

1 SOUTHCENTRAL FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE
2 REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING

3
4 PUBLIC MEETING

5
6
7 VOLUME II

8
9 Kenai, Alaska
10 October 16, 2014
11 8:30 a.m.

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13
14 COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

- 15
16 Ralph Lohse, Chairman
17 Judy Caminer
18 Tom Carpenter
19 Greg Encelewski
20 Robert Henrichs
21 Andrew McLaughlin
22 Mary Ann Mills
23 Michael Opheim
24 James Showalter
25 Gloria Stickwan
26
27 Regional Council Coordinator, Donald Mike

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1 P R O C E E D I N G S

2
3 (Kenai, Alaska - October 16, 2014)

4
5 (On record)

6
7 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: I'd like to call this
8 meeting of the Southcentral Regional Advisory Council
9 back into session. We finished our proposals. Right
10 at the moment we're on the Partners for Fisheries
11 Monitoring Program Strategic Plan. Do we have our
12 presenter for that one available right now?

13
14 MR. MIKE: Mr. Chair. I think it would
15 be Palma from our office in Anchorage. She's going to
16 be calling in. Palma, are you online?

17
18 DR. BROOKS: Donald, this is Jeffrey
19 Brooks in Anchorage. How are you today?

20
21 MR. MIKE: I'm good. I think it will
22 be Jeff Brooks then.

23
24 (Laughter)

25
26 DR. BROOKS: Good morning, Mr.
27 Chairman. Members of the Council. My name is Jeff
28 Brooks. I work for the Office of Subsistence
29 Management. I'm going to present the Partners Program
30 update to you today. A group of core people from the
31 programs here at OSM and from other agencies, like the
32 Forest Service, we got together and formed a planning
33 team to address strategic planning for this program.
34 If you would turn to Page 123 in your book, you'll find
35 a document there that is an abridged version of our
36 vision document.

37
38 The first set of bullet points there
39 are some questions that I'll be going over with you.
40 Before I do that I just wanted to brief you on what we
41 did. If you turn to the middle of Page 126, you'll see
42 a section called drafting the strategic plan. That
43 gives you a rundown of what we did. We brainstormed
44 and discussed the issues, the planning issues facing
45 the program and we drafted a vision statement to guide
46 the program. That is not in your book, but I'd like to
47 read it to you for the record.

48
49 The Partners Program will engage and
50 partner with stakeholders in collaborative management

1 of subsistence resources. Partnerships are designed to
2 build capacity to conserve multiple resources and
3 protect subsistence opportunities in perpetuity. The
4 program was developed to maintain a relationship and
5 build trust among stakeholders. Partnerships will
6 facilitate open communication and the exchange of
7 information while respecting one another's values and
8 knowledge.

9

10 The program has strived to provide
11 mentorship, youth development and meaningful roles in
12 collaborative resource management for rural residents
13 of Alaska engaged in a subsistence way of life.

14

15 Mr. Chairman and members, from that
16 vision statement and our teamwork, which included past
17 and former and current partners and agency personnel,
18 we devised that list of goals. These are preliminary
19 and they're on Page 127. The first five are for the
20 program and the external partners and stakeholders.
21 Both six and seven are our internal goals that OSM
22 needs to meet in order to have a viable and successful
23 Partners Program.

24

25 We have not gotten to the stage of
26 formulating objectives to implement these goals. Right
27 now we're going to the RACs to ask for information to
28 help us do that. So I would like to ask you some
29 questions and I would really appreciate -- the program
30 would appreciate your feedback if you have any for us.
31 These questions are designed to flesh out the
32 objectives for improvement of the program under each
33 one of the goals.

34

35 First I'd like to ask you how can the
36 Partners Program facilitate better communication. For
37 example, our partners live in rural Alaska and interact
38 with local people. The Native Village of Eyak has a
39 Partners project right now in their region and there
40 are four others in the state. One of the keys to this
41 and our first goal is better communication.

42

43 So if the members of the Council have
44 anything to share with us about improving communication
45 in this program, we'd like to hear that for the record,
46 please.

47

48 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Thank you. Do any of
49 the Council members have anything they'd wish to add at
50 this time.

1 (No comments)

2

3 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Personally, from my
4 own standpoint, I really appreciated it when the Native
5 Village of Eyak brought their partners to our Council
6 meetings and had the partners give us a little bit of a
7 report because that way we met them individually and
8 learned what they were doing and basically could see
9 the value, I guess, in it. I would like to see more of
10 that for us. I notice the Native Village of Eyak
11 doesn't have their partners here right now, but in the
12 past we've done that and I thought it worked real good.

13

14 Any other comments.

15

16 (No comments)

17

18 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: I guess we'll have to
19 go on to the second question.

20

21 DR. BROOKS: Okay. Thank you, Mr.
22 Chair. I appreciate hearing that. I think that
23 interacting with the RACs more directly on the part of
24 the partners is a great idea and improves
25 communication.

26

27 The next question I'd like to ask is
28 how can our partners provide outreach and education so
29 that stakeholders can better engage in the Federal
30 Subsistence Program and the decision-making that goes
31 on there? For example, some of our partners have been
32 involved in local school programs.

33

34 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Any comments from any
35 Council member. Judy.

36

37 MS. CAMINER: Thanks, Mr. Chair. This
38 is Judy. I guess there's all sorts of conferences,
39 whether scientific or educational or employment related
40 that maybe some of the participants can appear at. I
41 think it could be a little bit challenging to ask
42 partners to do outreach for the Partners Program
43 because in a way isn't it a little bit competitive?
44 People are going after the money available for research
45 in their own area and so they may not be that willing
46 to advertise it to other areas. So that may be a
47 challenge.

48

49 But, nevertheless -- and I know you do
50 a good job with tribal consultation and outreach, so

1 hopefully people are aware of the program. Maybe you
2 can turn it more into the results from the partners
3 Program and make that more available statewide so that
4 people can see how the Federal Subsistence Management
5 Program is gathering information and also providing
6 training to people and education. So it may fall back
7 more on the program rather than the partners
8 themselves.

9

10 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Thank you, Judy.

11

12 DR. BROOKS: Thank you, Judy.

13

14 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Do you have any other
15 comments.

16

17 (No comments)

18

19 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: I'll make one comment
20 on it. Each one of them is going to be in a different
21 situation and different environment. Each one of them
22 is going to have to look at where they're at and see
23 what the needs are or what they can actually apply
24 where they are. I could understand where each partner
25 would actually have a different set of goals as far as
26 what they're going to reach out for, but I think
27 anything that they can do to encourage younger people
28 to get involved in conservation, resource management,
29 involvement from a subsistence standpoint.

30

31 I look around the table all the time
32 and I see an awful lot of us that, you know, one of
33 these days aren't going to be here and any kind of
34 encouragement the partners could do to get the young
35 people in their area involved or at least educated
36 enough to know that the subsistence program is there so
37 they want to take involvement in it would be real
38 beneficial because the day will come when they are are
39 future conservationists and subsistence users.

40

41 Mary Ann.

42

43 DR. BROOKS: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

44

45 MS. MILLS: Yes, this is Mary Ann
46 Mills. I know in our tribal government we do have a
47 youth program and they have been very involved in
48 environment issues and I think this would be another
49 area that they would really enjoy being involved in.
50 We do have an educational fishery, so it might fit very

1 well and I'll bring the information back to our tribal
2 council.

3

4 Thank you for this opportunity,
5 explaining the program.

6

7 DR. BROOKS: Council member Mills, you
8 are very welcome. The goal is to help flesh out some
9 ideas for actual objectives and methods for
10 implementing these goals. The tribal government and
11 other rural organizations are really the key to this
12 program. We'd really appreciate you taking the
13 information back to your area.

14

15 Thank you.

16

17 I can move on, Mr. Chair, if you'd
18 prefer.

19

20 MS. CAMINER: Mr. Chair.

21

22 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Judy has a comment for
23 you.

24

25 DR. BROOKS: Okay, okay.

26

27 MS. CAMINER: Say one more comment. I
28 was just reading more carefully your preliminary goals
29 number seven, develop strategies to increase
30 visibility. Within U.S. Fish and Wildlife and other
31 funding agencies I would either hopefully rephrase that
32 to say within the Federal Subsistence Management
33 Program or within the InterAgency Program or name all
34 the agencies. Thanks.

35

36 DR. BROOKS: Thank you so much, Judy.
37 I agree with you on that. Mr. Chair, if there's no
38 other comments, I can ask another question.

39

40 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: You may go right
41 ahead.

42

43 DR. BROOKS: Thank you. How can the
44 partners help strengthen relationships between
45 stakeholders? This kind of keys in on relationship-
46 building and interacting with the agencies involved and
47 other local organizations.

48

49 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Gloria.

50

1 MS. STICKWAN: I think making phone
2 calls and staying in contact with other organizations
3 and tribes would help too because we haven't gotten any
4 phone calls or interaction from our social scientist
5 from Eyak. I mean the program. So just having a
6 regional meeting at least once a year or something to
7 let us know they're there and they're willing to help
8 us. Staying in contact is important.

9

10 DR. BROOKS: Thank you.

11

12 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Could you rephrase
13 that question for a second or not rephrase, repeat.

14

15 DR. BROOKS: Yes, Mr. Chair. How can
16 the partners and the OSM Staff implementing the program
17 help to strengthen relationships between local
18 organizations and Federal agencies involved in the
19 Federal Subsistence Management Program?

20

21 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay. What I caught
22 was the fact that what we need is we really need to
23 strengthen the relationship, like you said the first
24 time, between the stakeholders, the people who actually
25 are the recipients or the users of the subsistence
26 resource if we're talking from a subsistence
27 standpoint. From that standpoint I think the idea of
28 getting them more involved is probably encouraging them
29 to be more involved, to me would be one of the best
30 ways they can do it.

31

32 One way you encourage people from a
33 schoolteacher's standpoint is you do it yourself. By
34 being excited about interacting and dealing about these
35 things you're going to mentor or you're going to
36 transfer that excitement to the young people that are
37 around you.

38

39 DR. BROOKS: Teach by example?

40

41 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Yes, teach by example.

42

43 DR. BROOKS: All right. Thank you, Mr.
44 Chair.

45

46 MR. ENCELEWSKI: Yeah, I'd just like to
47 make a comment. This is Greg Encelewski from
48 Ninilchik. I think it's a great program. I think one
49 of your outreaches that would really be helpful if you
50 made presentations or participated in tribal council

1 meetings or met with areas of things that are happening
2 in those areas. I know the tribal council in Ninilchik
3 has about 800 members and they have a lot of programs.
4 They've got a lot of conservation programs. They've
5 got a lot of subsistence programs. But if you actually
6 were able to schedule one of those regular meetings, it
7 would be very helpful because it would be a good two-
8 way dialogue.

9

10 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Thank you, Greg. And
11 that brought up a thing that I was thinking of also is
12 have they ever done any kind of presentation at AFN? I
13 mean you have a big gathering of people from all over
14 the state going to be coming together a week from now.
15 It's a little late for this year, but that would be a
16 good place to present the objectives of the Partners
17 Program and have some of the partners talk about their
18 experiences.

19

20 DR. BROOKS: That's a great idea.
21 Thank you, Mr. Chair. I'm unaware if we've ever
22 presented the program at AFN.

23

24 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Judy.

25

26 MS. CAMINER: It is my recollection
27 there's usually a Fish and Wildlife Service or OSM
28 booth there, so the information is available, but that
29 just depends if people are walking by. There certainly
30 are many smaller conferences going on or meetings going
31 on where it would be great.

32

33 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: But that's OSM, isn't
34 it?

35

36 MS. CAMINER: I can't remember.
37 Donald, is it Fish and Wildlife or OSM?

38

39 MR. MIKE: Mr. Chair. OSM is an
40 interAgency Program and we will have a booth at AFN
41 this year and we'll have all the information that
42 relates to the InterAgency Program, wildlife
43 regulations, Partners Program and everything that we
44 work with in our program.

45

46 Thank you.

47

48 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: I guess I was thinking
49 more of having some of the young partners that are
50 involved do some kind of a presentation if there's the

1 opportunity because there's going to be a lot of young
2 people there too and it would be nice to see some of
3 the young people that are involved in the Partners
4 Program to encourage other young people to get
5 involved.

6

7 Mary Ann.

8

9 MS. MILLS: Yes. This is Mary Ann and
10 AFN does also have a
11 subsistence committee and maybe if you contact Julie
12 Kitka and maybe participate in their subsistence
13 committee meetings. I know we have them I think
14 quarterly. I'm on that committee. So it would be a
15 good opportunity. Even contact her as soon as maybe
16 today or tomorrow and see if you could -- if they are
17 having a meeting at this upcoming AFN meeting next week
18 and see if you can participate.

19

20 DR. BROOKS: Thank you.

21

22 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Gloria.

23

24 MS. STICKWAN: They have the Indian
25 General Assistance Program that has a regional yearly
26 statewide meeting. That would be a good time for them
27 to have a booth there or speak if they can get on their
28 agenda. And that BIA Providers Conference is another
29 good place.

30

31 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Did you get that about
32 the conferences?

33

34 DR. BROOKS: Mr. Chair, thank you. I
35 caught the BIA Providers Conference which OSM does try
36 to attend and we can make sure that we cover the
37 Partners there or even try to get a Partner involved
38 with a presentation. I missed the first meeting that
39 you.....

40

41 MS. STICKWAN: The Indian General
42 Assistance Program. They have a statewide regional
43 meeting each year. All the tribes attend that. It's
44 mandatory for them to attend that meeting that have a
45 IGAP program.

46

47 DR. BROOKS: Okay. Thank you.

48

49 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Michael.

50

1 MR. OPHEIM: The meeting or the
2 conference she's talking about is ATCEM. There's
3 usually three to four hundred people at the Hilton and
4 then AFE in February. That one usually has about 1,200
5 to 1,500 folks, Native tribes coming in to do
6 presentations on their programs, talk with industry
7 folks that are there, granting agencies, so that would
8 be a really good site for this kind of thing to happen.
9

10 DR. BROOKS: Thank you. We had
11 presented before, at least I have, at the Alaska Forum
12 on the Environment. That's what you mean by AFE,
13 right?

14 MR. OPHEIM: Yes, sir.

15 DR. BROOKS: Okay, thank you.

16 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Any other suggestions.

17 (No comments)

18 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Shall we go on?

19 DR. BROOKS: Yes, Mr. Chair. We've
20 covered some of this already. This specific question
21 asks how can the Partners and OSM Program promote
22 opportunity for youth and elders to engage in the
23 Subsistence Management Program but also engage one
24 another. For example, we do summer culture camp with
25 the Refuges.

26 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Mary Ann.

27 MS. MILLS: You know, AFN always has
28 the youth and elders conference prior to the business
29 conference and that is usually on Monday and Tuesday
30 and maybe Wednesday. Again, if you could maybe contact
31 AFN and also Rosita Worl is the chair for the
32 Subsistence Committee, so you may want to contact her
33 as well and maybe she can give you a spot at the youth
34 and elders conference.

35 DR. BROOKS: Thank you. That's a great
36 idea. I'll talk to Palma and others about the extent
37 in which we have done this in the past and wish to do
38 it this year. I'm assuming that it's -- it's
39 definitely not too late to call them and start this
40 discussion. Whether or not they'll have a slot for us
41 this year is unclear, but I really appreciate the

1 suggestion.

2

3 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Shall we go on.

4

5 DR. BROOKS: Yes, Mr. Chair. This
6 question states how can
7 the partners work together to create opportunities for
8 local individuals to become involved in actual
9 subsistence management or research.

10

11 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Well, I don't know
12 what anybody else thinks, but most of the partners are
13 involved in some kind of conservation themselves and
14 they can sure seek help from the young people around
15 them and get them to be partners with the partners.

16

17 DR. BROOKS: Exactly.

18

19 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: And that's what I
20 think they should really do is they should seek young
21 people who want to -- who are interested in what
22 they're doing and invite them to help them.

23

24 Andy.

25

26 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: Yes, Mr. Chair.
27 Perhaps promote some type of internship program through
28 partners that already exist so the outside people can
29 come see and learn and young people can get more
30 involved.

31

32 DR. BROOKS: Yes, and that is part of
33 the program. They're extremely useful and helpful.

34

35 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Well, one thing I
36 would suggest, and that's
37 just from past personal experience when you're dealing
38 with young people, don't make it too formal. Be like a
39 friend, you know. Get them to be working with you as a
40 friend, as somebody that's interested in what you're
41 doing. I can think of that from past experience
42 myself. If you make it too formal, then it becomes a
43 job or it becomes school, but if it's just something
44 that they're going out to do with you, they can get
45 just as excited as you are.

46

47 DR. BROOKS: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
48 That's a great point. Sometimes I feel that more of
49 our work should operate along those lines.

50

1 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Any other comments.

2

3 (No comments)

4

5 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Shall we move on.

6

7 DR. BROOKS: Yes, Mr. Chair. I have
8 one more question for you and then it will be open for
9 discussion and any questions you might have for myself
10 or other Staff. This one is something that we've been
11 thinking about for a while and it does align with
12 provisions in ANILCA. Should the Partners Program be
13 expanded to include other resources, issues and topics?
14 For example, wildlife. Right now it tends to focus on
15 fisheries and fisheries research.

16

17 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Mary Ann.

18

19 MS. MILLS: You know, I'd like to see
20 the focus on food security as well. I think that's an
21 important part of subsistence and it's also -- the
22 Department of Agriculture is involved, so I think it
23 would fit right in, you know, with your other
24 activities.

25

26 DR. BROOKS: Thank you.

27

28 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: If you want a comment
29 from me, I think the Partners should be multi -- oh,
30 how do you say it. Have multiple interests because I
31 don't think subsistence is fish, I don't think
32 subsistence is game. It has to extend to everything
33 from clothing, housing, food, shelter, environment
34 around you and everything else. Multi-discipline is
35 what I was thinking.

36

37 If I was looking for some young person
38 to be a partner, I would look for some young person who
39 has a wide range of interests in everything from
40 history to archeology to fish to game to crafts to
41 everything because I think that that's -- what we need
42 to do is we need to install some excitement about
43 living, not just about one section of it.

44

45 That, to me, would be -- if I was
46 looking for a partner, that's what I would be looking
47 for, somebody that can take young people and get them
48 excited about living and living where they're at and
49 using what's there and being part of where they're at.
50 That's going to be hard to do, but there are people

1 like that out there and I know them.

2

3 DR. BROOKS: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
4 That's a very good point and probably one of the
5 reasons why ANILCA does stress every aspect of
6 subsistence, like socioeconomic.

7

8 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Judy.

9

10 MS. CAMINER: Thanks. This is Judy. I
11 guess a question would be whether there are constraints
12 on the money that's coming to you that -- does that
13 focus you, us, only on fisheries? That would be part
14 one of the question.

15

16 DR. BROOKS: Thank you, Ms. Caminer.
17 This definitely, as any Federal program, if you track
18 them, you'll see that there are constraints on
19 spending. One of our purposes here in addition to
20 discussing ideas and getting things on the record that
21 we can use later is to flesh out a critical part of a
22 strategic plan for this program.

23

24 When we're in the planning phase, we
25 are focused on what could be. What is our vision, how
26 do we want this to be, how is this going to be most
27 successful and valuable. In the plan, we always have a
28 section where you talk about spending and personnel and
29 other resources necessary to actually achieve the
30 objectives in total.

31

32 So right now we're trying to put things
33 out there that we may not be extending right now at the
34 moment, but when leadership sees that we have a good
35 plan down, they may be more willing to increase our
36 funding so that we can meet these objectives. Does
37 that answer your question?

38

39 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Judy.

40

41 MS. CAMINER: Yeah, I understand more
42 about your vision and your plan, but I would guess the
43 RAC wouldn't want, let's say, the current fisheries
44 funding reduced to accommodate our wish to have
45 information about food security. I think that's a
46 great -- it's a current buzz word and you could
47 certainly try to seek funding through that or Ralph's
48 broader multi-disciplinary aspect of things. That was
49 my comment.

50

1 DR. BROOKS: Okay. Thank you. Through
2 the Chair. Yeah, we hope not to draw out existing
3 funds away from successful and well-liked programs that
4 are working.

5
6 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Gloria.

7
8 MS. STICKWAN: I think it should
9 include wildlife and I also think that OSM should look
10 at having the Partner's Program to be changed from each
11 region. It seems like Eyak's had it since it started
12 and should share with the other Southcentral areas, not
13 just Eyak. Like Cook Inlet or even our area up the
14 river could have a Partner's Program.

15
16 I was wondering about Judy's question.
17 About a few years ago you said that there needs to be
18 an evaluation of the -- I forget -- because Cook Inlet
19 wasn't included. I wonder if this program was set up
20 the same way.

21
22 MS. CAMINER: Through the chair.
23 That's a good point, Gloria. What we're referring to
24 is the overall fisheries monitoring program allocation,
25 of which the Partners is a part -- correct?

26
27 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Uh-huh.

28
29 MS. CAMINER: We had felt -- we've
30 asked that Southcentral be reallocated more money
31 because the original allocations didn't include our
32 responsibilities, the Federal responsibilities for Cook
33 Inlet. So Chuck has explained to us that's coming on
34 the list soon, but we would like to -- we hope that
35 that reallocation will result in more funds for the
36 Southcentral area and include, therefore, more funds
37 for the Partners Program relating to Southcentral.

38
39 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Thank you, Judy. Any
40 other comments.

41
42 (No comments)

43
44 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Well, I'm going to
45 throw one more comment in because it deals with funding
46 and it comes out of fisheries and usually we have to
47 have a program to be involved in. I look at it kind of
48 like school teaching. To me, a partner is a student and
49 a teacher and a neighbor and all of that kind of stuff.
50 By having a program that they can be involved in that

1 gives them the support they need to be part of the
2 community. But I don't have much use for a teacher
3 that all they do is go to the classroom and go home.

4
5 I think that a partner should look at
6 all of these things that we're talking about and that's
7 why I say it should be multi-disciplinary. Okay, the
8 job is I'm helping with this research project on fish,
9 but at the same time I've got these young people around
10 me. How do I get them involved in not only this but in
11 all of the other things around there. I have a means
12 of support so that I can be here to do this. I don't
13 need to get paid to do these extra things. These extra
14 things should just be part of my -- in order to be that
15 kind of thing called a partner, that should be part of
16 my attitude that I want to teach and I want to learn.

17
18 If we seek that kind of young person,
19 sure, they're going to work on the project that they
20 have and that's going to be the base that pays for them
21 being there, but they should be willing to be giving
22 more in the area of education to the young people
23 around them than just the project they're working on.
24 I don't know. I guess I don't know if you can even do
25 that in this day and age because I know you can't do it
26 with teachers, but you could say, you know, if the
27 partner isn't doing that kind of thing, let's find
28 another partner.

29
30 Mary Ann.

31
32 MS. MILLS: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I'd
33 like to expand on that. You know, in our culture, we
34 call that being a real person or being a responsibility
35 of being human. I totally agree with you. When it
36 comes to partners, you know, besides the partners of
37 individuals, what about the partners of different other
38 programs or departments, whether it's State or Federal.

39
40
41 For instance, the Department of
42 Agriculture, maybe some of the funds can come from
43 there to fund some of these research ideas that may
44 come out or some of the ideas that would come out from
45 the different partnership. We know that the State also
46 has funding. Maybe they could fund some of the proposed
47 ideas that the group feels is vital.

48
49 I know with some of the things we're
50 doing as a tribe is looking at our -- we have

1 traditional healing, so we're looking into all of the
2 medicine plants, which is also part of the environment,
3 and also part of the self-sufficiency. I mean they're
4 just different ideas and maybe different avenues and
5 aspects if we put our minds together we could come up
6 with some very good ideas.

7

8 I don't want to take away from the
9 fishing either because that's a huge -- you know, being
10 a coastal community, it's huge for us, but maybe we
11 could look at other avenues of funding other certain
12 important programs.

13

14 Thank you.

15

16 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Thank you, Mary Ann.
17 I've been surprised in some of the looking that I've
18 done other departments are doing something very similar
19 to the Partner's Program. I've seen it in agriculture,
20 I've seen it in alternative energy and those kind of
21 things are going on. The thing we have to remember is
22 this is coming out of the Fisheries Resource Monitoring
23 Program. But what I'm saying is that even if you have
24 an individual involved in fisheries, it's like I was
25 talking about our -- I'll just say our Forest Service
26 personnel in Cordova. You need to have somebody that
27 says, okay, I'm not somebody from high up. I'm
28 somebody that's part of the community, I work with the
29 community, and what else can I share. That's what we
30 should be looking for in our partners.

31

32 The reason they're there, what pays the
33 bill for them to be there is the fact that they're
34 involved in the Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program.
35 I know I was dealing with another group across the bay
36 and they have a partner, but the partner is dealing
37 with agriculture and solar power, alternative power in
38 one of the villages there and it saved -- the only
39 thing you can call him is a partner. It's somebody
40 there that's willing to learn from them and teach them
41 at the same time.

42

43 So we have to remember that ours is a
44 Fisheries Resource Management Program, but at the same
45 time we can look for how do you instill in these
46 partners an attitude that they're there for more than
47 just doing their resource program. I think that's
48 where having them come to Council meetings and seeing
49 the issues and things like that makes a difference.

50

1 I have to be careful. I get too
2 carried away on that. Anyway, we'll go on. Greg is
3 looking at his watch.

4
5 DR. BROOKS: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
6 This discussion has been very helpful. Now I have
7 notes in the transcript from you. We will get to work
8 on this and continue with what we've been doing. I
9 appreciate your time in discussing it with us.

10
11 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Thank you.

12
13 Andy.

14
15 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: Yeah, Mr. Chair. A
16 couple more ideas that came up as people were speaking
17 just to throw out there. The Alaska Plants As Food and
18 Medicine Symposium put on by Alaska Native Tribal
19 Health Consortium might be a place to go solicit more
20 ideas as well as perhaps Nuchek Spirit Camp on
21 Hinchinbrook Island or Dogfish Bay down here in Port
22 Graham, the Chugach thing. That especially would
23 integrate the elder and the youth interaction that you
24 were kind of requesting earlier, so a couple more ideas
25 for you.

26
27 DR. BROOKS: Okay. Thank you, sir.
28 Through the Chair, what was that second idea you had?

29
30 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: Nuchek Spirit Camp is
31 held by Chugach over on Hinchinbrook Island. They
32 integrate elders and youth with a lot of cultural
33 activities.

34
35 DR. BROOKS: Okay. Thank you.

36
37 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: And Dogfish Bay, I'm
38 not as familiar with that one. It's done outside of
39 Port Graham and Nanwalek over there. I think they do a
40 similar kind of thing.

41
42 DR. BROOKS: Thank you, sir.

43
44 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay. Thank you.
45 With that we're going to move on. Identify issues for
46 the FY2014 annual report.

47
48 Donald.

49
50 MR. MIKE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Just

1 briefly on the annual report. Turn to Page 129 in your
2 meeting materials. It gives an outline of how to
3 address annual reports. ANILCA established the Annual
4 Reports as the way to bring regional subsistence uses
5 and needs to the Secretaries' attention. The annual
6 report provides the Councils an opportunity to address
7 the directors of each of the four Department of
8 Interior agencies and the Department of Agriculture
9 Forest Service in their capacity as members of the
10 Federal Subsistence Board.

11
12 The Board is required to discuss and
13 reply to each issue in every annual report and to take
14 action when within the Board's authority. In many
15 cases, if the issue is outside of the Board's
16 authority, the Board will provide information to the
17 Council on how to contact personnel at the correct
18 agency. As agency directors, the Board members have
19 authority to implement most of the actions which would
20 effect the changes recommended by the Councils, even
21 those not covered in Section 805(c).

22
23 Both Title VIII Section 805 and 50 CFR
24 ^U100.11 describe what
25 may be contained in an annual report from the Councils
26 to the Board. This description includes issues that are
27 not generally addressed by the normal regulatory
28 process such as an identification of current and
29 anticipated subsistence uses of fish and wildlife
30 populations within the region, an evaluation of current
31 and anticipated subsistence needs for fish and wildlife
32
33 populations from the public lands within the region, a
34 recommended strategy for the management of fish and
35 wildlife populations within the region to accommodate
36 such subsistence uses and needs related to the public
37 lands, and recommendations concerning policies,
38 standards, guidelines, and regulations to
39 implement the strategy.

40
41 So this is an annual report guideline
42 for the Council to follow. In order for the Board to
43 adequately respond to each Council's annual report, it
44 is important for the annual report itself to state
45 issues clearly. If addressing an existing Board
46 policy, Councils should please state whether there is
47 something unclear about the policy, if there is
48 uncertainty about the reason for the policy, or if the
49 Council needs information on how the policy is applied.
50

1 Council members should discuss in
2 detail at Council meetings the issues for the annual
3 report and assist the Council Coordinator in
4 understanding and stating the issues clearly Council
5 Coordinators and OSM staff should assist the Council
6 members during the meeting in ensuring that the issue
7 is stated clearly.

8
9 So that's the annual report guidelines
10 for the Councils to consider and we can open it up for
11 any annual report issues the Council may wish to bring
12 forward to the Board. Thank you.

13
14 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Thank you, Donald.
15 When is this annual report due?

16
17 MR. MIKE: Mr. Chair. We are just
18 identifying issues for the 2014 annual report. At our
19 winter meeting we can finalize that annual report and
20 submit it to the Federal Subsistence Board. At this
21 meeting right now we can just identify issues and then
22 at our winter meeting we'll finalize it.

23
24 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

25
26 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: So we'll also have the
27 opportunity at the winter meeting to add more issues or
28 to have thought about issues by that time, right?

29
30 MR. MIKE: Yes, that's correct.

31
32 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Does anybody have any
33 current issues at this point in time to put down as
34 including in our annual report. Mary Ann.

35
36 MS. MILLS: Yes, I would like to add
37 the AFN subsistence resolution. That was one of the
38 issues I had at the Board meeting because they were
39 saying the AFN, Alaska Federation of Natives, was fine
40 with the rural preference, which the resolution -- in
41 the latest resolution that was passed two years ago
42 stated that they wanted Native plus rural residents for
43 subsistence and I believe one of the reasons for that
44 is a report that came out and I could find it and
45 possibly bring it to the next Council meeting. It was
46 a scientific report that the genetics of salmon are in
47 from subsistence means to exclude us as who we are
48 genetically. I thought that was important.

49
50

1 Also the Declaration on the Rights of
2 Indigenous Peoples is an international declaration that
3 the United States and other countries accepted as a
4 good practice. I think maybe that should be included
5 because there's also a section in there on subsistence
6 and the importance of subsistence to the First Nations
7 people because most of the subsistence is part of the
8 genetics of the people and this is worldwide. It's a
9 worldwide issue and accepted by most countries in the
10 world.

11
12 Also, you know, again, I'd like to
13 bring in the food security. One of the main reasons
14 for that is because there are so many scientific
15 reports that go along with this study and I think a
16 good review of this should be considered as a part of
17 ANILCA for making their decisions and their language
18 the way they've made it.

19
20 I think there needs to be some
21 revisions in ANILCA and also to look at the intent of
22 ANILCA that former Secretary Stewart Udall had brought
23 to light and that's what we thought ANILCA was going to
24 cover. So I think the original intent of ANILCA needs
25 to be looked at. The testimony that former Secretary
26 of Interior Stewart Udall did was really well done.
27 That brings other issues that might be considered as
28 changes in ANILCA.

29
30 Thank you.

31
32 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: So, Mary Ann, where
33 and how would you put that forward. I can see that
34 that could come under recommendations concerning
35 policies, standards, guidelines and regulations. It's
36 talking about report content. Would it be a
37 recommendation that they read and take those things
38 into account as they go on and what kind of a reply or
39 does it need a reply? How would you do that?

40
41 MS. MILLS: Well, it says here that
42 ANILCA establishes the annual report as a way to bring
43 the regional subsistence uses and needs to the
44 Secretaries' attention. So these are uses and needs
45 that I believe are valuable to bring to the
46 Secretaries' attention.

47
48 Particularly Stewart Udall's testimony
49 on ANILCA and on the issue of rural and nonrural. I
50 think that is very important because he was Secretary

1 of Interior at one time, so I think he knows what the
2 intent of ANILCA in his eyes was to mean, which is not
3 what ANILCA -- we came up with or what they came up
4 with in ANILCA. So I think these need to be brought to
5 the Secretaries' attention.

6

7 I'm working on a report, you know, for
8 the Kenaitze Indian Tribe and hopefully I'll have time
9 to finish the report in the near future and maybe I
10 could just email it to Donald and to the rest of the
11 Council.

12

13 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay. So basically
14 what we're looking at there is some history and
15 guidelines, kind of, for -- I'm just trying to come up
16 with something to -- because it says to describe it
17 clearly and not have too long of language, so I'm just
18 trying to -- a recommendation that they review the
19 history and the guidelines and the current treaties or
20 something to that effect.

21

22 MS. MILLS: Oh, yes, current treaties
23 and declarations. Also, you know, if the Board and if
24 the Council would ask the Board to accept some of these
25 recommendations to bring to the Secretary of Interior
26 for its consideration I think would be very helpful as
27 well.

28

29 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay. Any other. Oh,
30 Chuck. I didn't see you sitting there.

31

32 MR. ARDIZZONE: Mr. Chair. I was on
33 the same page as you, I think. I was just trying to
34 get some clarity on what the Council recommendations
35 would be and if the Council wants a response, it would
36 be good to have some sort of questions to respond to.
37 They're all good issues. I'm trying to focus it down
38 so we can get a response back from the Board.

39

40 Some things, like ANILCA, the Board has
41 no control over, but it would be good if you wanted to
42 pass the information on to say we wanted you to be
43 aware of this. Please review this information and that
44 way the Board can say something to the extent of thank
45 you and we will review it just so you'll get a response
46 back that is meaningful. Otherwise it will be
47 difficult to respond to, I think.

48

49 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: That's what I was
50 thinking, is that a lot of the issues she was talking

1 about are at a higher level than the Board itself, but
2 the Board should be aware of them, so we could ask them
3 to review and be aware of them, but I don't know how to
4 ask them for a response.

5
6 MR. ARDIZZONE: You could say in your
7 annual report these are things we want you to be aware
8 of, please review these. We don't expect a response
9 back. Because otherwise the Board is going to try and
10 fumble with now what do we say back other than thank
11 you very much, we reviewed the documents that you asked
12 us to review. I guess would be the best response you'd
13 probably get back on some of those. I just don't
14 want.....

15
16 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Because the Board
17 cannot make a decision on them because that decision
18 comes from higher up.

19
20 MR. ARDIZZONE: Right. I just wanted
21 you to be clear as the Council that if you got a
22 response back that, hey, thank you very much, we
23 reviewed these, that you weren't offended, that they
24 did what you wanted.

25
26 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Yeah. Greg.

27
28 MR. ENCELEWSKI: Yeah, I'd like to make
29 a comment to that because I think we're getting off
30 track here and I'm just going to see what I could get
31 us -- what I think. First of all, when I listen to all
32 your stuff, I was going to go with this language we
33 can't have too much filler and fluff, but I didn't want
34 -- I was going to put that out there before you said
35 that.

