

1 WESTERN INTERIOR ALASKA FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE
2 REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING

3
4 PUBLIC MEETING

5
6 VOLUME II

7
8 Larson Charlie Community Hall
9 Galena, Alaska
10 February 19, 2009
11 9:00 o'clock a.m.

12
13
14 COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

- 15
16 Jack Reakoff, Chairman
17 Ray Collins
18 Timothy Gervais
19 Carl Morgan
20 Mickey Stickman
21 Robert Walker
22 Eleanor Yatlin
23
24
25
26 Regional Council Coordinator, Vince Mathews
27
28
29
30
31
32
33
34
35
36
37
38
39
40
41
42

43
44 Recorded and transcribed by:
45
46 Computer Matrix Court Reporters, LLC
47 700 W. 2nd Avenue
48 Anchorage, AK 99501
49 907-243-0668
50 jpk@gci.net/sahile@gci.net

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28
29
30
31
32
33
34
35
36
37
38
39
40
41
42
43
44
45
46
47
48
49
50

P R O C E E D I N G S

(Galena, Alaska - 2/19/2009)

(On record)

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Good morning. The time on my watch is 9:03. We'll start the Western Interior Regional Advisory Council second day spring meeting. All members are present that we had yesterday. Excused absences noted.

We were on special action wildlife issues and we covered the Kanuti moose data presentation with the State and made a recommendation on that special action request for the March 27-31 hunt.

We're down here to the Koyukuk/Nowitna Refuge. We're at a point where Eleanor had concerns about people in Huslia wanting a spring hunt. The refuge manager came over to where we were staying last night and we talked a little bit about this issue. Maybe I'll have Kenton come up here to the table and we'll go over that Koyukuk/Nowitna March 1-5 hunt that is coming up and sort of the reasons why the refuge manager doesn't feel that hunt should take place and I want the Council to decide at this point what action should take place.

Go ahead, Kenton. If you could, just give us sort of an overview. I assume that your wildlife biologist is still stuck there in Ruby.

MR. MOOS: Good morning. For the record, my name is Kenton Moos, refuge manager Koyukuk/Nowitna National Wildlife Refuge. Brad is back and he should be here shortly. He got in late last night. He snowmachined back instead of flying, so he should be here shortly and he's prepared to give an overview of the fall trend counts that we did. If you want, I can wait for that or else we definitely can discuss what my decision was based on.

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: We can put this special action later.

MR. MOOS: The special actions that we're referring to is a different deal. The special actions that were included are to come in alignment in

1 a control use area for the fall hunt. The hunt for
2 local users used to be five days ahead of the resident
3 hunt. So this would push it back and this was at the
4 request of the Middle Yukon A.C., Benedict Jones in
5 particular.

6

7 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: If you want to
8 present that at this time, that's what I'm looking for.
9 Go ahead with the special action for the fall season
10 change.

11

12 MR. MOOS: Okay. The special action
13 request, and we're also following it up with a proposal
14 for change in regulation because it is a wildlife cycle
15 with Federal Subsistence Board. What we are proposing
16 is to come into alignment with the State, which pushed
17 that hunt back five days. The Board of Game did that
18 last year.

19

20 We submitted a special action request
21 last year. We're doing it again this year to come into
22 alignment. The reason we're doing that is because,
23 one, simplicity of regulation for the local users so
24 that there's not a Federal hunt separated from the
25 State hunt. Also it would require us to administer
26 that hunt, which would mean opening up an additional
27 check station, providing Federal permits and so forth.
28 The State, when they presented it to the Federal
29 Subsistence Board, we, as the Federal managers would
30 also pursue to have that same regulatory change so that
31 we stay in alignment. This was at the request of local
32 users because of the warmer conditions.

33

34 So the only thing we are proposing to
35 change is the dates. It was from August 27th through
36 September 20th, changed to September 1 through the
37 25th. So the number of days will not change. It's
38 just being pushed back at the request of local users
39 because of the warmer conditions. We will not make a
40 change as far as the potential for a cow hunt at the
41 front of that to be announced by the refuge manager.
42 I've not allowed that due to some biological concerns,
43 but that call will remain on the books. All we're
44 doing is changing the dates to come into alignment with
45 the State.

46

47 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Does Council
48 understand basically a housekeeping type special action
49 request to align with State regulations. The State has
50 changed the season and moved it back to the 25th.

1 Do you have a comment there, Eleanor.
2
3 MS. YATLIN: I just want a
4 clarification on where you're talking about because you
5 mentioned Benedict Jones.
6
7 MR. MOOS: It's for the Koyukuk
8 Controlled Use area.
9
10 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: And the Koyukuk
11 River Advisory Committee hasn't met on that issue and
12 has not had a recommendation as to that effect. Go
13 ahead, Robert.
14
15 MR. WALKER: Mr. Chairman. Jack,
16 yesterday we talked about Vince forgot to pass out the
17 Region 6 map.
18
19 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right. Yeah, there
20 was discussion about having the map in front of us so
21 we know which areas we're talking about. Do we have
22 reg books here, Vince?
23
24 MR. MATHEWS: There should be some. If
25 not, I have one. The maps I don't think got shipped
26 out.
27
28 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: If we have a couple
29 reg books to pass around to the Council. The Koyukuk
30 Controlled Use Area and Unit 21D and 24D. As far as
31 I'm concerned, this is a housekeeping proposal. I
32 would like this Council to endorse that housekeeping
33 proposal if we could. Mickey.
34
35 MR. STICKMAN: Yeah, Jack. I'm on the
36 Middle Yukon Advisory Committee and I haven't seen this
37 before.
38
39 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Oh, you haven't?
40
41 MR. STICKMAN: No.
42
43 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: How did Ben come up
44 with an endorsement for this?
45
46 MR. MOOS: Mr. Chair. It was brought
47 up and passed through the Board of Game about two years
48 ago. Right, Glenn? I'll refer to Glenn.
49
50 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right. Yeah, the

1 regulatory change happened at the Board of Game last
2 spring in their March meeting. I guess the Middle Yukon
3 endorsed that proposal. Go ahead, Glenn.

4

5 MR. STOUT: Glenn Stout, Fish and Game.
6 In fact, both the Middle Yukon and the Koyukuk River
7 looked at the proposal on the State side and both of
8 them supported the State proposal. This is a new
9 proposal that hasn't been discussed just because we
10 haven't had meetings.

11

12 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So that's the
13 confusion. The Koyukuk River and the Middle Yukon have
14 not discussed this Federal change, but they did discuss
15 the State change, so the Koyukuk weighed in that the
16 season change was warranted, but the Koyukuk River
17 hasn't met in regard to this particular special action
18 request.

19

20 To move the agenda along, the Chair
21 will entertain a motion to endorse the special action
22 request that the Koyukuk/Nowitna is putting in for.

23

24 MR. STICKMAN: So moved, Mr. Chair.

25

26 MR. WALKER: Second.

27

28 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Seconded by Robert.
29 Discussion on that? It's basically an alignment to the
30 State regulations.

31

32 MR. STICKMAN: Question.

33

34 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Question is called
35 on the motion. Those in favor of the motion signify by
36 saying aye.

37

38 IN UNISON: Aye.

39

40 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Opposed.

41

42 (No opposed votes)

43

44 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Unanimous consent of
45 that. The other special action request that I'm aware
46 of is this 21E request. Should we cover that, Vince.

47

48 MR. MATHEWS: That one we can talk
49 about it, but also there may be an appropriate time to
50 go over this whole special action process so that

1 people understand that process. Generally you don't
2 get to see all these special actions at you're meeting
3 and it might be a good time for you to see how this
4 process walks through. Your Chair is involved and et
5 cetera. Larry can kind of give you an overview. I
6 missed the bit about Brad coming in on that one or is
7 that already done?

8

9 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Brad is going to be
10 necessary for the upcoming agenda items here.

11

12 MR. MATHEWS: So that would be a good
13 time for that and then we can talk about the 21E
14 special action. There's some new information on that
15 one.

16

17 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: If you want Larry to
18 give us a quick overview of what the special action
19 request entails for new Council members information,
20 which is a good thing.

21

22 Go ahead, Larry.

23

24 MR. BUKLIS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
25 Good morning. Larry Buklis, OSM. The special action
26 process involves -- there's a kind of break in the
27 process as to whether it's a temporary special action
28 or an emergency special action and they have different
29 paths.

30

31 When we receive a special action
32 request, we determine whether it's for 60 days or less
33 or more than 60 days. If a request is going to be in
34 effect for more than 60 days, then it's considered a
35 temporary special action and that requires a public
36 hearing. So an analysis is assigned and developed and
37 then we hold a public hearing and if we can we try to
38 use a Council meeting as the public hearing. If that
39 won't work out for timing reasons, then we schedule an
40 independent meeting from the Council.

41

42 In any case, the Council chair receives
43 a copy of the incoming request and the analysis that
44 follows. The authority for deciding the outcome of a
45 temporary special action rests with the Federal Board.
46 That's not delegated down.

47

48 For an emergency special action, which
49 is 60 days or less, that authority is typically
50 delegated down. In wildlife, it's to the head of OSM

1 or, in some cases, to the field manager. In fisheries,
2 when the fisheries program emerged in 2000, fisheries
3 were seen as being much more dynamic and typically
4 requiring emergency actions on a frequent basis to keep
5 up with the runs and the management of them, so there
6 was more of a complete delegation down to field
7 managers. In this case, Russ Holder on the Yukon
8 River. The refuge manager, Gene Peltola now and Mike
9 Reardon before him for the Kuskokwim. So you're
10 familiar with those authorities.

11
12 In any case, the emergency special
13 action also has an analysis associated with it, but
14 because of the timeframe involved and the fact that a
15 public hearing isn't required, we do send the incoming
16 request to the State and to the Council Chair for their
17 information, but then we move ahead with the analysis
18 and the decision by the appropriate authority.

19
20 What Vince was saying was that in this
21 case you're dealing with some perhaps emergency special
22 actions, but the timing of this meeting is such that
23 you can take them up and convey your view and
24 recommendation, but that's an unusual situation.

25
26 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right.

27
28 MR. BUKLIS: More typically it would be
29 done separate from the Council process.

30
31 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: And the Chair would
32 normally weigh in on the emergency special action
33 request.

34
35 MR. BUKLIS: They can, but I don't
36 think we actively pursue input from the Chair as a
37 requirement. It can be a part of the process, but it
38 doesn't have to be. It doesn't require a Council
39 recommendation or consultation in most cases. In some
40 cases there's a feature of the regulation that may say
41 season to be announced or fishing period to be set in
42 consultation with the State and the Council Chair, but
43 other cases that's not required.

44
45 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So at this point you
46 would like the Council to weigh in on this 21E but it's
47 not necessary. Our input would have somewhat of a
48 reduced effect on the deliberation by the OSM?

49
50 MR. BUKLIS: Mr. Chair. I think since

1 you're meeting now and these are relevant now, I think
2 the input is welcome and would be factored in. I was
3 just trying to clarify that this isn't a typical
4 process for special actions. It's just a coincidence
5 of timing. But since we are together and these are
6 timely, it's welcome input, yes.

7
8 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I would like to
9 quickly go over this 21E position and I would like the
10 affected area to address this. So I will be looking to
11 Robert heavily on this one. This is a request by the
12 Holy Cross Tribal Council, Eugene Paul. This is having
13 an additional seven days of moose season in 21E. We
14 went over a little bit of this at a break. I would
15 like Council input on your feeling on how much people
16 met their subsistence needs and whether this Council
17 should endorse this proposal. You have more of a hand
18 on the pulse down there.

19
20 Do you have a comment, Mickey.

21
22 MR. STICKMAN: Just the only comment
23 that it's important to go on record that even though it
24 has the chief of Holy Cross on there there's also the
25 villages of Grayling, Anvik and Shageluk. It's
26 important to know all the villages on there even though
27 the requester's name is Eugene Paul and he's the chief
28 of the Holy Cross Tribal Council.

29
30 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: That's a worthy
31 note. Thank you, Mickey. Go ahead, Robert.

32
33 MR. WALKER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
34 I think Vince has contacted the other chiefs in the
35 other villages. Can you comment on that, Vince.

36
37 MR. MATHEWS: Yes. Basically the way
38 this started was David, the Chief of Grayling,
39 contacted Pete DeMatteo and talked about the special
40 action and what does it take to get that passed. David
41 called me up and then we played phone tag and then I
42 got him a draft, but then I wasn't able to reach him.
43 His phone wasn't working. Then I called Robert up to
44 get a hold of Carl Jerue and then he called me up and
45 said he would like it.

46
47 Anyway, what's happened is the timing
48 of this meeting and the faxes are crossing each other.
49 All I want on the record is that the other villages
50 besides Holy Cross do want an additional season, but

1 they've not approved this language. I had several
2 conversations with Eugene on it and we went back and
3 forth on it and he did agree to this.

4
5 The last bit of information that's come
6 in yesterday is that right now they're doing a moose
7 survey and it will continue. We need to let you know
8 that they don't want the survey to interfere with the
9 special action. There may be a timing question here
10 when the season would go forward. I don't have all my
11 notes with me about Eugene, but I kind of got the
12 feeling he wanted it towards the end of February, maybe
13 beginning of March. That may overlap with the survey,
14 which would cause some disturbances. Right now we're
15 just cautioning everybody to say that we're going to
16 have to look at the timing of the survey in this.
17 Plus, obviously, the data from the survey will play a
18 factor in this.

19
20 The refuge can talk about the survey.
21 Geoff Beyersdorf is involved in that as well as others.
22 I haven't had a chance to talk with him. For the new
23 members, the reason I'm saying Geoff Beyersdorf is
24 because the majority of the land is Bureau of Land
25 Management as well as some refuge lands.

26
27 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thank you, Vince.
28 Robert, your impression of this. In our discussion
29 yesterday when Kenton was here, he was concerned about
30 all the harvest taking place in one area. What would
31 be your impression of breaking that down into village
32 quotas and subtracting the amounts that were taken in
33 the early February hunt so they don't exceed your
34 management objective of no more than 30 moose. I would
35 like your impression about all those.

36
37 MR. WALKER: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
38 Members of the board. Talking with the chiefs, the
39 tribal councils from the four villages in 21A, they are
40 really concerned about hunting, yes, but like I said
41 last fall when I brought it up in our meeting in
42 October a lot of people didn't get a moose then and had
43 to share what little they had. I've been sharing with
44 my neighbor here. He's kind of eating me out of house
45 and home because they have more kids than I do. The
46 point is we're still sharing. Moose meat now would be
47 a blessing to each home even if they didn't get one.
48 If they got half, that would sustain them until
49 probably June, July, when they can have fish there, dry
50 fish, et cetera. People are trapping beaver now, which

1 is subsidizing their meat. Ptarmigans are still in.
2 Not very many, but some people are eating them.

3
4 I would say yes for this moose hunt.
5 Most of them were there at the meetings anyway. I said
6 not to exceed 30 if we could help it. If we do go over
7 the amount of 30, then we're going to have a question
8 when we meet again sometime in the future with the
9 State. I talked to Randy briefly about this. He says,
10 well, if we go over, we go over. That's just something
11 that's going to happen.

12
13 Holy Cross, they want it. Anvik, the
14 tribal chief, I talked to Carl. I said, you know, you
15 have to be very thorough, talk to the people, and he
16 did. He came back after Vince called him, but he
17 briefly just told the people what do you want and they
18 said, sure, let's try it again. February was too cold.
19 It was 40, 50 below there. We didn't want to have to
20 go out and have search and rescue for anybody if we
21 could help it.

22
23 Grayling said they could run up to
24 Innoko Refuge and go on the east bank and there is
25 moose there. Shag tribe said, yeah, they can just run
26 over here. There's a couple patches there. Holy Cross
27 has one right between Shageluk and Holy Cross where
28 they could drive. One between Anvik and Shageluk. It
29 will work. So, yeah, I would say vote in favor of it
30 and see what happens.

31
32 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

33
34 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: One question I have
35 for you is what's your impression of the shortfall this
36 year on the fall harvest like 40 or 50 percent less
37 than what people would have ordinarily caught.

38
39 MR. WALKER: Mr. Chairman. Yes, it was
40 really devastating last fall here. It got to a point
41 where the chiefs were calling these subsistence people
42 that we wrote letters to jerks, what do they know about
43 how we live, the cost of living out here. Maybe they
44 should come out here and live a year in our shoes.
45 They were very frustrated after writing proposals,
46 writing to Vince. Vince and Geoff Beyersdorf are not to
47 blame. It's just the people who were in charge needed
48 more and more. What do they more and more for. Low
49 water is low water. If you can walk across a creek,
50 that's low water when normally it's 20 feet. Yes, they

1 were highly disappointed in the subsistence.

2

3 Another thing they brought attention
4 last audio we had, we should have went to the State.
5 The State would have had the biologists give us this
6 five extra days. That's another thing that was brought
7 up, why can't the Federal biologists just override
8 whatever and say, yeah, we'll give you this extra
9 five-day hunt.

10

11 That's another thing I want you to look
12 into, Jack, is why can't we just go to the biologist
13 without having to go to OSM Subsistence Board and ask
14 like we're children. Name calling is not a nice thing
15 to have, but rather than have a conflict, hard
16 feelings, something has to be done here to alleviate
17 some of the pressure, pain and agony on the part of the
18 chiefs here because they're the ones people look up to.
19 When they don't come through, for a lot of them it's
20 hard feelings. It's frustrating. Hard words, jerks, is
21 what they call the OSM guys. They would have said it
22 right here at the meeting last fall if they were here.

23

24 The bottom line is we need somebody who
25 we can go directly to. Not only Anvik, Shageluk, Holy
26 Cross, the other tribes too that have a biologist that
27 just says yes. Somebody like Mike.

28

29 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: That's the
30 information I wanted the Council to hear is that there
31 is a significant lack in harvest last year because of
32 low water and so forth, so that has to be put on the
33 record for the benefit of OSM in their deliberation on
34 this special action request. So it's apparent that
35 this Council believes strongly that there is a
36 subsistence lack. As we saw in the upper Koyukuk, the
37 people in Allakaket couldn't hunt. They were grinding
38 props, two or three props to nubs trying to find moose.
39 So I feel this is an emergency situation. The
40 animosity that was caused because of the mechanism of
41 trying to get an additional five days on the end of the
42 hunt.

43

44 I would like to see a proposal
45 submitted by the Council to address the five day
46 addition to the end of September because it's call for
47 proposal in the Federal side.

48

49 Do you have a comment, Mickey.

50

1 MR. STICKMAN: No. I was going to make
2 a motion in favor of the special action request.

3
4 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Motion on the
5 table to endorse the special action request for an
6 additional -- seven days is the request and as soon as
7 can be applied by the managers in early
8 March or whenever their survey is over. Do we have a
9 second on that.

10
11 MR. GERVAIS: I'll second that.

12
13 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Second by Tim. Any
14 further discussion by the Council.

15
16 MR. STICKMAN: Question.

17
18 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Vince has a point.

19
20 MR. MATHEWS: I just want to help the
21 Staff as they're working on this. I need
22 clarification. Robert, you mentioned 30. What were
23 you talking about, the needs for the whole season, fall
24 and winter?

25
26 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: The discussion
27 around this 30 number is their management plan set a
28 winter quota of 30 moose, so that's what we're
29 discussing. Only a few moose were harvested in the
30 actual hunt that occurred. Robert was saying because
31 there was a huge lack last fall, if we went a little
32 over, which actually only getting the moose that we
33 were going to get in the fall and Randy Rogers said
34 that's the way it goes. So that's the 30 number
35 floating around in our discussions here.

36
37 Do you have another point there, Vince.

38
39 MR. MATHEWS: Robert, you indicated it
40 was devastated, so you're aligning with what Eugene
41 Paul said of 40 to 45 percent were unable to harvest
42 their moose. What's happening here is I'm trying to
43 get information to justify so it aligns with allowing
44 it to be a special action. I did hear what you said.
45 I just want to make sure it's verified that you're
46 supporting, Robert, this 40 to 45 percent is respective
47 of it or is it higher or lower. I know it's difficult
48 to do.

49
50 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Do you have a gut

1 feeling on what that lack is, Robert?

2

3 MR. WALKER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
4 Vince, it is also for like Grayling and Anvik and
5 Shageluk, 35 to 45 percent of the tribal members did
6 get a moose and the other 55 didn't. This is what
7 we're looking at.

8

9 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, Vince.

10

11 MR. MATHEWS: After you take this
12 motion and I'm hoping other people will get up to the
13 table, but what I understand Robert saying is he would
14 like a more timely response on the Federal side on
15 this. Obviously there's refuge managers in the room
16 that have explored this path and gotten it done, so
17 that would be through a proposal to be announced. I
18 don't know where the refuge stands on all that. This
19 is the time for the proposal and to look at that. That
20 would empower the field manager for BLM as well as the
21 refuge manager so the communities don't have to go
22 through OSM and these loopholes.

23

24 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I would like this
25 Council to submit a proposal to address the fall season
26 extension, but that's a different issue than this
27 emergency special action request. We have a motion and
28 second on the table. The question has been called.
29 Those in favor of endorsing the special action request
30 signify by saying aye.

31

32 IN UNISON: Aye.

33

34 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Opposed.

35

36 (No opposing votes)

37

38 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Unanimous
39 endorsement of this special action request. Do you
40 have one more comment there.

41

42 MR. WALKER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
43 Thank you fellow board members, Vince and Staff.

44

45 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thank you. I
46 appreciate that additional comment, Robert. Did you
47 have another point there, Vince.

48

49 MR. MATHEWS: I have to look at the
50 agenda, but do give your thoughts about looking at a

1 proposal similar to be announced for the winter one.
2 I'm not putting words in your mouth, but that would
3 meet what I understand Robert and the communities want
4 over the frustration of the timing of getting this done
5 through our process is not conducive to.....

6
7 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I would like to see
8 a proposal for 21E to address the additional five days
9 of opportunity in late September. My position has
10 always been the more moose that are harvested in the
11 fall reduces the need to harvest moose in the winter
12 hunt. So I'd like to see a proposal for that.

13
14 I'd also like to see for the late
15 winter hunt, a proposal I'd like to see the Council
16 submit is to give a long window of opportunity to the
17 managers, basically give the manager a window between
18 the 1st of February and how about the middle of March,
19 one and a half month period. We just got two feet of
20 snow down there. We don't want to have a moose hunt
21 right after deep snow. When the communities go, okay,
22 it's warmed up, the snow is good, we want to hunt now,
23 then you can initiate a 10-day season down there. So
24 it would give the managers -- it would give more of a
25 fluid response like you're talking about. We have a
26 long window of opportunity with a 10-day period to be
27 announced inside of there. How would that be, Robert?

28
29 MR. WALKER: Sure, that'll work.

30
31 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So that would
32 alleviate the animosity that the local people feel
33 constrained, that the manager's hands are tied, and we
34 have to work through OSM on special action requests.
35 So I would like to see two proposals for 21E to address
36 the fall and winter hunt and so when we come to
37 proposals we move towards that direction.

38
39 I think we've covered the special
40 action requests at this point. We're moving into the
41 updates, which is the winter moose hunts on the Kanuti
42 and we've kind of gone over that with the Kanuti
43 National Wildlife. We're down here to Koyukuk Refuge.

44
45 At this point I'd like the Koyukuk
46 Staff to come up here. We're going to go over this
47 winter hunt and talk about Koyukuk's position on the
48 March 1 to March 5 season and some of the issues with
49 the Koyukuk hunt for Huslia 21D and 21C. If you could
50 come up to the table here.

1 MR. MATHEWS: Jack, while they're
2 coming up, for those two proposals, just so it's on the
3 record, I'll work with you and Robert on the language.

4
5 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: We're going to go
6 over those.

7
8 MR. MATHEWS: Oh, okay. I'm sorry.

9
10 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: The Council has to
11 vote on submitting those proposals. I wanted people to
12 be aware that that's the direction I'm going.

13
14 So we're in the update portion of our
15 agenda and the winter moose hunts. We covered Kanuti
16 yesterday because we were working on their special
17 action request. There will be proposals also for
18 Kanuti. We're here to the current hunt, which has not
19 yet occurred, this March 1 to March 5 hunt. I want
20 your update on that winter hunt and population status
21 and some of the telemetry work that you're doing there,
22 where these moose are moving to. Sort of an overview
23 of that. Go right ahead.

24
25 MR. MOOS: Again, I'm Kenton Moos,
26 refuge manager for Koyukuk/Nowitna and with me is Brad
27 Scotten, who is our supervisory biologist. I'll let
28 Brad cover the biological things that I looked at as
29 far as when I was making this call. There are some
30 other things I'll address when he's done with the
31 biological overview. I'll give it to Brad.

32
33 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, Brad.

34
35 MR. SCOTTEN: Mr. Chairman. Members of
36 the board. My name is Brad Scotten, supervisory
37 biologist, wildlife biologist for Koyukuk Refuge. I'd
38 like to suggest -- and I can do this two ways. We can
39 do it with me just talking. If we want to take a short
40 break, I could probably get this projector set up so
41 you'd have the benefit of the few slides I've put
42 together for my moose report this year and then
43 everybody is looking at the same information. But if
44 you'd rather I just talk about it, we can do it that
45 way.

46
47 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: That would be
48 beneficial to the Council.

49
50 MR. SCOTTEN: Hopefully I can get the

1 technology to work.

2

3 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: We'll break for five
4 minutes.

5

6 (Off record)

7

8 (On record)

9

10 MR. MATHEWS: I'll just get it on the
11 record that on the phone we have Chuck Ardizzone, the
12 Office of Subsistence Management. He's the division
13 chief of wildlife with OSM, so he's online, which is
14 going to be very helpful because he'll be involved in
15 the analysis.

16

17 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Welcome Chuck.
18 Brad, are you ready for your presentation? Go right
19 ahead.

20

21 MR. SCOTTEN: Mr. Chairman, thanks. I
22 just have a few slides here. If I'm not addressing
23 exactly what you want, Mr. Reakoff, just ask questions
24 as we go along here because I haven't been a part of
25 the conversation up until just now.

26

27 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right.

28

29 MR. SCOTTEN: I know there's a couple
30 of new members, so they probably haven't seen my
31 complete biological overview before. Feel free to also
32 ask questions. I'll do a little bit of this background
33 just for your benefit mostly.

34

35 The first slide I'm going to present
36 after this one is the results of the trend areas that
37 we fly every single year no matter what unless the
38 weather doesn't cooperate. So we do seven trend count
39 areas on the Koyukuk and northern Innoko Refuge every
40 year and this shows geographically where they're
41 located.

42

43 These are sort of core areas that have
44 been consistently counted. Some of them as far back as
45 1981. I'm sure Glenn gave you some results on Three
46 Day Slough and some things already. The upper right,
47 you can see Huslia on the map. Those two trend areas
48 called Huslia Flats and Treat Island trend areas.

49

50 The next slide I'm going to show shows

1 you specifically the data from those two areas because
2 in the last several years those are sort of the best
3 data we have available for moose numbers consistently
4 every year in that area and that's primarily what we've
5 used biologically in making the decision for that 24D
6 winter hunt.

7

8 What we do sort of at the beginning of
9 an assessment is after surveys are over I tally the
10 whole thing up, all seven trend areas combined, and
11 look at what we saw compared to previous years. So it
12 gives us trend information not only in population
13 numbers but also in ratios and what we get out of
14 calf/cow ratios and bull/cow ratios and things like
15 that.

16

17 We've got consistent data since '01.
18 We missed '02. There's a lot on here, but I guess what
19 I want you to focus on is the top slide right now and
20 the blue line is the total overall number of moose
21 counted in those seven areas every year. There's no
22 fancy statistics here because it's a count of the same
23 areas every year. It's pretty flat, the overall
24 population. We've seen annual changes in calf numbers,
25 but the overall population is pretty flat. I just got
26 a laser pointer, which I'm really happy about. So this
27 line here is what I'm talking about.

28

29 The next line down is the adult cow
30 population overall. This is what we've looked at. The
31 number itself is around 2,400 cows. The overall
32 picture I would give you is that things look pretty
33 good since '01 on the Koyukuk and Northern Innoko
34 Refuges.

35

36 Down in the lower slide are some of the
37 ratios and you see calf/cow ratios are pretty high in
38 some years overall, above 35, and in '05 was a little
39 bit of a low year. This year also was a little bit of
40 a lower year, but 25 per 100 overall is still pretty
41 good relative to the rest of the state. The years '99
42 through 2001 were terrible with real low production of
43 calves, low survival, and we're still probably
44 recovering from that time period. So that's the
45 overall picture.

46

47 MR. COLLINS: Those spring counts on
48 the calves, you're talking about 25 in the spring or
49 the fall?

50

1 MR. SCOTTEN: That's a good question.
2 These surveys are all done in November every year.
3 These are calves that are now five months old.
4 Typically in a spring in a robust population, if you
5 could do the calf/cow ratio, if you've got radio-
6 collared cows and enough research going on and you know
7 twinning rates, you can calculate it. What you'd
8 expect in the spring if you could do it the first of
9 June would be 100 to 120 calves for every 100 cows.
10 That's what you'd expect. By fall time we're left with
11 25 to 35 per 100. That's the type of mortality loss
12 you expect in the first five months and that's not
13 abnormal at all in a population with healthy predators.

14
15 I don't know if you've seen the
16 twinning rate slide yet this year or not, but this is a
17 long day to set mostly from Three Day Slough and then
18 more recently with some other areas, sort of
19 corroborating the same trend and it shows this period
20 that I mentioned earlier that not only did we have
21 lower ratios, we also had lower productivity of twins.
22 So things were really low down below 10 percent for a
23 while or around 10 percent. In recent years it's
24 popped back up. It's kind of variable from year to
25 year, but we do see this trend where we're seeing
26 higher numbers of twins in the spring. Usually in the
27 fall we corroborate it with higher twin numbers still
28 alive with their mothers in November. So that's
29 encouraging.

