

1 WESTERN INTERIOR ALASKA FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE
2 REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING

3
4 PUBLIC MEETING

5
6
7 VOLUME I

8
9 Fairbanks, Alaska
10 November 6, 2013
11 1:00 p.m.

12
13
14 COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

15
16 Jack Reakoff, Chairman
17 Timothy Gervais
18 Donald Honea
19 Pollock Simon

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24 Regional Council Coordinator, Melinda Burke

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P R O C E E D I N G S

(Fairbanks, Alaska - 11/6/2013)

(On record)

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So we're going to bring this Western Interior Regional Council meeting to order. The time is 1:00 o'clock. Since our secretary Jenny is absent, excused, I'll call the roll. And the -- let's see, it's right back here.

So Robert Walker is recovering -- correction, Robert Walker and Eleanor are at a committed long ago school board meeting in Anchorage and so Eleanor Yatlin and Robert Walker are excused.

Don Honea.

MR. HONEA: Here.

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Pollock Simon.

MR. SIMON: Here.

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Ray Collins is on a family trip to Australia.

Jack Reakoff, myself, is here.

Eleanor is at the school board meeting.

Timothy Gervais.

MR. GERVAIS: Here.

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: James Walker is recovering from a major surgery.

Jenny is at another meeting.

Carl Morgan fell ill earlier this week and we hope he's improving.

So I should read this into the record.

Unfortunately, due to rescheduling of this meeting and previous commitments and recent illnesses, we'll most likely not have enough members for a quorum. The members who are able to be present

1 today will still want to proceed. We can still get
2 through reports, updates and informational sharing
3 portions of our agenda. It is also important for us to
4 proceed because of the public hearing set for tomorrow
5 evening on the rural determination issue. It's
6 important for the people of our region to have the
7 opportunity to comment on this issue and receive more
8 information during the presentation.

9

10 We can also set up a one-day
11 teleconference towards the end of the month when
12 hopefully a quorum can be established so we can vote on
13 action items. So that's kind of a problem, but
14 Congress played us a hand and we've got to deal with
15 it.

16

17 Do we have anybody here to give the
18 invocation? Ray typically does the invocation. I
19 don't see anybody that might do that. So we'll go on
20 to welcome and introduction. I would like to go around
21 the room and introduce our Staff. I'll start here with
22 Melinda, our coordinator. Go ahead, Melinda.

23

24 MS. BURKE: My name is Melinda Burke.
25 I work for the Office of Subsistence Management. I'm
26 the Council's coordinator.

27

28 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Then Salena.

29

30 REPORTER: My name is Salena. I'm the
31 court reporter for this Council.

32

33 MR. SPINDLER: Mike Spindler, Refuge
34 Manager, Kanuti Wildlife Refuge.

35

36 MR. JENKINS: Wayne Jenkins, new deputy
37 director of the Yukon River Drainage Fisheries
38 Association.

39

40 MR. HEIMER: I'm Wayne Heimer. I'm
41 just a person.

42

43 MS. JULIANUS: Erin Julianus, BLM
44 wildlife biologist for the Central Yukon Field Office.

45

46 MR. SUMMERS: Clarence Summers,
47 National Park Service, Alaska Regional Office.

48

49 MR. MATESI: Joe Matesi, Alaskan.

50

1 DR. JENKINS: Good morning. My name is
2 David Jenkins. I'm policy coordinator for the Office
3 of Subsistence Management.

4
5 MR. SCOTTON: I'm Brad Scotton and I'm
6 a supervisor wildlife biologist at the Koyukuk/Nowitna
7 National Wildlife Refuge in Galena.

8
9 SAM: Hello. Sam Huti (ph). I'm just
10 sitting in. I want to listen.

11
12 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Standing in the back
13 of the room there.

14
15 MR. HARPER: Ken Harper with the Kenai
16 Fish and Wildlife Field Office, fishery biologist.

17
18 MR. HILL: My name is Jerry Hill. I'm
19 a wildlife biologist for the Innoko National Wildlife
20 Refuge in McGrath.

21
22 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I'll skip back.

23
24 MR. PELTOLA: Gene Peltola, Jr. I'm
25 the Assistant Regional Director for the Office of
26 Subsistence Management.

27
28 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Welcome, Gene.
29 Stanley.

30
31 MR. NED: Stanley Ned, Allakaket,
32 Fairbanks.

33
34 MS. MCMILLAN: Jennifer McMillan,
35 ecologist, BLM, Central Yukon Field Office.

36
37 MR. FOX: Trevor Fox. I'm a wildlife
38 biologist with the Office of Subsistence Management.

39
40 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thank you. I
41 appreciate you attending the meeting.

42
43 Review and adoption of the agenda.

44
45 Can we vote on that, Melinda.

46
47 MS. BURKE: I guess we can't.

48
49 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. We'll just
50 move through the agenda since we don't have a quorum,

1 so we can't take voting actions, so we'll just continue
2 with this agenda.

3
4 MS. BURKE: I have a couple of changes
5 though if that's okay.

6
7 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Sure. Go ahead,
8 Melinda.

9
10 MS. BURKE: We have a couple changes to
11 make as far as personnel that's here in the room. On
12 item I, number 11, instead of Catherine Moncrieff we
13 have Wayne Jenkins here representing YRDFA, so that's
14 one change. Instead of Chuck Ardizzone we have David
15 Jenkins here as the OSM representative. We will also
16 try to get Polly Wheeler on the line sometime tomorrow
17 morning to discuss recent refuge changes. We're not
18 time certain on that, but we're hoping to have her on
19 the line sometime tomorrow morning.

20
21 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. And so review
22 and approval of previous minutes. We can't adopt
23 those, so we'll move past that.

24
25 Council member reports, SRC and AC
26 updates. Pollock Simon and I just attended the Gates
27 of the Arctic Subsistence Resource Commission meeting
28 that was held yesterday through 12:00 o'clock this
29 afternoon at the Gates of the Arctic Office over on
30 Geist Road.

31
32 Some of the issues that ate up most of
33 the time at that meeting was the Ambler Road Project.
34 That was a huge concern of various people on the
35 Subsistence Resource Commission. The enabling
36 legislation for ANILCA allows a road corridor through
37 the lower portion of the Gates of the Arctic National
38 Park and Preserve so the preserve portion has a routing
39 through it. The Park Service -- the State hasn't filed
40 a permit application, so they're sort of bantering
41 around different avenues through that area. An access
42 route into the Kobuk River.

43
44 Commission members have concerns that
45 AIDEA claims that that road is going to be closed to
46 the public, it will be an industrial road, they will
47 seek funding for that road, but the reality is that's
48 what the Haul Road was. The Haul Road was a road built
49 by the oil companies to facilitate construction of the
50 Trans-Alaska Pipeline and after State -- the road was

1 given to the State of Alaska in 1978 and by 1982 the
2 road was open to the public north up into the lower
3 Dietrich River.

4
5 These kind of things -- if one dollar
6 of Federal or State money is spent, the public can
7 demand to open the road, so that opens a whole quandary
8 of management issues that the Subsistence Resource
9 Commission would be concerned about. It was said
10 multiple times during our meeting that the people of
11 the Kobuk are concerned about food security. They rely
12 heavily on subsistence. Gasoline is 10.47 a gallon in
13 Ambler and so there's huge concerns about the
14 migrations of the Western Arctic Caribou Herd,
15 Teshekpuk and Central Arctic Caribou.

16
17 That was a big issue, so we're going to
18 continue -- oh, Charlie.

19
20 MR. BROWER: Hello, Jack.

21
22 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Charlie Brower back
23 there, one of the Subsistence Board members. Used to
24 be on the Gates of the Arctic Subsistence Resource
25 Commission also, which we are talking about right now.
26 Another issue was the Resource Management Plan for the
27 BLM and issues with that. At some point we'll cover
28 that issue during this meeting.

29
30 Generally, the Subsistence Resource
31 Commission advises the Secretary of Interior on hunting
32 plan recommendations and so we went over a previous
33 hunting plan recommendation 10-01, which this Council
34 adopted back in March 2010 and the Park Service
35 submitted a final letter to the Subsistence Resource
36 Commission. The objective is to work with the State and
37 Federal agencies on developing management guidelines
38 for sustainability under ANILCA law. ANILCA requires
39 under ANILCA specific language that healthy populations
40 shall be maintained using recognized scientific
41 principals.

42
43 So the Commission felt that recognized
44 scientific principals should be implemented and those
45 would be management plans that the State of Alaska uses
46 all over Alaska, which is bull/cow ratios and various
47 composition ratios and adhering to those management
48 plans. That has not always occurred within this region
49 under State management. There may be a plan, but
50 whether the Board of Game maintains those management

1 guidelines, that's a different issue.

2

3 So we feel -- I feel particularly that
4 management plans are a necessary part of scientific
5 management of resource, so we adopted that letter from
6 the Superintendent of the Gates of the Arctic National
7 Park. So it was a real productive meeting. You know,
8 there's other issues with per diem and how to get per
9 diem in a timely manner to the SRC members. Various
10 issues that this Council would also have dealt with.
11 So that's the SRC portion.

12

13 Did you have anything to add to that,
14 Pollock? Pollock is the chair of the Gates of the
15 Arctic Subsistence Resource Commission.

16

17 Go ahead, Pollock.

18

19 Any other additions to the SRC meeting.

20

21 MR. SIMON: This meeting was supposed
22 to be last month, but it had to be rescheduled because
23 of government shutdown. Fish and Wildlife closed their
24 doors. National Park closed their doors. The National
25 Park meeting is for 5th and 6th, but we have to cut
26 half day off today to be at this meeting because it was
27 rescheduled. So that government shutdown kind of hurt
28 our meeting schedule. See some of the board members
29 was supposed to come to this meeting. They have other
30 meetings to go to, so they're not here and we don't
31 have a quorum today. There's only four of us. So that
32 was because of rescheduling of meeting. Like every
33 month there's a meeting. It's spread out so that
34 everybody could come, but with the government shutdown
35 things are different. Meetings had to be rescheduled
36 in two weeks, so we have to cut half day off other
37 meeting and we're here and still no quorum.

38

39 Thank you all for coming anyway.

40

41 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks, Pollock. I
42 know the Advisory Committee portion, we don't have Ray
43 Collins from the Denali Subsistence Resource
44 Commission, but we do have Clarence Summers who gave us
45 an update on -- they couldn't meet. Do you want to
46 give us a status on the Denali portion, Clarence. Come
47 to the mic. Ray Collins typically gives the Council an
48 update on what Denali has been doing. Just a briefing
49 of when they met last, a brief statement.

50

1 MR. SUMMERS: Certainly. Mr. Chairman
2 and Council members. Clarence Summers, National Park
3 Service. I've got a written report and if you give me
4 a minute, I could return with it if you'd like to hear
5 it a little later. For now, let me say that Denali had
6 a commission meeting planned for October -- I believe
7 it was 5th, but it was postponed due to the shutdown of
8 the government and they planned to reschedule in the
9 near future. We thought we could pull together a
10 quorum for I think this coming Friday, but
11 unfortunately that meeting has been postponed, so we're
12 rescheduling that.

13

14 I know there's one proposal. I believe
15 it's Proposal 31 that's key to the commission. There's
16 been a request to postpone discussion until the return
17 of at least Ray Collins. He's out of state at this
18 time. Our commission plans to meet and hopefully by
19 your next meeting, your winter meeting, we will have
20 met and have at least an update on the commission's
21 position that they submitted.

22

23 I'll stop with that.

24

25 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks, Clarence.
26 That's what I wanted to hear and the status of the
27 Denali Commission's point because of the government
28 shutdown. We were real short on quorum at the Gates of
29 the Arctic Subsistence Resource Commission also.

30

31 Thank you.

32

33 MR. GERVAIS: Can I.....

34

35 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, Tim.

36

37 MR. GERVAIS: Thank you, Chairman
38 Reakoff. I don't know if it's the correct time to go
39 into this right now, but I was talking to a member of
40 the Ruby tribe yesterday and they were talking about a
41 letter they had received from the State of Alaska and
42 there was some kind of -- I was just looking for the
43 letter. I think I left it in my room. Some kind of
44 issue or conflict arising between State of Alaska and
45 the National Park Service regarding National Park
46 Service wanting to -- I'm trying to remember the
47 wording they used, preempting hunting regulations. I
48 was wondering if you guys had any conversation about
49 that, Clarence, in that Denali SRC meeting.

50

1 MR. SUMMERS: Several weeks ago --
2 well, it's been a topic of discussion, our compendium
3 regulation process. At several meetings ago the
4 Commission came out in support of Park Service efforts
5 to establish regulations affecting brown bear baiting
6 and this was a Board of Game action that affected
7 National Preserve Lands and the Commission drafted a
8 resolution, a motion passed in support of efforts by
9 the National Park Service to prohibit that in our
10 National Preserves. I think that's what you're making
11 reference to.

12
13 There's been quite a bit of discussion
14 around the state about the ongoing efforts by the Park
15 Service to address resource concerns through our
16 compendium program. I think that's what you're
17 referring to.

18
19 MR. GERVAIS: Yeah. Okay. So the
20 current status of the conversation is the SRCs are
21 supporting the National Park Service or National
22 Preserves stances on preempting the State regs?

23
24 MR. SUMMERS: The Denali National Park
25 Subsistence Resource Commission passed a motion in
26 support of efforts for Park lands within Denali
27 National Park and Preserve. So that's -- at least the
28 commission within your region that's in support of
29 actions taken by NPS to develop regulations.

30
31 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I want to rewind
32 this for the edification of the Council. Do you want
33 to give a brief outline of what the compendium process
34 is, how these superintendents develop one of those,
35 real briefly. I think it's unclear. This Council
36 hasn't dealt with Park issues that much and I think it
37 would be good because the Subsistence Resource
38 Commissions feed through the Regional Council process
39 to the Federal Subsistence Board. The SRCs to the
40 Parks are part of this Federal program, so I would like
41 -- the Board of Game has passed regulations, like black
42 bear denning was one of them, in Preserve areas where
43 there's basically non-subsistence use and the Park
44 Service has taken exception to certain regulations that
45 they feel would violate Park principals, so they've
46 come out with this compendium process.

47
48 I would like Clarence to have a brief
49 explanation of that, how the Park Service is preempting
50 State regulations. Go ahead, Clarence.

1 MR. SUMMERS: Certainly. The Park
2 Service has the authority to address concerns within a
3 Park unit through our compendium process. It's an
4 annual event where we, through recommendations from the
5 Park Superintendent, we consider the concerns and
6 through the regulatory process we have an authority to
7 establish regulations that are in effect and currently
8 I believe there's a cycle where there's input from the
9 public.

10
11 There's a website that's available for
12 public review that contains the compendium regulations
13 that are in effect for each Park unit that you can
14 visit and it gives at least the background on the
15 authority for this.

16
17 Simply put, it's within the purview of
18 the superintendent to establish regulations on an
19 annual basis through the compendium program. Like I
20 said, it's a public process and these regulations are
21 in effect for the 12-month period. Each year the Park
22 Service revisits the regulations that are in place and
23 there's an opportunity to continue them.

24
25 The scenario that's currently before us
26 dealing with brown bear, there's ongoing concern to
27 keep these regulations in place until such time that we
28 can promulgate more permanent regulations through the
29 Federal rulemaking process.

30
31 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: That's a good
32 outline of that process. Does that answer your
33 question, Tim?

34
35 MR. GERVAIS: Yes, thank you.

36
37 MR. SUMMERS: Certainly.

38
39 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Any other questions
40 on Subsistence Resource Commission business at this
41 time.

42
43 (No comments)

44
45
46 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Not at this time,
47 none. So we'll move into Advisory Committee reports.
48 The Koyukuk River Advisory Committee met on October 5th
49 here in Fairbanks. The Advisory Committee reviewed
50 various proposals and one of those proposals that would

1 affect was the redundant proposal, which is WP14-29,
2 which removes the expiration date for the winter hunt
3 in GMU 24. Since I wrote the proposal, I failed to
4 include the rest of the hunt area, which was in 24C and
5 so the Advisory Committee amended that to include 24C.
6 At the SRC meeting we just had we also amended that
7 language to maintain that hunt area.

8

9 We also addressed -- what's the sheep
10 proposal for 24A, Trevor?

11

12 MR. FOX: 30.

13

14 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Oh, yeah, WP14-30
15 for Unit 24A. The Advisory Committee also adopted that
16 Federal proposal. Those were the two Federal proposals
17 that the Advisory Committee visited and also a
18 redundant proposal on the State side that would also
19 eliminate the sunset period for the winter hunt, which
20 is December 15 to April 15 for one bull for a described
21 area within GMU 24B and 24C.

22

23 It was a five-hour meeting here in
24 Fairbanks. We went through a lot of proposals, but all
25 of those were primarily State proposals. Mike Spindler
26 was at that meeting also and gave us an update. At
27 that time the government had just shut down and Mike
28 was the only one available from his office. Did you
29 have any additional input into that discussion?

30

31 MR. SPINDLER: No. I can cover it
32 during the committee report.

33

34 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. So that's the
35 Koyukuk River Advisory Committee. Did the Ruby
36 Advisory Committee meet, Tim?

37

38 MR. GERVAIS: No. They're going to be
39 meeting at the end of November.

40

41 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Ray Collins
42 deals with the McGrath Advisory Committee, so I don't
43 know what happened there. The
44 Chair's report.