36
37 And then I got to thinking about this
38 and Chuck and the rest of the members of the Council
39 here, you know. This is to establish an annual report
40 to bring the regional subsistence users' needs to the
41 Secretaries' attention. Okay. That's what we're
42 doing. We're bringing these global issues to the
43 Secretaries' attention. Now he delegated that to that
44 Board, so the Board is going to be the one that's going
45 to be doing this attention. They're the ones that need
46 to get this stuff.

47
48 What she's issued here, if I picked it
49 up right, is a very important regional resolution from
50 AFN, Native versus rural, the International

1 Deliberation, I don't know where we're going to go on
2 that. She's got to work on that. Food security and
3 intent of ANILCA. I think they're all regional, good
4 issues and I think the Board should be aware of it.

5
6 So I just didn't want us to get
7 thinking that, you know, you tell me don't put it in
8 there.

9
10 MR. ARDIZZONE: No, Mr. Chair, that's
11 not what I said. I said understand the issues. I just
12 wanted it to be clearer so when the Board reviews it --
13 if you're expecting some sort of response, I just want
14 them to be able to respond to something if that's what
15 you want. If you just want them to be aware of it,
16 that's fine and that's what the report should say.
17 These are issues that are very important to our
18 Council, we want you to review these, and just expect
19 that the Board is probably going to write back thank
20 you very much, we reviewed these issues and now we're
21 aware of them.

22
23 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: We can ask them to
24 take these into consideration in their deliberations.

25
26 MR. ARDIZZONE: Right.

27
28 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: And review them for
29 their information, but I can't expect them to come back
30 with much of an answer as to how they're going to solve
31 them.

32
33 MR. ARDIZZONE: Right. I think that's
34 all I was saying. The issues are very important. I
35 understand that, I do.

36
37 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Greg.

38
39 MR. ENCELEWSKI: Yeah, if I can make a
40 statement to that. Say I was on the Board. I would
41 come back -- I'd feel it was my obligation to make a
42 response. They may be short and they may be I can't do
43 nothing about it, whatever, but that's what they need
44 to do.

45
46 MR. ARDIZZONE: Right. Which is fine.
47 I just wanted to make sure that we're all on the same
48 page. That's all.

49
50 MR. ENCELEWSKI: I've got one more to

1 add.

2

3

CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay, Greg.

4

5

MR. ENCELEWSKI: We'll complicate this matter. Actually the one thing that I have a concern and I think should be brought globally, that's the shortage of subsistence resources and the changes. I know that we deal with it on a daily basis, but they get it enough through all these things that were stated here. That's what it really comes down to and it's becoming a quite distribution fight. That's not a very good word.

14

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But, anyway, you see what I'm getting at. I'm going to refine that before we put it in there because right now it's fluff.

Thank you.

CHAIRMAN LOHSE: That's the other thing that I was thinking about. That's why I was asking Donald when we needed this. This gives us as Council members time to think and to define like it points out in this annual report, kind of define in as simple a way as you can what we want to put in. By simple, I don't mean take out the meat. What I mean is take out the fluff.

MR. ENCELEWSKI: Exactly. I think we're all on the same page.

CHAIRMAN LOHSE: But we've got two of them right now that we at least can have down -- Donald's got down so that we can bring them back up. Judy, I think you had something you were going to present.

MS. CAMINER: Yeah, just mention other things I heard during the meeting that I thought might be included in the annual report. One, which hopefully will be solved by the next time or accomplished by the next time we meet is our question on the allocations to the Fisheries Management Program for Southcentral. So hopefully that has been reallocated in the Cook Inlet/Southcentral area gets a little bit more money on that.

Then I guess we still have the question on whether we do want a letter to the North Pacific

1 Fisheries Management Council about a subsistence seat.
2 I'm going to review the request we got from last year's
3 annual report, try to track down a little bit more
4 clearly the Don Young amendment and a couple other
5 things that seems to say the governor will consult with
6 subsistence users, but it might be nice to pursue who
7 is that. So we have a little more homework, but I'll
8 just bring that up as a possible follow up.

9

10 Another one might be that we request --
11 I know we heard it's the intent, but that special
12 actions be distributed immediately as they've occurred
13 to the RACs and having that annual list as well. It
14 sounds like that will be put into practice, but we
15 might want to mention it.

16

17 Then lastly our discussion on the
18 Partner's Program. It might be good for us to say
19 something along the lines of we'd like to see that
20 Partner's Program be expanded to be more
21 interdisciplinary and engage youth.

22

23 So just some ideas I heard. Oh, and
24 the last one, excuse me, was we had talked about and we
25 saw, I think, in the annual report an all-RACs
26 gathering and it's listing for 2016, which is great
27 because we thought that will coincide with AFN in
28 Anchorage, but I believe '16 it's going to be in
29 Fairbanks. So money-wise it may not be easy. We may
30 want to recommend it be at the 2015 AFN, which is a
31 year from this week actually. That might be really
32 tough, but it also may save more money because it's in
33 Anchorage. I don't know. I'd just bring that up to
34 alert you.

35

36 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Any other questions or
37 suggestions, Chuck.

38

39 MR. ARDIZZONE: No, Mr. Chair. Like I
40 said, I'm just trying to get some clarity.

41

42 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Just one comment,
43 Judy. You know, if we ask the State to have a
44 subsistence representative on the National Marine
45 Fisheries Council, who does the State say is a
46 subsistence user?

47

48 MS. CAMINER: Right.

49

50 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Everybody. What we

1 might want to do is define that a little bit, you know,
2 a little more clearly. Mary Ann.

3

4 MS. MILLS: You know, another issue is
5 the C&T. I think that needs to be language that is
6 legally accepted as -- you know, I think the State of
7 Alaska redefined customary and redefined traditional.
8 It's a huge issue, but I think that needs to be
9 redefined.

10

11 Also on the Partner's Program, probably
12 the funding should also be included to see if they are
13 going to be able to fund that adequately or to even be
14 able to fund it.

15

16 And with regard to the Declaration on
17 the Rights of Indigenous People, Stewart Udall's
18 testimony with regard to ANILCA and the AFN resolution,
19 I think if we furnish that information, it's self-
20 explanatory. And, you know, to ask the Board to take
21 this into consideration and report it or bring it to
22 the Secretary of Interior for their comments. That's
23 probably all they can do and all we can do, but at
24 least get -- you know, I don't want to just say here it
25 is, don't do anything about it, but I'd like them to
26 read it and I'd like to hear a comment back from them.

27

28

29 Thank you.

30

31 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Judy.

32

33 MS. CAMINER: Thanks. Just a follow up
34 to Mary Ann. I didn't reread yours because I'd written
35 them down, but on the C&T we will be discussing that at
36 our next meeting. So hold off putting it on the annual
37 report list maybe, Donald, until we do that.

38

39

39 Thanks.

40

41 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Pippa nothing?

42

43 MS. KENNER: (Shakes head negatively)

44

45 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Nothing. Anybody
46 else. Gloria.

47

48

48 MS. STICKWAN: I don't know how to say
49 this, but I heard the Chair say aligning the Federal
50 regulations with the State. To me, that's like a red

1 flag to subsistence users when they hear that. To me,
2 it gives the impression that we're trying to follow
3 State regulations and I don't think that's what he
4 means. If you could restate those when he says that,
5 you know, the Federal program is to allow for
6 subsistence uses and give a priority and include those
7 words instead of just saying aligning State
8 regulations.

9
10 It gives the impression -- you know,
11 this whole review got started because -- it started
12 from the Native people because they kept hearing these
13 words, they were aligning the State regulations or
14 trying to follow the State and it just raises red flags
15 to people. If you could just explain it better than
16 saying -- do you understand what I'm saying?

17
18 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: I think what you're
19 saying basically is that we shouldn't be as worried
20 about aligning regulations with the State as we should
21 be about giving subsistence priority. I think that
22 would be a good one to put.....

23
24 MS. STICKWAN: I've heard him say that
25 at least two times at two meetings that we need to
26 start aligning. He says that. He's in favor of that.

27
28 MR. ARDIZZONE: Mr. Chair. I think
29 she's talking about the Federal Board Chair.

30
31 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Yeah. I think that's
32 a good one to bring to their attention, that it's a
33 priority, not -- you know, if it's in our interest to
34 align, fine, but it shouldn't be our interest to try to
35 align if it takes away the priority.

36
37 MR. ENCELEWSKI: Amen.

38
39 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Judy.

40
41 MS. CAMINER: Perhaps we could ask that
42 Gloria's comment be passed along before the next public
43 meeting and maybe we don't have to write it then. That
44 might be the ideal solution.

45
46 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Before the Board
47 meeting?

48
49 MS. CAMINER: Yes. Thank you.

50

1 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Chuck.
2
3 MR. ARDIZZONE: Mr. Chair. I
4 apologize. I heard Judy mention C&T again. I just
5 want to make sure. That issue should be before the
6 Council's next meeting.
7
8 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Right.
9
10 MR. ARDIZZONE: So that could be
11 addressed. Mary Ann's concern should be able to be
12 addressed then, just to make sure. I think that's what
13 Judy said.
14
15 MS. STICKWAN: I have something else.
16
17 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Gloria.
18
19 MS. STICKWAN: We talked earlier about
20 the Chairs meeting and not being able to discuss
21 topics. I think we need an answer, if they're going to
22 have a meeting with the Chairs, what can they talk
23 about and what can they not talk about. That needs to
24 be clear, otherwise it doesn't seem like it would be a
25 productive meeting if they just sit there and can't
26 talk about anything. We need to know what the answers
27 are.
28
29 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Well, legally, they
30 can't talk about
31 anything on which they're going to vote on, make
32 comments on or try to change somebody else's mind on.
33 I mean that's a rough way of putting it.
34
35 MS. STICKWAN: What's the point of the
36 meeting then if you can't -- I mean.....
37
38 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Well, one of the
39 points of the meeting would be for the Chairs to get to
40 know each other and understand each other even if we're
41 not discussing any specific issue. It is kind of hard.
42 We can talk about general topics, the need for certain
43 things, but not things that are actually on the table
44 for going before the Board.
45
46 Chuck, do you want to give us a little
47 bit of a rundown on -- give Gloria a little rundown on
48 that as to what we can talk about and what we can't to
49 a certain extent.
50

1 MR. ARDIZZONE: Mr. Chair. I'm going
2 to defer to Carl Johnson if he's online.

3
4 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay.

5
6 MR. ARDIZZONE: Carl, are you online?

7
8 MR. JOHNSON: I am indeed online.

9
10 MR. ARDIZZONE: Can you help me out
11 with this issue. It's the all-Chairs meeting, what can
12 be talked about and what can't be.

13
14 MR. JOHNSON: Certainly. Mr. Chair,
15 thank you very much. Essentially the Councils are
16 governed by the Federal Advisory Committee Act. Any
17 meeting that we discuss, propose regulatory changes or
18 any matter that the Councils will take action on, for
19 example changing C&T or changing the rural
20 determination process, would have to be a public
21 meeting.

22
23 So in order to have a private meeting
24 of the Council Chairs, they would not be able to
25 discuss those things, but what they could discuss, as
26 the Chair mentioned, would be issues common to them
27 that are of concern that don't touch on regulatory
28 matters. So it could be administrative things with
29 OSM, travel, correspondence, other things that are kind
30 of the regular part of Council business and Council
31 interaction with OSM, but are purely administrative and
32 don't touch on regulatory issues. So that would be an
33 example.

34
35 Another example could be perhaps a
36 vision of conducting some future meetings or maybe
37 enhancing public outreach, interaction with schools and
38 creating opportunity for youth involvement in the
39 Councils.

40
41 I would expect those to be matters that
42 the Chairs could discuss and that would be a good
43 opportunity for them to kind of get an idea of what the
44 other Councils could be interested in and would desire
45 to do in those areas. But, again, those wouldn't touch
46 on anything regulatory in nature.

47
48 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: While I have you on
49 the line can I ask you a question.

50

1 MR. JOHNSON: Sure.

2

3 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: How about availability
4 of food resources in the region that you're in, ups and
5 downs of game populations, needs that you can see
6 coming up in your region, interaction with other users.
7 Things that are general like that, but that there are
8 no proposals on the table or anything like that at that
9 point in time that deal directly with those.

10

11 MR. JOHNSON: I would expect that those
12 things would be perfectly acceptable to be discussed at
13 the Chairs' meeting. If you think about the kind of
14 things that have to be done at your regular Council
15 meetings that have to be done on the record and have to
16 be done with a quorum, think of that as kind of the
17 framework. So when you get to the point of your
18 Council meeting
19 where you're just going over agency reports, you don't
20 need to have a quorum and, for technology reasons, you
21 can't be on the record, you don't have to be at that
22 point because you're no longer discussing things that
23 are subject to the requirements of FACA.

24

25 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Thank you.

26

27 Judy.

28

29 MS. CAMINER: One other thought, Carl.
30 Why couldn't it be a public meeting? Not that I would
31 want proposals discussed, but at least it just gives a
32 little bit more freedom or flexibility in case someone
33 says something a little bit out of the boundaries.

34

35 MR. JOHNSON: Yes, through the Chair,
36 there's no reason why it couldn't be a public meeting.
37 It would just have to be noticed and everything like we
38 do with any public meetings. It's my understanding
39 that the purpose of the Chairs' meeting was to have a
40 frank, off-the-record discussion among the Council
41 Chairs. One way we could avoid the issue you suggested,
42 people straying off topic and getting into things they
43 can't talk about at a private meeting, is obviously
44 Council Staff would be there to assist the Chairs if
45 any questions came up. Of course, they could also
46 assist them in avoiding topics that are not appropriate
47 for a closed meeting.

48

49 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: The only thing, Carl,
50 that I could see about that that might be a problem is

1 if we want to talk about the OSM, then we'd have the
2 OSM there.

3

4 (Laughter)

5

6 MR. JOHNSON: (Laughs) I can
7 understand that, but I think -- speaking for my Council
8 Coordinators, I think they have some pretty tough skin
9 and they understand their role as being a liaison
10 between the Councils and this program. They are quite
11 often in agreement with the Council Chairs on things
12 that may need to be fixed. So I wouldn't be concerned
13 about that, Mr. Chair.

14

15 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Thank you. That was a
16 tongue-in-cheek comment.

17

18 MR. JOHNSON: Yes. (Laughs)

19

20 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay. Any other
21 comments, questions on this. Donald.

22

23 MR. MIKE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. That
24 issue of all-Council Chair was on our meeting agenda,
25 so I think we took care of that agenda item. I'd like
26 to get this Council back on track on identifying annual
27 report items for 2014.

28

29 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

30

31 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Oh, that's right.
32 This is still part of the annual report. Okay. Any
33 other questions for annual report, anybody from the
34 Council. Michael.

35

36 MR. OPHEIM: Mr. Chair. I don't know
37 if this would be able to be put on the annual report or
38 not. Observations from people that are out in the
39 field, subsistence users. Things like fish with marks
40 or caribou with odd growths or moose with some
41 deformity, things like that, that might be -- or even
42 invasives that people are noticing more of or things
43 that weren't there before that are happening now.
44 Could those kind of things be brought to the Board
45 through this report?

46

47 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: I don't see why not.
48 Does anybody else?

49

50 (No comments)

1 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: I don't know how we
2 would do it because it would be mostly just for your
3 information, especially if there's anything that
4 appears critical to a Council members involving the
5 environment, climate change or change in what's going
6 on with the food resources. I don't see why something
7 like that can't be brought before the Council and
8 included in the annual report if the Council decides
9 to.

10

11 Do you, Donald?

12

13 MR. MIKE: I don't see any problem with
14 that. What we can request from the Board is that we
15 have various programs within the Fish and Wildlife
16 Service, marine mammals, migratory birds and if those
17 programs see or hear or receive reports of what
18 Mr. Opheim was just stating, we can request that to be
19 sent to our office and share that with our Council
20 members.

21

22 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

23

24 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Any others.

25

26 (No comments)

27

28 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Thank you, Chuck. I
29 think we'll go on from here to the next item then.
30 Recommend changes to the nomination appointment
31 process. We have somebody that needs to leave at a
32 certain time and we have somebody that would like to
33 testify too. We have somebody that would like to make a
34 presentation by 10:30 because they need to leave. What
35 time do we have right now?

36

37 MR. ENCELEWSKI: Ten to 10:00.

38

39 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay. And I have one
40 person who would like to address the Council at this
41 point in time. Why don't we take -- should we take a
42 five-minute break.....

43

44 MR. ENCELEWSKI: Sure.

45

46 CHAIRMAN LOHSE:to get rid of our
47 coffee or get some more. Then we will have Courtney
48 Larsen would like to address the Regional Advisory
49 Council and I believe he is addressing us on FP15-09
50 that we addressed yesterday. Then we'll go on to

1 recommended changes to nominations and then we'll go on
2 to a report on the Susitna-Watana Hydroelectric Project
3 that the presenter would like to present by 10:30.

4
5 Does that agree with the rest of the
6 Council?

7
8 MR. ENCELEWSKI: Yep.

9
10 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay. Five minutes.

11
12 (Off record)

13
14 (On record)

15
16 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay. We have a
17 request for an individual to address the Council.
18 Courtney Larsen, are you here?

19
20 MR. LARSEN: Yes.

21
22 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Would you take the
23 table. I'm sorry to inform you that we already took
24 action on your proposal, but we'll still be more than
25 happy to hear your comments.

26
27 MR. LARSEN: Hi. This is Courtney
28 Larsen from Cooper Landing. I apologize. By the time
29 I found out the dates for this I had already made a
30 prior commitment for all day yesterday, so I apologize,
31 but I can come here today.

32
33 The concept behind why I made this
34 proposal is that I felt like I wanted more legal
35 protection, like more legal layers of protection in
36 offering to sell fish online or public postings. We
37 live in the 21st Century and nowhere in the regs does
38 it say you can advertise or post subsistence fish for
39 sale for cash online that I'm aware of. It doesn't say
40 you can't, but it doesn't say you can either, so I felt
41 -- maybe I'm just overly cautious, but I felt like I
42 don't want to get my hand slapped if -- I was trying to
43 be proactive, so that's why I made this proposal.

44
45 It was two years in the works and quite
46 the learning experience for the mere public system. So
47 that was my premise, was I was nervous. I was
48 cautious, that I wanted to be in the 21st Century and I
49 wanted to post something online through various venues
50 that are common now in the 21st Century. Not just the

1 public board at the convenience door or the newspaper.
2 There's no newspapers anymore. There's no such thing.
3 So that's why I came across this. That's the history
4 and my purpose and motive behind it.

5
6 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Thank you, Courtney.
7 One of the things that came out in our discussion and
8 that's one of the reasons we took the action we did is
9 that we were assured that advertising is legal, period.
10 It doesn't matter how you advertise. Advertising is
11 legal. The thing is -- like I kind of thought that
12 what you were trying to do is also put some protection
13 in there by having the statement that -- protecting the
14 seller with the statement that these are subsistence-
15 caught fish, they can't be resold. I still think it
16 would be your responsibility to do that.

17
18 MR. LARSEN: Yes, I would want to,
19 yeah.

20
21 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: But as far as we were
22 told, there's no difference between advertising in a
23 newspaper and advertising online or putting it on a
24 bulletin board.

25
26 MR. LARSEN: Oh, okay. The bottom
27 line, is my proposal -- was it too conservative?

28
29 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: It was basically
30 classed as unnecessary because everything you were
31 asking for is legal.

32
33 MR. LARSEN: And that was what I was so
34 cautious about.

35
36 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: There was no change
37 that needed to be made. Donald, am I correct on that,
38 or Pippa? That's what our reasoning was, wasn't it,
39 that there was no change that needed to be made because
40 what you were asking for was already there.

41
42 MR. LARSEN: Okay. So I can do what I
43 intended to do.

44
45 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: As far as we could
46 see.

47
48 MR. LARSEN: Okay. All right.
49 Well.....

50

1 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Now whether the State
2 agrees with us is another question.

3
4 MR. LARSEN: Well, that's why I was so
5 cautious. I thought if it was written more
6 specifically, that it would give me more legal
7 protection of some kind. I mean.....

8
9 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: I don't think that
10 what we do changes the State. As far as I know,
11 everything that you're doing is legal from a Federal
12 standpoint. Like we pointed out before, the State
13 disagrees with us on some things. There's no
14 guarantees that you might not have to answer to the
15 State. Whether we make it more legal or not, it would
16 be the same.

17
18 MR. LARSEN: Okay.

19
20 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Where the State
21 disagrees with us -- one of the areas the State
22 disagrees with us is whether Federally caught
23 subsistence fish can be sold off of Federally caught
24 land. That has never been -- to the best of our
25 knowledge, it's never been taken to court, it's never
26 been prosecuted, but the State still disagrees with us.

27
28 MR. LARSEN: I was hoping I wouldn't be
29 the first one though.

30
31 (Laughter)

32
33 MS. CAMINER: Mr. Chair.

34
35 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Judy.

36
37 MS. CAMINER: Just a quick reminder
38 since you are quite cautious, whatever sales you plan
39 on cannot rise to the level of being a significantly
40 commercial enterprise. That's real clear in our regs,
41 which I'm sure you're aware of and I'm sure that's why
42 you wanted to put a limit on it and we declined to go
43 with that limit, but you do need to be cautious about
44 that.

45
46 MR. LARSEN: Well, it was so ambiguous
47 and I thought maybe I could define it more.
48 Anyway.....

49
50 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: One of the things --

1 the reason that we didn't put a limit on it is you have
2 a limit on your fish and your limit on your fish in
3 your area is small enough that it wouldn't be basically
4 a commercial enterprise from our standpoint. Now
5 whether the State will agree with that I don't know.
6 This, to me, would be one thing you could look at.
7 Like what we did on the Copper River, if you're doing
8 this for subsistence, you're doing it for your own use
9 and if you are just out taking the fish to sell, that's
10 not subsistence, but if you're taking the fish to use
11 and you have sufficient for your own use and you use
12 some of them for sale, that, to me, would be a pretty
13 decent argument that this is not a commercial
14 enterprise. If you go out and just catch fish to sell,
15 that looks to me pretty much like a commercial fishing
16 operation.

17

18 MR. LARSEN: Okay.

19

20 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: You know, I mean
21 that's what it would look like to me. Now whether it
22 looked like that to a judge or whether it looked like
23 that to the State or something like that, I'm not going
24 to say. I'm not a lawyer. But I mean from my
25 standpoint, if you go out subsistence fishing and you
26 have no use for the fish except to sell them, I would
27 look at that as you're a commercial fisherman.

28

29 MR. LARSEN: Oh, okay. I guess when I
30 saw -- they passed these things out. Every year they
31 pass these out and I actually opened it up and read it
32 and I found out, oh, you can sell this for cash. I
33 thought, well, I'm here to show gratitude as well that
34 what a wonderful blessing because I could take that
35 cash and go to Fred Meyer and I could buy beans and
36 toilet paper, gasoline. I mean I really appreciated --
37 the concept I think works when implemented that I can
38 sell this excess salmon and subsistence trade for other
39 household goods. Living in Cooper Landing is not
40 cheap, let me tell you. So I really do appreciate that
41 it is available to you to do the individual.....

42

43 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Judy.

44

45 MS. CAMINER: And while it was
46 unfortunate you weren't here yesterday for our
47 discussion, you can stay in touch with Donald because
48 the Federal Board will hear the proposal in January, so
49 hopefully you can attend there.

50

1 MR. LARSEN: Yes. Okay. Thank you
2 very much for your time. I appreciate it. And thank
3 you for reviewing the proposal.

4
5 I learned a lot.

6
7 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay. With that we're
8 going to go on to recommend changes in nomination
9 appointment process by Carl Johnson and then we're
10 going to go on to a presentation on the Susitna-Watana
11 Dam. Carl, are you on the phone?

12
13 MR. JOHNSON: Yes, Mr. Chair, I am and
14 I'm ready to give this briefing to the Council.

15
16 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: I'm glad you said
17 briefing.

18
19 MR. JOHNSON: A brief briefing. Good
20 morning, Mr. Chair. Members of the Council. My name
21 is Carl Johnson. I'm the Council Coordination Division
22 Chief here at OSM and here to talk to you about our
23 nominations and appointment process. As you know,
24 there are approximately 109 seats in all the 10
25 Regional Councils. People are typically appointed for
26 three-year terms and we conduct this nominations and
27 appointment process annually.

28
29 As you all have noticed in recent
30 years, there have been a few problems. One, at the top
31 of the list, is in the last two years our appointment
32 letters have been a bit delayed. Rather than dated
33 December 3rd we haven't been getting the first ones
34 until mid-January and the last ones not until early
35 May.

36
37 In addition to that, there have been
38 some other problems that have developed. In the last
39 10 years we've had a steady decline in the number of
40 applications, roughly 30 percent. We currently have a
41 nominations process that is sometimes confusing to the
42 user in that we start our application period in the
43 fall, which we have already, and we have a process that
44 takes -- we accept applications until late March and
45 then our nominations review process takes several
46 months before we get it to D.C. and then it takes them
47 several months.

48
49 In the end, we have a process that
50 right now lasts around 15 months. We start our new

1 application period before we've even received the
2 appointments from the previous application period.
3 Sometimes this is confusing to the general public and
4 also even Council members themselves.

5
6 Finally, another issue that comes up
7 from time to time is the fact that we do not currently
8 have formally appointed alternates. What we do is out
9 of the number of applications, people who have gone
10 through the review process, the Federal Subsistence
11 Board recommends people who could be considered as
12 alternates. Their names are vetted along with the
13 actual nominees to the Councils so that if we do have
14 an unexpected vacancy on the Council, we can then
15 contact that individual, say they were considered as an
16 alternate and see if they're still interested. If they
17 are, submit their name to D.C. for formal appointment.
18 Sometimes that can take a couple months and as a result
19 we could perhaps lose out on our opportunity for that
20 individual to participate in a meeting.

21
22 So what we have devised here is a
23 series of recommendations on potential changes to deal
24 with some of these problems in our nominations process.
25 So this is an action item for this Council. I am
26 looking for specific feedback and recommendations from
27 you on the three primary recommendations.

28
29 First, should we take the existing
30 three-year terms and make them instead four-year terms.
31 And related to that, should we stick with the annual
32 appointment process or should we go to a biennial
33 appointment process. Instead of having it every year
34 do it every two years.

35
36 Now if you look at Page 132 of your
37 book, you'll see that first recommendation
38 consideration the four-year annual cycle or a four-year
39 biennial cycle. There are some advantages and
40 disadvantages there. Since they are there before you I
41 won't reiterate them, but there's kind of a balance.
42 Generally, the key things that going to a four-year
43 cycle would do is reduce the number of names that we're
44 submitting each year to D.C. and hopefully make it
45 easier for them to get through their vetting process in
46 a timely manner.

47
48 Additionally, since we are experiencing
49 increasing declines of applications, if those declines
50 continue, we would not have to have as many names each

1 year in order to come up with enough qualified
2 candidates to fill all the Council seats.

3
4 The next issue is whether or not we
5 should actually ask the Secretary of the Interior to
6 formally appoint alternates to the Council. So instead
7 of -- they're not even notified they're considered an
8 alternate until there's a vacancy. They would actually
9 receive an appointment letter appointing them as an
10 alternate and then they would be immediately available
11 in case a Council member unexpectedly cannot attend the
12 meeting and there could be a potential risk of not
13 establishing a quorum. So they would travel to
14 meetings in order to maintain a quorum if needed, but
15 would otherwise be kept aware of the Council's business
16 so that they could assist when necessary in filling a
17 Council's seat. And if there was an unexpected vacancy
18 to the Council, then they could immediately step up as
19 a full member of the Council rather than waiting a
20 couple months for an appointment from the Secretary of
21 Interior.

22
23 Finally, the third primary
24 recommendation that we're asking for your input on
25 relates to -- well, it was suggested by the Western
26 Interior Council as creating carryover terms.
27 Currently in the Subsistence Resource Commissions for
28 the Park Service their charters do provide for this
29 carryover term and that is, if your term expires and an
30 appointment letter has not yet been issued regarding
31 your seat, whether it's to reappoint you or appoint a
32 new member to the Council, their charters actually
33 allow that sitting Council member to remain an official
34 member of the Council until a new appointment letter is
35 issued. This would squarely address the issue that
36 we've had in the last two years of not receiving timely
37 appointment letters.

38
39 This would require a change to your
40 charter. The previous issue with the appointment of an
41 alternate would not require any changes to charter or
42 regulation, but then the issue of going from a three-
43 year to a four-year term would also require a change to
44 your charter and a change to Secretarial regulation.
45 I've been told the regulatory change could be done
46 relatively quickly and next year is the year that you
47 renew your charters, so the charter change for the
48 four-year term appointments could be done then. We
49 could do the carryover term charter change sooner if
50 all the Councils feel like that is a good idea.

1 Now those are the three main issues
2 that we're seeking your feedback on. The fourth issue
3 identified on your briefing on Page 134 is that several
4 Councils have discussed the issue of how do we enhance
5 youth opportunities and youth involvement in the
6 Councils. There's no way to formally do it, as this
7 briefing notes, because of the FACA requirements for
8 what types of membership for committees such as yours,
9 but there are a lot of different ways that each Council
10 could in its own way enhance youth opportunities.

11
12 Really, the best way to deal with that
13 would be to just work with your Council coordinator in
14 coming up with a method that would work well for your
15 region with your communities and with what your
16 Council's interests are.

17
18 So that's essentially the essence of my
19 briefing and I'm open to any questions the Council may
20 have.

21
22 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

23
24 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Comments.

25
26 (No comments)

27
28 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Can I make a comment
29 then, Carl, to start off with. I'll try to get some
30 comments going.

31
32 MR. JOHNSON: Sure.

33
34 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: It looks to me like if
35 we did the formal alternate and the carryover terms, it
36 wouldn't be necessary to do the three to four and the
37 annual to biennial. I mean those would solve some of
38 the major problems that we've been having. If we had a
39 formal alternate that could sit in when we didn't have
40 a quorum or if we had a carryover term so that the
41 person would remain as a Council member until a new
42 appointment was made, both of those would solve the
43 quorum problem.

44
45 Now as far as the administrative
46 problem, I don't know, it might be pretty scary to have
47 a four-year term. What did you say, Greg.

48
49 MR. ENCELEWSKI: I said time goes fast
50 anymore.

1 (Laughter)

2

3 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Time goes fast
4 anymore. I don't know if that would have any effect on
5 applications or not. I look at the three to four-year
6 term and the annual to biennial to be more of an
7 administrative problem than a Council problem. The
8 Council problem is having sufficient people here to
9 have a quorum. From my standpoint, if there was a
10 formal alternate to take somebody's place, that would
11 help. If the appointment process is taking too long,
12 the carryover terms would help there.

13

14 As far as the three to four or the
15 annual/biennial, I think I would leave that up to the
16 Administration as to what they decide is the easiest
17 for them to handle because I don't think it makes much
18 effect on us.

19

20 Other Council members. Judy.

21

22 MS. CAMINER: Thanks, Mr. Chair. You
23 made a link there that I didn't see before. I'll start
24 with the carryover term. Yeah, I think that would be
25 well worth it. Your disadvantages on the timing, well,
26 perhaps your appointment process could -- either the
27 appointment could state this is after the next meeting
28 so that you have some transition time, so that would be
29 one way to avoid the possible uncomfortable situation.
30 So just change the timing of when the person's term
31 would start perhaps.

32

33 Moving back to formally appoint
34 alternates, my question would be whether an alternate
35 could fill in for an absent member because we always
36 have absenteeism and I'm sure most of the Councils do
37 or even if a person has to leave early, so that way the
38 alternate feels like a viable member of the Council and
39 doesn't just sit there without having opportunity to
40 comment.

41

42 My last comment on the annual cycle, on
43 the advantages you had for the four-year annual cycle
44 keeps Council applications in the public's attention.
45 I was amazed at how much you do spend on public service
46 announcements. So if you did switch cycles, you could
47 still have some perhaps announcements just about the
48 program itself. It doesn't have to say applications.

49

50 Then on the four-year biennial cycle,

1 Carl, where you have disadvantages, you know, may
2 increase the burden on everybody in a given year, maybe
3 you can advance the time you start the process to give
4 yourselves more time to finish the process in a timely
5 way.

6
7 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Other Council
8 comments.

9
10 MR. JOHNSON: Mr. Chair. If I may,
11 I'll respond to a couple of these real quick.

12
13 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: You may.

14
15 MR. JOHNSON: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
16 That is a good point, Judy. One of the things that --
17 you know, it's kind of a constant. We tinker a little
18 bit here and there every year with our timing to see
19 what will work regarding public outreach and increasing
20 applications, but also allowing us the time that we
21 need administratively to complete the nominations
22 process. So that's always kind of a moving target that
23 we can just do administratively.

24
25 As to alternates sitting in for absent
26 members, not just to help maintain a quorum, we --
27 there's kind of a variety of different ideas as to how
28 we would have alternates participate in the process and
29 keep them engaged, so that could be one way of doing
30 it. I mean we do plan to budget to have all Council
31 members attend, so for your Council having 13 Council
32 members attend. So that wouldn't be a budgetary
33 difference to have somebody step in for someone who's
34 absent and still paying for 13 Council members to
35 travel.

36
37 Regarding the issue of the four-year
38 being purely an administrative thing, part of it is in
39 that if we're going to a four-year term, then we're
40 only seeking 25 percent Council replacement every year
41 instead of 33 percent and that's reducing the number of
42 names we're submitting to D.C. and hopefully allowing
43 them to get their vetting done faster.

44
45 When you look at the individuals who
46 serve on the Councils, a lot of them are going to serve
47 as long as they want to serve and that could be 10
48 years, 20 years. So, from my observation, it almost
49 seems like the number of years per term is not really
50 material to them because they'll serve until they're

1 ready to quit. In some cases, it might be nice for
2 them to not have to do the applications as often.

3

4 We had appointment letters issued in
5 January of last year and now it's time for those
6 appointees to start submitting their applications for
7 the next appointment cycle and it's only been not even
8 two full years. So it seems like perhaps from what I've
9 seen and individuals I've spoken to it would be nice to
10 have a little bit of separation in between each time
11 they had to apply.

12

13 Those are just my thoughts and
14 observations and that's all I have on those issues so
15 far.

16

17 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

18

19 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Thank you, Carl. You
20 made a point right there that strikes me pretty good.
21 I would like to see it that automatically if somebody
22 is on the Council and they are willing to be
23 reappointed that they don't have to go through the
24 appointment process, that their name is just submitted
25 for reinstatement instead of having to go through the
26 whole thing, but I don't know if that can be done under
27 FACA.

28

29 It sure would be nice if all you had to
30 say is, yes, I'm willing to be reappointed and then
31 they can make a decision on that because they already
32 have all the information on you. Most of us don't
33 change much in three or four years.

34

35 MR. JOHNSON: Yeah, Mr. Chair, I
36 definitely can understand that. FACA doesn't really
37 drive how we do our nominations. It more drives what's
38 in the charters, what types of membership balances
39 there are in the Councils. The one thing that would be
40 impacted is, regardless of how long a member has served
41 on the Council, every time they're up for reappointment
42 Washington, D.C. wants to conduct vetting on everybody
43 who would serve in the next three years or four years.

44

45

46 Unfortunately we have experienced
47 situations where Council members who have served for
48 two, three or four terms are now being questioned by
49 new personnel in D.C. regarding vetting issues and
50 that's something we really can't control unfortunately.

1 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Thank you.

