

1 WESTERN INTERIOR ALASKA FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE  
2 REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING

3  
4 PUBLIC MEETING

5  
6  
7 VOLUME II

8  
9 Galena, Alaska  
10 March 6, 2013  
11 9:00 a.m.

12  
13  
14 COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

- 15  
16 Jack Reakoff, Chairman  
17 Ray Collins  
18 Donald Honea  
19 Jenny Pelkola  
20 Pollock Simon  
21 James Walker  
22 Robert Walker  
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26 Regional Council Coordinator, Melinda Hernandez  
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P R O C E E D I N G S

(Galena, Alaska - 03/06/2013)

(On record)

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. So we're going to come back, bring the meeting back to order. This is day 2 at Galena of the Western Interior Regional Advisory Council.

We're through agenda item Western Arctic Caribou Herd Working Group. And so we have Jan Caulfield on the line. We're going to hear a briefing on the Western Arctic Caribou Herd. Rich Pollock is on that group.

So go ahead, Jan.

MS. CAULFIELD: Good morning. Thank you very much for inviting me to your meeting this morning. My name is Jan Caulfield, and just to clarify that I am not a member of the Western Arctic Caribou Herd Working Group. As I believe you know, I'm a contractor who helps as staff for the group, assisting the group with facilitation of the meetings and things like that. So I appreciate the opportunity to speak with you this morning.

And as your Chair noted, you know, Pollock Simon is a member of the group, and also Benedict Jones from Koyukuk.

So just to give a short briefing, and I believe you have a one or two-page thing that I provided to Melinda in your packet there. Your supplementation.

MS. HERNANDEZ: Right-hand side.

MS. CAULFIELD: The Western Arctic Caribou Herd Working Group is a 20-member group that includes a lot of different people who have an interest in the Western Arctic herd: subsistence hunters, other Alaskan hunters, representatives of reindeer herders, guides, transporters and conservationists. So it's a mixed group of people who care about the herd. And then agency Staff and biologists and different natural resource managers are advisory to that group.

1                   The Western Arctic Caribou Herd Working  
2 Group generally meets once a year, usually in December,  
3 and it does have some committees that might do work,  
4 you know, in the interim between meetings. It also has  
5 a technical committee that meets along with it in  
6 December. And the next meeting of the group will be  
7 held next December 4th and 5th, 2013. It's tentatively  
8 scheduled for Anchorage, which is where it usually  
9 meets, although I think there is some interest in  
10 starting to look at meetings outside of Anchorage, if  
11 that can be afforded.

12

13                   So that's one thought.

14

15                   The mission of the working group is to  
16 work together to ensure the long-term conservation of  
17 the Western Arctic herd and the ecosystem on which it  
18 depends, and to maintain traditional and other uses for  
19 the benefit of all people now and in the future.

20

21                   And so that's a mission that the group  
22 adopted quite some time ago. As I said, the group  
23 meets every year. You know, what it does is builds an  
24 agenda which allows time to exchange, you know,  
25 traditional information and Western scientific  
26 information about the status of the herd, and also the  
27 environment in which the herd lives, to, excuse me,  
28 reach consensus on recommendations related to research  
29 or monitoring or regulation, all those types of things  
30 related to the herd, as well as research development  
31 activities that might affect the herd or its habitat.

32

33                   The group also puts a strong emphasis  
34 on, you know, trying to provide education on about the  
35 herd and the habitat, and to increase communication  
36 between all the people who are involved and care about  
37 the herd. And so the meetings are, you know, a mix of  
38 presentations by biologists and research managers and  
39 others who have information about the health of the  
40 herd, sometimes presentations about activities or  
41 development projects that may be proposed, you know, up  
42 in the area. Also opportunities for elders to address  
43 the group and sharing the knowledge that they have,  
44 bringing that to the group for their information, and  
45 that sort of thing.

46

47                   We usually also have an opportunity for  
48 schools. Students who have helped with, you know,  
49 activities such as collaring at Onion Portage, come and  
50 give a presentation to the working group, which is

1 always a great opportunity.

2

3                   One thing that I wanted to make sure  
4 you were aware of is that in 2011 the working group  
5 updated the cooperative management plan for the Western  
6 Arctic herd. And it represents a plan that expresses  
7 what the working group believes about what should  
8 happen in terms of population management, habitat  
9 protection, regulation, education. So there's quite a  
10 few sections to that plan.

11

12                   The first plan was written in 2003, and  
13 as I said, it just was updated last year, which was a  
14 big accomplishment of the working group members. And  
15 the plan can be found on the working group website,  
16 which is [www.westernarcticcaribou.org](http://www.westernarcticcaribou.org). And that's  
17 written in the briefing paper that I think you have  
18 there.

19

20                   The working group also distributes an  
21 annual newsletter called Caribou Trails, which has a  
22 lot of different types of articles written in. And  
23 that's sent out to box holders that live in the region  
24 within the range of the herd and is also posted on the  
25 website.

26

27                   So a couple of other things just to  
28 emphasize before I conclude is just some of the work  
29 that's been done recently by the working group's  
30 resource development committee, which again is a  
31 smaller group within the -- or a subgroup of the  
32 working group that tracks some of the resource  
33 development issues in the region a little more closely  
34 relative to potential effects on caribou and caribou  
35 habitat.

36

37                   And I should mention that I've really  
38 just been involved with the group for about a year, so  
39 these are things that have happened within the last  
40 year that that resource development committee's been  
41 involved in.

42

43                   And one I believe you might be  
44 interested in is a letter that the working group sent  
45 to Governor Sean Parnell in April of 2012 about the  
46 different roads to resources projects. And some of the  
47 main points that were in that working group letter were  
48 the following. They requested that the State of Alaska  
49 fund a community health impacts assessment that would  
50 identify potential impacts of proposed roads on the

1 people and their communities within the range of the  
2 herd, especially impacts that might be related to food  
3 and nutrition and subsistence opportunities. And so  
4 that was a request in that letter. The letter to the  
5 Governor about roads to resources also referenced, you  
6 know, concerns about potential impacts of roads on the  
7 movement or distribution and population size of the  
8 Western Arctic herd, concerns about possible changes in  
9 hunting access that might affect how local residents  
10 access the caribou, as well as how visiting hunters  
11 would access, and, you know, possible changes in  
12 harvest levels or patterns of use or complexity of  
13 regulations.

14  
15 Two other points that were made were  
16 asking that the analysis of those roads to resources  
17 projects consider social and economic costs or benefits  
18 on the communities that have, you know, been roadless.  
19 And then also looking at what would be cumulative  
20 effects if there were multiple projects developed  
21 within the range.

22  
23 And so those were key points in that  
24 April 2012 letter from the working group to Governor  
25 Parnell.

26  
27 The State did reply in August. There  
28 was a reply back from Deputy Chief of Staff Randy Ruaro  
29 from the Governor's Office, and just indicated that  
30 they appreciated, you know, receiving that  
31 communication and statement of the concerns of the  
32 working group, and they highlighted some of the work  
33 that Fish and Game is doing, analyzing satellite and  
34 GPS collar data from caribou along the Red Dog Road  
35 corridor, and looking at caribou habitat use in the  
36 potential Umiat Road corridor. And also mentioned that  
37 the Department of Health and Social Services is  
38 developing a health impact assessment related to those  
39 types of concern that the working group expressed  
40 regarding food and nutrition and subsistence for the  
41 potential road to Umiat, and indicated that that would  
42 probably happen for the Ambler Road project as well if  
43 that project proceeds to an EIS process.

44  
45 And so on roads to resources, that's  
46 really what's happened so far, this exchange of  
47 letters.

48  
49 Two other things to mention, and then  
50 I'll see if you questions for me, is that another

1 couple of things that the working group did based on  
2 recommendations from its resource development  
3 committee, was submitted comments to the Bureau of Land  
4 Management regarding the environmental impact statement  
5 for the National Petroleum Reserve Alaska. And the  
6 working group had recommended permanent protection of  
7 areas of habitat that were used by caribou for calving  
8 or insect relief or migration corridors within the NPR-  
9 A. And in February the Department of Interior's  
10 Secretary, Ken Salazar, signed a record of decision for  
11 the NPR-A plan that does protect most of these highest  
12 value habitat areas in long-term conservation  
13 designations. So I believe the working group's letter,  
14 you know, was probably very helpful in achieving those  
15 protections.

16  
17 And then finally as another example of  
18 the things the working group does, they submitted  
19 comment letters to the Bureau of Land Management about  
20 habitat management and monitoring planning for the  
21 Nulato Hills, which was sent in during like a scoping  
22 comment period. And I think that planning process is  
23 still under way at BLM. So just another example of,  
24 you know, participating in those kinds of processes to  
25 raise points that should be looked at in regard to the  
26 long-term health of the herd and its habitat.

27  
28 So that really just gives you sort of a  
29 snapshot of some of the recent work of the herd, and  
30 that is what I'm most familiar with, because I'm fairly  
31 new to working with the group.

32  
33 Thank you very much for listening.

34  
35 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I appreciate your  
36 presentation. Excuse me, I dropped my coffee. And I  
37 appreciate your presentation there, Jan.

38  
39 I would like the Council to be able to  
40 ask any questions that may have risen during your  
41 presentation. If Council members have questions or  
42 comments.

43  
44 (No comments)

45  
46  
47 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I have a couple  
48 questions I would like to ask myself.

49  
50 Has the working group discussed on the

1 Dalton Highway, and I live on the Dalton Highway and I  
2 have before there was a road there, the State  
3 Legislature and government passed statutory closure to  
4 the use of all-terrain vehicles and firearms before the  
5 road was built, and those statutes are still in place.  
6 Those have been very instrumental in controlling  
7 rampant hunting pressure expanding away from the road.  
8 And has the working group discussed the ramifications  
9 of these roads and the kinds of impacts that roads  
10 bring. I know they have, but have they discussed  
11 requesting statutory closure within five miles of each  
12 side of the road to the use of all-terrain vehicles and  
13 firearms on the foothills and Ambler road?

14  
15 MS. CAULFIELD: Yeah. Not specifically  
16 yet, no in that level of specificity, you know, at the  
17 working group meetings. This comes up in conversation,  
18 but as I said, the letter that was sent so far was more  
19 general than that. It didn't ask for specific  
20 closures.

21  
22 But, you know, one thing I'd be very  
23 happy to do today, too, is, you know, take comments  
24 that you might have or suggestions and, you know, put  
25 those in a short memo to the working group and let them  
26 know what, you know, your suggestions are.

27  
28 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yeah, I think that  
29 that's -- those statutory closures basically precludes  
30 the Board of Game from allowing rampant and unfettered  
31 use of the resource, basically reallocating the  
32 resource to a mass of urban hunters. And that's what  
33 will occur if there's roads -- these roads are built.  
34 There will be a reallocation of the resource to a new  
35 user base, and as Alaskan residents, and I see these  
36 are State lands primarily. There's no way of  
37 controlling that other than a statutory closure. And  
38 so I think that that would be instrumental at least in  
39 the discussion. As these roads move forward, the  
40 working group needs to talk about whether those types  
41 of statutory closures are -- I don't feel that those  
42 would affect the subsistence users, because they would  
43 still be able to use the river systems, but the new  
44 road would bring thousands and thousands of hunters.

45  
46 I see over 2,000 hunters a year on the  
47 Dalton Highway hunting caribou, and that's if caribou  
48 are even nominally near the road.

49  
50 And so I would like to see the working

1 group move towards discussion about that issue.

2

3 Do you have any biological data, just  
4 brief, on the number of caribou currently in the  
5 Western Arctic herd and sort of a brief overview of the  
6 biology of that herd?

7

8 MS. CAULFIELD: You know, I'm afraid I  
9 really can't offer that, you know, right now. I'm not  
10 a biologist, and I don't have that at fingertips.

11

12 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Uh-huh.

13

14 MS. CAULFIELD: It's something I could  
15 get to Melinda and have her distribute to you, if that  
16 would be helpful.

17

18 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yeah.

19

20 MS. CAULFIELD: I apologize for not  
21 being able to just help you with those questions right  
22 now.

23

24 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yeah, if you could  
25 just transmit, you know, the basic biological current  
26 status of the Western Arctic herd, bull/cow ratio,  
27 number of animals, and cow/calf ratio. Those would be  
28 the main biological parameters that I would know.

29

30

31 MS. CAULFIELD: I can do that

32

33 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: And I also  
34 understand that Jim Dau has been evaluating radio  
35 telemetry with caribou being deterred by the Red Dog  
36 Road. And at some point I would like to see that  
37 presentation at the Council, and possibly this next  
38 fall meeting of the Y RAC, which should be in Fairbanks.  
39 Would that be possible?

40

41 MS. CAULFIELD: Well, and is that a  
42 question for Melinda in terms of putting it on your  
43 agenda or for me in terms of understanding whether Jim  
44 would be available?

45

46 MS. HERNANDEZ: Jan, Melinda here.

47

48 Jack, I believe Jennifer Yuhas is on  
49 the phone. And asking Jim for a presentation at our  
50 Council meeting I think would best be routed through

1 Jennifer, the liaison.

2

3 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Okay.

4

5 MS. HERNANDEZ: So we'll make an  
6 official request, or if you'd like to do that now, I  
7 believe Jennifer's on line.

8

9 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yeah. If you're on  
10 line there, Jennifer, I would like to see what the  
11 telemetry project on the Red Dog Mine Road has been,  
12 what the effects on caribou migrations.

13

14 I've seen that myself. About Western  
15 Arctic caribou came to the Dalton Highway corridor in  
16 1997, and they were repelled by the road. They balled  
17 up and stayed west of the road primarily. Very few  
18 animals would actually cross the Dalton Highway with  
19 all that road traffic. They don't like that. And so  
20 it takes years for caribou to become assimilated to a  
21 road system and where they will actually tolerate being  
22 near the road. Wild caribou. And so I would like this  
23 Council to be aware of what roads actually do.

24

25 And those would be some of the  
26 questions I had on the Western Arctic caribou.

27

28 Does the Council have any other  
29 questions for Jan.

30

31 Don.

32

33 MR. HONEA: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

34

35 Jan, I just had a question. Well,  
36 actually, I mean, because, you know, this letter here,  
37 whether it's an action item or how can we support your  
38 cause, or is this just FYI.

39

40 Thank you.

41

42 MS. CAULFIELD: Well, I think what I  
43 provided in writing is a two-page summary about some of  
44 the recent activities that I've heard based on a  
45 request from your Chair, Jack Reakoff.

46

47 You know, I think that -- so there's  
48 not a current letter that's being crafted from the  
49 Western Arctic Caribou Herd on any of these issues at  
50 this point. You know, however, I think expressing

1 comments to the State of Alaska about these projects,  
2 you know, I know the Western Arctic Caribou Herd wrote  
3 a letter with these points regarding roads to  
4 resources. So did the Unit 23 working group that  
5 focuses on user conflicts related to the Western Arctic  
6 herd use in Unit 23. They wrote a similar letter. So  
7 I know several groups have.....

8

9 MS. HERNANDEZ: Jan, this is Melinda.

10

11 MS. CAULFIELD: .....you know,  
12 expressed those comments to the State of Alaska.

13

14 MS. HERNANDEZ: Jan, this is Melinda.  
15 And, Jack, through the Chair. Don. We do support the  
16 letter in our annual report here. That's one of our  
17 items that we put in there is support to that letter.  
18 And if we'd like to throw out any other avenues besides  
19 the annual report, we can send along any correspondence  
20 you folks would like.

21

22 MS. CAULFIELD: Thanks, Melinda.

23

24 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Don, go ahead.

25

26 MR. HONEA: Yeah. Just one more. I  
27 was just thinking in terms of, you know, any proposals  
28 that we could support on their behalf, something like  
29 that, other than just, you know, moral support or maybe  
30 we support this or something. Specifically I was  
31 thinking of any resolutions, et cetera.

32

33 Thank you.

34

35 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Don, I'm thinking  
36 along the same lines. I feel that this Council needs  
37 to be proactive in this issue. And so I would like to  
38 see this Council write a letter to the Western Arctic  
39 Caribou Herd Working Group, and delineating some of  
40 our concerns and suggestions for the working group. I  
41 would like to support, tell the working group that  
42 we're in full support of their letter of April 20, 2012  
43 to the Governor of Alaska on their concerns about roads  
44 to resources for the Ambler and Foothills Roads.

45

46 I would like to suggest to the working  
47 group that they contemplate at their next meeting if  
48 the State is moving forward, that they approach the  
49 State Governor and Legislature for statutory closure on  
50 the Foothills and Ambler Road like the Dalton Highway

1 corridor, because the road will come off the Dalton  
2 Highway corridor, and so I would suggest that they make  
3 a five-mile on each side closure to firearm and ATV, so  
4 to put teeth. You know, what it does is it controls  
5 the Board of Game. The Board of Game crumbles to the  
6 political pressure to allow use. And so if you want to  
7 see a Fortymile Caribou Herd hunt in the Arctic, you're  
8 going to see it. You're going to see ATVs competing  
9 with each other heavily. They'll be chased, deflecting  
10 caribou migration. It's going to be a giant mess.

11  
12                   And so the if the State wants to build  
13 these roads to resources, well, they need to have some  
14 statutory controls on what the Board of Game can  
15 actually allow. And so there's bow and arrow hunting  
16 off the Dalton Highway, there's boats, there's dog  
17 teams, there's aircraft. There's a lot of accesses,  
18 but it's not the rampant kind of access where you have  
19 like hundreds of fourwheelers driving all over the  
20 hills and snowmachines chasing these caribou down,  
21 because the seasons are year round in these gamed  
22 management units in the Arctic.

23  
24                   And so if we want to continue  
25 subsistence use of these caribou, which a lot of  
26 villages have a consumptive use of one to two caribou  
27 per person, we need to maintain these caribou herds.  
28 And so I would like a letter transmitted with some of  
29 those issues to the Western Arctic Caribou Working  
30 Group.

31  
32                   Melinda.

33  
34                   MS. HERNANDEZ: Yeah. Jack, we can  
35 definitely craft that letter, and depending on how  
36 presentations and our time goes today, that would be  
37 one of the letters I think we could really quickly work  
38 on together as a group a little later and possibly have  
39 a good solid draft by the time we leave.

40  
41                   And just for the Council's FYI, too, I  
42 have worked with Jan Caulfield in the in the past when  
43 I was working for the Forest Service in Southeast. So  
44 now that we've touched base and know who the contact  
45 folks are for our two groups, I think we'll be working  
46 a lot more closely together in the future, and I can  
47 keep you folks better informed of what's going on along  
48 with Pollock here, your representative on the working  
49 group.

50

1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks, Melinda.

2

3 Does anybody else have questions for  
4 Jan. Go ahead, Ray.

5

6 MR. COLLINS: Yeah, Mr. Chairman.

7

8 Jan, I can't remember when, one of our  
9 previous meetings, we were talking about State  
10 proposals for earlier guided hunts and so on that they  
11 thought would deflect the herd. Was there any  
12 discussion of that by the working group and so? Did  
13 anything happen in that area? I mean, I think it was  
14 for moving the season up ahead when they were just  
15 moving, or afraid it was going to deflect the movement  
16 south, and what's happened in that area? Are they  
17 still moving south without any problems, or was that  
18 discussed?

19

20 MS. CAULFIELD: Yeah. No, I'm not  
21 aware of discussion on that point. So again I'm, you  
22 know, fairly new to the group. It wasn't discussed at  
23 this most recent meeting. And that didn't come up in,  
24 you know, Jim Dau's presentation regarding the  
25 migration of the herd. So, I'm sorry, I'm afraid I  
26 can't respond. But I can ask for more information and  
27 see if I could provide that to Melinda as well. That  
28 was a potential change in the regulations with regard  
29 to when the hunt would occur?

30

31 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yeah. What Ray is  
32 referring to was my comments on the Board of Game  
33 changed the season for cow caribou in Unit 26B from  
34 October 1 for cow caribou, they moved it up to July 1.  
35 Well, that began to allow massive amounts of road  
36 hunters to hunt cow caribou and deflect the lead herds,  
37 and they basically drove the caribou off to the east.  
38 It's only a few caribou that are leading these  
39 migrations, and they drove them off to the east. And  
40 so this has a huge impact on where caribou will  
41 eventually end up for wintering. If there's huge  
42 inundations of hunters killing cow caribou during  
43 migration, you will deflect herds. And so Anaktuvuk  
44 Pass does not allow anybody to shoot any caribou until  
45 the lead cows have gone by for at least 500 animals or  
46 so. And so that's what Ray's referring to.

47

48 I do know that the Western Arctic Herd  
49 Caribou Working Group has had concerns in the Noatak  
50 Valley. They put a controlled use area there to try to

1 control. They had season adjustments and so forth.  
2 But so far it's not the kind of hunting pressure that  
3 will occur if they build a road into the migration  
4 routes of the Western Arctic herd.

5  
6 Any other questions from the Council  
7 members here. Pollock.

8  
9 MR. SIMON: I have some comments.  
10 Chairman Roy Ashenfelter of the caribou working group  
11 wrote a good letter. I want to comment on some of the  
12 paragraphs that he wrote.

13  
14 He's requesting that the study of  
15 impact be made on affected communities, so I want to  
16 make sure that is done, because the roadway system  
17 affects the migration of the caribou. And I know this,  
18 because we had experience with the pipeline road  
19 before.

20  
21 So that's my comments. Thanks.

22  
23 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks, Pollock.

24  
25 Yeah, I'm not sure that the Governor's  
26 response to the working group is actually addressing  
27 what the working group was actually asking for.  
28 Analyzing telemetry work of where caribou go and stuff  
29 is not actually addressing the socioeconomic impacts if  
30 caribou were actually not available to the communities,  
31 and other resources. There's going to be huge impacts  
32 to sheefish and other resources. If those resources  
33 are taken away from the communities, that's the  
34 socioeconomic impacts. And so I don't feel that the  
35 Governor's response -- I would like if you could  
36 transmit a letter, that governor's response to Melinda,  
37 Jan, I would appreciate looking that over more  
38 carefully, but I do not think that the Governor's  
39 response is actually addressing the socio impacts of if  
40 caribou were vastly reduced or reallocated to the point  
41 where people could not take caribou at the same level  
42 that they're accustomed to taking in these areas. And  
43 so caribou are a large part of our diet in the northern  
44 part of the Western Interior region, that's why I have  
45 these concerns, and I would like to see these caribou  
46 herds maintained.

47  
48 Is there any further discussion,  
49 comments from the Council on this with Jan.

50

1 (No comments)  
2  
3 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I appreciate your  
4 presentation, Jan. And I think that I can tell that  
5 you're a very.....  
6  
7 MR. CEBRIAN: Jack.  
8  
9 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Merben, you've got  
10 comment.  
11  
12 MS. HERNANDEZ: Jan, this is Merben  
13 coming up from the BLM. Merben Cebrian.  
14  
15 MS. CAULFIELD: Right. We met before.  
16 Hi, Merben.  
17  
18 MR. CEBRIAN: Hi, Jan. Merben Cebrian,  
19 wildlife biologist, BLM.  
20  
21 Jan knows I'm a member of the technical  
22 committee for the Western Arctic Caribou Herd Working  
23 Group, and Pollock Simon also knows that.  
24  
25 In 2011 the Alaska Department of  
26 Transportation and Public Works -- or Public Facilities  
27 made a presentation on the roads to resources in front  
28 of the working group. If you would like, I can  
29 possibly get a copy of that presentation for the  
30 Council.  
31  
32 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I would like to see  
33 a copy of that.  
34  
35 MR. CEBRIAN: Yes, sir. And regarding  
36 the population, I don't have the exact figures for  
37 bull/cow ratios and calf/cows. That would be with Jim  
38 Dau.  
39  
40 But I think they presented a scenario  
41 where right now the population count is estimated to be  
42 around 320,000. And with a trajectory of the herd  
43 slowly declining, the working group have the plan to  
44 either start moderating of the herd, and that would  
45 probably start with stopping the take of cows  
46 initially. But that's in discussion. In the next  
47 working group a more definitive plan is going to be  
48 enacted. Right now the plan is in place, and it's more  
49 finetuning off that plan. And I'm only speaking for  
50 the biological park of this as part of the technical

1 committee. As far as the management is concerned the  
2 working group council has to make the decisions on what  
3 to do.

4

5 Thank you, sir.

6

7 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I appreciate those  
8 comments. I don't think that full elimination of cow  
9 harvest is warranted, but I do think a reduction in bag  
10 limit for cow harvest would be warranted.

11

12 MR. CEBRIAN: Yes, Mr. Chair. Those  
13 are the things that are put forward into consideration.  
14 Those aren't written in stone just yet.

15

16 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right. See, when  
17 caribou migrate past villages in October -- after the  
18 first of October you can't eat a bull caribou at all.  
19 And they may be only present in migration. So people  
20 take cow caribou from October through around the end of  
21 January, and then they begin taking bulls again. So  
22 bulls are harvested from the end of January all the way  
23 around until around the end of September, very first  
24 part of October.

25

26 And so, you know, you don't want to  
27 move too fast with some of regulation change, but I  
28 would like to see some of biological parameters, and I  
29 would like to see the DOT presentation. I happened to  
30 be in Shungnak Village when DOT was there trying to  
31 sell the road, and I've seen part -- this was two years  
32 ago. People there in Shungnak are very concerned about  
33 the road. Very. And Pollock and I were there for  
34 Gates of the Arctic Subsistence Resource Commission  
35 meeting.

36

37 Any other comments from the Council on  
38 the Western Arctic Caribou Herd Working Group.

39

40

41 (No comments)

42

43 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks so much Jan.  
44 And I hope to be in contact with you further on these  
45 issues. We'll be transmitting a letter.

46

47 MS. CAULFIELD: Okay. Well, I  
48 appreciate it, and I will provide the things that, you  
49 know, further information about the topics that you  
50 asked for.

1                   One thing just maybe to mention, in  
2 looking at the 2011 cooperative management plan that  
3 the Western Arctic Caribou Herd Working Group prepared,  
4 you know, there is a population management section.  
5 And there's a table in there that sort of lays out what  
6 possible future scenarios could be in terms of  
7 recommended harvest, you know, if there were changes in  
8 the population and whether, you know, the population  
9 seemed to be stable or declining or increasing. And so  
10 I think in part that's what Merben is referring to.  
11 There's not been any suggestion yet from the Western  
12 Arctic Caribou Herd Working Group for changes in  
13 regulation, but, you know, there's going to be  
14 continuing to look at the population size and the  
15 population trend, whether it's, you know, currently now  
16 it is declining, and harvest rates, and making  
17 recommendations based on that. And so that's an  
18 interesting part of that 2011 plan is the population  
19 management section.

20

21                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Yeah, I'd  
22 like to see a new current -- some of the management  
23 discussions also. And so id hat on line? Is that on  
24 your website?

25

26                   MS. CAULFIELD: Yeah. That management  
27 plan is on the westernarcticcaribou.org website.

28

29                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Well, I'll  
30 try and find that.

31

32                   And so any other comments or questions  
33 from the Council.

34

35                   (No comments)

36

37

38                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Vince has a question  
39 back there, or comment.

40

41                   MR. MATHEWS: As I mentioned earlier,  
42 I've got to cover three Regional Council. And the  
43 North Slope spent a lot of time discussing the Western  
44 Arctic herd, so it may good at your next meeting to get  
45 a summary on their concerns with the Western Arctic  
46 herd and go from that. And you have connections  
47 through James Nageak who'd on the SRC, the Subsistence  
48 Resource Commission. So just so you know, they have  
49 similar concerns that you have and expressed them quite  
50 strongly at the meeting in Barrow last week.

1 Thank you.

2

3 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks, Vince. I  
4 would like our coordinator to contact the North Slope  
5 coordinator and find the bullet Points of the Western  
6 Arctic -- or, correction, the North Slope Regional  
7 Advisory Council's concerns for the Western Arctic  
8 Caribou Herd, and Teshekpuk and Central Arctic caribou  
9 also.

10

11 Further discussion.

12

13 (No comments)

14

15 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks, Jan.

16

17 MS. HERNANDEZ: Thanks for making  
18 yourself available, Jan, and safe travels. I'm going  
19 to try to see you when I come to Juneau in a couple  
20 weeks.

21

22 MS. CAULFIELD: Very good. Thanks,  
23 Melinda.

24

25 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So I see that there  
26 are several students that have arrived to our meeting,  
27 and I wanted to welcome those students. Do you have an  
28 instructor with you also? Oh, there. Okay. And would  
29 you like to come up to the mic and introduce yourself  
30 and your students?

31

32 MS. BEASLEY: Okay. We could do that.  
33 I'm Freda Beasley, originally from Anvik.

34

35 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Turn the mic on  
36 there.

37

38 MS. BEASLEY: Oh, turn it on. Sorry.  
39 I'm Freda Beasley. I'm originally from Anvik, and I'm  
40 teaching school here at the Galena City School for my  
41 10th year. And my students are here and I'll introduce  
42 you to them as they come up.

43

44 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Uh-huh.

45

46 MS. BEASLEY: Julie. Introduce  
47 yourself, or do you want me to introduce you?

48

49 MS. GRANT: No, I can. I am Julie  
50 Grant and my grandma and grandma is Benedict Jones and

1 Eliza Jones. And my parents are Celia Grant and Louis  
2 Grant from Kwethluk.

3

4 MS. BEASLEY: Next. Tiffany.

5

6 MS. GEORGE: My name is Tiffany George,  
7 and I'm from Galena, Alaska. My mom is named Barbara  
8 Demoski, and my dad's name Norm George. And my  
9 grandparents are Amy Demoski and the late Mars Demoski.

10

11 MS. BEASLEY: They didn't think they  
12 were going to do this. Neither did I.

13

14 (Laughter)

15

16 MS. SIMS: My name is Dawn Sims. I'm  
17 from Grayling, Alaska. My mom and dad is Scott Sims  
18 and Geyan (ph) Polly. My grandparents are Gerry and  
19 John Sims, and my grandma is Shirley Clark. And my  
20 grandpa's Chuck Clark.

21

22 MS. BEASLEY: Rudi.

23

24 MS. JOSEPH: My name is Rudi Joseph.  
25 I'm from Hooper Bay. My parents are Fred and Wilma,  
26 and my grandparents are Rudy and Magdalene Smith.

27

28 MS. BEASLEY: Tanner.

29

30 MR. HUKANIM: Do I have to do this?

31

32 MS. BEASLEY: Yes, you.

33

34 MR. HUKANIM: My name is Tanner Hukanim  
35 (ph) from Kotzebue. My parents are Ethel and Art, and  
36 my grandparents are Flora and Amos Green.

37

38 MS. BEASLEY: Okay. Thank you.

39

40 Cindy Lou.

41

42 MS. KRUGER: My name is Cynthia Kruger.  
43 I'm from Anvik. My parents are Meldy (ph) and Ron  
44 Kruger. Grandparents are Della and John Deacon. And  
45 my other grandparents are Agnes and Bill Kruger.

46

47 MS. BEASLEY: Okay. Cami.

48

49 MS. INGA: My name is Cami Inga. I'm  
50 from Old Harbor, Alaska. And my parents are Martin and

1 Zora Inga, and my grandparents are Olga Pestikoff. And  
2 my other grandparents are Martin and Laura Inga.

3

4 MS. BEASLEY: Victor.

5

6 MR. LONEWOLF: Hi. My name is Lynn  
7 Victor Lonewolf, and I'm from Kotzebue. My parents are  
8 Rosie Hensley and Pierre Lonewolf. My grandparents are  
9 Stella Hensley and Aaron Outwater.

10

11 MS. BEASLEY: Thank you.

12

13 Brendan.

14

15 MR. PETE: Hello. My name is Brendan  
16 Pete from Stebbins. My parents are Fred and Marcia  
17 Pete. My grandparents are Daniel Stevens, Sr. and  
18 Teresa Stevens.

19

20 Thank you.

21

22 MS. BEASLEY: Thank you. And that's  
23 it. I have a few other students, but they had to stay  
24 behind. So you guys have a good meeting and thank you  
25 for being here.

26

27 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I wanted to  
28 thank.....

29

30 (Applause)

31

32 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I wanted the Council  
33 to meet younger students, kids that come out to see our  
34 meetings and take a look at how fish and wildlife  
35 management decisions are made. There's a lot of ground  
36 work that happens first. We have to go over a lot of  
37 information and then we have to formulate how to help  
38 people and the resources out. That's what we're here  
39 to do is for fish and wildlife management.

40

41 Some of these people might some day be  
42 sitting up here and so I encourage younger people who  
43 live off of subsistence resources to go to meetings and  
44 see how it goes. When I was a kid like that, I was  
45 like scared to death to even talk. I almost had a  
46 heart attack. Well, you get over it. When you get a  
47 little older, you get over it. And it's a good thing  
48 to go to meetings and understand what's going on,  
49 because people will try to take away your subsistence  
50 uses if you just sit on the sidelines. You have to get

1 involved in stuff. And so I encourage younger people  
2 to go to meetings.

3

4 And our past Chair, Ron Sam, told me he  
5 was 12 years old, and the elders in his community  
6 realized that he was a highly intelligent young man,  
7 and he was taken to meetings from when he was a tiny  
8 little kid. Unfortunately Ron died last year, but Ron  
9 was a very good speaker, because he was involved with  
10 meetings with Doyon and all kinds of meetings and  
11 instrumental in ANCSA passage and all kinds of stuff  
12 for years, because he was brought up doing that.

13

14 And so younger people, it's a good  
15 thing for younger people to get involved in city  
16 council and tribal council, and all kinds of stuff like  
17 that. So thank you for attending the meeting.

18

19 Yeah, go ahead and check the phone  
20 there, Melinda.

21

22 MS. HERNANDEZ: Can we do a quick check  
23 of who's on the line, please. So far today I've got  
24 Dan Sharp. I've got Jennifer Yuhas. I've heard Fred  
25 Bue. If you haven't identified yourself on the line so  
26 far this morning, can you please introduce yourself.

27

28 MR. RIVARD: Don Rivard.

29

30 MS. HERNANDEZ: Hi, Don.

31

32 MR. FOX: Trevor Fox.

33

34 MS. HERNANDEZ: Hello, Trevor.

35

36 MR. VENT: Darrel Vent, Huslia.

37

38 MS. HERNANDEZ: Hi, Darrel. Anyone  
39 else who has yet to introduce themselves on the  
40 teleconference today.

41

42 (No comments)

43

44 MS. HERNANDEZ: Okay. Thanks,  
45 everybody.

46

47

48 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks for being on  
49 line there, people on the phone. I do like to know  
50 who's out there. And if you want to interject anything

1 at any time, please get our attention. I do not want  
2 to ignore anybody on the phone.

3  
4 So we're on the Agenda G. Brooks Range  
5 Council. And so we kind of talked about the Brooks  
6 Range Council, and we had their handout. Did John ever  
7 get ahold of you? So he's not available to answer any  
8 questions.

9  
10 So the Council has the Brooks Range  
11 Council's concerns about these roads to resources. So  
12 that kind of covers that.

13  
14 We're at Agenda Item 11.H, which is  
15 call for wildlife regulatory proposals. And I'll have  
16 Mike Spindler come up, and Vince if he would like to.  
17 And we'll discuss this winter hunt in 24B.

18  
19 And Trevor Fox will also be on line  
20 there. Are you prepared -- do you have something  
21 prepared, Trevor?

22  
23 MR. FOX: Mr. Chair. I could read over  
24 the news release if you want a basic idea of what we're  
25 looking for. That's on Page 47, or I can just remain  
26 on line to help out in any way I can.

27  
28 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Let me grab  
29 that page.

30  
31 MR. HONEA: What page?

32  
33 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Page 47 in our  
34 packet here. And so this is basically the call for  
35 Federal proposals. And so that's through March 29 of  
36 2013.

37  
38 The issue that is before this Council,  
39 I'll let Mike give an overview of the Unit 24B winter  
40 moose hunt, and what is necessary for the Council to  
41 submit as a proposal. Go ahead, Mike.

42  
43 MR. SPINDLER: Yes, Mr. Chair and  
44 fellow Council members. For the record, my name is  
45 Mike Spindler, Refuge manager of Kanuti National  
46 Wildlife Refuge.

47  
48 As you may recall, about a decade and a  
49 half ago with the Koyukuk River Moose Management Plan,  
50 an agreement was made to remove most cow hunting

1 opportunities in the Upper Koyukuk drainage to keep the  
2 population productive, available for the fall hunting  
3 season. That was quite painful for the Upper Koyukuk  
4 River residence, because quite often moose hunting  
5 success during the September season is not adequate to  
6 provide for their winter moose meat supply. So efforts  
7 remained over the years to restore some level of winter  
8 moose hunting opportunity. And about three years ago  
9 it was finally decided through the State of Alaska  
10 Board of Game process that the best way to do that  
11 would be a December 15th to April 15th winter moose  
12 hunt in Unit 24B for bulls only. It had to be an  
13 antlered bull. So that would give a hunter the  
14 opportunity if they were out in the wood lot in  
15 December, for example, and still see an antlered bull,  
16 they could harvest that bull; or see the development of  
17 antler starting to occur in April, they could take that  
18 bull while they're out doing other activities.

19

20                   The Kanuti National Wildlife Refuge  
21 supports the continuation of this winter moose hunting  
22 opportunity. That regulation will sunset unless this  
23 Council takes action on the Federal side, and also the  
24 State Board of Game takes action on the State side.  
25 Both sides of the regulations did have a four-year  
26 sunset period. And so I would encourage the Council to  
27 consider resubmitting a proposal to continue that  
28 December 15th to April 15th winter bulls only hunting  
29 opportunity.

30

31                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks, Mike. Does  
32 the Council have any questions about the winter moose  
33 hunt.

34

35                   MR. J. WALKER: Yes, Jack.

36

37                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, James.