30
31 Glenn has done these Huslia/Treat
32 Island surveys the last several years and the refuge is
33 doing the Pilot Mountain/Kaiyuh Flats areas every year.

34
35 MR. COLLINS: That twinning rate you're
36 saying is an indication of the health of the habitat.
37 In the low twinning years, you're assuming winter
38 weather or habitat that's causing that? What do you
39 use that twinning rate for?

40
41 MR. SCOTTEN: It's a combination of --
42 there's still some sort of scientific debate about
43 exactly what twinning rate tells you. Fundamentally,
44 it tells you with a high twinning rate your potential
45 for population growth is higher because you've got more
46 calves in the spring. That would put you up in the 120
47 to 125 calves per 100 cows in the spring, so that gives
48 you more potential for growth if they survive. When
49 you see it low like that, it's probably a combination
50 of the age structure of the cow population and the

1 health of the habitat.

2

3 There are places with even longer data
4 sets than this specifically around Fairbanks, south of
5 town where they've got 30 years of data. They have a
6 super high density moose population and they've
7 documented declines in the habitat. Concurrently what
8 they see, at the same time, they're seeing this
9 reduction in twinning rate all the way to below 10
10 percent. They essentially have five percent twins
11 every single year and it's definitely habitat related.
12 They also see cows that don't have their first calf
13 until they're four or five years old.

14

15 Because of a project we have going on
16 here, we have documented first stage of reproduction on
17 most of our cows on the Koyukuk occurs at three years
18 old. Roughly 75 percent of my three-year-olds had a
19 calf this spring, the ones that are radio-collared.

20

21 In a super robust, fat, healthy,
22 growing like crazy, you'll get a fair number of two-
23 year-olds that have calves. Two years in a row we have
24 done pregnancy tests on two-year-olds and we've had
25 zero percent pregnancy. So we're not at that level of
26 production with this population apparently, so our
27 first stage of reproduction is at three. It's a
28 healthy population. We're seeing up to 30 and 40
29 percent of our adult cows having twins. That's
30 indicative of a population that's on a pretty good
31 nutritional plane. It can be higher if you go to
32 places like Lake Clark. Their calves are heavier and
33 they have a higher twinning rate. So we're kind of in
34 the middle of the pack probably in terms of overall
35 population conditions as far as body condition. That's
36 a long answer to a short question.

37

38 MR. WALKER: Mr. Chairman.

39

40 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Just fire at will.

41

42 MR. WALKER: When you collar a cow
43 moose, how far does she migrate from winter grounds to
44 calving grounds, like 50, 60 miles? We've noted in
45 Innoko National Wildlife Refuge some of them go all the
46 way 90 to 100 miles to calf and then go all the way
47 back up.

48

49 MR. SCOTTEN: Unfortunately I don't
50 have a slide of it, but I'll give you another long

1 answer to a pretty short question. The answer is it
2 varies tremendously. I'll go back to the map and I'll
3 try to be as concise as I can. The radio-collared cows
4 we have are more or less divided into two areas. We've
5 collared moose in this area, Three Day Slough, Dulbi
6 River, all the way down here to Long Stretch and kind
7 of stopped right here around the Natlaratlen Hills. So
8 I have a population of moose that we've collared in
9 this area. And then a second population more or less
10 from Cohen Point or Bishop Rock downriver to Kaltag,
11 Kaiyuh Flats. This study has actually been about
12 performance on winter range and how calves do because
13 this population down here is not doing so good and this
14 population up here is healthier.

15
16 So I have radio-collared moose data on
17 both of these two populations. The movement data is
18 really interesting. The general trend that you see is
19 that we catch them the first time in the spring --
20 actually the first time was in the fall, in October, so
21 they're four months old, and we caught them on what you
22 would call their winter range, so they're already on
23 the river corridor primarily, along the river, in the
24 trend areas that we count and down into Long Stretch.
25 The general trend you see is they spend the entire
26 winter there.

27
28 Come time for calving, these calves
29 we're collaring or female calves, they follow their
30 mother to their summer range. They go from this core
31 area we collared them to a much broader general summer
32 range, sort of like this, so they spread out. Some of
33 them stay right on the river and some will come out to
34 the Three Lakes area and I have a handful from Three
35 Day Slough that go up into the Huslia Flats, Huslia
36 River area. The very furthest movement from here went
37 almost to the upper Selawik, but she came right back
38 the next winter onto her winter range. I had one come
39 all the way down here and actually cross the Yukon for
40 three weeks and go all the way back three weeks later.
41 So she's back where she was. She made an exploratory
42 movement as I would call it and came right back.

43
44 Generally speaking they spread out to a
45 large area, but their seasonal migration on average is
46 probably less than 15 miles. They scatter out like a
47 shotgun pattern and come back to a tight pattern in the
48 winter where the best habitat is for their winter use.

49
50 The Kaiyuh is similar. They tend to

1 winter along the river corridor and in the summer they
2 scatter out. I have discovered a bit more of a
3 detectable pattern with that sub-population and it's a
4 calving movement. I'm quite certain of it. They move
5 from the river corridor to the lake district of the
6 Kaiyuh Flats and have their calves. So you'll find
7 very quick and distinct movements to that calving area.
8 They'll stay there for a month or two months and then
9 essentially they go back to where they spend the rest
10 of the year. I haven't had any leave. I've had very
11 few movements over 30 miles for the most part.

12

13 I know from working at other places in
14 the state you do get really migratory populations that
15 will move way into a mountainous section and spend a
16 whole summer dining on high quality forage in the hills
17 and then as soon as the snow starts to fall it pushes
18 them out and they might move 40, 50, 60 miles
19 regularly. We don't see that with this population that
20 I have radio-collared.

21

22 So does that answer your question or
23 generate more?

24

25 MR. WALKER: The question is we go down
26 in 21E and our moose are moving down to Unit 18. Have
27 any of your moose moved over to Innoko or moved on over
28 towards St. Michael or Unalakleet, that area?

29

30 MR. SCOTTEN: No is the short answer.
31 I have had one or two disappear off -- I can't find
32 them. So it's possible that they moved so far that I
33 haven't been able to find them again. It's also
34 possible the technology failed and their batteries died
35 and they just don't beep anymore. I've had a couple
36 move into the hills to the south of the Kaiyuh and they
37 might be going over onto the Innoko drainage. Both of
38 them came back.

39

40 The other caveat on this is the animals
41 I've been collaring are starting out as female calves,
42 so the oldest ones I've collared are four years old.
43 They're not adult cows. When they're young, they tend
44 to do what their mother does. They follow their mom
45 essentially for the first year. I don't know what
46 stage in their life these moose that do migrate to new
47 areas leave, whether those are adult animals. I'd be
48 speculating. I do know they do it occasionally, but I
49 haven't detected much, if any, from this area.

50

1 MR. WALKER: Thank you very much.

2

3 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: That's some of the
4 information I was seeking, is the cow/calf ratios and
5 what plain that population is on.

6

7 MR. SCOTTEN: I'll move specifically
8 then to those two trend areas around Huslia that Kenton
9 has been basing part of his decision on. So we analyze
10 the whole thing together and then I kind of look at
11 sub-areas to see how individual areas are doing to the
12 best of our ability. These are the data specific to
13 Huslia Flats and Treat Island, so it's those two trend
14 areas combined.

15

16 This top one is ratios, so let's start
17 down here with population total count. Since '01 the
18 total number of moose has been between 1,200 and 1,480
19 or something, between 12 and 1,500 moose have been in
20 this trend area every year we've counted it. Pretty
21 stable. That includes the changes in calf numbers from
22 year to year. This is the adult cow number. It's been
23 essentially flat, within one or two percent of the same
24 count the year before every single year until this
25 year. We saw it drop down either 6 or 8 percent in
26 this one year's count. We count them the same way with
27 the same aircraft with the same pilots and observers
28 each year.

29

30 The same time our calf count was down
31 slightly and the bull numbers were down slightly. So
32 our overall count was back down here around 1,200
33 instead of where it's been the last couple years.

34

35 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Brad, on the bull
36 numbers, what's the bull/cow ratio in Huslia Flats?

37

38 MR. SCOTTEN: Right here, this top dark
39 blue line is the ratio, so it was 31.5 or 32 this year.
40 Down a little bit in ratio from last year and the year
41 before. It has been that low before. '05 was kind of
42 low. We're still recovering from the late '90s low
43 recruitment at this point.

44

45 The calves per 100 cows also saw a dip
46 this year. It was below 25. The last two years have
47 been pretty good up there for those two trend areas.
48 Some of the better years that have been recorded in all
49 the years surveys have been done. This number, the
50 yearling bull/cow ratio was good. It's above 10 and

1 any time it's above 10 we're usually pretty happy. So
2 these yearling bulls are 18 months old. They've
3 survived their whole first year and they're in their
4 second fall now and they are what we would call
5 recruited into the adult population.

6
7 They've attained an age where they're
8 probably going to have high survivability every year.
9 When we see that, we're encouraged because along with
10 the yearling bulls we know there are yearling cows to
11 go along with it that are being recruited into the
12 population as well. We assume that there should be as
13 many yearling females as there are yearling males. Even
14 though we've hunted some of these yearling males
15 already. So that would be a minimum number of
16 recruitment for yearling females.

17
18 So that part of it is encouraging. The
19 calf numbers were down slightly and the cow numbers
20 were down this year. That's sort of what gave us pause
21 for concern with that area this year.

22
23 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Eleanor.

24
25 MS. YATLIN: You were saying the two
26 areas, Treat Island and Huslia Flats. What I heard
27 from one elder in Huslia when I asked him about the
28 winter hunt, he said his trapping area are where all
29 the cows were during the count. I guess what I'm
30 trying to say is you're doing these two areas
31 repeatedly every year, same places, but what this elder
32 is saying they're not counting -- are you counting all
33 the moose. He knows because that's his trapline. He
34 knows where all the moose are. What he was telling me
35 and what refuge was saying was two different things
36 because he said that -- and I tried to explain to him
37 they do the same area every year. He questioned
38 whether or not you do count this because the moose move
39 around.

40
41 MR. SCOTTEN: Sure. And that's a
42 legitimate question and a concern I try to address when
43 I do biological overviews both here and at village
44 meetings so people understand what we're doing. This
45 is the trend surveys that we do every year and we
46 clearly don't count every square inch of the refuge
47 because it's cost prohibitive and time prohibitive. It
48 takes us the month of November essentially to do this.

49
50 MS. YATLIN: What I'm saying is that

1 you count that Treat area and the Huslia Flats, but the
2 moose are moving around. He figures it's not accurate.

3

4 MR. SCOTTEN: I'll address it here I
5 think and answer your question. The red lines on this
6 map indicate the trend areas that we're trying to do
7 every year. Periodically in between, and our goal is
8 about every five years, to do an assessment of the
9 entire moose population area or most of the refuge, so
10 a population estimate. We broaden our scope of how
11 much we fly so that if we do see changes in population
12 overall we can detect more movements outside of our
13 trend areas and find out if some of them have moved and
14 we're seeing increases outside the trend area. That
15 would cause the whole population to go up.

16

17 In some years we count below Huslia,
18 south as well, and the boxes have numbers inside them
19 with the number of moose that we detected. This was
20 done in '04, so five years ago. Dulbi we count every
21 year and Three Day we count every year. By doing these
22 spaces in between all the black squares, units, we do
23 periodically check to make sure that we're not missing
24 something of great importance here.

25

26 We've done several of these population
27 estimates over the years and they compliment what we
28 already do and they provide us a large estimate around
29 our core trend areas every year. When somebody
30 suggests that we're missing a lot of moose or that
31 they've moved, it is possible in that particular year
32 that there were local area movements onto a slightly
33 different winter range that we didn't detect this year.
34 We don't discount that. If it's a trend, a long-term
35 thing that continues to occur, we can generally figure
36 it out with this type of population estimate so it
37 gives us more data on top of our standard deal to sort
38 out what's going on.

39

40 I know for a fact this year the trend
41 areas on Dulbi River and Three Day Slough were actually
42 quite a bit higher than they have been in recent years.
43 That could be partly due to movement into those areas
44 from other areas and it could be partly due to
45 population growth. I think we saw enough increase in
46 this one year. It also could be due to better count
47 conditions as well, so we're more efficient at finding
48 the moose that are there. So the combination of those
49 three things can sometimes lead to higher count in a
50 couple of trend areas. I try not to analyze the small

1 areas too much because they can be influenced by those
2 individualized conditions. I put more weight into the
3 sort of overall trend because that encompasses all
4 those different survey conditions and it kind of takes
5 into account all the movements.

6

7 When I see, as I showed you in that
8 first data slide, an overall population that's pretty
9 stable and the adult cow numbers that are just right in
10 there with the last several years, that's what I put
11 the most weight in as a biologist.

12

13 Now, when we have to make decisions
14 about sub-areas for winter hunts and other things, we
15 take the best data we have and we use that data so that
16 we can make those decisions. By necessity we do
17 analyze a little bit these sub-areas because we get
18 questions from individual villages about what's going
19 on in their area.

20

21 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Do you have one more
22 comment, Eleanor?

23

24 MS. YATLIN: Just a question. You were
25 talking earlier about how you monitor the moose and
26 some just disappear when you were trying to track them.
27 Could that be predator?

28

29 MR. SCOTTEN: The mortalities, the
30 animals that are actually killed by predators, we find
31 those. We find their radio collar.

32

33 MS. YATLIN: I see.

34

35 MR. SCOTTEN: It goes onto a mortality
36 mode when it doesn't move, so we actually fly out with
37 an airplane and land, retrieve the collar, find the
38 bone pile, try to assess what killed it. So we have a
39 pretty good handle on what killed most of those
40 animals. They don't go off the air when a predator
41 kills them. We have had one or two that I suspect were
42 shot by people illegally and sometimes when that
43 happens people turn the collar off as well, so that's
44 another way they can disappear.

45

46 MS. YATLIN: The reason why I asked
47 that is what I've been hearing since last fall from the
48 people that go to their traplines is there's a lot of
49 wolves up there and they've seen the moose killed.

50

1 MR. SCOTTEN: Yeah. Since I've been
2 here since '02, we do monitor the wolf population the
3 best we can with the budget we have. The wolf
4 population is robust everywhere in this area. Because
5 there's a lot of moose, there's also a lot of wolves.
6 We have fairly high densities of wolves and it does
7 vary a little bit from year to year depending on
8 productivity of the wolf population.

9
10 Around Huslia there's typically three
11 or four packs within 30 or 40 miles of Huslia and it
12 may very well be they had a good pup year and have
13 larger packs this year. I haven't seen enough from our
14 surveys yet to corroborate that, but it's entirely
15 possible that there's more wolves around.

16
17 MS. YATLIN: From the reports I've been
18 getting this year it's way higher. I mean lots. As
19 far as our fish camp, when they hit the river right
20 above there on the haul road, they just run into like
21 five or six. Every time someone is out they're always
22 telling me. And this is from like three different
23 people that they said there's a higher number of wolves
24 this year.

25
26 MR. SCOTTEN: With any luck we'll get
27 up there within the next month after good snow
28 conditions and try to work on wolf numbers.

29
30 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: At this point, I
31 think you've covered the biological data that I was
32 looking for, the bull/cow ratios and calf recruitments.
33 Like I explained to Glenn, my impression of the moose
34 population on the Koyukuk that it's turning over. We
35 had those bad years. Those moose are old, so we're
36 having a lot of these cow mortalities that are actually
37 aging moose. They're arthritic, unproductive.

38
39 If you look back at these high
40 recruitment years, a lot of these younger cows that are
41 coming in are just coming in to their high productivity
42 portion of their life. Our populations have turned
43 over to the point where we're going to see more
44 productivity in the next few years. So that would
45 account for the apparent loss of these cows, is they
46 came to the end of their life span and are dying off.
47 They feed wolves. I don't consider them as nearly a
48 loss to the population.

49
50 Back to this winter hunt in Huslia.

1 I've been talking to Kenton about that winter hunt.
2 The upshot is that the refuge is detected at eight
3 percent decline in the cow population and is reluctant
4 to have the winter hunt with a cow component. I feel
5 that people would like to have a winter hunt. I would
6 like to ask Eleanor if people would be inclined to hunt
7 for basically bulls to have a winter hunt. The cow
8 numbers have fallen off to where -- I mean biologically
9 you can't say we can go kill five or six cows. We
10 can't do that. Would people be willing to agree like
11 they did at Allakaket that we'll hunt for bulls?
12 Eleanor.

13

14 MS. YATLIN: Mr. Chairman. I talked to
15 like 13 people. Speaking for myself, I can see where
16 they're coming from. You know, we have six kids. That
17 one moose we get, that goes to them also, not just Al
18 and I. If they said their freezer is empty, I know it
19 is. That's the feedback I've gotten. I tried to get
20 to people that have extended family or like us, you
21 know, a big family.

22

23 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Another question I
24 have, is Huslia getting any caribou?

25

26 MS. YATLIN: That information I didn't
27 get. We stay in camp, so we fish and we have dry fish.
28 I know some people are beaver trapping. I know one
29 person that's going out to Hot Springs and getting
30 caribou. That's what I thought we could supplement
31 with. I like caribou meat. I don't know if everybody
32 does.

33

34 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Another important
35 question is what do you feel is the amount -- did
36 people make the amount of moose in the fall, but
37 they're just wanting a few moose for drying this
38 spring?

39

40 MS. YATLIN: That's what we
41 traditionally do.

42

43 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: To get through to
44 the summer.

45

46 MS. YATLIN: Yeah, all summer. The
47 reason why we're getting caribou right now is my
48 brother is going out, but it's all the way to Hot
49 Springs, so I have to give him the money for gas and
50 that's a long ways. That's 60 miles.

1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right.

2

3 MS. YATLIN: Last year I just made
4 dried meat with the caribou meat. It was nearer to the
5 village last year.

6

7 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: We had caribou come
8 down, but then we got that ice in January and the
9 caribou took off going to the north. They don't like
10 to dig in that ice. That crust basically pushed them
11 back out again.

12

13 MS. YATLIN: Yeah.

14

15 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I was asked as the
16 Chair to consult with the Refuge Staff, but I didn't
17 have all the in's and out's of the data. I still feel
18 like if we don't have enough cows we can still have the
19 hunt and we can hunt bulls with the understanding that
20 people hunt for bulls. When Mike Spindler was Refuge
21 manager, they portrayed how to identify bulls. The
22 meat resource of these communities are basically in
23 hardship, so what the State and the Federal managers
24 have to understand is that the meat resources to these
25 communities -- go down to the store in Huslia, the
26 community store freezer, and look at those meat prices.
27 That's what the moose is worth. That's what the
28 communities have to deal with if they don't get enough
29 meat. They have to pay for store-bought meat if they
30 can even afford it. People don't have any money. The
31 reality is, like I told Glenn yesterday, you push
32 people to illegal harvest. We can either provide a
33 legal harvest and some -- I don't want to break the
34 law, but I've had to do it before because I had little
35 kids and stuff. I didn't like doing that.

36

37 We, as this Council, are under the
38 obligation and the U.S. Department of Interior, is
39 under obligation to provide a reasonable opportunity,
40 and customary and traditionally people have harvested
41 moose in a winter hunt, so we have no winter hunt for
42 24D and 24C other than this December 1 to 10 and that's
43 in the upper drainage. Those are poor moose. The
44 Koyukuk River opposed that proposal. The late winter
45 moose is a customary and traditional time to harvest.
46 If we have 31 or 2 bulls in the Huslia Flats, there's a
47 harvestable surplus of bulls and I feel that it
48 deflects away from illegal harvest of cows.

49

50 I would like to see the Refuge still

1 provide the March 1 to March 5 hunt and I would like to
2 poll the Council on how their feelings are on that.
3 Tim.

4
5 MR. GERVAIS: I'd like to ask Eleanor
6 to clarify what the community's position is on doing a
7 directed bull hunt kind of under the same.

8
9 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I just polled her on
10 that.

11
12 MR. GERVAIS: I know, but I didn't
13 understand her response.

14
15 MS. YATLIN: Mr. Chair. I talked to 13
16 people and they all were for the winter moose hunt and
17 they understand it's bull only. They could tell the
18 difference. I can also see the Federal Subsistence
19 side of it because of how they reach their decision.
20 The reality is, I would listen to the people at home
21 because we're the ones that live there. Like I said
22 for my own self, if our freezer is almost empty, it's
23 not going to make it until next fall. We have to
24 supplement somehow and we sure can't buy all that
25 chicken they sell in Huslia and they don't sell meat
26 because it's too expensive just to get it there. I
27 hope that answers your question.

28
29 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Does that answer
30 your question, Tim?

31
32 MR. GERVAIS: Yes.

33
34 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Do you have a
35 comment, Mickey?

36
37 MR. STICKMAN: Yeah. The only comment
38 that I have is, you know, when you talk about hardship,
39 it's really different in Huslia compared to like
40 anywhere on the Yukon because on the Yukon we
41 supplement any moose we get with three runs of salmon,
42 sheefish, whitefish. We have all kinds of other
43 species out there to supplement if we don't get a
44 moose, but in Huslia they don't have that. There's a
45 handful of people that go to fish camp. I think the
46 majority of the people up there, unless they come out
47 to the Yukon, they actually get their fish from Galena,
48 Koyukuk, Nulato and Kaltag.

49
50 Another thing that's important to point

1 out, there is a real hardship because they just don't
2 have the fish we do to supplement the mix up with the
3 fact that they don't have no moose meat.

4
5 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Other comments from
6 the Council. Robert.

7
8 MR. WALKER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
9 When we were talking about the price of meat and how
10 much it costs to fly it in. You know, I went to Holy
11 Cross recently and they didn't have very much moose
12 there last fall or in the February hunt. There was a
13 lot of turkey on the table. That is the cheapest thing
14 you can get to feed a lot of people. It's kind of
15 ironic here to think about turkey.

16
17 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Well, when we
18 discussed this hunt, Kenton, I decided that I don't
19 feel comfortable trying for a special action request.
20 I would prefer to see this hunt proceed, but I wanted
21 to discuss this with the Council and I'd like to see a
22 bull hunt and it's a five-day period, and you're going
23 to be doing wolf surveys and doing other stuff up there
24 anyway, so it kind of goes hand and glove.

25
26 The other aspect of these winter hunts,
27 which I wanted Brad to be here to hear, is that the
28 moose that are killed in winter time are coming to
29 areas from far far distant that are not available for
30 the fall hunts, so you're actually spreading the
31 harvest in different demographics of the population.
32 So I feel that it's healthier for the moose population
33 to harvest at two different periods of time, one in the
34 fall time and the late winter hunt. The bull/cow ratio
35 is there to provide for an additional few bulls for the
36 community. It's a five-day hunt, it's not a very long
37 hunt.

38
39 It's going to cost a little money to
40 administer, but that should just be figured into
41 Federal management of refuges. If the Refuge system in
42 Alaska does not understand that, then this Council
43 should write a letter to the Regional Director to
44 request additional funding. I keep hearing that the
45 managers are worried about administering this hunt.
46 That should not be occurring.

47
48 If the Regional Director and the
49 regional office does not understand that these
50 subsistence hunts are part of Federal management, that

1 maybe should be put into our annual report and a letter
2 to the Regional Director because that really should not
3 be such a great consideration as the administration of
4 the Federal hunts. We do have a Federal subsistence
5 priority and the Federal Subsistence Board has approved
6 winter harvest in that time frame. If we don't have
7 cows to give, we do have bulls to give.

8

9 I would like the Council to weigh in on
10 whether the hunt should proceed, so I'd entertain a
11 motion to make a recommendation to the Koyukuk/Nowitna
12 Wildlife Refuge on recommendation of bull hunt in March
13 1 to 5 for Unit 24D and C.

14

15 MR. STICKMAN: So moved, Mr. Chair.

16

17 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: We've got a motion
18 to make that recommendation from the Western Interior
19 Council. Do we have a second.

20

21 MR. COLLINS: I'll second.

22

23 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Seconded. Any
24 further discussion by the Council.

25

26 (No comments)

27

28 MR. STICKMAN: Question.

29

30 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: The question has
31 been called. Those in favor of the motion signify by
32 saying aye.

33

34 IN UNISON: Aye.

35

36 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Opposed.

37

38 (No opposing votes)

39

40 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: At this point are
41 the refuges -- you're telling me that you're worried
42 about administration of these hunts. Are you telling
43 us that the refuge system in Alaska is not providing
44 adequate funding for subsistence management of
45 resources under Title VIII of ANILCA? That's the
46 question to the Refuge Manager of Koyukuk/Nowitna.

47

48 MR. MOOS: Mr. Chair. We do receive
49 funding from OSM, but it's for subsistence fisheries
50 issues and so forth. We do not for wildlife. When

1 these hunts come up, the refuge is expected to cover
2 the cost of administration of these hunts.

3

4 As I've talked with you before, one
5 hunt might not break my budget, but I am making a call
6 on three different hunts. Two of them I have not
7 opened, 21B, 21D. So, administratively, other than our
8 biological surveys and stuff, there hasn't been much
9 cost to us.

10

11 With 24D we have administered it in the
12 past. Can we do it? Yes, we can absorb that cost.
13 It's when these things become cumulative is where it
14 will tax our budget. That's just the fact of it.
15 Again, that special action request that was brought up
16 before alignment with the State in that fall season, if
17 that doesn't come into alignment, that's another one
18 we'll have to administer.

19

20 Actually 21B as well. We have a
21 Federal extension as well, which we're required to
22 extend our check station in Nowitna, additional cost,
23 as well as lining up vendors and so forth. So there's
24 two hunts right now that I'm paying for out of Refuge
25 funds that we did not have five years ago.

26

27 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: The Nowitna check
28 station, that's your discretionary. You have issued
29 Federal permits for that hunt. So you could drop back
30 to just normal overflight and observation. That's your
31 discretionary to that level of enforcement.

32

33 MR. MOOS: We could. However, we've
34 got a commitment to the State to monitor what the
35 impacts of that additional hunt are.

36

37 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So you've made an
38 agreement.

39

40 MR. MOOS: We have. In talking with
41 Glenn and stuff, we feel it is our obligation to do
42 that. We have to provide that information. As
43 managers, as Glenn is making these decisions,
44 especially with the permitting system and so forth, we
45 have to provide that information.

46

47 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: If this is getting
48 to be an issue, funding for Title VIII ANILCA
49 management is becoming an issue, then this Council
50 should petition the Board for additional funding or

1 whatever it takes because this is an obligation that
2 Congress put on -- it was basically an agreement to
3 have all of these huge conservation units as to provide
4 subsistence use and that's how they got the agreement
5 by the rural Alaskan Native and non-Native residents to
6 have these huge, huge refuges.

7

8 If the Federal government has come to
9 the point where they're getting cheap with
10 administering those, then we should write letters.

11

12 You had a comment, Ray.

13

14 MR. COLLINS: Yes. I wanted to make
15 the comment that I feel that this winter hunt should be
16 part of this regular program. There should be one
17 scheduled in because there's always going to be some
18 people with the fluctuating fall situation that don't
19 get the meat they need. They ought to have the option.
20 People don't go out in the winter hunts just because
21 there's an opportunity to hunt. They go out because
22 there's a need. Nobody wants to go out in the weather
23 and the prices of gas if they don't need the meat. So
24 it should be part of the program.

25

26 If we can't allow for that and it was a
27 traditional practice, we're really just managing for
28 the predators because they're out there unregulated,
29 can eat all they want all winter long and we're not
30 providing for the human component of the population. I
31 think it should be more of a standard part of the
32 management unless we find we're in a decline and then
33 we need to look at both the predators and the people
34 and do some restrictions on both if we can't provide
35 that.

36

37 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: It's recognized by
38 the subsistence studies by the State Subsistence
39 Division and U.S. Fish and Wildlife that the winter
40 moose hunting component is a customary and traditional
41 practice. There's no getting away from that. I was a
42 kid down here in Galena and there was winter moose meat
43 coming into this village in the late '60s. It's always
44 been that way. It's a component of the harvest.

45

46 Do you have a comment, Eleanor. We've
47 got to be moving along.

48

49 MS. YATLIN: Excuse me. Just one
50 comment. I said I understand where the Refuge is

1 coming from. Just to say that, you know, when we're
2 growing up, when the hunters go out, you know, there's
3 a lot of things we don't do. One of them is we don't
4 step on the blood of the animal because they might lose
5 their luck. The other one is they always tell us don't
6 brag and don't talk about what you do.

7
8 So what they give the Refuge maybe,
9 people that ask the questions -- because it's two
10 different ways. When I ask them, they tell me what's
11 needed, but maybe if the Refuge asks them, they say,
12 oh, we're doing okay, everything is good, because we're
13 not supposed to brag, we're not supposed to say
14 anything.

15
16 We don't ask the question, but maybe a
17 guy asks another guy or there's woman hunters too, they
18 just say we get lucky and that's it. Long ago they to
19 say, because of the hardships and hard times, the myths
20 and the stories are said people were animals at one
21 time, so they hear everything we say. So if we say,
22 oh, yeah, I got two or I got two beavers or something,
23 the animals might hear and they might not come back
24 again. So that's our belief. So everybody would say,
25 yeah, we did good, we're okay, that's it. We got
26 lucky.

27
28 That's why I say understand from the
29 other point of view than when I question.

30
31 Thank you.