2

3 Judy.

4

5 MS. CAMINER: But, Carl, does that
6 necessitate a new application each time?

7

8 MR. JOHNSON: Mr. Chair. Through the
9 Chair. Under our current system everybody who is
10 considered for nomination is treated equally in that a
11 new applicant versus a sitting Council member is
12 considered and reviewed and evaluated objectively by
13 the Regional Nominations Panel, which means everybody
14 has to answer the same questions.

15

16 The one thing -- I can completely agree
17 and understand, you know, the idea I've sat on this
18 Council for 20 years and I haven't changed
19 significantly since my last appointment and I can
20 understand how it would seem rather tedious to do that,
21 but the basis for why Council members have to answer
22 the same questions that each applicant or each nominee
23 is evaluated objectively and equally.

24

25 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Thank you, Carl.
26 Maybe it would be handy for those of us that are on the
27 Council if we could just request a copy of our last
28 application and resign our name to it and submit the
29 same copy and then we could still answer the questions
30 but we wouldn't have to run down people to fill in the
31 blanks.

32

33 Anyhow, from that standpoint, do we
34 have anymore comments on advantages or disadvantages of
35 any of these recommendations that Carl has brought
36 before us.

37

38 Greg.

39

40 MR. ENCELEWSKI: Well, through the
41 Chair. Carl, this is Greg Encelewski. I would just
42 make a couple comments. I actually like all three of
43 yours. I like the four-year annual, I like the formal
44 appointment and I like the carryover. I think it all
45 makes business a little more efficient and move
46 smoothly. The one comment on the four-year I think if
47 a guy got fed up, and I've thought about it many times,
48 they're going to quit or go anyway.

49

50 As far as your formal vetting of the

1 people, I think that's a good thing because there might
2 be some young guy. I'd like to see my son and some
3 other people in the community get involved. Anyway, I
4 think the system works, but I think you could certainly
5 -- I'll tell you what. Three years comes so doggone
6 fast to me anymore it's unbelievable.

7

8 Thank you.

9

10 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Judy.

11

12 MS. CAMINER: Carl, I want to thank you
13 and your work group because we know you heard a lot of
14 complaints last year about the system and I think these
15 are some very workable alternatives. So thanks for
16 being responsive and help us all out with it.

17

18 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Gloria.

19

20 MS. STICKWAN: I think four years is
21 too long, but I like the reappointment. You know, if
22 your term -- if you choose to stay on and not have to
23 do the applications every year. My question is what do
24 you do if you get a citation or something, is that
25 counted against you and are you removed from the
26 Council for that?

27

28 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: That is one advantage
29 of a three-year is because Council members can be
30 reviewed oftener and that's a good point right there.
31 It does call for more review of the Council members.
32 So there's a vote for three-year right there. Is that
33 what you said, Gloria?

34

35 MS. STICKWAN: Yeah. I thought four
36 years was too long.

37

38 MR. JOHNSON: Mr. Chair. I'll respond
39 to that. If you recall, the Council has a fairly broad
40 discretion to remove Council members from the Council
41 for misbehavior. If you look at your RAC operations
42 manual and the section that talks about member removal,
43 if a Council member were to commit -- and I wouldn't
44 think a citation would be worthy of Council member
45 removal if you get cited for expired license or
46 something like that. Maybe you might think hunting out
47 of season is something that's worthwhile given the
48 nature of the work that you do. That would be up to
49 the Council.

50

1 Something more egregious, like somebody
2 committed a really nasty assault or murdered somebody,
3 then obviously you'd want to consider removing them,
4 but that's a power the Councils do have. So you can
5 address a problem like that if they arise, if they
6 become publicly known. A lot of these citations are
7 things that don't get discussed publicly. But that is
8 a concern that can be addressed through our existing
9 process of member removal.

10

11 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Yeah, I don't think we
12 were really thinking of member removal as much as just
13 the fact that by having to review it somebody -- I'll
14 use the word, like Greg was saying, somebody younger or
15 somebody better might be capable of taking that seat
16 and doing a better job at it.

17

18 The other thing is -- what was I going
19 to say on that. I lost it. Let's not worry about it.
20 Oh, I remember. This is where that formal alternate
21 would come in really handy. About the time that
22 somebody decided to quit in the middle of a term or did
23 something that caused their removal, didn't attend
24 meetings or something to that effect.

25

26 MR. ENCELEWSKI: Got sick.

27

28 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Got sick. We would
29 have somebody in place so that we could have our
30 quorum. I really think the formal alternative is one
31 you really should seek.

32

33 MR. JOHNSON: Yes, and with the formal
34 alternate appointment kind of my vision at this point
35 is that for the formal alternates they would be sent
36 the Council materials just like regular Council
37 members, they would be invited to listen in to the
38 teleconference if their schedules permitted and thus
39 they would be ready to, if necessary, step in and be
40 formally appointed in the event of an unexpected
41 vacancy as you suggested.

42

43 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Thank you. Do you
44 need anymore information from us or have we pretty well
45 handled the action that you'd like us to have taken on
46 this?

47

48 MR. JOHNSON: Yes, Mr. Chair. I'm
49 satisfied. Council obviously is in agreement on formal
50 alternate appointments and the carryover terms. There

1 seems to be a mix of interest on the three and four-
2 year terms. We'll just see how it goes from this
3 point.

4

5 Again, thank you again for the time.

6

7 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Thank you, Carl. With
8 that, we are going to go on a presentation of the
9 Susitna-Watana Hydroelectric Project. You're up and
10 we're going to move so we're out of your way. This is
11 not an action thing. This is just for your
12 information.

13

14 MR. BURCH: Mr. Chair. Members of the
15 Council. Thank you for this opportunity to give you an
16 update on some of our work with the Su-Watana Hydro
17 Project. Specifically the studies related to wildlife.
18 I'm mostly going to talk about moose and caribou.

19

20 I'm here at your invitation, so my
21 interest is to answer the questions that you and the
22 Council have and we can do that however you would like.
23 I can go through the presentation and take questions or
24 answer questions as we go along.

25

26 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: If somebody on the
27 Council comes up with a question as it's on the screen,
28 we'll entertain that question.

29

30 MR. BURCH: Okay. Very good. The
31 Division of Wildlife Conservation is directly involved
32 in six of the wildlife projects. Moose, caribou, Dall
33 sheep, where we have a portion of the sheep project.
34 It's similar to our normal summer surveys that are done
35 over a broader area in this case. Wolverines, large
36 carnivores. Our portion of the large carnivores
37 includes doing some density population modeling for
38 black bears and brown bears in the area. There are
39 other aspects of both bear and a study having to do
40 with wolves that's also included within large
41 carnivores that's being done by a contractor. Then we
42 have a Willow ptarmigan project as well.

43

44 Our moose study involves monitoring
45 both with what you might call satellite GPS collars as
46 well as VHF collars that require actually going out and
47 flying and using the radio signal. We're doing a
48 GeoSpatial Population Estimation Survey or we call it a
49 GSPE. We're continuing to do our traditional count
50 area surveys in the area. We added a late winter

1 inundation survey in the area that will be flooded as a
2 result of this project if it goes through. In the
3 spring, twinning/calving surveys and some browse
4 surveys.

5
6 The study area for moose is shown here
7 on the map is the greater area affected by the
8 potential development including the inundation zone and
9 the transportation and transmission lines. You see
10 here on the map that it also includes some of our
11 traditional count areas 7 and 14. The area surrounded
12 by the gold line around the inundation area indicates
13 the area that was surveyed during the late winter count
14 survey.

15
16 We've put out a number of both GPS and
17 VHF collars on moose, both bulls and cows, to get an
18 idea of their broad movements with the VHF and then a
19 finer scale information is available with the GPS
20 collars.

21
22 This map is a sample of the kind of
23 information that we're getting. This is from September
24 of 2013. Each collar is a different color on each
25 animal, so the different individual collars represent
26 individual animals in this case. We're also flying
27 telemetry for the VHF collars on a monthly basis.
28 Actually we've dropped a couple of those in the
29 wintertime as a cost-saving measure, but throughout the
30 year we're flying VHF collars to monitor movements and
31 then more specifically again the details on the GP
32 collars.

33
34 We're also assessing productivity and
35 calf survival. With surveys in the spring during the
36 calving season, the numbers in front of you indicate
37 what we're seeing in that case as far as pregnancy
38 rates -- or actually the number of calves that are born
39 and some of their early survival information.

40
41 This is a map that shows the GSPE, the
42 population estimation, for the area shown in the
43 gridded area. The grid is divided into those areas
44 that are likely to have a high probability of having
45 moose in them and low. The red are high and the blue
46 are low. Naturally in some of the higher elevation
47 areas are generally blue. You can see that. Those
48 that are shaded are the ones where we actually
49 conducted the count using a fixed-wing aircraft. That
50 was done in November 2013.

1 I've also referred to the late winter
2 inundation survey. There's concern, of course, that
3 some of the habitat, including some of the important
4 winter habitat where there's food available will be
5 flooded at some point, so we've done two counts there
6 and we hope to do one more in 2015 to get an idea of
7 the number of moose that use that area specifically.

8
9 We're also looking at the overall
10 amount of browse available in the study area and the
11 amount that is being consumed by moose. It's set up
12 along the same pattern as the GSPE. Each of the black
13 dots on this map indicate an area where we landed and
14 assessed the browse availability according to this
15 study design that we have for doing browse surveys.

16
17 One of the issues we've had to deal
18 with is that, of course, much of this is public land,
19 but some of it is held by Native corporations. We did
20 receive permission at the time the survey was done to
21 go onto Ahtna land, but not onto CIRI and associated
22 village lands, so we had to avoid those.

23
24 We're hoping that in 2015 we'll be able
25 to return with permission now on the Cook Inlet
26 Regional Working Group lands to be able to conduct more
27 intensive browse survey in the inundation zone and
28 along the transportation corridors.

29
30 Our plans are to continue to monitor
31 the moose. The satellite collars or the GPS collars
32 will actually fall off of the animals this next month
33 in November, so that part of the project will be
34 wrapping up, but we've continued in 2014 to do many of
35 the other aspects of the study that we had originally
36 lined out.

37
38 So that's the moose. I don't know if
39 anybody has any questions at this point about moose.
40 I'll move on to caribou.

41
42 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: When we were looking
43 at the moose there, I noticed you had an increase in
44 population between 2011 and 2012 and you had about 500
45 moose inundation area right there, if I gathered right,
46 right? That an inundation zone?

47
48 MR. BURCH: Correct. It turns out in
49 this case -- one of the reasons we'd like to do this is
50 we actually observed the exact same numbers both years

1 and we also assess the sightability and we did that
2 independently each year. So when we run those
3 statistics, the estimate comes out a little bit
4 different, 481 versus 502. The +/-26 is our confidence
5 limit, so you can see that overlaps. I really can't
6 say that there was any difference in the number of
7 moose using the area in 2012 versus 2013.

8
9 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: That's what I was
10 seeing, is you have about 500 moose in that area that's
11 going to be covered with water.

12
13 MR. BURCH: Yes, but observe that the
14 area outlined in gold is substantially larger than the
15 area in blue that would actually be flooded and that's
16 one of the other things you kind of have to assess. It
17 doesn't mean that 500 moose are going to be flooded.

18
19 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay.

20
21 MR. BURCH: It will be a complex
22 analysis when it comes right down to it. I've looked
23 at it with the same kind of eyes that your question
24 implies. You have to be a little bit careful about how
25 you read that.

26
27 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: So you're looking at
28 basically two moose per square mile.

29
30 MR. BURCH: That's correct, Mr. Chair.
31 So moving on to caribou. We have a similar study
32 design, but not quite as detailed for caribou. We have
33 both VHF and GPS collars that are out in the field and
34 we're conducting calving surveys.

35
36 This slide indicates the study area.
37 You'll see that it's very similar to the moose study
38 area, but it's somewhat larger just because of the
39 nature of caribou and their movements. It encompasses
40 areas that are occupied by both the Delta Caribou Herd
41 as well as the Nelchina Caribou Herd.

42
43 This map is kind of a rough description
44 of the area that is occupied throughout the year by
45 those two herds. The blue going to the north is the
46 Delta Caribou Herd and the gray is the Nelchina. Of
47 course, that's not absolute. You can't really look at
48 one side of the line or the other and think that a
49 caribou isn't going to walk across there. Of course
50 caribou are notoriously hard to really predict or even

1 understand.

2

3

4 Anyway, you can see that there's kind
5 of a general area where they do overlap. That's one of
6 the things that we're trying to get a better handle on,
7 which is important from a population management
8 perspective. Again, as I mentioned, we have both VHF
9 and GPS collars. This gives you kind of the breakdown
10 by when they were put out and the relative numbers of
11 each.

12

13 We did a part tradition survey the past
14 two years in 2013 and 2014. This table gives us a
15 little bit of an understanding of the number of cows
16 that were located, how many seemed to have calves, how
17 many calves were lost. The way we look at it initially
18 is those with antlers or a calf at heel or visible
19 udders and that's how we get the first number. Of
20 course, we follow up with surveys on a weekly basis
21 after that looking for the calves to get an idea of how
22 many calves are actually lost based on how many we
23 observed with the cows later in the month.

24

25

26 Similar to the moose slide that we had
27 up there earlier that showed the satellite collars, an
28 individual color for each animal, this is the same
29 thing for caribou in September of 2013. In this case,
30 you'll see that they're starting to move to the east to
31 their winter grounds during that particular month. It
32 gives you an idea that -- we'll be getting some --
33 well, we are getting some pretty detailed information
34 in a relatively fine scale for the movements of caribou
35 using those collars. That will help us, of course, to
36 better assess what the potential effects of the dam
37 will be.

38

39

40 Again, we're flying regular VHF flights
41 to locate the animals with VHF collars and we're
42 continuing to monitor those with GPS collars. We
43 expect those to begin going dead, however, so we've
44 started removing a few of those and we'll be switching
45 others out this spring because we know the satellite
46 collars are only going to last so long and we want to
47 retrieve the collars if we can because some of the data
48 that isn't successfully uploaded to the satellite and
49 back to us is stored onboard, so we want to retrieve
50 those collars so that we can get a little more detailed
51 data in some cases. Although our records show that
52 we've actually had quite a bit of success in getting
53 that data over the internet back to us without having

1 to retrieve them, so that's been a positive.

2

3 That's all I had prepared for today,
4 Mr. Chair. Once again, I'd be happy to answer any
5 questions that you or the Council may have.

6

7 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Any questions by
8 anybody. Andy.

9

10 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: Yeah, I was curious
11 back in the moose section there, and I was glad to hear
12 you mention you're going to -- in the future you plan
13 to do a browse survey in the flooded zone. I saw one
14 black dot through that. I thought, well, jeez,
15 wouldn't you want baseline data for how much habitat
16 loss is happening.

17

18 MR. BURCH: Through the Chair. Yes,
19 that's a good observation. Part of it is just the
20 random chance. The first survey that we did was over
21 the whole area. Of course, a substantial portion of
22 that land is privately owned and we didn't have
23 permission, so we couldn't go in there. So that is our
24 intent this winter is to look more intensively at the
25 inundation zone and the transportation corridor so we
26 get a better idea on that smaller scale of what the
27 effects may be.

28

29 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Any other questions.
30 Greg.

31

32 MR. ENCELEWSKI: I'm using Robert's mic
33 for the radio man. Anyway, my question is -- I
34 actually was fortunate enough -- I represent Ninilchik
35 Native Association. I flew with the State, so I spent
36 five hours flying this whole drainage. I got to see
37 the caribou and stuff. I'm very impressed with your
38 studies and I get weekly updates and also a monthly
39 meeting.

40

41 So I think you're doing a good job.
42 It's a lot of good information and there's a lot more
43 out there on all kinds of stuff on fisheries. You
44 know, there's a lot of stuff if anyone else is
45 interested in getting more detailed stuff. You have a
46 lot more, I know.

47

48 MR. BURCH: Through the chair. Thank
49 you for those comments. We appreciate it. Of course,
50 this project is funded by the Alaska Energy Authority

1 for the purposes of assessing the potential effects of
2 the dam. However, it's already benefitted the broader
3 management of both moose and caribou as well and we
4 continue to benefit from just having that information
5 and it's likely to be very helpful from a population
6 management perspective as well.

7

8 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Thank you.

9

10 MR. BURCH: Thank you, Mr. Chair and
11 the Council.

12

13 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: One thing I found
14 interesting was the percentage of calves that died
15 in the first week. It would be interesting to know
16 whether that was from predation or whether that was
17 just from weakness. Knowing what Toby used to tell us
18 on the western side of the Wrangells, I have a sneaking
19 suspicion that we have a fairly decent bear population
20 there that has learned how to target the moose that are
21 having calves.

22

23 MR. BURCH: I don't want to break into
24 your meeting. That is an interesting question. I'd be
25 happy to talk to you about it anytime.

26

27 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Thank you. With that
28 we are going to go on to information for the all-
29 Council meeting in winter 2016 and the all-Chairs
30 meeting in January 2015. I think our coordinator is
31 going to be presenting both of those. This is just for
32 our information.

33

34 MR. MIKE: Mr. Chair. The all-Council
35 meeting in 2016, this is an agenda item we'll bring up
36 with the Council to discuss prior to developing a plan
37 to meet in 2016 for the all-Council meeting. So this
38 is an opportunity for this Council to discuss the all-
39 Council meeting and some issues that you want to
40 present or any other issues or how they want to develop
41 the agenda for this meeting.

42

43 Thank you.

44

45 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Thank you, Donald.
46 Correct me if I'm wrong, this is actually all-Councils
47 meeting, isn't it? These are all 10 Councils.

48

49 MR. MIKE: Yes, that's correct, all 10
50 Councils. Mr. Carl Johnson, or Coordination Division

1 Chief, is available online too if you have any
2 particular questions on this issue.

3

4 Thank you.

5

6 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Chuck.

7

8 MR. ARDIZZONE: Mr. Chair. Carl, are
9 you online? I thought this agenda item was just to see
10 if the Council was interested in having an all-Council
11 meeting in 2016. Not quite to develop the agenda yet,
12 but just to find out if there's interest in doing it.
13 It would probably be held in Anchorage. We'd have to
14 get a big meeting hall. There would be some break-out
15 sessions and some joint sessions, but I think this is
16 more of a is the Council interested in doing it, not
17 what would be on the agenda. That's kind of getting
18 ahead of ourselves, I think.

19

20 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Thank you on that.
21 I'll make a comment on that. I was fortunate enough to
22 attend one of these at the start of the -- when we
23 first started having Councils. It was one of the high
24 points in my being on the Council. I thought it was a
25 tremendous experience to meet Council members from all
26 over the state. I thought it was a tremendous learning
27 experience. I think it was a tremendous experience not
28 only for the Council members but for the Staff that was
29 present. There were a lot of things that took people
30 by surprise there.

31

32 Personally, I might even think of
33 staying on the Council long enough to go to that one.
34 I mean that's -- I would suggest that we support it as
35 a Council because I think it's an experience that if
36 you get to attend it, it's something you'll never
37 forget.

38

39 Judy.

40

41 MS. CAMINER: I'd certainly echo what
42 the Chair has said. That was an excellent meeting.
43 That was happening at a time when the RACs and everyone
44 else was transitioning to address fisheries issues. I
45 mean you may be able to find the old agenda and see if
46 there's some relevant points.

47

48 I would also offer suggestions that the
49 Board attend and all the Council coordinators
50 obviously. But you may be able to gain some

1 efficiencies whenever you pick it. If we have a huge
2 meeting hall, you may be able to get a couple meeting
3 rooms so that RACs could meet the day before or day
4 after. Make use of everybody having one airplane
5 ticket and have some more business done. It's
6 definitely a real unifying experience and an informal
7 way for people to trade a lot of information.

8

9 MR. ARDIZZONE: Mr. Chair. I do
10 believe I had heard some interest earlier of maybe
11 moving it to 2015 based on some comments from Ms.
12 Caminer. I don't know logistically if we could pull
13 that off, but it would be nice at least to get your
14 support on the record that you'd like to have an all-
15 Council meeting and we'll see what we can do.

16

17 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: What does the rest of
18 the Council think about it? You've got my opinion and
19 Judy's opinion. How about you, Greg?

20

21 MR. ENCELEWSKI: Well, my opinion would
22 be -- through the Chair, it would be an absolutely
23 great and wonderful experience. Our joint meeting with
24 Southeast was really enlightening. There was a lot of
25 things we shared. I know when I go to these joint
26 meetings for subsistence and other things with AFN and
27 stuff there's so much to be shared from other regions
28 and other learnings. I think it would benefit us all.
29 I would support it 100 percent.

30

31 I don't know if I'd be on that third or
32 fourth year in that extension, so I might have to apply
33 again.

34

35 (Laughter)

36

37 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Mary Ann.

38

39 MS. MILLS: I would support it as well.
40 I think it would be very helpful to share ideas and
41 also to see what the other Councils are doing and what
42 issues they have. I'm very supportive of it.

43

44 Thank you.

45

46 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Michael.

47

48 MR. OPHEIM: I would support it.
49 Definitely learning from the other groups that are out
50 there and seeing what they're discussing and being able

1 to bring those back, that would be great.

2

3 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Andy.

4

5 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
6 I'd definitely support from here. I concur with
7 everybody's comments exactly. It would be beneficial.
8 Nothing but beneficial.

9

10 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: I definitely don't see
11 where we would lose anything by having it, that's for
12 sure.

13

14 (Ms. Stickwan enters the room)

15

16 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Gloria, we're
17 discussing having an all-Council meeting and whether
18 we're in favor of it or whether we're not in the future
19 where we would meet with all the other Councils from
20 all over the state. Everybody has expressed support
21 for it. What's your opinion on it?

22

23 MS. STICKWAN: I guess.

24

25 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay. I think you can
26 say you have unanimous support by Council members that
27 are in attendance for an all-Council meeting.

28

29 MR. ARDIZZONE: Thank you.

30

31 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Do we need any further
32 direction on it?

33

34 MR. ARDIZZONE: No, Mr. Chair. I just
35 needed to see where you stood on it, so that's good. I
36 got it.

37

38 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Thank you. With that
39 we'll go on to the all-Chairs meeting. Is this a case
40 of seeking our support for it?

41

42 MR. ARDIZZONE: Yes, Mr. Chair.

43

44 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: I think this Council
45 has expressed our support for that in the past. Has
46 anybody changed their mind?

47

48 (No comments)

49

50 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Nope. So I think

1 you've got our support for an all-Chairs meeting. It
2 was enlightening to find out what we could discuss and
3 what we couldn't discuss. It would be nice if we could
4 have Chairs and vice-Chairs, but I know I'm
5 complicating things. Do we need anymore action on
6 that?

7

8 MR. ARDIZZONE: No, Mr. Chair. That's
9 good.

10

11 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Thank you. Okay.
12 With that, the next thing I have on my agenda is we
13 have some Copper River proposals in our book here that
14 Donald put in for our information. Different proposals
15 that affect the Copper River. They don't affect most
16 of you. They affect -- I know there's some of them
17 from Ahtna, some of them from different individuals.

18

19 Donald asked if I would like to put
20 that in for your information and it's in your book
21 there. You can look at them and see what kind of
22 proposals are going in for other places. This is for
23 the Board of Fish.

24

25 The question was do we want to send a
26 representative to the Board of Fish just to observe
27 unless we actually take action on some proposals we
28 can't send somebody to the Board of Fish to present the
29 Council's direction on it, but we could send somebody
30 to the Board of Fish to observe the proceedings and
31 bring the results back if we think it's necessary.

32

33 Or a member of the Council, like
34 Gloria, could ask for our action on one of these
35 proposals and we could decide whether we want to
36 support one of these proposals and send somebody to
37 support one of these proposals. I think that's within
38 the authority of the Council, isn't it?

39

40 MR. MIKE: Yes, that is correct, Mr.
41 Chair. We have fisheries staff if you want a brief
42 summary of each proposal. We can provide that too, Mr.
43 Chair.

44

45 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Would the rest of the
46 Council like to hear that. Judy.

47

48 MS. CAMINER: Mr. Chair. I guess I'd
49 like to maybe hear Gloria's opinion on some of these
50 proposals first.

1 MS. STICKWAN: Proposal 38 I think we
2 should comment on.

3
4 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Number 38, if I
5 remember right, that's submitted by Ahtna, right?

6
7 MR. MIKE: Submitted by Chitina
8 Dipnetters Association.

9
10 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Number 38 is not by
11 Ahtna. Number 37 is a proposal by Ahtna, right?

12
13 MS. STICKWAN: Yeah. We can make
14 comments on that one too.

15
16 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: This is a request that
17 Ahtna has made before.

18
19 MS. STICKWAN: They always tell us we
20 can't do it because it's a budgetary thing, but we put
21 it in anyway. The Board has no authority to do budgets
22 or anything that has to do with budgets, but we always
23 put it in anyways just because we think that fish
24 should be counted.

25
26 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: If you look at it,
27 basically what it is is it's asking for something that
28 we, as a Council, have requested time and time again,
29 which is to get good information and to actually know
30 what's going on. Some of the rest of the proposals,
31 and you can look at them, deal with allocation and
32 things like that, but this one here does deal with
33 collecting information for management. It would be
34 something that I feel would probably be within our
35 scope of things that we would actually have direction
36 on.

37
38 MS. STICKWAN: There's another one on
39 the barbless hook that Ahtna put in.

40
41 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: What?

42
43 MS. STICKWAN: Barbless hook, which
44 is.....

45
46 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: That's what I was
47 going to say. Proposal 50 addresses something that
48 we've brought up before, which is the effect of catch
49 and release with barbed hooks on a resource. That's
50 another one from Ahtna. That is something that this

1 Council has talked about before, is the hooking
2 mortality and its effect on the resource in comparison
3 with subsistence use.

4
5 So we can either take these in as
6 information or somebody could request that we present
7 support for one or the other or support for some of
8 them, whichever the Council would like to do.

9
10 MS. STICKWAN: I'd say we oppose 38 and
11 support the other two.

12
13 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Support what?

14
15 MS. STICKWAN: Oppose 38 and support
16 the other two by Ahtna.

17
18 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Oppose 38. Okay, so
19 38 is changing the date on it. That one there -- well,
20 let's take a look at -- Gloria is suggesting that we
21 support Proposal 37, support Proposal 50 and oppose
22 Proposal 38. To me, 37 fits in with what we have asked
23 time and time again. Information.

24
25 Mary Ann.

26
27 MS. MILLS: Would you like a motion?

28
29 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: If we're going to do
30 anything, we need a motion.

31
32 MS. MILLS: Then I make a motion to
33 oppose Proposal 38 and to support.....

34
35 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Let's take them one at
36 a time.

37
38 MS. MILLS: Okay. To oppose 38.

39
40 MS. CAMINER: Second.

41
42 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: It's been moved and
43 seconded that we oppose 38. This one I think it's
44 going to be hard for us to come up with justification
45 on.

46
47 MS. CAMINER: Mr. Chair. Two
48 questions. What is our justification and, secondly, I
49 guess the opening dates for subsistence kind of
50 fluctuate every year based on fish run. I don't know

1 if we have a firm date. I was just trying to look it
2 up quickly in the regs.

3

4 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Currently the firm
5 date is no earlier than June 7th and no later than June
6 15th. It originally was no earlier than June 1st and
7 no later than June 11th. What they're asking for is it
8 to be back to June 1st/June 11th. It varies within
9 that timeframe.

10

11 Gloria, what would be the reason to
12 oppose this one?

13

14 MS. STICKWAN: I just don't like the
15 earlier date. I don't like what they're proposing to
16 be an earlier date. I don't know what you mean by
17 justification.

18

19 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Well, do we have a
20 conservation concern by having it at an earlier date?
21 Do you feel we have a conservation concern by having it
22 at the earlier date? Because the date is really from
23 the 1st of June to the 11th of June or from the 7th of
24 June to the 15th of June.

25

26 MS. STICKWAN: Yeah. I just thought
27 you meant it had to do with -- I wasn't sure if your
28 reason was because we had to say our reasons because
29 we're RAC members or do we have to justify because
30 we're a RAC and we're opposing this proposal.

31

32 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: If we're going to
33 support or oppose a proposal, we, as a RAC, have to
34 have justification that would fit within our purview as
35 to why we're doing it. In this case here, the only way
36 we could oppose this is if we -- to me, was if we knew
37 it was a conservation concern.

38

39 Judy.

40

41 MS. CAMINER: Well, maybe this will
42 make Gloria smile. We could say it doesn't align with
43 Federal regulations.

44

45 MS. STICKWAN: Yeah.

46

47 MS. CAMINER: And, secondly, you know,
48 I'm not clear how much of a concern king salmon are on
49 the Copper versus clearly it's a concern over here, but
50 obviously the earlier runs could be taking kings. So,

1 if that's correct, that would be two possibilities.
2 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: And that would be a
3 conservation concern. Chuck.

4
5 MR. ARDIZZONE: Mr. Chair. I guess you
6 could come at it as it would be an earlier season than
7 the Federal season and could cause some detriment to
8 Federally qualified subsistence users. I'm not sure,
9 but I'd just throw that out there.

10
11 MR. ENCELEWSKI: That's a good point.
12 I'll call the question.

13
14 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: You're going to call
15 the question?

16
17 MR. ENCELEWSKI: I call the question.

18
19 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay.

20
21 MR. LIEBICH: Mr. Chair. For the
22 record, I'm Trent Liebich. I'm with the Office of
23 Subsistence Management. I wanted to point out in the
24 proposals, you guys have the hard copy, there is some
25 information there about that initial decision. If you
26 look at the second full paragraph, what is the issue
27 you'd like the Board to address and why when this
28 proposal was submitted.

29
30 If you go about halfway down in that
31 paragraph, they discuss some of the date changes and
32 the Board decision. When they went with the later
33 opening was supposedly in response to getting more
34 early fish upriver to subsistence users and then they
35 follow with the statements that between 2003 and 2012
36 out of the average yearly total during that period of
37 roughly 1.5 million sockeye and king salmon harvested
38 by all users, commercial, personal use and subsistence
39 and sport. Average annual harvest during that period
40 was 115,000 sockeye and king salmon are 7 percent of
41 the total harvest of all users.

42
43 So they do provide a little bit of
44 information there and that might help the Council with
45 their decision or their justification on why they may
46 support or oppose those options on the dates. I just
47 wanted to point that out to you.

48
49 Thank you.
50

1 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay. Any other
2 discussion. I think we have the question called. If I
3 remember right, we put this motion in the negative. Do
4 we need to restate the motion? We put a motion on the
5 table to oppose. So we need to restate the motion.
6 Well, do we need to restate the motion? Let's just
7 leave it like it is.

8
9 All in favor of opposing Proposal 38
10 signify by saying aye.

11
12 IN UNISON: Aye.

13
14 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: All opposed to
15 opposing it signify by saying nay.

16
17 (No opposing votes)

18
19 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Motion carries. So we
20 will take the position of opposing Proposal 38. Let's
21 look at Proposal 37. That was another one that was
22 brought up. A motion on the table to accept Proposal
23 37 is in order.

24
25 MR. ENCELEWSKI: I'll make a motion to
26 support Proposal Number 37.

27
28 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Do I hear a second.

29
30 MS. MILLS: Second.

31
32 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: It's been moved and
33 seconded to support Proposal 37. If we look at
34 Proposal 37, it fits within things that this Council
35 has asked for time and time again, good information,
36 what's going on. It's to require Department operated
37 check station to monitor subsistence and personal use
38 harvest and permit compliance in the Chitina and
39 Glennallen subdistricts.

40
41 Discussion. Gloria, do you see a
42 problem in this area, in our area up there?

43
44 MS. STICKWAN: Well, I see a problem in
45 the Chitina area. Chitina is north of the bridge.
46 It's Chitina area, but still it's considered Glennallen
47 subdistrict. In that area I see a problem. I've heard
48 stories about people taking loads and loads of fish out
49 of the area and we wonder about fishwheels running 24
50 hours a day throughout the whole season and the boxes

1 are filled with fish and we wonder who is checking on
2 the 10-hour removal, who's doing that and how much fish
3 are they taking out. So we're concerned about that and
4 wanted to be able to have Fish and Game check on there,
5 how much fish are taken out, if they're complying with
6 their permit.

7

8 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: It would be nice to
9 have hard information as to how many fish are actually
10 being taken. That's basically what this proposal asks
11 for.

12

13 Judy.

14

15 MS. CAMINER: I guess outside the
16 information requirement and not anything we can say,
17 but if there are other -- if the Department always
18 comes back and says we don't have enough people to do
19 it, are there other organizations or even volunteers
20 who could help with it at least during peak season.
21 You know, make some sort of offer to them for
22 assistance if they simply can't do it. Otherwise they
23 just can't do it.

24

25 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Judy, on that, I think
26 legally nobody else could ask to see somebody's license
27 or catch or how they've done. I know that Delta had
28 troopers down there this last summer. If you look at
29 the Copper River record, there were a lot of tickets
30 written. If there are a lot of tickets written in the
31 little time they were there, to me it shows that
32 something like this is needed because if there's a lot
33 of tickets written just in the short time that you had
34 troopers there, how much others is going on. I'm like
35 Gloria, I'd like to see some hard information as to
36 actually what's caught there.

37

38 Greg.

39

40 MR. ENCELEWSKI: Yeah, I'd just like to
41 make a comment through the Chair. I would like to see
42 the good information too and I think it kind of
43 parallels some of the stuff that goes on here in the
44 Kenai. We have a dipnet fishery that, to me, is
45 totally out of control. That might be my personal
46 opinion, but I think it's the opinion of a lot of the
47 people in the Kenai area also.

48

49 At any rate, it's hard to get that good
50 information. I know we've had a lot of tickets in this

1 area too. At some point that fish becomes a shortage.
2 You know, I mean you really need to get those numbers.
3 The dipnet fishery here in the Kenai is in the hundreds
4 of thousands of fish and I'm not so sure they've got
5 good numbers on those. I could see this happening in
6 other places.

7
8 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Any other discussion.

9
10 (No comments)

11
12 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: If not, the question
13 is in order. Judy, do you have discussion?

14
15 MS. CAMINER: I was going to say
16 question.

17
18 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Mary Ann is saying
19 question?

20
21 MS. MILLS: Yes, I'm saying the
22 question.

23
24 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay. The question
25 has been called. All in favor of supporting Proposal
26 37, which requires a check station and gathering of
27 information on the Chitina/Glennallen subdistrict
28 personal use fishery and subsistence fishery, signify
29 by saying aye.

30
31 IN UNISON: Aye.

32
33 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Opposed signify by
34 saying nay.

35
36 (No opposing votes)

37
38 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Motion carries. The
39 other one that Gloria requested was Number 50.
40 Basically Number 50 prohibits the use of barbed hooks,
41 multiple hooks and bait when fishing for king salmon in
42 the Upper Copper/Upper Susitna area and basically reads
43 only unbaited single barbless hooks and artificial
44 lures may be used. It's addressing the catch and
45 release on the Gulkana, the Klutina and the Tonsina and
46 the Upper Susitna and all of those areas have a
47 conservation concern.

48
49 Again, like I said before, I know for
50 the Ahtna people up in that area playing with your food

1 is (in Aleut), you don't do it. To me, what I can see,
2 is for the people who live up there it's culturally
3 repulsive.

