47 MR. CARPENTER: Could we have the
48 meeting on the 16th and 17th, the same time as the
49 Eastern Interior or is that a problem?

50

1 MS. HERNANDEZ: That sounds like that
2 would be okay, Tom.
3
4 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: What, I didn't get
5 that?
6
7 MR. CARPENTER: She said that would be
8 okay if we did that, is that -- I'm just looking for
9 suggestions.
10
11 MS. STICKWAN: That would work good for
12 us with the SRC to have a later date.
13
14 MR. CARPENTER: What's that, Gloria?
15
16 MS. STICKWAN: It would be better for
17 us as an SRC to have the later date.
18
19 MR. CARPENTER: To have it later.
20
21 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: I have no objection to
22 it. I would prefer not to do it on the first week in
23 October, but it's up to the rest of the Council.
24
25 Greg.
26
27 MR. ENCELEWSKI: Yeah, I just had a
28 question, you're talking 16th and 17th of October,
29 where's the meeting planned for, I mean if you're going
30 to be at AFN on the 18th, you have to travel on the
31 17th or 16th, there's a youth and elders conference, a
32 lot of stuff, I don't know if that affects some people,
33 it does a few here, I know.
34
35 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: I think it's planned
36 for Anchorage, isn't it.
37
38 MR. CARPENTER: I think so.
39
40 MS. HERNANDEZ: It doesn't look like a
41 community was determined.
42
43 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Oh.
44
45 MS. CAMINER: Mr. Chairman. We were --
46 it's kind of impossible for us to do it now, but our
47 thought was to leave the location a little bit open to
48 see what the issues might be and where would be the
49 best community to have it. So I don't know if it's a
50 problem to still continue to say we'll figure it out as

1 it gets closer or whether people have feelings now
2 about where it should be.

3
4 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay. Well, one thing
5 about it, if the AFN is on the 18th and 19th and 20th,
6 there's going to be a lot of people in town by the 17th
7 and it may be a little hard to find a place to stay but
8 I'm not sure.

9
10 MR. HENRICHS: Mr. Chairman. If we
11 want to switch it to those dates maybe we should have
12 it off site, somewhere else than Anchorage. I'll offer
13 Cordova.

14
15 MR. CARPENTER: Is that the fisheries
16 meeting?

17
18 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: This is a fisheries
19 meeting.

20
21 Greg.

22
23 MR. ENCELEWSKI: Yeah, that's fisheries
24 meeting, I just wanted to make a comment on that, so
25 there'll probably be a lot of stuff within this, you
26 know, region, it would probably be good to have it
27 somewhere where they can get to it, like we talked
28 about earlier.

29
30 The other thing that I think you should
31 consider, you know, I would love to go to Cordova but,
32 you know, quite frankly if you're going to participate
33 in AFN you can't do it that same week, so.....

34
35 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: If we do it that week,
36 which we haven't decided on yet, but if we do it that
37 week I think it has to be someplace where you'd have a
38 road connection to Anchorage so that people can get to
39 Anchorage or be in Anchorage for the AFN Convention,
40 which would open up the whole Kenai Peninsula or Mat-Su
41 Valley, but whatever. But first we have to decide if
42 we're going to do it then.

43
44 MR. CARPENTER: Well, if we had it on
45 the 15th and 16th, which is a Monday and Tuesday and
46 AFN starts the 18th, that'd give you a two day window
47 if it was in Fairbanks or if it was here you could
48 stay, would that work better. I know Monday's green, I
49 don't know what the green means.

