

1 WESTERN INTERIOR ALASKA FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE
2 REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING

3
4 PUBLIC MEETING

5
6
7 Pikes Landing
8 Fairbanks, Alaska
9 March 3, 2015
10 8:30 a.m.
11

12
13 COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

14
15 Jack Reakoff, Chair
16 Ray Collins
17 Timothy Gervais
18 Don Honea
19 Jenny Pelkola
20 Pollock Simon
21 James Walker
22 Robert Walker
23 Darrel Vent
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29 Regional Council Coordinator, Melinda Burke

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P R O C E E D I N G S

(Fairbanks, Alaska - 3/3/2015)

(On record)

(Invocation)

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks, Ray. And so we're going to establish a quorum. And so Jenny, do you want to call the roll. We could just visually go around the room here.

MS. PELKOLA: Robert Walker.

MR. R. WALKER: Yes.

MS. PELKOLA: Carl -- Carl -- Carl.

MR. MORGAN: Yes. Yes. Here.

MS. PELKOLA: Raymond Collins.

MR. COLLINS: Yes. Here.

MS. PELKOLA: Jack Reakoff.

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Here.

MS. PELKOLA: James Walker.

MR. J. WALKER: Here.

MS. PELKOLA: Timothy Gervais.

MR. GERVAIS: Present.

MS. PELKOLA: Jenny Pelkola. Here.

Don Honea, Jr.

MR. HONEA: Here.

MS. PELKOLA: Darrel Vent.

MR. VENT: Here.

MS. PELKOLA: Pollock Simon.

MR. SIMON: Here.

1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: And Darrel is a new
2 member of the WIRAC. And welcome to the Council,
3 Darrel, from Huslia. And so thank you, Jenny. And so
4 we'll welcome and introduce the staff here.

5
6 We'll start with Melinda.

7
8 MS. BURKE: Hello, everybody. Melinda
9 Burke. I'm the Council Coordinator for the Western
10 Interior RAC. And I also coordinate the Northwest
11 Arctic RAC.

12
13 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Our Court Recorder.

14
15 RECORDER: My name is Tina and I'm the
16 recorder for this Council Meeting.

17
18 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So we'll introduce
19 the audience. And so can you hear from the back of the
20 room, Tina? If the people state their name?

21
22 REPORTER: Sure, I'll turn this mic on,
23 and speak up if you can.

24
25 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, Carl.
26 Just.....

27
28 MR. JOHNSON: I'm Carl Johnson. I'm
29 the Council Coordinator Division Chief with the Office
30 of Subsistence Management.

31
32 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Orville.

33
34 MR. LIND: Good morning. My name is
35 Orville Lind. I'm the Native Liaison for the Office of
36 Subsistence Management.

37
38 MR. EVANS: Good morning. My name is
39 Tom Evans. I'm a Wildlife Biologist for the Fish and
40 Wildlife Service Office of Subsistence Management.

41
42 MR. DEMOSKI: I'm Arnold Demoski. I
43 work for the Nulato Tribal Office.

44
45 MR. DEMOSKI: I'm Peter Demoski. I'm
46 here on behalf of the Community of Nulato.

47
48 MR. CHYTHLOOK: John Chythlook, Fish
49 and Game Sportfish Division, Kuskokwim Region.

50

1 MR. SEPPI: Good morning. Bruce Seppi.
2 I'm a Wildlife Biologist for the Anchorage Field Office
3 BLM.

4
5 MS. INGLES: Palma Ingles. I'm an
6 anthropologist with Fish and Wildlife Service OSM.

7
8 MS. NELSON: Good morning. I'm Hazel
9 Nelson, Director of Subsistence Division, ADF&G.

10
11 MR. HAVENER: Good morning. I'm Jeremy
12 Havener. I'm the Refuge Subsistence Coordinator for
13 Koyukuk/Nowitna/Innoko National Wildlife Refuge.

14
15 MR. WHITFORD: Good morning. My name
16 is Tom Whitford. I'm the Alaska Region Subsistence
17 Program Leader for U.S. Forest Service.

18
19 MR. WRIGHT: Charlie Wright. Tanana --
20 sent by the Tanana Tribal Council.

21
22 MR. CARLO: Good morning. Glenn Carlo.
23 I'm with Denakkanaaga.

24
25 MR. BUE: Good morning. I'm Fred Bue,
26 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, based out of Fairbanks
27 at Yukon River Salmon Management.

28
29 MR. MATHEWS: I'm Vince Mathews, the
30 Refuge Subsistence Coordinator for the Kanuti, Arctic,
31 and Yukon Flats.

32
33 MS. PITKA: My name's (Indiscernible)
34 Pitka, I'm originally from St. Mary's, up here in
35 Fairbanks and I am a student at UAF taking Introduction
36 to Federal Subsistence Management.

37
38 MR. SPINDLER: Mike Spindler, Refuge
39 Management at Kanuti National Wildlife Refuge.

40
41 MS. MORAN: Tina Moran, Deputy Manager
42 of the Kanuti National Wildlife Refuge, here in
43 Fairbanks.

44
45 MR. CHURCHWELL: Roy Churchwell,
46 Wildlife Biologist at the Kanuti Refuge.

47
48 MS. PETRIVELLI: Pat Petrivelli, BIA
49 Subsistence out of Anchorage.

50

1 MR. STOUT: Glenn Stout, Galena Area
2 Biologist for Alaska Department of Fish and Game.
3
4 MS. FLEEK: Good morning. My name is
5 Adrienne Fleek, Council Coordinator for the YK Delta
6 and the Seward Peninsula, for the Office of Subsistence
7 Management.
8
9 MR. RICE: Good morning. Bud Rice,
10 National Park Service Management Biologist out of
11 Anchorage.
12
13 MS. OKADA: Good morning. Marcy Okada,
14 Subsistence Coordinator for National Park Service Gates
15 of the Arctic Park and Preserve.
16
17 MR. WOODRUFF: Don Woodruff, Eastern
18 RAC.
19
20 MS. CHARLIE: Kristie Charlie from
21 Tetlin.
22
23 MR. MASCHMANN: Gerald Maschmann of
24 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service here in Fairbanks.
25
26 MR. DEMIENTIFF: Good morning. Albert
27 Demintieff, Holy Cross Tribal.
28
29 (Other Individuals not close enough to
30 microphone to pick up)
31
32 MR. FOX: Good morning. I'm Trevor
33 Fox. I'm the Regional Subsistence Coordinator for the
34 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service out of Anchorage.
35
36 MR. MOOS: Good morning. Kenton Moos.
37 I'm the Refuge Manager for Koyukuk/Nowitna and Innoko.
38
39 MR. HJELMGREN: Good morning. Jim
40 Hjelmgren, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Refuge Law
41 Enforcement.
42
43 MR. TITUS: Philip Titus, Minto.
44
45 MS. PATTON: Eva Patton, Council
46 Coordinator for the North Slope and Eastern Interior
47 Regional Advisory Councils with the Office of
48 Subsistence Management.
49
50 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Welcome to all those

1 in attendance. At our meeting in McGrath we had two or
2 three people in attendance. Our voices echo off the
3 wall. That's why we came to Fairbanks is because we
4 get a lot better Staff support and we get a lot better
5 attendance by various people.

6
7 We have another person who came into
8 the back of the room. Would you mind introducing
9 yourself, sir. With the blue pack, do you want to
10 introduce yourself.

11
12 MR. ALEXIE: Oh, yeah. Good morning.
13 My name is Fred Alexie from Kaltag with the
14 Denakkanaaga Board.

15
16 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Thank you.

17
18 MR. ALEXIE: Thank you.

19
20 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: And so who's on the
21 phone now. I keep hearing the phone beeping. And so
22 would you state your name for the record.

23
24 MR. CRAWFORD: Drew Crawford, Alaska
25 Department of Fish and Game. Over.

26
27 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks, Drew. Any
28 others.

29
30 MR. RIVARD: Don Rivard, with the Fish
31 and Wildlife Service Office of Subsistence Management,
32 Anchorage. And I'm not beeping.

33
34 (Laughter)

35
36 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Welcome, Don.

37
38 MR. SHARP: Bureau of Land Management,
39 Anchorage. Good morning.

40
41 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Welcome, Dan.

42
43 MS. MCBURNEY: Mary McBurney, National
44 Park Service in Anchorage.

45
46 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Welcome, Mary.

47
48 And I assume that's it.

49
50 (No comments)

1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thank you. And so
2 review and adoption of the agenda.

3

4 MS. BURKE: Mr. Chair.

5

6 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Oh. Go ahead,
7 Melinda.

8

9 MS. BURKE: Yeah. Thanks, everybody.
10 We also are meeting with the Eastern Interior Council
11 jointly tomorrow. It took the Eastern Interior
12 Coordinator and I quite a bit of time to work out the
13 particulars, so it might be a little bit confusing, but
14 I've made a new agenda that's available on the back
15 table for everybody. And basically what I did was I
16 weeded out everything that's going to be on the joint
17 agenda. So what you see -- the updated agenda is just
18 what we'll cover today.

19

20 And I believe I got all of the
21 telephonic participants a new copy of this as well via
22 email. I am connected to the internet, so if you don't
23 have one, please shoot me a note and let me know.

24

25 But the updated one is the one you see
26 before you in the handout. And the one thing that I
27 wasn't able to put in before printing was there is
28 going to be a presentation from Mr. Sky Starkey
29 regarding the TCC AVCP structure of Kuskokwim Co-
30 Management issue. And that is going to be at the very
31 end of the agenda.

32

33 Mr. Chair.

34

35 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks, Melinda.
36 And so we'll be using the agenda that was provided to
37 the Council. And any questions or additions by the
38 Council on the agenda.

39

40 (No comments)

41

42 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Seeing none, the
43 Chair will entertain the motion to adopt the agenda.

44

45 MR. COLLINS: I move we adopt the
46 agenda as amended.

47

48 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Second.

49

50 MR. HONEA: Second.

1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Those in favor of
2 the agenda signify by saying aye.
3
4 IN UNISON: Aye.
5
6 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Opposed, same sign.
7
8 (No opposing votes)
9
10 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So we have the
11 agenda before us. The election of officers. Go ahead,
12 Melinda.
13
14 MS. BURKE: Thank you, everyone. I'll
15 be taking the gavel for the election of the Chairman.
16 Floor is now open for nominations for the position of
17 Western Interior Regional Advisory Council Chair.
18
19 MR. HONEA: I make a motion to retain
20 the officers. To keep the officers as is.
21
22 MS. BURKE: Motion on the floor to
23 retain leadership on the Western Interior Council as
24 is. Is there a second.
25
26 MR. R. WALKER: Second.
27
28 MS. BURKE: Seconded by Mr. Robert
29 Walker. Is there a call for question.
30
31 MR. HONEA: Question.
32
33 MR. WALKER: Question.
34
35 MS. BURKE: All those in favor of the
36 motion to keep the leadership the same, which would be
37 Jack Reakoff is the Chairman; Ray Collins is the Vice-
38 Chair; and Jenny Pelkola is the Secretary. All in
39 favor, please signify by saying aye.
40
41 IN UNISON: Aye.
42
43 MS. BURKE: It sounds like you -- oh,
44 I'm sorry. Tim.
45
46 MR. GERVAIS: Jack, I'd just like to
47 thank the officers for their extra effort in fulfilling
48 their officers' duties. And it's why it's really easy
49 to just keep it retained as is. Thanks for doing a
50 good job -- or a great job with what you do.

1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Thank you.
2 Appreciate that. Thanks for the confidence of the
3 Council.

4
5 And so moving on in the agenda, we'll
6 review and approve the previous minutes from our
7 meeting in October 28 and 29. It's on page five of our
8 book. I reviewed the minutes and so did not see, other
9 than one thing that -- on page 11 under the BLM
10 presentation. I requested that the BLM evaluate a
11 Sheep Management Plan for Guide Capacity and Sheep
12 Management in Unit 24A and 26B. And I reminded the BLM
13 of that by email about a month ago, so that they could
14 be prepared for this meeting. And I would like the
15 minutes to reflect that.

16
17 MS. BURKE: Yeah, Mr. Chair. I can
18 make that correction. And there was also -- I caught a
19 couple of typos. On page eight, when I was putting
20 this together initially, I'd sometimes leave some notes
21 in about who spoke. And I left your name in there
22 accidentally, Jack, under FP1502. So I'll clean that
23 up and add the other language that you have requested.

24
25 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Any other
26 additions by the Council.

27
28 MR. HONEA: Mr. Chair. Jack.

29
30 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yes. Go ahead.

31
32 MR. HONEA: Can I comment on that. I
33 mean when the court reporters are taking these,
34 sometimes we might be misconstrued as saying something.
35 I just wanted to clarify my comment here that I did --
36 I don't -- I guess in not agreeing with the drawing
37 permits in the Koyukuk Controlled Use Area, I guess
38 what I didn't like was the numbers. If the numbers
39 were not adequate to support a Village that needed --
40 that requested by the State a hunting effort in that
41 area and they were declined that opportunity, then
42 these numbers at 70 -- and I realize it went down to 35
43 or whatever. But I still think that's a -- I just
44 wanted to clarify that I did not agree with the numbers
45 on there.

46
47 Thank you.

48
49 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay, Don. And I
50 misstate the page for the Sheep Management Plan. That

1 would be the fourth paragraph down, BLM presentation,
2 on page 12.

3
4 Any other comments on the minutes from
5 our McGrath meeting.

6
7 (No comments)

8
9 MR. WALKER: Move to adopt.

10
11 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Motion to adopt. Do
12 we have a second.

13
14 MS. PELKOLA: Second.

15
16 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Second by Jenny.
17 Any further discussion.

18
19 (No comments)

20
21 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Seeing none, those
22 in favor of the adoption of the minutes from our
23 October 28th and 29 meeting in McGrath, signify by
24 saying aye.

25
26 IN UNISON: Aye.

27
28 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Opposed, same sign.

29
30 (No opposing votes)

31
32 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Minutes are adopted.

33 And so we're going into reports -- Council member
34 reports. We'll move around the room here.

35
36 Robert, we'll start with you. Do you
37 got any -- you can comment on your attendance of the
38 Federal Board. Go ahead.

39
40 MR. WALKER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
41 Members of the Board, Staff, I would like to wait till
42 Rita St. Louis gets here, so we can both discuss this
43 with -- kind of jointly to discuss the bison. The
44 woodland bison here that's going to be transplanted
45 down to Unit 21, if that's possible, Mr. Chair.

46
47 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Well, I was
48 just.....

49
50 MR. R. WALKER: Huh?

1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I was just saying
2 we're not going to discuss that.

3

4 MR. R. WALKER: Okay.

5

6 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: We will further on.
7 I just wanted the Council to be aware that you had
8 attended the Federal Subsistence Board on the bison
9 issue and other issues. So I couldn't attend the
10 Federal Subsistence Board, so Robert was our
11 representative. So any other comments about wolves or
12 whatever you feel like talking about.

13

14 MR. R. WALKER: No, Mr. Chair. But I
15 was looking at the minutes here. I didn't go to the
16 McGrath meeting. And the report that Frank Miller gave
17 under miscellaneous was the wanton waste issue where we
18 have discussed this issue before. And this seems like
19 it's just a never ending story for us. And for Federal
20 land. I mean it's just going to go on and on till we
21 get a proposal or somebody puts a proposal in there to
22 counteract the State.

23

24 Especially this -- we got a phone call
25 from the Lower Yukon AC Board that the Mulchatna herd
26 is just getting to be shot to pieces now, where the
27 caribou is. There's going to be no more here pretty
28 soon. What are we doing about this on federal land.
29 That's what my question would be to you. And to you --
30 to our managers. Whatever, this has to be stated.
31 Where do we take a stand on this. And this is going to
32 be an issue here where if we don't say anything pretty
33 soon, they're going to be a part of history. And it's
34 one of the sad things when we do put a dollar price on
35 something, it seems to disappear right off wherever
36 they're going to be.

37

38 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

39

40 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yeah. There was
41 meat that came in, it was stated at our meeting. Meat
42 came into McGrath. It was in spoiled condition. They
43 tried to give it to the Tribal Council in McGrath and
44 they refused the meat. It was soured. So for those
45 who didn't attend the meeting, that is a problem.

46

47 So we're continuously hearing about
48 wanton waste. And wanton waste is basically recovering
49 meat from the field in a spoiled condition and then
50 trying to pass that off to communities. It's

1 offensive. And so that's what Robert's referring to in
2 the minutes.

3

4 Carl.

5

6 MR. MORGAN: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
7 Like Robert, I'm very concerned. You know, I don't
8 know how many years ago we heard about the very drop in
9 the Mulchatna herd. And it's still dropping. And I
10 don't see any action. Restrict -- it's basically herd
11 and subsistence users restricting them. We don't got
12 the transportation and the means to fly up to the hills
13 and fly to the -- we got to hunt in our area. So --
14 and like Robert, I'm very concerned about the
15 Mulchatna.

16

17 And it's also putting more pressure on
18 the moose. If we can't get caribous, we're going to
19 have to get moose. But -- and then like everybody else
20 in the whole State probably, very concerned about our
21 king salmon. Our fishery and returning.

22

23 Thank you.

24

25 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks, Carl. Ray.

26

27 MR. COLLINS: Yeah. I'm representing
28 the group on the Kuskokwim River Working Council. And
29 the action that we took last year with having a closure
30 in the season really helped in getting fish up river.
31 We saw fish that wasn't up. I know it worked a
32 hardship on some of the Delta folks because they
33 couldn't get kings early, but having that early closure
34 really made a difference for getting fish up the river.
35 So I hope we'll continue that this year.

36

37 And that's our main concern. We've got
38 healthy moose numbers around McGrath now and I'm hoping
39 that they're improving down in the Aniak area there. I
40 know they're taking efforts at predator control and
41 other things. And also what's making a difference I
42 think is the growing moose population in the lower
43 river there. We don't get as many hunters coming up as
44 we used to. So I'm glad that they had the moratorium
45 down there and closed it. And I hope they continue to
46 manage that resource so that it will provide moose down
47 in the lower river there, like it does on the Yukon.

48

49 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right.

50

1 MR. COLLINS: So that's my issue. Is
2 that we continue the efforts on managing the kings.

3
4 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks, Ray. I
5 appreciate all the work that you did with that working
6 group. It was successful getting fish out of the
7 spawning grounds and that was real important after the
8 bleak return -- or escapement the previous year.

9
10 Go ahead, James.

11
12 MR. J. WALKER: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
13 Excuse me. I didn't attend the meeting in McGrath;
14 however, along with Robert's comment and Carl's comment
15 on wanton waste, that is a very concerned issue in the
16 four Village area, Grayling, Anvik, Shageluk and Holy
17 Cross. And it's been going on for some number of
18 years. And everyone in the area is just wondering how
19 is this going to be addressed and how is this going to
20 be taken up as far as some sort of action to stop this.
21 Because it's hard enough just to go out and get a moose
22 locally without having some fly-in hunters come in
23 here, do the hunting, take their horns out, leave the
24 meat there, and go. So that's an issue there, along
25 with the king salmon issue.

26
27 The whole Yukon is having a problem.
28 So -- but my question mostly is in the Y3, Holy Cross
29 area. Since Y3 is from Holy Cross to Russian Mission.
30 And there was a proposal I believe -- maybe Robert
31 could address it more. But it's in regard to moving
32 the boundary line from Y3 into the Lower Yukon, Y2
33 area. So I'd like to know how this is being addressed
34 and who is following up on that issue.

35
36 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thank you. Well,
37 we'll have to have Fisheries people give us an overview
38 of what that boundary -- the Y3 boundary move. If
39 that's just a proposal to the State Board of Fish or
40 what that actually is. We need more information about
41 that. So we hope Fisheries people can come up with
42 that information.

43
44 Thanks, James.

45
46 Tim.

47
48 MR. GERVAIS: Good morning. I'd like
49 to thank everybody for their attendance. It's real
50 important for this Council to be informed and make

1 effective decisions by the input from people traveling
2 in from the Villages, the Tribal Councils, public, and
3 good Agency Staff participation. So that's a real
4 important factor of us doing a good job here.

5
6 I'm happy that we're able to have this
7 joint meeting with the Eastern Interior. I think it's
8 important for us to meet our counterparts in that part
9 of the State. And naturally we share many of the same
10 issues based on geography and being neighbors on the
11 same river.

12
13 Also there's some real important issues
14 coming up this meeting with TCC and AVCP Kuskokwim Co-
15 Management. We need to pay attention to what's going
16 on there. It's pretty serious. It has serious
17 implications for how the Fisheries management could
18 change.

19
20 Also real excited to see this woodland
21 bison introduction be real imminent. It's real nice to
22 have all these different user groups work together and
23 come in agreement to make a program like that occur.

24
25 One thing that for me is real important
26 that this Council gets done today is that we have some
27 time to make sure that we understand this Council
28 structure on how the North Pacific Council is set up;
29 what areas they manage for; the national standards they
30 look at for how they make their decisions; and then a
31 look at their management objectives on how they
32 regulate the pollock and groundfish fisheries in the
33 Bering Sea.

34
35 I sent an email out late last night to
36 most of the Council Members. The email was really
37 long. It was like 160 pages. But there's actually
38 just two lists on it that are of the most importance.
39 And those are the ten national standards and the forty-
40 three Management objectives.

41
42 And once again I'd just like to thank
43 our officers for doing a great job on the Council here.

44
45 Thank you.

46
47 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: And Jenny.

48
49 MS. PELKOLA: Good morning, everyone.
50 I would just also like to echo what Robert and Carl

1 said about wanton waste. Every -- it seems like every
2 meeting we bring this up. And it's there. Some people
3 may think we're just making it up, but it's really
4 there. We really see it with our own eyes, where a
5 whole moose is thrown to the dump or, you know, the
6 best parts, like the ribs or the bones. A lot of
7 people like the bone part because they can boil it up
8 and make soup out of it. And you see that laying at
9 the dump and it's just so sad. I think maybe in each
10 Village, wherever -- whoever is doing that or -- you
11 know, they need to make an announcement that we have
12 bones. I mean it may just be bones to them, but to us
13 who grew up on all of that stuff, it means a lot to us.
14 And we -- we will take it.

15

16 Also, the decline of fishing is pretty
17 sad. I know that this year I missed my king salmon
18 because it has more grease in it and it seems like it's
19 more filling compared to the other fish. And hopefully
20 soon that can be resolved.

21

22 And also sometimes when we make a
23 comment or we think our comments don't mean anything,
24 they really do. But when the Council makes a comment,
25 whatever you can add. And I just want to thank
26 everyone for your comments. And I think it's very
27 important.

28

29 Thank you.

30

31 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thank you, Jenny.
32 We always appreciate your comments. And so the bone
33 thing, I cook every -- I cook all the bones. And the
34 knee bone on a moose is like almost two days meat. I
35 mean there's all that collagen and marrow and stuff
36 that comes out of there. People are just throwing them
37 away.

38

39 I told my son once in Fairbanks -- I
40 said you get onto those meat cutters -- those guys are
41 probably throwing away -- he gets whole -- they barely
42 cut the meat off the bone. You can barely see the
43 bone. He showed me pictures on FaceBook. He's getting
44 like a lot of meat that they throw away here in town.
45 Throwing these bones away is a big deal. They're not
46 closely trimming because they get paid by the pound.
47 They take it in bulk. They get paid by the pound.
48 These processors in Fairbanks throw away tons of meat.
49 Why are there clouds of ravens around here. Because
50 they're throwing all kinds of stuff away.

1 (Laughter)

2

3 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: This throwing these
4 bones away is a big deal. People should donate those
5 to the elders. They should donate those bones to
6 people who will use them. Just throwing this stuff
7 away is offensive. Spoiled meat. Trimming -- heavy
8 trimming. Because they come in all green, so they've
9 got to cut off all the whole outside of the meat and
10 throw all that green meat away. This is offensive.
11 These resources are precious. These resources are
12 limited. And we don't need to be seeing them thrown
13 away because it offends the people of -- especially who
14 live in the Village, where food is hard to get.

15

16 Thank you, Jenny. I appreciate your
17 comments on those bones.

18

19 Don.

20

21 MR. HONEA: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I'd
22 like to thank Jenny for serving on here with us. And
23 I'd also like to maybe -- that we should send off a
24 letter to Eleanor for her support through the years. I
25 kind of like the analogies or stories that they give.
26 They give a kind of a down home kind of appeal to our
27 Council. And I appreciate that.

28

29 And I want to welcome Darrel to the
30 Board here. And I also want to welcome the students
31 that are sitting in here. I came in yesterday
32 afternoon and just for the few, brief minutes I was
33 sitting here, I learned something.

34

35 You know, we could sit on this Board
36 ten years. I have never submitted a proposal. But,
37 you know, we support what's already there. I mean I
38 have something that I may submit at this one, but other
39 than that, I mean it's -- I'm really glad that TCC and
40 Doyon is finally getting involved in something that
41 they should have been and not wait till the critical
42 moment when our -- I was appalled when I was reading
43 the figures on the report on the fisheries, on the
44 pollock fisheries. Back in 2007 or something, 400,000
45 chums. What in the heck did they do with those.
46 120,000 king salmon. I mean, you know, granted now
47 maybe those numbers are down, but that's a lot of fish.
48 And if -- if anything that I could do. I mean I say
49 I'm sitting on here because if I can't do anything
50 about the fisheries, then doggone it I'm going to try

1 to have a say about our moose population.

2

3 To that end, I'll give it a break.

4

5 Thank you.

6

7 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks, Don.

8

9 Darrel.

10

11 MR. VENT: I'd like to thank Federal
12 Subsistence for inviting me to the Board here. Like
13 the concerns with, you know, everybody's talking
14 about. Wanton waste, sustained yield. All these words
15 that is put in there and how it regulates how we
16 operate things. And it's, you know, we're getting a
17 lot of complaints. Maybe it's time to take a closer
18 look at how we operate things. Because in our area
19 we're looking at the numbers. And I've noticed in the
20 last three years that we've been operating at maximum
21 sustain. Or it's maximum yield, not sustained yield.
22 There's a little difference in there. So I think, you
23 know, the wanton waste they're talking about, you know,
24 how far could they do things and then, you know, before
25 they throw the meat away. And -- but it seems to be a
26 problem.

27

28 Also, there's another problem that, you
29 know, consists with taking all this, you start getting
30 predators. And the high amount of predators that we're
31 dealing with. And all of it falls in our hands because
32 they created the problem for us. And we have to, you
33 know, come -- is that clear? There we go.

34

35 (Laughter)

36

37 MR. VENT: It creates a problem for us,
38 you know, so that we have to take care of the predator
39 problem. That's, you know, going along with wanton
40 waste. And, you know, taking care of our moose or
41 taking care of our fish -- anything that matters to us.
42 Like with the fish for instance, you get a high amount
43 of pike in our area. They're starting to kill out
44 ducks and geese, you know. So those go hand in hand
45 with the -- you know, because that's predators. We're
46 the same thing. We're preda -- we prey on moose. We
47 prey on the caribou, the fish. We have to learn how to
48 manage that. And we're not, you know, getting that
49 idea across that, you know, this is how it's supposed
50 to be managed, not taken.

1 Thank you.

2

3 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks, Darrel.

4

5 Pollock.

6

7 MR. SIMON: Good morning. My name is
8 Pollock Simon, Allakaket, Upper Koyukuk River.

9

10 Life is getting kind of tough in Upper
11 Koyukuk River with the low number of moose, not
12 everybody put meat in their freezers during the fall
13 season and the caribou hasn't come around for a few
14 years, so right around this time, the freezer doesn't
15 have any meat in it. And we're being restricted from
16 taking king salmon, our main fish diet. So being good
17 citizens, we didn't take any. We didn't fish for king
18 salmon. But that's kind of tough for us, you know.
19 Talking about the wanton waste, we in-river restricted
20 from taking king salmon. But how about the high sea
21 fisherman. He gets king salmon and he can't keep so he
22 just throws it back in the sea, it's wanton waste while
23 we in-river citizens are hungry for fish. So we have
24 to take another hard look at the wanton waste.

25

26 I'm glad to be here and to be on this
27 Board. We're on this Board to preserve the fish and
28 wildlife for future generations. So that's why we -- I
29 come back every year to sit on this board.

30

31 Thank you very much.

32

33 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks, Pollock.
34 Pollock has been on the Koyukuk River Advisory
35 Committee and the Gates of the Arctic Subsistence
36 Research Commission since it was developed in 1984 for
37 the Gates of the Arctic.

38

39 And bycatch in the Bering Sea is one
40 waste. That's just -- they throw it overboard. They
41 grind it and throw it overboard. And that's where the
42 majority of that fish is going. Halibut, grinding up
43 tons and tons and tons -- millions of pounds of
44 halibut. Throwing it away. That's wanton waste.

45

46 So I want to welcome Darrel to the
47 Council. And I posted on Facebook that there was an
48 opening for Y RACs and Darrel responded like that. And
49 kept on and away. And here he is. He made it. I'm
50 happy to see him on the Council.

1 And so I called in to the Federal
2 Subsistence Board meeting. I couldn't attend the
3 Federal Subsistence Board meeting on Fishery. Robert
4 attended and then I called in and also commented to the
5 Board at times. And the Koyukuk River Advisory
6 Committee met by teleconference on January 27th. And
7 so we talked about -- there's a proposal for the
8 Western Arctic caribou herd. A State proposal. And we
9 met. We talked about that one. We had Glenn Stout on
10 the phone. We talked about the dall sheep problems.
11 The dall sheep issues on the Brooks Range. The dall
12 sheep have declined dramatically and there's very few
13 lambs, yearlings or two-year olds from a late spring
14 event and the subsequent productivity problems.

15
16 And so we -- there are proposals before
17 the Board of Game. Proposal 207 and 208 are State
18 generated -- board generated proposals. I would like
19 the Council to look at those. And 202 is the State
20 generated proposal for the Western Arctic caribou.
21 What we don't want to see with the Western Arctic
22 caribou herd is what happened to Mulchatna. Mulchatna
23 started into a decline. They shot all the bulls. And
24 I don't care what they say. They had 14 bulls per 100
25 cows and they had one large bull per 100 cows in 2007.
26 The herd had no reproductive capacity and it crashed
27 into the toilet. And the old cow caribou are dying
28 off. And so now we have a very low number of caribou.
29 And what happens with caribou is they get behind the
30 predator curve. They can't -- they only have one calf.
31 They're not like moose. The only have one calf. And
32 so once they get at low levels, then the predators just
33 hold them low and it takes them a long time to build
34 back up to where they can surge again. We don't want
35 Western Arctic to do that. We want to get conservative
36 now before the big problems start happening.

37
38 So I want to look at Proposal 202. The
39 Gates of the Arctic Subsistence Resource Commission met
40 in Fairbanks in mid-November. And so we talked about
41 the sheep decline. There's proposals that will
42 probably come forward on some management within the
43 Gates of the Arctic on reducing take of ewe sheep.

44
45 I was real, real happy the Department
46 of Interior -- Secretary of Interior made the Council
47 appointments on time. This is the first it's happened
48 for years. And so I would like to transmit a letter
49 back to the Secretary of Interior and say how
50 appreciative we are. Because Don couldn't even attend

1 our meeting last spring because they had a lax. And so
2 we've been corresponding with the Secretary of
3 Interior's Office and now something's moved. And we're
4 happy about that and we want to keep the ball rolling.
5 We want to maintain the -- like Tim says, it's
6 important to have every seat here, so that we have a
7 full team pulling. If we only have half a team, you
8 can't make the grades.

9
10 The snow condition is about 60 percent
11 of what it normally would be up there in the Brooks
12 Range. Moose are up high. They're using all of the
13 feed available. If the deep snow is deep, they have to
14 use the valley floors. Moose are all over the place.
15 They're real hard to see a moose track. Well, that's a
16 good thing. They're spread out all over the place.
17 The wolves are having to work harder. There's not very
18 many wolves. And the wolves that I've caught are fat.
19 So the wolves that are around are older wolves that are
20 very experienced at catching. And even when there's no
21 snow, there are wolves that will kill game. But there
22 are not that many wolves. The reason that wolves went
23 down primarily is because shallow snows culls a lot of
24 the weak -- the dumber wolves. And then we have
25 diseases that came from the North Slope. We have
26 diseases that come from the fox populations on the
27 North Slope. They bring rabies. They bring distemper.
28 And so that killed off a lot of the wolves. So the
29 predation factor is low.

30
31 We still have lots of bears though. We
32 see lots of bears in the fall time. We've got lots of
33 brown bears in Brooks Range.

34
35 And so the caribou with the Western
36 herd and the Teshekpuk herd being down, there's a few,
37 few caribou. You can expect as caribou populations
38 decline, that caribou in the Arctic north of the Yukon
39 River and the Koyukuk -- those Western Arctic and
40 Teshekpuk are feeding like 45, 50 villages. If the
41 herds get small, then they don't need to migrate as
42 far. Then they have less acc -- Anaktuvuk has had a
43 hard time having caribou. They've had very few caribou
44 showing up around Anaktuvuk Pass. The caribou that
45 come through there come down by us. I know there's 30
46 caribou to the west of us, up on the top of a mountain.
47 I know there's about 100 caribou in the head of the
48 valley, mainly cows. And I'm concerned about the
49 amount of cow harvest. I'm concerned about -- I heard
50 stories over on the Kobuk River that so few caribou

1 were coming and they came later than usual. And
2 they're very -- people are very competitive. And
3 they're using 223 on the river and there's a lot of
4 wounded caribou.

5
6 I'm concerned about using 223 for moose
7 hunting. I see a lot of pictures on Facebook of guys
8 shooting moose with a 223. Well, I've killed a heck of
9 a lot of moose and a 223 is a poor rifle to be shooting
10 at the moose. It doesn't have any shocking power. You
11 shoot through the chest of the moose. The moose runs
12 way back in the woods and gets away from you. Falls
13 down in the swamp somewhere. You lost it. I'm
14 concerned about the wound loss rate in some of these --
15 some of our own people using 223 for moose. I'm
16 getting real concerned about that. I see guys cutting
17 up moose in the swamp because, yeah, you got a AR-15
18 there and the moose got away from you. It got way back
19 in the swamp. You're making a lot more work for
20 yourself.

21
22 I feel that people in villages better
23 start talking about using the right kind -- people used
24 to shoot a 30-30. A 30-30's got a heck of a lot more
25 shocking power than a 223. You've got a banana clip
26 and yeah, you can blaze away at long range at a moose.
27 But I'm getting concerned about this wound loss on
28 moose. I'm getting real concerned about that. We
29 don't have the moose to give for that kind of waste.
30 And so I'm going to be advocating for at least going
31 back to a 30-30 or a 30 ought 6 or something that will
32 kill the moose. And so I'm -- I heard a lot of bad
33 stories. There were bullets bouncing off the water
34 down at the Kobuk River. There was somebody's boat got
35 hit. I mean it's just getting crazy. So I'm concerned
36 about these populations and using them the right way.

37
38 The snowshoe hare population is low and
39 -- and building in the Brooks Range. And there's not
40 very many lynx. Low snowshoe hare population also
41 restricts the wolves ability to produce very many pups
42 in our area. So right now we -- if we have healthy
43 management with low wolf predation factors, we can try
44 and rebuild this caribou and sheep population now. In
45 five years we're going to have so many hares, we're
46 going to have lots of wolves. That's when our wolf
47 population will go right through the roof. And so we
48 need to -- I'm real concerned, as I've told this
49 Council before. The BLM was permitting seven guides to
50 hunt dall sheep on the BLM lands, near the Dalton

1 Highway. That is way too many hunting guides to have.
2 Basically, they're allocating all of the resource to
3 sporthunting -- period. And so I feel that the BLM
4 needs to reduce the amount of guides and restrict the
5 number of clients that they can take. I'm hoping that
6 the Board of Game will also restrict the State.
7 There's a proposal to restrict the State BLM and
8 private lands by drawing permit for non-residents. I'm
9 hoping that they do that. And we'll visit that
10 proposal. So that would be my report. And so thanks
11 for letting me ramble there.

12

13 (Laughter)

14

15 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: And so we're going
16 to go to public and tribal comments. And so I have a
17 blue sheet here.

18

19 MS. BURKE: And Jack, just for the
20 benefit of the folks who are in the class and just kind
21 of joining us for the first time, will you kind of
22 explain that we do take this up each morning and they
23 should feel free to -- just kind of give them a little
24 overview of how this works.

25

26 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So we like to hear
27 from the public. Under .805 of ANILCA, these Regional
28 Councils are a forum for public comment. And so we
29 encourage -- at this point in the morning, we encourage
30 any member to -- tribal member or any member of the
31 public to come before the Council and talk about issues
32 they might have, so that we can possibly address those
33 -- or refer them to people who can possibly address
34 those. And so that's -- we're on that point on the
35 agenda.

36

37 And so I have Don Woodruff's blue card
38 here. He wanted to -- he's on the Eastern Interior
39 Regional Council. So he wants to come up and speak to
40 the Council. Welcome, Don.

41

42 MR. WOODRUFF: Thank you, Chairman.
43 The reason I came early was the weather. But I like
44 this opportunity to address the Council and the public
45 in large in what general support for the Council that's
46 here. I know that it's not an easy task. And I also
47 want to thank Tim in particular because I was with him
48 at the North Pacific Management Council and we
49 testified about chinook and chum bycatch. And the
50 chinook on the Yukon -- on the Upper Yukon, we had a

1 good escapement this year. And it's been the first
2 time in five or six years. And I don't see that we're
3 going to go back to the old regime of not getting
4 escapement for a while. I just can't -- I hope that we
5 don't do that so that we can build this population up
6 so it's sustainable for the people to harvest. And the
7 only thing that I would suggest would be maybe a
8 personal use permit to get a fish on the table in the
9 summer for everybody, you know, that wants one.
10 Whether it be a dipnet or whatever process that works
11 for them.

12

13 That's the only way I think we can
14 harvest a few fish and still try to get escapement.

15

16 Thank you.

17

18 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks, Don. Does
19 any Council members have questions or comments.

20

21 (No comments)

22

23 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. We'll see you
24 tomorrow also. And so do we have any -- do we have
25 another -- some comments, Melinda.

26

27 MS. BURKE: Mr. Chair, we've got two
28 wildlife issues to take. And I just checked with a
29 gentleman and we'll discuss during the wildlife
30 discussion this afternoon.

31

32 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay.

33

34 MS. BURKE: Oh. But it does look like
35 we have a gentleman.

36

37 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. So we'll have
38 Fred Alexie from Kaltag to come up to speak to us.
39 Come on up, Fred.

40

41 MR. ALEXIE: Do I have to. I can talk
42 loud from here.

43

44 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: No. She's got to
45 have it on the mic here.

46

47 (Laughter)

48

49 MR. R. WALKER: It was a good idea.

50

1 (Laughter)
2
3 MR. ALEXIE: Well, thank you.....
4
5 REPORTER: Turn on that little button.
6
7 MR. ALEXIE:for having.....
8
9 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Little silver button
10 -- right here, Fred, there's a silver button, push that
11 and it will light up.
12
13 MR. ALEXIE: Oh, okay.
14
15 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay, go right
16 ahead.
17
18 MR. ALEXIE: Okay. Well, I'm an elder,
19 so these things are new to me.
20
21 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right. Well.....
22
23 MR. ALEXIE: Okay. Good morning.
24 Thank you for letting me take the time to comment.
25
26 First of all, predators -- you said
27 something about predators. And the bear, wolves, right
28 now, you know, they can't get no -- the moose -- the
29 moose get away from the wolves pretty easy right now
30 with the snowfall. And the wolves can't keep up.
31
32 Okay. Wolves bycatch in the Yukon-
33 Koyukuk area, Galena, is roughly around about 60 to 65
34 percent. That, you know, catch. No, 26 percent the
35 wolves. But the bears is the one that does all the
36 hunting. They get the calf right from -- they pull the
37 calf out of the mother.
38
39 Okay. Guides in the local area. Boy,
40 I'd sure like the Council to reduce or do away with the
41 guides. It is in our area, in 21, we got a bunch of
42 local guides. Sure, I encouraged that. I encouraged
43 that years ago. But I'm starting to get against it now
44 because of the low numbers of moose. And airplanes
45 flying in our area. And the Kaltag -- they call Kaltag
46 barbaric people. Because years ago my uncle in the
47 late -- early 50s -- middle 50s, he shot a Fish and
48 Game plane when he was out. He walked to his beaver
49 set. Checking his sets. Here comes a Fish and Game
50 plane flying in. He told my uncle, aren't you too

1 close. My uncle is pretty smart. He had to walk that
2 distance. He said hey, where's your measuring tape.
3 Could you tell me how far I am from that beaver house.
4 The beaver house is there. But down there is where the
5 beaver come out. Tell me the distance I am from that
6 house. And legally he was way more than 25 feet away.
7 So he shot that airplane -- the Fish and Game plane.
8 And, you know, in the old days it was fabric. So the
9 Fish and Game guy -- I don't know what he got out. He
10 put tape on it and took off. My uncle is -- my uncle,
11 he died later, you know, but he wasn't arrested.

12

13 And Fish and Game guides coming into
14 Kaltag. Kaltag boys shot three airplane floats.
15 Floats. Let the planes sink. So that and the fly in
16 hunters. But you see them. You see the elsewhere
17 coming in our area.

18

19 Okay. King salmon quota. Bycatch.
20 This year's a low number, right? 20,000? Or am I
21 right or wrong? 20,000?

22

23 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Current bycatch.
24 Have you, Tim?

25

26 MR. GERVAIS: No. But I can look it up
27 during the next break.

28

29 MR. ALEXIE: Okay. Okay. I'll just
30 throw out a number because I heard that number. 20,000
31 bycatch. Okay. Count the villages on the Yukon all
32 the way up to the Canadian border. I would say -- I
33 would say more than 20. Okay. If you gave per village
34 1,000 fish -- per village 1,000 fish. And let those
35 villagers say hey, this is what we're going to get.
36 We're going to get 100 king. Hey, that's better than
37 nothing, right? Anything is better than nothing. And
38 I'm really, really against the over -- the bycatch --
39 you know, the bycatch. That's wanton waste. You said
40 it already. A number of you said it. It's wanton
41 waste. Grind it up and throw them in. Seagulls and
42 all that -- they fly around the boats because they know
43 they get free meals.

44

45 Okay. Moose, caribou relationship. My
46 grandma and my grandpa told me stories a long time ago.
47 If you get -- Kaltag -- they used to call Kaltag
48 caribou people. There was thousands and thousands of
49 caribou in the mountains behind Kaltag. All of a
50 sudden they're gone. Why. Because the moose came

1 back. Moose, caribou relationship, they don't get
2 along. That's stories told by my grandpa and my
3 grandma. And sure enough that was the truth. Caribou
4 went off. They went off to the Nome caribou area at
5 that Nome area. Never came back.

6
7 Okay. Another thing was about two
8 years ago. Boy, I was very, very disappointed at the
9 Fairbanks area proposing a 200 cow limit in the Minto
10 area. My gosh. What are you doing. There has to be
11 bull, caribou -- I mean bull, cow relation for our
12 herds to come back. You shoot off one species, you're
13 dead. You're gone. I don't know what the results are
14 now that the -- now that the Fairbanks area went over
15 into the Minto area and got all the cows. That's bad
16 relationship.

17
18 Another one, you spoke on the 30-30,
19 223. I side with you. It is the wrong rifle. But you
20 -- I mean my grandchildren -- grandpa, are you going to
21 buy me a 223. I said for what. I said I got four
22 rifles right there. Two 30-30s, 270, and 30 ought 6.
23 Take any one of them to go out hunting. You're sure to
24 get that moose and you get it right where you see it.
25 It don't run away. Yeah, it'll run off a little, short
26 distance, but it don't run away. I'm against. I'm
27 totally against. I take your side. I'm against that
28 223.

29
30 And, you know, I just want to reiterate
31 on that king salmon. There is four-year olds coming
32 back this year. That's in the report. You know, I
33 didn't know whether to believe it or -- you know,
34 science. You know, they say. But a lot of times
35 science just -- science is wrong. But I got to live
36 with that. And we got to live with that number. But
37 you get a four-year old king -- holy cow. That's a big
38 fish. Five-year old is 50, 60 pounder. You get a
39 four-year old coming back, that's a big king. You can
40 ask any one of the people that are on the Yukon -- from
41 the Yukon. That's a big fish. And like I say, if we
42 get 1,000 fish per village, somehow set the quota.
43 Sure we're going to live by it as real people. We did
44 it. Look at what we did. No fishing all up and down
45 the Yukon. If you gave me 100 fish, that's damn near
46 what I get for my family per year.

47
48 And going back to my grandma,
49 grandparents, we fished so long, quit. Literally quit
50 fishing. We don't over-catch. We don't overdo. And

1 all we -- it's been brought down. It's been handed
2 down to me by my grandparents and my dad, et cetera,
3 you know. My uncles who live on the Yukon. It is our
4 prime source of food. So is moose. So is caribou.
5 But like I said, the caribou, moose relation. There is
6 no caribou, moose relationship. One species got to
7 survive.

8

9 Thank you. Thank you.

10

11 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks for all your
12 comments. Appreciate that.

13

14 (Applause)

15

16 MR. GERVAIS: Mr. Chair.

17

18 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Oh. Go ahead.

19

20 MR. GERVAIS: Yeah. Thanks for your
21 testimony. The comments about the guides, Jack,
22 reminded me that we had brought up in a previous
23 meeting that this Council wanted to look at the
24 selection criteria for guides in the Wildlife Refuge
25 system. And we've never done any -- we've never done
26 any business or taken any action on that. So if
27 there's some time, we could visit that.

28

29 The other main group that affects the
30 guides throughout the State is the Big Game Commercial
31 Services Board. And they are -- that group is not
32 going to be -- have much interest at all in limiting
33 the amount of guides or guide clients. So this -- the
34 guide selection criteria for the Wildlife Refuge
35 systems probably are the most effective thing we could
36 look at for getting the correct amount of guides in the
37 areas.

38

39 And the on this king salmon management,
40 these management objectives in this Bering Sea Plan --
41 the last -- the number I have for bycatch king salmon
42 -- reported bycatch in 2014 was 17,472 kings. Now, the
43 actual bycatch -- that's just the reported. The actual
44 bycatch is probably well over 20,000 because every fish
45 doesn't get counted. But in the management objectives
46 for the North Pacific Management Council, they
47 specifically state that the way they manage fisheries
48 isn't supposed to hurt individual user groups. And it
49 also has a specific statement in there, it's not
50 supposed to hurt any tribal entities. And so that's

1 something that tomorrow when we meet with North Pacific
2 Council, we can say hey, this is some of the problems
3 you're causing. And you're not -- the Council's not --
4 the North Pacific Council is not adequately giving
5 preference or priority to these other user groups.
6 That they're being damaged from the existing management
7 structure.

8

9 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: And that specific
10 Fisheries Management Council is under obligation to the
11 tribal entities and to the resource. The in shore
12 returns are their responsibility also. They seem to
13 think that, you know, bycatch is bycatch. But they
14 have responsibility for the in shore returns. But
15 we'll talk about that at tomorrow's meeting with --
16 joint meeting with the Eastern.

17

18 Looking at the guide issue, you look at
19 Kaltag, there's a lot of BLM and state lands and
20 private land -- private. Those are corp lands. I've
21 seen where the guides around our area, they're hunting
22 on the Doyon lands. They're trespassing on the Doyon
23 lands. And they -- I called Fish and Game. I says
24 this guy is pounding the tar out of these sheep on
25 these Doyon lands. He's not even supposed to be
26 hunting there. Well, they don't even want to talk to
27 me. It's like that's -- you know, that's Doyon's
28 problem. They don't care. So Doyon can publish in the
29 newspaper that the lands are closed, but that's not
30 what's happening. There's a whole bunch of hunting,
31 guiding pressure going on.

32

33 This BLM land has no guide capacity.
34 There can -- BLM will just keep handing out permits and
35 50 guides show up in Kaltag and want to hunt on those
36 BLM lands to the north of Kaltag and there. No
37 problem. It's only the refuges that actually have a
38 guide selection process. And so that's what Tim's
39 talking about. But that would only be in this little
40 -- the Novi -- or the Kiayuh Flats area. That's the
41 only place. And those little checkerboards there is
42 where they can control the amount of guides. One guide
43 in an area. The BLM and state lands, there's no
44 control.

45

46 Go ahead.

47

48 MR. WALKER: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
49 Fred, is that transported? Or is that guides, Fred,
50 that do fly out in your area, Unit 26?

1 MR. ALEXIE: Guides. Guides. They're
2 not transporters, they're guides.

3
4 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: There was a bill in
5 the Legislature to allow the Commercial Services Boards
6 to make guide use areas. And that bill died in the
7 Legislature. Or basically it's sitting there unfunded
8 by the Legislature. And with a \$3.5 billion deficit, I
9 don't have a whole lot of hopes that the State's going
10 to get this thing under control.

11
12 That's why this Council has asked the
13 BLM for years and years and years to develop a guide
14 selection process. To have one guide in a guide use
15 area. Then they don't compete with that -- the way it
16 is now, if there's ten guides, they figure if I don't
17 shoot that moose or that sheep, somebody else is. So
18 I'm going to take every last legal animal I can take.
19 And they will. And they do it. And they completely
20 annihilate the country. It's the worst thing that can
21 happen. Too many guides in an area competing with one
22 another, bad things happen. But I don't see any
23 recourse from the Legislature. The Legislature has
24 been sitting on this thing since last year. And they
25 had a lot of money last year. Now they don't have
26 nearly as much money and I don't think that they're
27 going to fund it.

28
29 So this Council, we were promised by
30 Henry Bisson, the Regional Director of the BLM, to come
31 up -- develop a guide concession process. They've been
32 waiting for the State to do it. Well, that's not
33 happening. And so the BLM is going to have to come up
34 with this guide concession thing for -- look at all the
35 yellow. Look at our Region. Look at all the yellow
36 lands. That's BLM lands that have unlimited amounts of
37 guides. So Fred's talking about guides. That's what
38 we've got.

39
40 We've got Peter Demoski that wants to
41 come up and talk to us. Come on up, Peter.

42
43 MR. DEMOSKI: Okay. I want to thank
44 the Western RAC for allowing me to address you.
45 Melinda actually recommended that I wait till this
46 afternoon, but I think I want to make my comments to
47 you so you'll have something to think about over lunch.
48 You've already mentioned a few items that I am deeply
49 concerned about in Unit 21D. And that's excluding the
50 Koyukuk Refuge. You mentioned predator control. We

1 have heard from the State Fish and Game that -- well,
2 in the first place, in our area there is no Predator
3 Control Program. But they tell us that 30 calves --
4 moose calves out of 100 will be killed by black bears
5 in a year. Twenty calves will be killed by wolves in
6 any year. Ten moose calves will be killed by brown
7 bear in any year. Now, we all know that moose
8 population in Unit 21D has been declining over the last
9 several years.

10

11 I brought up predator control at
12 previous Fish and Game meetings, but nothing seems to
13 be implemented in our area. And we're getting tired of
14 fighting with predators for our moose. A lot of us in
15 21D just think you see a black bear or a wolf, kill it.
16 That will preserve some of the moose calves to grow up
17 later on.

