

1 WESTERN INTERIOR ALASKA FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE  
2 REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING

3  
4 PUBLIC MEETING

5  
6 VOLUME II

7  
8 Aniak, Alaska  
9 October 5, 2011  
10 9:00 a.m.

11  
12  
13 COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

- 14  
15 Jack Reakoff, Chairman  
16 Ray Collins  
17 Timothy Gervais (Telephonic)  
18 Carl Morgan  
19 Jenny Pelkola  
20 Pollock Simon  
21 James Walker  
22 Robert Walker  
23 Eleanor Yatlin  
24  
25  
26  
27 Regional Council Coordinator, Melinda Hernandez  
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1 P R O C E E D I N G S

2  
3 (Aniak, Alaska - October 5, 2011)

4  
5 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: We're going to come  
6 back on record for the second day of the Western  
7 Interior Regional Advisory Council meeting. Carl  
8 Morgan has returned and the full Council is seated  
9 that's been in Aniak. Then we have Tim Gervais online.

10  
11 We held Proposal WP10-69, the C&T  
12 request for Unit 21E moose. Carl wanted to be present  
13 for that proposal, so we're going to take that up first  
14 thing this morning. We need to go through the full  
15 analysis for the proposal and who's going to present.  
16 David. Good morning.

17  
18 DR. JENKINS: Good morning, Jack. Good  
19 morning, Council members. David Jenkins, OSM. This is  
20 a proposal the subcommittee looked at a couple nights  
21 ago. It's Proposal WP10-69. This proposal is for a  
22 customary and traditional use determination for moose  
23 in Unit 21E for the residents of Lower Kalskag, Upper  
24 Kalskag, Aniak, and Chuathbaluk.

25  
26 This proposal was deferred by the  
27 Federal Subsistence Board to allow the subcommittee  
28 meeting, which met two nights ago the opportunity to  
29 address this proposal. The subcommittee met and we had  
30 the opportunity to think through some of these issues.

31  
32 Briefly the proposal is for customary  
33 and traditional use in an area shown on Page 193 of  
34 your Council books. It's a limited area of 21E, but  
35 you can see in the crosshatch lines on that map, Map  
36 Number 4. It's below Paimiut Slough. Shall I go  
37 through some of these details?

38  
39 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I wanted to ask Tim  
40 how he's hearing me online here. Are you hearing us  
41 okay, Tim?

42  
43 MR. GERVAIS: (Indiscernible).

44  
45 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. For the  
46 online participants, the lower portion of Unit 21E as  
47 described on this map is south of the Yukon River, up  
48 Paimiut Slough to the upper bluffs and across straight  
49 line to Molybdenum Mountain, the very lower portion of  
50 Unit 21E on this map, so I wanted to have that on the

1 record.

2

3

So go ahead, David.

4

5

DR. JENKINS: Thank you. In the  
6 analysis, the ethnographic record clearly shows  
7 residents of these four communities have customarily  
8 hunted moose in this area shown on your map below the  
9 Paimiut Slough. Based on that ethnographic record and  
10 the clear evidence that residents have hunted moose  
11 there, the OSM conclusion is to support this proposal  
12 with modification to include only that area below  
13 Paimiut Slough that you can see on your map from the  
14 Yukon River as Jack just described. So OSM's  
15 conclusion is to support that modified proposal. I can  
16 provide other details if the Council wishes.

17

18

Thank you.

19

20

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Does Council have  
21 questions on the presentation of the Proposal WP10-69.

22

23

24

MR. MORGAN: I'd just like to thank you  
25 for holding this. I couldn't be here yesterday. I  
26 think there was other people from other parts of the  
27 region that wanted to be here that wouldn't be here and  
28 I'd like to thank you for holding this up and bringing  
29 it up this morning.

30

31

Thank you.

32

33

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Of course we wanted  
34 to have you present, Carl, since this is your home  
35 community. Any other questions from the Council on the  
36 presentation.

37

38

(No comments)

39

40

Seeing none. We have State of Alaska  
41 comments. George.

42

43

MR. PAPPAS: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
44 I'll just be collecting notes on what's provided today  
45 for finalizing our position on this proposal for C&T,  
46 so I don't have a position for you.

47

48

\*\*No official written comments  
49 inserted/provided by State at this  
50 time\*\*

1 Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
2  
3 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thank you. So any  
4 Federal agency comments. Does Innoko Refuge want to  
5 make comments.  
6  
7 (No comments)  
8  
9 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: No. Any tribal  
10 organization comments available. KNA comments.  
11  
12 (No comments)  
13  
14 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: InterAgency Staff  
15 Committee comments.  
16  
17 (No comments)  
18  
19 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Advisory committee  
20 comments. Local fish and game advisory. This is not  
21 SRC.  
22  
23 (No comments)  
24  
25 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Any summary of  
26 written comments. Have we received any written  
27 comments since we had our working group two nights ago.  
28  
29 MS. HERNANDEZ: Mr. Chair. I don't  
30 believe that I've received any new comments. I did  
31 mail out previous comments, the big packets I believe  
32 to everybody, but I do have extras if Council members  
33 would like to peek through them one more time from  
34 earlier.  
35  
36 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks, Melinda.  
37 Public testimony. Is there anybody here that wants to  
38 speak to the proposal from the public.  
39  
40 (No comments)  
41  
42 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Seeing none. We're  
43 at Regional Council recommendations. The Chair will  
44 entertain a motion to adopt the Proposal WP10-69.  
45  
46 MS. PELKOLA: So moved.  
47  
48 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Moved by Jenny.  
49  
50 MR. MORGAN: Second.

1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Seconded by Carl.  
2 Council deliberations. If Council members have  
3 comments on the proposal, they should be put on the  
4 record so that we can -- while we go through the  
5 Federal Subsistence Board deliberation that we'll have  
6 a very thorough record of the position of this Council  
7 on this proposal.

8  
9 Go ahead, Robert.

10  
11 MR. R. WALKER: Mr. Chairman. Can I  
12 get up and speak to the Board there.

13  
14 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Can you do what?

15  
16 MR. R. WALKER: Can I get up and speak  
17 up here.

18  
19 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: You want to testify?

20  
21 MR. R. WALKER: Yes.

22  
23 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: You can testify from  
24 your seat. We'll take your testimony as public  
25 testimony.

26  
27 MR. R. WALKER: Well, I kind of want to  
28 like look you in the eye when I testify.

29  
30 (Laughter)

31  
32 MR. R. WALKER: So if you blink or  
33 anything, I'd know that. Mr. Chairman, members of the  
34 Board, Staff, guests. Merben, you're alive.

35  
36 (Laughter)

37  
38 MR. R. WALKER: Good morning. Before  
39 we get too far in here, if you're all familiar with  
40 this book here, we did this in 2006. The Yukon Innoko  
41 Moose Management Plan. I want to advise the Federal  
42 Subsistence Board to take caution before they start  
43 making this into law because we have the first right to  
44 revisit this book before we go and approve something  
45 that -- in our book it says that anything that has to  
46 be brought forward to customary trade or anything other  
47 should be revisited by the Board and brought to the  
48 Moose Management Plan.

49  
50 In here we don't have anything to state

1 that with all due respect to all these communities that  
2 we -- under recommendation 1.9 the Federal customary  
3 and traditional subsistence use determination C&T for  
4 Unit 21E should be revisited to make a larger number of  
5 additional communities eligible for Federal winter  
6 season and if it is not what we think it should be on  
7 the RAC board, then the Federal or the winter season  
8 should be eliminated. That's part of our doctrine that  
9 we did.

10

11 I don't know if -- Vince was our  
12 coordinator at the time we did this, so he has as much  
13 knowledge as I do and as much as is in this book. I  
14 would caution before we did anything to make this into  
15 law. We go back and have a moose management meeting  
16 with our plan for 21A and 21E.

17

18 George, do you have any books -- do you  
19 have any of these left at your office or any office or  
20 anybody have one? Vince? Geoff? You have copies of  
21 these?

22

23 MR. BEYERSDORF: At our office, yeah.

24

25 MR. R. WALKER: At the office? So I  
26 would like to take this at this time and ask the Board  
27 to defer it until our next meeting in McGrath in  
28 February so we can have the AC GASH committee could  
29 take it and the Moose Management Committee take a look  
30 at this. That would be my recommendation. I don't  
31 know if the GASH Chairman would like to speak on this  
32 matter also or we'll just go ahead and ask the Board to  
33 defer this. Help me out here.

34

35 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: We're in  
36 deliberation of the proposal. Go ahead, Ken.

37

38 MR. CHASE: Thank you, Robert. Thank  
39 you, Mr. Chairman, and members of the Board. I said  
40 most of what I think I said in my opening statement the  
41 day before yesterday. The only thing I want to  
42 reiterate or bring up is the audible that day was  
43 really bad and I couldn't even hear what Holy Cross  
44 representation was saying. That's one of the things  
45 that I, as chairman, watch real close is that each  
46 community gets to say what they have to say on record  
47 for the particular area that they're interested in.  
48 Holy Cross is the closest village to that area in  
49 question. I want to be really serious and cautious  
50 about them being able to voice their thoughts on this

1 area.

2

3 I'll say again we have no problem with  
4 the area in question. Any one of the boundaries that's  
5 there I think we can live with. Again, the people over  
6 here have the right to take the resource. Again, I'll  
7 say that. I notice one area there, Chuathbaluk, was in  
8 question and I think they and Aniak, the two of the  
9 four, are the most that have used that area rather than  
10 Kalskag, Lower Kalskag.

11

12 Another thing that bothers me that I  
13 want to see really put down hard is that area in the  
14 future does not have any bearing on the rest of 21 in  
15 any fashion or form or anything in writing for future  
16 years, that it does not in no way interfere with the  
17 rest of our 21E.

18

19 I agree with Robert, I think it should  
20 -- we still have not got -- and maybe it's not because  
21 of the committee or anything, but the villages themself  
22 don't -- they just seem not to have stepped up yet and  
23 showed that they really -- what plan they want, you  
24 know, what area. That's what bothers me. Holy Cross  
25 know best what they want there.

26

27 Thank you.

28

29 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks, Ken. Are  
30 you still speaking, Robert.

31

32 MR. R. WALKER: Yes. Thank you, Ken.  
33 I really would caution the Federal Subsistence Board to  
34 override something that we already done and this is  
35 what they would be doing. I would ask them to hold off  
36 until we could have another -- revisit our Moose  
37 Management Committee and go from there. When you  
38 really look at it too, they're going to take 10 percent  
39 of the 40 moose that we have allocated for emergencies.  
40 If we have a bad season in 21A and we have the February  
41 or the March moose hunt and the people start taking  
42 more than 40 than we allocated, then this would be  
43 poaching and then the State would step in there and  
44 say, look, if you can't manage your thing here, what  
45 are you guys here for.

46

47 The State is going to come in and say  
48 that you did this under your moose management and  
49 you're not holding to it. So this is what I want to  
50 caution before we start doing something -- like I said,

1 with all due respect to the villages. And that's where  
2 I'm going to stand on this one, Jack, and the Board. I  
3 mean no disrespect to Carl either. This is why I'm  
4 testifying here. I'd like to have this referred back  
5 just so we can take another look at this and possibly  
6 revisit it or revise some of our policy here. Mr.  
7 Chairman.

8

9 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks, Robert.  
10 Pat.

11

12 MS. PETRIVELLI: Mr. Chairman. This is  
13 Pat Petrivelli. When this has come up before, every  
14 time we've tried to separate out the idea of a  
15 customary and traditional use determination from the  
16 after effects, and I understand your concerns, one way  
17 to handle it is if you want to recognize a use that has  
18 occurred by the residents, the people requesting it, of  
19 that portion, you could support that C&T determination.

20

21 You could ask the Board to initiate the  
22 revision of that plan because that plan should be  
23 revised. It's five years old and you would have new  
24 data and now you have new conditions and so the plan  
25 should be looked at again. Get everyone at the table  
26 again, even the State. The State is involved and look  
27 at the non-resident hunt and there's a whole bunch of  
28 factors in there that could be adjusted to accommodate  
29 the recognition of the use by these communities.

30

31 The question is not whether they've  
32 used the moose or not because everyone acknowledges  
33 they've used moose in that area, but it's just  
34 adjusting that plan later. But the C&T determination  
35 is only asking for a recognition of that. Then the  
36 seasons and harvest limits regulations come later. So  
37 those could all be adjusted to look at that.

38

39 But it's two different issues and I  
40 know you're very concerned about the implications, but  
41 the Board is faced with the fact that looking at  
42 whether people use that area or not and everyone  
43 testifying saying -- no one argues that they have not  
44 used that area. No one doesn't say that. But they  
45 could ask -- you could ask the Board to update that  
46 plan and have these communities involved in because  
47 they weren't involved in writing that plan in the first  
48 place probably, so their uses could be acknowledged and  
49 they could be at the table and say when do they go  
50 there, when do they not go there, how many moose. They

1 could be involved in the discussion of your concerns in  
2 the plan and they could direct whatever planning  
3 process to include the new participants.

4

5 MR. R. WALKER: Yes, Pat, member from  
6 the Yukon Kuskokwim RAC were at our meeting and they  
7 understood this. They were part of the management to  
8 draw this up, so they understood what we were talking  
9 about. So this was already there.

10

11 MS. PETRIVELLI: But Aniak,  
12 Chuathbaluk, those villages aren't from the Kuskokwim  
13 RAC, they're from this region. It's not the YKRAC,  
14 it's just Kalskag, you know, that would be from YK, but  
15 now it's Aniak that you're having involved, Aniak and  
16 Chuathbaluk and I forget the others.

17

18 MR. R. WALKER: Yes, you're right there  
19 too. We had members from Kalskag at our meeting,  
20 members from Russian Mission at our meeting also. So  
21 I'm just saying this for the record because it is on  
22 record with the State.

23

24 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: David. I want to  
25 clarify for the record the procedure of this proposal.  
26 If this proposal is going to be visited by the Federal  
27 Subsistence Board in January.

28

29 DR. JENKINS: I believe that's correct,  
30 Mr. Chair.

31

32 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: My understanding of  
33 this proposal, we have to comment on this proposal at  
34 this meeting because we can't table it until our spring  
35 meeting because the Board is going to act on this  
36 proposal in January. It's my perception, having  
37 listened to the testimony from the local people here  
38 and the recognition from Unit 21E that the Board will  
39 pass this proposal.

40

41 What we need to do is address this  
42 proposal now. We can't keep tabling it. We can't keep  
43 pushing it back under the rug. We can't do that. This  
44 proposal is going to go to the Federal Subsistence  
45 Board and it's going to be voted on. The predominance  
46 of the evidence shows that there is use from the  
47 communities in 19A in that lower portion of 21E.

48

49 So what this Council has to do is deal  
50 with the proposal and put sideboards on the Federal

1 Subsistence Board to manage, to revisit, to not allow  
2 any kind of winter hunt from these communities until  
3 the Innoko plan has been revisited and to recognize  
4 that there's a biological concern from this Council  
5 about overharvest, taking all the quota in one area of  
6 Unit 21E and that there needs to be a process developed  
7 to where the included area in the lower portion of 21E  
8 for Aniak, Chuathbaluk, upper and lower Kalskag, they  
9 cannot take the whole winter quota and that has to be  
10 addressed in the revised Innoko Plan and there has to  
11 be a proposal submitted to the Federal Subsistence  
12 Board that delineates how the winter hunt will  
13 progress.

14  
15                   So it would be a demand of this Council  
16 that there shall be no winter hunting until the Innoko  
17 Plan is revised and a proposal is passed through the  
18 Federal Subsistence Board addressing the concerns of  
19 this Council for overharvest of the winter quota in the  
20 very lower portion of Unit 21E. That has to be on  
21 record before the Federal Subsistence Board in January.  
22 Whoever attends that meeting, me or whoever attends  
23 that meeting has to have those sideboards set when we  
24 go to the Federal Board meeting. We can't table this  
25 anymore.

26  
27                   MR. R. WALKER: Okay, Mr. Chairman. I  
28 kind of like misunderstood, you know, what it meant.  
29 If this is going to be so -- this proposal going to be  
30 so serious, I would like to go and testify in front of  
31 the Federal Subsistence Board just to let them know  
32 that why do we have something in place that's working  
33 and they're going to override it. Again, that would be  
34 my problem.

35  
36                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I would encourage --  
37 you know, Ken's concern is that the communities from  
38 GASH have not participated, but in May of 2010 the  
39 communities were at the Federal Subsistence Board and  
40 wanted additional input, but we've had a heck of a time  
41 trying to get them to come to the table. The letters  
42 from the communities, the four GASH communities, can  
43 still be sent to the Federal Subsistence Board  
44 delineating their concerns and they can also attend the  
45 Federal Subsistence Board in January of 2012.

46  
47                   If those communities still want to have  
48 input and want to have face-to-face time with the  
49 Federal Subsistence Board, they can testify to the  
50 Federal Subsistence Board. But the Board has already

1 tabled this, deferred this proposal once. I've been  
2 before several Boards. I know how they work. They are  
3 not going to table this. They're not going to keep  
4 deferring this proposal. They're going to act on this  
5 proposal. We need to be proactive. If you want to  
6 attend the Federal Subsistence Board and testify  
7 specifically, I would encourage you to attend the  
8 Federal Subsistence Board on this issue.

9

10 This Council as a body needs to amend  
11 the -- take the support, the modify, and so Map 4, and  
12 then we have to set sideboards on the proposal that the  
13 Federal Subsistence Board does not allow any winter  
14 hunt harvest in the new communities until the Innoko  
15 Plan has been revised and the biological concerns are  
16 addressed in the Innoko Plan and then a new proposal is  
17 submitted to the Federal Subsistence Board to set  
18 allocations in the winter hunt is the concern in that  
19 lower portion of Unit 21E. So if we can get an  
20 amendment to the motion.

21

22 Is there any further comments. Do you  
23 have a comment, George.

24

25 MR. PAPPAS: Yes, sir. I made some  
26 statements the other night that weren't on record and  
27 if you give me 30 seconds here I'll give you the  
28 State's position. If you look on Page 198. This is  
29 the old position dated April 30th. OSM has changed  
30 their analysis to include Chuathbaluk. That was one of  
31 our primary concerns. But from the Department this  
32 looks like just about a solid analysis on the Federal  
33 side and it looks like they applied the eight  
34 regulatory factors for making a customary and  
35 traditional use determination of a specific wildlife  
36 population by specific communities. But we wanted  
37 clarification on Chuathbaluk and how the boundary is  
38 drawn up and I'm just collecting information. I  
39 apologize for not bringing this earlier, but I wasn't  
40 on record the other night.

41

42 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

43

44 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I appreciate getting  
45 that on the record. We're still in deliberation of the  
46 proposal. Do you have a comment, Ray.

47

48 MR. COLLINS: Yes. As you know, this  
49 has been a longstanding and the initial request was for  
50 C&T in all of 21E and we have deferred that several

1 times. It seems to me we have reached consensus with  
2 this proposal with the area that was used by these  
3 communities as only that southern portion and I have  
4 heard no testimony to say that they did not use that  
5 area. So the question is do they have C&T there and I  
6 think it's clear that they do and I don't see how we  
7 could honestly vote against saying that they had C&T  
8 because of the testimony.

9  
10 I understand the problem that will  
11 arise from this in the Moose Management Plan, but I  
12 think that's going to be developed and if accepting  
13 this proposal clarifies the issue of who has C&T in 21  
14 and where. If not, that thing will be up in the air  
15 again and it's going to keep coming back to us and this  
16 does clearly delineate the area that was used. So I  
17 would have to vote for this proposal.

18  
19 I understand that we may have to follow  
20 this with other actions on how those moose will be  
21 allocated in the management plan, but that's a separate  
22 issue.

23  
24 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I agree with you,  
25 but I feel that the language to the Federal Board from  
26 this Council needs to be clear that there's deep  
27 concerns about execution of the winter hunt in its  
28 violation of the Innoko Plan, so I feel that it has to  
29 be clear in what we adopt. We have to have language  
30 that when we adopt this that we adopt Map 4 and that we  
31 set sideboards on the Federal Subsistence Board. Make  
32 it clear on the record so that everybody that reads  
33 what's going to be at the Federal Board meeting, all  
34 the communities are clear that the Western Interior is  
35 very concerned about the winter hunt violating the  
36 Innoko Plan and that the Plan needs to be revised and  
37 there has to be a new proposal for execution of the  
38 winter hunt so that the biological concerns are  
39 addressed. So we have to have that in what we pass  
40 here right now.

41  
42 Do you have a comment, Vince.

43  
44 MR. MATHEWS: Speaking from your past  
45 coordinator, your last statement clarifies my concern.  
46 Earlier you were saying, if I understood, that you  
47 would possibly support this proposal adding those  
48 communities in and then shutting down the winter season  
49 for those communities. That action of not allowing  
50 that winter season is in .804 because if you've granted

1 those communities, you've already gone into an .804  
2 situation. But your last statement was that you would  
3 signal to the Board the high concern of possible too  
4 much harvest and that there needs to be a serious look  
5 at that in a proposal. That is not saying -- I'm not  
6 trying to put words in your mouth, but you're not  
7 saying to the Board to limit that winter hunt only to  
8 the current C&T, positive C&T, correct? Because you're  
9 moving into an .804 situation when you do that other  
10 and .804 is based on the C&T.

11  
12 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: What I'm saying is  
13 that the Innoko Plan, the management plan for moose for  
14 Innoko, is clear that it only recognized the current  
15 C&T eligibilities. The Innoko Plan -- to implement any  
16 winter hunts, the Innoko Plan has to be revised and the  
17 Federal Board has to be clear on that issue.

18  
19 MR. MATHEWS: Without talking to Fish  
20 and Game Staff that are closer to the Plan, my  
21 understanding on plans is the committee that does the  
22 plan disappears at the passage of the plan. So if they  
23 went into that process, have to formulate a new  
24 committee and go through that whole process. And then  
25 the last thing would be that the Federal Board only  
26 endorses these plans. I don't want to do fine hairs,  
27 but they don't adopt the plan. So they endorse the  
28 ideas and concepts in it.

29  
30 But I think your signal on the concern  
31 is valid, but realize -- and I think Pat was leading to  
32 that -- is that the who question is not subject to how  
33 much population is there. You could have a million  
34 moose there or one moose. Do they have customary and  
35 traditional use there. It's not based on that. I know  
36 the users are concerned about overharvest, but the who  
37 question usually is separated. The Board will be  
38 advised of that, I assume. Just so you know the deal.  
39 The who question doesn't relate to the abundance of the  
40 species.

41  
42 That's all.

43  
44 Thank you.

45  
46 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks, Vince. Do  
47 you want to speak, Josh.

48  
49 MR. PEARCE: This is Josh Pearce, Fish  
50 and Game in McGrath. I'd like to offer a little

1 clarification about the Plan. It is five years old  
2 now, but as people know who participated in that  
3 effort, it was a large effort and it doesn't have an  
4 expiration date, but that working group is no longer a  
5 working group. Randy Rogers, the main planner with  
6 Fish and Game, just retired. So to expect this plan to  
7 be revised in any kind of significant way I don't think  
8 is realistic at this point. I think folks were kind of  
9 expecting it to last maybe 10 years. So we kind of  
10 look at it as in the middle of its useful life and  
11 actually it's been a very useful document. We've stuck  
12 to it really closely. There's been a few very small  
13 deviations from the Plan, but they've been minor and  
14 they fit within the overall intent of the Plan.

15

16 As you pointed out, Jack, the Federal  
17 Subsistence Board has signed off on this. The State  
18 Board of Game has. The RAC, GASH. So there's a lot of  
19 support. I don't consider this a done document at all.  
20 There's a part in there about if additional communities  
21 are added for a C&T determination that that winter hunt  
22 needs to be revisited.

23

24 One improvement though that's been made  
25 -- like I said, it's improvement, a definite  
26 improvement, is we now have the Federal registration  
27 hunt. Because the Plan also identifies a maximum of 40  
28 moose taken in the winter with a potential of them  
29 being all cows. You know, it's a winter hunt, no  
30 antlers. So we now have a quota hunt with a  
31 registration. This hunt originally was a green harvest  
32 ticket and if everybody from all of a sudden Aniak,  
33 Kalskag, Lower Kalskag, 800 additional hunters were  
34 able to participate, there was nothing to shut it down  
35 and there was a real potential for overharvest, but  
36 that's changed pretty dramatically now with this  
37 Federal registration permit that we have in place.

38

39 So this issue is kind of bleeding into  
40 the next step of allocation, but biologically speaking  
41 we can come up with reasonable numbers that  
42 biologically can be taken from the two zones. How the  
43 allocation process works out that's for you guys and  
44 the Board to decide, but from the biology perspective  
45 we've got a system in place now that can help us with  
46 some of those concerns of overharvest.

47

48 So the point of all this is I don't  
49 think there's any need at all to revise the Plan. The  
50 Plan is still a good plan and we can still stay within

1 the main tenets of the Plan.

2

3 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: What I meant to say  
4 was the revision of it -- I looked it up here and the  
5 Innoko Moose Management Plan is recommendation 1-9  
6 regarding the Federal customary and traditional  
7 subsistence use determination. C&T for 21E is revised  
8 to make a large number of additional communities  
9 eligible. The Federal winter season should be  
10 eliminated. That needs a revision, but it's not  
11 eliminated. Just that one recommendation.

12

13 Part of the Plan needs to be revisited.  
14 Only that section 1-9 to develop a winter moose  
15 management plan that sets out biological objectives so  
16 that there's no overharvest in the lower portion of the  
17 unit. Not the whole Plan. I didn't mean to revise the  
18 whole entire Plan. Only that one section 1-9.

19

20 The Federal Subsistence Board has to be  
21 aware that there's limitations within that Plan and  
22 that we need to not allow any biological concerns to  
23 occur by implementing a winter hunt that would take all  
24 the quota in the lower portion of Unit 21E. That's the  
25 only portion of the Plan that I feel needs to be  
26 revised, not the entire Plan. The Plan is great. Just  
27 that one portion needs revision.

28

29 Go ahead.

30

31 MR. PEARCE: Okay. I just wanted to  
32 make sure that was clear and for everybody just a  
33 little more background on the Plan itself. Thanks.

34

35 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thank you.  
36 Appreciate those comments.

37

38 MR. COLLINS: I have a question, Josh.  
39 Is it clear now that it's really -- the winter hunt is  
40 in the Federal court you're saying. It's been revised  
41 so that they do the permitting on the winter hunt? The  
42 State isn't involved in that now, is that correct?

43

44 MR. PEARCE: One action that the GASH  
45 took, you know the folks in that area have really done  
46 a lot of work to try to get their moose population to  
47 return to what it used to be. As part of that they  
48 closed the State season, was one action they took. So  
49 now the only -- the hunt is Federal now, but it was --  
50 before last winter it was managed with a green State

1 harvest ticket, which meant it was available to as many  
2 people as wanted it. It's still open to everybody, but  
3 there is a quota and the hunt will be shut down at 40,  
4 which was specifically identified in the Plan as well.

5

6 MR. COLLINS: So it just takes Federal  
7 action on the winter hunt is all to make sure there's  
8 not a problem there right now because the State isn't  
9 involved in issuing of those permits and so on in the  
10 winter hunt that's on the books now.

11

12 MR. PEARCE: Yes, that's correct, the  
13 winter hunt is a Federal hunt only. There is no State  
14 winter hunt.

15

16 MR. COLLINS: So the action we would  
17 need to take would be to just advise the Board that  
18 they need to hold off on the winter hunt until the  
19 allocation is determined. I mean it's not going back  
20 and revising the Plan. It's just taking the action  
21 needed to make sure that there isn't an overharvest in  
22 that area or if there's a winter hunt how are they  
23 going to be allocated.

24

25 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I would like to have  
26 Bo Sloan come up here. We need to discuss your  
27 discretionary authority in the winter hunt and whether  
28 we can request that the Federal Subsistence Board give  
29 you discretionary authority and administration to  
30 develop a limited quota for the new C&T area versus  
31 what we were calling Zone 1 versus the rest of GMU 21E.  
32 You would not have discretionary authority to do that  
33 right now, would you?

34

35 MR. SLOAN: Mr. Chair. Council. Bo  
36 Sloan, Innoko National Wildlife Refuge. We were  
37 talking about it a little bit the other day. I'm a  
38 little bit confused about once these communities, if  
39 these communities are added to the C&T, just when their  
40 ability to hunt that portion of 21E would begin. We  
41 have a good bit of discretionary authority now in how  
42 we're managing the hunt and it's working out quite  
43 well.

44

45 For this thing to work for all  
46 communities involved and for the moose management in  
47 21E certainly we would definitely need the discretion  
48 to be able to set some biological family limits on how  
49 many moose could be taken in what area, you know, both  
50 zones. But to be quite honest with you right now I'm a

1 little confused on what our authority would be and when  
2 it would begin. I do know that in order for this thing  
3 to work properly for the people and for the moose  
4 resource we definitely need that authority. We need  
5 that discretion.

6

7 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right. That's  
8 exactly what I wanted to hear. I feel we have to make  
9 -- the Federal Subsistence Board has to defer to the  
10 Councils, so this Council is concerned about the winter  
11 hunt management. We need to give the Board various  
12 options. We can either have them revise, don't have  
13 any winter hunting in these new C&T eligible  
14 communities until we've revised Section 1-9 of the  
15 Innoko Plan. We can advise the Federal Subsistence  
16 Board that there needs to be a whole new proposal to  
17 divide Unit 21E into Zone 1 and Zone 2 so that  
18 biologists can make a biological analysis of what would  
19 be biologically harvestable within Zone 1 and 2 with  
20 the winter hunt. Or the Board could give discretionary  
21 authority to the Innoko Refuge to make that biological  
22 determination and administer that hunt as to where  
23 there's -- of course there would be a much limited  
24 amount in the lower portion of Unit 21E Zone 1 versus  
25 the rest of Unit 21E Zone 2.

26

27 So we can give the Board various  
28 options, but we need to have those options in what we  
29 pass so that it's clear that this Council is very  
30 concerned and needs to have these assurances before  
31 we're fully supportive of this C&T.

32

33 MR. SLOAN: Just to kind of add to  
34 that. I think having that discretion is extremely  
35 important and you guys know that the way we're managing  
36 the winter moose hunt now in 21E is in consult with the  
37 Western Interior Regional Advisory Council as well as  
38 Alaska Fish and Game, predominantly the McGrath office  
39 and BLM. In my opinion, I think it's working quite  
40 well to be able to do it that way and making these  
41 decisions in council with one another and certainly we  
42 would, if given the ability to manage like you were  
43 just talking about, we would continue to do that same  
44 thing. I think it would work out. We think it would  
45 serve everyone well.

46

47 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I have Chuck and  
48 Geoff that want to speak also.

49

50 MR. ARDIZZONE: Mr. Chair. I think you

1 guys are on the right track. If you did adopt this and  
2 grant those communities C&T, the first opportunity they  
3 would be able to harvest would be 2013. The RAC would  
4 be able to get a proposal in to suggest a .804 or  
5 quotas or whatever the RAC would like to do, but that  
6 wouldn't be addressed by the Board until 2014.

7  
8 So I do think you need to be clear on  
9 the record, you know, your intent that you support the  
10 CT or you don't and that the Board needs to address  
11 these other issues. Many times we have companion  
12 proposals. We have an A and a B and for some reason  
13 this time we don't, so I think that's part of the  
14 confusion in this one. We don't have something to  
15 address the harvest later on after we grant C&T.

16  
17 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So it's clear that  
18 the new eligibility of C&Ts if passed in January would  
19 not be eligible to hunt until.....

20  
21 MR. ARDIZZONE: Until 2013, just the  
22 way the season is.

23  
24 MS. PETRIVELLI: Couldn't they go in  
25 the fall hunt?

26  
27 MR. ARDIZZONE: I'm just addressing the  
28 winter hunt.

29  
30 MS. PETRIVELLI: Yeah, they could  
31 participate in the fall.

32  
33 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yeah, the fall hunt.

34  
35 MR. ARDIZZONE: I was just speaking to  
36 the winter.

37  
38 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So 2013 would be  
39 their first winter hunt eligibility. This Council can  
40 make special action requests also.

41  
42 MR. ARDIZZONE: That's correct.

43  
44 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: This Council is  
45 very, very concerned about this winter hunt issue. I'm  
46 going on and on on the record. This is all being  
47 transcribed and I want this Board to be well aware and  
48 OSM to be well aware of what's transpiring here at this  
49 meeting on this issue. That's why it's getting a  
50 little long-winded on the record here, Robert.

1 MR. R. WALKER: All right.

2

3 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Is there any other  
4 Council discussion. Carl, do you have comments.

5

6 MR. MORGAN: I was just listening.  
7 There's lots of reference to Innoko, but you also got  
8 the Yukon Delta National Wildlife Refuge that has land  
9 over here. I think they've got to be involved. BLM  
10 has a lot of land. How much land does the Native  
11 corporation got?