38

39                   MR. J. WALKER: Yes. Mike, leading up  
40 to this proposal, how was it arrived at to these dates?

41

42                   MR. SPINDLER: Could you repeat again?  
43 I didn't quite hear it.

44

45                   MR. J. WALKER: The hunting dates  
46 December 15th to April 15th.

47

48                   MR. SPINDLER: A little bit of history  
49 on that, Mr. Walker through Mr. Chair.

50

1                   There was no moose hunting opportunity  
2 in winter after the implementation of the Koyukuk River  
3 Moose Management Plan. It created quite a bit of  
4 hardship in the Koyukuk River villages, particularly  
5 Huslia, Hughes, and Allakaket, and Alatna. And so  
6 through a process on the Federal side, both the manager  
7 of Koyukuk/Nowitna and the manager of Kanuti were  
8 delegated responsibility by the Federal Board to have  
9 an in-season management responsibility to decide  
10 whether there would be a winter hunt opportunity.

11  
12                   It was only I believe a 5-day or 10-day  
13 window for that. It was very difficult to time that  
14 window when hunters could have access to moose when the  
15 weather conditions were favorable for getting out, when  
16 the snow conditions were favorable for tracking. A lot  
17 of problems with the short time window.

18  
19                   There was quite a bit of nervousness on  
20 the part of the management agencies on the Federal side  
21 and the State side that allowing a longer opportunity  
22 would allow for possibility of inadvertent or  
23 intentional take of cows. And when the population is  
24 low like it is in the Upper Koyukuk, taking cows is one  
25 of the worst things you can do to the population.

26  
27                   So it's something that the management  
28 agencies got into slowly, kind of putting your feet in  
29 the water to test the water so to speak. We  
30 demonstrated that when it was bulls only opportunities  
31 in Allakaket, that no cows were taken inadvertently.

32  
33                   And I think that convinced all the  
34 people on the management side that it was worth the  
35 risk to try to extend the season to a longer period.  
36 And so I would encourage the Council to continue that  
37 opportunity.

38  
39                   The agencies are monitoring what's  
40 going on. I do a bit of enforcement work to make sure  
41 that cows aren't being taken. And as Vince explained  
42 yesterday, with the harvest permits, we need to have  
43 people continue to fill out the harvest permits, we've  
44 made that quite easy in Allakaket for people to get  
45 ahold of the -- to do the registration hunt and get the  
46 harvest tickets and get the reporting accomplished.  
47 There's one person there that they're responsible to  
48 get that permit before they go hunt and then also to  
49 return it either to that person or else mail it in.

50

1 Did that answer your question, Mr.  
2 Walker?

3  
4 MR. J. WALKER: Yes.

5  
6 MR. SPINDLER: Thank you.

7  
8 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Most of the drive  
9 behind the winter hunt was the Western Interior  
10 Regional Council submitting proposals to the Federal  
11 Board to get delegation of authority, try to get some  
12 winter hunting opportunity. As Pollock described, it  
13 was hard to hunt only a winter Federal hunt, because  
14 the bull moose would go over into the State land or  
15 onto Doyon land or corp land. And so the State came  
16 around in 2010 and came forward with a four-month  
17 season. I was like -- I was actually dumbfounded. I  
18 was like surprised. And so I was very encouraged by  
19 the State's bringing forward a proposal, and then the  
20 proposal passed in 2010.

21  
22 The Koyukuk River Advisory Committee  
23 met on February 16. We discussed, you know, the sunset  
24 of the State side of this hunt, that should a proposal  
25 be submitted, and the area biologist, Glen Stout, said  
26 he didn't have a problem with this hunt. He's had --  
27 this agnate is available to all Alaskan residents, and  
28 the first year he had the hunt, and like 26 hunters  
29 that -- but they found out that they had to go like a  
30 long ways from Bettles, all the way down past Henshaw  
31 Creek to go hunting down there. And he has had no  
32 participation by non-local people.

33  
34 There also has been no moose taken on  
35 this hunt, but I do feel that, you know, a bull moose,  
36 especially this year when there's no snow, would  
37 actually be in real decent shape when they start  
38 growing antler in April. And so if somebody needs a  
39 moose and they're out roaming around looking for wolves  
40 or something and see a nice bull moose -- I've seen  
41 bulls that I'm sure they've got fat on them right now.  
42 And so if somebody needs a moose, I feel that  
43 subsistence users should have an opportunity.

44  
45 MS. HERNANDEZ: Mr. Chair. I believe  
46 Darrel Vent on line has a comment or a question.

47  
48 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Darrel, you had a  
49 comment.

50

1 MR. VENT: Yes. In the early '70s, you  
2 know, people used to go get maybe two or three cows,  
3 because the reason they took the cows was for the  
4 sewing needs that they used for the hide. Now, you  
5 know, we can't use the bull, because the hide is too  
6 thick. It's hard to sew it. So that was the only  
7 reason that, you know, they wanted just a couple of  
8 them just so they can support their traditional uses  
9 for sewing and making a lot of things with the hide.  
10 And, you know, plus they don't waste the meat or  
11 anything. You know, we'd harvest everything that we  
12 could out of it.

13

14 So when you're talking about you're  
15 taking bulls, you know, the thing with taking bulls is  
16 that you don't have a good hide on there. You have a  
17 thick hide, so it's hard to make any kind of arts and  
18 crafts out of it, or, you know, things that they need  
19 to use for the winter.

20

21 So that was the only reason I think  
22 that, you know, the cows were being taken. It wasn't  
23 meaning that we're over-abusing the cows. It was that  
24 we needed them to, you know, make our traditional uses  
25 of using the hide.

26

27 So that's my input on, you know, we're  
28 using these animals for this time of the year, because  
29 the -- and then, you know, taken probably December or  
30 something, because you start working on the skin. It  
31 takes, you know, about three or four months before the  
32 skin can actually be smoked to turn it to a moose hide.

33

34 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right. Well, I  
35 understand, you know, all the subsistence uses of cow  
36 moose, but when the populations are low, the managers  
37 will not allow the taking of cows. And so we've  
38 got.....

39

40 MR. VENT: Well, I understand that,  
41 then it seems like this that they didn't do their  
42 study, because they were busy helping down around the  
43 McGrath area. You know, it doesn't help us when, you  
44 know, the studies aren't being done. I know that  
45 they're lacking enough people to do their jobs here.  
46 It's just that, you know, cutting us off from doing  
47 something like that, you know, we're going to be --  
48 this process is going to be done for another four  
49 years, so just taking my input, you know, into  
50 consideration would be very thoughtful of our elders

1 around here in the village, so.....

2

3 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right

4

5 MR. VENT: .....you know, we don't have  
6 no hard people feelings against each other.

7

8 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right. Well, the  
9 Koyukuk/Nowitna flew the survey in the Huslia Flats,  
10 and they only had 10 calves per 100 cows, which is like  
11 no calves. It means the bears really ate a lot of  
12 moose calves, and especially after a hard winter, there  
13 wasn't a real good production anyway. And so the  
14 population of moose is actually dipping a little bit.  
15 And when there's not that many calves, and the cow  
16 numbers are going down, then the managers are not going  
17 to allow cow harvest. So there are sideboards to what  
18 the Federal Subsistence Board -- the resource comes  
19 first, first, and so this year there's going to be a  
20 bull hunt for around Huslia April 5 to 15. Yeah, it  
21 doesn't have the thinnest skin, but there are potlatch  
22 moose and if a cow moose is taken, you can take the  
23 skin from the potlatch moose and use it. That's not  
24 precluded from potlatch moose, cows that are taken on  
25 the winter hunt.

26

27 MR. VENT: Yeah, but we need the hide.  
28 Somebody's already making, you know. We were able to  
29 use that one. That was good.

30

31 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right. Right. But  
32 this.....

33

34 MR. VENT: The one thing that I  
35 considered, too, is that, you know, when they do their  
36 fly-overs, they don't consider that, you know, down  
37 around the Dulbi Slough area compared to around Treat  
38 Island area, there's a big population difference in  
39 moose now. You know, I've been kind of seeing that  
40 there's been a lot of wolves down around the Dulbi  
41 River area. So that should be taken into consideration  
42 when they're doing their fly-overs.

43

44 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right. Well, they  
45 flew the Huslia Flat, Treat Island. They flew all of  
46 those trend count areas, Dulbi, all the way down. And  
47 the State didn't fly any of those, because there was  
48 not enough snow. But they did get some baseline data  
49 on the calf production, and that was very important.  
50 It's 12 calves per 100 cows, which is not good.

1                   But we're not talking about 24D at all  
2 on this discussion. We're talking about 24B around  
3 Allakaket/Alatna, that hunt up river, and that's what  
4 we're actually talking about for this proposal right  
5 now, Darrel.

6  
7                   And so I'm going to go back to the  
8 Koyukuk River Advisory Committee met February 16th in  
9 Hughes. We discussed, you know, this hunt. The area  
10 biologist says no problem with the hunt, feels that the  
11 Advisory Committee should submit a proposal to the  
12 Board of Game to continue the hunt without a sunset.  
13 As the Chair of the Koyukuk River Advisory Committee, I  
14 made that proposal. I've submitted it to the Board of  
15 Game for the Advisory Committee, so we can use it as a  
16 template into the Federal Subsistence Board. It's  
17 basically we're going to send two proposals, one to the  
18 State Board of Game, one to the Federal Subsistence  
19 Board. If passed, the hunt will occur. This hunt, I  
20 want Pollock and people in Allakaket to be aware that  
21 there's no boundaries. If you're hunting below Henshaw  
22 Creek, you can kill a moose in the middle of the river,  
23 State land, Federal land, right now, right this minute  
24 the season is open for a bull, And if you've got the  
25 permit, you can kill the moose anywhere. There's no  
26 more problems with being able to take the moose on  
27 where it's standing.

28  
29                   So I will read what the State proposal  
30 that I wrote.

31  
32                   What is the problem you would like the  
33 Board to address? The winter bull moose hunt, RM833 --  
34 which is what they call that hunt, that's what the  
35 permit number is -- due to sunset in regulatory year  
36 2014. The Koyukuk River Advisory Committee feels that  
37 the hunt should continue to provide a winter bull moose  
38 hunting opportunity in a portion of GMU 24B.

39  
40                   What will happen if problem is not  
41 solved? The regulation will sunset in 2014. The  
42 winter moose hunting harvest opportunity will be lost.

43  
44                   What's the solution? I give what those  
45 seasons are currently.

46  
47                   What does the proposal address?  
48 Improve the quality of the resource harvested or  
49 products produced. The opportunity for winter moose  
50 hunting spreads use of bull moose harvest into areas

1 that cannot be hunted in the fall.

2

3                   Who's likely to benefit? The people  
4 who did not harvest a bull moose in the fall hunt would  
5 have additional opportunity to take an antlered bull  
6 moose while trapping or wood cutting. This is a remote  
7 area that entails expensive travel and a low density  
8 moose population.

9

10                   Who is likely to suffer? There is no  
11 user group adversely affected by the current regulation  
12 that is due to sunset.

13

14                   List any other considerations. Hunting  
15 antlerless moose with this season, but the current  
16 moose population in GMU 24B cannot support cow harvest  
17 at this time.

18

19                   I would like to entertain a motion to  
20 submit a Federal proposal with those -- with that  
21 language to the Federal Subsistence Board at this time.

22

23                   MS. PELKOLA: So moved.

24

25                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Moved by Jenny.

26

27                   MR. J. WALKER: Second.

28

29                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Seconded by James.  
30 Any further discussion on the Unit 24B winter moose  
31 hunt.

32

33                   (No comments)

34

35                   MR. R. WALKER: Question.

36

37                   MR. COLLINS: Question.

38

39

40                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Question's called.  
41 Those in favor of submitting a Federal subsistence  
42 proposal for the Unit 24B, referred to by the State as  
43 RM833, signify by saying aye.

44

45                   IN UNISON: Aye.

46

47                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Those opposed same  
48 sign.

49

50                   (No opposing votes)

1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: And so we'll write  
2 proposal. I can transmit that off the.....

3  
4 MR. COLLINS: Mr. Chairman. Can we  
5 also send letters to the State or not?

6  
7 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: We will comment on  
8 the proposals when the State Board of Game's proposals  
9 are out, and we should be able to comment on those at  
10 our fall meeting.

11  
12 MR. COLLINS: Okay. Good.

13  
14 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: And so we will make  
15 comments to the State.

16  
17 And I want to reiterate that I really  
18 appreciate all the work that Kanuti has done to  
19 facilitate this hunt. And I also want to -- Jennifer,  
20 I would also like to express my thanks to the State of  
21 Alaska for providing a hunt that has reasonable  
22 opportunity to take winter moose in a portion of Unit  
23 24B.

24  
25 And so how are we doing? Everybody  
26 good? Small break. Okay. We're going to have about a  
27 15-minute break.

28  
29 (Off record)

30  
31 (On record)

32  
33 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So we're going to  
34 come back to order. People have had a nice little  
35 brunch, midday snack.

36  
37 And so we're on our agenda items for  
38 call for wildlife proposals. I transmitted a suggested  
39 proposal for the Western Interior Regional Council to  
40 look at -- was that in our packet, Melinda? As the  
41 Council is aware, we submitted a special action request  
42 last year. The hunting pressure for Dall sheep in the  
43 Unit 24A of the Dalton Highway corridor area and the  
44 associated areas to the east keeps building greater and  
45 greater. There's more and more hunting guides.

46  
47 There's a proposal before the Board of  
48 Game last March to restrict the number of hunting  
49 guides in the Dalton Highway corridor in 24A to four  
50 clients. The Board of Game failed the proposal. The

1 Department of Fish and Game felt that there is plenty  
2 of sheep to support unlimited amounts of guiding and  
3 sport hunting.

4  
5 But the problem is, in my eyes, and I  
6 live there, and I hunt the sheep, there's a lot of  
7 hunters hunting very efficiently. The guides have  
8 airplanes, they find all the sheep. They're very  
9 efficient at killing sheep, and they have a real high  
10 harvest rate. And then we have lots and lots of  
11 inexperienced hunters that come up the Dalton Highway,  
12 and they shoot the next sub-legal class, which is  
13 seven-eighths, and so when they fly a survey, they find  
14 very few of that age class.  
15 And so then with our current regulation of one seven-  
16 eighths ram, we have very few sheep to select from.

17  
18 One issue is that subsistence hunters,  
19 myself included, prefer to kill an adult ram, because  
20 it has 20 to 30 percent more meat on it than a small  
21 sheep. But some sheep meat's better than no sheep  
22 meat. A bird in the hand is better than two in the  
23 bush. And so we've submitted a special action request  
24 for one-half curled ram. I went through the State and  
25 Federal regulations, and I found multiple hunts for one  
26 ram. Would be most of the State and Federal regulations  
27 that have subsistence hunts have it stated as one ram,  
28 not a horn configuration. I found one hunt with three-  
29 quarter curl, and like two hunts with seven-eighths,  
30 but the majority of hunts are for one ram.

31  
32 And so I sat down and pulled off the  
33 format for the wildlife regulatory proposal, and so I  
34 made sort of a proposal for development for the  
35 Regional Council. I'll go through. Unfortunately it  
36 didn't get printed out, but I'll go through and read  
37 the proposal to the Council.

38  
39 Question one is, what regulation would  
40 you wish to change, include the management unit number  
41 and species. It's for Dall sheep, Unit 24A, except  
42 that portion within the Gates of the Arctic National  
43 Park. The regulation currently is one ram with seven-  
44 eighths curl horn or larger by Federal registration  
45 permit, Federal FS 2404. And the current subsistence  
46 season is August 20th to September 30th.

47  
48 Quote the current regulation if known.  
49 And that's a direct quote out of the Federal  
50 regulations.

1                   Number 2, how should the new regulation  
2 read. The new regulation would read: Unit 24A, except  
3 that portion within the Gates of the Arctic National  
4 Park, one ram by Federal registration permit, FS 2404,  
5 and the same season. The change is instead of seven-  
6 eighths, just one ram.

7  
8                   Why should this regulation be made.  
9 There is a need for a regulatory change for customary  
10 and traditional qualified users to take one ram or one  
11 ram with half-curl and larger in Game Management Unit  
12 24A on Federal lands.

13  
14                   There's no near-term change with State  
15 regulations and enforcement to address large numbers of  
16 guided and resident sporthunters taking most of the  
17 full curl and several of the seven-eighths rams  
18 accidentally. The Board of Game elected not to adopt a  
19 proposal in March of 2012 to limit the number of guided  
20 hunters in the Dalton Highway corridor management area  
21 in Game Management Unit 24A. The ram groups are  
22 displaced with this kind of hunting pressure, making it  
23 harder to find seven-eighths rams for subsistence  
24 users. There are feasibility issues when hunting Dall  
25 sheep. Legal animals are driven far away from the  
26 valley corridors and not easily found without aircraft  
27 use, which subsistence users do not use to locate Dall  
28 sheep.

29  
30                   A current Federal regulation at this  
31 time is not fully providing reasonable opportunity to  
32 harvest Dall sheep with the high and increasing  
33 competition from sporthunters. The State Dall sheep  
34 regulations for subsistence hunts in Game Management  
35 Units 13D, 14A, 14C, portions of 23, portions of 24B,  
36 portions of 25A, portions of 26A and 26C allow either  
37 one ram or one to three of any sheep. Current Federal  
38 regulations in Game Management Units 9B, 23, 24A and B,  
39 25A, 26A and 26B and C all have either one sheep, one  
40 ram, or three-quarter curl limits for subsistence  
41 harvest. A 24A Federal Dall sheep harvest regulation  
42 is one of the most restrictive to customary and  
43 traditional qualified users on Federal public lands in  
44 Alaska.

45  
46                   What impact will this change have on  
47 wildlife populations. There's no biological reason for  
48 the Federal subsistence sheep regulations -- my  
49 language is not clear -- should only allow seven-  
50 eighths curl, including smaller rams in Game Management

1 Unit 24A for C&T eligible users of Dall sheep. The  
2 subsistence user population and harvest is low and well  
3 within sustainability of the Dall sheep population.

4  
5 The State of Alaska management feels  
6 that GMU 24A Dall sheep population is healthy enough to  
7 endure unlimited harvest of all adult rams by sport  
8 user. The current increase in sport use has  
9 effectively reallocated adult rams away from customary  
10 and traditional users in many areas of the Federal  
11 lands in GMU 24A. And the State Board of Game process  
12 has not addressed increased sport harvest for the past  
13 10 years of proposals.

14  
15 I submitted a proposal in 2002 to the  
16 Board of Game to go to a drawing permit for Unit 24A  
17 and the State failed the proposal. There's been many  
18 proposals to control the sheep hunting issue, but  
19 that's not happening with the Board of Game process.

20  
21 How will this change affect subsistence  
22 uses. The Federal regulatory change of one ram or one  
23 ram with half curl or larger should continue to provide  
24 reasonable opportunity to harvest Dall sheep by  
25 customary and traditional qualified users in GMU 24A on  
26 Federal lands. Of course, subsistence users would much  
27 prefer to harvest adult rams as there's 20 percent to  
28 30 percent meat than on younger rams. If an adult ram  
29 cannot be found, a young ram will provide some meat  
30 instead of nothing.

31  
32 How will this change affect other uses  
33 such as sport, recreation, and commercial. If adopted  
34 by the Federal Subsistence Board, this regulatory  
35 change would not significantly affect non-subsistence  
36 users. This regulatory change would not have nearly  
37 the effect of petitioning the Federal Subsistence Board  
38 to close portions of GMU 24A on Federal lands to non-  
39 subsistence users as was done in the Arctic Village  
40 Sheep Management Area. This proposal does not address  
41 the sporthunters competing for and displacing very  
42 limited Dall sheep ram bands from subsistence hunters  
43 while in the field. This regulatory change would still  
44 allow sporthunters to participate in Dall sheep harvest  
45 on Federal lands in GMU 24A.

46  
47 The alternate to a regulatory change to  
48 one ram would be to make a subsistence use area only,  
49 but that would be a real contentious issue. And that  
50 would be nightmare at the Federal Subsistence Board,

1 and I would not enjoy the kind of screaming that would  
2 occur. And so the least -- the most palatable change  
3 and best for the subsistence users is one ram limit.

4

5 And so that's the proposal. I would  
6 like -- the Chair will entertain a motion to submit  
7 this proposal to the Federal Subsistence Board under  
8 this call.

9

10 MR. J. WALKER: So moved.

11

12 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: It's moved. Do I  
13 have a second.

14

15 MS. PELKOLA: Second.

16

17 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Seconded by Jenny.  
18 Any discussion on that proposal as I read.

19

20 (No comments)

21

22 MR. J. WALKER: Question.

23

24 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: The question's  
25 called on submitting the proposal to the Federal  
26 Subsistence Board for Dall sheep hunting, change to one  
27 ram limit and within Game Management Unit 24A for the  
28 Federal hunt FS2404 signify by saying aye.

29

30 IN UNISON: Aye

31

32 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Those opposed same  
33 sign.

34

35 (No opposing votes)

36

37 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So that will be  
38 transmitted.

39

40 Let's see here. Request for comments.  
41 Refresh my memory, Melinda, under this section.

42

43 MS. HERNANDEZ: Yes, Mr. Chair. It was  
44 the rural determination process. It's not a  
45 presentation of the proposed rule as was incorrectly  
46 printed in the book, but it is a request for comment.

47

48 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Oh, I see.

49

50 MS. HERNANDEZ: There is a news release

1 on the right side of your yellow packet as well, and  
2 there's some on the public table.

3

4 DR. JENKINS: Mr. Chair. David  
5 Jenkins. I'm going to preset this material to the  
6 Council.

7

8 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, David.

9

10 DR. JENKINS: As you know, the Alaska  
11 National Interest Lands Conservation Act mandates that  
12 rural Alaskans be given a priority for subsistence uses  
13 of fish and wildlife on Federal public lands, and only  
14 residents of communities or areas that found to be  
15 rural are eligible for the subsistence priority under  
16 ANILCA.

17

18 Now, the Secretaries of Interior and  
19 Agriculture asked the Federal Subsistence Board to  
20 review the rural determination process and recommend  
21 changes if any are needed. The Board decided to start  
22 the review with public input, and the public comment  
23 period will end November 1st of this year after your  
24 fall Regional Advisory Council meetings. And at your  
25 fall meeting, the rural review will be a topic on your  
26 agenda, and we anticipate that this RAC, indeed all  
27 RACs, will provide guidance to the Federal Subsistence  
28 Board, and that there will be significant public input  
29 during your fall meeting on this topic.

30

31 Now at this point I want to alert you  
32 to the process and ask that you carefully consider the  
33 rural/non-rural issue. As Alaska changes over the  
34 coming years, the rural subsistence priority will  
35 continue to be an important issue. The Board has asked  
36 the public for information about how to specify rural  
37 areas in order to continue to provide the subsistence  
38 priority.

39

40 The Board has specifically asked for  
41 public input on the following topics: population  
42 thresholds, rural characteristics, aggregation or  
43 grouping of communities, timelines, and information  
44 sources. And I'm going to go through each of these as  
45 you can find starting on Page 50 of your books in the  
46 new release. So I'm going to highlight these so you  
47 can have the opportunity to think about them over the  
48 next months prior to your next meeting. There are nine  
49 general questions that I'd like you to consider here.  
50 And let me emphasize that you have the opportunity now

1 to craft the criteria for rural determinations starting  
2 with these nine questions and your earlier discussions  
3 about roads to resources is particularly important  
4 here, because as roads increase in parts of remote  
5 Alaska, the rural characteristics could well alter. So  
6 this is the opportunity to rethink from the bottom to  
7 the top how the Federal Subsistence Board determines  
8 which areas are rural and which are not.

9

10 So let me start with population  
11 thresholds. As it stands right now, a community or  
12 area with a population below 2,500 will be considered  
13 rural.

14

15 A community or area with a population  
16 between 2,500 and 7,000 will be considered rural or  
17 non-rural, in other words there's no presumption of  
18 rural status for communities of those sizes. So other  
19 characteristics and criteria will be used to group  
20 communities together in order to determine whether  
21 they're rural or not.

22

23 Let me point out that the 2,500 figure  
24 of rural first came from 1910 U.S. Census, and that  
25 figure was adopted by the Federal Subsistence Board in  
26 1990 when it started thinking about rural status. So  
27 the question to you would be, is that population figure  
28 useful, 2,500. If so, why? If not, why not?

29

30 Similarly with the 2,500 to 7,000 rural  
31 or not.  
32 And then above 7,000, the idea is that the community is  
33 non-rural.

34

35 So this is one characteristic, the  
36 population threshold, and the Board is asking all of  
37 the RACs to consider whether these population figures  
38 are useful in thinking about rural status.

39

40 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Can we take these in  
41 sections?

42

43 DR. JENKINS: Sure

44

45 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: And comment on each  
46 section?

47

48 DR. JENKINS: Please.

49

50 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: And so that's the

1 question before the Council. Does any Council members  
2 have comments on those population thresholds of people.

3

4 (No comments)

5

6

7 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: My question is, the  
8 community or area, and that's sort of the grey part of  
9 what is discussing. And I'm concerned about drawing  
10 large areas that encompass multiple communities to meet  
11 these threshold amounts. And so is there a definition  
12 of area?

13

14 DR. JENKINS: There is an attempt to  
15 aggregate communities into larger groupings, and we'll  
16 get to that characteristic in a short while, but there  
17 has been, under these definitions, no attempt to define  
18 an area. Road accessibility in terms of aggregations  
19 of communities or groupings of communities turns out to  
20 be particularly important in determining rural status,  
21 but we'll get to that in a moment. But as to the area,  
22 it's quite vague, as you know.

23

24 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yeah. Well, you  
25 know, that area in our management can be delineated as  
26 game management units. I mean there needs to be  
27 somewhat of a definition if what the area under this  
28 section, population thresholds. And I feel that there  
29 needs to be more of a definition of what an area would  
30 entail for meeting these threshold needs for  
31 subsistence baseline.

32

33 Any other comments on this section from  
34 the Council. Ray.

35

36 MR. COLLINS: Well, I'm just trying to  
37 think of which areas are affected. I think probably  
38 the one closest to us would be Bethel, and I don't know  
39 what the population is reaching there now. I was  
40 trying to think of other areas, you know, that are  
41 close or bordering on ours.

42

43 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Well, the reason the  
44 Councils are being asked to comment on this is for the  
45 future benefit of subsistence users within the Western  
46 Interior region. And so hypothetical answer is what if  
47 Donlin Creek is developed and there's like 50 -- or  
48 3,000 people working there. Is Donlin Creek going to  
49 be attached to Aniak, Chuathbaluk, and other  
50 communities because there's some road built over there,

1 or is Donlin Creek its own little entity and it's like  
2 Prudhoe Bay and it's a non-subsistence entity. And I  
3 don't feel that it should be attached to Aniak or the  
4 rest of the communities that existed previously.

5  
6 That's the way I would like these areas  
7 to be defined. You know, I don't want to see  
8 aggregation because there's a road. I want to see  
9 aggregation characteristic. That's why I'm concerned  
10 about that. Maybe I should have explained it a little  
11 more.

12  
13 Go ahead, Ray.

14  
15 MR. COLLINS: Yeah. Well, what we have  
16 to look on is the phenomenon that's going on now.  
17 We're already, let's say, from our area down the Yukon,  
18 there's people that have moved into Bethel, or what  
19 about Aniak since it's a hub there. And if Donlin goes  
20 there are going to be families establishing homes there  
21 because of schooling and other kinds of reasons. So we  
22 could have growth in our area and consolidation into  
23 larger. Traditional people then would still want to go  
24 out and hunt. So we have to look long term at that,  
25 too.

26  
27 But there is a movement now to start  
28 gathering in more urban areas because there's more  
29 opportunities or better schooling. I mean, it could  
30 even happen in Galena here over the long term as this  
31 becomes more of a hub. The school already here is  
32 growing and is drawing students from larger areas. If  
33 that trend continues, then, yeah, that's -- we've got  
34 to think of what's happening not just now, but long  
35 term.

36  
37 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right.

38  
39 MR. COLLINS: Yeah.

40  
41 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Well, I mean, the  
42 way I'm thinking about this, you know, like Donlin  
43 Creek's got 3500 people, and that's a long distance  
44 from Aniak. I can't really see people commuting so  
45 much. They might have relatives over there in Aniak,  
46 or might have family established there. But each  
47 community should be looked at on its customary and  
48 traditional uses and so forth. And we'll get to that  
49 section later.

50

1                   But I do feel under this section there  
2 needs to be more definition of what area is, like UCU,  
3 GMU, community, where people primarily stay and work,  
4 and so forth. You know, like Prudhoe Bay is like an  
5 industrial area. And I can see that, you know, these  
6 large mines, and the kind of money that's being pumped  
7 at large mines, we could have like these industrial  
8 areas occur within this region, but I do not want them  
9 affecting the subsistence users that have customary and  
10 traditional use.

11  
12                   And so we'll continue on with the next  
13 section, David.

14  
15                   DR. JENKINS: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
16 And your comments are what the Board is looking for.  
17 We want to know what you think best characterized a  
18 rural area in order to continue to provide the  
19 subsistence priority to the residents of those area.  
20 So those kinds of comments will be quite helpful.

21  
22                   Thank you.

23  
24                   So the second characteristic, or the  
25 second set of categories, rural characteristics. The  
26 Board recognizes that population alone is not the only  
27 indicator or rural or non-rural status. Other  
28 characteristics that the Board considers include, but  
29 aren't limited to, we can add some others, the  
30 following: use of fish and wildlife, development and  
31 diversity of the economy, community infrastructure,  
32 transportation, and educational institutions. So the  
33 Board is asking are these characteristics useful for  
34 thinking about or determining whether a specific area  
35 of Alaska is rural; and if they're not, could you  
36 provide a list of characteristics that better define  
37 rural and non-rural status.

38  
39                   So if you'd like to stop there and  
40 consider that, Mr. Chair, we can do that.

41  
42                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I would. Does the  
43 Council have comments on that, on the use of fish and  
44 -- these communities, these people's use of fish and  
45 wildlife, development and diversity of the economy and  
46 community infrastructure, transportation, and education  
47 institutions.

48  
49                   Some of these, the use of fish and  
50 wildlife is the most important part of that question.

1 MR. COLLINS: Uh-huh.

2

3 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: And so there maybe  
4 needs to be the percentage of the population, you know,  
5 the sharing and so forth. There's people that don't  
6 hunt or fish. People have told me in this community  
7 they haven't killed a moose for 50 years, but they've  
8 used moose every year.

9

10 And so there's certain -- the use of  
11 fish and wildlife is the most important part of that  
12 question. And so I would like to see something  
13 developed that, you know, a large percentage, you know,  
14 like more than 50 percent of the community's reliance  
15 on fish and wildlife or something to that effect, I'm  
16 just throwing that off the top of my head, are relying  
17 on fish and wildlife.

18

19 Diversity of the economy and  
20 infrastructure, you know, there's Galena has an  
21 educational institution here and so forth. That should  
22 not be a preclusion from subsistence uses. That should  
23 be an enhancement of the region, and is. So I don't  
24 think that that's detrimental to determining  
25 subsistence use for rural determination.

26

27 And so I do feel that characteristics  
28 of a subsistence, you know, the eight criteria used in  
29 conjunction with fish and wildlife would delineate  
30 whether a community is relying on fish and wildlife for  
31 subsistence use.

32

33 Any further comments from the Council.  
34 What do you think about that, Jenny? You live in a big  
35 city of 600 people here.

36

37 (Laughter)

38

39 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: In the future, you  
40 know, if Galena got over 2500, I feel that Galena would  
41 still have a fairly significant subsistence reliance on  
42 fish and moose and beavers and so forth.

43

44 MS. PELKOLA: I think I would hope so.  
45 With the boarding school here and I think they're  
46 planning to even, you know, grow it, we'll more  
47 teachers moving in, more people, and I'm happy to say  
48 that many of them have made their homes here, have  
49 built homes in the community.

50

1                   But I'm afraid now with -- I think I  
2 stated this one time at a meeting in Fairbanks, that  
3 most of our kids now are -- it seem to be, I don't know  
4 how true it is, but they seem to be turning to junk  
5 food, what I call junk food. Potato chips and whatever  
6 they eat. And it seems like they're, maybe because of  
7 lack of education or lack of participation in meetings  
8 or maybe the schools or may -- I don't know. I don't  
9 know who quite to blame it all, but it seems like  
10 they're drifting away from the fact that there is --  
11 who they are I think. Who they are. Where they came  
12 from.

13

14                   Like for me when I was young, I grew up  
15 -- I practically was born -- in fact, I was born in a  
16 tent. And from there my parents took me through a long  
17 journey of subsistence way of life. And it was hard  
18 times back then. Very hard times. And when I got of  
19 age, I was sent to a boarding school around Glennallen,  
20 and I attended that for six years. They sent me away  
21 when I was seven, in the seventh grade. And from that  
22 time it seems like I was severed from my culture. Not  
23 totally, but without knowing it. I could barely speak  
24 any English, because I was speaking both my native  
25 language and part English.

26

27                   And I vowed then that I would never  
28 ever live in fish camp, because that's where I grew up.  
29 And to me it was like not a voodoo, but it was like --  
30 I think I was a little bit ashamed of my culture,  
31 because it seemed like they were way back in the wagon  
32 days, and they didn't realize there was another, a  
33 Western culture out there. And that was all new to me.

34

35

36                   And then I moved back. Well, I left  
37 Alaska in '66 and moved back to Alaska in '77, moved to  
38 Galena here. And I just took up like I never left. I  
39 just went back to fish camp, and I just picked up where  
40 my parents left me at that time, and I just moved  
41 forward.

42

43                   So it seems like in my age group, you  
44 know, a lot of them are fishing, especially fishing out  
45 of Galena. They have their fish camp here. There's  
46 only Bishop Mountain and another camp between here and  
47 Koyukuk. From here to Ruby, I don't know. I don't  
48 think there's anyone, any cam that really exists. I  
49 mean, there are camps, but I don't think anybody really  
50 stays there all summer. Like I leave the end of May,

1 and I don't get back to Galena, move back to Galena  
2 until September. And a lot of the food that you people  
3 ate last night with that stew, that was all  
4 subsistence, a subsistence stew. We have a garden down  
5 there. We have, you know -- and we bring it back to  
6 Galena so I don't have to buy onions or potatoes or  
7 some of our vegetables.

8  
9                   But it seems like, what I'm getting to,  
10 is that life, in my generation, is maybe on the last  
11 one. I don't see my grandkids, because my grandkids  
12 are college educated and have jobs everywhere, you  
13 know, or some place else. And I don't see them coming  
14 back to the village and taking up that life. So I see  
15 the kids turning more to junk food, and more to an easy  
16 life, a TV or instant this and instant that. So I'm a  
17 little bit worried about what's going to happen to our  
18 subsistence. And with the grown of people in each  
19 village, sometimes it's scary, because a lot of these  
20 people do have their jobs. Of course, I'm retired and  
21 I have a little income, but there are some people in  
22 the villages that -- I guess that's why we have so many  
23 people on welfare and food stamps and whatever, because  
24 of the lack of maybe education and jobs.

25  
26                   And it's scary at times, because I see  
27 like all these kids that were here; how many of them  
28 really, really understand or know the life that I've  
29 experienced, and probably Robert and Pollock and James  
30 and even Ray. I forget names sometimes. Ray grew up  
31 -- now grew up, but I know he's been in the village for  
32 years, and he and his wife just celebrated their 53rd  
33 anniversary last June.

34  
35                   So maybe I'm outspoken, I mean speaking  
36 too long, but that's where I'm looking at is the kids  
37 nowadays are not really grasping it, or don't have the  
38 opportunity. They have maybe once in a while, like  
39 this summer Galena is going to put on a culture camp  
40 here in Galena, you know, which is maybe good, because  
41 many of them are not experiencing that life. But I  
42 think to really experience that life, you need to be  
43 there May to September. But I know many of them can't,  
44 they have to get jobs, summer jobs, and they have to  
45 help provide for the family. So it's a little bit  
46 scary, but I just wish and hope and pray that one day,  
47 you know, our way of life will be preserved, but I --  
48 it's hard for me to see that life again that I've lived  
49 and I'm still experiencing.

50

1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Appreciate all those  
2 words, Jenny.

3  
4 I do feel that, you know, the Federal  
5 government is going through some belt tightening and  
6 there's going to be some real hard times ahead  
7 especially in rural Alaska. I do feel that people are  
8 going to have to move back towards growing gardens and  
9 harvesting locally. And so I would hope that the  
10 school here would take kids out and trap some beavers  
11 and bring them back to the school and have some elders  
12 skin those and cook up beaver soup, and, you know,  
13 maybe get a permit to go and take winter moose when  
14 school is in session, from the State, and show the kids  
15 how to skin a moose and cut that up, and everybody gets  
16 a knife, bring that back home, back to the school and  
17 cook up some moose meat. I think there are some ways  
18 that -- this boarding school actually has a real huge  
19 opportunity to train kids in subsistence uses. It has  
20 to occur during school session. And so, I mean, I  
21 trained my kids how to do stuff. My daughter moved  
22 down here. Well, she lived in Fairbanks for a while,  
23 but she's -- I had a real nice moose heart soup last  
24 night. I mean, she's doing good. She'd kind of going  
25 back towards her roots again.

26  
27 So going back to this issue of this  
28 rural determination, I do feel that communities in  
29 rural Alaska that will have a fairly high reliance on  
30 wild renewable resources, and eventually there may be  
31 communities that get too large and too detached from  
32 subsistence to the point where they're non-rural, would  
33 be determined as non-rural. I don't see that any time  
34 real soon within this region, unless there's some huge  
35 economic developments, you know.

36  
37 Any other comments. Pollock.

38  
39 MR. SIMON: Yeah. I just want to make  
40 this comment, that I don't think that population alone  
41 be the -- is not the only indicator of rural or non-  
42 rural. That for rural that 500 sounds good for us, but  
43 there are a lot of communities like Galena, Tanana, and  
44 Aniak and southeast communities are some non-Natives  
45 and Natives living together and they all -- outside  
46 Fairbanks, they all fish and hunt to put food in their  
47 freezers. So I just don't want the idea that once they  
48 tend to reach 2600 say, they shouldn't be told that  
49 they're no longer rural, you know. There should be  
50 under things considered like use the fish and wildlife,

1 you know, because out is a long ways from Fred Meyer's.  
2 A tank, it costs too much to buy fuel gas, fish, so  
3 that's my comments.