18

19 There's a -- you mentioned moose waste.
20 And now in Nulato, we don't have so many outside
21 hunters that dump moose waste in our Village. It's
22 mostly in Galena and Koyukuk. But what concerns a lot
23 of our elders in Nulato is that our younger hunters
24 seem to lack respect for animals anymore. They'll
25 throw moose hooves, moose legs, moose heads down at the
26 dump. And that hurts a lot of our elders. Maybe I'm
27 suggesting a region-wide education to our younger
28 hunters that that isn't what our elder people had.

29

30 I also agree with you about the 223
31 rifle. I've never hunted with anything other than 30-
32 30 rifle or a 30 ought 6. But I've seen those 223 AK-
33 15 rifles in action. Mostly they were Vietnam weapons.

34

35

36 Okay. The Community of Nulato wishes
37 to change the moose harvest season in Unit 21D outside
38 of the Koyukuk Refuge. Right now the early season
39 opens August 22nd through August 31st. And then closes
40 from September 1st through the 5th. And reopens on the
41 5th through the 25th. Several years ago this was all
42 right in our area. The weather was a lot colder.
43 People still had to hunt a little longer to get their
44 bull moose because the population is declining. We
45 haven't had a cow moose season in God, I guess 15 years
46 or so. But in those days there was no reason to rush
47 to get the moose out, get it home, and cut it up. The
48 weather was cool enough where you could leave it
49 hanging and work at it at your leisure. Now the
50 weather has been warming up considerably. You go out

1 hunting during that early moose hunting season -- and
2 we do it because the opportunity is there. You try to
3 get your moose as soon as possible. And now you kill a
4 moose, you have to get it back to your home site as
5 soon as possible and put it away as soon as possible.
6 Because the weather is so warm, blue flies quickly
7 congregate and lay their eggs on the meat.

8

9 Yeah. Another reason the Community of
10 Nulato wants to eliminate that early moose hunt is bull
11 moose are not traveling or moving what they call during
12 those days. The trees are still full of leaves. You
13 can't see the moose in the woods. And they're just not
14 moving. I have seen in previous years, when we used to
15 have a cow season, I have witnessed 13 bull moose
16 stalking a cow moose in one lake. I have seen bull
17 moose fighting during the latter parts of September.
18 Nobody sees that anymore. The weather is warming up.
19 And I know scientists say the weather has nothing to do
20 with the rutting season or not. I don't know if that's
21 true not. Because I don't see bull moose fighting
22 anymore or congregating in numbers like they used to.

23

24 Me and my family used to hunt up in
25 Bear Creek. We had our choice of bull moose because
26 that lake was full of cows and bulls. Now we don't see
27 that anymore. It's getting harder and harder to get a
28 bull.

29

30 Now, I know the people in Prince
31 William Sound, they're short of black bears. Pick up
32 ours. Send it to them.

33

34 (Laughter)

35

36 MR. DEMOSKI: Anyway, that's -- the
37 Nulato Tribal Council and the Community of Nulato
38 wishes to eliminate that early moose hunting season
39 during August and extend the moose hunting season from
40 September 1st to the 30th.

41

42 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Thanks,
43 Peter.

44

45 MR. DEMOSKI: Thank you.

46

47 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Has anybody got any
48 questions. Go ahead, Don.

49

50 MR. HONEA: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I

1 don't have a question. I guess I have a comment. And
2 I think that's where our Refuge of Galena could help us
3 with the RITs. The Refuge -- there's supposed to be
4 Refuge Information Managers or something, but I don't
5 think we have one presently that -- but I think
6 something like, you know, holding classes and stuff
7 like that and -- to being aware of things like that.
8 And I think that we ought to utilize those more.

9

10 MR. DEMOSKI: Uh-huh.

11

12 MR. HONEA: And I -- you know, I think
13 people ought to be aware of that. And so I just wanted
14 to try to get the word out. And, you know, if people
15 don't know that, to be aware of that. To -- hey, let's
16 use them. I mean if we can for things like that.

17

18 Thank you, Peter.

19

20 MR. DEMOSKI: Uh-huh.

21

22 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Jenny.

23

24 MS. PELKOLA: Okay. I would also like
25 to make a comment. With our elders, we don't have very
26 many elders in our villages. You know, we're losing a
27 lot of our elders. And I think instead of talking
28 about it, I think we should do it right away. And try
29 to have these classes or whatever in our villages to
30 train the young kids on how to prepare a moose or what
31 to do with it and, you know, don't waste it. And
32 because that -- a long time ago I remember when we used
33 to get any kind of animal, we always used to say a
34 prayer just of rec -- you know, thanking the Lord for
35 giving us this moose or beaver or whatever it was.
36 And, you know, things like that. It was a practice.
37 It was something we did. We were so happy to get
38 something. So I think we should train our kids in that
39 way, you know. Just to start anyway.

40

41 MR. DEMOSKI: Uh-huh.

42

43 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Melinda.

44

45 MS. BURKE: This discussion is really
46 great. And I just wanted to point out to everyone an
47 item on the joint agenda that's going to be taking
48 place tomorrow with Eastern and Western. We're going
49 to have a specific discussion on hunter education and
50 outreach initiative strategies. It's going to be an

1 open discussion with the Councils, with the Tribal
2 Members that are here. And I think taking some notes.
3 And I think this is going to be a really great lead off
4 to the discussion we're going to have tomorrow. So I
5 just wanted to make everybody aware of that.

6

7 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks, Melinda.
8 Yeah. I think that will be a hot topic. Robert.

9

10 MR. R. WALKER: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
11 Pete, if you look at our book that we have here.....

12

13 MR. DEMOSKI: Uh-huh.

14

15 MR. R. WALKER:what we did in
16 21E, we took five days from August and we added on to
17 the September hunt. You don't want to be giving up
18 that August hunt because somebody else might utilize
19 that in your Tribe. So what you would -- what you
20 should do -- or, you know, if you plan to -- add five
21 more days to your hunt. So just take five days off
22 your August hunt and move it. Because Vince Matthew,
23 at the time when he was our coordinator, he did help us
24 with this.

25

26 MR. DEMOSKI: Uh-huh.

27

28 MR. R. WALKER: So if you do look at --
29 maybe somebody here could help you do a write-up on
30 this and present it to this Board again when we have a
31 meeting again sometime this fall. So this is something
32 that you don't want to give up no days. You want to
33 maintain your days.

34

35 MR. DEMOSKI: Uh-huh.

36

37 MR. R. WALKER: Because somebody else,
38 like I said, could utilize it. And just take five, but
39 then add it on to September. That's just a suggestion
40 to you and your Tribe. Okay?

41

42 MR. DEMOSKI: Yeah. Well, actually,
43 we're not eliminating days -- hunting days. We're just
44 switching ten days in August to an additional ten days
45 in September. But I hear you.

46

47 Yeah. I just need to stress we used to
48 go hunting in early -- or late August. We dressed up
49 for the winter. It was cold. With parkas, snowshoe
50 packs, head gear and everything. Now, we go hunting in

1 August like we're going to the mid-summer trip. You
2 know, it's just warm. Too warm to be hunting moose.
3 Uh-huh.

4
5 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Did you bring this
6 up with the Middle Yukon Advisory Committee? Because a
7 State proposal would cover that Lower 21D area.

8
9 MR. DEMOSKI: Uh-huh.

10
11 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Because it's --
12 there's a lot of CARP lands and BLM lands and so forth
13 here. A Federal proposal along the river corridor by
14 Nulato and -- between Nulato and on down rivers is not
15 going to do a whole lot because you can't get away from
16 the river.

17
18 MR. DEMOSKI: Uh-huh.

19
20 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Did you bring this
21 up with the Middle Yukon Advisory Committee. And
22 Glenn's back there if you -- did you do that? Or.....

23
24 MR. DEMOSKI: Yeah. I'll be glad to,
25 Glenn.

26
27 (Laughter)

28
29 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Glenn, did you --
30 did the Middle Yukon Advisory.....

31
32 MR. STOUT: We haven't met yet.

33
34 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Haven't met yet.

35
36 MR. DEMOSKI: Okay.

37
38 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So I would suggest
39 that the Nulato Tribe approach -- or you probably have
40 membership. They submit this idea to the Middle Yukon
41 Advisory Committee because a State proposal will cover
42 what you want to do.

43
44 MR. DEMOSKI: Okay.

45
46 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: If the Federal
47 Subsistence Board -- because you don't have very --
48 hardly any Federal land right there along the river,
49 it's not going to make a heck of a lot of difference
50 for what you want to accomplish.

1 MR. DEMOSKI: Uh-huh.

2

3 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So a State proposal
4 -- and their end call for proposal I think through May
5 1. Oh, no, no. Their cycle will come up. They just
6 switched to three year. So this is the time to put it
7 in, but they won't meet until 2017 for Region 3. A
8 Federal proposal will probably not accomplish what you
9 want to do. And wouldn't -- I'm not even sure if the
10 Federal Board would pass a proposal. The Federal Board
11 is restricted to the Federal lands.

12

13 MR. DEMOSKI: Uh-huh.

14

15 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So that's kind of
16 the problem. But I do think that the Nulato Tribe and
17 Koyukuk-Kaltag should approach the Middle Yukon
18 Advisory Committee with the issue. I see the same
19 thing. Oh, the moose breed on time. They -- yeah.
20 They breed in the end of September, the first of
21 October. Yeah. But the bulls don't move. Why don't
22 they move.

23

24 MR. DEMOSKI: Yeah.

25

26 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Well, it's my
27 impression that when cow moose eat green feed, they
28 don't put out a pheromone. I see bulls walk right up
29 to cows on the 16th of September. They're eating green
30 willow leaves, they walk away from them. They don't
31 even -- they're not going to fight over them. They
32 don't have the same pheromone.

33

34 MR. DEMOSKI: Yeah.

35

36 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: But the cows -- it
37 compresses this pre rut movement of the bulls right in
38 that 20th to the 27th or so of September into the end
39 so you see a huge amount of movement all in one time.

40

41 MR. DEMOSKI: Uh-huh.

42

43 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Not like we used to
44 see. I remember when I was kid, moose were moving
45 around the first part of September. You were always
46 seeing bulls coming out and they were sharpening their
47 horns and pressing on each other.

48

49 MR. DEMOSKI: Uh-huh.

50

1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: You used to see that
2 all the time. You see that.

3

4 MR. DEMOSKI: No.

5

6 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: It's this warming
7 trend. The green food factor. So I decided it has to
8 do with green food. When the cows eat -- if it freezes
9 early, then you see those bulls come right around those
10 cows and they'll start yarding them up.

11

12 MR. DEMOSKI: Uh-huh.

13

14 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: But it's a problem
15 of climatic warming. It's -- and it makes the access
16 to moose for the rural people a lot harder because all
17 the moose movement happens in one week and it happens
18 real late.

19

20 MR. DEMOSKI: Uh-huh.

21

22 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: But this proposal
23 needs -- I think that a proposal to the State Board of
24 Game would cover your concern. And so I would -- I
25 don't think a Federal proposal at this time would
26 actually address the needs of Nulato, Kaltag, and
27 Koyukuk for that area. You have a real good bull, cow
28 ratio down there. I think it's like 60-something bulls
29 per 100 cows. So I don't think it's a real hard sell
30 to have a little bit longer season there.

31

32 MR. DEMOSKI: Uh-huh.

33

34 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Although you might
35 encourage more guiding pressure. That could be the
36 problem.

37

38 MR. DEMOSKI: Yeah.

39

40 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: You could make for a
41 proposal for residents only season for that.

42

43 MR. DEMOSKI: Yeah. Yeah.

44

45 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I would look at
46 that.

47

48 MR. DEMOSKI: Yeah. Okay. Thank you,
49 Jack. I'll just respond the same as I responded to
50 Robert. We're not asking to extend the season. We're

1 just moving days. The season will remain the same,
2 it's just on different dates. Yeah.

3

4 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right.

5

6 Ray.

7

8 MR. DEMOSKI: I might -- I don't know
9 if you remember several years ago during the salmon
10 harvest season, both Nulato, Kaltag, Koyukuk, and
11 Galena -- we weren't getting our king salmon because of
12 the weather or drift or whatever. So we four villages
13 got together. Made a -- quickly drafted a Resolution,
14 extend that king salmon season for a week. And they
15 granted it to us. So it's not impossible to change the
16 seasons if we just have the Villages behind us.

17

18 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right. No, I think
19 it's a real viable proposal to change the moose season.
20 At least it's worth a real good try.

21

22 MR. DEMOSKI: Uh-huh.

23

24 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: If you get the
25 Middle Yukon Advisory talked into submitting the
26 proposal.

27

28 MR. DEMOSKI: Yeah.

29

30 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: And so the Advisory
31 Committee Process -- I'm looking at this land status --
32 that would be the best avenue to get accomplished.....

33

34 MR. DEMOSKI: Okay.

35

36 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF:what you're
37 trying to do.

38

39 Ray.

40

41 MR. COLLINS: Yeah. Since we have
42 students here in the Management Class and others from
43 the Villages here, I think we ought to stress the fact
44 that anyone can submit a proposal. They don't need to
45 come to this Council or the others. They can submit
46 the proposal and then the proposal will come to us
47 instead of waiting for the Advisory Committee or the
48 Federal to -- or the RACs to develop them. And they
49 ought to be encouraged that -- people in the Village to
50 write up their proposals and get them in. And then

1 they'll come to us and we can comment on them and try
2 to push them forward. But sometimes that doesn't
3 happen, you know.

4
5 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: That's exactly true.
6 And -- but another avenue would be Koyukuk, Nulato, and
7 Kaltag submit the proposal. Joint Tribal Councils or
8 Tri-Councils.....

9
10 MR. DEMOSKI: Uh-huh.

11
12 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF:submit the
13 proposal to the State Board of Game. The Middle Yukon
14 will evaluate the proposal.

15
16 MR. DEMOSKI: Okay.

17
18 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: If they endorse the
19 proposal, it might even carry more weight. So Ray is
20 actually right. I would try and get all three Councils
21 -- Tribal Councils to try and submit that proposal. If
22 they all identify the same issue, it would carry a lot
23 of weight. So that would be my advice.

24
25 MR. DEMOSKI: All right. Okay. Maybe
26 I'm a little confused about that. The way these
27 different organizations are set up in the Fish and
28 Wildlife.

29
30 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Well, the State
31 Board of Game is in control of all the private lands.

32
33 MR. DEMOSKI: Okay.

34
35 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: They control the
36 Doyon lands. The hunting seasons on the Doyon lands
37 are controlled by the State of Alaska. The Federal
38 government has nothing to do with the Tribal lands.
39 And they only have control -- the Federal government
40 only has subsistence management on Federal public
41 lands.

42
43 MR. DEMOSKI: Okay.

44
45 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: That would be Refuge
46 and the BLM lands. I'm looking at -- we have a map
47 before us here.

48
49 MR. DEMOSKI: Yeah.

50

1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: And so the map shows
2 that you've got lots of Corp lands along the river
3 there.

4

5 MR. DEMOSKI: Okay.

6

7 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So I would --
8 personally, Ray's right. The best advice would be
9 three Tribal Councils have a meeting and talk about the
10 issue and submit a proposal to the Board of Game. You
11 get a hold of Nissa Pilcher at the Department of Fish
12 and Game over here in College Road and she'll send you
13 a proposal form. You write in the season changes you
14 want. And it's going to -- the Board of Game has
15 changed their meeting cycle from every two years to
16 every three years. And so they're not even going to
17 call for this area.....

18

19 MR. DEMOSKI: Uh-huh.

20

21 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF:until next
22 year. So you can't get anything changed until -- the
23 earliest it can change would be the regulatory year of
24 2017. Glenn says 2017 would be the earliest that
25 anything could change, if the Board adopts the
26 proposal.

27

28 MR. DEMOSKI: By that time I'll be out
29 hunting moose on crutches.

30

31 (Laughter)

32

33 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I know how
34 frustrating the process it, but I'm just laying out
35 what the process goes -- how it goes. Go ahead.

36

37 MR. GERVAIS: Well, one thing I'd like
38 to add, Peter, is there is the cycle that Jack's
39 talking about. But if it's important enough to the
40 Village of Nulato and the other Villages, you can
41 request to Glenn to put in an emergency order to change
42 the season. Especially if it was -- you know, there
43 was a lot of 70 degree weather there at the end of
44 August and you felt that it was going to be detrimental
45 to the quality of meat harvest, it might be a tactic
46 that you could use to change the season until the --
47 until it came into the regular meeting cycle in two
48 years.

49

50 MR. DEMOSKI: Uh-huh.

1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yeah. I forget what
2 -- they call it a Special Action Request on the.....

3

4 MR. DEMOSKI: Okay.

5

6 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF:on the Federal
7 side. But on the State side it's -- they've got a new
8 -- they've got a term for it. But anyways, you can
9 make a Special Request. But I don't think the Board --
10 personally I don't think the Board would take it up.

11

12 MR. DEMOSKI: Uh-huh.

13

14 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: They would go if
15 you're not asking for additional days and -- and so you
16 can ask for it out of cycle.

17

18 MR. DEMOSKI: Uh-huh.

19

20 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: They call it out of
21 cycle. But I don't actually think they would take it
22 up. But you could try it.

23

24 MR. DEMOSKI: Okay.

25

26 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: But you get a hold
27 of -- there's State employees back here for the
28 Department of Fish and Game. And we have the
29 Subsistence Liaison over here.

30

31 MR. DEMOSKI: Uh-huh.

32

33 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: And this lady with
34 the red hair right there, she can.....

35

36 (Laughter)

37

38 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF:she can get you
39 lined up with a State proposal.

40

41 MR. DEMOSKI: Okay.

42

43 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: And so I feel that
44 the State proposal is the best avenue. And you can --
45 you could try a Tri-Council to the State -- to the
46 Board of Game out of cycle.

47

48 MR. DEMOSKI: Uh-huh.

49

50 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: If they won't take

1 it then, then you could submit the same proposal in
2 cycle, which would be next year of 2016.

3

4 MR. DEMOSKI: Uh-huh.

5

6 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: And then the Board
7 will act on it in the Spring of 2017. So we have to be
8 moving along.

9

10 MR. DEMOSKI: Okay.

11

12 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks, Peter.

13

14 MR. DEMOSKI: Thank you.

15

16 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: And so we have -- I
17 had a couple more people wanting to comment. I've got
18 Luke Titus from Minto. Is Luke still here.

19

20 MR. TITUS: Yes, here.

21

22 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Oh, there he is.
23 Welcome. Turn on the mic there. The little silver
24 button on the bottom of the base of the mic stand. Oh.

25

26

27 MR. TITUS: Oh, yeah. Good morning. I
28 think I know some of you characters over there. But
29 good to see you at the meeting.

30

31 (Laughter)

32

33 MR. TITUS: I want to give you an
34 earful. And I was thinking for myself, an elder from
35 Minto, is mostly about traditional value, what has
36 happened to our people.

37

38 Minto is just over the hill. Minto
39 Flats area. It's a pretty complicated place to be when
40 hunting season opens, when just a lot of people from
41 outside come in, go hunting there. We have road access
42 to Minto. We have about 200 people living there. And
43 born and raised in that country. Saw a lot of changes.
44 And we moved the Village in 1970 from the Tanana River
45 over to the Elliott Highway.

46

47 I was raised up and now they -- now
48 they call it subsistence. I don't know why they call
49 it that, but I find out. And they asked me to see if I
50 was rural or urban Native. And I didn't know. I

1 didn't know how to answer that. So it's the same way
2 with the Regulations that we have that's put out for
3 us. Like I said, I was raised on living off the
4 country. And I think the -- the way that things are
5 presented nowadays is very complicated for us. And I
6 think the -- the thing that we find out as Native
7 people is that we're put in a very precarious situation
8 at times, especially when it comes to the subsistence
9 lifestyle.

10

11 And a lot of times it's hard to do.
12 Like not fishing last summer was one of the hardest
13 things I had to give up. Doing that all my life and
14 then all of a sudden can't do it anymore for the
15 summer. That's hard. I wish you understand how Native
16 people -- what we go through when you do that to us.
17 Not only that, but you tell us to use a certain size
18 mesh fish net. Now, I don't have money to buy a net
19 every time they come out with a new regulation. And
20 that's really difficult for me to do. And I live off
21 the river, so the other thing is that I need to --
22 being retired and living on a limited income, I need to
23 think about a way to get from Minto over to Tanana
24 River or over to Yukon River to fishing. And the price
25 of gasoline is just out of the picture for us when it
26 comes to that. On families because this consideration
27 that we have for subsistence lifestyle puts us in a
28 really hard situation.

29

30 The other thing I would like to mention
31 is that because of the place that we're at in Minto.
32 And it came up one time about somebody got caught with
33 a moose for a funeral. And we went into litigation
34 over that. Minto versus the State of Alaska for taking
35 a moose out of season for a funeral. We went to court
36 over that. And it's something I think you just simply
37 can understand right there for us Native people. But
38 for the system like the State of Alaska, taken off to
39 court and trying to find out from us why do we need
40 moose for a funeral potlatch and wanting the
41 traditional values of our people. It's to celebrate
42 the meat, anything that we have from the land. You use
43 that as part of a ceremony during a potlatch and the
44 burial of a person. That's a key thing. And I don't
45 have to go to the Supreme Court to do that. Because
46 that's my belief.

47

48 You say you're going to educate our
49 people. You say you're going to do things for our
50 people. And I -- the reason I'm telling you this is

1 that I'm glad this many people are sitting on the Board
2 up there. I think you'll have a much better picture, a
3 better idea of where we're coming from when it comes to
4 making regulations. We don't have to go to court. I
5 hope we don't have to go to court anymore. Well, you
6 know that Minto won that case that time. They provided
7 us with the access of taking moose during a funeral.

8
9 And that added another big problem for
10 us in Minto. A lot of the Native people are moving to
11 Fairbanks right now. Schools are closing because not
12 enough students in the Village. So what happened is
13 that the Native population is growing. The number of
14 people are passing away here in Fairbanks. And where
15 do they go to hunt. They go out to Minto Flat. And
16 that has been a real ticklish area for us because the
17 influx of people, even our Native people, coming into
18 our land to get that game. I mean it's -- I don't
19 mind. I mean if these guys want to hunt down in Minto,
20 it's fine with me. I know where that meat is going to
21 go. I know they'll take care of it. But when you open
22 it up to the public -- when you open it up to other
23 people, it's a different story.

24
25 At the Minto Management Area we've had
26 a lot of problems giving out permit. And I just wanted
27 to mention that because of that, one year they opened
28 it up and people came into Minto overnight. And I
29 never see so many people in the one area. But the
30 majority of those hunters were from the Kenai
31 Peninsula. I was kind of surprised. Kenai, Soldotna,
32 all that area. Big percentage of hunters with permit
33 -- wanted to get permits for Minto. And we didn't
34 know. We just thought well, we'll just go down to the
35 Council Office tomorrow and get a permit. And that --
36 the lot was full of people. Outside people that came
37 in to pick up permit. And this caused a very bad
38 situation for us in Minto. And I think it's something
39 that we didn't expect to happen. And I think that as
40 the time goes along, we begin to try to work things out
41 for everybody. I think the key thing that we need to
42 pay attention to is that as Native people and the
43 lifestyle is changing for us, everything is changing.
44 You know, I'm kind of sad to see that change.

45
46 But when they opened Minto Flat for
47 people to come in. And I had a camp on Tolovana River.
48 I went up there with my son. And there were two white
49 people up there in my camp. And I went up there to
50 them and I told them you guys better get off this place

1 because this is my camp. And they said well, there was
2 nobody here. There was no sign of anybody living here.
3 So we have the right to do this. And my son took me
4 out of there, so maybe it was good for those guys
5 anyway. I was pretty mad.

6
7 We have places where we hunt along the
8 river. We have like what we call a lookout tree. And
9 we climb the tree and we look for moose. And I still
10 do that. Last year I was really fortunate to do that.
11 I could -- I kind of surprised myself, too, you know.
12 I had -- I used open sight rifle, 30.06. And I don't
13 know what the distance is, but it's further from here
14 to the building that -- across the creek. Further than
15 that a moose was. And my old hunting skills, I put it
16 into use. I climbed that tree. And I got open sight.
17 And I got that moose. I mean I should get a trophy for
18 that, you know.

19
20 (Laughter)

21
22 MR. TITUS: And I was so proud of
23 myself. When this guy heard about it, he was hunting.
24 So he -- we went out the next day and he was up on the
25 climbing tree. And he wasn't from Minto. He was from
26 Fairbanks. And he was up in the climbing tree. And I
27 told him boy, slow down. Slow the motor down. And the
28 guy was -- he was up on that tree. And I yelled at
29 him. And I said I hope you fall off that tree, I told
30 him.

31
32 (Laughter)

33
34 MR. TITUS: And he said, I beg your
35 pardon, he say.

36
37 (Laughter)

38
39 MR. TITUS: My boy, he said we'd better
40 get this kid out of here, dad. He said you're just too
41 much, you know. But I think, you know, I say that
42 because these things are just -- just happens to us all
43 along. All the things that comes along with us
44 nowadays. And the regulations, everything. One of the
45 things I think would be helpful -- I always thought
46 that it would be helpful for us living so close to town
47 or Fairbanks is that if we talk about this on the
48 Council, how can we work out things say with the
49 Fairbanks residents with Minto. And let them know
50 where we're coming from out there.

1 And like I said, we welcome people to
2 come in. But I think the growth of the Native
3 population is getting to a point where it's getting
4 more and more hunters out in the -- in that area. And
5 I think it's -- regulation-wise it's really affecting
6 us. Really getting difficult now to get a moose. It
7 used to be really easy to do that, but it's -- I know
8 this last couple of three years I didn't get moose
9 until the last week of the hunting season.

10

11 So -- and with that, you know, I think
12 the Native value, the Native culture that we have -- I
13 think we're open to people that come in, like in Minto.
14 I think even though I feel the way I do sometimes, I
15 really like to work things out with people. Get them
16 access to what I have. And not overrun that thing like
17 the Kenai Peninsula people did. You know, not that. I
18 don't want that to happen again. But be open and say
19 yeah, you could hunt here. But let's make agreement or
20 something like that for these regulations. I just
21 wanted to share that part and our traditional value,
22 traditional culture.

23

24 I thank you for allowing me to do that.

25

26 Thank you.

27

28 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: All right. I wanted
29 to thank you, Luke. You're in the Eastern Interior
30 Region and they're going to meet on Friday. And so I
31 would encourage you to attend their meeting and also to
32 -- oh, Thursday. Thursday. Right. So Thursday. And
33 so you should attend their meeting and talk about the
34 problems you're having there.

35

36 I do think it's edification to this
37 Council to understand, you know, what increasing road
38 access. They want to build a road to Ambler. And so a
39 lot of people in Allakaket and stuff, we've seen
40 enough. You see the impacts of what road access does
41 to subsistence uses. And so it's good for this Council
42 to hear somebody who has to deal with it firsthand from
43 another Region.

44

45 Thank you.

46

47 Ray.

48

49 MR. COLLINS: Yeah. Luke, I want to
50 thank Minto for taking that -- going through the Court

1 process on that potlatch moose for funerals because it
2 resulted in now there is a permit system that you can
3 get a permit to get a potlatch moose. And I know in
4 the McGrath area and Nikolai and so on, they haven't
5 had any problems. And partly because you were willing
6 to take that to court and get it resolved there. So
7 that was a good move, even though it was hard to go
8 through it, because it helped a lot of the Villages.
9 And I hope that's the case in all the Villages now. We
10 don't have a problem getting potlatch moose anymore.
11 Just get a permit from the State.

12

13 So thank you.

14

15 MR. TITUS: Yeah. Thank you.

16

17 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thank you. We have
18 another -- Harold David, from Allakaket. Senior, from
19 Allakaket. Harold.

20

21 MR. DAVID: Good morning.

22

23 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Good morning.

24

25 MR. DAVID: Mr. Chair, this is my first
26 meeting. I'd like to thank the Allakaket Council for
27 submitting my name to come here to attend the UAF Intro
28 to Fish and Wildlife. I am from Allakaket, Alaska,
29 which is in the Upper Koyukuk River. I believe it's on
30 the Unit 24. I just have a few comments on king
31 salmon, sheefish, and whitefish.

32

33 They're right there, located down in
34 the spawning grounds, which supplies our food. Our
35 main source of food is moose meat now because of the
36 fish I believe is getting caught probably all over the
37 sea, which limited our Villages to just a few days of
38 opening season. And back to opening the Ambler Road --
39 the grounds right across the Alatna River, which is
40 north of Allakaket. And I see a lot of king salmons go
41 through there before. I lived on the river for 62
42 years now. And nowadays I haven't seen much king
43 salmons goes up the Alatna. And the other river that
44 cross -- that road would cross would be the Henshaw,
45 John River, and the Koyukuk River. I just wanted to
46 comment on that. By opening that Ambler Road, that
47 affect all the Villages along the Koyukuk-Yukon and the
48 open areas. Due to that, I believe the moose is
49 dropping. Caribou is already gone. Wolves is coming
50 to our Villages, along with the grizzly bears.

1 And back to the wanton waste, we have
2 seen a lot of that on the Koyukuk. For example, my
3 father's fish camp and his father is 25 down -- miles
4 down the Koyukuk River. And soon as the moose season
5 opens, we seen a lot of airplanes coming in. And even
6 before the season opens they make camps along the
7 river. And for some dumb reason me and my friends went
8 out. And we heard a couple of shots and we went back
9 to the lake and here they were skinning a moose there.
10 And first thing they got out of the lake was the horns.
11 And then they -- they couldn't pack the whole bones and
12 all that, so they just dump it right there on the lake.
13 And we stayed by them for a couple of hours and we seen
14 what they done.

15
16 So one of those boys got the antlers
17 and moved it. But, you know, to our tradition and
18 customary practices, we don't steal meat or food from
19 one another. But just by being very stupid reasons, we
20 took the horns just for the heck of it. And by golly.
21 Next day my camp was swarmed with Fish and Game
22 Wildlife Troopers and all that. And they questioned me
23 -- me and my father -- right when we were trying to
24 fish. And being that nearest person they found on --
25 along the river, we almost got arrested. So we had to
26 tell them who they were that took it.

27
28 So this is my first meeting with the
29 UAF and first class. I believe it's going to continue
30 quite a bit and a lot of these students will be sitting
31 -- hopefully they will be sitting up here where you
32 folks are right now. Thank you for sitting for the
33 whole Alaskan Villages. And we sure need you up here.
34 And just glad to meet you all.

35
36 Thank you, Mr. Chair and the Board.

37
38 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks, David.
39 Harold -- yeah, Harold David. And does any Council
40 Members have any questions. My.....

41
42 MR. GERVAIS: I have a question, Jack.

43
44 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Oh. Go ahead, Tim.
45 I might -- I want to make a comment also. Go ahead,
46 Tim.

47
48 MR. GERVAIS: Harold, could you come
49 back up and answer a question for me, please. Since
50 your -- I'm just interested in how the Management

1 process feels from your perspective, being from
2 Allakaket. And then you're studying it here in your
3 class. Do you feel like you can get your issues
4 resolved and dealt with? Or do you feel like whether
5 you're talking to this Subsistence Board or Subsistence
6 Council or Board of Fish or Board of Game, do you feel
7 that one is more effective than the other? Or do you
8 feel like they generally just don't meet the needs of
9 the people of the Villages?

10

11 MR. DAVID: Well, according to what I
12 picked up I guess yesterday, listening to the elders, I
13 believe we all draft some proposals regarding our
14 issues. And then like someone mentioned, to the
15 Western RAC and to go down to the line and hopefully
16 got addressed it.

17

18 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: What -- your
19 description, that was -- those were game violations.
20 You can't take the antlers away from the kill first.
21 And they're throwing away meat. Did they -- did the
22 Enforcement write those hunters tickets for doing that?

23

24 MR. DAVID: Yeah. I believe that also.

25

26

27 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So I mean we can
28 enact all kinds of regulations, but we need
29 enforcement. And so the area you're describing is just
30 outside the Koyukuk controlled -- below the Kanuti
31 River mouth.

32

33 MR. DAVID: Correct. It's 25 miles
34 down from Allakaket. And I believe ten miles below the
35 mount of Kanuti.

36

37 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Uh-huh. So yeah,
38 that area there is outside the controlled use area.
39 They can fly in there -- into that area -- but they
40 can't be doing some of the things -- you know, this
41 throwing meat away. Transporting the antlers first.
42 Those are game violations.

43

44 I always encourage people -- and I say
45 it at all the meetings. I carry a camera around in my
46 pocket. All these kids got these iPhones now and these
47 smart phones. And take pictures. Take pictures of
48 those antlers on the bank and the meat there. If you
49 would have done that, you -- oh, those Fish and
50 Wildlife Protection, they would be kissing you, not

1 chasing you around.

2

3 (Laughter)

4

5 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: They would be
6 kissing you for those pictures. They love to get those
7 pictures. I just -- I see somebody doing a game
8 violation, I walk up to it. We've got people hunting
9 from the road. I take pictures of their license, the
10 truck, van. I walk right up to them. I'm taking your
11 picture, buddy. And you're doing something bad here.
12 And those Enforcement people really want to get those
13 pictures because it dates stamps. It tells them when
14 it happened. And so they can use that.

15

16 I encourage all the people in Villages
17 to use cameras. If you see violations, use cameras to
18 document it. Everybody's got video. You can even talk
19 to these guys. They can get pissed off and be white
20 the face. And so what. I don't care. I'm in their --
21 I go right up to them. If they're violating those
22 regulations that we worked real hard to put in place,
23 it doesn't do the Enforcement -- you can say anything.
24 You can call it in two weeks later. That Enforcement's
25 going to go like, well, we should have heard about a
26 long time ago and too bad you didn't take any pictures.
27 You know, there's only certain things they can do.

28

29 We only have one trooper in Coldfoot.
30 And he has a huge -- Northeast corner of Alaska. So
31 everybody's got to help out the Enforcement. I've
32 helped Enforcement lots of times. So I just wanted to
33 say that to you since you're talking about that issue.
34 Those are game violations. Making more regulations
35 without enforcement doesn't do a whole lot of good. We
36 have -- those are violations. And so we -- as all
37 users, we all need to take responsibility for reporting
38 violations if you see something bad going on like that.
39 I see like a moose ham with half the meat cut off it
40 and thrown in the river, I'm calling it in. I see all
41 kinds of bad stuff.

42

43 Thank you.

44

45 MR. DAVID: Yeah. Also, it was on the
46 Native Allotment. And at that time, we believed, you
47 know, on our traditional laws, I believe that, you
48 know, they were violating our rights also. And just
49 last week we had a meeting with someone that said the
50 same thing about cameras. And we talked about it

1 during our Council meeting -- Tribal Council meeting.
2 And at that time, we thought, you know, by taking
3 pictures of where we're at, we might be violating their
4 rights of hunting out of season or, you know,
5 documenting where we go and that. Some of our secrets
6 like.

7

8 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: This cheap, pre-paid
9 phone here has got a camera. It cost me like \$28 down
10 there at Walmart. Pollock over there has taken
11 pictures of his grandkids with a cheap iPhone.
12 Everybody can have a phone in their pocket. Everybody
13 should be taking pictures of violations. And that
14 should be part of our educational discussion.

15

16 Thank you, Harold.

17

18 Appreciate your comments.

19

20 MR. DAVID: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

21

22 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, Darrel.

23

24 MR. VENT: Yeah. On some of the things
25 that Harold was talking about, just, you know, brought
26 up briefly was that this predator control. And since
27 we were creating the problem and we're starting to see
28 a lot more predators like coming through the Village.
29 I've been hearing over on the Kobuk and the Ambler area
30 or Selawik area that they've been seeing a lot more
31 wolves. Because, you know, I guess they're breeding
32 bulls from the, you know, caribou is being killed off,
33 too. So now they're having a harder time and the
34 predators are having an easier time.

35

36 Same thing in the Allakaket area and
37 out around the Bettles area they had to start shooting
38 the wolves. They had to put it into a -- you know,
39 they had to put in a proposal for it. So, you know,
40 why do we have to wait till, you know, the problem is
41 really there before, you know, we try to control it, is
42 the thing that I'm trying to say. And we should have,
43 you know, some kind of maintenance where like if you're
44 going to be killing off these animals, you should also
45 be worried about the predators, too. Not only the
46 animals.

47

48 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks, Darrel.

49 Appreciate those comments. And so Pollock.

50

1 MR. SIMON: Yeah. Pollock Simon, Sr.
2 I'll start that we have a lot of Fish and Game
3 regulations passed from, you know. And sometimes we
4 see a violation. Like you said, Jack, there's only one
5 Trooper in Coldfoot. So somebody doesn't usually come
6 up on the scene right there. Sometimes we'll call
7 Troopers to report a violation and nobody shows up
8 within a week and the evidence is gone. But some
9 things different happen here. One time there was a
10 person shoot a moose for potlatch. And the very next
11 day suddenly three Troopers showed up. So there's
12 something wrong with the State regulations. There's
13 too many regulations. And if there's a violation,
14 nobody shows up to make a report.

15
16 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

17
18 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks, Pollock.
19 Yeah. There are certain principles that the
20 Enforcement wants to have. They want to see tracks.
21 They want to see the airplane, the vehicle. They want
22 to see -- they really like to get those rifle shells.
23 That tells them a whole bunch about who shot that
24 animal. Take pictures of all those things. Don't
25 touch that evidence. Don't pick those shells up.
26 Don't touch it. Just take pictures of it. Then when
27 they come, they know where to look for various things.
28 And if they got numbers off of planes and license
29 numbers and stuff like that, they can make hard cases.
30 They'll take their airplane away from them. They'll do
31 all kinds of stuff to them. But everybody's got to
32 start helping out the Enforcement. Because with the
33 budget we have now, I don't think we're going to see
34 nearly as much enforcement as we've had.

35
36 I would like to know who's still on the
37 phone and if anybody on the phone wanted to make
38 comments to the Council also.

39
40 (No comments)

41
42 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: If you're muted,
43 push star -- what is it? Push star.

44
45 MS. BURKE: Star six to unmute
46 yourself.

47
48 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Uh-huh.

49
50 MS. BURKE: And if you haven't

1 introduced yourself yet today, please introduce
2 yourself now. And we also are at the public and Tribal
3 comment, non-agenda items. So if there's any public or
4 Tribes on the phone, please speak up now.

5
6 (No comments)

7
8 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So I don't hear
9 anybody. So it's probably time for a break. And we'll
10 be -- I've got 10:23. We'll take a 15-minute break and
11 be back here on the record about 10:40.

12
13 (Off record)

14
15 (On record)

16
17 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So we have our
18 Council seated again. And so we're going to continue
19 on down our agenda. And so we're going to go through
20 old business, the rural determination process. Melinda
21 and Palma's going to give us a presentation.

22
23 MS. BURKE: Yes, Mr. Chair. These two
24 subjects will be discussed more in depth tomorrow at
25 the joint meeting, as well as tomorrow evening's rural
26 meeting. But for the benefit of the students in the
27 room and for Darrel, our new member, I wanted to just
28 go ahead and cover quickly these two issues since the
29 Council has been really vocal about it.

30
31 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, Palma.

32
33 MS. INGLES: Good morning, Mr. Chair
34 and Council Members. As Melinda mentioned, it will be
35 covered a little more in depth tomorrow. And then
36 again we have the community meeting tomorrow night.
37 For the record, I'm Palma Ingles. I'm an
38 anthropologist within OSM.

39
40 For the rule, I'm just going to read
41 the real short briefing. But also you should have been
42 provided a copy of our power point that we'll use
43 tomorrow and tomorrow night. Let me point you to page
44 three is the -- kind of the synopsis of what I'm asking
45 you to consider. And we'll go over it a little more in
46 depth tomorrow.

47
48 So if you'd just kind of focus for a
49 second on the very last slide. Oops. Yours is printed
50 in a different format than mine. I'm sorry. For the

1 Council Members, the very last page, the last slide.
2 So in 2009, Secretary of Interior Salazar announced the
3 initiation of a departmental review of the Federal
4 Subsistence Management Program in Alaska. And the
5 Secretary of Agriculture Vilsack later concurred with
6 this course of action. The review focused on how the
7 program is meeting the purposes and subsistence
8 provisions of Title 8 of Alaska National Interest Lands
9 Conservation Act and how the program is serving rural
10 subsistence users as envisioned when it began in the
11 early 1990s.

12
13 On August 2010, the Secretaries
14 announced the findings of the review, which included
15 several proposed changes to the regulations. One
16 proposal called for a review specifically with Council
17 input of the rural determination process. And then if
18 needed, recommendations for regulatory changes within
19 that. The Subsistence Regional Advisory Councils were
20 briefed on the Federal Registry notice during their
21 winter 2013 meetings. At the fall 2013 meetings, the
22 Councils provided a public forum to hear from residents
23 of their regions, deliberate on the rural determination
24 process, and provide recommendation for changes to the
25 Board. Testimonies from members of the public were
26 also recorded during separate public meetings held to
27 solicit comments on the rural determination process.

28
29 The Board held public meetings in
30 Barrow, Ketchikan, Sitka, Kodiak, Bethel, Anchorage,
31 Fairbanks, Kotzebue, Nome, and Dillingham. We
32 conducted government-to-government consultations on the
33 rural determination process, which were held between
34 members of the Boards and Tribes. And additional
35 consultations were held between members of the Board
36 and Alaska Native Corporations. The Board received 475
37 comments from various sources, including individual
38 citizens, members of the RACs, and other entities or
39 organizations such as Borough and Village governments.
40 Based on these comments, the Board developed a
41 recommendation for the Secretaries that would, if
42 adopted, simplify the regulation that guides the
43 process of making rural and non-rural determinations.

44
45 And just real briefly, right now the
46 regulations that we use for deciding whether a
47 community is rural or non-rural are based on eight
48 factors that were part of the system when the State was
49 in charge. And when the Federal government started
50 doing this, they just took that directly from the State

1 and it hasn't been changed. So now what the
2 Secretaries are asking for is for the Board to
3 consider, you know, is this something we want to
4 change. So in 2014, you know, we've been asking
5 comments. So we're continuing to ask comments.

6
7 So what they've looked at -- what
8 they've proposed -- and that once again is your very
9 last slide -- for the rural determination process would
10 be (A) the Board determines which areas or communities
11 in Alaska are non-rural. And the current
12 determinations are listed. So this is what the
13 proposed rule would look like if it went through. So
14 basically what it's telling you here is the Board would
15 decide what's non-rural and everything else then would
16 become rural.

17
18 Instead of using only population
19 thresholds, rural characteristics, aggregation of
20 communities, varying information sources, and
21 attempting to apply those standards statewide, the
22 Board would also rely on the Councils and the public to
23 provide any other relevant information for
24 consideration. The proposed rule, if adopted, would
25 eliminate the mandatory ten-year review cycle that we
26 are currently under. Instead, a review of rural status
27 of a community would be conducted only in response to a
28 proposal submission similar to the proposals that are
29 submitted to change the fish or wildlife cycles or
30 regulations.

31
32 The Board would give considerable
33 weight to the input and recommendations of the Councils
34 and the public will continue to be able to provide
35 input at both the Council and Board level for each
36 determination. That concludes my report, Mr. Chair.

37
38 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks, Palma. My
39 one question is the Councils will be given weight. Is
40 that deference or is that just serious consideration.

41
42 MS. INGLES: I might let Carl answer
43 that, if possible. You're better at this.

44
45 MR. JOHNSON: Good morning, Mr. Chair,
46 Members of the Council. My name is Carl Johnson. I'm
47 with the Office of Subsistence Management. So it would
48 not be deference. It's something shy of that, but
49 definitely serious consideration.

50

1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay.

2

3 MS. INGLES: Thank you.

4

5 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Does the Council
6 have any comments or idea of understanding what rural
7 determination actually is. Rural determination is
8 under Federal Subsistence Regulations you have to be
9 rural -- a rural resident to actually use the Federal
10 Subsistence Management regulations and preferences.
11 And the previous system determined by threshold.

12

13 There were some real problems down in
14 the Southeast, with Saxman being sucked in Ketchikan.
15 And they were actually a subsistence-oriented
16 community. And so this ag -- the Board was using an
17 aggregation. And so they were taking a whole bunch of
18 communities and throwing them all together because they
19 kind of were -- lived near each other and maybe went to
20 the same school. But they may not have the same
21 characteristic.

22

23 This new determination process throws
24 that all out. They look at each community. They're
25 determined rural unless they're already the large city
26 areas like Fairbanks, Anchorage, et cetera. And so I
27 feel that the Board of Federal Subsistence Board has
28 moved in a positive direction, away from this -- back
29 when this Council was apprised of the aggregation
30 process, which came up from a University evaluation, I
31 opposed that. I felt that that was a bad way to go.
32 We commented against that on this Regional Council.
33 And now the Federal Subsistence Board, having had their
34 fingers slammed in the door in Saxman, has decided that
35 they're going to move in a different direction.

36

37 And so I wanted the Council to be aware
38 of what rural determination is about. If we have a
39 problem like got Donlin Creek turns into this great,
40 big industrial place in the middle of the Western
41 Interior, we -- and we've got a whole bunch of people
42 that are shooting a bunch of moose on subsistence
43 regulations, we can decide this is not a rural
44 community. This is a workplace, like Deadhorse. And
45 so we do not want them to be rural. And so we can make
46 a proposal to the Federal Subsistence Board. And the
47 Councils should be able to do that. And so that's the
48 overview of what this rural determination thing is.

49

50 We're going to have a hearing tomorrow

1 evening about it so the public in Fairbanks can also
2 comment on that also. Does the Council have any
3 comments on the rural determination process.

4
5 MR. COLLINS: Jack, you mentioned that
6 the Council can do that. Who else could suggest a
7 community could be examined. Before we heard it was
8 ten years they looked at all these. What process will
9 be used to initiate and who will do that, if.....

10
11 MS. INGLES: Jack -- sorry, Ray. I
12 believe that the way it would work is that, you know,
13 people can come forth with a proposal. And it can be
14 from any member of the public. And it would go through
15 the same vetting process that we currently use for fish
16 regulations or wildlife regulations. That's my
17 understanding at this point. I do encourage anybody
18 and everybody who's interested to please come to the
19 public hearing tomorrow night. We had a very active
20 public hearing in Kodiak a couple of weeks ago.

21
22 We are also taking comments through
23 April 1st. And there's several ways to get those
24 comments to us. You can send them by mail. You can
25 give them to us tomorrow night written out. You can
26 submit it as the Board. There's lots of different ways
27 to approach this. But if you have comments, we
28 strongly encourage people. Because the more comments
29 we have and that we can compile and put it into
30 categories, it shows people's interest in possibly
31 changing this.

32
33 MR. COLLINS: So.....

34
35 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Oh. Go ahead, Ray.

36
37 MR. COLLINS: No. No.

38
39 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Tim.

40
41 MR. VENT: Yeah. I have a question.
42 So if we go to the new regulation, does everything in
43 the old regulation get removed from Statute and it has
44 no bearing in the Subsistence Board's updated
45 consideration of a community being rural or non-rural.

46
47 MS. INGLES: My understanding is that
48 the eight factors will no longer be the benchmark that
49 you will go by. It will not be the instructions for
50 deciding which community is rural or non-rural.

1 However, within the RACs or within community groups,
2 you might decide I like four of these eight. And the
3 reason we think that X, Y, Z community is no longer
4 rural is because, you know, you've made your judgment
5 based on some of these criteria. But that won't be
6 necessarily what's required to be used.

7

8 Does that answer your question.

9

10 MR. VENT: Yes. Thank you.

11

12 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I've never had a
13 problem with the eight criteria. Some Regional
14 Councils do, but I do not. I feel that the eight
15 criteria come from .804 of ANILCA and that sort of
16 expounded upon the .804 process. And so I don't have a
17 problem with the Board eliminating the eight criteria
18 for rural determination, but I feel that they should be
19 able to be used by Councils or the public.

20

21 MS. INGLES: Uh-huh.

22

23 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I do feel that the
24 eight criteria have a place in customary and
25 traditional use determinations. I wanted that to be on
26 the record.

27

28 MS. KENNER: Mr. Chair.

29

30 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Hi.

31

32 MS. KENNER: This is Pippa Kenner.

33

34 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Oh, go ahead.

35

36 MS. KENNER: Hi. This is Pippa Kenner
37 with OSM in Anchorage.

38

39 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, Pippa.

40

41 MS. KENNER: I just want to clarify
42 that the criteria that Palma meant to refer to are
43 actually not the eight factors or the eight criteria
44 for customary and traditional use determinations.
45 There were three or four criteria in -- there are four
46 or five criteria in the Regulation for rural, non-rural
47 determinations. But they're not the same. They're
48 different.

49

50 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Oh, okay.

1 MS. INGLES: Correct. Thank you,
2 Pippa, for that clarification. We.....
3
4 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So maybe at some
5 point we can get an outline of what those four or five
6 area.
7
8 MS. INGLES: I can give you that this
9 afternoon.
10
11 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Sure. Yeah.
12
13 MS. INGLES: I'll have that
14 information.
15
16 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I just want to see
17 whose those are in comparison to the eight criteria
18 used for customary and traditional use determination.
19
20 Go ahead, Melinda.
21
22 MS. BURKE: Pippa, can you please push
23 star -- if.....
24
25 MS. KENNER: Mr. Chair, this is Pippa.
26
27 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yeah. Go ahead,
28 Pippa.
29
30 MS. KENNER: Okay. The criteria that
31 are in regulation now. A community or area
32 characteristic shall be considered in evaluating a
33 community's rural or non-rural status. The
34 characteristics may include, but are not limited to,
35 use of fish and wildlife, development and diversity of
36 the economy, community infrastructure, transportation,
37 and educational institutions. Communities or areas
38 which are economically, socially, and communally
39 integrated shall be considered in the aggregate.
40
41 Thank you, Mr. Chair.
42
43 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yes. That was the
44 bad criteria that we want to throw away.
45
46 MS. INGLES: Right.
47
48 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: The eight criteria
49 for customary and traditional use determinations is the
50 good criteria that we want to keep.

1 (Laughter)
2
3 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So any further
4 comments or questions.
5
6 (No comments)
7
8 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: And at this point
9 does the OSM and the Federal Subsistence Board want a
10 comment from this Council at this time or during our
11 joint meeting with the Eastern Interior?
12
13 MS. BURKE: Mr. Chair, I think that
14 will be really good for the Eastern Interior Council to
15 hear. So why don't we hold that to tomorrow.
16
17 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. All right.
18 Thanks, Palma.
19
20 MS. INGLES: Thank you.
21
22 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So that covers the
23 rural determination process and review. And the
24 customary and traditional use determination, the
25 Southeast Alaska proposal, go ahead, Palma.
26
27 MS. INGLES: Okay. On the back table
28 and I believe in your Council packets you were provided
29 a briefing that was labeled the Customary and
30 Traditional Use Determination Process.
31
32 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Is that in our
33 yellow folder, Melinda?
34
35 MS. BURKE: It was. It was in the
36 yellow folders.
37
38 MS. INGLES: Can you hear me. Okay.
39
40 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So I have my yellow
41 folder. And it's on the left side if you have your
42 yellow folder.
43
44 MS. INGLES: Right. You have a long,
45 38-page one.
46
47 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yes.
48
49 MS. INGLES: Okay. That's.....
50

1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: And it's number one.