12

13 MR. BEYERSDORF: Not much.

14

15 MR. MORGAN: None? Hardly any? Oh,  
16 not very much. Well, I think this is going in the  
17 right step. It's a sensitive issue when you want to  
18 come into somebody else's backyard, but that's our  
19 kitchen over there, that's not our backyard. We've  
20 been there for years and years. There used to be a  
21 winter hunt. The State used to have it opened up. The  
22 majority of people that go outside of this area are  
23 from way down river. They would go all the way to Holy  
24 Cross and Shageluk, but we don't. Just naturally we  
25 don't. We don't go that far.

26

27 As far as 800 more people hunting,  
28 you're counting every man, woman and child. How many  
29 man, woman and children hunt in our village. That's  
30 got to be looked into to. I mean we're getting like to  
31 be automatically eligible for 800 people to hunt in  
32 that area. That's skewing it to one side. You're  
33 drawing a very drastic bleak picture that everybody  
34 from Aniak, Chuathbaluk, Kalskag and Lower Kalskag is  
35 going to go over there and automatically hunt.

36

37 I think there's history of this that  
38 only people that do go hunt, winter hunt over there  
39 with the people that did not catch a moose during the  
40 fall hunt. Not everybody went over. That's how it is  
41 now. Just like the one in 18. Only the people that  
42 did not catch a moose in this 19 go to Unit 18. Nobody  
43 else goes. We don't abuse that.

44

45 But this is a very interesting  
46 discussion and I'm glad to hear it. That's the reason  
47 I wanted it to be deferred until I was here and  
48 listening to the comments.

49

50 Thank you.

1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks, Carl.  
2 Vince.

3  
4 MR. MATHEWS: It's just a housekeeping  
5 thing, but it would help, I think, the Federal regs.  
6 Right now the regs read that the refuge manager needs  
7 to consult with the Middle Yukon Advisory Committee. I  
8 think that should be the Grayling, Anvik, Shageluk,  
9 Holy Cross. Unless I'm missing something, I don't know  
10 why the Middle Yukon would be consulted in 21E. So I  
11 think that's an error that's been carried forward.  
12 Unless Manager Sloan or Chuck Ardizzone have a  
13 different opinion on this, it would be good to wrap  
14 that in so the regulations could be corrected, that  
15 they need to be consulting with the GASH Advisory  
16 Committee. Right now it says they need to consult with  
17 the Chair of the Middle Yukon.

18  
19 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Oh. We'll take note  
20 of that on the record. That's a typo or something.  
21 Thanks, Vince.

22  
23 Going back to the Council deliberation.  
24 Does other Council members want to speak on this  
25 proposal.

26  
27 MR. J. WALKER: Jack.

28  
29 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, James.

30  
31 MR. J. WALKER: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
32 You know, I'm not questioning the C&T issue of this  
33 area here. In fact, I agree with the analysis of it.  
34 What I'm concerned about is just the fact that this  
35 proposal I feel is premature because it doesn't address  
36 the issue of resources that's going to be utilized and  
37 how they're going to be utilized. I think there should  
38 have been a draft outline of how the so-called 40 moose  
39 are going to be allocated along with this proposal map.  
40 At this time I think I agree with you, Jack, as far as  
41 the wording in the Innoko Plan. It needs to be revised  
42 and visited to address this issue of how this  
43 allocation is going to take effect and how to effect  
44 this plan.

45  
46 For the record, I'm not disputing the  
47 C&T of this issue.

48  
49 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks, James. Any  
50 other Council discussion. Okay, Chuck.

1 MR. ARDIZZONE: Mr. Chair. Vince  
2 Mathews did bring up a good point. I just checked with  
3 the CFRs, which is the official, and it does have the  
4 wrong advisory committee. So it would be good when you  
5 make your motion to correct that so we can get that  
6 corrected in the record and in the CFRs. It's not just  
7 a typo in the handy dandy.

8  
9 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Oh, I see. That  
10 would be all part of the Innoko Plan revision for the  
11 winter hunt. I don't know how we can tie this into  
12 this. This is a C&T proposal and how we would tie that  
13 into this particular -- I mean that's mixing apples and  
14 oranges slightly.

15  
16 MR. ARDIZZONE: So I'm not super  
17 familiar with this area, so bear with me. Currently it  
18 says Middle Yukon Fish and Game Advisory Committee.  
19 Does that include part of this area we're talking  
20 about.

21  
22 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Middle Yukon is up  
23 there by Galena.

24  
25 MR. ARDIZZONE: Right. I didn't think  
26 so.

27  
28 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Koyukuk, Nulato.

29  
30 MR. ARDIZZONE: So we would need to  
31 correct that in the record and in your motion.

32  
33 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So we will on the  
34 record to the Office of Subsistence Management -- is it  
35 agreeable by the Western Interior Regional Advisory  
36 Council that there's a typo in the codified  
37 regulations, CFR regulations, the consultation is to be  
38 not with the Middle Yukon but with the GASH Advisory  
39 Committee. Is that agreeable to the Council.

40  
41 (Council nods affirmatively)

42  
43 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So we'll just  
44 verbally advise OSM that there's a typo in publication  
45 of the CFR regulation. That clarifies that.

46  
47 MR. ARDIZZONE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

48  
49 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thank you. I  
50 appreciate that though. Going back to the deliberation

1 of this particular proposal 10-69, there is still  
2 opportunity for GASH communities or any of the  
3 communities to submit written testimony until the  
4 Federal Subsistence Board meeting in January. There is  
5 the ability of any person interested to testify before  
6 the Board on any proposal. We had the meeting Monday  
7 evening at 7:00 o'clock here and we had limited  
8 participation in the teleconference. I don't know what  
9 else this RAC can do to get public participation. I do  
10 feel that there are people that want to speak on the  
11 proposal. If they feel they want to speak to the  
12 Federal Board, I highly encourage that. Anyone to  
13 attend the Federal Subsistence Board meeting because  
14 those are the decision-makers.

15

16 As far as my personal -- I'll speak on  
17 the deliberation now. My personal opinion is that I've  
18 found no one, even on this RAC, from the GASH  
19 communities that does not recognize customary and  
20 traditional use of moose in the described portion of  
21 lower Unit 21E designated on Map 4 in our proposal.

22

23 So I will vote for the proposal, but I  
24 will only vote -- I will strongly advise the Federal  
25 Subsistence Board that there needs to be a revision in  
26 the winter hunt and that there needs to be -- this  
27 Council will either give a special action, we will  
28 submit a proposal or there needs to be a discretionary  
29 authority given to the Innoko Staff to develop  
30 biological parameters that can be harvested in what we  
31 have called Zone 1, the new C&T area, and Zone 2, the  
32 rest of Unit 21E.

33

34 The sideboards have to be within the  
35 modified language that this proposal is being adopted,  
36 so the modified language would include that specific  
37 wording in the proposal so that it's in what -- you  
38 know, what the Board is going to see is what this  
39 Council did and that specific language has to have  
40 those three options before the Board. It's going to be  
41 in black type, typed just like this. The Board is  
42 going to look at what this Council did and they're  
43 going to hold me or whoever attends that meeting to  
44 those parameters.

45

46 The Chair would entertain a  
47 modification of support of the proposal to include  
48 those sideboards to be amended language to what this  
49 Council passes on 10-69. I need someone to make a  
50 motion to set the sideboards on the.....

1 MR. J. WALKER: So moved.

2

3 MR. MORGAN: Second.

4

5 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Moved and seconded  
6 to set those parameters, which I have enumerated.  
7 There's a high concern for the winter hunt in Unit 21E,  
8 but there needs to be a revision of the Section 1-9 of  
9 the Innoko Plan. There also has to be a sideboard set  
10 to where either the Innoko Refuge has discretionary  
11 authority to biologically set out harvest parameters  
12 for Zone 1, the new C&T area, and Zone 2, the upper  
13 portion, the remainder of Unit 21E, a proposal that  
14 specifically states that in the regulation book, or the  
15 Council would submit a special action request to that  
16 effect. Give the Board three different options.

17

18 So that's been moved and seconded.

19 I've clarified that on the record. Any further  
20 discussion by the Council.

21

22 MR. COLLINS: Mr. Chair.

23

24 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Ray.

25

26 MR. COLLINS: In the motion, could we  
27 have the wording that this action would not take effect  
28 until those actions happen? Because right now they say  
29 if they pass it, it will be effective in '13, but they  
30 may not revise that then, so the motion could say that  
31 they could, when passing it, set the date of its action  
32 to follow the implementation of those recommendations.  
33 Would that do what we want to do?

34

35 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: The Board has  
36 discretion to adopt the C&T but preclude winter hunting  
37 until those concerns are addressed. There's still fall  
38 opportunity that I don't personally feel I want to  
39 preclude.

40

41 MR. COLLINS: No, I'm not saying that.

42

43 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: They can't delay the  
44 C&T. Then they would lose their fall opportunity.

45

46 MR. COLLINS: Oh, I see what you mean.

47

48 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So we just want them  
49 to stay until there's a regulatory process in place to  
50 address the winter hunt.

1 Is that clear for the record. Do you have another  
2 comment there, Vince.

3

4 MR. MATHEWS: Just because I spent  
5 years on this is the only reason I'm coming up. So I  
6 can go back to the office and not be burnt. Is it  
7 clear to all that you're talking about the Paimiut  
8 Slough area in that map? I'm not sure that's in the  
9 motion. The motion was to adopt the proposal -- the  
10 proposal was for all of 21E. Your amendment mentions  
11 that, but I'm not sure it's clear that you're talking  
12 about that line that's on Map 4. I just want to make  
13 that clear so the Board doesn't get lost. I know you  
14 talk about Zone 1 and Zone 2. Is it clear to you guys  
15 that you're saying the C&T expansion to include those  
16 communities would be for that Paimiut Slough Map 4.

17

18 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: We're discussing  
19 strictly Map 4.

20

21 MR. MATHEWS: Okay. Then we're all on  
22 the same -- we're all singing from the same sheet.

23

24 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks for  
25 clarifying that for the record. We are supporting OSM  
26 conclusion to support Proposal WP10-69 with  
27 modification for Map 4. That's what we're specifically  
28 speaking to. Map 4 was drawn by the Western Interior  
29 Regional Advisory Council. And then we've set the  
30 sideboards for concerns on the winter hunt.

31

32 Any further discussion by the Council.  
33 Did you have any comments, Tim.

34

35 MR. GERVAIS: No, other than just Map 4  
36 doesn't seem to have -- we were saying in the text that  
37 it's south of the slough and then that line that's  
38 drawn on Map 4, the line doesn't follow the Slough  
39 exactly.

40

41 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Tim, the OSM  
42 preliminary conclusion also delineates the boundaries  
43 in language. Do you see that in the OSM preliminary  
44 conclusion? Map 4 is sort of just a rough.....

45

46 MR. GERVAIS: The language on Page 192,  
47 that's fine. I just think the map is not very well  
48 drawn.

49

50 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Map 4 is just a

1 rough map. It could be more refined, but basically  
2 it's a general outline of what we're discussing.  
3 Thanks for clarification of that.

4

5 MR. GERVAIS: Yeah, I'm fine with that.

6

7 MR. J. WALKER: Jack.

8

9 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, James.

10

11 MR. J. WALKER: Just a question. I  
12 thought you read in the boundary description for this  
13 area at the start of the motion, is that correct?

14

15 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I said Map 4 in my  
16 discussions. I could read it into the record if the  
17 Council is more comfortable with that.

18

19 The customary and traditional use  
20 determination Unit 21E moose south of a line beginning  
21 at the western boundary of Unit 21E near the mouth of  
22 the Paimiut Slough extending easterly along the south  
23 bank of the Paimiut Slough to the upper high bank and  
24 southeasterly in the direction of Molybdenum Mountain  
25 to the conjunction of Unit 19A, 21A and 21E.

26

27 That's the delineation of the boundary  
28 that the Council recognizes. If you wanted that clear  
29 on the record, thanks, James.

30

31 MR. GERVAIS: What's happening with  
32 residents of Russian Mission on this C&T, are they  
33 included or excluded?

34

35 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: They had a C&T  
36 before. They still retain their C&T. This is just for  
37 the Unit 19A residents. So is that clear, Tim?

38

39 MR. GERVAIS: Okay, I'm fine. I was  
40 just looking on 192. Okay.

41

42 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay.

43

44 MR. GERVAIS: Move on.

45

46 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So any further  
47 discussions. We have to move on in the agenda also. I  
48 think we've covered the sideboards thoroughly, we've  
49 vetted this thing. We'll call this for a vote.  
50 Those in favor of proposal WP10-69 with the OSM

1 modification for Map 4 as described with the sideboards  
2 that the Council has set on the winter hunt execution,  
3 those in favor of the modified proposal signify by  
4 saying aye.

5  
6 IN UNISON: Aye.

7  
8 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Those opposed same  
9 sign.

10  
11 (No opposing votes)

12  
13 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: The proposal as  
14 modified is passed. So I do thank the Council for  
15 their thorough deliberation of this proposal. That  
16 will go well before the Federal Subsistence Board. So  
17 we're moving on in our agenda. I think we're back to  
18 our State proposals, Melinda. Do you have an extra  
19 copy of the ones you printed off.

20  
21 Thank you.

22  
23 Yesterday we were going to cover the  
24 statewide proposals that I found concerns with. One of  
25 the first ones was the discretionary permit conditions  
26 that the Department currently has the ability to do  
27 various things to execute various hunts. One of the  
28 integral parts that I'm concerned about is the  
29 discretionary authority of the Department to require  
30 destruction of the trophy value. Under this revision  
31 it would be number 5 here.

32  
33 The permittee who takes an animal under  
34 permit shall deliver specified biological specimens to  
35 a check station or to the nearest Department office  
36 within a time set by the Department so the trophy value  
37 of an animal taken under the subsistence permit may be  
38 nullified by the Department.

39  
40 That's a huge part of the Koyukuk Moose  
41 Management Plan is the requirement to destroy the  
42 trophy value of the moose on the subsistence hunt.  
43 Otherwise, if all Alaska state residents have the  
44 ability to retain the trophy value, we will have an  
45 inundation of thousands of additional hunters. So  
46 that's an integral part.

47  
48 This is a Board promulgated proposal.  
49 There are certain individuals on the Board that belong  
50 to Safari Club International and feel that it's

1 sacrilegious to destroy the trophy value of a moose.  
2 Well, that's an integral part of our plan. I feel that  
3 we should oppose Proposal 50. I feel the Department  
4 uses the discretionary authority properly. They do not  
5 abuse their authority and that this authority,  
6 especially for destruction of trophy value, is integral  
7 to the Moose Management Plan set in the Koyukuk Moose  
8 Management Plan back in 2002.

9

10 How will we proceed with these  
11 proposals when we go through the normal -- I'm  
12 presenting the proposal. Does the Department want to  
13 comment on any of these proposals? Has the Department  
14 taken a position on the Board's proposal?

15

16 MR. PEARCE: No, not yet. The  
17 proposals that I could speak to would be ones that  
18 affected the McGrath area office, the statewide  
19 proposals. If I could help out, I can try, but, no,  
20 there's not a position yet.

21

22 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Ray, did you  
23 have a comment.

24

25 MR. COLLINS: No. I was thinking of  
26 making a motion that we oppose the repeal of 5 AAC  
27 92.502.

28

29 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: We should make it in  
30 the positive. So make a motion to adopt Proposal 50  
31 with the intention of voting it down.

32

33 MR. COLLINS: Well, that doesn't make a  
34 statement that we agree with what's on the books right  
35 now, does it? The proposal is to review it and  
36 potentially repeal it. I see what you mean.

37

38 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Just procedurally.  
39 Just to make a motion to adopt Proposal 50 and then  
40 make justification why we opposed the proposal.

41

42 MR. COLLINS: Okay. I so move.

43

44 MR. J. WALKER: Second.

45

46 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: There's a second.  
47 And discussion.

48

49 MR. COLLINS: Yeah, I plan to vote  
50 against this because we oppose the repeal of this

1 discretionary power that has been granted to the  
2 Department and feel that it needs to remain in place.

3

4 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Any further  
5 justification.

6

7 (No comments)

8

9 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I will specifically  
10 state that discretionary authority number 5 is integral  
11 to the Koyukuk Moose Management Plan. The destruction  
12 of trophy value is an integral part of the Plan. It  
13 will destroy the Plan if they take this discretionary  
14 authority away from the Alaska Department of Fish and  
15 Game. So that's one of my main concerns with this  
16 Board proposal.

17

18 Do you have a comment, George.

19

20 MR. PAPPAS: Yes, Mr. Chair. This is  
21 not exactly the statewide proposal, but Proposal Number  
22 23 for the Seward Peninsula Muskox nullification. We  
23 do have an official position and that is do not adopt.  
24 A quick summary, it's necessary for management of the  
25 herd up there. So this is something that came out I  
26 received from Seward Peninsula Staff, but that was  
27 specifically for -- Proposal 23 would eliminate trophy  
28 nullification of muskox in the Seward Peninsula  
29 subsistence hunts and would eliminate mature muskox  
30 from subsistence bag limit. So it's a combined thing,  
31 but it's somewhat parallel. The Department's  
32 recommendation is do not adopt.

33

34 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

35

36 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Proposal 23, is that  
37 -- that would be which meeting? That's not the  
38 statewide.....

39

40 MR. PEARCE: Probably the November  
41 meeting.

42

43 MR. PAPPAS: Probably the November  
44 meeting.

45

46 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. I do  
47 appreciate the Department's concern. It shows the  
48 Department's concern with retraction of the  
49 discretionary authority. I feel the Department should  
50 have grave concerns with certain specific Board members

1 having political agendas on the Board's authority to  
2 manage for sustainability and health of resource.  
3 That's what my concern is, is the Board of Game is  
4 going crossways to sustainability by taking away the  
5 Department's ability to manage for sustainability.

6

7 MR. PAPPAS: Sir, I can't make a  
8 statement on that and retain my job.

9

10 Thank you, sir.

11

12 (Laughter)

13

14 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I have full voice to  
15 speak. Vince, you've got a comment.

16

17 MR. MATHEWS: It's just a suggestion,  
18 but you could add in your motion that if the Board was  
19 to take actions that they would generate proposals for  
20 the specific regions and those impacts be noted. As  
21 you well know, and you mentioned earlier yesterday,  
22 that the book is -- because of budgetary reasons is all  
23 put together that the areas that may be affected by any  
24 changes in these discretionary permits are not aware of  
25 it, so that the Board would generate proposals specific  
26 to the regions if they were going to change the  
27 discretionary. So that would allow the affected area  
28 to weigh in.

29

30 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right.

31

32 MR. MATHEWS: I don't know if you want  
33 to put that in your motion or not.

34

35 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I don't really want  
36 to go that far. I do want to oppose the Proposal 50  
37 and we've given justification that it will destroy the  
38 Koyukuk Moose Management Plan's -- the integral part of  
39 how the Plan works. So that's the crux of what I --  
40 the only reason this is up is because of trophy value.  
41 The only reason the Board has promulgated this proposal  
42 for review is to get rid of trophy value and there's  
43 specific individuals on the Board that are trying to do  
44 that and that is not biologically sound. I don't feel  
45 that the Board members that are pushing this have  
46 conservation ethics if they feel they will have  
47 personal demagoguery of antler and horn.

48

49 We've discussed this proposal enough.  
50 Any further discussion.

1 (No comments)  
2  
3 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Those in favor of  
4 adoption of State Proposal 50 promulgated by the Board  
5 of Game signify by saying aye.  
6  
7 (No aye votes)  
8  
9 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Those opposed to  
10 Proposal 50 same sign.  
11  
12 IN UNISON: Aye.  
13  
14 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So moved. Thanks,  
15 Tim. Moving down.....  
16  
17 MR. GERVAIS: Jack.  
18  
19 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead.  
20  
21 MR. GERVAIS: Can you check with  
22 Melinda to see if any of the State information was in  
23 the mailing she sent out.  
24  
25 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: No, it wasn't. This  
26 was on State proposals and I just happened to have the  
27 book. We actually had to print these off here in Aniak  
28 this morning. So she will scan and email those right  
29 now. Oh, we don't have internet here, so she can't  
30 email those right now.  
31  
32 We're moving on to State Proposal 92.  
33  
34 MR. THALHAUSER: Excuse me, Mr. Chair.  
35 I'm Mike Thalhauser with KNA. If you guys wanted to  
36 take a 10-minute break, we could run over and scan and  
37 send that to Tim.  
38  
39 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay, we'll take a  
40 10-minute break.  
41  
42 MR. GERVAIS: No, it doesn't matter. I  
43 don't have internet here anyway.  
44  
45 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Oh, you don't have  
46 internet. Okay. How are we doing on time. Need a  
47 break anyway. All right. We'll do a 10-minute break.  
48  
49 (Off record)  
50

1 (On record)  
2  
3 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: We're going to come  
4 back to the table again. I've got a couple fellows  
5 that want to make testimony on the proposals. George,  
6 do you want to help these two fellows come up here.  
7 Come on up. They're a little bit shy, but they want to  
8 talk.  
9  
10 Go ahead and turn them on.  
11  
12 MR. KELILA: Yeah, my name is Golga  
13 Kelila. I'm not very good at speaking English, but I'd  
14 like Ray to translate for me. (In Native)  
15  
16 TRANSLATOR: I'll get what he said, you  
17 know, on these moose hunts and everything, the winter  
18 hunting. His grandkids will not be able to hunt if  
19 they clean them out. That's his concern.  
20  
21 MR. KELILA: (In Native)  
22  
23 TRANSLATOR: On these young moose in  
24 the wintertime they don't have all that weight, you  
25 know, they're not fat and their meat is hard.  
26  
27 MR. KELILA: (In Native)  
28  
29 TRANSLATOR: He said you know the  
30 predators, wolves, brown bears, they're the ones that  
31 get all the young moose and then like the yearling  
32 moose with short horns, you know, the spike, they  
33 should just leave those alone.  
34  
35 MR. KELILA: (In Native)  
36  
37 TRANSLATOR: On these which is  
38 happening now, if they hunt out the moose wintertime,  
39 winter hunt, our young people won't be able to see  
40 game, you know, when they grow up.  
41  
42 MR. KELILA: (In Native)  
43  
44 TRANSLATOR: He said he's glad he spoke  
45 up a little bit with a translator.  
46  
47 MR. PETERSON: So I'm glad to do this.  
48 I'd like to say a little something on mine. Yeah, we  
49 did -- when my dad was alive, we did a lot of  
50 subsistence hunting and everything. We'd go -- we'd

1 mainly go hooking and stuff, but once in a while we'd  
2 catch something, you know. But around here I've seen  
3 such influx that winter hunt with snowmachine is so  
4 easy to get. You can run them down and everything.  
5 Whereas you go in boat or walk, you work for your meal.  
6 And then this winter hunt, to me, it's not -- you know,  
7 it shouldn't be allowed really.

8

9                   But if you -- like the first -- I  
10 didn't know anything about the traditional customary  
11 use area, Johnson River, everything, when I was up here  
12 for them down there. Just because one guy came up  
13 years ago with a dog team and they made a traditional  
14 customary use down to Johnson River and that made it  
15 tougher up here. Territorial days when I lived in  
16 Crooked, you don't see no hunters from downriver. Then  
17 they got those big motors and everything. In Holitna  
18 they did that 40-horse engine and we need to do it here  
19 too.

20

21                   You know, one fall my uncle decided to  
22 stay home at Red Devil, Joe Morgan, and he's good. He  
23 can speak Native real good and he said I'll stay home  
24 and count boats. That fall he counted about 700-some  
25 boats past Red Devil going up. When they first went  
26 out hunting, they'd go out -- they'd shoot an animal  
27 and they're scared to go after it in there like we do.  
28 We can go look, you know. In our area, hunters would  
29 go hunt this area to go hunt. They'd see dead  
30 carcasses. Big moose and everything only about 200  
31 feet inside behind the brush. That's really really  
32 wanton waste.

33

34                   The thing I used to do is patrolling  
35 too for (indiscernible) and when I wasn't doing that I  
36 guess somebody did brag down there they have these big  
37 Yukon Raiders, you know they have them big bins under  
38 the floorboard and they'd brag, you know, oh, they  
39 didn't check underneath the floorboard and we had  
40 (indiscernible) meat and everything, you know. My  
41 uncle would tell me, Willie Peterson from Bethel, and I  
42 said you should have spoke up and let me know long ago,  
43 you know.

44

45                   But those are the things, you know,  
46 that patrolmen are supposed to check everything. Look  
47 under the bins. That's where they put fish, a lot of  
48 fish, you know, under the Yukon Raider bins.

49

50                   But my concern is if you get too many

1 hunters over in 21E wintertime and stuff, you know, we  
2 used to go fishing over in Carl (indiscernible). Dog  
3 teams. Used to be tent city over there and everything,  
4 mainly for fish. Only once in a while, them days, you  
5 know, they'd catch a moose, but nothing is wasted,  
6 shared, which is real good. But now I do a lot of my  
7 hunting just on the river here and my camp is up there.  
8 That is a big thing, the winter hunt, but if you set a  
9 quota, you know, but not cow moose. Gee whiz, you can  
10 kill two, three at once right there and then those  
11 young bull moose, let them go, you know. Their meat is  
12 not that much, you know. You get one and it won't fill  
13 your freezer up, a yearling, you know, one year old.

14  
15 So that's my concern and whoever is  
16 with me, let me know.

17  
18 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Can you fellows say  
19 your name for the record. What's your name?

20  
21 MR. PETERSON: Raymond Peterson.

22  
23 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Oh, you've got  
24 those. Okay. I wanted to make sure that was on the  
25 record. I appreciate you guys coming up to speak to  
26 us. We always listen to people's testimony.

27  
28 MR. PETERSON: Yeah, he came up to me  
29 during bingo last night. He say if I would come over  
30 this morning and say -- he wanted to say something so I  
31 could translate for him. Here, sometimes people go to  
32 court and they come get me too, you know, for  
33 translating. A lot of them don't understand our new  
34 big words.

35  
36 Okay.

37  
38 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thank you. That's  
39 part of the .805 platform, is to have public comments  
40 at the Regional Council level and we always encourage  
41 people to speak to the Council about their concerns  
42 about any fish and wildlife management issues, so we  
43 appreciate you coming up. Any time we have a meeting  
44 here in Aniak and you want to talk to us, just come up  
45 to whoever is the Chair here, come up and get the floor  
46 and we'll give you a chance to speak and appreciate  
47 your comments.

48  
49 Thank you.

50

1                   So we're going back to statewide game  
2 proposals. We're on State Proposal 92, unlawful  
3 methods of taking of furbearers.

4  
5                   Unlawful method of taking furbearers  
6 exceptions is taking wolf or wolverine by any means  
7 other than an animal restrained by a trap or snare.  
8 This regulation would restrict trappers taking  
9 freeranging furbearers on a trapping license. The  
10 proposal basically doesn't feel the trapper should be  
11 able to shoot wolves when they're out trapping or  
12 wolverine.

13  
14                   As a trapper, if I encounter a wolf, I  
15 take the wolf or the wolverine with a rifle and that's  
16 legal under State regulations, so I'm personally  
17 opposed to this proposal. I think it would really  
18 restrict trappers and especially guys in rural Alaska  
19 that are out trapping trying to -- if you see an  
20 opportunity to take a wolf, it doesn't come up very  
21 often, but it's a big deal to catch one with a firearm.

22  
23                   I will entertain a motion to adopt  
24 Proposal 92 and I intend to vote this proposal down.

25  
26                   MS. PELKOLA: So moved.

27  
28                   MS. YATLIN: Second.

29  
30                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Moved and seconded.  
31 Any further discussion by the Council.

32  
33                   (No comments)

34  
35                   MR. J. WALKER: Question.

36  
37                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: The question is  
38 called on the proposal. Those in favor of Proposal 92  
39 signify by saying aye.

40  
41                   (No aye votes)

42  
43                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Those opposed to  
44 Proposal 92 same sign.

45  
46                   IN UNISON: Aye.

47  
48                   MR. COLLINS: Mr. Chair. Under  
49 justification, I think there's no biological reason for  
50 restricting trappers from taking animals with a rifle.

1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Appreciate that  
2 comment, Ray. Proposal 93 would basically -- following  
3 methods and means for taking furbearers under trapping  
4 license are prohibited in all Units and National Parks  
5 managed lands in addition to the prohibited found in  
6 taking of wolf or wolverine by any means unless the  
7 animal is restrained by a steel trap or snare. A  
8 trapper using a firearm can only dispatch a wolf or a  
9 wolverine that's caught in a snare and this is  
10 basically the same type of proposal.

11  
12 Entertain a motion to adopt Proposal 93  
13 with the intention to vote the proposal down.

14  
15 MR. R. WALKER: So moved.

16  
17 MR. MORGAN: Second.

18  
19 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: It's moved and  
20 seconded.

21  
22 MR. MORGAN: Question.

23  
24 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: The question is  
25 being called on the proposal. Those in favor of State  
26 Proposal 93 signify by saying aye.

27  
28 (No aye votes)

29  
30 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Those opposed to  
31 Proposal 93 same sign.

32  
33 IN UNISON: Aye.

34  
35 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Justification is  
36 also there's no biological concern with wolf or  
37 wolverine on National Park Service lands.

38  
39 94 basically the same thing. For wolf,  
40 fox, wolverine and coyote. May, June and July on  
41 National Park Service lands making it unlawful -- the  
42 following methods and means for taking furbearers under  
43 trapping license are prohibited under National Park  
44 Service lands. This is taking wolf, wolverine and  
45 coyote during May, June and July and so this would  
46 preclude several months that would be -- harvest would  
47 be available under State regulations.

48  
49 Entertain a motion to adopt Proposal 94  
50 with the intention of voting against this proposal.

1 MS. PELKOLA: So moved.  
2  
3 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Moved by Jenny.  
4  
5 MR. J. WALKER: Second.  
6  
7 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Seconded. Those in  
8 favor of Proposal 94 signify by saying aye.  
9  
10 (No aye votes)  
11  
12 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Those opposed same  
13 sign.  
14  
15 IN UNISON: Aye.  
16  
17 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: There's no  
18 biological concern with wolf, wolverine, fox or coyote  
19 within the Western Interior region.  
20  
21 Proposal 102, unlawful methods of  
22 taking big game. Exceptions, use of pack stock other  
23 than horses is prohibited while sheep or goat hunting.  
24 The issue is disease, primarily pneumonia, has caused  
25 major -- 80 to 100 percent of total herd and some cases  
26 die-off in events on wild sheep.  
27  
28 This proposal is Dan Montgomery. I  
29 live in sheep country and I found sheep that had highly  
30 fibroid pneumonia damage from + and these are  
31 introduced diseases that are not indigenous -- and  
32 these are brought by pack goats and llamas that are  
33 housed with pack goats. I've talked to various -- the  
34 Department of Fish and Game's veterinary staff on this,  
35 so I'm supportive of Proposal 102.  
36  
37 So the Chair will entertain a motion to  
38 adopt Proposal 102.  
39  
40 MR. J. WALKER: So moved.  
41  
42 MS. PELKOLA: Second.  
43  
44 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Moved and seconded.  
45 Any further discussion by the Council.  
46  
47 MR. R. WALKER: Question.  
48  
49 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: The question is  
50 being called. Those in favor of Proposal 102 signify

1 by saying aye.

2

3 IN UNISON: Aye.

4

5 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: There is a Proposal  
6 103 that would prohibit the use of felt sole wading  
7 boots while hunting game, the use of felt, soles of  
8 felt and other absorbent fiber materials prohibited  
9 while wading in freshwater streams. The issue is the  
10 Board of Fisheries adopted regulations to prohibit  
11 fishermen from using felt-soled waders to be consistent  
12 across the state, that the Board of Game consider  
13 prohibiting the use of these waders.

14

15 Felt-soled waders have been identified  
16 as the primary vector of transferring invasive species,  
17 such as whirling disease, mud snails and zebra mussels.  
18 So basically there's non-resident that come from areas  
19 that have diseases and invasive things and they bring  
20 these to Alaska and then they wade around in the creeks  
21 and rivers and they convey these and so this is a very  
22 important proposal also.

23

24 The Chair will entertain a motion to  
25 adopt Proposal 103.

26

27 MR. J. WALKER: So moved.

28

29 MS. PELKOLA: Second.

30

31 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Moved and seconded.  
32 Any further discussion by the Council.

33

34 (No comments)

35

36 MS. PELKOLA: Question.

37

38 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: The question is  
39 being called. Those in favor of Proposal 103 signify  
40 by saying aye.

41

42 IN UNISON: Aye.

43

44 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Those opposed same  
45 sign.

46

47 (No opposing votes)

48

49 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Justification is  
50 invasive mussels and other pathogens into our

1 environment is a very grave concern from non-residents.

2

3                   Proposal 104 is unlawful methods of  
4 taking game to prohibit the use of deer, elk urine,  
5 including other deer or elk urine. This doesn't  
6 specifically apply to this region, but using -- the  
7 issue is the infectious agent of Chronic Wasting  
8 Disease in elk, deer, moose and caribou. It's a mutant  
9 protein or prion and this could be convected to Alaska  
10 through its use, so it would affect moose and caribou  
11 if it extended from where they were using that in  
12 Kodiak and other areas of Alaska. It could be actually  
13 vectored into this region. So this is actually another  
14 one of these pathogen proposals that I support.