4  
5 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I appreciate those  
6 comments, Pollock.

7  
8 Oh, go ahead, Robert.

9  
10 MR. R. WALKER: Did anybody read  
11 yesterday's paper?

12  
13 SEVERAL: Unh-unh. (Negative)

14  
15 MR. R. WALKER: There's an interesting  
16 here [sic]. It caught my eye when I went to get water  
17 over at the store. It says wolf kill to protect moose  
18 number. And it talked about Allakaket and Alatna. And  
19 it talks about P.J. Simon, the second chief, how they  
20 take of the wolves. They were donated by the State.  
21 And I thought this was pretty interesting. If anybody  
22 wanted a copy to read it, it will tell you something  
23 about tradition, something that we do have in our  
24 villages regardless. There always will be so many  
25 traditional. I can see it all the time. There are  
26 people that don't want to go and there are people that  
27 want to go to the urban. And it's pretty interesting,  
28 because the person or the people that live there always  
29 have something the people that go and live in town  
30 need. So it's kind of like a cross thing here, and it  
31 always will be there.

32  
33 Thank you.

34  
35 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks, Robert.

36  
37 One thing that I would like to get in  
38 the record here is it's the use of fish and wildlife.  
39 ANILCA is not just fish and wildlife. ANILCA is fish  
40 and wildlife and other wild renewable resources.  
41 There's a phenomenal amount of timber resource used  
42 here for building logs and firewood and stuff like  
43 that, berries and other things. Those have to enter  
44 into the analysis for subsistence uses from Federal  
45 public lands, and so I wanted to make that  
46 clarification on that point.

47  
48 So I think we've covered that.

49  
50 Go ahead, continue.

1 DR. JENKINS: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

2

3 The next topic is how communities are  
4 grouped together, and in the language of the  
5 bureaucracy, it's called the aggregation of  
6 communities. And the Board recognizes that communities  
7 and areas of Alaska are connected in a variety of ways.  
8 And communities that are economically, socially and  
9 communally integrated are considered in the aggregate  
10 in determining rural and non-rural status.

11

12 And the aggregation criteria are these,  
13 there are three of them. Do 30 percent or more of the  
14 working people commute from one community to another?  
15 And if that's the case, 30 percent or more, it means  
16 that those communities should be grouped together.

17

18 Do they share a common high school  
19 attendance area? And are the communities in proximity  
20 and road accessible to one another?

21

22 So these are the three criterias of  
23 grouping communities together that the Board has used  
24 in the past to get to a population figure.

25

26 Mr. Chair. Thank you.

27

28 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks, David.

29

30 Is there comments on this section from  
31 the Council.

32

33 MR. J. WALKER: Jack.

34

35 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, James.

36

37 MR. J. WALKER: Dave, is there any  
38 other determination as far as what constitute grouping,  
39 mainly be it tied into employment, like Donlin Creek,  
40 for instance. And that would be a commute say from  
41 Aniak up to there.

42

43 DR. JENKINS: At this point, these are  
44 the three criterias the Board has used. So this is  
45 what they've relied on so far. This is what the Board  
46 has relied on so far. So that the Board is asking you  
47 all, and the public, is do these criteria make any  
48 sense. And in the context of a mine, are they still  
49 applicable? Should they be part of the Board's  
50 decisionmaking in determining a rural or non-rural

1 area. So it would be helpful for the Board to know  
2 your opinion on the applicability of these criteria.

3

4 MR. HONEA: Jack.

5

6 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, Don.

7

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

9

10 David, I had a question. Overall I'm  
11 trying to figure this out, this overall picture. And,  
12 you know, I mean, maybe it's pretty controversial.  
13 This affects Glennallen. This affects Kodiak,  
14 Ketchikan, and, you know, over the years it's been --  
15 I'm just wondering what in the world is the advantage  
16 of being -- okay. I mean, if you fall under this  
17 population level to be rural, what is the difference --  
18 what is the advantage of being -- okay. Say so you're  
19 a subsistence user. Okay. I see hunters coming down  
20 the Yukon here, going up the Novi, going up the Koyukuk  
21 River and stuff, and, you know, they don't have to be  
22 from a particular area, whether it's -- a lot of them  
23 are from Glennallen. I mean, a lot of them are from  
24 the Valley, Wasilla, all the way down to Homer. And,  
25 you know, I try to figure out the advantage of being in  
26 this particular group, because it's a State hunt  
27 anyway. So what really -- I mean, some of these  
28 communities I realize, like Glennallen and Copper  
29 Center or something are fighting for this exact right.

30

31 So my question really is, I mean,  
32 because, you know, within our region here, we're not  
33 really faced with this population numbers. We are  
34 already in there. I mean, I'm just trying to figure  
35 out, you know, what is the advantage of being included  
36 in there.

37

38 Thank you.

39

40 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, David.

41

42 DR. JENKINS: Yes. Well, as you know,  
43 the rural priority -- well, let me go at it a little  
44 differently. The subsistence priority only applies for  
45 Federal public lands to rural residence. So to have  
46 that subsistence priority on Federal public land, you  
47 need to be a rural resident.

48

49 Your question if about how broad is  
50 that category, as I understand it, because people from

1 other regions can come in from elsewhere if they have a  
2 rural priority and hunt in a particular area. And the  
3 mechanism that in some ways limits that is the  
4 customary and traditional use determination. So in  
5 some instances, those folks who only have a C&T in a  
6 particular are allowed to participate in subsistence as  
7 rural Federally-qualified residents.

8

9 The State hunt has a completely  
10 different set of criteria. It doesn't have that  
11 Federal subsistence priority associated with it. It  
12 has a statewide subsistence priority.

13

14 Am I getting at your question?

15

16 MR. HONEA: Yeah. Well, I guess. What  
17 I'm saying is, you know, it's kind of ironic, the fact  
18 that the State will probably -- you know, I mean it  
19 don't make any sense to me. I mean, in times of  
20 shortage and stuff. I don't think we're ever going to  
21 be able to use that, yet the State will not grant that  
22 right. So, I mean, maybe on Federal lands or  
23 something, the Federal government will be more lenient  
24 in that.

25

26 Thanks.

27

28 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks, Don.

29

30 You know, this all futuristic for this  
31 region, but, you know, in the future, you know, there  
32 may be basically significant subsistence harvest  
33 advantages to subsistence users with seasons and bag  
34 limits. And so how the determination is for rural, the  
35 State of Alaska is never going to allow rural. The  
36 Legislature and the Governors have continuously stopped  
37 convergence of the management programs, because they  
38 refuse to allow rural priority. And they could. They  
39 could put it before the -- the Legislature and the  
40 Governor could put it before the people of Alaska and  
41 they'd vote it in just like that, but they're never  
42 going to do that, because they enjoy the expenditure of  
43 funds on rural subsistence management, and they're not  
44 going to fund rural subsistence management on their  
45 own. So they're never going to do that. They look at  
46 the money.

47

48 And so the bottom line is, we have to  
49 protect our future generations of subsistence users by  
50 looking carefully at these rural determination policies

1 that the Federal Subsistence Board was directed by the  
2 Secretary of Interior's office to reevaluate.

3

4 On this aggregation question, I feel  
5 strongly that Saxman is an example of how this failed.  
6 And so I feel that there needs to be -- you know, maybe  
7 they could aggregate if the communities do not meet the  
8 litmus test of having subsistence uses. But if Saxman  
9 stands out as a community highly reliant, has long-  
10 standing customary and tradition use, then it should  
11 not be grouped, aggregated with non-subsistence users.

12

13 And so I feel that each community  
14 should have the ability to be approached by the Federal  
15 Subsistence Management Program and say, we're thinking  
16 about aggregating you as non-rural, because you're  
17 interconnected and so forth, and can you demonstrate  
18 through household surveys and so forth you're reliant  
19 on fish and wildlife and other wild renewable resources  
20 provided under Federal subsistence priority. And I  
21 feel that there needs to be a mechanism for the  
22 communities to demonstrate and defend themselves  
23 against being aggregated. And so that would be my  
24 position on that.

25

26 Any other comments on aggregation.

27

28 MR. COLLINS: Yeah. Mr. Chairman.

29

30 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead.

31

32 MR. COLLINS: Just looking at that  
33 right now, let's say if Donlin has 2,000 people up  
34 there and there's a road to that nearby community  
35 there, if 30 percent of those people go to work, all of  
36 a sudden that community becomes non-rural. To me that  
37 means 70 percent of the people could be excluded,  
38 because 30 percent are going to work at the mine or  
39 something like that. And it seems to me that that  
40 percentage should be changed. It should be more than  
41 half at least before you'd even consider it would be  
42 one thing.

43

44 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Well, what I'm  
45 saying is that there should be no percentage. It  
46 should actually be each community, say Aniak.....

47

48 MR. COLLINS: Right.

49

50 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: .....has long-

1 standing subsistence use.

2

3 MR. COLLINS: Right.

4

5 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: And some of their  
6 people, their residents get work benefits by working at  
7 Donlin, but they still go home and catch fish and still  
8 do their normal subsistence stuff. They should not be  
9 penalized because they got a job and can afford to buy  
10 gas for their boat and Sno-Go's and stuff. They should  
11 be looked at -- so the crews that stay at Donlin,  
12 they're non-substance, and the people that live back at  
13 Aniak, they're subsistence. And they can demonstrate,  
14 the community can demonstrate that they have  
15 subsistence, and a customary and traditional use, and  
16 demonstrate that they have use of fish and wildlife and  
17 other wild renewable resources.

18

19 Ray.

20

21 MR. COLLINS: Well, the 30 percent's in  
22 there now, so we would have to ask them to eliminate  
23 that or change that. I mean, they're looking at these  
24 three right now; is that the case? Or are these  
25 they're proposing to look at in two and three?

26

27 DR. JENKINS: Yes, Ray, those are what  
28 are currently in the regulations. That's the language,  
29 those three criteria are what's currently, and it has  
30 been used for some period of time.

31

32 Earlier on in the 1990s, the  
33 aggregation criteria were a little different. It was  
34 15 percent, not 30 percent, for example. So these have  
35 changed over the last several years. And now you have  
36 an opportunity to rethink the whole business. If want  
37 to throw this stuff out, you should provide the  
38 rationale for tossing it out. If you want to say 50  
39 percent, you provide the rationale for 50 percent. If  
40 you think it's all incoherent, start from the bottom  
41 and devise some new way of thinking about it.

42

43 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Well, I think that,  
44 you know, the threshold should be higher. I do feel  
45 that 50 percent should be a higher threshold. I do  
46 feel that these should be sort of indicators, sort of a  
47 cursory as to what -- you know, whether there's a need  
48 by the Federal subsistence program to look at these  
49 road-connected, or commuting-connected, or school-  
50 connected communities to see if they have a common

1 demographic of non-subsistence use or subsistence use.  
2 I do not feel that communities should be aggregated if  
3 they can clearly demonstrate a subsistence use.

4  
5                   And so I do think that the threshold of  
6 30 percent is low and arbitrary, and that 50 percent  
7 should be more of a threshold. And then each community  
8 should be looked on its own merits.

9  
10                   And so any further discussion on that.

11  
12                   MR. J. WALKER: 51.

13  
14                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yeah, 51 percent.  
15 We'll put the number 51 percent.

16  
17                   Continue, David.

18  
19                   DR. JENKINS: Okay. The next topic is  
20 timeframes. Right now the Board reviews rural  
21 determinations on a 10-year cycle, and out of cycle in  
22 special circumstances. So the question is, should the  
23 Board review rural determinations on a 10-year cycle or  
24 should it just make a rural determination and have it  
25 in force, and then as Mr. Reakoff is suggesting, when a  
26 community asks to be -- to have its determination  
27 changed, then you go from that point on. But as it  
28 stands, it's a 10-year cycle. It's based on the U.S.  
29 Census.

30  
31                   Part of the difficulty, and I'm going  
32 to get to this when I talk about information sources  
33 here, is that we've relied on what's called the long  
34 form in the U.S. Census to get commuting data, for  
35 example. The U.S. Census no longer uses the long form,  
36 so we don't have easy access to that kind of  
37 information.

38  
39                   We now have what's called the American  
40 community survey, which is an ongoing survey that  
41 happens every year or every three years or every five  
42 years, depending on how large the community is. So we  
43 have both qualitative and quantitative differences in  
44 the data that we used to gather on the 10-year cycle.

45  
46                   So the question the Board is asking,  
47 should we review these rural determinations every 10  
48 years or think about it a little differently.

49  
50                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Does the Council

1 have any comments on the timeframe that the Federal  
2 Board -- go ahead, Robert.

3

4 MR. R. WALKER: Mr. Chairman. Thanks.

5

6 Ten years is a long time. I mean when you look at  
7 probably the life-expectancy of a Board member  
8 sometimes is only three to five years, maybe six. I  
9 mean, in that time you're going to have to live with  
10 what the -- until you can make any changes. I would  
11 say that would say that be a little bit too long.

12

13 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Any other comments.

14 Ray.

15

16 MR. COLLINS: Well, I would argue the  
17 opposite, that you don't want them looking at it every  
18 three or four years and so on. I mean, once you're  
19 determined rural, you should stay rural unless there's  
20 some overriding reason' to change it. So I would go  
21 the other way. I don't want them watching too close,  
22 unless the community, you know, their use of the  
23 resources really changes or something.

24

25 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I agree with Ray on  
26 that, but I also feel that the 10-year cycle using  
27 census data is probably appropriate, but I also feel  
28 that there should be a caveat that under 7, or unless a  
29 Regional Council requests for a community to be  
30 determined non-rural.

31

32 So we've got Donlin Creek pops up in a  
33 three or four-year period, and we've got 4,000 people  
34 pop up, and all of a sudden, oh, my gosh, we've got  
35 subsistence users coming out of our ears, and they want  
36 to dump boats in the Kuskokwim and shoot every last  
37 moose under subsistence, or get into the drawing pool  
38 for moose in 19A. This Council should have the ability  
39 to go, wait a minute. This is a non-rural community,  
40 the census is not up for another five years, and we  
41 want to initiate a non-rural determination. And so the  
42 Council should have the ability to make a  
43 recommendation to the Federal Subsistence Board to take  
44 it out of cycle, the 10-year cycle.

45

46 Is that appropriate for the Council? I  
47 see a lot of people shaking their heads on that one.

48

49 MR. R. WALKER: Yeah, I think so.

50

1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Don.

2

3 MR. HONEA: Yeah. Thank you, Mr.

4 Chair.

5

6 Well, I think Robert brings up a good  
7 point, too. And I guess my question is, if this was to  
8 meet every 10 years, I mean, I don't remember us even  
9 considering this, or maybe I've been on here about 10  
10 years now. You know, how much -- I guess my question  
11 to David is, how much, you know, has this been changed  
12 or was there any changes since this has been  
13 implemented?

14

15 DR. JENKINS: There have been a few  
16 changes relative to the aggregation of communities as I  
17 mentioned.

18

19 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Explain that it's  
20 not in our region.

21

22 DR. JENKINS: That's right. It's not  
23 in your region. The changes of rural determination of  
24 communities has happened. Saxman has flopped back and  
25 forth from rural to non-rural to rural to non-rural to  
26 rural. So the Board using it's criteria, because of  
27 what Mr. Walker just pointed out, the Federal  
28 Subsistence Board changes, and the Board has made  
29 different determinations about Saxman over the last 20  
30 years.

31

32 The Kenai Peninsula in its entirety was  
33 for a very brief period of time determined to be non-  
34 rural. A very brief period of time. So the Board  
35 changed its mind. It had areas on the Kenai that were  
36 non-rural, and then for a very brief period it said,  
37 no, those areas are rural, too, and the whole of the  
38 peninsula was non-rural, and then it changed its mind  
39 again.

40

41 So using these criteria, the Board has  
42 gone back and forth on some of these particular areas.  
43 Kodiak's been an issue, Adak has been an issue.

44

45 And I think your comments about what  
46 happens when industry comes into your region are  
47 appropriate comments for you to continue to think about  
48 when you think about this rural issue and maintaining  
49 the subsistence priority for rural residents in your  
50 region.

1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks, David. And  
2 the reason we have not evaluated any non-rural issues  
3 is because we have no community that even meets the  
4 threshold of 2500. And so that's why we have never  
5 heard about it. But there's other regions that have  
6 had considerable -- and Southeast region has been like  
7 wound into a twist about Saxman, because they were like  
8 real concerned about how Saxman got sucked in with  
9 Ketchikan.

10  
11 And so we'll continue on. We've got to  
12 move this along a little bit. And so go ahead, David.

13  
14 DR. JENKINS: Okay. Finally, I already  
15 mentioned information sources, but then the final  
16 question the Board has asked, is there any other  
17 elements that we should consider thinking about rural  
18 and non-rural status.

19  
20 MR. J. WALKER: Jack.

21  
22 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, James.

23  
24 MR. J. WALKER: Dave, just a question  
25 in regards to the percentage. You know, you were  
26 discussing 30 percent and 51 or 50 percent. And if it  
27 is 15 percent at this time, or 30 percent at this time,  
28 if there's, say, 1,000 or 2,000 in the community and 30  
29 percent are living a subsistence life style, will that  
30 community still be considered subsistence or rural?  
31 Would you want to have a community with a low  
32 percentage number to ensure rural designation?

33  
34 DR. JENKINS: And this is an  
35 interesting question about percentage, and especially  
36 if you're talking about percentage of folks who are  
37 engaged in subsistence activities. The 30 percent that  
38 I was referring to had to do with working people  
39 commuting from one community to another.

40  
41 Your question about a percentage using  
42 subsistence --0 being heavily reliant on subsistence is  
43 interesting, and I don't want to raise this issue at  
44 this point, but we are also bound by a Ninth Circuit  
45 Court of Appeals ruling from 1988, which was ruling on  
46 a State of Alaska definition of rural which was founded  
47 on preponderance of use of use of fish and wildlife  
48 resources in a community. And the Ninth Circuit Court  
49 said, that's inadmissible. ANILCA does not speak to a  
50 high reliance on subsistence. In fact I can read to

1 you part of the court's determination here. It said,  
2 Congress did not limit the benefits of the statute,  
3 ANILCA, to residents of areas dominated by a  
4 subsistence economy. Instead, it wrote broadly, given  
5 the statutory priority to all subsistence users  
6 residing in rural areas. So we are actually bound by  
7 this 1988 Ninth Circuit Court ruling, thinking of rural  
8 not simply about a subsistence -- dominated by a  
9 subsistence economy, but more like a geographic  
10 definition. So we do have that to consider as well as  
11 we go through this process.

12  
13 I'm not sure that got exactly to your  
14 question, but I'm.....

15  
16 MR. J. WALKER: That's fine.

17  
18 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I'll have to think  
19 about that.

20  
21 So are there any other sources --  
22 you're asking for additional sources or information to  
23 utilize for statistical analysis.

24  
25 DR. JENKINS: Yes, Mr. Chair. If these  
26 nine questions don't address the kinds of issues that  
27 you think need to be addressed in determining rural  
28 status, then any other information that you can bring  
29 to bear on this issue would be welcomed by the Board.

30  
31 Thank you.

32  
33 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thank you. I think  
34 we've addressed several of the questions, and I think  
35 that the template is appropriate, but I think that  
36 we've answered and inserted certain information that  
37 this -- I think that the Council's comments and my  
38 comments were affirmed by the Council, as most of the  
39 comments that we stated, are those agreeable to the  
40 Council. I see an affirmation. The comments that  
41 we've made should be beneficial to your analysis.

42  
43 Thank you, David.

44  
45 MR. COLLINS: Well, I do have.....

46  
47 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, Ray.

48  
49 MR. COLLINS: Yeah. With these  
50 development going on out there, you've got new

1 communities being created, like let's say Prudhoe Bay  
2 or something like that. Should that be considered a  
3 rural community when it was created for an industry and  
4 so on, just because it's in a rural area, or other  
5 communities like that? There may only be 300 people  
6 there, but they may be all from Texas or somewhere  
7 else, you see, so that somehow you need to look into  
8 the history of that community to see whether it was  
9 tied -- that would be one of the other criteria they  
10 might look at, because there may be the creation of new  
11 towns out here in rural areas that would be basically  
12 non-rural based on that industry.

13

14 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Prudhoe Bay, you  
15 know, didn't probably happen fast enough, but Prudhoe  
16 Bay was determined as non-rural. That whole -- and  
17 they delineated what the industrial area is as non-  
18 rural. There was like, I saw statistics last winter,  
19 there was 9,600 and something people working there.  
20 And they're not rural, and so they're not shooting.....

21

22 MR. COLLINS: Okay. But Donlin Creek,  
23 what's that going to be? What's that community going  
24 to be?

25

26 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: David.

27

28 DR. JENKINS: Mr. Chair. You're right,  
29 the Board did determine Prudhoe Bay to be non-rural,  
30 but it held in abeyance that determination pending the  
31 outcome of this review. So really it still has its  
32 rural status, because the determination of the non-  
33 rural status didn't take affect pending this review.

34

35 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So I would.....

36

37 DR. JENKINS: However, let me point out  
38 that you need to be a resident for a year and lots of  
39 those folks come and go, so they're not going to  
40 qualify anyway.

41

42 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right. I thought  
43 they had finalized Prudhoe Bay. So the faster that  
44 this moves forward, the more beneficial to the North  
45 Slope that would be.

46

47 And so I think we've covered this to  
48 the largest degree. And so, Melinda.

49

50 MS. HERNANDEZ: Mr. Chair. The beauty

1 of adopting the agenda as guide is we've got some  
2 flexibility. Ms. Rita St. Louis, we're going to have  
3 her go ahead and give her wood bison presentation.  
4 She's going to be leaving the earliest today. So if  
5 you would turn your attention to Page 121, her handout  
6 is there.

7  
8 And I've also included, Jack made me  
9 aware of a letter that this Council developed in 2009,  
10 I believe it was when this issue first came up, in  
11 support, so I included that for your reference as well.  
12 And I thought I could use a little bit of language in  
13 there for the letter that you folks want crafted for  
14 this meeting.

15  
16 So, Rita.

17  
18 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Well, also I will  
19 clarify the Koyukuk River Advisory letter is also in  
20 direct comment to the issue.

21  
22 Go ahead, Rita.

23  
24 MS. ST. LOUIS: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
25 For the record, my name is Rita St. Louis.

26  
27 And before I say anything else, I  
28 really want to thank each of you for all the time you  
29 spent volunteering. This is a volunteer thing that you  
30 folks spent hours on, and I think you're totally under  
31 appreciated, but thank you.

32  
33 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Appreciate that  
34 comment, Rita.

35  
36 MS. ST. LOUIS: I'm here to give you an  
37 update on the wood bison. And I would love to jabber  
38 about wood bison for an hour and a half, but I won't.

39  
40 Just a quick update is that we have a  
41 healthy herd at Alaska Wildlife Conservation Center  
42 down in Portage. As you know, in 2003 there were 13  
43 confiscated bison brought there, and then in 2008 we  
44 brought 53 bison from Elk Island Park in Canada. And  
45 these bison have been at Alaska Wildlife Conservation  
46 Center since then. We have a healthy growing  
47 population. At the moment there's 132 bison, and we're  
48 actually at capacity.

49  
50 I'm going to digress a teeny bit to

1 tell you that we have an agreement with the U.S. Forest  
2 Service to get 127 more acres, and they've granted the  
3 acres, but Alaska Wildlife Conservation Center is  
4 getting donations of posts and fence and all that  
5 stuff, so there's no pasture yet, but that's coming in  
6 the future, and that will help us expand our animals.

7  
8           And as I said, we are at capacity, and  
9 you get to capacity, you end up with stress issues and  
10 health issues and all kinds of stuff. So because these  
11 animals have not been turned loose yet in the landscape  
12 as we had hoped quite a while ago, we have decided to  
13 cut down on breeding. We won't eliminate breeding, but  
14 this next spring there will be only we anticipate about  
15 10 calves, because we want to keep a cohort coming all  
16 along. And we also culled 10 animals. Well, actually  
17 two died, so we culled eight of the big bulls. It was  
18 painful to do, but all the meat went to charities, and  
19 the hides and skulls are going to institutions where  
20 people can learn from them and enjoy them. It isn't  
21 just somebody's trophy room that no one ever sees. So  
22 everything went to a good cause. So we culled eight  
23 big bulls. And, of course, they're the ones that have  
24 already had a chance to breed. They're also the  
25 troublemakers. They tear down the fences and beat up  
26 one another and so forth and so forth. So they were  
27 the logical ones to go if they had to go.

28  
29           But my main reason for coming to talk  
30 to you is, as Melinda said, Page 121 is our Wood Bison  
31 News. I wanted to point out to you that a long arduous  
32 process of cooperation of the State and U.S. Fish and  
33 Wildlife Service, they finally came out with this  
34 proposed non-essential experimental population. And  
35 that's sort of -- we call it the 10(j) rule, because  
36 it's Section 10(j) of the Federal, so forth.

37  
38           But what this would do is make wood  
39 bison a non-essential experimental population. Until  
40 this 10(j) rule passes, we cannot put bison on the  
41 landscape. And nonessential, like they certainly are  
42 essential, why do you call them non-essential. But the  
43 reason they're called non-essential is they're non-  
44 essential to the survival of the species, because wood  
45 bison are doing very well in Canada. They're growing.  
46 They're actually even hunting them in some places in  
47 Canada. So if the wood bison in Alaska were not to  
48 prosper, the species itself would not be eliminated. So  
49 that's why it's called non-essential.

50

1                   But one of the provisions of -- or the  
2 provisions of the 10(j), and the things that I want to  
3 point out to you are in the newsletter in these key  
4 points:

5  
6                   Fish and Game will still be the lead  
7 agency in the reintroduction and management of these  
8 animals.

9  
10                   When there are enough animals and so  
11 forth, regulated hunting will be allowed.

12  
13                   Disturbance from resource development,  
14 hunting, trapping and recreation are allowed. And  
15 that's one of the bit concerns of people that if a  
16 threatened species -- these are now down-listed to  
17 threatened from endangered. I think you probably knew  
18 that. Put if a threatened or endangered species is not  
19 protected under the 10(j), certain development cannot  
20 happen, because let's say I have a population of  
21 whatevers, and someone was to come in and do  
22 development, and I say, no, you can't, because you'll  
23 disturb these animals, that would preclude development.  
24 And that's something that we will not be able to turn  
25 these animals loose without allowing these activities.

26  
27                   And sort of going along with that, no  
28 critical habitat would be designated, because as you  
29 probably know, in some endangered species, critical  
30 habitat is set aside, and then you can't do anything  
31 else with that habitat, because it's sort of set aside  
32 for those animals. So that's part of this non-  
33 essential experimental population ruling.

34  
35                   Then the last thing is if  
36 reintroduction efforts fail, we can remove the animals  
37 from the landscape.

38  
39                   So I think -- oh, as you know, and this  
40 is all review for most of you, the three areas that  
41 were set aside for possible reintroductions are Yukon  
42 Flats, it's the biggest area, and probably the best  
43 habitat, Minto Flats, and then the Lower Yukon/Innoko  
44 area.

45  
46                   Lower Yukon/Innoko area has been chosen  
47 as the first introduction site, because, one of the  
48 reasons, it's not all the reason, but one of the main  
49 reasons is Doyon Limited did not want them released in  
50 Minto Flats and Yukon Flats because they want to do

1 mineral exploration and they were concerned about  
2 possible litigation even if the 10(j) passed. To my  
3 knowledge, no 10(j) rule has ever been successfully  
4 litigated, but there's always the what if, so that's  
5 the reason Lower Yukon/Innoko has been selected.

6  
7 And another reason is the people of the  
8 Lower Yukon/ Innoko have been real supporters, really  
9 helpful, really proactive in getting these wood bison  
10 into your area.

11  
12 It's hard to keep the momentum going  
13 for your people I know, because you've been hearing  
14 about this since 2008 and they're still at Alaska  
15 Wildlife Conservation Center, but at least this is a  
16 step.

17  
18 The deadline for the comment period is  
19 March 18th. And if you felt you would like to comment  
20 to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, there's  
21 information on the back where you send your comments.

22  
23 And with that, I think that's all I  
24 have to say, and I'll gladly answer any questions you  
25 might have.

26  
27 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thank you, Rita.

28  
29 MS. ST. LOUIS: Thank you.

30  
31 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: That's a good  
32 overview of the wood bison issue.

33  
34 Go ahead, Don.

35  
36 MR. HONEA: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

37  
38 Rita, I guess, you know, I'm of the  
39 opinion -- I mean, we've seen -- it's kind of sad, all  
40 these little holdups, whether it's endangered species  
41 or whatever, but I'm just all for that. I know Randy  
42 Mayo at his experimental place up in Delta there had  
43 given us, the Ruby Tribe, a few years ago some bison  
44 for our Christmas party, whatever.

45  
46 And it's really -- I mean, I'm just a  
47 strong supporter of this, and I also in the past had  
48 mentioned, you know, our area to be used. You know,  
49 these things. And I just thought that anything that we  
50 can do to as a RAC or villages or something to speed up

1 the process of this, because it's -- I think we also  
2 are going into trying to maybe bring in reindeer into  
3 near our village.

4  
5 But, I mean, if there was any chance of  
6 getting on that list to say Minto, because of  
7 exploration and maybe the Yukon Flats, you know, just  
8 I'd like to, because I think it's a great healthy meat,  
9 and it's an alternative meat that we may at some point  
10 have to use.

11  
12 So I thank you for your presentation.  
13 And again I say, I mean, if we as a Council, if we as a  
14 village can speed up any way of introducing them,  
15 getting them out there, because it's been a long  
16 process it seems.

17  
18 Thank you.

19  
20 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks, Don.

21  
22 Any other comments.

23  
24 Go ahead, James.

25  
26 MR. J. WALKER: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

27  
28 Rita, I'd just like to say that being  
29 from that community down in the area, the Yukon/Innoko  
30 area, there's really a lot of support for this program  
31 that's going to go through.

32  
33 And looking at your comment period  
34 ending March 18th or so, what is the timelines after  
35 that as far as getting some indication of possible  
36 moving ahead?

37  
38 MS. ST. LOUIS: Through the Chair.  
39 Thank you, James. I'm glad you asked that question,  
40 because I forgot to give you that information.

41  
42 Once the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
43 gets all the comments ending March 18th, they say they  
44 take from six months to a year to weigh all the pros  
45 and cons and yeahs and nays, whatever they do. And  
46 then a final decision will come out. Now, the final  
47 decision might not have the same language as this, and  
48 if it were really different, then I'm not sure what  
49 would happen in terms of releasing the bison, because  
50 the State will have to agree to the language. So that

1 answers one of your questions.

2

3                   And back to something Don said is I  
4 personally don't know how this can be expedited except  
5 in your letter to Fish and Wildlife Service request,  
6 that this has gone on a long time, to please expedite.  
7 I don't know if that would help or not. We know it  
8 wouldn't hurt. Sometimes I think we government  
9 agencies, it's easier to watch grass grow than to watch  
10 us move.

11

12                   Thank you.

13

14                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks, Rita.

15

16                   Any other comments. Go ahead, Jenny.

17

18                   MS. PELKOLA: Rita, thank you for your  
19 info. This bison is new to me, you know, myself  
20 speaking. But I'll probably have to grow a taste for  
21 it. But with the declining moose and whatever in our  
22 area, you know, I'm all for this.

23

24                   Thank you.

25

26                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks, Jenny.

27

28                   Robert.

29

30                   MR. R. WALKER: Good job, Rita.

31

32                   MS. ST. LOUIS: Thank you.

33

34                   MR. R. WALKER: I know it's been a long  
35 time, and working with the other Staff over it, but  
36 you're doing a good job. Thank you very much.

37

38                   MS. ST. LOUIS: Thank you. And I would  
39 also like to put on the record that Robert Walker was  
40 among the very first people in the wood bison group who  
41 was looking to see whether this was even a viable  
42 option to happen.

43

44                   And then one other thing I want to tell  
45 you that has -- when we culled these males, granted  
46 they were the biggest bulls, but I can tell you that  
47 one bull was at a front end loader, has high as it  
48 would go, the head was gone, the neck was touching the  
49 ground. When just the meat and bones were left, 1200  
50 pounds. A lot of good eating.

1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: That sounds great.  
2  
3 Any other comments.  
4  
5 (No comments)  
6  
7 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I feel that the  
8 Western Interior Regional Advisory Council should  
9 resend our letter of support.  
10  
11 It's on the back of this Wood Bison  
12 News.  
13  
14 MR. COLLINS: Mr. Chairman.  
15  
16 I so move.  
17  
18 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yeah.  
19  
20 MS. PELKOLA: Second.  
21  
22 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: And this letter  
23 should be sent to the Federal Subsistence Board, cc'd  
24 to the Federal Subsistence Board, and specifically to  
25 Geoff Haskett, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Regional  
26 Director. There should be a statement in support of  
27 the 10(j) specifically, and that it's maintained as an  
28 experimental population to not jeopardize the release  
29 of this species. And that the process of evaluation  
30 and analysis should be expedited to highest degree,  
31 because people have been waiting for this introduction  
32 process, not only the State of Alaska but the people of  
33 the intended release area, and that the Western  
34 Interior is fully supportive and has been fully  
35 supportive of the wood bison release as most  
36 expeditiously as possible.  
37  
38 And so those -- is that letter template  
39 and those statements adequate for the Council. Go  
40 ahead, Ray.  
41  
42 MR. COLLINS: Does it specify that it's  
43 in our area, because that's what we're speaking to I  
44 think. I don't know about Yukon Flats or Minto, but we  
45 have strong support in our area, so we should speak  
46 from our area standpoint.  
47  
48 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: You see the letter,  
49 our letter of August 12th, 2009, basically lays out to  
50 Chairman Fleagle of the Federal Subsistence Board.....

1 MR. COLLINS: Okay. Yukon/Innoko.  
2 Yeah.  
3  
4 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: .....and have your  
5 point. And it's a real good template. It could be  
6 added upon slightly to expedite this, and we also want  
7 the regional director to know, who's a Federal  
8 Subsistence Board member, that we are fully supportive  
9 of his Region 7, was very instrumental in moving this  
10 forward. And so we want Geoff Haskett to know that  
11 we're very happy that his office is moving this  
12 forward, and we want Washington to get on the stick and  
13 get this pushed through as fast as possible.  
14  
15 Any further discussion. Don.  
16  
17 MR. HONEA: I make a motion to your  
18 actions.  
19  
20 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: There's a motion on  
21 the table and a second.  
22  
23 MS. PELKOLA: Second.  
24  
25 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: And we're just going  
26 over.....  
27  
28 MR. J. WALKER: Jenny seconded it.  
29  
30 MS. PELKOLA: I seconded it.  
31  
32 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yeah. Ray motioned,  
33 Jenny seconded. We're in discussion on the letter, and  
34 the points in the letter. And so that covers  
35 everything.  
36  
37 MR. R. WALKER: Question.  
38  
39 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So the question's  
40 called. Those in favor of transmittal of the letter in  
41 support of wood bison signify by saying aye.  
42  
43 IN UNISON: Aye  
44  
45 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Under the 10(j)  
46 rule. Those opposed same sign.  
47  
48 (No opposing votes)  
49  
50 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks, Rita.

1 Appreciate your being here in Galena with us and giving  
2 us an update.

3

4 MS. ST. LOUIS: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
5 And thank you, Council, And always a pleasure to be  
6 here, and I've enjoyed it even though I had a very  
7 small part.

8

9 Thank you.

10

11 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thank you.

12

13 Melinda.

14

15 MS. HERNANDEZ: Mr. Chair. It's  
16 getting close to lunchtime, but I'd like to see if  
17 maybe we can finish one more item that I have a feeling  
18 won't take up too much time. Marcy Okada, are you on  
19 the phone.

20

21 (No comments)

22

23 MS. HERNANDEZ: Marcy, are you there.

24

25 (No comments)

26

27 MS. HERNANDEZ: Okay. I was hoping we  
28 could maybe take that up and surprise Marcy by moving  
29 her up a little bit.

30

31 But I see that lunch is here, and I  
32 don't think that we have -- I don't see anything that  
33 we could take up in a quick 20 minutes. Would we like  
34 to go ahead and break.

35

36 I'll leave it up to the Chair.

37

38 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yeah. We'll go  
39 ahead and break for lunch for about an hour. At  
40 quarter to one would be an appropriate time to return  
41 back. We've got quite a bit of agenda to finish. So  
42 about a one-hour break.

43

44 Thank you.

45

46 (Off record)

47

48 (On record)

49

50 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: It's 12:47 on the

1 clock on the wall. So we were back on the agenda, and  
2 we'd called Marcy right before lunch break since we  
3 needed kind of a short briefing, so we might as well  
4 call Marcy, since she back on the line there. Go  
5 ahead.

6  
7 MS. HERNANDEZ: Actually, Mr. Chair,  
8 we've got both David and Merben who are going to be  
9 leaving us this afternoon.

10  
11 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Oh, I see.

12  
13 MS. HERNANDEZ: And I have a feeling --  
14 I was thinking we could squeeze in Marcy really quick  
15 before our lunch break.

16  
17 Marcy, are you going to be able to stay  
18 on with us? Do you have any time restrictions today.

19  
20 MS. OKADA: I'm probably going to get  
21 off the phone at 2:00 for another meeting.

22  
23 MS. HERNANDEZ: How quick is your  
24 update do you think?

25  
26 MS. OKADA: I think I could get through  
27 it pretty quickly.

28  
29 MS. HERNANDEZ: Mr. Chair, if you'd  
30 like, we can to ahead and take Marcy's. It sounds like  
31 it should be fairly quick.

32  
33 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right. Yeah, go  
34 ahead, Marcy, and be expeditious.

35  
36 MS. HERNANDEZ: Go ahead, Marcy.

37  
38 MS. OKADA: Mr. Chair and Council  
39 members. If you would go to Page 115 in your meeting  
40 packet, there's a brief park update located there.

41  
42 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. 115 in our  
43 packet?