50

1 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: I think green means a
2 holiday but I'm not sure what the holiday would be.
3
4 MR. HENRICHS: Isn't AFN going to be in
5 Fairbanks this year?
6
7 MR. CARPENTER: It's in Anchorage?
8
9 MR. HENRICHS: Okay.
10
11 MS. CAMINER: Excuse me, just a second
12 and I'll check.
13
14 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Well, is there a block
15 on the 15th for any reason that anybody can see?
16
17 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: I think it's an
18 error.
19
20 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: What?
21
22 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: I think it's an
23 error, the green on there.
24
25 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: You think it's an
26 error?
27
28 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Yeah, I'm pretty
29 sure. I think it just got.....
30
31 MR. CARPENTER: Mr. Chairman. I would
32 move that we have the meeting in Anchorage on the 15th
33 and 16th of October. If we do have a lot of proposals,
34 probably which will come from the Kenai Peninsula, I
35 think it's a -- it's not as good as having it in Kenai
36 but it's easily accessible to get here if people want
37 to participate and I think that's the main objective.
38 It'll also allow for people that want to stay in town
39 for AFN, they're here, you know, it's the day after, so
40 that'd be my suggestion.
41
42 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Is that a motion?
43
44 MR. CARPENTER: That's a motion.
45
46 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Do I hear a second.
47
48 MS. MILLS: Second.
49
50 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay, it's been moved

1 and seconded for October 15th and 16th, open for
2 discussion. Anybody have any comments on those dates,
3 do they interfere with anybody else?

4
5 MR. ENCELEWSKI: It's too far away.

6
7 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: It's too far away?

8
9 MR. ENCELEWSKI: Too far for my plans.

10
11 (Laughter)

12
13 MR. ENCELEWSKI: Oh, actually I think
14 that would be good, just our new member here, Andrew,
15 was mentioning, you know, he's already scheduled for
16 the 2nd and 3rd so I know it always inconveniences
17 someone no matter what we do, but 15th and 16th works
18 for me, I know that.

19
20 MR. CARPENTER: Question.

21
22 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Anybody else have any
23 comments.

24
25 (No comments)

26
27 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Question's been
28 called. All in favor signify by saying aye.

29
30 IN UNISON: Aye.

31
32 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: All opposed, signify
33 by saying nay.

34
35 (No opposing votes)

36
37 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Motion carries. Now
38 we just need to set the place or did you?

39
40 MR. CARPENTER: How about here.

41
42 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Was that part of your
43 motion or not?

44
45 MR. CARPENTER: I think Anchorage and
46 this place, I mean I like this place for a meeting but
47 -- it's a nice facility, it's.....

48
49 MR. ENCELEWSKI: Yes.

50

1 MR. CARPENTER:big, the hotel's
2 right there. That'd be my -- yeah.
3
4 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: I don't know if we can
5 set the hotel and the place because I think that
6 they're on some kind of rotation schedule or something
7 like that, but basically we could set the community.
8
9 MR. CARPENTER: We picked this place
10 last time.
11
12 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Did we?
13
14 MR. CARPENTER: Yes.
15
16 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay.
17
18 MR. CARPENTER: But.....
19
20 MS. HERNANDEZ: I'll look into that and
21 get back to you folks.
22
23 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: This is a very nice
24 place to have a meeting.
25
26 MR. HENRICHS: It might even be
27 available.
28
29 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: It might.
30
31 MR. CARPENTER: Bad news.
32
33 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Uh?
34
35 MR. CARPENTER: Bad news.
36
37 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Polly -- I mean Helen.
38
39 (Laughter)
40
41 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: We were told
42 yesterday by Pete Probasco that we can't use this
43 building anymore because of the Fish and Wildlife
44 Service being in litigation with BP over the oil spill
45 in.....
46
47 MR. CARPENTER: Are you serious?
48
49 (Laughter)
50