15

16                   The Chair will entertain a motion to  
17 adopt Proposal 104.

18

19                   MR. R. WALKER: So moved.

20

21                   MR. MORGAN: Second.

22

23                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Seconded by Carl.  
24 Any further discussion on Proposal 104.

25

26                   MR. MORGAN: Question.

27

28                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: The question is  
29 being called. Those in favor of the proposal signify  
30 by saying aye.

31

32                   IN UNISON: Aye.

33

34                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Those opposed same  
35 sign.

36

37                   (No opposing votes)

38

39                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: The justification is  
40 the grave concern for Chronic Wasting Disease being  
41 vectored into wild populations within the Western  
42 Interior region.

43

44                   That completes the proposals that I  
45 found. Did the Department have any other proposals  
46 that they felt on the statewide proposals would be of  
47 concern within the Western Interior Region.

48

49                   Josh.

50

1 MR. PEARCE: It's actually going to be  
2 at the Barrow meeting. There were two other proposals  
3 and I was going to mention them in my presentation, but  
4 I can bring them up now.

5  
6 This slide doesn't necessarily show  
7 anything specific, but it's statewide Proposal 131 and  
8 right now, as you know, in 19A there's an intensive  
9 management ongoing program with wolf control. This  
10 proposal would -- it's being submitted by the  
11 Department. It would add a bear control component to  
12 the 19A intensive management plan.

13  
14 The data that we have down there, the  
15 slide prior to this shows population estimate data and  
16 the numbers of moose in the Holitna are still fairly  
17 lower. If you would go to the prior slide, please.

18  
19 MS. HERNANDEZ: Is that right?

20  
21 MR. PEARCE: Yes, that's correct. You  
22 can see back in '98 the estimate was just over one  
23 moose per square mile. Now we're down around .4 moose  
24 per square mile. It appears to have crept up since  
25 2005, but all those confidence intervals overlap, so we  
26 really can't say what the population has done.

27  
28 But if you go to the next slide, some  
29 of our composition data, you can see the bull/cow ratio  
30 has improved dramatically. The hunting season was  
31 closed. That's probably the main explanation for that.  
32 The number of calves per 100 cows is still -- in 2009  
33 it wasn't that bad, 30 to 40 is considered a decent  
34 management objective. 2010, last year, it was below  
35 that, down at 24.

36  
37 At any rate, it appears that bear  
38 predation is probably a significant factor affecting  
39 that population's recovery. We know from what we've  
40 learned in the McGrath area where there's been  
41 extensive research done that bear is very significant  
42 source of mortality.

43  
44 At any rate, the details of what this  
45 bear program would look like have not been fleshed out  
46 yet, but Proposal 131 is going to be before the Board  
47 of Game in January at the statewide meeting and they  
48 will be specifically re-opening that plan because right  
49 now there is no bear component to it, it's wolves only.  
50 That certainly is within your area. It's 19A and you

1 may wish to address that one as well.

2

3 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks, Josh. Is  
4 the Council interested in adopting Proposal 131 for  
5 statewide proposals on bear reduction in Unit 19A,  
6 predator control area. This proposal would be to allow  
7 -- notwithstanding any other provision in this title,  
8 the commissioner may reduce black or brown bear  
9 populations within the MMA by means and direction  
10 included in the Board of Game Bear Conservation and  
11 Management Policy of 2006-164-BOG dated May 14, '06,  
12 and incorporated by reference, including the following  
13 methods and means under a department developed control  
14 permit: (i) legal animal is any black or brown bear  
15 including sows or cubs; (ii) no bag limit; (iii)  
16 same-day-airborne taking of black or brown bears if the  
17 permittee is at least 300 feet from the aircraft; (iv)  
18 sale of unmounted, tanned or untanned black or brown  
19 bear hides if the sale tag remains attached; (v) use of  
20 foot snares.

21

22 So is the Council supportive of  
23 Proposal 131. The Chair will entertain a motion to  
24 adopt the proposal. The Council can endorse the  
25 proposal or modify the proposal. If you don't feel any  
26 of the methods employed would be acceptable, the  
27 proposal could be modified by the Council members.

28

29 MR. GERVAIS: Mr. Chair.

30

31 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yes, go ahead, Tim.

32

33 MR. GERVAIS: Could we have Carl give a  
34 comment on how the people of 19A would feel about this  
35 proposal.

36

37 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Tim's asking  
38 what your feelings are on the proposal, Carl.

39

40 MR. MORGAN: Unfortunately, that's the  
41 first time I've heard the proposal, but I know in 1980  
42 they were very much in favor of predator control. Very  
43 much in favor.

44

45 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: That would be Carl's  
46 comments. Do you have a comment, Ray.

47

48 MR. COLLINS: I was going to make a  
49 motion to approve.

50

1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay.  
2  
3 MR. COLLINS: I so move to approve.  
4  
5 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: No modification?  
6  
7 MR. COLLINS: No.  
8  
9 MR. MORGAN: Second.  
10  
11 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Moved and seconded.  
12  
13  
14 MR. GERVAIS: Jack.  
15  
16 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, Tim.  
17  
18 MR. GERVAIS: Same-day airborne on  
19 bears seems pretty radical to me. Do other Board  
20 members feel it's necessary?  
21  
22 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Does any member of  
23 the Council feel that same-day airborne within 300 feet  
24 of the aircraft, is that unacceptable? Carl.  
25  
26 MR. MORGAN: Mr. Chair. You know,  
27 we've got same-day airborne with wolves. I don't think  
28 it's that easy if you see a bear and -- I support the  
29 proposal as written. Moose population in the Holitna  
30 area has not increased that drastically. It's kind of  
31 holding its own. You can see the cow/calf ratio went  
32 down since '09. So I support the proposal as written.  
33  
34 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Ray.  
35  
36 MR. COLLINS: This is Ray. I would  
37 too. Some of the area is fairly remote and one method,  
38 let's say, of snaring is allowed on bears would be  
39 maybe snares over a wider area and one way to check  
40 those would be a plane. You wouldn't want to go out  
41 there and stay overnight before you can check. If you  
42 choose to do that. It's an expensive way. So I think  
43 they ought to have the discretion of being able to  
44 allow same-day airborne to go out same if you were  
45 going to bait or something else if you want to land out  
46 there and put up a bait. If that's one of the methods,  
47 it should be allowed the same day.  
48  
49 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Tim, my comment  
50 would be -- I don't know what the aircraft fuel would

1 be here in Aniak, but I know the gas is 7.50 a gallon.  
2 I doubt there's going to be that many people that have  
3 the wherewithal to be able to fly around and hunt these  
4 bears. It may be a nominal number of participation by  
5 aircraft.

6

7

Josh.

8

9

MR. PEARCE: Really what occurs with  
10 the same-day airborne is it allows somebody in the  
11 McGrath area for instance where we do have snaring to  
12 check their snares from the air and then go via boat to  
13 take care of that bear. So it's not quite the same as  
14 aerial shooting of wolves. That's not what's  
15 occurring. So it is 300 feet from the airplane. It's  
16 not shooting from the airplane, but it allows people to  
17 access their bait stations, their snare stations the  
18 same day they've flown and it makes it logistically  
19 more practical.

20

21

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right. Do you have  
22 further comment, Tim.

23

24

MR. GERVAIS: No. I appreciate Ray and  
25 Carl commenting on the local field or what needs to  
26 happen there.

27

28

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: We had a motion to  
29 adopt. Did I have a second.

30

31

MR. MORGAN: I seconded, yes.

32

33

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay, we had a  
34 second. Any further discussion on Statewide Proposal  
35 131.

36

37

MR. R. WALKER: Question.

38

39

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: The question is  
40 being called. All those in favor of Proposal 131  
41 signify by saying aye.

42

43

IN UNISON: Aye.

44

45

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Justification is the  
46 biological parameters of the moose population in Unit  
47 19A is not responding even with what I consider  
48 adequate bull/cow ratios and so there needs to be  
49 further means of predator reduction.

50

1                   You had another proposal, Josh.

2

3                   MR. PEARCE: Yes, I do. Melinda, if  
4 you could go, I think, two more slides forward, please.  
5 I'm going to go up to the map and point at a couple  
6 things in a minute, but I'll give the dialogue first.

7

8                   The Central Kuskokwim Advisory  
9 Committee recently this last weekend met down in Bethel  
10 with the Lower Kuskokwim Advisory Committee and I don't  
11 think the GASH was able to participate, but Bob  
12 Aloysius, the chair, has been concerned for a number of  
13 years. The boundary between Unit 18 and 19A is very  
14 poorly defined. It describes a straight line from  
15 Lower Kalskag to Paimiut and then going south from  
16 there, but where that line actually hits the river is  
17 very difficult for hunters on the river to determine.

18

19                   So Bob is wanting to clarify this, like  
20 I said, for a number of years. So they just met down  
21 there and they're going to be bringing it back to their  
22 respective advisory committees to hold a vote on it,  
23 but they had a subcommittee of sorts. At any rate,  
24 this is going to be brought up at the November meeting  
25 in Barrow, so now would be the time to comment on this.

26

27                   This is a draft map, so unfortunately I  
28 don't have the map of what they came up with, but  
29 basically what they did though, like I said, was to try  
30 to come up with something that was more easily  
31 definable. You can see where, like Carl, he's familiar  
32 with Old Slough, comes in to the Kuskokwim just below  
33 Kalskag. Basically the boundary has been moved to that  
34 area and then it follows north and there's Pike Lake or  
35 Big Lake just north of Kalskag. It would follow the  
36 north shore of that. And then there's a portage  
37 between the Yukon and the Kuskokwim and it would follow  
38 that trail to the north and then to the south it  
39 adjusts slightly to the west. So anyway it makes the  
40 boundary more easily found by, like I said, boat  
41 hunters.

42

43                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Does this expand 19  
44 or reduce 19?

45

46                   MR. PEARCE: Yes and yes.

47

48                   (Laughter)

49

50                   MR. PEARCE: There's also a problem

1 with -- I'm going to step up to the map really quickly  
2 and I'll speak loudly.

3

4 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay.

5

6 MR. PEARCE: Unit 19 is defined as the  
7 drainages of the Kuskokwim. The subunits are broken  
8 into UCUs. You can see all these gray lines. It's just  
9 a further division of the subunits. This UCU right here  
10 is currently in 21E. It's the drainage of the  
11 Kuskokwim River though. It's been incorrectly  
12 identified since the map was drawn.

13

14 For the folks that aren't familiar with  
15 what I was talking about, Old Slough, it comes in just  
16 right about here and then the line would go here, so  
17 Unit 18 will actually lose a little bit of ground and  
18 19A would gain some here. So 19A will grow even more  
19 because 21E will lose this UCU right here. It will be  
20 properly put into 19A. So part of that proposal will  
21 be to fix this mistake and then make this line easier  
22 for hunters to identify. So 19A will get slightly  
23 larger. 21E and Unit 18 will get slightly smaller.

24

25 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: We just reviewed  
26 this C&T area. This will modify that.

27

28 (Laughter)

29

30 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So this kind of  
31 mixes up some things here.

32

33 MR. PEARCE: As you were viewing that,  
34 I wasn't sure if I should complicate the issue or not  
35 because the C&T determination is what you were  
36 addressing. Of course, the Federal regulation book has  
37 its definition of what Unit 21E and 19A is and are and  
38 whether or not they move to adopt these new boundaries,  
39 of course, is up to the Federal Subsistence Board. If  
40 they did not do it, then there would be a discrepancy  
41 or difference in the regulation.

42

43 The Central Kuskokwim Advisory  
44 Committee is going to be meeting in Kalskag next week.

45

46 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: The Walkers need to  
47 be leaving here eminently and I'd like to get their  
48 comment on this proposal. James.

49

50 MR. J. WALKER: Mr. Chair. I'd just

1 like to say that this has been kind of an enlightenment  
2 to me on this issue here. I didn't realize that the  
3 boundary was going to be moved and take a portion of  
4 21E out. Are you saying that the boundary line as it's  
5 going to be proposed is below the south mouth of  
6 Paimiut Slough on the Yukon?

7

8 MR. PEARCE: No. The line will follow  
9 -- it will go -- let me point at the map again. This  
10 proposal is actually before the Board of Game. It's  
11 been deferred and they wanted more input from the  
12 advisory committees to kind of come together because  
13 Unit 18 hadn't put their say into the proposal. It was  
14 the Central Kuskokwim Advisory Committee submitted this  
15 thing.

16

17 Basically you guys know where that  
18 portage is a lot better than I do, but it will start  
19 off coming in where Old Slough hits the Kuskokwim and  
20 follow around what -- I've heard local folks refer to  
21 this as Pike Lake and Big Lake. I guess the Yup'ik  
22 name on the map doesn't really make sense to them.  
23 It's probably some mapping error of some sort. So it  
24 will follow that portage to -- there's a ridge that  
25 divides the Yukon and the Kuskokwim drainages and at  
26 some point there is a little bit of a straight line  
27 that goes to Paimiut still.

28

29 What will change though is this UCU.  
30 Like I said, it's a Kuskokwim River drainage. It's not  
31 a Yukon River drainage. It's always been incorrect.  
32 That's where 21E would lose a little bit of ground.

33

34 MR. R. WALKER: How much?

35

36 MR. PEARCE: Not much. I don't know  
37 how many square miles it would be.

38

39 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Has this proposal  
40 been discussed with the GASH Advisory Committee?

41

42 MR. PEARCE: Ken was invited to that  
43 meeting down there. I don't see him here. I know he  
44 wasn't in attendance, but he was invited to that  
45 meeting. Like I said, this proposal was before the  
46 Board of Game.

47

48 MR. R. WALKER: Who proposed this?

49

50 MR. PEARCE: The Central Kuskokwim

1 Advisory Committee. Bob Aloysius is the chair of that  
2 committee. It was before them, I believe, a year ago.  
3 They deferred it because there wasn't consensus and  
4 agreement on how to draw that line.

5  
6 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I would like the RAC  
7 members from this area, Robert, James and Carl, to  
8 comment on this proposal.

9  
10 Robert, go ahead, since you're short on  
11 time.

12  
13 MR. R. WALKER: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
14 I would oppose this proposal here because we did not  
15 know anything about it. I would oppose it.

16  
17 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Thank you.

18  
19 James.

20  
21 MR. J. WALKER: I would have to agree  
22 with that because I think it should have been addressed  
23 with the GASH committee to reflect what acreage they're  
24 going to lose, what portion of 21E they're going to  
25 lose.

26  
27 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right. I have  
28 concern with the process not including the GASH  
29 committee because it modifies Unit 21E and so I do feel  
30 that there should have been a tri-advisory committee  
31 meeting on the issue.

32  
33 Carl, do you have a comment.

34  
35 MR. MORGAN: Yeah, I really don't have  
36 much of a comment, but I agree it should have involved  
37 all the players.

38  
39 Thank you.

40  
41 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: At this time the  
42 Chair will entertain a motion. What number was this  
43 again?

44  
45 MR. PEARCE: 131. I'm sorry, 21.

46  
47 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Proposal 21 in the  
48 statewide -- this is not statewide. Which meeting  
49 would this be again?

50

1 MR. PEARCE: At the November meeting in  
2 Barrow.

3  
4 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: At this time the  
5 Chair will entertain a motion for Proposal 21 to modify  
6 the boundaries of Game Management Units 18, 19 and 21.

7  
8 MR. J. WALKER: So moved.

9  
10 MS. PELKOLA: Second.

11  
12 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Moved and seconded.  
13 Further discussion on the proposal.

14  
15 MR. J. WALKER: Question.

16  
17 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: The question is  
18 being called. Those in favor of Proposal 21 signify by  
19 saying aye.

20  
21 (No aye votes)

22  
23 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Those opposed same  
24 sign.

25  
26 IN UNISON: Aye.

27  
28 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I oppose the  
29 proposal. Justification would be there was not  
30 inclusion of the GASH Advisory Committee in the process  
31 and there's concern about modification of Game  
32 Management Unit boundaries and in light of actions this  
33 Council took on a customary and traditional use  
34 determination for specifically the lower portion of  
35 Unit 21E this Council has concerns with the  
36 ramifications with the Federal Subsistence Board  
37 process. So that would be my concerns, justification  
38 for voting against the proposal.

39  
40 Any further Council. I see that James  
41 and Robert have to depart. They're going home right  
42 now. Do you have final comments before your departure,  
43 Robert.

44  
45 MR. R. WALKER: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
46 I'm just glad to be here. I wasn't going to show up,  
47 but there was some pressing issues that I would like to  
48 have seen taken care of and they have been taken care  
49 of. Again, thank you very much.

50

1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks for your  
2 attendance, Robert. My condolence on your loss.  
3 James.

4  
5 MR. J. WALKER: I'd just like to say  
6 that I always enjoy coming to these meetings. It's an  
7 enlightenment to me to hear all of you give your  
8 reports. It helps me a lot in making my justification  
9 or yea or nay on issues. Again, I'd just like to thank  
10 a few individuals here for sharing their midnight  
11 stories and burning some oil. Without those stories  
12 all you see is faces of people in regards to  
13 departments, but when you start hearing personal  
14 stories in their lives it brings justification to their  
15 views.

16  
17 Thank you.

18  
19 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks, James.  
20 Appreciate that. I very much appreciate your knowledge  
21 and participation in our RAC deliberations for the  
22 lower portion of the Western Interior Region. It's  
23 very important to have your participation in these  
24 meetings and I appreciate your sacrifice.

25  
26 Thank you.

27  
28 Have safe travels home.

29  
30 MR. R. WALKER: One other thing. Geoff  
31 Beyersdorf, don't run away yet. This is going to be  
32 his last meeting with us. Geoff is going to move to  
33 Montana as of probably come shortly. I think we should  
34 give Geoff a big hand here for staying with us, being  
35 with us, attending our meetings.

36  
37 Thank you, Geoff, very much.

38  
39 (Applause)

40  
41 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: We wish you bon  
42 voyage and safe travels. Geoff Beyersdorf is leaving.  
43 He will be giving us a report later on, but Geoff has  
44 been a very important part of the Western Interior's  
45 workings for several years and we mourn his loss to the  
46 Council and to the Federal lands in the Western  
47 Interior Region.

48  
49 I think we've pretty much covered State  
50 proposals. We're moving back into -- I think we're at

1 agency reports at this time. We've covered OSM's.  
2 We're down to U.S. Fish and Wildlife, Koyukuk/Nowitna  
3 National Wildlife Refuge. Come on up, Keith.

4

5 MR. RAMOS: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
6 Council. I'm Keith Ramos, deputy manager of  
7 Koyukuk/Nowitna Refuge in Galena. This year has been a  
8 pretty busy year. I'm going to give you a quick  
9 summary and some numbers.

10

11 We participated again in the ANSEP  
12 program. We had an ANSEP student this summer, which we  
13 were pretty excited about to support that program. We  
14 had a young lady actually from Red Devil. She attended  
15 Mt. Edgecumbe and she did a great job. We're looking  
16 forward to see her success at UAA this coming up. I  
17 have another bright student coming through the ANSEP  
18 program.

19

20 We had a very successful science camp  
21 in Galena this year, very well attended for two weeks.  
22 We were pretty excited about it.

23

24 We continue our waterfowl banding.  
25 Typically we do two duck camps where we band in Kaiyuh  
26 Flats and the Koyukuk. Due to high water this year we  
27 had to cancel the Kaiyuh Flats banding project and also  
28 we had to cancel the float survey on Kaiyuh because the  
29 water was very high. So we did the Willow Lake and had  
30 a -- I don't have the exact numbers here, but we had a  
31 very successful banding season. A lot of birds we were  
32 pretty excited about. We did our float surveys on the  
33 Dolby and the Nowitna and our raptor survey on the  
34 Yukon. Again, very successful, all of them. But we  
35 did experience very high, as you probably all know,  
36 water on the Yukon all summer.

37

38 We have a new -- Frank is our fisheries  
39 biologist that started last year. Finally got his  
40 first season in terms of field season, so we have a lot  
41 of new fisheries projects. Trying to look into river  
42 systems and lakes that we have not been able to target  
43 before in terms of other species aside from just  
44 salmon, so we are starting some new studies on pike,  
45 sheefish and other whitefish species and doing some  
46 surveys. I know we did some on the Kateel, some other  
47 lakes within the Koyukuk and the Nowitna River.

48

49 He was very busy this summer. I know  
50 he'll appreciate any input in terms of -- he's been

1 gathering information from traditional knowledge and  
2 local people and where they've seen whitefish spawn and  
3 other species that we have not been able to study  
4 before because we didn't have the manpower to do so.

5  
6 We are experiencing a 5 to 10 percent  
7 budget cut this coming year. Just so you all know,  
8 we're under more travel restrictions. I just wanted to  
9 make sure you guys were aware of it. We're going to  
10 have to get together here pretty soon and discuss can  
11 we accomplish with what we have and what has to be left  
12 behind. We'll be prioritizing our biological program  
13 and other programs to meet our needs and make sure we  
14 serve our communities the way we should.

15  
16 This moose season we continued to run  
17 the Nowitna River check station. We manned the check  
18 station from the 29th of September through the 29th of  
19 October. We had to close two days early because the  
20 weather was starting to turn, the river was going down  
21 and very lack of participation on the Federal  
22 subsistence hunt on the end, so we closed two days  
23 early. We had 89 hunters came through the Nowitna  
24 check station this year and 37 moose were checked out  
25 through the check station. Compared to last year we  
26 had 108 hunters and 34 moose, so very close numbers.

27  
28 I got an update on the Federal hunt.  
29 We actually had one permit in Ruby, one in Galena and  
30 Tanana actually issued two permits for the first time  
31 since 2008, but we haven't heard of any moose taken  
32 during that hunt yet.

33  
34 The Koyukuk check station I have a  
35 rough number from Glenn Stout. They had 399 hunters  
36 checked in through the Koyukuk check station and 157  
37 moose checked out through the Koyukuk check station  
38 this year. I don't have last year's numbers, but I  
39 believe it's a little less hunters, a little more moose  
40 than last year, but still within the parameters.

41  
42 On our staffing we have several new  
43 staff members. Right after the last RAC meeting our  
44 new subsistence specialist came on board, Jeremy  
45 Havener. He moved up from Iowa, but he came on very  
46 energetic and has done a very good job so far  
47 coordinating and getting involved. It's a big learning  
48 curve, but he's done a very good job.

49  
50 We have our new fire management officer

1 hired in May, Benjamin Pratt. Another great addition  
2 because Ben actually worked for BLM, Alaska Fire  
3 Services out of Galena for the last several years, so  
4 he jumped right in with a great relationship with AFS  
5 and great knowledge of the area, so it was a gain for  
6 us as well.

7

8 We hired two local hire positions in  
9 Galena. We have a new carpenter, Dave Wightman, is a  
10 local school teacher, carpenter/teacher, and he worked  
11 all summer hard for us as an intermittent hire. We  
12 hired a second refuge information technician in Galena,  
13 Myra Harris, so now we have two refuge information  
14 technicians. Myra just started four weeks ago and she  
15 grew up in Unalakleet and has been in Galena for a few  
16 years now and very excited, jumped right in and has  
17 been doing a lot of good work.

18

19 We had two vacancies until yesterday.  
20 Now we have one. Our new habitat biologist accepted a  
21 job yesterday, so we're hoping to have her on board  
22 sometime in late December/January. I would give you  
23 the name, but I can't pronounce her last name yet. Her  
24 name is Amy and she'll be moving up from the Lower 48.  
25 It's a vacancy that Melanie has vacated, so we're  
26 excited to have that position filled. The only vacancy  
27 we'll have left is the law enforcement position. We  
28 hope to get that one filled soon.

29

30 That's what I have in terms of this  
31 quick report. If you have any questions, I'll be glad  
32 to -- oh, Mr. Collins brought up the question about the  
33 airboat use and it is legal to operate airboats. The  
34 regulation is motorized boats and so if an airboat is  
35 considered a motorized boat and it's registered and  
36 legal in the state, it is legal to use. There was an  
37 airboat Kenton confirmed this year being used on the  
38 river.

39

40 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Is that airboat use  
41 on all Refuge lands?

42

43 MR. RAMOS: Yes, according to Kenton,  
44 the regulation is all in the wilderness. It's  
45 navigable waters and it's a legal vehicle or boat, it's  
46 legal.

47

48 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I see. Any  
49 questions from the Council on Keith's presentation on  
50 Koyukuk/Nowitna status report?

1 (No comments)  
2  
3 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Any questions, Tim.  
4  
5 MR. GERVAIS: What was the number of  
6 hunters on Nowitna?  
7  
8 MR. RAMOS: The number of hunters that  
9 checked in the check station was 89 and 37 moose taken.  
10  
11 MR. GERVAIS: Thank you.  
12  
13 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Any other  
14 questions.  
15  
16 (No comments)  
17  
18 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: That seems to be a  
19 thorough report and appreciate all that Koyukuk/Nowitna  
20 is doing. I'm satisfied with these moose/hunter  
21 numbers. This seems be sort of an equilibrium with the  
22 number of hunters and good harvest yet we still have a  
23 good bull/cow ratio there, especially on the Koyukuk.  
24 Thanks, Keith.  
25  
26 MR. RAMOS: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
27 Thank you, Council.  
28  
29 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So we're to Innoko  
30 National Wildlife Refuge.  
31  
32 MR. SLOAN: Mr. Chair, Council members.  
33 Bo Sloan, refuge manager for Innoko National Wildlife  
34 Refuge. I appreciate the opportunity to share some of  
35 the things we've been doing on the refuge since our  
36 last meeting.  
37  
38 The first thing I want to share with  
39 you though is something that's really a sad note for us  
40 and a lot of you probably already know about it, but  
41 for those of you that don't our refuge pilot, Ken  
42 Richardson, had a plane crash about three weeks ago  
43 coming into McGrath in his own personal Super Cub and  
44 ended up breaking his neck, so he's having a real rough  
45 time of it. He's currently in Seattle right now  
46 undergoing physical therapy. He's able to walk just a  
47 little bit. He took about 150 steps I think the other  
48 day with the aid of a walker. He still doesn't have  
49 any movement in his hands and things like that, so keep  
50 him in your thoughts and prayers would be certainly one

1 request that I would have of everybody within earshot  
2 of what I'm saying actually.

3

4                   On a brighter note, some of the things  
5 that we've accomplished since the last meeting. We had  
6 a really successful summer program out there on the  
7 Refuge. Depending on the week of the month we had  
8 about six to eight interns, which are student workers  
9 out there. One or two volunteers and the rest of them  
10 were paid. We had them from every location from  
11 Takotna to Texas. It was quite a smattering of  
12 individuals out there and it was really a good summer.  
13 Like I say, two are from Alaska, one being from  
14 Takotna, one from Anchorage, and they came from as far  
15 south as Texas.

16

17                   Some of the projects they were working  
18 on, a lot of it was in that southern part of the Refuge  
19 doing a lot of habitat work, habitat classification,  
20 vegetation analysis, that sort of thing and a small  
21 amount of trapping trying to establish a baseline of  
22 habitat quality and quantity down in that part of the  
23 world.

24

25                   Another thing, this was actually  
26 mentioned in one of the proposals relative to sheefish  
27 and sheefish spawning areas and that sort of thing. We  
28 had the opportunity this year to work with Randy Brown  
29 with Fish and Wildlife Service fisheries there in  
30 Fairbanks. They just finished up the field work  
31 portion of the sheefish project and they actually did  
32 find a good spawning population of sheefish on the  
33 upper Innoko River. They were actually able to get all  
34 the samples they needed for the genetics work and it  
35 was 100-plus fish. He was explaining to me the other  
36 day, I think this is now one of six if I understood him  
37 right known spawning populations of sheefish in the  
38 state, so we're proud to have that and proud to be a  
39 part of that project.

40

41                   On our waterfowl work this year it went  
42 off without a hitch, very successful. We work in  
43 cooperation with Fish and Wildlife Service, Migratory  
44 Birds, the Refuge Staff in Galena. We've got well over  
45 1,000 geese banded. Also working with UAA to do some  
46 isotope work, which is just another tracking mechanism  
47 for geese and all that went very well.

48

49                   In terms of personnel, you guys know  
50 we've been without a law enforcement officer for quite

1 a long time and we were just successful in filling our  
2 Refuge law enforcement/pilot position and that  
3 individual is going to start around mid November. He  
4 probably will be a fully capable government pilot for  
5 quite a while. That's quite the process even when you  
6 do have quite a few hours. So I'm really excited to  
7 get this individual in.

8

9 I don't know if I've taken the  
10 opportunity to share kind of my thoughts and views on  
11 Refuge law enforcement because, to me, that's kind of a  
12 big deal. Just to kind of make things clear, I have a  
13 real -- I'm very supportive of law enforcement period.  
14 Wildlife law enforcement, resource law enforcement.  
15 Maybe it's because I came from the part of the world  
16 that honest to goodness without good game wardens and  
17 resource law enforcement we wouldn't have had any  
18 resources to hunt our fish.

19

20 One of the things I really want this  
21 position to accomplish for us is what I call both  
22 proactive and reactive type law enforcement. When I  
23 saw proactive, I'm looking at this individual really  
24 helping us in communicating with our user groups out  
25 there on the Refuge and a lot of that is going to be  
26 focused in the villages, so expect to see this guy.  
27 When I say expect to see him, I mean that in a really  
28 positive sense because I want folks not only to  
29 understand what the rules and regulations are but why  
30 we have them. What is it that we're getting out of  
31 this. Let's face it, primarily the reason we have  
32 these positions is to protect the resource so that we  
33 can all have it to use. Anyway, like I say, expect to  
34 hopefully see this guy in a really positive way in the  
35 near future.

36

37 Jerry Hill, most everybody has met  
38 Jerry, is our lead biologist on our moose management  
39 issues. At this time, I'll turn it over to him to  
40 speak with you about that.

41

42 MR. HILL: Thanks, Bo. Mr. Chairman,  
43 Council. Jerry Hill, wildlife biologist, Innoko  
44 Refuge. I do have a few reports beyond what Bo just  
45 introduced. I'm going to start with -- I'm sure  
46 everybody is still aware of the Furbearer Management  
47 Trapping Workshop that was developed by Innoko and  
48 Fish and Game in response to predator control in  
49 relation to moose management in 21E.

50

1                   We delivered our first workshop in  
2 Shageluk in February of 2011. We're currently working  
3 with the GASH AC and the village of Anvik to do our  
4 next presentation of that workshop, hopefully the last  
5 week of October in 2011. Shageluk went very well and  
6 we're anticipating similar interest in the remaining  
7 three villages in the GASH community. So we're looking  
8 forward to doing that again.

9  
10                   Within the last year and a half the  
11 second report I have, the biological staff at the  
12 Refuge went from one to three biologists. Of course,  
13 with that, is trying to determine which staff is going  
14 to be the project lead on what they're assigned to.

15  
16                   Like Bo just mentioned, there's been  
17 some reassignment here recently and the moose  
18 management program for the Refuge has been reassigned  
19 to myself. I think that will be a great fit because  
20 obviously I'm working on the subsistence stuff and I'm  
21 talking to the Regional Advisory Council directly on a  
22 regular basis now, so I'll be better prepared to  
23 present updates and data collected and things like  
24 that.

25  
26                   At the moment we're still trying to  
27 develop some strong objectives of what we want for the  
28 moose management program at Innoko. We're working with  
29 Fish and Game, Koyukuk-Nowitna and other partners to  
30 develop a real structured program that we can repeat  
31 from year to year and get some sound biological data.

32  
33                   Currently we're planning on doing a  
34 composition survey this fall. The logistics are a  
35 little difficult with what Bo said about our pilot, Ken  
36 Richardson. We continue to do the twinning surveys or  
37 calving surveys in the spring. We are scheduled to  
38 assist Fish and Game with the 21E GSV moose population  
39 survey in March. Along with that we were successful in  
40 stratifying the Refuge, habitat stratification, last  
41 spring. The initial plan was to move from 21E into  
42 other units within the Refuge in consecutive years,  
43 probably 21E, 21D, however we plan on doing that, since  
44 the Refuge has been stratified. So we'll see how that  
45 goes.

46  
47                   Some anecdotal data that Bo presented  
48 to me yesterday, it was just kind of a good news story,  
49 I guess. A transporter that works on the Refuge during  
50 the fall hunt has reported a harvest of three moose in

1 the Refuge two years ago from the hunters he  
2 transported, up to 13 last year and was up to 19 this  
3 year. So we're getting positive reports on the  
4 population from the hunters that are utilizing the  
5 Refuge.

6  
7 So with that the third report I have,  
8 there's been a lot of talk obviously about the 21E  
9 Federal winter moose hunt C&T for Aniak, Upper/Lower  
10 Kalskag and Chuathbaluk. I won't comment on that so  
11 much. I just wanted to present an overview of the 2011  
12 winter moose hunt that was recently completed. I know  
13 the Council is all aware of the changes that took place  
14 in 2011 from previous winter moose hunts on the Refuge  
15 are aimed at moving the season, extending season dates,  
16 improve opportunity for residents. We went to a  
17 permitted system with stringent reporting requirements  
18 and the harvest limit of 40 moose to get a better  
19 understanding of the harvest on the Refuge or in 21E on  
20 BLM lands during that hunt.

