

1 WESTERN INTERIOR ALASKA FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE
2 REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING

3
4 PUBLIC MEETING

5
6
7 VOLUME I

8
9 Aniak, Alaska
10 February 25, 2014
11 9:00 a.m.

12
13
14 COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

15
16 Jack Reakoff, Chairman
17 Ray Collins
18 Timothy Gervais
19 Carl Morgan
20 Jenny Pelkola
21 Pollock Simon
22 James Walker
23 Robert Walker

24
25
26
27
28 Regional Council Coordinator, Melinda Burke
29

30
31
32
33
34
35
36
37
38
39
40
41

42 Recorded and transcribed by:

43
44 Computer Matrix Court Reporters, LLC
45 135 Christensen Drive, Suite 2
46 Anchorage, AK 99501
47 907-243-0668/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

(Aniak, Alaska - 2/25/2014)

(On record)

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Good morning. This is Jack Reakoff, chair of the Western Interior Regional Council, bring this meeting to order.

The first item is to establish roll call.

Go ahead, Jenny.

MS. PELKOLA: Robert Walker.

MR. R. WALKER: Yes.

MS. PELKOLA: Pollock Simon.

MR. SIMON: Here.

MS. PELKOLA: Raymond Collins.

MR. COLLINS: Here.

MS. PELKOLA: Jack Reakoff.

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Here.

MS. PELKOLA: Eleanor Yatlin.

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: She's sick.

MS. PELKOLA: Timothy Gervais.

MR. GERVAIS: Here.

MS. PELKOLA: James Walker.

MR. J. WALKER: I'm here.

MS. PELKOLA: Jenny Pelkola. I'm here. Carl Morgan.

MR. MORGAN: Here.

MS. PELKOLA: We do have a quorum.

1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I'll note for the
2 record that we have 10 members to be appointed to this
3 Council and we have an open seat at this time. The
4 Secretary of Interior has not made that appointment and
5 this Council is unhappy with that. When we have
6 meetings, we want to have full quorum and full
7 representation of a huge region of Western Alaska, so I
8 want the record to reflect that I am unhappy with the
9 DOI not making that appointment at this time.

10

11 We'll welcome the guests here and I'd
12 like to know who's on the teleconference. I'd like to
13 know who's present on teleconference. State your name
14 for the record.

15

16 MR. RIVARD: Don Rivard, OSM.

17

18 MS. GAMACHE: Jean Gamache with the
19 National Park Service.

20

21 MR. SHARP: Dan Sharp with BLM.

22

23 MR. JENKINS: Glen Jenkins with YRDFA.

24

25 MS. APGAR-KURTZ: Breena Apgar-Kurtz,
26 summer season assistant manager for Fish and Game.

27

28 MR. LIEBICH: Trent Liebich with OSM.

29

30 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Is that everybody on
31 the call?

32

33 MS. OKADA: Marcy Okada, National Park
34 Service.

35

36 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Anybody else?

37

38 (No comments)

39

40 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. We'll go
41 around the room here. Go ahead, Fred.

42

43 MR. BUE: Fred Bue, Fish and Wildlife
44 Service, Yukon Fisheries Management.

45

46 MR. CANNON: Dave Cannon, Native
47 Village of Napaimiut.

48

49 MS. FEYEREISEN: Lisa Feyereisen,
50 tribal administrator of Chuathbaluk Traditional Council

1 and chairman of the Central Kuskokwim Advisory Council.

2

3 MS. SIMEON: Tracy Simeon, Native
4 Village of Chuathbaluk, chairman.

5

6 MR. HAIRELL: Robert Hairell, Native
7 Village of Chuathbaluk, coordinator.

8

9 DR. JENKINS: Good morning. David
10 Jenkins, the policy coordinator for the Office of
11 Subsistence Management.

12

13 MR. FOX: Good morning. Trevor Fox,
14 wildlife biologist with the Office of Subsistence
15 Management.

16

17 DR. CHEN: Aloha, Council members. My
18 name is Glenn Chen with the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

19

20 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I heard a couple
21 more beeps on the phone. Do we have anybody else join
22 the conference. I heard a couple beeps. Maybe
23 somebody signed out. I don't hear anybody on the call.
24 Oh, Vince.

25

26 MR. MATHEWS: Vince Mathews,
27 subsistence coordinator for Kanuti, Arctic and Yukon
28 Flats out of Fairbanks. I think that's all that's
29 here.

30

31 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: And past coordinator
32 for the WIRAC.

33

34 MR. MATHEWS: Right. And you've got no
35 heat now with no electricity, just so you know.

36

37 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yeah, we're kind of
38 powering down here.

39

40 MS. BURKE: Is anybody on the line
41 anymore?

42

43 (No comments)

44

45 MS. BURKE: We need to call back in.
46 Sorry, folks.

47

48 (Off record)

49

50 (On record)

1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I think we've
2 established who's in the room here and so we'll go to
3 invocation. Ray has agreed to do that.

4
5 (Invocation)

6
7 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So you're running,
8 Salena?

9
10 REPORTER: I am.

11
12 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: We're going to
13 review and adopt the agenda. Is the Council on Page 4.
14 Correction, the agenda is what we have before us.

15
16 MS. BURKE: Mr. Chair.

17
18 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yes.

19
20 MS. BURKE: There are a couple of
21 presentations that are going to be a little bit out of
22 order. The Ambler and the U.S. Army Corps of
23 Engineers, the Donlin and Ambler mining updates, they
24 had hoped to travel and give you folks a longer
25 presentation. What we're going to do this time is do a
26 short, 15-minute presentation for each of those groups
27 because we have so many issues that were pushed over
28 from the fall. So they're going to give short
29 presentations tomorrow and they're going to travel to
30 your McGrath fall meeting and do a longer in-person
31 presentation. So those will be tomorrow morning if you
32 want to mark a time certain. They're towards the end
33 of the agency reports. So we'll do those tomorrow in
34 the morning.

35
36 We may have a couple of other folks,
37 tribal consultation and a couple of other presenters
38 who've got time certain, so we'll sort of be flexible
39 and as we need to we'll let time certain folks get in
40 there, but I don't have any major changes, Mr. Chair.