32
33 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: That's a good point,
34 Eleanor. And Ray's point is also excellent. Nobody's
35 going to go out hunting for bull moose unless they
36 really need meat. We have to provide a reasonable
37 opportunity. If we have no winter hunt, then there's
38 no alternative. Somebody is going to kill a moose. I
39 prefer to have a legal opportunity. If it's a bull
40 moose in March, they're coming back into shape, so I
41 feel more comfortable in providing opportunity. People
42 are leaving villages because of the high cost of
43 living. We have to reduce this effect on these
44 villages.

45
46 Providing some opportunity is
47 healthier for the moose and the people that live there.
48 I feel that the late winter hunts, if somebody goes out
49 and traps some wolves and they're out there hunting
50 moose and they see some wolves and shoots some wolves,

1 there's giving back. There's a give and take. I
2 harvest some wolves, I don't feel bad about shooting a
3 moose.

4
5 If you shoot a moose, you have an
6 obligation to harvest predators. A lot of times those
7 guys that are out hunting for the community, they're
8 killing wolves too and they're snaring some wolves and
9 stuff. I just feel this is a necessary thing to have
10 winter hunts. Especially on the Koyukuk where the
11 fishing is poor. Robert says he looked at that book
12 that YRDFA passed out and he said look at these fish
13 they get up in Allakaket. We don't even eat those
14 things. They're all water-marked. That's what people
15 eat. You eat fish up in Allakaket, the meat is white
16 on those chums. It's a tough country. We have to quit
17 driving people out of the country.

18
19 We've got to quit driving people to
20 harvesting cows. The managers think, oh, we're going
21 to save all these cows. We're just not going to have a
22 hunt. No, you're killing cows. You're going to force
23 people into doing things they don't want to do. We
24 have to give reasonable opportunity. I told Glenn
25 that. I'll lock horns with Glenn in the State Board of
26 Game meeting next year on this issue. The managers
27 have to get it through their heads. You paint people
28 into a corner, you're killing cows. People are going
29 to have to hunt closer to the village to get the meat
30 back quickly. It's counter-productive and we have to
31 provide reasonable opportunity.

32
33 It's an ANILCA mandate. That's what
34 this Council under .805 does is to look at what people
35 need and provide for that need. So that's enough said
36 on that Huslia hunt and I appreciate your position and
37 your constraints that you have and your presentation.

38
39 We've got to keep moving on with our
40 agenda. Vince.

41
42 MR. MATHEWS: You brought up different
43 letters and I don't want you to revisit them, but my
44 suggestion, if you are looking at a letter, is not to
45 put it part of the annual report. The annual report
46 goes to all the agencies. This is an internal
47 discussion between one agency and you as a group. So
48 if you go with a letter at all, would be to direct it
49 to Fish and Wildlife Service. Let that go back and
50 forth. I'm fairly certain that will be satisfactory,

1 but if it's not, then you go to the annual report and
2 bring it to the full board. I don't see any need for
3 the Park Service, Forest Service to understand the
4 budgetary situation for Fish and Wildlife Service.

5

6 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Good point made.
7 Does the Council feel this issue is becoming more and
8 more common, the concern by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife
9 Refuge systems, the cost of administering these hunts?
10 I feel that writing to the Regional Director and
11 telling the Regional Director that necessary funding
12 for Title VIII ANILCA Federal hunts is necessary and
13 the Refuges should not be stealing from their
14 biological programs to administer these hunts. We have
15 a new Regional Director, so I think it behooves
16 this Council to transmit a letter to that effect. Is
17 Council in favor of that?

18

19 (Council nods affirmatively)

20

21 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I see heads nodding.
22 We'll transmit a letter to the Regional Director to
23 that effect. Go ahead, Vince.

24

25 MR. MATHEWS: Also I think in that
26 letter, and I've only met with him once, but my
27 understanding is he did want to attend Regional Council
28 meetings. He has a very busy schedule, so he's not
29 going to make all 10, but it might be wise in your
30 letter to invite him to your next Council meeting,
31 wherever that is. Or, if you happen to be in Anchorage
32 or a place that he's at, that there be time set aside
33 for you two to meet to explain this. It's a huge
34 region and it would be a good opportunity for him to
35 understand this interplay with ANILCA and managing
36 national wildlife refuges.

37

38 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I would think that
39 it's a statewide issue. It would appear to be a
40 statewide issue. It keeps coming up in our region, the
41 various regional refuges, the cost of administering
42 these hunts. I'm getting concerned about that. Gary
43 is here. He's rubbed shoulders with the director and
44 he'll be speaking to that effect also.

45

46 We've got to keep moving down this
47 agenda. You've got another comment there, Mickey.

48

49 MR. STICKMAN: Just one last comment on
50 the letter to the Regional Director. As a Council, we

1 have to foster a good working relationship with the
2 different refuge managers and the biologist, so we are
3 theoretically going over their head by writing letters
4 to the Regional Director. I just wanted it to be
5 reflected in the letter that the refuge managers -- we
6 are going over their heads, so we have to show proper
7 respect not only to the managers but.....

8

9 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right. There's no
10 disrespect to the management at all. That's not what
11 we're speaking to. We want
12 Region 7 to understand they have an obligation to fund
13 subsistence management. If there are Federal hunts
14 that are disparate to the State hunts, then we have to
15 have proper funding to administer those hunts. I feel
16 the refuges would be happy to have that kind of a
17 letter written. Wouldn't you, Kenton?

18

19 MR. MOOS: I guess so. Yeah. It's
20 money, but it's also time. To be honest, that's my
21 biggest crunch because it requires additional Staff
22 time and we're not getting any more Staff. Oftentimes
23 our time is worth a lot more than money.

24

25 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: This winter hunt is
26 at a time when you're not doing surveys. I don't
27 consider it a conflict with your survey period. You
28 might be doing wolf surveys around that time, track
29 surveys.

30

31 I think this has covered this issue
32 plenty. We need to move on. We have these updates.
33 The wood bison reintroduction thing. Randy Rogers
34 intended to come here. He's probably not going to make
35 that. Do you have anything to say on that, Glenn? He
36 had talked about Rita St. Louis coming.

37

38 MR. STOUT: Mr. Chair. Randy is still
39 trying to get here. I know yesterday flights were all
40 delayed. The only thing is this bison reintroduction
41 thing with the legislature became an important issue
42 this last week and he may have gotten called down to a
43 special meeting they were having on that issue.

44

45 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: We'll push that
46 bison thing further back in the agenda to give
47 opportunity to the State to comment on that. Then we
48 have the Mulchatna. Did somebody say they were going
49 to come on that, Vince.

50

1 MR. MATHEWS: Just to refresh your
2 memory on that, Geoff met with area biologist Roger
3 Seavoy and they were planning on making a presentation,
4 but Jeff got pulled off. I don't know of anybody that
5 was going to come. He was working with Jim Woolington,
6 the area biologist and Andy Atterman with Togiak and I
7 have a feeling it all fell through on that. He sent us
8 an email that he summarized that, but there's no one
9 here that I'm aware of unless they've come in to talk
10 about the status of the Mulchatna Herd.

11
12 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. I want the
13 new membership to understand, Eleanor, Tim and the
14 Council, that the Mulchatna Caribou Herd used to be
15 200,000 animals. The harvest exceeded the bull
16 harvestable surplus. They went from in the '50s in a
17 climbing population down to 14 bulls per 100 cows,
18 which is about 25 percent of what there should be, and
19 the calf recruitments went in the toilet and the herd
20 has fallen below 40,000. That's why we're very
21 concerned. There's people in the lower portion of this
22 Western Interior that rely on the Mulchatna Caribou
23 Herd. So I have been very concerned about the
24 Mulchatna Caribou Herd because we have people in Aniak
25 and various portions of this region that are reliant on
26 it. I wanted to have some kind of an update, but that
27 doesn't appear to be going to happen.

28
29 One thing that this Council could do is
30 submit a proposal to the Federal Subsistence Board to
31 close the Federal lands within the Western Interior
32 Region 19A and B, within the range of the Western
33 Arctic Caribou Herd, to non-subsistence, non-rural
34 users. So that would be one thing that the Council
35 could entertain.

36
37 The Board of Game has been derelict in
38 addressing this Mulchatna issue. They continue to have
39 non-resident harvest of adult bull caribou for 15 days
40 in September. It's coming to a point where it could be
41 within the Western Interior's purview to close the
42 Federal lands within the range of the Mulchatna Caribou
43 Herd to non-rural users.

44
45 I would like to poll the Council on
46 whether the Council would entertain submitting a
47 proposal to that effect. Vince, do you have a comment
48 on that.

49
50 MR. MATHEWS: I don't want to put Chuck

1 on the spot, but he is the Board liaison and if he's
2 still online he may have some additional information on
3 the Mulchatna Herd as far as where the Board of Game
4 is.

5
6 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Are you still
7 online, Chuck?

8
9 MR. ARDIZZONE: Yes, Mr. Chair.

10
11 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: To your knowledge,
12 what has the Board of Game done to address the
13 Mulchatna Caribou Herd's bull component decline?

14
15 MR. ARDIZZONE: I don't think they've
16 done a lot. There is a Board of Game meeting to close
17 down resident harvest though.

18
19 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: When are they to
20 address that?

21
22 MR. ARDIZZONE: The meeting will start
23 next friday and run through March 9th.

24
25 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. That's what
26 we want to hear. That doesn't necessarily mean they're
27 going to do it. Thank you.

28
29 MR. ARDIZZONE: You're welcome.

30
31 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: You've got a
32 comment, Tim.

33
34 MR. GERVAIS: I wanted to ask where
35 that proposal was coming from.

36
37 MR. ARDIZZONE: Mr. Chair. Give me a
38 second and I'll look it up.

39
40 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: We submitted a
41 proposal for last Board cycle, which was March of '08.
42 They deferred the proposals. They let another hunting
43 season go through. The bull/cow ratio is continuing to
44 show the same ailing effects of continuing harvest of
45 large bull component.

46
47 I feel as a placeholder at least this
48 Council should submit a proposal to close the range of
49 the Mulchatna Caribou Herd, portions of Unit 9,
50 portions of Unit 17 and portions of Unit 19, the range

1 within the Mulchatna Caribou Herd. So I would like
2 this Council to submit to the Federal Subsistence Board
3 the closure of non-rural users. This is the way we got
4 the State --this seems to be the only way to get the
5 State in some situations to come to the table on
6 addressing these overharvest management issues. I'm
7 highly annoyed with the Board of Game for the
8 continuing decline of this caribou herd.

9

10 The Chair will entertain a motion to
11 submit a proposal. You've got one comment there, Tim.

12

13 MR. GERVAIS: So the best current
14 estimate is 40,000 now?

15

16 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Less than 40,000
17 animals. That's why we needed an update. The
18 recruitment was 15 calves per 100 cows the last survey
19 that I saw. The herd is not rectifying. The bull/cow
20 ratio was less than -- the large bull component was
21 less than it had been before. It was 1.33 adult bulls
22 per 100 cows. That's a terrible number.

23

24 Carl is down here on the end. He lives
25 down there. He wants to talk.

26

27 MR. MORGAN: The last report I sat in
28 on there was hardly any more big bulls, then they
29 didn't restrict the non-resident. They were further
30 restricting rural residents. They were cutting back
31 our take, but not restricting non-residents. That's
32 what they were hunting, one bull. The last report I
33 got is there's hardly any big breeding bulls anymore.

34

35 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right. Do you have
36 a comment, Mickey.

37

38 MR. STICKMAN: Oh, no, Mr. Chair. I
39 just wanted to make a motion.

40

41 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Mickey has made a
42 motion to submit a proposal for portions of Unit 9,
43 Unit 17 and 19 within the range of the Mulchatna
44 Caribou Herd to close to non-rural users on Federal
45 public lands.

46

47 Do we have a second to that effect.

48

49 MR. MORGAN: I'll second that but
50 including Unit 18.

1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Oh, and Unit 18.
2 Good point. We've got a motion and a second. Any
3 further discussion. Ray.

4
5 MR. COLLINS: What I wanted to say is,
6 I don't know if we could ask them to close it only to
7 non-rural residents because the State management can't
8 distinguish between citizens. So the way would be to
9 close it to non-residents and eliminate bull harvest
10 totally so other Alaskans can fly out and shoot a cow.
11 See what I mean?

12
13 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: We've tried that.
14 We gave the Board of Game an opportunity to eliminate
15 the non-resident harvest, which targets large bulls.
16 We have none to give. But they didn't do that.

17
18 MR. COLLINS: Right.

19
20 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So we can't rely on
21 the State to rectify this issue.

22
23 MR. COLLINS: But I don't think you can
24 push them into making it only for non-rural because
25 it's illegal.

26
27 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: This is a Federal
28 proposal.

29
30 MR. COLLINS: Oh, a Federal. Okay. I
31 see what you mean.

32
33 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: We're under Federal
34 game proposals right now. Vince.

35
36 MR. MATHEWS: We all need to take a
37 deep breath and realize that you are within your region
38 and that's fine and you can submit proposals beyond
39 your region, but there's two other Councils involved
40 and you guys have always been respectful of the other
41 Councils, so maybe you want to weave in there that you
42 would like the full range with concurrence of the
43 Bristol Bay Regional Council and the YK. But that's up
44 to you. You can go forward and say you want the full
45 range closed, but you are going into other regions.

46
47 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Other Councils have
48 made proposals within our region, so they will be able
49 to weigh in under the Regional Council process in their
50 fall meetings. I'm amicable to their input on this

1 proposal. Our meeting is over today, so we have to do
2 something right now.

3

4 MR. MATHEWS: My intent is not to
5 withdraw your proposal. That is just to say that you
6 would like their concurrence or something, extend a
7 hand to them. You could go as far to say you would
8 like them also to support it. I don't know where they
9 stand. I'm fairly certain YK would stand with you. I
10 don't monitor Bristol Bay, so I don't know where they
11 stand on this issue.

12

13 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Randy Alvarez and I
14 are on the same sheet of music on this one. We've
15 talked long and hard at the Federal Board meeting
16 about this issue with the Commissioner of Fish and Game
17 sitting right there listening to us. The State Staff
18 could not provide adequate information about the
19 bull/cow ratios at that Federal Board meeting. As far
20 as I'm concerned, the State is derelict in the
21 management of Federal herd. At this point, to cajole
22 the State Board of Game into doing the right thing to
23 come on the table, this type of proposal has to be
24 submitted. This is the kind of leverage it takes to
25 get the State off center on this one.

26

27 Go ahead, Vince.

28

29 MR. MATHEWS: Well, that's clear on the
30 record that there's been dialogue between the regions
31 so we don't end up with a regional squabble. When you
32 go before the Board and you have different regions
33 agreeing and the Board has more latitude to decide if
34 you come in as a united front. The issue of the
35 concern is more there.

36

37 MR. COLLINS: Mr. Chairman. It doesn't
38 have to be part of the motion, but we could direct you
39 as Chair to write to those others and tell them what
40 we're submitting and why as a courtesy.

41

42 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I'm amicable for
43 that.

44

45 MR. ARDIZZONE: Mr. Chair.

46

47 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yes. One more
48 comment. Go ahead.

49

50 MR. ARDIZZONE: This is Chuck

1 Ardizzone. I looked that proposal up for you. It's
2 Proposal 57 and it would close the non-resident hunting
3 season for the Mulchatna Caribou Herd in Units 9, 17,
4 18 and 19 and it was submitted by the Lake Iliamna
5 Advisory Committee. Just for your information.

6

7 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thank you. And
8 that's a closure of non-resident hunters?

9

10 MR. ARDIZZONE: Yes.

11

12 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: This is a
13 placeholder proposal. If the Board of Game does the
14 right thing, we can withdraw our proposal. If they
15 don't do the right thing, we can continue with the
16 implementation of this proposal.

17

18 One more question there.

19

20 MR. WALKER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
21 Going back to what I said earlier about a biologist.
22 When he took a look at the Mulchatna Herd and said we
23 went from this to this, doesn't he or she have the
24 authority to close the State portion of this?

25

26 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: No. This large of a
27 proposal where you come head to head with the State
28 management has to be done by the Federal Subsistence
29 Board. The managers cannot do that. The Federal
30 Subsistence Board has the authority to do that kind of
31 thing. This Council is requesting that the Federal
32 Subsistence Board do something about this issue with
33 this proposal.

34

35 MR. WALKER: Question.

36

37 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: The question has
38 been called. All those in favor of submitting this
39 proposal and dialoguing with the other Regional Council
40 membership for Units 18, 17, 9 and 19 within the
41 Mulchatna Caribou Herd closing to non-rural residents
42 signify by saying aye.

43

44 IN UNISON: Aye.

45

46 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Those opposed.

47

48 (No opposing votes)

49

50 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Unanimous consent of

1 submitting that proposal. We're probably going to
2 break right now. We'll come back in 10 minutes.

3

4 (Off record)

5

6 (On record)

7

8 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: We're coming back on
9 the record. Vince, this wildlife survey update, we've
10 had some survey information. I think the refuges and
11 the BLM will be making presentations later. That
12 should suffice. We're going to briefly cover the bear
13 part paper that Larry had.

14

15 MR. MATHEWS: Larry knows, we all know,
16 if there's concern to go silent on it, just please
17 signal to us. We're being respectful of the local
18 practices and cultures.

19

20 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So basically what
21 we're looking for is just sort of a brief overview of
22 where the Board is on this process with the
23 understanding this Council is not weighing in on
24 wanting sale of bear parts in this region.

25

26 Go ahead, Larry.

27

28 MR. BUKLIS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
29 This need not get into content of the issues. It's
30 simply an update to remind you that at the April/May
31 2008 Federal Subsistence Board meeting where they took
32 up wildlife proposals and took actions there was one
33 proposal that dealt with bear handicrafts. The Boards
34 action on that issue was to defer action on the
35 proposal and to look to a working group process to be
36 led by the State to get at some of the issues related
37 to bear handicrafts. Some of the Staff met to look at
38 initial logistics and charge for this working group.
39 This briefing today is simply to remind you of that
40 process and to invite this Council as we are inviting
41 all 10 Councils to consider having a Council member
42 participate in the working group process. It's
43 completely elective for the Councils to participate or
44 not. The handout you've been given includes this draft
45 charge statement and then the invitation to
46 participate.

47

48 So maybe I'll just read that brief
49 statement. The charge, as a draft at this point, is
50 for this working group to develop a method or methods

1 to recommend to the Federal Subsistence Board and
2 Alaska Board of Game for tracking brown bear claws made
3 into handicrafts that is enforceable and culturally
4 sensitive commensurate with the need to provide
5 conservation of the resource.

6

7 So this work group would work on that
8 issue. Down at the bottom we mention we're
9 anticipating one or two meetings. We'd like to get
10 this resolved so a recommendation could be dealt with
11 by both boards by January of 2010, about a year from
12 now.

13

14 That's it, Mr. Chairman.

15

16 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So about a year from
17 now. Thanks, Larry. My personal opinion is that this
18 Council has been adverse to the sale of bear parts
19 within this region. Since I don't see that we, in the
20 foreseeable future, will entertain that, I would prefer
21 deferring to those regions that want to be able to do
22 that or have customary and traditional use of doing
23 that.

24

25 Is that the wishes of the Western
26 Interior Regional Council, to defer to those regions
27 and not participate in the working group.

28

29 (Council nods affirmatively)

30

31 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I see heads shaking
32 to the affirmative and so we'll defer to that working
33 group to work out the various regulatory structuring
34 and protocol for sale of those bear parts. This region
35 will remain silent on that issue.

36

37 Thank you.

38

39 MR. BUKLIS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

40

41 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: We've concluded the
42 updates, closure review and Council recommendations.
43 So this is wildlife closure review briefing. Pete
44 DeMatteo is slated as making comments or presentation
45 on that. Are you online, Pete?

46

47 MR. ARDIZZONE: I'm here. This is
48 Chuck. Pete is going back to his office right now.

49

50 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Is Pete going

1 to be available to speak to this wildlife closure
2 review briefing.

3
4 MR. ARDIZZONE: Mr. Chair, he should be
5 on the phone momentarily.

6
7 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Go ahead,
8 Pete.

9
10 MR. DEMATTEO: Thanks, Mr. Chair. This
11 closure review is WCR08-20. It involves Unit 24B
12 remainder for moose. This closure review I see went
13 before you in the fall of 2005 and it's time to take
14 another look at it since three years went by.

15
16 Do you have copies of this in front
17 you, Mr. Chair?

18
19 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yes, we do. It's on
20 Page 36 in our book.

21
22 MR. DEMATTEO: Very good. This deals
23 with primarily two areas. The first one is Unit 24B,
24 all drainages to the north of the Koyukuk River, except
25 the John River drainage. It also deals with Unit 24B
26 remainder.

27
28 The original proposal that dealt with
29 this was in 1992 when the Board first put the closure
30 into effect. The original justification for the
31 closure was the priority for subsistence users. Your
32 Council weighed in on this, which was established in
33 1993, but at the time the State Interior Regional
34 Councils certainly used as ad hoc to solicit
35 information for the Board. Of course, they supported
36 anything that would help prioritize for subsistence
37 users, Federally qualified users.

38
39 The State opposed the closure.
40 Currently, because of the status of the moose
41 population within those two areas, which I believe Mike
42 Spindler gave you an excellent overview of the current
43 status of that moose population, the OSM recommendation
44 is to maintain the status quo. That is to leave the
45 closure in place.

46
47 That's basically the skinny on this
48 closure review, Mr. Chair, and I'd be happy to answer
49 any questions you may have.

50

1 Thank you.

2

3 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay, thanks, Pete.
4 So currently the area described of Unit 24B is closed
5 to non-Federally-qualified users. This was proposed
6 before the Councils were even formed. This Council has
7 reaffirmed this closure in that people had a hard time
8 meeting subsistence needs. The issue revolves around
9 at least two to three air taxis per year that work out
10 of Bettles and Bettles is right next to this area.
11 Then we have the Dalton Highway immediately to the east
12 and there's a lot of boats that are launched into the
13 middle fork of the Koyukuk and the south fork and other
14 drainages entering. So the concern is that there would
15 be an influx of hunters that would exceed the
16 sustainability. Since the people of Allakaket have had
17 such hardship meeting subsistence needs averaging 15
18 days per hunt, this Council has maintained at least to
19 this point this closure to rural resident users.

20

21 This proposal for review is before the
22 Council. The Chair will entertain a motion to adopt in
23 the affirmative and then the Council can vote it up or
24 down from there.

25

26 MR. STICKMAN: I'll make that motion,
27 Mr. Chair, just for discussion purposes.

28

29 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: The motion is on the
30 floor to adopt WCR08-20 closure review proposal. Do we
31 have a second to the motion.

32

33 MR. WALKER: Second.

34

35 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Seconded by Robert.
36 Discussion. Is the Council still of the same concern
37 for this area to maintain this closure to non-
38 Federally-qualified users.

39

40 Vince.

41

42 MR. MATHEWS: It might be advisable so
43 the record reflects if the State had any comments on
44 this so we don't get to the vote and then et cetera. I
45 don't know if the State has any comments on this
46 continuation of the closure in the Kanuti

47

48 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right. Does the
49 area biologist have any comment on this proposal.

50

1 MR. STOUT: Thank you, Mr. Chair. The
2 State is still working on putting our comments together
3 on that, so we don't have anything at this time.

4
5 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. I'll go
6 through the presentation procedure on the back of our
7 card here.

8
9 MR. MATHEWS: I'm thinking that's wise.
10 It makes a clean record to show and there may be
11 somebody in the room that wants to comment.

12
13 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: That's correct,
14 Vince, and I appreciate that. Are there any Federal
15 agency comments on this review proposal for closure.

16
17 (No comments)

18
19 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Native and tribal
20 comments.

21
22 (No comments)

23
24 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I don't see any TCC
25 representation here. Being in association with
26 Allakaket people and Ron Sam used to be on our Council,
27 Allakaket and Alatna have been in full support of this
28 proposal because of hardships endured meeting
29 subsistence needs and the perceived or real influx of
30 additional hunting pressure and the detraction from
31 meeting their needs further. I would feel comfortable
32 speaking for those communities since I'm the upriver
33 representative from the Koyukuk.

34
35 Are there Staff Committee comments on
36 this.

37
38 (No comments)

39
40 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Are we reviewing
41 this as a proposal then?

42
43 MR. MATHEWS: Your going through it
44 makes it a clean record. I don't know if we developed
45 a way of reviewing these with steps, but this would
46 meet all those requirements. I'm sure the Staff
47 Committee members here, if they had any comments, would
48 be up at the mike.

49
50 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So the local

1 advisory committee, Koyukuk, has not reviewed this.
2 I'm vice-chair of that. Neither the National Park
3 Service Subsistence Resource Commission for Gates of
4 the Arctic has not reviewed this review.

5
6 So are there written comments.

7
8 MR. MATHEWS: Well, this is where I'm
9 drawing a blank and maybe Chuck or Pete can get me up
10 to speed. These are not published out there for all
11 the public to comment on, so there wouldn't be any.
12 I'm quickly trying to look at the Park Service in their
13 summary they provided me if they talk about it, but I
14 know they were part of the review process. Maybe Pete
15 can confirm on that.

16
17 MR. DEMATTEO: This is Pete DeMatteo.

18
19 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, Pete.

20
21 MR. DEMATTEO: Mr. Chair. Yes, Vince
22 is correct, the agencies have had an opportunity to
23 weigh in on these. The guts of this closure review you
24 see before you, a lot of the text and the wonderful
25 figures and tables you see were provided by the
26 agencies, primarily Mike Spindler and his staff.

27
28 As far as review, it's going to the
29 public in the sense that you're speaking for your
30 constituents, so you have the opportunity to voice a
31 recommendation to the Board on this. That's the scope
32 of public comment on this.

33
34 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay, we're aware of
35 that. We kind of jumped a little bit ahead of
36 ourselves. We're going through the various entities
37 that may want to have an opportunity to comment. I
38 don't know of any public testimony that could be here
39 at Galena on this issue.

40
41 (No comments)

42
43 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So at this point, if
44 Council members have any further discussion on this
45 proposal. I feel comfortable with retaining this at
46 this point until we can start attaining our subsistence
47 amounts needed with reasonable opportunity for
48 subsistence harvested by all managing entities. I feel
49 comfortable voting to retain the closure to non-rural
50 users within the described area.

1 Any further comments. Ray.
2
3 MR. COLLINS: Mr. Chairman. I had a
4 question. There hasn't been any change since this went
5 in. Is the population the same? There hasn't been any
6 dramatic differences?
7
8 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Well, the population
9 has declined.....
10
11 MR. COLLINS: Declined.
12
13 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF:since the early
14 '90s.
15
16 MR. COLLINS: Then that's just further
17 reason for retaining it as is.
18
19 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So as we reviewed
20 yesterday, the people in those communities of Allakaket
21 and Alatna have a hard time obtaining their subsistence
22 needs and they're really close to an air hub within 40
23 miles away, plus the Dalton Highway river access. So
24 we have the potential of having a large influx of
25 additional hunting pressure. That's the concern. If
26 there was regulatory structure to control the non-
27 subsistence use and we were attaining our subsistence
28 needs there may be a discussion point from there.
29
30 Go ahead, Vince.
31
32 MR. MATHEWS: Maybe to help Ray out,
33 and we kind of jumped on the agenda, if you turn to
34 Page 33 on the bottom, that was what was agreed to by
35 the Federal Subsistence Board. It lists them on the
36 bottom there.
37
38 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: My concern is in the
39 A portion of conditions is that use by non-Federally-
40 qualified users may be reduced or prohibited basically
41 through the elimination of wildlife population. When
42 you have air boats coming down and driving move further
43 -- as Mike Spindler said, there's very few moose within
44 the river corridor, so people are having a hard enough
45 time trying to come up with a moose. You get
46 additional hunting pressure and the preferred method of
47 embarkment is jet boat or air boat coming from the haul
48 road, so it's just a quick run down into the Refuge.
49
50 I would be concerned about the

1 additional pressure placed upon accessibility limited
2 moose population that's in the river corridor. Then
3 there's air taxis also. Go ahead, Ray.

4
5 MR. COLLINS: The point I wanted to
6 make is it sounds like the original condition for
7 sending it in are still the same and in fact there's
8 more reason because the population is actually lower.

9
10 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: At this point I
11 think we've given opportunity for discussion on this
12 closure proposal. Those in favor of maintaining the
13 closure -- how would we vote on this. We have a
14 position motion to adopt.

15
16 MR. MATHEWS: You have an affirmative
17 motion by Mickey and seconded by Robert.

18
19 MR. WALKER: Question.

20
21 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: The proposal is to
22 align with the recommendation of OSM to maintain the
23 closure. Those in favor of maintaining the closure
24 signify by saying aye.

25
26 IN UNISON: Aye.

27
28 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Those opposed.

29
30 (No opposing votes)

31
32 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Unanimous consent to
33 maintain the closure until the next review period.

34
35 MR. WALKER: Mr. Chairman. When is the
36 next review board?

37
38 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: The review process
39 is every three years. It will come back before the
40 Council. In the interim, if there's been regulatory
41 structuring and people are meeting subsistence needs,
42 this Council may contemplate elimination of that
43 closure.

44
45 Where are we at now, Vince.

46
47 MR. MATHEWS: The only thing that's
48 there, and I don't know if it will help you at this
49 point because you've already made the action, is an
50 overview, because Robert is hinting on that, about what

1 is the wildlife closure review process and I don't know
2 if you need that or not. We kind of jumped over that.
3 You do have a briefing in your book on it.