4
5 We haven't really taken a position on
6 this. We've discussed this many times that catch and
7 release kills fish, but we've never taken a position
8 against or for it, but this is an opportunity at this
9 point in time.

10
11 So discussion. Does anybody have any
12 comments on it. Greg.

13
14 MR. ENCELEWSKI: Yeah, I'll make a
15 comment and then I guess I could make a motion. I'm
16 totally opposed to catch and release, always have been.
17 I feel the same way, it's culturally repulsive I think
18 even using catch and release in times of very much
19 shortage. I do not agree with the mortality rates they
20 come up with on them. From local knowledge -- I mean I
21 talk to a lot of people. There's a lot of kings killed
22 here on the Kenai. We have a tremendous shortage
23 problem. I don't believe in playing with food either,
24 so I'm going to support this proposal.

25
26 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: And make a motion?

27
28 MR. ENCELEWSKI: I'll make a motion to
29 support Proposal Number 50 as presented here.

30
31 MS. MILLS: I will second it.

32
33 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: It's been moved and
34 seconded to support Proposal 50. Discussion. Gloria.

35
36 MS. STICKWAN: This is catch and
37 release, only single barbless hooks may be used, which
38 is similar to our proposal that we submitted.

39
40 MR. ENCELEWSKI: What was that?

41
42 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Any other discussion.

43
44 MS. STICKWAN: Barbless hooks. We were
45 proposing to use barbless hooks.

46
47 MS. CAMINER: Mr. Chair. So some of
48 our rationale could be that this is consistent with a
49 proposal that this RAC recommended to the Federal
50 Subsistence Board, which is the statewide proposal.

1 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: And this could also be
2 that, as RAC members, we recognize this as a
3 conservation concern. I'll give you an example from
4 the Cordova area from a riverboat trip down Eyak River
5 this fall when the silver fishery was in full force.
6 The fish were running good, people were catching a lot
7 of fish and turning a lot of fish loose and every river
8 bar as you went downstream had fish laying on the
9 bottom of it.

10
11 Catch and release is fine maybe if
12 everything is done right, but catch and release kills a
13 lot of fish. In that case, there was no conservation
14 concern. There was just waste. From a subsistence
15 standpoint, I would think anything that wastes is not
16 acceptable.

17
18 Any other discussion on this.

19
20 (No comments)

21
22 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: But I do know, like
23 Gloria said and like I've said before, I know from an
24 Ahtna standpoint, and this is Ahtna country up there,
25 catch and release is not only waste it's culturally
26 unacceptable. Judy.

27
28 MS. CAMINER: Question.

29
30 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Question. All in
31 favor of supporting Proposal 50 as submitted by Ahtna
32 signify by saying aye.

33
34 IN UNISON: Aye.

35
36 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: All opposed signify by
37 saying nay.

38
39 (No opposing votes)

40
41 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Motion carries. Now
42 do we want our coordinator to write a letter to the
43 Board in support of these proposals or in support of
44 our motions or do we want to have a volunteer that we
45 can appoint to represent us.

46
47 Donald.

48
49 MR. MIKE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. We
50 have a Board of Fish liaison from OSM, Mr. George

1 Pappas, and it's up to the Council if they wish to
2 submit a formal written comment from this Council to
3 the Board of Fish.

4
5 The other subject matter is if the
6 Council wishes to send a delegate to the Board of Fish
7 meeting in Cordova, that will be December 3 and 4, I
8 believe.

9
10 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: This is in Cordova?

11
12 MR. MIKE: Yes, according to the Board
13 of Fish meeting calendar.

14
15 MS. STICKWAN: It's the 3rd through the
16 8th at Echo School in Cordova.

17
18 MR. MIKE: Yes, December 3rd to the
19 8th, 2014 in Cordova.

20
21 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Well, do we have
22 anybody that wishes to go.

23
24 MS. STICKWAN: I could go.

25
26 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: You wish to go,
27 Gloria, and present the proposals and our support for
28 them? If you do, if that's acceptable to the rest of
29 the Council.

30
31 MS. STICKWAN: My question is did he
32 say the 3rd and 4th only?

33
34 MR. MIKE: Mr. Chair. The Board of
35 Fish meeting in Cordova is December 3rd to the 8th.

36
37 MS. STICKWAN: So it would be the 3rd
38 to the 8th that I'd be
39 able to attend?

40
41 MR. MIKE: Mr. Chair. I can work with
42 our liaison in our office and figure out when exactly
43 they're going to be addressing these proposals for the
44 Copper River, particularly these proposals that the
45 Council took action on.

46
47 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Chuck.

48
49 MR. ARDIZZONE: Mr. Chair. I'm not
50 sure how the Board of Fish works because I've only done

1 the Board of Game, but usually testimony is early, so
2 it wouldn't be the full time, but we'll get with
3 George, our liaison, and get back with Gloria.

4

5 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: I know I've gone as
6 Council rep before and basically we didn't get any more
7 time than just a standard organization to present our
8 -- and then you may be able to get on a committee or
9 something like that, but you only get one chance to
10 testify.

11

12 MS. STICKWAN: Yeah, I know. I'm just
13 wondering if I get to stay for the committee part of
14 it. I'd like to stay through the whole meeting. If I
15 can't, I'll do something else.

16

17 MR. ARDIZZONE: We'll have to discuss
18 that in the office. I'm not sure what we've normally
19 done in the past.

20

21 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Yeah. At this point
22 in time we'd probably have to look at what we can do.
23 I know that we can at least have somebody there to
24 present that part of it is acceptable. I know when I
25 was sent, I was only sent for two days. That was a
26 long time ago.

27

28 Donald, can you work that out with
29 Gloria?

30

31 MR. MIKE: Yes, we'll work on the
32 details. I'll work with our liaison to the Board of
33 Fish and work with Gloria on it.

34

35 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

36

37 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Is that okay?

38

39 Judy.

40

41 MS. CAMINER: So just to clarify then,
42 Donald, might you and George be able to write up the
43 comments that the RAC just said for Gloria to present
44 or to be formally submitted and for Gloria to present?

45

46 MR. MIKE: Yes, Mr. Chair, I can do
47 that, work with the Board of Fish liaison and summarize
48 the actions the Council took on these proposals. Thank
49 you. And I'll share it with the officers of this
50 Council.

1 Thank you.
2
3 MS. STICKWAN: Can you write up bullet
4 points for me?
5
6 MR. MIKE: I can do that. Thank you.
7
8 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay. With that, do
9 we need -- what time have we got?
10
11 MS. CAMINER: 11:30.
12
13 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Oh, we've got a half
14 hour yet. Okay. Agency reports. Donald.
15
16 MR. MIKE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. We
17 had a representative from the Alaska Energy Authority,
18 I believe, Ms. Emily Ford. She may be online waiting
19 to do a presentation. Ms. Ford, are you online?
20
21 (No comments)
22
23 MR. MIKE: I guess not, Mr. Chair. We
24 can continue. Thank you.
25
26 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay. We have -- two
27 of our Council members, Mary Ann just had to go to a
28 dental appointment and James has a deposition that he
29 has to be giving right now, so he's not currently here.
30 So we're down a little bit, but I don't think we have
31 any more action items.
32
33 With that, agency reports. Barbara.
34
35 MS. CELLARIUS: Mr. Chair. Barbara
36 Cellarius, subsistence coordinator for Wrangell-St.
37 Elias National Park and Preserve. I have an SRC
38 appointment that I was going to ask you to work on, but
39 because the SRC charter says people continue to serve,
40 we could do that at the next Council meeting if you
41 don't have a quorum.
42
43 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Thank you, Barbara. I
44 think at this point in time we don't have a quorum, but
45 maybe somebody will be back.
46
47 Judy.
48
49 MS. CAMINER: Mr. Chair. If Mary Ann
50 comes back later this afternoon, maybe we can set a

1 date for our next two meetings just while we have the
2 most possible people here.

3
4 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Right. That's what I
5 was thinking. I think she is planning on coming back
6 after the dental appointment.

7
8 So special agency reports, special
9 actions.

10
11 MR. ARDIZZONE: Mr. Chair, can I make a
12 recommendation?

13
14 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Yes.

15
16 MR. ARDIZZONE: There's a number of
17 agencies here that may have taken special actions. Can
18 they just cover that during their reports? That way it
19 seems it would be a better way instead of just breaking
20 it down in special actions.

21
22 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Right.

23
24 MR. ARDIZZONE: Is that okay?

25
26 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Yes, that sounds good.
27 OSM.

28
29 MR. ARDIZZONE; I have a short report
30 report. It's basically trying to cover all the Staff
31 changes we've had in our office. As we discussed, we
32 don't have any significant changes in the budget. We
33 kind of talked about budget earlier.

34
35 Currently we have, I think, 13
36 vacancies in our office and we've had a lot of
37 turnover, so I'll go over what we have so far. Deborah
38 Coble was hired as our new subsistence outreach coordinator.
39 Deborah has previously worked as a public affairs specialist for
40 the Department of Defense in Delta Junction.

41
42 Myself, I vacated the Wildlife Division Chief
43 position and I'm now the deputy. Pamela Raygor was hired as our
44 lead secretary and we do have ongoing recruitment for a new
45 administrative assistant. Glenn Westdahl has transitioned into
46 the Council Coordination Division as a dedicated travel/admin clerk.

a 20-year U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
50 employee with extensive experience working with tribes and State

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1 agencies and handling controversial fisheries issues down in the
Great

2 Lakes region.

3

4 Chris McKee, who was a wildlife biologist, got
5 promoted into the Wildlife Division Chief position. Alex Nick,
one of

6 our Council coordinators, retired after 21 years, 13 of which
were

7 with OSM as a Council coordinator. Shortly we'll be
interviewing and

8 hiring two new Council coordinators.

9

10 Recruitment is underway for a new Anthropology
11 Division Chief to replace Helen. I think we have the
announcement

12 closed on October 7th, so we should have more information when
I

13 get back. Robbin LaVine was hired as one of our
anthropologists.

14 She has previously worked as a subsistence resource specialist
for the

15 Alaska Department of Fish and Game as well as a social scientist
and

16 has done subsistence work for the Eyak Preservation Council, the

17 Bristol Bay Native Association and Togiak National Wildlife
Refuge.

18 She starts next Monday, the 19th.

19

20 David Jenkins has left OSM for a position with

number of other vacancies. Two wildlife
23 biologists are vacant. We're looking for another fish
biologist. It's just
24 been a crazy time in our office, so we're trying to get Staff
back up.

25
26 I just have a short update on the Tribal
27 Consultation Implementation Guidelines. The workgroup has made
28 several revisions. The Board has been made aware of their
progress
29 and the draft hasn't been approved for final implementation, but
it's
30 still continuing through the process. I just got an email while
I was
31 here of a newer version, so hopefully the Board will see that
shortly.

32
33 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Questions. Judy.

34
35 MS. CAMINER: Chuck, thank you. So is
36 OSM planning on hiring a Native liaison?

37
38 MR. ARDIZZONE: Yes. That's off my
39 list, but, yes, we do have the certifications. I think
40 Gene may be conducting interviews for that position
41 this week. I'm not sure. But, yes, we are in the
42 process of hiring a new Native liaison as well.

43
44 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Gloria.

45
46 MS. STICKWAN: I look at the website
47 and sometimes it's outdated with your employee
48 directory, so if you could update it.

49
50 MR. ARDIZZONE: I will have Deborah,

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3
4 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Any other questions
5 for Chuck.
6
7 (No comments)
8
9 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Yeah, it does sound
10 like a crazy time.
11
12 MR. ARDIZZONE: Yes. The hiring
13 process in the government is very slow.
14
15 MR. ENCELEWSKI: Chuck, I've just got a
16 question through the Chair for you. Can you tell us
17 any reason why so many vacancies, 13? You guys quit
18 paying them or what?
19
20 (Laughter)
21
22 MR. ARDIZZONE: No, we've had a number
23 of retirements. We've had a number of people get out
24 of their positions in other places. Like I said, with
25 the sequestration we had, we had to go through the
26 process of sending waivers up to D.C. to get approved
27 and then they have to come back down. The hiring
28 process is just long and arduous in the government.
29 That just adds another whole layer of complexity when
30 it has to go to D.C. to get approved.
31
32 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Any other questions.
33
34 (No comments)
35
36 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Thank you, Chuck.
37 We'll go on to U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.
38
39 MR. ANDERSON: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
40 Council members. Again, Jeff Anderson, U.S. Fish and
41 Wildlife Service. I'm the field supervisor for the
42 Kenai Fish and Wildlife Field Office and in that
43 capacity I'm the Federal inseason manager for Cook
44 Inlet Fisheries and I just have an update to give so
45 far for the 2014 harvest summary in the Kenai and
46 Kasilof Rivers.
47
48 This is through September 23rd. I was
49 actually out of state for 10 days and when I got back I
50 had another 10 or so harvest reports on my desk. I'll

1 continue to get those. They're due on January 15th, so
2 these numbers will be updated for a final report for
3 the winter meeting.

4

5 This year we did issue a similar number
6 of subsistence fishing permits in 2014, a total of 153
7 split amongst the communities as listed in Table 1
8 there. I apologize for just getting this information
9 to you now instead of in your booklets earlier in the
10 year. The majority have been issued to -- just over
11 half were issued to residents of Cooper Landing.

12

13 Harvest to date so far is going to be a
14 record year for the Federal subsistence fisheries on
15 the Kenai River. We've got a report of over 1,500
16 sockeye so far just in the Russian River Falls dipnet
17 fishery, which is above and beyond other years. It was
18 a really good year for the early run fishery in the
19 Russian River.

20

21 I think the subsistence users had a lot
22 of success early on. The late run was a little bit
23 slower and not nearly as good for sockeye salmon.
24 Again, we'll still be getting harvest reports for rod
25 and reel and dipnet fisheries through the middle of
26 January.

27

28 The management summary for chinook
29 salmon on the Kenai River. I did issue two emergency
30 special actions again in 2014 to conserve chinook
31 resources on the Kenai River. The first was issued on
32 the 18th of June that closed the subsistence fishery
33 for chinook salmon in Federal public waters on the
34 Kenai River Drainage through July 14th.

35

36 The second special action was issued on
37 July 11th that extended the closure in all Federal
38 public waters through August 17th. The total for both
39 of those was 60 days, which is all I'm allowed to do as
40 an inseason manager with an emergency special action.
41 Anything beyond 60 days would require action by the
42 Federal Subsistence Board. Both of those special
43 actions followed emergency orders issued by the Alaska
44 Department of Fish and Game.

45

46 The sport fishery for early-run chinook
47 on the Kenai River this year was actually closed
48 through emergency order on February 27th and it was
49 closed for the whole month of June and then it was
50 continued -- the closure continued through the end of

1 July. Again, it was a very poor year for chinook
2 returns on the Kenai River with the sport fishing
3 closure and no other real harvest.

4
5 The early run did meet the escapement
6 goal of 5,300 fish and actually came in at 5,312 fish
7 this year. The late run did achieve its escapement
8 goal as well, but overall returns for chinook continued
9 to be depressed on the Kenai River and elsewhere across
10 the state.

11
12 I'd be happy to take any questions.

13
14 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: When you said the late
15 run met its escapement goal, did it exceed it by any
16 amount?

17
18 MR. ANDERSON: There was actually some
19 harvest on the late run as well and it did exceed the
20 lower bound of the escapement goal.

21
22 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: But not the upper
23 boundary.

24
25 MR. ANDERSON: Not the upper bound.
26 Then it was restricted by the end of the year, the late
27 run sport fishery was closed as well in order to meet
28 the escapement goal. The escapement really wasn't
29 achieved until after the fisheries were closed.

30
31 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Questions.

32
33 (No comments)

34
35 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Hearing none. Thank
36 you.

37
38 U.S. Forest Service.

39
40 MR. ESKELIN: We actually have a multi-
41 tiered U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service approach here.
42 My name is Todd Eskelin, Kenai National Wildlife
43 Refuge. I'm a biologist that helps Steve and Andy with
44 inseason management and I was going to give you a quick
45 update on this year's moose and brown bear hunting
46 season. I'm not going to hand out the summary until
47 the next meeting because we still have a late season
48 moose hunt that's beginning October 20th.

49
50 So far this season we had nine moose

1 harvested under the subsistence hunt during the early
2 season. As you know, this was the first year for the
3 cow hunt. We had three cows harvested. Probably not
4 too different than what we expected. The access is
5 fairly difficult, but people got up there. I guess
6 anecdotally most of the hunters told me they had a
7 difficult time finding cows without calves.

8
9 Finding a barren cow in an area that
10 has a fairly high bull to cow ratio made it difficult
11 to find legal moose. Nine is, I believe, the highest
12 number we've had harvested so far. It's usually right
13 around eight, but I believe nine may be the highest
14 number we've had and we still have the late season to
15 go.

16
17 Number of permits issued was 85, right
18 on par with average. Being somebody who issued the
19 permits I saw a lot of turnover this year. Had a lot
20 of our regular users, but we had it with the interest
21 of the cow hunt. We had this whole suite of new users
22 that definitely complicated things with people new to
23 the subsistence permit program. Folks from Ninilchik
24 that had never participated and it was really eye-
25 opening how much interest the cow hunt generated even
26 though it didn't really produce a ton of results.

27
28 On the brown bear side of things we
29 haven't had any brown bears harvested under the
30 subsistence program. We did issue 25 permits, I think.
31 Slightly more permits than we have been issuing, but in
32 most cases it's people that come in to get their moose
33 hunting permit and we're like here's the other permits
34 you qualify for and they're like give me one of those
35 too and then they end up not hunting or not indicating
36 that they actually did any hunting for brown bears.

37
38 As far as the inseason special actions
39 we haven't issued any. The only special action we had
40 was establishing a cow quota prior to the season.
41 That's pretty much it for this hunting season. Any
42 questions?

43
44 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Greg.

45
46 MR. ENCELEWSKI: Yeah, just through the
47 Chair, make a comment. That cow hunt, like you said,
48 really generated a lot of interest. I knew through the
49 tribal council, the Native association, most people
50 know the access is tremendously hard. I think a lot of

1 the community members just thought they were going to
2 go out and get a cow real easy and they found out
3 different, but it sure did create a good opportunity,
4 so that's a good thing.

5
6 I would also like to point out that it
7 didn't create this big overharvest. It worked well.
8 We were real thankful for that and it's a great
9 opportunity. But you're going to be coming and looking
10 for me after I open up my access.

11
12 Brown bear season is still open, isn't
13 it?

14
15 MR. ESKELIN: I believe it is, yeah.

16
17 MR. ENCELEWSKI: Okay. I'm still
18 hunting. I wanted to check.

19
20 MR. ESKELIN: There was one other note
21 on that too is that the additional interest probably
22 created a situation where I may try to travel next year
23 to do some permit issuing in more remote places
24 because, you know, folks in Seldovia and Nanwalek were
25 getting the flyers that said 15C cow hunt and it just
26 generated so many questions where they were like, hey,
27 I saw a cow over here in Nanwalek last week, can I
28 shoot it. So I don't know -- you know, there's a cost
29 of doing those kind of trips, but I would like to get
30 the information out to those folks, so we're going to
31 be looking at that next fall.

32
33 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Greg.

34
35 MR. ENCELEWSKI: I've just got one
36 other question. It's an information question. You
37 know, we had a lot of reports. Most of this is State
38 land because we maintain access on Native land and we
39 interact with the State a lot on the lower lands, but
40 it appears there was -- first of all, I know for a fact
41 there was a lot more users out hunting this year in our
42 area and why that generated maybe more moose, I don't
43 know. We also had a lot more trespass, we had a lot
44 more illegal kills, we had cows shot on the Lake Road,
45 we had things that I hadn't seen in a long time. It
46 seemed more. So I'm wondering if you guys saw any of
47 that in the Federal side.

48
49 MR. ESKELIN: We only had one issue
50 with the federal harvest and from that kind of

1 standpoint. We've actually probably had more issues in
2 the past where subsistence users weren't paying
3 attention to the boundaries. When we made the shift to
4 maintaining a spike-fork 50 and 3 as opposed to the
5 general season, which is spike 50 and 4, when we made
6 that separation, it put the onus on hunters to really
7 pay attention to where they're at.

8
9 The last couple years I actually saw a
10 lot more problems from the Federal side of people not
11 paying attention that they had to be on Federal lands
12 and then shooting a fork. You know, through, I think,
13 really good education when we're issuing the permits
14 mostly, we haven't been seeing that kind of stuff this
15 year. The illegal take has increased significantly
16 during the general season.

17
18 Yeah, I mean I think Fish and Game is
19 also in the same position of trying to figure out why
20 there's such a bump up in the kind of stuff that you're
21 seeing out there. I don't think there's really any
22 explanation for it. Just people not paying attention.

23
24 MR. MILLER: Mr. Chair, Council
25 members. For the record, my name is Steve Miller. I'm
26 the Deputy Refuge Manager at Kenai National Wildlife
27 Refuge. The last thing we wanted to cover under our
28 agency comments was to go over -- we sent a letter to
29 the Chair back in September outlining a proposed
30 statewide rule that we are in the process of
31 developing. It would make regulatory changes that
32 would clarify allowable practices on all National
33 Wildlife Refuges in Alaska.

34
35 The primary purpose of the proposed
36 rule would be to address predator harvest within the
37 state. That's the primary purpose and I can go through
38 what our proposed changes are to that. Secondary
39 purpose is more housekeeping. It's to more better
40 align our closures with what is allowed currently under
41 subsistence regulations and also to put on our books an
42 allowance for the public to harvest plant materials,
43 whether it's fruit, berries, mushrooms or firewood.

44
45 So our predator harvest regulations
46 it's just for sport hunting. It has nothing to do with
47 subsistence, but it would indirectly -- you know, could
48 impact indirectly subsistence hunts depending on your
49 view on predator control within the State. If you have
50 any questions, we are here to answer some questions on

1 it, although our formal proposal isn't out yet. It's
2 still in draft. Hopefully beginning of the year it
3 will be out for public comment, so I'm sure we'll make
4 ourselves available at your winter meeting to answer
5 any questions you might have on specific topics.

6

7

CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Greg.

8

9

MR. ENCELEWSKI: Yeah, through the
10 Chair. I just got one question, Steve, for you. I
11 know Andy came down and met with the tribal council
12 down there and this is regarding bear issues. I know
13 that the Feds are taking a more conservative approach
14 on the amount of bears taken than the State. There's a
15 big difference
16 in there and there has been some pretty good
17 controversy on it, the State and the Federal. I just
18 bring that out for awareness. The State is pretty
19 liberal now on what we could do for bear hunting. I
20 know that Andy wanted to kind of control that. He
21 thinks that we may be overharvesting on the Federal
22 side possibly or we could.

23

24

MR. MILLER: Yeah. Through the Chair.
25 I can briefly go down some of the prohibitions that
26 we're proposing. One would be taking brown bear cubs
27 or sows with cubs. The other one would be taking brown
28 bears over bait, taking bears by traps or snares and
29 then taking of wolves and coyotes during denning season
30 and then the harvest of wildlife from an aircraft or on
31 the same day that they fly. I think that is all of our
32 proposal at this point.

33

34

CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Some of those are
35 aligned with the State and some of those are not
36 aligned with the State.

37

38

MR. MILLER: Correct.

39

40

CHAIRMAN LOHSE: I think the State
41 prohibits taking cubs or brown bears with cubs if I
42 remember right. Maybe it doesn't on the Kenai. It
43 does every place else I know. The aircraft is always
44 special provisions. Is there any place in the state
45 that you can take brown bears with snares or traps?

46

47

MR. MILLER: It has definitely been
48 talked about in the past and I thought that it's some
49 place.

50

1 MS. TONNESON: Through the Chair. I
2 don't remember the exact GMUs, but there are specific
3 ones. It's under the intensive management statute that
4 it is allowed, so that's a relatively new thing out
5 there though, but it's not under sport hunting and
6 trapping at this point I don't think.

7
8 MR. MILLER: For the record, this is
9 Heather Abbey Tonneson. She's with our regional
10 office.

11
12 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: So basically the
13 Refuge is aligning with the same kind of regulations as
14 the Park Service to a large extent.

15
16 MR. MILLER: To a large extent, that is
17 correct, but there are differences between -- I mean
18 otherwise we'd have done a joint proposal.....

19
20 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Right.

21
22 MR. MILLER:and we're not doing
23 that because there are some differences between the
24 two.

25
26 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: There are differences
27 in what they were organized for to start off with.

28
29 MR. MILLER: And there's differences --
30 I mean right now we allow or Park Service has already
31 got some of our -- so I'm looking at harvest of plant
32 materials, they already allow that. Ours officially
33 does not, so the public out gathering mushrooms or
34 something on a Refuge technically it's illegal now.
35 But, yeah, so the Park Service does allow it on
36 there's. That's one difference that, you know, it's --
37 that's one of the reasons that it's made a little bit
38 more difficult.

39
40 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Does that apply to
41 berries too?

42
43 MR. MILLER: It does. Believe it or
44 not. I mean it's nothing that we enforce, so we're
45 kind of overlooking an unlawful activity.

46
47 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: I had no idea it
48 applied to berries. Judy.

49
50 MS. CAMINER: I think it was very

1 helpful that you sent
2 this information to Donald ahead of time and he
3 distributed it to us, so we did have an idea about this
4 and really appreciate you coming before us today and
5 we'll look forward at the next meeting to hear how it's
6 progressing.

7

8 MR. MILLER: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

9

10 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: I appreciate the fact that
11 you're actually on some of the things that are common
12 practices in Alaska that the Park Service and the
13 Refuge system has recognized them as viable Alaskan
14 subsistence activities and is making provisions to
15 allow them, like the gathering of berries or mushrooms.

16

17 Any other questions or comments.

18

19 (No comments)

20

21 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay. Do we have
22 anybody else. This is U.S. Forest Service that we have
23 or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service that we had?

24

25 MR. MILLER: Fish and Wildlife.

26

27 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay. We had U.S.
28 Fish and Wildlife Service, right? Now, we have five
29 minutes. Can the Forest Service take care of theirs in
30 five minutes? No.

31

32 MR. ENCELEWSKI: He can't even get up
33 here in five minutes.

34

35 (Laughter)

36

37 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: In that case, I think
38 what we should do is recess for lunch. Be back to
39 start at 1:00 o'clock. We'll start with the Forest
40 Service. Unless the National Park Service can take
41 care of theirs in five minutes. They can't either. In
42 that case, we're going to recess till 1:00 o'clock and
43 we will come right back to the U.S. Forest Service and
44 expect them sitting at the table when we get back at
45 1:00 o'clock. That way we won't waste five minutes.

46

47 (Off record)

48

49 (On record)

50

1 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: I'd like to call this
2 meeting of Southcentral Subsistence Regional Advisory
3 Council back into session after our noon recess. The
4 first people that we have on the agenda this afternoon
5 is U.S. Forest Service. They almost have the same
6 initials but not quite. Greg just walked out. He's
7 going to be right back, isn't he, Donald?

8

9 MR. MIKE: Yes.

10

11 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: We'll give Greg time
12 to get in and sit down and listen to you because he
13 deals with Forest Service also. Unless Milo is dealing
14 with all stuff on our side of the ocean.

15

16 MR. BURCHAM: I'm going to save mine
17 for the end. The Prince William Sound, Delta stuff
18 I'll save for the end.

19

20 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay. Then we'll give
21 Greg just a minute or two to get back here and then
22 we'll let Steve start unless you want to just get
23 started. Get started.

24

25 MR. KESSLER: Your call.

26

27 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: My call is get
28 started.

29

30 MR. BURCHAM: I could start on a
31 couple Copper River Delta, Prince William Sound things
32 right off the bat. I'm Milo Burcham, Chugach National
33 Forest Subsistence Lead. It's nice to be here and,
34 anyway, look forward to this opportunity of bringing
35 you up to date on what's going on on the ground.

36

37 I just wanted to real quickly touch on
38 moose population on the West Delta right now. We
39 manage that cooperatively with the State and the
40 population right now is at an all-time high. We have,
41 as of last winter's survey, 600 animals on the West
42 Copper River Delta. We issued 35 cow tags and 36 bull
43 tags in the subsistence program. As of when I left, I
44 had hunt reports reflecting 18 cows out of 35 harvested
45 and 25 bulls out of 36 harvested. The cow season ends
46 at the end of this month and the bull permit holders
47 have until the end of December.

48

49 Anyway, it's great to see that
50 population thriving. The bull/cow ratios are coming

1 back inline. We have mature bulls back in the
2 population. If you might remember, they were
3 overharvested there for a few years, but it's looking
4 really good. There's even some spillover into 6B, the
5 Martin River Unit. The State manages that hunt and
6 that hunt met its quota fairly early on this year.

7
8 Fish permits on the Copper River Delta.
9 We issue a Federal subsistence freshwater fishing
10 permit. Issued a record number of those this year, 89.
11 It's typically been in the 60's. They're not due till
12 the end of December, but I have 22 back, so about a
13 quarter of them back. So far 288 coho have been
14 reported, which is a pretty large harvest given that
15 most of it takes place on Ibeck Creek. It's still a
16 growing fishery both in sport terms and subsistence
17 terms.

18
19 So far I'm not aware of any resource
20 concerns. The State flies the Delta fisheries and
21 looks at escapement in the headwaters, the spawning
22 grounds. So things seem to be working well there.

23
24 I'll mention one more thing while
25 you've got me right now and that is I was encouraged by
26 our new district ranger to start a challenge cost share
27 agreement with the State of Alaska Fish and Game. It's
28 continuing a partnership we've had locally for a long
29 time, but in a more formal way. We're hoping to grow
30 that here in the coming year.

31
32 This particular year we were able to
33 fund caribou survey work on the Kenai because of our
34 involvement with Hope and Cooper Landing having C&T for
35 caribou in Unit 7. Then starting some black bear work
36 in Prince William Sound, mountain goat surveys in Unit
37 6D, which we have always done. Then moose survey work
38 in Unit 6C. So that agreement will remain in place for
39 five years and more money can be put into it and that's
40 what we're looking to do in the coming years.

41
42 We'll now go to the beginning where
43 Steve was going to talk about some things about the
44 Chugach at large.

45
46 MR. KESSLER: Thank you, Milo. Steve
47 Kessler with the U.S. Forest Service. I'm the
48 Subsistence Program Leader for the region. I also
49 serve on the InterAgency Staff Committee. So, first of
50 all, a personnel announcement, I'm going to be retiring

1 at the end of the year.

2

3 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: What was that? A
4 young guy like you?

5

6 (Laughter)

7

8 MR. KESSLER: Yeah, I know. Retiring
9 from this job doesn't necessarily mean that I won't be
10 doing other things. Who knows. But I will be retiring.
11 I've worked for the Forest Service for about 35 years
12 now. A replacement has already been named.

13

14 So the plan was to have a replacement
15 report before I actually left and my replacement is Tom
16 Whitford. He's currently a district ranger on the
17 Medicine Bow-Routt National Forest based out of Wyoming
18 and has a lot of experience within the Forest Service
19 and has served in many different positions as a
20 wildlife biologist, wildlife and fish staff, district
21 ranger job at different levels of the organization.
22 He's a member of the Blackfeet Tribe.

23

24 I'm sure he's going to work well with
25 everyone. It was a quite wide search for a replacement
26 for me. So he'll be reporting on December 15th and
27 you'll see him at your next meeting. I don't know if
28 you're going to see me. Probably not, but who knows.

29

30 I did want to mention also that things
31 are looking a little bit up on the Forest Service
32 budget. It mostly doesn't have to do with new money,
33 but has to do with how money is allocated sort of at
34 the top. So we're going to be paying less overhead out
35 of our subsistence dollars, which is going to result in
36 more money that's going to be able to come to the
37 ground.

38

39 Because of that we anticipate that we
40 will be able to fund some projects in this next call
41 for proposals for the Fisheries Resource Monitoring
42 Program that we otherwise would not have been able to
43 and we may also be able to fund some additional
44 wildlife work also. Although we're not recreating the
45 Wildlife Resource Monitoring Program that we had when
46 we really had a lot of dollars, but we should be able
47 to put some money into some high priority wildlife
48 needs.

49

50 One thing I just want to make sure

1 everybody is aware of that AFN is next week in
2 Anchorage and there are a number of people that will be
3 there, including the Secretary of Agriculture Tom
4 Vilsack, Deputy Secretary for the Department of
5 Interior Mike Connor and my understanding is the Fish
6 and Wildlife Service Director Dan Ashe will be there
7 also. So there's going to be quite a bit of high-
8 powered people from Washington, D.C. and we've been
9 doing a lot of briefings for them about various aspects
10 of the Subsistence Program.

11
12 So subsistence is going to be
13 discussed. Exactly how all that is going to come to
14 pass I'm not aware of. I know that each of these
15 people will be giving special presentations and then I
16 think that there's going to be some sort of panel also.
17 I don't know who's going to be on the panel, but
18 subsistence is one main topic.

19
20 Then I want to jump into the Chugach
21 for a moment just to let you know about the Chugach
22 Forest Plan Revision. So from February until about a
23 month ago, along with my regular job, I was also the
24 acting Forest Plan Revision team leader. Luckily we
25 now have Mary Rasmussen, who is permanently in that
26 position and hopefully she'll be able to come to one of
27 your future meetings.

28
29 Things have not been moving along with
30 that Forest Plan Revision quite as quickly as we had
31 hoped. I think we've provided two presentations at
32 other meetings for the Regional Advisory Council.
33 Sometime in the next two weeks I would say the
34 assessment for the Chugach National Forest will be
35 complete, which will be the basis for looking at needs
36 for change in the Forest Plan.

37
38 The Forest Plan for the Chugach
39 National Forest is actually a fairly mature plan in
40 that the last plan had a lot of public involvement.
41 It's been amended a number of times to deal with
42 specific issues. So in this plan there probably won't
43 be a whole lot of change, but there is quite a bit of
44 discussion about subsistence that we've been having and
45 about access for subsistence type purposes. I'm sure
46 you'll get involved with that sometime in the next year
47 or two. The whole process is a multi-year effort.

48
49 One of the things you might remember is
50 that we're actually working with a new so-called

1 planning rules. The rules for how we develop forest
2 plans have changed since the last time we did it. We
3 are no longer using the 1982 rule. We're using the
4 2012 rule. So there will be a little bit of changes.
5 That will come to you in the future.

6

7 That's all I have. We still also have
8 Robert Stovall and Jeff Bryden are going to be
9 providing you some information.

10

11 MR. BURCHAM: I'll just stay up here so
12 we don't have to play musical chairs.

13

14 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Steve, stay there for
15 a second. There just might be somebody who has a
16 question for you, you know.

17

18 MR. KESSLER: Absolutely.

19

20 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Does anybody have any
21 questions for Steve. Judy.

22

23 MS. CAMINER: I don't have a question,
24 except I don't think they're finding a replacement for
25 you. They're probably finding someone to maybe succeed
26 you and your job. We want to thank you for all the
27 hard work you've done with great professionalism,
28 enthusiasm and just an even spirit all the time. So
29 thank you very much. We really appreciate it.

30

31 MR. KESSLER: Thank you. You're
32 welcome.

33

34 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: And I'd like to say
35 thank you, Steve. You are informing your successor
36 that one of his responsibilities is to throw those nice
37 dinners like you've always thrown when we're in
38 Anchorage, aren't you?