41
42 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yeah, I had a
43 request from Gene Sandone to go over those State
44 proposals whenever we get to those.

45
46 MS. BURKE: And he sent me his
47 PowerPoint presentation and he'll be on the line when
48 you get there. I'll touch base with him tomorrow
49 morning and let him know where we are. Just so
50 everybody knows, we're going to try to do most of the

1 wildlife stuff today and tomorrow we'll probably be
2 concentrated on the fish issues.

3

4 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yes. So any
5 additions to the agenda from the Council members.

6

7 MR. R. WALKER: Jack.

8

9 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, Robert.

10

11 MR. R. WALKER: I'd like to add under
12 there the Council members stipend.

13

14 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yeah, we could put
15 that under new business somewhere. Go ahead, Melinda.

16

17 MS. BURKE: During the nomination
18 section on Page 3 at the very top we're going to
19 discuss the RAC letter to Secretary Jewell. We could
20 add that item in there when we're talking about general
21 Council issues.

22

23 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay.

24

25 MS. BURKE: Yeah, we can talk about it
26 at that nomination section, top of Page 3. Just write
27 it in there.

28

29 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So this nomination
30 issue is going to take a little while and the stipend
31 should enter into the whole equation of what these RACs
32 are sacrificing at home to be here. Any other
33 additions to the Council's agenda.

34

35 (No comments)

36

37 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Seeing none, the
38 Chair will entertain a motion to adopt the agenda.

39

40 MR. SIMON: So moved.

41

42 MS. PELKOLA: Second.

43

44 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Moved and seconded.
45 Those in favor of the agenda as amended signify by
46 saying aye.

47

48 IN UNISON: Aye.

49

50 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So we're going right

1 into election of officers. I'll turn the gavel over to
2 Melinda, the DFO.

3

4 MS. BURKE: We're going to go through
5 the election process here. I'll take over the chair
6 for just a couple of minutes. Do I have any
7 nominations for the position of Chairman for the
8 Western Interior RAC. Robert.

9

10 MR. R. WALKER: I make a motion to keep
11 the same members as we did last year.

12

13 MS. BURKE: Is there a second?

14

15 MR. MORGAN: Second.

16

17 MS. BURKE: Second by Carl Morgan.
18 Let's go ahead and do a roll call vote for this, Jenny,
19 if that's okay. Use the microphone when you're doing
20 your vote, please.

21

22 MS. PELKOLA: Robert Walker.

23

24 MR. R. WALKER: Yes.

25

26 MS. PELKOLA: Pollock Simon.

27

28 MR. SIMON: Yes.

29

30 MS. PELKOLA: Ray Collins.

31

32 MR. COLLINS: Yes.

33

34 MS. PELKOLA: Jack Reakoff.

35

36 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yes.

37

38 MS. PELKOLA: Eleanor is not here. Tim
39 Gervais.

40

41 MR. GERVAIS: Yes.

42

43 MS. PELKOLA: James Walker.

44

45 MR. J. WALKER: Yes.

46

47 MS. PELKOLA: Jenny Pelkola. Yes.

48 Carl Morgan.

49

50 MR. MORGAN: Yes.

1 MS. BURKE: That motion unanimously
2 passed. The leadership of the Western Interior Council
3 will remain the same. Jack Reakoff is Chairman, Jenny
4 Pelkola as the secretary and we have Ray Collins as the
5 vice-Chair. I'll turn it back over to Jack.

6
7 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Thanks,
8 Melinda. Thanks to the Council. So review and approve
9 the previous minutes from the last two-part meeting we
10 had. We had a teleconference and we had our -- we
11 didn't have complete quorum for our fall meeting
12 because of the shutdown. The Federal government
13 shutdown messed this Council up big time, so we were
14 below quorum. We met in Fairbanks. We had action
15 items and then we had a conference call to finalize
16 business, so the Council call was on December 11th and
17 then we had a November 6th and 8th meeting at the
18 Alpine Lodge in Fairbanks. So the whole Federal
19 government shutdown was a real problem for this
20 Council.

21
22 So Council members, have you reviewed
23 the minutes.

24
25 MS. PELKOLA: Jack, this is Jenny. I
26 was there in Fairbanks, but I wasn't at the meeting. I
27 had another meeting because of the shutdown.

28
29 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: There was conflicts
30 with people's scheduling, people had travel and other
31 issues and that's why we weren't making quorum. When we
32 get a curve, people can't rearrange their whole lives.
33 Any other comments on the minutes. Go ahead, Melinda.

34
35 MS. BURKE: Yeah, I just wanted to say
36 on the record and for all the members who are present
37 today I really appreciate everybody's flexibility as
38 we've had a challenging few months with the shutdown
39 and the delay of the appointments and all of the things
40 that have come. I really appreciate the gentlemen, Tim
41 and Pollock and Jack and Don, who were able to join us
42 in Fairbanks.

43
44 I think it was a really great call to
45 continue with the session even though we didn't have a
46 quorum. We had really great public participation in
47 the evening time regarding the rural issue and I
48 thought it was really great that you guys forged on and
49 we were able to do that rural hearing.

50

1 And I really appreciate everybody
2 making themselves available so we had a quorum on the
3 11th. We got through a lot of agenda items that we
4 didn't necessarily anticipate. We were able to do a
5 vote and get some business done that day on the 11th.
6 So I just wanted to state that I really appreciate
7 everybody's patience and participation as we've sort of
8 winged it the last few months.

9
10 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: And I also want to
11 express my appreciation to Melinda for really
12 tolerating these curve balls that just keep bouncing, I
13 mean coming in at 90s and shutdowns and non-
14 appointments of Council members and all kinds of bad
15 things keep happening and she rolls with the punches
16 and keeps on top of this, keeping this Council rolling,
17 so I really appreciate all the work you've been doing
18 for us, Melinda.

19
20 Any further comments on the minutes.
21 Go ahead, Robert.