1 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Yeah, that's what we
2 were told. So it was okay for this time but we were
3 told we can't do it anymore so it won't be here.
4
5 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Conflict of interest.
6
7 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Yeah, conflict of
8 interest.
9
10 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Oh, that's a shame
11 because this is a nice place with a nice hotel.
12
13 MR. SHOWALTER: There's a meeting room
14 right in there.
15
16 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Yeah, but we can't
17 have this building, we can have the hotel.
18
19 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: We'll find something
20 nice for you.
21
22 MR. SHOWALTER: I'm just saying there's
23 a meeting room at the hotel.
24
25 MR. CARPENTER: Better than Cantwell?
26
27 (Laughter)
28
29 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Oh, there's a meeting
30 room at the hotel, how big is the meeting room at the
31 hotel?
32
33 MR. CARPENTER: It's little.
34
35 MR. SHOWALTER: Almost this size.
36
37 (Laughter)
38
39 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay. Just someplace
40 where we don't have to pay to park our cars.
41
42 (Laughter)
43
44 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: You know, anyhow. So
45 we've picked -- and that was part of your motion that
46 it was Anchorage 15th and 16th, right?
47
48 MR. CARPENTER: Yes.
49
50 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay, that's settled.

1 Now, we need to pick the winter meeting.

2

3 Melinda.

4

5 MS. HERNANDEZ: Mr. Chair. The week of
6 March 4th already has two Council meetings taking place
7 so if we can avoid the week of March 4th that would be
8 preferable.

9

10 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: So the week of March
11 4th is out?

12

13 MS. HERNANDEZ: Yes. Western Interior
14 and Northwest Arctic have already picked that week.

15

16 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay. Okay. Well,
17 what's the date today?

18

19 MR. CARPENTER: 13th, 14th, 15th.

20

21 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: I plan on being gone
22 by the 15th next year.

23

24 MR. CARPENTER: March 11th and 12th.

25

26 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: 11th and 12th. Greg.

27

28 MR. ENCELEWSKI: Well, it's probably
29 not going to do any good but I'm going to throw it out
30 there. You know, the spring break is always that week
31 of the 11th through 15th and it kind of -- you know,
32 it's been a hassle, you know, we got grandkids down
33 from Fairbanks but it's -- it's kind of hard on some of
34 us, but, I'd like it when it wasn't spring break to be
35 honest with you and we don't get it in there quite
36 early enough, but if you're going to Florida I'm going
37 with you.

38

39 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: No, I'm just going to
40 go where the crocuses are blooming.

41

42 MR. ENCELEWSKI: Oh, okay.

43

44 (Laughter)

45

46 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: No, I have no.....

47

48 MR. CARPENTER: The 20th and 21st.

49

50 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Now, see I know that

1 Kenny Lake's spring break is next week, I'm pretty sure
2 -- oh, it's this week, okay.
3
4 MS. MILLS: What about March the 4th,
5 5th, 6th, or.....
6
7 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: No, that's closed off.
8
9 MS. MILLS: What?
10
11 MR. CARPENTER: She told us that that
12 was off limits.
13
14 MS. MILLS: Oh.
15
16 MR. CARPENTER: Mr. Chairman. I move
17 the 20th and 21st.
18
19 MR. HENRICHS: Mr. Chairman.
20
21 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Mr. Henrichs.
22
23 MR. HENRICHS: The last two weeks in
24 March I'm always booked up.
25
26 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Yeah, halibut season
27 is open.
28
29 MR. HENRICHS: Well, that and other
30 things, everything's important, but those days are
31 usually blocked off a year in advance.
32
33 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: What -- I'll ask a
34 question, what does everybody have as an objection to
35 February?
36
37 MR. CARPENTER: It has to be after the
38 20th, trapping season closes the 20th.
39
40 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: 28th.
41
42 MR. CARPENTER: Oh, you're right, it
43 can't be in February then.
44
45 MS. STICKWAN: The Alaska Board of
46 Game.....
47
48 MR. CARPENTER: But you're only gone
49 for two days.
50