21  
22 Of course we did limit the take to only  
23 households that were unsuccessful in the fall, so we  
24 tried to give opportunity to folks that were  
25 unsuccessful in filling their freezers in the fall  
26 hunt.

27  
28 The Innoko Refuge and BLM are the  
29 primary administrators of the hunt with great  
30 assistance from OSM and Fish and Game. Since the new  
31 -- in respect to the new conditions of the hunt, we all  
32 agreed it was important to make an effort to educate  
33 and inform the villages on the new conditions of the  
34 hunt. The Innoko Refuge made an effort to spend a day  
35 in each village prior to the hunt just holding  
36 informational meetings, giving residents an opportunity  
37 to ask questions and address concerns about the hunt.

38  
39 With that, Innoko, BLM and Fish and  
40 Game made follow-up visits to issue permits on site,  
41 which is a great opportunity for people to come back  
42 with questions they thought of after our initial visit.  
43 We put a lot of effort into education. We had flyers  
44 distributed, we made maps depicting Federal public  
45 lands that are accessible to the hunt.

46  
47 During the hunt we had a 1-800 number  
48 at the Refuge so people could call in for up-to-date  
49 information on the status of the hunt. We did periodic  
50 radio announcements over KSKO. So we did our best to

1 inform folks and try to get as quality participation as  
2 we could on this.

3

4                   As far as permitting, we did issue 55  
5 permits, both onsite and through electronic issuance,  
6 fax, email and that sort of thing, between the Innoko  
7 Refuge and the villages. Of the 55 permits, 48 permits  
8 were registered permits and 7 were designated hunters.  
9 So basically we had 48 available harvesters out there  
10 to hold a moose.

11

12                   I apologize, we did not get the exact  
13 numbers for the villages before I came, but I do know  
14 Grayling held the most by a pretty good margin. I  
15 think it was 24 and Anvik held a few of those permits  
16 at around 6. Holy Cross and Shageluk divided up the  
17 last 25 of those permits. Like I say, it's 55 permits  
18 and, of course, that's maybe a smaller number in  
19 respect to the fact it was limited to successful  
20 households from the fall hunt.

21

22                   The reported harvest for the hunt was 6  
23 moose, 4 cows, 2 bulls, and we did stress, according to  
24 the Yukon-Innoko Moose Management Plan, the harvest of  
25 bulls over cows if possible. We all understand the  
26 difficulty of that during the time they're without  
27 antlers. That was stressed and most of the villagers  
28 agreed to that. We thought it was a good idea and  
29 they're going to do their best to have that.

30

31                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Can you give that  
32 number again, 6 moose.....

33

34                   MR. HILL: Six moose with 4 cows and 2  
35 bulls. And as far as reporting goes, this is my first  
36 go around with a registered hunt or a hunt of any kind,  
37 so from the feedback I've been given from cooperators,  
38 BLM, Fish and Game, we actually had a pretty good  
39 reporting on this hunt. I would say within a day or  
40 two of the close of that 15-day period following the  
41 close of the hunt, I didn't write down the number here,  
42 but it was between 32 to 35 of the 55 permits harvest  
43 reports returned. Then we had some trickle in shortly  
44 after that, then I made phone calls directly and got  
45 most of them returned. I'm still missing three of the  
46 permits, so we got 52 of the 55 returned.

47

48                   Of the 52 reports returned, 23 reported  
49 that they had made no attempt to hunt, so that's pretty  
50 much a 44 percent return that there was no attempt to

1 hunt on those issued permits. That's with the  
2 designated and the registered combined. If you take  
3 away the designated hunters, it's still around 45  
4 percent hunting for the registered permits. Of course,  
5 some of that is only people intending to hunt, but if  
6 you throw in the designated hunters, it doesn't really  
7 change that percentage.

8  
9 As far as effort goes, we have returned  
10 days hunted on registered permits average hunt effort  
11 about nine and a half days on registered permits. So,  
12 along with that there was a special action request  
13 submitted by the village of Holy Cross for a season  
14 extension on the basis of poor weather conditions and  
15 economic restraints that minimized their opportunity to  
16 harvest a moose. Of course, I can speak for Innoko, we  
17 did oppose this based on the extension of the hunt and  
18 the conditions of the hunt. I won't speak for other  
19 agencies, but the InterAgency Staff Committee did deny  
20 the extension, so that basically ended with that.

21  
22 So, with that, I guess that's all I  
23 have and I will field any questions.

24  
25 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

26  
27 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Any questions from  
28 the Council.

29  
30 (No comments)

31  
32 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I'm surprised at the  
33 people -- was it a shallow snow year? Did you say nine  
34 and a half days per permit that hunted?

35  
36 MR. HILL: That's correct. Nine and a  
37 half days for a returned permit that hunted reported.  
38 The average was nine and a half days. As far as the  
39 weather conditions go, from all accounts from the  
40 hunters I talked to when they returned their harvest  
41 report and talking to the tribal councils and whatnot,  
42 the hunt conditions were overall good. Most folks did  
43 say they had plenty opportunity to go and hunt. That's  
44 what we relayed to OSM when they did their analysis and  
45 whatnot. I talked to a number of people and I had very  
46 few say anything about poor weather conditions.

47  
48 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I'm surprised at the  
49 low harvest for that kind of effort and the amount of  
50 time hunted in winter hunt. The encounter rate with

1 moose in winter is fairly high, especially when they  
2 concentrate like that, so I'm surprised by that number.

3

4 Any other questions from Council.

5

6 (No comments)

7

8 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I was real  
9 interested in this winter hunt because this is the  
10 first kind of data we're actually getting from  
11 participation and so forth and the harvest rates. Do  
12 you have any questions, Tim.

13

14 (No comments)

15

16 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: No questions from  
17 Tim.

18

19 MS. PELKOLA: Jack, I have a comment.

20

21 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, Jenny.

22

23 MS. PELKOLA: Not to pick on anybody,  
24 but in the future or whatever, I'm a visual person and  
25 maybe in the future when you have reports you can give  
26 us a little copy of it so we can sort of keep up.

27

28 MR. HILL: Yeah, definitely. I think  
29 with myself being the project lead on the moose  
30 management I can do kind of an overall moose management  
31 winter hunt type of report for the Council. Whatever  
32 other subjects you want covered on the report.

33

34 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Maybe a little  
35 handout with some of those statistics and so forth.  
36 Something you can carry home and review, so that might  
37 be a future use. But that all looks good. I don't  
38 think the Council has any further questions.  
39 Appreciate all the good work you're doing down there at  
40 Innoko. Good luck on the trapping schools and hope you  
41 get some harvest.

42

43 MR. HILL: Thanks a lot.

44

45 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: We've got 12:00  
46 o'clock. How are we doing on time here, Melinda.

47

48 MS. HERNANDEZ: I think lunch is going  
49 to be ready in about 20 minutes, so I think we're going  
50 to have Vince Mathews begin his presentations.

1                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay, sounds good.  
2 Vince.  
3  
4                   MR. MATHEWS: Thank you. This kind of  
5 reminds me when I got my first speeding ticket and went  
6 before the judge and the judge said to the bailiff,  
7 well, what can we do now. Well, we've got five more  
8 minutes before lunch and so they said, Mr. Mathews,  
9 what do you have to say.  
10  
11                   I said, well, I don't know.  
12  
13                   Okay, guilty.  
14  
15                   Time for lunch.  
16  
17                   (Laughter)  
18  
19                   MS. HERNANDEZ: I'm sorry, Mr. Chair.  
20 I'm sorry, Vince. I completely forgot that we have  
21 Josh leaving this afternoon. If we could have him  
22 quickly go. Sorry, Vince. My apologies.  
23  
24                   MR. MATHEWS: That's fine. That would  
25 be even better.  
26  
27                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. We have Josh  
28 leaving and we also have Geoff going to leave also. I  
29 guess we have to prioritize things. So, Josh, do you  
30 want to step up. We've dialogued with you a little bit  
31 during the meeting.  
32  
33                   Go ahead.  
34  
35                   MR. PEARCE: Yes. If you could bring  
36 up that presentation, just go to the first slide,  
37 please. So I'm Josh Pearce, Alaska Department of Fish  
38 and Game, the McGrath area office. I just have some  
39 biological data I put together. I wasn't really sure  
40 what you all might be interested in. So I've got a  
41 quick overview of 19D, 19A and 21E.  
42  
43                   This is the 19D population data that we  
44 have been collecting as part of the intensive  
45 management program and the research program that's been  
46 going on. In the middle column there, the moose  
47 management area, the short of it is you can see the  
48 moose population is about doubled since 2001. We're up  
49 around 1,800 moose in an approximately 1,100 square  
50 mile area. The further column to the right is a much

1 larger area. It's about 5,300 square miles. In that  
2 area, that's outside of where bear controls were  
3 originally conducted and the moose population has  
4 increased but not quite to the same extent.

5  
6 Next slide please. The calf/cow ratios  
7 in November, these are November surveys, looked really  
8 good. We were at 43 last year. We plan on doing more  
9 composition surveys again this year. Our bull/cow  
10 ratios are holding strong as well. Within the moose  
11 management area, you guys are familiar with the MMA,  
12 the term has changed. At one time bull/cow ratios did  
13 start to get to be low, all the river hunters. At any  
14 rate, we've had three seasons now where it's been open  
15 entirely within that area and, like I said, the  
16 bull/cow ratios are still looking good. So that's  
17 encouraging.

18  
19 Next slide please. One of our main  
20 metrics we're going to use now to keep track of this  
21 population since it has doubled is we don't want to end  
22 up with too many moose. That's the extreme end of  
23 going the other direction, but twinning rates are a  
24 really important measure of habitat quality. How many  
25 moose are having twins is directly correlated to that.  
26 So we've been collecting twinning data every year. Our  
27 two-year average right now is still at 33 percent.

28  
29 If you go to the next slide please, it  
30 shows our management strategies for the McGrath area  
31 office. As long as twinning rates are above 25  
32 percent, we're still going to promote growth, meaning  
33 continue with wolf and bear control. As those twinning  
34 rates start to decrease, which we would expect they  
35 would eventually, our management objectives will change  
36 based on those. Like I said, twinning rates are going  
37 to be a very important consideration in the near  
38 future.

39  
40 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Are you correlating  
41 snow? If you get two deep snow years in a row, that  
42 will reduce your twinning rates. Are you going to  
43 correlate snow depth to that?

44  
45 MR. PEARCE: Yeah, definitely. That's  
46 why we're using at a minimum these two year average  
47 twinning rates because you're absolutely right. In any  
48 one given year you can have twinning rates that vary  
49 pretty dramatically. So, yes, snow is definitely going  
50 to be a consideration in this.

1                               2009 on that previous slide showed 26  
2 percent twinning rate and that was following a deep  
3 snow year, so we were starting to wonder if we were  
4 maybe bumping up against some habitat issues, but I  
5 think it was that deep snow year.

6  
7                               Then the next slide, this will be at  
8 the Region 3 meeting in March. Again, another proposal  
9 that at your next meeting you might want to take up. I  
10 know you were skipping over those for now. There is a  
11 proposal, Proposal 141, and it would allow -- you may  
12 be aware that black bears were recently reclassified as  
13 a furbearer in addition to a big game species.  
14 Proposal 141 would allow trapping seasons under a  
15 trapping license independent of predator control that  
16 allowed trapping season for black bears. Currently --  
17 I'd have to read the proposal, but for the McGrath area  
18 office the two game units included are 19A and 19D. I  
19 did speak to the GASH about it and they were supportive  
20 of it, but they didn't make an amendment to include 21E  
21 as well.

22  
23                               Next slide please. If at any time  
24 there's questions, please interrupt me. This is  
25 something I wanted to point out, a difference between  
26 the Federal regulations and the State regulations. At  
27 the last Board meeting in 2010 the Upper Kuskokwim  
28 Controlled Use Area was changed to this corridor to  
29 better suit the management goals and needs of 19D. The  
30 one in the Federal reg book is a much larger area. So  
31 i just bring this to your attention. I'm not sure what  
32 you may or may not want to do with it. With the  
33 current harvest structure that we have, this suits or  
34 needs much better than what was in place.

35  
36                               Next slide please. Actually, I've gone  
37 over these, so you can skip the next few all the way to  
38 that map and even the next one, please. So 19A I went  
39 over already. 21E, as Jerry mentioned, we're going to  
40 be doing another survey this year. 21E has been an  
41 area where we've had a lot of cooperative efforts with  
42 BLM and Innoko National Wildlife Refuge, so this data  
43 has been collected in conjunction with them. I'm just  
44 presenting it, but they were certainly part of it.

45  
46                               Our objective there now is to start  
47 doing a survey every three years as part of following  
48 up on the plan. It appears that the moose population  
49 may have grown a little bit, but again those confidence  
50 intervals overlap, so we can't really say that. Geoff

1 is actually going to speak a little bit more to that  
2 survey coming up in March related to some of the  
3 collaring stuff, so that's kind of the segway for what  
4 he'll present.

5  
6 Next slide please. The composition  
7 data, this is collected in November. Again, we've got  
8 really good calf/cow ratios. That one year in 2009 we  
9 had that real bad flooding on the Yukon that spring and  
10 we really think that's why those calf numbers were so  
11 low that year. Also we had just 32 bulls per 100 cows  
12 that year. We had really bad weather. We weren't able  
13 to survey the whole area where we typically see a lot  
14 of bulls. So that year, 2009, those are kind of  
15 anomalies. I think the numbers on either side of that  
16 are really more reflective of what we have over there.

17  
18 Next slide, please. Finally twinning  
19 rates are great over there. There's no indication at  
20 all that we're up against any kind of habitat issues at  
21 all. So it appears there's room for more growth in  
22 that population, which is exactly what the moose  
23 management plan called for; some conservative  
24 management while we allow that population to grow.

25  
26 Next slide. Finally, I'd like to give a  
27 real quick update. I know people are always interested  
28 in wood bison. As I said, Randy Rogers just recently  
29 retired. Tom Seaton, the assistant area biologist in  
30 Fairbanks, was reassigned duties and he's now the wood  
31 bison project biologist, so that's a name you might  
32 start to see in here more often.

33  
34 Next slide, please. Currently the Fish  
35 and Wildlife Service is working on a 10(j) rule. Kind  
36 of the hangup right now is hunting. Fish and Game is  
37 really insistent that there be a hunting provision in  
38 there. It sounds like there's a lot of support from  
39 Fish and Wildlife Service as well, but they're still  
40 working on that. They're hopeful that the timing of  
41 the final rule will be in late 2012, which is still a  
42 ways off.

43  
44 Next slide, please. The good news is  
45 there's still lots of support for this project from  
46 lots of folks. The Innoko Flats, Lower Innoko River  
47 where it comes into the Yukon, is still the most  
48 politically viable release site. Biologically it was  
49 not the first choice, but for other reasons it has  
50 bubbled up to the first choice. Still hoping for 2013

1 target release date and the Shageluk area would be the  
2 area where they would be released.

3

4                   There's a couple other things too, I  
5 guess. There's a possibility that wood bison could be  
6 de-listed or completely removed from the Endangered  
7 Species Act altogether. We're not holding our breath,  
8 I guess, on that and we're pursuing the 10(j) rule.  
9 But if something like that were to happen, it would  
10 improve the chances of a release on Yukon Flats or  
11 Minto Flats pretty dramatically. All along Yukon Flats  
12 really has been the preferred location.

13

14                   The last bullet there, challenges  
15 staying on hold, that's -- these bison have been in  
16 captivity now longer than anybody anticipated. There's  
17 103 of them now at the Alaska Wildlife Conservation  
18 Center in Portage, so they're kind of running out of  
19 room down there. These animals need to get out on the  
20 landscape or have something else happen.

21

22                   Yeah, Ray.

23

24                   MR. COLLINS: Josh, with the numbers  
25 that they have now, is it possible that they would  
26 locate in more than one place? You're saying if they  
27 were taken off the endangered, Yukon Flats would be the  
28 preferred. Would they still be able to do something  
29 over here with the numbers they have?

30

31                   MR. PEARCE: Yeah, all the animals  
32 would not be release at one time. I'm not sure what  
33 the initial group of animals to be released is. That  
34 would be a question for Tom. But they would still have  
35 some there. If they were de-listed or down-listed,  
36 then there would be a lot of interest in pursuing one  
37 of those other sites, like Yukon Flats.

38

39                   That is all I have. Like I said, that  
40 was just a quick wood bison update. If you guys have  
41 more detailed questions, Tom Seaton is a great resource  
42 now to talk to.

43

44                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: One comment. My  
45 legislator, Alan Dick, tried to throw a legislative  
46 bill in the legislature to preclude release of wood  
47 bison in Unit 21E and I wrote him extensive letters  
48 about that issue. I felt he didn't consult the public  
49 or the advisory committees or anybody else. He just  
50 started doing stuff. I was highly annoyed with his

1 position on the wood bison issue since all the work  
2 we've done on trying to get these wood bison released.

3

4

5 So I wanted to make the Council aware  
6 that there is legislators that are basically not  
7 listening to the public, basically kind of working for  
8 certain -- I'm not sure. The Miner's Association  
9 seemed to be the driving force of that position.  
10 That's what their position is, no release of wood bison  
11 in this game management unit. I was concerned about  
12 Alan Dick's position on that issue. That's another mix  
13 of the wood bison release, trying to constrain the  
14 Department from releasing them.

15

16 Any questions for Josh on his  
17 presentation.

18

19 (No comments)

20

21 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks, Josh.  
22 Appreciate that.

23

24 MR. PEARCE: Yeah, okay. I guess just  
25 one last quick thing. Like I said, I just put together  
26 some biological information and certainly in the future  
27 when I'm able to attend if there's specific topics you  
28 guys are interested in, I'm happy to address that. You  
29 know, we have a lot more going on in our office than  
30 just this and I'm happy to bring any of that to you  
31 guys that you're interested in.

32

33 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I really appreciate  
34 your work there in McGrath.

35

36 MS. YATLIN: Jack.

37

38 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Eleanor.

39

40 MS. YATLIN: Just a question. The wood  
41 bison and you mentioned Minto Flats and Yukon Flats.  
42 You're saying they want to put some there too?

43

44 MR. PEARCE: Yeah, originally when this  
45 whole process started, three sites were identified as  
46 prospective sites; Yukon Flats, Minto Flats and the  
47 Lower Innoko. Yukon Flats really is the premiere site  
48 I guess you'd call it. There's lot of available wood  
49 bison habitat there. Minto Flats has a great spot as  
50 well. It's logistically the easiest plan. You can

1 drive to it with a truck, so they could truck the  
2 animals there. So, yeah, there's a lot of interest in  
3 those sites, but for other reasons those sites weren't  
4 politically tenable, I guess.

5  
6 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Any other questions,  
7 comments from the Council.

8  
9 (No comments)

10  
11 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks, Josh. We  
12 have how much time now Melinda?

13  
14 MS. HERNANDEZ: We can move on.

15  
16 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So, Geoff, you need  
17 to depart also.

18  
19 MR. BEYERSDORF: Mr. Chair, members of  
20 the Council. I guess real quick, just because I'm  
21 following up behind Josh and the Innoko Refuge. I  
22 guess one of the things I've seen since being on board  
23 with this Council is that you've really been requesting  
24 information on 21E and 21A and I'd really like to  
25 publically acknowledge the partnership that we've been  
26 able to form with BLM, Fish and Wildlife Service and  
27 Fish and Game. I think we've really got a really good  
28 core group that has been working hard to get  
29 information back to you guys for making decisions and I  
30 want to thank them for that. It's not just the  
31 agencies, it's the personalities involved. I've really  
32 enjoyed working with this group.

33  
34 What I was going to do real quick, just  
35 kind of give you an update as far as the satellite  
36 collar stuff. I put the posters up behind you a couple  
37 days ago when we first got here and then I'll go into  
38 my agency report.

39  
40 The first slide kind of goes back to  
41 the one that's on the far left there behind Pollock.  
42 What I wanted to do there is just show you this is all  
43 the data we have to date. That's all 18 months for all  
44 of the 42 collared animals that we have out there now.  
45 We originally collared 54 animals. We've had some  
46 harvest and some predation and some unknowns. We've  
47 had six animals so far that we've had to -- that we've  
48 either had harvest -- one female was predated, one male  
49 was legally harvested, one male has been poached and  
50 the other three we don't know the status of them. Fish

1 and Game worked to re-deploy some of the collars. I  
2 think they put three of them back out there, so now  
3 we're up to 52 collars, 22 on bulls and 30 on the cows.  
4 Of those collars, 42 of them are the GPS collars and  
5 this represents those 42 GPS collars that we have out  
6 there.

7

8 Part of the reason I wanted to show  
9 this to you guys was for you to take a look at these  
10 maps and stuff to give us an idea. Are there any  
11 patterns that we're seeing, does any of this fall in  
12 with some of your traditional knowledge as far as where  
13 their movement is and when they're moving and such. So  
14 just kind of to put that thought in your mind to be  
15 able to talk to us later as far as what we're seeing  
16 and what you guys are seeing.

17

18 The other thing I wanted to do was  
19 remind you guys as far as some of the objectives for  
20 this whole project. Part of it is to look at where the  
21 cows are and give us some better numbers as far as the  
22 twinning surveys because then we can just go to those  
23 collared locations and see how many calves each of  
24 those cows have. We're also looking at testing  
25 visibility of the bulls and the cows when we're out  
26 doing the GSPE surveys to give us a better population  
27 estimate as far as is there a portion of the population  
28 that we're missing. If we know that we've got collared  
29 animals in an area, we can go back in and that gives us  
30 a percent as far as the portion that we're missing.

31

32 One of the other things that I think  
33 you guys are very interested in is what's going on with  
34 this moose population during the fall hunting season.  
35 Are they there when people are out there hunting.

36

37 Lastly, and I talked a little bit about  
38 it already, in regards to getting a better idea as far  
39 as the population size and estimating the twinning  
40 rates.

41

42 With that, I'll go to the next slide.  
43 What I did here -- and this is the one that's right  
44 behind Jenny. I just picked two animals. I picked a  
45 bull and a cow and just wanted to see where they were  
46 migrating throughout the last 18 months. It's color  
47 coded, so like green in March with a star is 2010, a  
48 green circle in 2011 is that same animal.

49

50 So one of the bulls there, bull number

1 19, is the one that you're seeing that -- when we  
2 originally captured him, he's been going up into that  
3 Anvik River drainage, so from the original capture  
4 point to there is about 97 miles and he seems to have a  
5 migratory pattern roughly about 60 miles. He goes down  
6 to the river in the wintertime and then in the  
7 summertime he's been heading up into the upper part of  
8 the Anvik drainage.

9

10 The cow there, she moved from the  
11 original capture point right outside Reindeer Lake  
12 about 100 miles up into the Holikachuk area, and you  
13 can see she's been kind of moving back and forth.  
14 She's using that one area there to the west there.  
15 That's where she's been calving and then after she  
16 calves she ends up kind of doing the circle back and  
17 forth. About the same pattern for the last two years  
18 for those same two individuals.

19

20 One of the things that I wanted you  
21 guys to see here is an idea that Fish and Game and Fish  
22 and Wildlife Service and BLM have been talking about as  
23 far as an Adopt a Moose Program within the schools.  
24 This is the type of data that we can bring in to the  
25 school system and the kids could literally adopt a  
26 moose and we could have them follow their moose on a  
27 monthly basis as it travels around and it gives us a  
28 chance to talk about -- you know, we could talk about  
29 TEK, moose biology, predation, snow depths affecting  
30 survivability, fire history as far as how that  
31 influences where they're going, things like that.

32

33 Next slide. This is the last slide I  
34 have. Basically when I talk to Fish and Game and Fish  
35 and Wildlife Services as far as what to present to you  
36 guys, one of the thoughts that we had is just to show  
37 you how we use this data. One of the things in March  
38 -- this next March we're going to get ready to do the  
39 GSPE population estimate again. This helps us not only  
40 when we're out doing the surveys, if we end up missing  
41 a portion, we've got what they call a mothership or a  
42 godship which will tell us, okay, you just went in and  
43 you surveyed this lot, but you missed a collared animal  
44 in there, so then you've got to go back and find it.  
45 So it will give us a better idea as far as the percent  
46 of the population that we're missing and then we can  
47 put that into what's called a scientific correction  
48 factor to get a better population estimate for 21E  
49 moose.

50

1                   So that's all that I had really on the  
2 collaring stuff. I don't know if you guys have any  
3 questions on that specifically before I go into my  
4 agency report.

5  
6                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Any questions from  
7 the Council on the moose collaring project. Ray.

8  
9                   MR. COLLINS: Will you at some time be  
10 showing us a winter versus summer? Like you have their  
11 movement throughout the year on the one map that shows  
12 all of that on there, but maps that show winter and  
13 summer might more clearly see if there's a pattern in  
14 where they're moving to.

15  
16                   MR. BEYERSDORF: You know, Ray, there's  
17 actually a lot that we can do with this data. That is  
18 definitely one thing that we can do with this. What  
19 I'd like to see is for Fish and Game and Fish and  
20 Wildlife Service to sit down with us and figure out  
21 what types of questions that you guys have and what  
22 types of questions we have. We can query this  
23 database. This is just me literally writing in there  
24 and saying, okay, tell me where moose number 36 went  
25 and then bam, it just gives me all that information.  
26 That's the beauty of these satellite collars, is you  
27 can really separate out stuff like that.

28  
29                   MR. COLLINS: Yeah, I was thinking it  
30 would be useful sometime when we're going to have fall  
31 versus winter hunts and so on to see what areas maybe  
32 should be protected if they're too accessible. Like  
33 they've already closed some of the Yukon River islands  
34 out there because they're so vulnerable there. But  
35 that kind of information I think would be useful in  
36 separating maybe fall and winter hunts.

37  
38                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Other questions or  
39 comments from the Council.

40  
41                   (No comments)

42  
43                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: My comment would be  
44 I'm very happy to see almost a 50/50 ratio of bulls to  
45 cows being collared because bulls are the hunted  
46 component. The other collaring projects there's a high  
47 component of cows, but that only gives basic range of  
48 the production portion. I do think that this telemetry  
49 data is going to be very important in administering the  
50 winter hunt. The correction faction on these huge

1 swings in some of the Unit 21E data, where moose were  
2 at. It's apparent that it was hard to catch those bull  
3 -- and get those bull/cow ratios.

4  
5 This telemetry project is very  
6 important and I'm extremely happy there's a good  
7 working relationship with BLM, Alaska Department of  
8 Fish and Game and U.S. Fish and Wildlife on this  
9 project. I'm extremely happy to see that the long-term  
10 objective of sustainability of this moose population  
11 and understanding these moose. So I appreciate all the  
12 work.

13  
14 Personalities are a big part of that  
15 and I acknowledge your portion of this, Geoff, and  
16 working to bring these entities together. I do hope  
17 that your replacement actually has that same ability to  
18 maintain a cohesion with the three agencies that are  
19 involved in this project.

20  
21 Thank you on this portion.

22  
23 Continue.

24  
25 MR. BEYERSDORF: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
26 Members of the Council. This is my report on behalf of  
27 the BLM Anchorage field office. One of the first  
28 things I wanted to lead off with, one of the things I  
29 guess that I've heard from this Council is that you  
30 really want to get young people involved in natural  
31 resources management and trying to promote them in not  
32 only positions within the agencies but also in trying  
33 to develop some positions within the tribal  
34 governments.

35  
36 BLM, last year, signed a cooperative  
37 agreement with the Alaska Native Science and  
38 Engineering Program and this year we hired three rural  
39 Native students for internship programs. One of them  
40 worked in the biology program, one of them worked with  
41 mining compliance and another one worked as a fisheries  
42 biologist up on the Unalakleet.

43  
44 Part of what that program involves is  
45 they end up spending part of the summer with us,  
46 anywhere from four weeks to 12 weeks and then once they  
47 finish up with that BLM gives them a scholarship  
48 through the ANSEP program. They get a \$5,000  
49 scholarship to attend UAA. The goal is that these  
50 students keep coming back and then hopefully once

1 they're done and graduated if there's positions that  
2 can be found either within the agencies or within their  
3 own tribal councils that they're better prepared for  
4 those types of positions. So it's something I've been  
5 extremely proud of. BLM has been able to come to the  
6 table on this this year, so I wanted to pass that  
7 along.

8  
9 I brought some packets about the ANSEP  
10 program if any of you are interested in taking it back  
11 to your village and sharing it with your councils, I'd  
12 really appreciate that. I think one of the things that  
13 I've been seeing in several of the villages they're not  
14 even aware of this program. From my perspective -- I  
15 mean it goes all the way down to junior high, they give  
16 internships. They bring the student into Anchorage.  
17 They can work with an agency. Then those students,  
18 when they come into Anchorage at the junior high and  
19 high school level, they also get to take math and  
20 science classes for the rest of the summer. So I  
21 really would like to promote this program and if you  
22 guys can help in any way in promoting that back to your  
23 councils I'd appreciate that.

24  
25 Moving on to the Iditarod, I wanted to  
26 pass along some information. BLM worked with the  
27 Takotna Community Association to get a tripod trail  
28 system set up from Tolstoi over to Iditarod. This  
29 winter BLM is going to continue working with the local  
30 community associations to do the trail from Iditarod  
31 over to Shageluk.

32  
33 Also, Ray, this is something I wanted  
34 to talk to you about if we get a chance after lunch  
35 today, but BLM is working with the Alaska National  
36 Public Radio to do a segment on the history of mining  
37 in the Iditarod Flat area. There's also been a couple  
38 publications that have been put together in regards to  
39 the history of the Iditarod Trail itself. I brought  
40 some examples with me if you guys are interested in  
41 that.

42  
43 One of the things that I was hoping to  
44 get from this Council if you're interested, it doesn't  
45 have to happen today, but I'd really like to get some  
46 feedback. BLM has been putting a lot of energy into  
47 not only the new cabins that they put up on the trail,  
48 but also in regards to the trail itself and whether  
49 that's been something that you guys view that we should  
50 continue doing or not and has it been helpful to

1 people.

2

3                   We ended up putting up one of the  
4 cabins in Unalakleet and there was a guy that was  
5 coming back from a hunting trip and he said that cabin  
6 saved my life. He was partly frozen, thought he was  
7 going to lose some of his toes and it was the fact that  
8 the cabin was there, he knew it was there, he was able  
9 to stop in, get himself warmed up and everything after  
10 a caribou hunt on the Seward Peninsula. So that's part  
11 of why we're putting these out there. They're safety  
12 shelters. I want to see if it's beneficial to the  
13 community.

14

15                   I realize we've got to move through  
16 fairly quickly here because you guys want to go to  
17 lunch. One of the things I think is really important  
18 and I'd like you guys to be updated on is the Donlin  
19 Creek Mine. They've approached the BLM about putting  
20 in a natural gas pipeline from the Cook Inlet area all  
21 the way to Donlin. This last summer they ended up  
22 working on the archaeological studies and some of the  
23 wetlands delineation. They've also done a bunch of the  
24 fisheries work along that trail.

25

26                   What they're looking at doing is  
27 putting in a 12-inch gas pipeline. They're going to  
28 have a valve system like every 50 miles that they can  
29 shut off. For some of the smaller streams, they're  
30 probably just going to cross over those streams because  
31 the pipeline is so small. For some of the bigger  
32 stream systems obviously they're going to have to go  
33 under that.

34

35                   They're going to be putting together an  
36 EIS hopefully sometime this next year and I think it's  
37 going to be very important for you guys to pay  
38 attention for when that comes out and to be able to  
39 comment on that because I know that's going to affect  
40 all of your communities and it's going to affect some  
41 of the subsistence resources potentially in the area.  
42 So I'd really like to see you guys give feedback on  
43 that.

44

45                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: When does that come  
46 out again, the EIS?

47

48                   MR. BEYERSDORF: Through the Chair. We  
49 don't have a specific date yet. What we're hoping is  
50 by next spring that will be put out. The Army Corps of

1 Engineers is going to be the lead agency because of all  
2 the water crossings that are going to be occurring on  
3 this.

4  
5                   Lastly, what I had was in regards to  
6 some of the 21E moose stuff that we've been doing. I  
7 just wanted to let you know this GPS collar design was  
8 a new system that we used, so one of the things we  
9 agreed to do was when the bulls, after the rut, we  
10 would go back and check some of the bulls and we did do  
11 that this last October. It looked like there were no  
12 issues with the expansion of the collars and any  
13 potential health affects when the bulls were in the rut  
14 as far as constricting the necks or anything like that.

15  
16                   Also Fish and Game approached BLM in  
17 regards to being able to put out some snow stakes and  
18 they did that just this last month. They put out 10  
19 new snow stakes that are in this area where all the  
20 satellite collars are, so we can use that in  
21 conjunction with some of the snow stakes that the  
22 Innoko Refuge already has out. I believe they've got  
23 nine snow takes out on the Refuge there. So we can  
24 look at all of that information as a whole not only to  
25 look at impacts to moose, but also in regards to -- I  
26 know NRCS uses that for breakup information as far as  
27 flooding and stuff downriver.