22
23 MR. R. WALKER: I don't know where I am
24 here, but I'm not even in the minutes here for that
25 November. For November you've got excused James, Carl,
26 Eleanor and Raymond. My name is supposed to be here
27 too, Mr. Chairman, because I didn't make it either.
28 November 6th, the date. You've got excused, Chairman,
29 everybody who showed up. I didn't show up, remember.

30
31 MS. BURKE: Oh, I didn't have you in
32 the -- okay, got it. I'll make a note of you.

33
34 MR. R. WALKER: Okay. Not that I'm
35 disappeared or invisible.

36
37 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks for catching
38 that one, Robert. Any other comments.

39
40 (No comments)

41
42 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Seeing no other
43 comments, the Chair will entertain a motion to adopt
44 both minutes from the conference call and the
45 informational meeting that we had in Fairbanks.

46
47 MR. SIMON: So moved.

48
49 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Moved by Pollock.
50 Do I have a second.

1 MR. COLLINS: I'll second.
2
3 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Seconded by Ray.
4 Any further discussion.
5
6 (No comments)
7
8 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Those in favor of
9 adoption of the minutes signify by saying aye.
10
11 IN UNISON: Aye.
12
13 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Opposed same sign.
14
15 (No opposing votes)
16
17 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Reports, Council
18 member reports. We'll go around the table here and
19 give Council member reports. Do you want to start out
20 there, James.
21
22 MR. J. WALKER: (Shakes head)
23
24 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: No report, James.
25 Robert.
26
27 MR. R. WALKER: (Shakes head)
28
29 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: No report. Carl.
30
31 MR. MORGAN: No.
32
33 MR. COLLINS: Yeah, I'd like to report
34 there was a BLM scoping meeting in McGrath. I don't
35 remember the exact date now, but one of the issues that
36 came up there is they're looking at the whole Kuskokwim
37 region working on a management plan for it and there
38 was no mention in there of the sheefish spawning river
39 and the big river. That area needs special protection.
40 It's a major spawning area for the whole Kuskokwim
41 River and we need to make sure that the BLM includes
42 that in there so that that area is protected. It has
43 some implications on the Donlin in that they'll be
44 crossing that river and building a major camp there, so
45 I don't know, there may be gravel extraction or other
46 things that would need to be cleared, so they need to
47 designate that area and protect that spawning area.
48
49 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Jenny.
50

1 MS. PELKOLA: I don't really have a
2 report, but I would just like to, on behalf of the city
3 and village of Galena, I would like to thank everybody
4 that helped us during the flood and everybody is so
5 appreciate of that.

6
7 Thank you very much.

8
9 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks, Jenny.

10
11 Pollock.

12
13 MR. SIMON: Yes, I'd like to say that
14 I'm glad to be here. I always remembered the first
15 three years when this board was first formed I remember
16 in the early '90s staying at the Aniak Lodge by the
17 airport. My first three years and the last few years
18 ago I joined this board again. I have a lot of
19 interest in working with different agencies and I like
20 to hear comments from the local villages that we
21 represent and that's why I'm back again.

22
23 When the reappointment came kind of
24 late, our term expires the early part of December and I
25 was reappointed a couple weeks ago. I started to
26 wonder, I can't go to this meeting unless I'm
27 reappointed, so I was kind of worried about that. I
28 hope that the Secretary reappoints a little bit earlier
29 because I was getting gray hair over the matter. It's
30 for an important issue that we're coming to this
31 meeting and a different location. You know, we have to
32 preserve the wildlife for this generation and our kids
33 and their kids to be able to fish and hunt after we're
34 gone. That's why we're here.

35
36 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

37
38 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks, Pollock.

39
40 Tim.

41
42 MR. GERVAIS: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
43 I'd like to thank the community of Aniak for allowing
44 us to have our meeting down here and also encourage the
45 individuals and organizations of the region to
46 communicate their subsistence issues with us.
47 Particular of interest to me is how the people in
48 communities on the Kuskokwim River are dealing with the
49 current king salmon situation.

50

1 I heard on the Alaska news that there
2 was a sport fishing group from the area around the
3 Kenai River that was trying to get a ballot initiative
4 for the next election to ban setnetting in Cook Inlet.
5 That particular initiative doesn't affect subsistence
6 users in this area, but I'm just bringing it up as an
7 example of -- it's a situation that's developing from
8 low king salmon abundance and people get more desperate
9 for fish. They take legal action to try to challenge
10 where the allocation of that fish is going. So I think
11 it's good for this Council and us as Alaskans in
12 general to try to participate in a management process
13 in a way that there can be plenty of resource for all
14 user groups.

15 There's a North Pacific Fisheries
16 Management Council this spring April 7-15 where they'll
17 be discussing king salmon and chum salmon bycatch and I
18 would encourage this Council to send a representative
19 to that meeting to testify on our perspective on those
20 particular fish.

21
22 Thank you.

23
24 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks, Tim. I'll
25 give my report when I give the Chair's report. So the
26 advisory committee and Subsistence Resource Commission,
27 did you want to give a McGrath Advisory Committee
28 report and an SRC report for Denali, Ray.

29
30 MR. COLLINS: Well, I think it's coming
31 up on the agenda under -- there's a winter sheep hunt
32 that we're trying to get in for the residents of
33 Nikolai and Telida in the Park extension where they
34 used to hunt. The McGrath Fish and Game Advisory
35 Committee had a proposal and which was passed by the
36 Board to authorize a winter hunt in the hold 19C out
37 there, but that's open to any state resident, so they
38 can't restrict it to village, whereas we can on the
39 Federal lands. So, as a backup, I urge passing of that
40 proposal when we come to it.

41
42 Of course, there is concern in the area
43 about the proposed gas pipeline, so we need to watch
44 that and I guess we'll have a report from Donlin on
45 where they're at in that process. It crosses the area
46 -- the traplines and the hunting area of people in
47 McGrath and Nikolai. So that's.....

48
49 (Power outage)
50

1 (Off record)

2

3 (On record)

4

5 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: The advisory
6 committee process enters into the Regional Council
7 process in ANILCA, so we look to the advisory
8 committees for as much input in our information flow.
9 Go ahead.