45

46 MS. BURKE: Do you want to do the
47 Council member reports first?

48

49 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Oh, Council member
50 reports. Excuse me. Yes, Council member reports. So

1 we'll go around the table here. Go ahead, Tim. You're
2 down on the end there. You look anxious to talk.

3

4 (Laughter)

5

6 MR. GERVAIS: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
7 The most significant issue that we're facing in the
8 Ruby area is the continuation of the king salmon
9 shortage where for this season the general consensus
10 was most households harvested about one third of the
11 normal amount of king salmon that they would have liked
12 to harvest or, you know, based on what the harvests
13 were back before 1998 when we started getting shortages
14 on king salmon.

15

16 I'd like this Council to stay active in
17 trying to seek solutions through YRDFA and more
18 significant dialogue going with the North Pacific
19 Management Council to see what we can do to improve the
20 status of the salmon population. We're all pretty
21 aware that the in-river user groups have kind of
22 exhausted their modifications they can do to their
23 fishing style to try to help out with the volume of the
24 runs and it's becoming apparent or it was somewhat
25 apparent when it was built or put together that the
26 amendment -- I can't remember if it was Amendment 91 or
27 Amendment 61 the North Pacific Management Council put
28 together with the bycatch hard caps for the pollock
29 fleet.

30

31 Those are all based on historic, more
32 normal king salmon populations. Now that we have
33 reduced capacity, those hardcap levels are not very
34 effective at rebuilding the stock because now with less
35 king salmon around there's less bycatch around because
36 there's just less -- a smaller population of king
37 salmon swimming around. I think that's one specific
38 area we can have some dialogue with North Pacific
39 Management Council saying that the management needs to
40 be adjusted somehow to reflect the lower population
41 level of the salmon.

42

43 The people in our region did fine with
44 catching silver salmon and chum salmon to substitute
45 for the king salmon. One of the big issues is the king
46 salmon is probably -- not probably, is our highest
47 quality subsistence food with its oil levels. Although
48 you can get calories and substance from other
49 whitefish, sheefish, burbot, the chums and the silvers,
50 there's a lot of stuff in a king salmon that's

1 important for the general nutrition, Vitamin D levels
2 and the proper calories for being able to have a good
3 winter, being active and keeping yourself warm.

4
5 I'd like the Council to keep working on
6 the king salmon issue even though we're having trouble
7 with it. I notice when we got a letter back from the
8 Federal Subsistence Board regarding the king salmon
9 issue they were saying that they can't -- their
10 response is it's not within the Board's scope or
11 authority or responsibility to advocate or request
12 changes to laws passed by Congress. I'd like to get
13 some ideas from other members of the Council or the
14 support organizations.

15
16 I mean I've been reading letters this
17 spring and summer where companies that are active in
18 the pollock fishery are testifying directly to Congress
19 regarding that salmon shouldn't even receive any
20 protection in the EEZ or the Federal waters because
21 they're not born there and they don't spawn there.
22 They're only there for some portion of their life and
23 it's like the legal affairs officer for Trident
24 Seafoods has access to whatever those congressional --
25 they're not even subcommittees. They're congressional
26 resource committees that are listening to that kind of
27 testimony and then it seems like this Council or the
28 Federal Subsistence Board isn't allowed that kind of
29 access to communicate our concerns and issues regarding
30 that same exact topic. Hopefully we can make some
31 progress that way so we can get some good
32 representation to the lawmakers about what's going on
33 regarding the salmon.

34
35 Regarding moose, we had -- it was
36 pretty warm and wet during the standard State moose
37 season and there was quite a few hunters in Ruby that
38 were able to harvest their moose on the Federal season
39 and also the State extension season that was put in,
40 that Glenn had allowed through Jenny's request and that
41 proved real helpful. We moved our moose harvest from
42 about half of what it should have been up to about 75
43 percent of what it should have been, so that was pretty
44 significant to have access to those other seasons.

45
46 Later, when we're looking at State
47 proposals, I wanted to bring up one that was written by
48 a fellow from Ruby and it's through some new -- I'm
49 sorry, I don't remember the name right off the bat, but
50 Alaska Food Council type issue. What they're trying to

1 get is some kind of regulation where in times of
2 emergency there can be harvest allocation to all the
3 different communities based on population and that's in
4 a situation where the moose is harvested and then it
5 has to, by that regulation, be distributed equally
6 amongst the community and not just go to those
7 particular families that happened to harvest the moose.
8 So it's more of a -- will be designated just as a
9 communal hunt. So we can look at that proposal or just
10 be aware that those kind of things are entering the
11 discussion.

12

13 That's about it for right now.

14

15 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks a lot, Tim.
16 I'm also concerned about the king salmon run myself.
17 That's a huge issue.

18

19 Pollock

20

21 MR. SIMON: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I'd
22 like to talk about the salmon a little bit. We only
23 caught two jack kings, that was it, but there was
24 plenty of chum salmon. But elders don't need too much
25 rich food anyway, so it was -- the elders like that
26 chum salmon. I wanted to comment on the bycatch out in
27 the sea. You know, we've been talking about that for
28 years. They throw away some fish out in the sea when
29 we in the villages sometimes, most of the times there's
30 shortage on fish. It's hard to believe that bycatch is
31 thrown back out in the sea. What we're catching along
32 the river is a drop in the bucket according to how much
33 is thrown away in the high seas. If somehow that fish
34 could be distributed to the Interior villages, we'd all
35 be happy.

36

37 The weather has a lot of affect on our
38 subsistence way of life. It's the first time in over
39 seven years I lived in Allakaket that November 1st I
40 see the river was still open. There was slush ice, but
41 it was still running. Then the river too, it started
42 freeze over. I guess you can call that global warming
43 in effect.

44

45 It also affects the wildlife resource.
46 The moose is in the east starting August and they come
47 down when there's a little frost. They come down to
48 the river and eat river willows. They didn't come down
49 to the river this time. It's so warm they keep staying
50 in the hills. The people of Allakaket and Alatna

1 didn't get all the meet they wanted, but like always
2 some family members get moose and it's always shared
3 with other family members. We didn't fill our freezer,
4 but we got a little bit of meat anyway.

5
6 The warm weather has a lot of effect.
7 It also affects travel. The State Advisory Board
8 meeting was last month. I'm a member of that too. So
9 what happened -- I don't know why that is set -- you
10 come in in the morning and hurry to the meeting and
11 come as soon as you can, but the morning flight was
12 fogged in and kind of wet snow, so the morning flight I
13 missed it and they told me to call them back a couple
14 hours later and said don't bother coming. This meeting
15 is going to be over by the time you come in anyway.
16 The next flight was 2:00 in the afternoon. So the
17 weather has a lot of effect on our way of life.

18
19 We're going into the second year of
20 predator control. They got 40-some wolves last winter,
21 so I believe it's going to be a five-year project.
22 Around Allakaket, Alatna, Unit 24B and Koyukuk River
23 moose is pretty scarce. So people get excited when
24 Fish and Game came in and catch some wolves. Wolf
25 predator control works in some areas, so we're excited
26 to get moose in the near future because the caribou
27 don't always come back to Allakaket. Sometimes there's
28 an absence of caribou for 10 years. The last couple
29 years there was caribou. I was kind of surprised when
30 one morning Pete was calling on the CB. He said
31 there's 20 caribous traveling through the village and
32 there was another 40 on the river, so I guess caribous
33 are kind of unpredictable on which way they travel.

34
35 We talk a lot about the Ambler Road.
36 Every meeting we talk about Ambler Road. A big
37 concern. The DOT and some people will come to
38 Allakaket and talk to peoples about the effects of the
39 road. The road will travel from Prospect to Bettles
40 and on north to Ambler. Just a few miles north of
41 Allakaket a road will be going through some of our
42 prime hunting and trapping areas.

43
44 So people come for meetings that
45 promise us jobs for four or five years and gas and oil
46 and food will come up the road cheaper once the road is
47 in, but a lot of us don't believe that because we had
48 experience with the oil pipeline. They said the Haul
49 Road is for industrial workers only, but what happened
50 is they were public funds, so sooner or later it was

1 open and peoples come up the road to not only look at
2 the scenery but hunt and fish where we used to go.
3 With the limited wildlife resource, we can't afford to
4 trap or hunt alongside -- the hunters that come up the
5 road from urban areas.

6

7 So the road to Ambler will have a great
8 affect on our lands. It will eventually change our way
9 of life because people will come up the road.

10 Sometimes the caribou don't like to cross across the
11 road because of travel on the road, the lights and the
12 trucks scare the caribou at night. The road will have
13 an effect on caribou migration also.

14

15 I go to meetings a lot of times. Every
16 month I go to one or two meetings. Most of my life I
17 was a young man when I first went to a meeting.
18 Sometimes it's voluntary, mostly voluntary. We get
19 very little per diem. But talking about our way of
20 life from the village perspective is important to me
21 because I live in Allakaket on the Koyukuk River where
22 my grandpa and my father hunted and trapped. I still
23 do the same thing today. I come to this meeting so
24 that we can preserve all this wildlife and all that
25 land that we enjoy for my children and their children.
26 I want them to continue using the land and living off
27 the land. That's why I come to all the meetings even
28 though sometimes I have to leave home and leave my
29 trapline.

30

31 That's the reason I'm here.

32

33 Thank you, Jack.

34

35 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks, Pollock, for
36 all your comments. I always appreciate knowing what's
37 going on around various villages and conditions.

38

39 Don.

40

41 MR. HONEA: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I
42 guess, you know, in compiling something here to say
43 about a region, Tim kind of covered pretty much the
44 issues that's really prevalent out there with our
45 fishing. It's pretty sad. I haven't been able to
46 really put away any fish for the last -- in fact, this
47 summer the wife and I never went to camp. I'm just
48 kind of upset with the State of Alaska in the fishing
49 areas for -- first of all, I mean if we're going to be
50 cast into using a certain net size and stuff, hey, let

1 us know. This has been my complaint all summer. Not
2 two weeks before the fishing season starts.

3
4 I wish one day I'll come to the board
5 and make the report and stuff that maybe we could
6 actually have a working relationship between the State
7 and YRDFA or whoever is out there to come up with some
8 better working conditions. I just don't like that
9 being imposed on us. If we were given a certain mesh
10 size to use maybe a year ago or two years ago and then
11 all of a sudden, if it's 6.5 whatever and then all of a
12 sudden just, you know, two weeks before the fishing
13 season starts you're down to 5 or 4.5, that's unfair.
14 I mean you don't have time, we don't have resources.
15 You know, we don't even have the cash to go and turn
16 that in. We can't turn it in, so we're stuck.

17
18 Another thing, you know, it seems as if
19 fishing is out of our hands. I said a couple years ago
20 that I'm going to work towards something that's viable,
21 something that maybe we can maintain is our moose
22 population. It's kind of interesting. I'm glad to
23 hear the reports from different areas because I want to
24 know how they got to do up in Huslia. You hear that
25 for years. They have a healthy moose population
26 because they kept the bears down. That's not
27 scientific stuff. That's real stuff. I mean they kept
28 the population of those down. That's a known fact.
29 So, hey, let's use some of those. I don't know what.

30
31 I'm talking to an old friend last night
32 off of College Road. He used to trap with my father
33 back in the '50s and '60s. Okay, he says Yukon Flats
34 not so many years ago had a healthy moose population.
35 What happened there. Him and another guy flew around
36 there and maybe for about an hour a year ago or
37 something and they spotted some tracks, but there's no
38 moose. Where are they? You know, they fluctuate.

39
40 I remember the Lower Yukon people,
41 maybe Russian Mission, Mountain Village, whatever, that
42 particular area, used to come up and there'd be
43 disagreements. They'd go up into the Lower Yukon, the
44 GASH area to moose. Now there's all kinds of moose
45 down there, all the way to St. Mary's. I mean I don't
46 know what's going on. Looking at comments from our
47 Galena meeting, we're just echoing the same thing over
48 and over.

49
50 So, hey, I mean if there's one way to

1 -- and until I know the numbers from Koyukuk, Nowitna,
2 what happened this fall, but like Tim mentioned I
3 appreciate the last season and people have been taking
4 advantage of it because there's been a real huge amount
5 of hunting pressure on the Koyukuk. I mean we see it
6 passing Ruby, you know, day after day. It seemed like
7 this year amongst the most is a lot of boats. A lot of
8 them come back with racks. Well, probably meat, but,
9 you know, the hunting pressure.

10

11 When we come up with some of these
12 proposals and they're on the Koyukuk River, I want the
13 board members from that particular area, I want Jenny,
14 I want Eleanor. That's why it's kind of hard when we
15 much less can't even meet a quorum, but I want to hear
16 all the comments. I'm kind of saddened the Walkers
17 aren't here. I'm kind of saddened Carl Morgan isn't
18 here. I want to know what's going on in every area.

19

20 I was told when I first got on board at
21 a meeting in McGrath that -- you know, and I was
22 talking to -- I'm only reporting what goes on in my
23 particular area and I think that's what we do best. So
24 a board member said, hey, Don, you've got to remember
25 you're speaking for the whole thing. So that's why I
26 say, hey, I'd like to know what's going on, if we can
27 help them through a winter hunt or some kind of
28 proposal. I just have to reiterate maybe we can't do
29 anything about the fish, but doggone it we should try
30 to do something about our moose population at least
31 trying to keep that stable.

32

33 Thank you, Jack.

34

35 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks, Don. The
36 Chair's Report. I work with Melinda on various letters
37 and issues throughout the off season, between meetings,
38 so I feel the Federal shutdown really stressed the
39 Federal Staff that coordinated the meeting that was
40 slated for the 6th and 7th here in Fairbanks. That all
41 had to be redone. That cost a lot of money and it cost
42 a lot of time and it cost us quorum for this meeting.

43

44 This Council advocated for the Federal
45 Subsistence Board to push their meetings back from
46 January to April for fish and wildlife, so we're on a
47 wildlife cycle, so they pushed the meeting back for
48 wildlife back to April and I almost bet OSM is thanking
49 their lucky stars that they have that additional time
50 to prepare for that wildlife meeting in April instead

1 of in January. We didn't include that as one of our
2 reasons for advocating for an April meeting, but
3 apparently you don't want to have your meeting too
4 close to the October 1 fiscal year, otherwise Congress
5 might not give us any money.

6
7 Because we don't have quorum at this
8 meeting, it highlights an issue that I've thought about
9 previously as an alternate -- at least two alternates
10 for this Council in case we can't meet quorum for one
11 reason or another. At some point during this meeting I
12 would like to discuss that issue.

13
14 On the home front, we had a real late
15 spring, as everybody did in Alaska. That late spring
16 was real hard on caribou, Dall sheep lambing
17 especially, so I'm real concerned about -- at the Gates
18 of the Arctic Subsistence Resource Commission meeting
19 the Park Service did sheep surveys on the north side of
20 the Brooks Range and found a 50 percent decline in
21 population. I'm real concerned about certain cohorts
22 being lost.

23
24 This fall we had continuing increase in
25 hunting pressure. We just continued to have more and
26 more hunters showing up in the Brooks Range. It's like
27 there's an unending supply of these sheep. When it
28 comes down to hunting under Federal regulations, I'm
29 allowed to kill under current regulations 7/8ths curl.
30 You look at eight rams and it's all 3/4 curl and
31 smaller with all age classes represented, 1/4, 1/2 and
32 3/4, but then you don't see any 7/8ths and you don't
33 see any full curls. It didn't use to be that way even
34 four or five years ago.

35
36 It's a continuing exacerbated problem
37 with increased hunting pressure. Full extirpation of
38 all of the adult full curl rams. People are making
39 mistakes and the sublegal 7/8ths rams are disappearing
40 from the population. I consider that a management
41 concern. State of Alaska doesn't feel that it's a
42 concern because you get way back away from the road,
43 10, 15 miles back, then there's adult rams back there,
44 but you get in the intensive hunted areas it is a
45 problem. The subsistence users are having a harder and
46 harder time. There was people that got sheep, but they
47 had to let go.

48
49 I've got a 14-month-old baby and can
50 only go a certain distance. There's families that

1 walked 15 miles to go get a sheep because they knew
2 they were going to have a hard time. They went in the
3 park and stuff. So it's making the economy of time,
4 effort and expense that are parts of the criteria for
5 subsistence. So we'll visit this proposal that I've
6 submitted on the Dall sheep problem for the Dalton
7 Highway Unit 24A. It's not getting any better. Let me
8 tell you that.

9
10 I've never seen leaves stay green on
11 the trees two and three weeks past their normal time
12 when they should turn color and fall off the trees.
13 That seemed to affect how the moose moved. The moose
14 weren't moving around like they normally were. They
15 didn't seem to respond. I killed an adult bull moose
16 on the 16th of September and it had hardly any smell.
17 By the 16th of September adult bulls have quite a smell
18 to them. They weren't hardly even rutting.

19
20 So that makes it real hard you get a
21 week to 10-day displacement on how the moose move.
22 That's why Ruby and the people that benefitted from the
23 special action request which allowed the Galena area to
24 go through October 2nd. It's this kind of a fall where
25 the Nowitna 21B has that October 1 Federal season.
26 It's this kind of a year that that hunt is there.
27 Nowitna is like, unh, it's a pain in the butt to sit
28 down there if it's a normal fall and people kill their
29 moose right away, but it's this kind of year if you're
30 the guy who doesn't have the moose, that's a big deal.
31 It's the difference between having a moose and eating
32 all winter and not having a moose. That's what this
33 Council is about, is providing subsistence needs.