44  
45 MS. OKADA: Yeah.

46  
47 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead.

48  
49 MS. OKADA: So this is basically just a  
50 bullet briefing of what's recently occurred. And then

1 also I had sent a newsletter for the Arctic Inventory  
2 and Monitoring Network. And I'm not sure if it was  
3 able to be place.

4  
5 MS. HERNANDEZ: I'm passing it out now.

6  
7 MS. OKADA: Okay. Okay.

8  
9 MS. HERNANDEZ: Go ahead, Marcy.

10  
11 MS. OKADA: Okay. And there is also  
12 information, a weather summary for the fall 2012 year.  
13

14 So I'm not sure if you guys have been  
15 able to peruse Page 115, but we weren't able to have an  
16 SRC meeting this past fall due to a change in the  
17 system for -- due to a change in our financing system.  
18 And that's the basic reason. We're hoping to have a  
19 meeting next month in Ambler, and we'll discuss issues  
20 related to basically future development.

21  
22 We have a new chief of resources,  
23 Jeffery Thick. He was already working here as our  
24 chief archaeologist, and now he's our new chief of  
25 integrated resources.

26  
27 We had a compendium meeting in Bettles,  
28 and this was directly related to the Board of Game  
29 regulations which, of course, affect preserve lands.  
30 And so we had a quick meeting stating that we would  
31 manage our preserve lands in relation to our own  
32 mandates.

33  
34 And I'm not very good when I'm being  
35 pressed for time.

36  
37 And then lastly there's a quick update  
38 on the Western Arctic Caribou Herd Working Group -- or  
39 information on the Western Arctic Caribou Herd and  
40 their locations this past year.

41  
42 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. That's a good  
43 overview.

44  
45 MS. OKADA: And then there's more  
46 biological information in the Arctic Inventory and  
47 Monitoring Network newsletter. And once you have gone  
48 through it, feel free to contact me if you have any  
49 questions.

50

1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So does anybody have  
2 questions for Marcy.

3  
4 Pollock Simon and I are on the Gates of  
5 the Arctic Subsistence Resource Commission. And so we  
6 work with Marcy as our coordinator.

7  
8 And I do have one question on the Gates  
9 of the Arctic National Park Service compendium, is the  
10 Subsistence Resource Commission hopefully has this  
11 meeting coming up in April. Is that compendium going  
12 to be on the agenda?

13  
14 MS. OKADA: The compendium is only open  
15 for comments between January 15th and February 15th,  
16 and so unfortunately the comment period has ended. But  
17 if it is something that the SRC would like to see on  
18 the agenda, we can easily place that on the agenda for  
19 further discussion.

20  
21 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I think the SRC  
22 should at least voice various -- have input to that  
23 compendium. And so that -- the National Park Service,  
24 under .808 ANILCA, has to look to the Resource  
25 Commission on resource issues, and so this Council  
26 relies on the Subsistence Resource Commission for park  
27 lands, Gates of the Arctic, Denali, Lake Clark, and so  
28 I feel that the Gates of the Arctic Subsistence  
29 Resource Commission should be apprised of that and have  
30 a meaningful input in that compendium discussion. Just  
31 my input on that.

32  
33 Any other comments there. James, go  
34 ahead.

35  
36 MR. J. WALKER: Yes, Mr. Chairman.  
37 I've got a question.

38  
39 Has the haul road between Red Dog had  
40 any impact on the migration of that area?

41  
42 MS. OKADA: Mr. Chair. If I heard  
43 correctly, he's asking whether the road for Red Dog  
44 Mine has had any effect on the Western Arctic Caribou  
45 Herd migration.

46  
47 MR. J. WALKER: Yes.

48  
49 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yes, that is the  
50 question.

1 MS. OKADA: And I think when Jan  
2 Caulfield was on earlier, she had mentioned that Jim  
3 Dau had done a study on that exact same question. And  
4 there is information available. And I believe he was  
5 presenting at the Northwest Arctic RAC meeting, which  
6 is occurring these same two days, and there is  
7 preliminary data out there. I can't speak directly to  
8 that question.

9

10 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I've requested that  
11 Jim Dau's presentation be at our next meeting, and we  
12 have to request through the State, and our next meeting  
13 will be in Fairbanks, and so hopefully at our fall  
14 meeting we'll be able to -- they're doing some fine  
15 tuning of that presentation also.

16

17 Any other questions on Gates of the  
18 Arctic presentation.

19

20 MR. HONEA: Yeah.

21

22 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, Don.

23

24 MR. HONEA: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

25

26 Thank you, Marcy. I feel you did  
27 pretty good in presenting that. I don't like the fact  
28 that, you know, you're on your -- it almost seems like  
29 a time constraint here, and you mentioned that you  
30 didn't feel well about that. So I would actually -- if  
31 you're able to come to our fall meeting, I think then  
32 we could maybe go into that more effectively.

33

34 Thank you.

35

36 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yes. That was one  
37 of the reasons why we're going to have our meeting in  
38 Fairbanks is so that more agencies have access to this  
39 Council. As I expressed in Holy Cross, I happened to  
40 go to an Eastern Interior meeting when I was stuck in  
41 Fairbanks, and saw the huge support that they get from  
42 agencies. And I was like, well, they kind of have a  
43 huge advantage over this Council. And so that's what  
44 swayed my opinion about meeting in Fairbanks or  
45 Anchorage.

46

47 Any other questions, comments on the  
48 Gates of the Arctic.

49

50 (No comments)

1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: And so I appreciate  
2 your presentation, Marcy, and so I will review this  
3 Arctic Network newsletter. And so appreciate you being  
4 on line there.

5  
6 Thank you.

7  
8 Hope to see you at our next meeting in  
9 Fairbanks.

10  
11 MS. OKADA: Thank you, Mr. Chair. And,  
12 yeah, there will be agency folks from the Park Service  
13 at your fall meeting in Fairbanks.

14  
15 Thank you.

16  
17 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Melinda.

18  
19 MS. HERNANDEZ: Thanks for your  
20 flexibility, Marcy.

21  
22 MS. OKADA: No problem.

23  
24 MS. HERNANDEZ: Mr. Chair. I believe  
25 we're going to go ahead and do a little more jumping to  
26 accommodate folks who are going to be leaving us this  
27 afternoon. Why don't we go ahead and move on to under  
28 Item I, where we just were, number 2, customary and  
29 traditional use determinations. And I believe Mr.  
30 David Jenkins from OSM will be covering this topic.  
31 Turn to Page 59 in your books, please.

32  
33 DR. JENKINS: Mr. Chair. Council  
34 members. Good afternoon. David Jenkins with OSM.

35  
36 If you remember in October of 2009, the  
37 Secretary of the Interior, Ken Salazar, announced that  
38 there would be a review of the Federal subsistence  
39 program, and I'm quoting here, to ensure that the  
40 program is best serving rural Alaskans, and that the  
41 letter and spirit of Title VIII are being met.

42  
43 The Secretary directed the Federal  
44 Subsistence Board to do a number of things, and here  
45 are two of them. The first relevant task, and I'm  
46 quoting from the Secretary, was to review with RAC  
47 input Federal subsistence procedural and structural  
48 regulations adopted from the State in order to ensure  
49 Federal authorities are fully reflected and comply with  
50 Title VIII. And the second task was to review

1 customary and traditional determination process to  
2 provide clear, fair and effective determinations in  
3 accord with Title VIII goals and provisions.

4  
5 Now, the Southeast RAC does not believe  
6 that this directive has been met, and believes that the  
7 current customary and traditional use determination  
8 process does not fulfill the goals and directives of  
9 ANILCA. The Southeast RAC formed a work group that  
10 extensively studied Council meeting transcripts for  
11 meetings where the issue of revising the C&T process  
12 was discussed, that is the issue of revising based on  
13 the Secretarial directive to take a careful look at  
14 this.

15  
16 And the work group found that the issue  
17 had not been presented consistently to all Councils,  
18 and that Councils were not given a meaningful  
19 opportunity to comment on the current customary and  
20 traditional process.

21  
22 In January of 2013 the Southeast RAC  
23 sent a letter to all of the Council chairs, you can  
24 find that on Page 62 of your books, summarizing this  
25 history, and inviting the Councils to review at their  
26 fall 2013 meeting whether the current C&T process is  
27 serving the needs of residents in their region. Now,  
28 the Southeast Council urges all other Councils to  
29 engage in a thorough of the C&T process at the fall  
30 2013 meeting, and also asks that OSM prepare an  
31 adequate briefing for that review for the fall meeting.

32  
33 Mr. Chair, thank you.

34  
35 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks, David, for  
36 the overview.

37  
38 So does the Council have any questions  
39 on what Southeastern Regional Advisory Council is  
40 asking of us.

41  
42 (No comments)

43  
44 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: They would like us  
45 to think about the current customary and traditional  
46 use determination process, and does not feel that it's  
47 a valid process. Reading their letter to this Council,  
48 it assumes that all subsistence users have no conflicts  
49 over resources, but this region has cultural boundaries  
50 within this region, and so we went through a long

1 process on the Piamuit Slough, is a perfect example of  
2 that, where there's a specific cultural boundary, and a  
3 customary and traditional use of moose on either side  
4 of that specific line which thanks to the Walkers on  
5 this Council, they delineated that boundary. And that  
6 was not refuted in any public testimony in Aniak or on  
7 either side of that line.

8

9 And so I feel that the customary and  
10 traditional use determinations process has been working  
11 for the customary and traditional users of the sources,  
12 and that I am satisfied with the way the customary and  
13 traditional use determinations have been made by the  
14 Federal Subsistence Board.

15

16 Does the Council have comments on this  
17 letter and on this idea of basically throwing the whole  
18 system of customary and traditional use out and then  
19 developing a process of waiting until there's a  
20 problem, and then going to .804 of ANILCA. I don't  
21 feel that that's adequate for the subsistence users.

22

23 Comments. Ray.

24

25 MR. COLLINS: Well, just a comment,  
26 that, yeah, the current procedures have worked. It was  
27 pretty slow though. We went through several steps in  
28 that meeting with the Western Interior before we got to  
29 the point where we finally ended up drawing a line.  
30 Yeah, and they kept kicking it back to us and having us  
31 meet with them and so on, but it did work and we  
32 finally got a determination.

33

34 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Well, under the  
35 Southeast scenario, it's my understanding, David, that  
36 there would be no customary and traditional use  
37 determinations. All resources would be used by all  
38 residents of Alaska.

39

40 What that would mean for me on the  
41 Dalton Highway is I would have people from Southeast  
42 coming and shooting caribou in my back yard, and they  
43 would have customary and traditional use determination  
44 that allowed them to do that whether they've even seen  
45 a caribou in their whole life. And so I don't think  
46 that that's what customary and traditional uses are.

47

48 MR. COLLINS: No.

49

50 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: And I feel that the

1 eight criteria, dependence on the -- the eight criteria  
2 that the Federal Subsistence Board was developed by the  
3 Board of Game and Board of Fish to basically delineate  
4 what .804 is.

5

6 MR. COLLINS: Uh-huh.

7

8 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: And so I feel that  
9 the eight criteria are an integral part of the  
10 customary and traditional determination process. I  
11 don't feel that all rural users throughout the whole  
12 state have a customary and traditional use of all  
13 different kinds of resources. I have no more customary  
14 and traditional use of black tailed deer in Southeast  
15 than somebody in Ketchikan -- or, correction, Saxman,  
16 has in my back yard.

17

18 And so I feel that to protect the  
19 customary and traditional users and the resource, that  
20 I feel that there's not a problem with the current  
21 customary and traditional use determination process.

22

23 Other comments from the Council  
24 members.

25

26 MR. HONEA: Yeah.

27

28 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, Don.

29

30 MR. HONEA: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

31

32 I would have to agree with that, and I  
33 think that what we have in place now is sufficient for  
34 all our needs and for each individual area. I mean, I  
35 like the fact that we can use that. We can take those  
36 into consideration when we're reviewing it. And I see  
37 really no need to change.

38

39 Thank you.

40

41 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks, Don.

42 Appreciate that comment.

43

44 Any other comments from the Council.

45

46 MR. R. WALKER: Mr. Chair.

47

48 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Robert.

49

50 MR. R. WALKER: (Indiscernible -

1 microphone not on).....

2

3 REPORTER: Robert.

4

5 MR. R. WALKER: On this, during the  
6 March 2011 meeting the Southeast Council created a  
7 topic of the annual report, made the following  
8 recommendation to the Board. Given that ANILCA does  
9 not require the Board make customary and traditional  
10 use determinations. I mean are we going to be  
11 following this now?

12

13 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Do you want to  
14 respond to that, David.

15

16 DR. JENKINS: The Southeast Council  
17 thinks that the current process is not adequate, and it  
18 thinks that the Regional Advisory Councils were not  
19 given the opportunity to think about the strengths and  
20 weaknesses of the customary and traditional eight  
21 criteria. The Southeast Council says, accurately, that  
22 those eight criteria are not found in ANILCA, and they  
23 would prefer to see a process that is in ANILCA used to  
24 apportion resources, if necessary, among subsistence  
25 users.

26

27 So they mount two critiques. One is  
28 those eight criteria are not found in ANILCA. They  
29 were adopted simply from the State who had developed  
30 them at a Board of Fish in 1980. A guy named Tom  
31 Lonner made up those eight criteria at that time. And  
32 the State subsequently brought them into their  
33 regulations, and then the Federal government with some  
34 minor modifications adopted them into Federal  
35 regulation.

36

37 So Southeast is saying, let's think  
38 about these. Are they adequate? What are the  
39 strengths, what are the weaknesses? They're not in  
40 ANILCA. Is there a better process in ANILCA to  
41 allocate resources when the resources are diminished in  
42 some capacity.

43

44 And then as Mr. Reakoff pointed out,  
45 Southeast suggested an .804 analysis, which is based on  
46 three criteria: Customary and direct dependence upon a  
47 population as the mainstay of livelihood, local  
48 residency, and the availability of alternative  
49 resources. So Southeast suggests that this .804  
50 analysis would be the preferred method of restricting

1 who an harvest a resource when resources are limited.

2

3                   So those are the two critiques that  
4 they have made. And they're asking you all to have an  
5 adequate briefing of the pros and cons to think more  
6 deeply about how useful this is.

7

8                   So it hasn't happened yet. They're  
9 just asking other RACs to pay attention.

10

11                   MR. R. WALKER: Well, what they're  
12 doing more or less is saying that we're asking the  
13 Western Interior, the Eastern Interior and so forth,  
14 these other RACs here, that -- sometimes I don't know,  
15 you know, when you really take a look at a different  
16 RAC from different portions of the state, some that  
17 actually would be different from how ours is, because  
18 they're pretty much urban. They have more urban there  
19 than they do rural. And then you get up to Alaska, we  
20 have more rural than urban. So that's very -- it  
21 doesn't -- I mean, is there a way to.....

22

23                   DR. JENKINS: And part of the concern  
24 again was that the Southeast Council didn't think that  
25 the rest of the Regional Advisory Councils were given  
26 an adequate account, which the Secretary of Interior  
27 told the Board to do on this particular issue. So  
28 that's really what they're -- they're looking for  
29 everybody to think more carefully on this, and they're  
30 asking you to put it on your agenda if you feel that it  
31 should be looked at, and they're urging you to take a  
32 closer look at this issue.

33

34                   That's their position. They recognize  
35 that there are regional differences, and in their  
36 materials that they submitted that's in your packet,  
37 they talk a little bit about those regional  
38 differences, too.

39

40                   MR. R. WALKER: Also on this, when we  
41 do -- if we take another hard look at it, do we have a  
42 policy manual that we'd have to add this to?

43

44                   DR. JENKINS: OSM actually developed a  
45 policy on customary and traditional use, and the  
46 Federal Subsistence Board never formally adopted it.  
47 So the Board does not have a formal policy on this  
48 which it has adopted, based in part on legal advice and  
49 on the idea that these eight factors are not found in  
50 ANILCA.

1 MR. R. WALKER: Well, you know, I think  
2 we should try to look at this, because this is going to  
3 be just like drifting around here, here, here, here,  
4 here. And, you know, then somebody's going to say,  
5 hey, we've got something over here. We've got to look  
6 through all these things here to find it again. I  
7 think that we should find some kind of a direction here  
8 and take this direction, and put it in some kind of a  
9 policy.

10

11 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, Ray.  
12 Comment.

13

14 MR. COLLINS: Yeah. Well, yeah, I  
15 think it would be a disaster if they ever erased the  
16 ones we go now, because it would almost like we're with  
17 the State, that everyone in the State is a subsistence  
18 user. Well, now everyone in the rural area would be a  
19 user, and that left going unchecked would mean that  
20 there's going to be more and more crisis, because that  
21 means that a population could be depressed and then  
22 we'd have to go back to the three mentioned in ANILCA  
23 of who has the most dependence on it, where now we've  
24 avoided some of that by drawing lines, and people can  
25 hunt where they customary and traditionally did, like  
26 from the lower river, but they're not all up in the  
27 GASH area there now doing that.

28

29 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right.

30

31 MR. R. WALKER: Yeah.

32

33 MR. COLLINS: So if they threw that  
34 out, we're going to -- we would be suppressing the  
35 resources and ignoring the traditional boundaries that  
36 were in place for a long time until there's a crisis.  
37 And I know I wouldn't want to see us go to that. So  
38 I'm glad that they did make determinations so far. And  
39 they now can be fine tuned, you know, if there's a  
40 question  
41 comes up, those can be fine tuned.

42

43 So I think the eight criterion have  
44 been useful in that regard of helping us settle those  
45 things and put them in place before there's a crisis.

46

47 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yeah. I agree with  
48 you, Ray.

49

50 You know, when I got on this Council in

1 1994 I looked at those eight criteria and I didn't have  
2 a problem with them then. I've looked at them again, I  
3 don't have a problem with them. I feel that they  
4 articulate what customary and traditional use is.  
5 Direct reliance on the resource, economy of time and  
6 effort and expense, those kinds of language help us  
7 define.

8

9 I do feel that the Federal Subsistence  
10 Board should adopt a policy on customary and  
11 traditional use determination, but I don't -- if you  
12 revoked all those C&Ts, we would have huge problems.  
13 Just think of our 21A winter moose hunt. We'd have  
14 huge problems where there would no C&T. There would be  
15 like -- the allocation would be up from everybody from  
16 Bethel could come up there and hunt moose in 21A. And  
17 so we would have giant problems. It would cause this  
18 Council unending amounts of work and expense. And so I  
19 do not feel that the eight criteria have been a  
20 detriment to the Regional Council's work. I feel that  
21 they've been an assistance. And I do not want to  
22 revoke the customary and traditional uses that this  
23 Council has worked on for 20 years.

24

25 And so we can bring forward in our next  
26 meeting and discuss this further. Maybe Southeast has  
27 some -- you know, we can come a little more towards  
28 working towards a policy at the Federal Subsistence  
29 Board level or something to that effect, but as  
30 personally, I will vote against revoking any C&Ts that  
31 have been made or relying heavily on overutilizing a  
32 resource by many different user bases until there's a  
33 crisis and then we have to go to .804. So I don't want  
34 to go there. That's not beneficial users. That does  
35 not meet the subsistence needs of the people of our  
36 region.

37

38 Any further discussion on that.

39

40 MR. J. WALKER: Yes, Jack.

41

42 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, James.

43

44 MR. J. WALKER: Just a comment on that.  
45 I would be in favor, too, in favor of what you stated  
46 there just for the fact that it would really be  
47 detrimental if you go back and open this up.

48

49 Southeast has always had a history of  
50 coming back and refining what they said, to start with.

1 (Laughter)

2

3 MR. J. WALKER: So I don't see any  
4 point at this time in doing something like that.

5

6 MS. PELKOLA: Jack.

7

8 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, Jenny.

9

10 MS. PELKOLA: I don't know who to  
11 direct this question or comment to. Is there a way we  
12 can write a letter or something to somebody in support  
13 of keeping it the way it was instead of opening up,  
14 like you say, all these avenues.

15

16 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Well, we could  
17 transmit a letter to the Southeastern Regional Advisory  
18 Council and delineate some of the reasons why we feel  
19 that the current system is actually beneficial to the  
20 subsistence resource and the users within this region.  
21 And will give a direct response in a more timely manner  
22 than waiting until our fall meeting, and then a final  
23 transmission.

24

25 We should include in the letter that we  
26 do feel that the Federal Subsistence Board should  
27 develop and adopt a policy on customary and traditional  
28 use determinations.

29

30 Pollock.

31

32 MR. SIMON: So you're talking against  
33 that and keeping things the way it is. It's been that  
34 way for a long time. But we've been discussing this  
35 customary and traditional use at length, a lengthy  
36 discussion ever since I first -- you know, I sat on  
37 this Board for the first three years it was formed.  
38 And five years ago I joined this Board again, and it  
39 has been on every table that I go to so far. So I  
40 don't know how much longer we're going to talk about  
41 it, although we talk about it and have committees look  
42 at it, and spent money on it. And it's all the same.  
43 We still do whatever we need to do. We need to hunt  
44 and fish, and that's customary and traditional. We'll  
45 always do that no matter what's the outcome.

46

47 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks, Pollock.

48

49 Do we need a motion to transmit the  
50 letter or.....

1 MR. J. WALKER: So moved.  
2  
3 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Moved to transmit a  
4 letter to the Southeastern Regional Advisory Council,  
5 cc'd to the Federal Subsistence Board.  
6  
7 MR. R. WALKER: Second.  
8  
9 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Seconded. Any  
10 further discussion on that letter to articulate our  
11 position on this customary and traditional use  
12 determinations.  
13  
14 (No comments)  
15  
16 MR. SIMON: Question.  
17  
18 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Those in favor of  
19 that letter signify by saying aye.  
20  
21 IN UNISON: Aye.  
22  
23 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Those opposed same  
24 sign.  
25  
26 (No opposing votes)  
27  
28 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks, David.  
29  
30 MR. COLLINS: In that letter we should  
31 state that those State criteria have been very useful.  
32  
33 REPORTER: Ray.  
34  
35 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Ray.  
36  
37 MR. COLLINS: In the letter, I think we  
38 need to make surer that we state that the State criteria  
39 have been very useful in determining thus far, and we  
40 don't have a problem with those.  
41  
42 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right.  
43  
44 MR. R. WALKER: Yeah, that's just what  
45 I was going to say.  
46  
47 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Yeah, we have  
48 that all on the record. That can be drawn out of the  
49 transcripts.  
50

1 MS. HERNANDEZ: I've most of it typed.  
2  
3 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Oh, she's already  
4 got it typed. No problem. That's why we've got  
5 Melinda.  
6  
7 (Laughter)  
8  
9 MR. R. WALKER: Jack. Dave, when you  
10 get this all drawn up, could you give the Board a draft  
11 copy of that? Would that be a problem.  
12  
13 DR. JENKINS: I'm sorry, I didn't hear  
14 the question.  
15  
16 MR. R. WALKER: When you get this all  
17 written up here, could you give each Board a draft  
18 copy?  
19  
20 DR. JENKINS: So you all would like to  
21 see it?  
22  
23 SEVERAL: Yes.  
24  
25 DR. JENKINS: You would like to see a  
26 draft copy. Sure. Melinda can get that.  
27  
28 MR. R. WALKER: Yes. Thank you.  
29  
30 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: No problem. We've  
31 got Melinda.  
32  
33 MS. HERNANDEZ: Mr. Chair. Would we  
34 like to go ahead and have David do his OSM updates, and  
35 I think Mr. Jenkins will be finished with his agenda  
36 items for the day, and then we can move on to Merben,  
37 if that would be okay with the Mr. Jenkins.  
38  
39 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: That's great. Go  
40 ahead, David.  
41  
42 DR. JENKINS: Thank you. I have the  
43 very unhappy task of telling you about our budget.  
44  
45 (Laughter)  
46  
47 DR. JENKINS: As you know, the current  
48 Federal budget is operating under a continuing  
49 resolution, and now we are under a sequestration. Not  
50 only do we have a reduced budget and travel

1 restrictions, we now have a 5.1 further reduction in  
2 our budgets. We're going to continue to make every  
3 effort we can to support Regional Advisory Councils,  
4 including providing travel, because this is seen as  
5 necessary to this program. But as you can see, there  
6 are very few Federal folk here. Their travel has been  
7 curtailed, and it will continue to be curtailed until  
8 sequestration is lifted or dealt with by Congress in  
9 some fashion. We sill might end up with fairly harsh  
10 limitations to our budgets and our travel capacities.

11

12 So that's the happy news.

13

14 Staffing. As many of you know, and  
15 some of you may not, but Pete Probasco has taken a new  
16 position as the assistant regional director for  
17 migratory birds and State programs. He started there  
18 the first of February.

19

20 Kathy O'Reilly-Doyle has taken over as  
21 the acting assistant regional director for subsistence.  
22 Currently there is a selection process underway for a  
23 new ARD in OSM; however the sequestration has also  
24 meant that there is a Federal-wide hiring freeze in  
25 effect. So whether or not we'll get a waiver for that  
26 job, we don't know.

27

28 MR. R. WALKER: What is the ARD? What  
29 is the acronym?

30

31 DR. JENKINS: The assistant regional  
32 director.

33

34 MR. R. WALKER: Okay.

35

36 DR. JENKINS: So Pete's job was the  
37 assistant regional director of OSM. Whether or not  
38 we'll be able to that in the near future is unknown.  
39 We have applied for a -- or started the process of  
40 applying for a waiver so we can advertise and get that,  
41 see if we can fill that job.

42

43 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Who makes the  
44 decision on the waiver?

45

46 DR. JENKINS: It has to go to the  
47 Washington office.  
48 So it goes through Geoff Haskett and then he forwards  
49 it on, and at that point I don't know what happens to  
50 it. Into the great maw of the bureaucracy.

1                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: It's very important.  
2 You know, I'll express on the record that the support  
3 of OSM to these Regional Advisory Councils is set in  
4 statute, regulation and statute. And so without -- I  
5 see dwindling support. OSM has less and less, has more  
6 and more open vacant positions. And so it's my strong  
7 opinion that strong leadership at OSM is extremely  
8 important to the working of all of the Regional  
9 Advisory Councils and the subsistence management  
10 program in Alaska.

11  
12                   And I would like to transmit a letter  
13 to Region 7, Geoff Haskett, Regional Director, that  
14 this Council feels that, also cc'd to all the other  
15 Regional Advisory Councils, that it is extremely  
16 important to hire an ARD for OSM post haste,  
17 immediately, and cut through the red tape to the  
18 highest degree. And they can give my name and number  
19 to OMB or whoever it might be, and I'll tell them why  
20 that position is needed.

21  
22                   Does the Council feel like transmitting  
23 that letter to the Regional Director? Do I have a  
24 motion.

25  
26                   MS. PELKOLA: I'll make a motion to  
27 transmit the letter to OSM.

28  
29                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Motion to the  
30 Regional Director Geoff Haskett, and the importance of  
31 immediate hiring of an assistant regional director for  
32 OSM.

33  
34                   MR. J. WALKER: Second.

35  
36                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Seconded by James.

37  
38                   Those in favor of that letter signify  
39 by saying aye.

40  
41                   IN UNISON: Aye.

42  
43                   (No opposed votes)

44  
45                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, David.

46  
47                   DR. JENKINS: And just to clarify.  
48 Mike pointed out that it's the Secretary of Interior  
49 who's going to grant that waiver for these positions.

50

1                           CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Oh, the Secretary of  
2 Interior.  
3  
4                           DR. JENKINS: Of Interior. So you can  
5 transmit a letter to Mr. Haskett. You might also want  
6 to cc one to Pat Pourchot.  
7  
8  
9                           CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Oh, yeah.  
10  
11                          DR. JENKINS: And to the Secretary of  
12 Interior.  
13  
14                          CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Well, that would be  
15 the chain. Thank you. And the Secretary can call me  
16 up. No problem.  
17  
18                          (Laughter)  
19  
20                          DR. JENKINS: When she's appointed,  
21 I'll let her know.  
22  
23                          (Laughter)  
24  
25                          CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: If Lisa lets her go  
26 through.  
27  
28                          So continue.  
29  
30                          DR. JENKINS: Okay. And the deputy  
31 assistant regional director, that's the position that  
32 I'm now acting in, so I've assumed that position for  
33 the time being.  
34  
35                          Helen Armstrong is retiring. So we  
36 have a selection process for the chief of anthropology,  
37 but similarly that position is on hold. We're also  
38 applying for a waiver for that position.  
39  
40                          Ms. Michelle Chivers has retired, and  
41 we hope to find someone to fill her position at the  
42 permit specialist.  
43  
44                          Let's see. We can jump to the  
45 Fisheries Monitoring Plan request for proposals. As  
46 you know, you can find funding opportunity details on  
47 our website under the Fisheries Resource Monitoring  
48 Program. The deadline for submission is April 4, 2013.  
49 And we anticipate \$3.7 million to be available to fund  
50 new research and monitoring projects, but I have to

1 point out that is a questionable figure at this point.

2

3 So all the investigation plans  
4 addressing Federal subsistence fisheries will be  
5 considered under this call for proposals. And past  
6 awards have ranged from \$3,000 to \$375,000 per year.  
7 And award periods range from one year to four years.

8

9 So that's the FRMP monitoring plan  
10 proposal. It's open if you have proposals or if you  
11 know people who would like to apply for that funding,  
12 please alert them to the deadline and that they can  
13 find information on our website.

14

15 MS. HERNANDEZ: David.

16

17 DR. JENKINS: Yeah.

18

19 MS. HERNANDEZ: Council, excuse me. I  
20 made several extra copies of the green forms that  
21 discuss the FRMP funding opportunities, so I really  
22 wouldn't like to see any of those left at the end of  
23 the day. Please grab an extra copy, take them to your  
24 tribes or villages, and please disseminate that  
25 information. I brought lots of extra copies.

26

27 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks, Melinda.

28

29 DR. JENKINS: And we have a brief  
30 Partners Program update, too. Alyssa's still here.  
31 She'll provide that for you.

32

33 MS. FROTHINGHAM: Hello. Alyssa  
34 Frothingham with the Tanana Chief's conference. Palma  
35 Ingles could not be here with OSM, so she asked me to  
36 give a quick Partners update. As you know, we do have  
37 Partners biologists in various Native organizations  
38 including BBNA, ONC, KNA, TCC, myself, and then the  
39 Native Village of Eyak in Cordova. Danielle Stickman  
40 was recently hired in January for BBNA.

41

42 We have a Partners workshop that's  
43 going to be planned the week of April 22nd.

44

45 And then currently all Partners  
46 biologists are in the process of hiring interns and  
47 technicians.

48

49 And that's it.

50

1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Any questions  
2 on the Partnership Program with OSM.

3  
4 (No comments)

5  
6 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: We had the Henshaw  
7 weir and those kinds of --- those are parts of those  
8 programs.

9  
10 Don.

11  
12 MR. HONEA: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

13  
14 I guess I'm just -- has anything new  
15 changed on those? I mean, the studies that's been  
16 going on the last few, are they being funded, and if  
17 you have any new projects, where?

18  
19 Thank you.

20  
21 MS. FROTHINGHAM: I'm not sure of any  
22 specific projects, but, you know, we are asked to apply  
23 for the FRMP project, you know, things that are  
24 priority listed as priorities, so we will be doing  
25 that. I know a couple of other biologists have some  
26 projects, new projects planned, but also continuation  
27 of older projects, such as, you know, Henshaw Creek. I  
28 will be applying for the FRMP call, for example.

29  
30 MR. HONEA: Okay. Thank you. I just  
31 -- because of the kind of dismal look at our summer  
32 Chinook run and stuff, I was just wondering if some of  
33 the effects, you know, that -- where you had Chinook  
34 counting and stuff like that was going to be affected  
35 by, you know, the impending doom and gloom kind of look  
36 on the fishing season.

37  
38 MS. FROTHINGHAM: Well, pending funding  
39 we will run our projects as scheduled, the ones that we  
40 do have.

41  
42 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Other comments from  
43 the Regional Council, Partners Program.

44  
45 MR. J. WALKER: Jack.

46  
47 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead there,  
48 James.

49  
50 MR. J. WALKER: Yeah. One question.

1 Maybe i's not related to anything what you do, but is  
2 there any -- at some point is there going to be any  
3 look into the northern portion of Alaska as far as to  
4 fishing in the north Bering Sea area?

5  
6 DR. JENKINS: On terms of research,  
7 yes. And that could be part of any call for proposals.  
8 And interestingly, we're not limited to the priority  
9 information needs, but if people come up with a good  
10 research proposal that has subsistence connection to  
11 it, then we'll consider that when we're looking at the  
12 funding issue as well. So the answer is, yes, and the  
13 answer is we're going to continue to get those I  
14 believe in the future, especially with changed in  
15 climate and species composition and so on.

16  
17 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay.

18  
19 Other comments. Questions.

20  
21 (No comments)

22  
23 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thank you.

24  
25 Thank you, Alyssa.

26  
27 And do you have any more there, David.

28  
29 DR. JENKINS: I do have a few more, not  
30 on this topic, if you're ready to move on.

31  
32 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yes.

33  
34 DR. JENKINS: Council appointments.  
35 There was a significant delay in finalizing Council  
36 appointments, Regional Advisory Council appointments  
37 this year. The delay was in Washington, D.C. It's  
38 still for many of us a mystery to why there was such a  
39 multi-month delay. We haven't gotten complete answers  
40 as to why there was the delay, but there was. And  
41 maybe some of you were appointment at the very last  
42 moment and didn't know that you were going to be on  
43 this Council until a week ago, two weeks ago? A week  
44 ago. I'm looking right at Jenny and she's nodding, so  
45 that's right. So you weren't alone. There were many  
46 folk who didn't know until the very last minute. And I  
47 think there's still at least one outstanding Council  
48 member who doesn't know yet.

49  
50 The deadline for applying for Regional

1 Advisory Council membership was extended to March 29th,  
2 I should point that out. The reason for the extension  
3 was that we received very few applications for Regional  
4 Advisory Council seats. I believe we received 33, and  
5 we had 45 empty seats across all the Councils, is that  
6 right, Melinda?

7  
8 MS. HERNANDEZ: That number sounds  
9 pretty close, David. I know that up until the day I  
10 left, there was still some applications rolling in. I  
11 know I had Jack post the application on the Western  
12 Interior. It's an informal page, it's an informal  
13 Western Interior subsistence page. And in my opinion,  
14 the last few weeks, I think we've seen a good number of  
15 applications rolling in.

16  
17 I have a stack in the back. That's  
18 another one that I don't want to take any of those  
19 forms home. Take the applications. We'll be leaving  
20 some here in Galena as well, but hopefully this extra  
21 time will increase those numbers.

22  
23 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks, Melinda.

24  
25 MR. COLLINS: Would you clarify what  
26 those nominations are for now. Is it the seats that  
27 are expiring in '13?

28  
29 MS. HERNANDEZ: (Nods affirmatively)

30  
31 MR. COLLINS: Okay.

32  
33 MR. HONEA: Jack.

34  
35 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, Don.

36  
37 MR. HONEA: Yeah. I just had a  
38 question. Maybe this is kind of -- if a person that's  
39 sitting on this Council here, their term expired 2013,  
40 they would then have to submit it by the 29th?

41  
42 MS. HERNANDEZ: Uh-huh.

43  
44 DR. JENKINS: I believe that's the  
45 case.

46  
47 MS. HERNANDEZ: That's right.

48  
49 So if any Council -- I think December  
50 2nd, 2013. So if there's a 2013 by your name on the

1 roster, that means that December 2013 your Council seat  
2 will come up. I have received -- let me remind myself.  
3 I think I've received Robert's, but there's a -- I do  
4 have a note, anybody does see a 2013 by your name, that  
5 means December 2013 your seat will be up and you will  
6 need to put in another application. There's also the  
7 option of using your old application. All we need is  
8 an email or a note that says, please use my old  
9 application. So if you're an incumbent, we can make it  
10 very easy for you to reapply.

11  
12 MR. HONEA: So we don't have to do  
13 anything until 2013?

14  
15 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: No, now. I'll go  
16 around the room for my Council members who are up for  
17 -- you need to submit a new application or at least  
18 notify. Would you like to continue to serve on the  
19 Council, Don?

20  
21 MR. HONEA: That's correct.

22  
23 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: And so duly noted.  
24 Pollock, are you going to continue to serve on the  
25 Council?

26  
27 MR. SIMON: Yes, I already filled out  
28 application. Thank you.

29  
30 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Appreciate  
31 that, Pollock. And then, Robert.

32  
33 MR. R. WALKER: I already submitted  
34 application Melinda said.

35  
36 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. For Council  
37 members so we don't start hyperventillating.

38  
39 (Laughter)

40  
41 MR. R. WALKER: Are we going to get a  
42 present, the three of us?

43  
44 (Laughter)

45  
46 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: You are. Door prizes  
47 now. We need door prizes.

48  
49 I feel that there needs to be an  
50 inclusion or a letter to the Regional Director and the

1 Secretary of Interior that these nomination processes  
2 need to be accomplished in a more timely manner. Can  
3 that be an addition to that letter we're already  
4 transmitting? Is that okay with the Council.

5  
6 (Council nods affirmatively)

7  
8 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I think this is --  
9 you know, Washington dragging their feet on these  
10 appointments is being too stressful. I received my  
11 notification late last year. It's too stressful on the  
12 Council members. We have to plan our lives, and we're  
13 volunteers. And we have to be able to, am I going to a  
14 spring meeting or not? I've got to know what's going  
15 on. And so I feel that there needs to be more of a  
16 timely evaluation of the Regional Council members, and  
17 so they're notified one way or another at least several  
18 months before the meeting.

19  
20 Jenny.

21  
22 MS. PELKOLA: Like you say, I think we  
23 need timely, you know, a fashion to get the notice to  
24 you, because in the past I think it was like December  
25 you got your letter, and this year I think I got mine  
26 last week, so I didn't know if I was on the Board, or,  
27 you know, I didn't know what to do. So like Jack says,  
28 it's stressful and it needs to be in. Like he said,  
29 we're volunteers, and we need to know what we're doing,  
30 because there's other chances that I could have been at  
31 another meeting.