10

11 MS. FEYEREISEN: The Central Kuskokwim
12 Advisory Committee met in Kalskag about three weeks ago
13 now. I don't know. The meetings are all starting to
14 blur because we went straight there and then we went to
15 the Board of Game meeting in Fairbanks from there.

16

17 The highlights of our meeting were the
18 boundary issue dealing between 18 and 19. How it is
19 right now in the map that's on the books does not
20 reflect the codified language. So the Board will
21 eventually revert to the codified language, which is a
22 completely different boundary than what we're currently
23 using.

24

25 So there's going to be a meeting in
26 Bethel on March 7th with eight different advisory
27 committees to negotiate a settlement on the boundary
28 issue. The three major advisory committees is the
29 Shageluk/Holy Cross/Anvik/Grayling, the Central
30 Kuskokwim and the Lower Kuskokwim, but there's five
31 other advisory committees that will be meeting with us.
32 We're hoping that we have a proposed boundary line that
33 will have language that reflects that we can present to
34 the joint Board meeting April 1st and 2nd in Anchorage,
35 I believe it is.

36

37 So there was -- the first day of the
38 meeting we had three hours of testimony as to the
39 frustration over people drawing straight lines on maps
40 and not following natural landmarks of people, such as
41 portages or lakes, that we can clearly identify when
42 we're out on the tundra hunting so we know which --
43 because if they were unified as far as hunting seasons,
44 it wouldn't matter, but some hunting seasons have five
45 days that are different and things like that. So that
46 seems to be a really heartbreak issue, especially for
47 the Kalskag communities where Lower Kalskag -- actually
48 half of the village of Lower Kalskag is in 18 and the
49 other half is in 19.

50

1 The other huge issue that was brought
2 up was the chinook salmon issue that we've been
3 extremely worried about in the Central Kuskokwim for
4 several years and especially last year with the low
5 escapement numbers. There's concern that the State
6 won't enforce strict enough regulations and that
7 escapement won't be met this year. So the Central
8 Kuskokwim Advisory Committee has taken a position that
9 we support complete restrictions at the beginning of
10 the season until we're sure that escapement will be met
11 and then having small openings. We heard a lot of
12 public testimony and a lot of tribal testimony stating
13 that people are willing to forego fishing almost
14 completely for the summer if we would know that we had
15 a parent stock making it to the headwaters, that we're
16 extremely concerned about the low numbers. So we're
17 working on a variety of avenues to do it to get our
18 escapement needs met.

19
20 The other issue that came up was wolf
21 predation in the Central area and the inability for the
22 State to enact things that are already in regulation
23 because they don't have access to some corporation
24 lands to do the wolf predation program. They did do a
25 bear predation program of the Holitna River last year
26 and then that meat was distributed to the villages, so
27 everyone was very thankful of that.

28
29 So those were the highlights of our two
30 days of meeting. I could tell the overall feeling of
31 the Central Kuskokwim is completely different than it
32 was even five years ago. The people in this area are
33 pretty laid back and adaptive and usually don't walk
34 around with a big hammer, but there is a feeling that
35 we've been quiet long enough and that it's time to
36 start protecting our resources strongly because we can
37 see a dwindling of the resources.

38
39 Whether it's an accurate portrayal or
40 not, the people feel that people from outside of this
41 area, even if they're in-state people, are the people
42 that are contributing to the dwindling of our natural
43 resources. This area of the state has the lowest
44 socioeconomic area in the whole state. It also has the
45 highest unemployment rate. Like Walter Morgan said
46 down in Aniak, we're not subsistence people, we're
47 subsistence providers. By the Federal government and
48 the State government not protecting and conserving our
49 subsistence resources, we're going to end up not being
50 able to provide subsistence for our family.

1 Is there any questions?
2
3 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks so much. Is
4 there questions? Tim.
5
6 MR. GERVAIS: Yeah, thank you for your
7 report.
8
9 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I'll have you state
10 your name again for the record.
11
12 MS. FEYEREISEN: Lisa Feyereisen. I'm
13 the chairman.
14
15 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, Tim.
16
17 MR. GERVAIS: Okay. Good morning,
18 Lisa. So when you said that the Central Kuskokwim AC
19 is supporting complete restrictions, you're saying
20 you're supporting a complete stand down on fishing
21 until they're pretty sure that they have escapement
22 met?
23
24 MS. FEYEREISEN: Correct. We're asking
25 the State and we've asked them -- several tribes have
26 individually passed resolutions and it's the first time
27 when we met that the working group has been working in
28 their own areas towards looking at community meetings
29 and getting the outreach there. It's the first time
30 that the Central Kuskokwim has actually voted and taken
31 positions on anything outside of the proposals that we
32 usually vote on. It was felt so strong within
33 everybody's heart that it was a critical crisis
34 situation that nobody outside of the Central area was
35 paying attention to. They were paying attention to the
36 louder voices that were saying we need to fill our
37 freezers instead of we need to preserve our resources.
38
39 MR. GERVAIS: Okay. Do you know on the
40 Kuskokwim, like say in the last five years, how many
41 times has the Kuskokwim not met its escapement goals
42 for king salmon?
43
44 MS. FEYEREISEN: Well, the escapement
45 goals were just adjusted, Dan will probably know better
46 or Dave, a year ago. So right now we have 85,000. We
47 still don't have the escapement numbers out from last
48 summer officially, but it looks pretty scary. It's
49 been a situation where you're dealing with -- and I can
50 tell you this as a tribal administrator, we don't like

1 it when people come in and tell us we can't fish. I
2 mean it feels really strong as a sovereign nation that
3 you have jurisdiction over your resources.

4
5 So there was quite a bit of protest
6 fishing that took place in 2012. A lot of legal
7 battles that took place because of it from some
8 downriver people. We've always tried to make it not an
9 upriver/downriver issue and it's the first time that it
10 really came out that it has become an upriver/downriver
11 issue.