2

3

4 MS. INGLES: That's the one we're
5 working off of. Okay. So in 2010, the Secretary of
6 the U.S. Department asked the Federal Subsistence Board
7 to review everything. So the goal is to provide clear
8 and effective determinations in accord with Title 8
9 goals and provisions. So changes would require new
10 regulations. All ten Regional Advisory Councils have
11 been reviewing the process.

12

13 And if you look at Appendix A in your
14 briefing, that shows some of the traditional use
15 determination process. But if you go specifically to
16 page 21 in your packet, it explains a little bit more.
17 And OSM asked all the RACs to consider whether or not
18 to eliminate customary and traditional use
19 determinations and use ANILCA Section .804 criteria
20 when necessary. Or number two, change the way use
21 determinations are made, for instance by making area
22 wide customary and traditional use determinations for
23 all species. Or three, make other changes. Or four,
24 make no changes. So if you look at Customary and
25 Traditional Use Appendix A, there's a review of the
26 Regional Advisory Council comments.

27

28 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: What page is that
29 on?

30

31 MS. INGLES: I believe on 21. Starting
32 on 21. And -- no. I'm sorry, Jack. It's page 28 to
33 29.

34

35 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay.

36

37 MS. INGLES: That was what was done.
38 And then -- so they asked them -- described aspects of
39 the customary and traditional use determination process
40 specific to each region. An overview of comments from
41 the fall. If you look at 28 and 29, it shows the
42 comments from your RAC. So some Councils expressed
43 support for the Southeast Alaska Council decided for
44 itself how to proceed with customary and traditional
45 use determinations in the Southeast Region. The
46 Southeast Region, what they did -- after they made
47 comments, they approached you, right? Directly and
48 sent you a letter. And said we would like -- they felt
49 like people didn't spend enough time. Maybe the RACs
50 didn't initially spend enough time looking at this.

1 And so the Southeast reached out to the all the other
2 RACs and said can you take another look at this. Is
3 this something we want to keep. Is this something that
4 we want to change. Because they felt like if we -- if
5 they made a new proposal. If they came forth to the
6 Board to make a proposal, it should be statewide. But
7 they also realized there's a lot of differences
8 throughout the State.

9
10 So some Councils expressed support.
11 And if you -- you know, you look at it. The Southeast
12 obviously is very different than -- I mean each Region
13 has its differences. And there's reasons why people
14 want to get rid of the criteria and why people want to
15 keep it. So some Councils were uneasy with any idea of
16 change in anything. Some Council members, some public
17 members said it works well the way it is. Why are we
18 changing it.

19
20 So the results from the RAC meetings in
21 2013. Three Councils voted to change the customary and
22 traditional use determination process. Three Councils
23 voted to keep the determination process as is. Four
24 Councils voted to postpone the action until this
25 meeting cycle. Your RAC decided to keep the -- for now
26 to keep the process as it is.

27
28 So when Mr. Adams, the Chair of the
29 Southeast Council, sent Tim Towarak, the Chair of the
30 Federal Subsistence Board, a letter requesting further
31 analysis, that's what they're asking for now. It's not
32 an action item, but they're reaching out to all the
33 other RACs and saying do you have more comments. Is
34 there something else -- you know, do you want us to put
35 forth a proposal or not.

36
37 So in the letter, the Southeast Alaska
38 Council requested that the Staff at OSM analyze the
39 effects of eliminating the eight factors from the
40 customary and traditional use determination process.
41 And number two, allowing each RAC to determine its own
42 process to identify subsistence users. Or three,
43 requiring the Board to defer to Regional Advisory
44 Council recommendations on customary and traditional
45 use determinations. So in response to the request, the
46 OSM produced this long document -- this 38. And it
47 just gives some examples of what would happen if we
48 switched over from using the eight criteria to using an
49 .804 process. And that's what -- mostly Pippa did a
50 lot of this analysis. And she was trying to look at --

1 okay. If we went this way, it gives you some examples
2 of how this could be done.

3

4 So in response to the request, you
5 know, the purpose of this briefing is just to inform
6 all the other RACs that the Southeast Council and other
7 Councils for the possible effects of specific changes
8 to this determination process. And so once again this
9 is not an action item, but they are happy to receive
10 comments from the Southeast.

11

12 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Ray, you got a
13 comment?

14

15 MR. COLLINS: Yeah. If each Council
16 was allowed to make their own, wouldn't that lead to
17 lawsuits because of rural residents being treated
18 differently in different areas. I don't see how they
19 can do that without having one determination for rural
20 residents. It seems like there would be litigation
21 over that.

22

23 MR. JOHNSON: Well, actually, in the
24 regulations that currently exist, it does authorize the
25 Board to recognize regional differences in implementing
26 different types of regulations. So for example, we
27 have in some regions where they have adapted
28 regulations that have monetary caps on customary trade.
29 Other regions have elected not to do that. So that's
30 an example of a regional variance. We don't have one
31 size fits all, there's a cap on customary trade for all
32 regions. So allowing for regional variance is
33 something that is recognized.

34

35 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: For those members
36 who weren't at our fall meeting, I'm real concerned
37 about throwing out all the customary and traditional
38 use determinations and basically at that point all
39 rural residents are eligible to hunt where you live.
40 They may have never even seen a caribou in their life.
41 They might come from Southeast Alaska on the ferry.
42 Drive up the road. And fly out and they're hunting in
43 your backyard. And they're shooting caribou when we
44 hardly have any. And so what they're going to have to
45 go is an .804. Well, look at 19A. They draw permits
46 for that. So somebody from Southeast draws a permit to
47 shoot at your caribou in your backyard and they never
48 even seen one before. So I don't think that this is
49 the right way to go at all.

50

1 If Southeast wants to do that, go right
2 ahead. I don't care. You got rich country down there.
3 But here where we have limited resources, I feel that
4 this is -- I'm opposed to it from this Regional
5 Council's position because it's going to put a whole
6 bunch of resource from the OSM into .804. They're
7 going to get 804s all the time for the regions who take
8 it. And so they're going to eat up tons and tons of
9 money. Look what they did -- how much money it cost on
10 the Kuskokwim River to make an .804 for Kuskokwim fish
11 last summer. I am really opposed to this idea. I
12 don't think this is the right way to go.

13
14 We've had a customary and traditional
15 use determination process. We've deliberated a lot, a
16 lot of proposals about caribou, moose, all kinds of
17 animals. We have set the customary and traditional use
18 determinations for the people who use those resources.
19 I don't feel like inviting the whole State of Alaska
20 rural residents from Nikiski and down on the Seward
21 Peninsula and all over the world, all over Alaska to
22 come hunt in areas for basically sporthunting. And
23 then have the local people who are dependent on the
24 resource going through a long and complex .804 process
25 that may -- that does not assure you to be able to
26 harvest the animal that you customary and traditionally
27 hunted. So I'm very opposed.

28
29 And let the record reflect that I am
30 very opposed to this process. It's too costly. It's
31 going to be costly for all regions. Because it's going
32 to take away from OSM. I am opposed to it because it
33 will violate the customary and traditional users of the
34 resources local to their homes by people from all over
35 the State of Alaska.

36
37 So I do not -- I feel again that we
38 felt that option four, make no change, not at this
39 time, ever. There's no question. Never do we want a
40 change in the Western Interior Region. Does the
41 Council agree with that position?

42
43 (Council nods affirmatively)

44
45 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: We have full
46 affirmative to that. And let the record reflect that
47 and take that back to the OSM.

48
49 So thank you, Palma.
50

1 MS. INGLES: Thank you.

2

3 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Melinda.

4

5 MS. BURKE: Yes, Mr. Chair. Just a
6 little explanation for the TCC students that are here.
7 Generally, the Agency reports are in the order that you
8 see them there at the end. This Council -- and I think
9 other Councils as well -- are starting to get into the
10 practice of moving up all of the biological data to be
11 presented before the Council deliberates on particular
12 issues, whether it's a wildlife or a fish cycle. So
13 just a little bit of background. We are going to have
14 the Kanuti Wildlife Refuge update from Mr. Mike
15 Spindler. And this is printed in the book. Let me
16 find where we have it here. Let's see. Oh, yes. We
17 did have it in the book. Let me -- I think it's page
18 30, Mr. Chair.

19

20 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Welcome, Mike, Tina.

21

22 MR. SPINDLER: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I
23 would like to introduce Tina Moran, Deputy Refuge
24 Manager at Kanuti National Wildlife Refuge. As you may
25 know, Joanna Fox, our deputy for the last eight years,
26 transferred to Arctic Refuge. So Tina comes to us from
27 Kotzebue. Previous to that, Bethel. She's got 26
28 years experience working in rural Alaska, so she brings
29 a lot of skill and experience to Kanuti. So welcome,
30 Tina.

31

32 Mr. Chair, Fellow Council Members, I
33 see on your agenda there is a Bettles proposal. And in
34 reference to that proposal, it might be useful for me
35 to review moose population trends in the Kanuti area.
36 Unfortunately, this past fall Kanuti was not able to
37 conduct a cooperative moose survey with the other
38 Agencies due to lack of snow cover. We were quite
39 disappointed in that because we are poised to do nearly
40 all of Unit 24B that has moose habitat in it. And it
41 was going to be cooperative with BLM, Park Service, and
42 Fish and Game, and Fish and Wildlife Service. And so
43 that project's getting put off until next fall.

44

45 So the only information we can present
46 is what's part of our report to you on page 32 in your
47 book. And you'll notice that the last good moose
48 population estimate for that area is 2013. That would
49 have been a survey conducted in November 2013.

50

1 The green triangle is the population
2 point estimate of 551 moose. The black bars to the up
3 and down part of the green triangle is the precision or
4 the error confidence intervals. And so if those black
5 bars overlap with a previous year, you don't conclude
6 that there's a change even though the green triangle
7 might be at a different level in the graph. That's
8 because the precision of the estimate. However, if you
9 compare 2013 to 2010, you will notice that the
10 triangles are at quite a bit different levels and that
11 the error bars on each side of the triangle do not
12 overlap. So you could conclude that the population is
13 less in 2013 than it was in 2010 or that there was some
14 issues perhaps with sightability, which we do have some
15 problems with that occasionally when there's not ideal
16 snow cover or bad winds or bad weather, it does affect
17 the estimate. So those would be the two reasons why
18 that -- the level is different between 2010 and 2013.
19 Either the population did change or something else in
20 the survey occurred to cause the sightability to be not
21 as good.

22
23 If we have plenty of money, we actually
24 try and estimate the sightability. Previously when we
25 had radio collared moose, we did do that. And our
26 estimation precision on the sightability tests were
27 actually pretty good one year that we had collared
28 moose and not very good the other year that we had
29 collared moose. So I would say right now it's unknown
30 whether that population went down significantly due to
31 numbers of moose changing or a change in the survey
32 conditions. I can't say for sure, but because the
33 numbers are less, I would urge caution on anything that
34 would increase harvest at this time.

35
36 There have been numerous questions to
37 me about the wolf control project near Allakaket. And
38 I want to clarify to the Council that Fish and Wildlife
39 Service is a cooperater in that project only insofar as
40 the science that's comparing the wolf control efforts
41 outside of the Refuge and the science that's used
42 inside the Refuge, we're a cooperater to provide the
43 science inside the Refuge. The Refuge is an area where
44 wolf killing will not occur. It's an experiment that
45 the State is running. We're cooperating with them on
46 that experiment in that the Refuge is the area where
47 wolf killing will not occur and the moose numbers,
48 hunter success, moose productivity, and moose
49 recruitment will be compared between those two areas.
50

1 And so I would urge you to ask and
2 invite Glenn Stout to follow my presentation to answer
3 your questions about the wolf project because we're
4 only cooperating insofar as providing the Refuge as an
5 experimental format to compare where they are doing the
6 control and the Refuge where they're not doing the
7 control.

8
9 So moving on then, we have also heard
10 concerns about bear predation. Bear is something
11 that's very difficult to estimate. It takes a lot of
12 month. A lot of aircraft support. The approaches in
13 the past have been collaring nearly every black bear in
14 an area and making a population estimate based on the
15 collared bears and resighting of those collars. There
16 are some new techniques that are being explored
17 elsewhere using genetic samples that come from hair and
18 also using trail cameras in statistically definable
19 spots where you're sampling also hair and looking at
20 the trail camera results.

21
22 So we are considering that as a
23 possibility for future work. We're eager to find
24 cooperators to work with us on it because we don't
25 think we could do it alone. Park Service is doing a
26 grizzly bear study and perhaps they'll report on that
27 later. That area is to the north and west of where we
28 are and that was specific to Ambler Road impacts. And
29 so we were hopeful that perhaps we could -- since one
30 of the proposals does put the road across the northern
31 tier of Kanuti, we're not hopeful about that. But
32 we're hopeful that if we were going to get some
33 cooperation to give us a chance to look at bear
34 numbers, both the big animal and the black bear. But
35 right now that's on pause. We're just looking for
36 opportunities to cooperate with other researchers on
37 that.

38
39 I'll turn your attention in our report
40 to pages 34 and 35. And this does relate somewhat to
41 the Ambler Road. And that is that invasive weeds have
42 been a big problem on the Dalton Highway. There's one
43 particular species, white sweet clover, that's fairly
44 aggressive in colonizing new habitats such as the
45 gravel roadsides. It also is capable of colonizing
46 river gravel bars. We have not seen that happen in our
47 area probably due to aggressive pursuits on our part to
48 keep the bridges -- the rivers that cross the Delta and
49 then go into the Kanuti Refuge to keep those bridges
50 weed free. But elsewhere in the State we have seen

1 aggressive colonization of river gravel bars with white
2 sweet clover. There's some concerns there because the
3 clover, while it is a good moose forage in the summer,
4 it's essentially worthless in the wintertime. So if
5 you did take over a gravel bar with it, it could
6 influence the productivity of the willows on that
7 gravel bar.

8

9 And now to the Ambler Road, we were
10 very concerned when one of the proposals floated that
11 was going to put the road right across the northern
12 part of Kanuti because they couldn't reach agreement
13 with Evansville Native Corporation. And so we did
14 respond to that by doing some initial investigations.
15 In the news of course you're all hearing that the
16 budget won't allow construction of that road. That's I
17 think something that may or may not affect our workload
18 and concern because as you may know, AIEDA is a quasi-
19 public, quasi-private operation, so they are able to
20 float private bond money. And so they can take some of
21 the profits from some of their projects and plow them
22 into new projects.

23

24 And so in the last meeting that
25 occurred here in Fairbanks in December, I did ask the
26 question of the eight officials there. They're still
27 on track to try and pursue a right-of-way permit and
28 initial steps to conduct an EIS that would be funded by
29 their own money. I am not aware that the Governor has
30 issued an order for them to stand down. He stated that
31 there will not be additional State appropriations to
32 fund that.

33

34 So us and Park Service -- I won't speak
35 for them exactly, but I do coordinate closely with
36 them. We're in a position where we're standing by
37 waiting to see what's happening next. We anticipate
38 that there may be a right-of-way filing application.
39 There may be initial steps towards pursuing an EIS for
40 that project. If that's the case, we stand ready to
41 monitor what's going to go into the EIS as it's
42 planned. And then during the conduct and the review
43 process.

44

45 Also similar in that vein, because
46 Kanuti is so close to the Dalton Highway and there's
47 quite a bit of potential mining activity and active
48 mining activity up there, we have done quite a bit of
49 work with water quality and quantity. There's nine
50 water gauges on tributaries that come into Kanuti.

1 Over the last six years we've sampled water quality and
2 quantity at those gauges. That study is being
3 completed. This is the last summer. And a report is
4 being drafted at the present time. So that will
5 provide some good baseline information on any of these
6 big, mega projects that might be affecting our area.

7
8 We will continue to operate the Bettles
9 gauge at Old Bettles. That's a real time satellite
10 feed, so you can get the water level there year round
11 from that gauge. And so that's going to take quite a
12 bit of work between us and Park Service to get that one
13 going and keep it going.

14
15 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Are you going to
16 maintain a water quality on the South Fork? There's a
17 lot of mining activity there. And they stage more and
18 more equipment at the South Fork Bridge.

19
20 MR. SPINDLER: I believe we are going
21 to be working very closely with BLM on that in the
22 future. This particular project is being completed.
23 There are other needs in the State and Fish and
24 Wildlife Water Team will be going to address those
25 needs. BLM will probably be briefing you on their
26 Central Yukon planning process and we've closely
27 involved with them as a cooperating agency.

28
29 One of our biggest concerns, as you
30 stated, Mr. Chair, is the current mining and the
31 potential for future mining in a major fish spawning
32 stream, the South Fork, which does provide quite a bit
33 of spawning habitat for two salmon species and also
34 other resident species. That process will be a long
35 process. I believe the Eastern Alaska BLM plan has
36 taken six or seven years perhaps. And so this one will
37 continue for a number of years.

38
39 We are working very closely with BLM
40 and with the Northwest Boreal Landscape Conservation
41 Cooperative that's funding some analysis of minimum
42 reserve size, impacts created by watershed developments
43 and potential developments creating because the Dalton
44 Highway is so close to Kanuti Refuge. There's lots of
45 mineralized land all over the State, all around
46 Refuges. But because Kanuti is close to the Dalton,
47 that mineralized land probably has greater potential
48 being developed within the next 15 to 25 years. And so
49 we believe we need to be prepared to address those
50 concerns. And those decisions will be made on our

1 neighbor's land and not ours. Because the Kanuti is
2 close to mining as a Refuge. But -- so we will be
3 working closely with BLM on whatever they decide to do
4 on their permitting.

5
6 I would urge the Council to continue to
7 be involved with the Bureau of Land Management's
8 Central Yukon planning process and at every point where
9 you can provide input, I would certainly be very clear
10 about stating your concerns. And then just finally
11 while we're up here, I want to just reiterate that
12 Kanuti has had quite a bit of Staff turnover. Tina's
13 our new Deputy Manager. Chris Daniels comes to us from
14 the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration as
15 a new pilot biologist to be stationed in Bettles. He's
16 in the process of being trained right now and will be
17 moving to Bettles in early April. Roy Churchwell is a
18 new is a new biologist who replaced Tim Craig. And Roy
19 comes to us from University of Alaska, having just
20 completed the fieldwork for his PhD on shore birds on
21 the North Slope. And he will be completing that
22 process and then diving into all the things that we
23 need to do here at Kanuti. So we're glad to have those
24 folks join our staff.

25
26 We'll be staying here the rest of the
27 day and tomorrow, so I encourage you to have dialog
28 with me and with Tina if you have any other questions.
29 And I also want to just state that Steven Bergman is a
30 longtime Allakaket resident who we now have on contract
31 as a liaison to Kanuti Refuge between the Tribe and
32 Kanuti. And so that's a long term contract. It can go
33 up to four years, I believe, on an option renewal
34 process. And so he issues the permits -- the federal
35 subsistence permits in Allakaket and Alatna to those
36 residents. And he's a very knowledgeable gentleman.
37 His picture occurs in our report, if you want to take a
38 look at that. We're privileged to have him working for
39 us. And in fact as we relate to you these stories of
40 our efforts on BLM on protecting the watersheds that
41 feed into Kanuti, we're actually bringing him into
42 Fairbanks in mid-March to have a meeting with BLM to
43 talk about the traditional use areas that extend beyond
44 the borders of Kanuti up into those watersheds.

45
46 Because as I said, we are not the
47 decision maker on what happens in those watersheds.
48 That's a public process defined in the Central Yukon
49 Plan. And so the more information they have, including
50 subsistence use patterns, fisheries, resource values,

1 the better it will be for them making a wise decision.
2 And again I urge you guys to stay engaged in that
3 process.

4
5 With that, Mr. Chair, that concludes my
6 report. I will entertain any questions at this time.

7
8 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Has the Council got
9 questions for Mike.

10
11 Go ahead, Tim.

12
13 MR. GERVAIS: Thank you for your
14 report, Mike. Can you tell us who would be the contact
15 person in the Refuge System that we could talk to about
16 the guide selection process for the Refuge lands.

17
18 MR. SPINDLER: Yes, Mr. Gervais.
19 Through the Chair. That's a competitive process. I
20 was involved in that when I was manager down at
21 Koyukuk/Nowitna. At Kanuti we have no areas that are
22 offered for guiding right now. We had an area offered,
23 but no one applied to it. So Kanuti is vacant. And
24 that was only an opportunity for wolf and bear harvest.
25 It was not a moose guiding opportunity on Kanuti. It
26 was not very sought after.

27
28 Tomorrow the Chief of National Wildlife
29 System in Alaska will be here to address both Councils
30 on the proposed Fish and Wildlife rule making process.
31 Along with him will be my boss, Holly Gaboriau. And so
32 I would urge you to ask questions of those two
33 individual when they are here.

34
35 Standing back and trying to look at it
36 objectively, having been involved in that guide
37 selection process when I was at Galena, it's a very,
38 very careful process where a ranking panel of deputy
39 managers like Tina looks through the prospectuses, the
40 proposals that the guides have submitted. They go
41 through it very carefully, looking at past violation
42 records, guiding experience, what they propose to do,
43 and the impacts of that proposal on the landscape and
44 on subsistence. They look at it very carefully. They
45 rank those applicants.

46
47 And then that's turned over to the
48 Refuge Manager, who interviews the guide applicant.
49 Also conducts an investigation to look at prior client
50 satisfaction levels. They have to provide lists of all

1 their clients for the past several years. And I took
2 that very seriously and delved into the history of the
3 guiding operation very deeply, looking at client
4 satisfaction as well as guide performance and any
5 issues that had been brought to my attention.

6
7 It is a very careful process. I would
8 say it's probably not perfect, but it's an exclusive
9 guiding area. So that guide does have an interest in
10 doing a good job on that area because it's a five-year
11 permit that's renewal for another five years. So it's
12 a potential of ten years of guiding in the same area.
13 That encourages the guide to do a really good job of
14 taking care of that area and not creating subsistence
15 conflicts. If they are, then the renewal of the permit
16 becomes in jeopardy.

17
18 Does that answer your questions, Mr.
19 Gervais?

20
21 MR. GERVAIS: Yes. It does. But what
22 about -- it raises another question for me. What about
23 the -- who's allowed to transport and the amount of
24 transport is allowed to operate on a Refuge.

25
26 MR. SPINDLER: Yes. Mister.....

27
28 MR. GERVAIS: Is it the same or is it
29 quite a difference?

30
31 MR. SPINDLER: Yes, Mr. Gervais.
32 Through the Chair. Transporter and air taxis do
33 require permit on a National Wildlife Refuge. It's
34 called a Special Use Permit. We do an investigation to
35 look at their prior records in terms of any violations.
36 Their aircraft safety. They're required to be insured
37 and things like that. It is not a competitive process,
38 so if ten people apply to fly into Kanuti, I have to
39 look at all ten applications pretty closely. But I
40 also have to do what's called a Section 810
41 determination to see if that will create any
42 subsistence conflict.

43
44 And so right now fortunately for
45 Kanuti, because the low moose numbers there's not a
46 high demand for people wanting to fly into Kanuti for
47 moose hunting. There's a controlled use area which
48 makes about two-thirds of the Refuge unavailable to
49 fly-in hunting and non-local hunting. So it's only the
50 eastern corridor of the Refuge and the southern quarter

1 that are available to fly-in hunting. So there's not
2 been a lot of interest. But if you turn the tables
3 around and that controlled use area went way, there
4 would probably be more interest. Because there's more
5 float plane landable lakes and perhaps better moose
6 habitat.

7

8 If that was the case, I think that it
9 would be very wise to start a competitive process for
10 air taxis like we do for guides. If that is a concern
11 of the Council, again I would urge you to bring that up
12 to the Chief of Refuges and the Refuge Supervisor. The
13 Chief of Refuge's name is Mitch Ellis. He'll be here
14 tomorrow. And my boss -- direct boss is Holly
15 Gaboriault. And so if you do have concerns about
16 numbers of transporter permits and air taxi permits for
17 the purposes of providing support to hunters, I would
18 certainly bring that issue up.

19

20 It's something we've talked about
21 internally over the years. It's a very difficult
22 process. I can assure you with a guide competitive
23 process it's very, very difficult. It's challenging.
24 We try and do the best job we can. I think it needs --
25 my own opinion -- my own professional opinion is that
26 it needs to be done on Refuges for air taxi and air
27 transporters as well. Make it a competitive process
28 where people have to provide a proposal and they're
29 looked at closely. And then they have a vested
30 interest in making sure they don't take too many
31 clients into that area to, you know, basically pull all
32 the animals out of there.

33

34 But that's up to you guys to decide how
35 you want to present that tomorrow. But that would be
36 my recommendation is that you talk to those people --
37 those officials tomorrow about that.

38

39 MR. GERVAIS: Thank you very much.

40

41 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: The air tax issue is
42 statewide. It's my opinion that the Refuges and the
43 Federal Managers could build an evaluation of how many
44 moose are available and how many clients through a
45 selection process develop a competitive -- or maybe
46 just allow all ten air taxis, but they can only take
47 two clients a piece or one client a piece. There has
48 to be a certain number of clients that meets the
49 capacity of the Refuge that doesn't compete with
50 subsistence and the resource.

1 MR. SPINDLER: I would urge some
2 caution there because we would have to do that in
3 partnership with Alaska Fish and Game. Their job is to
4 allocate the opportunity like that. So that would have
5 done cooperatively with either Fish and Game or the
6 Alaska Big Game Commercial Services Board. And I know
7 in the past there have been discussions about those
8 guys delving into limited entry air taxi permits for
9 the purposes of transporting hunters and wildlife. And
10 again if that's your concern, I would urge you to make
11 contact with the proper officials in Alaska Fish and
12 Game and with the Big Game Commercial Services Board.

13
14 If the Service embarked on that on Refuges, it
15 would be something that we are concerned about. We
16 care about it. We don't want to see an escalation of
17 harvest that would be detrimental to subsistence
18 opportunity or the moose populations. But it has to be
19 done carefully and in concert with our State partners.

20
21 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: All right. That
22 clarifies that.

23
24 MR. SPINDLER: And I did have one other
25 concern about that Bettles proposal. And that is as
26 you instructed earlier this morning about the Kaltag,
27 Nulato, Koyukuk proposal on the Kiayuh Flats, it's a
28 similar situation there at Bettles. There's
29 checkerboard land with the Native Corporation in
30 holdings. And so that area is -- if it gets opened to
31 people coming off the Dalton Highway and up the Bettles
32 Winter Road, there is potential for over-harvest there
33 of surface trans -- and this is not even aircraft
34 access. This is just people driving in with vehicles
35 and snowmobiles.

36
37 So that same issue that you're facing
38 on the Kiayuh Flats, we face up at Bettles with the
39 mixed land ownership. And again that would have to be
40 done -- I would urge you to consider doing it in close
41 concert with Alaska Fish and Game, so that -- because
42 checkerboarded, you're only going to cover the Federal
43 lands. You're not going to cover the Native in
44 holdings.

45
46 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: All right. Do you
47 have a comment.

48
49 Robert.
50

1 MR. R. WALKER: Yes. Thank you, Mr.
2 Chairman. Mike, when we talk about these -- is this
3 air guides or just charter planes that are bringing
4 these hunters in. Versus.....

5
6 MR. SPINDLER: Mr. Walker. Through the
7 Chair. At Kanuti historically there have been two
8 permitted air taxi operators. One in Bettles, Brooks
9 Range Aviation. They're long time operators in the
10 area for the past 25 years and they have vested
11 interest in taking care of the area. Normally they
12 will only bring in two parties to the Kanuti. There's
13 another operator, Andy Greenblatt, with Shadow
14 Aviation, based in Fairbanks. And he's the same way.
15 He used to live in Bettles. He's known the area for a
16 long time. And he knows that there's low moose numbers
17 and does not want to see the area get overcrowded as
18 well, so he typically only brings in two parties of
19 hunters.

20
21 That area that they bring them into is
22 that Southern Eastern corner of Kanuti that's outside
23 the controlled use area. It's about a 20-mile stretch
24 of the Kanuti River, with numerous lakes. It's
25 probably some of our best moose and water fowl habitat
26 that we have on the Refuge, but it's a very limited
27 space. It's only 20 miles long. And so if you bring
28 in more than four or five parties, they're going to be
29 close to each other and then starting to affect each
30 other. And so those air taxi operators have been --
31 shown very responsible behavior in the past. And they
32 don't put people on top of each other. They try not to
33 have too many people down there. I'm not concerned
34 about them.

35
36 For a while I had one third -- another
37 operator, a third one that came in, who had six parties
38 and then the next year wanted to double it. And I
39 started seeing a lot of problems with his operation.
40 There was trash left behind. There were bear
41 attractants left and things like that. And so we took
42 some enforcement actions and then he never came back.

43
44 So again we look at those guides really
45 closely, as we do all hunters. If we're out there
46 patrolling, we'll check everybody.

47
48 MR. WALKER: Thank you, Mike.
49 Appreciate that.
50

1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: My comment on your
2 main presentation would be are you going to do a wolf
3 tracking. I know the Department's doing the control
4 project around Allakaket. Are you doing a Refuge wide
5 wolf tracking to assess the amount of wolves on the
6 rest of the Refuge this spring.

7
8 MR. SPINDLER: Mr. Chair, I would refer
9 that question to Mr. Stout in the audience with Alaska
10 Fish and Game. Because we have done some of that
11 originally prior to the Predator Control Project. But
12 since that project initiated, the State of Alaska Fish
13 and Game staff has been doing it on both areas. So
14 they're.....

15
16 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Oh, okay.

17
18 MR. SPINDLER:the same pilots,
19 the same observers, that we don't have the observer
20 variability.

21
22 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Oh.

23
24 MR. SPINDLER: And so it's a more
25 realistic and accurate comparison. The same pilots and
26 same observers are looking at both areas.

27
28 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: And then, you know,
29 some of the biggest predators are these brown bears.
30 And those aggregate in the fall and especially on the
31 Jim River. Below the mouth of the Jim River there's a
32 lot of brown bears go down there to fish. They're
33 highly predacious in the springtime on moose calves.
34 Those areas you could this DNA barb wire method of hair
35 collection. And on the Henshaw. Have you evaluated
36 doing a bear DNA density using the hot spots that we
37 know where there's a lot of bears go to.

38
39 MR. SPINDLER: Mr. Chair, I thank you
40 for that input. I think that's a good idea. At this
41 point we're looking for partners that are interested in
42 working with us on it because we know we can't do
43 something of that scale ourselves. It's going to
44 require quite a bit of cooperation. And so if I do see
45 an opportunity, I will certainly do the best I can. We
46 have a new biologist working on our Staff and so we do
47 have some capacity to explore some of the methods and
48 see what the potential is.

49
50 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So I would encourage

1 you to -- you know, like in late August through late
2 September on the South Fork, to fly that in the
3 evening. You'll see a lot of brown bears down there
4 catching fish. There's major trails they use. You
5 could use your trail cams, your barb wire entrapments
6 and you'd get a real good idea how many brown bears are
7 actually running around.

8

9 There's a whole bunch of bears that are
10 -- there's lots -- there's boat traffic there and so
11 the bears don't come out. They come out at night. I
12 think there's a lot more bears. There's adult moose in
13 the collaring project that were being killed by unknown
14 forces, which are those bears. And so there's a lot of
15 these.

16

17 You know, it would be good to know what
18 the bear population is in relation to this whole
19 declining. I'm concerned about this moose population
20 down here. You've got a mean of 551 moose. That's
21 getting significantly lower than the late '80s, early
22 '90s.

23

24 So any other questions from the Council
25 on Kanuti's presentation.

26

27 (No comments)

28

29 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: And so at your
30 suggestion, I'll have Glenn Stout come up and brief us
31 on the control project that is going on basically
32 around Kanuti. So.....

33

34 MR. SPINDLER: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
35 And I just want to state that without the cooperation
36 of the other agencies, Alaska Fish and Game, National
37 Park Service, and BLM, we wouldn't be able to do nearly
38 any of this because of the limited budget. So again, I
39 thank you for making time for Mr. Stout to address the
40 Council because he should have some pretty interesting
41 answers for you.

42

43 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Thank you.
44 Thanks for the presentation. Welcome, Tina.

45

46 MS. MORAN: Thank you.

47

48 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Welcome, Glenn.

49

50 MR. STOUT: Thank you, Mr. Chair. My

1 name is Glenn Stout. I'm the Galena area biologist for
2 Alaska Department of Fish and Game. As far as the
3 Predator Control Program that we have going in Unit
4 24B, I know we've talked about it in the past, but
5 there's some pretty unique components to this program
6 that were really the foundation for the program. So
7 I'll just kind of rehash a little bit of that ground.

8
9 First of all, this is a unique Predator
10 Control Program because the moose density in 24B is
11 much lower than we've experienced in some of the other
12 predator control programs. So it's unique in trying to
13 assess changes in the moose population when the density
14 is so low, such as it is in 24B.

15
16 Additionally, one of the key components
17 of the program is the understanding that this is a
18 reallocation of moose from wolves to people. And it's
19 just a wolf control program. And the idea is that
20 we're working in a very confined area of about 1,360
21 square miles. In Game Management Unit 24B, it's a
22 13,600 square mile area, so it's right at ten percent
23 of the total of the Game Management Unit that we're
24 working in.

25
26 So we're not trying to grow the moose
27 population. We didn't feel we have that capacity to do
28 that. One, a great deal of the area is park or Refuge
29 lands where we couldn't do predator control, so we've
30 had to be realistic on what our expectations were. So
31 reallocation and just trying to get moose in people's
32 hands instead of them going to wolves is one of our
33 primary objectives.

34
35 It is a small area. We also have a
36 limited budget for this program compared to some of the
37 other programs where they had much larger budgets. So
38 we have to be economical in what we're doing. We don't
39 have near the experimental component to this program
40 that some of the other programs have done in the past.
41 And we are assessing through some experimentation.
42 Like we have the experimental, non-treatment area over
43 on the Kanuti that Mike talked about. But primarily
44 it's very low-key in terms of evaluation of the project
45 experimentally.

46
47 The non-treatment area off to the east
48 side over on the Refuge, we don't do predator control
49 on that side, but we are conducting an assessment of
50 the calf and yearling moose survival. So in each fall

1 in October we go out. We put 30 collars on calves on
2 both sides. So this last fall we went out. We
3 actually put out 50 this year, but our control is
4 basically to assess the area where we're not removing
5 wolves versus the area over around Allakaket where we
6 are removing wolves. We've done that three years now
7 -- I'm sorry -- fourth year.

8
9 This coming spring and then hopefully
10 next week we've got the pilots and everybody lined up.
11 We're going to start our third year of predator
12 control. We didn't do any good last year for two
13 reasons. First of all, we didn't get snow last spring
14 and so we were on hard ground pretty much all of the
15 spring. We tracked a few wolves and every time we got
16 out there on them, they were either outside our
17 regulation permitted area to remove wolves or they were
18 on Federal lands, so we couldn't shoot them there as
19 well.

20
21 So we didn't get any wolves last year.
22 We're going out this spring hopefully. We're thinking
23 that we have probably about 25 wolves maybe to get in
24 that control area. And hopefully we'll be able to do
25 that again this spring.

26
27 We also have the household surveys.
28 We've conducted those for four years now. One of the
29 key issues about this reallocation notion is that we
30 had historical data that showed Allakaket, Alatna were
31 taking about 40 moose a year. And so we wanted to try
32 and get harvest back up to those levels. We had
33 dropped down to about 12 to 14 moose a year, so we
34 wanted to get back up to the 40 number.

35
36 This last year -- and it's been pretty
37 consistent that we're still seeing about 12 to 14 moose
38 are being harvested in Allakaket. At the same time, I
39 have been getting reports that people feel like things
40 are starting to work. They are starting to see more
41 moose close by town. I just had a talk this morning
42 with Pollock Simon, Sr. and he said that they felt that
43 they were seeing more moose and it is working. Our
44 survival data does not necessarily show that at this
45 time. It's still pretty preliminary. But our survival
46 of our calves and yearlings doesn't show an affect at
47 this point.

48
49 I think possibly the explanation would
50 be that just like any experiment, you have improvements

1 in localized areas and it starts to show up versus
2 we're -- we've got collared moose over a larger area
3 that maybe what they're seeing locally. So that could
4 be an explanation of it. It could be just that
5 positive attitude -- things are improving, too -- that
6 is feeding into that. But at least at this time we
7 haven't seen the benefits that we would like to see.
8 But as long as people start -- if we start seeing that
9 harvest, then even if they are getting more moose and
10 we aren't seeing the population growth, we've achieved
11 one of the objectives.

12

13 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Are you having a
14 high mortality on the collared calves still from bear
15 predation? Or.....

16

17 MR. STOUT: Well, you know, we collar
18 our calves as five month old calves. We're going out
19 in the fall. And so most of that bear predation is
20 done by that point. We monitor them for seven months
21 as calves. Then they turn into our yearling cohort and
22 we monitor them as yearling. And those mortality rates
23 haven't changed from when -- prior to wolf control to
24 this point. This data hasn't all been finally
25 summarized, but it doesn't look like we're seeing
26 anything in those survival rates at this time.

27

28 One thing that I did want to mention in
29 terms of this reallocation and these collared moose, I
30 just wanted to make sure people understood that if they
31 saw a collared moose out there -- a collared bull,
32 which would be legal -- there's no problem shooting it.
33 We had some people say that they saw a collar on the
34 bull and they were, uh-oh, worried I might get in
35 trouble if I shoot a collared moose. No. Actually,
36 it's part of the program to reallocate that moose.
37 Instead of to a wolf, it would go to people. So I just
38 want people to know it's okay during the legal seasons
39 and legal bag limits for them to shoot collared moose.
40 That's no problem.

41

42 The last point I would just make as far
43 as funding, of course we are funded under a CIP
44 Program. We have asked the question -- because you've
45 heard about all the State budget cuts -- about the
46 security of that. Of course we're in our fourth year
47 of the funding of the CIP. This year we just have one
48 more year of the CIP available to us, so we'd have
49 predator control this year.

50

1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: What does that
2 acronym stand for, CIP.
3
4 MR. STOUT: The -- I'm blanking on the
5 acronym but it's.....
6
7 (Laughter)
8
9 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Is it the Pittman-
10 Roberts Fund.
11
12 MR. STOUT: No. It's State funded
13 money. That is Legislative funding money. And so
14 that's State funds.
15
16 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay.
17
18 Jennifer.
19
20 MS. YUHAS: It's the Capital
21 Improvement Program. It's just a code that the
22 Legislature uses. So it's for capital expenditures.
23
24 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: All right. Thank
25 you.
26
27 MR. STOUT: I knew that.
28
29 (Laughter)
30
31 MR. WALKER: Sure you did.
32
33 (Laughter)
34
35 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So that funding runs
36 out this next fiscal year.
37
38 MR. STOUT: No. We have one more
39 fiscal year beyond this year that was earmarked. But
40 like I said, you know, we've asked the question, you
41 know, how safe is that with all these budget cuts. And
42 we haven't got the answer back. But anyway, that's
43 where we sit funding wise.
44
45 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks, Glenn.
46
47 Darrel.
48
49 MR. VENT: I just had one question.
50 You know, you were talking about this bear predation.

1 Since you're working on wolf predation, is it helping
2 the moose. You said it's not actually helping. Maybe
3 are you considering other ways to solve this predator
4 problem. Maybe are you thinking about the bears next.
5 Or.....

6
7 MR. STOUT: Through the Chair. Mr.
8 Vent, yeah. That's a great question. Of course this
9 Predator Control Program goes back -- clear back to
10 2000. And it was one of the objectives of the Koyukuk
11 Moose Hunters Working Group. And we had broken up the
12 Koyukuk drainage into the upper and lower rivers. And
13 the upper river, it was clear that predation was an
14 issue. And the lower river, we had more of a hunting
15 management problem. So we started -- back then we
16 recognized -- okay -- we've got a predator issue up
17 north. We had to start putting together information in
18 the terms of wildlife data, predators and the prey, to
19 build a base of knowledge on confirming what we thought
20 was true, but being able to establish in a scientific
21 sense what our problems were.

22
23 Early on in that process we talked with
24 Advisory Committees and there was pretty strong feeling
25 coming of Allakaket, Alatna at that time that they
26 didn't feel comfortable with the Department involving
27 themselves in like a bear control program because of
28 cultural sensitivities for the State getting into bear
29 management up there. So at that time, bears were
30 essentially taken off the table. And so we went
31 forward to the Board of Game to evaluate this program.
32 Could we be successful in just doing wolves, with the
33 clear understanding that bears were taking a lot of our
34 calves. We knew that up front. And so we knew were
35 kind of putting one hand behind our back to start off
36 with.

37
38 I think though maybe things changed.
39 First of all, you know, when you're talking -- okay --
40 2000. And here we are at 2015. I think people were
41 maybe cautiously optimistic we could even talk about
42 wolves. And at that time, during the Knowles
43 administration, we weren't even close to talking about
44 any predator control. And so we just kind of wanted to
45 get the door open. And maybe now that it's become more
46 of a reality, people can start talking about those
47 other things. But that's definitely not part of this
48 program. This program is just wolf control and it has
49 a five-year experimental limit. Then we could start
50 talking about, you know, okay. What else do we want to

1 achieve out of this. This just didn't get it to where
2 we need it. And then we can explore those other things
3 then.

4

5 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So one more comment.
6 Then we have to move along in the agenda.

7

8 Ray, go ahead.

9

10 MR. COLLINS: Yeah. Ray. What made
11 the difference in McGrath is that they eliminated that
12 predation on the calves. And you're saying that you
13 don't see much change in the calves, so it's not having
14 the impact there. So in the McGrath area there, I know
15 what made the difference is really to try to boost that
16 calf survival. It made a difference. And if that's
17 not coming up, then you're probably not going to grow
18 the population. Yeah.

19

20 MR. STOUT: Through the Chair. Mr.
21 Collins, yeah. But there's a difference in our calf
22 study, like I said. Now, in McGrath they did a neonate
23 calf study and they collared them just when they were
24 hitting the ground and measured that survival rate in
25 the early part. We aren't even collaring them until
26 they're five months old. We know from our survey data
27 though -- we go out and we do twinning surveys. We
28 know we have very high twinning rate, like 45 percent
29 average twinning rate. So we know in the spring we
30 have about 110 to 120 calves per 100 cows that are
31 hitting the ground. But the time we do our November
32 survey five months later, which is about the time we're
33 collaring moose, we're down to about 40 calves per 100
34 cows. So that means we're losing in that first five
35 months about 80 calves per 100 cows. So we felt like
36 we didn't really need to prove that point. We already
37 knew how many calves were dying.

38

39 And so we modeled the population on
40 just the effect of wolves. And we demonstrated through
41 our modeling that we could have a very moderate effect
42 on the moose population in order to just get that 40
43 harvest. That's really the only amount of moose that
44 we need to get. With the understanding you can't just
45 put 40 moose out there and then all 40 of them are
46 going to end up in Allakaket. Because they spread out
47 all over. We knew we had to have moose in the right
48 place to get that 40 moose there. So it is an
49 experiment. And we're anxious to see what we can
50 effectively do at this reduce program.

1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks, Glenn.
2 Appreciate all that information. I think the Council
3 was very supportive of the I.M. Project. And so we do
4 have a large agenda though.
5
6 Thank you.
7
8 Melinda, let's see what's on the phone.
9
10 MS. BURKE: Yeah.
11
12 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yeah. Who's on.....
13
14 MS. BURKE: Anybody brand new joined us
15 on the line?
16
17 (No comments)
18
19 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: People are just
20 listening in. That's fine. But if anybody wants to
21 make comments at any point on the phone, just star six
22 and state what you would like to comment on. That's
23 not a problem. So I'm willing to -- I'm very open to
24 people calling in and commenting. And so when you're a
25 faceless person on the phone, it's hard to be -- it's
26 easy to be forgotten.
27
28 So Koyukuk/Nowitna Refuge. Come on up,
29 Jeremy and Kenton. Welcome, Kenton.
30
31 MR. MOOS: Good morning, Mr. Chair,
32 Council Members. For the record, my name is Kenton
33 Moos. I'm the Refuge Manager for Koyukuk, Nowitna, and
34 now Innoko as well. And I've got Jeremy Havener with
35 me as well. Jeremy's going to give a presentation on
36 our biological program that we have.
37
38 In this morning's comments I heard a
39 lot of concern about especially Kiayuh Flats with the
40 guiding situation on the Kiayuh Flats. So I wanted to
41 just make a clarification. Kiayuh Flats is labeled as
42 our Koyukuk One Guide Use Area. It has not had a guide
43 assigned to that area for -- I've been there for nine
44 years and I believe it was quite a bit before that as
45 well. So there are no permitted guides on the Kiayuh
46 Flats. Just so you're aware of that. And so if
47 there's guiding going on, it's either on private land
48 or illegal. So.....
49
50 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Do you have an idea

1 how many guides are working in the Nulato, Kaltag area
2 in general on the BLM lands?

3

4 MR. MOOS: On BLM lands, I do not.

5

6 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: That could be found
7 on the State Registry somehow.

8

9 MR. MOOS: Right.

10

11 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I think this Council
12 would like to know about how many guides are working in
13 that area.

14

15 MR. MOOS: Yeah.

16

17 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So that's kind of
18 where Tim was -- and various people's.....

19

20 MR. MOOS: Yeah.

21

22 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF:concern. Go
23 ahead.

24

25 MR. MOOS: Yeah. I was just going to
26 make mention that about four years ago I did receive
27 one request from an individual who is a resident of
28 Kaltag to open up that guide use area and wanted to
29 apply. And basically my response was if he would get
30 the Kaltag, Nulato, and Koyukuk Tribal Councils -- a
31 letter of support, I would entertain that. And I have
32 not seen anything. So -- and that was just a local
33 fellow. So other than that, we have not had any
34 interest from any outside guides in that area.

35

36 So with that, I'll turn it over to
37 Jeremy. And if there's any questions regarding that
38 afterwards, I'll try to answer them.

39

40 Thank you.

41

42 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, Jeremy.

43

44 MR. HAVENER: Thank you, Mr. Chair and
45 Council Members. Before you, I have a pamphlet I have
46 handed out. It's got this presentation. I have added
47 a few slides since I printed that out. But what I did
48 is we took what information I thought was imperative
49 for the area and we kind of condensed it down. We do a
50 lot more biological surveys than just what I have

1 presented before you, but we -- you know, because of
2 the time constraint and the large agenda, I wanted to
3 move through it fairly quickly. So we'll get started
4 here.

5
6 And what I have here is the 2014
7 November Koyukuk moose trend area surveys. And those
8 red squares are the areas that we survey annually.
9 Huslia Flats, Treat Island, Three-Day Slough, Dulbi
10 River mouth, Dulbi Slough, Koyukuk River mouth. And
11 then on the Kiayuh, we do Kiayuh Slough, Pilot Mountain
12 Slough, and Squirrel Creek. And not listed on there is
13 the Nowitna River and then also the Innoko. And I'll
14 cover those more here as we move along.

15
16 So on the Koyukuk National Wildlife
17 Refuge the moose population status for 2014, it started
18 off with good snow early in late October. And we saw a
19 decrease in that snow around November with wind and
20 rain. And it made the snow conditions fairly poor to
21 marginal, so I want you to take that into account as
22 we're looking through this data. That we did this
23 under poor -- or less than marginal snow conditions.
24 But we still -- you know, we could get the trends out
25 of this, is what we were wanting to take away with it.

26
27 The southern units, Galena Mountain --
28 or Galena, Pilot Mountain, Koyukuk mouth, and Kiayuh
29 continue to show stable adult cow and bull numbers and
30 good recruitment, good calf production, and good spring
31 twinning rates were seen down in this area.

32
33 To the north, unfortunately -- and this
34 is the third low year we've seen this -- it's overall
35 the moose numbers are down. The cow numbers have
36 decreased and calf, cow ratios are lower as well. And
37 I'll get to that specific data here in the slides
38 ahead.

39
40 The Huslia Flats and Treat Island trend
41 count areas -- it's 306 square miles that we survey.
42 There was low snow, like I said, this year during the
43 survey. We flew extra time and more survey lines to
44 account for the poor sightability and we used two Fish
45 and Wildlife Service Cubs and we flew 38.2 hours. And
46 inside those boxes you can see the numbers. And that
47 is how many moose we observed in each one of those
48 trend areas. And if I'm moving too fast, please stop
49 me. And I can slow down a little bit.

50

1 And here's the summarized data for this
2 trend area. You can see on the top there, the pink
3 line is the number of observations of cows that we saw.
4 And if you kind of draw a line through there as an
5 average, you can see since 2012, 2013, and 2014 that
6 those numbers are in fact down for that area, as well
7 as the overall moose numbers. And then below is the
8 ratios cows, calves; yearling bulls to cows; and bulls
9 to cows. And bulls, cows looks relatively good. They
10 were 39 to 100. Cows to calves were down a little bit
11 this year. And it was around 17, I believe. And
12 yearling bulls were nine to 100, which was pretty good.
13 So.....

14
15 And this one -- this is a graph of our
16 moose density, which kind of correlates with the
17 overall moose sighted in the area. And the densities
18 are down around three moose per square mile.

19
20 So this is the Three-Day Slough and
21 Dulbi River mouth combined areas. We saw lower cow
22 numbers and that kind of boost the cow -- or bull, cow
23 ratios, which were around 29. Around that 30
24 management objective. Good yearling bull to cow ratio.
25 It was nine. And low production on calf -- or low --
26 yeah. Low production was seen and the cow, calf ratio
27 was 19.

28
29 And then this is a slide of the moose
30 density in that area. And it's showing a decline in
31 the last three years, as you can see.

32
33 Now, down on the Koyukuk River mouth,
34 Pilot Mountain, and Squirrel Creek trend count areas,
35 we saw stable cow numbers. The bull, cow ratio was 24,
36 which is a little bit lower. But it's still pretty
37 good. Average yearling bull, cow ratios of seven. And
38 we saw an excellent calf, cow ratio of 44 cows per 100
39 cows. And this is a heavily hunted area and it's still
40 biologically adequate.

41
42 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I have a question.
43 Is there more bear harvest around the Galena area than
44 up on the -- is there significantly more bear harvest
45 around the Pilot Mountain and that area where there's
46 high calf recruitment. I mean it shows that there's a
47 significant difference than Three-Day.

48
49 MR. HAVENER: Yeah.
50

1 MR. MOOS: Unless Glenn has something
2 else, there's no reporting requirement on black bear
3 harvest. I am the sealer in Galena in the absence,
4 when Glenn's not at his office or he has somebody
5 working there. And the last couple of years I've seen
6 probably a little bit more than I have in the previous
7 years as far as black bear harvest. Grizzly bear
8 harvest are relatively low. But this is only Galena.
9 So the other communities, there's no harvest
10 requirement for reporting. So.....

11
12 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I was just wondering
13 through the grapevine if people are killing more bears
14 around there or what the deal was.

15
16 MR. MOOS: Have you heard anything.

17
18 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So Glenn's
19 conferring with Kenton. So rumor has it. But.....