34
35 So I feel the October 1 Federal season
36 extension has again proven to be beneficial for the
37 subsistence users within this region where necessary.
38 The moose were higher than normal.

39
40 I collect genetic samples for the
41 Alaska Department of Fish and Game, the fourth year of
42 a -- I get paid to catch salmon. It's not legal to
43 catch salmon within the five miles of the Dalton
44 Highway, so I'm issued a special permit by the
45 Commissioner of Fish and Game to collect fin clips off
46 -- catch salmon and let them go and I take fin clips
47 off them.

48
49 Again this year it's my impression that
50 I catch at Wiseman about 60 percent of the salmon that

1 go past that. I only caught seven king salmon. I had
2 500 percent increase in chum salmon. The most I've
3 ever gotten up there. It's a real poor spawning
4 habitat. I caught 135 chums this year, which it was
5 like way more chums than normal, but the kings were
6 lower in number. Because of closures, the fish that I
7 caught were larger fish than last year. I caught one
8 female chinook that was at least -- well, I measured
9 her, 920 millimeter, which is a fairly large king up
10 there. So the king salmon returns are like bleak.

11
12 I went down to Jim River. I couldn't
13 even find a king salmon down there. I couldn't find a
14 carcass of a king salmon. I followed the bear trails
15 around, maybe they had some. I wanted to get a little
16 sample. I couldn't find one. Again, the Jim River has
17 been, which is a better spawning area, had very, very
18 poor chinook returns, as everybody is seeing. So I'm
19 on the spawning grounds looking right at the fish.

20
21 So the caribou migrations this fall as
22 we were told at our SRC meeting by various Subsistence
23 Resource Commission members they were migrating about
24 two and three weeks later than normal. Caribou are
25 starting to move into areas east and west of our
26 community, but I haven't gone out looking for caribou,
27 but I don't hardly hear of many caribou.

28
29 In 2010, the Board of Game allowed in
30 Unit 26B on the North Slope allowed the harvest
31 switching from October 1 cow caribou were able to be
32 harvested. They switched to a five-caribou limit with
33 the allowance for cows to be killed on July 1. I told
34 the Board at that time that allowing the harvest of cow
35 caribou, which are the leaders of migrations, previous
36 to their transition over the Brooks Range would deflect
37 caribou migration. Well, that's all TEK, that's all
38 just hokey. Well, they went up there and pounded the
39 tar out of those lead cows in the fall of 2010 and they
40 drove those caribou way over into the east fork of the
41 Chandalar and way to the east. Caribou hardly come
42 near the Dalton Highway since that time. There's been
43 very -- a lowered harvest by the general hunters.

44
45 Hopefully at some point the State Board
46 process will learn that these are migrating caribou.
47 This isn't the Forty Mile killing them all in five days
48 on their summer range. These are migrating caribou.
49 When you deflect caribou away from certain communities
50 -- there used to be a lot of Central Arctic caribou

1 that used to cross the Dalton Highway and go towards
2 Anaktuvuk Pass and come down the John River drainage
3 down towards Allakaket, mainly up into the mountains,
4 but sometimes down towards Bettles.

5
6 That's had a huge effect on where we
7 can expect to see caribou. There was just a few
8 caribou come over up the Atigun Valley about three
9 weeks ago. They come zipping over the pass and they
10 turned off going east. They don't want to be near that
11 road. Cows lead migrations and if you train the cows
12 to be afraid of the road, you'll reduce the amount of
13 hunters. That's another reason why we're concerned
14 about the Ambler Road is because the Ambler Road would
15 be transitioning a lot of the migration routes of the
16 Western Arctic, Teshekpuk and Central Arctic Caribou.

17
18 The caribou weren't breeding. I'm on
19 Facebook and I've got a lot of friends over there in
20 Anaktuvuk Pass. They're killing bull caribou way into
21 the middle of October, which nobody ever shoots bull
22 caribou in October, but those guys were killing bull
23 caribou that were in herds that weren't with cows and
24 they didn't have any smell. They kept saying they
25 didn't have any smell, that's why we're shooting them.
26 They stayed fat, which makes me think that the cows
27 aren't breeding because of the late spring and we could
28 have a huge reduction in productivity this next year.
29 That's all TEK, but you biologists better start paying
30 attention.

31
32 I asked was there a calf/cow ratio
33 taken at Onion Portage. No, that's done every
34 alternate year. Well, this wasn't one of the years
35 where they did a comp of the Western Arctic Herd, so
36 I'm concerned that this year is going to show a steep
37 decline in productivity of all the Arctic caribou
38 populations and productivity.

39
40 So that's my report, the TEK part and
41 et cetera. How are we doing, Melinda?

42
43 MS. BURKE: We're doing well, Jack.
44 One thing I forgot to do at the beginning was to check
45 in on the phone when we did introductions to see who
46 was on the line.

47
48 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Oh, I see.

49
50 MS. BURKE: I know Don Rivard is there

1 from Office of Subsistence Management. Is there anyone
2 else who has joined us on the teleconference, please.
3 Are you still there, Don?

4
5 MR. RIVARD: I'm here all by myself
6 apparently.

7
8 MS. BURKE: Okay. Thank you. If you
9 want to introduce yourself, please go ahead. I'm sorry
10 I forgot about you.

11
12 MR. RIVARD: Mr. Chair, members of the
13 Council. My name is Don Rivard. I'm a fish biologist
14 here with the Office of Subsistence Management and
15 listening in. I'll likely be there tomorrow in person
16 if you're able to get a quorum.

17
18 Thank you.

19
20 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks, Don.
21 Appreciate that. Hopefully we will get quorum. Should
22 we move on to the 2012 annual report. That would be on
23 Page 15 of our book here for the RAC members. The
24 Councils identify issues and under .805 of ANILCA the
25 RACs are required to make an annual report to the
26 Secretary and the Federal Subsistence Board is the
27 secretarial arm. We've laid out various issues and
28 then we typically get a response. Page 21 is the
29 response. How should we address this? Should we read
30 this into the record?

31
32 MS. BURKE: You don't need to if people
33 have had a chance to look it over.

34
35 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I've had a chance to
36 look at it.

37
38 MS. BURKE: If you just want to
39 summarize.

40
41 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Oh, summarize for
42 the public here. Issue one was the lack of rural or
43 subsistence representative on the North Pacific
44 Fisheries Management Council. The Council is concerned
45 about the lack of rural or subsistence representation
46 on the North Pacific Fisheries Management Council
47 (NPFMC). It was an appalling oversight that the
48 management of salmon in maritime waters outside of
49 Alaska was excluded from Title VIII of ANILCA and the
50 Federal Subsistence Management Program. Even though

1 the NPFMC is not part of the subsistence program, it
2 needs to be responsive to the needs of Federal
3 subsistence users in order for the mandates of Title
4 VIII of ANILCA to be fulfilled.

5
6 The response to that issue is the Board
7 understands the Council's viewpoint on the issue of
8 having rural or subsistence representation on the North
9 Pacific Fisheries Management Council. However,
10 membership on the NPFMC is determined by Congress. It
11 is not within the Board's scope of authority or
12 responsibility to advocate for, or request changes to,
13 laws passed by Congress. That would be a summary of
14 OSM's response.

15
16 MR. GERVAIS: Jack, I had a comment on
17 that.

18
19 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Tim, go ahead.

20
21 MR. GERVAIS: Part of their response is
22 they say that Senator Begich had a public hearing on
23 this on July 3rd. That's kind of an absurd time to
24 have a meeting about salmon because that's probably the
25 busiest day of the year for the entire state for
26 harvesting salmon. I know it was one of the two days
27 that Ruby had available to fish. Everybody, Bristol
28 Bay, Gulf of Alaska, Kuskokwim, everybody is really
29 busy fishing on July 3rd. It's not a time to be having
30 a public hearing on how the Magnuson-Stevens Act can be
31 amended.

32
33 I guess I just need to learn better on
34 how this Council can have communication and access to
35 Congress and these lawmakers that fits into this term
36 or the way these Councils are set up by not being able
37 to lobby. I guess I'm having trouble getting past that
38 issue.

39
40 I'm pulling it up right now. I'd like
41 to read into the record just a paragraph of this
42 testimony that one of the Trident executives had
43 regarding why salmon shouldn't be part of the
44 management concern because they're not full-time
45 residents of the Bering Sea. But go ahead with
46 your.....

47
48 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I was going to
49 respond. The Councils have been warned that we're
50 under restrictions of the Hatch Act. These Advisory

1 Councils and Resource Commissions, et cetera, cannot
2 lobby political entities on issues. We have to work
3 through the Secretary of Interior and Department of
4 Agriculture Secretary to address issues. So that puts
5 a roadblock in front of these Councils to lobby
6 political entities on legislation or anything. There's
7 been many times I would like this Council to lobby the
8 Legislature or the Governor's Office or something, but
9 we can't do that. That's FACA regulations, so we have
10 roadblocks in front of us on that.

11
12 That doesn't preclude individual
13 Council members from personally advocating for certain
14 positions with political entities. Senator Mark Begich
15 held this public meeting on July 3rd. Yeah, it was a
16 bad time, but the law was set to expire on September
17 30th of 2013 and so I would like to know what happened.
18 Did they reauthorize the Act or what happened with
19 that? At some point, Don Rivard or somebody there with
20 fisheries, can give this Council an update on what
21 happened with the Magnuson-Stevens Act expiration of
22 September 30th, 2013.

23
24 Go ahead. You've got your thing there,
25 Tim? Can't find it?

26
27 MR. GERVAIS: Oh, it's like a 15-page
28 testimony on what good corporate stewards they are, so
29 I've got to pull through it.

30
31 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right. Okay. We
32 can come back to it if you find what you'd like to read
33 into the record.

34
35 MR. GERVAIS: Sure.

36
37 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Issue two of the
38 annual report. Western Arctic Caribou Herd Working
39 Group April 2012 letter. The Western Arctic Caribou
40 Herd Working Group membership is comprised of
41 individuals from a vast area, including Federal
42 Subsistence Regional Advisory Council members, as well
43 as Federal and State agencies whose purpose is to
44 ensure the conservation of the Western Arctic Caribou
45 Herd. The Council wants to make the Board aware of
46 some very important issues identified by the Western
47 Arctic Caribou Herd Working Group in a recent letter to
48 Alaska Governor Sean Parnell (enclosed). The letter
49 outlined concerns regarding various proposed roads
50 through herd migration routes, which could potentially

1 be disruptive to caribou migration and negatively
2 impact rural users who depend on this resource.

3
4 The Western Arctic Caribou Herd Working Group is
5 requesting that the State of Alaska fund a Community
6 Health Impacts Assessment to identify potential impacts
7 of these proposed roads on people and their communities
8 within the range of the Western Arctic Caribou Herd.
9 The Council maintains that no decision should be made
10 regarding whether or not to build these roads until
11 that Assessment is completed with public input from
12 affected communities, and the final results of the
13 Assessment are provided to potentially affected
14 communities.

15
16 The response from the Federal
17 Subsistence Board to the Council is the Board supports
18 the Council's involvement in the Western Arctic Caribou
19 Working Group, and appreciates you sharing your
20 concerns regarding the potential impacts of proposed
21 roads is on the Western Arctic Caribou Herd and
22 Federally qualified subsistence users. Your concerns
23 will be brought to the attention of the Secretaries of
24 the Interior and Agriculture under the direction
25 provided in the Secretarial Review.

26
27 So I feel that that had the effect that
28 the Council wanted, is that the Secretaries have to be
29 aware that these roads are of grave concern. The Gates
30 of the Arctic Subsistence Resource Commission is also
31 -- Subsistence Resource Commissions to the Parks are
32 actually under .808 of ANILCA have a direct line to
33 talk to the Secretary of Interior.

34
35 So the Gates of the Arctic Subsistence
36 Resource Commission is developing a letter to outline a
37 welcoming of that new Secretary of Interior Sally
38 Jewell and also to inform her of our concerns with this
39 Ambler Road. It ate a lot of our Subsistence Resource
40 Commission meeting. We want to highlight that also to
41 the Secretary of Interior in case the Federal Board
42 process doesn't get through. It doesn't hurt to come
43 in from two different ways.

44
45 Did you find what you're looking for
46 there, Tim.

47
48 MR. GERVAIS: Yeah, I've got it right
49 here.

50

1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay, go ahead.

2

3 MR. GERVAIS: This is testimony by a
4 fellow from Seattle, his name is Joe Plesha and he's
5 the chief legal advisor for Trident Seafoods, Corp.,
6 which is one of the main domestic fishing companies
7 that's involved with the Bering Sea and Gulf of Alaska
8 pollock trawling. He testified this spring before the
9 House of Representatives Natural Resources Committee.
10 He goes into a lot about rationalization, but he does
11 have this one section. Here he's talking about
12 sustainable fisheries.

13

14 The terms for the North Pacific
15 Management Council are a little different than we're
16 used to when we're talking about State. They have
17 different acronyms and whatnot. He's talking about
18 certain provisions in the Magnuson-Stevens Act, which
19 generally regulates the way these fisheries are
20 conducted in the Federal waters from 3 to 200 miles
21 from the coast. He's talking about annual catch limits
22 and accountability measures.

23

24 "Under an agreement with the federal
25 government, the State of Alaska manages the salmon
26 fishery in state waters. The salmon fishery management
27 plan also covers salmon harvest in the EEZ, outside of
28 state waters. There are four salmon fisheries in the
29 EEZ. They are: the commercial troll fishery in
30 Southeast Alaska; and net fisheries in Prince William
31 Sound; Cook Inlet; and, the South Peninsula area near
32 False Pass. All of these EEZ salmon fisheries are
33 managed by the State of Alaska under the existing
34 salmon fishery management plan.

35

36 Given its long history of sustainable
37 fishery management, the Alaska salmon fishery is
38 arguably the best managed fishery in the world. The
39 State of Alaska manages the salmon fishery based on
40 escapement goals, so it is not clear how annual catch
41 limits and accountability measures can be adopted for
42 the Alaska's salmon management.

43

44 Because it would be extremely
45 complicated to revise the salmon fishery management
46 plan to meet the new Magnuson-Stevens Act and national
47 standards requirements, and because the federal
48 government has no real role in salmon management in the
49 EEZ, the Council (meaning the North Pacific Fisheries
50 Management Council) might prefer to simply repeal the

1 salmon fishery management plan for the net fisheries
2 west of Southeast Alaska."

3

4 So, it's complicated and kind of an
5 arduous language because what they're trying to do is
6 hide the fact that that last sentence I read he's
7 asking to have the North Pacific Council have the power
8 to repeal the salmon fishery management plan for all
9 net fisheries west of Southeast Alaska and allow the
10 State of Alaska the management. So he's basically
11 taking the responsibility for salmon bycatch away from
12 the North Pacific Management Council.

13

14 A pretty drastic thing. You know,
15 these companies get access to members of Congress for
16 this and they have their own employees and then
17 lobbyists on top of that. Somehow, if we're going to
18 make some real progress in our efforts to lower the
19 amount of bycatch that's happening in the EEZ, we ought
20 to find methods and communication ways that allow this
21 Council and the Federal Subsistence Board to be able to
22 communicate with the lawmakers that we're here and
23 these stocks are important even though on a dollar-
24 value basis they're minuscule compared to what the
25 pollock industry generates in revenue, but it shouldn't
26 matter. We're people and we're part of the country and
27 these fish are supposed to be part of the environment.
28 We need to maintain those values and those populations.

29

30 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks, Tim. I'm
31 not sure if anybody can answer this question, but is
32 the Federal Subsistence Board under the Hatch Act
33 constraints that the Councils are as far as petitioning
34 Congress. It says in their response that they couldn't
35 advocate for any changes and they can't advocate. Does
36 that mean they're under the Hatch Act?

37

38 The Federal Subsistence Board could
39 advocate to the agency that's in charge, which would be
40 NOAA NMFS. I feel the Federal Subsistence Board should
41 explore their prerogative to petition to include to
42 refute testimony to congressional members and that NOAA
43 -- is it NOAA/NMFS?

44

45 MS. BURKE: They're under the
46 Department of Commerce, I think.

47

48 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Department of
49 Commerce. I think Secretary of Interior and
50 Agriculture can advocate for the position of these

1 resources being vital to the environment and to the
2 Federal Subsistence Program and they need to be looked
3 at as a natural part of the ecosystem of Alaska.

4
5 How would you feel about that?
6 Resubmitting it to the Federal Subsistence Board our
7 concern, but advocating to the Department of Commerce
8 -- go ahead, Tim.

9
10 MR. GERVAIS: Yeah, I think that's
11 appropriate. I think there needs to be some balance
12 where we can -- there needs to be testimony that puts
13 the other side of the story into these kind of
14 testimonies. I'll just read up at the top. So that
15 was on March 13, 2013 and that's the testimony of Joe
16 Plesha, chief legal advisor for Trident Seafoods
17 Corporation before the House of Representatives Natural
18 Resources Committee. That's testifying on the
19 reauthorization of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery and
20 Conservation Management Act.