12
13 We saw some numbers by the State in
14 January that showed from below Lower Kalskag down
15 there's over 2,000 households that are subsistence
16 fishing and from Lower Kalskag all the way up to the
17 headwaters there's only 250 households that are
18 participating in subsistence fishing.

19
20 Then we saw when they used to have
21 commercial openers, which they haven't for a long time,
22 in the '90s on the river, in a six-hour period that
23 2,000 during commercial that they take an average of
24 four fish per fishing unit, so it averages out that in
25 a six -- if we had just a normal six-hour opener and
26 you have 2,000 households, that's not a one person,
27 that's a whole family, if you have a six-hour opener,
28 you could get about 15,000 fish during that. It's
29 estimated that that's going to be the only escapement
30 this year, is 15,000, maybe. So if you even have one
31 six-hour opener, you've already decreased all of your
32 surplus.

33
34 We know our numbers aren't very
35 accurate until they can estimate it. So if you even
36 have two openers, not only have you wrecked your
37 surplus, but you've wrecked your escapement. Those are
38 just small six-hour windows of opportunity because of
39 the length of nets and I know that there's going to be
40 a couple things that are going to be brought before you
41 guys to look at.

42
43 We're asking your support on any type
44 of restrictions that we can get or any way that we can
45 prevent essentially the -- if we have a couple years in
46 a row, it's going to take us up to 20 years to recover
47 from that because of our parent stock with chinook.
48 They're different than other fish. Like I said, you
49 have biologists here, but the chinook don't recover.
50 We know that from the Yukon. We know that from other

1 places. So we've been looking to other areas in the
2 state that were able to keep their chinook and we
3 haven't found any. So we've really asked the State and
4 the Federal agencies to look outside of the box and
5 enact severe, severe restrictions.

6
7 We have letters from like Stony River
8 that said they were willing to forego catching a single
9 fish for the entire year of any type if there's a way
10 that they can replenish the stock. Stony River doesn't
11 even have a store. They don't have fuel in their
12 village. These are people that completely need to
13 provide subsistence for their family. If they're
14 willing to not target a single fish, I think the rest
15 of us have to look really strongly at our habits and
16 what we've come to expect and learn that we need to
17 respect our resources and manage them appropriately.

18
19 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks, Lisa. Tim.

20
21 MR. GERVAIS: Okay. Thanks, Lisa.
22 That helps us a lot. Before you leave the meeting
23 today I'd like to get your number because I need to
24 have more communication with various groups down this
25 way. I think as far as the Western Interior Council is
26 concerned, we're going to have to start taking the king
27 salmon issue outside or just go to the North Pacific
28 Management Council because they're not responding very
29 well to what we're communicating to them about low fish
30 abundance and stuff.

31
32 We have to make a more extensive effort
33 and try to deal with Department of Commerce and, I
34 don't know, the governor. Different avenues to try to
35 get better response on the severity of the king salmon
36 situation, so I'd like to be able to give you a ring
37 sometime and communicate with how your subsistence
38 users down here are dealing with the king salmon or
39 lack of king salmon. Thanks.

40
41 MS. FEYEREISEN: Yeah. And Mark Larry
42 from Napaimiut had asked me to put on record that there
43 are three tribes in the Central Kuskokwim that are
44 willing to pursue a special action if need be to look
45 at having different people manage the fisheries. We
46 have been having meetings since August regarding this
47 issue. We're looking at potentially doing it after the
48 joint Board meeting in April. The State is aware of
49 it. We've had meetings with them too and also the U.S.
50 Fish and Wildlife are very aware of what our intentions

1 are if we don't see the restrictions we need in place.

2

3

4 We don't want those restrictions to be
5 coming out the gate. We've asked agencies to be
6 respectful for our people and the time that they have
7 to take off for subsistence. Why take off a week in
8 the summer, the first week of June, if there's not
9 going to be open fishing. Why not wait until July when
10 they can get reds and dogs and they can target other
11 species.

12

13 Also for purchasing of nets, we feel
14 it's unfair for people that have saved all year to go
15 buy a net that they cannot use. And that they need to
16 be respectful of the people in this area and place
17 these restrictions in place now and not wait until May
18 or April to get it done.

19

20 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks, Lisa. Any
21 other questions.

22

23 (No comments)

24

25 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Our Kuskokwim River
26 Federal in-season manager is online. Are you on there,
27 Trent?

28

29 (No comments)

30

31 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So I would like the
32 Kuskokwim Federal in-season manager to be aware of this
33 dialogue that this Council is having. I feel that the
34 Federal managers have to take to heart what the Middle
35 Kuskokwim and Upper Kuskokwim is enduring for mistakes.
36 At our fall meeting, I was extremely angry to hear that
37 lower river villages had met 100 percent of their
38 subsistence chinook needs and the last number I saw
39 there was 47,000 chinook escapement possibly. That's
40 after a reduced escapement.

41

42 I knew this was going to happen. All
43 the political pressure, people are going to starve to
44 death if they don't have chinook salmon in their
45 smokehouse or freezer. Bologna. There's five species
46 of salmon on this river. There's reds, there's chums,
47 there's coho, there's pinks. There's no way anybody is
48 going to starve to death without salmon. Yeah,
49 everybody likes a fat king salmon.

50

1 I'm not happy at all with what happened
2 last year on this river. I live on the Yukon River and
3 I'm watching the chinook salmon go right over a cliff.
4 I'm collecting genetic samples for Alaska Department of
5 Fish and Game. I'm going everywhere looking at fish on
6 the spawning grounds. It's bleak on the Yukon. I
7 don't want to see that happen over here.

8
9 This working group -- I was putting a
10 lot of faith in the working group. The Department of
11 Fish and Game and our in-season managers, Federal
12 managers, have to adhere to the principal of fish and
13 wildlife management for the resource. If we don't have
14 enough resource, there's got to be no fishing. Just
15 like the Kuskokwim Advisory Committee and the working
16 group planning process. They cannot back up. They
17 have to adhere to sustained yield on the Board of Fish
18 process. And the Department of Fish and Game and our
19 in-season managers have to adhere to sustained yield
20 management.