39

40 (Laughter)

41

42 MR. KESSLER: Maybe I'll still have to
43 hold them. I don't know. Maybe one more.

44

45 (Laughter)

46

47 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Well, if you have to
48 hold them, I think you'll find plenty of people that
49 will come.

50

1 MR. KESSLER: But you will have to
2 provide the fish.
3
4 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Milo is our fisherman.
5 You've got fishermen on the Forest Service. You ask
6 him.
7
8 (Laughter)
9
10 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay. Thank you,
11 Steve. Thank you for the stuff you've given us and
12 just for being who you have been.
13
14 Greg.
15
16 MR. ENCELEWSKI: I just wanted to say a
17 comment. Steve, thank you very much. You've always
18 been supportive and helpful and good to work with. The
19 one thing, I do feel sorry for you retiring because I
20 retired in 2009 and now I've got about four full-time
21 jobs.
22
23 (Laughter)
24
25 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: That's why I refuse to
26 retire. Thanks again, Steve.
27
28 MR. KESSLER: You're welcome.
29
30 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Milo, you've got more
31 for us?
32
33 MR. KESSLER: Just one comment. It's
34 certainly been a great pleasure to work with the
35 Southcentral Regional Advisory Council. I've thoroughly
36 enjoyed it. The two Councils I work with are primarily
37 the Southeast and the Southcentral and both have been
38 just a wonderful bunch of people. I like the
39 interaction. I like the discussions that we can have.
40 I like trying to be able to serve you as best as we can
41 as the Federal government at the lowest level that we
42 can so the issues stay here and we can work out the
43 issues as much as we can. I think it's generally
44 worked quite well.
45
46 So, thanks.
47
48 MR. BURCHAM: Okay. Thanks. Milo
49 Burcham again. There's a couple smaller issues. I
50 wanted to introduce our new district ranger. Robert

1 Skorkowsky was hired in the beginning of May and he
2 comes from Colorado and has a wildlife background. He
3 will be the inseason manager on the Cordova District
4 for subsistence purposes. Anyway, he seems like a
5 straight-shooter, real low key guy. He wanted to be at
6 this meeting and introduce himself, but had a conflict
7 and he'll do his best to be at the winter meeting or
8 the next meeting that he can. So that's a priority for
9 him. He serves as my supervisor that I answer to.

10

11 The topic that we really want to make
12 sure we cover at these RAC meetings is special actions
13 that are taken and any use of delegated authority.
14 I'll review a couple of those that took place this past
15 year.

16

17 The only use of delegated authority by
18 a district ranger that took place this year was an
19 action taken by the Seward district ranger, Tom
20 Malecek. What it did -- and we did it in consultation
21 with Greg and Ralph back in August. It's a relatively
22 non-controversial one. What it did was it set a quota
23 on fork antlered bulls. The State has a season that
24 allows spike and 50-inch bulls with four brow tines to
25 be taken. In Federal regulations, spike and fork
26 antlered bulls and 50-inch bulls with three brow tines
27 are allowed to be taken.

28

29 This special action, because of
30 continued conservation concerns for moose on the Kenai,
31 this special action recognized that conservation
32 concern and set a quota on the number of fork antlered
33 bulls taken under Federal regulation. It was not met.
34 The quota of three was not met.

35

36 But anyway, Greg and Ralph both
37 recognized the conservation concern and agreed that it
38 was a wise step and I think it shows cooperation with
39 the State managers also. In fact, I consulted Jeff
40 Salinger here on the Kenai and he agreed in principal
41 that it would not cause biological harm if three
42 additional fork antlered bulls were taken.

43

44 So that's the only use of delegated
45 authority. I've already talked about this, I think,
46 last winter. An emergency special action was issued by
47 the Board, not by the Cordova district ranger, because
48 a delegated authority was not in place yet, that closed
49 the doe season in Unit 6 in early November, it was
50 November 2nd or 3rd, I think, because of conservation

1 concerns after our big winter in 2011-12. That was
2 matching State action and I think it's worked very
3 well. Our winters have been mild, which has worked
4 with these management actions that we've been taking.

5
6 I'll talk about deer next. I want to
7 spend a little time with that. So are there any
8 questions on special actions or new district ranger
9 that I've talked about.

10
11 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Greg.

12
13 MR. ENCELEWSKI: I just want to make a
14 comment, Milo. You called me plenty of times. It's
15 very good and you did consult and that worked well.

16
17 Thank you.

18
19 MR. BURCHAM: Okay. Yeah, Andy.

20
21 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: Through the Chair. I
22 really appreciate the calls as well. You've always
23 done a fantastic job saying, hey, what's the consensus
24 over there where you guys are at type thing, so
25 appreciate that.

26
27 MR. BURCHAM: Andy has been especially
28 helpful. It's not always easy to get a hold of your
29 IRA president, but you can just walk over and talk to
30 him and tell me not only comments from the village in
31 general, but also from your village leader there, which
32 has been helpful.

33
34 The third thing I wanted to bring up
35 and I didn't want these guys waiting for me while I
36 talked about it is deer because I'm going to spend a
37 little bit of time on it. It continues to be a little
38 bit controversial. I gave a homework assignment
39 yesterday. I passed you guys all out this and
40 hopefully you still have it at your fingertips and
41 maybe you could follow along.

42
43 Because we're not out of the woods yet,
44 I just wanted to present some of the science behind
45 what we're doing and then just give some thoughts about
46 this upcoming season. Deer pellet transects are the
47 science that we have for monitoring deer populations in
48 Prince William Sound. In fact, anywhere in Alaska it's
49 the main tool that managers have for monitoring Sitka
50 black-tailed deer populations.

1 These transects have been monitored for
2 varying lengths of time. Basically since '87 or '88,
3 is how long they've been running the transects that
4 we're still conducting right now. What these transects
5 are are fixed points and there's actually a map towards
6 the back. The second figure shows a map and you'll see
7 dots where each of these transects take place and
8 they're well distributed throughout the Sound.

9
10 There's a lot of logistical work that
11 goes in to pulling these transects off. We can't be
12 everywhere, but we've picked popular hunting areas and
13 distribution throughout Prince William Sound to try to
14 get a cross section on what's going on with the deer in
15 the Sound. Each one of those little spots we have a
16 painted or marked tree and we go to that same tree
17 every year and there's a fixed compass bearing that
18 generally goes straight up the mountain.

19
20 We do this cooperatively with the
21 State. In fact, we have a new State manager locally
22 now, Charlotte Westing, who is driven and motivated and
23 doesn't settle for getting less than all the data. For
24 the last two years we've completed all the transects.
25 That has only been done, it says right here, like just
26 a few times. Five other years in the last 20 have all
27 the transects been completed. Well, two of those five
28 have been the last two years since she came on. So she
29 doesn't take no for an answer and she's great to work
30 with. So we are conducting these together and she
31 wrote this report that you have in your hand.

32
33 So at that tree with the compass
34 bearing we walk up the mountain in 20 meter increments
35 dragging a cable. The first person just walks the
36 compass bearing and stops at 20 meters. The second
37 person walks up the cable and counts all the deer
38 pellet groups within a half meter of either side of the
39 cable.

40
41 So the transects or a plot is a meter
42 wide and 20 meters long and then there's varying
43 numbers of plots up to 100 that go well inland or some
44 of them are shorter if it's very steep and you get to
45 the ridge real quick. Anyway, we record the number of
46 pellet groups that are counted and then compare them
47 year after year.

48
49 What you see on the first figure are
50 the results of the transects going back to '95 and you

1 can see how the transect has trended up and down, but
2 after the winter of 2011-12 it dropped and that drop
3 wasn't reflected in the 2012 pellet transects yet
4 because the deer that died that winter -- and we lost
5 70 percent of the population in Prince William Sound.
6 The deer that died that winter pooped for part of the
7 winter until they died.

8

9 So the full extent of the drop doesn't
10 really show until 2013. In fact, it was probably even
11 lower than 2013's value in 2012. By 2013 we started
12 seeing the extent of that and what was suspected and we
13 took strong action. That's why we came to you guys and
14 went to the Board last year with the State looking to
15 modify the doe season and we did. We closed it in
16 State and Federal regulation in early November, leaving
17 a month of open doe season in October.

18

19 What I wanted to do is present where we
20 are right now. Our transects from this past fall show
21 an improvement. What they did is showed about a 14
22 percent improvement over last year. Normally a
23 population estimate is a mid point. It's your best
24 guess at where the population is, but it could be
25 higher, could be lower. Because conditions this winter
26 were so mild with so little snow, as of mid-February
27 there was no snow below 1,000 or 1,500 feet. The deer
28 were dispersed. For those and other reasons we
29 recognize that that value for 2014 is probably an
30 underestimate. They're probably doing a little better
31 than what shows there.

32

33 Still, the point I want to make is that
34 the deer population estimate is the second lowest ever
35 recorded. So as good as things have been going and
36 despite anecdotal evidence that shows from hunters and
37 stuff who are already out in the field seeing more deer
38 out there, we don't think we're out of the woods yet.
39 We would like to get the deer back to a healthy and
40 sustainable population level as soon as we can.

41

42 That said, we don't want to tinker with
43 it forever. Our plans -- this is me talking with the
44 State biologist. We would prefer to do nothing this
45 coming season, but we worry a little bit about a large
46 snow event, which brings deer to the beach and makes
47 them vulnerable to harvest.

48

49 Our only plans at the moment are to
50 hold an emergency meeting if we get such an event. The

1 State at that time will consider their options and talk
2 to stakeholders. At that time I would like to address
3 Federal subsistence users, which in Cordova is
4 basically the same crowd, but we have to address both
5 of our audiences and present them with a range of
6 options.

7

8 If, for example, the State was to close
9 doe season after a snow event, one of the things I
10 heard loud and clear from a few people last year, I was
11 criticized -- and I'll say I was criticized by a
12 minority of people. I had pretty broad community
13 support for the actions and about half the Council and
14 all the Native leaders in our region supported what we
15 did. Regardless, it was controversial to some. One of
16 the things I heard was they didn't want us doing the
17 same thing as the State.

18

19 Well, for example, if the State were to
20 choose to close the doe season after a large snow
21 event, which would make deer vulnerable again, one
22 thing that I would like to consider is limiting the
23 number of does that Federal subsistence users can take
24 and I've talked with OSM a little bit about this and
25 one possibility would be to issue two doe permits for
26 Federal subsistence users. It will not track what had
27 been harvested up to that point. Your limit would
28 still be five using your State permits, but I like the
29 idea of Federal users not being able after a big snow
30 event to take five does off the beach when they're most
31 vulnerable. So that's one idea that I'll throw out
32 there and the one I like the sound of the best.

33

34 Another is to give Federal users a
35 little bit more time, but those deer on the beach are
36 vulnerable and people can gear up with their seiners
37 and come back with 30 deer no problem. So, anyway,
38 that's why I'm leaning towards the one that I did.

39

40 I just want to make one other point.
41 The reason why we're still concerned is deer numbers
42 aren't back yet. As far as the hunting community is
43 concerned, I think gloves are off. We've had really
44 good hunter behavior over the last two years. They've
45 recognized the decline in the deer population and have
46 acted very responsibly and not gone out and taken large
47 numbers of deer. There's been very responsible hunter
48 behavior.

49

50 Memories are short and people want to

1 get deer and people are seeing more deer. There were
2 some anecdotal reports that we're back to where we
3 were. I don't think that's true. Also, what I'm
4 seeing, Facebook and reports from hunters, is people
5 are going out and starting to shoot large numbers of
6 deer. The doe season opened October 1st and several
7 bowpickers have come back with half a dozen or more
8 deer. I think you even mentioned a report of 20 deer
9 being taken. Did I hear that from you?

10

11 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Not from me you
12 didn't.

13

14 MR. BURCHAM: But anyway, hunter
15 behavior is getting back to normal and that's what
16 worries me a little bit. Not with what we have now.
17 If we don't get snow, I think our deer populations will
18 do fine. I think the standard vulnerability of the
19 population to hunting is no problem, but if we get a
20 large snow event, I think hunters will go back to
21 taking the deer that they can and set back our recovery
22 is what I'd like to say.

23

24 So that's the way I see it right now
25 and I just wanted to give you guys an update in case we
26 get that snow event and you'll have been able to think
27 about it and digest some of this information, you'll
28 have this report in your hands if I were to call you,
29 Andy, and you, Ralph or Bob or Tom and consult you guys
30 about any action we might take.

31

32 That's all I have.

33

34 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Question to Milo. If
35 you end up issuing -- let's just say you went with a
36 scenario that you're most favorable to. There's a
37 large snow event. Prior deer hunting doesn't count
38 except it does count on your total bag limit. I mean
39 if you've already gone out and got five deer, you're
40 done anyhow. But, if you issue these two permits, are
41 they going to be issued at the Forest Service? Are
42 people going to have to come in and get them? How are
43 you going to deal with places like Tatitlek and Chenega
44 and people who aren't in the Cordova area?

45

46 MR. BURCHAM: We'll be able to mail
47 permits. If not, fly out to the villages. I fly out
48 to the villages once every year already for mountain
49 goat permits and that would be very possible and
50 likely. I could also mail a stack of permits to be

1 issued by the council offices. I'll have to weight
2 that. In Cordova they would be available at the
3 Cordova office. It would be a lot of work. That's the
4 one negative that I can see about going that route.
5 There would be way more permits that we have ever
6 issued for anything. I envision 100 to 200 permits
7 going out the door and a line-up for them right off the
8 bat, but I'm prepared to deal with that and we'll get
9 ready for that in case that snow event happens.

10

11 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: The only populations
12 that have C&T for those permits are Cordova, Chenega
13 and Tatitlek, correct?

14

15 MR. BURCHAM: Residents of Unit 6.

16

17 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Right.

18

19 MR. BURCHAM: And it's just an idea at
20 this point. This isn't a formal, you know,
21 consultation or hearing or anything, but it's what I'm
22 thinking and I thought I'd throw that out.

23

24 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Andy.

25

26 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
27 I would say my personal observations exactly match the
28 data on that pellet -- I mean that's exactly what was
29 on my mind before I ever saw that. I'm like, yeah,
30 we're not out of the woods yet. The population is
31 still below 50 percent of what an average year would
32 be. In the event of this snow event, perhaps consider
33 Federal subsistence users like we did that time with
34 one buck after the closure, at least one person so
35 people can still get the meat when they need it in the
36 village. Chenega Bay and Tatitlek in particular that
37 I'm concerned with or maybe one deer per person or
38 something at that point. Maybe not put a definition
39 right now. Only two total, but maybe one deer per
40 person or something like that may be something to
41 consider if that happens.

42

43 MR. BURCHAM: Thank you.

44

45 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Milo, one question
46 more. When we look at the map right here, this is
47 current status, right?

48

49 MR. BURCHAM: Yes.

50

1 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: If I'm reading this
2 correct, basically we're looking at -- okay, the
3 highest is Hinchinbrook, right, and it's higher than
4 Hawkins? I mean is there a color difference or are my
5 eyes just different?

6
7 MR. BURCHAM: No, I think there is, as
8 I'm looking at it also. I think the Hinchinbrook
9 density is carried by the Hook Point transects, which
10 have a very high density. I think they raise the other
11 ones. I think otherwise the rest of Hinchinbrook and
12 Hawkins are probably similar would be my guess. I'd
13 have to look at the data.

14
15 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: So how close is that
16 number to normal for those areas.

17
18 MR. BURCHAM: The graphs are in the
19 back. For Hinchinbrook you'd have to look at two sets.
20 You'd have to look at the Hook Point graphs and the
21 Port Etches graphs.

22
23 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay. So they're
24 still.....

25
26 MR. BURCHAM: They're all below normal.

27
28 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: They're all below
29 normal.

30
31 MR. BURCHAM: Well below normal, yes.

32
33 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay.

34
35 MR. BURCHAM: In fact, yeah, they're
36 side by side on opposite pages. You can see the two
37 sets of Hawkins transects as well.

38
39 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Any other questions
40 for Milo.

41
42 (No comments)

43
44 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Thank you for a well
45 thought out and well illustrated presentation.

46
47 MR. BURCHAM: Thank you very much. I
48 think it's important and I'd like to have people
49 thinking about it and seeing the same information that
50 we're seeing.

1 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Go ahead.

2

3 MR. ENCELEWSKI: Through the Chair.
4 Milo, this die-off, snow related. Is there other
5 problems for the decline, the big die-off? Is it the
6 food, a change in diet or something else happening?

7

8 MR. BURCHAM: As far as we know,
9 they're not. We view the deer populations as largely
10 being dictated by weather, by severe winters until
11 they're at low density, at which point -- at low
12 densities and when they're pushed to the beaches we
13 think hunting pressure can act in more of an additive
14 way than a compensatory way if you understand what
15 those differences are. Compensatory is killing animals
16 -- hunters taking animals that would have died anyway.
17 Additive is hunter harvest adding to that and we think
18 that's what might happen in severe winters.

19

20 MR. ENCELEWSKI: Okay. Thank you.

21

22 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Milo and Greg, I think
23 there is one other controlling factor on the deer and
24 that's the few times that we've reached really
25 excessive levels and we've had browse problems, but
26 that's very, very seldom. There's a lot of browse on
27 the islands. I think there's a couple times I think in
28 my recollection or lifetime or whatever you want to
29 call it where we had tremendous deer populations and it
30 crashes after -- slight crashes afterwards simply
31 because the browse was -- you know, what happens in
32 combination with a cold winter they get driven down to
33 the beach and they eat all of the browse close enough
34 for winter forage. Summer forage is no problem. It's
35 strictly winter forage.

36

37 MR. BURCHAM: Okay. Thanks for your
38 patience. That's what I wanted to present to you and
39 I'll give it to Robert and Jeff now.

40

41 MR. STOVALL: Hi. My name is Robert
42 Stovall for the record. I am here to discuss the
43 caribou and moose permits for the Hope and Cooper
44 Landing communities. Jeff and I and Milo issued a
45 total of 51 moose permits for this season; 30 of those
46 from Cooper Landing and 21 from Hope. There was no
47 legal harvest of moose this season that we're aware of.

48

49 For caribou, we had a total of 43
50 permits issued; 18 of those were from Hope and 25 were

1 from Cooper Landing. For Cooper Landing, this was a
2 new opportunity for them to harvest caribou. That
3 season still had a five caribou limit that was within
4 regulations and the harvest of four caribou occurred
5 almost on the first day, so we reached that limit very
6 quickly. We went through the process of closing the
7 hunt down so that it would not go over the five quota
8 amount. We were successfully able to do that. No
9 other caribou were harvested after we closed it, which
10 was three days later.

11

12 Do you want to mention anything about
13 how that went from a regulatory standpoint?

14

15 MR. BRYDEN: Mr. Chairman. Jeff
16 Bryden, I'm the lead law enforcement officer for the
17 Chugach and Tongass National Forest. As Robert filled
18 you in, we issued out some permits. Part of what we're
19 doing now, Ruth D'Amico was our subsistence person for
20 the Chugach. She's since took a job down in Oregon, so
21 I kind of filled in with Robert this year and did a
22 little more on the permit issuing, setting up the
23 meetings and such with the local communities.

24

25 So that's how I kind of got a little
26 more involved in that side of the realm this year. We
27 issued out quite a few permits after the meetings where
28 we just meet with locals at different places. We
29 carried basically a pile of permits with me and I issue
30 out fish permits or moose or caribou permits.

31

32 As far as the caribou went, there was a
33 strong interest in the Cooper Landing folks with the
34 opportunity to get a caribou. The herd has decreased a
35 little bit on the Kenai Mountains to the point that the
36 State didn't issue as many drawing permits as they
37 normally do. So the folks in Cooper Landing were
38 pretty motivated and were out in the field.

39

40 We did a pretty intense management with
41 them to make sure that we were getting notified as soon
42 as they got them, so we figured there would be no
43 problem getting five. There were some right along the
44 road system on Palmer Creek on opening day and
45 literally one group could take all five in one go at
46 it. So we set up as best we could with everybody. We
47 had them all call in.

48

49 We knew that first day that there was
50 four taken and we knew there was quite a few groups in

1 the back country that were still out, so that's why we
2 moved to shut it down three days later so that we'd
3 have the folks be able to come back in. Several of the
4 other folks from the community of Hope saw caribou.
5 They just chose not to shoot them in the locations they
6 were at and were looking for other caribou, be it
7 larger ones or such. So they didn't take them.

8
9 There's going to be some requests, I
10 suspect, coming in from the Cooper Landing folks to get
11 additional numbers, particularly from the Hope folks
12 also because they were kind of upset they didn't get
13 any caribou and it shut down so quick. I wouldn't be
14 surprised to see that issue coming before you all
15 fairly soon.

16
17 MR. STOVALL: Cooper Landing harvested
18 three of the four caribou.

19
20 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: And Hope then got one?
21

22 MR. STOVALL: Yes.
23

24 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Now you said there was
25 no legal harvest of moose. Did you have an illegal
26 harvest of moose under the subsistence hunting season?
27

28 MR. BRYDEN: Technically no, but yes.
29

30 (Laughter)
31

32 MR. BRYDEN: The animal that was shot
33 and the additional animal that was shot, for the
34 record, the subsistence opportunities for the Hope and
35 Cooper Landing residents allow a person to take one
36 with three brow tine, State regulation has to be four
37 brow tine or 50-inch spike-fork. The subsistence
38 hunter was on Federal land and shot a bull that did not
39 meet a three brow tine or 50-inch and the bull went
40 down, then a bull stood up, which was actually a
41 different bull and he proceeded to shoot that one,
42 which also didn't meet that regulation. For whatever
43 reason, then he brought the rack out before the meat to
44 the road, at which point he was contacted by the
45 trooper. So the State is taking forward that case
46 because I have -- I can do it under the Federal end,
47 but there isn't any real difference. It doesn't meet
48 our criteria. The meat was donated back to charities
49 in the community, so the moose stayed in the community,
50 but not by the shooter.

1 We had a small harvest in Unit 7. Unit
2 15, which is where we're at right now, had some pretty
3 decent numbers, particularly 15C. Unit 7 had two spike
4 and three others that met the brow tine of four or over
5 50. One subsistence hunter shot a moose that he just
6 chose to turn it in by State. It was 50 and a quarter.
7 Another one that was shot was 51 inches. So there was
8 two that could have been counted, but they weren't
9 counted. They were just turned in to State because it
10 met either definition on that.

11
12 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: That's reasonable
13 because if you know there's a subsistence quota, you
14 might as well leave some for other subsistence hunters
15 if you can turn it in on the State.

16
17 MR. BRYDEN: The only quota that the
18 subsistence hunters have on the moose happen to be with
19 the spike-fork combination. The State doesn't allow.
20 We allow three subsistence animals be taken and none
21 were taken on that size. So it was up to the hunter
22 where he wants to turn it in at. Both myself and
23 Robert are sealers, so we'll seal for subsistence. I
24 can seal for State too. It just happened to be that
25 the guys found a State person to get it sealed quicker
26 than they found one of us.

27
28 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: So there was no number
29 quota on the subsistence moose.

30
31 MR. BRYDEN: There is no number on it
32 at all for the larger moose.

33
34 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Questions, Greg?

35
36 MR. ENCELEWSKI: No. Yeah, maybe I got
37 a quick question. You mentioned 15C was pretty good,
38 huh?

39
40 MR. BRYDEN: Yeah. Last I heard 71
41 legal bulls were taken. I don't know how many sub-
42 legals, but that's a pretty good number compared to
43 previous years.

44
45 MR. ENCELEWSKI: Yeah, it's almost
46 doubled. Well, not doubled, but a third.

47
48 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Any other questions.

49
50 (No comments)

1 MR. BRYDEN: Did you want any
2 information on the Russian River dipnet fishery?

3
4 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Love to have some.

5
6 MR. ENCELEWSKI: We had it yesterday.

7
8 MR. BRYDEN: You had all of Jeff's
9 information. Just from strictly on the law enforcement
10 side of it. It was a good fishery this year. At this
11 point most of the subsistence users are well versed on
12 the rules and regulations. Nothing has really changed.
13 As you heard, our numbers were pretty doggone good
14 early on.

15
16 One of the issues that may be becoming
17 before you and it's definitely going to be coming
18 through the Forest Service and we've had some meetings
19 with the members of Cooper Landing, is accessibility
20 issues on getting to the dipnet fishery by older
21 individuals. So we're getting into four-wheel access,
22 wanting to be able to take four-wheelers in to the
23 dipnet fishery. The agency is working with some of
24 those proposals right now.

25
26 It's also expanding out into the
27 firewood realm and that's getting to be a pretty hot
28 topic in the Cooper Landing area right now and
29 subsistence gathering of stuff other than fish and game
30 where they can take off-road vehicles to be able to
31 harvest things that are necessities for them.

32
33 MR. STOVALL: Firewood being the
34 primary concern.

35
36 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Judy.

37
38 MS. CAMINER: I was wondering, Jeff, if
39 there's ever -- have there been conflicts between
40 people who don't understand why folks are going up
41 there with nets.

42
43 MR. BRYDEN: I'm sure there is on a
44 regular basis. We have an informational board that's
45 posted at the falls. We also have it at the
46 trailheads, there's information. When you first enter,
47 the folks letting them know that there are people doing
48 it up there and you had to be a qualified resident to
49 do it. The simple answer is how come they get to do
50 it. If you want to move to this community, you too

1 could. But we haven't had any direct conflicts.
2 Basically the area they're at isn't open to a sport
3 fishery, so other than the curiosity part of it there
4 hasn't been any real conflict. The area where they're
5 collecting the fish in dipnet is already beyond the
6 point you can sport fish for them, so there's nobody
7 saying -- the sport fishermen can't go to that area.

8

9 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: So the sport fishermen
10 can't be in the same area?

11

12 MR. BRYDEN: They can be there, but
13 they can't fish there though.

14

15 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: They can't fish in the
16 same area as the dipnet fishery.

17

18 MR. BRYDEN: Yes, in the upper end of
19 it because it's too close to the falls, so that's
20 closed by regulation in that area to sport fishing.

21

22 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: That's interesting
23 because I think Milo could tell you a little bit about
24 down in Cordova where you have dipnetting right amongst
25 the sport fishermen.

26

27 MR. BRYDEN: Yeah, the separation
28 definitely helps out. The biggest issue for us again
29 is just how to get -- once you have a nice harvest of
30 25 fish, how do you get your fish out and the fish
31 waste issue has been a continuing, ongoing issue with
32 the agency and trying to manage bear encounters in that
33 area.

34

35 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Yeah. Any other
36 questions.

37

38 (No comments)

39

40 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Thank you.

41

42 MR. BRYDEN: Thank you.

43

44 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay. With that we'll
45 go to the National Park Service.

46

47 MS. CELLARIUS: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
48 My name is Barbara Cellarius and I'm the subsistence
49 coordinator for Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and
50 Preserve. I have a number of handouts for you for this

1 meeting. In the book, there is a briefing on what the
2 SRC or Subsistence Resource Commission is and it
3 describes the RAC appointments to the SRC and I
4 actually have an action item for you related to that
5 today.

6
7 There's also a handout on the Chisana
8 Caribou hunt and some information about ORD management
9 along the Nabesna Road. In your pink folder or salmon-
10 colored folder, whatever color we've determined it is,
11 there's a couple of other handouts. There is a
12 fisheries report and a wildlife report.

13
14 So I'm not going to go through
15 everything, but we'll talk about those briefly. It's
16 not in the materials, but I can also talk a little bit
17 about special actions.

18
19 In your book, there's a description of
20 what the Subsistence Resource Commission is. Let me
21 tell you what page it's on.

22
23 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: 143.

24
25 MS. CELLARIUS: Yes, 143. This
26 Regional Advisory Council appoints one member to our
27 Subsistence Resource Commission. This comes out of
28 ANILCA, the appointment authority. Three of our
29 members are appointed by the governor, three are
30 appointed by the Secretary of the Interior and three
31 are appointed by the Regional Advisory Councils. We
32 have one member each from Southeast, Southcentral and
33 Eastern Interior.

34
35 The current appointee to the Wrangell-
36 St. Elias National Park Subsistence Resource Commission
37 is Gloria Stickwan and her term will be expiring soon.
38 So I am here before you today to ask for an action on
39 that appointment. It's your choice whether you
40 reappoint Gloria or pick someone else. The eligibility
41 criteria for these appointments are you need to be
42 either a member of the Regional Advisory Council or a
43 member of a local Fish and Game Advisory Council in the
44 Southcentral region.

45
46 I think most of you have heard me talk
47 about this before, so I'll stop there and see if there
48 are any questions about what I'm asking for.

49
50 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: So, Barbara, what you

1 basically need is an action on our part.

2

3 MS. CELLARIUS: Yes, yes. It's an
4 action item for you. I'm hoping that you will take
5 action on this RAC's appointment to the Wrangell-St.
6 Elias Subsistence Resource Commission.

7

8 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Would you be willing
9 to do it again, Gloria?

10

11 MS. STICKWAN: Yes.

12

13 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Does anybody wish to
14 make a motion. Andy.

15

16 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: Yeah, I so move.

17

18 MR. ENCELEWSKI: Second.

19

20 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: It's been moved and
21 seconded that we reappoint Gloria as our representative
22 on the SRC. Any discussion.

23

24 MS. CAMINER: Mr. Chair. I think
25 Gloria has done a great job and I'm glad she's
26 interested in continuing and we appreciate that.

27

28 MR. ENCELEWSKI: Question.

29

30 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: The question has been
31 called. All in favor signify by saying aye.

32

33 IN UNISON: Aye.

34

35 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: All opposed signify by
36 saying nay.

37

38 (No opposing votes)

39

40 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Motion carries.
41 Gloria, you are reappointed.

42

43 MR. ENCELEWSKI: That's the quickest
44 reappointment in history.

45

46 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Huh?

47

48 MR. ENCELEWSKI: I just said that's the
49 quickest reappointment in history.

50

1 (Laughter)

2

3 MS. CELLARIUS: Thank you, Council
4 members. I appreciate your action on this. Just
5 moving down my list I'm going talk about special
6 actions when I get to fisheries so I'm going to kind of
7 go through my list here.

8

9 On the Chisana Caribou Herd hunt, which
10 was established a couple years ago by the Federal
11 Subsistence Board, this hunt occurs in the Eastern
12 Interior Region; however, there are communities within
13 Southcentral that have C&T and actually weren't
14 included in the 804 analysis for that hunt. It's a
15 very small hunt on a herd of caribou that has about 700
16 animals in it.

17

18 We have an International Management
19 Plan for the herd and that management plan says we can
20 allow a 2 percent harvest with that 2 percent being
21 equally split between the U.S. and Canada. That means
22 we have a harvest quota for this hunt of 7 caribou.

23

24 There's a delegation of authority to
25 the Park Superintendent to manage the hunt and so we
26 announce the harvest quota. We decided that this year
27 we were going to issue no more than 18 permits. We
28 have that authority to limit the number of permits from
29 the Federal Subsistence Board. As it turned out, I
30 only issued 11 permits and we've had two caribou
31 reported harvested and I suspect that's going to be it.

32

33

34 The season closed on September 30th and
35 people are supposed to call me within 3 days of
36 harvesting the caribou, call me or email me. So I'm
37 pretty sure that that's how many caribou were
38 harvested. The first year I think we had two harvested.
39 Last year we had three harvested and so this year we've
40 had another two harvested, so it's a fairly consistent
41 harvest amount.

42

43 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Is that all the
44 hunting pressure on this herd?

45

46 MS. CELLARIUS: That is the only hunt
47 on this -- I mean unless the animals go outside of the
48 area. But Federal public lands in that hunt area are
49 closed to the harvested caribou by all but residents of
50 Chistochina, Mentasta, Tok, Tetlin, Northway, Chisana

1 and people who live in the hunt area and residents of
2 the Nabesna Road. So there's a fairly small group of
3 folks based on the 804.

4

5 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Thank you. Any
6 questions for Barbara on that.

7

8 (No comments)

9

10 MS. CELLARIUS: So I'll move on to the
11 ORV management on the Nabesna Road and this falls in
12 both Southcentral and Eastern Interior. The road
13 crosses Unit 11/Unit 12 boundary. We did a big
14 environmental impact statement and management plan a
15 couple years ago. There were some implementation of
16 some of the decisions made in the plan required that we
17 change Federal regulations. So we've been going
18 through that process over the last year.

19

20 There was a draft rule I think in
21 January and the final rule was published in, I believe,
22 August. So there's a news release about that final
23 rule. There's also a map for subsistence users.
24 Probably the two most significant things that directly
25 affect subsistence users is we've established some
26 weight in vehicle limits as part of the rule. I guess
27 we didn't have those in regulation before.

28

29 There is a portion of the Park that is
30 designated wilderness
31 and we designated trails for ORV use in the designated
32 wilderness and then there's an allowance for off trail
33 game retrieval. So that's in a nutshell what we did on
34 the ORV EIS and I'll leave it at that unless there are
35 questions on that one.

36

37 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: I only have one
38 question, Barbara. I noticed that four-wheelers are
39 basically are allowed but two-wheelers aren't. Is it
40 because motor bikes tear up things worse than a four-
41 wheeler?

42

43 MS. CELLARIUS: I don't know entirely
44 for sure. That seems like a reasonable explanation,
45 but I would have to ask Bruce.

46

47 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Any other questions on
48 this for Barbara?

49

50 (No comments)

1 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: So this is the final
2 rule, the EIS is done and this is in regulation now.

3
4 MS. CELLARIUS: Yes. So this
5 regulation change, which has been finalized and
6 published in the Federal Register as the final rule,
7 implements the decisions in the EIS that required a
8 regulation change.

9
10 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Right.

11
12 MS. CELLARIUS: So some of the things
13 we decided we wanted to do, but we had to put it into
14 regulation and so that is what we've done with this
15 regulation.

16
17 So moving on to fisheries. Since we
18 were talking about special actions, let me just say
19 that the Wrangell-St. Elias Superintendent is the
20 designated Federal fisheries manager for the Upper
21 Copper River. As part of doing that we manage the
22 Chitina subdistrict, so there's two subdistricts and
23 then there's a third fishing area that's quite small.
24 But in the Chitina subdistrict, which is where the
25 Chitina dipnet fishery occurs, we coordinate when the
26 season is open with the Chitina dipnet fishery and we
27 do that using special actions.

28
29 So we issue up to eight special actions
30 a year basically modifying the fishing schedule in the
31 Chitina subdistrict. And I think at least Gloria gets
32 copies of those. I think that they go around. If
33 there's anybody who isn't getting those on the RAC who
34 would like to get them, and I should probably double
35 check that Donald is getting them. But through the
36 course of the year we issue these special actions that
37 modify the seasons. This is consistent with the Copper
38 River Salmon Management Plan. So these are special
39 actions, but it's almost a routine kind of thing that
40 occurs consistent with that Salmon Management Plan.

41
42 One thing we did this year, because we
43 wanted to make sure that everybody understood the
44 process, we sent letters out to the tribal councils
45 from the affected communities, the ones that tend to
46 fish in that area or near that area, explaining our
47 inseason management process and offering to come and
48 meet with them if they wanted to talk about it or
49 wanted more information. We thought that would be a
50 useful sort of outreach that we could do about our

1 special action program.