20
21 (Laughter)

22
23 MR. MOOS: Glenn basically said he
24 agrees. One thing he brought up which I think is a
25 very good point is back in '04, '05 we had some fairly
26 large burns that occurred in the Kiayuh Flats area,
27 which created some really good moose habitat. So that
28 is probably a contributing factor to that as well.

29
30 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Oh, yeah.

31
32 MR. MOOS: So I wish I could give you
33 more information on bear harvest, but.....

34
35 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: No. I just was won
36 -- there's a big discrepancy there.

37
38 MR. MOOS: Yeah.

39
40 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So go ahead, Jeremy.

41
42 MR. R. WALKER: He has a question.

43
44 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Oh, Darrel.

45
46 MR. VENT: I'll wait till he's done.

47
48 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Go ahead,
49 Jeremy.

50

1 MR. HAVENER: Kiayuh Slough trend count
2 area, adult bulls and cows remain above average.
3 Average bull, cow ratio of 60 to 100. Excellent calf
4 production of 69 calves to 100 cows. An excellent
5 yearling bull, cow ratio of 15. This population though
6 is a lower density population of 2.2 moose per square
7 mile.

8
9 We also had -- or we also took part
10 this year in a population estimate on the Koyukuk
11 Refuge. And you can see on this map here each black
12 box was a unit that we surveyed. We flew each one of
13 those and compiled information to get a good population
14 estimate. And the survey area was 1,843 square miles.
15 There were 336 total units that we sampled. And 84
16 hours that we flew. And we counted 1,297 moose.

17
18 And then this shows our data from the
19 years that we have done population estimates on the
20 Koyukuk Refuge. And as you can see, there is a little
21 bit of error on some of those. You can see the line
22 coming up in below the green squares. But we can
23 definitely indicate that we're seeing a decline in
24 overall moose numbers.

25
26 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: And the population
27 estimate was done in conjunction with your trend counts
28 or was this done at a different time of year.

29
30 MR. HAVENER: I believe they were done
31 in conjunction with. Yeah.

32
33 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: But it wasn't a late
34 winter survey.

35
36 MR. HAVENER: Yeah. No.

37
38 MR. MOOS: No. It was done early in
39 our trend counts.

40
41 MR. HAVENER: Yeah.

42
43 MR. MOOS: So -- yeah.

44
45 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay.

46
47 MR. HAVENER: And this is showing
48 density per square mile from this population estimate.
49 And it's showing the same trends. And it's in a
50 decline.

1 So the big differences from 2012 and
2 2014, he kind of split the areas up from the north and
3 then the southern areas down by Galena. And adult
4 population in the north is declining and adult
5 population in the south is stable and maybe increasing.
6 So that's good news.

7
8 Now, to the Nowitna Refuge, this is a
9 map of the areas that we survey. And it's along the
10 Nowitna River corridor there, as you can see. And this
11 year we saw some interesting stuff. There was a lower
12 adult population; good bull to cow ratio of 38 to 100;
13 lower yearling bull of five; good cow to calf ratio,
14 33. It's a low density population, but the thing we
15 saw this year -- and again, you know, you've got to
16 take snow and sightability into account. But we are
17 going to be, you know, keeping an eye on this. It was
18 the lowest cow count that we've ever had. So that was
19 rather interesting to find. So we're going to -- you
20 know, once we get some good snow conditions, we're
21 going to be keeping an eye on this.

22
23 MR. COLLINS: Question. What are these
24 numbers representing in those blocks. That's not the
25 number of moose, is it?

26
27 MR. HAVENER: Yeah. On the map on the
28 right, that is the number of moose that we counted.....

29
30 MR. COLLINS: Wow.

31
32 MR. HAVENER:in each trend area.

33
34
35 MR. COLLINS: A lot higher than you
36 were seeing earlier up on the Koyukuk, isn't it.

37
38 MR. HAVENER: Yeah. And this.....

39
40 MR. COLLINS: In that there, you're
41 getting 20, 30, and so on here. Hmm.

42
43 MR. HAVENER: And this is a -- it's
44 established as a lower density population, so you're
45 seeing around one moose per square mile in this area.
46 So.....

47
48 MR. GERVAIS: You're talking about
49 these ones here, Ray?

50

1 MR. COLLINS: Yeah.
2
3 MR. GERVAIS: These numbers. He's
4 talking about the -- Ray's talking about the slide in
5 front of that where it has those.....
6
7 MR. COLLINS: Yeah. The slide.....
8
9 MR. GERVAIS:GSPE numbers.
10
11 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: No. No. No.
12 These.....
13
14 MR. COLLINS: Slatna and Nowitna, what
15 are those numbers representing?
16
17 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Those are just the
18 units. The survey units.
19
20 MR. HAVENER: Oh. Oh, this one. Is it
21 this one right here?
22
23 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right. These are
24 the moose numbers.....
25
26 MR. COLLINS: Yeah. Okay.
27
28 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: And the confusion on
29 the delineation of the survey blocks or the numeration
30 of the survey blocks, those are not moose numbers.
31
32 MR. HAVENER: Okay.
33
34 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: There should be page
35 numbers on a report like this so we don't get.....
36
37 MR. HAVENER: Okay. Yeah.
38
39 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So for future
40 reference. Continue.
41
42 MR. HAVENER: And this next slide is
43 the Nowitna moose hunter check station results from
44 1988 through 2014. This year we had 30 moose harvested
45 and about 98 moose hunters. And you can see on the
46 number of moose hunters the -- it has declined since --
47 since 1988 it's showing a downward trend in hunters.
48 And we're averaging right about 30 moose a year on the
49 Nowitna. And that's only for the State season. This
50 does not include the Federal.

1 And here's a summary of the Novi moose
2 population status for 2014. Trend areas show lower
3 numbers of adults, especially cows and yearlings.
4 Lower calf production. Medium and large bulls are
5 fairly steady, though down a little bit. Cows
6 fluctuate up and down and may -- most influenced by
7 yearling cow recruitment, though proximity to Deep
8 Creek allows movement issues, too. And like I said
9 earlier, this is the lowest number of cows that we've
10 seen counted. The hunting pressure remains consistent
11 and we need to show -- or we need good snow next year
12 to get a better, more accurate count.

13
14 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: And then what -- you
15 do snow surveys. What's the snow look like in the
16 Nowitna this year and the Koyukuk. It's pretty much
17 like.....

18
19 MR. HAVENER: To my knowledge, it's
20 pretty low.

21
22 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Between 18 to 24
23 inches. Something like that.

24
25 MR. HAVENER: Yeah, Mr. Chair. It
26 seems like it's pretty low this year. We haven't seen
27 those numbers like around three feet that typically
28 affect the moose.

29
30 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Oh. At this point
31 on moose, you got a question there, Darrel.

32
33 MR. VENT: Yeah. I'd just like to
34 reiterate a little bit on what you're saying there, you
35 know, compared to what's going on in the Village.
36 These last two years we've been having to go further
37 and further to go hunting for, you know, in the
38 springtime compared to what we have -- you know, we
39 hunt for animals to live on. That's the things. You
40 know, and it's not only moose. It's also the caribou.
41 And also, you know, we hunt black bears. We live on
42 these things to eat the -- the bigger animals, we -- we
43 don't hardly do a lot of hunting on those. And that's
44 been kind of our like downfall because it's -- the
45 predation rate is high compared to black bear or the
46 wolves. You know, they got a better predation rate.

47
48 And they've been increasing in the
49 area. We've been noticing a lot more tracks now.
50 Before we used to go to camp -- it was probably back in

rifle. Now you have to bring a rifle to go
3 anywhere. That's because there's an increase in those.
4 Probably because of -- we -- we do the hunting on moose
5 and we kill off -- you know, not only in the Village.

6
7 But it's also non-residents, too, that
8 go hunting. And they kill off these moose with the big
9 horns on them. And that seems to be a problem. And
10 with everything that we've been hunting. With the
11 caribou, we notice there's a big decline in there
12 because they've been killing off the breeding stock.
13 That's what I've been, you know, talking about, you
14 know, all the last four years is that that breeding
15 stock is the ones that's keeping the caribou or keeping
16 the moose herds, you know, surviving at a good survival
17 rate. And once you start losing that stock, then you
18 start plummeting. Now you seen a downward trend. I
19 started noticing your lines in there that started
20 showing a downward trend. You may think that, you know
21 -- that, oh, there's a couple of errors that's going
22 on, but that's not the real -- you know, that's not the
23 real picture.

24
25 The thing is that we kill off these big
26 moose and you're going to have a problem. You're not
27 going to be able to have that survival rate. The
28 predation is going to take over. And, you know, if we
29 don't start dealing with predation and we keep this
30 downward trend, people coming and hunting moose and,
31 you know, we're hunting moose at a maximum level, it's
32 not going to survive. We're going to have to do
33 something about it. Whether we have to lower our
34 hunting or whether we have to go out there and hunt the
35 predators, you know, or a combination, it's something
36 that we have to deal with.

37
38 And we're not dealing with it in the
39 right manner right now, where we're still like in the
40 beginning stages of -- okay -- now we're going to have
41 to do something about it. But we're waiting till it's
42 too late. And then it crashes and then we'll get
43 nothing. I sure hate to see that. You know, that's
44 something that we got to learn how to control. If we
45 don't control that, we're not going to be able to
46 survive.

47
48 The same thing with the caribou. We
49 can't -- we have to go all the way over to Ambler to go
50 hunt caribou now. Now they're up in the Kobuk Valley.

1 They're stuck there because there's such a small herd
2 that they don't want to travel any further than that.
3 So we have to travel further and further for our food.
4 And it's hurting us because we can't hunt in the
5 springtime. We can't hunt moose in the springtime no
6 more.

7

8 Before we used to hunt moose and now we
9 can't hunt caribou because it's so far over there and
10 the price of gas. Now we're trying to live off the
11 store bought food and that's pricey. I mean you're
12 really -- you know, that's like twisting our necks
13 there and saying okay, try and eat now, you know. That
14 don't work. We need to really look at the situation
15 here and try to get result.

16

17 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks, Darrel.

18

19 MR. WALKER: I had a question, too.

20

21 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, Robert.

22

23 MR. R. WALKER: Thank you, Jack.

24 Jeremy, this fall here we had hunters coming up from
25 Nulato to Unit 21A. And they're -- and I asked to see
26 their tags and it said 21B, C, and D. I told them you
27 guys can't hunt here because you guys don't have the
28 right tags. So down at 21A we have a tag that's -- you
29 know, I don't know how we are going to do this or how
30 you -- how do you explain this to the guys that say
31 there's too many hunters up there. We got no place to
32 go. All our places are being sitting on. We can't
33 wait much longer. We got five more days. So they came
34 down to 21A.

35

36 And this is something where I see that
37 what's happening up here, like Darrel said, it's just
38 -- you know, people are going further and further to
39 hunt. And it's costing more and more. There was like
40 five people in the boat. They all chipped in for gas
41 to come down to go hunt. They wanted to go up in 21A.
42 That's where they wanted to go, but the water was too
43 low.

44

45 So you guys got a situation where you
46 guys are going to have to sit down and talk with us on
47 how we're going to do this.

48

49 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

50

1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks, Robert.
2 They would mostly likely be hunting under a general
3 harvest report and ticket. And that's good for the
4 whole State of Alaska if the season's open. For 21A in
5 the fall hunt, not the winter hunt.

6
7 MR. R. WALKER: It was the fall hunt,
8 but it was kind of like a registered hunt or something
9 that the guys had there.

10
11 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Oh. They might have
12 been carrying the Koyukuk permits or something, but
13 then again the green card -- the green ticket -- you
14 can hunt on that anywhere.

15
16 MR. R. WALKER: It wasn't green.

17
18 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: No. I'm just.....

19
20 MR. MOOS: Yeah, Mr. Chair. Through --
21 that could be possible. And that's an education thing
22 that we'll have to work with. And we'll work with
23 Glenn and the State on that and make sure that proper
24 registration hunt tags are explained where you can
25 hunt.

26
27 Usually I know Glenn's office does a
28 really good job explaining exactly where the boundaries
29 are. And so -- but we'll help any way we can to make
30 sure, especially with the 21E and the federal permits
31 that are being distributed down there. This year was a
32 little bit of a -- I'll be honest with you. It was a
33 little struggle for us coming up with a solution with a
34 problem that occurred with some changes in permits and
35 stuff. We're working closely with Roger Savoy down
36 there to make sure that things are clear.

37
38 So have a little patience with us. We
39 just took over that area. And we will do our best. So
40 there will be those -- that confusion.

41
42 MR. WALKER: I'm not criticizing you.
43 But it is kind of like very unusual to have people come
44 down to our area from 21D.

45
46 MR. MOOS: Yeah.

47
48 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Oh. You were -- I
49 was unclear that you were talking about the end of the
50 September hunt. You were talking about the 25th

1 through the 30th.

2

3 MR. WALKER: Uh-huh.

4

5 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. I understand

6 now.

7

8 Jenny.

9

10 MS. PELKOLA: Excuse me. Thank you for

11 the report. That was very good. I just want to say

12 that over the years, you know, when we used to

13 commercial fish and everybody had so much fish on the

14 Yukon -- racks and racks of fish -- there were a lot of

15 bears. And ever since the decline of fishing, there's

16 no fish or anything for them to come and eat. So I

17 think they are moving away from our area. And when --

18 you know, when we do see a bear or something, we're all

19 excited because we see one bear. Well, you know.

20

21 And another comment I want to make. I

22 brought this up -- or it seems like I bring this up all

23 the time. It's -- when a moose season opens, we have

24 to run all the way up to Ella's Cabin, which is like 15

25 miles away from Koyukuk, 40 miles away from Nulato. I

26 don't know how far away from Nulato. But everybody has

27 to run way up there to get our ticket just to hunt in a

28 certain area. And I know it's a State issue, but I

29 just want the people to know that we've been fighting

30 to get where we can the ticket easier than going all

31 the way because gas is so expensive.

32

33 So is there anything that you could do

34 about it or help us in any way.

35

36 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, Kenton.

37

38 MR. MOOS: Sure. Jenny, through the

39 Chair. We have had discussions with Glenn regarding

40 that. And I will -- I'll have Glenn come up -- we'll

41 have Glenn come up at the end here to quickly explain.

42 Part of the whole reason for permits being issued there

43 goes back to the original Koyukuk Moose Management

44 Plan. And Glenn will be a lot better in explaining the

45 reasoning and the rationale behind it. But like I

46 offered in McGrath, we will work with the State on

47 issuing the permits if that's required. They have an

48 office in Galena that they do staff during moose season

49 and stuff. And, you know, if we're asked to assist, we

50 will absolutely. But I will let Glenn address that, if

1 he'd like. Glenn, real quick? Or.....

2

3 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: If you'd like to
4 address that. Jenny asked this question in McGrath.
5 And so she's -- it seems to be a local frustration on
6 getting the permit for the Koyukuk Controlled Use Area.

7

8 Go ahead, Glenn.

9

10 MR. STOUT: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Ms.
11 Pelkola, Ken was exactly right. This does go back to
12 the Koyukuk Moose Hunters Working Group. And one of
13 the key emphasis of the working group was monitoring
14 the activities within the Koyukuk Controlled Use Area.
15 There was a lot of concern about wanton waste. There
16 was concern about trophies being taken out without the
17 meat. And they went so far at that time to propose
18 that we have the check station maintained at Ella's
19 Cabin. But they also suggested that we have one at
20 Huslia. And there was a lot of pressure on making sure
21 everybody gets checked. And so we implemented a real
22 rigorous program for evaluating meat, making sure it
23 was salvaged. But making sure it was salvaged in
24 really good condition.

25

26 And so at the time there was a lot of
27 pressure from that working group. A lot of emphasis to
28 make sure we kept a controlled use area intact and the
29 program that we had going.

30

31 We also revisited that issue about five
32 years ago when we changed -- we were at the Ella's
33 Cabin site, which is an allotment. And just to manage
34 things a little bit more efficiently and go directly
35 through (Indiscernible) we got a lease about a half
36 mile down river from the allotment and moved the check
37 station down there.

38

39 We went to the Village of Koyukuk and
40 we talked to them. Went out with Benedict Jones. They
41 sent Benedict out with us to select a new site. And
42 they emphasized that they wanted the controlled use
43 area on the river, but they didn't want it too close to
44 Koyukuk. They were concerned about concentrating
45 activity right there next to the Village. They were
46 concerned and quite frankly about us watching what they
47 were doing too closely in that 50-mile river section.
48 And so they said no, you're close enough. We want you
49 up there. And so that was another discussion we had.

50

1 We talked to the Middle Yukon Advisory
2 Committee as well at that time about where it was
3 located. And we made sure there was a lot of input on
4 how it was transpired. If we go and we offer those RMA
5 32 permits, of course the hunt area is more than 15
6 miles away from Galena before it even starts. But if
7 we offered those permits in other Villages outside
8 that, they have to be made available equally to
9 everybody. And that kind of opens that door open for
10 not being able to check everybody, which the Koyukuk
11 Moose Hunter Working Group emphasized. So that's kind
12 of where we are today.

13

14 MS. PELKOLA: I have one more comment.

15

16 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, Jenny.

17

18 MS. PELKOLA: I think the frustration
19 I'm feeling is I live right in Bishop Mountain. I
20 can't even hunt in my back ground. I have to run out
21 -- you know, I mean my yard. I have to run all the way
22 up to 15 mile and get the ticket to shoot a moose right
23 in my yard. You know, right behind my house. And
24 there's a certain area that people have been hunting
25 for years and years. And then they, too, have to run
26 all the way up there to get their ticket just to -- you
27 know, to hunt on the Yukon River. So that's where I'm
28 coming from. And I know a lot of people express the
29 same frustration.

30

31 MR. STOUT: Through the Chair. Ms.
32 Pelkola, yours is certainly a unique case because you
33 have that allotment right there at Bishop Mountain,
34 which is actually the corner of the Controlled Use
35 Area. And certainly we understand that. When we
36 talked with the people in Koyukuk about that, they had
37 a similar situation. They have to drive up to the
38 check station in order to get their permit when in fact
39 they could have started hunting there. They felt like
40 the trade off was worth it.

41

42 For us to watch the hunters closely and
43 keep that component intact, they felt like the
44 sacrifice of driving that 15 miles, which would only
45 have to happen once, because you have to come up there
46 to get the permit. But if you get a moose, we don't
47 require you to check your moose out up there. You're
48 not required to check it out. You're just required to
49 turn in that permit. So you would only have to make
50 that trip once.

1 MS. PELKOLA: That part I didn't
2 understand.

3
4 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I think that
5 clarified a lot for us, Glenn. Appreciate that. And
6 some of the reasons behind balancing the amount of
7 hunters against what people have to tolerate. Cutting
8 antlers and stuff like that. That's to stay within the
9 sustainability and provide for subsistence uses. So
10 thanks, Glenn. Appreciate that.

11
12 Want to continue on the Innoko portion
13 of the moose, Jeremy.

14
15 MR. HAVENER: Yep. On Innoko, we went
16 down and helped out in 2011 to get that program started
17 up. And as you can see, we've done it 2011, 2012, and
18 2014. We missed '13 due to the flood in Galena. It's
19 a new trend area and it's a high bull to cow ratio at
20 77 to 100. There's good yearling bull to cow ratio at
21 18. High cow, calf ratio at 56. Unfortunately, it's a
22 lower density population and healthy high recruitment
23 and calf survival.

24
25 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yeah. Go ahead,
26 James.

27
28 MR. J. WALKER: I've got a question. I
29 know -- I realize you guys just taken over this area.
30 But could you at some point give us more information
31 regarding the increased number of transporter hunting
32 camps that's been going on in 21E and the whole area.
33 It seems to be a high influx of hunters the last couple
34 of years. And it's been an issue with -- in regards to
35 all issues on wanton waste. It's been a prevalent
36 problem there. So I want to know how you can address
37 and could you get some answers back to us.

38
39 MR. MOOS: Mr. Walker, through the
40 Chair. Yes. We understand it. We've -- I've heard
41 that. I heard it very loud and clear in McGrath and
42 I'm hearing it very loud and clear. Just so you all
43 are aware, we -- and Jeremy is going to go into this
44 with our personnel. But we just did hire a law
45 enforcement officer. He is currently down doing some
46 flight training. And then he will be doing some field
47 training with -- he's experienced in Alaska. He worked
48 out of king salmon for the Park Service for like five
49 or six years or something.

50

up and running as far as law enforcement by
3 moose season. He will not have his flying credentials
4 yet. But I'm hoping within a year's time he will have
5 completed that and will be flying -- be able to fly as
6 well. So we will have a law enforcement presence down
7 there.

8

9 In the meantime, if there are specific
10 issues about as far as illegal guiding, illegal
11 transporting or anything like that, let us know as soon
12 as possible and we will make every effort -- Jim
13 Hjelmgren, our Chief of Refuges. Law enforcement is
14 here. And him and I have talked about some of the
15 potential issues that are coming up with the State
16 cutbacks and so forth. And we're committed to
17 investigate every report that we can possibly. And
18 within reason, obviously. But with Brett just on, it
19 should enable us to look at these reports and these
20 incidents better than we have in the past. Because we
21 haven't had a law enforcement officer. So.....

22

23 MR. J. WALKER: So we're going to take
24 your word on that.

25

26 MR. MOOS: All right. Thanks.

27

28 (Laughter)

29

30 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So I would request
31 that you grade meat at the Koyukuk Station about how it
32 was handled. So in the Innoko we're hearing lots of
33 reports coming out of McGrath of soured meat coming out
34 of the Innoko. Flowing out of the Innoko Refuge and
35 trying to be dumped off. And so I would like to see
36 that same meat grading evaluation for the air taxis
37 that have permits. And if they continue to violate
38 this issue -- and it's a State law to recover meat from
39 the field in edible condition -- that you eliminate
40 their permits. I would like to see that happen.

41

42 Is that the consensus of the Council.

43

44 (Council nods affirmatively)

45

46 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So continue. We're
47 running out of time here. Robert's getting really
48 hungry.

49

50 (Laughter)

1 MR. HAVENER: I don't blame you.
2
3 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I eat once a day. I
4 could care less if we eat.
5
6 (Laughter)
7
8 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: But go ahead,
9 Jeremy.
10
11 MR. HAVENER: This is a distribution
12 abundance study we were doing on Koyukuk River chum
13 salmon. And the purpose of the study was to estimate
14 the distribution and abundance. And we did a pilot
15 study in 2012 and got funded for 2014 through 2016. In
16 this last year we just finished up our first year of
17 actual putting radio transmitters in the chum salmon.
18 And then we also did aerial surveys. And we're going
19 to do some recapture surveys at the Gisasa and Henshaw
20 weirs, which unfortunately didn't work out because of
21 high water and limited time with the weirs being in.
22
23 Methods we had crews with two boats.
24 And we sampled five days a week and did 105 minutes of
25 drifting a day. So that meant the net was in the water
26 for a total of 105 minutes. We used four inch mesh
27 nets that were 60 feet long. And the sampling occurred
28 from June 22nd through July 30th, 2014 just above the
29 Ella's Cabin, on the Koyukuk River.
30
31 And this is the results that we got.
32 We caught 1,376 chum salmon and we tagged with
33 spaghetti tags behind -- just behind the dorsal fin
34 1,169 chum salmon. And we radio tagged with esophageal
35 transmitters a total of 134 chum salmon. We did catch
36 nine chinook, which were released immediately. They
37 weren't even taken out of the water. One sockeye, ten
38 pink salmon, seven broad whitefish. And then you can
39 see the rest. Seventeen humpback, one Least cisco,
40 four long nose suckers, seven northern pike, and
41 fifteen sheefish.
42
43 And this next slide is a map made up of
44 all the locations that we track the fish to. And it
45 shows on the right the proportions of the tagged fish
46 in each drainage. And I think we had a total of 96, so
47 there was some mortalities. But we did find some
48 interesting information at Billy Hawk. There was 25
49 percent of the tagged fish went up that drainage, which
50 was very interesting to us. And then you can see the

1 rest on there. There was 16 percent went up the
2 Gisasa. And on the Henshaw there was 11 percent.

3

4 MR. GERVAIS: Question, Mr. Chair.

5

6 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead.

7

8 MR. GERVAIS: Jeremy, are the white
9 circles then -- these are the -- what you guys feel are
10 the spawning locations of the salmon?

11

12 MR. HAVENER: Mr. Gervais, through the
13 Chair. I would like to give you a better answer on
14 that. It's there or where we located them. I can't
15 say if it was exactly the spawning grounds, but I think
16 by the timing that we flew these surveys, it should
17 have been the spawning grounds.

18

19 MR. GERVAIS: Thank you.

20

21 MR. HAVENER: And I can get more
22 information from our fisheries biologist and get back
23 to you on that, if you would like.

24

25 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: It would be my
26 impression if it was in the main stem of the Koyukuk
27 River they were transitioning the area. And the areas
28 where they found them off drainage would be the
29 spawning zones. So does that clarify it, Tim?

30

31 MR. GERVAIS: Yeah. Thank you.

32

33 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: What was the time
34 frame that they actually were doing the tagging.

35

36 MR. HAVENER: It would have been July
37 22nd -- or excuse me -- June 22nd through July 30th.

38

39 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Uh-huh. So do they
40 think they actually were -- you know, were the fish
41 present heavy when they began? Or were they -- you
42 know, this Henshaw is usually a really major spawning
43 area. So it would seem that they didn't actually hit
44 the main run. Those far reached stocks go by first.
45 So they might not have fished early enough, is what I'm
46 thinking.

47

48 Go ahead, Kenton.

49

50 MR. MOOS: Yeah. One of the challenges

1 we had this year was extremely high water. So I think
2 there's -- we got some really interesting things out of
3 this, but I think you're absolutely right. Because of
4 the water conditions and so forth, our fishing -- the
5 fish were in a wide area. I mean it was just really,
6 really high when we were fishing. So we thought we
7 were very fortunate to get the number of fish we got,
8 first of all.

9

10 And then we were hoping to actually get
11 better information, especially with the spaghetti tags.
12 But Henshaw wasn't in at all or just a couple of days.
13 Gisasa weir was washed out for oh, quite a while. So
14 we're just starting to see those tags show up. And I
15 think that would have -- especially with the Henshaw
16 would have given us a lot more information, but
17 unfortunately the high water really messed us up.

18

19 We're hoping this year that it's a
20 better representation of the entire drainage and we get
21 a better understanding of distribution.

22

23 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thank you.

24

25 MR. HAVENER: Mr. Chair, one thing I
26 should clarify on is that during our sampling we -- at
27 the beginning it was slow. And then towards the end it
28 also tapered off. And to try to get an even
29 distribution of fish during the sampling we only radio
30 collared or did the esophageal tags on one out of every
31 ten, just so that we'd kind of get a better.....

32

33 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: On the South Fork
34 and the John River and the other drainages, are you
35 going to fly those looking for radio telemetry?

36

37 MR. HAVENER: I believe so. Yeah.

38

39 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Mike's saying yes.

40

41 MR. SPINDLER: We did fly them. Yeah.

42

43 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Oh. You did fly
44 them. There's a whole bunch of chums that go in those
45 drainages also. Okay. Thank you.

46

47 And we'll move on to this Galena
48 Mountain.....

49

50 MR. HAVENER: Yep.

1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF:caribou herd.

2

3 MR. HAVENER: Yep. And what I have
4 here is just data on numbers that we've observed. And
5 it shows that in '91 through '97 the population was
6 around 300 to 500 animals. And in 2012 to 2014 it's
7 estimated around 200. The max observed was 187 in 2012
8 and 100 in 2014. And on this population there has been
9 no winter hunt since 1992 emergency hunt. And the fall
10 hunt closed in 2004. And then here's a graph of all
11 the observations that we've seen on this population.
12 You can see after '98 is dropped significantly.

13

14 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay.

15

16 MR. HAVENER: And this slide is on our
17 beaver cache surveys. We do beaver cache surveys on
18 the Koyukuk, Nowitna, and Northern Unit Innoko Refuges.
19 And each one of those little squares is the areas that
20 we fly. And we were counting active beaver caches, so
21 it has to have an active food source right outside in
22 order for us to count it. And each one of those
23 numbers inside the box is how many beaver caches we
24 counted in that area.

25

26 And this kind of sums it up on what
27 we're seeing. And really in a lot of these areas I
28 believe that beaver almost makes up more of an
29 abundance and bio mass than moose does. And if you can
30 see on Kiayuh, there were 600 caches observed and
31 there's 2.9 per square mile. So the density's really
32 high.

33

34 And real quick I'll go through some
35 subsistence stuff. The Nowitna Moose Hunter Check
36 Station we kind of already covered. And we had 98
37 hunters and 30 moose were harvested during that -- the
38 State season.

39

40 The Koyukuk River Check Station, I only
41 have it updated with preliminary results. There were a
42 total of 520 registered hunters within the Koyukuk
43 Controlled Use Area and 195 total moose were harvested.
44 And I kind of split it up into each station from Ella's
45 Cabin to Huslia and then in Hughes.

46

47 And if Glenn would like to maybe give
48 an update on the final numbers, if he has that.

49

50 Federal Subsistence Moose Hunt FM2101.

1 For that hunt, which goes from September 26th through
2 October 1st, and it's on the Nowitna River drainage.
3 We had seven permits issued this year, which was down a
4 little bit from the previous years. And only one moose
5 was harvested from a resident from Tanana. And here's
6 the graph of results since the hunt started in 2007.
7 And on the bottom is the number of moose harvested.
8 And the red squares on the top is the number of permits
9 issued.

10

11 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Your impression of
12 that would be that hunters have gotten moose earlier in
13 the season and didn't need to use the late hunt?

14

15 MR. HAVENER: Yeah. Mr. Chair, I would
16 yeah. It sounded like most folks were doing all right
17 that I've talked to. But -- and, you know, it is a
18 good drive for folks from Tanana and Ruby to get to the
19 mouth of the check station, so that might have had
20 something to do with it as well. So.....

21

22 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Any comments
23 on -- that's the completion of your.....

24

25 MR. HAVENER: I have just a few more.

26

27 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Oh. Go ahead.

28

29 MR. HAVENER: I actually wanted to talk
30 about the Federal moose hunt in Huslia and the one down
31 in GMU21E.

32

33 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead. Yeah.

34

35 MR. HAVENER: And so last year due to a
36 decrease in adult moose and reduced bull, cow ratio,
37 which this would have been for the 2014 season, we made
38 a conservative approach and closed the hunt in GMU20
39 for D on Federal lands. And this year we're seeing
40 somewhat the same trends that I covered earlier. The
41 bull to cow ratio has increased, but the adult moose
42 and cows are definitely on a decrease, as well as
43 production. So our stance is to remain conservative
44 and not hold that hunt again this year.

45

46 For the Federal moose hunt in GMU21E, I
47 talked with the assistant area biologist, Joshua Pierce
48 -- I think is his last name.

49

50 MR. R. WALKER: Pierce.

1 MR. HAVENER: Yep. And he indicated --
2 he looked up for me on those harvest tickets -- because
3 that's what was required for hunters to hunt under the
4 Federal Regulations. He indicated that seven moose
5 were harvested this year under that hunt. But one
6 issue that came up -- and, you know, there's a new
7 addition of a registration permit in that area. And I
8 think that might be confusing for some folks. You
9 know, differing State and Federal Regulations and
10 boundaries. What he indicated is that only two out of
11 those seven moose were harvested legally.

12
13 So outreach is going to need to be
14 done. And I'm going to talk with my RITs and we're
15 going to do some outreach down there for -- you know,
16 indicating what permits folks need to have and where
17 they can hunt under Federal and State Regulations.

18
19 And the census hunt was new. There
20 were no citations issued.

21
22 MR. WALKER: Yes.

23
24 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead.

25
26 MR. WALKER: Yes. It was quite
27 confusing there for a while. You know, a lot of people
28 didn't really understand what it was for. It was kind
29 of like given to them, like all right. Here you are.
30 Bye. And that's the way it was.

31
32 MR. HAVENER: Okay.

33
34 MR. WALKER: A lot of people were
35 standing there, like what am I supposed to do. I told
36 them call them up.

37
38 (Laughter)

39
40 MR. HAVENER: Mr. Walker, through the
41 Chair. Thank you for those comments. And, you know,
42 like I said, that's something we're going to work on
43 with outreach. And, you know, unfortunately we're
44 fairly new to managing the area, so it was new to me.
45 And we want to do a better job so that all the folks
46 are compliant. And, you know, that's just the thing
47 where it's confusing, is folks need to know when
48 they're hunting under that Federal permit, which goes
49 from August 25th through September 30th, is that they
50 can only hunt on Federal land. So State land, Native

1 Corporation land, and Village Corporation land, and
2 Native allotments are not open for this Federal hunt.

3

4 And that concludes my presentation.

5

6 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay.

7

8 MR. HAVENER: So if any further
9 questions, I'd be happy to take them.

10

11 MS. PELKOLA: I have.....

12

13 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Any other questions.

14 Jenny.

15

16 MS. PELKOLA: Oops. I had one comment.
17 How many have you read about some guy getting married
18 in Galena. And they had to move.

19

20 (Laughter)

21

22 MS. BURKE: I did. I did. I saw it.

23

24 MS. PELKOLA: Mr. Jeremy.

25

26 (Laughter)

27

28 MR. HAVENER: Mrs. Pelkola, through the
29 Chair. I don't know what you're talking about.

30

31 (Laughter)

32

33 MR. HAVENER: Yes. No. Unfortunately,
34 I will be getting married here. And unfortunately.....

35

36 MS. BURKE: Unfortunately? This is
37 being recorded.

38

39 (Laughter)

40

41 MR. HAVENER: She's not here to see it.

42

43 MS. BURKE: It's being recorded. She
44 might be on the line.

45

46 (Laughter)

47

48 MR. HAVENER: On March 14th we are
49 getting married in Galena. So I'm really looking
50 forward to it. It's exciting. But it -- you know, the

1 stresses of planning for it are becoming apparent.

2

3 (Laughter)

4

5 MR. R. WALKER: So you're the one, huh.

6

7 MS. BURKE: I ditched them and went to
8 Mexico for my wedding.

9

10 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Congratulations. So
11 yeah, getting married is a stressful situation.

12

13 (Laughter)

14

15 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So we're going
16 to.....

17

18 MR. R. WALKER: Well, Jack can stop the
19 Iditarod and make them move it.

20

21 (Laughter)

22

23 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Carl. One more.

24

25 MR. JOHNSON: Yeah. Just a quick
26 matter, Mr. Chair. Carl Johnson, OSM. While it's
27 fresh in everybody's mind, I want to correct or clarify
28 something that was stated on the record earlier
29 regarding the Board recognizing Regional differences in
30 regulation. I reviewed that again just to make sure I
31 was right and I wasn't quite right. That language
32 refers to customary trade only in our current
33 subsistence regulations. So you'll note on page four
34 of your C&T briefing one of the proposed changes to the
35 Southcentral -- or correction -- Southeast Council
36 would make would be to allow for Regional variances in
37 the C&T recommendations.

38

39 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

40

41 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks for the
42 clarification, Carl. And thanks so much for Koyukuk,
43 Nowitna, and Kanuti and Glenn and all the information
44 so far. After the -- we're going to break for lunch
45 and we're going to come back Gates of the Arctic
46 National Park. So we'll break for one hour.

47

48 MR. R. WALKER: One hour.

49

50 (Laughter)

1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: One hour. And we
2 are short on time here unless you want to go into
3 evening session.
4
5 MR. R. WALKER: Jack.
6
7 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So we'll come back
8 at 1:45.
9
10 MS. BURKE: Everybody on the phone,
11 1:45 is when we'll commence this afternoon.
12
13 (Off record)
14
15 (On record)
16
17 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So we're going to
18 call the meeting back to order. I have three members
19 that are absence, but we have a quorum right now with
20 six. And so we have a tight agenda. And so.....
21
22 MS. BURKE: Folks. Folks.
23
24 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Melinda, do you want
25 to go over our agenda. Slight changes to accommodate
26 travel.
27
28 MS. BURKE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Just
29 real quick wanted to -- one more time, if we have
30 anybody brand new on the phone who hasn't introduced
31 themselves yet. This is the Western Interior Regional
32 Advisory Council meeting.
33
34 (No comments)
35
36 MS. BURKE: Okay. It doesn't sound
37 like we have anybody new. Next up we're going to have
38 Marcy Okada with Gates of the Arctic National Park.
39
40 And we have a presentation that we're
41 going to accommodate a little bit early for a flight
42 schedule. Sky Starkey I believe should be joining us
43 here real soon. And he's going to be giving a
44 presentation. I'll keep an eye out for him, Mr. Chair.
45
46 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Thank you.
47
48 Marcy Okada and Kumi Rattenbury. And
49 so they're Gates of the Arctic National Park. Go
50 ahead.

1 MS. OKADA: Hi. Good afternoon, Mr.
2 Chair, Council Members. We're primarily going to talk
3 about dall sheep populations in Gates of the Arctic
4 National Park and Preserve.

5
6 So the last survey was done for all of
7 the park and preserve in 2010 and there was about
8 10,000 sheep surveyed. Recently in 2013 and 2014,
9 there's been a decline in sheep numbers. About 63
10 percent in Itkillik area and a 35 percent decline in
11 the Anaktuvuk area. There are very low lamb numbers
12 for both survey years, 2013, 2014. Lambs, yearlings,
13 and ewes declined substantially more than ram numbers.
14 And this decline was related to record cold
15 temperatures and icing events that occurred for those
16 winters.

17
18 So no information at -- there's no
19 information presently for Southern Gate since that was
20 just collected only in 2010. But the Itkillik data and
21 the 73 percent decline in Noatak National Preserve
22 suggests that there's been sheep declines throughout
23 Gates of the Arctic.

24
25 There's a survey planned for this
26 summer field season in 2015 for the entire park and
27 preserve. And there's going to be annual surveys
28 conducted in Itkillik and the Anaktuvuk areas.
29 Additional ten to fifteen percent loss is predicted for
30 the upcoming surveys that will be conducted because of
31 low lamb recruitment in the prior two years.

32
33 So Federal subsistence hunting is
34 permitted in all of Gates of the Arctic for both the
35 park and preserve units. And State sporthunting is
36 permitted in only the preserves. State Regulations, as
37 you guys already know, apply to private land within
38 Gates, so therefore State Regs apply to Corporation
39 lands.

40
41 As far as harvest information that we
42 have for the Itkillik area -- the Itkillik Preserve
43 area report harvested is about less than one percent of
44 adult sheep. And it's mostly sporthunting of full-curl
45 rams in this preserve.

46
47 For the Anaktuvuk Pass area reported
48 harvest is about less than two percent of the adult
49 sheep. And this is related to the Anaktuvuk Pass
50 community harvest hunt that they have.

1 Park Service staff such both me and
2 Kumi have been consulting with the community members
3 within Anaktuvuk Pass and we're starting to have early
4 discussions on what they think some of their management
5 options are. And that includes limiting harvesting of
6 females, ewes.

7
8 And then lastly we have limited
9 reporting for some of the communities along the
10 southern edge of Gates of the Arctic, but we -- looking
11 at old harvest survey information and talking with
12 communities such as Allakaket, it's about a zero to
13 five sheep harvest rate annually.

14
15 And that's pretty much it in a
16 nutshell.

17
18 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Thanks,
19 Marcy. And so I attribute the decline to the extremely
20 late spring of 2013 with record cold. And so that
21 killed all the yearlings. Killed all the lambs that
22 year. And then the production this last spring, I
23 watched 37 ewes north of Wiseman that only had one
24 lamb. I don't know if that lamb survived. So the
25 production this year was also very poor because the
26 sheep were -- the ewes were so stressed that they --
27 the pregnancy rate was like almost none. So we have
28 three years with hardly any recruitment. So you're
29 anticipating a ten to fifteen percent decline in this
30 next survey because of aging as the primary and natural
31 mortalities.

32
33 MS. RATTENBURY: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
34 Just because there's no lamb recruitment basically
35 again this year. That's what it's from. So.....

36
37 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So this is real very
38 concerning. The Gates of the Arctic Subsistence
39 Resource Commission met and we had a teleconference.
40 We encouraged the Park Service to work with the
41 Community of Anaktuvuk Pass about reducing the
42 community harvest limit. They have 60 sheep and
43 reducing that. Have you had those dialogues with them
44 recently since our teleconference meeting, Marcy?

45
46 MS. OKADA: So a couple of weeks ago we
47 went up to Anaktuvuk Pass and we met with -- it's an
48 informal working group of sheep hunters. And had
49 shared information with them and then offered up
50 suggestions on what some of their management options

1 could be. And shared harvest information that we've
2 had from the past. And they felt like they could
3 substantially lower that 60 sheep quota.

4
5 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Were they amicable
6 to reducing the number of ewes harvested.

7
8 MS. OKADA: For the sheep hunters that
9 were there, they felt like that was a reasonable option
10 at this time. Especially to allow the populations to
11 increase in number, they would hold off hunting ewes.

12
13 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: And then I've -- I'm
14 on the Gates of the Arctic Subsistence Resource
15 Commission. I dialogued with the -- with Kyle Joly
16 about, you know, management for the rest of the park
17 unit. The communities that can hunt in the Gates of
18 the Arctic that are mainly hunting sheep in Unit 24 and
19 26 would be Hughes, Allakaket, Alatna, Bettles,
20 Evansville, Wiseman. Those communities can go to the
21 Park. And that has a three sheep limit. Three sheep,
22 including ewes. I feel that the bag limit for ewes
23 should be reduced to one. No more than one ewe and
24 females. And for subsistence. And like she says,
25 there's only five sheep harvest.

26
27 But I feel that harvesting any ewes --
28 I have -- nobody in our community has killed a ewe for
29 years. Because the sheep population -- this isn't the
30 -- the sheep population hasn't been just going down.
31 It's been going down for years. It's stepping down.
32 And it's going over a cliff right now.

33
34 And so I haven't shot a ewe for years.
35 So back in the early '90s was the last time I killed a
36 ewe. And so we're trying to conserve these sheep and
37 so I have encouraged the Park Service to submit a
38 Federal Subsistence Proposal. And we will review the
39 Proposal this fall. And if showing a reduction in
40 harvest for female sheep primarily and adjusting when
41 rams can be taken.

42
43 Is there -- has there been internal
44 discussion about that proposal, Marcy? Or Kumi?

45
46 MS. RATTENBURY: There has been some
47 internal discussion about that. And we -- Marcy and I
48 also went to Allakaket, I guess it was February 18th,
49 and spoke with the Tribal Council there. And also
50 talked to the First Chief from Alatna. And they really

1 wanted to stress the importance of sheep hunting to
2 those communities so that there aren't a lot of people
3 who go out. And they wanted to keep opportunity.

4
5 There's also a decent amount of
6 confusion about what the Regulations are State versus
7 Federal, where the boundary is, that sort of thing.
8 But it seemed that people wanted to get a better idea
9 about what was going on with the sheep population
10 there. And then we might also -- or you might also
11 want to speak with different communities about the
12 importance of ewe harvest. In general, it seemed
13 pretty much everybody that we talked to in Anaktuvuk
14 and Allakaket said, you know, we think that there's
15 also an issue and so we're willing to do what needs to
16 be done in those areas.

17
18 And just to get back to Anaktuvuk
19 really quickly, they don't typically harvest more than
20 25 anyway, so they're under the two percent of the
21 current low number right now. And they don't -- the 60
22 is their quota, but that's not what they normally do.
23 So there might -- I don't know. Might want to be a
24 little bit more discussion considering the low number
25 of sheep that are harvested in general. Like what do
26 you want to do about the ewe harvest.

27
28 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Well, ewe sheep as
29 yearlings in -- in deep snow years, those -- the number
30 goes way down because they're half the size of a ram.
31 A ram can survive deep snow years. And so the ram
32 numbers stay fairly stable. But the ewe population
33 goes right into the toilet. We have three years with
34 no lambs. We have -- basically right now we have the
35 possibility of running out of a productive population
36 in about five to seven years of the ewes that are left.

37
38 And so I'm real, real concerned about
39 killing a bunch of -- and the way sheep are, they're a
40 social animal, for people who have never hunted them
41 before.

42
43 Pollock.

44
45 MR. SIMON: Yeah. I just wanted to
46 make a comment on a cutback for the Village to take
47 sheep.

48
49 We would usually take up to three sheep
50 for the Village and we don't hunt very much in the

1 Park. Our sheep take in the Village is pretty small
2 compared to the sportsman's take. So again I see that
3 we're being cut back in the Villages because the sheep
4 population has dropped. I was just wondering if the
5 sportsman's take would take a cut also. We won't be
6 restricted only in the Villages to cut down on our take
7 of sheep.

8

9 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

10

11 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: The Gates of the
12 Arctic National Park has no -- in the South Slope, Unit
13 24, doesn't have any sporthunting. The Preserve -- the
14 Itkillik Preserve at the top of the picture there --
15 the purple part that's hatched -- that purple part is a
16 Preserve. And there are sporthunting opportunities for
17 hunting guides and sport hunters. The rest of the Unit
18 24 is only subsistence hunts. But what I was going to
19 say is sheep are a social animal. Three guys could
20 climb up on a hill with a bunch of ewes. And you shoot
21 that older ewe out of that bunch, you can kill every
22 sheep there. They will stand there and they will look
23 at that dead sheep. That's their leader. They don't
24 know why it fell over. You can -- and a long time ago
25 that happened. You could kill -- three guys could kill
26 nine sheep just like that. You could wipe out a whole
27 bunch of ewes right now.

28

29 That's what can happen.

30

31 I don't think that it's a good time to
32 kill a lot of ewes. If you -- one ewe per hunter,
33 maybe that would be okay. But three ewes, I don't
34 think is a good idea. That's my personal opinion about
35 the situation we're in. Because I don't want to see
36 the sheep population go any lower. And we don't know.
37 We just had rain to the Western Brooks Range again.
38 They got a half inch of rain here in Fairbanks. You
39 can hardly walk out here in the parking lot. If we get
40 another late spring or something, the sheep population
41 could be in dire straits.

42

43 And so I'm -- I feel we ought to be
44 supportive of reducing the amount of ewe sheep taken.
45 Because they -- the sheep can't -- it's just like cow
46 moose. We can't have any cow moose harvest when our
47 moose in the Kanuti Flats keeps going down. We have to
48 save the cow moose that are left.

49

50 So when you're in this declining

1 population, we have to conserve. And so the Federal
2 Subsistence Management is unsustainability. We have to
3 sustainability. And I don't think a three ewe limit is
4 actually sustainable at this tie. And so I personally
5 feel that the Park Service should develop a proposal.
6 It can be worked through the Gates of the Arctic
7 Subsistence Resource Commission. We can discuss this
8 proposal with the communities -- Allakaket and Alatna
9 -- to stress the importance of conserving these use --
10 and I also want to stress that this should have a
11 sunset when the sheep population begins to recover.
12 Once we recover -- start into a recovery and where
13 population has rebuilt back to a healthy ewe component,
14 then we want to eliminate that restriction and go back
15 -- revert back to our previous hunting strategy.

16
17 Would that be okay, Pollock? For a
18 temporary reduction? Would that be okay for a
19 temporary reduction?

20
21 MR. SIMON: Okay. That's easy to
22 understand where law abiding citizens in our village,
23 and we abide by the regulations for -- it's easy to
24 understand that the sheep population is going down.

25
26 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So I think we've --
27 I would encourage the Parks Service to submit a
28 proposal to the Federal Subsistence Board process. The
29 Subsistence Resource Commission will review that
30 proposal. There would be two proposals. One would be
31 for the Anaktuvuk hunt and the rest would be for the
32 remainder of Unit 24 for the eligible communities of
33 Hughes, Allakaket, Alatna, Bettles, Evansville, and
34 Wiseman. Those are the only communities that can
35 actually hunt inside of the park. Those are limited
36 uses.

37
38 Any further discussion on the sheep
39 issue. Marcy.

40
41 MS. OKADA: Mr. Chair, the other option
42 was to go through a letter of delegated authority,
43 where the Superintendent of Gates of the Arctic would
44 -- there would be more flexibility so when the sheep
45 populations increase in number, then that's when
46 hunting would be -- there would be more of a hunting
47 opportunity. And then when sheep populations decline,
48 the Superintendent has the power of authority to lower
49 sheep harvest numbers for some of the communities. And
50 the letter of delegated authority can be submitted to

1 the Federal Subsistence Board at any time. There's no
2 deadline per se. And it just allows for more flexible
3 management of these populations. So.....

4
5 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Well, as I said in
6 the Gates of the Arctic Subsistence Resource Commission
7 meeting that that should be in -- any kind of delegated
8 authority with the Superintendent should be in
9 consultation with the Subsistence Resource Commission
10 and the Regional Advisory Council. I am uneasy about
11 giving -- we've got a new Superintendent. Oh, my gosh.
12 The sheep went down 50 sheep in the park. We're going
13 to close the ewe season. No. We don't want that. We
14 don't want to have knee jerk reactions like that.

15
16 We want to have input from the local
17 communities. I'm agreeing the sheep are at hardship.
18 I'm agreeing we need a reduction. If the population is
19 increasing and has a slight decline in one year, I
20 don't want to see a delegated authority to reduce the
21 harvest limit. So then the users have -- never know
22 what the regulation is. I feel that the Board process
23 for sheep -- the Federal Subsistence Board process is
24 working fine at this time and I'm reluctant to go to a
25 delegated authority entirely.

26
27 And so we're talking about the Gates of
28 the Arctic subsistence sheep at decline and the issues.
29 And I'm trying to encourage the Park Service to submit
30 proposals to the Federal Subsistence Board process.
31 Gates of the Arctic Subsistence Resource Commission and
32 the Y RAC will review those proposals this coming
33 winter.

34
35 Any other issues on the -- Pollock.

36
37 MR. SIMON: Yeah. Draft that proposal
38 and put it to a vote from both members?

39
40 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Well, the proposal
41 would be written up, submitted by March 25. And it'll
42 come out in our fall meeting packet. The Gates of the
43 Arctic Subsistence Resource Commission will be able to
44 meet on it. The proposal will be before the public all
45 summer at some point. And I think that the OSM should
46 submit the analysis to the Tribal Councils so that the
47 Councils can look at what the biological date is, so
48 they can make comments to the Western Interior Regional
49 Council and the Subsistence Resource -- Gates of the
50 Arctic Subsistence Resource Commission. That's how

1 that's -- it's not going to -- we've not going to vote
2 on it like right now. This is going to happen next
3 winter through the whole Federal Subsistence process.

4

5 So any other comments on sheep.

6

7 (No comments)

8

9 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Do you have other
10 presentations on Gates of the Arctic, Marcy.

11

12 MS. OKADA: With the interest of time,
13 this was our primary document to report.

14

15 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. I really
16 appreciate the work that the Gates of the Arctic is
17 doing on the sheep issue and doing the surveys and for
18 annual survey for Itkillik and anaktuvuk areas. Those
19 are -- Itkillik is not that far from the Dalton Highway
20 and there are air taxis that fly hunters into the Park
21 Preserve. And so keeping track of the sheep population
22 is a good thing at this time. And so thanks so much.
23 Appreciate that. And any other questions by the
24 Council for the Gates of the Arctic.

25

26 (No comments)

27

28 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Seeing none, is Sky
29 Starkey here. He didn't show up yet.

30

31 MS. BURKE: Maybe he's on the phone.

32

33 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Are you on the
34 phone, Sky.