21
22 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thank you. At some
23 point I think this Council has to be appraised of what
24 happened when the Magnuson-Stevens Act expired and what
25 point we are in the process is, whether it was
26 reauthorized. We also need to resubmit this issue to
27 the Federal Subsistence Board and tell them to advocate
28 or request them to advocate to the Department of
29 Commerce for the salmon resource on the Bering Sea. So
30 they can't just sit on their hands. They have to
31 advocate because the land managing agencies of the
32 Federal Subsistence Board have to advocate for Title
33 VIII subsistence resources and users. Just because
34 this resource is not within their realm, they still
35 have to advocate for the resource, so they can't say
36 they can't do anything. They can do things that
37 advocate for the resource.

38
39 Think about and develop language that
40 would be in that annual report request to the Federal
41 Subsistence Board. Go ahead, Tim.

42
43 MR. GERVAIS: Yeah, that would be fine.
44 One other issue that makes it significant is they're
45 testifying in front of Congress. There's only a
46 handful of states involved with salmon fishing.
47 Basically California, Oregon, Washington and Alaska.
48 They're in the House of Representatives. There's the
49 midwest and eastern senators that have almost no
50 knowledge or understanding of the significance of these

1 fisheries to our part of the country. So there needs
2 to be a balance to presentation of the facts.

3

4 MR. RIVARD: Mr. Chair. This is Don
5 Rivard.

6

7 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, Don. I
8 was just going to go to you. I was going to ask you
9 what you know about the Magnuson-Stevens Act status.
10 Go ahead.

11

12 MR. RIVARD: Well, the benefit of kind
13 of sitting at my desk while I'm listening is I can get
14 on the internet and give you some updated information,
15 so that's what I've been doing since you brought this
16 things up. My understanding from what I'm reading is
17 that the Magnuson-Stevens Act expired on September
18 30th, the end of the fiscal year, and right now it's on
19 schedule to be reauthorized in early 2014.

20

21 I believe it was three hearings that
22 Begich did over the summer here in Alaska. He
23 classified them as listening sessions and not really
24 formal hearings on the Magnuson-Stevens Act, but he
25 wanted to get people's input as to issues that were
26 pertinent to it, such as subsistence and to make sure
27 maybe some of that also gets addressed in the
28 reauthorization.

29

30 What it looks like right now is it's
31 supposed to be reauthorized in early 2014. I know that
32 Senator Stevens will probably have some more formal
33 hearings probably in Washington, D.C. before that gets
34 reauthorized.

35

36 Thank you.

37

38 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks, Don. I'm
39 not exactly sure in the interim what authorization the
40 program is working under.

41

42 MR. RIVARD: My assumption is it would
43 probably be like a temporary extension. As long as
44 nothing has been reauthorized, it doesn't just
45 completely stop. You just keep going under the current
46 act until the one is reauthorized.

47

48 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I see. All right.
49 Thank you.

50

1 Does that answer your questions, Tim?
2
3 MR. GERVAIS: Uh-huh.
4
5 DR. JENKINS: Jack.
6
7 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, David.
8
9 DR. JENKINS: Could I emphasize a point
10 and perhaps clarify something with Tim at this point.
11 If you look at the response on Page 3, the bottom of
12 that first paragraph indicates that the Federal
13 Subsistence Board has been asked by the Secretaries to
14 inform the Secretaries when non-departmental rulemaking
15 entities make rules that affect subsistence users.
16
17 So this is the mechanism that gets
18 around the Hatch Act that you were just referring to.
19 What you need to do then is to inform the Board when
20 what you know of non-departmental rulemaking entities
21 are making rules, such as out on the Bering Sea, that
22 affect subsistence users and then the Board brings that
23 information to the Secretaries.
24
25 I'll give you an example. On the
26 Stikine River, Canada is planning a big mine in the
27 headwaters of the Stikine and the Southeast Council has
28 written a number of letters to the Federal Subsistence
29 Board about this because they're fearful of the effects
30 on salmon in that river if this mine is put together.
31 So they sent letters to the Federal Subsistence Board.
32 The Federal Subsistence Board forwarded those concerns
33 onto the Secretaries of Agriculture and Interior. The
34 Southeast Council also suggested that these concerns be
35 forwarded to the Secretary of State because it has to
36 be dealt with at that level as well.
37
38 So this is a mechanism that you can use
39 as a Council to get those concerns heard in other
40 places, other venues. Mr. Chair. And I encourage you
41 to use it. We've used it to a limited extent so far.
42 Of course, the Secretarial Review is just a few years
43 old now, but it's something that you could consider
44 using more frequently as you see fit.
45
46 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thank you.
47
48 MR. GERVAIS: I had a question. You
49 used the term non-rulemaking entity. What is that?
50

1 DR. JENKINS: That's the language that
2 the Secretaries gave us, non-departmental rulemaking
3 entities, which I assume is the Agriculture and
4 Interior, but it could be more broadly interpreted.
5 So, in the instance of Canada, is that a
6 non-departmental rulemaking entity? Well, we've
7 interpreted it as something that's going to affect
8 subsistence users and it's outside of the usual
9 Secretary of Agriculture review, so they should bring
10 it to the attention of those who can make some
11 decisions about it. At this point, I think we should
12 interpret it as broadly as you all see fit to interpret
13 that.

14

15 MR. GERVAIS: Thank you.

16

17 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: The response to
18 issue three, the chinook salmon concern is better
19 addressed in the response. The Board and the U.S. Fish
20 and Wildlife Service Alaska regional director are fully
21 engaged in the North Pacific Fisheries Management
22 Council process with the Bering Sea and Aleutian Island
23 chinook salmon bycatch limits were under consideration
24 in 2007-2009, including the Board Chair testifying for
25 a lower limit. The Council may send a letter to the
26 North Pacific Fisheries Management Council expressing
27 its concerns, with assistance by OSM staff. For your
28 information, the Board has sent letters to the North
29 Pacific Fisheries Management Council regarding bycatch.

30

31 How would you like to proceed with
32 this, Tim.

33

34 MR. GERVAIS: I think I could just --
35 in the evening I think I could come up with some
36 language and explain it to you guys at another portion
37 of the meeting what I'm trying to say and see if you
38 agree or want to add or subtract from that and then
39 we'll get it sent off to the appropriate people.

40

41 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: You can develop that
42 language, we can refine it and then we can table it for
43 our teleconference to make a vote on it. At some point
44 we're going to have to have a quorum to take actions on
45 these things. Melinda.

46

47 MS. BURKE: Mr. Chair. On item L, when
48 we identify the issues for the fiscal year 2013 annual
49 report, I can get your language here on the screen,
50 Tim, and those in the room can go ahead and go over it

1 and we can build that running letter in hopes that we
2 do have a quorum later this month to approve it.

3

4 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: We can take that up
5 later on in the meeting. So at some point you can
6 develop some language. So that kind of covers the
7 annual report. We probably should go to break and come
8 back in about 15 minutes sounds good.

9

10 (Off record)

11

12 (On record)

13

14 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I need my gavel.
15 We're going to bring the meeting back to order. We're
16 at a point in the agenda for public and tribal
17 comments. I have a blue sheet from Wayne Heimer. You
18 wanted to address the Council on a couple wildlife
19 proposals. Come on up, Wayne. Sit at the table. Turn
20 the mic on.

21

22 MR. HEIMER: My name is Wayne Heimer.
23 I live here in Fairbanks out on Chena Pump Road and I'm
24 representing myself. My interest today primarily is in
25 Proposals WP30 and WP31. The reason those interest me
26 is because I'm a Dall sheep biologist. In my working
27 career I worked for Department of Fish and Game for 25
28 years as a sheep researcher and a sheep manager. Since
29 I've been retired for 15 or 16 years I guess I'm just a
30 guy that can't give it up. Sheep interest me. I don't
31 have a burning result in the passage or not of
32 Proposals 30 and 31, but I thought it would be perhaps
33 helpful, I hope, to the Council to just hear a little
34 bit about what we think we know about Dall sheep
35 biology.

36

37 In the proposal analysis by the Staff,
38 there was a lot of discussion and presentation of
39 survey data and so on and so forth. While that's
40 important and valuable, I thought it might be, I hope,
41 fun just to share a little bit about how Dall sheep
42 live and what we think we know about them.

43

44 I, first of all, would like to
45 congratulate you for leaving the ewes out of it when
46 you're making proposals. It's not easy being a Dall
47 sheep. There isn't much going to waste in any Dall
48 sheep population. The habitat is demanding, the
49 mountains are dangerous places to be, the weather gets
50 you, the predators get you. Sheep just don't have the

1 ability in a natural ecosystem to really get ahead of
2 their chow very much.

3

4 A couple reasons for that. One is that
5 they don't have a lot of babies compared to other
6 animals. We don't know that Dall sheep ever twin. We
7 hear a story once in a while when you see a ewe with a
8 couple lambs, but that's never really been proven that
9 those are twins. Occasionally you don't know, but we
10 cannot expect Dall sheep to twin even as much as human
11 beings. So if you're hoping for some sort of benefit
12 by reducing the number of sheep on the range and
13 compensatory production, that doesn't seem like a real
14 good bet at this time based on what we know. If you
15 want to have fewer sheep, killing ewes is a very good
16 way to make that happen, particularly if you get after
17 it with any intensity at all.

18

19 With that in mind, I thought I'd
20 explain just a little bit about the State regulation
21 that's for general hunting. It calls for the harvest
22 to be restricted to mature males. We define a mature
23 male as -- pardon me if I go back 15 or 20 years to
24 when I was working for the Department of Fish and Game.
25 The regulation defines a mature ram as one that has
26 full curl horn growth development or is at least eight
27 years old or has horns broken on both sides. Those are
28 all ways to identify mature rams.

29

30 The reason we do that is not because
31 non-subsistence hunters just want to shoot big
32 trophies. They're always willing to do that and that
33 might be the reason they go, but the reason we actually
34 have that regulation is because that's the way we can
35 maximize the harvest that is permissible off a Dall
36 sheep population.

37

38 We found this out over many years of
39 working with Dall sheep across the flats here in the
40 Alaska Range. When I first began over there in 1971, I
41 was with a population that wasn't doing very well.
42 There were a lot of sheep there, but they weren't
43 having very many babies and survival wasn't very good
44 and the horn growth among the rams was among the
45 poorest in the state. There were a lot of sheep there
46 at the time and had been for quite a while, so
47 naturally the wildlifers said we ought to kill half
48 those ewes and then there will be more food for
49 everybody and that will be good. If you do the
50 arithmetic and you know they don't twin, you kill half

1 of them, you just got fewer ewes, you're not going to
2 get more lambs out of it.

3
4 The nature of Dall sheep winter food is
5 that it is of such poor quality that the animals
6 basically live on stored fat and what they can eke out
7 of frozen dry grass in the winter, which is cellulose
8 mostly, which is like cardboard. It's a little better
9 than cardboard.

10
11 The idea that we should kill half the
12 ewes -- before we do that and annoy everybody and make
13 a big mistake, why don't we look and see what the food
14 resources are for these sheep. I compared those
15 animals with those down by Tok where there are many
16 fewer Dall sheep. The reproductive capacity was much
17 greater and the horn growth was much better as well.

18
19 What we did was a little bit on the
20 brutal side. I collected sheep, went out and shot
21 them, shot ewes in the fall when they were at their
22 fattest before rut and in the spring when they were at
23 their leanest before they would segregate to go to
24 lambing. We totally homogenized the whole carcass. We
25 ground the whole thing up, which is a gruesome
26 business, but they kind of had this big Corvette-
27 powered grinder down at Cantwell with the University's
28 reindeer study, so we were able to grind up entire
29 sheep.

30
31 We looked in the carcasses to see how
32 much fat was there, how much protein was in the body,
33 how much water and how much bone and we found that
34 there was no difference nutritionally either in the
35 quality of the food in the remains or the amount of
36 fat or protein or water in the carcass between the
37 population that was doing very very well and the one
38 that wasn't. We could not find a nutritional
39 difference. We could tell a pregnant ewe from a non-
40 pregnant ewe. We could tell a nursing ewe from a dry
41 ewe, but altogether there was really no difference
42 between comparable ewes between those populations, so
43 we had to look for some other reason that they'd be as
44 different as they were.

45
46 At that time the Tok area had become
47 what we called a trophy area where you couldn't kill
48 anything but full curl rams. That was the first place
49 that that ever happened in Alaska and that was just
50 done in 1974 before we hardly knew anything just

1 because we thought a trophy management area would be a
2 good idea and provide a different option for sheep
3 hunters.

4

5 The other area out here in Dry Creek
6 and Wood River was an area that had very very few adult
7 rams in it. Every sheep in that country would come to
8 a mineral lick every year and we caught them by the
9 hundreds and put neck bands on them and then we'd just
10 go sit at this place and see who came back and who was
11 alive and whether they had babies and how old they were
12 and how long it was between babies and all that stuff.

13

14 We found that out there in the poor
15 population a couple things were happening. One was
16 that we were seeing very young ewes deliver lambs.
17 They'd get bred at 18 months. And then deliver lambs
18 about a month late when they would have been two years
19 old. Those lambs were always small and the ewes were
20 also stunted and whether those offspring ever really
21 amounted to anything we don't know.

22

23 It seems that the reason we were seeing
24 this early breeding was that there weren't old rams
25 around to control the young rams and the young rams
26 would pass up those yearlings, those 18-month ewes on
27 their first heat because it's a silent heat. There's
28 no behavioral show that shows that the ewes are ready
29 to mate. The young rams then, in the absence of old
30 ones, would pester and court those young ewes because
31 they were the only sheep on the mountain the young rams
32 were bigger than and they would eventually induce them
33 to come into a second heat a month later, at which
34 point they would be bred by the young rams. The lambs
35 would be born late, the ewes would be stunted and we
36 had a situation that just wasn't particularly healthy
37 apparently because we didn't have a lot of rams there.

38

39 The other thing that we noticed was
40 that it was very common for ewes in that particular
41 population to carry lambs on milk clear into April. It
42 was not at all unusual to find ewes lactating in the
43 April collections that we made. It was very common.
44 We think that what's supposed to happen is that ewes
45 are supposed to have a lamb, carry that lamb through
46 the summer on milk. When the rams show up on the
47 breeding ground in October, the lambs are supposed to
48 wean. If the lambs don't wean, what appears to happen
49 and it certainly does happen in domestic sheep and
50 appears to happen in wild sheep as well, is if a ewe is

1 lactating she will not ovulate. If she doesn't
2 ovulate, of course she can't get pregnant. If she
3 can't get pregnant, she can't have a lamb.

4
5 We know this because in all those sheep
6 that I shot to see what they were made out of for
7 nutritional study, we looked at the ovaries. The
8 ovarian activity among the good population was twice
9 what it was in the poor population. The sheep in the
10 good population were having babies later on at three or
11 four years old and they were having a baby every year
12 as opposed to having one early and then having a high
13 incidence of not having a baby except in alternate
14 years when you weren't nursing through the winter.

15
16 When you find a situation like this as
17 a manager, the question is what are you going to do
18 about it. We didn't think we could blame it on
19 nutrition. We noticed that the big difference between
20 those two populations was the presence and abundance of
21 mature rams. So, as an experiment, we changed the
22 hunting season out in the poor population to where the
23 harvest went from three-quarter curl ram, which it had
24 been, we went to a seven-eighths curl ram. When that
25 happened, we seem to have fixed the strange
26 reproductive activity among the ewes. We didn't see
27 the early breeding and we didn't see the alternate year
28 reproductive success anymore. We kept at that for five
29 or six years, but we didn't see an increase in harvest
30 either.

31
32 So, as a further experiment, we went to
33 a full curl operation out there and over the course of
34 five years we found that the harvest had increased by
35 35 percent, so the kind of not very common sense way to
36 look at that is that if you wait until the rams are
37 eight instead of killing them when they are six or
38 three, you get more out at the end. That's kind of
39 hard to explain just on the face of it, but as you
40 begin to understand the way sheep mating behavior
41 occurs, you understand that the thing that causes rams
42 to start dying at an accelerated rate around the time
43 they get to be eight years old or a full curl or has
44 dominant social status is their participation in the
45 rut.

46
47 Sex kills. It certainly seems to work
48 out that way for sheep. The way the mortality
49 increases with dominance or social activity or breeding
50 activities is steep enough that if you can wait until a

1 ram is mature, you can kill actually more of them than
2 you can if you kill them when they're three-quarter or
3 seven-eighths curl.

4
5 What this might all have to do with the
6 sheep proposals that are before you are that if there
7 aren't enough seven-eighths curl rams to meet the
8 subsistence need, it's because they didn't get born six
9 or seven years ago, which is a possibility that happens
10 all the time, or it might be that they are leaving the
11 area because of disturbance. That seems a little bit
12 of a foreign idea to me because sheep are so -- well,
13 based on my own experience, I've been as abusive to
14 sheep as it's possible to be.

15
16 You know, I've caught them with nets,
17 I've caught them with helicopters, I've darted them,
18 I've wrestled them down, I've taken their blood, I've
19 measured their bodies, I've retrieved feces from their
20 rear ends, I've taken their temperatures. I've put big
21 neck bands on them and jammed ear tags through their
22 ears. I've been pretty mean and that doesn't seem to
23 alter their home range at all. It seems like sheep are
24 sufficiently loyal to or dependent on their home range
25 that they look to be fairly disturbance tolerant.
26 Maybe they are, maybe they aren't. Certainly they'll
27 move around if they're harassed, but we've never seen
28 them make big range shifts from places where they
29 didn't use to be to places where they are where they
30 didn't ever go before.