28  
29                   The other thing I have is just that  
30 we're going to be -- and I think Josh already mentioned  
31 this, that we're going to be working with Fish and Game  
32 and Fish and Wildlife Service to help out with that  
33 GSPE moose survey in March. Two last things I have is  
34 that BLM was able to put some money together to develop  
35 a subsistence newsletter for the GASH area. What we'd  
36 potentially like to include in that is interviews with  
37 WIRAC members, with AC members, the trapping/snaring  
38 clinic that the Refuge is putting on with Fish and  
39 Game. Also some of the sharing, as Josh showed you,  
40 some of the twinning and the comp data for the area.  
41 Talk about some of the winter harvest opportunities and  
42 the whole permit process, cow conservation, traditional  
43 knowledge and such.

44  
45                   So I think Fish and Game and Fish and  
46 Wildlife Service will be working on that later this  
47 winter. In two weeks I have a meeting with Fish and  
48 Game and Fish and Wildlife Service on October 20th in  
49 McGrath to talk about being able to use some of the  
50 satellite collar information to try and develop a rural

1 outreach, rural education program in the villages. So  
2 I'm very pleased about that and really hoping that it  
3 moves forward. Being able to kind of set how we want  
4 to move it forward. What do the school districts need  
5 and what are the tools that we have. You know, can  
6 some of this fit that.

7

8 The last thing I have in regards to BLM  
9 to share is budget. I'm sure you guys have heard it  
10 from Fish and Wildlife Service and the Park Service  
11 already, but we are definitely looking at some budget  
12 reductions. What's been talked about is a 5 percent  
13 reduction coming into this next fiscal year and a 10  
14 percent reduction for 2013.

15

16 With that, that ends my report and I'll  
17 take any questions that you have.

18

19 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Any comments,  
20 questions from the Council. Did you have any  
21 questions, Tim.

22

23 MR. GERVAIS: No questions. I'd just  
24 like to thank Geoff for all his effort and work  
25 throughout the years in the Western Interior Region and  
26 myself and our community of Ruby wishes you good luck  
27 in your new life in Montana. We'll miss you.

28

29 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks, Tim. Ditto.  
30 Any other questions from the Council on Geoff's  
31 presentation.

32

33 MR. GERVAIS: I had one more question.

34

35 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Tim, go ahead.

36

37 MR. GERVAIS: Geoff, is this GPS  
38 information available online anywhere or is there any  
39 way to track this down on the internet?

40

41 MR. BEYERSDORF: Through the Chair to  
42 Member Gervais. No, it's currently not available  
43 online. We definitely have some concerns in regards to  
44 how quickly the data could be available to people. We  
45 don't want them to misuse the information, so we  
46 haven't put this online at this point. Like the  
47 information we're sharing with the school, we're doing  
48 a 30-60 day delay on what we share just because we  
49 don't want to see people misuse the information we  
50 provide.

1                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: They do a collaring  
2 project up where I'm at and I would like to be able to  
3 see even six month delay or a long period delay, but I  
4 would like to see what kind of activity has been going  
5 on. I used to get a little bit of occasional printouts  
6 on that. I know they had problems with people finding  
7 out where caribou were specifically at and people  
8 specifically hunting populations, but I think it's  
9 become a little bit too restrictive on people actually  
10 accessing some of this information other than sporadic  
11 little displays like you've mapped out here.

12  
13                   I would like the public and Council  
14 members and so forth to be able to access that data on  
15 a three-month delay or longer period delay or however  
16 you appropriately feel it would be to protect the  
17 resource, but I would also like the public to be able  
18 to see what's actually going on with these moose, take  
19 time to mull it over. Those would be my comments, sort  
20 of what Tim was getting at.

21  
22                   MR. BEYERSDORF: To the Chair. That is  
23 something that we have discussed. I had a meeting in  
24 July with Fish and Game in Fairbanks and we realized  
25 people would like to have access to this information,  
26 so we've been talking about how do we want to approach  
27 that. I just think we need to be careful as far as how  
28 we do approach it.

29  
30                   What we've been potentially looking at  
31 as a template is what goes on with the Western Arctic  
32 Herd. Fish and Game allows that information to be  
33 accessed online and there is a delay as to what  
34 information is provided. They give maps kind of like  
35 this and we have been looking at that as a potential  
36 template to follow. I expect that when we have this  
37 meeting in October in McGrath this is going to be one  
38 of the things we discuss.

39  
40                   MR. COLLINS: Geoff, question. Is  
41 there a date on that McGrath meeting?

42  
43                   MR. BEYERSDORF: It's October 20th and  
44 it's going to be between the school district, Fish and  
45 Game, Fish and Wildlife and BLM. I think it's the 20th  
46 and 21st if we don't get everything finished up.

47  
48                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Any other questions  
49 or comments.  
50

1 (No comments)

2

3 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Geoff, go ahead.

4

5 MR. BEYERSDORF: Through the Chair,  
6 members of the Council. If I might be allowed some  
7 parting comments myself.

8

9 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Oh, please do.

10

11 MR. BEYERSDORF: One of the things in  
12 coming over to BLM that I was really hoping to achieve  
13 is to make BLM more relevant to the communities and to  
14 the Council and I really hope that some of the things  
15 that I have done have helped in that regard. One of  
16 the things that I really wanted to pass along was that,  
17 you know, I've been here for 10 years now and I'm  
18 really happy to see somebody like Jenny sitting up  
19 here. It's because of being able to get out there and  
20 visit with her and seeing what's going on in her fish  
21 camp and realizing that she had an interest and it  
22 would be beneficial to this Council.

23

24 I've learned from this Council a lot,  
25 from every one of you in regards to your passion for  
26 the resource. One of the things I was thinking of last  
27 night when I was going to get your 7-Up there was that  
28 I have also really learned from you guys as far as  
29 working with people and working with communities and I  
30 really appreciate that. I know that we get along well  
31 and I think part of it is that it's just been me kind  
32 of sitting back and learning some lessons from you guys  
33 and I've really enjoyed that.

34

35 I wanted to say that it's really been  
36 an honor to work with this Council. Thank you for that  
37 opportunity. This has been -- you know, I deal with  
38 several different Regional Advisory Councils and this  
39 is the best Council that I've worked with over the 10  
40 years that I've been working in this system and I  
41 wanted to say thank you for that opportunity.

42

43 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: We appreciate your  
44 comments, Geoff. You worked for Koyukuk-Nowitna and  
45 you've worked with this Council for many years. Ray  
46 and I have been on here a long time. I'm very happy  
47 that you went -- I hated to lose you out of  
48 Koyukuk-Nowitna, but then when you went to BLM and then  
49 you worked to build consensus here and this area had  
50 some real problems, so I'm really happy with what

1 you've done and accomplished for the resource here.

2

3 I personally will feel a loss of your  
4 presence, but I do wish you well in your new endeavor  
5 and you're always welcome back at our fire.

6

7 MR. BEYERSDORF: Thank you.

8

9 MR. COLLINS: Yeah, I also would like  
10 to thank you for all your efforts on our behalf. I  
11 really appreciate people that appreciate subsistence  
12 and what we're trying to do. One of the challenges we  
13 have as a committee with the turnover of personnel,  
14 we're always having new people from the State, some  
15 that know nothing about Alaska or nothing about  
16 subsistence coming into position, sometimes of great  
17 importance to our activities here and then we have to  
18 try to orient them to what's going on.

19

20 So anything you've done in terms of  
21 making your agency aware of the importance of this  
22 program is really appreciated. It takes people with  
23 experience to do that. I wish we could require you to  
24 indoctrinate or bring your replacement up to date  
25 before you leave, but that's not in our prerogative.

26

27 Thank you for your work.

28

29 MR. BEYERSDORF: If I indoctrinate  
30 anybody, I think one of the things I'm going to require  
31 that they do is every Saturday night they get together  
32 with Jenny and just play cards because that was one of  
33 the best learning experiences that I ever had.

34

35 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Final comments from  
36 the Council.

37

38 MS. PELKOLA: I have one.

39

40 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, Jenny.

41

42 MS. PELKOLA: I don't have anything to  
43 say, but I just wrote him a little note so he can take  
44 his note.

45

46 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Jenny is  
47 passing notes.

48

49 (Laughter)

50

1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks a lot, Geoff.  
2 Appreciate that.

3  
4 (Applause)

5  
6 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So we're at lunch  
7 break now and we'll come back at about quarter after  
8 1:00 or 1:30. 1:30 is good. Yeah, we're 12:30 right  
9 now.

10  
11 (Off record)

12  
13 (On record)

14  
15 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I did meet Gene  
16 Virden, who is the Regional Director for the Bureau of  
17 Indian Affairs and he's a seated Board member. So I  
18 would like the Council to meet one of the Board  
19 members. Gene, come on up to the mike. We had Geoff  
20 Haskett meet the Council two years ago here in Aniak,  
21 so I always like the Council to meet the Board members.  
22 They make the decisions that we're advising them on.

23  
24 Go ahead, Gene.

25  
26 MR. VIRDEN: Hi. I think I may have  
27 met Mr. Morgan before, but I don't think I've met any  
28 of the rest of you. I started as a Regional Director  
29 here on January 30th of this year. I had a lot of  
30 practice, 13 months practice, before then as the  
31 acting.

32  
33 Just to tell a little bit about myself.  
34 I was a CPA in the private sector for 14 years and I  
35 started working with the Bureau of Indian Affairs in  
36 Juneau in 1988. After that I went to Washington for a  
37 while and Minnesota. I was superintendent of a  
38 Minnesota agency back where my home tribe is from,  
39 White Earth, Minnesota Chippewa Tribe.

40  
41 What really happened is our youngest  
42 son moved back to Alaska where he was pretty much  
43 raised. We have two boys. Raised them in Juneau. And  
44 got married and started having grandkids up here in  
45 Chugiak, so my wife went berserk. Get a job up there.  
46 If you want to live with me, get a job, so I did.

47  
48 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: You did well.

49  
50 MR. VIRDEN: Well, I got a hold of

1 Niles Cesar and he brought me back as superintendent.  
2 My career is kind of funny because it's like mountain  
3 peaks and valleys. It's not a money path that goes up.  
4 But I've always been able to live where I wanted to and  
5 I wanted to come back to Alaska anyway, so this worked  
6 out good.

7  
8 I've attended one other RAC meeting. I  
9 did try to get to this one yesterday, but got stuck in  
10 Bethel. I had some other business there, so it worked  
11 out okay with AVCP. I went to the RAC meeting up in  
12 Mountain Village. It was in February or March. I want  
13 to try to get to at least three. I'm trying to hit  
14 different parts of the country when I do it up here.

15  
16 I haven't been here very long and I'm  
17 leaving at 4:00 today, but just to hear what the locals  
18 have to say, because we don't hear that in Anchorage.  
19 I'm not as concerned about the RAC meetings in  
20 Anchorage. I want to get out into where the  
21 subsistence users live.

22  
23 If there's any questions.

24  
25 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Does any Council  
26 members have questions for Gene.

27  
28 (No comments)

29  
30 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: No. I do appreciate  
31 you attending our meetings and seeing how the  
32 deliberation process works here and some of the echoes  
33 in the room. Some of the things people deal with here,  
34 lack of internet and this and that. There's certain  
35 constraints to having these Council meetings in  
36 villages. We're a platform for people, so I'm always  
37 encouraging people to step up to the mike. I think we  
38 covered everybody that wanted to speak at this meeting.

39  
40  
41 I do always appreciate Federal Board  
42 members coming out to the communities. Over the years  
43 we've had various -- Judy Gottlieb and various people  
44 that came to see these proceedings, so I appreciate  
45 that. Thanks, Gene.

46  
47 MR. VIRDEN: Thank you.

48  
49 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Glad to see another  
50 Board member out in rural Alaska. So we have Vince

1 Mathews up and Vince is going to give us Kanuti  
2 National Wildlife Refuge and then we'll go back to BLM.  
3 We took Geoff Beyersdorf out of cycle and we'll be  
4 going back to the BLM presentation and I have some  
5 issues there with the dall sheep issues.

6

7                   Go ahead, Vince.

8

9                   MR. MATHEWS: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
10 First, I'd like to apologize for arriving late to the  
11 meeting. That's not my usual pattern. But when you  
12 work for three Refuges and other agencies have already  
13 mentioned this, we're going through looking at  
14 uncertain budgets and budget cuts. Just to give you an  
15 idea for Yukon Flats, where I'm actually housed, we  
16 have five empty positions that we're not filling. Two  
17 of those are refuge information technicians, which I  
18 would have been supervising, so our eyes and ears in  
19 the village and out there in the field are less. So I  
20 needed to go to an annual planning meeting for Yukon  
21 Flats on Monday, so I apologize for being late.

22

23                   On Page 297 is the report. If you want  
24 to take a look at that. I'm not sure how to present  
25 this. I know in the past when Kanuti has presented  
26 this it's always asked is this the format you'd like  
27 and et cetera, so if you have any comments on the  
28 format of this report please let me know. The Staff  
29 puts these together pretty much based on previous  
30 reports.

31

32                   So, with that, on the moose one there  
33 was a moose twinning survey conducted by Fish and Game  
34 in late May and early June in parts of Game Management  
35 Unit 24A and 24B. You realize 24B you had quite a bit  
36 of discussion about on the moose population. In here  
37 you'll see the data that's there. The main thing I  
38 would like to point out is that in the second paragraph  
39 there, if they're assuming a 90 percent calving rate,  
40 then it should be 120 calves per 100 cows in 2011. In  
41 the last survey they found 33 calves per 100 cows.

42

43                   Radio telemetry. Paralleling with what  
44 Geoff talked about, you put so many radio collars on  
45 moose, but either mortality or harvest reduce that, so  
46 six more were deployed on the Refuge in late October  
47 2009, so this restored the number of collared moose to  
48 28. What does all that mean. I think Tim Craig wrote  
49 this. I think it's important and you talked about it  
50 earlier that the GPS collars will likely help improve

1 our understanding of habitat use by, and movements of,  
2 moose on the Refuge. Ray actually mentioned that.  
3 Innoko, I know, many years ago was key into finding out  
4 the important habitat happened to be winter habitat in  
5 the production of moose. There's more information on  
6 that.

7

8 For my little world, I'm the permitting  
9 person for Kanuti, Arctic and Yukon Flats, so I oversee  
10 I think it's nine permits and assist with two more.  
11 What I want to let you know is right now I'm working on  
12 trying to set up a system. Let me back up a little  
13 bit. The system is decentralized. What does that  
14 mean. Each of your conservation units or offices now  
15 issue the permits and enter the data. They do not go  
16 to just Anchorage regional office. They put them in  
17 when they can. Now it's going to each of those units.  
18 So that means in my opinion it will be a quicker  
19 turnaround in time.

20

21 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Stand by a second  
22 here, Vince. For those online we're in agency reports.  
23 We're with Kanuti National Wildlife Refuge. We'll be  
24 going to the BLM report immediately after that and  
25 we'll be covering some concerns about dall sheep  
26 population in Unit 24A. Vince Mathews is talking.  
27 Continue, Vince.

28

29 MR. MATHEWS: What I want to say about  
30 the permit thing, I need your assistance. All of you  
31 have been on this Council for quite a few years. What  
32 we need is the biological data, how many moose, how  
33 many caribou, how well they're doing. We also need the  
34 harvest data. The Board needs that. You need that to  
35 protect your villages and their uses, both pieces of  
36 data. Reporting is not very high. In some areas it's  
37 dismal. So we need your assistance to get people to  
38 fill out those harvest reports, return those harvest  
39 tickets and et cetera. It needs to be clear to them  
40 that it's there to protect them.

41

42 So why do I bring this all up. I'm  
43 working with the three Refuges to start up possibly  
44 parallel to what Fish and Game does. Reminder letters  
45 and then going to the stage of possibly denying permits  
46 for the next year. Remember, those permits are put in  
47 there usually for a biological reason. So that means  
48 that there's a concern, something going on with that  
49 population we need to know what's going on. When  
50 people don't report, it makes it difficult. So I would

1 encourage you guys when you're back in your villages to  
2 talk amongst yourself, talk to your village council,  
3 tribal council to encourage more compliance.

4

5                   So my job is to develop this system. I  
6 will push real strongly as to why this is needed. As  
7 you know, you also have to have the stick and the stick  
8 is going to be not issuing additional permits the  
9 following year or whatever time period.

10

11                   So you'll see the moose harvest and I  
12 won't go over that, you already talked about that with  
13 I think Proposal 57/58.

14

15                   The wolf survey is there for you to  
16 follow, so I won't spend a lot of time on that.

17

18                   The other thing I'd like to point out  
19 is what's called a biological inventory. The reason I  
20 point that out is it's key what's in italics there.  
21 That's what you can use. These Refuges's purposes are  
22 in that ANILCA and one of those is subsistence. This  
23 happens to be talking about biological inventory. So  
24 that's your connection there.

25

26                   With that they were able to do the  
27 biological inventory for the vegetation portion of the  
28 inventory for two new mini-grids and then from there  
29 they're going to be doing breeding bird populations.  
30 Of course, they've gone to 17 grids. What does that  
31 mean to you. That gives you an idea of a biological  
32 inventory. That gives you baseline data. It gives you  
33 a picture of what's going on right now. If there is  
34 climatic change, change in the harvest patterns, then  
35 this biological inventory will show if there's been any  
36 changes.

37

38                   I'll leave it up to you on the Alaska  
39 Landbird Migratory Survey. You can read that over.

40

41                   One of the purposes of the Refuge is  
42 with migratory birds, so the next one, the Large  
43 Shorebird Study near Kanuti Lake, that's been an  
44 ongoing research project and the species that are there  
45 are in the picture there of our species of conservation  
46 concern. The research that one of the biologists  
47 there, Chris Harwood, is hoping to have a better  
48 description where that species occurs in the Interior  
49 and where they are much more patchily distributed  
50 compared to the tundra-rich areas of western and

1 northern Alaska. So it's looking at changes over time  
2 for that area.

3

4 That brings us up to fisheries. With  
5 that, you can follow through on that that there was a  
6 cooperative project going on.

7

8 Henshaw Creek. Alan, if he's still  
9 here, talked about Henshaw Creek Weir. That's a TCC  
10 project. That's something that you guys have been  
11 involved with for years on the Henshaw Creek situation.

12

13 Fire management. I'll leave that up to  
14 you, because there was, thank God in a way, not a large  
15 fire season this past year.

16

17 Stream gages. If you want more  
18 information on that than what's provided there, I have  
19 the full report on that. I have copies here if you'd  
20 like them available.

21

22 All the Refuges that I worked for, but  
23 in particular Kanuti, makes a fairly extensive effort  
24 on outreach. So they had the second annual Winter  
25 Weekend with outreach in Allakaket and was well  
26 attended. There's some pictures in there.

27

28 What needs to be done and you know this  
29 very well as subsistence users you need to know your  
30 neighbors and you need to develop a relationship with  
31 your neighbors. The Refuge is doing that through these  
32 Winter Weekends as well as other events. You'll see a  
33 picture there of the actual winter celebration there.

34

35 The Henshaw Creek Science Camp is the  
36 next thing. Alan might want to talk more about it, but  
37 this has been a valuable experience for the youth. The  
38 camp is to provide a week long setting which combines  
39 and balances traditional Native knowledge with western  
40 science. One of the best pictures of Pollock if you  
41 ever want to see Pollock smile, it's on my computer  
42 screen. All the youth are smiling with him laughing  
43 and it's on my screen. I see it every 10 minutes if  
44 I'm not working on my computer.

45

46 But what does that tell us. That tells  
47 us Pollock is an elder with tremendous knowledge and  
48 these youth, I'm sure they've got iPods and i-whatever  
49 else in their back pockets, but they're learning -- the  
50 picture shows them learning how to do a dead-fall trap.

1 This camp is going to continue, but there's going to be  
2 some plans in changing the location. So why do I bring  
3 this all up. I think it was a very valuable camp, but  
4 there was things that needed to be worked out more this  
5 year. So if you hear anything negative about it, I  
6 think those are logistics type stuff and the overall  
7 goal of the camp is still being achieved.

8  
9 Then continuing that outreach we had a  
10 winter open-house event. This is a cooperative with  
11 Glenn Stout and myself. We went out there in December  
12 to distribute permits. There will be more of that  
13 going on. We all had the same goal of making sure the  
14 resources are well managed and that it's the least  
15 burden on the users of that resource. I can even say  
16 I'm fairly certain, I'm 100 percent, the State as well  
17 as the Refuge agree on that.

18  
19 We'll continue to do what are called  
20 these hunting informational meetings where we meet with  
21 the tribal council and others. It's not a Council  
22 meeting. It's a regular public meeting. We talk about  
23 the hunt coming up. The last one we had was August  
24 18th, was a very good dialogue, so hopefully we can  
25 continue to do that if our budgets still allow. Then  
26 questions come up before the season and that way those  
27 that really truly want to protect the resource will be  
28 within the compliance of the regulations that are  
29 there. They won't be ignorant of it. You can read a  
30 little bit more about that information. We will be  
31 doing those for the winter one also.

32  
33 For staffing changes, I don't know if  
34 she's gotten to the villages. I'm pretty sure she  
35 hasn't, but she's a very interesting young lady that  
36 was selected as a student career experienced program  
37 appointment, which is Erin Julianus. So she's still  
38 figuring out her thesis, but she's been very helpful  
39 the past year, so she'll be working on inventory data  
40 and helping complete a final report on the low  
41 elevation Inventory and Monitoring plots we have  
42 finished so far.

43  
44 A recent hire in Bettles, he's really a  
45 neat guy. I hope sometime to get him to this meeting  
46 if that can be arranged. He's the pilot biologist, Les  
47 Dillard, out of Bettles. He is all ears and all heart.  
48 He really wants to learn more about Alaska, but he also  
49 wants to learn how to work better with the villages.  
50 He spent a lot of time in the recent tragic death in

1 Allakaket, so I hope you get a chance to meet him and  
2 allow him to ask those questions and learn more.

3

4                   On that note, I work for three Refuges,  
5 so now I'm putting on my Yukon Flats hat. On the Yukon  
6 Flats Refuge, I did get to go out on the Yukon River to  
7 fish camps. It was very rewarding during a very  
8 difficult season and so I'm hoping I can do that in  
9 2012. Not only for my learning but also to hear  
10 directly from the fishermen. Gerald Maschmann went  
11 with me. There would always be a fishery person there.  
12 Then we had a local elder as the captain of the boat.  
13 I think that's going to be needed to continue even if  
14 we have a difficult year in 2012. Again, it has to be  
15 acceptable to the fishermen.

16

17                   So what did I learn on that. Parts of  
18 the river were doing quite well on fishing, probably  
19 because of location, and others were doing dismal. It  
20 was really hard for me to go into an elders camp with a  
21 92-year-old elder and see two fish hanging. I mean  
22 that was really hard for me to sit down there and drink  
23 tea with her to see only two fish in camp. That was a  
24 camp for, off the top of my head, for three families.  
25 After she chewed me out a little bit, we were able to  
26 talk on another level, so that was really good.

27

28                   Kanuti office is moving, so if you go  
29 into the Federal Building, they're going to be down a  
30 different corridor in a few weeks. It's not sure what  
31 those are.

32

33                   The other thing I want to point out,  
34 since I work with three Refuges, there's going to be  
35 some demands on my time, so that may deter me from  
36 attending your meetings. Right now it looks like I  
37 still can attend your meetings. Each of the Refuge  
38 have what's called a comprehensive conservation plan.  
39 Arctic National Wildlife Refuge is in the midst of it.  
40 Until recently I was pretty much distant from that, but  
41 soon my time is going to be quite a bit absorbed in  
42 their CCP.

43

44                   This is a plan that's for a five, 10-  
45 year projection, where you want to go, so it's a really  
46 important plan. It takes a lot of work to put it  
47 together. Yukon Flats is up in 2013. That goes back  
48 to my earlier thing about what's in italics. The  
49 purposes in ANILCA, Title II I think it is for Refuges,  
50 that's what that whole CCP is related to.

1                               So with that I'll stop and if there's  
2 any questions.

3  
4                               CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks, Vince. Any  
5 questions for Vince on Kanuti's presentation. Eleanor.

6  
7                               MS. YATLIN: I heard you saying that --  
8 you were talking about those green harvest tickets that  
9 they give out, the State gives out, that's the one you  
10 were referring to when you said you had a hard time  
11 getting them back?

12  
13                              MR. MATHEWS: Yes and no. I just work  
14 with the Federal permits for those that say in there  
15 you need a Federal registration permit.

16  
17                              MS. YATLIN: Yeah. You have a hard  
18 time getting them back?

19  
20                              MR. MATHEWS: The percentage back is  
21 very low on those. I won't speak for the State, but  
22 based on hearing at other meetings the percentages are  
23 low for people reporting back.

24  
25                              MS. YATLIN: They need to give back --  
26 whether or not they get a moose, they need to give the  
27 harvest tickets back to get another one the following  
28 year, right?

29  
30                              MR. MATHEWS: Correct. The reason you  
31 need to give it back, and this is something I've been  
32 campaigning on, but you have the biological data, you  
33 have the harvest data, but you also need that  
34 participation rate. Ray is very good at this. Ray has  
35 brought this up for many many years and finally people  
36 are starting to listen. The subsistence hunter is  
37 going to get meat on the table no matter what, but how  
38 much effort have they put into it. It's an economy.  
39 If they did it before in three days and now it's taking  
40 two weeks, that needs to be know. If people don't  
41 return their harvest reports saying I hunted for 10  
42 days and got no moose, we don't know that. It's a  
43 valuable piece of information that the hunters need to  
44 provide. Without that you would say they got all the  
45 moose they needed.

46  
47                              MS. YATLIN: The reason why I bring it  
48 up is because I know in Huslia we get 100 percent.  
49 Everybody that get their green harvest ticket they  
50 would turn them in regardless if they get a moose or

1 not. The same with the Federal. So I just wondered  
2 how -- I know a couple years back it wasn't like that,  
3 but I just wondered how it came across that they have  
4 to return them because, like I said, for data.

5  
6 MR. MATHEWS: I think Jack can speak to  
7 that. I don't want to take away anything from what  
8 this Council did. I'm not trying to put the other  
9 communities in a bad light. What I'm trying to say is  
10 for their benefit they need to be more involved in  
11 this. I think some of it is they don't understand why  
12 this is important. They may only see it from a law  
13 enforcement perspective, if I don't have it in the  
14 field, I'm going to get busted or whatever. It's that,  
15 but it's way more than that. I think Jack can share  
16 why there's probably a higher percentage in the Lower  
17 Koyukuk River.

18  
19 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Well, we've talked  
20 about this issue of harvest reporting for many years at  
21 the Koyukuk River Advisory Committee level and the  
22 Western Interior Regional Council. It's just a  
23 continuous -- I think people are understanding that  
24 it's advantageous in the lower portion of the river to  
25 document use and what that does is maintain their  
26 allocation. If the resource is not being reported and  
27 the hardship of the amount of time of not getting an  
28 animal, then the Board of Game will allocate that to  
29 somebody else, to sporthunters. So it's very important  
30 that subsistence users report their harvest so that  
31 they can maintain their allocation, their use of the  
32 resource.

33  
34 We do have a lot of agenda items. Is  
35 there any other questions for Vince on the  
36 presentation.

37  
38 Go ahead, Pollock.

39  
40 MR. SIMON: On the Federal side you get  
41 permit from your agent who's in Allakaket who picks up  
42 all the reports. He would report to you guys. So a  
43 couple years we pick up my permit. I didn't hunt, but  
44 he got it. Then I start getting reports back from Fish  
45 and Game during the winter that you didn't return your  
46 harvest ticket. I said the agent got it. So they told  
47 me that if you don't return it, you're not going to get  
48 a permit next year. Even your agent fails to report to  
49 you?  
50

1 MR. MATHEWS: Well, no. Both the  
2 Refuge and if Glenn were online he could verify that.  
3 What he's getting at is we have one person issuing  
4 through a contract with tribal council to issue the  
5 Federal permits and then the State has another person  
6 dealing with the State issues. If we know -- and the  
7 State would have to comment on this to verify. But if  
8 we know through the agent that you reported to him, we  
9 would take that as information.

10  
11 The reason in the past that was done,  
12 and that's been corrected and I failed to point it out,  
13 is the system is decentralized so the return address  
14 now comes to me. What he's also mentioning is that  
15 agent there would then call up and say, Pollock, you  
16 haven't returned your permit. But that's unique to  
17 your area. Other areas it may be different. I think  
18 it's responsible for people just to buy into this.

19  
20 Thank you.

21  
22 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Any other questions  
23 from Council members. We do have more agenda here,  
24 quite a bit, so we need to be moving along. I think  
25 we've covered that. Appreciate your detailed report  
26 and appreciate all that Kanuti is doing. Thanks,  
27 Vince.

28  
29 I'll have Merben come up from BLM and  
30 give the BLM report for Central Yukon District Office.

31  
32 MR. CEBRIAN: Mr. Chair. Members of  
33 the RAC. My name is Merben Cebrian. I'm new to this  
34 RAC and I would like to take at least one minute to  
35 introduce myself if you don't mind, sir, because it's  
36 my first.

37  
38 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Please do.

39  
40 MR. CEBRIAN: I come Glennallen before  
41 I came here, so I was with the Southcentral RAC and  
42 with regards to the last topic here we have about 98  
43 percent compliance with our permits and we issue 3,000  
44 permits a year. With this particular region that I'm a  
45 member of now, I understand there's also other issues  
46 with the Federal subsistence system, but I'm hoping to  
47 be able to contribute to improving it.

48  
49 I am also new to the BLM Central Yukon  
50 Field Office. I got there in August and my first

1 assignment was actually to go out to Jack's area and  
2 issue permits. Jack and I go back a ways. I used to  
3 work with him 10 years ago with Kanuti Refuge when I  
4 was still a student. I still am a student. I'm trying  
5 to finish my Ph.D at UAF, but now I'm here again in  
6 front of Jack. Anyway, that's a short story.

7

8                   So I'm going to do it differently here.  
9 I'm going to go through the agency reports first and  
10 then we'll concentrate on the sheep issue when we get  
11 there. There's not much to tell because when I sent  
12 out the information through my office nobody really  
13 responded. So here we go.

14

15                   BLM Central Yukon Field Office hired a  
16 new wildlife biologist and that's me starting August  
17 1st. There are still some people in the office that  
18 don't know me, but we can rectify that later. BLM  
19 continued to work with the University of Idaho to  
20 analyze radio-collar data for moose, sheep and caribou  
21 that occur on the Dalton Highway Utility Corridor. I  
22 have a meeting with the professor there with the  
23 University of Idaho next week. As soon as we get more  
24 information about how they're supposed to analyze this  
25 information, I can give that over to you.

26

27                   The BLM will be issuing a right-of-way  
28 grant to Doyon Limited for winter access from the Five  
29 Mile Airport off the Dalton Highway to Steven's  
30 Village. This grant will expire December 31 of 2016.  
31 Karen Etheridge was hired as a new Arctic InterAgency  
32 Visitor Center manager. She started working there this  
33 summer. The BLM Central Yukon Field Office  
34 interpretive staff is working on a film production for  
35 the Arctic InterAgency Visitor Center. I don't have a  
36 date as to when that is supposed to be finished, but  
37 I'm thinking within the next year or so.  
38 Ruth Gronquist is finishing the environmental analysis  
39 of a proposed invasive plants management strategy for  
40 the Dalton Highway.

41

42                   That's all I have from folks within the  
43 office as they sent the issues to update this  
44 particular RAC.

45

46                   So regarding the sheep on the Dalton  
47 Highway, you have two graphs in front of you.

48

49                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Stand by a second  
50 there. I need to have the letter that I've written to

1 the BLM before the Council also regarding this sheep  
2 issue. I've had dialogue -- this Council had dialogue  
3 with the BLM in March after our meeting in Galena.  
4 After discussing this at our March meeting, the issues  
5 with expanding guide opportunities within the Dalton  
6 Highway Corridor. We were presented one .810 analysis  
7 and so I reviewed the analysis and made comments. I  
8 want the Council to be aware.

9  
10 I also wrote a letter on August 15th in  
11 response. We had a meeting with the regional director  
12 and the district manager and BLM staff in Wiseman on  
13 August 3rd and one of the issues that we requested was  
14 a response from the BLM on how many hunters were going  
15 to be allowed to be guided in the Dalton Highway  
16 Corridor. I received a very poor response from the  
17 BLM, basically not telling the community -- I  
18 specifically wanted this Council -- I told them at that  
19 meeting I wanted this Council to be appraised of how  
20 many hunters were going to be allowed in the Dalton  
21 Highway Corridor and I also wanted a response to the  
22 community.

23  
24 I do not feel that the BLM responded  
25 properly because they told me in letter form on email  
26 that basically there were going to be 40 hunters  
27 allowed to hunt in the Dalton Highway Corridor and 25  
28 were going to hunt bears. I specifically asked how  
29 many dall sheep hunters were going to be allowed to  
30 hunt in the Dalton Highway Corridor and they did not  
31 answer the question.