35

36 (No comments)

37

38 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: He was in here
39 earlier. He said he had to go somewhere in Melinda.
40 Thought he should move up in the agenda on this co-
41 management issue for the Kuskokwim River. But since
42 he's not here, we're going to continue to move down
43 this agenda.

44

45 And so we're going to move into the
46 wildlife closure review. WCR14-39. And do we have a
47 document on that, Melinda.

48

49 MS. BURKE: Yes, Mr. Chair. The
50 wildlife closure review 14-39 is in the book, page 26.

1 I'm sorry. The briefing is on page 25. WCR14-39 is on
2 26. And we've got Tom Evans here from OSM to cover
3 that.

4
5 Just real quick, too. Anybody brand
6 new join us on the line. I thought I heard one beep
7 while we had the Park Service gals up.

8
9 (No comments)

10
11 MS. BURKE: All right. Just a friendly
12 reminder, folks. Push star six, please, to mute. We
13 heard a little bit of paper shuffling.

14
15 Thank you.

16
17 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead.

18
19 MR. EVANS: Good afternoon, Mr.
20 Chairman and Members of the Council. My name is Tom
21 Evans. I work as a wildlife biologist for the U.S.
22 Fish and Wildlife Office of Subsistence Management. My
23 primary RAC areas are the North Slope, Southcentral,
24 and Kodiak Aleutians. But being short-staffed, I'm
25 coming to these meetings here. And it's nice to hear
26 new issues and meet new people. So yeah, this is a
27 good experience.

28
29 So I'm going to provide first a brief
30 summary of the wildlife closure review process, which
31 can be found on page 25 of your RAC book. And then
32 I'll follow through with the actual closure review that
33 you will have to consider here.

34
35 OSM reviews the wildlife closures every
36 three years to determine if the justification for the
37 closure is still consistent with the Federal
38 Subsistence Board's closure policy. Section .815 of
39 ANILCA allows the Federal Subsistence Board to restrict
40 or close the taking of fish and wildlife by subsistence
41 and non-subsistence wildlife users on Federal lands
42 when necessary for the conservation or healthy
43 populations of fish or to continue subsistence uses of
44 such populations. Recognizing that the distribution
45 and abundance of fish and wildlife populations can
46 fluctuate, in addition to subsistence use patterns, the
47 Board decided in 2007 to conduct closure reviews every
48 three years or earlier if new information is available
49 that would potentially allow a closure to be lifted.

50

1 Councils are asked to consider the OSM
2 preliminary recommendation, share their views on the
3 issues, and make a recommendation to the Board. Input
4 from the Councils is critical to the development of
5 regulatory proposals needed to address these
6 regulations. After the Council reviews the closure
7 reviews, they have three options which should be in the
8 form of an action item. The three options are to
9 maintain the status quo, modify or rescind. If the
10 Council recommends to modify or rescind the closure
11 review, then they should submit another proposal, a
12 separate action item, at this time. Councils may
13 choose to work with OSM staff to develop the proposal;
14 however, proposals addressing these issues can be
15 submitted by other individuals or organizations as
16 well.

17
18 So I'll stop here just for a minute to
19 see if anyone has any questions about the wildlife
20 closure policy. And then I'll go on to the closure
21 review itself.

22
23 (No comments)

24
25 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Seeing none. Go
26 ahead.

27
28 MR. EVANS: Okay. So the issue that
29 we're dealing with now is wildlife closure review 14-
30 39. Hunting -- the issue at hand is hunting on Federal
31 public lands in Unit 19A north of the Kuskokwim River,
32 upstream but excluding the George River drainage, and
33 south of the Kuskokwim upstream from and including the
34 Downey Creek draining, not including the Lime Village
35 Management Area, are closed to the hunting of moose.

36
37 The closure was last reviewed in 2011
38 and that was WCR10-39. The biological status of this
39 proposal can be found on page 27 of your thing. The
40 objectives under the Central Kuskokwim moose management
41 plan for Units 19A and 19B are to achieve a moose
42 population of 13,500 to 16,500. For 19A, that would be
43 7,600 to 9,300 for Unit 19A, with a harvest of
44 approximately 750 to 950 moose.

45
46 The second objective is to maintain a
47 minimum fall post hunt bull, cow ratio of 20 to 30
48 bulls per 100 cows and maintain a fall post hunt cow,
49 calf ratio of 30 to 40 calves per hundred cows. And
50 also to maintain no fewer than 20 percent calves, short

1 yearlings, which are about ten-month old calves in late
2 winter surveys.

3

4 Alaska Department of Fish and Game
5 biologists conducted surveys in Unit 19A in 2005 and
6 2008. Although the moose density increased from 2005
7 to 2008 from 0.28 per mile square to 0.44 per mile
8 squared, the two values are not significantly
9 different. And more importantly, they're not near the
10 estimated densities of .75 to .93 moose per mile
11 squared needed to achieve the population objectives.

12

13 Both the cow, calf and bull, cow ratios
14 meet the management objectives set forth in the
15 management plan. It was 36 percent for the cow, calf
16 in 2009. And the bull, cow ratio in 2008 was 34
17 percent. Although it appears that the moose population
18 in the effected area is recovering slowly in the
19 absence of hunting pressure since 2006, it has been
20 five years since the moose population in Unit 19A has
21 been surveyed. Since 2006 there has been no State or
22 Federal season and thus no reported harvest.

23

24 And OSM's preliminary justification is
25 -- conclusion is to maintain the status quo for WCR14-
26 39 due to the current low moose population numbers and
27 densities and the fact that the moose population has
28 not fully recovered as of 2008. That's it.

29

30 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: When are they going
31 to get any further data on that population. Or is
32 there any intention to -- are you getting weathered
33 out. Or why is there such old data on that moose
34 population.

35

36 MR. EVANS: I don't know the answer to
37 that question. Maybe someone from the State would have
38 an idea of when they plan to do it. I think they did
39 try to do one and they had poor conditions and they
40 weren't able to conduct a survey. But it's in an area
41 that's fairly, you know, low -- lower priority than
42 some of the other areas. So.....

43

44 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right. So -- and
45 the State is maintaining the closure on that. On the
46 State side, they're maintaining their closure also.

47

48 MR. EVANS: That's correct.

49

50 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So that's important.

1 Any questions on this -- the WCR14-39 closure of the
2 19A area.

3

4 (No comments)

5

6 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I would encourage
7 current data within the next review period of working
8 with the State of Alaska to valid -- you know, that's
9 really old data with 2008. But I'm happy the bull, cow
10 ratio is up and the moose population should continue to
11 increase. That's the area that they were doing that
12 bear project, also, Glenn.

13

14 MR. STOUT: (Nods affirmatively)

15

16 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So the bear
17 reduction. They killed I forget how many bears -- 98
18 bears or something like last year. So that will help
19 those moose out a heck of a lot.

20

21 And so -- but at this time with the
22 State closure, I -- in trying to maintain the status
23 quo of the Federal closure also.

24

25 Does Council have questions, comments.

26

27 (No comments)

28

29 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Carl, you're from
30 down in that country. Go ahead.

31

32 MR. MORGAN: And I do agree with the
33 closure in State and Federal. And I know most of the
34 -- I think all the residents from that area are abiding
35 by that closure. And they know it's -- they've got to
36 do it. Because then they were doing that aggressive
37 bear predator control.

38

39 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Uh-huh.

40

41 MR. MORGAN: And I did get some bear
42 meat last year. But they agree with it. It's a little
43 hard. It's a hardship. But they know they must build
44 up the stock. So they're in complete agreement with
45 the closure.

46

47 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks, Carl.
48 Important comments. The Chair will entertain a motion
49 to maintain status quo for WCR14-39.

50

1 MR. WALKER: So moved.
2
3 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So moved. Do we
4 have a second.
5
6 MS. PELKOLA: Second.
7
8 MR. WALKER: Second.
9
10 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Second by Jenny.
11
12 MR. WALKER: I've got a question, Jack.
13
14 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, Robert.
15
16 MR. R. WALKER: How long is this going
17 to be closed. Is it any kind of like 20 years? Ten
18 years? Twelve? Is there an outlook for this?
19
20 MR. EVANS: So the way it's set up is
21 we review these closures every three years or we
22 reevaluate it if new information becomes -- you know,
23 like good population data comes let's say in two years
24 and the population is up. Then we can reevaluate it
25 before the three-year period is up. But every three
26 years we have to -- you know, we look at all these
27 closures, not just leave them on the books permanently.
28 So that's the way it's set up.
29
30 MR. WALKER: Okay. Thank you.
31
32 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So at this point --
33 oh. Another comment.
34
35 MR. GERVAIS: Yeah. I had a quick
36 question, Jack. I was wondering what -- if there was a
37 specific cause for that -- what got that population so
38 low. I remember a long time ago.....
39
40 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Do you want my
41 evaluation?
42
43 MR. GERVAIS: Sure. I don't care.
44
45 (Laughter)
46
47 MR. GERVAIS: State or anybody. But I
48 remember a Board of Game discussion on this about ten
49 years ago, where maybe 17 -- I don't know -- ten or 15
50 years ago where they were.....

1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: When you have.....

2

3 MR. GERVAIS: There's a lot of local
4 opposition to transporting.

5

6 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: When you have six to
7 eight bulls per 100 cows, you have reproductive failure
8 -- period. And so that's the primary reason. The
9 population will go right into the toilet. If you don't
10 have enough bulls, cows have late born calves. They
11 miss estresses and all kinds of bad things start to
12 happen to the population. It takes years to recover
13 that bull, cow ratio and build back your stock where to
14 where you have breeding bulls back into the population.

15

16 When we did the Koyukuk River Moose
17 Planning Group, Glenn was a new biologist here. And he
18 educated us that three-year old bulls and older have
19 pheromones that attract cows. Younger bulls don't have
20 that same effect. So they repel -- you know what --
21 you see a two-year old bull running around by a cow
22 moose, she'll kick at him. She'll make all kinds of
23 noise. She doesn't want to have nothing to do with a
24 young bull like that. When you shoot all the large
25 bulls out of the population, you have six to eight
26 bulls per 100 cows, and they're all young bulls, bad
27 things happen to the moose population.

28

29 (Laughter)

30

31 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So now the bull, cow
32 ratio has come back in 2008. The population should be
33 coming up. And now the State's taken the pressure off
34 from bears. In a few years we should have a lot of
35 moose there and there should be proposals on the State
36 and Federal sides. Because it's a complex land
37 management there. So that should be a co-management
38 decision on opening this back up again. That's my
39 analysis. The State would probably have a different
40 analysis.

41

42 MR. EVANS: The original justification
43 was exactly what Jack said. And it was due partly to
44 high levels of hunting pressure and reducing the low
45 calf production survival and low bull, cow ratios.
46 So.....

47

48 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So hopefully in the
49 future we won't go back to that crisis. We've got a 30
50 bulls per 100 cows on the Koyukuk River and we maintain

1 that bull, cow ration -- or try to. And we have a very
2 healthy moose population on the Koyukuk River because
3 we have some older, larger bulls. And we've got plenty
4 of bulls in the population. So hopefully in the future
5 in 19A, we will return to a healthy management. But
6 both systems have to have the opening almost
7 simultaneously. We don't want to have one in front of
8 the other.

9

10 So at this point, those in favor of
11 maintaining the status quo for WCR14-39 signify by
12 saying aye.

13

14 IN UNISON: Aye.

15

16 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Opposed same sign.

17

18 (No opposing votes)

19

20 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thank you, Tom.

21

22 And so we're moving on to call for
23 Federal hunting and trapping regulatory proposals.
24 Tom.

25

26 MR. EVANS: So I'll go ahead and give
27 you a summary of that. Every two years proposals are
28 accepted to make changes to management regulations for
29 the harvest of wildlife on Federal public lands. And
30 we're in a wildlife year now, so we're calling for
31 proposals at this point.

32

33 These proposals can include changes to
34 the season dates, harvest limits, harvest restrictions
35 such as age and sex of the animals harvested, methods
36 and means of harvest, and the customary and traditional
37 use determinations. I'll present a brief summary of
38 how to submit a wildlife regulatory proposal, which can
39 be found on page 15 of the Western Interior RAC book
40 and page 76 if you're looking at an Eastern Interior
41 RAC book.

42

43 The Federal Subsistence Board is
44 accepting proposals through March 25th, 2015 for the
45 subsistence harvest of wildlife on Federal public lands
46 for the 2016, 2018 regulatory years. So that season
47 would be July 1st, 2016 to June 30th, 2018. No
48 proposals will be accepted after March 25th, 2015. The
49 Board will consider proposals to change the Federal
50 hunting and trapping seasons, harvest limits, methods

1 of harvest, and C&T determinations on Federal public
2 lands.

3

4 The Federal public lands include
5 National Wildlife Refuges, National Parks and monuments
6 and preserves, National Forests, National Wild and
7 Scenic Rivers, Borough of Land Management areas that
8 are not part of the National Conservation system.
9 Federal regulations do not apply for State of Alaska
10 lands, private lands, military lands, Native allotments
11 or selected Federal lands by State or Native
12 Corporations.

13

14 Councils may choose to work with OSM to
15 develop a proposal. If the Council would like to
16 submit a proposal then an action has to be taken at
17 this meeting a motion accepted. Proposals addressing
18 these issues may also be submitted by other individuals
19 and organizations as well. Information that you should
20 include in the proposal is your name, organization,
21 your address contact information, the regulation that
22 you wish to change, including the management unit
23 number and the species. If you know the current
24 regulation, quote that. The regulation as you would
25 like to see it written. An explanation as to why you
26 think the regulatory change should be made. A
27 description of the impact of the change on wildlife
28 populations, as well as a description of the impact
29 that it might have on subsistence users. And in
30 addition to that, there's a description of the effect
31 that it might have on other sport or recreational
32 commercial uses.

33

34 You can submit the proposals by mail or
35 hand delivery to the OSM office. You can submit it
36 here at the Federal Subsistence Regional Advisory
37 Council or at the Board meeting. Or you can go to the
38 web and go to the rule-making portal. And go to
39 <http://www.regulations.gov> and search for -- and this in
40 your book. So it's FWS-R7-SM-2014-0062-001. And so
41 you can submit it online through that.

42

43 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: And I want to
44 comment right there. I'm very, very unhappy about
45 this. The State of Alaska, you go onto the Board of
46 Game website, Board of Fish website. You click on
47 proposal. A writable PDF pops up. You write into the
48 PDF and you submit it. OSM is in the dark ages. This
49 -- I tried to go to that big, long-winded DOI thing.
50 It doesn't work. You've got to remember the bandwidth

1 in rural Alaska is nothing like you have down in
2 Anchorage and so it doesn't work.

3

4 And so this is unacceptable. I'll put
5 this on the record. This is unacceptable for OSM to
6 remain in the dark ages. They have to develop a
7 proposal, submit it to the OMB or whoever in the world
8 reviews that proposal and approves it. And then put
9 that thing online. And that thing should be here. And
10 it should be sent out to every Tribal Council in Alaska
11 so that they can submit proposals in a proper way.
12 They can scan it and submit it right back to OSM.

13

14 We don't want to be going to some DOI
15 website that's all hokey and weird and hard to research
16 in that thing.

17

18 (Laughter)

19

20 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I can -- I can't --
21 I'm not bad with a computer and I had a heck of a time
22 with that. And it didn't work with my bandwidth. So
23 this is not acceptable to this Western Interior
24 Regional Council and the Regional Councils of Alaska.
25 And so this -- that is something that has to be changed
26 sooner than later. And that should be an action item
27 on our Annual Report to the Federal Subsistence Board.

28

29 Is the Council agreeable to transmit
30 that in our Annual Report.

31

32 (Council nods affirmatively)

33

34 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I see affirmative.
35 So having said all that.....

36

37 (Laughter)

38

39 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Now we're coming to
40 the -- we have needs in the Western Interior Region.

41

42 Melinda.

43

44 MS. BURKE: Mr. Chair, yeah, we have --
45 we do one draft proposal that was emailed in. Thanks
46 much to Vince Matthews for helping me get that into our
47 hands.

48

49 And I also have a blue sheet here. I
50 know we've got Mr. Alfred Demientieff, Jr. from Holy

1 Cross who would like to discuss a winter hunt. So I
2 just wanted to make the Council aware we have those two
3 items when you'd like to take them up.

4

5 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Alfred, are
6 you in the room. There you are. Yeah. I talked to
7 Alfred. He wrote it out on a piece of paper because he
8 didn't have a proposal form. OSM did not have a
9 proposal form for him to fill out.

10

11 (Laughter)

12

13 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So he had it on a
14 piece of paper. I says you bring it to the Council and
15 read it into the record. And we will have OSM Staff
16 fill this proposal out for you. We want to make this
17 as easy as we possibly can for the public.

18

19 So go ahead, Alfred, with your -- what
20 your issue -- identify the issue and what your problem
21 is. Go ahead.

22

23 MR. DEMIENTIEFF: Good afternoon, Chair
24 and the Board. I have a proposal here to change the
25 wording on 21E, Federal moose hunt. And it's in your
26 book here. And the wording states that February 15th
27 to March 15th Federal registration permit moose hunt
28 may not be taken within one-half mile of the Innoko or
29 Yukon River during the winter season. And I would like
30 -- I propose to change it to moose can be taken
31 anywhere in Federal land in Unit 21E during the
32 February 15th to March 15th Federal hunt.

33

34 The reason for change.

35

36 Because of climate change conditions
37 that make it almost impossible to harvest a moose. No
38 snow and tough conditions. And also confusion on the
39 half mile limit on moose and on moose Federal lands
40 they're all on islands. And you can't figure out where
41 the -- if you're in half a mile or not, you know, and
42 that's a big confusion. And I heard earlier that there
43 was only 21 -- there was only seven moose taken in 21E
44 by all -- I was wondering how much registration permits
45 there that was issued.

46

47 And the potential impact on wildlife
48 populations. There would be no impact because it's a
49 registration hunt. And I think there's only 40 moose
50 that can be taken in 21E. So there's no impact on

1 that.

2

3 And potential impact on subsistence
4 hunters. Federal subsistence hunters will have a
5 better chance of harvesting a moose that they couldn't
6 get in the fall because the gas prices and weather
7 conditions also are too rough. And also with this
8 regulation it would be a lot easier.

9

10 And potential impact on commercial and
11 sport users. There would be no impact because this is
12 a Federal registration hunt.

13

14 Thank you.

15

16 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks so much for
17 outlining the problem. I want to bring up Kenton Moos.
18 Is he in the room? Or Jeremy. I want to know if this
19 is under the discretionary authority of the Refuge
20 Manager. And I guess you're the new Refuge Manager for
21 that one there, too.

22

23 And so this closure within one-half a
24 mile, is that a discretional authority you have to
25 rescind that or what's the deal.

26

27 MR. MOOS: I'm going to be honest with
28 you. I'm going to have to check on it. I don't think
29 it is discretionary, but I will check on it. And I
30 will get back to Alfred, as well as the Chair as well.
31 Yeah, I'm trying to think back. Robert might have a
32 little bit on the history of that. Because I know
33 there was a reason why that was put into regulation.
34 So.....

35

36 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay.

37

38 MR. R. WALKER: Thank you, Mr. Chair,
39 Alfred. This was put into place by the State back when
40 it was a State hunt. Because we had so many outside
41 hunters come into 21E. It wasn't as directed as it is
42 now just for residents only. It was open to the
43 residents of the State of Alaska. So when I was on the
44 AC Board, we had to come up with some kind of a clause
45 there to protect because I mean that's like shooting
46 fish in a barrel with all these moose on the island.

47

48 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Uh-huh. Yeah.

49

50 MR. R. WALKER: Because there was

1 probably 100 to 200 hunters that would come into the
2 area.

3

4 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Uh-huh.

5

6 MR. R. WALKER: So this was defined as
7 to protect the moose population. You can't utilize
8 anything on the Yukon River because it was so open.
9 And Ray remembers that. Because when we did close it
10 and then -- and started to the Federal, it was carried
11 over from the State to the Federal. But now it's just
12 a residential hunt. I think there's a 40 -- there's a
13 cap on the 40 now. So, you know, I don't see a problem
14 with that. And I think Kenton, you know, you should
15 just look at it, just for your records, too, and, plus,
16 it's a residential hunt only. It's not outside of the
17 21E.

18

19 MR. DEMIENTIEFF: And also I'd like to
20 point out I'm a student here at the UFF [sic] -- with
21 these -- and we have two excellent instructors. That's
22 how I learned how to do the proposal. So I thank them.

23

24

25 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Appreciate that,
26 Alfred.

27

28 You got new information, Kenton.

29

30 MR. MOOS: Yeah. As Trevor Fox just
31 indicated, and I thought that's what the case was, it
32 is in regulation so I do not have the delegated
33 authority to do that.

34

35 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So we will.....

36

37 MR. MOOS: So it would have to come
38 through a proposal.

39

40 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Alfred laid out the
41 crux of that proposal. It will be submitted from the
42 transcripts, cleaned up by OSM for review. I remember
43 Sidney Huntington testifying before us in Galena when
44 he was on the Board of Game. He was the one who put on
45 the half-mile boundary because when they had winter
46 hunts for cow moose, he wanted to protect the cows with
47 baby calves that go out near the river. And there was
48 a lot of harvest and he didn't want to see a lot of
49 those cows -- that are not the good moose to eat. Cows
50 with baby calves, they're kind of skinny. And so

1 that's where that came from. That came from Sidney.

2

3 But now that we have 40 moose to
4 harvest and not that many moose are going to be
5 affected, I don't think that this regulation is
6 actually necessary now. Because we have a cap on the
7 number of moose to be taken. And the rush to go back a
8 half mile off the river with a GPS, that would be kind
9 of tough. And so I feel that the regulation is not
10 really necessary.

11

12 And so your proposal was submitted
13 orally to this Council. And it was on the record. And
14 so it will be in our proposal packet this next fall.
15 And do you want it under your name or do you want it --
16 is this the consensus of the -- from the Holy Cross
17 Tribal Council?

18

19 MR. DEMIENTIEFF: No. But I've been
20 talking to a lot of my people. And for years they
21 wanted it changed, you know, I mean for -- because they
22 were having a hard time trying to figure out -- they
23 didn't want to break the law.

24

25 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Uh-huh.

26

27 MR. DEMIENTIEFF: So after I got this
28 training and stuff for the proposal -- and thanks to
29 the instructors for giving -- now that I can say, you
30 know, the people will be happy.

31

32 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So if you return
33 home and go before the Tribal Council and tell them
34 this is -- you know, you want to submit this idea. If
35 they want to sign onto it, I think OSM within -- before
36 March 25, they can be the proposal submitters.

37

38 MR. DEMIENTIEFF: Does it have to be
39 them or can I just do it right now.

40

41 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: You can do it
42 yourself.

43

44 MR. DEMIENTIEFF: Okay. I'll do it
45 myself. That way it will be done and over. And
46 everybody will be happy.

47

48 (Laughter)

49

50 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: But I think it would

1 carry more weight with the Federal Subsistence Board if
2 it was the Holy Cross Tribal Council.
3
4 MR. DEMIENTIEFF: Okay.
5
6 MR. R. WALKER: If you ask me, I think
7 it would carry a little more weight if you put Holy
8 Cross Tribal Council.
9
10 MR. DEMIENTIEFF: Okay. Thank you.
11
12 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So that's my
13 suggestion.
14
15 MR. DEMIENTIEFF: Yes.
16
17 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, Melinda.
18
19 MS. BURKE: Yeah, Mr. Chair. I'll be
20 happy to type this up if you'd like. And to take it
21 back to your community with you.
22
23 MR. DEMIENTIEFF: Sure.
24
25 MS. BURKE: And we're happy to help
26 with the submission. And Robert and I will be in
27 communication. So we're happy to help.
28
29 MR. DEMIENTIEFF: Okay. Thank you.
30
31 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thank you.
32
33 MR. DEMIENTIEFF: Thank you, guys.
34
35 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So then we're still
36 under call for proposals. And.....
37
38 MS. BURKE: Jump to the Bettles.....
39
40 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Hmm?
41
42 MS. BURKE: Jump to Bettles.....
43
44 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Let's address Don's
45 issue here.....
46
47 MR. GERVAIS: Question, Mr. Chair.
48
49 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF:which he talked
50 about at our fall meeting. Do you want to go over.....

1 Oh, Tim. Go ahead.
2
3 MR. GERVAIS: Yeah. I wanted some
4 clarification on the half-mile restriction. That was
5 -- Sidney wanted that in to protect the moose during a
6 winter hunt or that was partially to protect the moose
7 during the fall hunt.
8
9 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: No. It was a winter
10 hunt restriction from the Yukon River. A half-mile set
11 back when there was a wide open winter hunt. And he
12 didn't want all the cows with calves killed off right
13 next to the river. If you only have 40 harvest that's
14 not going to happen. People can be far more selective
15 then.
16
17 MR. COLLINS: And during the winter
18 they yard up on there.
19
20 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: They yard up on the
21 islands right out by the river.
22
23 MR. COLLINS: Uh-huh.
24
25 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So Don, you wanted
26 to identify the -- go over the issue again for the Novi
27 fall hunt delineation of where you can hunt.
28
29 Go ahead.
30
31 MR. HONEA: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I
32 guess in going back in a little bit of history, I think
33 it was maybe 2007 it's been on the books, this
34 subsistence hunt. The first one and the late one.
35 Okay. Now, the reason I'm actually have a issue with
36 this is because we -- you know, we were not told or
37 informed or whatever. And I just learned about it this
38 past fall, that they had changed from the check station
39 out in Nowitna, the corridor going up so many miles or
40 something. And before I guess initially it was the
41 whole Refuge. Okay. And, you know, Jeremy's probably
42 going to come up and explain that because I don't think
43 it was the Refuge itself that changed, mandated that.
44 But it just kind of surprised me that this was in place
45 and it being enforced now after this many years.
46
47 What it actually is -- I mean if in
48 going back and making it the original Refuge, it would
49 be a less burden for Tanana hunters and Ruby hunters to
50 be able to use that. I mean if I was coming up from

1 Ruby across Kokrines, there's sloughs that we utilize.
2 That we basically can use. If I was short on gas at
3 seven bucks a gallon and couldn't quite make it or
4 whatever, see it's more of a hardship to get down
5 there. If Tanana hunters from the bone yard -- where
6 it reaches all the way up to the bone yard, which is
7 maybe 30 miles above the Novi, if they could get a
8 moose in that late hunt on the south side of the river
9 in that area, that would be a bonus.

10

11 So I'm going to either submit this
12 after your explanation of it or whatever and see if we
13 can't reinstate that whole Refuge there.

14

15 Thank you.

16

17 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yeah. Jeremy, do
18 you want to explain how the change occurred. The
19 clarification from the Regional Office.

20

21 Go ahead.

22

23 MR. HAVENER: Yeah, Mr. Chair. Thank
24 you. This hunt is a Federal hunt in GMU21B. And it
25 includes the Nowitna River drainage up to the Little
26 Mud River drainage and including the Little Mud River.
27 That is the boundary on this hunt. And what happened
28 is a proposal was put through in I want to say 2012 to
29 extend the Federal season seven days, I believe. And
30 in that with the research that they do -- that we put
31 into these proposals, we discovered in CFR that this
32 hunt was in fact only open on that drainage. Before
33 that we did have the hunt open on the Refuge lands
34 outside of the drainage. But because that proposal, we
35 realized that in 50CFR it was open only on the Nowitna
36 drainage. So that's where that came from, to my
37 knowledge.

38

39 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: The Western Interior
40 Regional Advisory Council was the proponent of that
41 proposal. It may have been our mistake to only -- we
42 may have meant the entire Nowitna Refuge below the Mud
43 Fork of the Nowitna, but in the -- when the Board
44 passed it, it was only for the Novi. It didn't include
45 the lands along the river.

46

47 So we want to clarify that. And so
48 it's codified, so the Western Interior can submit a
49 proposal. The bull, cow ratio for the Novi is 38 bulls
50 per 100 cows. And so we can -- these few little areas

1 there by the bone yards and down five miles below the
2 mouth of the Novi, the participation is low. The
3 harvest is low. What was it, one moose was taken this
4 year by somebody from Tanana. And it's -- what was the
5 most that was ever harvested? Like three or four or
6 five?

7

8 MR. HAVENER: I believe it was like
9 five, maybe -- yeah. Five, maybe six. And I got that.
10 That was in my power point presentation.

11

12 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So some years people
13 are in hardship. You know, they didn't get their moose
14 in the regular season. The Federal hunt allows them to
15 hunt a few days longer. And five moose is a big deal
16 for a community. That's a lot of meat.

17

18 So the Western Interior Regional
19 Advisory Council can submit a proposal to include all
20 Nowitna Wildlife Refuge lands below the Mud Fork that
21 are face to the Yukon River drainage. That submitted
22 to the Federal Subsistence Board will go through an
23 analysis and would open those few little strips along
24 the Yukon River. That would be the effect that Don's
25 talking about.

26

27 And the Western Interior can make this
28 proposal because it was our original proposal and
29 probably our oversight of not including those lands in
30 the description.

31

32 Don.

33

34 MR. HONEA: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I
35 believe you're exactly right in how -- in hindsight I
36 remember that exact one. But I didn't think that we
37 had relegated it to certain areas. I always thought
38 that it was the Refuge itself.

39

40 Thank you.

41

42 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yeah. It was
43 probably just an oversight in the description of the
44 Nowitna Refuge below the Mud Fork. We were assuming it
45 included the face lands. And it was interpreted by the
46 proposal as the Nowitna drainage. And so that excluded
47 those areas.

48

49 Did you have any comments on this, Tim.
50 This is the Ruby area.

1 MR. GERVAIS: Yeah. I support what
2 Don's saying on allowing the increased opportunity by
3 including the entire -- or the Nowitna Refuge below the
4 Little Mud. I'm wondering if the reason that it got
5 changed or Jeremy's saying it's in the CFR is because
6 I've hunted that hunt on the Refuge, but off of the
7 drainage. And I'm -- locally a lot of people just
8 refer to the Nowitna as the Refuge. And maybe whoever
9 was putting it in the CFR just when they saw Nowitna,
10 they wrote down River instead of Refuge. I mean maybe
11 if you reviewed the minutes that it was drafted under
12 it would say Nowitna Refuge.

13
14 So we could do that or we could just go
15 ahead and submit it. I would second Don's motion to
16 change the language from the Nowitna River to the
17 Nowitna Refuge. And it is important on years when we
18 have a lot of warm, wet weather and you just don't get
19 a lot of bull movement because it's not cold. Having
20 that extra seven days at the end of September is real
21 significant. And I know two years specifically where
22 it made a big difference to the Ruby Community to be
23 able to take those moose late season.

24
25 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So the Refuge would
26 have to go and delineate where the Refuge ends and the
27 State land begins. And they just put markers on the
28 beach along the edge of the Yukon River so people know
29 where they can hunt. I feel that those delineators
30 would make it real easy for the public to know where
31 they were on Refuge and off Refuge.

32
33 Kenton, I see you're getting in a twist
34 about that. Go ahead.

35
36 MR. MOOS: Mr. Chair, to be honest, the
37 problem with that is if we do it here, I'm going to
38 have to do it down in 21E. Especially with the half-
39 mile thing because there is Native land there. I'm
40 going to have to mark that. I'm going to have to mark
41 the Kiayuh Flats. I'm going to have to mark --
42 basically it's going to be a burden that I don't think
43 we can handle as a Refuge, to be honest. If I do it
44 one place, I have to do it elsewhere. And it's
45 something that I don't know if I have the man power to
46 do, just to be honest with you.

47
48 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I could jump in my
49 boat and drive along the Yukon River with a GPS and
50 know where those boundaries are.

1 (Laughter)

2

3 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: And I could -- the
4 BLM does it in our area. They run around driving these
5 little stakes in the ground where -- which trails you
6 can drive on and which -- like the miners and so forth.
7 They do it all the time. And so I don't see where it's
8 a real huge problem.

9

10 I could look down at this map here.
11 You could drive. There's probably -- in the summer you
12 could drive along delineating where the Refuge lands
13 begin and end within one trip. It's not a huge thing.
14 And Jeremy could do it in conjunction with his visits
15 to the community as a subsistence coordinator.

16

17 So you're going to have go down. You
18 have RITs. You know, you can send Ken out. Ken, go
19 stick some markers here and there where these
20 boundaries are. I don't see where it's a huge burden
21 for the Refuge. The BLM does it all the time. It
22 doesn't seem to be that big of a deal for them to do
23 it.

24

25 Tim.

26

27 MR. GERVAIS: Well, one reason what I'm
28 understanding what Kenton's comment is -- is accurate.
29 Because based on how we used to hunt that Nowitna
30 Refuge for the Federal hunt, there's like at least nine
31 different sloughs that you can go into. It did all use
32 to be Refuge and then it was selected by Doyon and so
33 the boundary changed. But it's not just -- it's just
34 not a eastern boundary and a western boundary on the
35 Yukon River. There's nine, possibly twelve different
36 entries that you could have into the Refuge. You know,
37 different sloughs and stuff.

38

39 So it is quite a -- it would be a lot
40 of logistical effort to mark all these boundaries with
41 signs. And I feel that the local community that's
42 hunting these knows where those boundaries are. And in
43 the effort of saving time and man power for the Refuge
44 to be able to do some other more significant work, we
45 shouldn't ask Kenton to have to put signs up where the
46 hunt's allowed and not.

47

48 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Now looking at the map, I
49 see what you're talking about. If you can go up all
50 these little teeny creeks, then you're going to have to

1 mark those, too. So I'll stand corrected. My mistake.
2 Sorry.

3

4 (Laughter)

5

6 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: But I want to make
7 it as easy as possible for the hunters. And so the --
8 you know, but I feel this proposal has valid reasons
9 and it gives access. If that's the case. If there's
10 nine or eleven sloughs, that actually adds additional
11 areas inside of the Refuge. And so I think it gives
12 more exposure for the hunters to be able to try and
13 harvest moose.

14

15 MR. COLLINS: Mr. Chairman.

16

17 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead.

18

19 MR. COLLINS: Yeah. If it's only the
20 residents of a couple of communities that are doing
21 that, I would think if you provided a good map to the
22 community you could put the burden on the hunters to go
23 check with that map and know what they're -- where the
24 boundaries are before they go out. Because they should
25 know those sloughs. If a good, adequate map could be
26 sent.

27

28 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Do you have an
29 accurate map for the detail.

30

31 MR. HAVENER: Mr. Chair, we do have a
32 map. And when we were issuing these permits out to the
33 Villages prior to the change in the boundaries, we have
34 a bit plotter. And then we can print out a real
35 detailed map that can be put at the Tribal office where
36 the permits would be issued out, so people can see it
37 before they leave.

38

39 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. So we won't
40 put that burden on you. Sorry.

41

42 (Laughter)

43

44 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I needed to get that
45 clear in my mind why you couldn't do that though.

46

47 (Laughter)

48

49 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So further
50 discussion on Don's proposal. That will be submitted

1 by the Western Interior Regional Council for the entire
2 Nowitna Wildlife Refuge below the Mud Fork of the
3 Nowitna River.

4

5 MR. R. WALKER: Question.

6

7 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Question's called.

8 Don, you got one for.....

9

10 MR. HONEA: Yeah. Just one last
11 comment. Maybe I could kind of relate to what Kenton's
12 talking about, but for the most part our take on that
13 is minimal. I mean people know where the boundaries
14 are. When you're talking about numerous sloughs, I can
15 only think like a couple of sloughs that's below
16 Kokrines where people go. You'd have to go up a half a
17 dozen miles to be within the Refuge. But, you know, I
18 mean making the maps -- hey, so be it.

19

20 Thank you.

21

22 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks for the
23 comment. The more comments on the record the better.

24

25 So those in favor of the Western
26 Interior Regional Advisory Council submitting a
27 proposal to the Federal Subsistence Board to include
28 for the September 26 to the 1st of October fall moose
29 hunt for 21B to include the Nowitna National Wildlife
30 Refuge entirety below the Mud Fork of the Nowitna
31 River.

32

33 MR. GERVAIS: Little Mud.

34

35 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Little Mud. Little
36 Mud Fork of the Nowitna River. Those in favor of that
37 proposal signify by saying aye.

38

39 IN UNISON: Aye.

40

41 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Opposed same sign.

42

43 (No opposing votes)

44

45 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So that proposal
46 will be written by OSM and submitted.

47

48 And so there's the Bettles proposal,
49 Melinda. Someone from Bettles sent in a proposal to
50 the Council. And Vince.....

1 MS. BURKE: Will you see if he's on the
2 phone. He said he might call in.
3
4 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Oh. Are you on the
5 phone, Gary?
6
7 (No comments)
8
9 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Hanchett (ph).
10
11 (No comments)
12
13 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Do you want to come
14 to the mic, Vince? They call that being called on the
15 carpet.
16
17 (Laughter)
18
19 MR. MATHEWS: Hopefully Gary's online.
20 He was hoping to transport some gear to Bettles last
21 time I talked to him. But he said he probably would
22 call in. So.....
23
24 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Uh-huh.
25
26 MR. MATHEWS: So the proposal that's in
27 front of you is -- is basically you take no action on
28 now. This is not an action item. It's just to inform
29 you. In discussions with Gary, he agreed that if you
30 had concerns or modifications or whatever to it, that
31 he would consider those. And that would influence his
32 submittal before March 25th. So I think I'll just
33 leave it at that. You have it front of you what it's
34 asking for. So I was hoping he'd be online.
35
36 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So basically this
37 proposal is to reinstate the Federal lands on the
38 winter hunt. There's a State and Federal winter hunt
39 that runs from December 15th to April 15th. The
40 current hunt areas from the Henshaw drainage and down
41 in Unit 24B and including a portion of 24C. And so
42 this proponent would like to -- we rescinded the State
43 submitted proposal -- was that last cycle, Glenn?
44
45 MR. STOUT: It was a controlled use.
46
47 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Two years ago to
48 rescind this area? The Western Interior rescinded that
49 primarily on the lack of participation was the -- even
50 in Allakaket, what has the harvest been for the winter

1 hunt. This hunt is for December 15th to April 15th is
2 -- the harvest has been one to two moose or something
3 like that.

4

5 MR. SPINDLE: That's correct, Mr.
6 Chair. It's been approximately five hunters between
7 Bettles and Allakaket, Alatna.

8

9 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Uh-huh.

10

11 MR. SPINDLE: And one moose taken every
12 three years or so. It's very little participation.

13

14 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So the State wanted
15 this area rescinded because of lack of participation.
16 We, the Western Interior, endorse that and to move it
17 back to a consistent line with the State regulation.

18

19 I heard the phone bleep. Did somebody
20 else come online. Is that you, Gary?

21

22 (No comments)

23

24 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: It's not. So this
25 is a guy that lives in Bettles. He was on the Gates of
26 the Arctic Subsistence Resource Commission for a while.
27 And he just was replaced. And so that proposal will be
28 in our Federal subsistence proposal packet with an
29 analysis for our review this fall. I don't want to do
30 anything to it or with it.

31

32 Does anybody have comments. Ray.

33

34 MR. COLLINS: Yeah. It surprised me
35 that we went along with that because there was no
36 biological reason for changing it. And any time you
37 restrict subsistence hunters there should be a reason
38 for it. So it should have just stayed on the books.
39 You know, but I guess we did support it before. But
40 yeah, I agree. We should put it back. Because it is
41 an opportunity.

42

43 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So it will be in the
44 proposal book this fall for review again.

45

46 And didn't we have one more proposal.
47 Or was that all the proposals you know of, Melinda.

48

49 MS. BURKE: Yeah. I believe so.

50

1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: The Gates of the
2 Arctic sheep proposals will be submitted under their
3 own letterhead.

4
5 That's the only issues. Does the
6 Western Interior Council have any other wildlife issues
7 that need to be addressed with a Federal Subsistence
8 Board proposal.

9
10 (No comments)

11
12 Thanks, Vince and Mike, for
13 clarification.

14
15 Seeing none, we have Sky Starkey has
16 arrived to give the Western Interior Council an
17 overview of the co-management. And this thing is just
18 flooded to the top in the last week. And so I was
19 completely caught off guard about the development of
20 this idea. I read a little bit of something. I need
21 to know -- what this Council needs to know is the
22 direction from the Secretary of Interior's Office as to
23 where this came from, what the directions said, and
24 what this co-management plan is actually stating.

25
26 And so state your name for the record
27 and who you're working with, Sky.

28
29 MR. STARKEY: So my name is John Sky
30 Starkey. I'm a lawyer who's been working on
31 subsistence issues for about three decades now. I'm
32 working for both Tanana Chiefs and AVCP. So first
33 thing that is important to know is that this is a very
34 united effort between TCC and AVCP because those two
35 Regional Tribal Organizations represent all the Tribes
36 that are on the Yukon and all the Tribes that are on
37 the Kuskokwim.

38
39 Just a little background then, Mr.
40 Chair. So we definitely thank you for the opportunity
41 to present this. There was really nothing to talk
42 about before the last few months, so that's why this is
43 a very quickly developing thing. About three years ago
44 -- or two years ago in March of 2012 -- because of the
45 chinook crisis on both the Kuskokwim and Yukon, the
46 Association of Village Council Presidents in March of
47 2012 held a -- what they called a Salmon Summit. They
48 invited First Nations People, Tanana Chiefs
49 Representatives, and Fish and Game, Wildlife, and
50 others to attend that meeting.

1 And during that meeting the people --
2 the Tribal Representatives at that meeting came to the
3 conclusion that they -- it was time that they got
4 involved with the management of these rivers. Salmon
5 management since they're a big portion of the users.

6
7 So a resolution passed that -- so there
8 was a breakout Yukon, Kuskokwim people and one of the
9 recommendations that came out was the formation of
10 Inter-Tribal Fish Commissions. Taking that direction
11 then, AVCP and Tanana Chiefs -- Tanana Chiefs passed an
12 identical resolution at their convention the following
13 spring.

14
15 And following in that direction then,
16 Representative Young has been very interested in the
17 idea of these Inter-Tribal Fish Commissions and it
18 started to become part of their discussion.

19
20 Then as you know, in the salmon -- for
21 the salmon season 2014, the Federal Agencies --
22 Subsistence Agencies took over management of big parts
23 of the Kuskokwim River. The parts of the Kuskokwim
24 River that are under Federal -- that are within the
25 boundaries of the Federal Refuges were managed under
26 Federal management rather than State, which meant that
27 the Federal subsistence priority applied there for
28 rural residents with customary and traditional use.
29 They undertook a Section .804 analysis. They
30 identified 32 Tribes on the Kuskokwim that had those
31 uses. And so that happened in the spring of 2014.

32
33 The second thing that happened in the
34 spring of 2014 is that some of the Villages -- there
35 was a meeting -- a call for a meeting at St. Mary's in
36 March of -- in May of 2014. And the Tribal
37 Representatives there adopted a resolution -- or
38 drafted a resolution that was adopted by many of the
39 Tribes on the Yukon River that called for a voluntary
40 moratorium on chinook fishing for that year and
41 endorsed a Tribal Fish Commission to be developed.
42 Almost the same thing happened on the Kuskokwim River.

43
44 So there was a momentum building for
45 people to be involved and there was organizations that
46 started to form. And then that -- after it continued
47 on. And then AFN last year in October, Deputy
48 Secretary Connor -- there had been many, many requests.
49 There had been resolutions from AFN and others to get
50 this co-management operation working on the Kuskokwim

1 and Yukon. And so at AFN last year, Deputy Secretary
2 Connor announced that indeed the Department of Interior
3 wanted to undertake a co-management project --
4 demonstration project for the Kuskokwim River that
5 would incorporate the Inter-Tribal Fish Commission for
6 the Kuskokwim. So that happened in October.

7
8 Tanana Chiefs and AVCP met with the
9 Deputy Secretary and asked that they be engaged in
10 developing a proposal for how it would work rather than
11 Department of Interior handing something down. That we
12 hand something up. And that was agreed to. And so
13 we've been working with some of the Federal officials
14 to try to develop a proposal for structure of -- for
15 co-management on the Kuskokwim River. And that's what
16 I'm going to present today.

17
18 So these are very preliminary ideas.
19 The Department of Interior has not agreed to this kind
20 of a structure. This is what AVCP and Tanana Chiefs
21 have been proposing. These ideas have been shared with
22 the Department of Interior. So there is a discussion
23 going on. And we've had a meeting of a Steering --
24 what we call the Steering Committee for the Inter-
25 Tribal Fish Commission in Bethel in March -- at the end
26 of February, where different Tribal leaders from all
27 over the Kuskokwim were invited to give their ideas
28 about how this all might develop. And they approved
29 going forward with this kind of a concept at that
30 meeting.

31
32 Then in Fairbanks on March 4th and 5th,
33 I think it was, there was a meeting of the Steering
34 Committee for the Yukon to try to figure out what an
35 Inter-Tribal Fish Commission might look like for this
36 incredible river system. And so that's started. And
37 the intent is that a demonstration project will occur
38 on the Kuskokwim. But we are definitely looking to
39 move that demonstration project over to the Yukon River
40 as well.

41
42 So there are steering committees going.
43 Membership on those steering committees is still open
44 for people that are interested. And so I think that's
45 the background. And then I'll go ahead.

46
47 So the presentation then is not so much
48 on the Inter-Tribal Fish Commissions. There's an
49 introduction about that. But is more on the structure
50 of the demonstration project. It's really important.

1 Very happy to make this presentation here. The YK RAC
2 got this presentation last week at their meeting. And
3 at the end of the presentation, someone made a motion.
4 And by unanimous vote with one absent they agreed that
5 this was a good idea and they wanted to see this moved
6 forward. So the Western Interior RAC of course also
7 has jurisdiction on the Kuskokwim River, so it's really
8 -- really appreciate the opportunity to provide you
9 with this presentation. Again, these are preliminary
10 ideas.

11
12 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So.....

13
14 MR. STARKEY: Everybody I guess can see
15 the screen okay.

16
17 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Uh-huh.

18
19 MR. STARKEY: So the Kuskokwim Inter-
20 Tribal Fish Commission is not the co-management
21 project. It is the group that represents the Tribes on
22 the Kuskokwim River. That group of people tries to get
23 together to decide what the Tribe's recommendations for
24 salmon management are.

25
26 So very preliminarily then, the
27 Kuskokwim Inter-Tribal Fish Commission -- the structure
28 for that organization is that all the Tribes -- the 32
29 that were identified by the Secretary in the special
30 action request would be a member of the Inter-Tribal
31 Commission and would join by passing a Tribal
32 resolution. In order to participate in the Fishery
33 Management Policies and the DOI Demonstration Project,
34 a Tribe must join the Inter-Tribal Fish Commission. So
35 they don't have to. But in order to be a part of the
36 project, they are offered the opportunity through a
37 resolution joining the Fish Commission.

38
39 One Tribal official. It would not have
40 to be a Tribal member, but whoever that Tribe selects
41 to represent them would be a commissioner in the Fish
42 Commission. One commissioner for every Tribe on the
43 River.

44
45 The Member Tribes would delegate their
46 authority for Fishery Management to the Fish Commission
47 and their consultation abilities and the Tribes would
48 maintain the ultimate authority to adopt any Management
49 Plan that came out of the Fish Commissions for their
50 Tribe. So they would be a part of the Commission, but

1 they would retain the ultimate authority as to whether
2 their Tribe is going to adopt any Fishery Management
3 Plans that might come out of that Commission.

4
5 So this is just a basic schematic and
6 it certainly doesn't represent all the Tribes, but
7 again this just demonstrates that each Tribe will be
8 offered the opportunity to be in the Fish Commission
9 and each one would appoint a commissioner to serve on
10 that Commission.

11
12 So here's the DOI Demonstration Project
13 then. Again, these are our ideas and they are
14 preliminary. But we think we've got something here
15 that might work. So the goal is how do you incorporate
16 the -- under the current system because we're not
17 looking at the need for legislation under the .805
18 structure, how do you incorporate something that
19 incorporates the Tribal Co-Management, the Inter-Tribal
20 Fish Commission, the current Federal System, the RACs.
21 And what we want to do is to draw -- bring the State
22 in. We think the State's a really valuable partner to
23 have. So how can we also incorporate a role for the
24 Tribe and start to -- the Tribes, the State, and the
25 RACs and start to unify management on the River is the
26 goal.

27
28 So under this -- as you know, the
29 Yukon, Kuskokwim, the Western Interior currently make
30 recommendations on Fishery Management to the Board.
31 Under this proposal, there would be a one RAC that
32 would be created called the Kuskokwim Fishery
33 Management RAC or whatever. These are just what it
34 could be called. Kuskokwim Fishery Management RAC.
35 And this RAC would be a unified RAC that would provide
36 recommendations to the Federal Subsistence Board only
37 for fisheries -- subsistence fishery management on the
38 Kuskokwim River drainage.

39
40 And really the real task for this RAC
41 would be to develop a comprehensive salmon management
42 plan for the Kuskokwim River. Not just pieces, but to
43 really dig in and develop a management plan.

44
45 So how would it be structured. So the
46 initial ideas is it would be structured with 12
47 members. The Secretary of the Interior would appoint
48 six members that would be commissioners from the Inter-
49 Tribal Fish Commission. The commissioners must be two
50 members from the Lower Kuskokwim, two commissioners

1 from middle, and two from upper. And again this is to
2 make sure that every section of the River feels
3 represented on the Fish Commission and in this co-
4 management regime, this new RAC. So two, two, two for
5 each segment of the River.

6

7 Then the Governor of Alaska would
8 nominate two members for this RAC. And they must be
9 rural residents of the Kuskokwim River drainage and on
10 a State local advisory committee for the Kuskokwim
11 River. So they couldn't just be anybody. They must be
12 actually people that are engaged on the fisheries in
13 the Kuskokwim River and have been selected or active in
14 management for the State. Now, you know, maybe that's
15 too restrictive for the Governor, but that's the
16 initial idea.

17

18 So the Yukon Delta RAC would nominate
19 -- would have two members. Two of the people that are
20 on the YK RAC would be members of this Kuskokwim River
21 RAC. And the Western RAC would have two members who
22 would also be members of this Kuskokwim River
23 Management RAC.

24

25 So that's the structure. And that's
26 represented here. Twelve members. Six members from
27 the Fish Commission. Again, all are appointed by the
28 Secretary, but it's quite different in that the Fish
29 Commission nominates six, that the YK and the Western
30 Interior nominate two a piece, and the Governor
31 nominate two.

32

33 So the Kuskokwim Fishery Management RAC
34 would assume primary authority to make Fishery
35 Management recommendations to the Board. The YK RAC
36 and the Western Interior RAC would be consulted about
37 those recommendation and would comment, but would not
38 make formal fishery recommendations. And again the
39 Kuskokwim Fishery Management RAC would develop salmon
40 management plans, not just takings issues. They would
41 deal with conservation, restoration, test fisheries,
42 gear, research, allocation, and opportunity. So it
43 would be a very broad responsibility.

44

45 How would deference work. This is a
46 big question for many people. So it would work like
47 your RAC works now, but it would be modified in a
48 couple of ways. So traditional knowledge is a big
49 component for many people on the River. And many
50 people feel like traditional knowledge is not blended

1 into management now. Under this proposal, traditional
2 knowledge would be -- the Secretary would be required
3 to give substantial weight to traditional knowledge in
4 looking at the recommendations.