31
32 As I understand or perhaps
33 misunderstand the subsistence priority laws, if there's
34 an insufficient number of seven-eighths curl rams
35 available to meet the subsistence needs and when I look
36 at the Staff analysis and the survey data presented
37 there, I don't see an obvious reason that there
38 shouldn't be seven-eighths curl rams there from the
39 number of legals and sublegals that are around,
40 although cohorts can be -- entire cohorts may be
41 missing depending on bad weather in any particular
42 given year.

43
44 If there aren't enough rams to meet the
45 subsistence need where we provide a biological
46 safeguard, which I think seven-eighths curl is about as
47 low as you ought to go for the sheep's sake, somebody's
48 got to give if there aren't enough rams to meet the
49 subsistence need and the laws say that ought to be the
50 folks that aren't subsistence users.

1 I would encourage you to think about
2 whether or not you believe this biological story makes
3 any sense or not. If it does, you might want to
4 consider doing something besides lowering the legal age
5 for rams that are available to subsistence hunters.

6
7 The other word that I have has to do
8 with Proposal 31, which I think is reaching a little
9 bit for a justification when it says if you don't allow
10 some harvest, which would be very minimal out of
11 Nikolai in Denali National Park, the sheep may
12 overpopulate and eat up all their food and be range
13 stressed. I don't think that's likely to happen as I
14 mentioned before. It's tough being a sheep and growing
15 a sheep population in an intact ecosystem, which is
16 pretty much assured in Denali Park, but it's probably
17 not going to be a good justification for that on a
18 biological basis.

19
20 If you decide that it's a good thing to
21 do to provide that hunt as proposed for Nikolai, that's
22 one thing and that certainly is your choice, but the
23 sheep don't necessarily need it. The people might.

24
25 I thank you for the opportunity to
26 share my stories with you and I have some of them
27 written down here if you'd like to have some of those.

28
29 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks, Wayne. Do
30 the Council members have questions for Wayne's
31 presentation.

32
33 (No comments)

34
35
36 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Tim.

37
38 MR. GERVAIS: I don't have a question,
39 but thank you for taking the time to come and go over
40 your understanding of their biology. It's very
41 interesting.

42
43 MR. HEIMER: You're welcome.

44
45 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Don.

46
47 MR. HONEA: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
48 Wayne, listening to your explanation, what you've done
49 in the past and stuff and looking at the actual
50 proposals, all these are are just changing the bag

1 limits of whatever the hunting. Are we talking about
2 the same proposals that's in the book here?

3

4 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: That's the wrong --
5 those are State proposals. It would be here in your
6 book. The proposals that Wayne is discussing are here
7 in the book.

8

9 MR. HONEA: Okay. I'm sorry. I guess
10 I was just -- thank you for your presentation.

11

12 MR. HEIMER: I'm sorry to have been
13 confusing.

14

15 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I'll comment.
16 Proposal 14-30 is my proposal. The problem is there's
17 a very low subsistence need. The number of animals
18 that's going to be killed by subsistence users is going
19 to be a very low number. It's going to be like -- it
20 would be in that other mortality factor, falling off
21 cliffs and stuff, to that effect. I've lived in the
22 Brooks Range my entire life and we haven't had the kind
23 of winters to completely extirpate certain age classes
24 of rams. You see it in the recruitment. You see half,
25 you see sub three-quarter, three-quarter.

26

27 I mean we continue to recruit until we
28 -- the last now three years we've had intensive hunting
29 pressure and Craig Gardner told me several years ago he
30 flew the Tok area and he was lacking seven-eighths rams
31 in the recruitment and he flew post hunt and he was
32 finding complete -- he documented seven-eighths pre-
33 hunt and he documented post hunt sheep not present,
34 meaning they were killed by human hunters during the
35 hunting season and not reported.

36

37 There's been several sublegal sheep
38 taken by hunters and inexperienced hunters that have
39 tried to get them sealed and they were seized by the
40 Department, but most sublegal sheep -- just like
41 sublegal moose in the Tanana Flats out here last year.
42 A miner was giving a reward of one ounce of gold for
43 somebody who shot a three brow tine moose and left it
44 laying. In Mowry's article, he asked the enforcement,
45 Fish and Wildlife protection about this incident and
46 they said we have many sublegal moose that are found
47 every year. People shoot them, walk away and leave
48 them.

49

50 It's a very common occurrence when you

1 have horn requirements. We had that on the Lower
2 Koyukuk in the Koyukuk Controlled Use Area when they
3 had a antler requirement there. There was multiple
4 sublegal animals that were killed and left because
5 people don't want to take responsibility for it.

6
7 We could do what you said and I
8 contemplated that, like the Red Sheep closure over
9 there by Arctic Village, but I didn't want to go there.
10 I didn't want to infuriate the State of Alaska. I just
11 want subsistence needs to be met, so I feel that taking
12 a few of rams, not killing any ewes, and killing
13 probably no more than five sheep or four sheep for the
14 entire area by subsistence would not have nearly the
15 detrimental effect of trying to make a closure area,
16 the kind of controversy that would cause.

17
18 I feel that State of Alaska should step
19 up to the plate. They have a management issue. Glen
20 Stout, he's a moose biologist, his area is Unit 24. He
21 doesn't go to the mountains at all. He doesn't look at
22 sheep. He doesn't pay any attention to the sheep. The
23 full cull fixes everything. No, it doesn't. Under
24 full extirpation there's multiple sublegal sheep that
25 will be killed, so you've got to go talk to Craig
26 Gardner about what he did down -- and you probably
27 have.

28
29 MR. HEIMER: Well, actually I haven't,
30 but.....

31
32 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Several years ago at
33 a meeting he told me this story about what he did when
34 he was a Tok biologist, finding multiple sheep that
35 weren't present that had been there previous to the
36 hunt, so it was graphic as to what -- there's a certain
37 amount of sheep, sublegal animals, that get killed and
38 that's what we're seeing in this intensive hunting
39 area. It's not the bow hunters.

40
41 The Dall sheep move into summer range,
42 which is just outside the corridor, so all these ram
43 groups get pounded in the first part of the sheep
44 season. With that kind of intensive pressure a lot of
45 sublegal sheep get killed. There's been guiding
46 pressures increased. Dall sheep numbers are down and
47 Dall sheep in supply and demand, so the Dall sheep
48 price for non-resident hunts keeps going up. It's \$18-
49 20,000, so sheep are very valuable. The guides take
50 off the cream of the crop and they got Super Cubs those

1 sheep can't get away from period. They know exactly
2 where they're at and they find them.

3
4 So then the resident, inexperienced
5 hunters, they go out there in the field and they find a
6 bunch of rams and some of those seven-eighths rams, if
7 you look at them uphill, you could easily mistake them
8 for full curl until you shoot one, walk over and look
9 at it and it's like, whoa, that's under legal and they
10 don't take it.

11
12 So we've got a management problem. I
13 tried to get the State to address the issue. They
14 won't. I'm Chairman of the Koyukuk River Advisory
15 Committee. I just told them the other day we have a
16 management issue. No, full curl fixes everything.
17 Well, my problem is we're having a hard time getting
18 legal seven-eighths sheep and there are no full curls
19 hardly left.

20
21 I feel there's a Federal priority
22 taking a few rams, basically any ram a quarter and
23 larger, is not detrimental to the population. I
24 appreciate all the work you've done on sheep and I feel
25 that under the general hunt full curl regulations work
26 real well unless you have intensive harvest. You have
27 to understand that the Alaska Range enforcement is much
28 different where you have a lot of hunters and you have
29 a lot of enforcement.

30
31 We went through a one-year period with
32 no Fish and Wildlife protection trooper from July of
33 2012 all the way through until just the other day we
34 finally got a trooper back there. We had very little
35 enforcement. The BLM got a ranger, but, heck, he's got
36 the whole northern part of Alaska to deal with, so he
37 can't sit on the road and watch this intensive -- so
38 we've got real enforcement problems. I can't fix all
39 the State problems. I just need to get a sheep.

40
41 MR. HEIMER: You can do better than I.

42
43 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I just need to get a
44 sheep. I prefer to get an adult ram because there's 20
45 percent more meat on it. Even as recently as three or
46 four years ago it was relatively easy to find adult
47 rams. Now it's almost impossible to find adult rams.
48 It's not because of cohort elimination by environmental
49 conditions. This is strictly -- you see that kind of
50 reduction, that's strictly a human-induced thing. We

1 are looking at a cohort reduction in the near future.
2 We just went through the bad spring. We're going to
3 have basically three years of poor recruitment from
4 that. We're going to have lost all the lambs, we lost
5 the yearlings from last year.

6

7 MR. HEIMER: And you lost the old ones.

8

9 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yeah, we lost some
10 older animals. Not so much the rams. The rams are big
11 and they can deal with deep snow. It's the older ewes.
12 When we get deep snow years, I see on a ram ratio more
13 rams survive because they're bigger. The ewes don't
14 survive those bad years very well. So I'm not
15 advocating for ewes. I do want to explain my position
16 on that proposal.

17

18 I wrestled with the aspect of closing
19 the area, but that would be very unpalatable and I
20 don't relish going to the Federal Subsistence Board
21 with that one. I think I took the easy way out.

22

23 MR. HEIMER: Well, it certainly -- you
24 know, any manager that doesn't look at the
25 practicalities is probably missing the boat somewhere.
26 One of the interesting things about the data that are
27 available for this deal is that primarily they're
28 aerial survey data and aerial survey data are the worst
29 data that exist for sheep other than no data.
30 Everybody that goes up in an airplane looks out the
31 window is pretty confident that they've seen everything
32 that's in the neighborhood and I'm here to tell you I'm
33 the best sheep surveyor that ever lived, but I'm also
34 the only one that knows how bad he was.

35

36 In a very favorable situation where I
37 knew the country, I'd walked all over it, a population
38 of around 2,000 sheep, I had a ton of neck-banded
39 critters running around out there. The best I could
40 ever do is 80 percent. That's having a lot of
41 experience and having every advantage you can have.
42 The aerial survey data are the best we've got, we've
43 got to go with that, but they are also highly variable.
44 And I always found anybody that didn't agree with what
45 I said felt perfectly free to ignore it. I, of course,
46 would never do that.

47

48 Thank you.

49

50 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: But I do appreciate

1 you coming to testify before the Council and all the
2 time you put into it.....

3

4 MR. HEIMER: Good luck.

5

6 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF:and I would
7 like to get a copy of your presentation.

8

9 MR. HEIMER: Oh, sure.

10

11 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So thank you.

12

13 MR. GERVAIS: Jack, what's the number
14 of sheep taken in the general hunt?

15

16 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: We'll deliberate
17 that proposal, but that will be in -- Trevor will have
18 all that data taken in the general hunt. I did talk to
19 some hunting guides that were having a hard time. They
20 had bad hunting. It's starting to affect them even.
21 They're having to spread further.

22

23 So we've covered the public comments to
24 this point and I encourage any member of the public to
25 -- just file a blue card at any time. This is a forum
26 for people to express opinions regarding anything to do
27 with subsistence use of fish and wildlife under the
28 federal program.

29

30 MS. BURKE: Is there any members of the
31 public or any tribes who have joined us in the meeting
32 who would like to testify at this time?

33

34 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: At some point I
35 would hope that TCC might show up. We're going to move
36 on to agency reports. We'll start with Kanuti National
37 Wildlife Refuge.

38

39 Come on up to the mic, Mike Spindler.

40

41 301 in our book.

42

43 MR. SPINDLER: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
44 For the record, Mike Spindler, manager of Kanuti
45 National Wildlife Refuge. You have a pretty
46 comprehensive written report in your book starting on
47 Page 301, so I won't go through a lot of detail there.
48 I'll just cover some highlights.

49

50 The Federal winter hunt, which you'll

1 be addressing Proposal 14-29 later, produced some
2 results that are kind of interesting. I look at it as
3 a safety valve that if people don't get a moose during
4 the fall hunt, they do have the opportunity to go out
5 and in concert with trapping and going out to the wood
6 lot if they happen to see a moose that's identifiable
7 as a bull, either through antlered nubs or the gonads
8 or their track, they can have that opportunity.

9
10 The history was that in the last year
11 we issued eight permits for that winter hunt. Four
12 people took advantage of that and did hunt, but they
13 didn't report harvesting any moose. Since we've run
14 the hunt, I think one or two moose have been harvested
15 during that period.

16
17 Then there's that fall additional
18 period from the closure of the general hunt on
19 September 25th to October 1. Eleven permits were
20 issued for that hunt. Six people hunted and three
21 bulls were harvested during that hunt.

22
23 No moose population surveys were
24 conducted last year due to lack of snow. We're pretty
25 excited and optimistic that this year it looks like we
26 have enough snow. There's about eight to 10 inches
27 there at Bettles right now. So the plan is we're going
28 to go up Monday and conduct a GSPE survey in
29 cooperation with the State. We anticipate it will take
30 about five to six days. We plan to have four to five
31 aircraft helping us with that. So we're real pleased
32 that it looks like we have the conditions and the
33 budget to do that this year. It's one of our highest
34 priority items to take care of.

35
36 As you may recall, in 2008 we had an
37 interagency study involving BLM, Park Service, Fish and
38 Wildlife Service and Alaska Fish and Game where we
39 collared moose from north of Wiseman all the way down
40 through 24A into 24B to the northern foothills of the
41 Ray Mountains on Kanuti Refuge. That study is winding
42 up and the folks involved in Fish and Game, Park
43 Service and Fish and Wildlife and BLM are working
44 together to write up the results of that collaring
45 study.

46
47 We are trying to maintain a lot of
48 those collars out there on the cows for the purposes of
49 doing that late May, early June calving survey and
50 densities are so low that having collars out helps them

1 find cows to see if they've calved and, if so, if
2 they've got a single calf or a twin. So we will
3 continue to maintain that sample. We also try and
4 track opportunistically a few times a year and maintain
5 contact with the animals that we did collar.

6
7 Also in the moose department Erin
8 Julianus was an intern with us for several years and
9 she began a master's project at University of Alaska
10 looking at the moose habitat use of different aged
11 burns. She has since moved on to BLM, but is back
12 here, so if you do want to hear from her as to where
13 she is on the status of that project you could ask her
14 to come up or else catch her during a break and she
15 could kind of fill you in. The focus was to look at
16 most use of the different aged burns on Kanuti Refuge.

17
18 A big concern with invasive weeds on
19 the Dalton Highway and a big program to keep them out
20 of Kanuti Refuge and that's continued in cooperation
21 with Bureau of Land Management and Friends of Alaska
22 Refuges primarily. For the last seven years we've had
23 a weed pull along the Dalton Highway where we have a
24 crew of people pulling the weeds at the bridge
25 crossings and we have succeeded in holding our finger
26 in the dike and keeping the weeds from moving onto the
27 Refuge.

28
29 I attended the Ambler Road public
30 meeting in Bettles in late September. The highlights
31 from that meeting from what I was able to observe was
32 that AIDEA explained why they took over the project
33 from Alaska DOT. There was a huge amount of public
34 involvement. I think every person in Bettles came to
35 that meeting. I think AIDEA didn't anticipate that
36 level of interest. Unfortunately there was not enough
37 time for everybody to testify. They did promise that
38 they would be back.

39
40 I met separately with the tribal
41 council and the city council leaders to discuss mutual
42 concerns relative to the Ambler Road, particularly from
43 the standpoint of impacts to fish and wildlife
44 resources downstream from where the bridge crossings
45 would be. Fish and Wildlife Service does have a lot of
46 expertise in evaluating road impacts. There's a whole
47 division in the Federal Building that just deals with
48 commenting on development proposals. That branch,
49 Jewel Bennett, is the person in that branch that's
50 called Project Planning. She's highly engaged in

1 working with AIDEA on the environmental review and
2 what's going on with that road proposal.

3
4 We are almost complete with a long-term
5 project to look at water quality and quantity entering
6 onto Kanuti as baseline data. There's nine water
7 gauges and they've been monitored since 2009 and we'll
8 be monitoring that through 2014, so one more year to
9 go. They monitor those sites about six times per year,
10 winter and summer.

11
12 We had one major wildfire on the Refuge
13 this summer. It began on BLM land near Prospect and
14 burned onto the Refuge. It burned about 65,000 acres,
15 5,000 onto Kanuti Refuge. Other than that there was
16 not a lot of major fire activity on Kanuti this year.

17
18 There have been some personnel changes
19 at Kanuti. We have hired a law enforcement pilot, Andy
20 Flack. He will be based in Coldfoot. This is kind of
21 a unique position. It's shared half with Park Service
22 and half with Fish and Wildlife Service. He'll cover a
23 large area including Gates of the Arctic National Park
24 and Preserve, Arctic Refuge, Yukon Flats and Kanuti.
25 He'll be based out of Coldfoot, so when I'm done here
26 I'll have Andy come up and just briefly introduce
27 himself and give you a little bit of information on his
28 background.

29
30 We did our usual outreach with the
31 Allakaket school this past year where we spent several
32 days in Allakaket doing environmental education with
33 the school kids there.

34
35 If you haven't noticed already, we do
36 have a Facebook page and we're finding that provides an
37 opportunity for us to get some real time recent
38 information out there on the web for people to see.
39 We're getting a lot of positive feedback from that.
40 So, if you do Facebook on your own, tune in to the
41 Kanuti Facebook page and we update that three times a
42 week, so there's a lot of good information there.