32  
33 I responded by email and said I assume  
34 that you're saying that there are 15 hunters going to  
35 hunt dall sheep in the Dalton Highway Corridor. I have  
36 grave concerns with professional hunters overriding a  
37 huge amount of hunters that are already accessing the  
38 Dalton Highway Corridor. So these are the letters that  
39 I've been corresponding with the BLM.

40  
41 I want this Council to be aware these  
42 are Federal public lands and there is a subsistence  
43 priority and we have a positive finding for customary  
44 and traditional use of dall sheep by our communities.  
45 So at that point I'll turn this back over to Merben,  
46 who has some harvest data here that he's presenting.

47  
48 Go ahead, Merben.

49  
50 MR. CEBRIAN: Mr. Chair, thank you.

1 The graphs that I have in front of you, you very well  
2 know from Federal sheep hunt FS 24.04 and Federal sheep  
3 hunt FS 26.06. Both these hunts are along the Dalton  
4 Highway Utility Corridor. For hunt FS 24.04, we have a  
5 high number of participation for the year 2010. I  
6 don't have the numbers here for 2011 just yet. From  
7 2009 and 2010 we have a spike of 13 permits that were  
8 issued in 2009 and 14 permits that were issued in 2010.

9  
10 The harvests based out of these hunts  
11 are still fairly low. One for 2009 and four for 2010.  
12 If you look at the trend here.....

13  
14 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Stop for a second  
15 here.

16  
17 MR. CEBRIAN: Yes, sir.

18  
19 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: These do not  
20 accurately reflect the harvest. If these are the  
21 report -- this is me reporting. The data is not  
22 correct. There's much higher harvest than this from  
23 the community. Are you getting full reporting or do we  
24 have a problem with how the hunters are reporting from  
25 my community? See, I've never seen a presentation of  
26 the data, so if you're only showing one sheep harvest,  
27 that's me reporting. Everybody is not reporting them.

28  
29  
30 I will verbally tell you that the  
31 harvest typically is between -- for the whole  
32 community, whether it's the 26 hunt, Unit 26B, or the  
33 24 hunt is typically between four to six sheet  
34 annually. That's the harvest by the community and  
35 there may be one or so from Coldfoot. So these  
36 harvests are not actually reflective. There's some  
37 kind of what the Subsistence Division calls a fudge  
38 factor and this has some huge underreporting. I'll  
39 clarify that for the record.

40  
41 Go ahead.

42  
43 MR. CEBRIAN: Mr. Chair. Thank you for  
44 your clarification. The data here is what I collected  
45 from the Federal subsistence permit system and this  
46 might be reflective or indicative of the low reporting  
47 rate once again that Vince Mathews alluded to in other  
48 communities. In my mind, this would be one issue that  
49 we may raise in the village so that they would be aware  
50 that reporting is indeed important for us in order for

1 us to properly manage the system.

2

3 Now having said that, there is still  
4 the issue of the viewed conflict between guided hunts,  
5 as you mentioned in your previous emails, and the  
6 subsistence hunters. I would hope that we could come  
7 to some form of solution here either today or in the  
8 near future.

9

10 What I have with me, when I spoke with  
11 my manager yesterday, was that -- I don't have a copy  
12 of the letter responding to your last letter, but the  
13 BLM acknowledges that we need to further research to  
14 answer your question in your last letter to the BLM. I,  
15 being new to this office, will try to coordinate with  
16 the recreation specialist who issues these guiding  
17 permits. What I want from him is the number of permits  
18 that we issued in the last several years and if we can  
19 get the information of how many they actually sent out  
20 to hunt and how many were successful in that area, we  
21 could get that information, I would hope so.

22

23 I would like to get some help from Fish  
24 and Game. I've talked to Glenn Stout about this  
25 already and with the sheep biologist there in  
26 Fairbanks. What the sheep biologist in Fairbanks,  
27 Steve Arthur, had explained to me was that the collars  
28 that he has on the sheep in the Central Brooks Range  
29 are predominantly, if not all, ewes. So we're trying  
30 to work on a new project that might target rams.

31

32 I know rams are the hunted species,  
33 especially the full curl ram, so there might be a way  
34 to collar maybe younger rams, the sub-legal ones.  
35 There are some issues that still has to be taken care  
36 of, but this is the direction in which we are thinking  
37 of going and it might answer some of the questions that  
38 you may have about this population.

39

40 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: My concern is this  
41 year, as I state, our community harvest typically is  
42 four to six sheep. Sheep is our second most important  
43 animal. If you look at the harvest in Arctic Village,  
44 Anaktuvuk Pass, sheep are a major subsistence animal in  
45 mountainous terrains. We do not have fish there. We  
46 cannot harvest salmon for personal use. We have very  
47 few fish. So red meat protein is a major component of  
48 subsistence use in the Central Brooks Range.

49

50 I hunted 23 days this year. I looked

1 for many, many days. I probably saw around 225 ewes  
2 and ewe-likes. I found very few rams and when I did  
3 find them, some of the larger rams I found were  
4 three-quarter curl. I have never seen so many hunters  
5 come to the Central Brooks Range to hunt sheep as this  
6 year. The last two years, as you can read in my  
7 letters to the BLM, I was very concerned that only two  
8 years ago the BLM started allowing guided hunters  
9 within the Dalton Highway Corridor. The BLM has been  
10 allowing bear hunters for a few years, but only 2010  
11 and 2011, the last two seasons, is the only seasons  
12 that guided hunters -- and I was very concerned that  
13 professional hunters with aircraft would hunt down all  
14 the legal animals, disrupting the ram component.

15  
16 The other issue is there's not been a  
17 survey in the Central Brooks Range for at least two  
18 seasons, but I think it's three years since they flew  
19 the last survey. There's no current data. The BLM had  
20 no business issuing 15 sheep permits in that Dalton  
21 Highway Corridor, that Guide Use Area 24.03.

22  
23 I'm concerned that the regulatory  
24 changes that the Board of Game has made in Southcentral  
25 Alaska in GMU 14, 13 and 12 going to drawing permits is  
26 now pushing massive amounts of hunters to the Central  
27 Brooks Range. We have professional hunters -- I went  
28 to a camp where there were two Super Cubs sitting  
29 within 100 yards of the Dalton Highway. Those guys  
30 were flying, they were guides, they were flying the  
31 mountains extensively and they killed every adult ram.

32  
33 I talked to the Alaska State Trooper  
34 the day I was flying down here and Dan Dahl told me he  
35 would write a letter specifically stating that he could  
36 not find a full curl legal animal anywhere near the  
37 Dalton Highway Corridor. He told me he will testify to  
38 that effect.

39  
40 My problem is the BLM did exactly what  
41 I told them not to do, is to let professional hunters  
42 disturb the ram groups, compete heavily with us. But  
43 we also have another component, massive amounts of  
44 hunters that are inexperienced with hunting sheep and  
45 they killed all the sub-legal sheep. I found very few  
46 7/8ths legal sheep. I'm concerned myself and other  
47 community members who rely on dall sheep as part of our  
48 subsistence use are not achieving our subsistence  
49 needs.

50

1                   So I have certain mandates that I would  
2 like to see the BLM adhere to. One of the first things  
3 I would like this Council do to address this issue, I  
4 have to have a 7/8ths legal sheep to be able to take  
5 that sheep. The only thing, I couldn't find legal  
6 sheep. So I would like this Council to request a  
7 special action request from the Federal Subsistence  
8 Board to allow subsistence hunters in the 2012 season  
9 to be able to harvest half curl or larger rams to  
10 alleviate the current subsistence hardship that we're  
11 enduring.

12  
13                   So the Chair will entertain a motion  
14 for a special action request to be submitted from the  
15 Western Interior Regional Advisory Council to the  
16 Federal Subsistence Board to request a half curl and  
17 larger sheep harvest under the Federal hunt 24.04 for  
18 2012 in GMU 24A.

19  
20                   MS. PELKOLA: So moved.

21  
22                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Moved by Jenny.

23  
24                   MS. YATLIN: Second.

25  
26                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Seconded by Eleanor.  
27 Any discussion from the Council on this issue. Did you  
28 have any comments, Tim.

29  
30                   MR. GERVAIS: Could you talk about why  
31 you want to go with half curl as opposed to  
32 three-quarter or something different.

33  
34                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I'm going to half  
35 curl because there's regulations in Unit 11, I think,  
36 and they use a half curl criteria, which does not get  
37 into a -- you can't mistake them for a ewe. So that's  
38 where I came with half curl. The three-quarter curl, I  
39 saw groups of rams that didn't even have three-quarter  
40 curl in it. I saw ram groups with smaller than three-  
41 quarter curl, between half curl and less than three-  
42 quarter curl. Basically they're three or four-year-old  
43 rams. So we've got a real management problem going on  
44 there. That's why I went with half curl.

45  
46                   Do you feel more strongly that three-  
47 quarter curl would be for subsistence use only, Tim?

48  
49                   MR. GERVAIS: No, I don't feel strongly  
50 that way. I just wanted to hear your thought process

1 and why you decided that half curl is appropriate.  
2 That sounded okay with me.

3  
4 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Any further  
5 discussion on this motion from the Council. Do you  
6 have a question? Do you have any comments, Ray?

7  
8 MR. COLLINS: Well, if the situation is  
9 as bad as you mention, that there are no 7/8ths or  
10 full, then I would think they ought to close the  
11 hunting until they achieve a harvestable number of  
12 three-quarter for everybody hunting in the area. I  
13 mean just allowing you to take 100 half isn't going to  
14 get it if others are able to hunt so that every time  
15 someone gets large enough it's going to be knocked off.  
16 If you want to get back to the proper balance, there  
17 ought to be a closure until you get a reasonable number  
18 of larger rams as well as allowing subsistence.

19  
20 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: This is an interim  
21 remedy. Interim. I'm stating interim until we can get  
22 a Federal proposal. Interim fix to the subsistence  
23 needs of the community and I will get to the management  
24 concerns direction that I would like the BLM to go to.  
25 That will be a continuance of my discussion.

26  
27 MR. COLLINS: I think also another  
28 component that seems to be missing is reporting on the  
29 subsistence hunters that before they're issued another  
30 one they ought to report on their harvest over the last  
31 few years to establish that they have been harvesting,  
32 something like that, in their -- to take a smaller one  
33 when they haven't reported on what they've done before  
34 is continuing this no data, so tying that in might be  
35 appropriate.

36  
37 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I will also  
38 recommend that the BLM send letters of reminder and  
39 also threaten non-issuance of permits unless reporting  
40 is accomplished and I'll be contacting every community  
41 member to assure that they begin reporting this  
42 harvest. I had no idea that people weren't reporting  
43 these harvests.

44  
45 MR. CEBRIAN: Mr. Chair. Yes, that is  
46 part of the plan that I would be implementing here,  
47 that part of the consequences of not reporting harvest  
48 is indeed a non-issuance of a permit the following  
49 year. I would like to go back to.....

50

1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I'm in a motion here  
2 on special action request. Any further discussion on  
3 the special action request.

4  
5 (No comments)

6  
7 MS. PELKOLA: Question.

8  
9 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: The question has  
10 been called. All those in favor of a special action  
11 request being submitted to the Federal Subsistence  
12 Board for the 2012 season half curl and larger for  
13 Federal hunt FS 24.04, those in favor of the motion  
14 signify by saying aye.

15  
16 IN UNISON: Aye.

17  
18 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So Council members  
19 present voted unanimously. So we'll continue with the  
20 discussion. You had some additional points you wanted  
21 to make, Merben.

22  
23 MR. CEBRIAN: Mr. Chair. Merben  
24 Cebrian again. I think there was some miscommunication  
25 with the guide applicants this year. What we, the BLM,  
26 plan to do, the Central Yukon Field Office, is to  
27 conduct one Section .810 analysis for guided hunts in  
28 this unit. What that would mean is we will be  
29 implementing -- my suggestion to the office is to  
30 implement a deadline for the application for guides to  
31 submit their applications for next year so that we can  
32 collate everything, every application, guide  
33 applications, and then have one Section .810 analysis.

34  
35 What's happening right now is that  
36 we're doing the analysis as the applications come in  
37 and you don't have the collective knowledge of stacking  
38 all this information on top of each other. If we do  
39 this one collective Section .810 analysis, then I think  
40 we can capture the most information and get a handle on  
41 this issue of guided hunts.

42  
43 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I would highly enjoy  
44 seeing one .810 analysis. I saw one .810 analysis done  
45 for one guide. The findings basically completely  
46 ignored all my concerns that professional hunters in  
47 the Dalton Highway Corridor using bow -- and bow has a  
48 high wound loss rate. There's an incidental harvest  
49 mortality. So with high incentive of economic return  
50 on these hunts, they basically would have unlimited

1 amount of -- and the BLM seems to be basically  
2 approving every hunter that they would like to take.

3  
4 My concern is that the .810 analysis  
5 was showing that there's no significant impact to  
6 subsistence uses when, in fact, I was warning that this  
7 would have a significant impact to subsistence users  
8 and it did. I have certain criteria that I would like  
9 to see the BLM achieve for Game Management Units 24A  
10 and 26B. These criteria should be adhered to by the  
11 BLM before any further issuance. There should be a  
12 scientifically valid sheep survey starting in 2012  
13 specifically looking at the sheep population  
14 recruitment and the dall sheep ram composition. That  
15 should be criteria one before any further guide permits  
16 are issued.

17  
18 Criteria two, a scientific harvest plan  
19 should be developed by the BLM that adheres to ANILCA  
20 statute mandating health of the resource and provisions  
21 for subsistence harvest to be met. Population  
22 objectives for adult rams, breeding composition post  
23 hunts should be met. There needs to be a harvest plan  
24 developed by the BLM. You can't just keep issuing  
25 permits when we have the highest demand in the Brooks  
26 Range is from the Dalton Highway by the general hunt,  
27 the non-guided hunters. There are literally hundreds  
28 of hunters coming to the Brooks Range to hunt dall  
29 sheep.

30  
31 The projection -- they killed a 46-inch  
32 sheep over there in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge  
33 and it was reported in the newspaper. You can go on  
34 blog sites. There's going to be additional hundreds of  
35 hunters show up. They're closing down in Southcentral  
36 and we're going to have this huge influx of additional  
37 resident hunters and they all thing they're going to go  
38 off from the road. They're coming on the road.

39  
40 The BLM has to seriously look at this  
41 guide issue.

42  
43 My position is if the BLM cannot  
44 scientifically demonstrate to the Western Interior  
45 Regional Advisory Council that the dall sheep  
46 population has recovered, then no more commercial use  
47 permits should be issued in Unit 24A because those BLM  
48 lands about the Dalton Highway Corridor in Unit 24A. So  
49 there should be a preclusion of any further commercial  
50 use because it conflicts specifically with the dall

1 sheep population.

2

3

4 ANILCA Title VIII specifically states  
5 that Federal agencies are to manage resources for  
6 health of the resource using recognized scientific  
7 principles. So the BLM has to demonstrate that this  
8 population can support commercial use when we have this  
9 kind of a management problem. When I can hardly find a  
10 7/8ths sheep, we have big problems. So those would be  
11 some of the stipulations that I would like to see  
12 before any guiding permits are issued.

12

13

Go ahead, Merben.

14

15

16 MR. CEBRIAN: Mr. Chair. I was hoping  
17 that some of the Fish and Game folks would be online  
18 still. Is there anybody with Fish and Game still.....

18

19

20 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I heard Beth Leonard  
21 and some other ADF&G people online there. Would you  
22 like to speak to our deliberations.

22

23

24 MR. CEBRIAN: They would be better  
25 suited to talk about the population numbers there.

25

26

27 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Are you still there,  
28 Beth.

28

29

30 MS. LEONARD: I'm here. Did you have  
31 some specific questions that you wanted us to answer?

31

32

33 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: The specific  
34 question would be when was the last time that survey  
35 was done in the western portion of Unit 24A?

35

36

MS. LEONARD: 2009.

37

38

39 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So the dataset is at  
40 least two years old.

40

41

MS. LEONARD: Correct.

42

43

44 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: And do you have any  
45 idea how many sheep have been sealed in Game Management  
46 Unit 24A this season?

46

47

48 MS. LEONARD: Well, for this season,  
49 Jack? No, that data is still coming in, so I don't  
50 think we have a good idea. That data goes to Anchorage  
51 and gets entered in. So it's just a little too soon

1 after the season.

2

3 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Well, I did  
4 talk to Dan Dahl and he can hardly find a legal sheep  
5 in that whole Unit 24A. There was extensive  
6 extirpation of the full curl component, so I would  
7 encourage the Alaska Department of Fish and Game to  
8 work with the BLM on a joint re-initialization of the  
9 survey for that Unit 24 and 26B near the Dalton Highway  
10 Corridor. We've got big management problems going on.

11

12 MS. LEONARD: We have plans to do one  
13 next year. Sometimes weather and other field work  
14 intervene.

15

16 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right. So those are  
17 my main questions for you, Beth. I appreciate your  
18 responses and I do understand that the data would be  
19 still fairly new.

20

21 MS. LEONARD: It would be so  
22 preliminary I don't think it would help you out.

23

24 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right.

25

26 MR. CEBRIAN: Mr. Chair.

27

28 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, Merben.  
29 Wait a minute. I've got Glenn Stout.

30

31 Go ahead, Glenn.

32

33 MR. STOUT: Yeah, Jack. It's probably  
34 worth mentioning and just to make sure people are aware  
35 that as far as the harvest reporting some of those  
36 Federal subsistence hunters could potentially be  
37 reporting their harvest on State reporting mechanisms  
38 because within 24A a substantial portion of the hunt  
39 area is actually a State hunt area, so that's probably  
40 why you're seeing some of the low reporting rates. As  
41 far as those total numbers too -- of course, when  
42 Merben gave that data, that was just for the Federal  
43 Subsistence hunt, which would only be resident  
44 Federally qualified hunters and those Federal hunters  
45 wouldn't have reported on that.

46

47 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right. That could  
48 be where people are getting screwed up. They might be  
49 reporting on the yellow card and not reporting on the  
50 Federal permit.

1                   Did you have some additional  
2 information here, Merben. Thanks, Glenn.

3  
4                   MR. CEBRIAN: Mr. Chair. What you have  
5 in front of you is data that I also gathered from the  
6 Federal Subsistence Department system, but because  
7 there's an agreement between the State of Alaska and  
8 OSM, who we do share the data with them. This  
9 particular graph shows State sheep hunts in Unit 24A.  
10 So this is a more comprehensive picture of the permits  
11 that were issued and harvested coming through the State  
12 system.

13  
14                   There is an increase, if you look at  
15 the graph from 2004 to 2009, is when I have my last  
16 record here, there's a trend increase from 35 permits  
17 issued to around 53 in 2009 for a sheep hunt in Unit  
18 24A. But the harvest, however, still kind of remains  
19 the same. It bounces around from 12 -- well, there was  
20 a high in 2008 of 27 sheep that were recorded as  
21 harvest, but overall it looks like the average is still  
22 around 17, 18 sheep.

23  
24                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: One issue is that --  
25 you know, down in the Alaska Range Craig Gardener told  
26 me that as hunting pressure increases, when we get to  
27 full extirpation of the full curl, he would fly post  
28 hunt and he found very few of the 7/8ths rams. So you  
29 get into the basically illegal harvest of sub-legal,  
30 below legal, they're sub-legal sheep. This year Dan  
31 Dahl has two sub-legal sheep that were actually seized  
32 by people stupid enough to bring them in. There's a  
33 certain amount of people who are not dumb enough to do  
34 that. They just leave the sheep in the field and it's  
35 a big problem when you have a legal requirement. That  
36 happens with four brow tine moose requirements.

37  
38                   So looking at what I'm seeing in the  
39 field, I'm sure that many of the sub-legal sheep are  
40 also being taken and that's what Dan Dahl is basically  
41 seeing also. He's the enforcement officer there.

42  
43                   MR. CEBRIAN: Yes, Mr. Chair. The  
44 other thing also that I would like for the record to  
45 show is that the population surveys that the State Fish  
46 and Game sheep biologist Steve Arthur do in the Central  
47 Brooks Range encompass a different land area, a much  
48 bigger land area than the Five Mile Corridor that the  
49 BLM has jurisdiction over. What that means is that  
50 there may be some component of this population that we

1 see along the Five Mile Corridor that is captured in  
2 that bigger area survey that we don't necessarily  
3 capture because our jurisdiction ends within that  
4 utility corridor.

5  
6 So I think what I would like to do with  
7 Fish and Game is continue with this cooperative sheep  
8 monitoring project. In fact, there are some collars  
9 that have been installed on sheep on the west side of  
10 the highway. I don't have the figures here with me.  
11 It already shows some movements between valleys for the  
12 ewes that the collars are on. What I would like to  
13 suggest to Fish and Game is perhaps to look into  
14 collaring the rams the next go around.

15  
16 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I think that's a  
17 very worthwhile project is getting some ram data  
18 because that's the harvested component. That's why I  
19 was congratulating Geoff on his moose collaring  
20 projects because he did have so many bulls in the  
21 project. Actually the sheep have demographics, so  
22 there's ewe range and there's ram ranges, so it is  
23 important to have an understanding of what the rams are  
24 actually doing.

25  
26 I don't want to bog this Council down  
27 on this issue any further. I would like the Council to  
28 be aware of this problem. I would like the Council to  
29 make a motion for a letter of mandate to be submitted  
30 to the Central Yukon Bureau of Land Management district  
31 office that there be a preclusion of issuance of any  
32 further guided permits until the biological data can  
33 demonstrate to this Council that there's a harvestable  
34 surplus. I feel there's a significant impact and the  
35 .810 analysis should reflect that there's a significant  
36 impact to the resource. So I feel there should be a  
37 letter of mandate transmitted to the Bureau of Land  
38 Management on this issue.

39  
40 Is there Council comments on that.  
41 Ray.

42  
43 MR. COLLINS: Just looking at this data  
44 from the State, it looks to me like the real problem  
45 started in 2008 when you had a 27 harvest out of 60  
46 permits. That's almost a 50 percent harvest. And you  
47 notice the next year the number of hunters is still 53,  
48 but it drops to 17. It would indicate to me that there  
49 was overharvest in 2008 and lesser availability. We  
50 don't know how many days they hunted and so on to get

1 the 17. It looks like there was a trend. I don't know  
2 what the average would be, something like 15, I guess,  
3 if you go all the way back through there and that would  
4 look like it was sustainable, but when it jumps up to  
5 27, it looks like that's not a sustainable harvest.

6  
7 So I think a letter should go to the  
8 State too asking them to cooperate in a count and see  
9 what there is and, if so, impose limits on the number  
10 of hunters allowed until you get a reasonable number of  
11 large rams again. So I would put letters to both in  
12 saying looks like the data itself is reflecting that  
13 there's an overharvest of large rams not sustainable.

14  
15 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: A cc to the Alaska  
16 Department of Fish and Game, Galena office, to this  
17 effect would be completely warranted. This has been an  
18 ongoing issue of basically the State lands in GMU 24A  
19 and 25A. The State and BLM lands have had no guide use  
20 areas limitations on the number of guides the  
21 commercial services board tried to address this issue  
22 that the system has failed. We're going into a  
23 management concern here and so, yes, we should cc the  
24 Department of Fish and Game on this.

25  
26 So the Chair will entertain a motion  
27 for a letter of mandate to be submitted to the Central  
28 Yukon District Office that demands specific scientific,  
29 valid sheep surveys, harvest plan surveys, and an .810  
30 analysis that demonstrates to this Council that there's  
31 a harvestable surplus adequate for limited harvest by  
32 commercial uses. At this point, I don't see how the  
33 BLM can demonstrate that. They do not have a dataset.  
34 They cannot scientifically statistically do that.

35  
36 MR. CEBRIAN: Mr. Chair. Merben  
37 Cebrian again. I will be working with the sheep  
38 biologist with Fish and Game to come up with that.

39  
40 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: In the near future  
41 there should be a preclusion of any further guided  
42 hunters within the Dalton Highway Corridor Management  
43 Area until those scientifically statistically valid  
44 data can be utilized to demonstrate to this Council  
45 that there's a harvestable surplus of sheep in the  
46 Dalton Highway Corridor.

47  
48 MR. CEBRIAN: Mr. Chair. Just a point  
49 of clarification. Are you suggesting a closure?  
50

1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I'm suggesting that  
2 there be a preclusion of further issuance of guide  
3 hunter permits. Did somebody online say something?

4  
5 MR. GERVAIS: Jack, this is Tim. If  
6 you feel like there's too much going on there right now  
7 to be asking for something beyond preclusion of new  
8 permits and also try to limit the reissuance of current  
9 permits.

10  
11 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: That's what I meant.  
12 Excuse me if I was unclear. What I meant there  
13 should be no more permits, zero permits issued to any  
14 guides for the Dalton Highway Corridor until we can  
15 have valid scientific information that can demonstrate  
16 to this Council that there's a harvestable surplus of  
17 full curl sheep. The breeding component is going right  
18 over a cliff. We're down to three-quarter curl. Is  
19 that clear, Tim?

20  
21 MR. GERVAIS: Yeah, I like that better.

22  
23 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Thank you.  
24 Is that clear, Merben?

25  
26 MR. CEBRIAN: Mr. Chair. I'm just  
27 trying to be cautious here about the preclusion of  
28 guided hunts because if we're going towards the realm  
29 of a closure for a specific class of hunters, there are  
30 requirements to have that special action done. I would  
31 confer with OSM as to those specific requirements if  
32 this, indeed, rises up to that level of scrutiny. Mr.  
33 Chair.

34  
35 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: That's in the .810  
36 analysis. That's in ANILCA law. The Federal agencies  
37 have to demonstrate that there's no significant impact  
38 to subsistence uses before any use can be approved.  
39 We've been cautioning the BLM this was going to have a  
40 significant impact to subsistence uses. We already  
41 have that in Title VIII .810. That's specific to all  
42 Federal agencies that they have to demonstrate that  
43 there's no significant impact.

44 The BLM at this point cannot  
45 demonstrate that -- there's no data to -- it shows here  
46 in 2008 that there was 27 sheep killed in Unit 24A and  
47 there was no survey done in 2009. The last survey was  
48 done in 2009. So we have data lax, yet the BLM is  
49 still issuing permits to guides and increasing the  
50 numbers of guided hunters without any dataset, so the

1 BLM is going to have a real hard time justifying those  
2 .810 analysis that have already been produced.

3

4 MR. CEBRIAN: Mr. Chair. The  
5 difficulty here, I think, is partly also because the  
6 dataset that we have for the Federal hunt in Unit 24  
7 doesn't even reflect what you say is happening. I  
8 don't only go by what's in the permit system because we  
9 would like to get a more holistic approach of this. I  
10 would like to work with your community to come up with  
11 a workable solution.

12

13 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I would encourage  
14 that in my community, but I still feel that the Central  
15 Yukon District Office needs to demonstrate that they  
16 have scientifically valid data to continue to increase  
17 the number of guides or guided hunters 100 percent this  
18 last year. At least 100 percent. They're continuing  
19 to issue more and more permits. I'm saying stop, back  
20 up.

21

22 MR. CEBRIAN: Mr. Chair. Like I  
23 mentioned earlier, we're going to implement certain  
24 management rules that would limit the impact of guided  
25 hunts first by providing a deadline as to when these  
26 guided hunts turn in their applications and then coming  
27 up with one Section .810 analysis so that we can have a  
28 more comprehensive look at how the hunts are  
29 progressing.

30

31 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Ray.

32

33 MR. COLLINS: Mr. Chair. I think I  
34 want to raise a point of order because there's no value  
35 in continuing to debate it here. If we're going to  
36 take action, we should move to have those letters  
37 submitted and then have the data gathered and then we  
38 can analyze it. I suggest we move on.

39

40 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: You're exactly  
41 right. I don't want to debate this any further. I  
42 want a letter of mandate. The Chair will entertain a  
43 motion to send a letter of mandate.....

44

45 MR. COLLINS: I'll move that, that a  
46 letter be sent to the Federal Board and to the State  
47 asking that.....

48

49 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: To the Federal  
50 Subsistence Board, to Bureau of Land Management,

1 Central Yukon District Office, the Regional Bureau of  
2 Land Management Regional Office and the Alaska  
3 Department of Fish and Game.

4

5 MR. COLLINS: Okay. I'll move that.

6

7 MS. PELKOLA: Second.

8

9 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Moved and seconded.

10 Any further discussion by the Council.

11

12 (No comments)

13

14 MS. YATLIN: Question.

15

16 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: The question is  
17 being called. Those in favor of submitting a letter of  
18 mandate to the Bureau of Land Management and the  
19 aforementioned recipients signify by saying aye.

20

21 IN UNISON: Aye.

22

23 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Unanimous vote of

24 the Council?

25

26 (Council nods affirmatively)

27

28 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Thanks,

29 Merben.

30

31 MR. CEBRIAN: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

32

33 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I will apologize to  
34 the Council for my passion on this issue, but when it's  
35 the food on your plate, literally the food on your  
36 plate -- Robert asked me did you bring sheep meat this  
37 year. I said, no, there's no sheep meat this year,  
38 Robert, sorry. I usually bring sheep meat to the  
39 Council meetings because I like to share and so we  
40 don't have that. And I apologize to the Council and to  
41 the public for my passion on this issue.

42

43 We're going to move on in our agenda.

44 We have the Alaska Department of Fish and Game. We

45 have David Runfola.

46

47 Welcome, David.

48

49 MR. RUNFOLA: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

50 David Runfola, Alaska Department of Fish and Game,

1 Division of Subsistence from the Northern Region Office  
2 in Fairbanks. Mr. Chair, if I may, I believe I may  
3 have heard one of my colleagues from Fairbanks call in,  
4 Caroline Brown. Can we confirm whether or not she's  
5 on.

6  
7 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Are you online,  
8 Caroline.

9  
10 MR. RUNFOLA: Well, perhaps not. Thank  
11 you. Just so you know, you've been given copies of the  
12 color slides of our presentation today. You also have  
13 copies of my notes, which, in the interest of time, I  
14 will not read in total. And you have a copy of our  
15 preliminary summary of the Yukon River Salmon Disaster  
16 Project, which I will discuss briefly here.

17  
18 In this presentation I'll provide a  
19 brief overview of our current research projects that  
20 are taking place in the regions represented by this  
21 Regional Advisory Council. I am personally involved in  
22 some of this research but not all of it. You are  
23 welcome to stop me at any time with any questions you  
24 might have.

25  
26 If you have any questions that I cannot  
27 answer here, I will direct them to Caroline Brown and  
28 Hiroko Ikuta, principal investigators and supervisors  
29 on these projects. Their contact information is  
30 available to you through coordinator Melinda Hernandez.  
31 A similar presentation was provided to this Council at  
32 your October 2010 meeting and much of this will be an  
33 update.

34  
35 First I'd like to introduce our new  
36 Western Region Staff out of the Fairbanks and Bethel  
37 offices. Hopefully many Council members will begin  
38 seeing us in their communities.

39  
40 Go ahead to the next slide. Thank you.  
41 This region's subsistence resource specialists include  
42 anthropologist Dr. Hiroko Ikuta, who is our immediate  
43 supervisor; Andrew Brenner, who has experience in  
44 biology and anthropology; Ben Balivet, he's in Bethel,  
45 also experienced in anthropology field work; and myself  
46 with a background in fish biology and education, much  
47 of it in rural Alaska.

48  
49 As the Council members may know, Fish  
50 and Game, Division of Subsistence, is responsible for

1 the department's social science research mission.

2

3                   Next slide, please. So I'll begin  
4 discussing our projects. The first project, index  
5 community baselines. This project is funded through  
6 legislative increment to meet the mission of the  
7 Division of Subsistence and to fill gaps in available  
8 data about subsistence harvests in various areas of the  
9 state beginning in Lower Yukon River.

10

11                   Because of the expense and time  
12 involved in surveying multiple communities through  
13 time, we are evaluating the possibilities of using an  
14 index community approach for estimating subsistence  
15 harvests in a region. We are collecting harvest data  
16 from the same year in a cluster of communities and then  
17 statistically evaluating the relationships between the  
18 harvest levels based on a set of variables to see if  
19 this method can be an accurate predictor of harvests  
20 for the region. In the future, we may regularly survey  
21 a subset of communities and extrapolate subsistence use  
22 patterns to other communities in the region. At the  
23 beginning of this project we are surveying the  
24 communities of Emmonak, Marshall and Mountain Village  
25 in the Lower Yukon region and that should be expanded  
26 further upriver on the Yukon in the future.

27

28                   Next slide, please. Donlin Creek Mine  
29 subsistence baseline research. This is a multi-year  
30 project to document subsistence harvest of all wild  
31 food resources and to create a snapshot of subsistence  
32 patterns and harvests in the middle, lower and upper  
33 regions of the Kuskokwim River. The research is funded  
34 by Donlin Creek LLC, and I believe it's now known as  
35 Donlin Gold, and may be used as part of a national  
36 environmental policy act review of the Donlin Creek  
37 Mine Project should one be initiated. The findings  
38 will also be available to local tribal councils and  
39 other government agencies for their planning purposes.  
40 We are excited about the project because it will fill a  
41 20-year data gap on subsistence uses in the Kuskokwim  
42 River area.