32  
33 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks, Jenny. I  
34 appreciate it.

35  
36 I want the OSM and the Secretary of  
37 Interior to understand that we take this work very  
38 seriously, and we're not playing around, and we need to  
39 know if we're appointed or not, because we have lives  
40 also.

41  
42 And so moving on, you got any more,  
43 David.

44  
45 DR. JENKINS: A couple more. The  
46 regulatory cycle. The Board has been briefed on  
47 various recommendations from RACs regarding the Federal  
48 Subsistence Board meeting dates, the fisheries  
49 regulatory cycle, and the fall meeting window. And the  
50 Board will address those recommendations at a future

1 meeting, probably in April at their work session. I  
2 know this Council has been instrumental in pushing for  
3 some changes in the meeting dates of the Federal  
4 Subsistence Board, and then opening up -- lengthening  
5 the windows of some of your meeting dates as well. So  
6 the Board will be taking that up.

7

8 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: When will they take  
9 up that?

10

11 DR. JENKINS: Well, in April they  
12 have a work session. 24th and 25th, and that will be a  
13 topic for them. If you remember, at the last meeting  
14 they were briefed fairly extensively on the options  
15 that have been developed.

16

17 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right. I'm hoping  
18 for the best with that work session. The Board has  
19 been meeting in January, and for Council Chairs who  
20 have to attend the meeting, it's a bad time of year to  
21 be going at 60 below zero and travel. It's also  
22 completely unnecessary. And so we made various  
23 comments last fall on the Federal Board cycle. and I'm  
24 hoping for the best with the decision of the Board.

25

26 Continue, David.

27

28 DR. JENKINS: Okay. Two more. The  
29 memorandum of understanding with the State has been  
30 redrafted. And the Board heard feedback from the  
31 Regional Advisory Councils, but hasn't yet given final  
32 approval to the revised MOU. The Board is waiting to  
33 hear back from the State Advisory Committees, and I  
34 think they've all met by now. And so those will be  
35 heard at the work session in April as well.

36

37 And then finally Tribal consultation,  
38 unless you want to talk about that for a second. The  
39 MOU. Shall we move of?

40

41 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: No, just move on.

42

43 DR. JENKINS: Okay. Tribal  
44 consultation. I just want to point out one paragraph  
45 on Page 114. There's a briefing starting on Page 113  
46 on consultation with tribes and ANCSA corporations.  
47 And on Page 114, the second paragraph, I wanted to  
48 highlight and indicate to you that consultations have  
49 been ongoing with Alaska Native tribes and corporations  
50 during 2012, and several consultations occurred in

1 December of 2011 at the Providers' Conference on  
2 subsistence issues and regulatory proposals, and at the  
3 Board meeting, and at the various -- at the combined  
4 Board and RAC meeting in Juneau and elsewhere. So the  
5 Board is committed to consultation on a government-to-  
6 government relationship with tribes and ANCSA  
7 corporations.

8

9 And these two pages provide a briefing  
10 on the progress to date. It's an on-going process.  
11 The Board is still trying to figure out the best way to  
12 affect government-to-government consultation.

13

14 And we have a draft implementation  
15 guidelines for the policy on consultation that the  
16 Board developed, and Dr. Glenn Chen will provide you an  
17 update on that later in your meeting.

18

19 Thank you.

20

21 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks, David.

22

23 Any comments from the Council.

24

25 Don.

26

27 MR. HONEA: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

28

29 I have a question on consultation. I  
30 don't know what that infers. I mean, whether you just  
31 actually meet with them or a whole just like at the  
32 Providers' Conference when we were there, anything that  
33 -- whether you actually consult with the various groups  
34 or whether the protocol is you just -- they just submit  
35 whatever to the Board or to the State or whatever,  
36 their proposals, the things -- what I mean, is, when  
37 you confer with the tribes, whether you just meet with  
38 them.

39

40 Thank you.

41

42 DR. JENKINS: Glenn later on will tell  
43 you the implementation of that, and what all that  
44 means, so he'll lay out in detail I think what the  
45 process is intended to be. So later on you'll get that  
46 information, Mr. Honea.

47

48 MR. HONEA: Okay.

49

50 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Any other comments

1 from the Council. Melinda.

2

3

MS. HERNANDEZ: Yeah. Mr. Chair.  
4 Council. I just received a message from my supervisor,  
5 Carl Johnson, he's the Council coordination division  
6 chief. And to date we've received 54 applications for  
7 the next round, so the numbers are still rising, and we  
8 still have near a month before the period, so let's  
9 encouraging our community members to apply to be on  
10 these seats.

11

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thank you. That's  
12 good news. So that completes your -- and I wish you  
13 happy travels, and thanks for attending our meeting,  
14 David.

15

16  
17 DR. JENKINS: Thank you, Mr. Chair,  
18 Council members. It's always a pleasure.

19

20 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Melinda.

21

22 MS. HERNANDEZ: Mr. Chair. Let's give  
23 Merben a quick five minutes to get up and get his  
24 presentation cued up. So let's just take a quick five  
25 minute breather, and we'll be back on with Merben. And  
26 we are on the BLM update, central field report. We'll  
27 be back on in five.

28

29 (Off record)

30

31 (On record)

32

33 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: We're going to come  
34 back on the record.

35

36 MS. HERNANDEZ: Bo Sloan would like a  
37 couple minutes to talk to the Council.

38

39 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. We're going  
40 to order again, come back to the seats.

41

42 So go ahead, Bo, are you on line there,  
43 Bo. You've got something to say to us?

44

45 MR. SLOAN: Yes, I am. Can you all  
46 hear me okay?

47

48 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yeah, we can hear  
49 you. We're really mad you're leaving.

50

1 MS. HERNANDEZ: Yeah, I am, too.  
2  
3 MR. SLOAN: Well, I appreciate it. I  
4 wanted to take just a few minutes to speak with you all  
5 if I could.  
6  
7 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Please do. We enjoy  
8 your accent.  
9  
10 MR. SLOAN: It probably sounds even  
11 funnier by telephone. Is everybody kind of together  
12 now?  
13  
14 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Everybody's seated.  
15 Go right ahead.  
16  
17 MR. J. WALKER: Yeah. State your name  
18 for the record.  
19  
20 MR. SLOAN: Okay. All right, Mr.  
21 Walker. This is Bo Sloan, the Refuge manager at Innoko  
22 National Wildlife Refuge. And, you guys, I really hate  
23 that I'm not there in person. I miss visiting you all  
24 in person. And I think Brad Scott told you the news  
25 that I accepted the position of Refuge at Kodiak, and  
26 should be starting there in early May.  
27  
28 And I really just wanted to call and  
29 tell the Chair and all the Council members how much I  
30 really, really appreciate the opportunity to have  
31 worked with you guys over the past four years. It  
32 really -- the way you all took me in, it really meant a  
33 lot and means a lot to me, and I appreciate everything  
34 you do for rural Alaska residents and subsistence  
35 issues and our wildlife resource. And like you guys  
36 were talking about a minute ago, you're all volunteers.  
37 And the sacrifices that you make and the  
38 accomplishments that you're making, wow. I mean, I  
39 know people that don't realize it, don't know what  
40 they're missing. But I appreciate everything in the  
41 world that you all do, and there again I appreciate the  
42 opportunity to have worked with you. And if any of you  
43 ever catch yourself around Kodiak, you know, anytime  
44 after May anyway, please stop by and visit.  
45  
46 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I appreciate that,  
47 Bo. Anybody got anything to say to Bo on the line  
48 there.  
49  
50 MR. R. WALKER: Yeah. Bo, this is

1 Robert Walker. You know, if we do drop by to visit you  
2 down in Togiak, you're probably the only guy we're  
3 going to know there.

4

5 MR. SLOAN: Well, maybe so.

6

7 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, Jenny.

8

9 MS. PELKOLA: Bo, this is Jenny. I  
10 just want to say thank you, and it was really nice  
11 getting to know you, and just missed you here last  
12 night at my house.

13

14 MR. SLOAN: Yes, ma'am. Thank you.

15

16 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I wanted to express  
17 my appreciation, Bo, to turning -- I know Innoko was  
18 pounding on the rocks so to speak, and you brought that  
19 program around in Innoko, and I'm really hoping that we  
20 get a good Refuge manager to fill your shoes. And so I  
21 feel that you made a huge impact on our biological  
22 understanding and working with this Council on moose  
23 management especially in 21E. So you've been a real  
24 asset to this Council. And wish you well on your next  
25 endeavor. ^Thank you.

26

27 MR. SLOAN: Thank you, guys. Mr. Chair  
28 and Council, thank you very much. And there's still  
29 some really good folks here at the Refuge, and they've  
30 got their eye on the prize, and I think it will  
31 continue going in a really good direction.

32

33 Thank you very much.

34

35 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Thank you.

36

37 MS. HERNANDEZ: And this is Melinda. I  
38 couldn't let you go, Bo, without saying, thank you so  
39 much. McGrath, our meeting a couple winters ago, it  
40 was only my second meeting out there, and Jeremy showed  
41 it here, and Bo and Jerry really showed it there. I  
42 really appreciate the Refuge Staff and all the extra  
43 things that they do when we come to these communities  
44 and your attitude is just awesome, and I can't even  
45 help but smile when I even think about you. So and I  
46 better not catch you in the Regional Office without  
47 coming and stopping by my office and saying hello.

48

49 MR. SLOAN: Okay. Consider it done.  
50 Thank you very much, and like I say, the invitation's

1 open to you as well now if you're down Kodiak way.

2

3 MS. HERNANDEZ: Alrighty.

4

5 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. We're moving  
6 on down the agenda here with Merben's got a slide  
7 presentation for us. Go ahead, Merben.

8

9 MR. CEBRIAN: Mr. Chair. For the  
10 record, Merben Cebrian, biologist, BLM.

11

12 Before I proceed, I have to inform the  
13 Council that I have moved from the Central Yukon Office  
14 of BLM in Fairbanks, and I am now the subsistence  
15 biologist for the Anchorage field office. Still with  
16 BLM.

17

18 (Applause)

19

20 MR. CEBRIAN: Thank you, sir.

21

22 (Laughter)

23

24 MR. CEBRIAN: But I took basically  
25 Jeff Byersdorf's position. Okay.

26

27 So I'm going to give two reports today.  
28 I'm going to do my final report for Central Yukon, and  
29 then after that I'm going to move on to the report for  
30 the Anchorage field office.

31

32 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Uh-huh.

33

34 MR. CEBRIAN: And on Page 116 in your  
35 handbooks I have the Central Yukon report.  
36 Unfortunately, I'm so new in Anchorage I have not  
37 transmitted the Anchorage report, but I will show that  
38 on the screen once we get to that point.

39

40 So going through the bullet points here  
41 on the Central Yukon field office report, with the  
42 planning section, the BLM will be starting development  
43 of a resource management plan with an associated  
44 environmental impact statement, an EIS, for the Central  
45 Yukon planning area in the coming months. When  
46 finalized, the plan will provide future direction for  
47 approximately 16 million acres of BLM-administered  
48 public lands in central and northern Alaska, including  
49 the Dalton Highway corridor, BLM-managed lands in the  
50 Central Yukon River watershed, the eastern part of the

1 Nulato Hills, and the Central Arctic Management Area  
2 Wilderness Study Area. We will be holding public  
3 meetings in the region to get public comments on issues  
4 in the planning area. Once meetings are scheduled, we  
5 will publicize them through the BLM website and local  
6 media. If you would like to be on the mailing list,  
7 please provide your name and address to Jeanie Cole at  
8 j05cole@blm.gov or at the phone number 474-2340.

9  
10                   With the fisheries, in 2013, the  
11 Central Yukon field office fisheries staff will  
12 continue its effort to document reference  
13 characteristics and functional status of placer mined  
14 streams within the Dalton Highway corridor. Placer  
15 mining within the Dalton Highway corridor continues to  
16 be one of the primary impacting agents with respect to  
17 aquatic, riparian, and water resources. Since gold  
18 prices remain at or near an all-time high, the number  
19 of requests received by the Central Yukon field office  
20 to authorize new or modified mining plans will remain a  
21 major workload for the Central Yukon field office staff  
22 for the foreseeable future. As part of authorizing  
23 mine plans, it is BLM's responsibility to ensure that  
24 fish habitat is rehabilitated and Federal and State  
25 water quality standards are maintained. Attainment of  
26 these performance standards is dependent on the complex  
27 interaction of chemical, biological, and physical  
28 processes. This project proposes to document some of  
29 the basic components involved in this interaction,  
30 thereby providing a solid foundation for evaluating  
31 mining plans of operations, establishing reclamation  
32 performance standards, and monitoring the outcome of  
33 current and future proposals. To date, work has been  
34 completed on Nugget and Gold Creek. As many as 24  
35 other streams along the Dalton Highway corridor are  
36 candidates for the project.

37  
38                   An in-stream flow reservation is being  
39 completed for the Tozitna River and will be submitted  
40 to the Alaska Department of Natural Resources in the  
41 next few months. The proposed reservation is based on  
42 10 years of flow data and will help ensure that the  
43 high quality salmon habitat found within the Tozitna  
44 River is maintained.

45  
46                   For sand and gravel, there is continued  
47 increased interest in gravel sales along the Dalton  
48 Highway, from the Yukon River northward. Several  
49 inquiries have been made by private contractors for  
50 gravel from existing pits, as well as exploration and

1 expansion by Alaska DOT.

2

3 DOT is working with UAF on a frozen  
4 debris lobe that is moving towards the Dalton Highway  
5 at milepost 219. The eventual outcome of the studies  
6 will help ADOT determine what should be done for the  
7 protection of the highway.

8

9 And reauthorization for the ADOT&PF  
10 mineral material pits, gravel pits, is still ongoing.  
11 Several have been reauthorized, several are closing,  
12 and there have been some requests for additional pits.  
13 Fieldwork for the environmental documents has been  
14 conducted this field season and will continue into next  
15 summer's season.

16

17 Major realty actions. TERRA-Kotzebue.  
18 This project which encompasses five communication site  
19 towers to be installed by Unicom/GCI with three sites  
20 being on Central Yukon field office lands and the  
21 remaining two sites on the Anchorage field office  
22 lands. This right-of-way is being worked by Tom Sparks  
23 of the Nome office, and he's at 443-2177. This is  
24 Phase III of a planned four-phase project. And BLM is  
25 reviewing the EA for this project.

26

27 As far as recreation, BLM has 17  
28 special recreation permits that expired by the end of  
29 calendar year 2012. Of the 17 expired permits, 11 SRP  
30 holders have submitted paperwork to renew their permits  
31 and to operate on BLM lands in 2013 and beyond. In  
32 addition, one permittee has requested an amendment to  
33 his permit, and six applications have been received  
34 from new operators. Of the six new applicants, three  
35 are tour operators, two are hunting guides, and one is  
36 an air transporter. Overall this is a combination of  
37 45 either permits or applications for permits on file  
38 in the Central Yukon field office. Three of the  
39 current permits are for air transports. Of the 45  
40 files, 58 percent are commercial hunting guides.

41

42 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Can I stop you  
43 there, Merben.

44

45 MR. CEBRIAN: Yes, sir.

46

47 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Is this stating that  
48 there's an additional request of another air  
49 transporter?

50

1 MR. CEBRIAN: Let's see here.  
2  
3 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: It says of the six  
4 new applicants, three are tour operators, two are  
5 hunting guides and one is an air transporter. Is that  
6 an existing air transporter or is that an additional  
7 air transporter?  
8  
9 MR. CEBRIAN: Mr. Chair. I'm going to  
10 have to forward that question to Kelly Egger.  
11  
12 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Yeah, you can  
13 have him email me. Just email it.  
14  
15 MR. CEBRIAN: Yes. I'll put a note.  
16  
17 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: What the parameter  
18 -- I would like to know what these parameters are of  
19 these permits.  
20  
21 MR. CEBRIAN: Uh-huh. Yes, sir.  
22  
23 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Continue.  
24  
25 MR. CEBRIAN: Moving on, commercial  
26 tour operators continue to utilize BLM land, BLM-  
27 managed roadside facilities along the Dalton Highway,  
28 as well as the Arctic Interagency Visitors Center in  
29 Coldfoot. The BLM and partner agencies made over  
30 18,000 visitor contacts at Dalton Highway recreation  
31 sites and delivered over 100 evening interpretive  
32 programs at the AIVC. The 2012 recreation use  
33 recording year witnessed a five percent decrease,  
34 however, in visitor usage over the previous year.  
35  
36 As for ecology, the Dalton Highway  
37 invasive plant strategy, we have received an ARRA,  
38 which is a stimulus fund to help complete an  
39 environmental analysis of a proposed invasive plant  
40 management strategy for the Dalton Highway. Public  
41 meetings were held in potentially affected communities.  
42 The strategy includes the possible application of  
43 herbicides. Analysis of the proposal will include an  
44 ANILCA .810 analysis of potential impacts to  
45 subsistence resources. The document will be available  
46 for public review and comment this winter BLM signs a  
47 decision for record.  
48  
49 We have a relatively new employee,  
50 Jennifer McMillan. Jennifer is servicing as the point

1 of contact for several rapid ecological assessments,  
2 these are called REAs. REAs provide the BLM with a  
3 large amount of information about current and projected  
4 resource condition which is used to prepare land use  
5 plans and plan amendments; to conduct cumulative impact  
6 analyses; and to establish development, restoration and  
7 conservation priorities; to develop best management  
8 practices; and authorize public land uses. One REA has  
9 recently been completed. The Yukon lowlands-Kuskokwim  
10 Mounts-Lime Hills rapid ecological assessment -- boy,  
11 that's a mouthful -- was initiated in summer of 2012  
12 and is ongoing. Two others are planned for the  
13 upcoming years.

14

15 The Western Arctic Caribou Herd winter  
16 habitat monitoring is ongoing. Two-thirds of the long-  
17 term habitat monitoring transects were revisited this  
18 August. The remaining transects will be revisited this  
19 coming summer. In addition, the BLM is working towards  
20 a Western Arctic herd caribou habitat management plan  
21 for the Nulato Hills. And for this a scoping letter  
22 will be distributed to all interested parties.

23

24 MR. R. WALKER: Merben.

25

26 MR. CEBRIAN: Yes, sir.

27

28 MR. R. WALKER: I have a question.  
29 When you talk about ecology here, you know, every year  
30 when the Iditarod race goes through the lower portion  
31 of the Yukon, upper portion, they bring all this hay,  
32 and it seems like we're getting more kind of like  
33 different plants that's coming out of this grass. I  
34 don't know where they get the grass from, but is this  
35 could be some kind of invasive species that's being  
36 brought by the hay of the Iditarod mushers?

37

38 MR. CEBRIAN: Mr. Walker, through the  
39 Chair. That's been an ongoing issue for several years  
40 now regarding having weed-free hay or weed-free straw  
41 for dog mushers. And that's a concern that we'll  
42 forward to Ms. Jennifer McMillan and make sure that  
43 somehow it will be incorporated with this Dalton  
44 Highway invasive plant strategy.

45

46 MR. R. WALKER: Thank you very much.

47

48 MR. CEBRIAN: So moving on to wildlife,  
49 the BLM, Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Kanuti  
50 National Wildlife Refuge, and the Gates of the Arctic

1 National Park are winding down the radio-telemetry  
2 study of moose in GMU 24A and B. I don't think I'm  
3 going to elaborate too much on this. The Refuge has  
4 given the report.

5  
6 The BLM, ADF&G and Kanuti National  
7 Wildlife Refuge in conjunction with the University of  
8 Idaho are currently analyzing caribou location data for  
9 the Hodzana Herd and the Ray Mountain Herd. Results of  
10 that study suggest that these two herds are spatially  
11 distinct from each other. A relocation flight is  
12 hopefully scheduled for May.

13  
14 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Has that calving  
15 area been found for that Hodzana Herd now?

16  
17 MR. CEBRIAN: No, sir.

18  
19 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: No. They're  
20 sporadic calvers?

21  
22 MR. CEBRIAN: They're sporadic, yeah,  
23 spread out.

24  
25 And the last point there is that I'm  
26 stepping down from the job as a wildlife biologist  
27 there.

28  
29 MR. R. WALKER: Who?

30  
31 (Laughter)

32  
33 MR. CEBRIAN: I am. Or I did.

34  
35 MR. R. WALKER: Oh, Merben.

36  
37 MR. CEBRIAN: Merben. Merben Cebrian,  
38 yes.

39  
40 Fortunately for the Central Yukon  
41 office, the BLM Central Yukon hired a law enforcement  
42 ranger. His name is Seth McMillan. He assumed his  
43 duties in January of 2013, and he looks forward to  
44 patrolling a large portion of the BLM lands in the  
45 Interior.

46  
47 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Seth McMillan used  
48 to be the Gates of the Arctic National Park Service  
49 ranger and was a very proactive ranger. And I'm happy  
50 to see that he's with BLM. I do hope that Seth is

1 allowed to spend some time on the Dalton Highway,  
2 because.....

3

4 MR. CEBRIAN: Yeah.

5

6 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: .....right now  
7 there's currently no trooper at Coldfoot. And they've  
8 opened the post for a trooper and nobody would take the  
9 post. They needed a trooper/pilot. And so BLM and  
10 Fish and Wildlife are going to have to fill in for some  
11 of this enforcement on the Dalton Highway area in that  
12 Central Brooks Range. So I'm happy to see Seth.

13

14 MR. CEBRIAN: Right.

15

16 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I'm wondering about  
17 your position that you left. Is that position on a  
18 hiring freeze now or.....

19

20 MR. CEBRIAN: Just a quick update on  
21 that. As it would happen, I notified my boss early  
22 enough, before the hiring freeze, and so he was able to  
23 push paperwork through. So just before the hiring  
24 freeze was instituted, they had opened the position up,  
25 and had actually closed the position, so they have.....

26

27 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: They did get  
28 applicants?

29

30 MR. CEBRIAN: .....applications, yeah.  
31 They already have applications in hand.

32

33 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay.

34

35 MR. CEBRIAN: So my understanding is  
36 they would continue on with that.

37

38 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay.

39

40 MR. CEBRIAN: So I'm really happy  
41 for.....

42

43 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: That's good to know.

44

45 MR. CEBRIAN: Yeah.

46

47 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go on.

48

49 MR. CEBRIAN: So does anybody have  
50 questions about the Central Yukon report. Otherwise, I

1 would like to continue with the Anchorage.

2

3 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Pollock's got a  
4 question. Go ahead, Pollock.

5

6 MR. SIMON: Yes, I remember that  
7 caribou working group was concerned about caribou  
8 habitat burning up. Said the State and Feds should make  
9 an effort to put fires out in those area. And I'm glad  
10 that -- Nulato is just one area, that we have that to  
11 be concerned about. But there are other areas to  
12 consider, so I'm glad that something is -- they're  
13 doing something about that.

14

15 MR. CEBRIAN: Through the Chair. Yes,  
16 the Central Yukon ecologist now has some projects to  
17 revisit the old vegetation plots in the Nulato Hills.  
18 Kyle Joly with the Park Service had these plots set up  
19 there I think six or seven years ago. And so we're  
20 revisiting that. And even before that, there was 10  
21 years ago of so now that those plots were visited for  
22 the first time. So hopefully in another year or two,  
23 we have some long-term data on how the environment is  
24 doing, especially with the lichen in the Nulato Hills  
25 area.

26

27 MR. COLLINS: Just a term, what is a  
28 gravel-filled frozen debris lobe? Is that a glacier  
29 filled with gravel, or what is it that's moving  
30 towards.....

31

32 MR. CEBRIAN: From what I understand,  
33 there's a lobe that's falling off into the road. Mr.  
34 Chair.

35

36 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: That thing. There's  
37 a lot of those in the central Brooks Range, and it's an  
38 ice core in a bowl, and as it descends down the hill,  
39 it starts plowing gravel and thick timber (ph) and  
40 stuff on top of it. And it turns into this big  
41 convoluted bunch of brush. And if that thing has been  
42 -- as we got into warmer years, it's been coming faster  
43 and faster. And it's only like probably about 150 feet  
44 from the Haul Road. And it's like 65, 80 feet high.

45

46 MR. CEBRIAN: And it keeps coming  
47 forward.

48

49 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: And it keeps coming  
50 forward.

1 MR. COLLINS: It's a gravel-filled  
2 snowball then kind of like, or.....

3  
4 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Well, it's a big ice  
5 core that's moving down slope. The positive thing is  
6 this year we had very little snow and the ground froze  
7 excessively deep, and so it will slow it down. And  
8 I've got some that are near my trapline trail, and I  
9 have to keep -- I have one trap I keep moving it  
10 further and the thing keeps coming and eating the  
11 trees, so every year I keep moving ahead of this thing.  
12 I'm hoping it stops.

13  
14 MR. CEBRIAN: But this one is  
15 especially close to the road, so it's of concern.

16  
17 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yeah, this one is  
18 getting so close to the road. It costs millions to  
19 move the road.

20  
21 MR. CEBRIAN: Yeah.

22  
23 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So continue, Merben.

24  
25 MR. CEBRIAN: Okay. I think Melinda  
26 passed out a handout for the Anchorage field office  
27 report.

28  
29 Let's start with Unit 21E, winter moose  
30 hunt. The reason why I have this here up on the screen  
31 is because it's in color and when we printed out the  
32 report, it's in black and white, and especially the  
33 maps in the back. You know, it's hard to see some of  
34 these maps. But let's go through this one-by-one.

35  
36 Unit 21E, winter moose hunt, and I've  
37 talked about this a little bit earlier yesterday. so  
38 we'll just go through this real quick. The BLM issued  
39 14 permits in Aniak, 15 as of yesterday, it was  
40 updated, for the February 15 to March 15 Federal moose  
41 hunt. It's called FM2104 in Unit 21E. Blank permits  
42 were left with Mike, with Kuskokwim Native Association,  
43 KNA, in Aniak. So others can still get the permit from  
44 him locally.

45  
46 This year BLM issued the permits for  
47 the Piamuit Slough area, while the Fish and Wildlife  
48 Service issues the permits for the rest of the Federal  
49 lands in Unit 21E. And it's been separated into  
50 distinct hunts. FM2104 for the Piamuit Slough portion,

1 and then FM2105 for the rest of Unit 21E.

2

3                   There is a limit of eight any moose for  
4 the Piamuit Slough area, while for the rest of the  
5 Federal lands, there's the 40 moose limit.

6

7                   As of Tuesday, 26 February, there were  
8 three moose taken; however, we had an update yesterday,  
9 Mr. Chair. Three moose were taken in Piamuit Slough  
10 area, and it think three moose were taken in the  
11 northern portion.

12

13                   So before I came up here, I pulled out  
14 some data from the Federal permit system, and it's  
15 shown in table form. So in 2010 and 2011, you'll see  
16 that there were 48 permits issued for this hunt in Unit  
17 21E and 46 in 2011. There were six harvested in 2010  
18 and eight were harvested in 2011. And there's a  
19 breakdown of bulls and cow harvest there.

20

21                   And then I pulled up the residency of  
22 the hunters where the applications are coming from for  
23 this particular permit, and in 2010, let's see here.  
24 Grayling had the most number of permits and Anvik had  
25 the least. And the ones -- Anvik was not able --  
26 nobody in Anvik was able to harvest one. And in 2011  
27 Grayling still had the most number of permits issued,  
28 but it looks like everybody in the four villages,  
29 Anvik, Grayling, Shageluk, and Holy Cross were able to  
30 harvest at least one moose.

31

32                   As the numbers come in and the hunt  
33 reports come in for this year, the hunt is still open,  
34 of course, until the 15th. Once the results come in,  
35 we will update the Council on the results for that.  
36 And which also -- I would like to emphasize that, you  
37 know, hunt reports are important for us to manage the  
38 resources, and so we would urge folks in the affected  
39 area s to return their hunt reports once they have  
40 harvested one. Even if you don't harvest anything, we  
41 still want that information as to whether you hunted or  
42 not. So if the hunt reports are returned, it's really  
43 important for our management.

44

45                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: One question,  
46 Merben.

47

48                   MR. CEBRIAN: Yes, sir.

49

50                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: They issued 14

1 permits in Aniak, but were those to other communities,  
2 Upper and Lower Kalskag, Chuathbaluk at all?

3  
4  
5 physical.....

MR. CEBRIAN: I haven't gotten the

6  
7 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Breakout?

8  
9 MR. CEBRIAN: Yeah, the breakout yet.

10  
11 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Uh-huh.

12  
13 MR. CEBRIAN: But I can inform the  
14 Council later on when I find out.

15  
16 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yeah. That's good.

17  
18 MR. CEBRIAN: Okay. So another update  
19 on Unit 23E collaring project. There was an update on  
20 that earlier with the Fish and Wildlife Service, so I  
21 don't want to belabor that point. However, data  
22 downloaded from these collars are archived at the  
23 Alaska Biological Research, ABR, in Fairbanks.

24  
25 Analysis will be conducted on moose  
26 seasonal movements after all collars are in from the  
27 field.

28  
29 One additional thing about the Unit 21E  
30 moose collaring project is that after discussing with  
31 ADF&G biologists, it would seem that the information  
32 that we get from this project can be used as a baseline  
33 to compare when and if bison are indeed introduced into  
34 the nearby areas, because one question that is now  
35 arising is that what would be the potential effects of  
36 the release of bison, if indeed it goes into this area  
37 when they are released. That's just something to think  
38 about, for us biologists to contemplate in the near  
39 future.

40  
41 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: In the delta, you  
42 know, they've got those plains bison, and they don't  
43 seem to -- they seem to coexist with a fairly high  
44 density moose population.

45  
46 MR. CEBRIAN: Right.

47  
48 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Do biologists  
49 anticipate bison displacing moose?

50

1 MR. CEBRIAN: No, I don't think there's  
2 anything negative that's been anticipated as of yet,  
3 but the good thing about this project, or having had  
4 this project is that we have some baseline information  
5 on where the distribution are. Because you're  
6 introducing a large mammal into this ecosystem, and I  
7 don't know if you can transpose the ecosystem in the  
8 delta where the bison do coexist with moose into the  
9 situation in Unit 21E. So it would be good to have  
10 this data before any of the bison are there, if and  
11 when they are released.

12  
13 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right. Yeah. Okay.  
14 I see what you mean.

15  
16 MR. CEBRIAN: Moving.....

17  
18 MR. R. WALKER: Mr. Chair.

19  
20 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Ray.

21  
22 MR. R. WALKER: I've got a comment on  
23 that. They introduced that feral herd up there, and  
24 they were very compatible with the moose in that area.  
25 It didn't affect them

26  
27 And it was interesting that it took  
28 several years before the wolves figured out what to do  
29 with them. Now they take a few, but they took hardly  
30 any in the first year. It's because they didn't know  
31 how to deal with the herd mentality of them guarding  
32 the calves and so on.

33  
34 MR. CEBRIAN: Good to know. Thanks.  
35 Okay.

36  
37 Donlin Gold. The Anchorage field  
38 office is dealing with the Donlin Gold Mine, natural  
39 gas pipeline proposal. Donlin Gold is proposing to  
40 build a buried natural gas pipeline to supply gas to  
41 the gold mine project. The 312-mile long 14-inch steel  
42 pipeline would transport natural gas from Cook Inlet  
43 region over the Alaska Range to the project site. The  
44 U.S. Army Corp of Engineers is the lead agency for  
45 developing the EIS for the project, and BLM is a  
46 cooperating agency to the EIS, and is participating in  
47 the public scoping process for this project. The  
48 project is still in the scoping phase, and meetings are  
49 scheduled in effected areas until March 29 of 2013.  
50

1                   There is a map in your handouts if you  
2 would like to take a minute to look at it. It's not in  
3 color, and that's why I have some maps here on the  
4 board that has the -- or on the screen that shows I  
5 think the route of the proposed pipeline in a better  
6 way.

7

8                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: And so my question  
9 is are there access roads associated to this pipeline?  
10 And are they going to be open to the public?

11

12                   MR. CEBRIAN: It's still in the scoping  
13 phase, so the project lead, the Corps of Engineers, are  
14 taking comments such as that into consideration. In  
15 fact, if the Council has any comments, the BLM would be  
16 more than willing to.....

17

18                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Can you transmit  
19 comments oral comments at this time?

20

21                   MR. CEBRIAN: I sure can.

22

23                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I would comment that  
24 this is a significant intrusion into the Interior of  
25 Alaska from the coast. I feel that any access roads  
26 that are developed in association with this pipeline  
27 should be closed to the public. There should not be  
28 any public access down those roads.

29

30                   And we would have concerns about  
31 additional increasing hunting pressure from a road  
32 system like that.

33

34                   I would also wonder at what the -- at a  
35 future date would the BLM provide, further on in this  
36 process provide another briefing to the Council at our  
37 fall meeting.

38

39                   MR. CEBRIAN: When the public scoping  
40 is finished, I can collect the information, Mr. Chair,  
41 and, yes, I can present that to the Council next  
42 meeting.

43

44                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: There will be an EIS  
45 analysis by -- usually is scoping starts into an  
46 environmental impact assessment, and so this Council  
47 should be apprised of that point by the BLM at the next  
48 meeting.

49

50                   MR. CEBRIAN: Yes, Mr. Chair. I have a

1 schedule here that you probably don't have. So  
2 according to the Donlin Gold website, the scoping  
3 meetings and comments is until March 29 of 2013, and  
4 that's where we are now. The draft EIS is estimated to  
5 be, let's see here, out in August of 2014. And then  
6 public review of the draft EIS is estimated to be from  
7 August of 2014 until November 2014. And then according  
8 to the timeline, the estimated final EIS will not come  
9 out until October of 2015.

10

11 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. And so our  
12 fall meeting of 2014, this Council would like to  
13 probably comment on this EIS. And who is going to do  
14 the EIS, does it say? Is that the Corps of Engineer?

15

16 MR. CEBRIAN: Through the Corps of  
17 Engineer through a contract. I don't exactly know what  
18 the company is, but I'm sure I can make arrangement to  
19 contact them, too.

20

21 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. All right.

22

23 Any comments on that gas line, proposed  
24 gas line from Cook Inlet to Donlin Creek?

25

26 MR. COLLINS: Well, they just had the  
27 meeting in McGrath, and what they're taking right now  
28 is comments and questions that people have that they  
29 should look into and so on. And the representative  
30 from that company was there also. And there are some  
31 rural people working for that company. They were in  
32 McGrath. There was a man from downriver there. I  
33 should remember -- I can't remember the name. He's  
34 from one of the downriver villages.

35

36 But they talked about -- they've got  
37 some kind of equipment that's to move the pipe along,  
38 and then they were going to bury it. And then they  
39 talked about it will allow it to grow up, but every 10  
40 years they would go brush it out. But it shouldn't  
41 result in a permanent road per se, except that there's  
42 going to be a lot of work when they're putting that  
43 line in. And, of course, that could be utilized by  
44 fourwheelers and other things I would think even though  
45 the brush starts to grow up.

46

47 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right.

48

49 MR. COLLINS: But the question, I don't  
50 know what it will look like coming through the

1 mountains, whether it will be a right-of-way that is  
2 drivable or not when they're done, but I assume it has  
3 to be fairly wide and flat to put the pipe in. So it  
4 could be that there would be a right of way created  
5 all the way through that could be used by some kind of  
6 vehicles.

7

8 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right.

9

10 MR. COLLINS: Yeah. But there's no  
11 permanent road that's going to be through there.

12

13 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Well, you know,  
14 being associated to pipelines, basically it's the bury  
15 -- if they bury the pipe, it's a gravel pad on top of  
16 it. It's basically a giant trail.

17

18 MR. COLLINS: Yeah.

19

20 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: And so I would be  
21 concerned that this Donlin Creek mining crews would be  
22 able to utilize that as an access over to the Kuskokwim  
23 River and several different drainages for recreational  
24 hunting in the Kuskokwim Mountains and over to the  
25 Kuskokwim River itself. And so that would be some of  
26 my off-hand concerns.

27

28 Continue, Merben.

29

30 MR. CEBRIAN: Okay. The next bullet I  
31 have here is for bison reintroduction, but Rita St.  
32 Louis had already given an overview of that, so I'm not  
33 going to belabor that point.

34

35 As far as fisheries, the BLM has  
36 published a report titled Mercury, Arsenic and Antimony  
37 in Aquatic Biota from the Middle Kuskokwim River  
38 Region, Alaska, 2010 to 2011, interim report in  
39 December of 2012. The preliminary results show that  
40 the greatest concentrations of mercury in were  
41 associated with the George and Holitna Rivers, two  
42 major tributaries of the Kuskokwim River, but outside  
43 the influence of the Red Devil Mine. Also, all fish,  
44 such as northern pike, burbot, adult Arctic grayling,  
45 adult Dolly Varden, and sheefish were sampled in the  
46 mainstem of the Kuskokwim River and large tributaries  
47 had levels of mercury that could be considered harmful  
48 to the fish.

49

50 Information from BLM study led to the

1 State of Alaska to issue guidance in June of 2011 for  
2 the Middle Kuskokwim, which included burbot and pike.  
3 And the guidance is attached in the back of your  
4 handout there.

5  
6 And moving on to planning, the BLM  
7 Anchorage field office was notified that funding was  
8 available for the Bering Sea/Western Interior Land Use  
9 Plan effort to go forward. However, we await  
10 verification of funding in light of the budget  
11 constraints that the Federal government is currently  
12 experiencing.

13  
14 And lastly, the government  
15 sequestration, the BLM will implement sequestration  
16 measures over the next seven months. A plan will be  
17 finalized that is specific to each office and may  
18 include BLM employees be placed on furlough. While we  
19 do not have every aspect of our plans finalized, we  
20 will communicate what we know at this point. Tribal  
21 leaders, not leasers, will be informed about specific  
22 impacts to their tribe.

23  
24 The BLM Anchorage field office has  
25 stated that participation at the Subsistence RAC  
26 meetings is a mission essential task which is why I'm  
27 here now. And I hope that it will still be a mission  
28 essential task for my job.

29  
30 And that's what I have for the  
31 Anchorage field office.