2

3 In your pink folder there should be a
4 handout with a photograph. This is Tanada Creek with
5 no water in it in the spring. Once it started raining
6 and we got water in the creek we did have over 28,000
7 fish come by Tanada Creek Weir. Those were mostly
8 sockeye, but there were five chinook that we saw this
9 year. And so we have two weirs where we count fish,
10 one at Tanada Creek and then one at Long Lake. So
11 there's salmon count information from those projects.
12 Molly also included some information on the Miles Lakes
13 sonar.

14

15 And then there's a couple special
16 projects mentioned. We've been doing some work on
17 fisheries, some fish contaminants. These are freshwater
18 fish in local lakes. One of the pages of the handout
19 is actually a fish advisory. Some advise that we
20 issued in consultation with the State Department of
21 Health mostly about eating large lake trout -- I think
22 that's right. Yeah, large lake trout from Copper and
23 Tanada Lakes.

24

25 We are continuing that work. That was
26 part of a larger Park Service project and the Park has
27 put in some additional money and done some additional
28 sampling. I think we've gotten the results of that
29 project and have gone to someone who is going to help
30 us understand the results and what they mean. So I
31 should have more information for you about the
32 additional contaminants work that we've done at the
33 winter RAC meeting.

34

35 There has also been some concern about
36 burbot abundance in Grizzly Lake, which is actually in
37 the Yukon River Drainage, but it's off the Nabesna
38 Road, so we've been getting some anecdotal reports
39 about really high fishing pressure and so we've been
40 doing some population estimates. We don't have the
41 final analysis yet, but the preliminary results
42 indicate a substantial decline in the burbot population
43 in that lake since 2010.

44

45 We are going to keep doing at least one
46 and maybe two years of work. I think actually two. I
47 think the Park Service is putting in -- we have a
48 subsistence project fund and I think we have two years
49 worth of funding from that pot of money to continue
50 monitoring the burbot population there.

1 And then the last thing that Molly has
2 in her report is some information on permits issued in
3 the Upper Copper River subsistence fishery and we don't
4 have the 2014 harvest information yet, but we do have
5 the number of permits and then there's some historical
6 information. So that's what I have on fish.

7

8 Are there any questions about fish?

9

10 (No comments)

11

12 MS. CELLARIUS: And then the next thing
13 is we have a wildlife report and there was a population
14 census for the Chisana Caribou Herd that was done a
15 year ago and we just recently in the last couple of
16 weeks have the project result. They analyzed the data
17 to figure out and do the population estimate and
18 basically what that shows is that the population is
19 stable.

20

21 So in 2010, the population estimate was
22 just a hair under 700 and then with the 2013 population
23 it's 701, so it appears that herd is stable and that is
24 the one where I was talking about the very limited
25 harvest.

26

27 There is also some sheep data, which
28 I'm afraid -- I can take questions back to our
29 biologist, but I couldn't answer questions about the
30 sheep survey data.

31

32 And then the last page is just the
33 summary of our permit data except for the Chisana Herd.
34 I can't really speak to this year's harvest successes.
35 We are getting ready, gearing up for the winter moose
36 hunt in the southern part of Unit 11 that was approved
37 by the Federal Board this year and so this will be the
38 first year for that hunt. So far we've had 27 permits
39 issued although I've gotten some calls since then, so
40 we may issue a few more permits. Of course they may
41 also be people out there who had permits for both the
42 fall hunt and the winter hunt and if they got a moose
43 in the fall hunt, they wouldn't be eligible for winter
44 hunt.

45

46 So that's all I have for Wrangell-St.
47 Elias. If there are any questions, I am happy to
48 answer them.

49

50 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Only one Barbara just

1 to refresh my memory. What's the quota for the winter
2 hunt or is there a quota or is it just going to be
3 closed by announcement?

4

5 MS. CELLARIUS: So we got some funding
6 to do a moose survey this fall that will help us.
7 There has never been a moose survey in the hunt area
8 and so we had to go out and get some money to do a
9 moose survey in the hunt area and we're hoping to do
10 that in the next month. Our plan is that we will
11 announce a quota by the 15th of November. We are
12 hopeful, especially with this fresh snow that we've
13 gotten in the Copper Basin, that we will be able to get
14 a moose survey done. If not, we will set the quota
15 based on the information that we have.

16

17 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Any other questions
18 for Barbara?

19

20 (No comments)

21

22 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Do have more from the
23 Park Service?

24

25 MS. CELLARIUS: We do. Do you want to
26 go first or do you want me to do the horns and antlers?

27

28 MS. MCBURNEY: Why don't you go ahead
29 and do horns and antlers.

30

31 MS. CELLARIUS: So you should have a
32 handout. For a number of years the Park Service has
33 been working on a -- it was really a request from one
34 of our SRCs and then also from the Eastern Interior
35 Regional Advisory Council. So in April we selected
36 what's described here as a modified alternative D on
37 the environmental impact statement on the subsistence
38 collections and uses of shed or discarded animal parts
39 and plants from Parks areas in Alaska.

40

41 This alternative will allow subsistence
42 collections of these resources to make handicrafts for
43 personal or family purposes to barter or to sell in
44 customary trade. So the decision clears the way for
45 the Parks Service to promulgate regulations to
46 authorize these uses of subsistence activities. And we
47 need to have an Alaska-specific regulation because
48 there is currently a national NPS regulation that
49 prohibits essentially collecting things like horns and
50 antlers.

1 We're now in the process of developing
2 a draft regulation and we hope to have the draft
3 regulatory language available for review at the
4 winter/spring RAC and SRC meetings. And then once the
5 draft regulations are published in the Federal
6 Register, there's a public comment period before we can
7 finalize the regulation. The regulations will provide
8 a general framework for authorizing subsistence
9 collections with provisions allowing superintendents to
10 customize the implementation as needed by local
11 conditions through unit-specific regulations or
12 compendia.

13

14 And with that in mind we are interested
15 in hearing from subsistence users on a couple of
16 issues. One of the things that the regulation is going
17 to require is some kind of written authorization from
18 the area superintendent to engage in these collections.
19 So this could be something like an individual permit,
20 it could be more of a blanket authorization for
21 residents of local communities. So that's one thing we
22 are seeking input on is what kind of written
23 authorization might work best in your area and
24 certainly we talked to the SRC about this last week.

25

26 A couple of other questions is that the
27 decision allows for mitigating measures to minimize
28 potentially adverse impacts to resources. So this
29 might be a closure of an area or a disallowance of
30 certain resources saying you can't collect particular
31 resources. So we're interested in if there are areas
32 or resources that should be opened or not opened to
33 subsistence collection.

34

35 And then finally one of the things that
36 came out as we went through the EA process is the need
37 for potentially doing some public education related to
38 these allowances. So the final question I've got is
39 what should be included in a public education program.
40 So if any of the RAC members want to give us any input
41 on those three questions, we'd appreciate it.

42

43 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Would you like input
44 at this point in time?

45

46 MS. CELLARIUS: Now would be great. If
47 you want to send it to us later.

48

49 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Gloria, have you got
50 any comments on the three questions she's got?

1 MS. STICKWAN: I'm sitting here trying
2 to remember what we said, but we said a blanket
3 authorization at the meeting instead of individual
4 permits so that everybody wouldn't have to apply
5 individually. And then there was a closed area. I
6 forgot what you said.

7
8 MS. CELLARIUS: You know, I would have
9 to go back to the notes on it.

10
11 MS. STICKWAN: The closed areas was --
12 we told them that we wanted them to work with Ahtna
13 Heritage for sensitive areas to the Ahtna people and
14 that's all. Not pinpoint it, but show the area around
15 where those areas may be because not all the areas
16 collected under 14H -- when the 14H program was -- we
17 didn't include all of our historical sites under that
18 because there was a deadline to it, so not all those
19 sensitive areas are in that. So we told them to work
20 with Ahtna Heritage to find those areas. And for the
21 public education I think we said -- I don't remember
22 what we said about the public education.

23
24 MS. CELLARIUS: And like I said I would
25 have to look at my notes, but I think on public
26 education we talked about needing some general
27 information about what can occur and then I know that
28 there have been some concerns about protecting cultural
29 resources. So, you know, what's the sort of raw
30 material that this would allow versus something that's
31 had some kind of human modification. Kind of making
32 just some information to ensure that what's being
33 collected is what's intended under the regulation and
34 that we aren't disturbing cultural resources.

35
36 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: I think a couple of
37 points that Gloria made I'd be in total agreement with.
38 I think basically the easiest way to do it is a blanket
39 authorization for resident-zoned communities. And then
40 for education, basically posting in our post offices,
41 our schools, and our grocery stores, places like that,
42 and making a pamphlet or brochure available to anybody
43 who wants to get more specific things of what can and
44 can't be done.

45
46 I would probably make a difference
47 between things that reoccur annually and things that
48 are biannual or longer lasting. I mean like I was
49 talking with one of the Refuge managers, I would never
50 have even thought that I needed a permit to go pick a

1 berry or a mushroom. I mean for one thing you are
2 leaving no lasting effect because they are either there
3 next year or they're not whether you picked them or
4 whether you didn't pick them. I would think things
5 like that, things that are annual, cyclic, they should
6 have kind of an open, no-concern type thing.

7
8 When you start cutting brush, cutting
9 trees, cutting diamond willow or things on that order,
10 you can have more of an impact. And then like Gloria
11 said, archeological sites and heritage sites, the lack
12 of defacement or removal should be closed areas.

13
14 I'll think right now of the Tangle
15 Lakes Archeological Area where about 80 percent of the
16 people I know pick berries, go up to pick berries. You
17 know, I mean it's -- but it has no effect on the
18 archeological bearing of those sites right there. It
19 would depend on the resource. And if you are picking
20 up a resource that leaves a lasting mark, then you're
21 going to have to look at it and see what areas need to
22 be closed or not closed or what kind of limitations you
23 put on it. But when it's something that doesn't leave
24 a lasting mark, a berry, a mushroom, grass, a flower I
25 would think we could have much more liberal regulations
26 on that.

27
28 Judy.

29
30 MS. CAMINER: And I can't remember if
31 it was the last meeting or the one before we had a
32 presentation by Fish and Wildlife of what is a
33 handicraft, and some of that was referring to sea otter
34 and other things, but that might be a good follow-up
35 pamphlet or discussion.

36
37 MS. CELLARIUS: Mr. Chair. I want to
38 clarify that subsistence collection of plant materials
39 that meets the definitions of subsistence under ANILCA
40 is already allowed on Park Service land. So you can
41 pick berries, you can pick mushrooms, you can collect
42 firewood. What you can't do with plant materials
43 currently is make and sell handicrafts.

44
45 So with regard to plant materials what
46 we would be authorizing is things like birch bark
47 baskets. That is not clearly allowed under the current
48 under ANILCA, so really we're not -- there's a lot of
49 things that are already allowed under ANILCA. So what
50 this is addressing is some activities that our

1 subsistence users had asked to be able to do and
2 weren't clearly allowed under ANILCA because we had
3 this national regulation that prohibited it.

4
5 And thank you for the feedback on the
6 questions that I asked.

7
8 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Gloria.

9
10 MS. STICKWAN: We also said, and I
11 think we should include here too, is they meet with
12 tribes and elders when they talk about these sensitive
13 areas, when they meet with them.

14
15 MS. CELLARIUS: That's all I had on
16 that topic. Mary has another topic to discuss when we
17 are completed with this one.

18
19 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay. Any other
20 questions or any other comments for Barbara on that.

21
22 (No comments)

23
24 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Nope. Okay.

25
26 MS. MCBURNEY: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
27 Council members. For the record, my name is Mary
28 McBurney and I'm the subsistence lead and InterAgency
29 Staff Committee member for the National Park Service.

30
31 I'm here today to provide an
32 informational topic and this is actually kind of
33 similar to what you heard from the Fish and Wildlife
34 Service before lunch. The National Park Service is
35 moving forward with proposed regulations on certain
36 takings of wildlife by sport hunters in National
37 Preserves and there's also several other administrative
38 items that are rolled into this package as well that
39 I'll describe for you.

40
41 These regulations would not restrict
42 Federal subsistence hunting on NPS managed lands but we
43 felt that it was important to bring it to the RACs for
44 a heads-up on the issue. The proposed regulations
45 package is open right now for a 90-day public review
46 period and that continues through December 3rd. We're
47 conducting a series of public hearings beginning this
48 month as well as formal consultation with the State,
49 tribes and ANCSA corporations.

50

1 The proposed rule covers five general
2 areas. The first involves certain sport hunting
3 practices on National Preserves; specifically hunting
4 black bears, including sows with cubs with artificial
5 light at den sites, harvesting brown bears over bait,
6 and taking wolves and coyotes, including pups, during
7 the denning season. The Park Services is also asking
8 for comments on whether two practices that are
9 currently allowed on National Preserves, namely black
10 bear baiting and the use of dogs to hunt black bears,
11 should also be prohibited.

12
13 The second area covered by the proposed
14 rule involves formalizing in regulation that predator
15 reduction efforts that alter or manipulate natural
16 predator/pray dynamics to increase the harvest of
17 ungulates by humans would not be allowed on Park
18 Service managed lands.

19
20 Next, the proposed rule would adopt
21 State regulations that prohibit the intentional
22 obstruction or hindering of people that are actively
23 engaged in legal hunting or trapping activities.

24
25 The fourth area proposes several
26 updates to the current Park Service procedures for
27 implementing closures or restrictions in National
28 Parks, Preserves, and Monuments. And these updates
29 include adding the internet and other electronic media
30 to the list of methods that the Park Service can use to
31 provide public notice and engage the public.

32
33 It also involves simplifying the
34 closure procedure, so that rather than three categories
35 of closures, currently there's emergency, temporary,
36 and permanent, that there would only be two and those
37 would be emergency and non-emergency. Emergency
38 closures and restrictions would not exceed 60 days,
39 which is consistent with the emergency closures under
40 the Federal Subsistence Program and they would be
41 effective upon publication on the Park website.

42
43 Non-emergency closures or restrictions
44 or the termination or relaxations of those restrictions
45 or closures could be of any duration and would not
46 require making new regulations, which is the current
47 procedure, unless the proposed closure meets three
48 specific criteria.

49
50 So if a proposed Park Service action is

1 of a nature, magnitude and duration that would result
2 in a significant alteration in the public use pattern
3 of an area, that's the first criteria, or adversely
4 affect the area's natural aesthetic scenic or cultural
5 values, that's the second criteria, or require a
6 long-term or significant modification in the resource
7 management objectives of the area, that's the third,
8 then the rulemaking requirement would be triggered.
9 But if a non-emergency closure does not meet these
10 criteria, then it will take effect after consultation
11 with the State and an opportunity for public comment on
12 the proposed closure or restriction.

13

14 Finally the proposed rule would allow
15 the use of Native fish species or their parts as bait
16 for fishing in Alaska. This is to recognize the
17 widespread practice of using salmon eggs and other fish
18 parts as bait for both sport and subsistence fisheries.
19 This Alaska-specific provision would replace the
20 current nationwide Park Service regulation that
21 prohibits the use of Native fish or their parts for
22 bait.

23

24 I believe there are copies of the
25 proposed rule in your package along with some other
26 background materials. What I'd like to share with you
27 right now is just a quick briefing on our outreach
28 efforts and how people can comment on these proposed
29 rules.

30

31 Right now the Park Service is planning
32 to hold 17 public hearings this fall throughout the
33 state and the first of a series of Facebook chats. I
34 don't know how many of you have ever participated in
35 one of those, but it's sort of like having an extended
36 text messaging conversation on your telephone, but this
37 is by internet. These Facebook chats will be held
38 beginning October 20th and they'll run through October
39 31. I have the information for how to log onto that if
40 you would like to get that from me.

41

42 And on October 21st from 10:00 a.m. to
43 noon Park service staff will be available on these
44 Facebook chats to post real-time responses to people's
45 questions. So these are going to be the experts, the
46 people that helped put together this proposed rule and
47 this is an opportunity to ask questions of those folks
48 directly.

49

50 On October 27th the Park Service will

1 hold a phone-in hearing from 11:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
2 and this is where callers can identify themselves and
3 call in and provide testimony which will be recorded.
4 The toll free number is 1-888-921-5898 and callers can
5 use the access code 5499349# and that will connect you
6 to the hearing so that you can also provide input.

7
8 Finally there are going to be a series
9 of in-person hearings that will be taking place
10 throughout the Southcentral region. The first is
11 October 30th in Soldotna. That will be at the Kenai
12 Peninsula Borough building and will be from 3:00 to
13 7:00 p.m. On November 5th there will be a hearing in
14 Eagle at the Eagle school from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. On
15 November 5th in Copper Center at the Wrangell-St. Elias
16 National Park Visitor's Center from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m.
17 And on November 6 in Tok at the Tok school and that
18 will be from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.

19
20 If anyone has any questions, I'll do my
21 best to answer them.

22
23 Thank you.

24
25 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Thank you, Mary.
26 Questions.

27
28 Greg.

29
30 MR. ENCELEWSKI: Just had a couple
31 questions, Mary. Backing up a ways, you were talking
32 about some changes in the natural prey balance, that we
33 can't upset or disturb the natural prey balance. How
34 do you determine a natural prey balance? I mean what
35 do you use for a basis? I don't know. Anyway, that's
36 one of my questions.

37
38 Then the other question while I'm on
39 the line here, Facebook chats. Boy, times have
40 changed. I'll tell you what, I'm glad to hear that you
41 got some in-person meetings coming at the end. But
42 thanks.

43
44 MS. MCBURNEY: Through the Chair, I
45 agree. I haven't participated in a Facebook chat yet
46 myself, but I'm sure they are quite exciting.

47
48 But to get to your original question or
49 your first question, it isn't so much that I think I
50 can define or the Park service can define what that

1 predator/prey relationship looks like definitively, but
2 what this does get to is basically the mandate that the
3 Park service has to manage for natural processes. So
4 while we might not be able to define absolutely what
5 the predator/prey dynamics may be in a particular are,
6 it does get to the point that we do manage for natural
7 processes and don't actively manipulate predators and
8 prey or, you know, manipulate necessarily the habitat.

9

10 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Go ahead, Greg.

11

12 MR. ENCELEWSKI: Just one little follow
13 up to that. The sustenance user and hunter is part of
14 that natural prey and part of that user balance. So
15 just so we always remember that.

16

17 MS. MCBURNEY: And we do acknowledge
18 that.

19

20 MR. ENCELEWSKI: Okay, thank you.

21

22 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Thank you.

23

24 Judy.

25

26 MS. CAMINER: Mr. Chair. In the
27 proposed rule, there's this use of natural bait and I
28 guess I don't know the answer about whether that is
29 allowed in the Federal Subsistence Program. So that
30 just might be something maybe Staff could research for
31 us and we could talk about next time if that's
32 something we need to think about to include in the
33 Federal program if it's not there already.

34

35 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: It would be worth
36 checking into, Judy. I think it is because we've
37 allowed bait for the subsistence fisherman on the Kenai
38 River and specifically said that they could use bait
39 when the State would be using artificial lures. But,
40 again, what constitutes bait? And like she said, the
41 most common one in Alaska is salmon eggs.

42

43 I have a couple questions. I was
44 listening to your first five, I'll say, prohibitions
45 and I'm not disagreeing with them by a long shot. It's
46 just that I was trying to think of where on preserved
47 land the first three of them were even legal under
48 State law. As far as I know under State law, I know in
49 Unit 13 now you can bait brown bears, but that's not on
50 Federal land and I think that's about the only area

1 that they opened up for brown bear recently.

2

3 And I don't think State law allows
4 sport hunting with an artificial light, so if you can't
5 use an artificial light then you can hunt black bears
6 and cubs in a den with an artificial light in the
7 winter if you aren't allowed to use an artificial light
8 under State law. I'm not saying that these aren't good
9 things to prohibit, but it shouldn't be in reaction to
10 State law.

11

12 The only time you can hunt bears with
13 dogs is with a special permit from the Commissioner of
14 Fish and Game. You have to get a special permit to use
15 dogs to hunt bears. So basically on any of the preserve
16 lands at this point in time, unless somebody had a
17 special permit they couldn't be hunting bears with
18 dogs.

19

20 And I don't know, and I won't say for
21 sure, but I don't know if the State law on any area
22 that is in the Park area allows the hunting of wolves
23 in the den with wolf cubs. I can't answer that for
24 sure. And again, like I said, I'm not saying these are
25 bad prohibitions, but I don't think in most cases they
26 are allowed anyhow. Maybe Drew can answer me on a
27 couple of those.

28

29 Barbara.

30

31 MS. CELLARIUS: You are correct that
32 the Board of Game did authorize brown bear baiting and
33 keep in mind that this is statewide. So maybe this
34 hasn't been authorized in Wrangell-St. Elias but it may
35 have been authorized in another part of the state where
36 subsistence where we have a Park or a National
37 Preserve. In Unit 12, there is an authorization that's
38 been in place for a couple of years to harvest brown
39 bear over bait. There was an additional provision in
40 Unit 13. State sport hunting regulations apply in
41 National Preserves as a general rule.

42

43 When Mary mentioned the wolves and
44 coyotes in the denning period, a year-round coyote
45 season or a year-round wolf season or a wolf season
46 that extends into the summer, those are some of the
47 kinds of things that have been authorized by the State,
48 by the Board of Game in some parts of the state. So we
49 aren't saying that they are authorized in all the
50 National Preserves, but in many cases there is an

1 existing authorization that would apply in a National
2 Preserve somewhere.

3

4 MS. MCBURNEY: Thank you for that
5 clarification, Barbara, and I was kind of anticipating
6 that that question might come up. So I did take a look
7 at the State regulations and, Drew, please feel free to
8 come up also. The harvesting of black bears with
9 artificial light at den sites, that is mostly in the
10 Western Interior along the Upper Kuskokwim area as I
11 recall. Is that correct?

12

13 MR. CRAWFORD: Yes. Artificial lights
14 may be used by resident hunters to take black bear
15 under customary and traditional use activities at den
16 sites from October 15 to April 30 in Unit 19A, Unit 19D
17 upstream of the Selatna and Black River drainages, and
18 Units 21B, 21C, 24 and 25D also artificial lights may
19 be used while tracking and dispatching a wounded game
20 animal. However, a hunter may not be on or in a
21 motorized vehicle while using artificial lights.

22

23 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: See, that's what I was
24 thinking. That's not a sport hunt, that's a customary
25 and traditional subsistence hunt.

26

27 MS. MCBURNEY: That's a fine point.

28

29 Thank you for bringing that up.

30

31 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: I think that that's
32 what I was kind of getting at, was that these aren't
33 State-allowed sport hunting regulations in all cases.
34 Now the baiting of brown bear, that would be a sport
35 one.

36

37 MS. MCBURNEY: Yes. And, let's see, in
38 my notes I just have that in this area that's allowed
39 in 7 and 16B. I believe that that is also, along with
40 in predator control areas, where the brown bears can be
41 taken over black bear baiting stations.

42

43 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Right. Gloria.

44

45 MS. STICKWAN: We had a long discussion
46 at our SRC meeting about these regulations and we are
47 going to form a working group to work on these
48 regulations to make comments on this. We had a draft
49 letter -- we had a letter that's, I guess, mailed out.
50 I think it was. It was to -- we had suggested as an

1 SRC to stop this whole process because we were
2 concerned about these wolves and coyotes and brown bear
3 are not predator reduction as they say. The Board of
4 Game intended these to be opportunities for people to
5 take more coyotes and the bears and they are saying
6 it's a predator program, but the Board of Game approved
7 these as just an opportunity to take more. It wasn't,
8 as they say, a predator reduction.

9

10 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: That it was basically
11 an opportunity to take more but not aimed at predator
12 reduction.

13

14 MS. STICKWAN: Yes.

15

16 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: And I know that there
17 would be certain people who would argue about that, but
18 that was my impression too.

19

20 MS. STICKWAN: And then we said that we
21 wanted them to -- in the letter we sent, we said we
22 wanted them to stop this process until they sat down
23 and talked to the State of Alaska through their master
24 MOU to consult with them further. The rest of our
25 regulations we're going to have a working group, three
26 meetings, to work on comments on this. It's due
27 December 3rd. It's kind of hard to understand the
28 regulations the way it was written for the average
29 person to sit and read CFRs. It's hard to understand.

30

31 I'm glad they gave me this strike-out
32 today. This helps me out a lot to understand what I'm
33 reading rather than these CFR we were given that was on
34 the website and Barbara gave to us. It's hard to under
35 the CFRs, so if they could do more of these kind of
36 things when they put it on the website, this would be
37 more helpful to us to read and understand than CFRs.
38 I'm just saying I want you guys to know that the SRC is
39 very concerned about this whole process and they didn't
40 see it as a predator reduction.

41

42 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Thank you on that.

43

44 Andy.

45

46 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
47 I'm definitely along the same notions as Ms. Stickwan
48 there about not necessarily a predator reduction but
49 just a harvest opportunity. Back to Greg's comment
50 there, how do you determine natural predator/prey

1 balance and I, for one, include humans as a predator in
2 that natural balance. Considering this coyote and wolf
3 thing, to me, allowing that type of harvest is just
4 another tool in the manager's toolbox but it includes
5 humans in there as being able to utilize that resource.

6
7

8 I saw the wording there when it's not
9 of commercial value or something like that and I
10 thought, jeez, that's almost derogatory because perhaps
11 it's not of commercial value, perhaps it's a spiritual
12 value, perhaps it's whatever value that user has with
13 that. Not in relation to predator control, you know,
14 or in relation to that as well if that is what that
15 user had in mind. That's where I would align with ideas
16 about some of these notions.

17
18

Thank you.

19
20

CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Thank you, Andy.

21
22

Judy.

23
24

MS. CAMINER: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I
25 guess I'm just trying to sort through the process here.
26 It seems to me that maybe it was even last winter and
27 the winter before that Park Service held hearings on
28 similar temporary closures and so my understanding is
29 this is a proposed rule. So just like the proposed
30 rules the Federal Subsistence Program puts out, we have
31 time to comment and then there will be more comments
32 after that and more review time.

33
34

MR. ENCELEWSKI: Facebook.

35
36

MS. CAMINER: And on Facebook. So we
37 are early in the process plus some of the other areas,
38 like Denali and Yukon-Charley and Katmai and Gates and
39 everybody, they've kind of been involved in this before
40 too. It's still just a very proposed rule is my
41 understanding.

42
43

CHAIRMAN LOHSE: These are proposed.
44 These are not final.

45
46

MS. MCBURNEY: That's correct and they
47 are open for public review right now through December
48 3rd.

49
50

CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Gloria.

1 MS. STICKWAN: These comments are being
2 taken down and they'll be submitted as an SRC position,
3 is that right, what we're saying?
4
5 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: The comments we are
6 making right now you mean?
7
8 MS. STICKWAN: Yeah.
9
10 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Donald's been
11 recording them, they are recorded on tape. We could
12 request that they are forwarded as comments on this
13 process. Couldn't we?
14
15 MS. MCBURNEY: Yes, they can. And I
16 can provide Donald with the mailing address where those
17 can be submitted and they can become part of the
18 record.
19
20 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: We haven't made any
21 direct recommendations, but we have made comments on
22 it. It shows some of the little bit of diversity of
23 opinion that we have on it. I think we better stop
24 there because -- I have an anecdotal thing that I'll
25 tell you afterwards.
26
27 MS. STICKWAN: I have something.....
28
29 Okay. Mary, have you got more for us?
30 Huh?
31
32 MS. STICKWAN: They had something about
33 brown -- baiting over bears, bait stations.
34
35 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Baiting brown bears.
36
37 MS. STICKWAN: Yeah.
38
39 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Your SRC addressed
40 that, didn't it?
41
42 MS. STICKWAN: Uh-huh.
43
44 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: I'll get my anecdotal
45 thing anyhow then. For one thing, I don't think that
46 most of us realize how many bears we live with. I'm up
47 in the Kenny Lake area. It was open to baiting down
48 between the Edgerton and Valdez. One of the people
49 that I know put out a bait station and put one of those
50 cameras on it just to see what was there. He had 13

1 grizzlies visit his bait station and this is right in
2 fairly populated country. People just don't realize
3 that they are there. That's how quiet they are. That's
4 how they stay out of sight. There are a lot more brown
5 bears there than most people think. I've had a couple
6 of them tell me they saw seven, they saw eight, they
7 saw nine on their cameras. There are a lot of brown
8 bears and they like to leave us alone and they like us
9 to leave them alone.

10

11 Gloria.

12

13 MS. STICKWAN: I just want to say I
14 think that it should be allowed to -- you know, they
15 allow black bear baiting I understand. I think it
16 should be allowed for brown bear as well, a bait
17 station.

18

19 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: They are. The State
20 allows that. This is a proposal for National Park and
21 Preserve.

22

23 MS. STICKWAN: Yes, I understand that.
24 I'm just saying that it's allowed under the -- black
25 bear is allowed under regulations right now and they
26 should continue to allow brown bear bait stations as
27 well. They want comments on that and I think that we
28 should allow that because there's too many bears in our
29 area. We've had like three this summer that just --
30 it's like all summer long we had problems with bears in
31 our area and our community. It wasn't in the woods, it
32 was right around our houses.

33

34 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Yeah. That's a
35 proposal that somebody could put in. I mean I think at
36 this point in time they are allowed under -- like you
37 said, I think black bear baiting is allowed under
38 Federal subsistence regulations, but a proposal that
39 would allow brown bears can be put in. Now if the Park
40 Service ends up promoting -- I mean promulgating these
41 regulation.....

42

43 MS. STICKWAN: They want comments on
44 this and that's why I'm saying it. They want comments
45 about should it be continued to be allowed, brown bear
46 bait stations, and I'm saying yes. That's my comment.

47

48 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: We can do that as a
49 Council and we can do that as individuals and that's
50 what she's saying. This is open for comment until

1 December 3rd.

2

3 MS. MCBURNEY: December 3rd.

4

5 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: And if somebody on
6 this Council wants to make a motion to make a formal
7 comment to them, we can do that. It's not an action
8 item, it's an information item, but anybody on the
9 Council can make a motion and the Council can consider
10 it.

11

12 MS. STICKWAN: I make a motion to
13 include all our comments on this proposed rulemaking.

14

15 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: Second.

16

17 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: You make a motion to
18 include all the comments that we've made at the table
19 here as part of our response to the proposed rules.
20 And you seconded that, Andy?

21

22 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: Yes.

23

24 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Greg, did you have
25 something to say?

26

27 MR. ENCELEWSKI: I'll call the question
28 on it.

29

30 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: All in favor signify
31 by saying aye.

32

33 IN UNISON: Aye.

34

35 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: All opposed signify by
36 saying nay.

37

38 (No opposing votes)

39

40 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Motion carries.
41 That's basically the transcript from what we've just
42 been talking about right now. Okay. Do we have
43 anything more, Mary?

44

45 MS. MCBURNEY: That concludes my
46 presentation.

47

48 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: And yours, Barbara?

49

50 MS. CELLARIUS: Thank you.

1 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay. With that,
2 let's go on to the BLM.

3
4 MS. BULLOCK: Thank you, Mr. Chair and
5 Council members for having us. My name is Sarah
6 Bullock and I'm a wildlife biologist and Federal
7 subsistence coordinator for the BLM here in the
8 Glennallen Field Office.

9
10 First I'll go over our harvest on our
11 moose and caribou first and then we'll kind of get into
12 this hot topic. So I handed out a little piece of paper
13 like normal with a table and a couple graphs on there.
14 We'll start with the moose harvest first. So for 2014,
15 Federal subsistence hunters did very well on harvesting
16 animals. We had a total harvest of 80 bulls, which our
17 five-year average is around 66, so that was very good.
18 I didn't put a percent of successful hunters like I
19 have for the five-year average just because we only
20 have about 51 percent of our hunter feedback right now,
21 so we don't have an accurate number for that.

22
23 If you take a look at the figure with
24 the number of permits issued, permits attempted and
25 moose harvested, according to regulatory year, you'll
26 see that at the bottom of the green there the 80 ties
27 for the highest recorded moose harvest at least in this
28 five-year period and actually I believe that ties for
29 the highest recorded over since we've had this permit.
30 So good job for the Federal subsistence hunters out
31 there.

32
33 The red number there is permits
34 attempted stands at 398 right now. However, again,
35 there's only 51 percent hunter feedback so far, so I do
36 expect that number to increase and be pretty much
37 either on average or maybe slightly higher. And then
38 that 1,312 is how many permits were issued. I'm pretty
39 sure that's going to be stable since we're done issuing
40 permits for moose and that is higher than the five-year
41 average of a little over 1,200 folks. Also I didn't
42 put the percent of permits attempted again because of
43 that 51 percent hunter report feedback.

44
45 So, with that, are there any questions.

46
47 (No comments)

48
49 MS. BULLOCK: Okay. Moving on to the
50 caribou harvest then. Before I go into 2014 I would

1 like to look at the figure there on 2013. We had a
2 fairly low harvest in 2013 of 279 animals compared to
3 our five-year average of about 399. We also had a
4 fairly low percent of permits attempted at 47 percent,
5 which is equal to that 1,305 permits attempted and that
6 represents 47 percent against that 50 percent of
7 permits attempted all over a five-year average. And
8 also the number of permits issued were slightly lower,
9 though it was basically just about on that five-year
10 average.

11
12 However, for 2014 again, the second
13 half will be beginning next Tuesday, so these numbers
14 are very preliminary. So far we've had about 2,800
15 permits issued so far. We expect that to increase but
16 not substantially. So far we've harvested a total of
17 133 animals; that would be 104 bulls and 29 cows, which
18 is just about on par with what we expect. So we expect
19 that average at the very end to be right around that
20 400 animal mark, but we'll see. It just depends on
21 where the animals are and how soon they move through
22 and that sort of thing.

23
24 The 172 that's way down there with the
25 animals harvested, that's very preliminary because we
26 only have 8 percent hunter harvest feedback and that's
27 again because the season is just half way over with and
28 most of those 8 percent are the folks that have
29 harvested animals or could have potentially harvested a
30 moose and did not require a caribou. So there are a
31 lot of permits still out there to be returned and we'll
32 get to that after the March 31st cut off of next year.

33
34 So, with that, are there any questions
35 over moose or caribou or any other harvest related
36 questions.

37
38 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: So we're basically on
39 track with our caribou hunt for this year?

40
41 MS. BULLOCK: I believe so.

42
43 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Does it look like
44 it'll last all the way to March 31st?

45
46 MS. BULLOCK: The subsistence season?

47
48 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Yeah.

49
50 MS. BULLOCK: Yes.

1 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: And how is the State
2 hunt doing? Is it up to where they are thinking of
3 closing it or are they still going to have a late
4 season too?

5
6 MS. BULLOCK: In my previous talks with
7 Frank Robbins, which is the area biologist for the
8 Glennallen GMU 13, they were thinking about closing it,
9 however they had a good fall comp count and so they've
10 kind of bumped that quota up to 600 animals. So they
11 are going to allow 300 more bulls and 300 cows, so they
12 will open it on October 21st. And that emergency order
13 came out on Monday, I believe, or the news release.

14
15 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: So both the State and
16 the Federal will be open as of the 21st of October.

17
18 MS. BULLOCK: Yes, sir. Okay. So the
19 land status on the BLM has been kind of a hot topic the
20 past few months and I'll let Dennis speak to that.

21
22 MR. TEITZEL: Good afternoon, Mr.
23 Chair. I'm Dennis Teitzel. I'm the field manager and
24 the inseason manager for the Glennallen Field Office.