1 (Laughter)
2
3 MS. STICKWAN: The Alaska Board of Game
4 is February 8th through the 15th.
5
6 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: 8th through the 15th
7 is the Alaska Board of Game?
8
9 MS. STICKWAN: Yeah, for Region 4.
10
11 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Well, I -- personally
12 I would say somewhere between the 18th and the 22nd
13 would look like a good time if there's nothing else
14 going on. I mean I'd rather come here -- I mean this
15 is the time of the year it's already sunny outside, you
16 could work outside for 12 hours a day, what do you want
17 to be sitting in a meeting room for, how about
18 February, does that sound good for everybody -- pick
19 the days between the 19th and the 22nd.
20
21 (Laughter)
22
23 MS. CAMINER: 20, 21.
24
25 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: 20 and 21, that sounds
26 good to me, is anybody going to make a motion.
27
28 MS. CAMINER: So moved.
29
30 MR. CARPENTER: Second.
31
32 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Judy moves that we
33 have our meeting on the 20th to the 21st.
34
35 MS. MILLS: Second.
36
37 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: It's been moved and
38 seconded, 20th to 21st.
39
40 MR. CARPENTER: Question.
41
42 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Question's been
43 called. All in favor, signify by saying aye.
44
45 IN UNISON: Aye.
46
47 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: All opposed, signify
48 by saying nay.
49
50 (No opposing votes)

1 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Motion carries. And
2 we can decide where later.
3
4 MS. CAMINER: Mr. Chair. I mean I
5 think that would be good to decide later but I think it
6 also would be helpful to meet on the Kenai Peninsula at
7 some point pretty soon.
8
9 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Yeah. We'd get to see
10 lots of moose if we went down to the Kenai Peninsula
11 right now.
12
13 MS. MILLS: They're all in the road.
14
15 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: I know. Or in my
16 daughter's chicken house.
17
18 (Laughter)
19
20 MR. CARPENTER: It'd probably be better
21 to talk about moose down there versus fish.
22
23 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: That's for sure.
24
25 (Laughter)
26
27 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Anyhow, okay, if
28 that's okay with everybody let's consider at the next
29 meeting a place on the Kenai in February, like Homer.
30
31 (Laughter)
32
33 MR. CARPENTER: Homer's good.
34
35 (Laughter)
36
37 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: It has facilities. It
38 has places to eat. It has all kinds of things. I.....
39
40 MR. CARPENTER: Your grandkids.
41
42 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: It has my grandkids.
43
44 (Laughter)
45
46 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: So, anyhow, we can
47 consider that at the next meeting, we have our dates
48 planned. Do we have any further business.
49
50 MR. CARPENTER: I have one thing.

1 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Yes, Tom.

2

3 MR. CARPENTER: One thing that we
4 talked about earlier and during a break I found out
5 that the Federal Board is having a meeting down in
6 Juneau in a week, next week or the week after, and one
7 of the things that's always bothered me a little bit is
8 when the windows closed and when we have to have our
9 meetings, when the Federal Board has its meetings. And
10 I think it'd be an interesting debate for the Federal
11 Board to see if they couldn't align the windows that
12 we're dealing with to more align with what the State
13 window is in regards to the regulatory, you know,
14 deadlines and things, because nobody really likes to be
15 at a meeting in the peak of the hunting season, you
16 know, and that's always when our window is. If we
17 could move that window a month back, you know, into
18 November, that would be -- it would be better for me, I
19 don't know if it'd be better for everybody.....

20

21 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: It's trapping season.

22

23 MR. CARPENTER:but -- yeah, well,
24 not until the 10th.

25

26 (Laughter)

27

28 MR. CARPENTER: But, anyway, I would
29 just be interested for myself to pass those comments
30 along to the Board to see if that would be something
31 that they would consider entertaining in the future.

32

33 But that's my own personal comment.

34

35 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: And that's a question
36 that -- he just brought up something that I was going
37 to ask and had forgotten. That meeting that the Board
38 has coming up, is there -- is that open to a
39 representative to the RAC or is that a closed meeting?