4
5 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Is it beneficial to
6 the Council to review that quickly for new Council
7 membership? It's in the book of you want to just read
8 what the closure policy is.

9
10 Go ahead, Tim.

11
12 MR. GERVAIS: I can just read it at a
13 later time.

14
15 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Eleanor.

16
17 MS. YATLIN: I can read it.

18
19 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. So the
20 Council will continue to move down the agenda. So
21 we're in the Federal Subsistence Board call for
22 proposals. Vince? Is it lunch time already? Maybe we
23 should go to lunch. We'll go to the proposal portion
24 of our meeting and we made one proposal and we have
25 some others that I feel the Council should entertain on
26 submitting since it's call for Federal proposals.
27 We'll break for lunch. How long should we break,
28 Vince?

29
30 MR. MATHEWS: It's usually been an
31 hour.

32
33 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: An hour is good. We
34 have quite a bit of agenda to attain. I'd like to have
35 meeting closure by 4:00, is our target. We'll break
36 for lunch.

37
38 (Off record)

39
40 (On record)

41
42 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: It's 1:04 on my
43 watch. We're going to come back to order. We're in
44 Federal proposals right now and sort of promulgated a
45 couple. We're at a point in the proposal aspect where
46 there's been several different issues up there in Unit
47 24B up there by Allakaket, so I've been working with
48 Kanuti National Wildlife Refuge. We had a
49 teleconference with Vince, Wennona Brown, Mike
50 Spindler, Lisa Saperstein, and we discussed various

1 needs for regulatory change. We're also coming to this
2 next year of a call for proposals for the Board of
3 Game. It's apparent the March 1 to March 5 bull hunt
4 that we've been using up there is a little bit too
5 early, not been very successful.

6
7 This proposal is under the title
8 Federal Subsistence Regulatory Proposal. It's mismarked
9 Unit 24D, but it's actually for Unit 24B, as in boy.
10 This language was basically a summation of our input,
11 the problems Kanuti has had with implementing this hunt
12 and some of the changes that may be necessary, like
13 giving more flexibility in the length of the period
14 when the hunt can occur.

15
16 Would you like to come to the table and
17 speak to this issue also, Mike. Maybe you could give
18 some of the manager's problems that have been occurring
19 with this hunt.

20
21 MR. SPINDLER: Yes, Mr. Chair. Fellow
22 Council members. For the record, Mike Spindler,
23 manager of Kanuti National Wildlife Refuge. This March
24 1 to 5 hunt has been really challenging for me to
25 implement. For two years in a row it was exceedingly
26 cold in early March. The village requested special
27 action request to extend the hunt another five days
28 beyond that, which they were afforded that opportunity.
29 As I mentioned yesterday, their participation in the
30 hunt is less than what I would anticipate based on
31 their very vehement calls for the need to harvest of
32 moose.

33
34 So I began thinking that maybe the
35 solution isn't to try and window them down into a five-
36 day period, but actually expand the period in length,
37 but with the same controls on it that it's had all
38 along. I have mixed feelings about this and I'll be
39 real frank with the Council. In two years no one has
40 harvested a single bull moose up there. The effort has
41 been declining.

42
43 This is the third year we're going to
44 try to afford this opportunity. If I see continued
45 declining effort, I'm just going to call three strikes
46 and you're out and you've had your chance. I'm serious
47 that these guys want their opportunity and I think we
48 need to provide it, but when I actually see snowmachine
49 tracks on the ground, it's getting less.

50

1 So I don't know whether that's because
2 they're being confined to a narrow five-day period or
3 they're claiming they need the opportunity, but then
4 when they have it they don't use it or there's all
5 kinds of excuses. There's deep snow, there's cold
6 weather, there's dog racing carnivals. If you're
7 hungry, you're hungry.

8
9 My frustration is that they're being
10 narrowed into this five-day period and no one can
11 predict -- you know, it would take one storm to wipe
12 out three to four days out of a five-day hunt
13 opportunity and then I would have to go to a whole new
14 special action request again to get an extension and
15 lining up enforcement for that period, it's just very
16 difficult. Our enforcement officers are few and far
17 between. They're spread all across the state. They're
18 highly scheduled, especially in the spring. If I have
19 a date change like that, I can't just grab someone and
20 say, here, you go up there and do enforcement. It has
21 to be planned in advance.

22
23 My thoughts were that maybe we'd have
24 all the same kind of controls on it. We'd open it up
25 to a wider time range and have some fairly intensive
26 law enforcement going on during that time period and
27 see if the people were able to get the moose that they
28 say they need.

29
30 I would say at this point my position
31 on the proposal is neutral. I'd like to see what
32 develops in the third year of the March hunt at Kanuti.
33 Again, I'll be frank with the panel here. If I see
34 declining participation for this last week of March
35 hunt, I'm going to be thinking there are a lot of
36 people in Allakaket that have been crying wolf.

37
38 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. That's the
39 Refuge manager's position on the issue. So this
40 proposal here would open the window of opportunity from
41 March 15th to April 15th, a one-month period of
42 opportunity to allow the season to be announced. I
43 would like to see this window open, like you've been
44 saying, Ray, that gives an opportunity for the manager
45 to work in concert with the community on when the
46 conditions are adequate to initiate the hunt.

47
48 I've advocated and Manager Spindler
49 went to Allakaket and I've been advocating for pushing
50 that hunt slightly back into April. The main concern

1 of the State is the identification of bull moose in
2 winter. Well, after the first part of April, through
3 the middle of April, the bulls start growing antlers
4 and they're easy to identify. Now the State has
5 actually implemented an April hunt in 26B on the North
6 Slope.

7

8 I've been advocating for pushing this
9 back. I feel that people there haven't really thought
10 about that, so this proposal will allow people to
11 comment, the Koyukuk River Advisory Committee could
12 comment on it, but I feel to get some kind of a hunt
13 and increase the success rate, it's better to hunt
14 towards the end of March through the middle of April
15 when bulls are starting to grow antlers and they're
16 longer days and usually go into warmer weather and so
17 you can travel and get around.

18

19 My primary perception of why
20 participation has been low in the March 1 to 5 hunt is
21 because people are frustrated with having to cross
22 their lands to get to the Federal lands and the only
23 moose -- I've had various individuals tell me they
24 track moose off Federal land onto the private land and
25 then they couldn't kill the moose, so that's been very
26 frustrating. It's demoralized the people there on
27 their participation. If they had a higher likelihood
28 of actually taking moose, I think they would feel
29 better about the hunt.

30

31 I feel that we should be coming up with
32 a provision to at least have an opportunity to harvest.
33 I think that changing the season date to March 15th to
34 April 15th season to be announced.

35

36 I also want to see a proposal submitted
37 on the State side also staying within a quota to be
38 determined, so I would like to see the Board of Game
39 also provide a subsistence opportunity, a reasonable
40 opportunity to harvest winter moose in the Kanuti
41 Controlled Use Area.

42

43 So I feel that this proposal should
44 move forward. It's in the call for proposals. We
45 can't wait until after this hunt to make this
46 submittal. We have to submit this proposal now and I
47 would like to see this proposal we're looking at
48 submitted from the Western Interior Regional Advisory
49 Council so that it will be in our discussions in our
50 fall meeting and we can get input from the Koyukuk

1 Advisory Committee and the local community there also.

2

3 Leading into more discussion about
4 leaning more towards the April 5th to April 15th season
5 when bulls are easily identifiable and alleviate the
6 fears of the State, that's the direction I would like
7 to see this proposal going in.

8

9 Go ahead, Mike.

10

11 MR. SPINDLER: Yes, Mr. Chair. I agree
12 with you that that later time period does offer good
13 potential for better identification of bulls. I'm not
14 exactly familiar with what's going on that time period,
15 but if, as you say, you start to see the antler growth
16 then, I applaud those efforts to try and get a season
17 targeted towards that time frame.

18

19 I want to emphasize that I do firmly
20 believe the hope that the people in Allakaket have of
21 the opportunity to shoot a bull sometime in March or
22 April greatly alleviates the temptation to take a cow
23 earlier in the winter. I think we're all on the same
24 page there, that we don't want to see any cows
25 harvested from this population. That's the worst
26 possible thing we could do.

27

28 I would also urge you to have enough
29 discretion in there given to the manager in terms of
30 the sideboards of the hunt. We haven't proven that
31 this hunt works up there at Allakaket yet because no
32 one has taken a bull, but there is a complication of
33 checkerboard land. Furthermore, I think we still need
34 to have a quota. I think we still need to have the
35 very definite law enforcement presence there so that
36 there's potential great penalty if someone does shoot a
37 cow. Furthermore, if a cow is taken, that the manager
38 has the opportunity to shut down the entire hunt. I
39 think that is going to be the greatest impediment or
40 greatest encouragement for people to focus only on bull
41 harvest.

42

43 Finally, I do share your frustration
44 with the situation of checkerboard land. I think the
45 hunters there were very frustrated by it. We went to
46 great efforts. We hired a person to mark all the
47 trails where the refuge boundaries started so that the
48 people at least staying on the main trails would know
49 where they entered the Federal lands.

50

1 The problem is that a lot of times they
2 want to check out other places away from the main trail
3 system. Without a GPS you're not going to be really
4 certain that you're on the Federal lands, so there's a
5 chance that hunters would inadvertently take a moose
6 thinking they're on Federal lands, but they're actually
7 on State jurisdiction lands, Native corporation lands
8 in specific.

9
10 I would encourage you to leave
11 flexibility in there so that you can discuss those
12 kinds of sideboards that the manage would have in
13 implementing that hunt in the field.

14
15 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

16
17 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: The implementation
18 of the hunt, of course, the Western Interior Regional
19 Advisory Council has not been adverse to the sideboards
20 that have been implemented and would encourage whatever
21 it takes to administer this hunt and will speak to that
22 at the Federal Board process that the managers should
23 have discretion on how to administer the hunt within
24 your preview of management.

25
26 One change I would like to see in this
27 proposal is that this would be within the Kanuti
28 Controlled Use Area, so applying to the Kanuti
29 Controlled Use Area of the Kanuti National Wildlife
30 Refuge on BLM lands within the Controlled Use Area.
31 That would be the only change that I would like to see
32 changed, so when we go to a State hunt, it still stays
33 -- if we propose a State hunt, it still stays within
34 the Controlled Use Area, the Controlled Use Area does
35 not have aircraft access. We do not encourage
36 non-local people coming to the Controlled Use Area from
37 other areas of Alaska to hunt under State regulations.

38
39 Vince, you got a comment on that.

40
41 MR. MATHEWS: I suppose my question is
42 why are you restricting it on the Federal side of the
43 Controlled Use Area since this only applies to Federal
44 lands?

45
46 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Because we're going
47 to try for a State proposal. We'd have to start paring
48 down or drawing lines on the State side. I've had more
49 confidence with getting this passed at the Board of
50 Game if we're within the Controlled Use Area on the

1 Federal lands, so it's going to be a complete nightmare
2 trying to describe this.

3

4 The Controlled Use Area is a portion of
5 Unit 24B that has no aircraft access, it's associated
6 with those communities and that area was implemented by
7 the Board of Game in the late '70s, early '80s for the
8 benefit of the local people because they did have such
9 a hard time and Sidney was part of implementing that.
10 So I would like to see this for the Kanuti Controlled
11 Use Area portion of the Kanuti National Wildlife
12 Refuge.

13

14 Do you have a comment on that, Mike.

15

16 MR. SPINDLER: I think that would be
17 useful to have on there. Again, that line is a
18 straight line out in the middle of nowhere, so a hunter
19 actually hunting on the extreme edge of that may
20 inadvertently take a moose outside of the Controlled
21 Use Area. We need to be mindful that is a straight
22 line. There's no real good geographic landmarks that
23 define that out in the middle of nowhere.

24

25 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Well, the Controlled
26 Use Area is quite some distance from Allakaket, so most
27 of the projected harvest that I could see would be
28 within the Controlled Use Area on Federal lands nearest
29 to the village and it would also be, if we could get a
30 State proposal, on those State lands within the
31 Controlled Use Area.

32

33 MR. SPINDLER: Mr. Chair. I agree with
34 you that they don't extend that far from Allakaket.
35 The only place where I've seen that extension is mainly
36 on the trail between Allakaket and Hughes. They do
37 leave the Controlled Use Area at some point down there.
38 It's still within 24B. Perhaps might be tempted to try
39 and take a moose there.

40

41 I would urge you to have a long
42 dialogue with all the State counterparts to see what
43 other perhaps unintended consequences there might be
44 about this proposal. One of the concerns that I would
45 have is usually that time of year the Bettles winter
46 road is open, so there could be people desiring to go
47 into Bettles and into the Controlled Use Area by
48 snowmachines off the Dalton Highway. I do think there
49 needs to be a long dialogue about this. It would be
50 ideal if we could address the checkerboard challenges

1 that the people face there locally, not being able to
2 hunt on the Native-owned lands there.

3

4 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

5

6 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: When we had the
7 problem with the Bettles Road and people coming in and
8 hunting primarily to the north of Bettles, when we
9 moved that boundary back to the west, we then
10 alleviated -- was there any winter hunts after we moved
11 that boundary? How many? I was unaware of very many
12 hunters participating after we moved that boundary to
13 the west. Go ahead, Glenn.

14

15 MR. STOUT: There was two when we first
16 changed that. There were two hunts that were in place.
17 There was the existing December 1 to 10 season and then
18 there was an early March season and it was changed back
19 and the boundary that still exists in there now is
20 downstream of Henshaw Creek drainage.

21

22 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right.

23

24 MR. STOUT: So that's the boundary
25 that's already in there and I think would be a fairly
26 simple, straightforward way to align with existing
27 State regulations.

28

29 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I still feel more
30 comfortable utilizing the controlled uses to eliminate
31 aircraft access in our proposal to the State Board of
32 Game because I do not want to see aircraft access
33 participation in this hunt. To make this hunt work for
34 the local people, I would like to see a State and
35 Federal hunt in concurrence with quotas set on both
36 sides that we don't exceed certain sustainability
37 parameters.

38

39 Does the Council understand the
40 direction that I'm going with trying to provide
41 opportunity for subsistence users in Allakaket and
42 Alatna with this particular proposal to the Federal
43 Subsistence Board and when we get to the State
44 proposals I would also like to see a concurrent
45 proposal of very similar language submitted to the
46 State Board of Game when they come for call for
47 proposals.

48

49 Any discussion. I would like to
50 entertain a motion to submit this proposal to the

1 Federal Subsistence Board for the Kanuti Controlled Use
2 Area with the language that's in this document for Unit
3 24B. Do I have a motion to submit.

4

5 MR. STICKMAN: I make a motion.

6

7 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I've got a motion to
8 submit.

9

10 MR. COLLINS: I'll second that. I'd
11 like to speak to it.

12

13 MS. YATLIN: Second too.

14

15 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Motion to submit.
16 Now we're going to discussion with the Council. Go
17 ahead, Ray.

18

19 MR. COLLINS: Yeah. Make sure what's
20 in the motion. This is a 30-day period with the
21 openings to be announced and some limits set. Is that
22 basically what's in it?

23

24 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yeah. It's in your
25 packet. We're in agreement on the record here with the
26 refuge manager that there be sideboards and
27 understandings of enforcement in various aspects that
28 the manager -- other stipulations that the manager may
29 be put on. This gives the manager much more leeway to
30 set those quotas and so forth.

31

32 MR. COLLINS: What I'd like to speak to
33 is trying to do it the other way of opening five days
34 and then because of weather and everything else is not
35 working, so I'm really in favor of the longer period
36 and I would leave it open the whole time unless there's
37 a biological reason to close it. If you had limits on
38 there and maybe the requirement that you would report
39 any kills within a certain time of the kill, that would
40 be enough. I don't understand the need for the
41 intensive law enforcement. That's like you're not
42 trusting people to do what they're supposed to do. If
43 they violated that and lost their hunting privileges
44 for a year or something, especially the fact that
45 there's no harvest now.

46

47 I've experienced winter hunts over the
48 last 40 years in McGrath. What we had under the State
49 system out there is we used to have the fall hunts open
50 to everybody and they opened a winter hunt that was

1 only to residents of the area. We used to have a
2 winter hunt that was open two or three weeks. There
3 was no problem. They didn't have to administer that.
4 Only the people that didn't get meat in the fall would
5 go out and take advantage of that winter hunt. In the
6 40-some years I've been hunting out there, I think I
7 myself went on winter hunts maybe three times and that
8 was during a time period when I had my three kids at
9 home and maybe three boarding kids, so we needed a lot
10 of meat.

11
12 The fact that there's hardly any
13 harvest under these now and you've got a cut-off that
14 would say it would close with 20 moose or whatever, I
15 don't see where there would be a biological concern if
16 people are working within that. If they abuse that,
17 make the penalty not on the whole population but
18 whoever offends it. I don't see the need to be out
19 there looking over their shoulder like you're going to
20 cheat. I would be more trusting and open it and see.
21 You'd find out if it wasn't working in a year or so.
22 They'd have to report when they killed it and where
23 they killed it and there could be some follow-up checks
24 if they felt it was being abused.

25
26 Just create a longer window of
27 opportunity and let them pick and choose. I think
28 you'll still find the same thing that not too many
29 people are going to go out during that time for various
30 reasons. The cost of gas, weather conditions or
31 whatever. As long as the harvest was within five, 10,
32 15 animals, I can't see where there would be a
33 biological problem.

34
35 Do you see problems with doing that,
36 more lenient with an open window?

37
38 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, Mike.

39
40 MR. SPINDLER: Mr. Chair. Mr. Collins,
41 fellow Council members. I'm not sure whether your
42 familiarity with the winter hunts that you've
43 participated in in your area, Mr. Collins, was
44 antlerless or bull only, but my concern is that we have
45 a low population, probably declining historically. The
46 worst thing we can do is allow any cow harvest. I know
47 for a fact there's been cow harvest this winter and I
48 just feel like in order to keep this population from
49 getting worse and run down into the ground even more.
50 They have to know we're providing the opportunity, but

1 it's for bulls only and there's strict consequences if
2 it's violated. I'd be open to any suggestions on how
3 to make this more palatable to the people in the
4 village. No one likes being looked over their
5 shoulders, but the fact of the matter is cows have been
6 taken.

7

8 MR. COLLINS: Well, if we made it a
9 legal hunt and they had to do it during that period and
10 they had to bring the head in, they could be checked
11 on. If they think there's abuse, they'd say, oh, yeah,
12 there's the head right there, there's the horn. If
13 they can't show that, then there's a problem. But
14 there could be something like that set up that you
15 could check up if you needed to and they've been given
16 a legal opportunity.

17

18 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: The Department of
19 Fish and Game and the Refuge manager are very very
20 concerned about cow harvest during this hunt. These
21 are the sideboards that Manager Spindler has been
22 talking about. So I, as the Chair, have to deal with
23 their concerns for the cow harvest. There's zero cows
24 to give there. So we still have to stay within certain
25 sideboards.

26

27 You have a comment there, Eleanor.

28

29 MS. YATLIN: Mr. Chairman. First of
30 all, I just wanted to know the price of gas. Maybe I
31 haven't attended all these meetings and we haven't had
32 our Koyukuk River Advisory as far as I know this year
33 and I haven't talked to anyone in Allakaket, but I'm
34 just kind of hearing one side. I know what you're
35 saying, Jack, and I'm really trying to listen here to
36 all sides, but I'm just kind of concerned because I
37 hear one side. I wanted to know the price of gas.

38

39 The other thing I was going to say is
40 if they have to go that far outside of Allakaket and
41 all over those burned areas to get to where they need
42 to go moose hunting, that's a long ways and I know they
43 have to fly in the gas up there.

44

45 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right.

46

47 MS. YATLIN: But I look at it the other
48 way too and I head earlier maybe the reason why they
49 didn't want it a certain time was because of the
50 carnival.

1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: The fuel price, as
2 far as I've heard, is \$7 a gallon in Allakaket right
3 now. It probably won't be a whole lot cheaper on the
4 next load.

5
6 This is a proposal. We're just putting
7 this out there. This will come before the Koyukuk
8 River Advisory Committee and there will be a meeting
9 long before these proposals are ruled upon by the Board
10 of Game and the Federal Subsistence Board. This is a
11 Federal Subsistence Board proposal we're going over
12 right now.

13
14 Do you have a comment, Vince.

15
16 MR. MATHEWS: For the Chair and
17 Eleanor, just prior to this meeting Ron Sam called me
18 up and he brought this proposal up and he said he's
19 supportive of it. He wanted to make that clear to me.
20 And he wanted to be kept informed because he thought it
21 was a good idea. He's from Alatna and past chair of
22 this. I know Jack has talked to him. Just to address
23 Eleanor, there's been communication with the leaders of
24 those communities and they're supportive of this idea.
25 I don't know if they've seen this exact proposal.

26
27 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right. Well, I've
28 been talking to Ron and I've been talking to Pollock,
29 who used to be the chair of Koyukuk River Advisory
30 Committee. The people there I've been told by
31 everybody I talked to in Allakaket that they want to
32 have a late winter hunt and they're willing to work
33 within parameters. The majority of the people are
34 willing to try to be able to have an opportunity to
35 harvest. Thanks for that comment from Ron.

36
37 Do you have something to say there,
38 Glenn?

39
40 MR. STOUT: (Shakes head negatively)

41
42 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Mike.

43
44 MR. SPINDLER: Mr. Chair. I just
45 wanted to re-emphasize that it would be my hope that
46 this proposal would receive broad discussion during the
47 review process. We would make some kind of effort to
48 align it with State Board of Game action. These quotas
49 we're talking about and the season lengths we're
50 talking about would be jointly set by the Federal

1 managers in concert with the State managers, then we
2 would alleviate that checkerboard problem.

3

4 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

5

6 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right. So you have
7 this consultation language in the proposal. I think
8 this proposal, as defined for the Controlled Use Area,
9 I looked over what Glenn just said, the Henshaw
10 drainage was our language, and to keep this as clean as
11 possible, I think that the Controlled Use Area
12 downstream of the Henshaw would be the cleanest way to
13 address this. I think that would be the easiest way to
14 get it through the Board of Game.

15

16 Can we have an amendment to the motion
17 for the Kanuti Controlled Use Area downstream of the
18 Henshaw and including the
19 Henshaw Creek drainage.

20

21 MR. STICKMAN: I make a motion for that
22 amendment.

23

24 MS. YATLIN: Second.

25

26 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So we've discussed
27 the proposal to be submitted to the Federal Subsistence
28 Board. And further discussion by the Council.

29

30 (No comments)

31

32 MR. STICKMAN: Question.

33

34 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: The question has
35 been called on the motion and the amended motion.
36 Those in favor of submitting this proposal for Unit 24B
37 winter hunt for moose signify by saying aye.

38

39 IN UNISON: Aye.

40

41 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Those opposed.

42

43 (No opposing votes)

44

45 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: This will be
46 transmitted to the Federal Subsistence Board.

47

48 So now we've covered the issues for the
49 Kanuti now I feel. It's been discussed in this meeting
50 the Koyukuk/Nowitna align Federal and State moose

1 hunting seasons. We did that one. Now the other
2 Federal proposal that I can think of would be this
3 season extension.

4

5 Do you have a comment, Vince.

6

7 MR. MATHEWS: To make the record
8 clean, the mover of the motion and the second of the
9 motion agreed with the friendly amendment to add in
10 that geographic changes.

11

12 MR. STICKMAN: Right.

13

14 MR. MATHEWS: Mickey agreed and the
15 second was.....

16

17 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Eleanor seconded
18 that.

19

20 MR. MATHEWS: Okay. Just so it's clear
21 on the record.

22

23 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: They kind of
24 coincided.

25

26 MR. MATHEWS: They did, but it was an
27 amendment. But it's clear on the record the movers of
28 the motion understood, the second, the situation and
29 all voted understanding the motion.

30

31 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. The other
32 highlighted issues are in 21E. Robert brought up that
33 there's a need for extending the season, either
34 trimming five days off of August and extending it into
35 September 30th.

36

37 MR. WALKER: Yes, Mr. Chair. I was
38 asked by the tribal council again. It wasn't put on
39 paper here. I think Vince had a paper from last fall.

40

41 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, Robert.

42

43 MR. WALKER: They asked when they did
44 write to you and did ask last fall for an extension for
45 five days you got the proposal last fall. What else
46 did they send to you, the tribal chiefs?

47

48 MR. MATHEWS: It was five days. That
49 was a special action to extend it and it was rejected
50 if I remember correctly. Is that what you're

1 mentioning?

2

3 MR. WALKER: Right.

4

5 MR. MATHEWS: I'm speculating here that
6 you're asking for a proposal that would make it
7 permanent to have the season go five days later to
8 October 1, is that correct?

9

10 MR. WALKER: The question was would it
11 still be standing as of 2009 for the 2008 proposal.

12

13 MR. MATHEWS: No. The special action
14 doesn't trigger a proposal. There's nothing before the
15 process or the Board addressing a different season for
16 21E.

17

18 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right. We need to
19 make a proposal to make that extension and so we can
20 submit a proposal for 21E to trim five days off the
21 front portion of the hunt August 25th and make that the
22 30th of August and move that up to September 30th.
23 Shift forward five days.

24

25 This Council has been discussing in its
26 past and endorsed proposals to shift seasons further
27 forward in the fall because moose aren't moving around
28 and to give more opportunity to harvest during a time
29 when moose are available for harvest. That would be
30 the basic change of the proposal for 21E. You've got
31 further comment on that, Robert.

32

33 MR. WALKER: I talked to Chief Jerue
34 last night and he said also to mention due to climate
35 change this is having a trend to be warmer a lot longer
36 in September than it normally is.

37

38 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: That's been
39 recognized by this Regional Council that moose bulls in
40 warmer falls are not moving until right before the
41 breeding season, within a week or very few days of the
42 actual breeding itself, so their availability to
43 subsistence hunters has declined. So we can't rely on
44 moving back towards cooler falls. The trend has been
45 towards warmer falls, so that would be the
46 justification for the proposal that warmer falls are
47 driving the need to move our seasons further back
48 towards the end of September, first of October. That's
49 a fairly short and concise proposal to be written.

50

1 Would you like to move to submit that
2 proposal, Robert.

3
4 MR. WALKER: Yes, I'd like to move it
5 at this time.

6
7 MR. STICKMAN: I'll second.

8
9 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Moved and seconded
10 to submit that. We're going into discussion now, Ken.
11 Come forward. Discussion on the proposal. Go ahead.

12
13 MR. CHASE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
14 Members of the committee. My name is Ken Chase. I
15 chair the Anvik/Grayling/Holy Cross/Shageluk State
16 Advisory Committee. Although I agree with the proposal
17 for the need, I disagree with the timing and the season
18 and the numbers, the dates. Ever since I've been chair
19 of the State committee, we've been trying to work
20 toward something that we can time a lot of that stuff
21 with the Federal actions and Federal Board's actions
22 and needs for the subsistence use for the game. In
23 talking to some of my people that work with the State
24 side of it, they say climate change is a problem and
25 recognize that.

26
27 However, when we got the hunt started
28 on August 20th there was a lot of discussion and talks
29 about people didn't want to compete with the commercial
30 hunters and outside hunters during the September dates,
31 so they wanted an early August hunt that they could
32 locate the animals early in the year and know where
33 they're at and then go get them before they started
34 moving around, which we thought was a good idea.

35
36 Now we're changing and starting to go
37 toward the end of September, which some of the bulls
38 are already starting to get into the rut and unusable.
39 Some people don't even want to shoot moose after the
40 25th of September. Being the GASH area, we have an
41 intensive management plan and working on the predator
42 control at this very time, we kind of don't agree with
43 the change at this time. We haven't discussed it. We
44 had talked about going to the first of October, but
45 nothing definite. I think it needs more public input
46 before this is done.

47
48 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: This is just a
49 Federal proposal. This will go through the advisory
50 committees. The Federal program, when you read ANILCA,

1 the Councils are to rely on the advisory committees and
2 that's in Title VIII of ANILCA. This is a proposal.
3 You've kind of discussed it. I see the season is
4 actually the August 20th to September 25th right now.
5 When is the regular State general hunt. It starts on
6 September 1st?

7

8 MR. CHASE: 5th.

9

10 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So this still gives
11 a 10 day earlier opportunity on the Federal side and so
12 I would think it's advantageous to shift that slightly
13 forward on the Federal side.
14 This is strictly a proposal and the advisory committees
15 would be able to comment on the proposal when you have
16 your next meeting. I've talked to the Federal Office of
17 Subsistence Management and the refuges about having
18 their coordinators come to the advisory committee.
19 It's important that the coordinators come to the
20 advisory committee meetings and bring the various
21 Federal proposals for comment by the State advisory
22 committees.

23

24 Does that answer some of the questions
25 you had on this proposal?

26

27 MR. CHASE: It does. However, we
28 discussed if we went along increasing the hunt until
29 the first of October, then we'd work to completely
30 eliminate any winter hunt until our moose came back up
31 and the game department decided that we can increase
32 pressure on our moose.

33

34 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Is that in your
35 management plan that you would not extend the season in
36 the fall?

37

38 MR. CHASE: No, it doesn't say that in
39 the plan. We talked about the change in climate and
40 harvesting up until the first of October. We did cut
41 out our cow season during the winter hunt. The State
42 did. The Subsistence Board still left it open, which
43 we did not care for because we were trying to enhance
44 our moose population. The Federal opening was just
45 deterring us, so we decided if that's the case, if
46 that's going to happen, our moose doesn't come back the
47 way we want it to, we would look to close the whole
48 winter season.