43

44                   In each community we try to survey  
45 every household. This is commonly known as a census  
46 survey. We generally achieve a survey rate of  
47 approximately 80 percent of households, which  
48 represents an accurate sample. The larger our sample,  
49 the better our harvest estimates. The questions about  
50 amounts harvested and harvest locations are confined to

1 previous calendar year. Our study year for phase one  
2 was 2009 and the study year for phase two was 2010.

3  
4 In addition to the community harvest  
5 surveys we also conduct longer ethnographic interviews  
6 with a sample of active users and knowledgeable elders.  
7 Finally, we complete harvest and use maps with each  
8 household we survey in order to document harvest areas  
9 that are used by the community.

10  
11 Next slide, please. Central Kuskokwim  
12 baseline subsistence surveys, Donlin Creek Mine  
13 research, phase one. Phase one of the project focused  
14 on eight communities of the Central Kuskokwim. Aniak,  
15 Chuathbaluk, Crooked Creek, Sleetmute, Stony River, Red  
16 Devil, and Kalskag, which was surveyed separately as  
17 Upper Kalskag and Lower Kalskag. Research was  
18 conducted with the participation and consent of the  
19 local tribal councils and local research assistants.  
20 We achieved a high participation rate with an average  
21 of approximately 81 percent across the region.

22  
23 Although surveys are conducted with  
24 individual households, our research is presented at the  
25 community level. Participation in the survey is  
26 voluntary and individual household information is  
27 confidential. In our analysis we were careful to  
28 present harvest data within the context of this current  
29 time period of resource scarcity, especially with  
30 regard to moose and caribou and also considering the  
31 concerns about salmon stocks in the Kuskokwim. The  
32 report is in draft final form and is now being reviewed  
33 by Donlin LLC.

34  
35 Next slide, please. Lower Kuskokwim  
36 baseline subsistence surveys. Donlin Creek Mine  
37 research, phase two. This slide shows the  
38 participating communities for phase two. Georgetown  
39 and Napaimute are not lower river communities, however  
40 we included them in order to work with their tribal  
41 councils to determine the best way to document the  
42 harvest of those tribal members who traditionally use  
43 the area. This is despite the fact that there is not a  
44 significant year-round population looking at either of  
45 these sites. This was requested by Donlin LLC.

46  
47 Next slide, please. Lower Middle Yukon  
48 River, Upper and Lower Kuskokwim Rivers, subsistence  
49 surveys, Donlin Creek Mine research, phase three.  
50 Phase three includes communities from the Yukon River

1 and the Lower and Upper Kuskokwim River including the  
2 GASH villages, Russian Mission, Nikolai, McGrath and  
3 Kwigillingok on Kuskokwim Bay. Because Donlin LLC is  
4 interested in establishing baselines for the entire  
5 Kuskokwim, we're including Nikolai and McGrath in the  
6 Upper River, Yukon River communities are included in  
7 phase three because the areas around Holy Cross and the  
8 surrounding villages listed here are used by many  
9 Kuskokwim residents for fishing and hunting.  
10 Additionally, there is a proposal to explore the  
11 feasibility of building a road between the Kuskokwim  
12 and Yukon Rivers at Russian Mission for use by Donlin  
13 Mine operations.

14

15                   Next slide, please. The Yukon Salmon  
16 Disaster Project, I'll remind you you have a  
17 preliminary summary that you can read at your leisure.  
18 Fishermen and communities along the Yukon are  
19 struggling with declines in salmon runs and other  
20 issues. Because of the salmon disaster declaration in  
21 2009 the legislature asked for research on Yukon salmon  
22 issues. In response, we are working with fishermen to  
23 explore the socioeconomic impacts of declining salmon  
24 runs on fishing communities along the Yukon River and  
25 how these have influenced fishing patterns and  
26 priorities. Participating communities are Emmonak,  
27 Marshall, Nulato, Beaver and Eagle.

28

29                   Next slide, please. Kuskokwim salmon  
30 ethnography. In this project, we aim to collect data  
31 about community patterns of subsistence use in several  
32 Kuskokwim River communities. The Alaska Department of  
33 Fish and Game has collected sufficient data on  
34 subsistence salmon harvests, run data and biological  
35 data on Pacific salmon in the Kuskokwim River. However  
36 very little has been done in the past 20 years to talk  
37 to fishermen about why they fish the way they do. We  
38 are trying to understand how local fishers change their  
39 fishing strategies in response to a changing culture,  
40 economy or a natural environment.

41

42                   Next slide, please. Strategic planning  
43 for whitefish research Yukon and Kuskokwim drainages.  
44 This is an OSM-funded project to develop a strategic  
45 plan for research on whitefish species in Yukon and  
46 Kuskokwim drainages. The plan covers six species that  
47 are found in these two drainages. Sheefish or inconnu,  
48 broad whitefish, humpback whitefish, least cisco,  
49 Bering cisco and round whitefish.

50

1                   Our approach to developing this  
2 strategy plan has included meetings in the Central  
3 Kuskokwim and Lower Yukon, which are areas where we  
4 have real gaps and information about whitefish biology  
5 and harvest and use, expert working group meetings of  
6 local experts, biologists, anthropologists and  
7 managers, and archival research and literature review.  
8

9                   This group of approximately 30 people  
10 who either live or work in one or the other drainage  
11 met first in November 2008 and again in April 2009 to  
12 discuss prioritized research needs. Randy Brown of the  
13 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and Caroline Brown of  
14 Fish and Game have been compiling all this information  
15 into a comprehensive report on whitefish research that  
16 will act as a resource for researchers and others  
17 interested in whitefish studies and will also provide a  
18 detailed list of prioritized research needs for  
19 whitefish species in both drainages.  
20

21                   If you have any questions, you may  
22 contact Randy Brown and I can give his contact  
23 information to Melinda or Caroline Brown, both in  
24 Fairbanks. Alternatively, Fish and Wildlife Service  
25 Staff in Fairbanks might be able to address any  
26 programmatic issues or questions you might have.  
27

28                   Next slide, please. Bering Sea  
29 Integrated Ecological Research Project, commonly  
30 referred to as BSIERP. This project is funded by the  
31 National Science Foundation and North Pacific Research  
32 Board to look at Bering Sea ecosystems and the  
33 communities that use them. Emmonak is one of five  
34 participating communities. The others are Akutan,  
35 Savoonga, St. Paul, Togiak and Nelson Island. This  
36 project focuses on documenting subsistence harvest data  
37 and traditional knowledge about ecological systems of  
38 the Bering Sea, climate change and potential effects on  
39 people.  
40

41                   Next slide, please. The Lower  
42 Kuskokwim Big Game Project. Due to concerns associated  
43 with managing the Mulchatna Caribou Herd in the Y-K  
44 Delta, the Alaska State Legislature provided one year  
45 of funding to initiate a big game survey. The survey  
46 will document harvests of caribou, moose, black bear,  
47 brown bear and wolves over a 12-month period.  
48

49                   Households will be asked to document  
50 their harvests and other supporting information such as

1 timing of harvest, effort spent hunting game, sex of  
2 animal and map of general areas where they looked for  
3 big game species, as well as sharing patterns of  
4 harvest. They will also be asked to assess how their  
5 harvest and use compared to previous years. This type  
6 of information is very useful in regulatory settings.  
7 Also, more accurate harvest levels help agencies better  
8 manage these animal populations.

9

10 We hope to receive this funding once  
11 again next year to continue this effort and fill an  
12 important information gap about big game harvests in  
13 the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta.

14

15 Final slide. Once again, I can attempt  
16 to answer some questions here since I have some  
17 familiarity with these projects. Any other questions  
18 can be directed to our supervisors in Fairbanks and I'd  
19 like to thank you on behalf of the office in Fairbanks  
20 for permitting us to share our information about our  
21 projects with you today.

22

23 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks, David. I  
24 appreciate all those projects. Those are the kind of  
25 information that this Council has been looking for.  
26 Any questions from the Council to David.

27

(No comments)

28

29 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: No. Thank you.

30

31 MR. RUNFOLA: Thank you very much.

32

33 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Moving on in our  
34 agenda. Is there any other Alaska Department of Fish  
35 and Game issues, George.

36

37 MR. PAPPAS: No, sir.

38

39 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: We're down to  
40 National Park Service. Gates of the Arctic National  
41 Park. They're not present. And Denali National Park,  
42 selective wildlife update 2010-11. Is that a handout  
43 or what is that?

44

45 MS. HERNANDEZ: It's in your red folder  
46 and it's also on the table.

47

48 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Ray, go  
49 ahead.

50

1 MR. COLLINS: Yeah, I'm chair of the  
2 SRC there and we had no issues to bring to you. We got  
3 an update this year on what's going on there and  
4 there's no current issues I think that need attention.  
5 My comments to them was what is missing it seems to be  
6 the ability of the local managers, like in Denali Park,  
7 to make decisions on wildlife issues.

8  
9 The process takes so long to get a  
10 season in or a change of season or special action that  
11 we need to move towards getting more general hunts on  
12 the book in our proposals, I think, and then allow  
13 locally them to extend that, especially when the  
14 resource is underharvested, let's say, or people aren't  
15 successful. Now you've got to change it and it's going  
16 to be two years later before it goes through the  
17 process and so on, that long term.

18  
19 I think the issue that I have is that  
20 on both our proposals and the other ones is they're too  
21 short term and they don't respond very quickly to  
22 subsistence users and we're getting into this  
23 fluctuating game populations, weather changes and all  
24 these other things. I'd like to see them moving in  
25 that direction so more decision-making could be made on  
26 the local level.

27  
28 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yeah, that sounds  
29 good to me. Did you want to make any comments about  
30 the Gates of the Arctic Subsistence Resource  
31 Commission, Pollock. Pollock is the chair.

32  
33 MR. SIMON: No comment.

34  
35 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: No comments. Okay.  
36 So we can move down to the Yukon River Drainage  
37 Fisheries Association. Jason.

38  
39 MR. HALE: Thank you very much for  
40 having me. Boy, my voice sounds really high and  
41 squeaky. That freaked me out.

42  
43 (Laughter)

44  
45 MR. HALE: Thanks for having me. I  
46 really didn't bring a visual presentation, but since I  
47 just traveled for about 10 days with Jenny this summer,  
48 just so you guys will look at me, I'm going to have a  
49 slide slow running of our trip. That really may not  
50 have anything to do with what I'm talking about, but I

1 thought it would be fun. If you don't like it or it's  
2 distracting, I'll be happy to shut it down.

3  
4 I have a few things I wanted to update  
5 you guys about. The big one, and if we're running  
6 short on time or anything, you can tell me to shut up  
7 after that or I can keep going, but the big one is what  
8 we're calling the United King Salmon Conservation Plan.  
9 It's a new project. I have handouts that I'll give you  
10 later, but I didn't want you to have to be trying to  
11 read them while I was talking.

12  
13 It was initiated by a resolution from  
14 the YRDFA Board and we're launching a two-year project  
15 to develop a unified conservation plan to address the  
16 low king salmon returns. At the core of this process  
17 will be a working group of stakeholders, agencies and  
18 some other experts and what could very well come out of  
19 it is a new king salmon management plan. I'm really  
20 not a fan of reading stuff, so I'm not going to read  
21 anymore about that.

22  
23 You guys are familiar with our summer  
24 season preparedness process. You've sent delegates to  
25 that the last few years. It's gone pretty well and at  
26 the end of it each spring we have a management plan  
27 that users had input in. You know, that's great, but  
28 it's always just been a rough plan for the pre-season  
29 for that season and I guess we feel like the runs  
30 aren't getting better and we want to do something a  
31 little more concrete and recognizing it's not just  
32 YRDFA out there or it's not just the RACs or the Yukon  
33 River Panel or the agency, there are a lot of players  
34 nowadays. So we want to gather all the players and  
35 just be one of them to work over the next two years and  
36 bring in good contract biologists and other contract  
37 scientists to help us out at the group's will, not at  
38 my direction or anyone else, but the group, to figure  
39 out what we might do to get the king salmon back. So  
40 something, I guess, longer term and more concrete than  
41 just a meeting about the coming season, which is also  
42 important.

43  
44 So what I'm asking for is that you guys  
45 choose a delegate to serve on this committee and what  
46 that person would be signing up for is a little unclear  
47 because really that group is going to be setting what  
48 it's doing specifically. If I were to make a guess  
49 right now, they'd probably be looking at getting  
50 together and meeting either the week after Thanksgiving

1 or sometime the middle of January and then probably  
2 three more meetings over the next year and a half to  
3 help set direction for which direction the king salmon  
4 management plan should go, help figure out exactly what  
5 kind of experts they want working for them and then  
6 directing those experts into creating a plan that they  
7 can live with up and down the river.

8

9 So that's the first thing. That's the  
10 big deal. So if I could ask for you guys to designate  
11 somebody, that would be great.

12

13 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Jason needs to have  
14 a designee to -- what did you call that panel?

15

16 MR. HALE: It's going to be called the  
17 United Yukon River Chinook Conservation Plan Working  
18 Group. We'll have to come up with something that  
19 sounds a little sexier than that.

20

21 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Sexy's always good.  
22 We have three fishers on this Council, four. We have  
23 Tim Gervais also. Are you still on there, Tim.

24

25 MR. GERVAIS: Yes, I'm still here.

26

27 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. The Western  
28 Interior Regional Council has been requested to appoint  
29 somebody to attend the YRDFA united chinook work group  
30 or whatever. Robert and James aren't here. Who would  
31 like to attend and act as a representative for the  
32 Western Interior Council? Are you willing to attend  
33 that, Jenny?

34

35 MS. PELKOLA: Sure.

36

37 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Jenny is a very  
38 active fisher. I feel she's very qualified to  
39 participate for us. How does the rest of the Council  
40 feel about appointing Jenny?

41

42 MS. PELKOLA: Do we have an alternate?

43

44 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: We can set an  
45 alternate.

46

47 MR. COLLINS: Is Tim available?

48

49 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Tim, are you  
50 available?

1 MR. GERVAIS: That's fine.  
2  
3 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: What would be your  
4 normal meeting times for this? This would be like in  
5 April or so?  
6  
7 MR. HALE: Likely not April because  
8 there's so much else going on. Likely the first  
9 meeting will be either the week after Thanksgiving or  
10 in mid January and then the group would set the next  
11 meeting at that meeting, so it would be dependant on  
12 people's schedules.  
13  
14 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Not in conflict with  
15 fishing, of course.  
16  
17 MR. HALE: No, not in conflict, no. We  
18 wouldn't even think about meeting during the  
19 summertime. Honestly, from late February through  
20 second week of April it would be pretty darn tough  
21 because there's so many meetings that people are  
22 already stuck at, so we'd have to weave around those as  
23 best we could.  
24  
25 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. So Tim has  
26 agreed to be the alternate. Is that agreeable with the  
27 Council that Tim is the alternate.  
28  
29 (Council nods affirmatively)  
30  
31 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I'm seeing the  
32 affirmative for Jenny and Tim as the alternate. That  
33 answers your question there, Jason. Do you have  
34 continuance?  
35  
36 MR. HALE: If you guys are game for me  
37 to update you on a few more things, I'd love to, but if  
38 you feel like you'd rather push on, I can catch you  
39 later.  
40  
41 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I would like to know  
42 a few more things there if you've got some stuff for  
43 us.  
44  
45 MR. HALE: Wonderful. Okay. You know,  
46 some kind of old friend projects going on. Just a  
47 brief update on how the teleconferences went this year.  
48 A lot of you guys were on some of them. We had 13 this  
49 year and normally we have around 13 or 14.  
50 Participation as measured by the numbers of communities

1 that actively participated, where folks actually spoke  
2 up and said something, was equal to the average  
3 participation over the last five years, but it was 8  
4 percent down from 2010 and 2010 was the big record-  
5 breaker, 2009 and 2010.

6  
7 Because the runs were projected to be  
8 so bad early on everyone called in and said, gosh,  
9 what's going on. We figure that now people have gotten  
10 over that initial shock of there's not enough kings.  
11 You know, they're getting their schedules and they're  
12 calling in early to figure out what's happening and  
13 then they're kind of not calling in as much as the  
14 panic period was, but it's still higher than it used to  
15 be.

16  
17 Really, the entire drop was from U.S.  
18 communities, but the entire boost was from U.S.  
19 communities before, so it's not a surprise. As usual,  
20 active participation was really strong in certain  
21 communities, particularly those U.S. communities with  
22 in-season harvest interviewers and also just some with  
23 really active fishermen who like to call in, places  
24 like Koyukuk, Ben Jones is going to call in no matter  
25 what as an example.

26  
27 I'm afraid I missed Fish and Wildlife's  
28 fisheries presentation. I don't know if Gerald covered  
29 the in-season subsistence monitoring project.

30  
31 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: He gave an overview  
32 of the run production and so forth.

33  
34 MR. HALE: Okay. So yet again we  
35 worked with Fish and Wildlife and 10 communities on the  
36 Yukon. We had local interviewers who went around and  
37 talked to fishing families and reported on the  
38 teleconferences each week during the king run as to how  
39 people were doing with their harvest and how people  
40 rated the run. I guess there were 137 household  
41 interviews all told and the highest harvest completion  
42 rate as reported through that process for kings was in  
43 Russian Mission. They said they were 92 percent  
44 complete with their harvest in terms of what they  
45 wanted to get versus what they got. The lowest was in  
46 Nulato. They said they only got about 28 percent of  
47 the kings they wanted to get. Not far off was Port  
48 Yukon at 32 percent and everybody else fell kind of in  
49 the middle. For instance, Galena was reported at 75  
50 percent and a lot of people were in the 60 to 75

1 percent range for their subsistence harvest for the  
2 kings as reported through this.

3

4 We plan on continuing the process next  
5 year. We've done some revamps to make it a little more  
6 user friendly. So that's that project.

7

8 Becca asked me to give a brief update  
9 on salmon bycatch. King salmon to date in the Bering  
10 Sea pollock fishery 8,856. That's as of September 10th  
11 actually. And for chum salmon as of September 19th,  
12 approximately 155,000. So pollock fishing generally  
13 finishes by October, but fishing has been slow this  
14 year because of the distribution of pollock and efforts  
15 to avoid chum salmon. So, as of September 19th, the  
16 fleet still had about 25 percent of their allowable  
17 catch of pollock remaining.

18

19 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Percentage  
20 remaining?

21

22 MR. HALE: 25 percent of the allowable  
23 harvest remaining. As a reminder, the North Pacific  
24 Fishery Management Council is still in the process of  
25 analyzing chum salmon bycatch reduction measures. They  
26 pushed things off a little bit and at this point  
27 they'll likely take final action in fall 2012. Those  
28 of you who were following it, they were supposed to be  
29 looking at it by this December, but it's been pushed  
30 off a little bit. We'll be keeping you apprised of  
31 that as we get a little closer to action.

32

33 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Do you have a  
34 question there, Ray.

35

36 MR. COLLINS: What was the king number  
37 again?

38

39 MR. HALE: That king number was 8,856,  
40 so pretty darn low.

41

42 MR. COLLINS: Okay.

43

44 MR. HALE: A few more things here.  
45 Habitat assessment. We are in the process of assessing  
46 impediments to salmon spawning streams. This is stuff  
47 like culverts that are broken down, in the way, in  
48 Kaltag, Ruby, Mountain Village and St. Mary's. We just  
49 successfully completed a project that addressed a  
50 culvert issue outside of Fairbanks to get some more

1 kings to a spawning stream. So it's just something that  
2 we're working on now doing what we can on habitat  
3 improvements. Just wanted to note that. That's a bit  
4 of a new project for us.

5  
6 Then there's the Educational Exchange.  
7 I think Jenny mentioned it earlier in the meeting and  
8 you're looking at pictures of it right now. In August,  
9 four Alaskan fishermen plus a fisheries manager, that  
10 was Steve Hayes, and myself traveled for about a week  
11 and a half all over the Yukon Territory. Those folks  
12 each year are more and more interested in sharing  
13 what's going on with their fishery, learning what's  
14 going on with our fishery and trying to figure out what  
15 everybody can do for the kings. I think they,  
16 generally speaking, showed us a real good time. I  
17 think we all learned quite a bit. We had a lot of fun.

18  
19 One of the pictures on here shows a  
20 giant plate of surf and turf that I can't believe Jenny  
21 finished.

22  
23 (Laughter)

24  
25 MR. HALE: But we all gained about five  
26 pounds during the trip and had a pretty good time, I  
27 think. It went well. Next summer we're hoping to get  
28 that funded again. We'll be bringing Canadians down.  
29 Likely targets will be Galena and Nulato, maybe Kaltag,  
30 possibly Mountain Village and Emmonak. There seemed to  
31 be some pretty high-caliber folks from Canada  
32 interested in swinging down. So we'll keep you up to  
33 date on that.

34  
35 Another Canadian bit of news. This  
36 summer they had their first ever salmon summit where  
37 they got all the First Nations in the Yukon Territory  
38 or most of them anyway together for a week to talk  
39 about the king salmon issue, how the kings aren't  
40 coming back and what needs to be done about it. This  
41 was really closed door. Management wasn't in the room.  
42 It was just the First Nation people talking frankly to  
43 each other. I actually managed to be in the room  
44 somehow, which was a nice honor.

45  
46 They came up with a bunch of  
47 recommendations. Five, I guess. One notable one that  
48 they're going to be chasing after and we're going to  
49 kind of work with them on it is the establishment of an  
50 international meeting of tribes and First Nations to

1 kind of get on the same page with what people are  
2 thinking about the king salmon run and what could be  
3 done about it. So Alaskans have been meeting forever  
4 and Canadians have been meeting forever, but we never  
5 really meet together except for just a few people at  
6 these Yukon River panel meetings.

7

8                   So they want to do something a little  
9 bigger. If the funding comes through, it would happen  
10 in concert with that summer season preparedness thing  
11 that we do every April as of late. So just something  
12 to be thinking about, we might be having a big meeting  
13 with the Canadians to figure out what's going on the  
14 other side of the border.

15

16                   They had a bunch of other suggestions  
17 as well. I can go into them if you like.

18

19                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yeah, just give us a  
20 brief overview.

21

22                   MR. HALE: Sure. Okay. A second one  
23 was launching a media campaign to raise awareness of  
24 the declining runs. They have a concern that some  
25 people don't realize how bad the situation is. Since  
26 they are sitting up on spawning grounds, they just  
27 really feel like they're seeing it more dramatically  
28 than some people might see it, so they really want to  
29 do some sort of a media campaign. It could be  
30 internet-based or newspapers or mailing campaign.  
31 They're looking at doing something next year.

32

33                   They also believe that we should be  
34 lobbying politicians on both sides of the border to  
35 honor the Yukon River Salmon Agreement that we have  
36 with Canada. Figure out how many fish need to get  
37 across the border for spawning and for harvest share  
38 and to protect pulses of king salmon and to preserve  
39 salmon and their habitat.

40

41                   Number four out of five, they've talked  
42 about opening up that Yukon River Salmon Agreement to  
43 make amendments, including penalties for not following  
44 the treaty. In other words, they're saying if U.S.  
45 doesn't get enough fish across the border to support  
46 the spawning escapements and the harvest shares, there  
47 should be some teeth in the thing is what they're  
48 saying. There was some discussion on that one. Some  
49 people were very much not in favor of it because they  
50 were afraid if you open it, it will never close again.

1 In the end, the simple majority of the people in the  
2 room said, well, we think we should look at this.

3

4                   Lastly, kind of a general one, find out  
5 why the salmon are declining. So they want to try and  
6 find research dollars and charge people with trying to  
7 sort that out. So that was the International Salmon  
8 Summit in the Yukon Territory. If it happens again, it  
9 would likely be this international thing that we talked  
10 about for this coming spring.

11

12                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay, thank you. Do  
13 you have a comment there, Ray.

14

15                   MR. COLLINS: Yeah, a question. Was  
16 there any discussion on what kind of production they're  
17 getting out of the ones that are getting there? Are  
18 they looking at what the conditions are in the stream  
19 in terms of how many spawners are producing there? I  
20 think that would be one, are there habitat limitations  
21 or something. Any discussion of that?

22

23                   MR. HALE: You know, that's a good  
24 question. They didn't get super deep into the science  
25 except to say we know the kings are not coming back and  
26 we know that no one is willing to say why exactly and  
27 we'd like that question answered. I agree with you,  
28 that's going to be one of the things that needs to be  
29 looked at. Possibly in this Yukon River Chinook  
30 Conservation Plan that would be something we'd be  
31 looking at as well. But, no, they didn't speak  
32 specifically about that.

33

34                   MR. COLLINS: I was just thinking those  
35 fingerlings have a tremendous journey that they've got  
36 to make down all the way and it would be nice to know  
37 what's happening to them on the way downriver. I don't  
38 know if there's any way of marking some of those by  
39 clipping a fin or something like that so that they  
40 would be identifiable down in the high seas and so on.  
41 Maybe genetic markers. I don't know what the deal  
42 would be.

43

44                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, Jason.

45

46                   MR. HALE: Some of you guys know and  
47 Jenny saw this this summer at the Whitehorse Dam they  
48 do have a small hatchery to replace the fish that  
49 probably are affected by the dam. They get chewed up  
50 in the turbines. So they do clip the adipose fin and

1 that is a recognizable thing. They put a coded wire  
2 tag in so you can pull that out and figure out exactly  
3 where and when that fish was put into the system. So  
4 there is a little bit of that happening at least.

5  
6 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Any other questions  
7 or comments on YRDFA presentation.

8  
9 (No comments)

10  
11 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: You've got another  
12 comment.

13  
14 MR. HALE: Sorry. One last very super  
15 brief.

16  
17 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay.

18  
19 MR. HALE: We just found out yesterday  
20 afternoon that we got a grant to do some kind of a  
21 fisheries culture and youth camp in five communities  
22 across the Alaska portion of the drainage. I don't  
23 have in front of me which communities. I know Nenana  
24 is one of them and there's going to be four others.  
25 It's probably not going to be too dissimilar to some of  
26 the camps that Vince was talking about earlier. They  
27 do a lot of this kind of stuff in Canada as well to  
28 great success. The idea being to keep the local  
29 fishery cultural practices and knowledge alive and  
30 encourage more involvement in the fishery. That's  
31 going to be a new project that we'll be launching I  
32 guess in the spring. We're kind of excited. Like I  
33 say, we just heard about it, so we're trying to get our  
34 ducks in a row in the next couple weeks so we're ready  
35 for the spring.

36  
37 That's it for me, but I'm happy to  
38 ramble as much as you guys want about anything you  
39 want.

40  
41 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I wanted to comment.  
42 I heard through the grapevine that people were having a  
43 hard time keeping up with the changes in the windows  
44 schedules. There's announcements and people in fish  
45 camps were having a heck of a time trying to stay  
46 current. Even the Koyukuk-Nowitna Refuge Staff was  
47 having a heck of a time trying to keep the public  
48 updated.

49  
50 Has YRDFA investigated or considered

1 how to get the information out to the fishing public?  
2 Some of these radio stations have changed their  
3 broadcast bandwidths, so there's some real blackouts  
4 along the river where people are having a heck of a  
5 time trying to get what those season changes and  
6 updates are. So is YRDFA looking into putting that on  
7 your agenda as to how to deal with some of these?

8  
9 We're not out of the woods yet. We're  
10 looking at poor runs. There is going to be windows and  
11 schedule changes and trying to protect certain  
12 components of the chinook run and how to get  
13 information out to the public.

14  
15 MR. HALE: That's a big one, right.  
16 You can see where management is coming from. I get it.  
17 They say, jeez, we could put out a regular schedule,  
18 but it would have to be really conservative or we can  
19 try and do what they did this year, which was they  
20 tried to be really surgical to allow as much fishing as  
21 they could. You know, okay, we can fish right until  
22 that pulse gets here or we can just have this regular  
23 schedule and big closures and that kind of thing. A  
24 lot of people didn't seem to like it, although I think  
25 they appreciated they could take more fish at the same  
26 time.

27  
28 So the question is how do you get the  
29 information to people out at remote camps. We know  
30 that current practices are going on between the  
31 teleconferences and the faxes to tribal council office  
32 and announcements on VHF in some communities and a host  
33 of other things along those lines.

34  
35 We've talked about it for sure. We've  
36 talked about it amongst ourselves, with management.  
37 Management's response always is if you tell us another  
38 way to do it that's going to reach people that's  
39 remotely reasonable, that's our deal and we'll be happy  
40 to do it. YRDFA would say the same thing. And I guess  
41 other people have said it's the fishermen's  
42 responsibility too to communicate in town with where  
43 the information is coming in.

44  
45 That being said, if anybody has an idea  
46 of another means to get information out in-season for  
47 changes, I would like to hear it because I would like  
48 to try it. You know, it doesn't do anybody any good if  
49 they don't know what's going on.

50

1                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I'm of the  
2 impression that the Lower River utilizes VHF, but I  
3 don't think the Upper River utilizes VHF. I would  
4 encourage YRDFA into working with TCC to try and come  
5 up with finding to provide VHF communication with the  
6 tribal office from the various communities that the  
7 people are fishing from. VHF have an effective range  
8 of 25 miles easily and can be further in some cases.

9  
10                   Do people in your area use VHF at all,  
11 Jenny?

12  
13                   MS. PELKOLA: It's starting to pick up.  
14 But I would like to say that we do have a radio station  
15 in Galena and that's what we have to listen to to know  
16 what's going on. I don't know how they get the  
17 information to put it on the radio, but they have it  
18 there.

19  
20                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: It may be just a  
21 limited number of people that can't get AM or are out  
22 of range of regular broadcast. I'm a full advocate of  
23 surgically providing as much fishing time for  
24 subsistence and still achieving the escapement, but I  
25 am a little concerned with people not being able to --  
26 you know, being sort of in the dark. So I just wanted  
27 to put that out there for YRDFA's consideration.

28  
29                   Any more comments from the Council on  
30 the YRDFA presentation.

31  
32                   (No comments)

33  
34                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: And I do really  
35 appreciate all that YRDFA -- I see Jenny with her huge  
36 plate of food there. I could eat that easily, but  
37 little Jenny here?

38  
39                   MR. HALE: You can't see that under the  
40 mushrooms is a colossal steak. So it's not just  
41 veggies there. She really did good. I think we ate  
42 about three cows while we were over there.

43  
44                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Did you have a  
45 comment, Tim. Go ahead.

46  
47                   MR. GERVAIS: I'd just like to thank  
48 Jason and the rest of the YRDFA people for trying to  
49 make something happen with this king run. It's really  
50 appreciated by the fishermen, so keep on keeping on

1 speaking up for us.

2

3 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks, Tim.

4

5 This Council is very happy with all  
6 that YRDFA is doing for the fishery on the Yukon River,  
7 so appreciate that and thanks for attending our  
8 meeting.

9

10 MR. HALE: Thanks for having me and  
11 thanks for the good comments. I will follow up for  
12 sure. Jenny, we'll be talking to you once we set our  
13 date for our next meeting. I guess I'll be hanging out  
14 with you guys more tonight, but I appreciate your time.

15

16 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: We're going to go  
17 for a break here and then come back. We have some  
18 other business to deal with.

19

20 (Off record)

21

22 (On record)

23

24 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: We're down on agenda  
25 Item 16, other business. The other business that I  
26 would like to see addressed is our Council Coordinator.  
27 During the Department of Interior review all the RAC  
28 Chair's present that met with Pat Pourchot stated that  
29 the Council Coordinators are a very important part of  
30 the RACs working arm, so this Council needs a very  
31 active Council Coordinator. Melinda has demonstrated  
32 during the pre-meeting -- as soon as she contacted me  
33 for the first time I was very satisfied with her  
34 engagement and has done a very excellent job for this  
35 Council, so I do not want to lose her.

36

37 The Council Chair has to work with the  
38 Coordinator extensively throughout the off-season  
39 between meetings. So priority one is that I would like  
40 a letter submitted to OSM and the U.S. Forest Service  
41 to have Melinda's detail extended by  
42 120 days to give OSM time to publish the position of  
43 our RAC Coordinator's position.

44

45 The RAC will entertain a motion to send  
46 a letter to OSM and the U.S. Forest Service to extend  
47 Melinda Hernandez's detail 120 days with OSM as our  
48 Coordinator.