40

41 MS. HERNANDEZ: There's going to be a
42 work session, or not a work session, but a retreat for
43 a couple of the days, they'll be meeting with the
44 Southeast RAC for a portion to deal with the
45 extraterritorial jurisdiction and a couple of other
46 things, is David -- David's not here anymore -- and
47 part of it is going to be executive session. But I
48 believe I heard, because there's going to be a few
49 other issues covered there will be a teleconference
50 available, so there will be a line I think for the

1 portion that is open to the public.
2
3 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Oh. But they don't
4 need a RAC representative to come down to it.
5
6 MS. HERNANDEZ: No.
7
8 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Otherwise I was going
9 to appoint Tom.
10
11 (Laughter)
12
13 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay. So there will
14 be a teleconference on that and that's -- I mean
15 they'll have a telephone line open on that, what is the
16 dates exactly for that?
17
18 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Yes, I think that's
19 correct. The telephone number will be listed, too, on
20 our website, I think the meeting -- the retreat is the
21 19th and 20th, the meeting -- Tina, do you.....
22
23 MS. HILE: The Board will begin meeting
24 with the Southeast RAC on 3/21 in the afternoon.
25
26 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Yes, so the meeting
27 is the 21st, 22nd and possibly the 23rd. So.....
28
29 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: And this is of?
30
31 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: March, sorry.
32
33 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Of March.
34
35 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Yeah.
36
37 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Do we have any
38 volunteers from this RAC who would be interested in
39 taking part in the teleconference because I won't be
40 available?
41
42 MR. CARPENTER: I mean I could do it if
43 you're going to be busy trolling for salmon.
44
45 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: I am.
46
47 (Laughter)
48
49 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: And I don't intend to
50 have a telephone with me.

1 MR. CARPENTER: I don't blame you.
2 Yeah, I can do it.
3
4 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay. Okay, then Tom
5 will -- so make sure Tom gets the information -- and,
6 Judy, did you have.....
7
8 MS. CAMINER: No, I was going to ask,
9 would it be helpful then for the RAC to either pass a
10 motion or nod our heads that we would support Tom
11 bringing up this concept of a change in the fisheries
12 schedule to more consistent with the wildlife schedule,
13 and just looking at that.
14
15 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Looking at the
16 windows.
17
18 MS. MILLS: Uh-huh.
19
20 MS. STICKWAN: Uh-huh.
21
22 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: So it would be more in
23 line and not be out of the hunting and fishing seasons
24 better.
25
26 Would that be acceptable, do we -- I
27 don't know if we need a motion, if we just have -- if
28 we have no objection from the rest of the Council we
29 could give Tom the authority to bring up the question
30 of windows and aligning them more with subsistence
31 activities at -- if he has the opportunity.
32
33 (No objections)
34
35 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: I hear no objections.
36
37 (No objections)
38
39 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay. Is there a hand
40 up back there.
41
42 MS. SWANTON: I just wanted to let you
43 know that if you look at the Federal Board website
44 you'll see the teleconference phone number and
45 passcode.
46
47 MR. CARPENTER: Okay.
48
49 MS. SWANTON: And the public meeting is
50 March 21 through 23, the retreat is noon on the 19th

1 through noon on the 21st, I believe.

2

3 MR. CARPENTER: Okay.

4

5 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Thank you.

6

7 MS. WRIGHT: This is Sherry Wright. I
8 just wanted to say that the Fish and Game Advisory
9 Committees typically start later, too, so if you guys
10 adjusted your schedule -- because I know there's been a
11 lot of -- in the past we had a little bit more
12 participation than there has probably recently, but
13 they would have a better chance of actually sending
14 comments in if the meeting schedule shifted a little
15 bit.

16

17 So, thanks.

18

19 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Thank you.

20

21 Okay, with that if there is no further
22 business a motion to adjourn is in order.

23

24 MS. MILLS: So moved.

25

26 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: It's been moved to
27 adjourn, the meeting's adjourned.

28

29 (Off record)

30

31 (END OF PROCEEDINGS)