5
6 So how would that happen. Okay. Two
7 -- before we get into that, the second manager
8 difference is the Federal Subsistence Board would be
9 required to give deference to all of this RAC's
10 recommendations, not just takings as it is now. So
11 when this RAC develops a Salmon Management Plan, that
12 Plan would be given deference. All components of that
13 Plan would be given deference and not just the parts
14 that the Secretary defers to under the current system.

15
16
17 So how would this work. So the
18 Kuskokwim Fishery Management RAC would have the primary
19 authority to make Fishery Management recommendations,
20 but they would do that in consultation with the two
21 current RACs. The two current RACs would make comments
22 to the Federal Subsistence Board on these, but the
23 primary recommendation authority would be from the
24 Kuskokwim Fishery Management RAC.

25
26 The deference. Okay. So we all know
27 what the deference standard is under Section .805.
28 One, not supported by substantial evidence; two,
29 violates recognized principles of fishery management;
30 and three, does not provide opportunity necessary for
31 subsistence uses. So the Kuskokwim Fishery Management
32 RAC would be -- they would do the same deference on all
33 recommendations related to fishery management; however,
34 the Federal Subsistence Board must consider traditional
35 knowledge in determining if a recommendation is
36 supported by substantial evidence and for the other
37 three criteria.

38
39 So how does that happen. Well, that's
40 not the slide. But one way that happens is anytime the
41 Secretary denies a recommendation of this RAC, it would
42 have to do so in writing and would have to in writing
43 demonstrate how it considered traditional knowledge and
44 the weight the traditional knowledge was given. So --
45 and those would be a shift in how things happen now.

46
47 So another component of this that is
48 very different than what happens now, as I understand
49 it anyway, is that in-season management would be
50 through co-management. So there would be a special

1 committee -- a small committee appointed that would
2 consist of three members of the Kuskokwim Fishery
3 Management RAC. One member from the YK RAC, one member
4 from the Western Interior RAC, and one State nominee.
5 And then three commissioners. One from the upper, one
6 from the middle, and one from the Lower Kuskokwim
7 River. This committee would be consulted on in-season
8 management decisions.

9
10 How would it be staffed. There would
11 be a Technical Committee for this new RAC. The
12 Technical Committee would have one member appointed by
13 the Inter-Tribal Fish Commission, one member by the
14 Office of Subsistence Management, and one member
15 appointed by the State. Now, these are technical
16 people. These are probably going to be your in-state
17 managers and whatever professional that you have from
18 the Inter-Tribal Fish Commission. This is going to be
19 the staff for the RAC. There would also be two members
20 who would at large appointees. They would be agreed on
21 by the State and the Fed and the Inter-Tribal Fish
22 Commission. They may be university people. They may
23 be others. They would not have an agency affiliation.
24 And they would be at large.

25
26 So you would have a staff of five to
27 provide you the information and recommendations that
28 you need for both your in-season management and for
29 developing your Salmon Management Plans. And the
30 Technical Committee's expectation would that they would
31 reach consensus on their recommendations, although that
32 may not always happen.

33
34 So this is just a schematic that shows
35 that. It shows the Special Committee, a small
36 committee being consulted on the in-management season
37 with the Fish and Wildlife Service and the State. And
38 it shows the Technical Committee all going through this
39 new Kuskokwim Fishery Management RAC.

40
41 So again the purpose would be to
42 develop Salmon Management Plans. The Inter-Tribal Fish
43 Commission would develop what their recommendations for
44 a Fishery Management Plan would be and would bring that
45 to the Kuskokwim Fishery Management RAC. So that would
46 be another -- another resource for the RAC would be the
47 plan that the Inter-Tribal Fish Commission brings to
48 the table.

49
50 Once the Kuskokwim Fishery Management

Subsistence Board. And once the Federal
3 Subsistence Board has adopted a Management Plan for the
4 Kuskokwim, the Tribes then could adopt that same
5 Management Plan or something that's consistent with it,
6 and could enter into a co-management agreement with the
7 Feds to implement that plan.

8

9

10 So for example, a Tribe that is a
11 member of the Kuskokwim River and the Tribal Fish
12 Commission and adopts a Tribal Management Plan that's
13 consistent with the plan forwarded by the RAC and
14 adopted by the Board could enter into a co-management
15 agreement. And as an example, if chinook harvests are
16 very limited and there are some chinook that are
17 available for each Village to provide for certain
18 essential cultural or other issues, the Tribe could
19 enter into a co-management agreement and could help
20 implement that plan.

21

22

23 So Section 809 provides for authority
24 for Tribal contracting and compacting. That could help
25 Inter-Tribal Fish Commissions for research, monitoring,
26 test fisheries, and other projects. And like I said,
27 the goal is to create co-management structure that's
28 unified for the drainage. And we look at this as a
29 State, Tribal, Federal co-management regime. We're
30 hoping that with the new opportunities for the Walker,
31 Mallott Administration, we may be able to carry these
32 discussions even farther than what we've demonstrated
33 here. That it may open up other possibilities.

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And that's the presentation, Mr.
Chairman. Thank you very much.

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CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thank you, Sky.
Does the Council have any questions on the
presentation.

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MR. COLLINS: Well, one. Was there
discussion on the Kuskokwim River Working Group.
Because it sounds like this Technical Committee for the
in-season is going to replace what's not being done by
the Working Group. Because they've involved in the in-
season. And there's much more people than six on that.

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MR. STARKEY: Well, no. Not

1 officially. But the Steering Committee for the
2 Kuskokwim is very interested in figuring out some way
3 to wrap in or figure out a relationship with the
4 Working Group. But it's not clear at this point
5 exactly how that will happen.

6

7 MR. COLLINS: Uh-huh.

8

9 MR. STARKEY: But like I've tried to
10 stress, the people that are talking about this are very
11 interested in incorporating the State into this and
12 having it be inclusive. And so as this all progresses,
13 those discussions will probably proceed in a way that
14 tackles that subject.

15

16 But a lot of the people that were on
17 the Steering Committee were on the Working Group.

18

19 MR. COLLINS: Uh-huh.

20

21 MR. STARKEY: And there was fairly
22 unanimous, I'd say, feeling that the Working Group
23 needed to evolve into something where there was more
24 strength in their recommendations and they couldn't be
25 as easily discarded by either the Feds or the State.

26

27 MR. COLLINS: The second question. I
28 noticed the Village of McGrath is not mentioned, yet
29 Nikolai is mentioned. There's a larger population in
30 McGrath than Nikolai. Why was that.

31

32 MR. STARKEY: Where weren't they
33 mentioned.

34

35 MR. COLLINS: That's on the Commission
36 of Tribes.

37

38 MR. STARKEY: Was that that little
39 diagram.

40

41 MR. COLLINS: Yeah.

42

43 MR. STARKEY: That was just like I
44 couldn't fit every -- all 32 of them up there, so it
45 was just grabbing a few to show how it would work. But
46 at the Steering Committee meeting, there were --
47 McGrath representatives were invited. So definitely
48 McGrath is in the picture.

49

50 MR. COLLINS: It would be in that

1 little block up there. You mean there would be more
2 Villages in a lot of these blocks than are shown here.

3
4 MR. STARKEY: Theoretically, there
5 would be 32.

6
7 MR. COLLINS: Yeah.

8
9 MR. STARKEY: Every single Village on
10 the Kuskokwim.

11
12 MR. COLLINS: Okay.

13
14 MR. STARKEY: I'm sorry. That diagram
15 is maybe not what it should be.

16
17 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Other Council
18 questions, comments.

19
20 MR. GERVAIS: Jack.

21
22 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, Tim.

23
24 MR. GERVAIS: Thank you for your
25 presentation, Sky. Is there any talk that the Inter-
26 Tribal Fish Commission might be able to get position on
27 the North Pacific Council or anything. And any kind of
28 voice in the Federal management.

29
30 MR. STARKEY: So that's.....

31
32 MR. GERVAIS: All the marine
33 environment.

34
35 MR. STARKEY: That's a great question.
36 So the way it works in Oregon and Washington is that
37 they have a seat for the Tribes on the Councils -- on
38 the Pacific Council. And the way that that's feasible
39 is that the Inter-Tribal Fish Commissions for the
40 Columbia and Northwest actually are -- so they started
41 out small, but now they have -- like the Columbia
42 Inter-Tribal has a staff of 90 and a big budget. So
43 they're actually been able to be the organization that
44 sponsors to having a person fill that seat. So that
45 seat is well staffed. You know, it makes the
46 possibility of playing at the North Pacific Fishery
47 Management Council a reality. Not just having the
48 seat, but having a really effective seat.

49
50 So one of the reasons people really

1 want to develop this is to start to develop capacity on
2 the Yukon and Kuskokwim to play at that level with the
3 Council and, you know, all the other organizations that
4 influence fish -- in river fish.

5

6 MR. GERVAIS: Thank you.

7

8 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Other comments.

9

10 MR. WALKER: I got a comment.

11

12 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Oh, go ahead.

13

14 MR. WALKER: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I
15 don't really grasp this whole thing yet, but I've just
16 got a question regarding your -- I guess the Yukon
17 Kuskokwim built a RAC, two nominees. Does that pertain
18 just to the Delta of the Yukon or pertaining to the
19 Yukon itself.

20

21 MR. STARKEY: So as I understand it,
22 there are -- the way the RACs are divided -- I'm not
23 sure how far down you guys go. Where is the dividing
24 line on the Yukon. Is it Holy Cross.

25

26 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: It's at Paimiut.

27

28 MR. STARKEY: Okay. So the YK RAC
29 would be -- you know, they -- it would be up to them
30 essentially. But since what we're talking about is a
31 demonstration project that only applies to the
32 Kuskokwim drainage.....

33

34 MR. WALKER: Uh-huh.

35

36 MR. STARKEY:I guess the
37 assumption would be that the YK RAC would probably
38 appoint two members who are Kuskokwim Fishery people.
39 And if the demonstration project were to move over to
40 the Yukon, then we would probably be looking at what --
41 trying to figure out what -- with the help of the RACs
42 and others, what structure would work best for the
43 Yukon. So it's not necessarily true that the structure
44 that I presented today for the Kuskokwim would be the
45 same structure that might work for the Yukon. Because
46 you guys have three RACs and international. It's just
47 a little more complex on the Yukon.

48

49 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So I -- oh. Go
50 ahead, Don.

1 MR. HONEA: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Sky,
2 I guess I am also kind of baffled about, you know,
3 these so many commissions and stuff. And, you know, a
4 few years back when we had a salmon meeting, I guess my
5 question was, you know, who is the authoritative voice
6 speaking for us. Is it our RACs. And so -- I mean so
7 -- I mean we have all our individual Advisory Councils
8 and our RACs. And now that TCC and maybe AVCP or
9 somebody has kind of merged and getting together and
10 coming up with a comprehensive plan to save our
11 fisheries, it's kind of like this all of a sudden to me
12 -- I mean this is fine and good. This is for the
13 Kuskokwim. So we have some people maybe that it's kind
14 of confusing. And maybe this can be something started
15 on the Yukon.

16
17 Is this like it can be a template for
18 TCC and AVCP to work on. I mean it's kind of odd that
19 this is just for the Kuskokwim. I don't mind that.
20 What I'm saying is, you know, is there going to be
21 another commission. Are you guys going to work
22 together with TCC and the Task Force. Because I was
23 talking to Ben Stevens. And you know Ben. And he was
24 asking myself, are you on the Task Force. And I was
25 kind of amazed that Ben didn't know who was on the Task
26 Force, the fishing thing.

27
28 MR. STARKEY: Yeah.

29
30 MR. HONEA: And he thought I was on
31 there. And I said no. I don't even know who's on
32 there. So it's very new, but it just -- I guess all
33 these little organizations. And so I guess, you know,
34 maybe something will come out of this where we'd have a
35 unified voice.

36
37 That's all. Thank you.

38
39 MR. STARKEY: Well, you know, exactly.
40 Exactly what you just said. So there are so many
41 different organizations especially on the Yukon River
42 that all have a little piece of everything. And, you
43 know, everybody tries to do a really good job. But it
44 is very scattered. And now you have State and you have
45 Federal management. And the one group that feels very
46 left out are the Tribes themselves. So the real
47 purpose of this is to get a unified voice and to try to
48 unify some management on the Yukon.

49
50 So will it -- so what's happening on

1 the Yukon. So yes, there is very much -- the goal is
2 to try to set the template on the Kuskokwim and use it
3 for the Yukon. And in fact there's going to be a
4 meeting in Tanana on April 2nd and 3rd, where Tanana
5 Chiefs and AVCP are going to be trying to get together
6 with many of the Tribes to talk about this. So yes,
7 it's the same problems on the Yukon and Kuskokwim with
8 management being scattered and so many different
9 things. And no unified voice for the people that are
10 living on that river, many of them.

11
12 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So I was -- this
13 Council was blind-sided by this issue. And I'm -- if
14 the leadership of OSM knew about this, I feel that they
15 should have brought this forward sooner. If they did
16 not know about this sooner, then we have to have more
17 lead time to make proper comments. Greg Roczicka sent
18 me an email with basically a rough draft of this idea.

19
20 I see many problems. I see the State
21 -- there's a huge amount of State-controlled lands and
22 yet this would have to have buy in from the State of
23 Alaska. The Governor is appointing two members. If
24 the State Governor doesn't agree to the plan and
25 doesn't appoint the members, I'm worried about the
26 composition of this group.

27
28 I feel that ANILCA .805 allows the
29 formation of Advisory Committees -- Federal Advisory
30 Committees. I feel that Kuskokwim Inter-Tribal Fish
31 Federal Advisory Committee would be a legal means. I
32 do not feel that a Council can cede their authority and
33 split what ANILCA says. ANILCA says Councils are
34 formed for fish and wildlife management. So you'd have
35 to change the Statute. You'd have to change the ANILCA
36 Statute to divide out a completely different Council.
37 And these Councils are ceding authority to this new
38 management body.

39
40 I don't actually -- I think that the
41 ANILCA Statute would actually have to be changed. And
42 so I request that the Solicitor for OSM, Ken Lord, look
43 at the Statutory language and decide whether this is
44 actually legal. Because we don't want to get way off
45 into deep mud if this isn't even actually legal. I
46 feel that it may not actually have a legal basis.

47
48 There is a legal basis for a Federal
49 Advisory Committee. Congress provided for if there was
50 lack of State Advisory Committees, they could develop a

1 Federal Advisory Committee.

2

3 Do you have a comment, Darrel.

4

5 MR. VENT: Yeah. Mine was I don't
6 think this is, you know, the first time that there's
7 people trying to do co-management. I mean I heard of
8 this happening down in the States. I don't know
9 whether it's for -- whether it worked real good or
10 whether it helped people or anything like that. We
11 don't have any information. Right now I don't have any
12 information. I'll have to look that up. But if we
13 could get that kind of information from down there and
14 bring it up here and see if it works good with the
15 State, the Federal government, and the Native people,
16 maybe, you know, it's something that we can look into.
17 I don't have any information on that.

18

19 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right. I'm not
20 saying that this is not a huge need on the Kuskokwim
21 River. The Yukon is a very complex system and has
22 many, many international agreements and obligations to
23 Canadian people and stocks.

24

25 The Kuskokwim is a good place to start.
26 And I do feel that there is a real strong need for a
27 Federal Advisory Committee using the Kuskokwim
28 Communities. The 32 or however many communities they
29 are. I'm real concerned about -- I've attended many
30 Board of Fish meetings and many Federal Subsistence
31 Board meetings. The Lower River can swamp the Boards
32 because they have CDQ monies. I'm concerned about the
33 delineation of where the lower, the middle, and the
34 upper boundaries are for representation. I don't want
35 to see any kind of Advisory Committee being overwhelmed
36 with all down river people, all middle river people or
37 all upper river people. I want to see the Governor
38 proposal, two seats. If the Governor, the State signs
39 on, the Governor should appoint one up river and one
40 down river. Politics enters into these kinds.....

41

42 MR. STARKEY: Uh-huh.

43

44 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: And swaying.....

45

46 MR. STARKEY: Uh-huh.

47

48 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF:a committee
49 like this one way or another just by political
50 positioning, I'm concerned about that.

1 MR. STARKEY: Yeah.

2

3 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: You had a comment
4 there.

5

6 MR. STARKEY: Well, that's a great
7 point. I mean we have really on the Kusk -- we've
8 tried to -- that's been a big concern. And that's why
9 it's two, two, two. And, you know, we tried to really
10 figure -- we are trying to figure out a way to ensure
11 that there is balance so no one feels sway, over-voted
12 and swayed. And I think that's a great idea to have
13 the Governor have to make sure that he doesn't upset
14 that balance. So.....

15

16 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So what I'm saying
17 is I feel that using the Regional Council name -- it
18 gets real confusing. You know, there's a Western
19 Interior Regional Council, YK Delta Council, Kuskokwim
20 Regional Coun -- I think I feel that the avenue for
21 this -- the mechanism for this is already statutory.
22 It's in place. The Federal Advisory Committee. We
23 make it inter-tribal representation. I want to make
24 sure that it's equal representation up and down the
25 river, so that no one entity takes control.

26

27 I'm worried about the politics. And
28 you know full well about the politics of what happens
29 on the Yukon and Kuskokwim River.

30

31 Oh, Tim.

32

33 MR. GERVAIS: I've got a comment on the
34 Governor's appointees. Perhaps they should just leave
35 the Governor out of it. Because traditionally the
36 Governor comes from Anchorage and traditionally they
37 don't have a very good sense of the subsistence pulse.
38 And to have somebody like the Governor appointing two
39 people on that Commission is -- it's a lot of decision-
40 making power coming from an area without much Tribal or
41 subsistence history.

42

43 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yes. I -- you know,
44 the State has to buy into this. And if the Governor
45 does not -- if the State won't do it and the Governor
46 won't make an appointment, that leaves two seats in
47 flux. And so the buy-in from the State is a big part
48 of the Kuskokwim River Salmon Working Group.

49

50 Do you have a comment, Ray.

1 MR. COLLINS: Well, yeah. It was along
2 that line. I think you couldn't leave the Governor out
3 because on the Kuskokwim River a lot of the spawning
4 ground is on the State land, like the Holitna and the
5 whole upper River there. We don't have Refuges on the
6 River itself. The Refuges are down at the mouth. But
7 a lot of the spawning streams are not there, so if you
8 don't have the two working together, we already on the
9 Working Group have to involve both the State and the
10 Federal in making any decisions because the whole River
11 is involved. So you do have to have that involvement
12 on something like this that would be coming up with a
13 Management Plan for the whole system.

14

15 MR. GERVAIS: But can I have a rebuttal
16 to that, Chairman.

17

18 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, Tim.

19

20 MR. GERVAIS: Okay. So we have a
21 similar structure like in the North Pacific Council
22 where the Governors of Washington and Alaska are
23 appointing these various voting members. And it's not
24 working out. It's not equitable to the public because
25 the appointees are selected based on various things
26 that don't necessarily provide an equitable standing to
27 all the citizens of the State. And so that's why I'm
28 saying to have the Governor selecting members to this
29 RAC is dangerous.

30

31 But, you know, maybe there's a
32 different way to get those -- the State appointees in
33 there that doesn't involve Governor appointments.

34

35 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thank you. I'm
36 worried about the politics.....

37

38 MR. COLLINS: Well.....

39

40 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF:of commercial
41 interests entering into the equation. But Jenny wanted
42 to say something. Then I'll go to you, Sky.

43

44 MS. PELKOLA: Okay. I guess -- Jenny
45 Pelkola. I guess I'm just a little confused. I mean
46 this sounds like a good idea, but I am just a little
47 confused on what -- where's the funding going to come
48 from. Who's going to -- you know, who's going to pay
49 for the Tribes -- I mean the members to travel or -- I
50 guess something like that. But I'm just a little

1 confused about the whole thing.

2

3 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yes.

4

5 MR. STARKEY: Well, funding is always a
6 concern. So we're definitely -- we're looking for
7 funding sources. But there are -- if you look at the
8 Kuskokwim, there are 32 Tribes there. And there are
9 40-something on the Yukon. You know, the Columbia
10 River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission truly co-manages the
11 Columbia River. They started out small. Now they're
12 big. You've got to -- as one person said, you know,
13 Alaska Natives didn't have all the money that they
14 needed to do the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act at
15 the beginning either, but they successfully pulled that
16 off. So we're definitely looking for funding.

17

18 Your point though, Tim, was really
19 good. And that's the balance that we're looking for,
20 which also involves a risk. So how do you pull the
21 State in and make them feel meaningfully engaged
22 without risking having it fall apart. How do you
23 balance pulling everybody in and not have things fall
24 apart. And then how do you deal with politics and how
25 do you develop a system that is equitable, so that
26 people in each segment of the River feel like they're
27 not going to be overwhelmed. That they are going to be
28 there and they are going to be just as powerful as the
29 others. And these are big challenges. Agreed.

30

31 And we're struggling with that. And
32 we're trying to incorporate all those things in that
33 draft. But the Tribes on the River want to be -- want
34 a unified system and they want to be engaged. And they
35 want co-management. And that's -- and the Secretary of
36 the Interior has agreed that's a good idea at least for
37 the Kuskokwim.

38

39 And so we are trying to take advantage
40 of that situation and take into consideration all the
41 things that you have very wisely pointed out, because
42 they are important. But if people eventually get into
43 a system where they are sitting around the same table
44 and talking and working things out and trying to do it
45 in a unified way, that is not something that's going on
46 right now. And that will we think be a big improvement
47 on the management of the rivers.

48

49 So we're at the beginning. But those
50 are our goals.

1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I will answer
2 Jenny's question about funding. If this was a Federal
3 Advisory Committee, it's the obligation of the Federal
4 government to provide the funding for the Federal
5 Advisory Committees under ANILCA. And so I feel that
6 by it being a Federal Advisory Committee, then the
7 Federal government will fund it.

8
9 It's in question as to the funding
10 source if it's not a legal -- and that's why I'm asking
11 for a legal interpretation.....

12
13 MR. STARKEY: Yeah.

14
15 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF:about dividing
16 off a fishery from a regional -- completely taking
17 fishery management away from the -- on the Kuskokwim
18 River for the Western and YK Delta. And if the Yukon
19 comes into play, we lose fishery there also for
20 deference.

21
22 MR. STARKEY: Well, you could look at
23 it as you are losing fisheries or you could look at it
24 as you're joining in a group that will better manage
25 fisheries. I mean there's other ways to look at it. I
26 guess I'm just suggesting.

27
28 Secondly, is the legal matter. I will
29 tell you this. I was doing the same job when they
30 began this RAC process. Okay?

31
32 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Uh-huh.

33
34 MR. STARKEY: This was not cast in
35 stone by Statute. This was a proposal that there
36 should be ten RACs in the State. And many us even back
37 then advocated that it was not a good idea to divide
38 fishery management into three RACs. We wanted to see
39 unified management even back then. And we made several
40 proposals. This is well within the context of Section
41 .805 where there's a lot of discretion. And so, you
42 know, it's not new that we thought that having RACs
43 with different -- on the same river for fish, which
44 don't pay attention to align, was a good idea.

45
46 So yeah, I agree. We do need a
47 Solicitor's opinion and it does need to be consistent.
48 We'll see where it goes.

49
50 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Uh-huh.

1 MR. STARKEY: But even back then there
2 were many people that made comments that thought
3 fishery management should be unified.

4
5 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I just want to have
6 that clear before we keep.....

7
8 MR. STARKEY: Yeah.

9
10 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: We don't want to
11 mire down out in the middle of nowhere if we don't --
12 aren't on legal hard ground.

13
14 And other concern -- and it'll be my
15 final comment -- is that I'm -- ANILCA is real clear on
16 resource health using recognized scientific principles.
17 I've been listening to the Kuskokwim Working Group
18 deliberations and so forth on the phone. And there's
19 lots of elders using TEK that we've always harvested
20 all the fish we've ever anted in the Lower Kuskokwim
21 River. And so the fish always come back and that's
22 just the way it goes. Well, there's some problems.

23
24 If you look at the demographics, the
25 elders that are saying that now, when they were young
26 adults there was one-sixth the population that there is
27 now. They didn't have mono-twist gear. They didn't
28 use drift gillnet. They had beach oriented gear. They
29 had cotton net. And I fished cotton net and you didn't
30 hold kings very well cotton gear. It rots. And so
31 they'll bust the net. And so beach oriented gear and
32 low population, the harvest -- yeah, the fish could
33 sustain that.

34
35 But TEK is saying that we can harvest
36 all the fish that we want and that's the way it is. On
37 a low return, I am concerned for the resource. And so
38 deference for TEK that we have unlimited ability to
39 harvest, I keep hearing that. I do not agree at this
40 time that there is an unlimited resource to harvest.

41
42 And so how would you address that.

43
44 MR. STARKEY: Well, Mr. Chairman, you
45 know that traditional knowledge is much deeper than
46 that. You know that for a fact. You know that some
47 people say that. But you know that if you continue in
48 a conversation with an elder and you dig deeper,
49 there's much more there than what -- that that. And so
50 it's a very deep area. And we need to understand it

1 more. I've, you know, heard elders say many things
2 that I think are just very insightful. And they're not
3 brought into management.

4
5 So it's like anything else. It's like
6 Western science. I mean Western science used to say
7 look, we can har -- the only thing we need to take into
8 account is how many eggs we're going to get on the
9 spawning ground. And now we know that the number of
10 carcasses that you leave in a river fertilize the river
11 and are also important. So everything -- we could
12 point -- we can always point to weaknesses in each
13 science and things that maybe aren't to be paid
14 attention to. That doesn't devalue the things that
15 really are important and valuable.

16
17 And what this says is look, there are
18 some really valuable things to learn from traditional
19 knowledge.

20
21 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Of course.

22
23 MR. STARKEY: And they're not being
24 incorporated.

25
26 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Of course.

27
28 MR. STARKEY: And how do we do that.
29 It's not to say every single thing that somebody says
30 that's an elder should be given deference.

31
32 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Well, I just wanted
33 to put that out on the table. I want to make
34 everything crystal clear in what I was thinking about
35 the proposal.

36
37 I do feel that this -- a very necessary
38 issue is to have cohesion on the entire drainage about
39 management. That's where the Kuskokwim River Salmon
40 Working Group made great strides and success. I feel
41 that this is a step forward, the process. And I
42 commend you for working on this, Sky. But there were
43 issues that I wanted to point out on the record. And
44 you could get every last word to come out of my mouth
45 from Salena there in probably a week or two when she
46 types them all out and they'll be online.

47
48 MR. STARKEY: Thank you very much, Mr.
49 Chairman, for the time and for all the good ideas.
50 Because we are looking for good ideas and we pledge

1 that we will keep this RAC as closely appraised as we
2 possibly can as we move through.

3

4 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I appreciate that.
5 And so we would like a little more leeway or a little
6 more lead time on developing and tracking this issue.

7

8 Thank you.

9

10 MR. STARKEY: Clearly understood, Mr.
11 Chair. Thank you.

12

13 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So we need to move
14 on in this agenda. And so how are we doing there,
15 Melinda. Do we need to -- we're good on time or.....

16

17 MS. BURKE: Mr. Chair, I think we're
18 doing pretty good on time. Just for -- we've got some
19 new folks who have joined us here in the room. We have
20 a couple of action items coming up after we discuss
21 Proposal 202. I'm not sure how lengthy we're going to
22 go on that. So maybe to get some handouts and to get
23 some -- give folks maybe ten minutes.

24

25 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay.

26

27 MS. BURKE: And have we had anybody new
28 join us on the phone, please, who has not introduced
29 themselves yet today. Any new callers on the line.

30

31 (No comments)

32

33 MS. BURKE: Okay.

34

35 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Nobody there. So a
36 break for ten minutes. And we're running -- we've got
37 to complete the meeting by this evening.

38

39 (Off record)

40

41 (On record)

42

43 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So we're going to
44 call this meeting back to order. We're going to gather
45 up our Council Members. So we're going to gather up
46 our Council Members. We're coming short on time.
47 We're already ten after 4:00. We've got to complete
48 this agenda. And we have a lot of work to do if we
49 have some Agencies to.....

50

1 MR. R. WALKER: I'm leaving right at
2 5:00, Jack.
3
4 MS. BURKE: No, you're not.
5
6 (Laughter)
7
8 MS. BURKE: You're staying here.
9
10 MR. R. WALKER: Wow.
11
12 (Laughter)
13
14 MR. R. WALKER: Boy, you got to really
15 -- Jack.
16
17 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: She's got handcuffs.
18 She's going to chain you to that table.
19
20 REPORTER: Sit down.
21
22 (Laughter)
23
24 REPORTER: And pay attention to her.
25
26 (Laughter)
27
28 MR. R. WALKER: Yeah, boy.
29
30 (Laughter)
31
32 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: We need to come back
33 to order. I'm not sure where -- there's Tim. And so
34 we got the Council here. Pollock's right there. And
35 so.....
36
37 MS. BURKE: Yeah. Mr. Chair, we've got
38 a -- the BLM is going to come up next. We've got to --
39 they have another meeting later this evening for a
40 teleconference, so we're going to go ahead and move
41 them up just a bit.
42
43 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. So we'll have
44 the BLM come up and give their report.
45
46 So Shelly, go ahead.
47
48 MS. JACOBSON: The mics are always on.
49 If you stay far enough back, they sound good.
50

1 Thank you, Mr. Chair. Appreciate the
2 opportunity to attend the meeting in the interest of
3 the Council. And appreciate the Council Members' time
4 today. I think in the packet -- we got it in time --
5 the BLM Agency Report. So maybe you've had a chance to
6 look at that or you can read it later.

7
8 I'm not going to read the entire thing
9 to you, but I just wanted to make sure you were aware
10 that you had it and go through some of the major
11 activities that have been occurring on BLM lands since
12 the last time we updated you. Got it organized program
13 by program, realizing that probably most interest of
14 the Council is some of our wildlife and guiding
15 activities. So we can spend more time on that as you
16 wish.

17
18 We've got in our planning, right now
19 we're working on a Resource Management Plan. We've
20 been out to I think most of the communities within our
21 planning area doing scoping meetings and letting people
22 know which lands we're writing the plan for. We've
23 taken public comment on our scoping issues and I think
24 this spring you'll see our Scoping Report available
25 online with the issues summarized and some explanation
26 of how those issues will be addressed in the Resource
27 Management Plan.

28
29 We also will produce a report on the
30 management situation and that will also be available
31 online. Currently our staff are working on preliminary
32 alternatives. And when we get that done we'll have a
33 draft that we are hoping to go back out to the
34 communities and discuss and make sure everyone knows
35 what the range of alternatives are.

36
37 So if you aren't on our mailing list --
38 the whole RAC is. And I think Melinda disseminates
39 information to the group members. But individually if
40 you'd like to be on our mailing list, you can contact
41 us and we'll make sure you receive individual mailings.

42
43 Education outreach. BLM partners with
44 the Fish and Wildlife Service and the Parks Service to
45 do ed outreach. In this Region primarily for BLM it's
46 through our Arctic Inter-Agency Visitors Center, which
47 we open every year about Memorial Day and close Labor
48 Day. So that's our plan again this summer. And
49 there's a little bit more information on visitation in
50 there.

1 Under recreation, BLM manages our guide
2 permits under a system called Special Recreation
3 Permits. We sometimes refer to them as SRPs. We've
4 got 24 permits of that type in the Western Interior
5 Region. Ten holders of -- or I guess ten of them are
6 commercial hunting guides. Six that operate in or near
7 the Dalton Highway corridor, with four of them actually
8 overlapping the Dalton corridor for sheep and brown
9 bear primarily. Although I believe actually all of
10 them are kind of multi-hunts, including caribou and
11 moose. And one that's only guiding bears.

12
13 So we also permit under that same
14 authority commercial tour -- like tour buses. Like
15 Princess Tour groups and eco-tourists to go up the
16 highway. And we have 14 of those under permit.

17
18 Realty actions that I thought you might
19 be interested in. We're still working on two major gas
20 line rights-of-way involving a lot of field work
21 permitting. We're just about done with the NEPA work
22 to authorize the Alaska stand alone pipeline, to do
23 some bore hole testing for gravel and refining the
24 route right-of-way alignment. So probably issue that
25 permit next week for that field work.

26
27 We're also reviewing resource reports
28 for the FERC, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission.
29 They're the agency in charge of the Alaska -- what's it
30 called. The Trans-Canada, I want to call it. But it's
31 not Trans-Canada anymore. Alaska Gas.....

32
33 MR. GERVAIS: AKLNG.

34
35 MS. JACOBSON: AKLNG. Thanks, Tim.
36 AKLNG, the bigger pipe. The one that was going to
37 export gas. And so that's still on the table. And
38 we're working on reviewing those resource reports.

39
40 One of the major projects that fell off
41 of our table with the new Governor at least for the
42 moment is the proposed road to the Ambler Mining
43 District. So we didn't get a right-of-way application
44 and we're not working on that any longer. We did quite
45 a bit of work with at least attending meetings and
46 imagining how we might have to staff up to do the work
47 for that project, but it's not materializing right now.

48
49 So we do have a right-of-way that's
50 currently concerning and part of the reason that I have

1 to leave this meeting a little early. We issued a
2 right-of-way to the City of Bettles to establish their
3 winter road. They had some subsidence probably from --
4 they're contributed to by the fires and then the heavy
5 rain last year. And so they had three or four areas
6 where they had major slumps across the road that need
7 to be rerouted in that section. So they got
8 authorization to do that, but establishing it was
9 trickier than they expected. They had some issues with
10 it. So they're going to meet this afternoon at 6:00
11 o'clock to talk about how to stabilize that new section
12 and hopefully get their fuel trucks in.

13

14 We're also right now tracking
15 unfortunately four fuel spills that occurred along the
16 Dalton Highway this year from truck rollovers, major
17 fuel hauling. All of it was diesel fuel. But, you
18 know, it's many thousands of gallons in four different
19 locations that now have to be cleaned up. So that's
20 been an unexpected workload that we hope slows down.

21

22 Always a lot of mining going on. We
23 expect that to continue next year. We've had about 40
24 placer gold operating in the past up along the Dalton.
25 A lot of improvements I think in that arena in terms of
26 BLM. It takes us longer to issue the permits because
27 we're requiring more information. But I think we're
28 going to start getting better results on the
29 reclamation and hopefully be more clear to people what
30 we're expecting for signing the areas off after they're
31 mined.

32

33 And we've also been able to move
34 forward on some of the staffing, so that will help us
35 do more of our compliance work and get the permits done
36 a little bit faster for the mining community.

37

38 Related to the road maintenance and
39 TAPS maintenance, we sell a lot. And for use permits
40 for a lot of sand and gravel. And it tells in the
41 report which sections DOT will be working on this year.
42 And working on opening up several new gravel pits and
43 using pits that have been there, but haven't been used
44 for a while.

45

46 I'm going to.....

47

48 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: On that issue.....

49

50 MS. JACOBSON: Oh.

1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: under the ASAP
2 EIS, I commented extensively on those. DOT seemed to
3 target Wiseman to have gravel pits almost encircling
4 the community. And did you get my cc'd copy of my
5 comments on that.

6
7 There was multiple areas right next to
8 our community. Basically encircling the community for
9 gravel extraction. And there's really no reason for
10 that at all. And I wanted to make sure that you -- I
11 didn't get a response when I emailed it to you. I
12 wanted to make sure you understand that this would have
13 huge impacts on the access road to Wiseman and the
14 community itself by having gravel extraction within
15 one-half mile across the river, one-half mile upriver
16 from us, and a quarry extension up onto the side of the
17 mountain, up to 2,000 in elevation above the Valley
18 floor.

19
20 I want to make sure on the record that
21 you got my comments on that. Those would have huge
22 impacts on the local resources in the Community of
23 Wiseman. There's no need for that kind of stuff. DOT
24 can ask for the moon. You do not have to give them
25 whatever they want.

26
27 MS. JACOBSON: Right. And they haven't
28 -- they've addressed gravel needs in a sort of general
29 way in their EIS and as they're supplementing it now.
30 Same way though, in a general way. Nothing in there is
31 going to be able to be clear enough in order to do any
32 specific sale, but every year we do authorize
33 additional pits.

34
35 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I commented that the
36 pit straight across the river, over by Many Creek, on
37 the east side of the road there's millions of yards of
38 material in one place. They don't need to have gravel
39 extraction surrounding our Community. As far as quarry
40 extraction, there's only -- they can continue with the
41 current quarry extraction. They can't -- don't just go
42 make a whole new place on the side of the mountain.

43
44 There's a scenic by-way and the BLM was
45 a co-conspirator on that. And so develop -- putting
46 that huge amounts of gravel pits in view of the road
47 and quarry extractions that are disparent to what's
48 been occurring is not acceptable. And so I wanted to
49 make sure that you got that email.

50

1 MS. JACOBSON: I believe I did. But
2 after the meeting I will double check to make sure I
3 did. It sounds like your comments are similar to ours
4 on the ASAP line. And it is a major planning issue, so
5 we're not hoping to develop any new pits until we work
6 through our plan. But we've got a lot of use of
7 existing pits between now and when our plan is done.

8
9 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I would like you to
10 come to the Community of Wiseman to have a meeting on
11 if you are going to expand pits near our community or
12 if there's new pits going to be developed that were
13 requested by DOT, I feel local people should have the
14 opportunity to comment on what the mitigations could be
15 and the impacts to subsistence uses in our area. Those
16 are right against our community.

17
18 MS. JACOBSON: Yeah. No. I would
19 like.....

20
21 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: If someone was going
22 to build a gravel pit in your backyard and they didn't
23 have to, you would be saying something about it.

24
25 MS. JACOBSON: No. We'll definitely
26 follow up on that request. And we've got some pits
27 that are under consideration right now. And we're also
28 planning to have a -- what I'm calling a Gravel Summit
29 with DOT in Alyeska and some of the major users to talk
30 about gravel issues. So maybe you could come to that
31 if you're interested. When we get it scheduled, I'll
32 make sure you're on the list.

33
34 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Well, when you're up
35 in the area you can come to Wiseman Community
36 Center.....

37
38 MS. JACOBSON: Sure.

39
40 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF:for free.

41
42 MS. JACOBSON: Absolutely.

43
44 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I won't charge you
45 any to come there.

46
47 (Laughter)

48
49 MS. JACOBSON: All right. I'll do
50 that. But I will check for the comments as well.

1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: We'll charge AKLNG.
2 We'll charge them. We won't charge the BLM. You can
3 come to our Community.
4
5 (Laughter)
6
7 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I'll heat it myself.
8 I'll cut the wood for it on BLM land.
9
10 (Laughter)
11
12 MS. JACOBSON: Thank you. Okay. All
13 right. Well.....
14
15 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: You had a comment,
16 Ray.
17
18 MR. COLLINS: Well, I was wondering
19 what the status of the Kuskokwim plan it, too. That's
20 one in -- are you involved in that at all or is that
21 just the Anchorage office.
22
23 MS. JACOBSON: That's the Anchorage
24 Office. And maybe Bruce Seppi has an idea on that.
25
26 MR. SEPPI: I'll be -- I'll have that
27 on my turn.
28
29 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay.
30
31 MR. COLLINS: Okay. Okay.
32
33 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Continue,
34 Shelly. I just wanted to get my point in there.
35
36 MS. JACOBSON: Sure. No, that's good.
37 That's good. We always get -- and I really appreciate
38 the local knowledge of the resources. One of the
39 things I learned from DOT about gravel is a lot of the
40 sand and gravel and the specs that they need is sort of
41 ubiquitous. It's everywhere and anywhere. And they
42 don't -- it's -- they can find it and like to as they
43 can. But they really covet certain finished material
44 and rocks similar to the ones that occur around
45 Wiseman. That conglomerate. But your information on
46 existing sources and alternative sources has been
47 helpful in the past.
48
49 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I'm not opposed to
50 them extracting quarry. But where they've been

1 extracting.

2

3 MS. JACOBSON: Yeah.

4

5 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Look at their
6 diagram. They went 2,000 feet up the side of the
7 mountain. That's -- no. That should not be even a
8 consideration zone.

9

10 And some of the State DOT has
11 demonstrated that they have poor selection abilities.
12 Look at the Nugget Creek pit that they put in that the
13 contractor could barely get enough material out of it.
14 I think the BLM should have sight -- oversight and
15 analysis before they just start issuing permits to DOT.
16 DOT has demonstrated that they do not have the ability
17 to locate the kind of geological material that is
18 necessary for what their objectives are. And there's
19 areas where they can obtain those materials easily and
20 I'm not opposed to them obtaining them.

21

22 But we should be able to comment about
23 the geologic structure and where those extractions are
24 being -- that are many times more cost effective for
25 the State of Alaska and the Contractors themselves. So
26 I just wanted to say that again.

27

28 MS. JACOBSON: Okay.

29

30 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Continue.

31

32 MS. JACOBSON: Okay. The wildlife
33 section I'm going to leave for Jen, as far as the
34 studies and things that we've been involved in with
35 regard to sheep and some of the other studies.

36

37 I think -- I hope that's not the entire
38 end of the report, but maybe it is. You know, we
39 always have ongoing archeological work as we will again
40 this year. I think last year it was done in an
41 adjacent or maybe partially overlapping or in
42 conjunction with the Kanuti Refuge. I'm not sure what
43 area Bill geographically is targeting this year for the
44 just sort of general archeological assessment work.
45 Most of his time is spent doing inventory work ahead of
46 the mining activities, so he doesn't get very much
47 chance to just go out and look at more or less pristine
48 areas.

49

50 And also in the past we've targeted

1 sort of the areas a little further, but around the
2 Tuluk Research natural area where some of the
3 experiments might be impacting cultural resources. But
4 we're always open for suggestions if people have ideas
5 for things that have been under inventoried or may
6 benefit from new or up-to-date field work. Kind of an
7 ongoing program.

8

9 And I guess I'll turn the mic over to
10 Jen to talk about the sheep studies. And then we can
11 come back to the guides if you'd like.

12

13 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, Jen.

14

15 MS. MCMILLAN: So I'll just go through
16 the list of projects we've been working for wildlife
17 and ecology. So the BLM, along with other agencies --
18 we had planned to do a moose survey in GMU24B in
19 November of last year, but it was cancelled. So we
20 rescheduled it for this coming spring. Actually, this
21 month. The BLM is supporting that effort and another
22 inter-agency moose survey is planned for November 2015.

23

24 The GMU24 moose telemetry study was
25 finally completed in 2013. Multiple agencies radio
26 tracked moose in the Kanuti, the Middle Fork Koyukuk,
27 and the Central Brooks Range on a monthly basis. And
28 we supported that as well.

29

30 Published reports of the both movement
31 patterns and habitat use are in progress and should be
32 available in 2015. The BLM Central Yukon Field Office
33 is going to continue to participate in the Western
34 Arctic Caribou Herd Working Group. And even though
35 some of the duties associated with that group are going
36 to be transferred to the Anchorage Field Office with
37 our boundary change. But we are still -- our lands
38 still overlap that herd's range, so we're staying
39 involved with the Working Group, potentially with use
40 support for going to Onion Portage and collaring
41 efforts there, too.

42

43 So BLM will stay involved in that.

44

45 We are contributing to inter-agency
46 efforts to attract both sheep abundance and population
47 composition in the Central Brooks Range. Our plans for
48 2015 are currently underway. In 2013, we conducted
49 minimum count surveys of a subset of those counts
50 traditionally surveyed in the Central Brooks Range.

1 In 2014, we combined efforts with the
2 NPS Arctic Network and the Fish and Wildlife Service
3 Arctic Refuge to implement a transect based survey of a
4 larger area. So with an inter-agency effort to try and
5 get a better look at a larger area using a new method
6 and also to potentially compare to the minimum count
7 method that was applied in the same area in previous
8 years.

9
10 There's multiple reasons why that
11 method is attractive to us as far as supporting it, but
12 we can talk about that more later.

13
14 The results of the 2014 survey effort
15 were shared with ADF&G. Survey results suggest a very
16 low lamb productivity in BLM lands in the Central
17 Brooks Range, though the area surveyed by Federal
18 Agency -- throughout the areas surveyed by Federal
19 agencies this year, the lamb to ewe like ratio was
20 estimated to be low. Less than 13 lambs per ewe like.
21 Although the number of legal rams appears to be
22 relatively stable.

23
24 The BLM Central Yukon is currently
25 working to develop better database to attract permitted
26 commercial hunting activity on BLM managed lands,
27 basically managed by Central Yukon Field Office.

28
29 And then on to the ecology section.
30 Now that we have switched boundaries the Western
31 Caribou Herd habitat monitoring work that was
32 previously under our field office is going to in future
33 years be transferred to the Anchorage Field Office, so
34 they'll be talking about that. The work will be
35 ongoing and we're working on analyses right now.

36
37 The Dalton Highway invasive plant
38 strategy was implemented via NEPA action in fall of
39 2013. The strategy includes the possible application
40 of herbicides. Experimental or test treatments are
41 being planned for the summer of 2015.

42
43 In 2013 and 2014, we got a pretty good
44 idea of where weeds are along the Dalton Highway on BLM
45 managed lands. The REAs or rapid ecological
46 assessments are ongoing. The one that we're working on
47 right now pretty much encompasses the whole interior of
48 Alaska, so it's a pretty huge area. And we'd be happy
49 to talk with you more about that if you'd like to.

50

1 And I'll read the fisheries and
2 hydrology part. As part of authorizing mine plans, it
3 is BLM's responsibility to ensure that fish habitat is
4 rehabilitated and Federal and State water quality
5 standards are maintained. In 2015, the Central Yukon
6 Field Office fishery staff will continue efforts to
7 document reference characteristics and functional
8 status of placer mine streams within the Dalton
9 Corridor. Data collected each summer provides a solid
10 foundation for evaluating mining plans of operation,
11 establish reclamation performance standards, and
12 monitoring the outcome of current and future proposals.

13
14 To date, work has been completed on
15 Nugget Creek, Cold Creek, and Mini Creek. As many as
16 23 other streams along the Dalton Highway are
17 candidates for data collection.

18
19 And finally, the Central Yukon Field
20 Office will be hiring a hydrologist in the spring of
21 2015. This position will be largely focused on
22 supporting mining compliance work.

23
24 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thank you. This is
25 my area where I live. The fuel spills, I'm concerned
26 about that. The trucks are driving a lot faster on the
27 Dalton Highway than they used to and they don't seem to
28 slow down. And they just keep crashing.

29
30 (Laughing)

31
32 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: There was a chem
33 truck rolled over on Chandalar Shelf. And diesel fuel
34 is one thing. Guess what. They haul biocides and
35 chemical trucks. And you spill one of those trucks of
36 biocide into one of those drainages, it will be a wave
37 of death going down the river.

38
39 I'm real concerned about the way the
40 truckers are driving. We have a new subset. They
41 think they're ice road truckers. They're driving
42 really super fast. And they're demonstrating that
43 they're going to crash vehicles at a higher rate. And
44 there's a lot of trucks on the road.

45
46 I feel that those chem trucks
47 especially should be pilot car. They're driving just
48 as fast as those fuel trucks. You think one of those
49 diesel fuel spills is something bad. You wait till one
50 of those -- one drop -- when we took ETT -- that

1 biocide will kill you deader than a hammer. One drop.
2 If it was to dump into the Koyukuk River in the
3 wintertime, it'll go down the river with all those over
4 wintering grayling and whitefish and it'll wipe them
5 out. I'm getting real concerned about this issue.

6
7 So the fuel spills is one thing. But
8 this biocide, which they put into the pipeline and they
9 haul a lot of it because they have a lot of corrosion
10 issues, it's getting to be a bigger and bigger issue.
11 It's getting to be real scary for all the communities
12 in the entire Yukon drainage. If they were to dump one
13 south of the Hodzana Rays, it'll go into the Yukon. If
14 they dump it into the Koyukuk or the Sag River
15 drainage, it could be a catastrophic event.

16
17 And so I'm real concerned about the way
18 the drivers are driving. And I think you should work
19 with the State on that issue. You're going to have to
20 be involved in cleaning up one of these things. The
21 State, when they rebuilt the road, the engineers put
22 all kinds of heavy, angular stone in the ditches for
23 erosion control. Well, guess what. It's highly
24 abrasive when you roll a truck into it and it punctures
25 the tanks. And so it should be a serious consideration
26 as the grade material in future construction about
27 putting angular rocks in ditched like that because it
28 can cause punctures in tanks.

29
30 I feel that because of this issue that
31 water quality monitoring by the BLM on the South Fork
32 drainage is necessary because there's not only all
33 these fuel trucks. There's a lot more mining activity
34 on the South Fork just below the Dalton Highway bridge.
35 And so I feel that the BLM should have a water quality
36 monitoring instrument down river of the bridge to
37 monitor -- because they're handling a lot of fuel
38 there. In fact, they're taking CATs down the river
39 with tanks on them and stuff.

40
41 And so those would be some of my
42 offhand -- I'm real concerned about this guiding issue
43 for the Dalton Highway corridor. Four or five guides
44 permitted for dall sheep. That is way too many guides.
45 I feel that this Council should add that to our Annual
46 Report, requesting sheep management capacity for
47 commercial. And I do not feel that all available dall
48 sheep should be allocated to commercial use. I feel
49 there are other resident users and subsistence users
50 also.

1 The number of legal rams is stable at
2 this time. Well, that's not going to continue.
3 Because we have -- you've got to do a cohort. You've
4 got to sit down with a spawning scope and really look
5 at what those ram -- those half-curl and younger rams
6 died, as well as all the lambs and yearlings. And so
7 there's a whole bunch of -- there's like at least three
8 cohorts that are completely lacking. And we're going
9 to look at a huge decline in legal rams.

10

11 The number of guides. These guides --
12 or this used to be BLM land outside the corridor. It's
13 the same sheep going back and forth across the BLM and
14 now private properties. But the guides are hunting on
15 the private properties. And nobody's deterring them.
16 Those are Doyon lands. They don't care. They shoot
17 every last sheep they can get. And so there are some
18 real problems.

19

20 And the guides are not -- I will state
21 it on the record. I know for a fact they're not
22 reporting their harvest on the BLM lands. I reported
23 it to Mr. Hammond back here three years ago that I
24 watched them shoot -- the place where they were hunting
25 the sheep. I saw the sheep on the internet after it
26 was dead. And I saw -- and so the bottom line is the
27 guides are not -- of course they're not going to
28 report. It's like bycatch with -- in the pollock
29 fishery, they're not going to report king salmon
30 bycatch. That's a bad thing. No. They're not going
31 to report the number of sheep. They're going to kill
32 them somewheres else -- on paper.

33

34 So this number of guides on the Dalton
35 Highway corridor, there has to be a management plan, a
36 capacity -- the BLM was supposed to be developing a
37 guide capacity program for the BLM lands. They relied
38 on the State. That thing has fallen flat on its face
39 in the Legislature. That's not going to happen.

40

41 So in our Annual Report I want to see a
42 Sheep Management Plan for the Central Brooks Range on
43 the BLM lands 26B and 24A. I want to see the Regional
44 Director's Off -- the Regional Office develop a guide
45 capacity and limit the number of guides, with no more
46 than the populations can support, with allocation to
47 other users. It's not -- you don't just calculate for
48 the commercial use. You know, there's other -- many
49 other users.