49

50 MS. PELKOLA: So moved.

1 MR. SIMON: Second.  
2  
3 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Moved and seconded.  
4 Any further discussion on that.  
5  
6 (No comments)  
7  
8 MR. MORGAN: Question.  
9  
10 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: The question has  
11 been called. Those in favor of that extension for  
12 Melinda for 120 days, letter to be submitted, signify  
13 by saying aye.  
14  
15 IN UNISON: Aye.  
16  
17 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Are you on line,  
18 Tim.  
19  
20 MR. GERVAIS: Yes.  
21  
22 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Did you have an  
23 affirmative vote?  
24  
25 MR. GERVAIS: Yes.  
26  
27 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So the RAC will  
28 submit that letter. Priority 2 is that the Western  
29 Interior Regional Advisory Council Coordinator position  
30 should be published as soon as possible. The Western  
31 Interior is in dire need of a qualified coordinator for  
32 this Council. Melinda Hernandez is performing at the  
33 Council's needs and level. To perform the duties of  
34 this Council under Section .805 we request that OSM  
35 execute all measures to retain Melinda as the WIRAC  
36 Coordinator and to publish the position post-haste so  
37 that this Council can perform its duties of business.  
38 A letter to that effect.  
39  
40 MR. COLLINS: Mr. Chairman. Do we have  
41 the right to do that? I'm wondering if we're stepping  
42 beyond the measures. If she's applying, we could be  
43 used as references and we can state that she is highly  
44 qualified and so on, but I don't know if we can tell  
45 them that we want this candidate.  
46  
47 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: That's our  
48 intention. We can state that intention. That's a  
49 letter of endorsement.  
50

1 MR. COLLINS: Okay. That's fine.  
2  
3 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Basically what I  
4 just read urges them to, A, publish that position post-  
5 haste and, B, we prefer her as our Coordinator. I  
6 would like that letter to go to Pete Probasco, Geoff  
7 Haskett and the Federal Subsistence Board to be aware  
8 of our predicament. Is that the cc list? Is the  
9 Council good with that?  
10  
11 (Council nods affirmatively)  
12  
13 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Is that okay with  
14 you, Tim, the letter and the cc list?  
15  
16 MR. GERVAIS: Yes, that's fine.  
17  
18 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So the chair will  
19 entertain a motion to transmit that letter as stated in  
20 the record. Do I have a motion to that effect.  
21  
22 MS. PELKOLA: So moved.  
23  
24 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Moved by Jenny.  
25  
26 MR. COLLINS: Second.  
27  
28 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Seconded by Ray.  
29  
30 MS. PELKOLA: Question.  
31  
32 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: The question has  
33 been called. Those in favor of a transmission of that  
34 letter regarding our Coordinator position signify by  
35 saying aye.  
36  
37 IN UNISON: Aye.  
38  
39 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Those opposed same  
40 sign.  
41  
42 (No opposing votes)  
43  
44 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So that letter will  
45 be transmitted as soon as possible to the list.  
46  
47 So we're on future Council topics for  
48 our next meeting. The first thing that our Council  
49 should address is the Board of Game proposals for  
50 Region 3 that need to be addressed. I will transmit

1 the various proposals that I found and I will delve  
2 into this book further to make sure that we cover all  
3 the subjects of proposals that would affect our region.

4  
5 Does any Council members have other  
6 agenda items for the next meeting. Eleanor.

7  
8 MS. YATLIN: I guess I should have  
9 brought it up during the meeting somewhere on the  
10 agenda, but I've been thinking about this for a long  
11 time. It's about the moose in all areas. When I lived  
12 down in Galena in '03 to '05, I was working for Louden  
13 and I heard a lot of comments on how the residents,  
14 subsistence users, start shooting the smaller moose,  
15 younger bulls, because there was no more large animals  
16 to kill, bull moose. They called them bambis. I don't  
17 know if this is a trend or what's happening. We've got  
18 399 people go through the check station on the Koyukuk  
19 River.

20  
21 I know at the Nowitna check station  
22 they take teeth out to determine the age and whatnot,  
23 you know. So I wonder if we could get statistics as to  
24 why this is happening. The reason why I'm bringing  
25 this up, if it happened -- if I heard this in Galena in  
26 '03 to '05 and then now it's happening around our area.  
27 I hear a lot of comments and people getting younger  
28 moose.

29  
30 It really brought it out when the elder  
31 was -- you know, he had an interpreter and he was  
32 talking about it. He said that for the future he wants  
33 the moose to be there for his grandchildren. They don't  
34 want to kill those young bulls. I'd just like to see  
35 statistics if this is happening all over.

36  
37 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks, Eleanor, I  
38 really appreciate those comments. I would like Alaska  
39 Department of Fish and Game and Koyukuk-Nowitna  
40 basically give an overview of the age demographics of  
41 the moose population around Galena. It's my perception  
42 from reviewing the data that there's a fairly high  
43 harvest of moose around Galena, so of course the older  
44 age classes are not really so present. It would  
45 basically be younger animals. But Eleanor is wanting  
46 to see some datasets for around Galena and around  
47 Huslia on age classes of moose just for general  
48 information. George.

49  
50 MR. PAPPAS: Point of clarification.

1 Moose population and demographics of harvest?

2

3 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Basically the moose  
4 population or the bull composition by age class for  
5 around the Galena area and also compared to Huslia.  
6 She's concerned that the larger bulls are being killed  
7 off. I would like that to be statistically presented  
8 to the Council at our next meeting.

9

10 MR. PAPPAS: At the next meeting. You  
11 built the record very clearly.

12

13 Thank you.

14

15 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thank you.

16

17 MS. YATLIN: One more comment. The  
18 reason why I bring that up is, you know, when we lived  
19 in Bettles we had all these outfitters coming in. When  
20 we'd sit on the Koyukuk River, we could see them going  
21 down in rubber rafts. All you see is just this huge,  
22 just the biggest horn you could imagine. This is  
23 between the years of '89 to '98. It just kind of  
24 cleaned out the area, all the way up in Alatna River  
25 too, you know.

26

27 Now we have these outfitters around  
28 Huslia for a number of years that come in and they take  
29 their clients out. I get meat from them too because  
30 I'm not going to say no. They are huge. I just  
31 wondered what's happening, what's the trend.

32

33 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: That's a valid  
34 question to want to have an understanding of the age  
35 composition of the moose populations in those areas.  
36 Did you have.....

37

38 MR. RAMOS: I forgot something to  
39 report.

40

41 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay.

42

43 MR. RAMOS: This is Keith Ramos of  
44 Koyukuk-Nowitna. I will bring this back to the office.  
45 We collect information at the check station in Nowitna  
46 and we turn in the teeth and the cards with  
47 measurements to the State for their analysis, but in  
48 terms around Galena I'm not aware of them collecting  
49 this data, but I'll definitely bring back the question  
50 to this office. I guess Glenn Stout will be the person

1 that could probably address this the best. Did you  
2 have a question.

3

4 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: We want to see what  
5 the harvest demographics are. We also want to see --  
6 they classify moose when they do a survey. We'd like  
7 to see those classifications.

8

9 MR. RAMOS: We should have that. I  
10 thought you were just talking about the harvested  
11 animals, not the general.

12

13 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: It would also be the  
14 live component also, the bulls. Did you have  
15 something, Vince.

16

17 MR. RAMOS: And I have something else  
18 that I forgot to mention earlier.

19

20 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay.

21

22 MR. RAMOS: The guide use areas are  
23 open right now for bidding, all but one. The only one  
24 that is not open is the one that's Joe Shuster and  
25 Sportsman's, which is a big Koyukuk 3 in the eastern  
26 portion is not open, but everything else on the Koyukuk  
27 is open for guides to put in for. We did not get any  
28 applications in Koyukuk 2, which is the southern  
29 portion of the Koyukuk Controlled Use Area and the  
30 southern portion of the Refuge. But I believe the  
31 Nowitna and the Koyukuk are both open, all the guide  
32 use areas. Just to let you know.

33

34 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: That's good  
35 information to know, that there may be a change in  
36 who's guiding there in the selection process.

37

38 Vince, go ahead.

39

40 MR. MATHEWS: I just wanted to remind  
41 you that if you're asking for a report on the moose  
42 population dynamics or whatever, you're meeting the  
43 week that the Board of Game meets. The person that  
44 would have that information I really doubt he'll be  
45 able to attend your meeting in McGrath, so you may want  
46 to ask for a report or some other way that that  
47 information would be shared.

48

49 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right. Well, Glenn  
50 can send it to us in the mail or something. Just as

1 long as it's presented. Will you be attending our  
2 meeting in McGrath this next spring, George?  
3 Hopefully. Lord willing. Some Alaska Department of  
4 Fish and Game Staff can present that. Josh might be  
5 present.

6

7 Go ahead, Vince.

8

9 MR. MATHEWS: Well, another option  
10 would be that he would get in contact with key Council  
11 members and talk over the phone  
12 in addition to a report.

13

14 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: He probably will be  
15 able to produce this relatively quickly and be able to  
16 transmit it, so I don't think it's a big problem.

17

18 Thank you.

19

20 Any other Council member agenda items  
21 for our next meeting.

22

23 MR. GERVAIS: I have two, Jack.

24

25 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, Tim.

26

27 MR. GERVAIS: The first one is we can  
28 go over the information that North Pacific Management  
29 Council has on their chum salmon bycatch alternatives  
30 and come up with a resolution out of that that we can  
31 submit. When they get into their final decision-making  
32 process during the second half of 2012.

33

34 Then the other item we should deal with  
35 is take some of this survey information that Jason Hale  
36 is talking about on percent of subsistence needs with  
37 the king salmon harvest for these various villages and  
38 take a look at that and discussing with the managers  
39 when they view that pre-season plan. Have a  
40 conversation with Fred Bue about -- if they know  
41 they're going to have a chum salmon opening, that they  
42 should allow for those four or five thousand kings as  
43 part of their subsistence harvest and not have the  
44 lower districts taking a full subsistence harvest and  
45 then getting the incidental king salmon catch beyond  
46 that. It sounds like YRDFA might have enough  
47 information to get a resolution or agreement with the  
48 area managers regarding the subsistence levels.

49

50 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right, Tim, those

1 are important issues. Jason wasn't here when we  
2 discussed that Y1 and 2 were meeting subsistence needs  
3 before anybody else. Full subsistence needs, nearly  
4 achieving as much as people wanted. And then they were  
5 going to move into a directed chum fishery where they  
6 knew there was going to be bycatch of chinook salmon  
7 that was going to be absorbed into the subsistence use  
8 also. Those were precluded from sale.

9

10 What I was speaking to and we spoke to  
11 Fred Bue yesterday on the teleconference here is that  
12 the managers should calculate what that bycatch is  
13 going to be and reduce the subsistence fishing time to  
14 stay within the shared burden of conservation  
15 throughout the whole drainage.

16

17 So it's my feeling and I see Tim has  
18 the same feeling and I'm pretty sure the Council has  
19 the same feeling that the downriver is not sharing the  
20 same level of conservation burden as the rest of the  
21 river because they get their cake and they eat it too.  
22 They get the chum fish and keep the bycatch and they  
23 also get to have full utilization of the subsistence  
24 fishery.

25

26 Fred said, well, they don't know what  
27 to do with -- you know, they don't have enough -- it's  
28 too hard to dry them and they don't have freezer space.  
29 Well, what in the heck is happening to these fish  
30 anyway. The reality is they're utilizing these fish.  
31 They're going actually in reality beyond their  
32 subsistence needs with this bycatch, so that's what Tim  
33 is talking about and we want to have that discussion at  
34 our meeting on our agenda.

35

36 Did you want to say something, Jason.

37

38 MR. HALE: Yes, sorry. Just real  
39 briefly. A couple things. One, that's something we've  
40 been hearing from the mouth all the way to the  
41 headwaters. Everybody is worried about equity.  
42 Everybody is saying it no matter where you are. That  
43 doesn't seem fair, I got to do this, they didn't get to  
44 do that and that kind of thing. So everybody  
45 everywhere is saying it and, you're right, that is the  
46 big deal, how do you do equity. I'm sure Fred Bue  
47 would address the challenge.

48

49 Something I guess I wanted to make sure  
50 everybody knew about. Kwik'Pak, some of those kings

1 that weren't allowed to be sold, Kwik'pak went ahead  
2 and offered to process those fish and donated those for  
3 free to the upriver folks, upriver interests. Council  
4 of the Yukon First Nations, for instance, they sent  
5 quite a few. I know last summer they sent quite a few  
6 to the Gwich'in gathering and to Council of Yukon First  
7 Nations. A lot of those fish ended up being donated to  
8 elders who wouldn't have gotten fish up there anyway.  
9 I'm not saying that was all the fish that got taken,  
10 but it is a neat little initiative that should be  
11 recognized. But, you're right, equity is the issue.

12

13 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: What this Council  
14 would like to see at our spring meeting is that how  
15 many of those fish actually went to other areas that  
16 weren't in Y1 and Y2 and how many bycatch fish were  
17 absorbed in the Lower River subsistence use from the  
18 directed chum fishery. That's something I think this  
19 Council is concerned about and the pre-season planning  
20 in our spring meeting is a good place to talk about  
21 that.

22

23 Any other Council agenda items for the  
24 spring meeting in McGrath. Ray.

25

26 MR. GERVAIS: I have one more.

27

28 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Tim, go right ahead.

29

30 MR. GERVAIS: I'd like to expand on the  
31 pressure analysis of a 7.5-inch mesh. I know we're not  
32 getting the research, only enough to do a research on  
33 drop out rates and stuff like that, but I think we need  
34 to evaluate how the 7.5-inch mesh is working and what  
35 the consequences of it are, good or bad. We have this  
36 new regulation and we need to track if it's performing  
37 the way the State Fish and Game wants it to perform or  
38 if it needs to be tweaked or adjusted. So we should  
39 look at the performance of the 7.5-inch mesh.

40

41 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. We could look  
42 at what the harvest is, whether the Bromagin graph  
43 showing that the 7.5 would target the majority of the  
44 fish present and whether in reality that's the  
45 demographics of what was being caught compared to what  
46 was present in the river. That would be something to  
47 look at.

48

49 Thanks, Tim. Do you have a point  
50 there, Ray.

1 MR. COLLINS: Yeah, it's in terms of  
2 our harvest proposals that we send in. I'm wondering  
3 if we should look at them overall and see which ones  
4 come closest to meet subsistence needs. What I mean is  
5 they're supposed to provide opportunity for subsistence  
6 hunters and sometimes there's not much opportunity  
7 provided because the weather is too bad and can't use  
8 those days or whatever. Maybe even in the fall we're  
9 not providing enough opportunity to harvest what's out  
10 there that could be harvested.

11  
12 So is there other ways of writing  
13 proposals. One of them is, I think, delegating more  
14 authority to the local Refuge or Park manager to extend  
15 seasons or close seasons or write a bag limit in or  
16 something like that that require reporting and when a  
17 certain number is set it shuts down. Just looking at  
18 the quality of proposals and which ones do the best job  
19 of actually meeting people's needs. I don't know if we  
20 can do that in one meeting, but think in terms of that.

21  
22 We try to use special actions, but  
23 special actions are not quick enough to really respond  
24 to a real need. We've seen that with Allakaket and  
25 some of the others. They get no meat in the fall and  
26 that's it. Maybe there's a winter hunt, but that's not  
27 appropriate, so is there something else that we could  
28 do that would write the regs that would allow them a  
29 real opportunity to harvest what's there.

30  
31 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: We could request the  
32 managers evaluate the subsistence harvest for the  
33 various conservation units in Federal lands in  
34 comparison to what the subsistence needs are and give a  
35 presentation to the Council if there's regulatory  
36 changes that would be advantageous for the Federal  
37 managers to try to meet subsistence needs compared with  
38 what the biological parameters of the herds are.

39  
40 MR. COLLINS: Yeah.

41  
42 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So that's basically  
43 what you said there?

44  
45 MR. COLLINS: Yeah.

46  
47 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So we'll put that on  
48 as an agenda item. I would like to see an update from  
49 BLM on the sheep issue. I would like to continue  
50 dialogue with the Central Arctic office, so I'd like to

1 see an update on what point they're at at our next  
2 meeting. Jenny.

3

4 MS. PELKOLA: I don't know if this is  
5 for an agenda item, but I would like to see the  
6 possibility of a telecon between Board members between  
7 scheduled meetings. I don't know if we could do that  
8 or if it has to go on the agenda to discuss it.

9

10 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: That would be  
11 probably a good thing if the Council met by  
12 teleconference a couple of weeks before -- when are our  
13 books coming out, about two weeks. We're changing  
14 publishers now, aren't we? So hopefully the book will  
15 be out a little sooner. We could evaluate when the  
16 Council gets the book, even a week before the meeting,  
17 if we could have a teleconference and kind of go over a  
18 few issues before the meeting. Is that basically what  
19 you would like or what would you like to do?

20

21 MS. PELKOLA: No, I think what I'm  
22 thinking about is we have so many issues sometimes we  
23 could sort of -- if there's any that we could work  
24 through without.....

25

26 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: That doesn't work  
27 with .805 of ANILCA. It specifically tells these  
28 Councils that we're a public platform for the public to  
29 come to speak to the Council on any issue regarding  
30 fish and wildlife, so teleconferences can be used for  
31 planning and reviewing things that have occurred in  
32 public meetings like we did on some of the proposals we  
33 had last round, but we can't have teleconferences to  
34 basically do Council business because it all has to be  
35 transcribed and we have to be on mike and so forth. We  
36 have to give the public opportunity to comment.

37

38 MS. PELKOLA: Well, maybe we can do  
39 just what you said then.

40

41 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: We could have a pre-  
42 meeting and sort of go over some of the issues that  
43 will tighten up the meeting a little bit. Melinda.

44

45 MS. HERNANDEZ: Council, as well, if  
46 this detail of mine is extended, I'll work really hard  
47 to make sure to provide materials as early as possible,  
48 especially to those that aren't connected by email.  
49 I'll overnight things, whatever I need to do to make  
50 sure you're provided materials as early as possible.

1                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I appreciate that,  
2 Melinda. Any other agenda items the Council would like  
3 to see on our next -- agenda items can be submitted to  
4 the Council Coordinator. If you go home and, oh, I  
5 should have done this or that, just submit those to  
6 Melinda either by email or in the mail, however you  
7 prefer.

8  
9                   I think we've covered as many of the  
10 agenda items offhand right now. Does anybody else have  
11 any pressing agenda items. Melinda.

12  
13                   MS. HERNANDEZ: Mr. Chair. Do we still  
14 need to establish the dates of the fall 2012 Western  
15 Interior meeting?

16  
17                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yes, future meeting  
18 plans, we're moving into that. We need to establish  
19 date and location of the 2012 winter meeting. It was  
20 my impression that we were supposed to meet in McGrath  
21 for that meeting. Pollock.

22  
23                   MR. SIMON: I've been on this Board the  
24 first three years that this Board was formed and I at  
25 one time remember coming here and meeting here. Ray  
26 has been one of the Board members that's still here.  
27 I've gone to meetings all my life and over 25 years  
28 I've slept on people's couches, slept on gym floors.  
29 Now I was re-elected to this Board last year and I find  
30 out this Board has really grown and things have  
31 changed. We no longer go to smaller villages and have  
32 meetings there. We have meetings in the bigger  
33 communities. Now we don't have to sleep on gym floors.  
34 Now we stay in a lodge. Maybe just to accommodate all  
35 the different agencies. I see a large increase in the  
36 different agencies coming to the Board every year. I  
37 know that we won't see the village residents anymore.  
38 So I think we're forgetting the smaller communities and  
39 the peoples.

40  
41                   I say this because when filling out the  
42 first application for a Council member one of the  
43 questions there I answered was do you truly want to  
44 represent the peoples of the region and I said I will,  
45 but flying into here the other day, I fly over the  
46 smaller village and its peoples and come to bigger  
47 community. So things have changed. This Board has  
48 grown. Just something to remember, we won't forget the  
49 people in the smaller villages.

50

1                   That's my comments.

2

3                   Thank you.

4

5                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: We really appreciate  
6 that comment, Pollock. This Council, about three or  
7 four years ago, they started telling us we had to meet  
8 in regional hubs because of the budget. This Council  
9 was not real happy with that. We wanted to be able to  
10 meet. We had meetings in Holy Cross where we had 45  
11 people present at the meeting. We've had meetings in  
12 Huslia where we had practically the whole community out  
13 there. I would love to meet in smaller villages. I  
14 don't mind sleeping on the gym floor, whatever it takes  
15 to get the public input, but at this time Office of  
16 Subsistence Management has prioritized funding and  
17 they're looking at reductions in funding, so we're  
18 still basically stuck in hub communities. Through  
19 petition we actually expanded. They were going to give  
20 us Aniak and Galena and then we petitioned for McGrath  
21 and so now we've been able to show that McGrath is a  
22 hub community.

23

24                   Pollock is right. We can't forget the  
25 smaller communities and we would like to get as much  
26 public input as we can and tribal involvement will help  
27 with that to a limited degree, but it has some real  
28 problems right now, so we need to tighten up the tribal  
29 involvement to get the kind of information flow that we  
30 need to have for this Council to work at its capacity.  
31 Melinda.

32

33                   MS. HERNANDEZ: Pete Probasco at the  
34 Office of Subsistence Management will make an exception  
35 with a cost analysis. I've done it in Southeast where  
36 I was able to get the Council to meet at one of the  
37 communities that was not served by Alaska Airlines. So  
38 if the Council would like to have an alternative, I  
39 would be more than happy to conduct a cost analysis and  
40 see what I can do to try and make it happen, but I  
41 can't promise anything.

42

43                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right. I'm happy to  
44 hear that. It should be cheaper to have meetings in  
45 villages because.....

46

47                   MS. HERNANDEZ: No lodging costs.

48

49                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: .....no lodging  
50 costs. We're sleeping on floors and at people's

1 houses. So I'm happy to hear that you would have a  
2 cost analysis comparison. Is there any Council members  
3 that feel there is a need to meet in another community  
4 within our region that would be advantageous to our  
5 spring meeting? Jenny.

6  
7 MS. PELKOLA: I do. I think it's very  
8 important. Galena now, the population there is almost  
9 half and half, half westerns and half Natives. There  
10 are some other villages close by that are probably 75  
11 percent local people that have lived there all their  
12 lives. I think it's very important to look at that  
13 versus a hub. It's good to have a lot of agencies, but  
14 it's also good to get the community input because I,  
15 sitting here on the Board, I vote for something and  
16 they say, well, we didn't know about that and all this  
17 stuff. But if they're there at the meeting, if they  
18 can speak, I think it makes a lot of difference.

19  
20 In fact, I was just talking to Carl  
21 about is there another place other than Aniak where we  
22 can meet so we can see some of these people.

23  
24 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Melinda.

25  
26 MS. HERNANDEZ: George Pappas from the  
27 State just also reminded me of a very good point, that  
28 if there are issues that are really important to your  
29 Council, that can also add a little bit of weight to  
30 the analysis as well.

31  
32 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right. Before the  
33 hub plan emerged, this Council used to prioritize hot  
34 spots, what I call hot spot areas. There was a problem  
35 with moose management at Huslia or whatever, throughout  
36 the region we prioritized, and that's why we had  
37 meetings in Holy Cross and various other areas. I  
38 would like to meet in other villages. If the Council  
39 feels that there's -- I can't off the top of my head  
40 think of a hot spot that I can prioritize as a number  
41 one hot spot, but if the Council members can make a  
42 compelling argument, we could change our meeting place  
43 instead of McGrath to another village within this  
44 region.

45  
46 Carl.

47  
48 MR. MORGAN: Yeah, I feel really  
49 uncomfortable to try and pick a spot now. I think it's  
50 a good agenda topic for next meeting in McGrath,

1 especially with Council members that aren't here right  
2 now.

3

4 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: That's a good point,  
5 Carl. So that should be an agenda item for next  
6 meeting. Vince, do you have a comment.

7

8 MR. MATHEWS: One possible hot spot and  
9 the State can chime in here is the Intensive Management  
10 Plan for the Allakaket-Alatna area.

11

12 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right.

13

14 MR. MATHEWS: And she pointed out it's  
15 not just cost analysis, it has to be a justification  
16 for meeting there. If you look at where Eastern  
17 Interior is looking at meeting in 2012, they're meeting  
18 in Central. If I understand from their last meeting,  
19 that's because of the Fortymile Caribou Herd. That's  
20 also on the road system, but not one of their hubs. So  
21 the combination is cost as well as justification.

22

23 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I prefer to have a  
24 little more contentious issues. That's a given. The  
25 IM for Allakaket-Alatna is not a real big deal.  
26 Pollock.

27

28 MR. SIMON: Maybe we should make an  
29 effort to go to smaller communities. We do that with  
30 different committees I sit on. Maybe one time be hub  
31 center and the next time go to a smaller community. It  
32 works with other committees I sit on.

33

34 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

35

36 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks, Pollock. I  
37 think on our next agenda we should review the need for  
38 a hot spot meeting. Eleanor.

39

40 MS. YATLIN: I agree with just about  
41 what everybody said. The thing of it is, I would like  
42 to have James and Robert if we're going to have a  
43 discussion. Like Pollock stated, when it first started  
44 there was people we represent. I don't have anything  
45 against the Federal or State agencies or other, but  
46 that's all we have in each -- the last three years that  
47 we went to meeting, you know, we just had -- I can tell  
48 you maybe there was two yesterday that was from local  
49 and Galena was two last year. The year before I don't  
50 think there was anyone. In the villages, we could hear

1 their points of view. So I agree with having it in --  
2 but we'd have to look at our next agenda, like you say,  
3 a hot spot area.

4

5 Thank you.

6

7 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: On our next meeting  
8 we'll evaluate and think about and have our full  
9 Council to decide if we need a hot spot meeting. We'll  
10 have that as a standing order on our agenda, Melinda,  
11 to evaluate establishment of date and location to  
12 evaluate for hot spot issues that would be advantageous  
13 for future cost analysis.

14

15 Moving away from that. We've already  
16 established a meeting date and location for 2012 spring  
17 meeting. We need to establish date and location of the  
18 2012 fall meeting. The spring meeting was.....

19

20 MR. MORGAN: 28 and 29.

21

22 MS. PELKOLA: Winter meeting.

23

24 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Or winter meeting,  
25 spring meeting. So we're February 28 and 29 on the  
26 spring meeting. We need to establish our fall meeting  
27 calendar and so I don't want to be in moose season at  
28 all. This meeting kind of pushed me pretty hard to  
29 finish off hunting and to get to this one because I  
30 couldn't go over all the papers that we needed to  
31 review, so there's probably other people that would be  
32 in the same boat so to speak.  
33 Personally, I would like to see more of an October 9  
34 and 10 meeting or something like that. How does the  
35 Council feel about that.

36

37 MR. MORGAN: That means we'll have to  
38 travel on a holiday. October 8 is a holiday. I don't  
39 like travel on holidays. Sometimes we get a three-day  
40 weekend.

41

42 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So 10 and 11. That  
43 gives us travel on a Tuesday and out travel on a  
44 Friday. Is that okay with Council?

45

46 MR. MORGAN: (Nods affirmatively)

47

48 MS. PELKOLA: Sounds good.

49

50 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: March 10 and 11. Do

1 we have to establish meeting location for the fall  
2 meeting? We may have a hot spot at that time at our  
3 spring meeting in February.

4  
5 MS. HERNANDEZ: Mr. Chair. I believe  
6 that as long as the dates are picked out I think that  
7 the location we can discuss at the February meeting.

8  
9 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Thank you.  
10 So we'll establish that location at our February  
11 meeting in McGrath.

12  
13 Melinda.

14  
15 MS. HERNANDEZ: One more thing, Council  
16 and Staff, just for your notes there have been a few  
17 changes to the February 2012 calendar that you see  
18 before you. The first change is the Seward Pen meeting  
19 in Nome that was originally scheduled for February 14  
20 and 15 has been moved to February 28 and 29 for your  
21 information, as well as the Southeast meeting that was  
22 supposed to be from March 12th through 15. That's been  
23 moved to the 19th through the 22nd. FYI.

24  
25 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Thank you.  
26 We're at the end of our agenda. So I'll give the  
27 Council closing comments. We've got Tim online here.  
28 Let's let Tim give his closing comments.

29  
30 Go ahead, Tim.

31  
32 MR. GERVAIS: I would just like to  
33 thank everyone for putting up with this not-perfect  
34 communication system. Appreciate everybody from the  
35 agencies providing us with information and wish  
36 everybody a good fall.

37  
38 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks, Tim.  
39 Appreciate that. Eleanor, closing comments.

40  
41 MS. YATLIN: My term is up this year,  
42 but I put my name back in there. I like working on  
43 this because most of the summer we live in camp, so I  
44 feel like I know the issues. I'm glad we brought it up  
45 again to have the meetings other than the hub village  
46 because we'll probably get more representation. They  
47 have good cover dishes in villages and a lot of good  
48 food.

49  
50 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Uh-huh. It comes

1 out.

2

3 (Laughter)

4

5 MS. YATLIN: Anyway. They'll even have  
6 a dance for you if you request it, violin music or  
7 whatever, especially if you go to Huslia. So anyway I  
8 think we have a good working group at the Western  
9 Interior. I'd like to see more representation for the  
10 villages.

11

12 Thank you.

13

14 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks, Eleanor. I  
15 appreciate those comments. Carl.

16

17 MR. MORGAN: Again, I'd like to say we  
18 agree to disagree, but we all come out with consensus  
19 and thank you.

20

21 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks, Carl. Do  
22 you have any final comments, Pollock.

23

24 MR. SIMON: I'll say good  
25 accommodations here, good meeting. I made some new  
26 friends and met with old friends. I'll see you in  
27 McGrath.

28

29 Thank you.

30

31 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks, Pollock.  
32 Jenny.

33

34 MS. PELKOLA: First of all, I would  
35 like to thank Tim Gervais for being here but not here.  
36 That brings a point of maybe we should schedule our  
37 travel to be a day ahead of time instead of the same  
38 day because it's -- see what happened. I know Melinda  
39 is new and I appreciate everything you've done, but  
40 it's just weather-wise and so maybe we can look at  
41 that. I just want to thank everybody, all the  
42 agencies. I enjoy your reports and I enjoy working  
43 with this group.

44

45 Thank you.

46

47 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks, Jenny. That  
48 is a consideration. In the fall, Anvik and Ruby can get  
49 bad weather and it would be a consideration that those  
50 communities that chronically have weather issues in

1 getting in and out of those communities maybe would  
2 have to travel a day earlier to get to destination.  
3 Ray.

4  
5 MR. COLLINS: I'm glad to host it. If  
6 it makes you feel any better, McGrath is getting  
7 smaller.

8  
9 (Laughter)

10  
11 MR. COLLINS: Yeah, I think for those  
12 Yukon folks if they can get to Galena, charter over to  
13 McGrath is pretty easy from there. For some of those,  
14 maybe that will help. I don't know what methods you're  
15 going to use, but I would suggest they look into that  
16 instead of having to go to Fairbanks or around  
17 Anchorage or wherever. But we do have the advantage  
18 that if there is a weather problem you can usually get  
19 from McGrath to Anchorage on home and so on.

20  
21 Yeah, I think it's been a good meeting  
22 and I'll look forward to having you there in February.  
23 Also my wife's birthday is on the 28th, so I'm glad I  
24 don't have to travel somewhere. At least I'll be home  
25 in the evening.

26 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks, Ray. I want  
27 to first thank the Council. This Council works very  
28 well together. We get good input to the Federal  
29 program, to the Federal Subsistence Board. I did  
30 appreciate a Federal Board member attending our  
31 meeting. I highly appreciate our Staff. Salena is  
32 jumping up and down moving the teleconference around  
33 and making sure that things are running good here and  
34 Melinda did a great job for us this round.

35  
36 I do appreciate all the State and  
37 Federal Staff and the tribal entities attending our  
38 meeting and YRDFA giving us updates on various projects  
39 and so forth. That enters into the overall picture  
40 that this Council deals with in deliberating management  
41 issues. So I think that our meeting was very  
42 productive and I think we achieved what the Federal  
43 Subsistence Board wanted to see on Proposal 10-69 on  
44 the C&T. We got as much input as we can. There's  
45 still room to have additional input in that. I would  
46 encourage people if you find anybody that wants to make  
47 comments to make sure that those comments get to  
48 Melinda here and that will get to the Federal  
49 Subsistence Board when they deliberate that proposal.

50

1                   So I do feel that we had a great  
2 meeting here. My term is also up. I might not be here  
3 in the spring meeting. I don't know at this time, but  
4 I have very much enjoyed working with our Council and  
5 with all of our Staff.

6  
7                   With that the Chair will entertain a  
8 motion to adjourn the meeting.

9  
10                  MS. PELKOLA: So moved.

11  
12                  CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Moved by Jenny.

13  
14                  MR. SIMON: Second.

15  
16                  CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Seconded by Pollock.  
17 Those in favor of adjournment signify by saying aye.

18  
19                  IN UNISON: Aye.

20  
21                  CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: The meeting is  
22 adjourned. We'll see you next time, Tim.

23  
24                  (Off record)

25  
26                  (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 in and for the state of Alaska and reporter for Computer Matrix Court Reporters, LLC, do hereby certify:

THAT the foregoing pages numbered 161 through 305 contain a full, true and correct Transcript of the WESTERN INTERIOR FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING, VOLUME II, taken electronically by Computer Matrix Court Reporters, LLC on the 5th day of October 2011, beginning at the hour of 9:00 o'clock a.m. in Aniak, Alaska;

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

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

DATED at Anchorage, Alaska, this 18th day of October 2011.

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