49

50 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: My position is

1 giving more fall bull opportunity actually reduces the
2 need for moose harvest in winter when people would be
3 more likely to harvest cows. I've been inclined to
4 always try to promote fall harvest. I personally feel
5 we can harvest bulls until the first of October. I
6 would shoot a two year old bull on the first of
7 October.

8

9 I feel having the opportunity to
10 harvest bulls up through the end of September is better
11 than having people harvest in winter. If we can move
12 away from winter harvest, that's better for the moose
13 population.

14

15 MR. CHASE: I agree with you there.

16

17 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I would like to see
18 this proposal go out and then the GASH Committee can
19 comment on it and discuss it at their meeting. I
20 encourage the Innoko Staff to send your subsistence
21 coordinators to provide the advisory committees with
22 the Federal proposals and to transmit those back to
23 this Council.

24

25 Do you feel comfortable with that, Ken?

26

27 MR. CHASE: Yes, sir.

28

29 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: We're back on
30 discussion. Do you have any further discussion on
31 submitting this proposal? Basically it would be
32 shifting five days and the dates would be a change from
33 August 20th to August 25 and then push those five days
34 to the 30th of September. That's what you would like
35 to do, Robert?

36

37 MR. WALKER: That's what I would like
38 to see, yes.

39

40 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: That's the proposal
41 to be submitted for Unit 21E. Any further discussion.

42

43 (No comments)

44

45 MR. STICKMAN: Question.

46

47 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: The question is
48 called. Those in favor of submitting that proposal
49 signify by saying aye.

50

1 IN UNISON: Aye.

2

3 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Those opposed.

4

5 MR. GERVAIS: I'm going to be opposed
6 to that.

7

8 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: You're opposed to
9 that. We've got six votes for and one opposed.

10

11 So the other proposal that I have seen
12 basically the problem for 21E is the administration of
13 the winter hunt and we moved into a special action
14 request. I feel the Refuge manager should have a much
15 wider window to provide the winter hunt in so we don't
16 have to go in to special action request. I would like
17 discussion with the Council members.

18

19 Currently the season is February 1
20 through 10 and there was very little participation
21 because of cold weather and special action request to
22 provide for needs. I feel the Refuge manager should
23 consult with the communities about when that hunt
24 should occur. I also feel the Refuge manager should
25 have the ability to set quotas for each community so
26 that the harvest doesn't occur all in the same area.
27 So I'm thinking possibly between February 1 and April
28 15th is the harvest window and then there will be a
29 10-day hunt to occur with concurrence of the
30 communities and the Refuge manager would work with
31 those communities. How do you feel about that, Robert.

32

33 MR. WALKER: Sure. Yes, I'm sure about
34 that.

35

36 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So opening this
37 window for the managers to have more leeway without
38 having to approach the Federal Board for special action
39 request if conditions are improper. It gives an
40 opportunity for the communities to have winter harvest.
41 The Federal managers can set the parameters of that
42 hunt. Also, opening this window all the way to the
43 middle of April, if, in the future our population is
44 declining but we have a bull opportunity, we can push
45 towards this April harvest.

46

47 How would you feel about that, Robert,
48 if we had to go towards a bull April harvest?

49

50 MR. WALKER: Well, I'm sure this would

1 be what the chief would want. That is their call and
2 I'll have to go along with it.

3

4 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So if we have to,
5 this would give the opportunity to shift -- if we have
6 to conserve cows, this would still give this window
7 when we could push towards more harvesting bulls later
8 in the hunt period.

9

10 Do you have a comment, Vince.

11

12 MR. MATHEWS: I just want to caution
13 you on the one statement that you made about the Refuge
14 manager setting or determining a quota per village.
15 I'm real concerned that you're moving into an .804 when
16 you use that terminology. I don't know if we've done
17 that elsewhere in our regulations except when we've had
18 an .804. So I think what you're more saying is that
19 the Refuge manager would determine a biological quota
20 and then from there work in consultation with the
21 villages and then leave it.
22 That terminology worried me on that.

23

24 The other thing is this would be a
25 regular season to be announced. This is not a response
26 to an emergency.

27

28 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: That's an excellent
29 comment is that the Refuge manager determines the
30 harvestable surplus and then there's sharing among
31 communities, so we don't really have to go there.

32

33 We'll have to go to a motion here, but
34 we're working out the parameters of this hunt. These
35 are just ideas floating around. Go ahead, Ray.

36

37 MR. COLLINS: Mr. Chairman. I'm
38 wondering if we shouldn't propose that for all of the
39 refuges within ours that we create this window of
40 opportunity. These proposals are for 2010-12 and if we
41 don't have something on there it will be 2012 before we
42 could propose it again. So if we did this, maybe it
43 wouldn't even open if there isn't a reason for it. But
44 the opening to be arranged would at least create a
45 window in all of these. So what do you think about a
46 motion to create a window.

47

48 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: These proposals are
49 unit by unit, so I do agree that you're probably right.
50 For 21E, this window going for the Koyukuk up there by

1 Huslia, 21D and C, I can see opening that window up a
2 little wider and having the window from March 1 to
3 April 15th and again the season occurring sometime
4 within that time frame. If the cow population drops on
5 the Koyukuk but we have a harvestable surplus of bulls,
6 then we could go to the more palatable bull harvest in
7 April. Vince.

8

9 MR. MATHEWS: Okay. Let's look at this
10 from a strategy point of view. I understand what Ray
11 is saying and it may have mirrored elsewhere, but let's
12 take a couple steps back and look at this. This whole
13 concept of this month-long window to be determined when
14 moose have antlers. Jack, you and I have talked about
15 that. This is a totally new idea.

16

17 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right.

18

19 MR. MATHEWS: You may want to step
20 forward instead of applying it everywhere. You have
21 kind of a growing case in 21E that needs were not being
22 met. If you expand this to all refuges or whatever you
23 were going for, that might be really hard to swallow.

24

25 There's two ways of looking at it. You
26 go that way and maybe you can step down to another area
27 or you go one way and see if you can build up from
28 there. My feeling on going broad like that it's going
29 to complicate things. The amount of biology that would
30 have to go into this is -- I don't know. Jack, I feel
31 that this idea into an April season, we talked on the
32 phone, is still quite new, so I think it's going to
33 require a lot more thinking on it. If it's in one
34 area, then people can focus their energies.

35

36 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: The only way we're
37 going to get discussion on it is in the proposal
38 process. If people don't want it, they can comment
39 against it and we'll vote it down. To break new ground
40 -- it's the preview under .805 of ANILCA that this
41 Council devise plans and regimes to provide for
42 subsistence needs and so we're doing that. We're
43 dealing with a dual management system and we're coming
44 up with ideas. So, myself, I don't see why the Federal
45 Board wouldn't give the managers a window to harvest,
46 but the opportunity occurs within this one and a half
47 month time frame. The amount of hunting time isn't
48 changing, it's just when it occurs.

49

50 We have to provide some bull harvest

1 and there's such great concern for cows, then we still
2 have that window going up into April where we can try
3 to see how these April hunts -- so that's the way I
4 feel about these proposals that we're working on here.

5
6 Do you have the same line of thought
7 that I do, Ray?

8
9 MR. COLLINS: Yeah, I was thinking that
10 providing a window is certainly traditional. There
11 were winter hunts going on whether they were legal or
12 illegal in the past because people needed some meat and
13 this creates a legal opportunity there and you can
14 partly determine the length of it or the timing of it
15 based on weather conditions but also on what happens in
16 the fall because you've got that information. If more
17 than half the village didn't get a moose, then you need
18 a longer winter opportunity maybe with a higher harvest
19 level because obviously the animals that were available
20 weren't harvested then, so they should be available for
21 later in the winter.

22
23 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right.

24
25 MR. COLLINS: Whether it's a bull or a
26 cow could be discussed too again based on biology.

27
28 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right. So what this
29 proposal does is give the managers more leeway to
30 assess the population and working with the communities
31 to come to -- which is what Robert was talking to, the
32 frustration that people had, that the Refuge managers
33 did not have the ability to provide for the subsistence
34 needs of the people. The Federal Subsistence Board
35 provides a harvest period, but it gives the Refuge
36 manager a period of time to work with. With varying
37 conditions, it's more fluid and gives more of an
38 ability to manage more precisely as to what the
39 population is doing.

40
41 As the Innoko manager and Staff, would
42 you come to the table here. We'll have a little chat.

43
44 Go ahead, Vince.

45
46 MR. MATHEWS: Jack, I think I may have
47 lost you. What I was saying, I was responding to Ray,
48 a proposal for all refuges.

49
50 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right.

1 MR. MATHEWS: I was not speaking about
2 the 21E situation. Just so that's clear.

3
4 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right. I understood
5 that. I would like to see 24D and 24C have this
6 leeway. I don't know about all refuges.

7
8 You're up before the Council. You've
9 heard our discussion. We've yet to make a motion on
10 this proposal. What are your feelings about this
11 proposal? Do you feel comfortable with the direction
12 of this proposal?

13
14 MR. SLOANE: Mr. Chair. Council. Beau
15 Sloane, the new Refuge manager at Innoko. Appreciate
16 the opportunity to address the Council. To be quite
17 honest with you, and I've talked to many of you
18 individually, you guys all know my circumstance in that
19 I am new to this part of the world. I will say this, a
20 little bit off subject. I've been incredibly impressed
21 with this process and the members I've met and how this
22 process is functioning.

23
24 With regard to the proposal, I like the
25 idea of having management flexibility to be able to
26 address the needs of the people in the area as well as
27 the needs of the wildlife resource on refuge lands.
28 One thing I'd like to mention is that certainly in 21E
29 relative to Federal lands, Innoko National Wildlife
30 Refuge makes up a fairly small percentage of Federal
31 ownership within that Game Management Unit and I guess
32 our representative for Bureau of Land Management isn't
33 here.

34
35 Like I say, from a personal standpoint,
36 I do like the idea of having as much management
37 flexibility as possible to be able to provide for the
38 people and the resource.

39
40 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I appreciate those
41 words and the reminder that a significant portion of
42 21E is BLM administered as far as Federal lands.
43 Ingrid McSweeny is back here. The reality is that it
44 would be a concurrence of the Federal managers on this
45 hunt with the communities, so I feel that this gives
46 leeway for everybody to feel more comfortable when the
47 hunt is going to occur. I think the communities will
48 have more acceptance of the manager's decisions if they
49 have an input into the process.

50

1 Do you feel the same way, Robert?
2
3 MR. WALKER: Yes. Thank you, Beau, for
4 your opinion there.
5
6 MR. SLOANE: Thank you.
7
8 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So at this point I
9 think it's time to make a motion on 21E winter hunt.
10 It doesn't change anything. It just opens the window
11 from February 1 to April 15th. It would be a 10-day
12 winter hunt to be announced at some time in that time
13 frame. The Refuge manager would determine the
14 population status of the moose and allow the hunt or
15 not allow the hunt and be up to the discretion of the
16 manager with consultation of the State and the local
17 communities for that hunt.
18
19 Is that concise enough, Vince, on our
20 discussions.
21
22 MR. MATHEWS: Yeah. I think what
23 you're mirroring is what is done on Unit 24B. Do you
24 want to have consultation with the Chairs of the
25 advisory committee and the chair of the affected
26 Councils?
27
28 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right, the Councils
29 and the GASH Advisory Committee consultation. Does
30 that sound good to the Council, that proposal and do I
31 have a motion to that effect.
32
33 MR. COLLINS: I so move.
34
35 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: We've got a move on
36 that proposal. Do we have a second.
37
38 MR. STICKMAN: I'll second.
39
40 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Moved and seconded.
41 Any further discussion on the proposal for 21E winter
42 hunt opportunity.
43
44 (No comments)
45
46 MR. STICKMAN: Question.
47
48 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: The question is
49 being called. All those in favor of the proposal
50 signify by saying aye.

1 IN UNISON: Aye.

2

3 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Those opposed.

4

5 (No opposing votes)

6

7 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: The proposal passed
8 unanimately to be submitted. Thank you. Ray, do you
9 feel that the Koyukuk Nowitna Staff should have more
10 leeway to provide winter hunt in Unit 24D and 24C? It
11 currently is March 1 to March 5. I also would like
12 your opinion about that. I would like Eleanor's
13 opinion about that. Go ahead.

14

15 MR. COLLINS: I'd rather defer to the
16 people that are in the area. I was just talking about
17 us having a discussion of doing that in other areas.
18 Since I don't live in the area, I would like to see it,
19 but only if it was wanted in the local area, so I would
20 defer to people that are hunting and using that area.

21

22 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Eleanor, this March
23 1 to 5 hunt, do people feel comfortable with that time
24 frame? What I'm concerned about happening is this cow
25 number is going to keep going down. The only way I can
26 see we're going to get any kind of State hunt in
27 concurrence would be to have an April opportunity. If
28 we open the window up right now from March 1 to April
29 15th, a five-day season to be announced by the Refuge
30 manager at some point, they could then have the
31 opportunity to allow a March 1 or whatever the
32 community would like to hunt, but there would be five
33 days. We're not changing the season length, the date
34 of hunt, we're just opening the window up a little
35 more. Do you think that would be a good strategy?
36 Because we've gone to a two-year cycle, we have to get
37 our ducks in a row long in advance.

38

39 MS. YATLIN: I get what you're saying
40 and what Ray is saying. I would probably agree with
41 it. We'd have to go through the advisory committees
42 and get their opinions and the people.

43

44 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right.

45

46 MS. YATLIN: I agree with it.

47

48 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: This is strictly a
49 proposal. We have to get these placeholders inserted
50 into the Federal call for proposal. So basically I

1 would like to entertain a motion to go from March 1 to
2 April 15th for Unit 24D and 24C, which is currently on
3 the books and it just opens the window, and
4 consultation with that community on when that hunt
5 shall occur with the Refuge manager, and consultation
6 with the State and advisory committees, and committees
7 Middle Yukon and Koyukuk, and the RAC Chair. That
8 would be the proposed motion language.

9

10 MR. WALKER: I'll move here.

11

12 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Moved by Robert.

13

14 MR. STICKMAN: Second.

15

16 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Seconded by Mickey.

17 Any further discussion by the Council. Ray.

18

19 MR. COLLINS: I should think that the
20 timing and duration to be arranged. I'm not sure that
21 a five-day hunt -- I think that if it should be open,
22 it should be open for 10 personally. I wouldn't put
23 the number of days in there. I would have that be one
24 of the things that would be under discussion and the
25 timing of it.

26

27 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right.

28

29 MR. COLLINS: So what is in the motion?
30 Are the five days meant to go in there?

31

32 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: The current hunt is
33 a five day hunt, so that five days would occur with
34 consultation of the community when they would want to
35 hunt. It puts another layer into the proposal to try
36 to increase hunting opportunity when it's a
37 controversial hunt to start with.

38

39 Go ahead, Vince.

40

41 MR. MATHEWS: I think we need to get
42 some clarification. The existing hunt, and I probably
43 have it wrong, is the March 1 through -- the 1 through
44 5 in March I need confirmation that it's only in the
45 Controlled Use Area.

46

47 MR. MOOS: It is.

48

49 MR. MATHEWS: So we're finding out that
50 it is.

1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: We're not changing
2 the hunt boundaries. My mistake that I didn't insert
3 the Controlled Use Area language. That's a good
4 clarification. It's not changing the hunt boundaries.
5 It's not changing the length of the season. It's just
6 changing the window of opportunity and consultation.
7 Is that clear to the mover of the motion and the
8 second?

9

10 (Nods affirmatively)

11

12 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Further discussion.

13

14 MR. STICKMAN: Question.

15

16 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: The question is
17 being called. Those in favor of submitting that
18 proposal for the Koyukuk Controlled Use Area winter
19 season to open to the discretion of the Refuge manager
20 between March 1 and April 15th within Units 24D and
21 24C, those in favor of submitting the proposal signify
22 by saying aye.

23

24 IN UNISON: Aye.

25

26 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Those opposed.

27

28 (No opposing votes)

29

30 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Unanimous for
31 submittal. Those are the proposals that have been in
32 my mind to address some of the issues that have come
33 before this Council. Are there any proposals that any
34 Council members have to submit to the Federal
35 Subsistence Board? I can't think of any myself.

36

37 Randy doesn't look like he's going to
38 arrive on the wood bison reintroduction. Randy emailed
39 me and actually called me. Is the Council aware of the
40 wood bison, which has come before the Council various
41 times. The new RAC members, are you familiar, Eleanor
42 and Tim, with the State wood bison reintroduction
43 project? They would like to bring these to Alaska and
44 release them into the wild and begin building these
45 populations of wood bison. Are you both familiar with
46 that issue?

47

48 MR. GERVAIS: I was slightly familiar
49 with an effort to put them in the Minto Flats. I'm not
50 familiar with the program to put them down in 21E?

1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I was called by
2 Randy Rogers and he gave me an overview. The State
3 determined through many years of investigation that
4 wood bison were actually present in Alaska up through
5 about 200 years ago and were basically extirpated, as
6 they would say, from Alaska and they want to return
7 that subspecies of bison back to Alaska, which is
8 different than the plains bison they have down in Delta
9 and Fairwell. They were going to put them in the Minto
10 Flats and the Doyon decided that they may conflict with
11 oil and gas exploration in that area. Now the
12 legislature is in question as to whether they were
13 actually going to introduce them there. The
14 legislature is still looking at the issue.

15
16 Up to this point it was a non-conflict
17 with releasing them down by Shageluk on corp lands with
18 the understanding they may get off of there and run
19 free.

20
21 The State has been working with the
22 U.S. Fish and Wildlife in setting out specific language
23 that makes them an experimental population that does
24 not fall under the Endangered Species Act. They can be
25 harvested and they can be manipulated. That's
26 basically an upshot of what Randy discussed. He would
27 like to see if the Western Interior Council was
28 acceptable to that wood bison reintroduction.

29
30 It's my opinion the wood bison would be
31 beneficial for the people of the Western Interior.
32 There's paleontological record of them going over to
33 Unalakleet and the perception was there was a
34 contiguous population that went all the way up to the
35 McKenzie Delta.

36
37 I personally would be acceptable to
38 receiving these wood bison into the Western Interior
39 region and feel that they would be a non-conflict with
40 indigenous species and they've been inoculated for
41 practically every known disease known to ungulates. I
42 would entertain a motion to endorse the release of wood
43 bison within the Western Interior region near Shageluk.

44
45 Vince, do you have a comment on that.

46
47 MR. MATHEWS: No. Let the record
48 reflect if you want to read further on this it's on
49 Page 29 and 30 just so you're aware of that whole
50 concept of the endangered species.

1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead. Ken, do
2 you have a comment on that.

3
4 MR. CHASE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
5 Members of the committee. I was involved with this
6 bison thing for about 15 years. First talked to
7 Stevenson that was working up around Fort Yukon. They
8 did some tests and deemed it was very good growth for
9 bison, some of the best in the state and the country.
10 So we put into motion some things to get bison up at
11 that time. Our GASH Committee met several times and we
12 appointed Arnold Hamilton as our person to work with
13 the committee. Randy has done an outstanding job of
14 keeping us informed.

15
16 Doyon was told about this early in the
17 process and they just responded by saying they're aware
18 of it and will keep abreast of it. They put no flags
19 up about it at the time, about five or six years ago.
20 All at once about two weeks ago I was notified that
21 Doyon Staff or somebody did contact Gene Therrault in
22 Fairbanks and he contacted the governor and the
23 legislature and they passed a resolution trying to stop
24 all wood bison transfer and they did not even address
25 the Innoko area.

26
27 Randy said we may be getting a big
28 influx of bison down there because they're rejecting
29 them up at Yukon Flats and Minto because of oil and
30 gas. They were endangered species, however the State
31 has been working to change that wording to be a
32 threatened species so they could proceed with oil and
33 gas if the bison were there.

34
35 In July last year I went down to
36 Portage Wildlife Refuge where they're holding the
37 animals and we talked to the people there. We've been
38 in contact with our local people in the villages and
39 everybody has been real supportive of it.

40
41 If anybody on the committee here
42 personally wants to contact the governor's office or
43 anybody, do so and tell them this is a long-term thing.
44 We're looking at a food source for the people. That's
45 where we're at.

46
47 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I appreciate your
48 input from the GASH perspective on this introduction
49 and the acceptance of the people there. That's on the
50 record and I appreciate that.

1 MR. COLLINS: Question for Ken. Doyon
2 has some lands in the area too. Do they not object to
3 that area or are we going to run into any potential
4 problem with them?

5
6 MR. CHASE: When they sent the
7 resolution to the Governor's office they said all of
8 Alaska, but then I think they kind of retracted when
9 they found out that are was not protested by Doyon.

10
11 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Appreciate that
12 clarification. At this point I feel that the Western
13 Interior Council is within our preview to endorse the
14 reintroduction of the wood bison into the Shageluk
15 area. They're accepted by local people as testified by
16 the GASH Committee Chair and other members of our
17 Council.

18
19 Does the Council feel comfortable with
20 transmitting that letter of acceptance to the State of
21 Alaska and to the OSM?

22
23 MR. GERVAIS: I'll make a motion for
24 the Council to approve that.

25
26 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: There's a motion to
27 transmit a letter of acceptance for reintroduction of
28 the wood bison.

29
30 MR. STICKMAN: I'll second it.

31
32 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Seconded by Mickey.
33 Any further discussion.

34
35 (No comments)

36
37 MR. STICKMAN: Question.

38
39 MR. WALKER: Question.

40
41 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: The question is
42 being called. All those in favor of the letter of
43 acceptance signify by saying aye.

44
45 IN UNISON: Aye.

46
47 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Those opposed.

48
49 (No opposing votes)

50

1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: That covers that.
2 Without Randy here, I don't feel comfortable continuing
3 with any of the other components of his presentation.
4 Go ahead, Vince.

5
6 MR. MATHEWS: The only thing I see
7 there and I don't believe we have Staff to assist you
8 with it is this draft adaptive plan for intensive
9 management for Game Management Unit 21E.

10
11 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right.

12
13 MR. MATHEWS: That is before the Board
14 of Game later this month. So if you were to get a
15 comment in, we would have to do it at this meeting or
16 support of recommendation.

17
18 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I think we've kind
19 of covered that upper agenda, so we're down here at E,
20 Alaska Board of Game call for proposals.

21
22 MR. MATHEWS: That's just a place-
23 keeper in case you wanted to submit proposals.

24
25 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: When is the end of
26 their call?

27
28 MR. MATHEWS: I'll have to go to Glenn.
29 I think it's April 10th. No, that's Board of Fish.

30
31 MR. STOUT: Wildlife proposals won't be
32 until late this fall, November, so we've got a lot of
33 time.

34
35 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: November. We could
36 work on those at our fall meeting or we could work on
37 some now since they're freshly affixed in our mind. We
38 should work on at least one or two of those that we've
39 been discussing since we have been discussing these
40 concurrent State proposals.

41
42 At this point in the agenda I think
43 that a proposal that we shall work on would be a
44 proposal to the Board of Game regarding Unit 24B. I
45 think we need to narrow the window down for the Board
46 of Game palatability, so it would be a proposal that
47 would basically be for the Kanuti Controlled Use Area
48 downstream of the Henshaw Creek drainage, an April 5 to
49 15th antlered bull hunt, and that would be a State
50 proposal.

1 Understanding the area biologist's
2 concern for harvest of cows and the Board of Game's
3 acceptance of bull harvest in April in other hunts in
4 other areas, I feel this proposal would be the highest
5 benefit to the subsistence users in Allakaket, Alatna,
6 villages who are not meeting reasonable opportunity
7 under State winter hunt regulations during customary
8 and traditional time of harvest.

9
10 I would entertain a motion to submit a
11 proposal to that effect to the State Board of Game.

12
13 MR. STICKMAN: So moved, Mr. Chair.

14
15 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Moved by Mickey. Is
16 there a second.

17
18 MR. GERVAIS: I'll second it.

19
20 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Tim seconded.
21 Discussion on the proposal. This proposal will be
22 before the advisory committees and the local committees
23 and it will be submitted sometime before the call, so
24 there will be time to discuss it next winter. Since
25 we've worked on this proposal on the Federal side, I
26 feel these parameters of this hunt should be laid out
27 while it's firmly in our mind.

28
29 Any further discussion, Carl.

30
31 MR. MORGAN: We'll see the draft in our
32 fall meeting and make the final decision then?

33
34 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yes. Any further
35 discussion.

36
37 MR. STICKMAN: Question.

38
39 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: The question is
40 being called on submitting that proposal for Unit 24B,
41 Kanuti Controlled Use Area downstream of the Henshaw
42 drainage for an antlered bull April 5 to April 15th.
43 Signify by saying aye.

44
45 IN UNISON: Aye.

46
47 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Opposed.

48
49 (No opposing votes)

50

1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: The State will have
2 plenty of time to comment on the proposal when it comes
3 out. Let's see. Mickey.

4 MR. STICKMAN: Thanks, Mr. Chair. I
5 don't want to go back but I think just for discussion
6 on this intensive management plan for moose in 21E, you
7 know, because of the significance of a plan and it is
8 within our area, I think that we should either adopt a
9 concept or is it going before the Board of Game this
10 time around. We have Robert here from 21E and then we
11 have Ken Chase, the Chair for the GASH area.

12
13 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right.

14
15 MR. STICKMAN: He can tell us if the
16 advisory committee down there adopted this draft plan.
17 I think it's something we should have some action on
18 it.

19
20 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: That's good advice,
21 Mickey. I've not read this adaptive intensive
22 management plan. Never heard of this until Randy
23 brought this to my attention. Ken, can you give us a
24 brief overview of what this plan would do for intensive
25 management in 21E.

26
27 MR. CHASE: I can give a briefing.
28 Thank you, Mr. Chair. We've been working on this for a
29 while. Our GASH Committee started holding hearings in
30 all the villages and talked to the locals about
31 concerns of a moose decline, so we formed a committee
32 and I was a part of that. This was right after the
33 Aniak plan went through. Everything went well and it
34 was adopted by the Board. One of the things we
35 sacrificed is we closed the cow season down during the
36 winter at the request of the local communities to try
37 to help bring the population back up again.

38
39 In doing so, we did see a change. Of
40 course, we've had the Paradise Management Area down
41 there for years and that was a good thing at the start,
42 but then it started getting outdated because of
43 different modes of transportation.

44
45 Two years ago, I think at the time we
46 drew up a plan, we decided we wanted a predator control
47 intensive management thing into the plan. We did not
48 want a predator control we had to wait on in case of an
49 emergency, so that's what we have up now before the
50 next meeting to try to get that passed. The

1 communities all support it and it seems to be starting
2 to work out.

3

4 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Appreciate that
5 overview. Any questions
6 for Ken.

7

8 (No comments)

9

10 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: That basically was
11 my understanding of this plan. I can see your
12 committee's position on elimination of the winter cow
13 harvest. There seems to be a slight conflict with
14 communities wanting winter harvest of moose. Has the
15 GASH Committee worked on building consensus not
16 eliminating winter harvest but building a consensus on
17 eliminating the cow component of the winter harvest?

18

19 MR. CHASE: We eliminated the cow
20 harvest.

21

22 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: But you eliminated
23 the winter hunt too.

24

25 MR. CHASE: No, no.

26

27 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Oh, you have a State
28 winter bull hunt.

29

30 MR. CHASE: Yeah.

31

32 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. I understand
33 that.

34

35 MR. CHASE: Also in the plan we did go
36 to a permit hunt for non-resident hunts and we have
37 issued permits for the fall hunt. I'm not sure of the
38 numbers right now, but it seems to be working. Last
39 year they weren't all filled up, the permits, so that's
40 a plus. It helps us out.

41

42 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: How many drawing
43 permits were issued?

44

45 MR. CHASE: I think there was 24 and 23
46 was issued.

47

48 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Vince, did you have
49 a comment.

50

1 MR. MATHEWS: Ken, you may want to look
2 at the back of the plan. These are proposals before
3 the Board of Game. That's about all I know of them.
4 It's related to what he was talking about with the
5 predator implementation plan. I don't know if Ken
6 would want this Council to look at those and endorse
7 them or just be aware of them. This came right before
8 the meeting. I called Kristy Tibbles, Executive
9 Director of Board of Game, and it wasn't real clear
10 what they're going to do with the draft plan. So you
11 may want to focus on the proposals. I didn't get a
12 clear answer what the Board would do with the draft
13 adaptive plan.

14
15 MR. CHASE: Mr. Chairman. I feel at
16 the discretion of the committee, whatever they want to
17 do, I think we'd accept it. If they want to support
18 it, that's fine.

19
20 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: This Council has
21 been supportive of looking at reduction of predator
22 competition on the State controlled lands in Unit 19A,
23 19B. There's been lots of discussion by Council
24 members from 21E on this issue.

25
26 I would feel comfortable myself on
27 supporting the adaptive management plan from this
28 Council because of the high number of wolves that local
29 people have been seeing and the perceived or real
30 population decline of 21E moose population. So sooner
31 is better than later.

32
33 The Chair will entertain a motion to
34 endorse the adaptive plan for intensive management of
35 moose in GMU 21E.

36
37 MR. STICKMAN: Okay, Mr. Chair. Seeing
38 that the people for the most part on the Advisory
39 Committee in the GASH area is in favor of this plan, I
40 make a motion to endorse it.

41
42 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay.

43
44 MR. COLLINS: I'll second it.

45
46 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Second. Any further
47 discussion by the Council.

48
49 MR. GERVAIS: Question.

50

1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: The question is
2 being called. Those in favor of the motion signify by
3 saying aye.

4
5 IN UNISON: Aye.

6
7 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Those opposed same
8 sign.

9
10 (No opposing votes)

11
12 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Unanimous
13 endorsement of the adaptive plan. Thanks, Ken.