21
22 So this Council is very adamant about
23 that. We have Ray Collins, who has been working real
24 hard in that working group. I do not want to see the
25 state in-season managers backing up and having any
26 openings that the working group has not approved. So
27 that's my position on that. I'm very annoyed with what
28 happened here this last year. I'm annoyed with what
29 happened on the Yukon for years and this Council was
30 fighting to try and get this thing rectified.

31
32 I don't think we have to reinvent the
33 wheel. The Yukon has gone to dipnet fishing to allow
34 chinook salmon to be released. The mortality on
35 chinook salmon on the Yukon was way down last year
36 because of certain processes. This Kuskokwim has to
37 adhere to the same types of management. Dipnet fishing
38 to release chinook salmon. No take. Absolutely no
39 chinook salmon should be harvested until escapement
40 needs are met.

41
42 I'm sorry I got off center there. I
43 was on that conference call in January. I spent all
44 day listening to that thing. I wasn't saying anything,
45 but I was listening. I was encouraged by the direction
46 the working group was going. Now I hear the State
47 wants to back up on that. I'm not real happy to hear
48 about that. I'm not happy to hear that at all. The
49 in-season Federal managers should close the fishery
50 until those runs -- if the State opens it, close it on

1 the Lower Yukon. That's where the problem is. Close
2 it on the Lower Yukon until those fish have met the
3 escapement needs. So our in-season manager should be
4 on this call. I would like to hear that our in-season
5 manager is on this call.

6

7 MS. FEYEREISEN: Excuse me, Chairman.
8 I do have clarification. Escapement hasn't been made
9 two out of the last five years.

10

11 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yeah.

12

13 MS. FEYEREISEN: And, like I said,
14 chinook are more fragile than other fish. They cannot
15 rebound as quickly. We know that. So two out of five
16 years, you're not getting any parent stock up there.
17 You're just not getting them. We have thousands of
18 stories and everything else like that, but we are
19 absolutely pleading with people to protect our
20 subsistence way of living by protecting our resources
21 because without resources we're lost kind of thing.

22

23 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Do you have a
24 comment, Ray, from the working group side.

25

26 MR. COLLINS: Well, from the working
27 group, our position that we took, and I thought it was
28 going to be enforced, that the season would be closed
29 until opened. There would be no openings earlier until
30 the figures warranted it and that means that they could
31 be sure that they had adequate escapement. I know what
32 has been going on before is it's open until closed and
33 they close it in June, but that's after some of the
34 earlier fish are already in the river and being caught.

35

36

37 Most of those are heading for the
38 headwaters up there, which has never recovered from
39 what it was historically. Just weren't getting the
40 numbers because of the changing in fishing practices
41 with the drifting in the mid river and so on, which
42 wasn't available historically. Some of those fish used
43 to go right up the middle of the river past the
44 downriver villages and now they can't get past. The
45 ones for the headwater are being hit all the way up the
46 stream. Yeah, I'm hoping that we're going to have a
47 very conservative recommendation to them and continue
48 to hold that.

49

50 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks, Ray. I feel

1 State and Federal managers are under a sustained yield
2 mandate. Health of the resource, period. There's no
3 backing up. There's no -- we're in a crisis situation
4 on the Kuskokwim River on these chinook salmon. The
5 humans are not in a crisis situation for other species
6 of salmon. The chinook salmon are in a crisis. The
7 in-season managers better adhere to sustained yield
8 because somebody could sue them. You could sue them.
9 They don't do what their job is for mandating
10 escapement needs, somebody can sue them. It's not
11 going to be me, but somebody here can sue them and they
12 better start doing their job. I want our in-season
13 managers to be fully aware of their ANILCA mandate for
14 the resource. So I'll get off my soapbox now.

15

16 So we're on AC reports.

17

18 MS. FEYEREISEN: Thank you.

19

20 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: You gave your AC
21 report. I'm the chair of the Koyukuk River Advisory
22 Committee. We had a meeting on October 6th in
23 Fairbanks. One of the issues that came up was the
24 Teshekpuk Caribou Herd migrates into the south slope of
25 the Brooks Range and the Board was reviewing a
26 customary and traditional use determination for the
27 Teshekpuk Caribou Herd. Teshekpuk has been using Unit
28 24 for many years and the Western Arctic Herd in the
29 deliberation process was found that the reg -- the
30 Board in 1992 adopted a customary and traditional use
31 for Unit 24 but they forgot the regulations dropped it.

32

33 As Chair, I wrote to the Board and I
34 said you have to reinstate or clarify for the record
35 that Unit 24 for Western Arctic is included in the
36 customary and traditional use determination and
37 Teshekpuk Caribou should include all of Unit 24 and the
38 Board of Game adopted that at their recent meeting.

39

40 The other thing that the Koyukuk River
41 Advisory Committee -- or the State Board of Game in
42 2010 trimmed off part of the Kanuti Controlled use area
43 for one person on a proposal and the Koyukuk River
44 Advisory Committee wanted that reinstated. I told the
45 advisory committee that they would not reinstate the
46 controlled use boundaries, but that Federal
47 configuration is still in place and those Federal lands
48 in the controlled use area are closed to non-
49 subsistence users for moose. So nothing has gone away,
50 but makes it real confusing for the general hunt

1 public.

2

3 Bettles is right next to Kanuti
4 Controlled Use Area and there's how many air taxis,
5 three large air taxis flying Beavers out of there.
6 Without a controlled use area, they pound the tar out
7 of the moose in the Kanuti Flats. As Pollock said
8 yesterday, there's .2 moose per square mile in the
9 Kanuti Controlled Use Area. That's five square miles
10 to the moose and they have an intensive management
11 program going on in the Kanuti Controlled Use area.

12

13 The advisory committee is happy about
14 the intensive management. They have an agreement on
15 the Native corp lands for the intensive management and
16 you were saying, Lisa, that when you have intensive
17 management -- there was an agreement made with Doyon
18 for intensive management on the corp lands, not on the
19 Refuge lands, which is a checkerboard.