50

1 And so Glenn can break out the number
2 of resident hunters that take sheep. The sheep move in
3 and out of the Dalton Highway corridor, so just because
4 they go over there on the Doyon lands and get -- or
5 subjected to hunting, it's the same populations that we
6 hunt. And so you give them a foothold, they take --
7 you give them an inch, they take the mile.

8
9 They're starting to fly into the Park
10 on the Doyon lands. I think that there's going to be
11 major hunting pressure on the Doyon lands for dall
12 sheep in the Gates of Arctic National Park. I am real
13 concerned about the sheep population and in the Central
14 Brooks Range in general. And I feel that the Regional
15 Office should get on board and help you fund a
16 Management Plan for dall sheep and a guide concession
17 permitting process.

18
19 It's full on aware there's a \$3.5
20 billion budget shortfall for the State of Alaska. The
21 Legislature is not going to fund a Guide Concession
22 Program. So the bottom line is BLM has to.

23
24 Our Annual Report shall reflect those
25 two issues, a Sheep Management Plan and a Guide
26 Concession Program for the entire State of Alaska. We
27 have many areas within the Western Interior of Alaska
28 that are BLM lands and we need to get a Concession
29 Program for the BLM lands because it's unlimited right
30 now.

31
32 Any other questions and comments to the
33 BLM Yukon office.

34
35 MR. WALKER: Sounds good, Jack.

36
37 (Laughter)

38
39 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So thanks so much,
40 Shelly.

41
42 MS. JACOBSON: Okay. Thank you.

43
44 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: We're great friends.

45
46 MS. JACOBSON: Yes.

47
48 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I give her rhubarbs
49 and stuff. But in this capacity, I have to say my
50

1 piece.

2

3 MS. JACOBSON: No. And I appreciate
4 that. And I think comments coming from you that are
5 also heard by our State Director, hopefully we'll get
6 the support we need to work on that plan. I have a
7 pretty good idea of how we might approach it because we
8 had worked for a while with the State and we're partway
9 there on a plan for the Squirrel River area. And I
10 think if we had enough time and staff, we could do a
11 similar thing in your area.

12

13 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Well, just go to the
14 Fish and Wildlife. They already got the plan in place.

15

16 (Laughter)

17

18 MS. JACOBSON: Oh, yeah.

19

20 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: The Concession.....

21

22 MS. JACOBSON: And I also wanted to
23 mention that Tim Hammond reminded that it also --
24 because it came up as a planning issue, one of the
25 alternatives has BLM managing the guides through a -- I
26 guess they call it a concession. Their program would
27 still be an SRP, but it would be a competed for permit
28 system.

29

30 Oh, and one -- if I might, one other
31 thing.

32

33 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Sure. Yeah.

34

35 MS. JACOBSON: Just to put the Council
36 on notice, we sometimes do a survey that we call a
37 Benefits Based Management Survey. It's a recreation
38 survey, where we interview -- or the university under a
39 contract with BLM interviews public land users. And
40 usually we administer that survey at our visitors
41 center. And we're talking to tourists and people that
42 are driving up the road, asking them if they're meeting
43 their expectations or what might improve that.

44

45 This year, because we want to collect
46 some information for our Plan, we wanted to target the
47 recreational sporthunters as a user group and interview
48 them, as well as the local hunters, subsistence hunters
49 in order to see what their perceptions are of, you
50 know, their -- they're set, needs being met, and user

1 conflict issues, if we have any.

2

3 So we're going to try to contact a
4 couple of the communities within the Region and see if
5 we can talk to their Council or community and gain
6 their support to do a survey. Probably contact the out
7 of town users somehow through the guides or the
8 transporters or other ways. Looking for ideas on how
9 to get an adequate sample of the, you know, non-local
10 users. And then probably just get community members to
11 help us find out who's hunting in the community that
12 might be willing to be a part of the survey.

13

14 And so right now kind of been thinking
15 about Wiseman as one of the communities that we could
16 interview and benefit from that. And then kind of
17 looking at Hughes because it's got a lot of BLM land
18 nearby that have some guides on it.

19

20 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Uh-huh.

21

22 MS. JACOBSON: So right now we're not
23 really aware of the kind of user conflict like we have
24 at Wiseman around other communities, but you never
25 know. It would be good to keep advised of that. So if
26 there's an opportunity, we'll send letters out to
27 communities and explain more about it, if they're
28 interested.

29

30 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: That sounds great.

31

32 MS. JACOBSON: Okay.

33

34 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I'm sure our
35 community would like to participate.

36

37 MS. JACOBSON: Thank you. And thanks
38 to the Council. Appreciate your time.

39

40 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks so much.
41 Appreciate all the work you're doing there. And I saw
42 Jen flying around chasing sheep numbers for us. So I
43 appreciate that.

44

45 Thank you.

46

47 MS. JACOBSON: You bet. See you.

48

49 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So the Anchorage
50 Office is going to speak to us now.

1 MR. SEPPI: Mr. Chair, Members of the
2 Council, I'm Bruce Seppi. I'm a wildlife biologist for
3 the Anchorage Field Office. And I just wanted you to
4 be aware that the subsistence position for the
5 Anchorage Field Office has been vacant since July. I
6 have absorbed all those duties, so that position --
7 both the wildlife biologist position and the
8 subsistence won't both be filled. So from this point
9 on, I will be responsible for both the Federal
10 Subsistence Program and Wildlife Biology Program for
11 Anchorage Field Office.

12
13 As Central Yukon is also moving forward
14 with their Plan, the Anchorage Field Office is doing
15 their Bering Sea Western Interior Planned Use Plan.
16 And Melinda, I believe you have flyers that got sent
17 around. We're in the process of making a range of
18 alternatives. And the draft of those alternatives are
19 out. And there is a team of planners and resource
20 people from Anchorage Field Office that are going out
21 to the Villages, in fact this month. They've been to
22 McGrath this past week.

23
24 They're bringing those alternatives to
25 the communities and talking about what communities
26 want, what they don't want. Last fall, a year ago, we
27 were out at the initial scoping and talking with people
28 about what they wanted in this Land Use Plan. Now that
29 these alternatives are out, they're back scoping again
30 and asking people to comment on the alternatives.

31
32 There's also the ACEC Proposals. The
33 Area of Critical Environmental Concern. We did get a
34 lot of input from that from many communities. I
35 believe there was like 15 proposed ACECs and there was
36 five existing. A lot of them were based on subsistence
37 areas, where people -- important areas that they wanted
38 to designate as subsistence areas for the Villages and
39 they wanted to propose them to be ACECs.

40
41 So we're going out and getting input
42 from that this month, so I believe that flyer talks
43 about the Villages we're going to. I just wanted you
44 to be aware that that's happening. And that stuff is
45 online. That whole Plan is online and you can comment
46 online for BLM's Anchorage Field Office Bering Sea
47 Western Interior Land Use Plan.

48
49 Moving on to moose, the GSP moose
50 surveys this year were -- I don't know if you'd call

1 them a dismal failure, but they all got cancelled just
2 simply because of lack of snow. It was a great effort
3 to try. We held out to the last minute. But 21E,
4 where we're working with Josh Pierce and Roger Savoy
5 out of McGrath, they got cancelled. There's just an
6 amazing lack of snow in the country, especially down in
7 the GASH communities, as you folks well know. 19A also
8 got cancelled early. We were going to help with that.
9 It didn't happen. And also 22A, which is just to the
10 west. Just out of this RAC Council, out of the
11 Unalakleet drainage, also got cancelled.

12

13 We're cooperating with Fish and Game
14 and Fish and Wildlife Service on those, so we'll try
15 again next year. We do need those counts, but you
16 really can't count moose with no snow.

17

18 Incidentally, I'm headed day after
19 tomorrow up to the Seward Peninsula, not in this RAC
20 area, to count muskox. And so that borders this area
21 in 22A, but there is a Peninsula-wide -- Seward
22 Peninsula-wide muskox survey going on with Fish and
23 Game out of that Unit 22.

24

25 Other moose things going on, I issued
26 Federal subsistence permits for that hunt -- that
27 winter hunt in 22E for -- I went to Aniak and I only
28 issued seven permits. But the Innoko Refuge -- and Ken
29 Chase flew to all the GASH communities and issued
30 permits to those folks. And I hope if you wanted a
31 permit, it was available. You can either contact me or
32 the Innoko Refuge in Galena if you still want a permit.
33 That hunt is open till March 15th.

34

35 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Can I stop you
36 there.

37

38 MR. SEPPI: Sure.

39

40 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Is there a lack of
41 interest for the 21E from Aniak.

42

43 MR. SEPPI: Well, it's kind of -- no.
44 I don't think there's a lack of interest. I tried
45 promoting that and letting people know I was going to
46 be there. I was only there for three days and
47 invariably after I leave, someone shows up and say I
48 want one. And I think Jeremy has told me that he got
49 some calls from folks from Aniak and maybe Chuathbaluk
50 that wanted permits. And they're handling that through

1 faxing it back and forth and getting the right
2 documents. They can get permits to folks if they want
3 them.

4
5 It is a -- and I'm not complaining, but
6 it is a bit of a logistic thing for travel, for us to
7 be out and there and issue permits. Realistically, I
8 can't just sit in Aniak for a few weeks and issue
9 permits. So if people want them, they can contact me.

10
11 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Kanuti has
12 contracted a Tribal Representative to issue permits.

13
14 MR. SEPPI: Yeah.

15
16 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Can you do that for
17 those communities over there.

18
19 MR. SEPPI: It's something we should
20 consider for sure.

21
22 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: It would be way
23 cheaper.

24
25 MR. SEPPI: It probably, yeah. I have
26 hired people in the Villages. I have got folks from
27 KNA to help me in Aniak. Once I left, they issued
28 permits. And they actually did it for nothing. Just
29 as a favor to me because they wanted folks to get
30 permits. But it is a problem.

31
32 I mean even though I make phone calls
33 and fax flyers and tell folks I'm going to be there --
34 and they do come and get them -- invariably there's
35 someone that missed me or said I didn't know you were
36 coming. And I feel bad about that, but with faxing
37 back and forth we do get permits to folks who really
38 want them.

39
40 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay.

41
42 MR. SEPPI: And finally, I wanted to
43 talk about BLM is permitting the Donlin Gold Pipeline
44 from the Cook Inlet to the Kuskokwim River. And this
45 is an enormous project, as you all well know. It looks
46 as though -- and I don't have the actual dates on that.
47 But that a draft EIS will be out on that this spring
48 sometime. The Corps of Engineers is the lead agency on
49 that, but BLM will be of course commenting on that.

50

1 As you well know, that's a gas pipeline
2 from Cook Inlet all the way, 315 miles over to the
3 Kuskokwim by Crooked Creek. But the connected actions
4 of that are also the mine itself and all the barging
5 that will happen from Bethel on up to that port site
6 south of Crooked Creek.

7
8 So in my opinion, this mine is going to
9 have substantial impacts to subsistence in not only
10 this region. I mean when you talk about access into
11 the area through that pipeline and barging on the river
12 and -- it's being discussed, but if this mine becomes a
13 reality, it will have impacts.

14
15 So I was hoping that -- and I'm sure
16 this RAC Council is aware of things. And I hope you
17 take the opportunity to comment on that mine and that
18 draft plan.

19
20 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: We had a URL, the
21 contractor come to the meeting, Donne Fleagle. And we
22 made extensive comments last fall.

23
24 MR. SEPPI: Okay.

25
26 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: And it should be in
27 our transcripts. And I would like those drawn out and
28 transmitted to the BLM. They're valid concerns that we
29 -- Ray had concerns about the routing. Whether it was
30 in the ecotone area, where animals aggregate. Where
31 the tundra begins and the tree line ends.

32
33 MR. SEPPI: Yeah.

34
35 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yeah. There we made
36 a lot of comments on that about the studies on where
37 smelt occur in the Kuskokwim River.

38
39 MR. SEPPI: Yeah.

40
41 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: And we made a whole
42 bunch of comments. So I think that we should transmit
43 those -- OSM should transmit those comments to the BLM
44 Anchorage Office.

45
46 MR. SEPPI: Okay.

47
48 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks for bringing
49 that up.

50

1 Go ahead, Ray.
2
3 MR. COLLINS: It's actually in the
4 State for approving the route right now. How are you
5 involved in that.
6
7 MR. SEPPI: Approving the route of the
8 pipeline?
9
10 MR. COLLINS: The pipeline to -- uh-
11 huh.
12
13 MR. SEPPI: They cross -- I forget --
14 some hundred some miles of unencumbered BLM land, so
15 that's how we're involved.
16
17 MR. COLLINS: Yeah. But I mean if it's
18 in the State's hands. If the State approved it, do you
19 still have a chance to review that.
20
21 MR. SEPPI: Yes. Yes. Because it
22 involves Federal BLM lands, we get to look at it all.
23
24 MR. COLLINS: Okay. One of the things
25 that came up when I was testifying at the last meeting,
26 I didn't realize it. The black spruce because of the
27 frozen ground is considered wetlands.
28
29 MR. SEPPI: Uh-huh.
30
31 MR. COLLINS: We wanted them to move it
32 away from the hills down in the black spruce where it
33 would be much less destructive to wildlife that move
34 along the face of the range. Right now they're going
35 right along the face of the range by Farewell.
36
37 MR. SEPPI: Yeah.
38
39 MR. COLLINS: And that trail they put
40 in will be -- they already fly in four-wheelers to
41 Farewell, where there's an air strip, and that will
42 provide a road. If they move down in that timber --
43 but they said it's more of a problem getting approved
44 of that because it's wetlands. Frozen.
45
46 MR. SEPPI: Yeah.
47
48 MR. COLLINS: But that doesn't make
49 sense because there's no birds major nesting in there
50 and so on. So I don't know. Some of that would be the

1 BLM land there.

2

3 MR. SEPPI: Some will. They had
4 several alternatives initially. And through the
5 process now they've only chosen one alternative, this
6 proposed action, and they don't have alternatives. And
7 as far as environmental policy NEPA wise, National
8 Environmental Policy Act, that's in my opinion kind of
9 a dangerous thing to do when you have only one
10 alternative and you're.....

11

12 MR. COLLINS: Right.

13

14 MR. SEPPI:you're not
15 entertaining others. But that's what they have. And
16 it's the one they think is most -- in their opinion,
17 most environmentally feasible. And I think mostly
18 financial feasible for them.

19

20 MR. COLLINS: Right.

21

22 MR. SEPPI: So the proposal -- the
23 draft that comes out will only have one pipeline route.

24

25

26 MR. COLLINS: The other thing is that
27 I'd flag, the Big River. The spawning area for
28 sheefish there is a major spawning area.

29

30 MR. SEPPI: Yes.

31

32 MR. COLLINS: So they're going under
33 that river. But they want to put an air strip in
34 there. And they made gravel permits or something on
35 there.

36

37 MR. SEPPI: Uh-huh.

38

39 MR. COLLINS: We wanted the BLM to
40 declare that as critical spawning area on their land.

41

42 MR. SEPPI: Yes. That came up. In
43 fact, when we were in McGrath for the initial scoping,
44 we didn't even know about that sheefish spawning area
45 on the Big River. And so that's one that is a high
46 priority. Very well likely will become an area of
47 critical environmental concern. Because it's unique.
48 It's the only sheefish spawning area for huge.....

49

50 MR. COLLINS: The major one in the

1 whole Kuskokwim.
2
3 MR. SEPPI: Yeah. In the whole
4 watershed.
5
6 MR. COLLINS: Yeah. They go up and
7 down the river, but they go in there to spawn.
8
9 MR. SEPPI: So we do know about that.
10 But that is very near where the proposed pipeline is.
11
12 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So we have a full
13 agenda here. We need to wrap this up.
14
15 MR. SEPPI: Yeah. Okay. I'm done.
16 Any other questions.
17
18 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Any other questions.
19
20
21 (No comments)
22
23 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Appreciate your
24 comments, Bruce.
25
26 MR. SEPPI: Thank you.
27
28 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: You're doing a great
29 job. Your plate is full.
30
31 (Laughter)
32
33 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: And so I appreciate
34 all the work BLM is doing for the BLM lands in Alaska.
35
36 Thank you.
37
38 And Melinda.
39
40 MS. BURKE: Yes, Mr. Chair. We are
41 back to item number -- under 11B, Western Interior
42 Council wants to generate some comments on some State
43 wildlife proposals. I'm handing out a packet. I think
44 some of you might have this in your first yellow
45 packet, but I put it all together again just because I
46 know by this point in the meeting it was going to -- we
47 were going to be drowning in paper. So -- and for the
48 audience, all of this has been laid out in the back as
49 well.
50

1 So starting with Proposal 202, Mr.
2 Chair.

3
4 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. And Proposal
5 202, which is item six on the right side of your yellow
6 packet, is a State of Alaska generated proposal. Is
7 the State going to give an overview of this proposal.
8 Do we have anybody that's.....

9
10 MS. YUHAS: I wasn't prepared to do
11 that.

12
13 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: This was a -- these
14 were issues that affect the Western Interior Region.
15 The State generated a proposal -- I could give a brief
16 overview.

17
18 The Western Interior and Teshekpuk
19 Caribou Herds are in decline. Teshekpuk has fallen
20 from 68,000 to 32,000 and the Western Herd has fallen
21 from 490,000 I think like in 2007 to 235,000.

22
23 The State and Federal Caribou Working
24 Group has a management plan. They have objectives.
25 And when the herd reaches this level, there's needs for
26 conservation. And so the Koyukuk River Advisory
27 Committee took this proposal up.

28
29 The proposal basically is -- you can
30 look on the second page there. It's reducing the non-
31 resident harvest of season and harvest from five
32 caribou bulls -- five caribou to one bull and shortens
33 the season from a year round season, July 1 to June
34 30th, to an August 1 to September 30th. Under
35 residents, basically it curtails the harvest of calves.

36
37
38 This herd is in dire straits. And like
39 Mulchatna, I'm real concerned that this herd's going to
40 go to a level that will take a much longer recovery
41 time.

42
43 The Koyukuk River Advisory Committee --
44 are my comments for the Advisory Committee around,
45 Melinda?

46
47 MS. BURKE: They're in the new folder.
48 They're in the folder on the lefthand side.

49
50 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Oh, in the new

1 folder.

2

3

MS. BURKE: Uh-huh.

4

5

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So the Advisory
6 Committees made -- let's see. Where are they. Oh,
7 right here. So the Advisory Committee reviewed
8 Proposal 202 and feels that -- let's see. Do I have
9 the right paper. Oh, here it is, 202. That there's
10 needs. And we're recommending to the Board of Game
11 that we would prefer to see a longer cow caribou season
12 closure. A closure to cows from -- suggesting February
13 15th to -- this is incorrect. It's October 1.

14

15

And the reason for that is the cows are
16 pregnant with calves. And they get laid in the winter.
17 Bulls get good to eat after the middle of February. So
18 we feel that the hunter pressure should shift to the
19 bull component for the winter hunts for subsistence
20 users. And cows should be protected from February 15th
21 to October 1.

22

23

Cows got baby calves in the summer.
24 Cows lead migrations. And some of the --
25 (Indiscernible) from Hughes felt that protecting or
26 migrations from being deterred was important. And so
27 we feel that protecting cows till October 1 will allow
28 the caribou to migrate to a destination without being
29 shot at.

30

31

After October 1, we feel that bulls
32 with shovels -- bull caribou have shovels right here.
33 And large bulls, you can't eat them once they go into
34 rut. We feel that bull caribou should be protected
35 during the rut to save bulls when you can't even eat
36 them. And bull caribou should be protected until after
37 they've dropped antler and at least until the middle of
38 January.

39

40

These are suggestions. And what we're
41 saying is that we're concerned about this herd enough
42 that we feel that there needs to be additional steps to
43 conserve cows. Because we're going to -- we've had
44 some real bad recruitments just like the sheep. And in
45 about four or five years we're not going to have a
46 breeding -- healthy breeding cows. We're going to have
47 a low number of actually productive cows. And so we
48 need to act sooner than later.

49

50

And so this Council can make comments

1 on this proposal. I feel that this is an important
2 issue for this Council. Mulchatna, Western Arctic, and
3 Teshekpuuk are some of the main herds that inhabit the
4 Western Interior Region and are very important for
5 people from Huslia and Upper Koyukuk drainage. And
6 people from Galena even go up and get caribou. And
7 Koyukuk. The Mulchatna herd the different issue.

8

9 And so we can comment to the State
10 Board on this proposal. If you would like to support
11 the Koyukuk River Advisory Committee's position on and
12 recommendations with modifying that cow season closure
13 from February 15th to October 1 and would prefer to see
14 large bulls protected -- small bulls, people shoot
15 those. But they don't have shovels. And that's why it
16 would make it illegal to shoot bulls with shovels.
17 Then you're going to protect the breeding bulls. And
18 so -- and the little bulls are hard to tell from the
19 cows.

20

21 And so I thought I would bring this
22 before the Western Interior Regional Council to make
23 comment. The Board of Game will be meeting in about
24 two weeks in Anchorage on this proposal.

25

26 Darrel, do you have comment.

27

28 MR. VENT: Yeah. I think said some on
29 this before. It's for subsistence use. We usually
30 have the fall moose hunt. Then we hunt bears same
31 time. Springtime is -- you know, we're pretty low on
32 food. And our Village ain't small anymore. We've got
33 a lot of children there. Everything, you know, seems
34 -- our Village seems to be -- the population seems to
35 be growing, but our food supply seems to be dwindling.
36 So we're trying to depend on, you know, maybe caribou
37 will be coming through.

38

39 We had a bad year for beaver. I think
40 there was -- you know, we had beaver houses around
41 every bend in that river for a while. Then one year --
42 and then it froze so thick that one year, when they
43 came back next spring, I think there was about three or
44 four on the Huslia River. Around that. It wiped out
45 so many of those beaver. And then, you know, that's
46 part of our food supplies.

47

48 Now we're finding out caribou's being
49 depleted. That's part of our food supplies. And we
50 have to go either above Hughes or we have to go to

1 Ambler. You know, and one year we went to around
2 Ambler and had to bring some home from there. Because
3 they weren't coming over around our area anymore.

4
5 Because this dates back to before they
6 put the pipeline in. Before they put the pipeline in,
7 we had a lot of caribou around there. And then they
8 cut it off. They put the pipeline through and they --
9 you know, when they asked for proposals, they didn't
10 ask for anything about the wildlife around our area.
11 Our people weren't being informed on this. So we got
12 cut off from that angle. Now we seem to be losing from
13 the other way. I mean from, you know, north of us in
14 the Teshekpuk.

15
16 So this is really hurting us.

17
18 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Well, the pipeline
19 construction coincided with the declining Western
20 Arctic Herd. And it went down to 75,000. It went from
21 no close season, no limit. You could sell them and use
22 caribou for dog feed to emergency closure the next
23 year. One bull by -- when you had to have a locking
24 tag to put on that caribou. I don't want to see that
25 happening.

26
27 MR. VENT: Uh-huh.

28
29 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I guess I'm getting
30 old when I remember these kinds of things happening.
31 And I'm real concerned about this herd going to that
32 point. I don't want to see people going down to one
33 bull with a locking tag in the future. So I feel that
34 the Board of Game needs to make some tough decisions
35 and deliberate this proposal a little more thoroughly.

36
37 Protecting calves is not going to do a
38 heck of a lot for protecting the cow component of the
39 caribou herd. And so before it's too late, we need to
40 start conserving cows and adult bulls.

41
42 Robert.

43
44 MR. R. WALKER: Thank you, Chair. When
45 we were at the Board of Game meeting with the Federal,
46 some guy from Ambler or Shungnak came to testify to the
47 Federal Board. And he made a pretty interesting
48 statement, where everybody's heads had to turn and take
49 a look. Because he stated that there was a guide
50 working the area. But he quit being a guide. He went

1 and moved over to be a transporter. And he had over
2 100 camps hunting caribou. And this transporter -- I
3 mean you look at why there's no caribou. I mean it is
4 -- we're going right back to transporters again and
5 outfitters.

6

7 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Well, Proposal 202
8 vastly reduces the non-resident harvest capacity from
9 five caribou, including cows, to one bull. So that
10 part of the proposal works real well. But the
11 protections for the caribou are not -- I don't feel go
12 far enough.

13

14 And so at this point I would like to
15 entertain a motion to endorse the Koyukuk River's
16 Advisory Committee's position on Proposal 202.
17 Suggesting to the Board to be more conservative for
18 cows at certain times of the year and more conservative
19 with harvest of bulls during the rut and when they're
20 no good. After the rut, they're really skinny. A ham
21 on a caribou bull in the end of November is this thick.
22 It's just there's hardly -- and it's blue. And it
23 looks just like a bull moose.

24

25 And so we don't want to kill those.
26 And they should be protected. And people should think
27 about protecting them.

28

29 And so the Chair will entertain a
30 motion to adopt the stance of the Koyukuk River
31 Advisory Committee on Proposal 202.

32

33 MR. HONEA: I would so move.

34

35 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Moved by Don.

36

37 MR. VENT: Second.

38

39 MS. PELKOLA: Second.

40

41 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Seconded by Jenny.
42 Any further discussion on Proposal -- State Proposal
43 202.

44

45 MR. HONEA: Yeah, Mr. Chair.

46

47 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, Don.

48

49 MR. HONEA: Yeah, Jack. I actually
50 listened in on this -- to the teleconferencing. And I

1 thought these were real good. I mean under
2 conversation on this, you have a lot of these AC's
3 supporting it with modifications. Are you in agreement
4 with their modifications. There are different ones of
5 course, right. I mean.....

6

7 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Well, we're
8 supporting the proposal, but we're basically making
9 amendments of suggestions. We're suggesting that the
10 Board make further cuts. Be more conservative than
11 what the State's proposal actually is saying.

12

13 And I think the Board needs to actually
14 have a proposal and suggestions from the Advisory
15 Committees and the RACs that are asking to be very
16 conservative, so that these herds don't go down any
17 further. It's hard to get caribou back because they
18 only have one calf.

19

20 So any further discussion.

21

22 MR. WALKER: Question.

23

24 MR. GERVAIS: Question.

25

26 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Question is called.
27 Those in favor of endorsing the recommendation of the
28 Koyukuk River Advisory to the State Board of Game on
29 Proposal 202 signify by saying aye.

30

31 IN UNISON: Aye.

32

33 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Opposed same sign.

34

35 (No opposing votes)

36

37 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So we supported the
38 Koyukuk River's Advisory Committee's position.

39

40 And so 207. Where did 207 go. 207 and
41 208 are Board of Game generated proposals. They're on
42 the -- beginning on the second page. The Board
43 generated proposals with various options. And so the
44 Advisory Committee looked at these proposals.

45

46 And so there was a sheep hunter working
47 -- or a sheep hunter questionnaire by the University of
48 Alaska. Hunters were all questioned. There's a lot of
49 hunters in Alaska -- resident hunters that are
50 concerned about user conflicts and the use of aircraft.

1 Planes flying all the time for dall sheep.

2

3 The Advisory Committee selected the
4 option to potential -- the potential changes were to
5 eliminate the use of aircraft to spot game during the
6 sheep season, August 10th to September 20th.

7

8 Other options would be to make it --
9 currently you have to have been on the ground with an
10 airplane until 3:00 a.m. of the following day. One of
11 the options was to go until 2:00 p.m. of the following
12 day to reduce the amount of use of aircraft and get the
13 hunters with aircraft on the ground and hunting.

14

15 With the use of satellite phones,
16 hunting guides now -- they can put multiple camps in
17 the field. And they can have six or eight assistant
18 guides in the field. They sit there with a phone in
19 their hand. The assistant guide gets dropped off.
20 They try for a sheep. They either kill it or they miss
21 it. They call the guide. He sends a plane. They pick
22 up the hunter. The plane goes and finds the sheep
23 again. The sheep can't stay away from the airplane.
24 They land the hunter on a ridge. The next day at 3:00
25 a.m. they're hunting that sheep again.

26

27 A non-resident hunter with SuperCub
28 aircraft for support can make five or six stalks on
29 sheep, whereas in the old days you had to go find the
30 sheep. And then you might have one chance at a sheep.
31 You'd be lucky if you got two chances.

32

33 The way the hunts are prosecuted now
34 are far advanced in the last ten years. So I am
35 supportive of reducing -- and the Koyukuk River
36 Advisory agreed -- in reducing the use of aircraft will
37 put all hunters on equal footing for not spotting sheep
38 and pursuing sheep in an unsportsmanlike methods of
39 what they're doing now.

40

41 And so we supported not allowing the
42 use of aircraft for dall sheep on Proposal 207. And we
43 also supported not taking sheep until 2:00 p.m. of the
44 following day.

45

46 There were some other methods to
47 reduce. Walking five miles from camp and waiting till
48 48 hours. Those would be cumbersome and almost
49 impossible for enforcement to document when a person
50 actually landed and a specific day for 48 hours,

1 starting your 48 hours. If you see an airplane land,
2 they can't hunt until 2:00 p.m. of the following day
3 under this proposal.

4
5 So that's the overlay of Proposal 207.
6 Any questions or comments.

7
8 Ray.

9
10 MR. COLLINS: Yeah, Jack. I think the
11 key part of that would be not using them to spot.
12 Because what happens now is they put somebody in camp
13 and the next day they're legal to hunt. All they have
14 to do is have a pilot go around and they get GPS
15 information and they can phone that back to the camp as
16 to where the sheep is.

17
18 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: That's not legal.
19 They can't use electronic communication. You can't
20 take or assist in taking the same day of an airport.

21
22 MR. COLLINS: Well.....

23
24 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: But that's what they
25 do.

26
27 MR. COLLINS: Yeah. That's going on.

28
29 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: But of course.

30
31 (Laughter)

32
33 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: But that's
34 happening. But that's.....

35
36 MR. COLLINS: Yeah.

37
38 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Legally even now --
39 even legally now, the hunters with an assistant guide
40 who's dropped off with an airplane with a client. They
41 try for the sheep. They miss. Tomorrow they -- they
42 call in immediately. The plane comes before it's even
43 dark. Repositions the hunter for the next day's --
44 after 2:00 a.m. They actually can hunt almost
45 consecutively day after day. Even legally.

46
47 What we need to do is close those
48 loopholes to reduce this competition with other
49 hunters, including subsistence hunters.

50

1 MR. COLLINS: Yeah.
2
3 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Tim.
4
5 MR. GERVAIS: Where is this -- I'm not
6 finding a copy of this 207.
7
8 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: It's in the.....
9
10 MR. GERVAIS: I still have 206.
11
12 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: It was on the left
13 side. It's the Koyukuk River Advisory Committee
14 teleconference of.....
15
16 MR. GERVAIS: Okay.
17
18 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF:January 27,
19 2015. It will be on the second page. We just
20 addressed 202.
21
22 MR. GERVAIS: Okay. Yeah.
23
24 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: And then 207 was
25 what I was discussing here.
26
27 MR. GERVAIS: Thank you.
28
29 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So I'm sorry I
30 didn't point that out.
31
32 MR. HONEA: Mr. Chair.
33
34 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, Don.
35
36 MR. HONEA: Oh, yeah, Mr. Chair. I was
37 just wondering if we could just do it as a block vote.
38 207 and 208 as a block to support.
39
40 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: We could. We'll
41 have to discuss 208 next. We can continue on, if you
42 would like.
43
44 And so then the other Board of Game
45 generated proposal -- and the Board generated these
46 proposals after they read the hunter questionnaire with
47 all of the dissatisfaction. Plus the Board had -- I
48 forget how many -- a lot of proposals from the
49 residents of Alaska complaining bitterly about wanting
50 extended times and so forth. The Board generated these

1 proposals to kind of bring it a little more into focus.

2

3

4 The Board at the -- I forget when their
5 last -- they were -- in the middle of February, they
6 met in Wasilla. They failed all other proposals but
7 these two sheep proposals. This is the only proposals
8 that are currently before the Board of Game. It's very
9 important that they pass something because the guide
10 concession permitting process is not going to happen.

11

12 Proposal 208 gave various options.
13 Maintained the status quo of allocations. And one of
14 the options was to restrict non-resident hunters on
15 private, State, and BLM lands. They would be entered
16 into a limited draw for the entire season by permit
17 allocation by sub-unit.

18

19 We selected that because the -- you've
20 got to understand that non-resident hunters are paying
21 \$15,000 to \$20,000 per sheep. The number of sheep are
22 going down. And the demand -- supply and demand -- the
23 demand is there to hunt sheep all season. And they are
24 hunting sheep all season.

25

26 One of the proposals was only for a few
27 days of the first part of the season or August 10th to
28 August 31. Well, there's 20 more days in September.
29 Well, they'll just pound the tar out of the sheep after
30 that. We felt -- and I felt that the non-residents on
31 the BLM, State, and private lands should be entered
32 into a drawing permit for the entire season, so that we
33 can cap the number of sheep that they're taking. And
34 that cap should be -- not be all allocated to the
35 commercial users. They have to think about the
36 residents and the subsistence. State residents are the
37 subsistence users on State lands under State
38 management.

39

40 And so we selected option one for non-
41 residents on private and State lands and BLM lands to
42 be under a drawing permit for the entire season.

43

44 We also supported option five for
45 residents, which gave a -- broke residents into three
46 hunt periods. The resident hunters are competing
47 heavily for sheep in the first part of the season. So
48 this would break the hunters into three time frames,
49 using the initials of the -- the alphabetical names.

50

1 The Board heard a lot of comments in
2 Wasilla and that didn't work out. But the State needs
3 to come up -- develop a method to break the resident
4 hunters into three different groups so that they're not
5 all hunting at the same time either. That's a big
6 problem.

7
8 And so option five, coming somewhat
9 close to that, is a necessary thing on the resident
10 side. We're applauding the Board of Game for
11 addressing -- coming up with some kind of a proposal
12 because they've been failing proposals all the time.
13 At least they're coming forward with something.

14
15 It's my impression that in four years
16 that the hunting pressure we have on the State, BLM,
17 and private lands -- they're going to be running out of
18 a breeding population of sheep.

19
20 Mr. Stout disagreed with me, but we
21 agreed to disagree that when we have moose populations
22 there's a bull, cow ratio that's necessary for a
23 breeding component. If we have caribou, we have a
24 management objective to maintain a breeding population
25 of males in the population. If we have three or
26 possibly four years with very few lambs recruited,
27 we're going to run out of -- we're going to have such a
28 low male component in four years, we're going to be in
29 a biological crisis where the guides are wiping out all
30 the sheep. They're fully extricating all legal rams.

31
32 And another factor that's not discussed
33 in any forum that I've been at is the wound loss. When
34 they -- you know what happens when you start shooting
35 at sheep. I told you they're social. They bunch up.
36 These guys keep shooting at them. They hit other sheep
37 in that herd. They break some half-curl's leg. He
38 runs over the hill. He dies. There's shrapnel. They
39 hit rocks and bullets bounce off of rocks. There's
40 wound loss with aggregative species like caribou and
41 dall sheep. That's a factor that's not actually being
42 talked about.

43
44 So I feel -- and the Advisory Committee
45 agreed -- that we need to reduce the non-resident to a
46 drawing permit system on the State and BLM lands. And
47 that we need to have -- break the resident hunters out
48 into three different, separate groups so that they
49 don't compete with one another. When people compete,
50 if they see another hunter, it's a known fact that

1 wound loss rates go up on the Delta Bison Herd when
2 there's high competition. The State of Alaska has done
3 analysis on various competitive resources like that.
4 And so the wounding rate goes really high.

5
6 So Proposal 208 and 207 are to try to
7 compel the Board to act on the sheep problem that is
8 glaring at this time. And so the Chair will entertain
9 a motion to address Proposal 207 and 208.

10
11 MR. WALKER: Mr. Chair.

12
13 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, Robert.

14
15 MR. R. WALKER: I'll make a motion for
16 Proposal 207 and 208.

17
18 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: And that would be to
19 basically endorse the position of the Koyukuk River
20 Advisory Committee?

21
22 MR. R. WALKER: To endorse, yes.

23
24 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Do we have a second.

25
26 MR. VENT: Second.

27
28 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Seconded by Darrel.
29 Further discussion on those proposals.

30
31 MR. HONEA: Question.

32
33 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: The question's
34 called. Those in favor of that endorsement of 207 and
35 208 of the Koyukuk River Advisory Committee's position
36 signify by saying aye.

37
38 IN UNISON: Aye.

39
40 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Those opposed same
41 sign.

42
43 (No opposing votes)

44
45 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So we will transmit
46 those as soon as possible because the comment period is
47 closed, I think. But I think that the Board will
48 entertain our position as a Regional Council.

49
50 MR. R. WALKER: Mr. Chair, how much

1 later are we going to go, it's 5:30.

2

3 MR. GERVAIS: Question, Jack.

4

5 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, Tim.

6

7 MR. GERVAIS: Did you ever get a
8 memorandum of understanding with Board of Game and
9 Board of Fish, where they accepted the comments from
10 the Federal RACs as Advisory Committees.

11

12 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Jennifer. Jennifer
13 is the State liaison to the Federal subsistence
14 process. Go ahead, Jennifer.

15

16 MS. YUHAS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
17 For the record copy, Jennifer Yuhás, with the State of
18 Alaska. And that doesn't have to be contained within
19 the MOU. That's the policies of the Boards. And they
20 have accepted that.

21

22 I was also going to let the RAC know
23 that although there is a comment deadline, there is
24 also an ability to submit further comments through the
25 Board of Game website while the meeting is going on.
26 And they accept new comments and record copies of new
27 letters.

28

29 We just went through that last week
30 with the Board of Fish. And we had a very contentious
31 going on -- well, several of them. The one that comes
32 to mind had three separate letters submitted during the
33 meeting explaining the position of the parties involved
34 that led to the final language on a proposal that was
35 being debated.

36

37 And so each individual member as well
38 as the RAC can participate online at the moment. They
39 can call the Department while the meeting is going on.
40 And so it's important to submit the comments on time,
41 but you're also able -- there's a little more
42 flexibility on the State program to be able to submit
43 comments real time and substitute language.

44

45 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Jennifer, the
46 question that Tim is actually asking is.....

47

48 MS. YUHAS: Right.

49

50 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF:whether at one

1 point -- Regional Councils were only given five minutes
2 versus what the AC's were given at 15 for Board of
3 Game.

4

5 MS. YUHAS: Right. Sorry, Mr.
6 Chairman. I thought I answered that at the very
7 beginning. That that is the Board policy and it
8 doesn't have to be contained within the MOU. But they
9 do give the extra time to the RACs, as well as the
10 AC's, under their policy.

11

12 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Oh. To the RACs.
13 Same amount of time. Okay.

14

15 MR. GERVAIS: How about the situation
16 when you're in committee. And then when those
17 committee reports are brought forward to the Board for
18 the vote and they -- they kind of have a score sheet
19 where they say these RACs support and these don't. In
20 the last Board of Fish meeting I was at they only had
21 the State Advisory Committees listed as Advisory
22 Committee support, against and they didn't allow
23 Eastern Interior or Western Interior to -- or Yukon-
24 Kuskokwim Delta to be considered as a RAC in favor or
25 opposed to a certain preferred alternative.

26

27 MS. YUHAS: So through the Chair, I
28 can't speak to what happened at the meeting I wasn't
29 present for. But I was present in Sitka for the
30 duration of the Board of Fish meeting that just
31 happened last week. And we did have RAC members
32 present. For the Southeast RAC, we had three members
33 present and one who was representing the RAC. And that
34 individual's comments were noted as representing the
35 RAC. The other individual's comments were noted as
36 representing themselves.

37

38 MR. GERVAIS: Thank you.

39

40 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks, Jennifer,
41 for clarification. Appreciate that. Go ahead.

42

43 MS. YUHAS: Just as a point of
44 information, we are usually discussing the fiscal
45 situation. And a longstanding issue has been RAC's
46 desires to participate in the Federal program, as well
47 as AC's desires to participate -- or RAC's desires to
48 participate in the State program, as well as AC's
49 desires to cross over and participate in the Federal
50 program.

constraints on that. And we recognized that at the
3 Board of Fish meeting, that the RAC Chairman was only
4 authorized to participate in the first two days of the
5 meeting, which were for public comment, and that it's
6 our recommendation that if you're constrained in that
7 manner, that you make your request to be able to
8 participate in the Committee discussion and submit the
9 public comments written if you're limited to that.

10

11 Hopefully you'd be able to participate
12 in the whole meeting as a RAC Chairman, but I'm happy
13 to assist in writing any letters speaking to the
14 importance of Committee process if you need it.

15

16 MR. GERVAIS: Wait. You're saying you
17 have to be a RAC Chairman to participate in Committee.

18

19 MS. YUHAS: No. But if Carl Johnson
20 would like to answer as to how OSM operates, that's the
21 only person they paid for. So the OSM only paid to
22 send the RAC Chair there to represent the RAC.

23

24 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Or their designee.

25

26 MS. YUHAS: And -- and -- or their
27 designee. And that person was only funded to attend
28 two days of the meeting.

29

30 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So.....

31

32 MS. YUHAS: So should the RAC designee
33 desire to participate in the meeting and OSM places
34 constraints on you, that there's probably a greater
35 opportunity for participation in Committee than in the
36 few minutes of public comment, if you have to choose
37 which days you're traveling to the meeting.

38

39 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: That's the best
40 strategy, is to participate in the Committee process,
41 to make the biggest bang for your buck. So I would --
42 in future, if the Regional Council attends Board of
43 Fish or Board of Game, that we get -- allocate our time
44 wisely for the best effect on the respective Board.

45

46 So thank you. And so if you could send
47 us -- OSM an outline of what you were just saying, I
48 would appreciate that. And I would like a cc of that
49 also.

50

1 Thank you.

2

3 And so we're running really short on
4 time here. So our annual report, Melinda.

5

6 I was talking about addition to this
7 report for the BLM aspect.

8

9 MS. BURKE: Yes, Mr. Chair. In front
10 of you, you have the draft Annual Report for 2014. And
11 I have here in my notes from today that there are two
12 issues so far that we would like to add to the Report.

13

14

15 The first item was mentioned earlier
16 today. The Council is unsatisfied with the
17 regulations.gov option of submitting proposals and
18 would like OSM Staff to work on developing some sort of
19 a form. I know we've discussed it before, the whole
20 OMB issue. That was stated earlier today as the next
21 item.

22

23 And then we also have the concerns on
24 guiding in the Dalton Highway corridor.

25

26 Mr. Chair.

27

28 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I would like under
29 this sheep, number one, that the Bureau of Land
30 Management for Unit 24A, 26B -- BLM lands adjacent to
31 the Dalton Highway corridor, they develop a Sheep
32 Management Plan and Guide Capacity. And also work for
33 a guide concession permit process. So this is
34 requesting the Regional Office -- Regional Director of
35 the BLM to direct funding for a Sheep Management Plan
36 in 26A -- or 26B and 24A.

37

38 And also that the BLM come through on
39 their promise to develop a guide concession permit
40 process on the BLM lands if the State process failed.
41 It's failed. And so they need to move forward.

42

43 And so that would be that -- those are
44 the Annual Report request under that issue.

45

46 Go ahead, Melinda.

47

48 MS. BURKE: Mr. Chair, I was just going
49 to say I can work up some language on adding in the two
50 new, additional items tonight. The Council is meeting

1 jointly with Eastern Interior tomorrow, but perhaps we
2 could find some time to sit down for the Council to
3 review the draft before we leave Fairbanks.

4

5 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay.

6

7 MR. GERVAIS: Mr. Chair.

8

9 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, Tim.

10

11 MR. GERVAIS: Could we also add a king
12 salmon issue onto this Report or is it too late.

13

14 MS. BURKE: No.

15

16 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: No.

17

18 MR. GERVAIS: Okay.

19

20 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Well, let's talk
21 about item three. This incidental harvest mortality,
22 the drop out problem. And requesting that a indices be
23 developed for incident king salmon or salmon drop outs
24 from using six-inch gillnet in a directed chum fishery.
25 And the mortality of the king salmon is an unknown
26 number. And so that's a real problem. That's a by
27 guess and by golly how many fish are actually falling
28 out that net.

29

30 And so we're concerned with developing
31 an indices that managers can use. If we fish six-inch
32 net, we're going to lose about this percentage will be
33 king salmon. And so that's going to have an effect.

34

35 The perception now by managers is that
36 king salmon hit a six-inch net and they bounce off and
37 go swimming away happily up the river. Well, that's
38 not what happens. They get their gills clamped shut
39 and it kills them. And anybody that's fished gillnet
40 very much knows full well how many fish fall out of a
41 net if you use the wrong sized gear. And they're using
42 the wrong sized gear on the Yukon-Kuskokwim River and
43 assuming that king salmon fall out.

44

45 So that's what item three is for the
46 Council Members that weren't at the meeting. That
47 we're requesting the managers develop an indices and
48 enter an investigative, scientific analysis.

49

50 Then you wanted to insert another king

1 salmon issue there. Item six or whatever it might be,
2 Tim.

3

4 MR. GERVAIS: Okay. Yeah. Whatever
5 the last item number would be. I would like the
6 Council to state that we're finding that the North
7 Pacific Fisheries Management Council is in violation of
8 the Magnuson-Stevenson Act -- or Magnuson-Stevens Act.
9 They're not addressing -- we're not agreeing with their
10 interpretation of the National Standards for Fishery
11 Conservation and Management. And they're also
12 violating several other management objectives for the
13 Bering Sea Groundfish Fisheries Management Plan.

14

15 And I could give you a list of the
16 numbers of those national standards and the management
17 objectives that are in question.

18

19 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: And so those are
20 numerical. And you can cite those. Yeah. I got that
21 email, but I didn't get a real good chance to look
22 those -- I looked through them, but I -- there are
23 certain numerical standards and management objectives.

24

25

26 And so maybe we shouldn't fully adopt
27 this Annual Report until -- can we take -- break out
28 for just a few minutes at the end of tomorrow's meeting
29 to adopt this, after talking with the North Pacific
30 Management Council. Or is that not -- no can do, Carl.

31

32 MR. JOHNSON: Mr. Chair, my preference
33 would be that any discussion be on the record. So you
34 and the Chair for the Eastern Interior RAC will be in
35 charge of running tomorrow's agenda. So -- and the
36 other constraint is of course the 7:00 p.m. public
37 meeting. So if you can find time in your day to
38 squeeze it in.

39

40 I definitely encourage that any claims
41 by this Council about the performance of the North
42 Pacific Fisheries Management Council be after you have
43 heard their report. And see if anything they have to
44 say affects the potential outcome of your language in
45 your Annual Report.

46

47 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So we could pass --
48 we could insert this in premise, with the caveat that
49 the Western Interior Council can modify our Annual
50 Report item on the North Pacific Fishery Management

1 Council's performance or violation of performance of
2 their bylaws.

3

4 And I would like to have additional
5 language to insert after our meeting with them, but I
6 don't know that we can have the time to review this
7 Annual Report fully at the end of the E RAC, Y RAC
8 meeting tomorrow.

9

10 Can we do that. Can we put this down
11 as like a placeholder in this Annual Report and add
12 additional language after we've met with the North
13 Pacific Fisheries Management Council.

14

15 MR. JOHNSON: You could do that. You
16 know, again in order to comply with the correspondence
17 policy, the main requirement is that you have a
18 discussion on the record as to the general idea. You
19 don't have to actually approve the specific language on
20 the record.

21

22 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Uh-huh.

23

24 MR. JOHNSON: But it might be still
25 beneficial to have further discussion. Even if you
26 don't finalize the exact language you like, you'll have
27 further discussions so you can narrow down the tone and
28 the language selection for your annual report.

29

30 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: And we'll all be on
31 the record when we're discussing with the North Pacific
32 Fisheries Management Council. So we'll use this as --
33 your language as a template and we will modify our
34 Annual Report within that template after discussion
35 with the North Pacific Fisheries Management Council.

36

37 Go ahead, Carl.

38

39 MR. JOHNSON: And just one thing -- one
40 more thing, Mr. Chair. I caution against the use of
41 the word that the Council has found or has a finding
42 that the NPFMC is in violation. Because typically you
43 do that after conducting fact finding and hearing
44 testimony and receiving evidence, so then you make a
45 finding. So.....

46

47 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Uh-huh.

48

49 MR. JOHNSON: So that thus far has not
50 occurred.

1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right. But it's the
2 impression of the Western Interior Council that their
3 national standards for conservation and they're
4 exceeding their management objectives are occurring.
5 And I'm tracking what they're doing. And they're
6 lobbied to death to have maximum use. And so I'm
7 concerned about what they've been up to.

8
9 Ray.

10
11 MR. COLLINS: Well, you could
12 substitute the word we believe that this to be the
13 case.....

14
15 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right.

16
17 MR. COLLINS:without using the
18 word finding.

19
20 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right. Right.

21
22 MR. COLLINS: The other one, before you
23 go on, on that Refuge there, we appreciate the extra
24 consideration given. But I'd like to insert in there
25 also that we are disappointed that all of the affected
26 communities, in spite of the objection of all the
27 affected, the decision was made to move. Because I'm
28 not happy with that decision.

29
30 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Uh-huh.

31
32 MR. COLLINS: And I know Galena and
33 Ruby and -- or not Ruby. But Holy Cross, Shageluk, and
34 all of those Villages sent words that they weren't in
35 favor of the move either. So something in there to
36 state that in spite of opposition by affected Villages,
37 the decision was made to make the move.

38
39 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: We can state that
40 we're displeased with the outcome. After all of the
41 public comments.....

42
43 MR. COLLINS: Yeah. Yeah. Yeah.

44
45 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF:to the
46 contrary, that the Innoko Office was moved to Galena,
47 with little consultation of the communities, as we've
48 been stating.

49
50 MR. COLLINS: Yeah.

1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: And so we're
2 displeased with the outcome even though in the end it
3 was against the wishes of the local people.
4
5 MR. COLLINS: Yeah.
6
7 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So we -- all of the
8 reasons were valid and we're displeased with the
9 outcome. That's what you're wanting?
10
11 MR. COLLINS: Yeah.
12
13 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So, okay.
14
15 MR. COLLINS: Something to that effect.
16
17 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yeah.
18
19 MS. BURKE: Got it.
20
21 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Any further
22 comments, insertions to the Annual Report to the
23 Federal Subsistence Board and the Regional Directors of
24 the Agents. The BLM, Fish and Wildlife, BIA, Forest
25 Service, and Park Service.
26
27 You had a comment, Melinda.
28
29 MS. BURKE: I just wanted to -- for the
30 North Pacific Fisheries Management Council, I do have a
31 few pages for Tim that I'm going to get printed. We
32 narrowed down the sections of that document that we
33 emailed last night. So we'll get those printed and
34 I'll give the Council some homework for the evening.
35
36 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So I would like to
37 adopt this Annual Report. The Chair will entertain a
38 motion to adopt the Annual Report as modified during
39 our discussion.
40
41 MR. WALKER: So moved.
42
43 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: We've got a motion
44 to adopt.
45
46 MR. GERVAIS: Second.
47
48 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Seconded. Further
49 discussion on the Annual Report. Any further
50 discussion.

1 MS. PELKOLA: Question.

2

3 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: The question's
4 called. Those in favor of the Annual Report as
5 modified, signify by saying aye.