32  
33 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Appreciate  
34 that, Merben. That was nice and thorough.

35  
36 Any questions on the Anchorage BLM  
37 presentation.

38  
39 (No comments)

40  
41  
42 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I don't see any.  
43 Your presentation was excellent, and I'm glad you're  
44 going to be in the Anchorage office and working with  
45 this Council. And I'm glad to hear that Yukon district  
46 will have hopefully a good applicant in the pool to  
47 hire to backfill behind you.

48  
49 I do feel that the Bureau of Land  
50 Management regional office should prioritize your

1 position as mission essential to this Council's work.

2

3 Thank you.

4

5 MR. CEBRIAN: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I  
6 just want to go over my final notes here before I  
7 leave.

8

9 The Federal call for proposals closes  
10 on March 29. And I have a paper on Tussock -- I  
11 published a paper on Tussock cotton grass. You  
12 mentioned before significance to body mass. I can  
13 provide the chair with a copy of that. This was in  
14 2005.

15

16 Harvest reports need to be submitted.

17

18 And then with regards to rural  
19 residency and rural determination, when I ran the  
20 program in Unit 13, the way we differentiated rural  
21 determination and rural residency is we determined  
22 rural residency based on an individual basis, based on  
23 primary residence. And so, for example, if you have a  
24 primary residence in Fairbanks and you work at Donlin  
25 Gold, you would not qualify as a rural resident. And  
26 it's a law enforcement issue for BLM, and so this is  
27 how we try to enforce that rural residence.

28

29 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks for those  
30 clarifications. I would really like to see your  
31 Tussock grass analysis.

32

33 So any other comments to BLM.

34

35 Robert.

36

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

38

39 Merben, we'll have to set some kind of  
40 a date up so I and James can stop by and talk to you  
41 over at the Anchorage district office over there. I  
42 think that's what they call it, district office or  
43 field office over in Anchorage?

44

45 MR. CEBRIAN: A field office.

46

47 MR. R. WALKER: Okay. WE'll make it a  
48 point before the 29th so we can discuss this here, what  
49 we talked about earlier about taking a look at that ma  
50 here for the controlled use area. I'm just letting

1 everybody know so nobody's in the dark about this,  
2 Jack. What we talked about, we'll take a look at it  
3 and see what happens, and if it looks like it will work  
4 or whatever, we'll write the scope for it. Okay?

5  
6 MR. CEBRIAN: Through the Chair. Yes,  
7 I'm always available. If you need assistance in  
8 developing proposals, I'll be there. Thanks.

9  
10 MR. R. WALKER: If you're leaving  
11 today, we've got to have your phone number for your  
12 office over in Anchorage, too.

13  
14 MR. CEBRIAN: Yes.

15  
16 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Melinda.

17  
18 MS. HERNANDEZ: Mr. Chair. We've just  
19 got a couple of items left on our agenda. Why don't we  
20 go ahead and go with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
21 update -- or, I'm sorry, Jeremy. Jeremy, why don't we  
22 go ahead and have you come up. Jeremy Mears, please.

23  
24 Thank you.

25  
26 MR. MEARS: Good afternoon, Mr.  
27 Chairman. Members of the Council. My name is Jeremy  
28 Mears. I'm with the Subsistence Branch of the U.S.  
29 Fish and Wildlife Service in Fairbanks.

30  
31 I'm going to present the Yukon River  
32 2013 preseason outlook. You should have received this  
33 handout yesterday as part of your materials. I'm not  
34 going to read it word for word, but just briefly  
35 summarize it for you now.

36  
37 Yukon River Chinook salmon are  
38 important to all users in the Yukon area.  
39 Unfortunately these stocks have experienced declines in  
40 production over the last decade or so. Current run  
41 sizes are about half of historic levels, making it  
42 difficult to meet escapement goals and provide for  
43 subsistence uses in the river. Harvest and total run  
44 sizes have been greatly reduced since 2000. Chinook  
45 salmon runs have been below expectation and escapement  
46 goals into Canada have not been met in four of the last  
47 six years. Even with extreme restrictions imposed in  
48 2012, reduced subsistence harvest, we still fell short  
49 on some of our escapement goals.

50

1                   An official outlook for 2013 has not  
2 yet been prepared; however, preliminary estimates  
3 indicate that we should expect a run size similar to  
4 that what we saw in 2011 and 2012. Therefore, it is  
5 prudent to enter the season with the expectation that  
6 conservation measures will be required in an effort to  
7 meet escapement goals and share the available  
8 subsistence harvest.

9  
10                   For reference, the 2012 preseason  
11 outlook, we had 109 to 146 Chinook salmon, 1.5 million  
12 summer chum, and approximately 8,000 -- 800,000 fall  
13 chum. That was the 2012 preseason outlook.

14  
15                   For 2013, management strategies will  
16 likely be similar to that in 2012 in an effort to  
17 conserve Chinook salmon.

18  
19                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: What was the final  
20 Chinook total run this year?

21  
22                   MR. MEARS: 109,000.

23  
24                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: 109.

25  
26                   MR. MEARS: Yeah.

27  
28                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So they're right at  
29 the minimum threshold.

30  
31                   MR. MEARS: Exactly. Yes.

32  
33                   So like I was saying, a new regulation  
34 states that we will need to protect the first pulse,  
35 but it's also likely that we'll be looking at pulse  
36 protection on the second and third pulse as well.

37  
38                   Other options being considered are  
39 starting the windowed schedule earlier, restrict net  
40 size to six-inch gear from the beginning. Close  
41 earlier on the first pulse. And look for opportunity  
42 between pulses to harvest other species. And find ways  
43 to minimize incidental harvest of Chinook salmon in the  
44 summer chum directed commercial fishery by using time  
45 and area authority.

46  
47                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: And the Board of  
48 Fish precluded the sale of Chinook salmon?

49  
50                   MR. MEARS: Correct.

1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Uh-huh. And so did  
2 they implement a five-and-a-half-inch chum gear size,  
3 that was one of the deliberations, for the directed  
4 chum fishery?

5  
6 MR. MEARS: For the directed chum  
7 fisher, I believe the gear size is five-and-a-half-  
8 inch.

9  
10 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Well, I was on the  
11 Board of Fish on and off, and they and they were  
12 talking about the optimum catch was with five-and-a-  
13 half-inch gear for chum. And so that seemed to be like  
14 some new regulation that they were implementing.

15  
16 MR. MEARS: For the six-inch gear?

17  
18 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: No, for the directed  
19 chum fishery.

20  
21 MR. MEARS: Yes.

22  
23 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Hey were  
24 implementing a five-and-a-half-inch maximum size, not  
25 six.

26  
27 MR. MEARS: Uh-huh. The six-inch gear  
28 would be for subsistence.

29  
30 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Six-inch would be --  
31 so people would have disparate in the lower river for  
32 chum?

33  
34 MR. MEARS: Excuse me?

35  
36 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Basically they'd  
37 have to have two different gear sizes?

38  
39 MR. MEARS: Uh-huh.

40  
41 MR. NEWLAND: Excuse me, Mr. Chair, if  
42 I an interrupt.

43  
44 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead.

45  
46 MR. NEWLAND: Mr. Chair. This is Eric  
47 Newland with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game.

48  
49 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Oh, good to hear you  
50 on there, Eric. Go ahead.

1 MR. NEWLAND: The conversation about  
2 the five-and-a-half-inch mesh stuff. We can address  
3 that later when I address the Board of Fish actions, if  
4 that's okay.

5  
6 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yeah, that would be  
7 great. Yeah, I want to hear that.

8  
9 So continue on, Jeremy.

10  
11 MR. MEARS: Okay. So if you look at  
12 the back of the handout, you can see basically a brief  
13 kind of historic view of what we're looking at in terms  
14 of the Chinook run since 1982. Figure 1 is showing you  
15 the estimated run size since 1982, and the decreased  
16 production since 1998.

17  
18 Figure 2 is looking at our Canadian  
19 escapement, and you'll see that in the last four of --  
20 in four of the last six years we failed to meet the  
21 IMEG for Canadian escapement.

22  
23 And figure 3, we're looking at  
24 commercial and subsistence harvest in the Yukon River  
25 in the Alaskan portion. And you'll see that commercial  
26 has been declining steadily, and is nonexistent in the  
27 last two years. And now we're down to only subsistence  
28 harvest.

29  
30 I don't think there's anything else.

31  
32 I guess what we're looking for our  
33 users this year is like I said, we have a preliminary  
34 outlook for 2013. It's not official. Should that  
35 outlook or the run develop poorer than expected, we'll  
36 need to look for ways to reduce harvest so that we can  
37 meet our biological escapement goals and escapement  
38 into Canada.

39  
40 One of the things we're -- you know, we  
41 need think of -- we need to ask users to potentially  
42 reduce their subsistence harvest to avoid additional  
43 closures. So we're looking at potentially a reduction  
44 of 75 percent over the historic subsistence harvest of  
45 Chinook salmon. So if you took 40 salmon to meet your  
46 goal in the past, 10 fish is what we'd be hoping you'd  
47 take in the future so that we can continue to make  
48 escapement goals.

49  
50 With that, I guess I will -- if you'd

1 like, I can take questions now or I can ask Eric to add  
2 any additional comments from the Department of Fish and  
3 Game.

4

5 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I'll have the  
6 Council ask any questions at this point.

7

8 Don.

9

10 MR. HONEA: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

11

12 I have a quick question. I guess we  
13 all know, I mean, we've been told that there's just --  
14 the first pulse is just no fishing. Okay. I was just  
15 wondering about the second pulse. Is that contingent  
16 upon the number of fish passing the Pilot Station  
17 sonar? Is that it?

18

19 Thank you.

20

21 MR. MEARS: Yeah, it's dependent on how  
22 that first pulse develops. If it looks week, then  
23 we're going to have to consider moving immediately to  
24 restricting on the second pulse as well.

25

26 MR. HONEA: But then again, I mean,  
27 that's dependent upon the numbers that's going by the  
28 Pilot Station?

29

30 MR. MEARS: That's dependent on  
31 in-season management, right. We have to see how the  
32 run develops.

33

34 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Other Council  
35 comments.

36

37 (No comments)

38

39 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So we're going to go  
40 ahead and take Eric Newland. He's the new in-season  
41 manager for the Yukon summer season.

42

43 Go ahead, Eric.

44

45 MR. NEWLAND: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
46 Members of the Council. For the record, my name is Eric  
47 Newland, Alaska Department of Fish and Game. I'm in  
48 the acting role as the Yukon area manager. Along with  
49 me here today is Stephanie Schmidt. She's the summer  
50 season research biologist.

1                   Just to kind of follow up with Jeremy's  
2 presentation, I just kind of wanted to, you know,  
3 state, yeah, the 2012 run was pretty disappointing.  
4 However, the Department wants to acknowledge the  
5 considerable efforts made by Yukon fishermen to  
6 conserve this valuable resource for future generations.  
7 There's undoubtedly a better understanding among all  
8 communities from the coast to Canada in how we need to  
9 conserve. Yukon fishermen have exhibited incredible  
10 flexibility over the course of the last several years.  
11 Communities have been responding to short notice in-  
12 season changes to schedules, gear types, and complying  
13 with regulatory changes.

14  
15                   Fishermen are also taking voluntary  
16 reductions in Chinook harvest, exercising community  
17 harvest and sharing practices, and shifting harvest to  
18 more abundant species such as chum salmon. And I know  
19 that both the Department and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife  
20 Service truly appreciate these efforts in facing this  
21 management challenge,

22  
23                   So with that, I think we can -- I'd  
24 like to move forward and talk a little bit about more  
25 of the brighter side of things, the chum salmon. The  
26 preliminary projection for the 2013 summer chum run is  
27 projected to be about 1.5 million. So that should  
28 provide for escapement, subsistence needs, and a  
29 surplus available for commercial harvest. The ability  
30 to capitalize on the harvest available will be  
31 dependent upon those management actions taken to  
32 protect the king salmon.

33  
34                   Summer chum commercial fishery will be  
35 managed conservatively in order to reduce the  
36 incidental harvest of Chinook salmon.

37  
38                   As far as the fall chum run goes, the  
39 projection is for a point estimate of 1.1 million with  
40 a range of 900,000 to 1.2. This is very similar to the  
41 2012 run, and a run of this size will cover escapement,  
42 subsistence, with a surplus available for commercial  
43 opportunity. And I want to recognize that the  
44 preliminary subsistence harvest information from 2012  
45 indicates that there was an increase in fall chum  
46 taken. The average has been about 80,000. In 2012 it  
47 was 94,000. And there was also an increase in the  
48 summer chum taken as well in 2012.

49  
50                   Based on the projection for the fall

1 chum run, it will likely support additional subsistence  
2 harvest to supplement for the lack of Chinook.

3  
4                   The initial management strategy for the  
5 fall season will depend on how that summer chum to fall  
6 chum relationship looks. If that relationship supports  
7 our fall chum forecast, there should be no restrictions  
8 to the subsistence fishery in the fall chum.  
9 Additionally, the commercial fishery will likely begin  
10 as a transition period between the summer chum and the  
11 fall run and continue through the season. However, if  
12 that summer chum doesn't really materialize as  
13 expected, fall season management would take more of a  
14 conservative approach at that time.

15  
16                   So the long and short of it is that the  
17 chum runs look pretty good and so we should be able to  
18 take advantage of those fish where they're available.

19  
20                   So if you have any questions about fall  
21 chum or summer chum runs, we can take those now. And  
22 then I'd like to go into that Board of Fish discussion  
23 later.

24  
25                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Thanks, Eric.  
26 Has anybody got questions on the coming season  
27 assessment and prediction.

28  
29                   (No comments)

30  
31                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Seeing none. Go  
32 ahead, Eric.

33  
34                   MR. NEWLAND: Okay. So in January the  
35 Board of Fish met in Anchorage, from January 15th  
36 through the 20th, and they deliberated over numerous  
37 proposals, many of which were focused on salmon and I'm  
38 going to just present the ones that were passed by the  
39 Board, and I think you guys -- I hope you guys got the  
40 news release. If you have that in front of you, it  
41 might help.

42  
43                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yes, we do.

44  
45                   MR. NEWLAND: We put out a news release  
46 after the Board, and I was hoping to get that handed  
47 out to you guys so if you guys can review that while I  
48 go over this stuff, that would be great.

49  
50

1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yeah. We do have  
2 that Eric, go ahead.

3  
4 MR. NEWLAND: Okay. So I'm going to  
5 start with 130 and 131. These are regulations that are  
6 affecting the subsistence fishery.

7  
8 130 was where they reviewed the amounts  
9 necessary for subsistence for salmon, and several  
10 options were discussed and looking at ways to  
11 incorporate more recent subsistence harvest information  
12 since 2000. Currently the ANS range is based on  
13 information from 1990 to '99. A minor change to  
14 Chinook was reviewed. More substantial changes were  
15 presented regarding summer and fall chum as those fish  
16 are last utilized in more recent years.

17  
18 Basically they were presenting the  
19 options of how to incorporated more recent subsistence  
20 harvest into to the ANS range and no changes were made  
21 to any of the existing ranges and so the 1990 to '99  
22 averages that are used for the ANS remain the same.  
23 However, there was a new range that was adopted based  
24 on this newer information, and that's an ANS range for  
25 pink salmon was established and that was for the amount  
26 of 2100 to 9700 pink salmon. So that's the only change  
27 to the ANS is the pink.

28  
29 Proposal 131, this requires protection  
30 of the first pulse of Chinook regardless of the  
31 preseason projection. And protection in Districts 1  
32 through 2, they'll start there, and continuation of  
33 this closure in District 3 through 6 will be based upon  
34 in-season run assessment.

35  
36 So as you guys are familiar, you know,  
37 in 2009, 11, and 12 we've been implementing this first  
38 pulse closure in an attempt to kind of bolster the  
39 Canadian passage. And prior to the Board meeting, it  
40 was looking likely that we would be doing this again in  
41 2013.

42  
43 And I think kind of the new thing  
44 that's coming out of this proposal is that it's looking  
45 at District 6 as well, the Tanana River. And so we're  
46 considering on how this would be implemented in  
47 District 6, a closure in 6 and how that would work.  
48 Any actions that we would take in District 6 likely  
49 result in actions taken in that sport fishery in the  
50 Tanana River as well.

1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: You mean  
2 preclude.....

3  
4 MR. NEWLAND: Protecting the  
5 (indiscernible - mic off) the responsibility out of the  
6 preseason projection and just we're going to do it  
7 regardless until we start seeing runs that are  
8 stronger.

9  
10 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So you're referring  
11 to precluding the catch and harvest of sport-caught  
12 fish in Chena and Salcha, or are you precluding catch  
13 and release also.

14  
15 MR. NEWLAND: I think it would be based  
16 on what we do in the Tanana. Now, if we were to close,  
17 they would likely close. If we were to do just gear  
18 restrictions, they would probably go to a non-retention  
19 or catch and release.

20  
21 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Continue.

22  
23 MR. NEWLAND: And then Proposal 139,  
24 that's the regulation that's affecting the Lower Yukon.  
25 This allows for the concurrent subsistence/commercial  
26 fishing by emergency order in Districts 1 through 3.  
27 And there's a couple pros to this option. It allows  
28 for the adjustment in closure times between a  
29 subsistence and a commercial period. The two events  
30 normally are separated by closures, but this can  
31 effectively compress the two events into a single  
32 harvest event and reduce the overall amount of time a  
33 weak stock is exposed to harvest pressure. This is  
34 something that we've been trying to do with the summer  
35 chum commercial fishing, placing the summer chum  
36 commercial fishery inside a subsistence fishery.

37  
38 Adjusting the closures around a  
39 commercial opening can allow for additional subsistence  
40 fishing time when commercial fishing periods are being  
41 prosecuted frequently. This is especially important in  
42 when reduction in subsistence fishing time has already  
43 occurred.

44  
45 Additionally, this allows for  
46 commercial fisheries to be prosecuted quickly when  
47 assessment information indicates a surplus of salmon is  
48 available for harvest. This is important for managing  
49 the fall season when it's necessary to capitalize on  
50 the sporadic pulses of fall chum when entering the

1 river. During the summer season, this has been used to  
2 coordinate commercial fishing opportunity when the  
3 incidental harvest rate of Chinook would be anticipated  
4 to be low.

5  
6           There's some cons to this option. It's  
7 difficult to enforce opening and closing times of  
8 commercial periods, and there is potential for  
9 subsistence-caught chum to enter the commercial market.  
10 And we've also heard that there's increased competition  
11 for available fishing sites between subsistence only  
12 fishermen, and those fishermen that are commercially  
13 fishing.

14  
15           The Department recognizes that these  
16 are issues and asked for the emergency order authority  
17 to use this option only when necessary.

18  
19           And then Proposal 152, also another one  
20 that affects the Lower Yukon. This opens a section of  
21 coastal waters south of the south mouth between Chris  
22 Point and the Black River south of the mouth of the  
23 Yukon.

24  
25           This has a couple of different  
26 ramifications. This effectively removes that area from  
27 the coastal district and so this area would no longer  
28 follow the coastal district schedule of seven days a  
29 week, and now it would be part of the District 1  
30 schedule of two 36-hour periods per week. It would  
31 also have an implication for the fall season where that  
32 area would be included in the setnet only area. During  
33 the fall season commercial fishery, specific coastal  
34 areas are designated in which only set gillnet gear is  
35 allowed and is managed separately from the remainder of  
36 Y1.

37  
38           And then moving on to the Proposal 132,  
39 which prohibits the sale of Chinook in all non-Chinook  
40 directed commercial fisheries in Districts 1 through 6.  
41 This is something that we had the emergency order  
42 authority to do before. Now it's in regulation and we  
43 can EO if runs allow for that harvest based on in-  
44 season run assessment.

45  
46           CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: But that would be if  
47 you.....

48  
49           MR. NEWLAND: It kind of flip-flopped  
50 it.

1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Say, Eric.  
2  
3 MR. NEWLAND: .....we were EO'ing  
4 before to restrict the sale, prohibit the sale, which  
5 we've done in the last several years. And now it's in  
6 reg, and we can EO out of it if assessment says we have  
7 enough.  
8  
9 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: And the assessment  
10 would be you would assured of making escapement needs  
11 and subsistence needs before you allow any commercial  
12 sale of Chinook salmon in the directed chum fishery?  
13  
14 MR. NEWLAND: Yeah, I would take it  
15 that way. That was pretty much the emergency order  
16 authority before was that we were -- no sales could  
17 occur when subsistence restrictions were taken in those  
18 districts.  
19  
20 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. So if  
21 subsistence restrictions are released to the normal  
22 schedule then you would allow the scale of  
23 commercially-caught Chinook salmon in the directed chum  
24 fishery?  
25  
26 MR. NEWLAND: Yep.  
27  
28 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Continue.  
29  
30 MR. NEWLAND: And then proposals 133,  
31 this is the one that you were referring to, Mr. Chair,  
32 before about the five-and-a-half-mesh.  
33  
34 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right.  
35  
36 MR. NEWLAND: This actually just  
37 provides an additional mesh option size to allow  
38 opportunity to commercially harvest summer chum salmon,  
39 and this is for Districts 1 through 3. And it would  
40 restrict gear to five-and-a-half-inch or smaller mesh,  
41 not exceeding 30 meshes in depth. This is something we  
42 don't know how it's all going to play out, how many  
43 people are going to have this gear, to what extent  
44 we're going to use it. It's going to be something  
45 that's going to take a little time to learn. We'll see  
46 how it goes. But this is another option. We still  
47 have that six-inch option for the commercial as well.  
48  
49 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: And let me ask  
50 another question here. The current gear size would be

1 six-inch and how many mesh deep?

2

3 MR. NEWLAND: Current is 60 -- the  
4 maximum mesh depth on a six-inch commercial net is 50.

5

6 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: 50 mesh.

7

8 MR. NEWLAND: So this is knocking the  
9 mesh size down a little bit, and then reducing the  
10 depth quite a bit.

11

12 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yeah. That's a  
13 warranted regulation. Continue.

14

15 MR. NEWLAND: And then we have Proposal  
16 240 which adds another couple options for commercial  
17 summer chum opportunity in the lower river, which adds  
18 the ability to use a dipnet in a commercial fish to  
19 harvest summer chums and then release kings. The  
20 dipnet mesh is a maximum of four-and-a-half-inch. And  
21 then also beach seine added another option to harvest  
22 chum and release kings, and the maximum mesh size on  
23 that beach seine is four-inch.

24

25 And again the same with the gillnet,  
26 five and a half, we don't really know to what extent  
27 we'll be using this, but it's something that's an  
28 option. We'll see how it goes. It is going to be  
29 monitored. And I know the processor down there has  
30 bought a bunch of dipnets.

31

32 So these are just options. We're going  
33 to see how it works out. It will be monitored.  
34 There's potential for a test fishery that's going to  
35 operate, but it hasn't quite been funded yet. We'll  
36 find out in another month or so to look at five and a  
37 half, 30 mesh depth, versus six-inch and 45 I believe.  
38 So there might be a potential for a test fishery that  
39 will look and see what the effectiveness of chum to  
40 king ratio is.

41

42 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: There's no  
43 biological information on landing Chinook salmon in a  
44 beach seine up against the beach and letting them roll  
45 around for while and then releasing them on  
46 mortalities?

47

48 MR. NEWLAND: I wouldn't think that  
49 this -- that is definitely going to be one of the ones  
50 that we're concerned. We don't want to see everything

1 beached all to the gravel and have them flopping  
2 around. I think this is going to be one of those  
3 things where it will be a collaborative effort between  
4 the fishermen and the Department to try to monitor this  
5 and exhibit good handling of the king salmon so that  
6 we're not breaking backs when we're releasing them.

7

8 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay.

9

10 MR. NEWLAND: So, yeah, there's going  
11 to be a learning curve to all this stuff, and like I  
12 said, we're not quite sure on how it will all play out,  
13 but it's something that we're given the option now.

14

15 MR. J. WALKER: Jack.

16

17 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead. We've  
18 got.....

19

20 MR. NEWLAND: And then Proposal  
21 241.....

22

23 MS. HERNANDEZ: Hold on Eric, we've got  
24 a question.

25

26 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Hold on, Eric, we've  
27 got a question here from James.

28

29 Go ahead.

30

31 MR. J. WALKER: Eric, I've got a  
32 question regarding your beach seine, what is your  
33 length and what is the depth, mesh depth?

34

35 MR. NEWLAND: I believe it's not  
36 restricted at this point. It's not defined.

37

38 MR. J. WALKER: So it could be 50  
39 fathoms?

40

41 MR. NEWLAND: As I stated before, this  
42 is a fishery that we'll be monitoring as a new fishery,  
43 as kind of a special fishery, and it won't be  
44 prosecuted if we think it's not working correctly,  
45 okay?

46

47 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Continue.

48

49 MR. NEWLAND: And then in Proposal 241,  
50 this is providing the Department the emergency order

1 authority to restrict commercial gear in District 6 to  
2 fishwheels only. And then have those fishwheels manned  
3 and live release of the kings during the king  
4 conservation.

5  
6 Fishwheel construction specifications  
7 were also adopted to reduce injury to Chinook. So the  
8 fishery that occurred in Kaltag last year, they were  
9 under these ramifications with the emergency order  
10 authority, and this now aligns District 6 with 4A. So  
11 that fishwheels only could be used for a commercial  
12 summer chum fishery where the wheel would be manned.  
13 The fishwheel would have to be constructed in a manner  
14 that was fish friendly, and there was specifications  
15 built into the proposal.

16  
17 And, yeah, I guess that's about it for  
18 241.

19  
20 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: And there are  
21 construction specifications now adopted similar to what  
22 Stan Zuray's been using up in the rapids?

23  
24 MR. NEWLAND: I don't know. Mr. Chair.  
25 I'm not sure if it's similar to what Stan uses, but  
26 some language was put into regulation. So this would  
27 apply to both District 4A and District 6. And now this  
28 is only for those commercial wheels. Basket sides and  
29 bottoms must consist of a soft mesh, material similar  
30 to or made of stain web, and adjustable or fixed slide  
31 or chute, and consist of smooth bottom and close cell  
32 foal lined sides, and returns the Chinook directly to  
33 the water. So those are -- that's the language that  
34 was adopted.

35  
36 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. That sounds  
37 good.

38  
39 Any questions. Don.

40  
41 MR. HONEA: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

42  
43 I have a question. I mean, in all  
44 fairness with the fishwheel type of thing there, why is  
45 it only like in District 6 when -- or District 4A  
46 instead of throughout the river drainage where you  
47 could have live boxes and stuff? Because, well,  
48 speaking to some of the elders that fish, I mean, they  
49 just -- the fishwheels are -- could catch 60 king  
50 salmon in one night, whether they're jack salmon or not

1 where the set net would maybe three or four. And I'm  
2 just wondering why -- maybe you mentioned it, just for  
3 commercial fishing, is that it?

4

5 Thank you.

6

7 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, Eric.

8

9 MR. NEWLAND: Through the Chair.  
10 Council Member, you are correct. These options are for  
11 the harvest of chum salmon, primarily summer chum  
12 salmon, and these proposals were put before the Board.  
13 The one for 4A by the processor that's operating in 4A,  
14 as well as the processor that put it before the Board  
15 for District 6. So these are areas that have  
16 commercial processing capabilities, and they've  
17 requested his so that they can operate some summer chum  
18 commercial fishery while conserving king salmon.  
19 Without this regulation, we wouldn't be able to offer  
20 opportunity to -- for a setnet, which is legal gear  
21 type in the upper river. The idea is that at least we  
22 can release the kings out of wheels.

23

24 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Thanks for  
25 that clarification, Eric.

26

27 Any other questions on those proposals.

28

29

30 You're completed on the proposals?

31

32 MR. NEWLAND: Yeah, that's the ones  
33 that were passed. Those are the ones that -- there's  
34 plenty more in that news release that either there were  
35 no action.....

36

37 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right. And do you  
38 want to clarify your interim position. Have you  
39 applied for permanent in-season manager for summer?

40

41 MR. NEWLAND: Mr. Chair. I think we're  
42 kind of in the process right now of adjusting to Staff  
43 changes. Mr. Steve Hayes that was the manager since  
44 2005 has stepped down, and so we're adjusting now. And  
45 I've been placed in acting status, and we'll see where  
46 it goes, but more than likely I will try to be in that  
47 role in full capacity by the summer time, okay.

48

49 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. That's good  
50 to know.

1 We'll look forward to hearing you on the YRDFA  
2 teleconference.

3

4 MR. NEWLAND: Yep, be there along with  
5 Stephanie here, too. She's being quiet.

6

7 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: As I always say, I  
8 do caution the Department that there are incidental  
9 catch mortalities with Chinook salmon using small mesh  
10 gear in the directed chum fishery, and I requested from  
11 the Deputy Commissioner of Fish and Game at the Federal  
12 Subsistence Board meeting to develop a drop-out harvest  
13 mortality, incidental harvest mortality for non-  
14 targeted species like king salmon and chum gear. And  
15 I'm hoping that that's moving forward.

16

17 Stephanie, have you heard anything from  
18 your headquarters on that.

19

20 MS. SCHMIDT: Mr. Chair. No, I have  
21 not yet heard anything from them.

22

23 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: He said he was going  
24 to be working on that. You can anticipate that coming  
25 down at some point.

26

27 MS. SCHMIDT: I look forward to seeing  
28 it.

29

30 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. And so we've  
31 -- do you have any other questions of ADF&G.

32

33 (No comments)

34

35 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: No. And no  
36 more.....

37

38 MR. ELISON: Mr. Chair.

39

40 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yes, go ahead.

41

42 MR. ELISON: Yeah, this is Travis  
43 Elison. I'm the Kuskokwim area commercial and  
44 subsistence fisheries manager. I know I'm not on the  
45 agenda, but if the Council would like, I could give an  
46 update on the Board of Fish proposals for the Kuskokwim  
47 area, and a very brief outlook for the coming season,  
48 and a brief recap of what happened last season, if you  
49 would like me to do that.

50

1                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yeah, if you could  
2 give us a quick briefing since you're not on the  
3 agenda, but I would like to know about the Kuskokwim  
4 also.

5  
6                   MR. ELISON: Okay. I'll go ahead then.  
7 Once again my name is Travis Elison.

8  
9                   As you may know, we have a very poor  
10 run of Chinook salmon last year. We took very  
11 significant restrictions in the subsistence fishery.  
12 The incidental harvest in the commercial fishery was  
13 down below like 500 kind salmon. We ended up closing  
14 the subsistence fishery from about 12 to 14 days,  
15 depending on where in the river, you know, a person  
16 lives. And then there was another about 34 days of  
17 six-inch mesh restrictions.

18  
19                   So in looking at our escapements, many  
20 of our weir projects were under water and we didn't get  
21 good counts for king salmon, but of the two weir  
22 projects that were operating that also had escapement  
23 goals established, neither of those were met. That was  
24 the Tuluksak and the George River. The established  
25 escapement goals were not met there. We did meet I  
26 believe is was two of the five aerial survey escapement  
27 goals that we did assess.

28  
29                   As far as the other species, chum,  
30 sockeye and coho salmon, we met all our escapement  
31 goals on those, and they were more or less average  
32 runs. And we really don't have any concerns for those  
33 other three species right now.

34  
35                   I guess moving on to Board of Fish,  
36 I'll just escapement goals real quick, and then the few  
37 proposals that were adopted.

38  
39                   The Department did recommend new  
40 sustainable escapement goals for the Kuskokwim River  
41 king salmon. For the Kuskokwim River drainagewide  
42 escapement goal, the recommendation is 65,000 to  
43 120,000. For the Kwethluk River the new goal is 4,100  
44 to 7,500. On the Kogrugluk River, the new goal is  
45 4,800 to 8,800. And on the George River, the new goal  
46 is 1,800 to 3,300.

47  
48                   And the goal on the Tuluksak River was  
49 discontinued. It was determined that we didn't really  
50 have adequate data to set a goal using our new methods,

1 and that stream has also been impacted by mining  
2 operations. So we don't really have a good feel for  
3 what that system can or should produce.

4  
5 Moving on, we also did have an amounts  
6 reasonably necessary for subsistence uses proposal that  
7 was submitted by the Department to update the ANS  
8 numbers to be consistent with our newest revised  
9 subsistence harvest estimates, and also to use data  
10 from more current years. The Board decided to use data  
11 from the years 1990 to 2009. And one of the major  
12 changes to ANS for Kuskokwim area is that the previous  
13 ANS was set from the 1990 to 1999 I believe it was.  
14 And they set the range is the low to the average of  
15 those estimates, and when they revised it this time,  
16 they set the ranges the lows to the high and then there  
17 were a couple instances where they didn't count the  
18 outliers.

19  
20 So for king salmon in the Kuskokwim  
21 River, the new ANS is 67,200 to 109,800. Chum salmon,  
22 41,200 to 116,400. Sockeye salmon is at 32,200 to  
23 58,700. And coho salmon was 27,400 to 57,600. One  
24 addition was they did add pink salmon to ANS, and they  
25 gave that a value of 500 to 2,000 for the Kuskokwim  
26 River.

27  
28 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Sir, could you.....

29  
30 MR. ELISON: In Kuskokwim Bay,  
31 Districts 4 and 5.

32  
33 MS. HERNANDEZ: Just one second.

34  
35 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Stop, stop, stop.

36  
37 MR. ELISON: .....they separated that  
38 out as a distinct area.....

39  
40 MS. HERNANDEZ: Just one second. We've  
41 got a question for you.

42  
43 MR. ELISON: .....and they said for all  
44 species combined, 6,900 to 17,000. And the remainder  
45 of Kuskokwim area, which is essentially the Bering Sea  
46 coast, they set an ANS for all species combined of  
47 12,500 to 14,400.

48  
49 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I had one question  
50 on the chum. Back up, and what was the ANS for chum on

1 the Kuskokwim?

2

3 MR. ELISON: 41,200 to 116,400.

4

5 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Yeah, those  
6 are important numbers.

7

8 MR. ELISON: Okay. Moving on, Proposal  
9 105 was to update the Kuskokwim River Salmon Management  
10 Plan. And I would just like to comment the  
11 stakeholders on the Kuskokwim River. Many of them are  
12 working group members, some people for AVCP and others,  
13 that were involved in the Board of Fish meeting, and we  
14 worked long and hard. Some nights, you know, onto 10,  
15 11:00 o'clock at night after the Board meeting was over  
16 to submit a plan jointly that all the stakeholders and  
17 the Department agreed upon, so that when the Board went  
18 to deliberate on it, it actually went very smoothly.  
19 And I'm going to read from our news release the major  
20 changes.

21

22 Amendments to the Kuskokwim River  
23 Salmon Management Plan were jointly submitted from the  
24 Department, Kuskokwim River stakeholders to the Board  
25 prior to deliberations on Proposal 105. The new  
26 Kuskokwim River Salmon Management Plan provides  
27 guidelines for managing the Kuskokwim River salmon  
28 fishery to meet escapement goals and the subsistence  
29 priority. The following are the major changes from the  
30 old management plan.

31

32 In the king salmon fishery, management  
33 will be based on preseason and in-season escapement  
34 projections. When the projected escapement of king  
35 salmon is above the drainagewide escapement goal range,  
36 the subsistence fishery will be open seven days per  
37 week with unrestricted gillnet mesh size. The  
38 commercial, and sport fisheries will be managed to  
39 provide harvest opportunity on surplus king salmon in  
40 excess of escapement and subsistence needs.

41

42 When the projected escapement is below  
43 the drainagewide escapement goal range, the sport,  
44 commercial and subsistence king salmon fisheries will  
45 close.

46

47 When the projected escapement of king  
48 salmon is within the drainagewide escapement goal  
49 range, harvest opportunity might be limited or  
50 liberalized depending on available surplus. To extent

1 practical, provide subsistence opportunity on surplus  
2 and excess of escapement needs with at least one  
3 fishing period per week. If there is a limited  
4 surplus, a fish period may open during which king  
5 salmon may only be taken by individuals 60 years of age  
6 or older.

7  
8 When it is necessary to conserve king  
9 salmon, the subsistence fishery may be restricted to  
10 gillnets with four-inch or less mesh until chum and  
11 sockeye abundance exceeds king salmon abundance.

12  
13 Actions to conserve king salmon may be  
14 applied to the entire Kuskokwim River, it sections or  
15 tributaries consistent with harvest trends and  
16 variability in abundance of king salmon available for  
17 harvest as the run progresses upstream. Harvest  
18 opportunity may be provided in the commercial and sport  
19 fisheries on surplus king salmon in excess of  
20 escapement and subsistence needs.

21  
22 The commercial fishery will be managed  
23 to ensure there is no significant impact on escapement  
24 or subsistence opportunity on salmon species harvested  
25 incidentally in the commercial fishery directed at  
26 other salmon species. When king salmon are abundant,  
27 the commercial fishery will be managed conservatively  
28 to ensure escapement goals are achieved and reasonable  
29 opportunity for subsistence use is provided in  
30 consideration of harvest trends to maintain adequate  
31 abundance of king salmon available to subsistence users  
32 throughout the drainage.

33  
34 When the projected escapement of king salmon is within  
35 the drainagewide escapement goal range, the first  
36 commercial period may not occur until after June 23rd;  
37 only waters of Subdistrict 1-B may be opened during the  
38 first commercial period; and 72 hours must pass between  
39 the first Subdistrict 1-B opening and the first  
40 Subdistrict 1-A opening.

41  
42 In the sport fishery, actions to  
43 conserve king salmon will be implemented when king  
44 salmon are present, consistent with migratory timing as  
45 the run progresses upstream.

46  
47 That summarizes the management plan.

48  
49 There was one more proposal that was  
50 adopted, that was Proposal 110. And that proposal

1 removed the option to allow for gillnets with up to  
2 eight-inch mesh in the District 1 commercial fishery.  
3 We haven't used eight-inch mesh in the commercial  
4 fishery since I think 1986. It was put back on the  
5 books in 2009 and then it was just removed again. So  
6 it can only be six-inch or less, which has been our  
7 default for a long time.