20

21 The Gates of the Arctic Subsistence
22 Resource Commission met and one of the main topics that
23 the commission kept coming back to was this Ambler
24 Road. Pollock is the chair of the Gates of the Arctic
25 Subsistence Resource Commission. Did you want to make
26 comments, Pollock.

27

28 MR. SIMON: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
29 There's a strong push for a road from the Dalton
30 Highway by Prospect over to Bettles and to Ambler.
31 It's where there's a lot of mineral deposits. They
32 come to the villages and had a meeting with the local
33 peoples. So far some villages are not happy with the
34 road. They said they don't need the road. It's on the
35 drawing board already and they got the route picked
36 out.

37

38 It will eventually change our way of
39 life since the road will travel just a few miles north
40 of Allakaket, westerly to Ambler Mines, and those areas
41 are prime hunting and trapping areas. Around
42 Allakaket, Upper Koyukuk River there's already limited
43 wildlife resource and resource people come in and have
44 a meeting with the people and said the road is only for
45 industrial use, but putting the road in with public
46 funds sooner or later they turn the road over to the
47 State and it will open to the public. Not only would
48 we get gas and groceries cheaper coming up the road,
49 but there will be an influx of people going up not only
50 for sightseeing but you might hunt and trap in our

1 area. Since there's already limited wildlife resource,
2 so far the local people are opposed to the road.

3

4 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

5

6 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks, Pollock.
7 We'll be further updated on that in a few. That was a
8 huge concern of the SRC is that this road will go
9 through the Kobuk area. It goes across a lot of State
10 lands. That ate up a lot of that Subsistence Resource
11 Commission meeting, that Ambler road, and the Council
12 should be aware of that. That was all I had on that
13 AC.

14

15 As the Chair report, we've had this
16 nomination -- lack of nominations coming from
17 Washington, D.C. and we wrote a letter last -- this
18 Council wrote to Sally Jewell requesting that the
19 nomination process be timely so that the Council
20 members can be appointed and know what we're going to
21 do. If you sent in your application, you have no clue
22 if you're a Council member or what's going on. We have
23 an open seat right now. DOI has not appointed one of
24 our members right this minute, which meant one more
25 person at this table here.

26

27 Washington, D.C. is screwing up big
28 time and so I wanted our letter resent to Sally Jewell,
29 the Secretary of the Interior, reiterating that we've
30 got a real problem going on here. We're getting no
31 response from her either, from the Secretary of
32 Interior. So we'll be working on that issue at this
33 meeting.

34

35 I live at Wiseman Village. There's a
36 resource management plan for the BLM RMP. They're
37 looking at all the lands and management. In 1971, the
38 Secretary of Interior withdrew the Dalton Highway area,
39 the pipeline corridor, from application by Native
40 corporations for staking and the State of Alaska. The
41 State of Alaska is requesting that the BLM give them
42 the land right around my community. That's a huge
43 thing for us. We hunt under Federal subsistence
44 regulations.

45

46 There's all kinds of regulations on the
47 Dalton Highway restrictions and so forth. It will just
48 cut our throats. I would not be able to go wood
49 cutting with a snowmobile. I wouldn't be able to do
50 hardly anything. It would preclude the people from my

1 village even getting -- we're a resident-zoned
2 community in the Gates of the Arctic Park. We would
3 not actually be able to legally go to the Park to go
4 subsistence hunting because we couldn't use a
5 snowmobile in the Dalton Highway Corridor. We can
6 under Federal regulations because it's Federal lands.

7
8 So our community was highly opposed to
9 the BLM giving the land -- there's the FLPMA, the
10 Federal Lands Policy and Management Act, and Congress
11 in 1970--something told the BLM you don't give away
12 lands if it's not in the best interest of the people of
13 America. There's no reason -- the State has
14 overselected like 20 percent. There's no reason for
15 the BLM to be giving any lands in the Dalton Highway
16 area to the State of Alaska out of the kindness of
17 their heart when it highly affects a subsistence
18 community. I wanted this Council at our fall meeting
19 to send in -- during the scoping process adopt my
20 letter and endorse the letter of opposition to the
21 State of Alaska selection around my community. At some
22 point I would like the Council to do that.

23
24 We've had three rains like they have
25 down here, except we don't usually get rain, so the
26 mountains are glazed in ice up there and it's real hard
27 on the sheep. The sheep population has been in
28 decline, so the sheep are eking out enough to --
29 they're down in deeper snow areas where they -- on
30 steep terrain where they can get into softer snow to
31 where they can dig down through the crust. So the
32 sheep are having a tough time. The caribou are having
33 a little bit of a tough time up there.

34
35 The predator population is lower in my
36 area because we had real shallow snow last year, snow
37 like this. Wolves don't catch animals as easy. You've
38 got this ice here. That makes it easier for wolves for
39 wolves to catch animals, but when you have shallow
40 snow, the animals are fatter and they can run away
41 faster and so they're unrestricted by snow. So the
42 wolf population -- we had actually wolves starving
43 coming around our house last winter of 2013. This year
44 there's not as nearly the productivity. The fecundity
45 of the wolves go down and the pup numbers are down, so
46 there's less wolves around, which is good for the moose
47 and the sheep. I always like to give people an
48 assessment of what's going on up in that country. We
49 have 30 inches of snow on the ground right now.

50

1 That's my chair's report at this time.
2 Do you have a comment, Melinda.

3

4 MS. BURKE: No.

5

6 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So on our agenda
7 here, we're at public and tribal comments on non-agenda
8 items. Is there any public or tribal comments on non-
9 agenda items.

10

11 MR. HUNTINGTON: Hey, Jack, it's
12 Orville.

13

14 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, Orville.

15

16 MR. HUNTINGTON: Yeah, I just wanted to
17 thank you for your comments about fishing. There's
18 going to be an international fish summit in Fairbanks
19 April 8, 9 and 10. They're going to do some updates.
20 You should probably go.

21

22 The other thing was on intensive
23 management. Tanana Chiefs Conference as well as
24 K'oyitl'ots'ina village corporation, we're also part of
25 that intensive management agreement and in support of
26 it.

27

28 Those are the only things I have. I'd
29 be welcome to answer any questions about fishing or
30 whatever you've got there.