43
44 If there are no further questions for
45 me, I'll have Andy come up and just briefly introduce
46 himself.

47
48 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Any questions or
49 comments from the Council on Mike's presentation for
50 Kanuti.

1 MR. SIMON: I do.

2

3 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, Pollock.

4

5 MR. SIMON: I just want to comment on
6 the winter hunt for bull moose only from December on.
7 It's been on the book for a couple years now, but I,
8 myself, doesn't hunt moose that much. As you all know,
9 that bull moose will sit there hours in mid winter.
10 You could accidentally shoot a cow moose, but also bull
11 moose through the midwinter, December and January, the
12 coldest part of the winter is tough meat and less fat.
13 It's not like the fall hunt where you could go in a
14 boat and a moose would be standing there on the bar.
15 But in winter, midwinter, it could be 40 below and you
16 can get off a Sno-Go and put on snowshoes and walk
17 around and look for that bull moose. Not too many
18 hunters, maybe some young peoples would like to hunt.
19 It's good he didn't get any moose in the fall hunt.
20 The moose is still there so it's good, but the old
21 timers don't hunt in the winter season.

22

23 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Tim.

24

25 MR. GERVAIS: Thank you, Jack. Thanks
26 for your presentation, Mike. Is that 5,000 acres a
27 good amount of burn that you guys like or how does that
28 fit in?

29

30 MR. SPINDLER: Mr. Gervais, through the
31 Chair. Generally what we found there's been some
32 research done so far and this is mainly throughout
33 Interior Alaska looking at many areas, not just at
34 Kanuti. From the age of about 10 years post burn to
35 about 30 years post burn seems to be the ideal for
36 moose winter range and that's because it takes about 10
37 years for the willows to grow up high enough that the
38 moose can get them through the snow. Then at 30 years
39 the vegetation has grown so high that the moose can't
40 reach it any longer, so 10 to 30 post burn.

41

42 There was a very nice large burn in
43 2010 down river from Bettles, about halfway from
44 Bettles to Allakaket and it was right along the river.
45 So I look for that burn to produce some pretty good
46 habitat right next to the river. This one that you
47 asked about where it burned 5,000 acres onto the
48 Refuge, it did burn near the rivers. It burned right
49 near Jim River in the south fork, kind of in a triangle
50 from the Dalton Highway west, the south fork being the

1 north boundary of the burn and the Jim River being more
2 or less the south boundary.

3

4 So, in that regard, it will likely
5 produce some decent habitat right near the rivers also,
6 which will be good, but those sections of the river are
7 pretty swift and shallow, so they don't get used too
8 much by subsistence hunters. Mainly the sport hunters
9 coming off the Dalton Highway that will benefit from
10 that burn. However, that burn in 2010 that was between
11 Bettles and Allakaket should produce -- you know, in
12 about six, seven, eight years should produce some
13 pretty good browse right near the river.

14

15 MR. GERVAIS: Thank you.

16

17 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Any other comments.

18

19 MR. HONEA: I've got a question, Jack.

20

21 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, Don.

22

23 MR. HONEA: Thank you, Mike, for your
24 presentation. I was just wondering what -- I mean
25 looking at the numbers there of harvested moose and
26 even in your winter hunt and stuff it seems low. I was
27 just wondering what -- because it's not explained in
28 here, how that wolf control program is going. How many
29 years is that in the -- do you see anything or is it
30 too early to see any significance of taking that and
31 what's your program going to do this winter?

32

33 Thank you.

34

35 MR. SPINDLER: Yes, Mr. Honea, through
36 the Chair, Mr. Reakoff. First off, on the predator
37 control, that's a State of Alaska program and it's
38 focusing on State and Native owned lands that are west
39 of the Kanuti Refuge. They have successfully killed
40 the number of -- probably less wolves than they thought
41 they would be able to kill, but they did succeed in
42 harvesting those wolves last spring. Where we're
43 involved, where Kanuti is involved, is that the non-
44 wolf kill area -- in a scientific experiment you have
45 what's called the treatment area and the non-treatment
46 or control area.

47

48 So what the State has decided to do, we
49 cooperate with them on the science on the Refuge to
50 look at moose survival through the collars and do the

1 moose survey work to look at moose numbers. The Refuge
2 is considered the non-wolf-control area as part of the
3 experiment and then the area west of the Refuge is part
4 of the wolf killing area that's the treatment part of
5 the experiment.

6

7 So their plan is that after five years
8 of this, we're only in year one now, but they're going
9 to do it for five years and then they'll look at all
10 those features, moose survival, success of the hunters
11 in Allakaket, numbers of wolves, they'll look at all
12 that over the five-year period and then decide how
13 successful it was.

14

15 As for the question you had about the
16 numbers of moose harvested, I have to emphasize that's
17 just in the Federal only hunt. That doesn't take into
18 account the general hunt. In your proposal booklet,
19 under 14-29, and I think Trevor will cover it later in
20 the analysis, there's a very good graph of total
21 harvest including local harvest, non-local harvest,
22 Alaskan and non-resident harvest. There's a good graph
23 in there.

24

25 So you'll see from there that there's a
26 lot more moose taken when you combine the general State
27 hunt with the Federal hunt. Most of the subsistence
28 activity in Allakaket and Bettles area it occurs under
29 the auspices of the State general hunt. It's only
30 these additional Federal hunt opportunities that I
31 spoke about. That's where you exercise that Federal
32 priority by providing extra days or extra months of
33 hunting in the winter.

34

35 Does that answer your question?

36

37 MR. HONEA: Yeah, pretty much. I guess
38 if it's provided by the State, the State program, then
39 there's just coming down to the local level there's no
40 incentive for, say, local trappers or something to take
41 advantage of that. I know in some villages that we can
42 enhance that. We can kind of maybe create a -- I'm
43 just looking at the mouth of Dulbi. We have a cabin
44 there. We let a couple people stay there in the
45 wintertime because they're going to harvest some --
46 they're going to take some wolves. If we could keep
47 those numbers down, that's great.

48

49 So I was thinking -- I mean if it's a
50 State program, then I guess it doesn't involve locals.

1 I'd just like to look at Tanana, Ruby, whatever. If we
2 could, as a tribe, enhance that or somehow give out a
3 certain amount of money to make it an incentive program
4 to keep those at bay. But it's State, so that would be
5 different.

6

7 MR. SPINDLER: Yes, Mr. Honea. I can
8 answer that a little bit. I know peripherally that
9 Allakaket has considered some of the same things,
10 Allakaket Tribe. I think Stan Ned was here, but he's
11 not here anymore. He could have spoke about what
12 Allakaket was doing. But they were involved with the
13 State program. They did all the skinning of the wolves
14 and the wolf furs stayed in Allakaket. Maybe if
15 there's more discussion about that I would feel better
16 if the State of Alaska was here that could represent
17 themselves.

18

19 Our involvement at Kanuti has basically
20 been supporting the science to learn what happens in
21 the area where you don't control wolves. On the
22 Refuge, you've got to remember it's a National Wildlife
23 Refuge. There's a National constituency. Alaska is a
24 part of it, but it's also the whole Lower 48 too that
25 are constituents. There's a very high bar
26 scientifically that if you were to try and decide to
27 kill wolves for the benefit of moose and moose hunting,
28 extremely high bar scientifically that you would have
29 to achieve before you went down to the Federal lands to
30 do that.

31

32 In this case, there's plenty of Native
33 lands and State lands right near Allakaket that this
34 small controlled effort there probably will, in my
35 guess, eventually produce quite a bit of benefits for
36 the village without having to go onto the Federal
37 lands.

38

39 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: When I was leaving
40 Coldfoot, the State was fueling the helicopter and the
41 aircraft and they were going out into the treatment
42 area and the non-treatment area. They're radio
43 collaring calves. They'd gotten 46 at that point.
44 They needed 14 more. They were telling me that they
45 saw good calf recruitment. They said they saw nine
46 grizzly bears that were still out and they only saw two
47 wolf tracks so far.

48

49 So that was the report. They're radio
50 collaring yearlings and maintaining these collars so

1 that they can document the survivorship of the treated
2 area compared to the non-treated area to document how
3 many moose calves would be recruited into the
4 population at any given year.

5
6 There's a household survey. The
7 Subsistence Division goes to Allakaket and Alatna and
8 they enumerate harvest surveys and don't rely on the
9 harvest reporting. The community is skinning the
10 wolves and handling the wolves in the culturally
11 appropriate way that the Koyukon would like them to be
12 handled.

13
14 Those would be the aspects of the
15 intensive management area that I wanted to review for
16 the Council here. When Koyukuk-Nowitna's comes up,
17 then we'll talk about the Ruby area and trapping
18 programs and so forth for them, for you, Don.

19
20 Any other questions for Mike. Go
21 ahead, Tim.

22
23 MR. GERVAIS: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
24 Manager Spindler, Could you tell us how many guides
25 have hunting concessions on the Kanuti Refuge and what
26 their harvest level is and how they're interacting with
27 the communities either with local hire or meat
28 donations.

29
30 MR. SPINDLER: Yes, Mr. Gervais,
31 through the Chair, Mr. Reakoff. There's only one guide
32 permitted on Kanuti and that permit has not been active
33 in recent years. That permit is only for guided
34 grizzly bear hunts. It's not for moose. We recognize
35 there's very little opportunity for non-local hunting
36 on Kanuti. Primarily the east fringe of the Refuge and
37 the south fringe of the Refuge that are outside of the
38 Federal and the State Controlled Use Area would be
39 available for non-local hunting. So there's really not
40 a reason to have a guided moose hunt there, but there's
41 opportunity for a guided grizzly hunt. But that permit
42 has not been very active, so I suspect that concession
43 would be reoffered at some time in the future for
44 another permittee that might want to be more active.

45
46 There are also three commercial
47 permittees for air taxi operations. One is based in
48 Bettles, one is based in Fairbanks and the other is
49 based in Wasilla, but that person comes up and works
50 along the Haul Road primarily. Those people are

1 involved generally in taking two to four -- between the
2 three operators, generally between two and four parties
3 are flown out onto the Refuge each year for moose
4 hunting and that harvest ends up being about 50 percent
5 success over the long term. So you're looking at two
6 to three moose maybe a year taken by non-local fly-in
7 hunters under our permitted transporters.

8

9 There's also a few occasional people
10 come downriver from the Dalton Highway and hunt in that
11 fringe that I was talking about. In your proposal
12 booklet under 14-29 has a good map showing the area
13 that we're talking about. That eastern fringe outside
14 the Controlled Use Area is available to people who want
15 to boat down from the Dalton Highway, so we have
16 usually each year a handful of parties come down the
17 Dalton Highway by jet boat or some of them will float
18 in and then get flown out.

19

20 MR. GERVAIS: All right. Thank you.

21

22 MR. SPINDLER: If I could, Mr. Chair.

23

24 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead.

25

26 MR. SPINDLER: I just would like to
27 introduce Andy Flack. Other than that we'll be hanging
28 around the rest of the day and we can answer any
29 questions.

30

31 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: All right. So Andy
32 came to the Gates of the Arctic Subsistence Resource
33 Commission meeting this morning and so the Commission
34 members were dialoguing with Andy on enforcement
35 issues. It's good for this Council to meet enforcement
36 because that's how we maintain these populations.

37

38 Go ahead, Andy.

39

40 MR. FLACK: Mr. Chair, thank you. I'm
41 Andy Flack, as you've heard. You can read a little bit
42 about me on Mike's description on Page 301/302. Just
43 for the Committee, I was born and raised in Alaska,
44 Kenny Lake area and Copper Valley area and lived there
45 up to adult life and grew up as a subsistence user
46 myself in that area and Unit 13. So I'm familiar with
47 a lot of the issues there as far Alaska and the issues
48 that arise with subsistence.

49

50 I have to say just for myself

1 personally I would say that subsistence is pretty near
2 and dear to my heart growing up and getting our salmon
3 and caribou and moose from Alaska.

4

5 I started flying here in Alaska about
6 2003, I started flying commercially after being in the
7 Marine Corps and working for Alaska Department of Fish
8 and Game. I've already moved up to Coldfoot a couple
9 weeks ago. My wife and I moved up there and we're
10 excited to be there. It's a beautiful time of year
11 with the fresh snow coming. She's actually up there
12 with her dad right now caribou hunting, so trying to
13 get some winter meat. I'm excited to be there.

14

15 Looking forward to learning more about
16 the area. I have flown the area a little bit, flying
17 hunters in my own air taxi, my own airplane over the
18 years. Working some with Curt Bedingfield, someone who
19 I think you all know, so I know a little bit about the
20 area. I'm excited to learn the issues and I really
21 want to work closely with you guys and the locals there
22 to learn what your issues are and what you want to see
23 me do and I'd like to hear that from you.

24

25 I'd like to keep that dialogue going
26 from my end and hopefully I can get you my contact
27 information and you can get in touch with me whenever
28 you have any issues or at least to continue this
29 dialogue. So that's something that's very high on my
30 priority list, to start that dialogue and keep it going
31 with you guys.

32

33 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks, Andy. Does
34 any Council members have questions. Tim.

35

36 MR. GERVAIS: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
37 Yeah, Andy, I just wanted to wish you good luck. I
38 know sometimes in your business you probably feel like
39 not very many people like what you do, but I personally
40 am a big fan of really good and solid enforcement, so I
41 wish you success in what you're doing up there and hope
42 you and your wife enjoy working out of Coldfoot.

43

44 MR. FLACK: Thank you, Timothy. Mr.
45 Chair. A little comment on that. I've always wanted
46 to get back to living remote, so for me it's a real
47 blessing to be there and have Mr. Reakoff as a neighbor
48 and all the local there. I love it there already and
49 the good news is so does my wife, so we're excited to
50 be there. I look forward to taking ownership of what's

1 going on there in the law enforcement aspect of things.

2

3 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I wanted to comment
4 on Andy's arrival. The Alaska State Troopers posted
5 that Coldfoot trooper post three times and they
6 couldn't get anybody. The guy that they got there now,
7 they made him go there. He didn't really want to go
8 there. I'm real happy to have somebody that actually
9 wants to be there. That's a huge positive thing. So
10 I'm very happy that we've got Andy whose got that kind
11 of flying experience.

12

13 We had some decent troopers lately, but
14 we had Curt Bedingfield there that had the full
15 attention of the hunting public because he was such a
16 proficient pilot at landing in some really odd places.
17 Those kind of pilotage skills maintain -- if you're a
18 bandit guide, you might be looking over your shoulder.
19 If you think you have some little short ridge you're on
20 and you're safe, Andy might pull in there and give you
21 a little look see.

22

23 So I'm real happy to see that we have
24 that kind of pilotage skills now available on a
25 year-round basis. The troopers are having a harder and
26 harder time -- it's getting harder and harder for
27 agencies to get enforcement or staff to be in the
28 field. This has been a big problem in the Central
29 Brooks Range, the Eastern Brooks Range area, so I'm
30 real happy that Andy is on board here.

31

32 Mr. Bedingfield told me it took him a
33 year to learn the country. It's a huge, huge area.
34 The trooper area is from Walker Lake in the Central
35 Western Brooks Range, the North Slope, all the way over
36 to Fort Yukon and the Northeast corner of Alaska. It's
37 a huge country and it's really good for local people to
38 help the enforcement out if you see something.

39

40 I always tell people I always got my
41 camera in my pocket. If I see somebody doing
42 something, I walk right up to them and start talking to
43 them, taking their picture, taking pictures, license
44 plate and enforcement can use that kind of stuff
45 because the camera actually documents the date and time
46 and stuff like that. So I always encourage subsistence
47 users to carry a camera. Just buy a cheap little
48 camera and carry it around in your pocket if you see
49 something going on.

50

1 Everybody's always talking about wanton
2 waste. Take pictures of it and then you've got
3 something to give the enforcement. If you don't have
4 any -- my wife reported an incident this fall. She
5 never heard anything. There was a vehicle in Coldfoot
6 parking lot with two moose antlers in the back of the
7 truck, no meat. She called the enforcement. Wasn't in
8 Coldfoot. Called town. Never did get a follow-up call
9 for two weeks. Well, they're long gone then. So it's
10 very important for local people to work with
11 enforcement on issues.

12
13 Thanks for giving your presentation,
14 Andy.

15
16 MR. FLACK: Thank you very much, Mr.
17 Chairman. If I can reiterate, that's kind of what I
18 was alluding to as far as working with you guys. I
19 need that network and I need that help from you. I
20 can't be everywhere at once, so I really appreciate you
21 bringing that up because that's something that's really
22 important to me and I want to work as well as I can
23 with all of you guys to be as effective as possible.

24
25 Thank you for your time.

26
27 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thank you, Melinda.

28
29 Innoko. Jerry, come on up.

30
31 MR. HILL: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
32 Members of the Council. Jerry Hill, wildlife biologist
33 with the Innoko National Wildlife Refuge.

34
35 MS. BURKE: Excuse me. In your blue
36 folder, I inserted Jerry's handout on the right-hand
37 side. Is there anybody new who's joined us on the
38 line? I thought I might have heard a beep.

39
40 (No comments)

41
42 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead.

43
44 MR. HILL: As Melinda referenced, I did
45 provide a written copy of the update I'm going to
46 present here for your reference later on. I'm going to
47 start with Unit 21E Federal winter moose hunt for this
48 past winter 2013. The hunt was about halfway through
49 during your spring meeting, so we didn't really get to
50

1 provide an update.