14
15 MR. CHASE: Thank you.

16
17 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Time out. We're
18 going for break.

19
20 (Off record)

21
22 (On record)

23
24 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I've got about 3:02.
25 Ms. McSweeney has to catch a plane, so we're going to
26 put BLM up here before us.

27
28 MS. MCSWEENEY: Mr. Chairman. Council
29 members. My name is Ingrid McSweeney. I'm the Surface
30 Protection Specialist for the Central Yukon Field
31 Office of the Bureau of Land Management in Fairbanks.
32 My responsibilities include oversight of the mining
33 program for the unit. The BLM administrative units
34 that overlap the Western Interior Region are the
35 Central Yukon and the Anchorage Field Offices.

36
37 I will be representing both field
38 offices at this meeting as Tim Craig and Geoff
39 Beyersdorf are both attending the statewide BLM
40 wildlife biologist meeting in Fairbanks. Dan Sharp,
41 the State Office Subsistence Program leader, is out of
42 state on a family emergency. All three employees send
43 their apologies to the Council for missing this
44 meeting.

45
46 To start with, the Central Yukon Field
47 Office archaeologists completed mitigation level
48 excavation of three historic cabin foundations on
49 Silverado Mining claims at Smith Creek last summer.
50 This work was required to account for adverse effects

1 to cultural resources brought about by continued mining
2 activity there.

3

4 Information for fisheries. The
5 Fairbanks District Office will conduct two fisheries
6 project this field season that may be of interest to
7 the members of the Western Interior RAC. The first is
8 the Tozitna River Salmon Escapement Project. In 2009
9 BLM will operate a floating resistance board weir on
10 the Tozitna River to collect escapement data for
11 chinook and summer chum salmon. This project has been
12 operating since 2001 and this will be the last year.

13

14 The second project is the Sulukna River
15 Sheefish Stock Assessment. In 2009 BLM biologists will
16 conduct a sheefish spawning stock assessment on the
17 Sulukna. This study is the first to attempt to
18 describe the out-migration timing and the population
19 size of a spawning sheefish population within the Yukon
20 River Watershed. This is the second year for the
21 study. Approximately 2,100 sheefish were counted in
22 this drainage last year.

23

24 Mining issues. First is Hughes Mining
25 District. Some of the Federal lands surrounding Taiga
26 Mining's private and Federal mining claims on Clear,
27 Bear and Aloha Creeks were transferred to the State of
28 Alaska last year. most of the Federal mining claims in
29 this area are still under BLM jurisdiction and we
30 anticipate that many of the claims will be transferred
31 to the State by this year. Other lands in the area
32 have been listed as top priority for Doyon selection
33 and the future ownership of the remaining lands in
34 these watersheds is unclear.

35

36 Koyukuk Mining District. During the
37 2008 mining season there were approximately 30 active
38 mining operations in this district. This summer we
39 expect to permit up to eight new mining plans of
40 operations along the Dalton. Drainages potentially
41 affected by mining include Acme Creek, Smith Creek,
42 Minnie Creek, Gold Creek, Marion Creek, the Hammond
43 River and the south fork Koyukuk. It is estimated that
44 approximately 50 acres of new ground will be disturbed
45 next summer.

46

47 There is an increased interest in
48 gravel sales along the Dalton from the Yukon River to
49 north of Atigun Pass. Several inquiries were made by
50 private contractors for gravel from existing pits as

1 well as exploration expansion by DOT. Additionally,
2 some inquiries were made about the possibility of a gas
3 line coming down the corridor and the need for gravel
4 for that project.

5
6 In 2008, BLM issued a permit to BP
7 Exploration to conduct exploratory drilling to test the
8 quality of the rock in Roche Moutonnee for construction
9 uses. Work at the site was not completed last year.
10 Currently BP is reviewing all possibilities for
11 acquiring the materials needed for the North Star
12 Island project.

13
14 Realty actions. Preliminary studies
15 for a proposed road between the Dalton Highway and
16 Stevens Village are being conducted by the Federal
17 Highway Administration under a grant from the Denali
18 Commission. The road, if constructed, will likely
19 start at the Five-Mile Airstrip. BLM is cooperating
20 with this study in the pre-application stage.

21
22 There are currently two use
23 authorizations requested. The first one is a right-of-
24 way issued to Marsh Creek LLC to mobilize equipment
25 into Kalakaket Radio Relay Site. Environmental
26 restoration work will be completed in 2009. This
27 spring they will haul equipment and contaminated soil
28 out of the site to store at Galena and then it will be
29 barged out.

30
31 The second use authorization was for a
32 film permit to video truckers traveling the haul Road
33 this spring.

34
35 We have three conveyances. BLM cannot
36 finalize conveyances to the villages in the Doyon
37 Region or conveyances to Doyon, Limited until the Fish
38 and Wildlife Service has decided whether it will
39 proceed with the Yukon Flats land exchange. This is
40 due to potential reallocation of acreage from the Yukon
41 Flats villages to the remaining villages.

42
43 Conveyances IC 2197 and 2198 were
44 issued to Doyon, Limited for about 220,000 acres east
45 of the Dalton between Slate Creek Trail and the North
46 Fork of the Chandalar River.

47
48 The third conveyance to the State of
49 Alaska. The State filed its final priorities for
50 conveyance on December 10th of last year. Priority

1 number one selections are being processed at this time.
2 However, many of the States number one priorities are
3 on lands not available for state selection. BLM is in
4 the process of sorting the top-filings from the
5 selections ready for conveyance. Until this process is
6 complete, we will not be able to estimate what lands
7 will be conveyed to the State and what lands will
8 remain under Federal management. It may take us
9 another year to sort this out and start conveying land
10 lower on the priority list.

11
12 Recreation issues. We obtained funding
13 to establish a new shelter cabin along the Iditarod
14 Trail just east of Shageluk.

15
16 The BLM issued no new permits for
17 hunting guides within the Western Interior RAC
18 boundary.

19
20 The BLM and the State of Alaska have
21 begun a Scenic Byways Corridor Partnership Plan for the
22 Dalton. Once this plan is completed, the BLM is poised
23 to recommend the Dalton Highway be designated as a
24 national Scenic Byway, which would allow the highway to
25 receive additional funds from the Federal Highway
26 program for wayside facilities, signing or other
27 facilities that may be necessary for traveler safety,
28 information and enjoyment.

29
30 The BLM in conjunction with DOT is
31 planning to construct a facility in the vicinity of
32 Galbraith Lake. This facility will allow the traveling
33 public as well as other highway users an opportunity to
34 pull off the road to rest and take pictures of the
35 scenic attributes of the area. This facility is to be
36 built in conjunction with DOT road construction from
37 mile post 274-289. The contract for road construction
38 and facility development is to be open for bid in 2009.

39
40 Lastly, Central Yukon Field Office is
41 developing a new brochure and outreach program
42 targeting Dalton Highway sport hunters. The goals are
43 to promote awareness of special hunting and access
44 restrictions, reduce impacts on resources, and reduce
45 conflicts with other people.

46
47 Vegetation. We are working with a
48 contractor to search specific areas along the Iditarod
49 Trail for invasive weeds. Additionally, BLM will be
50 working with the Fire management Program to identify

1 and develop fuel reduction projects in the McGrath
2 area.

3

4 We're also continuing to develop a weed
5 management plan for the Dalton. A draft plan for
6 external review will be available by March of this
7 year. This management plan and EA will explore the
8 outreach and education and integration of other methods
9 with current efforts, including application of
10 herbicides. We are currently seeking funding to
11 implement this plan. Support from the weed management
12 area and other groups may help secure funding. Before
13 the plan is implemented, NEPA analysis and ANILCA 810
14 will be completed. This process will include public
15 scoping of the Dalton Highway area communities
16 potentially affected by these actions.

17

18 Pending availability of weed funding
19 and human resources, we plan to continue manual and
20 mechanical control efforts in the Dalton Highway area
21 during 2009 between the Kanuti River and Coldfoot.
22 Monitoring of past control efforts will be conducted
23 this summer. We have provided copies of the pocket
24 guide Selected Invasive Plants of Alaska 2007 to
25 Council members.

26

27 Although many non-native invasive
28 plants could occur in the Western Interior Region,
29 species in this booklet that occur currently in the
30 region include oxeye daisy, narrowleaf hawksbeard,
31 common tansy, sweetclover, bird vetch and common
32 toadflax.

33

34 Wildlife. 21E moose populations. BLM
35 is working with Fish and Game and Fish and Wildlife to
36 conduct a global spatial population estimate survey
37 beginning February 23rd. The survey will cover the
38 eastern half of GMU 21E east of the Yukon. We will
39 begin flying the stratification surveys on February 9
40 to look at habitat and see how many blocks we need to
41 get an accurate population estimate.

42

43 21E moose collaring. The Anchorage
44 Field Office submitted a Challenge Cost Share proposal
45 to collar 50 moose in 21 E beginning in spring of 2010.
46 If funded, they will partner with Fish and Wildlife
47 Service and Fish and Game to do the initial capture
48 work, and then we'll work with Fish and Wildlife
49 Service to conduct flights. The collars should give
50 some idea of moose movement, whether it is a resident

1 or transitory sub-population, location of wintering
2 grounds and calving sites.

3

4 21E wolf surveys. BLM will be working
5 with Fish and Game to conduct wolf surveys in the
6 eastern half of 21E, east of the Yukon. These surveys
7 start February 23rd. We hope to get a better idea of
8 the number of packs, pack size, and distribution
9 throughout the unit.

10

11 Next, Yukon Innoko Moose Management
12 Plan. Two goals of the plan were to develop
13 information and education programs and develop
14 cooperative management with increased local involvement
15 to improve moose management. To help meet these goals
16 the Anchorage Field Office will be submitting two
17 proposals at the BLM wildlife program meetings that are
18 being held currently.

19

20 The first is a newsletter. This
21 proposal would fund BLM and distribute a periodic
22 newsletter on moose management for villages in the GASH
23 area. Fish and Game successfully developed newsletters
24 on moose management for the Unalakleet and Lower
25 Kuskokwim. These newsletters include interviews with
26 local elders, biologists and local subsistence advisory
27 committee representatives to the State and Federal
28 Boards. Topics could include how moose and wolf
29 surveys are conducted, the role regulations in wildlife
30 management, the importance of cow conservation and
31 reporting harvest, and sharing the knowledge and
32 experience of elders. We would like some input from
33 the Council on how to approach this and help in who to
34 contact in the GASH area villages.

35

36 The second is Rural Outreach Program.
37 This project would provide funding for BLM to develop a
38 rural education and outreach program. The program
39 would revolve around wildlife/subsistence issues.
40 Staff would develop an education program around an
41 issue, moose management for example, and then travel to
42 the GASH area villages to give presentations. By
43 putting a name to a face for the agency we can begin to
44 develop and strengthen our relationship with rural
45 communities. By establishing communication we can give
46 rural subsistence users a voice in subsistence
47 management. Again, we need input from Council members
48 on how to approach this and examples of what they would
49 like presented would be helpful.

50

1 If the Council supports the ideas of
2 moose collaring in 21E and developing a newsletter and
3 outreach program for the GASH area, Geoff would greatly
4 appreciate a letter of support.

5
6 Finally, the table shows the results
7 from the Fish and Game and BLM moose trend count
8 completed last October. On the table, the last row,
9 number of bulls per 100 cows was 40. Number of
10 yearling bulls to 100 cows was 13. Number of calves to
11 100 cows was 18. Number of twins to 10 cows with
12 calves was zero. Percent calves was 11 percent. There
13 were 99 moose counted total and the moose in a square
14 mile was .87.

15
16 Fish and Game and BLM will start a
17 four-year long sheep mortality study in the Utility
18 Corridor this spring. Funding is from Fish and Game
19 and the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation.

20
21 Fish and Game, BLM, Kanuti National
22 Wildlife Refuge and the national Park Service are still
23 cooperating on a radio-telemetry study of moose in GMU
24 24A and B. BLM and Park Service have been radio-
25 tracking moose in the northern part of the study area
26 monthly when weather allows. We plan to continue this
27 effort.

28
29 The Fish and Game, BLM and
30 Koyukuk/Nowitna National Wildlife Refuge conducted a
31 geospatial population estimate count of moose in GMU
32 21B in October and November. Results of this work are
33 not yet available. The Refuge will present specifics
34 of the survey during their presentation.

35
36 That concludes Tim Craig's report.

37
38 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I really appreciate
39 you coming down here to Galena. Ingrid used to attend
40 our meetings as a fishery biologist. Does anybody have
41 questions for the BLM presentation.

42
43 MR. STICKMAN: I do.

44
45 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, Mickey.

46
47 MR. STICKMAN: The one question I have
48 is on the second page for the right-of-way issued to
49 Marsh Creek LLC to mobilize equipment into Kalakaket
50 Radio Relay Site. I guess there was some concerns from

1 the local people in Galena about crossing their Native
2 allotments and there was also some private land that
3 was formerly Native allotment, but it was sold to a
4 local person, and I guess they had some concerns about
5 the right-of-way through their property.

6
7 MS. MCSWEENEY: I'm not really familiar
8 with this right-of-way. In most cases we would
9 recommend that Marsh Creek get a letter of non-
10 objection from each probably allottee and I'm not sure
11 if that was done.

12
13 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: And you would
14 require that before you granted permitting across the
15 BLM land?

16
17 MS. MCSWEENEY: Yes.

18
19 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So it would appear
20 that it would have to have approval from the land
21 owners before they would allow them to cross the BLM
22 land.

23
24 MR. STICKMAN: The only reason I ask is
25 because I know the mobilization is right now.

26
27 MS. MCSWEENEY: Okay. Council Member
28 Stickman, I can find out who is in charge of that and
29 relay the information to them and then they can get a
30 hold of you. Most of the time when we have any kind of
31 contractor -- I don't want to call it trespassing, but
32 doing a winter move or going over land that's not
33 Bureau of Land Management land, we always require a
34 letter of non-objection.

35
36 MR. STICKMAN: Thank you. I just
37 wanted to bring that out because it was brought to my
38 attention a couple weeks ago. If I see it in front of
39 me and I don't bring it out, I'm not doing the right
40 thing.

41
42 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Appreciate that,
43 Mickey. Go ahead.

44
45 MR. GERVAIS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
46 Ingrid, I have two questions both regarding the fish
47 topics. The first one being why is the Tozitna escape
48 project no longer going to be funded and also Sulukna
49 sheefish stock assessment how long do you anticipate
50 that study lasting?

1 MS. MCSWEENEY: Okay. The Tozitna River
2 Salmon Escapement Project has been going on -- this
3 will be eight years' worth of data. OSM has funded
4 that project from the beginning. As far as BLM is
5 concerned, we have enough information from that
6 project. We don't need to keep doing it. It is the
7 only salmon escapement project going on in the Middle
8 Yukon. There's just limited manpower at BLM and we
9 have such an extensive area that needs to be looked at,
10 so we feel that eight years worth of data on that creek
11 is enough.

12
13 MR. GERVAIS: Are escapement numbers
14 available on the website?

15
16 MS. MCSWEENEY: There are reports that
17 are, yes. As far as the Sulukna River sheefish stock
18 assessment, I don't really know a whole lot about that.
19 As far as funding, BLM is funding that. With the way
20 the budgets are going, I'm not sure how long it's going
21 to get funded. We probably will require four years of
22 data.

23
24 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Robert.

25
26 MR. WALKER: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
27 Ingrid, on these plants here, how far have they
28 migrated out to rural Alaska?

29
30 MS. MCSWEENEY: I would say up the
31 Dalton as far as Wiseman, maybe beyond that. I'm not
32 really sure.

33
34 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Wiseman is about as
35 far up as most of those have gotten. They get on the
36 trucks and it stays in the mud and falls off. In about
37 five years they went north of the Yukon River and they
38 travel faster than you'd think.

39
40 MR. WALKER: Other than that, would
41 they be able to drift down the river?

42
43 MS. MCSWEENEY: They are now, yeah.

44
45 MR. WALKER: Whoa.

46
47 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: That's the concern,
48 that they'll be spreading into suitable habitats
49 associated the road system. The road transects various
50 drainages.

1 Go ahead, Robert.
2
3 MR. WALKER: Craig was supposed to come
4 up with any kind of established plan for a burn this
5 summer anywhere in rural Alaska.
6
7 MS. MCSWEENEY: Yeah, there is. Let's
8 see. I sit next to the FMO, so I hear him talking all
9 the time. I think there's two prescribed burns that
10 are supposed to happen, but I'm not sure where. I'll
11 give your name to him.
12
13 MR. WALKER: Okay.
14
15 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Ray.
16
17 MR. COLLINS: There was a fuel
18 reduction project in McGrath. Would that be one of the
19 burns?
20
21 MS. MCSWEENEY: I would say yes, that's
22 one, but there's more than one planned.
23
24 MR. COLLINS: I haven't heard about
25 that.
26
27 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Vince, do you have a
28 comment.
29
30 MR. MATHEWS: Yes. In your packet is a
31 copy of the Unalakleet newsletter that Geoff was asking
32 for comments because that's what he's talking about
33 here towards the end of the document on moose
34 management for the villages of GASH. So, Robert, you
35 may want to share a copy of this Unalakleet around and
36 see if people have any comments if that's going to meet
37 for educating them.
38
39 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Geoff called me and
40 brought this newsletter and this outreach program to my
41 attention and then the moose collaring thing for 21E.
42 He described their importance. Geoff used to work with
43 the Koyukuk/Nowitna and has high standing with this
44 Council and does excellent work, so we're very happy to
45 see him working with the BLM.
46
47 I would like to see this Council
48 endorse with a letter of support this newsletter and
49 outreach program. As we know, much of 21E is managed
50 Federally between the BLM and Innoko Refuge. This

1 moose telemetry work is going to be instrumental in
2 understanding the moose movements in 21E. Would you
3 like to speak to that, Ken, at all, the telemetry work
4 the BLM is proposing? Have you discussed that at the
5 GASH level?

6 MR. CHASE: No, I haven't.

7
8 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: The telemetry work
9 that we've had in various portions in Western Interior
10 has been instrumental in managing moose, their
11 availability to hunters. It's just better for
12 biologists and the managers and the Councils and
13 committees to understand where these moose go. So I
14 would like to send a letter of support from this
15 Council if they so desire. Go ahead, Mickey.

16
17 MR. STICKMAN: Yes, Mr. Chair. I would
18 like to make a motion to support the letter.

19
20 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: We've got a motion
21 to support the newsletter and the outreach program for
22 GASH and for collaring moose, the 40 moose to be
23 collared in 21E. Do I have a second.

24
25 MR. GERVAIS: I'll second that.

26
27 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Seconded. Any
28 discussion on that letter of support to be transmitted
29 to the regional director of BLM.

30
31 (No comments)

32
33 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: No further
34 discussion. Those in favor of the letter signify by
35 saying aye.

36
37 IN UNISON: Aye.

38
39 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So the letter of
40 support will be transmitted to the regional director on
41 those projects. Any other questions for Ingrid on the
42 BLM presentation.

43
44 MR. COLLINS: I guess we would at some
45 point need some more information on these invasive
46 plants to watch for. So we need to know which one of
47 those are and what could and should be doing about it.

48
49 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Ken. Come to the
50 mike, please.

1 MR. CHASE: Mr. Chairman. This is in
2 response to the invasive plants they're talking about.
3 We have an office in Aniak. Our director is Herman
4 Morgan. They have a lot of information. We had a
5 meeting in Anchorage this past spring and another one
6 next month. Fairbanks has an office that's working
7 with invasive plants down around Delta and a lot of the
8 ones that are really affecting Alaska right now.
9 There's a lot of information out there. The Palmer
10 office of the conservative districts of the state.

11
12 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Also the agencies,
13 U.S. Fish and Wildlife and BLM, they all have botanists
14 or biological staff that deal with these issues.
15 Whatever Federal land unit you're nearest you can
16 contact them. All these agencies are aware. These
17 little books are cool. Some of these things are fairly
18 detrimental. They get going and they can't hardly stop
19 them. That white sweetclover, try and pull one up.
20 It's got roots about that long on it. It's just bad
21 news.

22
23 Any other comments on the BLM
24 presentation.

25
26 MR. CHASE: Can I ask a question?

27
28 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go right ahead.

29
30 MR. CHASE: On the trail you've
31 mentioned east of Shageluk for a cabin for BLM, I'm
32 kind of interested in that. I just heard bits of it
33 and I was wondering what the idea was and how that got
34 started and are they doing that on further parts of the
35 trail of the Iditarod?

36
37 MS. MCSWEENEY: Yes, I believe it's an
38 Iditarod Trail cabin. I'm not sure why it came about,
39 what the need is. But, again, I can give you the name
40 of that person involved in that and they can get back
41 to you.

42
43 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I think that's kind
44 of concluded.....

45
46 MS. MCSWEENEY: No mining questions?
47 This is probably the last time I'm going to come here.

48
49 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right. I'm aware of
50 all those various mining operations. I appreciate the

1 reports on these various operations, but I'm fairly
2 familiar with where they're going. If there's any of
3 the lands of the Dalton Highway Corridor management
4 area that are in contemplation of being conveyed to the
5 State, I would like the BLM to contact Wiseman
6 community on those issues. We're basically left out of
7 the loop on commenting on the Doyon 17B easements, so
8 we'd like to be incorporated into the loop with the BLM
9 conveyance program in that area if you can.

10

11 MS. MCSWEENY: Betsy Bonnell is in
12 charge of that, so I'll let her know.

13

14 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Appreciate that.
15 Okay, I think that's probably good. Thank you.

16

17 MS. MCSWEENY: Thank you.

18

19 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So that covers the
20 BLM. Excellent report. I always appreciate the BLM's
21 work along the Dalton Highway Corridor. They want to
22 build gas lines and they do various biological work in
23 that area. It's going to be beneficial to everybody in
24 the long run. So Tim Craig has done an excellent job
25 up there and now we've got Geoff Beyersdorf down in the
26 Anchorage office, so we're really stacked on the BLM
27 biological component.

28

29 Should we go back to this annual
30 report, Vince, or continue with these Agency reports.

31

32 MR. MATHEWS: I think unless some
33 agencies have to catch plans, we would just go back on
34 the agenda, which appears to be reports from Office of
35 Subsistence Management.

36

37 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay.

38

39 MR. MATHEWS: Most of those are
40 informational unless you want further discussion.

41

42 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: We'll do OSM
43 reports. I guess that will be Larry.

44

45 MR. MATHEWS: To help Larry understand
46 it, basically you have them on Page 42. If you have
47 questions on it, it's just a copy of the memorandum of
48 understanding, I'm sure Larry will respond to it. And
49 then if you want to discuss the Chistochina court
50 decision.

1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Just give us kind of
2 a quick overview of the MOU. Go ahead, Larry.

3
4 MR. BUKLIS: Mr. Chairman. I
5 understand the press of the agenda. As Vince said, the
6 State, Federal memorandum of understanding is on Page
7 42 in your book. In brief, it was signed in December
8 by all the parties on the State and Federal side and
9 it's simply meant to encourage communication and
10 coordination between the agencies and it does not
11 compromise any of the mandates of either party. I
12 think there was some concerns out there in the public
13 and among some councils as this was being moved toward
14 signature.

15
16 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I want to stop for a
17 second there. I want to express my appreciation to Ken
18 for coming down here and participating with our Council
19 from the GASH perspective. Have a good trip home.
20 Goodbye to all those Agency people who are leaving on
21 the planes.

22
23 So continue, Larry. Sorry.

24
25 MR. CHASE: Thank you.

26
27 MR. BUKLIS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
28 I think an important feature of the MOU is the fact
29 it's meant to be a living document and it's to be
30 reviewed. Near the end on Page 46, paragraph number 8,
31 it says the signatories will meet annually, or more
32 frequently if necessary, to review coordinated programs
33 established under this MOU and to consider
34 modifications to this MOU that would further improve
35 working relationships.

36
37 So, to reassure the councils and the
38 public and other parties, this is meant to be a helpful
39 coordination effort and we're going to check in
40 annually and modify it if necessary. That should allay
41 those concerns as it came to signature time that we're
42 not undermining anything or trying to shift anything.

43
44 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I appreciate that
45 clarification. I had concern that this may straight-
46 jacket the Federal program. After I had consultation
47 with Polly Wheeler, she explained various aspects of
48 how this was written and its implementation, I felt
49 more comfortable with that. Thank you for your
50 clarification for the Council. Continue.

1 MR. BUKLIS: I think that's all I had
2 on that one.

3
4 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: On the OSM
5 presentation I'm showing the two year cycle regulatory
6 project schedule. Did you have a comment on that.

7
8 MR. BUKLIS: Mr. Chairman. Only that
9 it's in your book on Page 49. We know there's
10 occasionally some confusion over this shift to
11 alternate your cycles for the fisheries and wildlife
12 regulatory issues. Page 49 lays out how this alternate
13 year approach would work for '09, 2010, 2011 and you
14 can see sort of the pattern of the steps over a three-
15 year period. It would simply continue to repeat in
16 that pattern. We can answer questions, but it's meant
17 as sort of a reference for you.

18
19 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: As I commented
20 earlier, I feel that the Board meetings in January
21 should be re-evaluated by OSM and the Board to provide
22 for better input from the Councils and by having
23 fisheries meetings in the first two weeks of December
24 and the wildlife proposals reviewed in the April time
25 frame.

26
27 I would like to be on the record again
28 on this agenda item as stating that. I would like the
29 Council to weigh in. How does the Council feel about
30 that. Is the Council agreeable to requesting a Federal
31 Subsistence Board meeting evaluation of their meeting
32 schedule.

33
34 I see heads shaking of the affirmative,
35 so Larry will convey that back to Pete Probasco.

36
37 MR. BUKLIS: Mr. Chairman. I will do
38 that. Since we talked, it did occur to me, I should
39 have mentioned it earlier, you asked me the other day
40 if there's anything about that that would cause any
41 concern and I couldn't think of any. We try to be
42 flexible and adaptable, but the way this has gone, with
43 the wildlife regulatory cycle we've coupled the Fishery
44 Resource Monitoring Plan cycle. If we move the
45 wildlife regulatory back to April, first of May, that's
46 kind of late for the fishery project planning for that
47 spring and summer. That's about when we want to start
48 letting out the contracts for the work to begin. So
49 that's why January or December is better for the
50 fishery project planning. We might have to de-couple

1 the fishery project planning and the wildlife
2 regulatory cycle if you want wildlife to be April/May.
3 That's the only nuance that occurred to me since we
4 spoke.

5
6 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I would encourage
7 exploration of de-coupling those two issues.

8
9 MR. COLLINS: I would just comment on
10 the January fish one. Usually January is some of the
11 colder weather and more difficult travel for rural
12 participation in that because even though we have
13 airline service into McGrath somebody has to be in the
14 home to keep it going in January. Earlier in December
15 is a little more conducive to travel.

16
17 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thank you. Any
18 other comments on the OSM presentation.

19
20 (No comments)

21
22 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks, Larry.

23
24 MR. BUKLIS: Okay.

25
26 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: We're to the annual
27 report. Vince.

28
29 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, Mr. Chairman.
30 That's in your packet. It says draft on it, 2008. For
31 the new Council members, these are topics that are
32 brought up in the fall meeting and then I work on
33 drafting them and run them by the Chair or other
34 designees for review as to their accuracy and now it's
35 before the full Council for adoption.

36
37 Basically you had two topics. It's not
38 a new topic. It was revisiting a topic from your 2007
39 annual report on maintaining viable ungulate
40 populations, a management strategy. Your second topic
41 was local hire provisions of ANILCA. That may or may
42 not have gone away.

43
44 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: That was brought to
45 our attention in personal discussion with Kenton Moos
46 last night that that has not gone away on the Federal
47 Refuge system's Office of Personnel Management. It
48 still has a harsher requirement and basically
49 precluding local hire. The National Park Service has
50 initiated

1 ANILCA 1308 hiring. This is still a valid issue and
2 should be pushed before the Federal Subsistence Board
3 and the Regional Director sits on the Board.

4
5 So maintaining these viable ungulate
6 populations and a management strategy for evaluation of
7 whether the bull/cow ratios for moose and caribou
8 within our region at least are within those recognized
9 scientific principles of 30 bulls per 100 cows
10 throughout most of the Western Interior Region on
11 moose. And 35 to 40 bulls per 100 cows for caribou,
12 after the Mulchatna fiasco, I feel the Federal
13 Subsistence Management Program should look to these
14 populations to assess their health.

15
16 I still was not satisfied with the last
17 Federal Board's response, OSM's response. I feel they
18 should go through a strategic plan, look at the
19 populations and assess what populations are within
20 healthy harvest parameters or nearly to the healthy
21 level.

22
23 So those are the two topics. The
24 Council reviewed our annual report. These were sent
25 out to the Council members this winter approximately
26 what time, Vince?

27
28 MR. MATHEWS: The process will be, once
29 this is approved, it will be reviewed and the Board
30 generally takes it up, if they take them up.....

31
32 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I meant these were
33 sent to our Council sometime in January?

34
35 MR. MATHEWS: No, I don't believe so.

36
37 MR. GERVAIS: Last week.

38
39 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So, does the Council
40 have any comments on our annual report or modifications
41 to the annual report of this draft.

42
43 MR. STICKMAN: Are you looking for some
44 action here, Mr. Chair.

45
46 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yes. We need to
47 approve our annual report, so the Chair would entertain
48 a motion to adopt our annual report to be transmitted
49 to the Federal Subsistence Board.