8

9 So any questions on that.

10

11 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Are there any  
12 questions on the Kuskokwim.

13

14 (No comments)

15

16 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thank you. That was  
17 fairly thorough. I don't see any Council members that  
18 have any questions.

19

20 And thank you for your presentation.

21

22 MR. ELISON: Just one more thing I  
23 guess I wanted to add real quick is we do have these  
24 new escapement goals for king salmon, and that is going  
25 to ease some of the hardships. I believe it will make  
26 it a little easier to manage for, although we are still  
27 anticipating a poor run and will likely have to take  
28 subsistence restrictions again. And in particular six-  
29 inch mesh restrictions are very likely, so I kind of  
30 want to get the word out if people are thinking about  
31 buying a new net that make sure you have a six-inch or  
32 less mesh net for salmon available if that's possible.

33

34 That's all I have for the Council, and  
35 thank you for your time.

36

37 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Appreciate  
38 that.

39

40 We're going to go for a break now of  
41 how long, Melinda? Ten minutes.

42

43 (Off record)

44

45 (On record)

46

47 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Melinda, do we have  
48 YRDFA on the line there?

49

50 MS. HERNANDEZ: Yeah. Becca, are you

1 still there?

2

3 MS. KLEIN: Yep, I'm here.

4

5 MS. HERNANDEZ: Okay. Thank you so  
6 much for your patience, Becca. We're going to go and  
7 have you do the YRDFA update.

8

9 MS. GISCLAIR: Okay. No problem.  
10 Thanks for giving me the time on the agenda today.

11

12 I just have a real brief update on  
13 salmon bycatch. You've heard me talk about this for  
14 many, many years now.

15

16 And just briefly, on Chinook salmon  
17 bycatch, the sort of current management measure that  
18 you guys have been hearing about for awhile is still  
19 the 60,000 overall hard cap with a 47,500 what they  
20 call performance standard and some incentive plans that  
21 are in place. In 2012 the Chinook salmon bycatch total  
22 was about 11,350 fish, which is less than half of what  
23 it was in 2011, and relatively low compared to what  
24 bycatch has been in the past.

25

26 And also in 2012 chum salmon bycatch  
27 was about 22,000 chum salmon.

28

29 The pollack fishery just started for  
30 2013. It started at the end of January. So there  
31 hasn't been a ton of fishing yet, but so far the number  
32 of Chinook salmon is about 3600 fish in the pollack  
33 fishery, and then chum salmon bycatch doesn't really  
34 happen until their B season which starts later in the  
35 year, so there isn't really chum salmon bycatch to  
36 report yet.

37

38 On Chinook salmon bycatch, they've  
39 started doing regular genetic stock identification, and  
40 unfortunately it's lagged by about a year. So the  
41 latest we that we have right now is 2010. And those  
42 numbers are really interesting, because they're a  
43 little bit different than what we've seen in the past.  
44 It showed about 42 percent of the Chinook salmon  
45 bycatch was from coastal western Alaska, and that  
46 includes the Lower Yukon, the Kuskokwim, and Bristol  
47 Bay. And then 20 percent was from the Upper Yukon  
48 River, and 11 percent from the Middle Yukon River. And  
49 so if you add those up, this sort of western Alaska  
50 total is about 73 percent. And you compare that to

1 previous studies, it had always been around 50 to 60  
2 percent, so that's significantly higher, and especially  
3 a lot higher in terms of the Upper Yukon River.

4  
5 So there will be a report out in April  
6 with the 2011 genetic stock ID, and so that's going to  
7 be real interesting to see. If that trend continues,  
8 that means that the bycatch is even higher western  
9 Alaska proportion than we had previously thought.

10  
11 And so the current state of things. The  
12 Council put this management measure in place. They  
13 passed it in 2009, and your Regional Advisory Council  
14 was really active in writing letters at that point  
15 asking for a 30,000 hard cap. The plan went into place  
16 in 2011, so we're in year three now of that being in  
17 place with the overall cap.

18  
19 And YRDFA's position is especially  
20 given the current low runs in-river, that that cap is  
21 really set way too high. And even though the bycatch  
22 itself has been low, that with the current state of  
23 returns, we just can't have the possibility of having a  
24 bycatch of 60,000. And so we're asking the Council to  
25 take another look at that, and to look at the cap as  
26 well as look at perhaps doing some restrictions on the  
27 seasonal fishing since a lot of the bycatch is taken in  
28 October and later. And so if you cut out that amount,  
29 it may limit the bycatch as well.

30  
31 And so in your packets you should have  
32 a draft resolution. We're hoping that the Regional  
33 Advisory Council is interested in looking at lowering  
34 that bycatch cap, that you'd consider doing a  
35 resolution or letter to the Council. And the April  
36 meeting coming up is going to be kind of a good time to  
37 bring that forward. So passing something at this  
38 meeting would be opportune.

39  
40 And then just briefly on chum salmon  
41 bycatch, the Council is still in the very lengthy  
42 process of looking at management measures for reducing  
43 chum salmon bycatch. Right now they have the rolling  
44 hot spot system in place for chum salmon, but they're  
45 is no cap in place. At their last meeting that they  
46 considered chum salmon bycatch, they decided to look at  
47 having industry incorporate chum salmon bycatch  
48 measures into their Chinook measures, and then maybe  
49 set a cap on chum salmon as well. And so they decided  
50 to sort of pause in their process and ask industry to

1 come back with some proposals. And so there will be an  
2 update at this April meeting with updates from industry  
3 on what they're proposing, but then the next time the  
4 Council will really look at chum salmon bycatch is in  
5 October of 2013 they're scheduled to look at that  
6 again.

7  
8 At this point, YRDFA's still -- we're  
9 still looking. There are sort of a lot of options on  
10 the table. We want to see something that is going to  
11 reduce chum bycatch without increasing Chinook bycatch,  
12 because there is some risk there. Also at this point  
13 we're still just asking generally for the Council to  
14 reduce chum bycatch, but until we see sort of the next  
15 set of analyses, we don't have a specific  
16 recommendation for action at this point.

17  
18 And that's really all I had for you  
19 today. I'm happy to answer any questions that you have  
20 about my presentation or about that draft resolution  
21 that you.

22  
23 And thanks for providing the time on  
24 your agenda today.

25  
26 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks, Becca. And  
27 I'll allow the Council to ask any questions.

28  
29 Does the Council have any questions of  
30 Becca's presentation. Don go ahead.

31  
32 MR. HONEA: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I  
33 don't know if we have a draft of that in there.

34  
35 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: It's on Page 127 of  
36 your packet there. It has a blank for the Regional  
37 Councils to insert the name. And while you were  
38 speaking, it goes along with what your presentation is  
39 stating. And I think that the Council should take this  
40 resolution up.

41  
42 Has the Council got any questions on  
43 Becca's presentation. And if you could take a moment to  
44 look over the resolution, basically it's requesting  
45 that the North Pacific Fisheries Management Council  
46 review the hard cap and reduce the season backwards to  
47 September 30th.

48  
49 That's the crux of your request, Becca?  
50 Are you still there, Becca?

1 MS. GISCLAIR: Yep. That's a good  
2 summary of what the resolution is asking for.

3  
4 Thank you.

5  
6 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: And so I feel these  
7 are fully warranted. I was concerned that the North  
8 Pacific Fisheries Management Council did not reduce the  
9 seasons, you know. There was conflicting periods when  
10 the bycatch was higher, and so I think that avoidance  
11 for all of the management efforts that the fishers on  
12 the Yukon River are enduring for conservation burden,  
13 the North Pacific Fisheries Management Council has to  
14 reevaluate what the bycatch percentages are for the  
15 affected fisheries that are in hardship right now.

16  
17 And so any questions on this  
18 resolution.

19  
20 Go ahead there, Don.

21  
22 MR. HONEA: Yeah. Mr. Chair.

23  
24 I guess maybe it was at our Fairbanks  
25 summit that I've seen one resolution entertained by  
26 some organization where the number was 10,000 or  
27 something. So I think that the least we can do on this  
28 is to go ahead and support this at 30,000. You know, so  
29 I would completely support this.

30  
31 Thank you.

32  
33 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Do you want to make  
34 a motion to that effect.

35  
36 MR. HONEA: Yes, I would.

37  
38 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Do we have a  
39 second.

40  
41 MS. PELKOLA: Second.

42  
43 MR. COLLINS: Second.

44  
45 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Moved and seconded  
46 to adopt the resolution that YRDFA's brought before the  
47 Western Interior Regional Advisory Council to be  
48 inserted in the blank. Shall we read this into the  
49 record.

50

1                   It says: WHEREAS Chinook and chum  
2 salmon provide an essential source of food, income and  
3 culture for the people in the Western Interior Regional  
4 Advisory Council region, we'll fill in the blank, with  
5 chum salmon increasingly important for commercial  
6 fisheries and subsistence as Chinook salmon decline;  
7 and

8  
9                   WHEREAS subsistence harvests of Chinook  
10 salmon have been severely restricted in recent years,  
11 and no directed commercial harvests of Chinook salmon  
12 have taken place on the Yukon River; and

13  
14                   WHEREAS despite these restrictions the  
15 Chinook salmon Canadian escapement goal has only been  
16 met in two out of the last five years and mean run size  
17 of Canadian-origin Chinook salmon, which comprise  
18 approximately 50 percent of the run, declined 45  
19 percent for the period 1998 to 2010 compared to the  
20 1982 to 1997; and

21  
22                   WHEREAS the Board.....

23  
24                   MS. HERNANDEZ: Mr. Chair. Excuse me.  
25 I'm sorry. I failed to realize that it was printed in  
26 the book, so if we just want to refer to the resolution  
27 as printed on Page 127, that should be sufficient.

28  
29                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. That would be  
30 more expeditious. It's all printed in the book.  
31 That's the upshot.

32  
33                   I will read the bottom part though.

34  
35                   THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Yukon  
36 River Drainage Fisheries Association requests that the  
37 North Pacific Fisheries Management Council take action  
38 immediately to reduce the overall bycatch cap to 30,000  
39 and change the pollock fishing season closing date to  
40 September 30th to avoid the consistently high bycatch  
41 in October.

42  
43                   And I feel that these are completely  
44 warranted.

45  
46                   Any further discussion on the  
47 resolution.

48  
49                   MR. R. WALKER: Question.

50

1 MR. COLLINS: Yes. On that first  
2 whereas there, that no commercial salmon harvests have  
3 taken place on the Yukon or the Kuskokwim Rivers,  
4 because we have the same thing. I mean, it's affecting  
5 us both. You use the Western Interior Region up there,  
6 but I think you need to mention the Kuskokwim down  
7 here. That we haven't had commercial on either.

8  
9 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Would that be  
10 appropriate, Becca, to insert Yukon and Kuskokwim  
11 River.

12  
13 MS. GISCLAIR: Yes. Absolutely. And I  
14 noted while you were reading that therefore be it  
15 resolved, it said therefore be it resolved that YRDFA  
16 requests, and you should change that YRDFA to the  
17 Western Interior Council.

18  
19 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. I will strike  
20 YRDFA and put in Western Interior. We'll Yukon River  
21 and Kuskokwim where it's noted.

22  
23 Any further comments on the resolution.

24  
25 MR. HONEA: Question.

26  
27 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: One comment from  
28 Robert.

29  
30 MR. R. WALKER: (Indiscernible - mic  
31 not on).....

32  
33 REPORTER: Robert.

34  
35 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Robert, turn on your  
36 mic.

37  
38 MR. R. WALKER: I must be getting  
39 tired, guys.

40  
41 (Laughter)

42  
43 MR. R. WALKER: Jack, I'm trying to  
44 think on here where we could put as a whereas, Western  
45 Interior RAC would like to be informed of when the  
46 dates of the meetings for the North Pacific Fisheries.  
47 Something -- you know, we talked about that the other  
48 morning when I brought it up. It seemed like we're in  
49 the dark here. We don't really know when the dates  
50 are, or maybe they do know the dates. I've never been

1 told.

2

3 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Well, our Council  
4 coordinator can get those dates to us. It doesn't need  
5 to be in the resolution.

6

7 MR. R. WALKER: That's fine.

8

9 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Make sure to apprise  
10 the Council by letter or email of when the North  
11 Pacific Fisheries Management Council is.

12

13 Any further discussion on the  
14 resolution.

15

16 (No comments)

17

18 MR. R. WALKER: Somebody called the  
19 question.

20

21 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Call for question.  
22 Those in favor of transmitting this resolution on  
23 bycatch to the North Pacific Fisheries Management  
24 Council signify by saying aye.

25

26 IN UNISON: Aye

27

28 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Those opposed same  
29 sign.

30

31 (No opposing votes)

32

33 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thank you. Thanks,  
34 Becca, for being on line there.

35

36 I also had a question on the bycatch in  
37 the Gulf is up for review for Chinook and Homer  
38 Advisory Committee was requesting a 5,000 Chinook  
39 bycatch cap. What is YRDFA's position on the Gulf?

40

41 MS. GISCLAIR: Thank you, Mr. Chair,  
42 The Gulf of Alaska, just to clarify, the pollock  
43 fishery in the Gulf of Alaska already has a cap. It's  
44 set at 25,000 fish. And what the Council is now  
45 considering is a cap for the rest of the groundfish  
46 fisheries other than the pollock fishery, which in the  
47 Gulf also catch a substantial amount of bycatch. And  
48 the range they're considering is 5,000 to 12,500.

49

50 And we don't have good information

1 about the stock of origin of the Chinook salmon that  
2 are caught as bycatch there. It's unlikely that there's  
3 a significant amount of Western Alaska Chinook salmon  
4 that are caught, but we would still recommend that the  
5 5,000 is just a tiny bit below the long-term average  
6 bycatch in that fishery, and so that seems like a sort  
7 of starting place that would be appropriate for a cap  
8 there as well.

9

10 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right. Yeah, I feel  
11 that Chinook  
12 conservation should be warranted throughout the Alaskan  
13 waters. And so we were supportive of the 5,000 level  
14 that the Homer Advisory Committee had set, and I wanted  
15 your opinion on that.

16

17 Thank you for that. And so.....

18

19 MR. J. WALKER: Jack.

20

21 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, James.

22

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

24

25 I've just got a question in regards to  
26 the cap. The question that I have is reflecting to the  
27 30,000 as a cap, in regards to the 70 percent and 45  
28 percent reflective of the different fish caught on  
29 different parts of the Yukon. Could this percentage be  
30 utilized to reduce the cap to reflect the fish being  
31 caught going to the specific areas in the event -- if  
32 there is the 70 percent caught out of the 30,000 at the  
33 time.

34

35 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Did you get that  
36 question, Becca?

37

38 MS. GISCLAIR: I think so. I'll try to  
39 answer and if I'm not answering, please let me know.

40

41 But I think the percentages, and  
42 especially what I presented, was sort of one year of  
43 data, so I think we want to see what it looks like when  
44 it comes back this year. But if that's consistent. I  
45 think that's certainly a big argument for lowering that  
46 cap. The information right now is timelagged, so as  
47 you can see we're just getting 2011 now in April of  
48 2013. So doing it on sort of an in-season basis isn't  
49 an option right now, but it's something that we've been  
50 talking about and continually pushing the pollock

1 fishery that really they should be putting the money in  
2 to be able to do that in an in-season basis.

3

4 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Does that answer  
5 most of your question there?

6

7 MR. J. WALKER: (Nods affirmatively)

8

9 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yes, it did.

10

11 So any further discussion on this  
12 issue.

13

14 (No comments)

15

16 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thank you, Becca,  
17 and appreciate all your hard work with YRDFA on this  
18 issue, a very important issue and widely talked about.

19

20 MS. GISCLAIR: Great. Thank you for  
21 your support.

22

23 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: And so, Melinda.

24

25 MS. HERNANDEZ: All right. It looks  
26 like we're getting down to, I think this is the last  
27 agenda item. Mr. Jack Lorrigan was attending the  
28 Northwest Arctic Council meeting up in Kotzebue this  
29 week, so he could not be here, but Dr. Glenn Chen has  
30 agreed to give this update on the tribal consultation  
31 implementation guidelines.

32

33 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, Glenn.

34

35 DR. CHEN: Aloha, Mr. Chair and members  
36 of the Council.

37

38 What I have to present to you today  
39 doesn't, one, include fascinating topics such as wolves  
40 with mohawk style hairdos on their pelts or hordes of  
41 beavers chewing up the landscape, but it's a subject of  
42 much interest and importance to Alaska Native people.  
43 And specifically I'll be talking to the Council about  
44 the recent efforts by the Federal Subsistence Board to  
45 develop and implement a tribal consultation policy. As  
46 all tribal folks here in the room will attest to, the  
47 ability for tribes to consult with the Federal  
48 government on all matters affecting tribes is a very  
49 key aspect of this relationship between the United  
50 States and Federally-recognized tribes.

1 I'd like to turn your attention back to  
2 Page 113 in your Council book.

3  
4 And Dr. Jenkins began to give a brief  
5 summary of the events that have taken place with regard  
6 to our process for tribal consultation. I'll augment  
7 that with a brief history of where this has come about.

8  
9 Back in the 1990s the Clinton  
10 Administration signed an executive order mandating that  
11 all Federal agencies consult with tribes. And this was  
12 taken up by the current Obama Administration during  
13 their first term, and there was a concerted effort to  
14 expand and develop policies for all the Federal  
15 agencies on how to consult with tribes. And the  
16 Secretaries of Interior and Agriculture embarked upon a  
17 national effort to develop a national tribal  
18 consultation policy with also addendums for specific  
19 regional type issues.

20  
21 And the Secretary's Office was aware of  
22 the subsistence programs we're all involved in with  
23 tribes here in Alaska. And the Federal Subsistence  
24 Program then became sort of a lead effort if you will  
25 nationally, from a national perspective about  
26 developing a region-specific tribal consultation policy  
27 dealing with a particular matter.

28  
29 So in 2010 a number of folks from the  
30 agencies and from the Office of Subsistence Management  
31 came together and assembled a first cut at a tribal  
32 consultation policy. The Board took a look at that and  
33 in 2011 decided probably that a different approach was  
34 warranted.

35  
36 And so during May of 2011 the Board  
37 directed that a tribal consultation work group be  
38 assembled. And this work group ended up being  
39 comprised of 14 folks, 7 from the different Federal  
40 agencies, which included the tribal liaisons for all  
41 the agencies, plus a number of Staff Committee folks  
42 like myself. Along with the seven Federal folks there  
43 were seven tribal folks. And we made a concerted  
44 effort in the short time that we had to invite and  
45 include folks from a broad a representation across  
46 Alaska as possible.

47  
48 There was a series of meetings held  
49 during the summer of 2011, and a prototype  
50 implementation policy was test driven during the fall

1 of that year. And so that included things such as  
2 having a series of teleconferences within each of the  
3 regions on the upcoming wildlife cycle, and tribes were  
4 invited to participate by calling in and given that  
5 opportunity to actually officially consult with an  
6 official member of the Board.

7  
8 And then this was followed up by  
9 further efforts to engage tribes, including a very  
10 large session at our BIA Tribal Providers Conference  
11 that following winter. And there were over 300 tribal  
12 folks attended that meeting. And the entire Board was  
13 there, and the Board heard a variety of tribal  
14 perspectives on what the tribal consultation policy  
15 should include and how it should be implemented.

16  
17 A lot of these comments were then taken  
18 back to the work group and they presented a more  
19 finalized version of a consultation policy which was  
20 adopted by the Board in May 2012.

21  
22 And so this brings me to the topic that  
23 I'm going to focus on today, which is when you have a  
24 policy, you have to find a way to implement it. And I  
25 will direct the Council's attention to Page 53 in your  
26 book. And so what you'll see here is several pages  
27 devoted to the implementation guidelines for the tribal  
28 consultation policy. I won't read the whole thing,  
29 I'll just highlight some of the key points.

30  
31 There's a number of steps here that are  
32 being proposed as to how we're going to implement a  
33 consultation policy on Federal subsistence matters.  
34 And these steps are in line with the regulatory process  
35 that the Board and the Councils follow. And, for  
36 example, if you look on Page 54, we're at step 1.B.,  
37 the Regional Council meetings where proposals are being  
38 proposed by the Councils for wildlife, changes on  
39 wildlife regulations or fisheries regulations as the  
40 case may be. And so each of the steps of the process  
41 for implementing the policy ties into our regulatory  
42 cycle.

43  
44 One of the things that we felt was very  
45 important to add to these steps was an effort by the  
46 agencies to fully engage the tribes. And by that I mean  
47 for things such as the local land managers to contact  
48 affected tribes that might be impacted by the  
49 particular proposals. And this required a fair amount  
50 of negotiation between the work group and the agencies

1 involved. We felt that this was very important as a  
2 way to get tribes integrated into the consultation  
3 policy.

4  
5                   One of the key phrases that came up in  
6 our discussions in the work group throughout this whole  
7 effort has been the need for meaningful consultation,  
8 rather than just checking a box off, saying, well, we  
9 spoke to the tribe. We met that requirement, on we go.  
10 The tribes felt very important that, no, this  
11 consultation really needs to be meaningful. And so we  
12 tried to incorporate that aspect in both the policy and  
13 its implementation guidelines.

14  
15                   So you'll see here a number of step[s]  
16 leading up to step 5 on Page 55 where the final Board  
17 meeting is held for the Board to make decisions on the  
18 regulatory proposals. And throughout there's a number  
19 of opportunities for tribes to either provide their  
20 feedback to the Councils or to actually formally  
21 consult with the Federal Board.

22  
23                   And just to be clear, tribal  
24 consultation in terms of government-to-government sense  
25 involves someone who officially represents a tribe  
26 speaking directly to an official representing the  
27 government. So while there's a lot of informal  
28 discussions between say the Refuge biologist and the  
29 local tribal natural resources person, those aren't  
30 captured as official tribal consultation. Those are  
31 very important for developing the relationships between  
32 the tribes and the agencies, but actual government-to-  
33 government consultation is at that formal meeting.

34  
35                   And so one of the ways that that can be  
36 provided is when tribes can come to the Federal  
37 Subsistence Board when they have their final regulatory  
38 meeting in January or whenever that's going to be in  
39 the future, and the tribes can officially preset their  
40 viewpoints and have a chance to engage the Federal  
41 Board, because all the agency directors are there at  
42 the meeting.

43  
44                   So this consultation policy was put  
45 together by the work group, and it has gone before a  
46 variety of Federal land managers from all the agencies  
47 to get some feedback as to what needs to be changed,  
48 what might need to be added or what might need to be  
49 even removed.

50

1                   And so one of the things that we've  
2 heard throughout the whole process are a couple of  
3 things that are addressed in the policy. I mentioned  
4 the ability for local managers to speak directly to  
5 tribes, to make sure that they're engaged. That seems  
6 to be a really important part of the process, because  
7 as you know, tribes are really short-staffed. If  
8 they're fortunate, they have one IGAP person who serves  
9 as a natural resource person and the hydrologist and  
10 the biologist, and does a whole bunch of things. And  
11 sitting on their desk are 50 letters from different  
12 agencies wanting them to consult on 60 or 100 matters.  
13 And so it becomes a point where they're overwhelmed.  
14 And so by making -- by having the local managers  
15 directly contact the tribes and putting it on their  
16 radar screen that, hey, this is something that might  
17 impact your tribe, I think that helps increase  
18 engagement and have meaningful involvement.

19  
20                   The other thing that came up during the  
21 discussions, you'll find those in the middle starting  
22 on Page 56 is the aspect of training. And so training  
23 goes both ways, because for one thing, the Federal  
24 managers need to be -- need some knowledge and training  
25 about Native culture and those aspects. Some folks  
26 that have been here for a long time obviously have a  
27 good sense of that, but we get a lot of Federal  
28 employees from outside the region, outside the state,  
29 who could benefit from more knowledge about local  
30 customs and traditions. And similarly tribal folks,  
31 you know, sometimes find it overwhelming that you have  
32 State processes, you have Federal processes, you have  
33 different regulations, different cycles and so forth.  
34 And there's a chance for tribal folks also to gain  
35 better knowledge so they can be more effective in  
36 consultation. And the work group felt that perhaps  
37 since we're working with managers and the tribes on  
38 increasing knowledge about Federal subsistence program  
39 stuff, there was an opportunity to talk to people about  
40 other things within the subsistence realm that affect  
41 tribes. Marine mammal stuff, migratory birds stuff,  
42 and so forth. And so you'll see those in the bullets  
43 in the middle of Page 56.

44  
45                   And there's also a series of  
46 recommended additional topics. Some of which were  
47 covered by our Council today about C&Ts, rural  
48 determinations. Those things might be incorporated in  
49 these training efforts as well.  
50

1                   So if you look on the bottom of Page 67  
2 -- 57, excuse me, I'm almost finished with my  
3 presentation here, the key part of making sure that  
4 consultation is meaningful is some aspect of monitoring  
5 and reporting. So we need to get a sense from the  
6 tribes as to are our consultation efforts effective?  
7 Are they meaningful? Are they producing the results  
8 you desire?

9  
10                   And the work group felt very strongly  
11 about including these bullets here on the bottom of  
12 Page 57 that include reporting, monitoring, and making  
13 modifications and adaptations for things that aren't  
14 working.

15  
16                   And so this was a key aspect that got  
17 into this implementation guideline, and again was  
18 pushed by the tribal members that are involved in our  
19 work group.

20  
21  
22                   With that I'll stop. What the Board's  
23 looking for now from the Council and from the tribes  
24 are feedback on this implementation guideline.

25  
26                   And I have here a letter that was  
27 signed on February 12th that went out to all 229  
28 Federally-recognized tribes in Alaska requesting their  
29 involvement, their review of these implementation  
30 guidelines. So one of the things that we would do when  
31 you go back to your villages, if you could contact some  
32 of your local tribes there, tribal offices, and let them  
33 know about this request to review the implementation  
34 guidelines and provide feedback to the Board.

35  
36                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks, Glenn.  
37 That's a very thorough and clear overview of this  
38 tribal consultation implementation guideline.

39  
40                   Does the Council have comments on this  
41 document.

42  
43                   MS. PELKOLA: I just have a question.

44  
45                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, Jenny.

46  
47                   MS. PELKOLA: Oh, I know. You said  
48 something about if the Council wants to get a report of  
49 that, they contact you, but I don't think a lot of the  
50 Councils will know that they could do that, so is there

1 a way that you can contact the Councils or somebody? I  
2 don't know.

3

4 DR. CHEN: So we've made a number of  
5 comments, some of us in the work group, about the  
6 agencies' approach as to how to get ahold of the tribes  
7 and the communication process for the tribes, and  
8 there's a number of people that feel that you just  
9 email this and send it to the postal office to tribes  
10 that that's sufficient for communicating with tribes.  
11 And, of course, as I mentioned, there's the example of  
12 tribal people being super busy and having so many  
13 things on their plates. And some of this stuff cannot  
14 get on the radar screen. So I think, you know, there's  
15 a concerted effort and a recognition that additional  
16 local contacts with the tribes to try to engage them in  
17 terms of reviewing this set of implementation  
18 guidelines -- well, excuse me, I'm looking at the wrong  
19 paper here. This one here -- is really essential to  
20 making sure that the tribes have a chance to look at  
21 and to provide feedback.

22

23 And so one of the venues that we  
24 thought would be helpful was at these Regional Advisory  
25 Council meetings for Council members to take back to  
26 the villages and their communities this knowledge that  
27 there's an implementation guide that's been sent to  
28 people. And it's also in your book. And that we're  
29 seeking, the Board is seeking comment and feedback and  
30 review by your tribes.

31

32 Does that answer your question  
33 hopefully.

34

35 MS. PELKOLA: Uh-huh.

36

37 DR. CHEN: Thank you.

38

39 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Ray.

40

41 MR. R. WALKER: Yeah.

42

43 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, Robert.

44

45 MR. R. WALKER: Glenn, you know, in  
46 here you talk about there's training here. Who does  
47 the training? Would that be contract, you, or who?

48

49 DR. CHEN: Well, a sort of tongue in  
50 cheek response. So you've seen a Tlinget colleague

1 from Yakutat and dear friend, Bert Adams. And as Jack  
2 will attest to, he states at Federal Board meetings  
3 that he doesn't answer hard questions. I don't answer  
4 hard questions.

5

6 (Laughter)

7

8 DR. CHEN: So actually, Mr. Walker, I  
9 think the process still needs to be developed about who  
10 will hold these trainings. And, you know, what's being  
11 talked about now is probably multi-agency group with  
12 also having tribal folks being involved in terms of  
13 developing the curricula and putting on this training  
14 for people, because again it's going to cover a whole  
15 bunch of aspects ranging from regulations and how the  
16 regulatory cycle works, to also incorporating aspects  
17 that Federal managers need to know about Native culture  
18 and so forth and traditions. And if you look on Page  
19 56, we're even encouraging people up to the Federal  
20 Board to attend some of these trainings. So we want a  
21 broad spectrum of folks becoming very familiar so they  
22 can be effectively involved in tribal consultation.

23

24 Hopefully that answers your question.

25

26 MR. R. WALKER: Thank you.

27

28 MR. COLLINS: Yeah. Mr. Chairman.

29

30 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, Ray.

31

32 MR. COLLINS: When you use the term  
33 tribes here now, you're referring -- actually each  
34 village is a tribe, right? And how does that relate  
35 with let's say Tanana Chiefs or some of the others,  
36 that organization? Do you distinguish between them  
37 when you're doing consultation, or just -- yeah, I'll  
38 leave it there.

39

40 DR. CHEN: Mr. Collins, that's a good  
41 question. So in Alaska there re 229 Federally-  
42 recognized tribes. And so organizations like TCC which  
43 are considered regional non-profits, they, for example,  
44 compact with the Bureau of Indian Affairs to provide  
45 tribal services to say an assortment of tribes. And  
46 there's groups like AVCP on the Yukon Delta. Now, I  
47 think the consultation policy is actually aimed at  
48 those 229 Federally-recognized tribes. And so if a  
49 tribe on that list wants to speak formally to the  
50 Federal Subsistence Board about subsistence issues that

1 affect their tribe, that's kind of the avenue that  
2 we're talking about.

3  
4 MR. COLLINS: So the village  
5 (indiscernible - mic not on).....

6  
7 REPORTER: Ray. Ray.

8  
9 MR. COLLINS: It would be the local  
10 tribal, the village talking directly to the Board, not  
11 speaking through TCC or some other.

12  
13 DR. CHEN: Mr. Collins. With the  
14 understanding, yes, it would be the Federally-  
15 recognized tribe which in most cases are those  
16 individual villages. Yeah.

17  
18 And that's not to say that the regional  
19 non-profits can't be involved with the discussions, but  
20 the government would recognize that consultation,  
21 formal consultation occurring between the tribal  
22 government and the United States Government.

23  
24 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Including the 12  
25 regional corporations? Or is the 13th regional  
26 corporation also consulted with these issues?

27  
28 DR. CHEN: So, Mr. Reakoff, you brought  
29 the very interesting aspect of this whole consultation  
30 policy development in.

31  
32 It turns out that one if the Senate  
33 appropriation bills mentioned Alaska Native  
34 corporations in addition to Alaska tribes. And so our  
35 solicitor's office back in D.C. has interpreted that as  
36 saying that not only do we have to consult with  
37 Federally-recognized tribes, but we also have to  
38 consult with Alaska Native corporations. And actually  
39 more than just the set of 12 or 13, but all the village  
40 corporations as well.

41  
42 So this has raised a lot of issues with  
43 the tribes, because in many cases the tribes, you know,  
44 have stated, and rightly so, on the record that  
45 corporations don't often represent us and they're not  
46 tribes. But nevertheless, we still have this mandate  
47 from the Secretary's Office to consult with Alaska  
48 Native corporations, the regional ones and the village  
49 ones. And so the approach the Department of Interior  
50 has taken on this particular subject is to develop a

1 separate consultation policy just with the Native  
2 corporations, the regional and local ones. And so that  
3 would be separate from the one that's been developed  
4 for Federally-recognized tribes.

5  
6 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Similar to this  
7 policy or would it have slight differences.

8  
9 DR. CHEN: So I think right now they've  
10 been focused on a higher level policy rather than a  
11 specific one that you see before you here. There are  
12 differences. The one that developed for the  
13 corporation, the versions I've seen are much more  
14 simple and less specific. And it still remains to be  
15 seen where the Departments of the Interior and  
16 Agriculture are going to go with those. So those are  
17 still in the process of being developed.

18  
19 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Don.

20  
21 MR. HONEA: Yeah. Thank you, Mr.  
22 Chair.

23  
24 And now that I'm really thoroughly  
25 confused on this whole thing.

26  
27 (Laughter)

28  
29 MR. HONEA: Maybe I'm the only one, I  
30 don't know. But I was referring earlier to when we had  
31 the Providers Conference in Anchorage in late November,  
32 and they had -- so can you give me some kind of a what  
33 would you call an advisory, or what did you call it.  
34 Well, anyway -- okay. There was a large thing on  
35 fishing and whatever. Melinda, you were there. At the  
36 tribal workshop, or something. Okay. I just want to  
37 know, you know, you mentioned the Board. When we're  
38 talking about a consultation or something, we're not  
39 talking about the Federal Subsistence Board meeting  
40 with them, or a special group or something, and then  
41 how does this scenario work out? I mean, I saw some  
42 people there, but I didn't know if that was -- if what  
43 you meant was a tribal consultation with the tribes,  
44 with the different agencies and stuff, and how is that  
45 -- do we just specifically request that in writing or  
46 do we come before the Federal Subsistence Board at a  
47 regular meeting with special needs. How does this all  
48 work out?

49  
50 DR. CHEN: So that's a good question,

1 Mr. Honea. And just to clarify, were you referring to  
2 the BIA meeting in 2011 that the Federal Board held as  
3 an opportunity to get feedback on tribal consultation?

4

5 MS. HERNANDEZ: I actually believe Mr.  
6 Honea is referring to the event that you had arranged  
7 real recently. All three of us were in the room at the  
8 same time, I think we just weren't aware of each  
9 other's presence there.

10

11 MR. HONEA: Yeah.

12

13 DR. CHEN: Thank you for that  
14 clarification, Melinda.

15

16 So what we did in November 2012, it was  
17 a panel discussion about solutions to addresses the  
18 shortages of Chinook salmon in the Yukon River. So  
19 that was not tribal consultation.

20

21 What I mentioned in my presentation was  
22 something that we held earlier in November of 2011, and  
23 during that time the whole Federal Subsistence Board,  
24 so the directors from each of the Federal agencies were  
25 there, or their representatives were there. And  
26 specifically to get feedback from the tribes about what  
27 their viewpoints were with regard to creating a tribal  
28 consultation policy for subsistence management.

29

30 The other part of my answer is going to  
31 -- has to do with, if I understand you correctly, how  
32 does a tribe get such consultation started, right? And  
33 so there's a number of venues. So, for example, if a  
34 tribe has concerns about a Federal subsistence  
35 regulation that the Federal Board has to act upon, then  
36 maybe an appropriate venue would be to go to the Board  
37 at a the winter Board meeting, and as a tribal member  
38 speak directly to the Board. And so you can address  
39 each of the Board members, all of whom will be making a  
40 decision on the regulation.

41

42 If, for example, a tribe has a specific  
43 management issue, it might be dealing with moose in  
44 their particular game management unit, in that case it  
45 might be more appropriate for the tribe to request  
46 formal consultation with their local manager, so the  
47 Refuge or the Park Service or other things.

48

49 And so there's a variety of ways that  
50 this can be done. And so it all depends on the

1 situation and what the desires of the tribe are.

2

3 MR. HONEA: Okay. That being said, so  
4 what kind of urgency or whatever justifies meeting, you  
5 know, calling for a meeting. If you said tribes -- and  
6 also when you say tribes, do you mean organizations  
7 such as AFN, Western Interior, et cetera.

8

9 DR. CHEN: So, Mr. Honea, I think again  
10 as my response to Mr. Collins, this involves  
11 government-to-government discussions between Federally-  
12 recognized tribes and the U.S. Government. And so  
13 again it's kind of driven by -- you were asking when  
14 would these be set up and operating. And I think it  
15 would be driven by the issues. So, for example, if a  
16 tribe had a particular issue, and I'll use another  
17 agency, the Army Corps of Engineers, it might be you're  
18 trying to prove a wetland modification activity that  
19 affects tribal resources, they would request formal  
20 consultation with the Corps of Engineers. And the  
21 Corps of Engineers would then have to set up a meeting  
22 with the tribal representatives.

23

24 Other things such as the Federal  
25 Subsistence Board regulations, you know, there's a  
26 whole host of things that are going to be addressed  
27 typically during the winter Board meeting. And so  
28 tribes can come as a group and address the Board  
29 individually on their specific issues.

30

31 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Mike Spindler,  
32 Refuge manager at Kanuti, wants to say something here.  
33 I'll bring him to the mic.

34

35 MR. SPINDLER: Mr. Chair and fellow  
36 Council members. Mike Spindler with the Kanuti Refuge.

37

38 If I might just provide a little  
39 clarity and help you wrap your heads around this. Mr.  
40 Chen's talking about this from a large policy level at  
41 30,000 feet. I operate at about 500 feet, and so I'll  
42 give an example.

43

44 I was just up in Allakaket a couple  
45 weeks ago with Mr. Pollock Simon, Sr., on Allakaket  
46 Tribal Council. And it was an issue where the tribal  
47 council is developing the roads and trails plan. And  
48 so I went up to the Council and set up a flip chart and  
49 just went around the council table and asked every one  
50 of the council members to provide their input to me

1 about their concerns about the roads and trails plan,  
2 because how we handle their requests for roads and  
3 trails access on the Refuge is a consultative issue.  
4 How we decide that is where I am bound as a Federal  
5 refuge manager to consult with the tribes. So there's  
6 a clear-cut example. And, Mr. Honea, you were asking  
7 what type of issue.