2

3

4 This is the first year of this hunt
5 where the customary and traditional use to the villages
6 of Aniak, Chuathbaluk, and Upper and Lower Kalskag was
7 in effect, which of course created the split in the
8 zone to the Paimiut Zone, commonly referred to as Zone
9 1 I believe by the Regional Advisory Council. So we
10 actually had two permits issued for this hunt, FM2104,
11 which was specific to the Kuskokwim villages, and
12 FM2105 specific to the GASH villages and Russian
13 Mission.

13

14

15 Basically the Innoko Refuge had a
16 responsibility for permitting in the GASH villages and
17 Russian Mission. BLM covered permit issuance for the
18 Kuskokwim villages. So this is a new issuance for the
19 Kuskokwim villages and we issued a total of 16 permits
20 for the FM2104 hunt. The issuance for the GASH
21 villages actually dropped quite a bit to 32 from 48 and
22 46 permits in the previous hunt seasons.

22

23

24 Another thing about this, I'll get into
25 the heart of it, is actual participation in the hunt or
26 actual use of a permit from the GASH villages dropped
27 significantly. Of the 32 permits issued, only 10
28 hunters reported even attempting to hunt. With that,
29 success rate was actually quite a bit higher because we
30 did have six reported harvest out of the GASH villages
31 compared to 6 and 9 respectively for the previous two
32 years.

32

33

34 We had 11 of the 16 hunters in the
35 Aniak area reported hunting and they had a harvest of 5
36 bulls. So with that harvestable quota of 8 for the
37 Paimiut Zone that we set I believe in the fall meeting
38 last year in Holy Cross and the remainder in the
39 northern unit we didn't really approach. We didn't
40 manage to hit either one of those quota ceilings. So
41 each hunt went to the end of the hunt season of March
42 15th.

42

43

44 So I guess the note on this is the
45 actual harvest reporting for Aniak area was excellent.
46 We got all harvest reports returned. It continued to
47 drop again for the GASH villages. I managed to get all
48 but three this year, but it's taken quite a bit of work
49 to get folks to respond to that.

49

50

There is a State game proposal to move

1 to a permitted hunt for the State season as well and if
2 we want to address it later at the time we go over
3 State proposals, I think that ties into what we're
4 seeing with this Federal hunt. Hopefully that will
5 improve the reporting for each. There's also a table
6 on here kind of describing the issuance per village and
7 harvest per village over the hunts just to see
8 distribution.

9

10 The other big thing in the moose front
11 for the Refuge is we completed the first GSPE moose
12 survey on the Refuge this year with the assistance of
13 Alaska Department of Fish and Game and the Koyukuk-
14 Nowitna Refuge. There has been no moose population
15 estimate survey done in 21A on the Refuge that had
16 reportable results, so this is a major feat. The
17 survey area actually is incorporated entirely in Unit
18 21A in the northwestern portion of the Refuge, which is
19 important because Fish and Game can use that data to
20 extrapolate to the rest of the unit for their needs,
21 which again we'll address in maybe one of the State
22 proposals that you'll discuss later on.

23

24 We kind of formatted the survey after
25 GSPE surveys in Unit 21E, which we coordinate and
26 cooperate with Fish and Game on that as well.
27 Basically the unit covered a 3,800 square mile area.
28 We did 150 sampling units, which is similar to what we
29 do in 21E. This is our first run, so our
30 stratification was a little off in some areas. We
31 actually wanted to go out and re-stratify prior to the
32 survey, but it just didn't happen logistically with
33 airplane availability and such. Our variance is off a
34 little bit on some of the low density areas, so maybe
35 our estimate isn't quite as good as it could be, but
36 obviously we can work to correct that in future
37 surveys.

38

39 So basically what we came up with in a
40 90 percent confidence interval estimate is 1,047 moose
41 for the analysis area for the survey that we conducted.
42 I worked with Fish and Game. We did extrapolate the
43 data of the entire management unit based on the low
44 density blocks, which is more representative of the
45 remainder 21A. I brought the estimate. I didn't write
46 it down here, but it was around 2,400-some animals.
47 The density is pretty low, as we expected, at .3 moose
48 per square mile for the survey unit. It's down to .2
49 for low density, which is actually the density we used
50 for the extrapolation to the rest of the management

1 unit, which Fish and Game is using to obviously use on
2 their stance on some of the game proposals for 21E that
3 will probably come up later.

4
5 The other moose project we worked on
6 since the last WIRAC meeting is the twinning survey in
7 Unit 21E. Last year we attempted a twinning survey in
8 Unit 21A primarily done by Koyukuk-Nowitna staff.
9 Although it looked like it may be feasible, due to the
10 time constraints and logistics, we decided not to
11 attempt it this year. Part of that is because ADF&G
12 didn't have the resources or availability to conduct
13 the 21E survey, which is the biggest unit of use for
14 our constituents in the GASH communities.

15
16 We had a plan of having Innoko Refuge
17 and BLM cooperate on this, both do a twinning survey
18 and check the locations of the collared moose in Unit
19 21E. We do have a few random signals or mortalities.
20 A few moose haven't been located in previous efforts.
21 Unfortunately it didn't happen. BLM had an issue on
22 finding available aircraft and such.

23
24 Myself and our Innoko Refuge pilot were
25 able to cover an area basically from just south of Holy
26 Cross up to Anvik. We got about 56 cow/calf pairs,
27 which exceeded the optimal number set by Fish and Game.
28 With that we had 38 cows with single calves, 18 calves
29 with twins, giving us a twinning rate of 32 percent,
30 which is lower than the previous survey, which yielded
31 a twinning rate of 41 percent back in 2011. So it's
32 not relatively too far off of previous twinning
33 surveys. There has been a lapse in one year of survey
34 data collection.

35
36 The other moose project we're stilling
37 continuing is a 21E moose telemetry project. I believe
38 we have 28 collars remaining out in the field. Innoko
39 just worked with Fish and Game this last summer to
40 transfer money to Fish and Game to purchase chemical
41 immobilizing drugs for those collars that are scheduled
42 to be recovered in March of 2014. So at that point
43 hopefully we'll have all collars recovered from animals
44 and from the field. I think we have one or two
45 remaining in the field. So an analysis and reporting
46 will commence at that point.

47
48 I mentioned in a previous meeting, I
49 believe, there's talks we may be redeploying those
50 collars into 21A in the future since most of them are

1 owned by the Refuge. I think maybe 10 or so are owned
2 by BLM.

3
4 So, with that, getting into our summer
5 fieldwork we did bring on five volunteer employees
6 again. It's down from previous years. We tried to
7 continue with our baseline inventory data collection on
8 the southern part of the Refuge for the potential wood
9 bison reintroduction. The two projects we've really
10 been focusing on are small mammal inventory project.
11 We're trying to get the species diversity density and
12 composition. Then the vegetation inventory project we
13 conducted over the past four years.

14
15 We did have some issues with Iokuk and
16 small mammal project as far as individually marking of
17 animals. We had to kind of adjust and ended up
18 shifting gears, so we never were able to get downriver
19 to do any of that work. As well with the veg
20 inventory. The Iditarod flood plain was basically
21 saturated and we couldn't gain access to do any of the
22 additional work down there since we basically cover
23 from the southern end of the Refuge up past the
24 confluence of the Iditarod and the Innoko Rivers. So I
25 don't know where that's going to go.

26
27 We're having issues now with the
28 Wilderness Act stuff and mineral requirements analysis
29 for doing that work. So if we continue, hopefully we
30 can get into the wilderness area and do those projects
31 where wood bison were likely to occur.

32
33 Breeding bird surveys.....

34
35 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Can I stop you
36 there, Jerry.

37
38 MR. HILL: Yes.

39
40 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: What is the status
41 of the wood bison. I haven't heard anything very
42 recent on that.

43
44 MR. HILL: We just actually got the
45 draft or the final ruling on the FONSI, finding of no
46 significant impact, and the EA from our regional
47 biologist just last week I believe it was. I guess
48 there's a short period for comment on some of the
49 things in that and right now they're looking at spring
50 of 2015 for the introduction outside of Shageluk. So

1 there's progress being made.

2

3 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So the 14(j)
4 ruling.....

5

6 MR. HILL: The 10(j) ruling.

7

8 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: 10(j).

9

10 MR. HILL: Yeah, it's been approved. I
11 think there's just some talk about what management
12 responsibilities would lie with the Fish and Wildlife
13 Service. State Fish and Game is primary lead on
14 management for wood bison after their introduction. I
15 know Mike has been part of those discussions, so if he
16 has anything to add when I'm done, maybe he can
17 contribute as well.

18

19 So, with that, we completed all three
20 breeding bird surveys that we had done in previous
21 years. The only thing worth note there I think we had
22 a new discovery of Bohemian Waxwing on a survey, which
23 was kind of unique. We haven't those on a route just
24 south of McGrath on the Tatalina Route as we call it.

25

26 We completed our Greater White-Fronted
27 Goose banding on the Refuge. It went very well this
28 year. We've exceeded our goal of 1,000 banded Greater
29 White-Fronts. With that, that's a good note. I don't
30 believe there's any glitches in that at all.

31

32 We completed our molting goose survey
33 this year. We counted approximately 15,000 Greater
34 White-Fronted Geese, which basically meets an 11-year
35 mean on the Refuge of about 15,917, just shy of that,
36 but it was kind of right where it's been over the last
37 11 or so years.

38

39 We continued doing land cover
40 validation.

41

42 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Is the recruitment
43 of geese this year in par with the late spring or
44 there's just more adult geese?

45

46 MR. HILL: It's more adult geese. It's
47 mostly non-breeding Greater White-Fronts on the Refuge.
48 There's very few broods out there. We tried to do a
49 project with a graduate student at UAA, which Koyukuk-
50 Nowitna participated on. We had a heck of a time even

1 finding broods of Greater White-Fronts.

2

3 There is a note in here that Canada
4 Geese sightings are down from previous years. It's not
5 a targeted survey to collect that data. But, yeah,
6 it's basically not a breeding ground for Greater White-
7 Fronts. It's mostly non-breeding molting geese.

8

9 We did continue land cover validation
10 on the Refuge. It's not the 2011 National Land cover
11 Dataset. We're hoping we have enough data to see what
12 kind of accuracy we're getting on that. I guess they're
13 coming out with a new dataset here in the next year,
14 findings from 2004 data coverages or land cover data
15 imagery. Anyway, hopefully that information can be
16 used maybe on some of the wood bison stuff if they were
17 to migrate onto the Refuge and possibly play into some
18 of the analysis on the collared moose locations from
19 21E that are on the Refuge.

20

21 One thing unique about this year too is
22 we do have a wilderness fellow on staff. He was
23 supposed to be a three-month appointment in Galena for
24 Koyukuk-Nowitna and three months in McGrath for Innoko.
25 Unfortunately, due to the flood in Galena, we had him
26 for a full six months, unfortunate for Koyukuk-Nowitna.

27

28 Anyway, he's working on a wilderness
29 monitoring -- or characteristics monitoring plan.
30 Actually he was solicited about three weeks ago to go
31 to Galena to work on theirs and he's working with me at
32 this point. Anyway, I guess Galena will be the last
33 wilderness in Region 7 Fish and Wildlife Service to
34 have a wilderness plan developed and maybe once they
35 get their station put back into shape they'll have a
36 wilderness fellow assigned to them in upcoming years.
37 It was really an eye-opener. I referenced.....

38

39 MR. GERVAIS: Can I ask a question,
40 Jack.

41

42 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead.

43

44 MR. GERVAIS: Jerry, is this wilderness
45 fellow, are there evaluating whether to turn more of
46 the Refuge into wilderness area, designated wilderness
47 area, or what's going on here.

48

49 MR. HILL: No, they're not looking to
50

1 propose new areas. There are areas in the Park Service
2 system I know that are managed as potential wilderness
3 areas. This is actually just developing a monitoring
4 plan for designated wilderness, which is wilderness
5 already recognized by the Wilderness Act. It's almost
6 more applicable to Lower 48 in the way they're doing
7 this. There's different characteristics, like solitude
8 and non-trammeling, non-development. There's different
9 characteristics that are looking to make sure that
10 those characteristics are maintained.

11
12 So they're basically trying to develop
13 ways to detect increased usage, say in motorable access
14 onto the Refuge or disturbance through generator use by
15 hunters. They're trying to kind of get an idea where
16 we're at right now and have a way of every five years
17 maybe revisiting that wilderness plan and see what kind
18 of increase impacts have been. It's all being in
19 compliance with the Wilderness Act that we do not
20 disturb that natural environment. There's ANILCA
21 provisions that allow different types of access through
22 traditional and customary use. Again, actually with
23 that, we've still got to maintain the wilderness
24 characteristics.

25
26 Yeah, so in other words that's a
27 rambling on answer, but we're not designating new
28 wilderness, we're just trying to monitor the status of
29 what we already have.

30
31 MR. GERVAIS: Thank you.

32
33 MR. HILL: So, with that, the rural
34 education and outreach, Dara Whitworth, our other
35 biologist, worked with the Iditarod Area School
36 District to do a fish camp basically in the village of
37 Holy Cross, which involves six different villages that
38 combine in Holy Cross. They did some salmon biology
39 education, some of the issues with the salmon runs and
40 recruitment stuff. They went through a whole gamut of
41 running that, processing fish, the subsistence
42 lifestyle. A pretty cool thing. They were doing berry
43 transects, trying to teach them how to gauge berry
44 production for the year. So it was a really unique
45 opportunity to get out there and I guess the results
46 were excellent. They're hoping to bring that to other
47 villages in the future.

48
49 Fire management. I just put this in
50 here for your reference. There was four small fires on

1 the Refuge. None of them really threatened any
2 critical habitat or Native allotments or such. They're
3 basically in there for your reference.

4
5 Personnel changes. There's been quite
6 a few at the Innoko Refuge over the past year. Our
7 former Refuge Manager Bo Sloan was accepted as a Refuge
8 Manager for Kodiak National Wildlife Refuge.
9 Subsequently he has moved down to Arkansas to be in
10 wildlife refuges down in the Lower 48.

11
12 We did lose our law enforcement officer
13 and pilot, Tim Bennett. He took a position in North
14 Dakota, so that position has been vacated and they will
15 not refill that position.

16
17 Ken Richardson, our airplane pilot,
18 lateral from Innoko down to Izembek National Wildlife
19 Refuge back in July. That coincided with the arrival
20 of our new Refuge Manager/Pilot Shawn Bayliss, who came
21 from North Dakota. He was regional aviation manager
22 down there. He has a strong background in waterfowl
23 management. He's basically serving the function of Bo's
24 old position as Refuge Manager and replacing Ken's
25 position as the Refuge pilot.

26
27 There's two things on here I did not
28 put in. Our Deputy Refuge Manager Chris Eggleston is
29 moving to the Florida Keys late this month. He
30 accepted a deputy position down in lower Florida. And
31 Dara Whitworth, she's not leaving but I guess it was in
32 mid April they rearranged positions. They basically
33 eliminated our refuge information technician position
34 at Innoko and they combined it into Dara's position.
35 So now she's 50 percent refuge information technician,
36 50 percent wildlife biologist as far as duties go.

37
38 So basically this time last year we
39 lost our first biologist, so within a year we went from
40 three biologist positions to basically one and a half.
41 There's been a lot of cuts at Innoko.

42
43 With that, if there's any more
44 questions, I can field them.

45
46 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Don.

47
48 MR. HONEA: Thank you. Jerry, I know
49 we're probably not going to have time to go through the
50 proposals and stuff, but you mentioned a State proposal

1 in there. What does it essentially do. Is there any
2 proposals that -- you know, I want to know what
3 Innoko's stance is on certain proposals because I know
4 the hunting pressure even coming down through the
5 Koyukuk and it's extending even further than that down
6 to the Innoko and I don't know what it's like up on the
7 Innoko.

8
9 You know, is there any impending State
10 proposals to open more land or more areas for, say, a
11 drawing or something? I want to see if you have any
12 proposals that's going to affect you and what your
13 stance is on it. Thanks.

14
15 MR. HILL: The only two proposals we're
16 facing that affect the Refuse are the one 21E where the
17 State proposals have been put in out of Holy Cross to
18 move that from a general hunt to a registered hunt to
19 increase reporting. Fish and Game in McGrath actually
20 gave me permission to speak on their behalf on this.
21 They are supporting that, which makes sense, because
22 reporting has been pretty poor, which are referenced in
23 the hunt stuff for us.

24
25 So they're moving to put a registered
26 management permit, a registered moose permit into place
27 on that through that proposal. We generally support
28 that position as well because when I go to permit for
29 the Federal hunt, it seems like every year there's at
30 least two villages that have no reporting harvest for
31 that fall hunt. Our Federal hunt is determined -- what
32 we issue is determined on harvest in the fall hunt
33 because it's restricted to households that didn't
34 harvest moose during that fall general hunt.

35
36 Fish and Game out of McGrath puts in
37 hours trying to track down these harvest reports and
38 they're hoping that -- not them, but the person that
39 put in the proposals is trying to get a better
40 reporting system to Fish and Game for that respect.
41 That would benefit us as well. That's why we support
42 it. When I or whoever goes out to permit these
43 villages for the Federal hunt we have very little
44 information to support what we're being told whether
45 they harvested or not.