50

1 MR. STICKMAN: So moved, Mr. Chair.
2
3 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Moved by Mickey.
4
5 MR. COLLINS: Second.
6
7 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Seconded by Ray.
8 Any further discussion.
9
10 (No comments)
11
12 MR. MORGAN: Question.
13
14 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Those in favor of
15 submitting this annual report for 2009 signify by
16 saying aye to the Federal Subsistence Board.
17
18 IN UNISON: Aye.
19
20 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Those opposed.
21
22 (No opposing votes)
23
24 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: We're past the
25 annual report. We're back into these Agency reports.
26 Did you have any further comments. Koyukuk/Nowitna,
27 we've seen some of your presentation. Do you have any
28 further report to the Council.
29
30 MR. MOOS: Mr. Chair. Members of the
31 Council. Kenton Moos, Refuge manager again. Just real
32 briefly, a couple of things. Just to inform you our
33 CCP has gone through the public comment period. It's
34 now closed. Those comments have been incorporated into
35 CCP and it's going back for internal review again and
36 we're hoping later on this summer, late summer, early
37 fall, to have our final CCP out.
38
39 I won't cover any of our moose stuff
40 because we've looked at that. This year we have a full
41 season of projects we're going to be doing. Just real
42 quick, some Staff changes that have occurred. Kevin
43 Whitworth, as well as his wife, Dara, who was our clerk
44 at the Refuge, have left. Kevin has accepted the
45 deputy position at Innoko. So we have those two
46 vacancies. We are recruiting currently and will be
47 soliciting for applications shortly on Kevin's
48 position, which is our subsistence coordinator
49 position. Dara's position we're crossing our fingers
50 for a local hire to come through.

1 Joey Hundorf decided he wanted to fly
2 for Warbelow's again, so he resigned. We were sad to
3 see him him go, but that was a personal decision. We
4 have since hired, some of you may know Nate Olson. He
5 was a pilot biologist for Selawik Refuge out of
6 Kotzebue. He just started a couple weeks ago, so we're
7 glad to have him and his family here as well.

8
9 A couple of our Staff have had babies
10 very recently, so they are going to be real busy. We
11 have a very young Staff here, so that's exciting for us
12 as well.

13
14 Otherwise I would entertain any
15 questions anyone has.

16
17 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Does anybody have
18 questions for Koyukuk/Nowitna.

19
20 (No comments)

21
22 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Several years ago
23 there was concern for the Whitefront geese population.
24 I would bring that issue up to the Council. Has the
25 population stabilized or what's the status of the
26 Whitefront geese on the Koyukuk Refuge.

27
28 MR. MOOS: Mr. Chair. We have
29 continued to do those surveys and the numbers have been
30 encouraging. We've seen some increases in those
31 populations.

32
33 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: That's good news.
34 And I've met your applicant over here and I think she
35 would be a great choice for your subsistence
36 coordinator. She's very congenial. I personally would
37 endorse her for selection.

38
39 Any other questions for
40 Koyukuk/Nowitna.

41
42 (No comments)

43
44 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thank you. Also
45 highly appreciate your participation in this meeting
46 and really enjoy all the work that your biological
47 Staff is doing on the Refuge. Thanks.

48
49 MR. MOOS: Thank you.

50

1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So we're down to
2 Kanuti. Do you have any additional. In our books we
3 have Kanuti on Page 52. Did you want to make any
4 additional comments, Mike.

5
6 MR. SPINDLER: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
7 Again, for the record, Mike Spindler, Kanuti Refuge.
8 We've continued to have a contracted refuge information
9 technician in Allakaket with the tribal council to
10 provide those liaison services to us. Kenneth Bergman
11 is the contracted person. He's helped us quite a bit on
12 the door-to-door surveys for moose harvest and for
13 telephone polling and working with Steven Bergman, who
14 is the State license vendor there, to look at the
15 listing of people who have received State harvest
16 tickets and then combine that with the Federal permits
17 he issued. So we have a pretty comprehensive look at
18 moose hunter participation and harvest in the
19 Allakaket/Alatna area. As you know, it's an important
20 issue.

21
22 Kenneth has also helped us complete
23 some waterfowl harvest surveys and I've tabulated the
24 summary of that in your book. Just a main point kind
25 of building on your recent question to Mr. Moos about
26 the Whitefront goose situation. Whitefront geese are
27 one of the most popular waterfowl species pursued by
28 people in the Kanuti area as well as down here.

29
30 The situation looks really encouraging
31 and I just need to add on that that the reason it looks
32 really encouraging is a lot of the work that was done
33 collectively here in the late '90s and early part of
34 the decade was coordinating with the Central Flyway
35 Council because they were under very liberal harvest
36 regulations in the Lower 48, which was kind of
37 contributing to our decline that we were seeing up
38 here. They backed off that liberal harvest regime,
39 went to a conservative harvest regime, which we're
40 seeing the results of that now, so I'm happy to see
41 that and I hope that trend continues.

42
43 We have completed our Comprehensive
44 Conservation Plan. It's published and distributed.
45 We're happy about that and glad to move on to some
46 other things. Although the CCP does provide some
47 pretty specific guidelines for us to follow here in the
48 near future as to how we're going to conduct business
49 on Kanuti.

50

1 We're working with Tanana Chiefs,
2 Brandy Berkgigler, on doing a third year of the Henshaw
3 Creek Science Camp at the fish weir where they offer an
4 opportunity for high school students from Allakaket,
5 Alatna, Hughes, Bettles and Evansville to attend that
6 camp and learn about fish ecology and wildlife biology
7 and habitat and explore the idea of potential careers
8 in science in the future.

9
10 We're also working with BLM on the
11 invasive issues. We're very concerned that the white
12 sweetclover that's very aggressively taking over the
13 roadsides on the Dalton Highway may come down into the
14 Kanuti Refuge and spread along the rivers. It does
15 like to colonize gravel bars. It has colonized several
16 on the Nenana River and taken over that habitat type.
17 It is fairly aggressive and there's been research to
18 show that it does out-compete some of the native
19 vegetation, so we're kind of concerned about that if it
20 gets into the gravel bar habitats on the Kanuti Refuge.
21 So we're working with them on that public scoping
22 process for their environmental assessment on control
23 of invasive weeds along the Dalton Highway.

24
25 We have crews of people that we
26 arrange, volunteers with Friends of Alaska National
27 Wildlife Refuges, that work with BLM and our people to
28 manually pull weeds and use weed whackers to clear the
29 weeds from the river crossings. We're pretty certain
30 that we're getting really reasonable amount of control
31 at the river crossings and hopeful that will stymie any
32 efforts that the plant may make to move downriver. We
33 think the long-term solution is going to have to be use
34 of herbicides. I don't think there's any way we can
35 get around that.

36
37 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: One point there,
38 Mike. We had a BLM Resource Advisory Council meeting
39 in Wiseman last summer and there was a guy on the
40 council, I forgot his name, he was from the Healy coal
41 mine. He had that white sweetclover and the yellow
42 sweetclover and they were using vinegar to inject in
43 the ground and that seemed to be effective. I just
44 thought I'd throw that out if you have them in your
45 yard. You might try shooting some vinegar down along
46 the roots. They don't like acidics.

47
48 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, Mike.

49
50 MR. SPINDLER: That's all I had. I

1 appreciate being able to use the Council as a sounding
2 board for all the issues we jointly have to tackle and
3 I do encourage you to have a continuing open dialogue
4 with us and the State on solving this very thorny issue
5 of trying to simplify the regulations so the end user,
6 the hunter, isn't faced with a very complex set of
7 regulations on the State and Federal side they can't
8 even possibly follow. I think we need to remain
9 conscious of that and keep our eye focused on the end
10 goal, that's the end customer, the hunter trying to
11 subsist, and we need to make sure we're not getting in
12 their way. I know sometimes we're pretty narrowly
13 focused on a small issue and trying to solve that, but
14 in the end we complicate things. I'd encourage the
15 Council to continue dialoguing and keep working
16 together with us to try and solve some of these
17 problems.

18

19 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

20

21 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Appreciate that.
22 Any questions of Kanuti National Wildlife Refuge
23 presentation.

24

25 Go ahead there, Robert.

26

27 MR. WALKER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
28 We're glad to work with you on a lot of these issues
29 here. If you could just smile when you leave the
30 table, we'd be happy.

31

32 MR. SPINDLER: Sometimes it's like
33 walking a tightrope, Mr. Walker. Thank you.

34

35 MR. WALKER: Yeah.

36

37 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Any other comments.
38 I too express deep appreciation to Refuge Manager
39 Spindler on working with the community of Allakaket and
40 Alatna on this moose issue. People's frustrations are
41 being directed at the Refuge manager when, in reality
42 -- when bears are hungry, they become cantankerous. I
43 guess people can be the same way. So I appreciate all
44 that you've gone through to provide some kind of an
45 opportunity and working with this Council closely on
46 doing that. And all of your field work and biological
47 inventory that you're doing, I highly appreciate that
48 and I wanted to express that.

49

50 Thank you.

1 MR. SPINDLER: Thank you.

2

3 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So we're at -- we've
4 gone through Innoko. Do you have any further comments
5 you'd like to express to the Council, Kevin.

6

7 MR. WHITWORTH: Mr. Chairman. Members
8 of the board. Kevin Whitworth, deputy manager of
9 Innoko National Wildlife Refuge. Right now we're
10 printing our CCP and it should be completed in the next
11 week or two. The final draft is being printed. The
12 only thing I was going to do is introduce Beau and I
13 think you guys have all met him. He's kind of a
14 chatterbox. Anyway, thanks. We've got to get going
15 here soon.

16

17 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right, you must
18 leave. Any comments with Innoko.

19

20 (No comments)

21

22 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I too appreciate
23 your participation here. I'm glad to see you moved up
24 to assistant manager there. I was very impressed with
25 Beau on his participation and interaction and learning
26 this Council process. I have high hopes for Innoko
27 now. I've asked for bull/cow ratios, so I've gotten an
28 affirmation that that's going to be sought. I feel
29 very comfortable working with Innoko and our issues
30 here.

31

32 Thank you. Have a good flight.

33

34 We're down to National Park Service.
35 As far as I know, we have no National Park -- go ahead,
36 Vince.

37

38 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, I did get some
39 materials from Gates of the Arctic, so I'll just pass
40 it out. I didn't review it. Dave Krupa wasn't able to
41 make it in. Nancy was going to come in but there was
42 some scheduling conflicts. There is no one here for
43 the Park Service, but there is updates from Gates of
44 the Arctic. If there are any issues, Ray is on the
45 Subsistence Resource Commission, which doesn't cover
46 all the issues of Denali, but if there are any, he has
47 the opportunity to share.

48

49 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Do you have any
50 comments from Denali Commission.

1 MR. COLLINS: The only issue that's
2 come up is Denali and another park are going to be
3 studying trapping within the park. There's been some
4 concerns about some trappers not wanting to show where
5 their lines were. I'm of mixed opinion because I'm
6 concerned that there be future opportunities for
7 trapping and if they don't document the extent of
8 trapping now or the old traplines and so on you lose
9 that information and they'll eventually try to
10 eliminate it. So I think it's a good idea to have it
11 down to show that people are trapping, but they're
12 concerned with how you use the information, whether the
13 public would have access and know where everybody's
14 trapline is and so on. So we may want to monitor that
15 study and see how it goes. Wrangle came up too because
16 people down there wanted to extend some traplines and
17 then there's need for trapline cabins and other things.

18
19 I don't think that applies to the
20 Refuges. I don't think they've done anything like that
21 or whether there's any question about being able to
22 continue to trap on the Refuges. In the Parks it is a
23 question. I think ANILCA clearly intended to be able
24 to continue that lifestyle within the expansion of the
25 parks.

26
27 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: That's something the
28 Council will want to pay attention to, the Park Service
29 planning on trapping. That enters into the purview of
30 this Council. We have three Park units within this
31 region, Gates of the Arctic National Park, Denali and
32 portions of Lake Clark Monument, I think it's called.
33 So we have sort of an overview of what Gates of the
34 Arctic transmitted to us. I'm vice-chair of the Gates
35 of the Arctic Subsistence Resource Commission. We're
36 supposed to have a meeting in mid April up in Anaktuvuk
37 Pass. We have a hard time meeting our quorums. We've
38 quelled a lot of the issues with the Park Service.

39
40 The SRC has had a fairly amicable
41 honeymoon with the Park Service for a while now. We
42 used to lock horns with them all the time. They were
43 trying to whittle us down into little teeny dots on the
44 map. So now we have hardly any contentions, so we
45 hardly have people that want to go to meetings anymore
46 because of that. There's various issues that the Gates
47 of the Arctic SRC has to deal with and I would like --
48 Pollock Simon is the chair and we would both like to
49 have at least one meeting, two would be better, but an
50 annual meeting to address various issues for

1 subsistence hunting and trapping plan that the Gates of
2 the Arctic Park has a continuous live document in place
3 of various issues that we have to work through with the
4 Park Service. That's sort of an overview of what Gates
5 of the Arctic is up to.

6

7 Go ahead, Vince.

8

9 MR. MATHEWS: In the rush of going
10 through the Agency reports, we did walk over the State.

11

12 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Oh, where was that.
13 That was completely inadvertent. I don't see it. So
14 we're basically done with the Park Service stuff. So,
15 yes, we want to have the State. Oh, right here, B.
16 How did I do that. Do you have comments you would like
17 to make, Glenn. I'm sorry about that.

18

19 While he's cuing up over there, I see
20 there's Native corporation and tribal councils. Are
21 you aware of any presentation that they may have?

22

23 MR. MATHEWS: No, no one has contacted
24 me from the tribal consortiums or tribal groups. There
25 was the Natural Resource officer, Robin. I talked with
26 her several times because these meetings can cover a
27 lot of material, but she said she was able to keep up
28 to speed on it.

29

30 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: That's good. Sorry
31 about that, Glenn. I just was flying along there and
32 you were in the clouds. Go ahead.

33

34 MR. STOUT: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
35 Members of the committee. I think we covered a lot of
36 this already, so I'll kind of breeze through a bunch of
37 these slides and if you see something you have a
38 question on, just interrupt me and I'll slow down.

39

40 A few things that I want to update that
41 we talked about, first of all the harvest within the
42 middle Yukon and lower Koyukuk villages continues to
43 improve. I think our management strategies that we
44 have in place are pretty effective in getting our local
45 users better success in the fall.

46

47 In particular there in the Controlled
48 Use Area where we've had those regulations in place
49 since 2001 we've been able to really do a good job in
50 managing the number of hunters from year to year. It

1 gives us a lot of control. The drawing and
2 registration permit system on how that works.

3
4 One thing that I do want to talk about
5 that makes this really effective and we've talked about
6 many times is the antler destruction portion of that
7 permitting system. It's really important that we
8 continue to emphasize within the villages that that has
9 to be complied with and that's either on the ARM 834 or
10 the ARM 832. We continue to get a lot of reports and
11 we see a lot of situations where those antlers aren't
12 being forfeited as it's intended and that's part of
13 like the Koyukuk Moose Hunters Working Group.

14
15 Those agreements we came to, everybody
16 gave up sacrifices and it's important that that be
17 followed through with for that to be an effective
18 thing. If it's not complied with of course locally,
19 the non-local hunters will have just cause, I think, in
20 challenging whether that should be perpetuated in the
21 future. So I think that's a really important aspect
22 of that that we continue to track.

23
24 21B, real quick, the harvest. I
25 already talked about that, how spreading out and
26 getting a better distribution of the hunters has
27 effectively -- we're shooting more moose in 21B there,
28 but we're increasing our bull/cow ratios. So that just
29 shows how control of the hunters and the distribution
30 of those really plays into that.

31
32 If we increase our bull/cow ratios
33 along the corridors where the hunters, particularly our
34 local hunters are hunting by boats, they're going to
35 benefit directly from that. So I think that's another
36 important part of this strategy to recognize, that
37 success rate for the local hunters is happening right
38 along the rivers where they hunt.

39
40 I wanted to talk a little bit about
41 some of the survey work we're doing. This is the
42 Galena management area. It's all Unit 24, 21B, C and
43 D. The areas that we've now covered includes
44 everything basically except the Melozitna River
45 drainage and Yuki River drainage, and then over here in
46 24A. What we're on track for next year is working with
47 BLM and doing a GSPE survey up in 24A and then the
48 following year moving down and I'd like to work on
49 getting this eastern portion of 21D and this upper
50 Dulbi River drainage included. Gradually we're filling

1 in the holes in the whole area.

2

3 I wanted to talk a little bit too about
4 this subdivision of Unit 24. This was an important
5 thing we worked on as it applied to the intensive
6 management law. You recall that we went through that
7 process of subdividing this area because we were
8 continually hamstrung by this problem where we had a
9 lot of moose down here in the lower 24 and because of
10 that we couldn't get outside those management
11 objectives.

12

13 Basically we always said it always
14 looked like we had enough moose and we couldn't do the
15 triggers on implementing intensive management. When we
16 went to the subdivision, we isolated 24A, B and C from
17 that high-density area and it makes it look now more
18 appropriate that we can say, okay, here's where we have
19 moose problems. 24B I think is a really good example
20 of that. We're starting to collect a lot of data in
21 here.

22

23 The Board, I think in kind of a unique
24 move, adopted intensive management harvest and
25 population objectives for the sub-units and that's kind
26 of a new way of doing things and that's something that
27 we need to get time to implement. We need to get time
28 to do an intensive management plan just like you've
29 seen there that came out of 21E.

30

31 I think that's one of the real
32 strategies that we need to continue to work on to
33 address the problem rather than adding five more days
34 of opportunity. If we could just grow more moose, we
35 won't have to worry about it. We can go back to the
36 old seasons, shoot cows even, but that depends on us
37 growing more moose and I think it's a realistic
38 opportunity. They did it in less than four years in
39 McGrath and they've got moose, I was talking to Kevin,
40 walking down the streets now.

41

42 That's what I would like to see in
43 Allakaket and it's definitely been an area that I'd
44 like to start going in that direction. They've shown
45 they can be pretty effective in a relatively small area
46 and grow a lot of moose. With that core area of
47 implementation, they're spreading moose out all over.

48

49 Just a few of the surveys that we were
50 able to accomplish. I talked to you about.....

1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Wait a minute,
2 Glenn. Back up. Are you saying when you build a moose
3 population to a high intensity in one area they spread
4 out from that area? They have collared moose in the
5 Emma area then?

6
7 MR. STOUT: They're seeing rebounding
8 because they're affecting -- down there they were
9 affecting a larger area than just the Emma. They had
10 different levels of predator control within the Emma,
11 then they had a boundary area and other plans. Where
12 they were doing specific applications of that predator
13 control in certain areas, the areas benefitted from
14 that core area.

15
16 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay.

17
18 MR. STOUT: We know, for instance, that
19 a wolf pack isn't just bounded by that line we draw
20 arbitrarily on the ground.

21
22 Specifically, some of the surveys that
23 we did, we did the one on the Hog River, an area that
24 we hadn't ever gotten any data on before. We got that
25 accomplished last year. BLM, Fish and Wildlife Service
26 and Department of Fish and Game, got some numbers up
27 there that really gave us a good start on 24C to help
28 out the people in Hughes. I think quietly they're
29 suffering some of the same problems that they are in
30 Allakaket. They're driving down here to 24D to get
31 moose now too. If we can help out the people in Hughes
32 too, and they're in a similar situation, and we've got
33 really good demonstration there's a lot of potential.
34 You can't believe all the burns out there that are just
35 sitting vacant. Great habitat for moose.

36
37 This year, the 2008 survey we did with
38 BLM, Koyukuk/Nowitna Refuge and Fish and Game, we did
39 all the 21B and you'll recall 21B expanded a couple
40 years ago, so it's all the upper Nowitna River drainage
41 too. We found out what we expected. There's not many
42 moose in this upper drainage here, but we are seeing
43 some good pockets of moose, mostly out here to the east
44 where some of those burns in the early 2000's are
45 starting to poke up with a lot of moose out there.
46 They're pretty inaccessible out there, but there's
47 definitely more moose there.

48
49 Some of the numbers I'll give you just
50 as far as a comparison from our 2001 survey. For the

1 total area here, our estimate came out with just over
2 2,300 moose. The old 21B, which is basically about
3 half that unit, was 1,438. That compares with over
4 3,000 moose in the 2001 survey. One thing to note on
5 that, this year our precision on this we all had a lot
6 more money to throw at this. Our confidence intervals
7 around that estimate were much tighter this year,
8 around 15 percent on our estimate this year compared to
9 42 percent in that 2001.

10

11 That said, I showed you the other data
12 on that other surveys, as we get more of these over
13 time, we'll start to benefit even in those low years.
14 Those estimates will tighten up and it will help us
15 with looking at tracking the trend over a long period
16 of time. We're all hopeful in the direction we're
17 going there. We've got some really good baseline data.

18

19 We started on that process to get this
20 qualified for the intensive management, but at the time
21 21B had a different situation. You had to reach that
22 threshold of 100 moose harvest to qualify for intensive
23 management. Because it was a small area harvest was
24 being reported 75, 80, so it didn't qualify. Well, we
25 made the move to make it a little larger. Now our
26 total harvest ups to just right at 100. I showed you
27 the number just before, it was 110. That throws us
28 into that category of qualifying for intensive
29 management. I think that was another really great move
30 that we've been able to make to start going down that
31 road to qualify an area for potential management. Then
32 there's other things besides predator control that we
33 can do in terms of intensive management to help benefit
34 the population.

35

36 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: How's the bear
37 harvest in Nowitna 21B?

38

39 MR. STOUT: I think it's real low. We
40 just don't get much bear harvest. We don't seal black
41 bears. I think the last time I looked at grizzly bear
42 that were being sealed it was like one or two average a
43 year. It's thick country. They're definitely in
44 there, but just not many get shot.

45

46 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: In our discussions
47 yesterday I was concerned that the population dynamic
48 and looking back at what your yearling bull component
49 and calculating the age class of the primary breeding
50 component, do you do that? Are you looking at what

1 your primary age class is? Are you analyzing these
2 populations? That's what the flaw in that line is,
3 it's not taking into account the age class of that
4 population. Does that enter into your modeling?

5
6 MR. STOUT: Absolutely. We don't do it
7 everywhere just because limitations of where I can be,
8 but we collect moose teeth down on the lower Koyukuk
9 and we collect them on the Nowitna and that's giving us
10 age structure information. I see it a little bit
11 differently than you're describing. What happened real
12 clearly on the lower Koyukuk you can see in that age
13 structure of the population was, as Brad showed you in
14 that one twinning rate data we went through that bad
15 period of time '98, '99, 2000, 2001. I see it as a
16 hole in the age structure of the population. We had
17 four, maybe five cohorts that are missing. So I don't
18 see it so much as a flip in it, that all of a sudden it
19 went old/young. We have just about as many young ones
20 that should normally be coming through the population.

21
22
23 What it was is there's this four
24 cohorts going through time now that are missing.
25 Proportionally they're different, but I think more
26 importantly is to understand that there's four cohorts
27 that are missing and that's really evident when we went
28 through that period. I just look at it differently.

29
30 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I look at those
31 yearling bull components. You multiply that times two
32 as an absolute minimum because some of those yearlings
33 were killed, and then start looking at what those age
34 structures of the population and it starts giving you a
35 linear, so you see that hole in the cohort, but it
36 gives you an idea of what the main core population
37 would be as far as the age structure and then going
38 into their productivity at three years to 10 years old.

39
40 I don't want to dwell on that or
41 discuss it too long. That last graph there is where I
42 somewhat found a flaw in that trajectory, is that is
43 not taking that into account.

44
45 MR. STOUT: This is just kind of the
46 whole Galena management area and just show you where we
47 have the population estimates. If you look at
48 basically '93, '94, that was kind of the peak. If you
49 look at '96, '97, on down, they're all very similar
50 trends in how the trajectory of the populations are

1 throughout this area.

2

3 Just a few of the numbers so you can
4 see what we're looking at. The density data on the
5 Nowitna, if you just do a straight line regression, not
6 a whole lot is changing unless you look at the last few
7 samples. That's that same line that was on that
8 previous graph there.

9

10 Just so you know, those numbers there
11 that we're all talking about is all that Brad talked
12 about and that's the comparison of a population
13 estimation survey versus our trend count areas. This
14 is the information on the trend count area, so within
15 that large block area I showed on 21B, this is just for
16 those core trend areas.

17

18 A few points I wanted to highlight was
19 just there on the Nowitna. This is what I was talking
20 about, the benefit from that implementation where we
21 were down in that 13 bulls per 100 cows. This year
22 we're just up to 30 bulls per 100 cows, so a real
23 improvement in that and that feeds right into that
24 whole strategy as better success rate for our hunters
25 in the fall by having those improved bull/cow ratios.

26

27 Calf/cow ratios bumping around. It did
28 drop down. You can see we kind of went through a good
29 period. That's the thing about calves. It's a one-
30 year bonus and whether or not it plays out over time is
31 yet to be seen. Generally we've had a few good years
32 the last few years.

33

34 This is exactly what Brad and I want to
35 elaborate on a whole lot more. We're slipping on cows.
36 That's a concern we have to continue to watch.
37 Certainly that population estimation survey results
38 from this year showing a tremendous decline in the
39 overall numbers is a concern for us.

40

41 MR. GERVAIS: That's 200 cows in total
42 for all those trend areas?

43

44 MR. STOUT: This count just comes off
45 of the two trend areas right there in the Nowitna
46 River. That's total number of cows. I'll qualify it,
47 just like Brad says, one of the things you have to be
48 real cautious about, trend areas are not about numbers
49 as much as they are ratio data. This is one of the
50 numbers. We get real squeamish. As soon as we present

1 a data, you'll see Brad and I, we immediately start
2 back-pedaling on how much to interpret a number like
3 this because of annual variations, survey conditions.

4
5 The same with the bulls. I just wanted
6 to show that because I had to qualify this,
7 particularly at the Board of Game last year when we
8 were talking about this. The previous slide, I showed
9 you how great those bull/cow ratios were, I qualify it
10 because, in fact, that number there, part of that
11 equation when we calculate bull/cow ratio, you can
12 shoot a population out of cows and your bull/cow ratio
13 is going to go up. Well, that's part of this problem
14 that we have to keep considering here.

15
16 In this particular situation we did see
17 a bump in the absolute number of bulls, but it's
18 tapered off. That said, we've been shooting more bulls
19 too, so we're doing it appropriate. I think our bull
20 harvest is appropriate as reflected in the fact that we
21 aren't mining the bulls out. So I think that's a good
22 sign that we're shooting the right number of bulls
23 right now.

24
25 Real quickly I want to highlight that
26 we did do those spring twinning surveys and this is
27 exact -- it's just bars for what Brad showed. The one
28 key thing that he didn't have on his graph is the very
29 light blue bar way out to the right and as a result of
30 them getting the collars out there on the Kanuti and
31 middle fork, the vast majority of the moose that are
32 collared out there are cows and we kind of see a 50 cow
33 minimum that we need to look at to establish twinning
34 rates and we can go out there and we are able to reach
35 a 50 cow with calf minimum to get a good twinning rate
36 for the upper Koyukuk River drainage for the first time
37 and it's a direct result of having those collars out
38 there. That was a really important benefit for us.

39
40 One thing that Lisa I know talked about
41 at the last RAC meeting was the fact that her and Tom
42 out of Fish and Game went out and did some habitat
43 surveys on the Kanuti. All of these are playing in to
44 the overall strategy that we're working behind the
45 scenes on really hard to try and go down this intensive
46 management road. Grow more moose. We're putting our
47 pennies in the bank for solving this problem by getting
48 more moose, not trying to divvy up how we shoot them,
49 when, over certain times. That just gives us more
50 confidence that it's not a habitat problem. We got

1 good twinning rates. That helps us eliminate one of
2 the possibilities.

3
4 Further downriver I just wanted to talk
5 a little bit about particularly the same designations,
6 the upper Koyukuk subunit, the western Galena subunit
7 and then the Kaiyuh subunits and we break those up and
8 those are the trend areas within them. The western
9 Galena subunit and I'm kind of in 21D now. Calves per
10 100 cows, we did have a bad year this year. The trend
11 in the last several years we were producing a lot of
12 calves. Our bull/cow ratios were improving as a result
13 of recruitment.

14
15 Down on the Kaiyuh we weren't seeing
16 that. We're losing bulls down there on a long-term
17 trend. Kaiyuh calf situation is stable at least the
18 last few years, but it's not doing great down there.
19 That continues to be an area of concern down there.
20 Not getting very good recruitment. Those numbers are
21 buoyed up somewhat by the effect that we're losing a
22 few cows down there. That continues to be a problem
23 and why we're continually concerned about authorizing
24 those spring hunts down there on the Kaiyuh. I think
25 we have pretty static numbers there on the Kaiyuh on
26 the absolute number of bulls.

27
28 I want to talk a little bit about the
29 Koyukuk Controlled Use Area in particular. I have to
30 look at these numbers and establish how many permits
31 are going to be issued this year. This year I stayed
32 the same number. You recall last year we finally got
33 over our 30 bull per 100 cow objective and so we went
34 from 50 permits up to 80 permits. This year, with
35 those same numbers, I stayed at the same number of
36 permits. I didn't go beyond 80 this year even though
37 the numbers kind of increased this year.

38
39 This is bull/cow ratio on the Koyukuk
40 Controlled Use Area and it's what I call the core five
41 and Brad had the same grouping that I did. The overall
42 trend is showing an increase in the trend, but you can
43 see a dip down a little and that was influenced heavily
44 by the Three Day Slough data that Brad talked about
45 because we counted a tremendous number of moose there
46 in Three Day Slough, timing, quality of the survey.
47 There's a lot of things that I think play into that
48 just exactly like what Brad mentioned there.