25
26 A couple issues or topics have come up
27 this last summer. We did a land status review last
28 June. We were trying to make some numbers add up and
29 they weren't, so we had to figure out where the error
30 was. Lo and behold we found 29,000 acres of land that
31 were misplotted on the map as State-select land instead
32 of unencumbered Federal lands, which made them eligible
33 for subsistence hunting. These lands are north and
34 east of Paxson Lake, right around the Paxson Lake area
35 and on the west side of Paxson Lake outside of the Wild
36 and Scenic River corridor.

37
38 To give you a little bit of a timeline
39 with all this happening -- and this is really for
40 information purposes to clear up some misconceptions,
41 some misinformation and some confusion that has
42 occurred in the last couple months over this. What is
43 reality and what is not reality and what has happened.

44
45
46 In these 29,000 acres, part of what
47 causes confusion is back in 1992 to 1994 in that
48 timeframe the State top filed on those lands and
49 shortly afterwards a series of public lands orders came
50 out withdrawing those lands as being eligible for State

1 selection. Consequently after that in '94 and '95 and
2 again in 2008 filings of no effect were completed by
3 the BLM, which confirmed those non-selections and those
4 filings of no effect were the events that actually made
5 those lands unencumbered at that point in time and
6 confirmed that. So, in essence, since '94 and '95 and
7 confirmed again in 2008 these lands have been eligible
8 for subsistence hunting.

9
10 To go along with that -- well, we'll
11 hit that part later. Let's go forward now. This is
12 the map of the area that we're talking about. As I
13 said, it's north and east of Paxson Lake and south and
14 west of Paxson Lake. For those of you who are familiar
15 with the area, what you're not seeing on this map and
16 you'll see on a subsequent map, is the Paxson closed
17 area. This does encompass 1,500 acres of the 12,000-
18 acre Paxson closed area and that's primarily that strip
19 that's just due north of the lake is really what that's
20 talking about on the west side of the Richardson
21 Highway.

22
23 The actions we took once we figured
24 this out. And again this is a very compressed
25 timeframe, late June through the end of July. First we
26 notified and coordinated with the local ADF&G office
27 and the wildlife troopers. We wanted to them to know
28 about this land status but also to find out if there's
29 any issue that we were not aware of. One of the issues
30 that came up was the Paxson closed area overlaid part
31 of the 1,500 acres of this are. In doing some research
32 and conferring with the lawyers, Office of Subsistence
33 Management and a few other folks, realized the Code of
34 Federal Regulations did not recognize the Paxson closed
35 area and nor does is recognize the Clearwater Creek
36 controlled use area for subsistence uses. As I said
37 this triggered some consultations with the BLM
38 solicitors and other offices.

39
40 Go ahead. And that's how the Paxson
41 closed area overlays that map in the area that it
42 affects. Clearwater Creek controlled use area, how it
43 overlays. The yellow is the BLM unencumbered lands, so
44 we did not recognize it in those portions by the
45 subsistence regulations.

46
47 Go ahead. In doing so, as I said, we
48 talked with the local ADF&G office, the troopers, and
49 part of it was to see -- because we knew with the
50 Paxson closed area overlay there would be some issues

1 and some concerns on both sides of the fence; those
2 that want it open and those that don't want it open.
3 We didn't have any valid authority to do an emergency
4 closure for those lands for subsistence use.

5
6 The ADF&G, in looking at the Paxson
7 closed area, there wasn't a biological reason for it to
8 be closed, so conservation wasn't a concern, which is
9 really the only one of the sticks we could jump on.
10 The other was safety since the State did not close that
11 land for hunting. It was only closed for big game
12 hunting. It wasn't closed for shooting, it wasn't
13 closed for any safety reasons to anything, just big
14 game observation was the reason that was there. We
15 didn't have a safety reason to jump on and do an
16 emergency closure or anything.

17
18 As you can see there by ANILCA, that's
19 why. So at that time -- and because for some reason,
20 we don't know the exact reason, the members of the
21 public had become aware of this change in land status
22 on this 2,900 acres, including what was in the Paxson
23 closed area. We were getting questions as to what
24 areas were going to be open. We felt we had a need to
25 publish a correct and accurate map so that members of
26 the public would not go out hunting in the wrong area
27 and get a ticket from the State troopers. So we
28 published an accurate map showing all of the open areas
29 for subsistence hunting.

30
31 You had a question?

32
33 MS. STICKWAN: Yeah. What does
34 administration mean?

35
36 MR. TEITZEL: I'm sorry. What?

37
38 MS. STICKWAN: Explain administration.

39
40 MR. TEITZEL: Oh, down here under
41 ANILCA? Or portions thereof to subsistence uses of a
42 particular fish or wildlife population only if
43 necessary for reasons of public safety, administration
44 or to ensure the continued viability of such
45 population.

46
47 MS. STICKWAN: I just wondered what
48 administration meant.

49
50 MR. TEITZEL: That's a good question,

1 Gloria. Chuck, could you answer that?

2

3

CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Let Judy.

4

5

MS. CAMINER: Mr. Chair. I think, for
6 example, if you had employee housing or your visitor
7 center right there, you would have an area that would
8 be closed for hunting or any firearms.

9

10 MR. ARDIZZONE: Mr. Chair. Chuck
11 Ardizzone. I'm not exactly sure what administration
12 would apply to. Judy may be correct, but it's kind of
13 a catchall, I think. If there's something that we
14 found that we needed to -- I guess just a reason we
15 needed to close it administratively, we'd have to clear
16 it with the attorneys first I'm sure and then we could
17 close it.

18

19 MR. TEITZEL: Mr. Chair. That would be
20 consistent with how we treat other areas. We don't
21 allow hunting in our campgrounds or administrative
22 sites or headquarters areas and that, but not for any
23 other reason other than we occupy that space.

24

25 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: And in this case the
26 Board would have to temporarily close it, not the BLM
27 under ANILCA.

28

29 MR. TEITZEL: That is correct, Mr.
30 Chairman.

31

32 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: So the BLM would have
33 to take it to the Subsistence Board to have the Board
34 close it.

35

36 MR. TEITZEL: That is correct.

37

38 MS. STICKWAN: Do you have to take it
39 to them?

40

41 MR. TEITZEL: I'm sorry. What?

42

43 MS. STICKWAN: Did you say you had to
44 take it to them?

45

46 MR. TEITZEL: Through the Chair. If we
47 felt there was a valid reason to propose closing this
48 area, yes, we would have to take that through the
49 Subsistence Board. We, the BLM, do not have that
50 authority to arbitrarily close this area for hunting or

1 really any area for hunting except for unless there was
2 an emergency purpose or there was a biological safety.
3 Really those two reasons, and then we could only do it
4 temporarily until the Board took action or that would
5 expire.

6

7 MS. STICKWAN: So if you don't take it
8 to them, then they wouldn't have to considerate it at
9 their next meeting then?

10

11 MR. TEITZEL: Through the Chair.
12 Anybody could make a proposal to the Board, so it
13 wouldn't have to necessarily come from us, the BLM. So
14 anybody could take a proposal to the Board asking that
15 this area be closed, those 1,500 acres, or all of it or
16 anything else and the Board would consider that.

17

18 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: But again it would
19 have to meet that criteria.

20

21 MR. TEITZEL: No, not neces --
22 well.....

23

24 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Because it says the
25 Board may temporarily close it for that criteria.

26

27 MR. TEITZEL: Right. Yes.

28

29 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: So to close it for a
30 different reason would have to come from higher than
31 the Board.

32

33 MR. TEITZEL: I don't know the answer
34 to that but Chuck is nodding his head yes.

35

36 MR. ARDIZZONE: Mr. Chair. The Board
37 only has authority given to it via ANILCA and if it met
38 those criteria, you're correct, they could close it,
39 but no one has brought it to the Board. I mean there's
40 been some letters from the State addressing this issue,
41 but it wasn't a request to close it, just an
42 administrative procedures type thing.

43

44 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: But it appears to me
45 that the Board's authority only extends there. There
46 has to be somebody that has higher authority that could
47 then make a decision, like the Secretary of the
48 Interior or something like that, that could make a
49 decision to close an area for other reasons that the
50 Board can't do it.

1 MR. ARDIZZONE: There is always
2 somebody higher up that could probably do something,
3 but I'm not sure who that would be.

4
5 MR. TEITZEL: We're going to see some
6 examples though that don't follow this, so that's why
7 I'm saying I honestly don't know. Let's go to the
8 next. Some history on this and this is what brings the
9 question up.

10
11 In 1992, the proposed rule was to --
12 the Paxson closed area in Unit 13B is closed to the
13 taking of big game. In June of '93, the final rule
14 came out specifically referencing other special
15 management areas or controlled use areas that were
16 identified in '92 and '93, but they were removed. And
17 the rule came out and it just left out the Paxson
18 closed area. It didn't say why, it didn't have any
19 background information of any discussion or anything
20 else. So there's nothing else in the administrative
21 record to go back and look at.

22
23 However, this all falls in the time of
24 when the State was selecting the land; therefore, it
25 was not eligible for subsistence hunting. The guess is
26 because it wasn't eligible, drop it, because we're not
27 making rules on areas that we don't have authority
28 over. And this kind of clears that up. In 1991-1992,
29 1992-1993, the Paxson closed area along with two other
30 areas were included in the special provisions. In '93
31 and '94, that's when those restrictions disappear from
32 the special provisions or right in that time. So this
33 kind of all muddles right over the top of each other.

34
35 MS. STICKWAN: What is the other CUA?

36
37 MR. TEITZEL: The other two controlled
38 use areas were included.

39
40 MS. BULLOCK: There was the Paxson
41 closed area, the Clearwater Creek controlled use area,
42 and the also Sheep Mountain was included back in the
43 '92. Basically what I did was look at the Federal
44 regulation book and you can see, at least with their
45 map of their land, it's like these huge chunks just
46 disappear from '92 to '94 and those lands that
47 encompassed the Sheep Mountain, Clearwater Creek and
48 the Paxson closed area were conveyed during that time.
49 It seemed like the puzzle pieces all match up is the
50 reason why these areas of restrictions were dropped

1 from the special provisions section.

2

3 MR. TEITZEL: So next. So, in summary,
4 basically what we ended up with is about 1,500 acres
5 within the Paxson closed area and 92,000 acres within
6 the Clearwater Creek controlled use area, meet the
7 ANILCA definitions of public land and are available for
8 subsistence hunting.

9

10 We in the BLM do not have the legal
11 authority to close the Paxson closed area to Federal
12 qualified subsistence hunters for the reasons we stated
13 before. We don't have a public safety or biological
14 conservation concern and so far there has been no
15 action by the Federal Subsistence Board to close these
16 lands.

17

18 Part of the reason we brought this item
19 here, like I said before, was to clear up
20 misconceptions. There's been a couple of opinion
21 pieces in the newspaper that have been published in
22 recent weeks, so if any of you have seen those. The
23 question comes up, we had a lot of local people come
24 based on those two articles come out and believed they
25 could hunt the entire Paxson closed area. We had
26 people going around telling other people that. So
27 we've done a pretty strong outreach to get that
28 information out.

29

30 Let's go next. What we've done, just
31 to kind of wrap up everything, is when we started
32 issuing permits, we knew there would be a change to the
33 map. We just didn't know what that change was going to
34 be yet because we hadn't gotten feedback from all the
35 lawyers and everybody yet particularly about the Paxson
36 closed area, what was its status, was there any history
37 that recognized it or not. So we informed hunters that
38 we were going to be changing the map. Come back and
39 check on our website, call the office, you know, before
40 season or before they went out hunting to find out if
41 we had changed it and what those changes were. We did
42 news releases.

43

44 And this is probably the one thing that
45 kind of delayed a little bit, but it took us a little
46 time to get all the people who we issued permits to
47 that gave us email addresses, after about a four-day
48 delay we finally got all those addresses compiled and
49 emailed them a notice saying we changed the map, come
50 to the website and look at it. Like I said, we did

1 have a public service announcement on the radio and we
2 published updates to our websites.

3

4 We actually ended up publishing two
5 updated versions of the map. The first one at the start
6 of the season because we did not know the status of the
7 Paxson closed area, left that particular chunk off.
8 Once we got the final feedback on the status of the
9 area and the advice of the Council, published it on the
10 map because we didn't have the authority to not put it
11 there.

12

13 Finally, we got here how do you want us
14 to proceed, but that's really up to you to tell us if
15 you want us to do anything or not or it's just nice to
16 know.

17

18 Just to clarify with the Paxson closed
19 area. The Paxson closed area is established or standing
20 as a big game wildlife viewing area. It's only
21 restricted for big game hunting. It's available for
22 trapping, small game hunting, bird hunting, things like
23 that, shooting whatever else, just not the taking of
24 the big game animals.

25

26 The Clearwater Creek controlled use
27 area was created to protect moose and caribou from
28 overharvest with the vehicle restrictions. One thing
29 we have, if you look at the maps, the Clearwater Creek
30 controlled use area is how it has always been depicted
31 on the map, going back several years. I won't say
32 always, but several years. What they just overlaid on
33 the map. We leave it up to the subsistence users to
34 look at the regulations, look at the map, interpret
35 what they mean, which areas are available, which
36 restrictions are in place, which ones are not.

37

38 We did the same thing with the Paxson
39 closed area. We have the Sourdough Creek controlled
40 use area on there. Some of those restrictions are
41 recognized. The Delta controlled use area restriction
42 is recognized. And so we just kind of left that up to
43 the public to look at it, interpret it and if they've
44 got questions come back and ask and we'll clarify them
45 for them. The local Paxson Fish and Game Advisory
46 Council supported keeping the Paxson closed area intact
47 in 2010. That's the latest information we have.

48

49 Ms. Stickwan, you had a question.

50

1 MS. STICKWAN: So the Clearwater Creek
2 area is still a controlled use area under Federal, is
3 that right? I don't know.

4
5 MR. TEITZEL: Through the Chair. No,
6 it is not. It is not recognized under Federal
7 subsistence regulations.

8
9 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Are you done with you
10 slide projector?

11
12 MR. TEITZEL: Yeah. Oh, one more.

13
14 MS. MCBURNEY: As a reminder.

15
16 MR. TEITZEL: And a whole other issue.
17 That's one issue. Whole other issue. This was brought
18 to our attention by a member of the public coming into
19 the office last fall. Is that in Unit 13 and only in
20 Unit 13 hunting within the Trans-Alaska Pipeline right-
21 of-way is prohibited and that only applies to Federal
22 subsistence hunters only in Unit 13. That is not a
23 State regulation that mirrors that. It does not apply
24 anywhere else within the state along the pipeline
25 corridor. It's an anomaly that was there, survived
26 something.

27
28 Also right now we do not have a Federal
29 bail schedule to ticket that offense. So that's kind
30 of one of the issues we've got is we can write a ticket
31 for it, but there's nothing to tell us what to fine
32 them for that offense. So, in all essence, there is
33 none.

34
35 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: So that is only a
36 Federal regulation on Federal subsistence hunters.

37
38 MR. TEITZEL: Right.

39
40 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: That is not a State
41 regulation on State hunters.

42
43 MR. TEITZEL: That is correct.

44
45 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: That's interesting
46 because I was wondering about that because I had read
47 that and then I knew State hunters that were going down
48 the pipeline trail hunters grouse.

49
50 MR. TEITZEL: Right. It only applies

1 to caribou, only to Federal subsistence. It doesn't
2 apply to anything else. And so if there was an action
3 the board wanted to take.

4
5 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: And is that an action
6 that is under the purview of the Federal Substance
7 Board?

8
9 MR. TEITZEL: My understanding is that,
10 yes, it is.

11
12 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Anything else?

13
14 MR. TEITZEL: No, that is all we have
15 unless you have questions.

16
17 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: You really filled our
18 tray at the end of the day.

19
20 (Laughter)

21
22 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Gloria.

23
24 MS. STICKWAN: I would like to see us
25 take action in case somebody brings this to the
26 public's attention and try to.....

27
28 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: I didn't catch that
29 Gloria. What?

30
31 MS. STICKWAN: I would like to see us
32 take action on the Paxson controlled use area of these
33 public lands that were unencumbered to.....

34
35 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: You would like to see
36 us take some action on the Paxson closed area on the
37 pipeline?

38
39 MS. STICKWAN: Just in case somebody in
40 the future decides to bring it to the Board or write a
41 proposal or do something, ask for special action.

42
43 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: And what kind of
44 action would you like us to take?

45
46 MS. STICKWAN: Just supporting the
47 unencumbered lands for Federal, more opportunities for
48 Federal hunters to hunt.

49
50 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: In other words, taking

1 action supporting the action that the BLM has taken in
2 opening this land to Federally qualified hunters, which
3 meets the direction from the ANILCA.

4

5 MS. STICKWAN: And to do away with the
6 regulation with the caribou on the pipeline,
7 prohibiting it.

8

9 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: I think we have two
10 issues there. I think the thing to do would be if
11 somebody wants to make a motion supporting the BLM in
12 the opening of the Paxson closed area, that could be
13 done, and I would say that the pipeline would be
14 another completely different issue.

15

16 MR. TEITZEL: And if I may clarify. We
17 didn't take an action to open it. We just identified
18 it as unencumbered Federal land.

19

20 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: You just identified it
21 as open.

22

23 MR. TEITZEL: Yes.

24

25 MS. STICKWAN: I'm just saying in the
26 future somebody may bring it forward, so I want to be
27 proactive and say that we support this in case
28 action.....

29

30 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: I can almost guarantee
31 that somebody will bring a proposal. So if you.....

32

33 MS. STICKWAN: I make a motion.

34

35 CHAIRMAN LOHSE:would like to put
36 something on the table. At this point in time a motion
37 on the table would be appropriate.

38

39 MS. STICKWAN: I make that motion.

40

41 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: You make a motion that
42 we recognize this as unencumbered Federally subsistence
43 available hunting land.

44

45 MS. STICKWAN: To give more
46 opportunities for the Federal hunters to be able to
47 harvest large game.

48

49 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Open to Federal
50 hunters in that portion of the Paxson closed area that

1 is unencumbered BLM land. It's kind interesting.....

2

3 MS. STICKWAN: To take large game.

4

5 CHAIRMAN LOHSE:I was glad to see
6 this map that you had here because it shows how small
7 of a portion it is out of the whole area. I also,
8 without looking at the map, was under the impression
9 that the Paxson closed area was open for hunting. I
10 hadn't gone up there and looked at it, but that is what
11 it sounded like from everybody talking.

12

13 MS. BULLOCK: We also included a small
14 blow-up map of that as well because we have been giving
15 this out to the public as well because, again, the.....

16

17 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: You have been giving
18 this out to the public then?

19

20 MS. BULLOCK: Uh-huh. To try to help
21 them understand which parts of Paxson closed is open to
22 Federal subsistence and which are still closed to State
23 hunting and not open to Federal subsistence, i.e. the
24 non-Federal unencumbered areas.

25

26 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Now I am going to ask
27 you a simple question because of what things have come
28 on our table. The gravel pit is not down here in this
29 land, is it?

30

31 MR. TEITZEL: It is.

32

33 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: It is?

34

35 MR. TEITZEL: Yes, it is.

36

37 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: The gravel pit is down
38 there, okay. Okay. We have a motion on the table. Do
39 I hear a second.

40

41 MS. CAMINER: Second.

42

43 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: It's been moved and
44 seconded that we support the idea that unencumbered
45 Federal land should be open to Federal subsistence
46 hunters, right?

47

48 MS. STICKWAN: We support BLM's actions
49 taken on recognizing that there is unencumbered lands
50 for Federal qualified hunters to harvest large game.

1 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay. And we have a
2 second on that. Discussion. Judy.
3
4 MS. CAMINER: I guess more of a
5 question maybe for OSM. I mean doesn't this need to be
6 reflected in the wildlife book, which isn't going to be
7 updated for a while? I mean it's great that BLM has
8 these materials, but for other people to know.
9
10 MR. ARDIZZONE: Mr. Chair. We are
11 working on updating the map. I'm not even sure, the map
12 might be updated already on the website. I know the
13 Tom Jennings, our GIS specialist, is working with BLM
14 to get this updated.
15
16 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: If I understand right,
17 under the terms of this hunt, the permit has to be
18 picked up at the BLM office anyhow and the BLM is also
19 issuing the map at that point in time.
20
21 MR. ARDIZZONE: Mr. Chair, I believe
22 that's correct.
23
24 MR. TEITZEL: That is correct, Mr.
25 Chair. We issue the permit either in our office or we
26 go out to different areas and do temporary permit
27 issuing.
28
29 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: So this information
30 will be available to anyone who gets a permit.
31
32 MR. TEITZEL: Yes. It is and has been.
33
34 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Any other discussion.
35 Greg.
36
37 MR. ENCELEWSKI: Call the question.
38
39 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: The question has been
40 called. All in favor of the motion signify by saying
41 aye.
42
43 IN UNISON: Aye.
44
45 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: All opposed signify by
46 saying nay.
47
48 (No opposing votes)
49
50 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Motion carries. Now,

1 Gloria, did you want to make a motion on the pipeline
2 corridor?

3

4 MS. STICKWAN: Yes. I make a motion to
5 remove the restrictions on the hunting in 25 feet for
6 caribou on the pipeline right away.

7

8 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: For subsistence
9 hunters.

10

11 MS. STICKWAN: Yes.

12

13 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Chuck.

14

15 MR. ARDIZZONE: Mr. Chair. Just for
16 clarification, this is a wildlife issue since it
17 applies to caribou. The call for wildlife proposals is
18 not open at this time. It will be at your next
19 meeting. It seems like this would be proper for a
20 proposal from the Council to open this up.

21

22 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay. So basically we
23 are out of line to make the proposal today, but we
24 can.....

25

26 MR. ARDIZZONE: You can make a
27 proposal. I'm just letting you know that it's not open
28 yet. We can submit it at the next meeting.

29

30 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Right. But we can
31 make a proposal at this point in time. Okay. So we
32 have a motion on the table.

33

34 MS. STICKWAN: Can I make a motion that
35 we do a proposal and have Donald draft it up?

36

37 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Uh-huh. Do I hear a
38 second.

39

40 MR. ENCELEWSKI: Second it.

41

42 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: It's been moved and
43 seconded that we submit a proposal opening the pipeline
44 corridor to subsistence hunting for caribou.

45

46 Judy.

47

48 MS. CAMINER: Mr. Chair. And that's
49 fine and so hopefully in a year and a half or so that
50 could be implemented. Could there be a special action

1 request next hunting season to remove this requirement?

2

3

4 MR. ARDIZZONE: Mr. Chair. That seems
5 like it would be appropriate. I think it would fall
6 under continuous subsistence uses. I'm not sure, but
7 if we submit one, we'll definitely have to analyze it
8 and see, just looking at the special action
9 regulations, but I think we could get there.

10

11 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: So do we need to
12 submit two motions then, one for a special action and
13 one for a proposal?

14

15 MR. ARDIZZONE: That would be
16 appropriate.

17

18 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Right now we have a
19 motion to submit a proposal to open the pipeline
20 corridor to subsistence hunters like it's open to all
21 other hunters. That's been seconded. Any further
22 discussion.

23

24 (No comments)

25

26 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: A question is in
27 order.

28

29 MS. CAMINER: Question.

30

31 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: The question has been
32 called. All in favor signify by saying aye.

33

34 IN UNISON: Aye.

35

36 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: All opposed signify by
37 saying nay.

38

39 (No opposing votes)

40

41 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Motion carries. Now
42 what's been explained to us is that we can put a
43 proposal -- is it a proposal or a request.....

44

45 MR. ARDIZZONE: Mr. Chair. It would be
46 a special action request.

47

48 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: A special action
49 request that this corridor be opened ASAP.

50

1 MS. CAMINER: Mr. Chair.

2

3 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Judy.

4

5 MS. CAMINER: I'd like to move that the
6 RAC submit a special action request at the appropriate
7 time, because the special action will only be in effect
8 for 60 days, because I feel subsistence users are
9 unnecessarily restricted by this current regulation
10 through whatever omission over time. So I would like
11 to see a special action developed on behalf of the RAC
12 and submitted at the time of when it would be most
13 effective for the Board to act on it or the designated
14 manager act on it.

15

16 MR. ARDIZZONE: Mr. Chair. I'm not
17 sure how long the caribou season is. If it's more than
18 60 days, the RAC could request a temporary special
19 action which would last more than 60 days. We would
20 just have to have a hearing in the affected area.

21

22 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: So we can request a
23 temporary special action that's longer than 60 days.

24

25 MR. ARDIZZONE: Right. I'm not sure
26 how long the season runs, but, yes, you could.

27

28 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: The season runs from
29 October 21st to March 31st, right?

30

31 MR. ARDIZZONE: March 31st, correct.
32 So that would be a temporary.

33

34 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: So a temporary.

35

36 MS. CAMINER: So, Mr. Chair, let me
37 make my request more clear having more information. I
38 would like to request a temporary special action be
39 developed, that the RAC would like to see that
40 submitted to the Board, to the program, and hopefully
41 be in effect for this hunting season. Separately we'll
42 have a proposal developed for permanent implementation.

43

44

45 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Do I hear a second.

46

47 MS. STICKWAN: Second.

48

49 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Gloria seconds it.
50 Discussion. Greg.

1 MR. ENCELEWSKI: I think we should send
2 one hunter up there to test it. It's just a thought.
3
4 (Laughter)
5
6 MR. ENCELEWSKI: No, I think it's a
7 good thing.
8
9 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Any other discussion.
10
11 MR. ARDIZZONE: Mr. Chair. Not to
12 confuse the situation, but I'm just thinking out loud
13 here. So if the Board won't meet until April in two
14 years, so we might have to do another temporary.....
15
16 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: For next year.
17
18 MR. ARDIZZONE:for next year.
19
20 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Right. I already
21 thought of that. This could apply for this year if it
22 went through at any kind of speed. I mean it's not
23 going to apply by next week I don't think.
24
25 MR. ARDIZZONE: Because it's temporary
26 in nature, it has to have a hearing or a meeting in the
27 affected area, so it wouldn't be super quick.
28
29 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Right. So it probably
30 won't have any real effect on this year because it will
31 be later in the season, but it does bring a point out.
32 I mean it's interesting that it's only closed to
33 subsistence hunters for caribou. Okay. A motion is on
34 the floor, it's seconded. Do we have any other
35 discussion.
36
37 (No comments)
38
39 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: A question is in
40 order.
41
42 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: Question.
43
44 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: The question has been
45 called. All in favor signify by saying aye.
46
47 IN UNISON: Aye.
48
49 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: All oppose signify by
50 saying nay.

1 (No opposing votes)
2
3 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Motion carries. Okay.
4
5 MR. TEITZEL: That is all we have, Mr.
6 Chair.
7
8 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: That's all you had?
9 That was a lot.
10
11 (Laughter)
12
13 MS. CAMINER: Mr. Chair. Two things.
14 Thanks for bringing that to our attention about the
15 pipeline corridor and it being so unusual. That was a
16 very good point and something that needs to be
17 remedied. I was going to ask, Mr. Chair, if we could
18 look at our next date because I may have to leave
19 relatively soon. So thanks.
20
21 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: I was going to say
22 maybe we could take five minutes, but we can look at
23 our dates first.
24
25 MS. CAMINER: Thank you.
26
27 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay. We're going to
28 ask the Fish and Game tribal government, Native
29 organizations and Donlin -- do we have the thing on
30 Donlin Creek?
31
32 MR. MIKE: Yes, Mr. Chair. We have a
33 representative to do a presentation on the Donlin Creek
34 Project and they have a flight that they need to catch
35 soon. So if we could fit them in our schedule before
36 they check in, that would be great.
37
38 Thank you, Mr. Chair.
39
40 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay. Judy, you said
41 you have to leave.
42
43 MS. CAMINER: If we could just set the
44 date.
45
46 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay. Let's skip
47 ahead to our future meeting dates and we want to
48 confirm a date and a location for the winter meeting
49 2015, right?
50

1 MR. ENCELEWSKI: Uh-huh.
2
3 MS. CAMINER: And fall.
4
5 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: And the fall meeting.
6 Okay. And then we will go back to the Donlin and the
7 other reports. Okay. Page 148. Let's go to Page 148.
8 Donald, have you got any suggestions.
9
10 MR. MIKE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. If the
11 Council can confirm their winter meeting date for the
12 Southcentral region on February 18, 19, that will be in
13 Anchorage. To add to your fall meeting calendar for
14 August to November 2015, the Kodiak/Aleutians meeting
15 is September 25, 26. The Northwest Arctic Regional
16 Advisory Council is meeting October 6th and 7th, and
17 the Y-K RAC is meeting October 7th and 8th during that
18 same week. The North Slope Regional Advisory Council
19 is meeting the week of November 3 and 4. We try to
20 avoid having more than two Council meetings in a week.
21 So the week of October 5 is automatically out and it is
22 open for this Council's fall meeting date selection.
23
24 Thank you, Mr. Chair.
25
26 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: So what was the first
27 one that you gave us?
28
29 MR. MIKE: The Kodiak/Aleutians are
30 meeting September 25 and 26.
31
32 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: And for the winter
33 meeting.
34
35 MR. MIKE: The winter meeting you can
36 confirm to be in Anchorage.
37
38 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: The winter meeting is
39 18th and 19th.
40
41 MR. MIKE: February 18th and 19th.
42
43 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: The 18th and 19th in
44 Anchorage. Is that still agreeable to everybody?
45
46 (Council nods affirmatively)
47
48 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay. Then we don't
49 need to do anything on the winter meeting. Let's take
50 a look at our calendar for the fall meeting.

1 MR. MIKE: Mr. Chair. The Seward
2 Peninsula is meeting September 14th and 15th.
3
4 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: That's too early for
5 us anyhow. We don't want any meetings until after
6 hunting season is closed. So we have -- it looks to me
7 like anytime in the week of October 11 to the 17th if
8 that's available to anybody else. Judy.
9
10 MS. CAMINER: Mr. Chair. Just a
11 comment. We looked up that AFN is October 14th to 17th
12 next year.
13
14 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay. So that's AFN.
15
16 MS. CAMINER: Or 15th. I'm not sure
17 exactly. Some of the elders things would be going on
18 earlier in the week.
19
20 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: So we definitely don't
21 want to be on top of them, but we could be handily on
22 the 12th and the 13th, unless that makes it too long
23 for people who want to attend AFN.
24
25 Donald.
26
27 MR. MIKE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
28 Earlier in the week before the AFN convenes there's an
29 elders and youth prior to the AFN convening. So the
30 elders and youth conference would probably be October
31 12th, 13th or 13th, 14th.
32
33 MR. ENCELEWSKI: Yeah, they generally
34 go the whole week.
35
36 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Suggestions, Council
37 members.
38
39 MR. ENCELEWSKI: What was October 6th
40 and 7th?
41
42 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: There's somebody
43 already on October 6th and 7th and somebody on the 7th
44 and 8th.
45
46 MS. STICKWAN: How many people go to
47 the youth and elders?
48
49 MR. ENCELEWSKI: How about 19, 20?
50

1 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: 19, 20 would be good
2 for me or 20, 21.
3
4 MR. ENCELEWSKI: Yeah, that would work
5 for me too.
6
7 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: How about anybody
8 else?
9
10 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: 20, 21.
11
12 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: 20, 21. That gives us
13 the 19th to travel on and the 22nd to head home on.
14 And that's first day of caribou season.
15
16 MR. ENCELEWSKI: That's when we're
17 going to be on the pipeline corridor.
18
19 (Laughter)
20
21 MS. CAMINER: Mr. Chair. I think what
22 we did last year was -- unless we want to firm up a
23 place right now, was kind of defer and see what we
24 might be talking about and then try to figure out where
25 to meet. Unless somebody wants to toss out a
26 placeholder or location at this point.
27
28 MR. OPHEIM: I'll say Seldovia.
29
30 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: You say where?
31
32 MR. OPHEIM: Seldovia. We have a nice
33 convention visitor's center there and we have a new
34 hotel that's opened up, some B&Bs. Be overlooking the
35 water. It'll be great.
36
37 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: I'm game. How about
38 the rest of the Council?
39
40 MR. ENCELEWSKI: I'm game too. I think
41 we wanted that one time and the accommodations we
42 couldn't get or something.
43
44 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: If we can get
45 accommodations at that time of year.
46
47 MR. OPHEIM: They just had a hotel that
48 reopened and I think they would do good. There's also
49 some B&Bs that have recently been working with the
50 tribe really well and opening up for later season or

1 even coming down from Anchorage and opening up their
2 facilities to us.

3

4 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Well, let's put that
5 down as tentative then. That sounds good to me.

6

7 Donald.

8

9 MR. MIKE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. A
10 tentative schedule for our fall meeting October 20-21
11 in Seldovia and recommend an alternative in case
12 Seldovia doesn't work. I may have to do a cost
13 analysis and justify.

14

15 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

16

17 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: We might as well pick
18 someplace just as hard as Seldovia. We could pick
19 Cordova.

20

21 MR. MIKE: That's a good point.

22

23 MR. ENCELEWSKI: Do it. Cordova was
24 nice.

25

26 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: I'm not sure we're
27 gaining anything in advantages there. I know we talked
28 about doing that a time ago or something like that.

29

30 MR. ENCELEWSKI: We had good soup at
31 your place.

32

33 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Yeah, I'll guarantee
34 if we come there I'll cook stew for anybody that wants
35 to have stew. Anyhow, should we just put that down for
36 an alternative?

37

38 MR. MIKE: Yes, Mr. Chair.

39

40 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Is that agreeable with
41 the rest of the Council?

42

43 MR. MIKE: That would be fine.
44 Seldovia as primary and Cordova as secondary.

45

46 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay. Do we need a
47 motion on all this or is this just a consensus?

48

49 MR. MIKE: Consensus.

50

1 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay. So we're done
2 with this. Now we're going back and.....
3
4 MR. ENCELEWSKI: Are we going to do our
5 five minutes?
6
7 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: We're going to have
8 five minutes you say?
9
10 MR. ENCELEWSKI: I thought we were
11 taking a five-minute break, you said.
12
13 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay. A five-minute
14 break. And then I had told the Donlin Creek one that
15 they could have a time certain at 3:00 o'clock and I
16 kind of overran it, so we're going to give them an
17 opportunity as soon as we come back and then we are
18 going to go onto the other reports.
19
20 (Off record)
21
22 (On record)
23
24 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: I would like to call
25 this meeting of the Southcentral Regional Subsistence
26 Advisory Council back into session after our break. We
27 have a presentation on the Donlin Creek Mine and then
28 after that we'll go to a few other reports that we have
29 left.
30
31 Go ahead.
32
33 MR. BRELSFORD: Well, thank you very
34 much, Mr. Chairman. It's a pleasure to see that Ralph
35 has never tired of his service in the Federal
36 Subsistence Board and the Federal Subsistence Regional
37 Advisory Councils. We're very thankful for the
38 opportunity to present an update on the status of the
39 environmental impact statement exercise.
40
41 Let me just start by saying this, in
42 relation to the region of the Southcentral Regional
43 Advisory Council, most of this concerns the west side
44 of Cook Inlet and we'll have some maps that show that
45 in just a second.
46
47 So I'm Taylor Brelsford. I work with an
48 engineering and environmental services firm named URS.
49 We act as the technical staff, the contract staff to
50 the Army Corps of Engineers preparing this

1 environmental impact statement for the proposed Donlin
2 Gold project. With me today is Jessica Evans, a
3 co-worker. She focuses on public involvement. We are
4 both in a sense standing in for Don Kuhle, who is the
5 Army Corps of Engineer's project manager.