8  
9                   If you look on this flowchart that Mr.  
10 Chen has presented to you, starting on Page 53, right  
11 after that first blue line, where I step in as a  
12 Federal land manager is the first step. This is when  
13 there's a concern about a resource. And I made a  
14 practice when I was manager down here at Galena/  
15 Koyukuk/Nowitna Refuges to try and get to every tribal  
16 council meeting at least once a year. And I would open  
17 up the discussion, just this is for you to tell me what  
18 your concerns are. And often the thing that would come  
19 up the most would be subsistence regulations. And so I  
20 make it a practice in my current position to go to  
21 Evansville Council meeting and Allakaket Council  
22 meeting, and try and ask them what are their concerns  
23 regarding subsistence issues. So it's on my radar  
24 screen. It's their opportunity to tell me that there's  
25 some concerns there.

26  
27                   So as the land manager, where my role  
28 is, is that first step as the Federal agency. All the  
29 other steps are really in the process as OSM is going  
30 through the analysis and the consideration of the  
31 proposals where it's their job to get back to the  
32 tribes.

33  
34                   But I do have one major concern here,  
35 and that's a capacity issue on both sides of this. As  
36 you know, we're facing huge cutbacks, and do really  
37 effectively consult with a tribe, you have to be at the  
38 council meeting face-to-face. You can't do that over  
39 teleconference or videoconference, just because of the  
40 communications barrier. So it requires travel to the  
41 village for presence at the council meeting. We don't  
42 have the capacity to consult every one of these steps  
43 face-to-face with every tribe we deal with. It's  
44 impossible. It is pie in the sky.

45  
46                   Likewise the tribes don't have the  
47 capacity. As Mr. Chen pointed out, there's usually a  
48 tribal administrator, maybe a part-time bookkeeper, and  
49 maybe an IGAP person in the tribal office. And their  
50 desks are piled high with papers this high of everybody

1 wanting to consult on every issues.

2

3                   So I think as cooperators and  
4 participants in the big picture of trying to manage for  
5 subsistence resources, we need to work together to find  
6 a practical way to consult. And I would suggest that I  
7 as a manager and Mr. Moos as a peer manager in a  
8 neighboring refuge, that we are already doing due  
9 diligence to have dialogues with the tribes, and we'll  
10 continue to do so, and try to do it in the simplest  
11 manner that we can, but one that will relate to the  
12 tribe's needs at hand at the moment, and try and make  
13 it as direct and simple and easy to communicate with  
14 rather than a very long drawn out convoluted process.

15

16                   Does that help explain the kind of  
17 thing that we're talking for consulting for a  
18 regulation, or consulting for an access issue on  
19 Federal lands

20

21                   MR. HONEA: Yeah. Well, I think it  
22 brings it down on a more local, personal level, to  
23 bring these concerns. I mean, I realize the fact that  
24 we can talk with the local refuge managers and stuff,  
25 but I was just -- so this is all kind of heavy to me.  
26 That's why I was wondering what in the world would  
27 justify bringing something up to have a consultation  
28 with the Board. That's all. I mean, I thank you for  
29 explaining that.

30

31                   MR. SPINDLER: I guess I would say that  
32 the first round of consultation would be between the  
33 local land manager and the local tribal council. And  
34 try and resolve things at that level. And then if it's  
35 not working, then step it up a level or so.

36

37                   But generally for us managers here in  
38 Alaska, most of us have worked here in Alaska most of  
39 our career. We don't really need training on how to  
40 consult. We do it all the time. What we need is time  
41 and money so that we can get out to the village at  
42 least once a year at the key time before proposals are  
43 being prepared, to ask what the concerns are, or if  
44 there's another issue like what came up at Allakaket  
45 for me was they had a deadline on their roads and  
46 trails plan. They needed some information, and I went  
47 up there and talked to them about it, and listened, and  
48 then prepared a report and we'll start on the road  
49 towards solving their problems for road and train  
50 access.

1                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. I would  
2 consider this mission explicit to consult with these  
3 tribes from the Refuge. And so I would feel the  
4 regional office should support travel either by each  
5 agency to the communities during the call for proposals  
6 at least, and so I feel that, you know, tribal  
7 consultation and the subsistence priority on Federal  
8 public lands as being part of the mission of those  
9 units, and so I feel that the regional offices should  
10 allocate funding for tribal consultation.

11  
12                   You're saying that travel might be  
13 restricted for tribal consultation?

14  
15                   MR. SPINDLER: As of yesterday, all  
16 travel for us is highly restricted, except for what's  
17 termed mission critical.

18  
19                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Uh-huh.

20  
21                   MR. SPINDLER: And so it remains to be  
22 seen whether a trip to a village would be called  
23 mission critical. Certainly a trip -- we do two kinds  
24 of trips to villages. One is for outreach and  
25 maintaining and building relationships. Our trip to  
26 Allakaket, which was to take place tomorrow for an  
27 outreach event at the school and with the community, a  
28 potluck, was deemed a public event and was deemed not  
29 mission critical. But I view those kind of events as  
30 really proactive in that you are helping convey  
31 communications about what the refuge is doing, and  
32 listening to what the concerns are in the village at  
33 multiple levels. We usually bring half our staff out  
34 there for that kind of event. And so there's a lot of  
35 dialogue, as there is at this meeting, there's a lot of  
36 dialogue going on.

37  
38                   The other level would be there's an  
39 issue like roads and trails or subsistence regulation  
40 where you know there's a problem, and then you go  
41 there. And I would suspect that that would be deemed  
42 mission critical, because it's a burning issue, it's  
43 become a burning issue. I would rather we work on them  
44 before they become burning issues.

45  
46                   We're entering a new era budget-wise.  
47 We don't really know where we're going, and so I just  
48 want to make the Council aware that I think there's  
49 going to be capacity issues on both sides. But I'll  
50 pledge to you as a manager that we'll do the best we

1 can.

2

3 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Appreciate that,

4 Mike.

5

6 Glenn.

7

8 DR. CHEN: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

9

10 I did want to follow up on what Mr.  
11 Spindler presented. His example of his deep local  
12 involvement with tribes in his area is what we'd like  
13 to see in terms of how this consultation policy could  
14 be implemented. And he's correct, that there's going  
15 to be challenges budget-wise and so forth on both  
16 sides, tribes and Federal Government.

17

18 And so, you know, when we first brought  
19 up this whole topic of tribal consultation, everybody  
20 looked at the 229 tribes and said, whoa, that's just  
21 way too many for us to do. But, you know, as we've  
22 worked through the process, we realize that there were  
23 very specific issues for particular tribes. So  
24 actually the subset of tribes who were highly  
25 interested in and wanted to be involved with  
26 consultation was actually quite a bit smaller. So  
27 there may be a way to sort of target efforts to tribes  
28 that are directly involved, and the other tribes maybe  
29 have an interest, but perhaps not so much directly  
30 involved, and so that might help to scale down the  
31 efforts and make this manageable.

32

33 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yeah. I have James  
34 wanted to comment earlier.

35

36 MR. J. WALKER: I just want to make a  
37 comment that if you were on a government-to-government  
38 relationship, this would be a different discussion.

39

40 MR. COLLINS: Mr. Chair. To me it  
41 seems that one of the more critical needs for training  
42 is as there's a turnover in these managers in the  
43 various refuges and parks and so on, that they need to  
44 be trained as to what their role is, like Mike is, of  
45 involving the villages, because there's going to be  
46 more of a need there than going out and training in the  
47 villages in some respect, because they're living  
48 subsistence and they know what the issues are. But if  
49 the agencies aren't coming to them, you know, and  
50 you're having the big turnover in personnel, you need

1 steps in place to make sure that the new people coming  
2 in are oriented, especially the people that are at the  
3 top. And that's going to be an ongoing problem down  
4 through the years.

5  
6 DR. CHEN: Mr. Collins, we are  
7 fortunate to have people like Mr. Spindler who have  
8 such long-term experience working with local people  
9 here in Alaska. Back in 2002 I was jokingly known as  
10 the cheechako Staff Committee member, just having  
11 arrived in Alaska. And so some kind of training would  
12 have definitely benefitted me then. I learned by on-  
13 the-job experience and had a very good mentor if you  
14 remember Ida Hildebrand, she did a great job of  
15 mentoring me.

16  
17 So that's exactly, Mr. Collins, is the  
18 purpose of having training go both ways, for both  
19 tribes and Federal employees, so everybody can be more  
20 effective in consultation.

21  
22 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Any other  
23 comments. Jenny..

24  
25 MS. PELKOLA: I just didn't hear what  
26 James said.

27  
28 MR. J. WALKER: Oh, that was just a  
29 comment on what you kept saying, government-to-  
30 government as far as relationship. So it's really not  
31 really that direct.

32  
33 DR. CHEN: So, Mr. Walker, were you  
34 looking for a more elaborate definition about  
35 government-to-government and what's involved?

36  
37 MR. J. WALKER: Yeah, Federal  
38 government to Native government as far an entity. If  
39 you define an entity, which is government.

40  
41 DR. CHEN: So, Mr. Walker I think, if I  
42 understand correctly, and this the interpretation of  
43 solicitors and the folks back in D.C., we're talking  
44 about direct discussions between Federally-recognized  
45 tribal governments, right, and the U.S. Government.

46  
47 MR. J. WALKER: But with that in mind,  
48 it seems that the Federal government is looking at a  
49 different approach to negotiation with tribes.

50

1 DR. CHEN: So, Mr. Walker, maybe you  
2 could further explain that point for me, please.

3  
4 MR. J. WALKER: Well, just by the fact  
5 of saying the government-to-government relationship as  
6 far as the tribes being a Native government in fact.  
7 That government's being recognized by the Federal  
8 government as governing body of that community. And  
9 that's what I was referring to.

10  
11 DR. CHEN: Yes, Mr. Walker. And I  
12 think that's the foundation for these government-to-  
13 government discussions about Federal subsistence is the  
14 tribe is recognized local government.

15  
16 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: It's a positive  
17 thing. Jenny.

18  
19 MS. PELKOLA: I would just like to say  
20 I think this has opened a door for me. I didn't know  
21 about this, that we could contact them and maybe the  
22 Refuge manager will be hearing from our tribe.

23  
24 DR. CHEN: Yes, Ms. Pelkola. So, you  
25 know, developing the relationships between tribal folks  
26 and the government occurs in many ways, and a lot of  
27 it's informal. During the break I was talking with Mr.  
28 Vince Mathews and how he was describing to me about all  
29 his efforts to work with tribes on an informal basis.

30  
31 And, of course, there's an aspect that  
32 the Federal government mandates which is that formal  
33 consultation that I was explaining to Mr. Walker where  
34 the tribe can in its capacity as a recognized  
35 government speak to the United States Government on the  
36 government-to-government basis.

37  
38 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, Don.

39  
40 MR. HONEA: Thank you. I think Jenny  
41 brings up something good, and I think maybe that would  
42 be on the agenda of say our local refuge and stuff to  
43 -- you know, it's kind of hard to come to these  
44 meetings and try to absorb everything like this at  
45 once. It's a big learning experience I think for all  
46 of us. And for us to maybe bring that on a local  
47 level, because it's really kind of confusing. And I'm  
48 glad that Mike said he brings it down to a 500-foot  
49 level when you're at 30,000. And, you know, when we're  
50 saying like government-to-government also, you know,

1 that clarified it right up. I mean, I was talking  
2 about, you know, whether AFN, Western Interior, who  
3 should do that and what kind of concerns and what would  
4 even justify a consultation, between that. And so  
5 maybe she has a good point there, for us to keep that  
6 on a level, you know, maybe when they come out to  
7 villages and stuff, to explain that stuff where it's --  
8 you know, I'm glad to hear of it and everything, but  
9 it's, you know, time consuming, and it's a big learning  
10 thing.

11

12 Thank you, though.

13

14 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: We have Bureau of  
15 Land Management, National Park Service, and U.S. Fish  
16 and Wildlife Service within our region. Those duties  
17 to contact the tribes can be divided between those  
18 various agencies.

19

20 I would like to see the agencies all  
21 face-to-face contact with each tribe on a yearly basis  
22 at a strategic time when call for proposals is in  
23 place. I feel that that's a very important step. And  
24 then follow up. Each agency has subsistence staff to  
25 do follow up work. But it would be good if each tribe  
26 was contacted face-to-face. There's 229 tribes, but  
27 the workload can be divided between all the various  
28 agencies, including OSM as a part of that.

29

30 And I do see that on Page 55, step  
31 four, where the teleconferences previous to the RAC  
32 meetings decided that they were not effective. You  
33 know, there was these pre-RAC teleconferences where we  
34 participated in reviewing the proposals, you sort of  
35 have light participation.

36

37 I see that the steps would be to send  
38 public notice and the tribes participate in the RAC  
39 meetings. Is that bypassing that pre-RAC conference  
40 call?

41

42 DR. CHEN: Yes, Mr. Chair. So that was  
43 during the test driving of this policy. We thought  
44 that setting up these conference calls in all the  
45 regions would be one way to get tribes involved. And  
46 giving the timing, because we wanted the Councils to  
47 have the tribes viewpoints, official viewpoints, so  
48 that's why the teleconference would help before the RAC  
49 meetings.

50

1                   As you mentioned, Mr. Chair, there was  
2 some limited participation. That might have been a  
3 factor of lack of knowledge by the tribes involved.  
4 And where we actually did get good engagement was where  
5 Federal Staff took the time to call a tribe and say,  
6 hey, there's going to be a teleconference about  
7 subsistence regulations in your region. Please  
8 participate in this phone call. And we got those  
9 people involved more directly.

10  
11                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right. One of the  
12 issues I had with that was that those calls were  
13 actually occurring when subsistence activities were  
14 still in progress, and I had to actually take time out  
15 to actually participate. I had to take time off from  
16 sheep hunting that day to talk on that conference call.

17  
18                   I feel that this has been a move  
19 forward. That test drive went in the ditch, so I think  
20 that having conference calls during the RAC meetings  
21 for participation would be much more productive.

22  
23                   Jenny.

24  
25                   MS. PELKOLA: I think also maybe they  
26 can contact us or we can contact them. We have -- I'm  
27 sure most of the villages around our area have  
28 newsletters, and they're always looking for something  
29 to put in our newsletter, so maybe we can contact them  
30 that way,

31  
32                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: That's an excellent  
33 idea, Jenny.

34  
35                   So I think we covered this draft tribal  
36 consultation implementation guidelines pretty well.

37  
38                   One more comment there, Glenn.

39  
40                   DR. CHEN: Yes, Mr. Chair. So I was  
41 given a reminder that the person who was supposed to be  
42 giving this presentation, the OSM Native liaison, Mr.  
43 Jack Lorrigan, you met him last fall at the Holy Cross  
44 meeting. One of his specific duties is to contact  
45 tribes and work with tribes to make sure that they are  
46 informed about consultation and so forth. So he would  
47 be a key point of contact for each of the tribes.

48  
49                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I'll make one  
50 comment here. One sort of glaring thing of this

1 discussion is that these tribes are not aware of this  
2 process, and I feel that that sort of tells something.  
3 And I feel that the agencies need to be more proactive  
4 on educating. There needs to be an education process.  
5 It's very apparent. And so getting the word face-to-  
6 face time with each agency, face-to-face time with each  
7 tribe, and then implementing that through the  
8 newsletter process and the tribal council meetings and  
9 so forth, will be a big step on bringing this forward  
10 so that they know that this process is occurring.

11

12 Robert.

13

14 MR. R. WALKER: Thank you, Mr. Chen. I  
15 hope next year when we see you, I hope you'll be  
16 skipping rope. That's something that I want to remind  
17 you, don't be scared to get it done.

18

19 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Further comments.

20

21 Glenn.

22

23 DR. CHEN: Mr. Chair. I just want to  
24 extend my gratitude for being willing to listen to me  
25 about this important topic at the end of a very long  
26 and lengthy meeting. Yeah. Thank you.

27

28 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks, Glenn.

29

30 And so we've got some letters, don't  
31 we, Melinda?

32

33 MS. HERNANDEZ: Yeah. Mr. Chair. like  
34 I said yesterday, this Council does produce a lot of  
35 correspondence, and oftentimes it's written after, and  
36 not everyone has as good a connection of email and  
37 other things. So what I'd like for us to get in the  
38 habit of doing is maybe one or two of the letters that  
39 I can get down quickly at the meeting, maybe we can  
40 review those.

41

42 I do have a rough draft of the wood  
43 bison letter and also a rough draft of the letter that  
44 you folks discussed earlier about the appointments and  
45 Pete's old position. If you'd like, I can put them up  
46 on the screen and we can review those very quickly.  
47 And I think it would be a good practice for us to get  
48 into.

49

50 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I would like to do

1 that. It makes it a lot easier for the Chair. I've  
2 had to like basically help write letters and edit and  
3 so forth, but I feel more comfortable with the Regional  
4 Council looking at these drafts, and then approving  
5 them.

6

7                   Go ahead, Melinda.

8

9                   MS. HERNANDEZ: And we definitely won't  
10 be able to -- like there's no way I could have produced  
11 all of the letters that we talked about, but I think,  
12 you know, getting one or two of these out, and I think  
13 it's just a really good practice for us to get into.

14

15                   So this is the very rough draft of the  
16 letter that I have written up for the wood bison. Some  
17 of this language is a little new, some of it is taken  
18 from your 2009 letter, and some of it from the Koyukuk  
19 AC as well. I'll just start here at the top.

20

21                   The Western Interior Alaska Subsistence  
22 Advisory Council met in Galena, Alaska March 5th  
23 through 6th, 2013. The Council discussed the  
24 reintroduction of the wood bison into the Western  
25 Interior Region.

26

27

28                   The Council fully endorses the proposed  
29 10(j) rule of the Endangered Species Act to establish  
30 wood bison as a non-essential experimental population  
31 as written.

32

33                   The Council has been monitoring the  
34 efforts of ADF&G with this important restoration for  
35 some time and appreciates the diligence that the  
36 Department has shown in keeping the Council informed of  
37 the progress of this proposed reintroduction.

38

39                   The Council would also like to express  
40 appreciation to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service,  
41 Region 7, which has also been instrumental in moving  
42 this issue forward.

43

44                   We understand the skeletal remains and  
45 historical accounts show that wood bison existed in  
46 Interior Alaska and played an important role with  
47 Athabascan tribes.

48

49                   In Galena it was explained to the  
50 Council that the southwestern portion of our region in

1 the lower Innoko River Valley near the villages of  
2 Shageluk and Holy Cross is the first planned location  
3 of release. This area offers abundant high quality  
4 habitat and winter conditions favorable to wood bison.

5  
6 It is the opinion of this Council that  
7 the wood bison would be beneficial in many ways to the  
8 people of our region. Working together will allow the  
9 wood bison to return to its former range and again be  
10 part of the traditional subsistence harvest pattern,  
11 providing an additional food source that is not  
12 competitive with Alaska's current ungulates.

13  
14 The Council hopes this issue will be  
15 expedited to the highest degree as the Western Interior  
16 Region has been waiting for this introduction process  
17 for years. The Council has been, and still is, in full  
18 support of this release as expeditiously as possible.

19  
20 Thank you for the opportunity.

21  
22 It's the boilerplate closing paragraph  
23 there.

24  
25 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: That's an excellent  
26 letter, Melinda. I really appreciate your writing that  
27 and incorporating our previous letters and the advisory  
28 committee's position.

29  
30 Any comments on the letter, edits, or  
31 anything from the Council.

32  
33 MS. PELKOLA: I can't see. It was  
34 good.

35  
36 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: It's read into the  
37 record.

38  
39 MS. HERNANDEZ: Let me remind the  
40 Council, as you see the letters up here today, it isn't  
41 just my input that goes into it. Your letters also go  
42 through review among the leadership in my office. So  
43 this letter will not look exactly the same when it goes  
44 out, but we try to keep your intent intact as we do the  
45 review.

46  
47 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: That letter has the  
48 primary and explicit intent of our discussions during  
49 this meeting.

50

1                   The Chair will entertain a motion to  
2 transmit that letter to the appropriate agencies.  
3  
4                   MR. J. WALKER: I so move.  
5  
6                   MR. HONEA: I so move or second  
7 the.....  
8  
9                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: It's moved and  
10 seconded. Further discussion on the letter.  
11  
12                   (No comments)  
13  
14                   MS. PELKOLA: Question.  
15  
16                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: The question's  
17 called. Those in favor of transmitting that letter  
18 signify by saying aye.  
19  
20                   IN UNISON: Aye.  
21  
22                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Opposed same sign.  
23  
24                   (No opposing votes)  
25  
26                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: And we would cc that  
27 back to Rita and the State of Alaska also.  
28  
29                   MS. HERNANDEZ: And I've got one more.  
30 This one, forgive me, I just started this one about 15  
31 minutes ago, but I really wanted to get the Council's  
32 -- any further input on this, especially because we  
33 have Jenny and James who were both very, very late  
34 appointments this year. This is the letter we just  
35 discussed a short time ago.  
36  
37                   The Western Interior Alaska Council met  
38 -- okay. Among the issues discussed at this meeting  
39 were the very late Secretarial appointments to the  
40 Regional Subsistence Advisory Councils as well as the  
41 currently vacant assistant regional director position  
42 since the departure of Peter J. Probasco at the Office  
43 of Subsistence Management. The extremely late  
44 appointments create tremendous difficulties for  
45 individuals to plan for travel and Council commitments.  
46 Our way of life and the extreme weather common to our  
47 region are just two of the factors that make it  
48 necessary for the Council to plan well in advance for  
49 travel and activities both for personal and Council  
50 duties. Further, our support Staff needs sufficient

1 time to plan for the very complicated logistical  
2 arrangements necessary for travel to and from rural  
3 Alaskan communities.

4

5                   Prior to this most recent meeting, two  
6 of our incumbent Council members did not hear about  
7 their appointment status until less than two weeks  
8 before our scheduled gathering. This timeframe is  
9 unacceptable, and steps need to be taken so that this  
10 delay in these very important and mandated appointments  
11 does not happen again.

12

13                   The recent retirements, budget issues,  
14 sequestration, and hiring freeze have caused great  
15 concern among the Council regarding the leadership and  
16 activities of OSM. The permanent hiring of a new ARD  
17 is critical action which the Council feels needs to  
18 happen as soon as possible. This Council would be  
19 willing to correspond and provide any supporting  
20 language to make this happen despite the current hiring  
21 freeze,.

22

23                   I'd open it to Jenny and James or  
24 anyone else if you have any comments about the late  
25 appointments or anything else. This is just very, very  
26 rough.

27

28                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Go ahead,  
29 Don.

30

31                   MR. HONEA: I really appreciate that,  
32 because I'm also in the same boat. And I think, you  
33 know, I mean the least they could do is let us know. I  
34 mean, you know, maybe -- well, I guess it's probably,  
35 you know, well, you ought to know by now or something,  
36 we could have been informed and so I just appreciate  
37 that effort.

38

39                   Thank you.

40

41                   MS. HERNANDEZ: No problem. I'm sorry.

42

43                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Would the  
44 Council.....

45

46                   MR. HONEA: And I move to adopt or.....

47

48                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Well, would the  
49 Council entertain insertion of a timeframe before our  
50 Council meeting deadlines of like 45 days or something.

1 MS. HERNANDEZ: Normally it's December  
2 2nd that your seats come up, so December 2nd  
3 technically, Don Honea, you won't be a Council member  
4 any more, but if things go as scheduled, December 3rd  
5 you should know whether you're a Council member or not.  
6

7  
8 One of the things that I've requested  
9 to Kathy and David is in the future if on December 3rd  
10 you are not aware of your appointment status, I think  
11 less than a week out, I think the next day some notice  
12 needs to be sent. Some of you folks have been on this  
13 Council for a very long time. You know, your time is  
14 important. You're volunteers. You don't get paid to  
15 do this, and I feel like you need to be kept abreast of  
16 what's happening as soon as that December 3rd date  
17 comes.  
18

19 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I would suggest  
20 insertion of that into the letter, that notification  
21 shall occur by December 3rd so that Council members are  
22 aware of their appointment status.  
23

24 Ray.

25  
26 MR. COLLINS: (Indiscernible - mic not  
27 on)

28  
29 REPORTER: Ray. Ray.  
30

31 MR. COLLINS: If an appointment is not  
32 filled in a timely manner, is that member still  
33 recognized until replaced, or is he automatically out  
34 in December. In some appointments we have, if there's  
35 no filling-in, then that member continues until  
36 replaced.  
37

38 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: The Subsistence  
39 Resource Commission members are serve until their  
40 reappointed or relieved. But under the Regional  
41 Councils it's considerably different.  
42

43 MS. HERNANDEZ: And that's made even  
44 more complicated by all of the travel. In order for me  
45 to get James here, I had to produce a travel  
46 authorization code for him. Well, until I knew if  
47 James was going to be a member or not, I could not  
48 produce the work. The charter that I requested for,  
49 it was supposed to be for James, Robert and Ray. James  
50 ended up taking the flight, but, for example, I should

1 have put that request in for that charter flight months  
2 ago. I was still working on that charter flight the  
3 Friday before I came here. so I should have been  
4 putting the finishing touches on a lot of other things;  
5 instead I was still there at the office dealing with  
6 travel, which, as, you know, you folks know, I really  
7 like to take care of that stuff very early. So it  
8 really throws off the work that I should be doing, that  
9 the Council coordinator should be doing when something  
10 as simple as travel should be taken care of with a  
11 timely appointment.

12  
13 So I cannot -- so in answer to your  
14 question, Mr. Collins, no, I cannot treat you as a  
15 Council member for travel, logistical until I know the  
16 appointment status. So it made it very difficult this  
17 year.

18  
19 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I think that that  
20 clarification of December 3rd notification is an  
21 integral part of this letter.

22  
23 Any further comments or insertions into  
24 this letter.

25  
26 (No comments)

27  
28  
29 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So you made a motion  
30 to adopt the letter as modified, Don.

31  
32 MR. HONEA: Yeah. Correct.

33  
34 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: And do I have a  
35 second.

36  
37 MR. SIMON: Second.

38  
39 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Seconded by Pollock.  
40 Further discussion on that letter.

41  
42 (No comments)

43  
44 MR. SIMON: Question.

45  
46 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Question's called.  
47 Those in favor of that letter transmittal signify by  
48 saying aye.

49  
50 IN UNISON: Aye.

1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Opposed same sign.

2

3 (No opposing votes)

4

5 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Appreciate you  
6 developing those letter during this meeting, and also  
7 helping coordinate, keeping me on track. I appreciate  
8 that, Melinda.

9

10 MS. HERNANDEZ: And I also want to send  
11 out some kudos to Mr. Pat Pourchot. As we experienced  
12 this delay, Pat was really instrumental in keeping on  
13 Washington and he really helped us a lot in finally  
14 getting these appointments out. So I just really  
15 wanted to send out some kudos to Pat Pourchot. He made  
16 a great presentation in McGrath. He was very engaged  
17 and Pat just still continues to still continues to show  
18 his qualities. So I really appreciated that.

19

20 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I also appreciate  
21 that he's worked with the Secretary of Interior's  
22 office implementing this directive from the Secretary  
23 of Interior on the Federal Subsistence Management  
24 Program. And so I really appreciate all that Pat's  
25 done to better the subsistence program in Alaska.

26

27 And we're coming down on the end of the  
28 meeting here. Melinda.

29

30 MS. HERNANDEZ: Mr. Chair. I have  
31 checked off all of our agenda items. Unless there's  
32 something I've missed, I see us now at the very end  
33 with closing comments and adjournment, unless somebody  
34 else had something.

35

36 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I would like closing  
37 comments. Don.

38

39 MR. HONEA: Can we start with Robert

40

41 (Laughter)

42

43 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Or we can start with  
44 -- we started with Robert at the beginning of the  
45 meeting, so it's.....

46

47 (Laughter)

48

49 MS. HERNANDEZ: I'll start with that  
50 Jack.

1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay.

2

3 MS. HERNANDEZ: I just really want to  
4 -- Jenny, thank you so much for the great welcome we've  
5 had here, all the wonderful food we've had, and for our  
6 willingness to prepare all of this, even though you  
7 were unaware of your status as a Council member. I  
8 really appreciate it, and we've had a really great  
9 welcome here in Galena. And thank you so much for all  
10 of that.

11

12 And thanks for the public outshowing,  
13 too. I think we had a really good meeting. And as  
14 usual I appreciate all the hard work of the Council  
15 here and in between our meetings when we're drafting  
16 correspondence.

17

18 And so thank you so much to Galena,  
19 Jeremy Havener, all the Staff.

20

21 Thank you so much.

22

23 And my court reporter as well.

24

25 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Well, we can't live  
26 without Salena. Melinda and Salena. This Council  
27 would crumble if we didn't have them.

28

29 Don.

30

31 MR. HONEA: Okay. Do I turn this on?

32

33 (Laughter)

34

35 MR. HONEA: Well, I turned it on.  
36 Well, I always enjoy coming down here. I thought there  
37 would be more participation in some of the local guys  
38 that could be very vocal about fishing and stuff. I  
39 didn't see them at the meeting, but I enjoyed it.

40

41 And since you said December 3rd is my  
42 last day, I'm going -- now that I know that it's coming  
43 up.

44

45 But I think, you know, every time we  
46 come to these things, it's a learning experience, and I  
47 kind of like some of the things that, you know, maybe  
48 we could bring back at a local level.

49

50 And I want to thank my cousin Jenny for

1 the great dinner we had at her house last night. The  
2 hospitality. And, you know, where we stayed there is  
3 good accommodations. And I had a good ride and a good  
4 time down here. And I'll see you guys in the fall.

5  
6 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks a lot, Don.

7  
8 Pollock.

9  
10 MR. SIMON: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

11  
12 I also enjoyed coming down here. We  
13 had a lot of food to eat, and good accommodations, and  
14 good hospitality. So I always like coming down here.

15  
16 I hope I get back on the Board again.  
17 My term is up this year. I filled out an application  
18 again. You are wonderful Board members to work with,  
19 so you're all excellent. So working together we can  
20 move forward.

21  
22 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

23  
24 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks for those  
25 kind words, Pollock.

26  
27 James.

28  
29 MR. J. WALKER: Yes. Thanks, Mr.  
30 Chair.

31  
32 I'd like to thank the Staff and all the  
33 people of Galena that put on this great dinners and  
34 lunches for us. I would also like to thank Jenny for  
35 inviting us to her home. That was very nice. I'd like  
36 to thank Melinda for giving me such explicit directions  
37 at the Fairbanks International Airport to catch a plane  
38 to get to this location.

39  
40 And although I didn't make the last  
41 meeting in Holy Cross, I'm really glad to be at this  
42 one. It kind of brought me up a little bit to speed.  
43 And I like the interacting and trying to help  
44 individuals and communities in he area.

45  
46 Thank you.

47  
48 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks, James.

49  
50 Ray.

1 MR. COLLINS: Yeah. It's been a good  
2 meeting.

3  
4 And thank you, Jenny. I appreciate  
5 your hospitality, and the and the accommodations were  
6 good and the meals have been good. And so I want to  
7 thank the community for that.

8  
9 Our letter ont that bison brought up a  
10 thought there that, you know, we're talking about the  
11 benefit to the whole area. Some of you in the local  
12 communities need to seriously think about the time if  
13 it is introduced, when they start hunting that, there's  
14 one of the fellows at Nicolai that has a camp out there  
15 that he rents out during the season. But I can  
16 guarantee that if that is hunted, outside people are  
17 going to need local accommodations. And if somebody  
18 there gets a guide license or thinks in terms of  
19 keeping track and having a camp available, they're not  
20 going to take that 2,000 pounds of meat back to down.  
21 And if have direct accommodations, some of that meat  
22 would go to the community, even if you don't get a  
23 local permit. But be proactive and be thinking ahead  
24 about that, of somebody getting a license to take those  
25 hunters out when it comes to that point. Because if  
26 you don't somebody else is going to set up and do it  
27 and you won't get the benefit out of it as if you're  
28 ahead. So just a thought to take home and be thinking  
29 about.

30  
31 Thank you.

32  
33 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks, Ray.

34  
35 Jenny.

36  
37 MS. PELKOLA: Now I know what a sardine  
38 is talking about, it looks like we were sardines in a  
39 can.

40  
41 (Laughter)

42  
43 MS. PELKOLA: Oh. Now I know what a  
44 sardine feels like. We were like sardines last night  
45 at my house. So, closeness.

46  
47 MS. HERNANDEZ: Cozy.

48  
49 MS. PELKOLA: But I have a couple, a  
50 few comments. I know there's no ADF&G here, but

1 hunting license. Local people are concerned about  
2 that. I forgot to bring that up earlier. They have to  
3 go all the way up to 15 miles up -- well, about 27  
4 miles from here to Koyukuk, plus another 15 up the  
5 Koyukuk River to get their fishing license. And many  
6 of them are -- I mean, that's just a wasted trip, you  
7 know. So I was wondering if there was a way to become  
8 a vendor, or who can we contact. And I don't think  
9 there's any State people here.

10

11 But to continue on, I just want to  
12 thank all the staff here from the Galena office. It  
13 was good to see all of you here. I think they all got  
14 to be at the meeting one time or another, which when we  
15 go to other places, I don't see them all together.

16

17 And I just learned that Jeremy Stiler  
18 was outreach worker. Outreach and education person.

19

20 Also, when we hear the reports, some of  
21 them were a little bit long. Of course, I just like  
22 things right to the point. And I'd like see some  
23 graphs, because they're saying this and saying that,  
24 but I'm a visual person, so I like to see graphs.

25

26 I'd like to mention that the fundraiser  
27 was sponsored by the Galena Young Life, and I think  
28 she's here again with her dinner for us.

29

30 And also I think it was Don's earlier  
31 comments when we first started. We miss the other  
32 Council members when they're not here, because I know  
33 Carl is very outspoken, and, you know, he speaks up for  
34 his area. And Tim, you know, we miss Tim, too. And  
35 Eleanor was sick.

36

37 But it was good to see everyone again,  
38 and you're welcome back to Galena whenever, a couple  
39 more years.

40

41 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks, Jenny.

42

43 Robert.

44

45 MS. PELKOLA: You awake?

46

47 (Laughter)

48

49 MR. R. WALKER: Yeah. Thank the Staff  
50 here and the Board. And especially Jenny here for the

1 dinner here and coordinating the lunches. And I think  
2 the activities, too. And, Tina, even had the greatest  
3 sauce I ever had. I mean, these guys went for seconds  
4 and thirds. It was unbelievable sauce. I mean, do you  
5 have a secret recipe that you could be on -- next year  
6 put on the front there or something.

7

8 (Laughter)

9

10 MR. R. WALKER: It seems like it just  
11 fell into place here. Everybody was kind of like  
12 clicking right along. And, you know, if you have a  
13 good coordinator, it really shows that when you're  
14 moving your schedule, like, Jack, Jack, come on, Jack.  
15 So, yeah, this is what makes it go. You know, we've  
16 got four minutes, now you've got three minutes after,  
17 come on, Jack.

18

19 (Laughter)

20

21 MR. R. WALKER: Thanks a lot, guys.  
22 Thanks, Galena.

23

24 Thank you.

25

26 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So my closing  
27 comments would be I really appreciate all of what Jenny  
28 did to make this meeting possible, and, of course,  
29 Melinda and Salena behind the scenes are really  
30 instrumental in all of our meetings wherever we go.  
31 And I want to express my thanks to both you ladies  
32 also.

33

34 I do appreciate people from Galena  
35 coming and participating. It was a real privilege to  
36 have Sidney come and speak to us. And there could have  
37 been more people come up to the mic, but I talked to  
38 people in the back of the room. They seem to be  
39 comfortable with what they're doing, so I think that's  
40 probably one of the reasons why they weren't up here at  
41 the mic.

42

43 And the people on the conference call,  
44 I really appreciate -- I've been on the end of that  
45 phone so you're this faceless person and it's easy to  
46 be forgotten. And I always want to try and remind  
47 myself to talk about the people on the call.

48

49 Also then the State's participation,  
50 providing data there. Jim Woolington coming up here to

1 present that caribou data, that's -- we're living in a  
2 black hole with what's going on with Mulchatna Caribou  
3 Herd, and some of these caribou population. This  
4 Council has sort of neglected caribou, and I feel that  
5 we have to be more proactive in caribou management for  
6 subsistence uses.

7

8                   And I appreciate all of the Refuge, BLM  
9 and Park Service Staff's input into this meeting, and  
10 all of the hard work that the agencies do throughout  
11 the whole year. And so I feel that this is a very  
12 strong Council, and hopefully at our next meeting we'll  
13 have full participation again. And it's like a dog  
14 team. You've got nine dogs in line, or 10 dogs on the  
15 gangline, and you're down to six, you feel it. And so  
16 you've got to run up hill, each Council member's got to  
17 work a little harder to make up. And so I think our  
18 letter will help bring these agencies in Washington  
19 around to -- the Interior Department on making these  
20 appointments in a timely manner, and a strong OSM is  
21 going to help these Councils and their subsistence  
22 resources.

23

24                   So with that, the Chair will entertain  
25 a motion for adjournment. You've got a comment there?

26

27                   SEVERAL: So moved.

28

29                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: You've got a  
30 comment, Pollock.

31

32                   MR. SIMON: Jack, I want to  
33 congratulate you. It's not even five yet and we've the  
34 meeting first time.

35

36                   (Laughter)

37

38                   MR. SIMON: So congratulations. You're  
39 doing better now.

40

41                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yeah, I'm doing  
42 better. We had a lot of commenters over there in Holy  
43 Cross though the last times.

44

45                   We've got one minute to go. There  
46 Chair will entertain a motion to adjourn the meeting.

47

48                   SEVERAL: So moved.

49

50                   MS. PELKOLA: So move. Second.

1                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Moved and seconded.  
2 Those in favor of adjournment signify by saying aye.

3

4                   IN UNISON: Aye.

5

6                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I would like to get  
7 a photo of the whole Council with my camera here. We  
8 haven't had a picture of our Council for a while. So  
9 if I could somebody to take that photo, I'd appreciate  
10 it.

11

12                   (Off record)

13

14

15                   (END OF PROCEEDINGS)

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C E R T I F I C A T E

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 )ss.  
STATE OF ALASKA )

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\_\_\_\_\_  
Salena A. Hile  
Notary Public, State of Alaska  
My Commission Expires: 9/16/14