49
50 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: A question on those

1 drawing permits, as the bull/cow ratio increases, is
2 the success rate increasing, changing slightly?

3

4 MR. STOUT: For the non-resident and
5 non-local resident, it's definitely been going up, but
6 if you look at the local resident, it apparently is
7 going down if you look at the numbers. I looked at
8 that real hard last year at the Board of Game and what
9 it was we have a lot more people hunting locally that
10 are picking up permits and that's affected that success
11 ratio. When I look at the total number of moose,
12 absolute number of moose, there's more moose getting
13 shot and reported, so I think we're getting more moose,
14 but I think there's more people reporting.
15 Particularly that example I talked about in Huslia.
16 There's a lot more people going and getting permits
17 now. Because of that a lot of them aren't getting a
18 moose and that brings that ratio down. In reality, the
19 total harvest is going up. Two ways to look at that.
20 That just makes it confusing on a face value.

21

22 Recruitment within the Controlled Use
23 Area, trends definitely going up on that as represented
24 by the yearling bull/cow ratio. This is basically a
25 reflection of the same thing on that western Galena
26 subunit.

27

28 I did want to throw in this total adult
29 moose and basically it's pretty much a flat line. I
30 don't think you're going to detect significant change
31 in that line at all.

32

33 This is population estimates. This is
34 the most recent trend area data we have here I think is
35 what I've talked about most often and our concerns
36 about the decline. I would like to get two more of
37 those GSPE estimates to where we can start reducing our
38 estimates here. These are previous numbers that we had
39 in the area and they were smaller sizes as far as the
40 area that was surveyed.

41

42 I wanted to make one more point on the
43 timing of the surveys and how something happened this
44 year and I didn't get the rest of the 2008 survey done
45 on this one, but I wanted to expand on what Brad said
46 about the timing of surveys, the quality of the survey.
47 This is one example here, particularly in Three Day
48 Slough, you can see these yellow bars here, they're all
49 density numbers, but all of these yellow bars were
50 years where the survey was completed after November

1 23rd. It's apparent in Three Day Slough that a lot of
2 moose start walking out of that trend count area. You
3 always get low numbers if you do the survey late in
4 November.

5
6 This year the number jumped up to over
7 1,300 moose and that puts that density way up here. As
8 you can guess, we got a really early survey on Three
9 Day Slough this year. That really is one thing that I
10 think is really important to understand. The total
11 numbers and another good example of why we don't put a
12 lot of stock in the absolute numbers as much as we do
13 the ratios.

14
15 One question has always come up are
16 your bull/cow ratios being affected if you're in a late
17 count because bulls are dropping antlers. Those same
18 trends don't hold true for the bull/cow ratios. You
19 don't all of a sudden have real drops in bull/cow
20 ratios because you have apparent cows, more cows in the
21 population. That would affect your ratio data. Those
22 same trends don't hold up so we know it's actually
23 moose moving out. In fact, if you see those numbers
24 drop down, it may be that more bulls walk out of that
25 trend area first.

26
27 Now I'm moving up into Unit 24. This
28 is the upper Koyukuk, those same trend areas. General
29 trend of calf. We had good years. This year wasn't so
30 good. Bull/cow ratios are pretty much flatlined.

31
32 Going up into the Kanuti. This is that
33 data we've talked about pretty exhaustively, but pretty
34 much that same trend that we're seeing everywhere else
35 is really the key for me. We had high ratios or high
36 numbers in the '90s. If you recall, 1991 was the last
37 year of same day airborne. I think it doesn't take a
38 rocket scientist to figure out one of the benefits of
39 why we were peaking in '93 and '94 and why we've been
40 going down since. That's it.

41
42 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: All right.
43 Appreciate that, Glenn. Does Council got questions on
44 the ADF&G's presentation. Tim.

45
46 MR. GERVAIS: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
47 Thank you for your presentation, Glenn. In a community
48 such as Ruby, what would you recommend as a good method
49 for antler destruction. I believe the reg book says
50 they must be turned over to the State, but there's no

1 official State presence in that village. What do you
2 want to see happen there?

3

4 MR. STOUT: Member Gervais. The
5 licensed vendor there, Claire Honea, has been really
6 nice in providing a box on her porch and I've actually
7 had really good compliance in Ruby, people turning in
8 the antlers there. I get a lot of comments. It seems
9 like there's a lot of good self-policing going on and
10 people are calling in and saying this person needs to
11 turn in their antlers.

12

13 I'll say too as far as the antler
14 destruction, there's another aspect of it that I think
15 is subtle, that I think is important in that regulation
16 and that's the effect it has on the front end of the
17 regulation when it's in the book. It has been
18 effective even without compliance in that it keeps a
19 lot of people from hunting in the area. The problem
20 is, if it's not complied with and people understand
21 that it's not being complied with locally and we lose
22 the regulation, then we lose that benefit if it goes
23 away. They play hand in hand, but the effectiveness I
24 think is really probably more on the front end of
25 keeping people home.

26

27 MR. GERVAIS: Okay. Do you have any
28 numbers on hunters or moose harvested for 21C?

29

30 MR. STOUT: I don't have those numbers
31 with me right here, but it's really consistent. It's
32 consistently about 50 to 60 hunters and they take 25 to
33 30 moose, year in and year out. The thing that I have
34 seen in there is number of days for successful hunters
35 in getting their moose has increased a little bit.
36 Real similar to what we see on the upper Koyukuk.

37

38 MR. GERVAIS: My last question is, is
39 there any way for a hunter to accurately age a moose,
40 something they could do in the field without too much
41 trouble either by grinding a tooth. I've looked at it
42 in books and there's just like a wide variation in
43 antler growth and tine formation and stuff.

44

45 MR. STOUT: I can show you afterwards
46 some of the antler growth data that we have. There's
47 some clear trends on what that is, but there is a lot
48 of variation. The best way to do it is we pull one of
49 the front incisors and then we have that tooth cut and
50 then when it's cross-sectioned you can see the rings in

1 the tooth and you can age it real easily. I'll
2 actually take those teeth if I have antler measurements
3 along with it. I have these tooth guards. Just the
4 tooth age data by itself is not valuable to me, but if
5 I have a hunter get all that other antler data along
6 with the age of that moose, then I can put it into my
7 database. Right now I've got over 3,000 teeth and that
8 started way back with Tim Osborn.

9

10 MR. GERVAIS: All right. Thank you for
11 your efforts.

12

13 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Any other questions
14 for the Department on the presentation. Ray.

15

16 MR. COLLINS: I had a couple comments.
17 You were talking about moose walking down the street.
18 Even in the bad years that was true because it was the
19 safest place to raise a calf was in town when all the
20 predators were out there. In the bad snow years, they
21 can get around easier in town. Also, what's happened
22 the last couple years is they found out gardens are a
23 good place to fatten up in the fall and they'll wipe
24 out all your cabbage in one night. They haven't found
25 mine yet.

26

27 Jack, you were asking about what
28 happens around. We started seeing two years ago that a
29 lot of the harvest -- and we still had the closed area
30 where we couldn't hunt. Just outside there they were
31 starting to kill young bulls, which wasn't there
32 before. Then this last year we opened Emma for the
33 first time and about half the harvest was inside the
34 Emma. The harvest went from our lowest around 70 a few
35 years ago and it went up to 105 this year with half of
36 them coming out of the Emma and half of them in the
37 surrounding area out there.

38

39 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: That's kind of what
40 I was alluding to, is do moose disperse if there's a
41 vacuum around the high population, which I feel that
42 happens where I trap all these wolves. The bottom line
43 is I think there's dispersal out of a higher population
44 especially if there's a vacuum nearby. They'll go to
45 it. I appreciate that comment, Ray.

46

47 Anybody else have comments to the
48 Department.

49

50 (No comments)

1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I really appreciate
2 all the work you're doing on this moose issue. We work
3 hand and glove with the Department on the Koyukuk Moose
4 Plan and we might have our differences on how these
5 moose seasons and management should go, but the
6 Department's input to the Council is always highly
7 appreciated, so we have a working dialogue with the
8 Department and I appreciate you attending our meetings,
9 Glenn.

10
11 So we've covered most of the Agency
12 reports. We don't have any Native corporation input
13 that I know of. So I would like to jump over to the
14 Regional Council appointments to the SRC and Pollock
15 Simon is our appointment. We have one seat on the
16 Gates of the Arctic SRC. Pollock is the chair of the
17 SRC and I would like to entertain a motion -- I asked
18 Pollock if he wanted to continue to be on the SRC and
19 he affirmed that. I would entertain a motion to
20 continue to reappoint Pollock for another appointment
21 to the Gates of the Arctic Subsistence Resource
22 Commission.

23
24 MR. STICKMAN: So moved, Mr. Chair.

25
26 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Motion to appoint
27 Pollock Simon to the Subsistence Resource Commission.
28 Do we have a second.

29
30 MR. COLLINS: Second.

31
32 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Seconded. Any
33 discussion on Pollock's appointment.

34
35 MR. STICKMAN: Question.

36
37 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: The question is
38 being called. All those in favor signify by saying
39 aye.

40
41 IN UNISON: Aye.

42
43 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Those opposed.

44
45 (No opposing votes)

46
47 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: We're down here to
48 other Agency groups. I don't know of any other. So
49 we're at election of officers, would you say, Vince?
50

1 MR. MATHEWS: Yes. I think you can do
2 officers or you have to review your charter, whichever
3 order you want to take. The charter didn't make the
4 agenda. In odd years you're supposed to review your
5 charter. It's in your packet and we can cover that
6 quickly.

7
8 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: If you want to
9 insert something into the Charter, Robert, we'll take
10 that up right now.

11
12 MR. WALKER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
13 One thing, Vince, I'd like to see a breakdown with how
14 the Board functions with the Staff, with the President,
15 with the Vice President, with OSM Staff biologist. How
16 do we fit in this bracket here?

17
18 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, we can put that
19 together. Basically you're asking for the structure of
20 the program. The top of the structure is obviously the
21 Board. Above the Board is the Secretary of Interior.
22 Yes, we can put together a flow chart or a bracket
23 chart for that.

24
25 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Isn't that in our
26 handbook?

27
28 MR. MATHEWS: I believe it is. I don't
29 have one in front of me.

30
31 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: It used to be in the
32 handbook, a breakdown of how the Board and the branches
33 and how the Federal program worked.

34
35 MR. WALKER: It doesn't have to be done
36 like tonight. How about for our next meeting in
37 October.

38
39 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: That would be good
40 to bring that breakdown for the Council, especially for
41 the new Council members, the Federal program structure
42 and then these regional maps we need at our next
43 meeting. No big deal.

44
45 Any further discussion of the charter.

46
47 MR. MATHEWS: For the record on the
48 charter, what you can make changes to is the Council
49 name. I wouldn't recommend it. You can change the
50 number of members or criteria for moving a member or

1 Subsistence Resource Commission appointments. The rest
2 of the charter is not subject to your purview to
3 change. I know Robert wants to change something, but I
4 want to make sure on the record what he can change.

5
6 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, Robert.

7
8 MR. WALKER: I don't want to change
9 nothing, warden.

10
11 (Laughter)

12
13 MR. WALKER: My other question was
14 under membership, is it 70/30 or 60/40 now? It's not
15 in here where it should be.

16
17 MR. MATHEWS: I don't know if I want to
18 really -- I look at this from a practical viewpoint.
19 Maybe Larry is more up to speed on this 70/30. There
20 was a court involvement in that. I don't think it
21 would be in the charter.

22
23 MR. WALKER: Mr. Chairman. Vince, we
24 decided about four meetings ago, we voted on it,
25 because the transporters and the guides wanted to
26 change it to 60/40 and I think we went 80/20 or when
27 Ron was the chairman. Somebody has to correct me here.

28
29 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, you're correct.
30 Your recommendation was 80/20. The program went with
31 70/30. I need to check with Ann who is involved with
32 this more. My understanding as an employee we're
33 supposed to strive for 70/30, but that may not be
34 answering your question. I need to get further detail
35 on how they're related to the court case. But, yes,
36 your Council under Ron Sam wanted 80/20.

37
38 MR. WALKER: The other one, Mr. Vince,
39 would be how about this, the RAC Charter. Would that
40 be fair? Just a recommendation. You wanted a new
41 name.

42
43 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: It's in the title
44 Western Interior Alaska Subsistence Regional Advisory
45 Council. We could put the acronym there.

46
47 MR. MATHEWS: We've been back and forth
48 avoiding that, an acronym. To give you an example,
49 Robert, people call me up and they say the WIRAC.

50

1 MR. WALKER: I understand that.

2

3 MR. MATHEWS: I don't. Because then I
4 think Yukon Kuskokwim and then I've got to ask again
5 and say, oh, you're talking about WIRAC. Anyway, this
6 is your official title all the way through. This is
7 what we're supposed to use officially. Alaska
8 Subsistence Regional Advisory Council. We truncate
9 that at times for spacing, but that is your official
10 title.

11

12 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right. I have no
13 concerns with the charter. the 70/30, 80/20 split, the
14 Board has sort of been in flux on that issue. They
15 strive for the 70/30. They didn't set anything in
16 stone. If we can't meet 30 commercial on a 10 member
17 Council, then we might have eight subsistence and two
18 commercial.
19 It's a guideline.

20

21 Any further discussion on the Council's
22 Western Interior Alaska Subsistence Regional Advisory
23 Council charter.

24

25 One more comment, Robert.

26

27 MR. WALKER: Mr. Chairman. Just for
28 the record, when we discussed it this board is supposed
29 to be for subsistence. That's what it was appointed
30 for. It wasn't appointed to be for hunters, guides,
31 transporters, et cetera. It was mainly subsistence for
32 rural Alaska and to be represented by 20 percent or 30
33 percent non-subsistence.

34

35 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: There can be people
36 who declare commercial. Tim probably shoots a moose
37 for himself, catches some fish. He lives in a rural
38 area. He would be considered a subsistence user.
39 There may be people who have commercial permits to fish
40 for salmon. Their heart and soul is in the subsistence
41 realm. I was just a byproduct of the lawsuit that was
42 brought before the Office of Subsistence Management and
43 the Federal Subsistence Program. The upshot of that is
44 FACA sort of demanded a broader base interpretation.
45 Our Council commented in long discussion about the
46 necessity to have exclusively subsistence users on the
47 Council. The court mandated a FACA broader-based input
48 into our Council deliberations. So we have to abide by
49 the judicial system.

50

1 I do appreciate your points, Robert.
2 Any further discussion on the charter.

3
4 (No comments)

5
6 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Having done that,
7 we're at election of officers or do you want to go over
8 this correspondence first.

9
10 MR. MATHEWS: It wouldn't matter. The
11 correspondence basically I send you all copies. For
12 the Council members I'm basically planning my next
13 meeting for Eastern Interior, so sometimes these
14 materials walk over to the other side. Jack and I
15 communicate almost daily by email and by phone on any
16 correspondence. If there is an item you would like a
17 copy of that you didn't get, just give me a call. I
18 will have a copy of that correspondence sent and
19 received.

20
21 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I have received all
22 correspondence by electronic or hard mail or both. I'm
23 comfortable with correspondence received and sent.

24
25 Shall we go to election of officers at
26 this point.

27
28 MR. WALKER: Yes, Mr. Chairman, I
29 believe we should go to election of officers. I'll
30 make a motion to retain all officers as they are, also
31 with Pollock Simon. Appoint him back to Gates of the
32 Arctic, if there is no question with the board.

33
34 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: We've addressed
35 Pollock Simon's appointment. Are the officers -- I am
36 Chair. What is our officer structure again. Ray is
37 vice chair.

38
39 MR. STICKMAN: Actually Don Honea is
40 the secretary right now. I'll second the motion for
41 discussion.

42
43 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. So the motion
44 has been made and seconded. Discussion by the Council
45 on the election of officers. I'm willing to sit as
46 Chair. Are you willing to retain.....

47
48 MR. COLLINS: Yeah, I don't mind
49 sitting in as vice chair.

50

1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. So Don is not
2 here.

3
4 MR. STICKMAN: Question.

5
6 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: The question has
7 been called. All in favor of retaining the same
8 officers for the Western Interior Alaska Regional
9 Advisory Council signify by saying aye.

10
11 IN UNISON: Aye.

12
13 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Those opposed.

14
15 (No opposing votes)

16
17 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So we're down here
18 to.....

19
20 MR. MATHEWS: Jack, one more thing.
21 Obviously with the 2009 preseason outlook the six
22 members, two per Council, on the Coordinating Fishery
23 Committee, are probably going to be pretty active and
24 yourself. My understanding that's Mickey and Robert.
25 I don't know if they want to say I'm too busy or stay
26 in those seats. My anticipation is there's going to be
27 a lot of quick phone calls of consultation with the
28 Federal in-season manager, so it would be nice to know
29 if they want to continue in that and realize it's going
30 to be quite a few calls.

31
32 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, Robert.

33
34 MR. WALKER: I've got no problem, Mr.
35 Chairman, retaining that position.

36
37 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Mickey.

38
39 MR. STICKMAN: I have no problem
40 either. I'm not going to stop fishing no matter how
41 busy I get.

42
43 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. I highly
44 appreciate your dedication to be our Coordinating
45 Fishery Committee members for the Yukon River. And the
46 Kuskokwim, you're our representative. Are you willing
47 to retain that?

48
49 MR. COLLINS: I'm willing. I guess
50 Carl is willing to back me up if need be.

1 MR. MORGAN: I am.

2

3 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. So we've
4 affirmed those. So we're at what point in the agenda.
5 There's a recognition.

6

7 MR. MATHEWS: There are some awards. I
8 just need to get Liz up here. The program is giving
9 recognition to people that have served on this Council
10 certain years. There will be several here and then
11 we'll have that included. For new members, it's five,
12 10 and above years service. With that I'll go get
13 those gifts. If we can get Liz and her camera works,
14 it would be nice to get a picture of the Council and
15 we'll either use that one or another one for a thank
16 you to Agnes and to others that have been key to this
17 meeting.

18

19 MR. MATHEWS: This one is one for a
20 past Council member, which would be -- and he's not
21 here. The last meeting we didn't have the plaque ready
22 for Ron Sam and some of you asked for pictures of that,
23 so this is the plaque that you guys helped put together
24 for Ron Sam, so I'll just pass that around. It's a
25 picture of you guys in McGrath. We will send it to Ron
26 Sam. It's basically for Ron Sam's service from 1996 to
27 2006 and it says in recognition of his years of service
28 to the Federal Subsistence Management Program as a
29 member of the Western Interior Regional Advisory
30 Council signed on February 11th by Michael Fleagle,
31 Chair of the Board. He'll also receive a very nice
32 First Aid kit.

33

34 I did talk to Ron. He wanted to convey
35 the appreciation for that plaque in recognition from
36 your and he is recovering from some different surgeries
37 and is doing well. As some of you know, he had some
38 shoulder problems. As I mentioned earlier, he
39 definitely wants to be in tune to what's going on in
40 Unit 24 and we'll share his written comments.

41

42 MR. WALKER: No gold nugget or diamond
43 ring or something for Ron?

44

(Laughter)

45

46
47 MR. MATHEWS: No diamond rings at this
48 time. The other recognition award would go to Michael
49 J. Stickman, 1998 to 2008 for years of service on the
50 Advisory Council and it's signed by Michael J. Fleagle.

1 With that, if we could get a picture of him getting an
2 award, that would be great.

3

4 (Picture taking session)

5

6 MR. MATHEWS: In the same vein of that,
7 there's a recognition for Carl Morgan for his years of
8 service of 1997 to 2007 on the Western Interior
9 Regional Council again signed by Michael Fleagle, the
10 Chair.

11

12 For the new members, these are very
13 important. I know we get kind of funny at these
14 points, but it is significant. These years of
15 participation -- Western Interior has been one of the
16 most stable Regional Councils. It's been recognized by
17 many different agencies and for those who see all these
18 Staff members, the reason they're here is because they
19 see value in meeting with you. I caution you that when
20 you don't see them that you may need to reassess what
21 you're doing. It's important to realize that.

22

23 With that, we'll give it to Carl if
24 he'd come forward.

25

26 (Picture taking session)

27

28 MR. MATHEWS: The next award should
29 actually go to two people, but we'll talk about the
30 second person after we recognize the first. This will
31 go to Robert Walker for his years of service from 2001
32 to 2006. It doesn't mean you're leaving. It just
33 means you've got five years in.

34

35 MR. WALKER: You're trying to get rid
36 of me. I know you guys.

37

38 MR. MATHEWS: No, no, no. We
39 definitely don't want to get rid of you. We spent how
40 many hours today on 21E. We definitely need
41 representation in 21E or the GASH area. Anyway, for
42 serving on the Western Interior, signed by the Chair
43 Michael J. Fleagle.

44

45 When I mentioned who else should be
46 given awards, it is great that you have wives that
47 answer the phone. Seriously. It is very important the
48 wives behind this. Angie, Carl Morgan's wife, has been
49 very much a source of energy for me. Robert, without
50 your wife, I'm not sure you would make it to these

1 meetings. I would hope we could recognize them also,
2 but it is part of the community, the whole family
3 supports you. With that, we'll give a recognition
4 award to Robert Walker, which is a mug.

5
6 (Picture taking session)

7
8 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, that's that
9 part. If we can, with your indulgence with your
10 camera, try to get a picture. I'd like your
11 concurrence on doing that poster. It goes back to
12 refuges and the only way I could get that done was to
13 tap Staff with Arctic Refuge. Do you realize that the
14 Refuges and Parks supports this program in many
15 different ways. So, with that, it would be nice to
16 have your concurrence to do that to kind of make it a
17 pattern.

18
19 I'm sensing from the communities that I
20 sent those poster flyers to that they really enjoy that
21 recognition of seeing that you care. If you think
22 that's worthwhile I'll continue that as long as the
23 Refuge Staff can support doing that. They have to put
24 it together, print it out and go through all that.

25
26 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Do you want to take
27 the picture now?

28
29 MR. MATHEWS: We can do it now if you
30 want. The tape is running.

31
32 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Let's do it now.

33
34 (Picture taking session)

35
36 MR. WALKER: I have no comments at this
37 time. Only one issue that government lands that really
38 bug us up here is that the Federal government say we're
39 here for your subsistence and use the land, on the
40 other hand they say government lands is public lands.
41 So that's the issue I have.

42
43 MR. MATHEWS: For the new members, what
44 Robert is doing is giving closing comments. Robert, if
45 you want more information on that definition of lands,
46 we can address it separately.

47
48 MR. WALKER: For the next meeting.

49
50 MR. MATHEWS: And we'll take care of it

1 in phone calls in the meantime too. Thank you.

2

3 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: We'll go down the
4 table. Do you have closing comments, Tim.

5

6 MR. GERVAIS: Certainly. I'd like to
7 thank the members of the Council for putting up with my
8 learning curve. I'd like to thank various agencies for
9 all their effort and preparation and presentation, the
10 information that's required to be able to evaluate
11 these issues properly. I'd like to thank the community
12 of Galena for a pleasant stay and hosting us here. For
13 our village, I would like to thank everybody to help
14 keep groceries on our table.

15

16 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Appreciate that.
17 Mickey.

18

19 MR. STICKMAN: I just want to thank the
20 Council and Staff from the different refuges. I'm
21 going to need information for North Pacific Management
22 Council meeting. I'll get that from Vince because I
23 don't want to go there and make any mistakes.

24

25 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Vince will have our
26 letter and basically he'll have the high points of our
27 Council's position. Don Rivard has been tracking that.
28 He'll be there to assist you during that process. No
29 worries.

30

31 MR. STICKMAN: No worries. Just make
32 sure I have enough copies for each of the council
33 members there.

34

35 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I'm sure OSM support
36 in Anchorage will provide all those. Go ahead.

37

38 MR. STICKMAN: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
39 Congratulations on another year of being Chair.
40 Congratulations, Ray.

41

42 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks, Mickey.
43 Ray, do you have closing comments.

44

45 MR. COLLINS: I'd like to thank the
46 community of Galena for the stay and thank all of you.
47 It's a pleasure working with an experienced board. I'm
48 impressed with our two new members and was glad to meet
49 them and see their participation in this. I'm looking
50 forward to continuing to work with them in the future.

1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thank. Carl.

2

3 MR. MORGAN: I too would like to thank
4 everybody else. Issues don't get easier, do they. The
5 topics get harder and harder and more complex. I think
6 the longer we're in it, I think it's going to get
7 harder because of different opinions and public lands,
8 which belong to all the U.S. citizens of these 50
9 states and we do have a lot of public lands that not
10 only belong to us. I think we'll get frustrated a lot
11 of times because we're appointed by the Secretary of
12 Interior and we serve at his pleasure. I think that's
13 bottom line. It's been a wonderful 11 years and I
14 enjoy it.

15

16 Thank you very much.

17

18 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks Carl. The
19 Chair will recognize that Eleanor had to go get a plane
20 and she left about 45 minutes ago.

21

22 I have highly appreciated our new
23 Council members' input. Eleanor fills a gap for Huslia
24 and Tim, you've entered into our deliberations and
25 asking good questions and so forth. I also highly
26 appreciate the Council that we have. Our Council is a
27 very strong Council. Hopefully with Jenny and Don and
28 the other members that were absent we'll have full
29 strength again in our next meeting.

30

31 I really appreciate the Council
32 nominating me and selecting me as Chair. I never
33 wanted to do it, but am willing to do it for the
34 Council and mainly for the resource and the people
35 within the Western Interior Region that rely on those
36 resources. I appreciate all of our Staff. OSM,
37 Refuge, BLM and even the Alaska Department of Fish and
38 Game for attending our meetings. Without that Staff
39 support we would be in a world of hurt.

40

41 On a daily basis I work with Vince and
42 Salena is always very appreciated at our meeting and
43 assisting our Council on various issues because she
44 attends all these Council meetings and is very aware of
45 what's going on and progress. But Vince, I can never
46 say too much about Vince. On a daily basis, it's like
47 multiple emails. I get emails from 6:00 in the morning
48 on through after quitting time. Even calls from home.
49 Vince is your model employee. If he needs a raise,
50 give it to him. I would take a motion to increase his

1 pay, but I don't think I have that authority.

2

3 I do appreciate the community of
4 Galena. I used to live here when I was kid and I
5 always like coming back here. Now my daughter lives
6 down here. I feel kind of homey down here. I thought
7 we had a highly productive meeting and I hope our
8 proposals will make headway. I felt we had an
9 excellent meeting this round. Vince.

10

11 MR. MATHEWS: Before you go to
12 adjournment.....

13

14 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: We have one more
15 comment here.

16

17 MR. GERVAIS: My comment was about the
18 date.

19

20 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I was going to move
21 to that next. Our next agenda item would be our next
22 meeting and we slated Aniak. Is there any opposition
23 to meeting in Aniak. Tim.

24

25 MR. GERVAIS: I have a question and I
26 don't understand at all how these dates can't be moved
27 at all, but last year the ice started running on the
28 river on October 4th and it usually runs on the 8th and
29 I'm wondering if it's possible to move the date up one
30 week.

31

32 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: We get into moose
33 hunting time. Some of these areas we're hunting
34 through the first of October. If I don't have a moose,
35 I can't go without. That's where those dates come
36 from.

37

38 MR. GERVAIS: I'll make it work. I was
39 seeing if there's any flexibility.

40

41 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: That's where that
42 date comes from. My wife is going to have a baby in
43 October, so that's going to be an issue too. So things
44 happen. The ice is running and whatever.
45 So Aniak seems to be agreeable for the Council. Does
46 the Council want to move those dates backwards? Those
47 were the best dates we could come up with at our last
48 meeting, so I feel comfortable with those dates at this
49 point.

50

1 Go ahead.
2
3 MR. COLLINS: I was going to comment
4 that we had a very nice place there last time and if
5 it's anything like this one, it's nice where we can
6 stay in one facility where we can visit in the evening.
7 So it's nice when we're in one place where we can have
8 a change to socialize a little outside the meeting.
9
10 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: That is nice for the
11 Council to be housed in the same facility instead of
12 spread around and we can discuss various issues and
13 people come by to visit with us. I think those dates
14 and place are still in. We don't have to select
15 another one until next meeting.
16
17 I think we've covered our agenda. The
18 Chair will entertain a motion to adjourn the meeting.
19
20 MR. STICKMAN: So moved.
21
22 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Moved to adjourn the
23 meeting. Do I have a second. Tim.
24
25 MR. GERVAIS: I'll second that.
26
27 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Any further comments
28 on the meeting.
29
30 (No comments)
31
32 MR. WALKER: Question.
33
34 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: The question has
35 been called for adjournment. All in favor signify by
36 saying aye.
37
38 IN UNISON: Aye.
39
40 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Those opposed.
41
42 (No opposing votes)
43
44 (Off record)
45
46 (END OF PROCEEDINGS)

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28
29
30
31
32
33
34
35

C E R T I F I C A T E

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

I, Salena A. Hile, Notary Public in and for the state of Alaska and reporter for Computer Matrix Court Reporters, LLC do hereby certify:

THAT the foregoing pages numbered 114 through 250 contain a full, true and correct Transcript of the WESTERN INTERIOR FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING, VOLUME II taken electronically by Computer Matrix Court Reporters on the 19th day of February 2009, at Galena, Alaska;

THAT the transcript is a true and correct transcript requested to be transcribed and thereafter transcribed under my direction and reduced to print to the best of our knowledge and ability;

THAT I am not an employee, attorney, or party interested in any way in this action.

DATED at Anchorage, Alaska, this 6th day of March 2009.

Salena A. Hile
Notary Public, State of Alaska
My Commission Expires 9/16/2010