6
7 I should mention that the Army Corps is
8 neither a proponent nor an opponent of the Donlin Gold
9 Project. They serve as a regulator. They have to make
10 permitting decisions. They are what is called the lead
11 Federal agency for this environmental review. Again,
12 Jessica and I work as staff under the direction of the
13 Army Corps.

14
15 So Donlin Gold is the proponent. They
16 are proposing to prepare a mine to implement a mining
17 activity on Native corporation land in the central
18 Kuskokwim area. This is land owned by the Calista
19 Corporation in the subsurface and the Kuskokwim
20 Corporation in the surface land. So the Native
21 corporations laid out an agreement with a mining
22 company, Donlin Gold, to put forward this proposed
23 mine.

24
25 This timeline shows a little bit the
26 scale of time that's required for this. On the left-
27 hand side you see that Donlin Gold conducted
28 environmental baseline studies, a natural gas line
29 pipeline feasibility study and a variety of exploration
30 activities to identify the ore body. That was about 16
31 years of work. And then, when that was ready, they
32 submit a permit application to the Army Corps of
33 Engineers and the middle box refers to the
34 environmental impact statement. That's where we are
35 now. We're kind of at the left-hand third of this and
36 it would continue for a couple more years leading to a
37 final environmental impact document.

38
39 And then if permits are granted, then
40 Donlin would proceed to the construction period of
41 about three to four years. The mine operation period
42 would extend for not quite 30 years. After that there
43 would be closure and reclamation activities followed by
44 ongoing monitoring of air quality or fish populations
45 to verify the environmental consequences and to make
46 any adjustments in the air quality or things of that
47 sort, air quality management that might be required.

48
49 Many of you are very familiar with
50 environmental impact statements, so I'll be real quick

1 here. What we would like to highlight to your
2 attention is the gold circles. These are the primary
3 opportunities for public input in the development of an
4 EIS. The scoping meetings are where we listen to the
5 communities talk about the issues and concerns. Those
6 scoping meetings were held from December of 2012
7 through March of 2013, a little over a year ago. We
8 take that input and start to answer those questions in
9 the draft EIS and we're currently working on developing
10 the draft EIS right now.

11
12 It's a lengthy document. It's not
13 going to be complete until next year or midsummer. And
14 then following the release of the draft there will be
15 another round of public meetings in which the public
16 looks at the accuracy and the completeness of the draft
17 environmental impact statement. Comments on the draft
18 are incorporated into the final and that would lead to
19 a record of decision sometime after late 2016.

20
21 I have a couple of slides that talk
22 about the project components and what's involved in it.
23 I'll go quickly through those. This puts into
24 geographic perspective. The pipeline starts on the
25 west side of Cook Inlet. It runs 315 miles through the
26 Alaska Range out to the Donlin Gold mine site. That
27 mine site -- based on where the ore was discovered on
28 Calista land. That mine site is about 10 miles north
29 of the village of Crooked Creek in the central
30 Kuskokwim River area. But then the project will also
31 affect the waterway, the Kuskokwim River between the
32 mine site down to the mouth of the Kuskokwim because
33 there is a significant amount of barging to bring in
34 fuel and materials. So the project extends from the
35 west side of Cook Inlet all the way to the mouth of the
36 Kuskokwim River.

37
38 I guess one other point well known to
39 you, there's no existing infrastructure for energy or
40 electrical transmission roads. All of the
41 infrastructure associated with this project in
42 southwestern Alaska is new, would be developed as part
43 of the mine.

44
45 So turning for a second to the pipeline
46 route, this shows a little more detail about the
47 routing up through the Alaska Range and across the
48 north side of the range west to the mine site, again
49 located north of Crooked Creek. The yellow dots are
50 interesting because those represent river crossings

1 that would be managed by what's called horizontal
2 directional drilling. There's a lot of -- obviously it
3 is important to minimize any risk or harm to fish runs
4 and so the major anadromous streams would be crossed
5 below ground, 30, 40, 50 feet below the river bottom by
6 drilling and then pulling the pipe through.

7
8 It's a fairly small diameter pipe.
9 It's 14-inch diameter, not TAPS we often think of.
10 It's also buried and it's cold. Part of why a natural
11 gas pipeline can be buried rather than up on vertical
12 members is that it is very cold. It does not affect
13 permafrost in the areas where permafrost would be
14 found.

15
16 At the mine site, let me again say that
17 this is a very large mine, a very large resource. The
18 mine site itself as you can see is almost a 5 by 5 mile
19 square. I'll mention three of the major components and
20 then there are more. The first one is the open pit.
21 This is a mine that would be developed not by tunnels,
22 but by an open pit that would descend over the years
23 over the life of the mine. At maximum, that pit would
24 be about two miles by one mile in dimension and about
25 1,800 feet deep.

26
27 It's a very large ore body. This would
28 be one of the larger gold mines in the world. It's
29 capable they believe of producing about one million
30 ounces of gold per year for 27 and a half years.

31
32 The second orange bullet refers to the
33 tailings storage facility and this would be an aligned
34 managed facility where the tailings that come out of
35 the mill, they exit the mill at like flour-like
36 consistency. After all the ore is extracted, the ore
37 is ground, extracted, the end product, what's left in
38 the tailings pond, is about the consistency of flour.
39 It consolidates over time. They use water at the top
40 to separate it from air to ensure that there's dust
41 control and also that any contaminants in the tailings
42 storage are separated from the air.

43
44 That is also a very large facility.
45 It's about four square miles -- 3.5 square miles in
46 scale. It starts small and develops over the course of
47 the mine again.

48
49 The third major facility that we draw
50 your attention to here is the waste rock facility kind

1 of in the middle. When the rock is taken out of the
2 mine pit, it's separated so that overburden or rock
3 without enough gold to make it worthwhile to mill it,
4 that's deposited into the waste rock facility and the
5 high grade ore goes into the milling process. The
6 waste rock facility is about the same external
7 dimension, about 3.5 square miles, similar in scale to
8 the tailings storage facility.

9

10 So the third big component that's
11 really important to have in mind is the scale of
12 transportation activity or transportation
13 infrastructure. So this mine would rely on barging
14 from ports in Seattle and the northwest coast. Fuel
15 would be faired through Dutch Harbor and then a major
16 addition to the ports facilities in Bethel would allow
17 offloading from oceangoing barges onto the river
18 barges. So that would be a significant expansion of
19 port facilities in Bethel.

20

21 Plus a new barge landing upriver at the
22 site, referred to here as Jungjuk or Angyaruaq and then
23 about a 30-mile road, mine access road, from the
24 upriver port to the mine site. The airstrip is 5,000
25 feet long. It's capable of handling C-130s. And the
26 fuel storage at the mine site, 40 million gallons is
27 about the annual consumption, so that will be a feature
28 is the amount of barging that's required. About half
29 of the barging required each year is associated with
30 carrying 40 million gallons of diesel.

31

32 The scoping process is really the
33 foundation of an EIS. It's to help understand the
34 issues and concerns of people in the community. So in
35 that three-month period in early 2013, we held meetings
36 in each of the subregions of the Y-K Delta, plus an
37 Anchorage meeting with participation from
38 representatives from Tyonek. So 14 total meetings
39 through that three-month period. There were a number of
40 issues and concerns that were raised. Because of the
41 time, I'll really just focus on just a couple of these,
42 but I'd welcome questions if people would like us to go
43 back.

44

45 Barge traffic is probably the largest
46 issue most frequently referred to. The barging would
47 be 120 barge trips per year in the open water season.
48 About half of that is for fuel, about half of that is
49 supplies. The barges themselves are very large. You
50 can see in this computer simulation that it's four

1 barges lashed into a tow with a tug behind it.
2 Nowadays most of the barging on the Kuskokwim River is
3 two barges front to back with a tow. So this is going
4 to be wider, heavier and, as I say, much more frequent;
5 120 trips per year.

6
7 People are worried about several
8 issues. Wakes and erosion on the bank or disturbance
9 of fish rafts or nets on the river bank, just the wave
10 actions. The barges could affect the turbidity and the
11 temperature of the water, which would have potential
12 effects on fish. Some of those fish stocks are already
13 in trouble. The king salmon stock on the Kuskokwim
14 River is down at historic lows and this last year was
15 the first time that subsistence fishing was prohibited.
16 Targeted subsistence fishing on king salmon was
17 prohibited. So you can see that this is a tough time
18 historically for fish runs and therefore adding new
19 stresses on the fish is a very large concern.

20
21 Spills is an issue obviously. The
22 specialized barges for fuel would be doubled-hulled
23 built new for this project, but it's a question that
24 people want us to be looking at very closely. So
25 that's another one of the big issues.

26
27 Finally there's some concern that with
28 climate change and warming trends the water level in
29 the Kuskokwim River is more variable and perhaps lower
30 than it has been historically. So questions about
31 whether the barges can actually make their season or
32 would be stranded by low water for long periods, what
33 would be the strategy to manage in a low water season,
34 how to get the supplies and fuel to the mine.

35
36 I'll mention too on the subsistence
37 tradition, many of you are familiar with the direct
38 reliance of small communities throughout the Y-K Delta
39 on local resource, the subsistence way of life. This
40 is an area with very uneven income and employment, so
41 the direct reliance on subsistence is huge in addition
42 to the cultural value that people place on subsistence.
43 Some of the questions and concerns were focused on
44 whether the mine would displace wildlife, would the
45 barges run moose back off the bank where people are
46 commonly taking them, would there be contaminations in
47 some of those open water things, like the tailings
48 storage facility, where birds become contaminated and
49 then when they fly further out the flyway people on the
50 coast or in the intermediate area would be concerned

1 about the health of that food resource.

2

3 And then a third thing in terms of
4 subsistence, people recognize that new employment
5 patterns, shift work, two weeks on, two weeks off, or
6 new people moving to the region to work at the mine,
7 those could create new competition or new stress on the
8 subsistence way of life, so that's another example of a
9 scoping issue that we're analyzing in the EIS.

10

11 If you don't mind, Mr. Chair, I'll
12 pause right there and see if there are question this
13 far. I'll then go on to the idea alternatives that
14 could reduce impacts and then some TEK studies that
15 we're working with communities on. But it might be
16 good to see if there are any questions so far.

17

18 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: So each one of those
19 four barges like that are carrying about 800,000
20 gallons of fuel. If you've got 60 barges carrying 40
21 million gallons, that means you have about 800,000
22 gallons of fuel right there in those four barges, about
23 200,000 gallons per barge.

24

25 MR. BRELSFORD: It's a big number.

26

27 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: So are they going to
28 have to put any kind of spill equipment and stuff on
29 place like Alyeska has to do?

30

31 MR. BRELSFORD: Yes. They are double-
32 hulled. They are also compartmentalized, so that in an
33 event of a stranding or a rupture our spill scenarios
34 assume that up to two compartments could release, but
35 not all of them all at once. That's also based on the
36 assessment, the bathymetry, kind of river channels that
37 are soft bottom for most of the Kuskokwim River.
38 There's only a few instances in which there's rock.

39

40 You're question was spill preparedness
41 and response further. They have to have spill response
42 plans and contractors onsite, pre-staged material and
43 drills. Very similar to what you would see in the
44 marine environment in Valdez.

45

46 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: And one thing they are
47 handling lighter fluid. Lighter, I mean it's.....

48

49 MR. BRELSFORD: That's correct. It
50 vaporizes and disperses more quickly than heavy crude.

1 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Right.
2
3 MR. BRELSFORD: Yeah. Another
4 question?
5
6 MS. KENNER: Mr. Chair. Do you mind if
7 I ask?
8
9 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Sure.
10
11 MS. KENNER: This is Pippa Kenner with
12 OSM. Yeah, so the double-hull, is that required or is
13 the company just planning to do it?
14
15 MR. BRELSFORD: You know, I'm
16 embarrassed to say that it's not the current standard,
17 I know that. There's a lot of concern about kind of
18 tramper barges that have been stranded trying to take
19 D9 Cats up the river. Donlin has talked about trying
20 to do this right from the technical standpoint, so I
21 know their purpose in double-hull barges is to ensure
22 safety margins and confidence in the region.
23
24 Remember Donlin can't do anything
25 without the goodwill of the landowners, of the Native
26 corporations, so I think there have been a lot of
27 planning and design efforts already in the proposal to
28 address the kinds of concerns that they were hearing
29 about over the years.
30
31 They have a communications system
32 angled to this. Ralph, you're probably very familiar
33 with this. The automatic identification system where
34 every vessel has a GPS or a device, a beacon of some
35 sort, and people in the communities can log on and see
36 where the vessels are and then they have radio contact
37 between them. So that if the channel has shifted in
38 any way, they remark the GPS coordinates for the
39 subsequent barges.
40
41 Those are important. I mean so far
42 people in the communities are still very worried about
43 this and there are important environmental questions
44 where we don't have complete answers and that's really
45 the next step of the exercise.
46
47 MR. ENCELEWSKI: Through the Chair.
48 I'm going to have to depart in peace, but very, very
49 good presentation. But I would want to make a comment
50 before I left if I may. These studies and the

1 environmental and all this other stuff, the big thing
2 that I'm interested from the RAC perspective is, you
3 know, the project is nothing compared to the total
4 impact of the area and the other stuff that goes with
5 it. Roads into the area, development, the whole nine
6 yards. I've been very active in this Susitna-Watana
7 study and how it impacts and displaces game and other
8 things.

9

10 So I mean it's huge. It's huge not
11 only to the landowners there, to the local area, but to
12 all the subsistence area and the whole nine yards. So
13 I appreciate all your good effort and I'll get more
14 information, but thanks. Ralph, if I may be excused.

15

16 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay, Greg, you can
17 be.

18

19 MR. ENCELEWSKI: Thank you.

20

21 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: I just have one
22 question to ask you too before we go on any farther. I
23 was looking at your gas pipeline. It's going through
24 an area that has high fuel cost and all that kinds of
25 things. Are there going to be side pipes out of that
26 gas pipeline? Are we going to be bringing changes to
27 the communities by having access and fuel available and
28 things like that? So you could have some major changes
29 in that area.

30

31 MR. BRELSFORD: So the question for the
32 record was whether the natural gas through the pipeline
33 would be available to other communities for other
34 purposes besides just the mine. The answer to that is
35 yes, legally and practically, in terms of the
36 engineering design. This is referred to as what's
37 called a common carrier. So Donlin would pay to build
38 it. It's a \$1.2 billion dollar infrastructure, which
39 caught my attention. It's designed with twice the
40 capacity of the natural gas that Donlin requires
41 itself. You increase the compression. They could put
42 a second compressor station and have twice the
43 throughput of natural gas. So legally and in terms of
44 the engineering this is entirely doable.

45

46 Institutionally, who's going to step up
47 and buy gas at the mine site and then distribute it,
48 create the distribution system in the villages. That's
49 an open question. Discussions are underway I'm told.
50 I haven't seen anything in writing, but the electrical

1 co-op in the central Kuskokwim area is interested. The
2 Calista Corporation for the entire region has an energy
3 subsidiary and they're looking at options in it as
4 well.

5
6 That's not going to be soon, soon.
7 It's going to take a little time for the institutional
8 and economic side of that to play out, but there's no
9 obstacle in terms of the ownership or the engineering
10 of the proposed pipeline.

11
12 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: But that's not part of
13 the EIS.

14
15 MR. BRELSFORD: That's correct. What
16 Donlin said at one point is we don't want to get into
17 the gas distribution business, we want to focus on
18 operating the mine.

19
20 Yes, Mr. Showalter.

21
22 MR. SHOWALTER: Yes. With this barge
23 traffic there would be two-way traffic and the width of
24 the barge and the river. Also there's the fog
25 situation in the river valley. I'm sure you were
26 thinking about that, but hopefully overcome that
27 somehow.

28
29 MR. BRELSFORD: Thank you for the
30 question. I should say that we work with a group of
31 cooperating agencies, five tribes, five Federal
32 agencies. We meet every other week and the question of
33 feasibility of the barging schedule was a huge question
34 because of low water, because of weather conditions.
35 Some of the tribes, some of the agencies said you're
36 dreaming, it can't be done. It certainly can't be done
37 if we have lower water levels in future years.

38
39 We had a long technical meeting where
40 they showed a model of high water/low water years over
41 the last many years and there's about a 110-day season
42 of open water. In rough terms, a third of those days
43 could be unavailable for barging and they could still
44 make their season. I'm not completely satisfied that
45 that holds up. We're still trying to really critically
46 assess that model, but the people proposing the mine
47 have certainly thought about what happens in the low
48 water years, is it feasible when you take into account
49 no travel days on the river.

50

1 MR. SHOWALTER: Okay. Basically my
2 question was during the fog situation in the river
3 valley there, about the two-way traffic and the barges
4 passing.

5
6 MR. BRELSFORD: Thank you for helping
7 me understand more precisely what you're interested in.
8 I don't recall discussion about fog as a factor. I do
9 very much recall discussion about this two-way
10 communication between the barges and the GPS signals.
11 They will have an electronic route for the barges and a
12 system of understanding where the other ones are
13 holding so they are passing in the wide stretches, not
14 in the choke points. And then this update, that if the
15 channel is changing, the first barge up realigns the
16 GPS track for the barges coming before and after. So I
17 don't know if it's a completely satisfactory approach
18 yet, but I know they've been trying to account for
19 that.

20
21 I'd like to go on. A really important
22 part of an environmental impact statement is to say --
23 the mine company came in and said let's do it this way,
24 but the Army Corps of Engineers wants choices of other
25 ways to meet the same purposes. So what if the
26 pipeline was bigger, what if you didn't need all the
27 diesel and it reduced the barging, what if the pipeline
28 moved from here to there. Those would be referred to
29 as alternatives with different environmental impacts,
30 environmental footprints.

31
32 So we've been over the last -- from
33 June of last year to June of this year, about a years'
34 time, looking at a range of alternative technologies or
35 siting options or designs and operational differences.
36 Many of these came out of the scoping meetings. People
37 said why don't you build a road, some people, instead
38 of a pipeline and then you could carry everything. Or
39 what about a road from Bethel or what about a power
40 plant in Bethel and electrical transmission up to the
41 mine site, just to give an idea. There were about 400
42 alternatives offered up in the scoping meetings and the
43 preliminary design work.

44
45 Then we tried to whittle those down,
46 which ones were feasible and some of them were pipe
47 dreams, which ones gave significant environmental
48 benefit at reasonable cost. We're down to about six or
49 seven alternatives in the working draft right now.
50 Again the purpose of that is to look at different ways

1 to meet the goal, minimizing wetlands impacts or
2 minimizing fish and aquatic resource impact, or
3 minimizing impacts to the Iditarod Trail. They each
4 serve a purpose of reducing impacts on some important
5 resource and then we do a side-by-side comparison.

6

7 The end result is that when the Army
8 Corps of Engineers is making a decision, they could
9 take parts of different alternatives, like kind of a
10 mix and match approach, but they have choices. They
11 know what different ways are feasible and how those
12 would have a different mix of environmental
13 consequences.

14

15 I'll give a couple of examples. NEPA
16 requires a no-action alternative. It sort of says if
17 the project didn't happen, what would the environmental
18 effects -- what would the baseline of this environment
19 look like over time. How would subsistence continue.
20 How would water quality continue and so on. Then the
21 second alternative is always the one proposed. In this
22 case, by Donlin Gold. Then we really kind of racked
23 our minds to come up with reducing barging
24 alternatives, then some alternatives at the mine site
25 and finally some at the pipeline route.

26

27 So here's a map that shows one way to
28 reduce the distance of barging. Up near Crooked Creek
29 is the current design. Birch Creek Crossing, which is
30 downriver between Aniak and Kalskag, would reduce the
31 distance of barging by about one-third and it reduces
32 in the narrow part of the river, so the prop-out, wash
33 impacts, displacement from subsistence nets, those are
34 sharper impacts in a narrow reach of the river.

35

36 So this is an alternative that has a
37 lot of interest in the region. It's a trade-off.
38 Instead of a 30-mile road you have a 76-mile road, so
39 it crosses more tributaries, it displaces more
40 wetlands. It's kind of a quick example of trade-offs
41 of different kinds of environmental effects.

42

43 Some of the other proposed alternatives
44 that would also reduce barging. One thing we're
45 investigating very carefully is LNG-powered rock
46 trucks. That 40 million gallons of diesel, about half
47 of the barge traffic is devoted to running the trucks,
48 the big mine trucks that carry rock up out of the pit.

49

50 If LNG can be used as a fuel, then two-

1 thirds of that diesel fuel goes away. It would reduce
2 barging by about 30 percent all together. Supplies
3 would be about the same level. Fuel would go way down.
4 So about a 30 percent reduction. It's really promising
5 if the technology is ready on time. Caterpillar has
6 already demonstrated that this is doable. They haven't
7 scaled it up to large commercial production, but the
8 timing may be such that it would be available when this
9 project could move. Again, the pay off would be a very
10 significant reduction in the barge traffic.

11
12 Another alternative along the same
13 lines would be to reconfigure the pipeline to carry
14 diesel rather than natural gas. That would mean
15 powering the mine site, the electrical generators, with
16 diesel rather than natural gas. It's not as clean.
17 The air quality would be a problem, but trucks could
18 draw diesel onsite and it would eliminate all of the
19 diesel barging.

20
21 So those are the examples of trying to
22 really look hard for alternatives that would reduce
23 barging.

24
25 Then finally on the pipeline corridor,
26 kind of the configuration of the pipeline. We've got
27 two alternatives that got all the way through the
28 screening process. One would be through Dalzell Gorge
29 and this was actually an early design. That's some
30 pretty tough engineering and it overlaps a great deal
31 with the Iditarod Trail.

32
33 The alternative now proposed is to the
34 north and the west. It's referred to as the Jones
35 alternative. It avoids the engineering problems that
36 come from that steep gradient in the Dalzell Gorge and
37 it does not overlap nearly as much with the Iditarod
38 Trail. So on pipeline routing, this would be examples
39 that we'll look at.

40
41 I want to turn quickly to some of what
42 I think is, in a sense, most rewarding about this EIS.
43 I mentioned that Donlin Gold has worked very closely
44 with the Native corporations, with Calista and TKC.
45 They've also really urged that the EIS really make an
46 effort to ensure that the voices of people in the
47 villages, the knowledge of people in the villages are
48 included in this EIS.

49
50 So one of the big questions that was

1 raised by those cooperating tribes had to do with
2 rainbow smelt. They're very much under-represented in
3 the literature on the Kuskokwim River. They're used as
4 a food resource in about the bottom third of the
5 Kuskokwim River. So, with the tribal cooperators and
6 Donlin's contractors, some of our EIS team members,
7 this was the first ever study of rainbow smelt spawning
8 on the Kuskokwim River. It looked at the upriver
9 travel and identified the spawning area above the
10 village of Kalskag, documented the timing and it is the
11 basis for thinking about what impacts barging would
12 have on this less well known resource.

13

14 So the results, the fish travel pretty
15 quickly, subsistence users would call in and talk about
16 the progress of this fish run up the river. Then the
17 spawning was actually concentrated in a very small area
18 and in a very small timeframe. It was less than a day.
19 The guy who did the study had done a lot of smelt
20 studies in Togiak River and it's like a two-week
21 spawning period. So this was really kind of a genuine
22 discovery in science. They had some things about the
23 bank configuration and the substrate that they were
24 able to document.

25

26 So then another example has to do with
27 juvenile salmon in the shallow habitats. It's asking
28 questions about impeding movement of juvenile salmon or
29 actually even stranding salmon. If the barge goes by,
30 kicks up a big wave, is it going to push juveniles up
31 onto the beach. Those were the kind of driving
32 concerns from the tribal cooperators.

33

34 So they did sampling in mid July and
35 late August. This is roughly the chum and red salmon
36 period in mid July and the silvers in late August. We
37 were not able to get the group in the water in May when
38 there's an outmigration from the tributaries, so that's
39 actually something we want to try and catch up this
40 coming year.

41

42 They identified pinch points, narrow
43 places in the river where the wake could more easily
44 wash out the shallow banks, shallow areas where we
45 think the juvenile fish habitat, juvenile salmon
46 habitat would be more important. So there are several
47 of those upriver; Kalskag, Birch Creek Crossing and
48 just below Crooked Creek at the Holokuk River. One
49 down at Nelson Island and then one down at Bethel as
50 kind of a comparison.

1 So these were the results. I think
2 this was a surprise. The July sampling showed a lot of
3 fish, but hardly any salmon in those five reaches.
4 Chinook and coho were virtually absent from those
5 mainstem habitats in both sampling periods, early and
6 late. In the late period, they extended the sampling to
7 some of these key tributaries because they were pretty
8 sure the salmon were there, just not out on the
9 mainstem.

10
11 So in the Holokuk and the Aniak River
12 they did verify the presence of juvenile chinook and
13 coho at fairly high densities in that late period.
14 They learned something about the depth of water that is
15 attractive habitat for juveniles and the species
16 distribution.

17
18 So, as I say, this is pretty important
19 information for calculating the impacts of those barge
20 waves and we need to know more about that early period
21 when salmon migrate out from the tributaries.

22
23 The last aspect of this, trying to
24 listen and learn from people, is a set of technical
25 meetings. We call them the subsistence and traditional
26 environmental knowledge meetings. The first one was
27 held last year in November. This was a meeting where
28 there were presentations and panels from elders from
29 many of these villages looking at gaps in subsistence
30 knowledge.

31
32 So there were 13 local experts from
33 Stony River to Tuntutuliak that met with the agency
34 representatives to offer their views about how
35 subsistence fisheries are reported and what things
36 they're worried about with the proposed project. There
37 were PowerPoint presentations by several of the tribes
38 and the Army Corps staff are in the lower left and some
39 of the representatives from Crooked Creek and Napaimute
40 are on the right-hand side.

41
42 Then we met again, mostly the same
43 group of people, in March of this year and this time we
44 had dialogue between the EIS team scientists and the
45 elders to compare notes. Our team had some preliminary
46 assessments of baseline conditions, what the fish runs
47 look like and the trends and this was a chance to sort
48 of have elders look over our shoulders and talk about
49 what we might have missed, what they would see
50 differently about the status of those fish populations.

1 These were two-day meetings in each
2 case and I think people were a little surprised at the
3 opportunity to dig in in the development of an EIS, not
4 just give comments on a 2,000-page document, but really
5 be in the heart of the writing of it. I think it was
6 really a welcome opportunity and we learned a lot of
7 information from it.

8
9 So between those scoping meetings last
10 year and the draft EIS meetings next year, we've been
11 trying to get out to a lot of the communities on the
12 Kuskokwim River to provide updates about the fish
13 studies, about the alternatives development. Just sort
14 of keep this in front of people. It's a huge project
15 with an awful lot of issues. None of us are going to
16 get it in one sit-down. So trying to get back to the
17 communities repeatedly over this period is kind of our
18 goal.

19
20 Then the final item is to talk about
21 how you could learn more or how we're trying to ensure
22 that the communities can follow what we're up to. So
23 this is the Donlin Gold Project EIS website. We sent
24 out some newsletters. We've tried to hand around
25 copies of these. Those go to about 8,600 mailboxes in
26 the Y-K Delta. A big effort to get a bite-size parts
27 of this EIS exercise out in front of people in the
28 communities.

29
30 All of those scoping comments were
31 compiled in a report that is also available on the
32 website and then the schedule, the anticipated release
33 of the draft EIS in the future. The final thing are
34 the contact numbers, contact information for Don Kuhle,
35 the project manager at the Army Corps of Engineers, and
36 then Amanda Shearer, who serves as the tribal liaison
37 for the Corps.

38
39 Let me stop there and see if there are
40 any parting questions or comments. Thank you very much
41 for allowing us time to talk with you about it. I know
42 you've had a big agenda and a lot of important issues,
43 so I hope this was worthwhile for everyone.

44
45 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: I think it was
46 worthwhile. It's just interesting to see how big a
47 project it is, but also realize how much of an impact
48 it could have. It's interesting to me that one of the
49 alternatives wasn't two pipelines down the same
50 corridor.

1 MR. BRELSFORD: We did actually
2 consider it and some of it is the engineering and some
3 of it is the cost.

4
5 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Well, thank you for
6 showing it to us. I think we're going to try to
7 proceed with what we have left. Does anybody have any
8 specific questions they'd like to ask? And it's
9 interesting to me you weren't getting salmon smolt
10 going down the river because when we worked on the
11 Copper we had salmon smolt going down all summer.

12
13 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: Through the Chair.
14 I'm just curious about the 14,000 fish in those
15 samples, trying to determine, and they weren't kings
16 and silvers. What species primarily were they?

17
18 MR. BRELSFORD: Suckers were a big part
19 and some of the whitefish species, juvenile whitefish
20 were included.

21
22 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Thank you. Okay. We
23 have just a couple more reports to go. Alaska
24 Department of Fish and Game. Does the Alaska
25 Department of Fish and Game have a report for us.
26 Drew, I'm sorry we kept you this long.

27
28 MR. CRAWFORD: No problem, Mr. Chair.
29 I don't have a report, but Mark Burch gave the major
30 report for the Department today. I would like to make
31 a comment for you.

32
33 The Department is very concerned about
34 the National Park Service regulation packet and the
35 proposed Fish and Wildlife Service regulation packet.
36 They are advertised to only affect sport hunting, but
37 as we look into the details we're finding actual
38 affects on subsistence users. The regs would prohibit
39 things that were proposed by rural users and who said
40 that they wanted more hunting opportunities and
41 prohibit things like hunting, swimming, caribou. They
42 affect any subsistence hunter who uses State seasons
43 even if they are Federally qualified.

44
45 The Department is preparing a fact
46 sheet for distribution at AFN that summarizes our
47 concerns regarding these regulation packets. One final
48 thing is to reiterate that the comment deadline for the
49 National Park Service regulations is December 3rd.
50

1 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Thank you, Drew. Any
2 questions or comments.
3
4 Gloria.
5
6 MS. STICKWAN: Can we get it before
7 AFN, the summarization?
8
9 MR. CRAWFORD: No. It's still being
10 formulated here, but it will be distributed. We will
11 have a booth there that.....
12
13 MS. STICKWAN: Could you email it to
14 Donald and Donald could give it to us?
15
16 MR. CRAWFORD: When it's available,
17 yes.
18
19 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Thank you, Drew.
20
21 Andy.
22
23 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: Through the Chair. I
24 would appreciate a copy of that through Donald. That
25 would be great.
26
27 Thank you.
28
29 MR. CRAWFORD: Okay. Will do.
30
31 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Is that all?
32
33 MR. CRAWFORD: That's it. Thank you.
34
35 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Thank you. Glad to
36 see your concerned. Do we have any tribal governments
37 or Native organizations that wish to make a
38 presentation.
39
40 MR. PICHE: (Indiscernible - on
41 teleconference)
42
43 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: What? I'm sorry, I
44 didn't catch that.
45
46 MR. BURCHAM: Matt from the Native
47 Village of Eyak.
48
49 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Oh, okay. Yeah, you
50 came through broken, that's why I didn't get it. You

1 have a presentation for the Native Village of Eyak?
2
3 MR. PICHE: Yes. (Indiscernible) Matt
4 Piche. I'm the natural resources coordinator
5 (indiscernible) Native Village of Eyak and I'd like
6 (indiscernible).....
7
8 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Matt.
9
10 MR. PICHE: Yes?
11
12 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: We're not copying you
13 very good at all. Hold your phone right up to your
14 mouth and speak clearly and we'll see if we can get it
15 better.
16
17 MR. BURCHAM: Or a landline instead of
18 a cell phone.
19
20 MR. PICHE: Hello, can you hear me?
21
22 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Much better that time.
23
24 MR. PICHE: Okay, good. So I'm here to
25 report the preliminary Copper River chinook escapement
26 number.
27
28 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Sounds good.
29
30 MR. PICHE: For 2014 it's 24,158 fish
31 through Baird Canyon. Just to clarify, that's past the
32 commercial fishery but before any inriver fishery.
33
34 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: And that's from your
35 mark and recapture study, right?
36
37 MR. PICHE: Yes, correct.
38
39 MS. STICKWAN: What did he say?
40
41 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: 24,115.
42
43 MS. STICKWAN: Through Baird Canyon?
44
45 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Through Baird Canyon.
46
47 MR. PICHE: Again, this is only a
48 preliminary number and for the winter meeting I will
49 have a final number.
50

1 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay. That's a
2 preliminary number and for the winter meeting you'll
3 have the final number.
4
5 MR. PICHE: Correct.
6
7 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Thank you.
8
9 MR. PICHE: You're welcome.
10
11 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Do you have anything
12 else for us, Matt, or is that basically what you wanted
13 to report?
14
15 MR. PICHE: Nope, that's it, Mr. Chair.
16
17 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Thank you muchly for
18 giving us that.
19
20 MR. PICHE: You're welcome.
21
22 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay. Is there any
23 other Native organization or tribe who wishes to make
24 comments at this time?
25
26 (No comments)
27
28 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Hearing none. I think
29 we've completed everything on our agenda at this point
30 in time. If any Council member that's present has
31 anything else that I missed, now would be a good time
32 to bring it to our attention. If not, a motion for
33 adjournment is in order.
34
35 MS. STICKWAN: At the closing you said
36 to bring up that I wanted to have a binder.
37
38 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Oh, that you'd like to
39 have it in a binder with all our -- okay.
40
41 MS. STICKWAN: Past actions and
42 policies, the strategic plan, so that we can -- when we
43 have questions, we can have this -- any policies we
44 took action on like the rural determination, C&T,
45 strategic plan.
46
47 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: A binder for our past
48 actions, policies.
49
50 MS. STICKWAN: Maybe Barbara could help

1 me explain this. We have something like that at the
2 SRC and it's really helpful for us to have this in
3 front of us because we're trying to remember what we
4 did in the past. If we had a binder of all these
5 things that we've taken action on on policies like
6 that, that would be really helpful.

7
8 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Did you get all of
9 that, Donald?

10
11 MR. MIKE: Yes, Mr. Chair. I can work
12 on that with Staff, of course.

13
14 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: I see Pippa nodding
15 her head too. Anything else for any Council member as
16 a concern or something they'd like to do. If not, a
17 motion for adjournment -- okay, Donald.

18
19 MR. MIKE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Just
20 quickly. Today I handed out a -- we're having another
21 student art contest and I gave information packets to
22 the Park Service staff. If you have a chance, you can
23 share this with your schools in your communities,
24 especially smaller schools. We lack representations
25 from smaller schools. That would be great to have as
26 part of the program and that will be a way for our kids
27 to get involved in resource management.

28
29 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

30
31 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Thank you, Donald.

32
33 Anything else.

34
35 (No comments)

36
37 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Andy.

38
39 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: Motion to adjourn.

40
41 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Make it.

42
43 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: I so move.

44
45 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: You so move that we
46 adjourn?

47
48 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: Yes.

49
50 MR. OPHEIM: Second.

1 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: We have a second. We
2 don't need to vote on it. The meeting is adjourned.

3

4 (Off record)

5

6 (END OF PROCEEDINGS)