6

7 IN UNISON: Aye.

8

9 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Opposed same sign.

10

11 (No opposing votes)

12

13 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Somebody on the
14 conference is rattling papers. And so you've got to
15 star six it.

16

17 So, Melinda.

18

19 MS. BURKE: Mr. Chair, thank you.
20 Everybody, if you will turn to page 16 in your books,
21 we have moved on to the review of the Council Charter.

22

23 This is an action item. FACA, the
24 Federal Advisory Committee Act, requires the Charter to
25 be renewed every two years. You will see some sections
26 of the Charter highlighted in yellow. These are
27 changes that are reflected. They were made -- excuse
28 me. These reflect some of the changes that were made
29 at the suggestions of the Councils and Staff last fall
30 -- at last fall's meeting.

31

32 There was -- this Council in particular
33 has been really vocal on the nominations, appointment
34 processes. And among the recommended changes that we
35 heard from the Councils were changing the term limits
36 -- or I'm sorry -- not the limits. The changing the
37 term -- appointment terms. Appointing of alternates so
38 that there is a carry over. This Council has I think
39 twice now experienced where we haven't been able to
40 have a Council Member participate because they -- the
41 decision has not been made from DC yet.

42

43 And I think that we're going to be
44 allowing for 120 days. It's going to let us get
45 through the next meeting cycle if for some reason there
46 is a delay in appointments and someone needs to
47 continue serving.

48

49 This Council has approved of the
50 changes. I think that basically everything that you

1 see highlighted in yellow, this Council has mentioned
2 it at one point or another.

3

4 So it's there for Council review, Mr.
5 Chair.

6

7 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks, Melinda. On
8 page 18 is the highlighted area. That was what we
9 inserted at our McGrath meeting after discussion with
10 Carl, who did a great job of developing various options
11 for us to mull over.

12

13 For the Council Members who weren't
14 there at the McGrath meeting, do you have any issues
15 with that language. This allows this Council to
16 continue to work within quorum.

17

18 MR. GERVAIS: Jack.

19

20 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead.

21

22 MR. GERVAIS: Yeah. I'm just
23 questioning, is that 120 days going to be enough if
24 it's -- if the term expires between the spring meeting
25 and the fall meeting.

26

27 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Carl.

28

29 MR. JOHNSON: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
30 Carl Johnson. So currently all appointments --
31 regardless of when they were originally made, all
32 expire on December the 2nd. So what this would allow
33 would be -- you know, since right now our winter
34 meeting cycle is February, March, that would allow it
35 to get that appointment. They would stay in that
36 position through the end of March. And that would be
37 clear for the winter meeting cycle.

38

39 In discussions with DC on this issue,
40 they were reluctant to grant an open-ended continuation
41 that exists in the SRC charters. They suggested 90
42 days. And I countered with 120 because 90 days would
43 not get us through our winter meeting cycle.

44

45 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Thanks for
46 all the work you've done on this, Carl. I appreciate
47 that. Did that explain the 120 day.

48

49 Any further discussion on the Charter
50 Amendment for the Western Interior Regional Advisory

1 Council.

2

3 MR. COLLINS: Do we need approval as
4 amended.

5

6 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yes. We need to
7 adopt the Amendment. The Chair will entertain a motion
8 to adopt the charter.....

9

10 MR. HONEA: Motion to adopt.

11

12 MS. PELKOLA: Second.

13

14 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Motion to adopt.
15 Seconded by Jenny. Don and Jenny.

16

17 Further discussion.

18

19 (No comments)

20

21 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Those in favor of
22 the amended Western Interior Regional Advisory Council
23 Charter signify by saying aye.

24

25 IN UNISON: Aye.

26

27 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Those opposed same
28 sign.

29

30 (No opposing votes)

31

32 MS. BURKE: All right. Thanks,
33 Council.

34

35 Mr. Chair, we do have an item number E
36 here. We have a new Native liaison in our office,
37 Orville Lind. Orville is going to be with us for the
38 entirety of tomorrow's meeting as well. So I think
39 we're just going to have Orville introduce himself and
40 talk about the implementation policy tomorrow. So
41 we're very happy to have Orville on staff. Jumped
42 right in. And he's been doing a really great job and
43 just hitting the ground running. So Orville will
44 introduce himself tomorrow. And thanks for -- I know
45 we're getting late into the evening here.

46

47 And one thing, Mr. Chair, that I failed
48 to bring in from the original agenda printed in the
49 book. We quickly need to adopt a representative of the
50 Kuskokwim Subsistence Salmon Panel. This was a letter

1 that we had received back in November. I think for
2 this Council and the Y-K Delta this was an action item
3 for this round.

4
5 And I'll pass the letter around if
6 everybody would like a refresher, but I believe I
7 mailed it to everybody.....

8
9 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yeah.

10
11 MS. BURKE:maybe a month ago. A
12 couple of months ago.

13
14 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So who wants to
15 represent the Kuskokwim Salmon Panel -- Panel --
16 Subsistence Salmon Panel.

17
18 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Carl.

19
20 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Carl, do you want to
21 do that? You live on the Kuskokwim. How are you
22 feeling these days? Good enough to go to more
23 meetings?

24
25 (Laughter)

26
27 MR. MORGAN: Not like this though.

28
29 (Laughter)

30
31 MR. MORGAN: I guess by -- I'll go
32 ahead and -- if Ray don't want it.

33
34 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Ray was on the --
35 are you still -- you're on the Kuskokwim River Salmon
36 Working Group.

37
38 MR. COLLINS: The working group, uh-
39 huh.

40
41 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So Ray's kind of got
42 his plate full on that one.

43
44 MR. MORGAN: Okay. I'll go.

45
46 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: And we -- I would
47 like to in the future try and get at least one more
48 Kuskokwim rep on this RAC. Because.....

49
50 MR. COLLINS: I was at the January

1 meeting already. January 15th.
2
3 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Oh. Did you attend
4 this.
5
6 MS. BURKE: Yeah. That's what.....
7
8 MR. COLLINS: Yeah. I attended that.
9
10 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Oh. You attended
11 this.
12
13 MR. COLLINS: Uh-huh.
14
15 MR. COLLINS: So he was there.
16
17 MS. BURKE: So we already have one.
18
19 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So are you
20 representing the Council on this panel then. Or.....
21
22 MR. JOHNSON: No. He was wearing his
23 AC hat.
24
25 MR. COLLINS: Yeah. I was with the AC.
26
27 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Oh. We as AC.
28
29 MS. BURKE: The AC hat. Yeah.
30
31 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Oh, okay. All
32 right.
33
34 (Laughter)
35
36 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. I nominate
37 Carl Morgan to represent us on the Kuskokwim Salmon
38 Panels. Is that agreeable to the Council.
39
40 MS. PELKOLA: Second.
41
42 MR. J. WALKER: Nomination's closed.
43
44 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Nomination's --
45 you've been nominated and seconded.
46
47 (Laughter)
48
49 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Those in favor of
50 sending Carl to the Kuskokwim Salmon Panel signify by

1 saying aye.
2
3 IN UNISON: Aye.
4
5 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Opposed same sign.
6
7 (No opposing votes)
8
9 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks, Melinda.
10
11 MS. BURKE: Uh-huh.
12
13 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks, Carl.
14 Appreciate that.
15
16 (Laughter)
17
18 MR. R. WALKER: Good work, Carl.
19
20 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: You're working for
21 your people and the elders. Always remember.
22
23 (Laughter)
24
25 MS. BURKE: Mr. Chair, moving down into
26 the Agency Reports. I know we've taken care of quite a
27 bit of this, but we do have the Tribal Governments and
28 Native Organizations there at the front, if there's
29 anyone here who would like to speak.
30
31 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Do we have TCC in
32 the room.
33
34 (No comments)
35
36 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: We sort of vacated
37 the room.
38
39 (Laughter)
40
41 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Kuskokwim Native
42 Association's usually on the line. Are you on.
43
44 (No comments)
45
46 MS. BURKE: They will be on tomorrow
47 for sure. But if.....
48
49 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Oh. They're going
50 to be online tomorrow.

1 MS. BURKE: Yeah.
2
3 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Any other Native
4 Organization like to speak to the Council.
5
6 (No comments)
7
8 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Hearing none.
9 Special Actions, U.S. Fish and Wildlife.
10
11 (No comments)
12
13 MS. BURKE: Mr. Chair, we did get a
14 letter back on the 18th of February, giving an overview
15 of the special actions from the Y-K Delta Refuge.
16 Would you like me to -- they're all fisheries. Would
17 you like me to hold these until tomorrow.
18
19 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yes, please.
20
21 MS. BURKE: And moving down, I believe
22 if my notes are correct, I think we're down to Rita St.
23 Louis and Robert here with the wood bison.
24
25 As Rita comes up, we'll just get the
26 power point set up quickly. And I just wanted to say I
27 really appreciate Rita being -- you know, just really
28 awesome communication. And from what I hear, our
29 Council Member did a really wonderful job representing
30 the Council and the group.
31
32 So we'll turn it over to Rita and to
33 Robert.
34
35 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So Rita St. Louis
36 used to be our Koyukuk River Advisory Committee
37 coordinator for quite a few years. And after Vince, I
38 think.
39
40 MR. COLLINS: In McGrath, too.
41
42 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: And so then now
43 she's worked over at.....
44
45 MS. ST. LOUIS: Just waiting for this
46 to be raised a little bit.
47
48 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So we've got to jack
49 up the -- well.....
50

1 MS. BURKE: We are flexible.

2

3 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Those things are a
4 heck of a lot smaller than they used to be.

5

6 (Laughter)

7

8 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So go ahead, Rita.

9

10 MS. ST. LOUIS: Good afternoon, Mr.
11 Chair, Members of the Western Interior Regional
12 Advisory Council. For the record, my name is Rita St.
13 Louis. I'm a planner in the Fairbanks Region 3 office.
14 And I'm here to present the Wood Bison Management Plan
15 for the Lower Innoko Yukon River area in West Central
16 Alaska for 2015 through 2020.

17

18 And trustee Robert Walker is here. He
19 was your representative on this team and did a great
20 job. Also in the room was earlier Alfred Demientieff,
21 from Holy Cross; Kenton Moos, from Innoko Refuge; Bruce
22 Seppi, from BLM is here; and Al Barrette -- he's long
23 gone, too, I think. But anyway.

24

25 So why make a management plan. The
26 special Federal rule for the non-essential,
27 experimental population states that ADF&G is to use a
28 public planning process to develop a management plan,
29 with representatives from local communities, regional
30 population centers, Native interests, wildlife
31 conservation interests, industry, and State and Federal
32 agencies. Due to that, we identified as many groups as
33 possible who might have an interest in the wood bison
34 management.

35

36 The Department identified and invited
37 29 key groups to participate in the process to develop
38 this plan. Twenty-eight groups accepted. Each group
39 chose who represented its membership. This is a photo
40 of the third meeting of the Alaska Wood Bison
41 Management Planning Team. There's your trusty leader
42 right there somewhere. There.

43

44 We employed the expert help of Dr.
45 Alistair Bath, from Memorial University, Newfoundland,
46 Canada, to facilitate three two-day sessions between
47 October 2014 and February 2015, during which the team
48 developed this plan. ADF&G did not have a preconceived
49 outline or outcome to forward to the team. Instead Dr.
50 Bath helped the team tease out what it really wanted.

1 And all decisions were by consensus.

2

3 The team came up with seven goals which
4 I will talk about, together with objectives and
5 actions. I will not go through all of the objectives
6 and actions. Rather I will mention a few that I think
7 are especially germane to the interests of this
8 Council.

9

10 First one, goal one. Establish a herd
11 in the Lower Innoko Yukon River area. For the first
12 years the team did not want to have a population cap.
13 Instead they wanted to let the herd grow. See how it
14 does. How it survives and expands and interacts in its
15 new environment. The team emphasized keeping wood
16 bison and plains bison separate. And also the Federal
17 rule says that as well.

18

19 And you see this map. This outlined
20 area here is the -- that was identified as good habitat
21 for wood bison, but that doesn't mean that's the only
22 good habitat. And right up here in the corner near
23 Shageluk is where the bison will be released. And
24 you'll also notice that real checkerboard of land
25 ownership here.

26

27 Goal two, ensure adequate staffing and
28 funding for all phases of wood bison management. To
29 that end, the team wanted drawing permit application
30 fees to be put by towards the Wood Bison Management
31 Plan.

32

33 Goal three, minimize conflicts between
34 humans and wood bison. Identify concerns that people
35 have about interacting with bison and share information
36 about what we have learned. This is a new animal on
37 their landscape and the people don't fully understand
38 what to expect. And establish procedures and training
39 to deal with problem bison.

40

41 Goal four, encourage cooperation among
42 land managers to ensure reasonable, standardized land
43 use to access bison. The Village Landowner Corporation
44 -- I'm sorry. I'm going to probably butcher how I say
45 these (Indiscernible) got together and agreed to one
46 common fee for land use. A hunter would pay only one
47 fee no matter which of the four Village Corporations
48 lands he is on.

49

50 The fees are as follows. Zero for

1 shareholders; \$300 for Alaska residents; \$500 to \$1,500
2 for non-residents. These funds will go into a
3 scholarship trust fund set up and administered by the
4 Village Corporations. And (Indiscernible) has agreed
5 to take the lead on that.

6

7 And the Village Corporations will
8 forward their resolutions to Doyon. And Doyon will
9 meet in March to address land use. And Doyon was at
10 these meetings, but their procedure is a little more
11 complicated.

12

13 Okay. Got my notes. Goal five, manage
14 harvest allocation to equitably benefit local resident,
15 non-local resident, and non-resident hunters. Begin
16 harvest when there is a harvestable surplus of 20
17 animals. Twenty percent of the allocation would go
18 toward registration permits issued in the GASH
19 Villages, Grayling, Anvik, Shageluk, and Holy Cross.
20 That will transmit to one permit issued in each of the
21 four Villages when harvest begins.

22

23 Eighty percent of the allocation will
24 go toward drawing permits to residents and non-
25 residents with no more than ten percent of the permits
26 to go to non-residents.

27

28 Goal six, minimize wood bison impact on
29 other wildlife species and ecosystems on which they
30 depend. To watch that the bison will be collared and
31 very closely monitored. Both satellite and VHF collars
32 will be deployed. Tom will be monitoring the animals
33 daily at first. Then less often as he feels
34 comfortable with how they're doing. And conduct other
35 wildlife surveys as necessary.

36

37 Goal seven, ensure continuing
38 communication among all user groups. Have regular
39 updates among the team members and meet yearly as funds
40 allow. And take advantage of educational
41 opportunities, such as curriculum development for
42 seventh and eighth graders by Bear Trust International
43 and AWCC.

44

45 And the photo here -- it's kind of hard
46 to see -- shows a skeleton that a Wasilla teacher, Tim
47 Lunt, and his students cleaned up disarticulated and
48 numbered. Students can take this box of bones and
49 reassemble an entire bison skeleton. He and his
50 students have made least two of these -- and I believe

1 three. One is out in Shageluk right now in a school.

2

3 I will tell you that the Board of Game
4 did adopt this plan. The Federal Subsistence Board
5 deferred for a couple of reasons. One, we met in
6 January, it was. And it was a draft plan. It wasn't a
7 complete plan yet. And also they were deferring to the
8 RACs, to be told what the RACs wanted. And just last
9 week the Y-K RAC endorsed this plan.

10

11 I just want to give you a couple more
12 notes update on the wood bison. As you know, they came
13 to AWCC in 2003 and 2008 from Canada. The herd has
14 grown and there are cohorts from nearly -- oops, sorry
15 -- nearly every age group. We have done extensive
16 husbandry work, such as regular administration of
17 mineral and vitamins and testing the health of these
18 animals. The herd is certified as disease free.

19

20 In May 2014, the final 10(j) Rule was
21 published. In June 2014, it went into effect. In
22 August the Governor gave his go ahead to the project.
23 And from September 2014 on it's been very busy.

24

25 This is a time to keep our eye on the
26 prize and recognize the unique opportunity and effort
27 that the people of Alaska and people outside of Alaska
28 have put into this project. It's a huge conservation
29 achievement. A gift to future generations. And very
30 few opportunities such as this will come our way in a
31 lifetime.

32

33 We have a lot of logistical challenges,
34 such as getting containers and transporters strong
35 enough to move these bison. The cost has been high.
36 The State committed to enough money to move two loads
37 or about 40 animals, but people have stepped up right
38 and left and now we have funds to move 100 cows and
39 young animals by plane and then barge some bulls in the
40 early summer.

41

42 And I can list several pages of people
43 who have helped and donated money, but I do want to
44 mention that Safari Club, International donated
45 \$100,000 and Lynden Transport underbid their own bid by
46 \$100,000 so that they could fly them. Steel Fab has
47 donated labor to build the containers and Carlile
48 Transportation has donated transportation of all the
49 hay for about eight years.

50

1 And the people of Shageluk stepped up.
2 Nearly every able bodied man in Shageluk came to build
3 a temporary holding pen. Here is a picture of Arnold
4 Hamilton. He took the opportunity to teach the
5 children about bison. And here's a picture of the
6 trusty fencing crew.

7
8 And let's see. Bison will be put in
9 the pens and then in a short time, one to three weeks,
10 there will be a soft release about five miles away. So
11 plans to get the bison to follow feed across country is
12 something that's going on. Of course we have the
13 expertise of those who have done this before and the
14 cooperation of the GASH people.

15
16 Another challenge is getting the bison
17 to say where they're released. But research in Canada
18 shows that they show strong fidelity to calving
19 grounds. So they'll be calving right about the time
20 they get out there.

21
22 We're leaving as little as possible to
23 chance. We have backups of backups. We have help of
24 experts who have done this before and we are planning a
25 week of dress rehearsal before the planned flights that
26 are scheduled for the week of March 22nd.

27
28 And Mr. Chair, that's the end of my
29 presentation. I entertain any questions.

30
31 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks so much,
32 Rita, for all the work you've done on this and with
33 Robert and the local people down there.

34
35 Any questions from the Council on the
36 bison release.

37
38 Go ahead, Jenny.

39
40 MS. PELKOLA: Yeah. When did you say
41 you were planning to move them and how many.

42
43 MS. ST. LOUIS: The planned -- it's the
44 week of March 22nd, so like in three weeks. And we're
45 planning to take 100. There will be like -- let's see
46 here -- about 50 adult cows, 30 calves, and 20 one to
47 two-year olds. They'll be flying out on C-130
48 airplanes.

49
50 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: No bulls.

1 MS. ST. LOUIS: The bulls -- well,
2 young bulls.
3
4 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Oh, that's the young
5 ones.
6
7 MS. ST. LOUIS: But then older bulls
8 will be barged out in early summer. I don't know the
9 exact timing on that.
10
11 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: They breed like in
12 the late summer or -- July or something?
13
14 MS. ST. LOUIS: July. Yes.
15
16 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Uh-huh. So they
17 will get there in time?
18
19 MS. ST. LOUIS: Hope so.
20
21 (Laughter)
22
23 MS. ST. LOUIS: They plan to.
24
25 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So all right. I
26 hope so.
27
28 Any other questions on the Bison
29 Management Plan and release. The Western Interior
30 Council was -- oh. Go ahead, Don.
31
32 MR. HONEA: Thank you, Jack. Yeah. I
33 think that that area is fortunate to get this. I mean
34 -- you know, I mean I guess it was -- we've been
35 talking about this since Randy Rogers was -- was that
36 Randy? Years ago.
37
38 MS. ST. LOUIS: Uh-huh. Yes.
39
40 MR. HONEA: Yeah. So -- and there was
41 four places mentioned. And we had even offered our
42 area, but -- you know, and some other areas, but -- so
43 what's the scenario going to be like. You're going to
44 give them a couple of years to try to see if they
45 reproduce and stuff before any kind of hunting or
46 something like that would take place?
47
48 MS. ST. LOUIS: Do we mention it?
49
50 MR. R. WALKER: Go ahead.

1 MS. ST. LOUIS: Through the Chair.
2 Hunting will not take place until there's a harvestable
3 surplus. And that means we're going to let the herd
4 grow for a while before there's any harvested.
5 Probably with the exception like any troubled bison,
6 you know, that -- that like if they enter the Village
7 or something like that, those will be counted toward
8 harvestable surplus.

9
10 And generally when the bulls get --
11 their best breeding age is around six to seven years
12 old. So if you get old bulls, those could be harvested
13 without jeopardizing the growth of the herd. Things
14 like that. So -- but yeah. The herd's going to grow
15 before they start getting shot.

16
17 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: And that's at like
18 when they get to about 300 animals or so?

19
20 MS. ST. LOUIS: Go ahead.

21
22 MR. R. WALKER: Yes, Jack. I believe
23 that was the intent to do. To get 50 to 60 over what
24 we have there or more before we start -- or before they
25 start having them drop. And I want to say that what
26 really struck me was that this is going to be a very
27 exclusive hunt. You know, because they're paying for
28 bison here and here and here. But this is the first --
29 actually first herd of the woodland bison being in
30 Alaska.

31
32 And I was talking to one the guides.
33 He said you're looking at between \$8,000 and \$12,000 a
34 hunt here. So even -- even more. Because -- and that
35 was another issue that we brought up. Was that when we
36 talked to the Corporations -- the local Corporations
37 with our State, is that they do -- will and, you know,
38 get -- yet get a fee. But if -- and they will have
39 people that will work with -- one of the things that
40 they're going to have to look at is getting a guide.
41 Because the transporter is a drop off. A guide's going
42 to assist. So there is difference in this hunt here.

43
44 And I did have a resolution in my
45 pocket also from the four Tribes, stating that we want
46 a C&T in this. But I let it ride itself out. I was
47 just so surprised that -- how all these entities came
48 together. Safari Club. I mean, you know, Outdoor
49 Council. The State Board of Game. You know, Ted
50 Spraker was there.

1 It just kind of like -- the first day
2 was real kind of difficult. Alfred Demientieff was
3 there, too, also and some other people. It was kind of
4 like we didn't know how to speak to each other because
5 we never talked to each other before. I never talked
6 to the Board of Game. Neither had these people. Board
7 of Game never comes to our meetings and sit down and
8 listen to our RAC meetings. So it was kind of
9 interesting. Well, maybe we have one now.

10

(Laughter)

11

12
13 MR. R. WALKER: But it is interesting
14 that all of a sudden it just like -- the ice got broken
15 and we just started meeting with -- our M.C. Alistair
16 -- he's the one that really pulled this together. And
17 we just kind of like sat back and it just like fell
18 into place. After two days we wanted to meet again
19 because we want to be sure of what's going to happen.
20 We didn't want to go off and say well, you know, I'm
21 not really happy with this part. But this part will
22 work. And this part is not going to work. And the
23 second time we met, everybody was a little more kosher.
24 We sat down. We talked. We found our differences. We
25 found the Corporations, where they would fit in.
26 Excuse me. But I was just amazed.

27

28 I kept that resolution in my back
29 pocket. So I didn't pull that out for customary and
30 traditional use because I think with working with the
31 Corporations with the State, where they would give a 20
32 percent allowable for take. And plus another issue
33 that was brought was if the hunter don't want to take
34 all the meat, he could donate it to the Corporation or
35 the people, which I thought was really good because we
36 didn't ask for that. They offered it.

37

38 And this is a whole new -- this is a
39 whole new hunt for us. I mean how many of us ever had
40 buffalo. So that is an issue. You know, maybe someday
41 we'll -- when all the moose are all depleted, it's kind
42 of hard to fall back to buffalo.

43

44 Just to be funny here, you know,
45 somebody told me, you know, Robert, you can be a real
46 Indian if you get a buffalo.

47

(Laughter)

48

49 MR. R. WALKER: So, you know, these are
50

1 kind of little funny things here. But I am very
2 honored to be one of the people that did take -- and
3 when we did speak to the Board of Game with the Fed, we
4 emphasized this whole point. And they approved the
5 plan, which was really nice. And when we did speak to
6 the State Board again about this plan, they approved.

7

8 So we have to have -- I think this is
9 coming to Phase Two, right? Where we work. We present
10 it to our Board of Game. That's where they can approve
11 it. And then go to the State. I think the State did
12 -- this will work out really great. I'm just glad it's
13 going to work out. Any questions.

14

15 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Any questions for
16 Robert.

17

18 Tim.

19

20 MR. GERVAIS: I'd just like to thank
21 you for putting in the extra time and effort and making
22 this project happen. We're real proud of you.

23

24 MR. R. WALKER: You know, Tim --
25 remember, Tim. You know, we have to remember that this
26 is we're all working together. This is nothing I look
27 at as a personal gain. It's just like we're gaining
28 something with the State here. We never ever worked
29 with the State before. So this will probably be
30 something to think about in the future. And that was
31 my intent.

32

33 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Ray.

34

35 MR. COLLINS: Yeah. I've eaten part of
36 two bison out of the Farewell Herd. I got one of the
37 first permits when that opened up. And I had people
38 from Nikolai. We went up. When we butchered it, the
39 fat is yellow. At least in those more -- and they're
40 used to seeing that in grizzly or something, but they
41 don't see it in moose. It's white, you know. And they
42 were wondering. And it's marbled. It isn't all on the
43 outside like it is with moose. The meat is marbled.
44 So it looks more like beef in that sense. But it's
45 really good eating. So I assume the wood bison is
46 going to taste very similar to the plains.

47

48 MR. R. WALKER: Member Collins, I
49 believe that we are told they're -- and then they are
50 going to have a butchering in Shageluk also. So the

1 local people would have an idea how this is going to be
2 done. Because the woodland bison is a little bit
3 bigger than the plain bison. And I think the front
4 quarters are kind of like -- you know, like 300 or 400
5 pounds. It would take more than one person to move it.

6

7 And according to the biologist -- what
8 was his name? Tom?

9

10 MS. ST. LOUIS: Tom Seaton.

11

12 MR. R. WALKER: Tom Seaton. He said
13 that the fat is yellow.

14

15 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Pollock.

16

17 MR. SIMON: I have just a question. Is
18 there wood bison that's going to be released someplace
19 else, like closer to home. Or is this the only one.

20

21 MS. ST. LOUIS: Would you please repeat
22 the question. I didn't understand it.

23

24 MR. SIMON: Is there going to be more
25 wood bisons released closer to home.

26

27 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: In other locations.

28

29 MS. ST. LOUIS: Through the Chair. The
30 State does not plan other releases right now. We're
31 only going to leave like ten bison at Alaska Wildlife
32 Conservation Center for their displays. Until the
33 endangered -- until these animals are no longer
34 threatened -- they were endangered and now they're
35 threatened. Until they're no longer threatened, Doyon
36 particularly -- and other people -- any group of people
37 who want to do other land use, they're really concerned
38 even though they're protected under the 10(j) Rule.
39 Just -- there's just a lot of bureaucratic stuff going
40 on.

41

42 So the best thing I can say is if
43 people really want them in another area, work with your
44 Congressman to get them de-listed. Because, you know,
45 like there's easily -- I don't know how many total in
46 Canada -- but there's about 5,000 disease free animals
47 in Canada. We don't even count the ones that have
48 diseases. But like five or six herds of disease free
49 animals. And they're growing. A bison herd will grow
50 like 20 percent a year. So they will grow really fast.

1 So that's -- but no. We have no plans
2 right now, to answer your question.

3
4 Thank you.

5
6 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: James.

7
8 MR. J. WALKER: Yeah. I'd like to
9 compliment you guys all this whole program. And to see
10 it come to a point where it's a reality. And that's
11 something that probably not many of get to see
12 something like this in our lifetime. And it's going to
13 be something that's going to be a factor out there for
14 generations.

15
16 Thank you.

17
18 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks, James. When
19 the Western Interior Council heard about these wood
20 bisons, we were jumping up and down and welcoming them
21 to the Innoko area. We're really pleased that this
22 project has moved forward. But we advocated for the
23 10(j) Rule. And so of course this Council is going to
24 endorse the Bison Management Plan to the Federal
25 Subsistence Board. And so there was really no question
26 about that. But the Board has to move through its
27 procedures. And so we -- I feel that this plan makes
28 healthy allocations between all the contributors to the
29 Management Plan and to the funders of releasing the
30 bison.

31
32 Bison are an aggregating species.
33 They're bovine. They're very protective of one other,
34 like most bovines are. Watch those lions trying to
35 catch those cape buffalo. They gang up on lions.
36 They're -- bison's the same way. They'll go after
37 wolves. They don't put up with that kind of stuff.
38 And they're big.

39
40 And so they're a real -- I wanted to
41 see them on the Yukon Flats. That's where Bob
42 Stevenson had developed a management strategy for the
43 Yukon Flats. And they would do real well on them.
44 Because it gets hardly any snow there on the Yukon
45 Flats. So it's another.....

46
47 MR. J. WALKER: It's a little late,
48 Jack.

49
50 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Huh?

1 (Laughter)

2

3 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Well, someday.
4 Someday. So that will be a little closer to home.
5 It's what Pollock's talking about.

6

7 So someday I would like to see them on
8 the Yukon Flats. The Burn Regime there and the various
9 factors for the Yukon uplands around the Yukon Flats is
10 excellent habitat. And that's one of the last places
11 they were known to be is up there around Fort Yukon and
12 up into the McKenzie.

13

14 So at this point the Chair will
15 entertain a motion to adopt the Wood Bison Management
16 Plan.

17

18 MR. COLLINS: I so move for the.....

19

20 MR. WALKER: Second.

21

22 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: For the Western
23 Central Alaska 2015 through 2020. Motioned and
24 seconded.

25

26 Any further discussion on the Wood
27 Bison Management Plan.

28

29 MR. SIMON: Question.

30

31 MR. COLLINS: I just had one additional
32 comment. That in the Farewell area there it took about
33 ten years before the wolves figured out how to deal
34 with them. Now they're taking a few. But you're
35 right. They're more protective. And it was a whole
36 new learning process. So it will be interesting to see
37 what happens over there. You may find the same thing.
38 That the wolves there -- they've never seen that animal
39 and they don't know how to -- it will take them a while
40 before they'll figure out how to do it.

41

42 MR. R. WALKER: Member Collins -- Ray,
43 you have to remember, too, that our biologist Tom -- he
44 said it will take them five years to how to figure out
45 just to, you know, tackle the small ones. How they
46 even do that. So we have a five-year window there.

47

48 MR. COLLINS: Yeah.

49

50 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: The positive thing

1 about the Innoko area is that there is relatively high
2 moose density compared to the Farewell area or another
3 area, so the wolves have alternate prey. And they
4 probably don't feel like getting their head kicked off
5 with bison for a while.

6

7 MR. COLLINS: Uh-huh.

8

9 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So I think that
10 there will be fairly low mortalities. That would be my
11 impression.

12

13 So any further discussion on the Wood
14 Bison Management Plan.

15

16 (No comments)

17

18 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Those in favor of
19 adopting the plan for 2015 through 2010 signify by
20 saying aye.

21

22 IN UNISON: Aye.

23

24 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Opposed same sign.

25

26 (No opposing votes)

27

28 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks so much.
29 Appreciate it. It's a real success story.

30

31 MS. ST. LOUIS: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
32 And thank all of you for all the good work you do.

33

34 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Well, thank you,
35 Rita.

36

37 And you had something for us, Jennifer.

38

39 MS. YUHAS: Thank you, Mr. Chair. And
40 it's getting late. I promise to be respectful of your
41 time. I appreciate you letting me do my usual quick
42 little wrap up the ADF&G reports.

43

44 I just wanted to let the RAC know that
45 we got those bycatch numbers. They were sent to the
46 Chair and to the RAC Coordinator and they can be
47 distributed prior to your discussions with the Council
48 tomorrow. So you'll have that in hand.

49

50 I usually take this time to correct a

1 few things for the record and make sure the record is
2 accurate. And there was some discussion this morning
3 about Kenai residents applying or standing in line for
4 the Minto hunts. So I had the Division Wildlife
5 Conservation pull the stats on that. And it looks like
6 Kenai residents were four out of 725 registrants for
7 that hunt. It doesn't mean they were successful, but
8 out of the registrants. So that was actually a .6
9 percent. The majority of the registrants for that hunt
10 were Fairbanks and North Pole by about 70 percent.

11
12 One last item is how sometimes
13 misinformation can turn into legend and lore. We've
14 been hearing a lot of reference to ANILCA .805 speaking
15 to deference. While the RACs are provided deference,
16 they are provided deference through the secretarial
17 direction that came through 2009. If you actually pull
18 ANILCA .805, it speaks to creation of the RACs, the
19 RAC's advice, reimbursement of the State for supplying
20 support to the RACs, and how the RACs are created. It
21 does not speak to deference. So I just keep hearing
22 that repeated. The deference is through secretarial
23 direction. So I wanted to correct that for the record.

24
25 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I stand corrected.
26 But ANILCA .805 also directs the Federal Subsistence
27 Board unless it violates recognized scientific
28 principles. So basically it's -- it's alluding to a
29 deference. And so that's -- now they use the term
30 deference. But that's where I come up with this
31 deference.

32
33 But you are correct. The secretary
34 directed the program to give deference to the Councils.
35 And so.....

36
37 MS. YUHAS: And I think the Chair has
38 been more accurate in his portrayal than I have heard
39 in several arenas. It seems to be spreading to say
40 provides for. And it keeps getting repeated amongst
41 others.

42
43 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I appreciate you
44 keeping us on track for the record. It's important to
45 stay on track with the legal language. That's why I
46 want to go back to the Statute and stand on the solid
47 ground of the Statute. So I appreciate that. No
48 problem. Any other comments.

49
50 (No comments)

1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: All right. Any
2 questions for Jennifer.

3

4 Go ahead, Tim.

5

6 MR. GERVAIS: Jennifer, could you let
7 the Council know what kind of -- what's the short term
8 future of the Subsistence Program of the State. And
9 how it might affect subsistence users in our region
10 with the budget situation as it is. Well, being less
11 than it has been. Less money available than it has
12 been in the past four or eight years.

13

14 MS. YUHAS: Through the Chair. I
15 require a little bit more clarification of the question
16 as the program that I run is the liaison program to the
17 Federal arena. And we have a Subsistence Division.
18 And I'm not sure where the question lies.

19

20 MR. GERVAIS: With the -- how are the
21 programs of the Subsistence Division going to be
22 affected by the reduced funding available to the
23 Department of Fish and Game.

24

25 MS. YUHAS: Through the Chair. That's
26 currently being discussed right now and we're not sure
27 what the final outcome will be. The Legislative
28 process -- usually you'll see three different budgets
29 introduced. And we've had these discussions
30 internally, that when we speak to the budget or you saw
31 something cut in the budget or added to the budget,
32 that we need to be clear which budget we're talking
33 about. There will be a Governor's budget, a House
34 budget, and a Senate budget. And there will be a lot
35 of changes to those prior to adoption.

36

37 Usually the two Houses fail to concur
38 sometime around Easter and they appoint a conference
39 committee. And then that's when the final details
40 emerge. And so we are -- Hazel Nelson will be back
41 again tomorrow. She's our Division Director for the
42 Division of Subsistence. She's currently embroiled in
43 those discussions. And they're kind of a moving target
44 right now.

45

46 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Did the Governor --
47 your liaison position -- the Governor was requesting a
48 certain percentage reduction. Did they cut your budget
49 by -- was the Governor's budget a reduction of like six
50 or eight percent or whatever they were requesting. Did

1 they do that.

2

3 MS. YUHAS: All of the Divisions did
4 that, Mr. Chairman. And two years ago when the Office
5 of Subsistence Management decided to un-fund this
6 position, which we discussed at the All Chairs Meeting,
7 you know, the State is making up the entire difference
8 for the \$480,000 we used to receive. And so they have
9 not cut my salary.

10

11 We're all being careful with our
12 travel. And, you know, I try to go to as many RAC
13 meetings as I can, but, you know, sometimes we need to
14 send a biologist instead of me. But we've been cut
15 down to just two people in that position doing as much
16 as we can. There's nothing left to cut.

17

18 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Thank you.
19 That's where you were getting at, Tim.

20

21 MR. GERVAIS: Uh-huh.

22

23 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Don.

24

25 MR. HONEA: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I
26 just had a comment. I guess -- you know, I guess it
27 wasn't particularly where all these people had come
28 from. And I know Luke Titus is not here. But I think
29 that whole scenario of doing that drawing in the
30 Village of Minto was to say the least intimidating for
31 locals. And I don't know the exact details. I don't
32 know why it was there. But they were inundated with
33 people. And, you know, maybe something like that we
34 will hopefully not see again in -- but I thank you.

35

36 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Any other
37 comments.

38

39 (No comments)

40

41 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks, Jennifer.

42

43 Oh. Go ahead. Do you have an
44 addition.

45

46 MS. PETRIVELLI: I just had a statement
47 about the RAC deference. It's not just something that
48 just gets keeping repeated. The Secretaries did write
49 regulations about the deference, but that's because it
50 is in ANILCA. And it's in .805(c) of ANILCA.

1 And it says the Secretary in performing
2 his monitoring responsibility pursuant to Section 806
3 and in the exercise of his closure and other
4 administrative authority over the public lands -- oh.
5 And this is in the Operations Manual on page 62. It
6 says shall consider the report and recommendations of
7 the Regional Advisory Councils concerning the taking of
8 fish and wildlife on Federal public lands within their
9 respective regions for subsistence uses. That's the
10 deference.

11
12 And so -- and then it has the three
13 reasons that you won't follow it. So it says the
14 Secretary will give deference to the Councils. And
15 that's in ANILCA.

16
17 MS. YUHAS: Did that say give deference
18 or consider. I heard you read shall consider.

19
20 MS. PETRIVELLI: The Secretary may
21 choose not to follow any regulations. And it's only
22 for those three reasons.

23
24 MS. YUHAS: So while that may be
25 interpreted as deference by some staff, it actually
26 reads shall consider.

27
28 MS. PETRIVELLI: Well.....

29
30 MS. YUHAS: Thanks for clarifying that.

31
32
33 MS. PETRIVELLI:it's interpreted
34 by all Federal staff. It may be interpreted
35 differently by State, but this is a Federal law
36 administered by Federal agencies.

37
38 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So the outcome is
39 the Secretaries have directed deference. And so, you
40 know, it could sort of alluded to a deference unless it
41 violated recognized scientific principles, et cetera.
42 So that's the term I'll use now.

43
44 It wasn't specifically in the language,
45 but I do feel that the Secretaries -- that was one of
46 the points in the Board process. As time went on,
47 there was less and less consideration of the Regional
48 Councils. And so when the review process happened,
49 this consideration or strong consideration that I
50 termed as deference was discussed by the Regional

1 Council Chairs. And so we felt that ANILCA was fairly
2 strong on that the Councils should be looked at with
3 extreme weighted opinion unless we violated recognized
4 scientific principles, et cetera, and detriment to
5 subsistence.

6

7 And so we're not going to quibble about
8 that. And so we're going to move on.

9

10 Thanks, Jennifer. And so you'll be
11 here tomorrow for the EIRAC meeting?

12

13 MS. YUHAS: Yes, sir. I'm here all
14 week.

15

16 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Thank you.

17

18 And Melinda.

19

20 MS. BURKE: Carl.

21

22 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, Carl.

23

24 MR. JOHNSON: Mr. Chair, in the
25 interests of recessing for the evening, I can provide
26 the OSM report to both Councils jointly tomorrow.

27

28 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

29

30 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I would appreciate
31 that. Thank you.

32

33 (Laughter)

34

35 MR. WALKER: Thank you very much, Carl.
36 You're a real gentleman.

37

38 (Laughter)

39

40 MS. BURKE: All right, Mr. Chair. It
41 looks like we have one more action item to cover, which
42 is our future meeting dates. Page 22 in the book has
43 the Fall 2015 Regional Advisory Council Meeting
44 calendar. For the folks who weren't at the McGrath
45 meeting, we had Tribal representation from Kaltag on
46 the phone. And it was really great that they invited
47 us to come and meet in their community.

48

49 There's a lot of particulars to work
50 out on my favorite word, logistics. But I'm confident

1 that with the help of the community and with the help
2 of a couple of contacts I've established there, I'm
3 sure we can make that work. So the Council will just
4 need to make a motion to confirm the date and location
5 of the Fall 2015 meeting.

6
7 And then also we're still planning on
8 going ahead with the All Council Meeting in Winter
9 2016. So one calendar year from now all -- instead of
10 seeing a whole meeting cycle as laid out in your
11 calendar, we're all going to be in Anchorage one week.
12 Various times all of the Councils will be convening
13 together. Various times we'll have break out sessions
14 to take care of individual business. And we'll also
15 have some workshops and different things happening in
16 break out sessions. So we've got a committee we're
17 starting to pull together to get all that planned out.

18
19
20 So, Mr. Chair, I believe that brings us
21 close to the end.

22
23 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So we need to
24 confirm these dates of November 3rd and 4th in Kaltag.
25 And.....

26
27 MS. BURKE: Mr. Chair.

28
29 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, Melinda.

30
31 MS. BURKE: I did forget to mention one
32 thing. Just because it is a community I have never
33 personally visited, I would just feel really
34 comfortable if we had a back up just in case. Just in
35 case something doesn't work out, it's always good to
36 have a back up plan.

37
38 Mr. Chair.

39
40 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So -- yes. I do
41 think we need a back up plan. So I've never been to
42 Kaltag either. I've lived in Galena and I've been
43 around in the Middle Yukon country a lot. But not to
44 Kaltag.

45
46 So either Kaltag. Or the back up could
47 be Galena. Because we've met there. And it's one of
48 our regional hubs. And it's easy to get to it.

49
50 Is that acceptable to have Galena as

1 the back up community.

2

3 (Council nods affirmatively)

4

5 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: And so Kaltag is the
6 primary. Are those dates acceptable to the Council
7 Members who were not at.....

8

9 MR. WALKER: I'm not thinking that far
10 ahead.

11

12 (Laughter)

13

14 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So November 3 and 4.
15 Usually the river jams up around that time. And so the
16 weather can be a little bit better. So those are
17 acceptable dates offhand.

18

19 (Council nods affirmatively)

20

21 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: And so you need to
22 accept this motion to accept that as our meeting place
23 and date, with the alternate as Galena, for November
24 3rd and 4th of 2015.

25

26 MR. HONEA: I so move.

27

28 MR. WALKER: Second.

29

30 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Moved and seconded.
31 Those in favor of meeting in Kaltag on November 3rd and
32 4th signify by saying aye.

33

34 IN UNISON: Aye.

35

36 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Those opposed same
37 sign.

38

39 (No opposing votes)

40

41 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: And so that's where
42 we're going, hopefully.

43

44 So now we're down on the end of our
45 agenda or this meeting. And so closing comments. And
46 we started over here with Robert. You got closing
47 comments, Pollock?

48

49 MR. SIMON: I got some comments. Yeah.
50 I'm glad to be here like I got on the board maybe

1 seven, six or seven years ago and every time I say we
2 should be meeting in the villages so we can see the
3 people that we represent. You know, get to urban
4 center like Fairbanks, it's good, you know, we have all
5 these resource people that come. That leaves their
6 office and come down here. That's good. But it's good
7 to meet the rural areas once in a while, small
8 villages, they really turn out to try to please you,
9 they have potluck dinners in the hall and maybe you
10 sleep on somebody's couch but I've done that all my
11 life to go on different meetings. So I'm glad that we
12 will all meet in Kaltag next time.

13

14 I enjoyed meeting with all of you here.
15 We have a good group of people from different areas.

16

17 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

18

19 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks, Pollock.

20

21 Darrel.

22

23 MR. VENT: Yes. It was pretty
24 interesting. I enjoyed this. Got to speak a little
25 bit. Just learning the learning process. I see
26 there's a great bunch of guys there that I can learn
27 from anyway, so I thank you.

28

29 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I really appreciate
30 your input on this meeting, Darrel. I knew you would
31 be a good Council member.

32

33 So, Don.

34

35 MR. HONEA: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I
36 also enjoyed this meeting. And I also -- I kind of
37 like some of them issues we took toward protecting the
38 caribou. And whatever that we can do toward that end.
39 And I also look forward to Kaltag. And -- the end.

40

41 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thank you, Don.

42

43 Jenny.

44

45 MS. PELKOLA: Yeah. I'm just happy
46 that we have a full Board here. When we met in McGrath
47 we didn't have -- I felt like we didn't have the power.
48 You know, it -- it just was sort of sad. But I know
49 they had reasons that they couldn't be there.

50

1 And so I'm glad we have the full Board.
2 And I just want to thank everyone for coming.

3
4 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I appreciate that
5 comment, Jenny. That's real important that this
6 Council has full membership present. You feel every
7 last member that's missing. It's like if somebody
8 leaves your community. Passes away or something. You
9 feel it. So I feel that this Council works strongest
10 and best when we have full membership here.

11
12 Tim.

13
14 MR. GERVAIS: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
15 Just like to thank everybody for their participation
16 today. And appreciate everybody's willingness to be
17 open and civil with some contentious issues. And
18 looking forward to making some progress tomorrow with
19 our joint meeting with the Eastern Interior and with
20 the North Pacific Council.

21
22 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks, Tim.

23
24 James.

25
26 MR. J. WALKER: Thank you. Well,
27 Jenny, I apologize for not making the meeting in
28 McGrath. And I know it was an issue there, but, you
29 know, it was an unfortunate issue on my part I couldn't
30 break.

31
32 MS. PELKOLA: Uh-huh. Yes.

33
34 MR. J. WALKER: But I would like to
35 thank everyone that attends these meetings because it
36 shows concern. And it also shows respect that you have
37 for your jobs and how you present yourself.

38
39 I would like to thank the students that
40 came here today and showed interest.

41
42 And I'd like to thank Al for making
43 that proposal. And that was something that I
44 appreciated, Alfred.

45
46 And I would like to thank you, Jack,
47 for throttling back on your exposures that you rant and
48 rave and as far as get into details.

49
50 (Laughter)

1 MR. J. WALKER: And so I'd like to say
2 thank you. I'd like to thank all the Council.
3
4 MR. R. WALKER: Very unusual, yeah.....
5
6 (Laughter)
7
8 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks, James.
9 Appreciate that.
10
11 (Laughter)
12
13 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Ray.
14
15 MR. COLLINS: Yeah. It was a good
16 meeting. I enjoyed it. And I had one comment I made
17 earlier. If you look at that picture on there of the
18 bull moose, inside there's a label that says a bull
19 moose happily gazes on -- grazes on tender greens.
20
21 (Laughter)
22
23 MR. COLLINS: That's a bull moose
24 that's in the rut.
25
26 (Laughter)
27
28 MR. COLLINS: And right here I think is
29 the rump of a cow moose, so I don't think he's thinking
30 about tender greens.
31
32 (Laughter)
33
34 MR. COLLINS: I thought you might enjoy
35 that.
36
37 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I spotted that right
38 away, but I didn't mention it.
39
40 (Laughter)
41
42 MR. COLLINS: I thought it was a good
43 meeting.
44
45 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks, Ray.
46
47 Carl.
48
49 MR. MORGAN: Like everybody else, I
50 thank you. And I'm very pleased that we have so much

1 participation from -- this is the biggest crowd I've
2 seen in local people from the different Villages. And
3 I really appreciate it. And that's something we must
4 consider every once in a while.

5

6 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right.

7

8 MR. MORGAN: This is the biggest
9 participation I've ever seen. And I've been here since
10 what, '97. And I just say we'll have to consider that.

11

12 And like everybody else, this was a
13 very good meeting. And like Jim, I wasn't in McGrath.
14 Sorry about that Jenny, and -- but thank you very much.

15

16

17 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks, Carl.

18

19 Robert.

20

21 MR. R. WALKER: Thank you, Jack. First
22 of all, I'd like to congratulate Darrel for making a
23 big step here. I like to see a young man here to take
24 an interest in something that a lot of guys are going
25 to be fading away pretty soon. We hope we have young
26 people -- more young people coming in to take an
27 interest.

28

29 It's been a long year. The bison issue
30 is finally getting to be resolved. I'd like to thank
31 all the people that worked on it. Thank our Board for
32 taking time out and looking at this and working at this
33 and approving this thing.

34

35 And Melinda, I know she's tirelessly
36 doing this, but that's her job, you know.

37

38 (Laughter)

39

40 MR. R. WALKER: She's here to work -- I
41 think somebody said for the pleasure of the Board.

42

43 But again nice to have all the Staff
44 here. I was just amazed that we have a team here
45 working to do proposals. I think that young man Alfred
46 -- he's not very much younger than me, but he is a
47 young guy. He's going to do a good job. He'll
48 probably step into my shoes. I hope so.

49

50 All you guys, nice to meet you. Nice

1 to see you here. Because we all have a job to do.
2 We're all obligated to this whether we stepped into
3 something that we didn't know we were stepping into.
4 But we're going to be here to finish up a lot of
5 issues.

6
7 I think we're going to take a little
8 more action on a lot of issues because I think we have
9 a new Governor. We have a new Board. And we're going
10 to move forward.

11
12 And Jack -- like Tim said, you know, he
13 got an award. But we're not going to give it to you.

14
15 (Laughter)

16
17 MR. R. WALKER: Anyway, thank you very
18 much.

19
20 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I appreciate all of
21 the State and Federal Agencies coming to this meeting.
22 Sitting through. Your presentations don't come in till
23 later in the meeting and I appreciate all of your
24 endurance to stay.

25
26 And we've got some distinguished people
27 in the audience. We have the Regional Director sitting
28 in the back of the room there for the National Park
29 Service. And so we have -- we have.....

30
31 MS. BURKE: Bud Rice.

32
33 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Hmm?

34
35 MS. BURKE: Bud Rice.

36
37 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Bud. No. I'm
38 talking about Nate. Nate Turner. It slipped my mind
39 there for a second. He's the Board of Game. We've got
40 people that come in and out of this meeting I keep
41 seeing that aren't accounted for on our -- hopefully
42 they're signed in.

43
44 And so when I attended an Eastern
45 Interior Regional Council meeting here in Fairbanks and
46 saw the kind of support and the kind of attendance they
47 had, I changed my mind about where we should be meeting
48 all of the time. I want to meet in Villages to hear
49 people's concerns. But a lot of times we have one
50 person that will talk to the Council for the entire

1 meeting.

2

3 We got a whole bunch of comments here.
4 Look at all that stack of blue paper right there. And
5 so I think that the meeting in Fairbanks is a very
6 productive meeting. And I'm hoping that tomorrow is
7 also as productive with the Eastern Interior.

8

9 And so I appreciate all of the support
10 that this Council gets. And I think that we made a lot
11 of headway on a lot of different issues in a one day
12 meeting. And a one day meeting is real hard for us to
13 do. So -- but we did it.

14

15 So thank you very much. And so the
16 Chair will entertain a motion to adjourn the meeting.

17

18 MS. PELKOLA: So moved.

19

20 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Moved and.....

21

22 MR. MORGAN: Second.

23

24 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Second by Carl.
25 Those in favor of adjournment signify by saying aye.

26

27 IN UNISON: Aye.

28

29 (Off record)

30

31 (END OF PROCEEDINGS)

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C E R T I F I C A T E

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

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

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DATED at Anchorage, Alaska, this 21st day of March 2015.

Salena A. Hile
Notary Public, State of Alaska
My Commission Expires: 9/16/18