46
47 So that's the first one. The second
48 proposal on the Fish and Game for the Board of Game is
49 a season extension for non-residents in Unit 21A. That
50 proposal has been submitted by Willow Air, which is

1 actually the guide that has the guide use permits for
2 the Innoko Refuge. Currently they can only hunt,
3 non-residents, until September 30th. They're moving to
4 propose that hunt be extended back to September 25th,
5 which it has been in the past.

6
7 Part of the reason we went ahead and
8 did the extrapolation of that data to the entire unit
9 in 21A is for that reason for Fish and Game's stance on
10 that proposal. We extrapolated out and we had a
11 population of about 2,400. Fish and Game uses a
12 harvestable rate of 4 percent to determine harvestable
13 surplus on these hunts in 21A and 21E. So that
14 basically gave us a harvestable surplus of 98 moose for
15 21A. The primary use of that resource is through
16 transporters and Willow Air for most of the GASH
17 villages never venture into 21A and there's really no
18 village use of that unit.

19
20 Willow Air has harvested 21 moose last
21 year in their hunt. This year they only harvested 12.
22 Fish and Game said it was appropriate for me to pass on
23 that they're probably going to go neutral on that.
24 Biologically, there's enough harvestable surplus there
25 probably to warrant that based on the data we have and
26 have been given in the past. I would probably go with
27 their line on that as well.

28
29 MR. GERVAIS: Question, Mr. Chair.

30
31 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead.

32
33 MR. GERVAIS: Jerry, can you go to that
34 map again. I got lost when you got into the 4 percent.

35
36 MR. HILL: Oh, yeah. That was just in
37 reference to Game Management Units and that's kind of a
38 standard harvestable rate that Fish and Game uses in
39 these low density units like Unit 21A. So they take
40 the total population estimate for that Game Management
41 Unit, which I don't have a map of it in front of me,
42 for Unit 21A. Basically took the total acreage square
43 mileage of that unit, took the moose density that we
44 got off a survey for low density units, got the
45 population level and I don't know if it's Fish and Game
46 in McGrath or just for Fish and Game in a greater
47 context use that 4 percent as a gauge. So 4 percent of
48 the population was basically 98 moose, is what they saw
49 as a harvestable surplus that would not hurt that
50 population.

1 MR. GERVAIS: So it's the square
2 mileage times the .03?

3

4 MR. HILL: Moose per square mile.
5 Yeah, .02 for low density. We left the high density
6 units out of that for the extrapolation being that the
7 remainder of 21A, based on our knowledge, is more
8 representative of the low density units we saw on the
9 Refuge.

10

11 MR. GERVAIS: Okay. So that number of
12 harvestable surplus is 98 moose?

13

14 MR. HILL: Yes.

15

16 MR. GERVAIS: And then they will.....

17

18 MR. HILL: I tried to get that actual
19 final harvest report for that hunt and our manager has
20 that and he has been out of the office, but we talked
21 to him the last day of the season that his hunters are
22 eligible to hunt and at that point it was 12. It could
23 be 13 or 14, but the last most accurate up-to-date
24 information I have is 12. We don't have harvest
25 returns from 21A for many of the GASH villages because
26 obviously they tend to go towards the Innoko and the
27 Yukon due to higher moose population densities.

28

29 MR. GERVAIS: Okay. So the area where
30 the transporters are coming into 21A you'd characterize
31 that as being just not a local resident, not a
32 subsistence area because it's just not accessible?

33

34 MR. HILL: Yeah. If you look at the
35 harvest reports for 21E and 21A out of Grayling and
36 Shageluk in specific, most of the animals are being
37 harvested near the villages of Shageluk or Grayling.
38 About as far up the Refuge as we've generally seen them
39 go is just north of Holikachuk, which is still in Unit
40 21E.

41

42 Willow Air Service, them and a couple
43 other folks that transport out there generally stay up
44 from Medishna over to our field camp, which is on the
45 northern part of the Refuge, which for 21A is our high
46 density area. For subsistence use, I'm not saying that
47 there's not any, but it's relatively small if it's
48 there at all, the moose.

49

50 MR. GERVAIS: Okay. One reason I'm

1 asking about it is, other than it's not an area I've
2 ever hunted or traveled in, these minute meetings from
3 our spring meeting Robert Walker, Anvik, is saying that
4 -- raised concern about increasing pressure during
5 moose hunting season, transporters and guides operate
6 there as well as individuals traveling to the area by
7 boat has been noted. The many aircraft are returning
8 with antlers only, no meat. So Fish and Game was
9 notified of this wanton waste issue and increased
10 enforcement sooner rather than later is desired.

11

12 From your enforcement people, are you
13 seeing any kind of trend of increasing poaching or
14 wanton waste?

15

16 MR. HILL: No. Unfortunately, I think
17 Robert's -- I think it's a Federal proposal that Trevor
18 is going to address, but that Paradise Controlled Use
19 Area is primarily Unit 21E, not A, which I'm
20 referencing on the other hunt. To your question about
21 enforcement, we haven't had a steady law enforcement
22 presence out there for a number of years. So I can't
23 speak directly to whether we are or not seeing that.

24

25 Where 21E comes into play for us is
26 during the Federal subsistence hunt, which is basically
27 only open to the rural residents of that unit and then
28 down into the southern Paimiut zone open to the
29 Kuskokwim villages I referenced during the hunt update.

30

31 MR. GERVAIS: All right. Thank you.

32

33 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks, Tim.

34

35 Any other questions for Jerry's
36 presentation.

37

38 (No comments)

39

40

41 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I really appreciate
42 all the work you're doing on moose there. Like I've
43 said before, there was complete data lack on the moose
44 populations in that area. So I'm real happy to see all
45 that. This gives us -- I'm concerned that people
46 aren't reporting because it's actually
47 counterproductive for them not to report because the
48 Board of Game will allocate that resource if it's not
49 being harvested by local people to some other user
50 group. I would like to see some way of -- I guess

1 you've told them over and over to please report it and
2 they just don't want to do that.

3

4 MR. HILL: Yeah, but the funny thing
5 is, most of the time when you call to get the harvest
6 report they say they didn't hunt, but I actually had a
7 couple of folks report a hunt from the previous winter.
8 They've been fairly open about when you do contact them
9 at a later point. It's just getting that initial
10 reporting in. Of course, we have a 24-hour reporting
11 on harvest that obviously has been missed a few times.
12 It would be very very important if we were ever
13 reaching those harvestable ceilings. We did get three
14 moose away from the one in the Paimiut zone.

15

16 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right. But the
17 Aniak hunters were good about reporting you said?

18

19 MR. HILL: Yeah. I guess the feel from
20 BLM when they issued those permits the folks in Aniak
21 that did get a permit, they were so appreciative of
22 that opportunity, as are folks in the GASH community,
23 but they made a point how much thanks they got for that
24 opportunity. They had a good harvest rate and every
25 one of them has returned their harvest report, which is
26 good to see.

27

28 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: They harvested six
29 moose in Zone 1 and were those primarily so many bulls
30 and so many cows?

31

32 MR. HILL: Yeah, but I think one of the
33 issues here was when we did that Paimiut zone was
34 having so many moose allocated to such a small area.
35 They were all 5 bulls in that Paimiut zone, the Zone 1.
36 In the northern zone or the rest of the unit was
37 actually 4 cows and 2 bulls. Paimiut zone is pretty
38 small and it's sometimes hard to tell the distribution
39 of the harvest because most of the harvest reports
40 reference Pike Lake. It's kind of a long area I'm told
41 down there, but apparently that's where the
42 concentration of moose is.

43

44 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right.

45

46 MR. HILL: Yeah, they did get the 5
47 bulls. I don't know if that was just by chance. I'm
48 sure it was. Anyway, we're happy with the results on
49 that. The reporting was on time. I never got late
50 reports on harvest at Aniak. Primarily BLM issued out

1 of Aniak and the other villages had to come to that
2 central point. I hope that didn't affect the issuance
3 to the other villages. I think all but one of the
4 permits is Aniak residents. I think there's one for
5 Chuathbaluk.

6

7 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Oh, I see.

8

9 MR. HILL: And anecdotally we didn't
10 expect much participation from the Kalskags due to
11 their opportunity to go to Unit 18.

12

13 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right. Okay. Tim.

14

15 MR. GERVAIS: Jerry, is any of the
16 guided or transported meat ending up in McGrath or any
17 of the local villages or it's just retained by the
18 hunter?

19

20 MR. HILL: Yeah, I would say a majority
21 -- well, I don't know about majority, but a good
22 percentage of it is given away to the elders in
23 McGrath. There's been years, I guess, the guide has
24 had a hard time giving it away because there's been so
25 much during successful hunts in McGrath itself. He
26 gives enough moose meat away where it's been an issue
27 even finding someone to take it.

28

29 So what happens, I think, in that
30 instance is that the Fish and Game or the brown shirt,
31 the game warden out of McGrath will actually distribute
32 that meat to Nikolai and Sleetmute as well if needed.
33 Yeah, it's not wasted at all. The guide has done a
34 very good job and law enforcement has actually noted
35 that as well. He's prompt in contacting them to
36 distribute that meat.

37

38 MR. GERVAIS: All right. Thank you.

39

40 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Was there some
41 reason why the harvest declined from 21 to 12 moose?
42 You said was it last year they had 21 moose and this
43 year it was 12?

44

45 MR. HILL: Just again talking to the
46 guide, it was really high water late into the season
47 and he said the rut didn't seem to hit quite as quick,
48 so he said animals weren't moving or responding as well
49 as they did in the previous two years. Part of, I
50 guess, what we considered on that, the game proposal I

1 mentioned for 21A as well, is we're going neutral on
2 the allocation issue, but their harvest might have
3 increased the last two years and dropped this year due
4 to I think more of environmental conditions.

5
6 We've had really high bull/cow ratios
7 out there the last two composition surveys and his
8 hunters are restricted to 50-inch or bigger. Anyway,
9 that's more information I guess going towards the
10 previous question as well. This year's drop in harvest
11 I think is more environmental conditions with the warm
12 weather and such, high water.

13
14 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Any other questions
15 or comments.

16
17 Don.

18
19 MR. HONEA: Thank you, Jack. Jerry, I
20 just wanted to -- and I think Tim brings up a good
21 point in saying that -- you know, I don't know how
22 exactly you guys get the word out, but we've kind of
23 been reiterating that with maybe the Nowitna and I'll
24 ask them. Because I mean even to this day, I mean I
25 don't know. I guess we've been, as tribal council and
26 whatever, saying, gee, you know, there's people that
27 didn't get a moose out there. I didn't get a moose.

28
29 Okay. So, I mean, how do we get the
30 word out that, you know, through -- you know, I guess I
31 don't know how you guys are doing it there. I mean as
32 an example there was some -- it was pretty late. It
33 was after the season or whatever or near the end of the
34 season, the 25th of September or something, there was
35 some hunters coming up -- this is just an example --
36 and they had a lot of meat and they wanted to say, hey,
37 we want to send this out on Wright Air. Well, the
38 Wright Air agent says, well, I'm not going to take care
39 of that meat. I mean you want me to hang onto this
40 meat until it comes in for a couple days or something
41 like that. So they left with it, you know. Who knows,
42 to lighten their load. I mean it's a known fact that,
43 you know, some of it is thrown overboard.

44
45 So I guess what I'm trying to say is I
46 guess we have to get the word out. I don't know how
47 you guys do it, but if people -- if there's meat and if
48 they're going to wantonly do this anyway, hey, we'll
49 try to -- but I appreciate your presentation here
50 because I mean for a while there I thought due to

1 budget cuts I thought this summer that you guys were
2 going to have to mold with Galena or something like
3 that. I'm glad you guys are still over there.

4

5 Thank you.

6

7 MR. HILL: Yeah, we're doing our best
8 with limited resources for sure. I know your question
9 about the use of the meat. I don't really know how you
10 address that. Obviously through the guides. He does a
11 good job with that. As far as giving more opportunity
12 to the rural residents, I think our Federal hunt in 21E
13 is exactly aimed towards that. That was set up with
14 limiting use to those households that did not harvest a
15 moose. It's a touchy subject for sure. I don't know
16 the best way to go about that.

17

18 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Anything else.

19

20 (No comments)

21

22

23 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks a lot, Jerry.

24 Appreciate it.

25

26 MR. HILL: Thank you.

27

28 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Melinda.

29

30 MS. BURKE: Mr. Chair. We're going to
31 backtrack just a bit and cover one more item before we
32 adjourn for the day. I will have a couple of
33 announcements after we finish this item. We're
34 fortunate to have one of our Federal Subsistence Board
35 members here to present a 20-year award to our Chairman
36 Jack Reakoff. We also have one more person, Raymond
37 Collins, who wasn't able to be here today who is also
38 celebrating 20 years service to the Subsistence
39 Councils and I'd like to invite our Federal Subsistence
40 Board member up to make that presentation, please.

41

42 MR. BROWER: Thank you. My name is
43 Charles Brower. I'm one of the members of the Federal
44 Subsistence Board. I'm a member from Barrow. This is
45 my first year and here I am traveling already. No, I'm
46 just kidding. Well, it's an honor to be here to make a
47 presentation on behalf of the Federal Subsistence Board
48 and Chairman Tim Towarak in your service to the RAC.

49

50 I've known Jack since he was a kid.

1 (Laughter)

2

3 MR. BROWER: Anyway, I'd just take this
4 opportunity to make a presentation to him. Jack moved
5 to Wiseman, Alaska as a boy in 1971 with his family and
6 has been living there ever since. By doing so he has
7 become one of the longest term resident of Wiseman.
8 Jack lives a subsistence style focusing on hunting,
9 trapping, berry picking and gardening. With an
10 interest in history, Jack has become Wiseman's
11 unofficial historian.

12

13 In the summer months, he leads a guided
14 walk through the town for the Northern Alaska Tour
15 Company. As someone highly dependent upon all
16 resources of the Brooks Range, Jack is concerned about
17 preservation of species and habitat and of his
18 lifestyle. So he has helped scientists research
19 projects, serve as the Chairman of the Western Interior
20 Subsistence Council and on the Gates of the Arctic
21 Subsistence Resource Committee.

22

23 Jack has served 20 years on the Council
24 and we would like to provide him with a piece of framed
25 student artwork from Region 6 as well as a knife in
26 appreciation for the years of continuous service and
27 dedication to the people and resources of Western
28 Interior Region. Jack.

29

30 (Applause)

31

32 MR. BROWER: This is presented to Jack
33 Reakoff on -- it was supposed to be on October 8, but
34 we couldn't, so November 6th, I believe, in recognition
35 of your 20 years of service on the Western Interior
36 Subsistence Regional Advisory Council and a lifetime of
37 dedication to subsistence in the region.

38

39 Thank you, Jack.

40

41 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I appreciate that,
42 Charlie.

43

44 MR. BROWER: Also I didn't have time to
45 look through it, but here's also a Buck knife -- a
46 Browning knife.

47

48 Thank you, Jack.

49

50 (Applause)

1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thank you so much.
2 I am appreciative to OSM for this recognition of 20
3 years. I do want to recognize that Pollock Simon was
4 on the Council with me in 1993. It's too bad that Ray
5 is not here to also accept the award. I didn't want to
6 get into the subsistence business, but it was just sort
7 of incumbent on trying to protect the resources and the
8 users of the area, so I continue on with this process.
9 It's always a learning process and I actually enjoy
10 hearing all the reports and stuff. I read a lot of the
11 documents, so it's been beneficial for me also.

12
13 Thank you very much.

14
15 (Applause)

16
17 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So that was cool.

18
19 MS. BURKE: We'll be making Ray's
20 presentation at our winter meeting and it sounds like
21 we need to get something together for Pollock as well.
22 I think that's going to be a good place for us to
23 adjourn for the day. I wanted to apologize to the
24 group for having to move into the smaller meeting room.
25 There's a really great language group that's meeting
26 next door to the room we were originally slated in and
27 their enthusiasm was kind of pouring over into our room
28 and it would have been difficult to have a clear
29 teleconference, so thanks for your patience in moving
30 over here.

31
32 Also following up with that, we'll have
33 to delay our start time in the morning just a bit.
34 We're going to start up at 10:00 a.m. Everybody will
35 need to take your materials with you from the room
36 tonight.

37
38 First on the agenda in the morning
39 we're going to have Polly Wheeler on the teleconference
40 to provide some Refuge updates. So we'll be starting
41 tomorrow morning 10:00 a.m. with Polly.

42
43 And also the chef from the restaurant
44 came over this morning and he's debuting a new menu
45 this evening, so for folks who are staying here tonight
46 and even if you're not, if you'd like to eat here at
47 the restaurant, they're going to be providing a small
48 discount for folks who attended this meeting here
49 today.

50

1 Thanks so much everybody for your
2 participation. Jack, if you'd like to go ahead and
3 adjourn for the day, I think it's a good time.

4
5 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yes, I think that
6 it's a good point in the agenda to recess until
7 tomorrow morning at 10:00 a.m. We're working through
8 this agenda fairly well, so I think this is a good time
9 for a break.

10
11 Thank you.

12
13 (Off record)

14
15 (PROCEEDINGS TO BE CONTINUED)

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C E R T I F I C A T E

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA)
)ss.
STATE OF ALASKA)

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DATED at Anchorage, Alaska, this 18th day of November 2013.

Salena A. Hile
Notary Public, State of Alaska
My Commission Expires: 9/16/14