31

32 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Appreciate you being
33 online there, Orville. Does the Council members have
34 any questions for Orville Huntington. He's on the
35 Board of Fish and also TCC. Go ahead, Tim.

36

37 MR. GERVAIS: Good morning, Orville.
38 Tim Gervais. During this last Board of Fish meeting
39 did the Board of Fish discuss proposals or make rulings
40 on proposals for those different gear types for the
41 Lower Yukon for salmon harvesting, the beach seine and
42 the dipnet size?

43

44 MR. HUNTINGTON: Good morning, Tim. We
45 will take those issues up in the March meeting
46 statewide. That will be March 17th, I believe. I
47 don't see any support for the seine fishery, the beach
48 seine fishery proposal. The other issue we had was
49 there was an enforcement problem where fishermen with
50 dipnets were actually keeping and retaining kings and

1 that was never the intent of having the dipnet fishery.
2 All you have to do is turn the dipnet around and the
3 king will swim out. They were actually pulling them
4 into the boat and keeping them, so that loophole is
5 closed now. If they do try to keep kings, they're
6 going to get written up.

7
8 The other things I think we could
9 discuss at that April meeting, I'm really hoping you
10 guys will get some funding to attend. YR DFA is also
11 going to bring people into Fairbanks for that meeting.
12 Thanks for that question, Tim.

13
14 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I wanted to point
15 out to Tim that we're going to visit those State
16 proposals and take position on Proposals 371, 372, 373
17 and 377, which is the purse seine dipnet proposals and
18 retention proposals. So we will make a recommendation
19 to the State Board of Fish on those proposals, Orville.

20
21 MR. HUNTINGTON: All right. Sounds
22 good. I'll just go with whatever you guys give us. I
23 only have one vote, just so you know.

24
25 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Appreciate
26 all you're doing for the resource and the people,
27 Orville. I really do appreciate it.

28
29 MR. HUNTINGTON: Yep. Thank you. Have
30 a good day.

31
32 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Have a great day.
33 Do we have any other tribal comments, anybody online.
34 Dave Cannon, go ahead.

35
36 MR. CANNON: Yes, Mr. Chairman. I
37 guess I just want to verify. I might be on the agenda
38 here later as far as special action requests. I've
39 been talking to Don Rivard and don't know if those
40 special action requests that the Kuskokwim Salmon
41 Management Working Group has submitted just at the end
42 of last week has made it into your packet material.

43
44 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, Melinda.

45
46 MS. BURKE: Through the Chair. I did
47 receive packets on Friday afternoon from Mr. Don
48 Rivard. They are in the left hand of the blue folders
49 that the Council has been provided. We also have some
50 copies for the public, so that will be coming up during

1 the fisheries discussion. Mr. Rivard will arrive in
2 town Wednesday on the morning flight, so we'll take up
3 a bulk of those issues then.

4

5 MR. CANNON: Okay. Thank you.

6

7 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Appreciate it, Dave.
8 Any other tribal comments. Anybody here want to make
9 any comments on issues. Go ahead, Pollock.

10

11 MR. SIMON: Yeah, I didn't hear Council
12 member comments from to your right.

13

14 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I tried to get
15 Council comments to my right and they wouldn't comment.
16 I asked them and they declined. Go ahead, Jim.

17

18 MR. J. WALKER: I didn't know I was
19 allowed to comment. My section down here was so small,
20 I didn't think I'd be heard.

21

22 (Laughter)

23

24 MR. J. WALKER: Anyway, I want to
25 extend my appreciation to Aniak for this meeting also.
26 Carl, I do have only one request. Can my table be
27 configured the same as yours.

28

29 (Laughter)

30

31 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Do you have another
32 comment, Pollock.

33

34 MR. SIMON: (Shakes head)

35

36 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Go ahead,
37 Melinda.

38

39 MS. BURKE: I just wanted to state for
40 the folks who are in the room and I've made it clear to
41 the community leaders that I've communicated with as
42 well, I know it's a busy week here in Aniak, but we are
43 very accommodating to schedules. If there's a certain
44 window of time that works well for public, for tribal,
45 please speak up, come in, have folks give us a call on
46 the teleconference.

47

48 Also, the senior class provided us a
49 really great dinner last night and hopefully we'll be
50 having some of those students join us for portions of

1 the meeting also. So I just wanted to let folks know
2 it's not just words printed on the agenda. We're very
3 accommodating to the public and to the tribes and
4 please speak up if there's anybody who would like to
5 speak out of order of the agenda.

6

7 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So should we take a
8 break at this point. We're coming up on the wildlife
9 regulatory proposals. We'll take about a 10-minute
10 break or so.

11

12 (Off record)

13

14 (On record)

15

16 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: We're gathering up
17 the Council again. We're moving into wildlife
18 regulatory proposal WP14-29, remove the expiration date
19 from the FM-2402 moose hunt. Trevor Fox is going to
20 give us the introduction and presentation analysis. Go
21 ahead, Trevor.

22

23 MR. FOX: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Can
24 you guys hear me okay?

25

26 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yes.

27

28 MR. FOX: Okay, great. For the record,
29 Trevor Fox. I'm a wildlife biologist with OSM. The
30 proposal starts on Page 17 of your meeting book. I
31 guess you gave a pretty good introduction already. The
32 winter moose season in Unit 24B has been in Federal
33 regulation since 2010 and has provided additional
34 opportunity for Federally qualified subsistence users
35 to harvest moose if they were unsuccessful during the
36 fall season.

37

38 Hunters typically experience low moose
39 encounter rates due to the low density of moose in the
40 area and overall harvest by a Federally qualified
41 subsistence users has been low. Of moose harvested
42 under Federal regulations, only one moose has been
43 reportedly harvested during a winter season. The moose
44 population has been able to sustain the harvest
45 pressure associated with the current fall and winter
46 season. The OSM preliminary conclusion is to support
47 WP14-29.

48

49 A couple additional points to make.
50 The Kanuti National Wildlife Refuge has expressed

1 support for continuing the season. Then last week at
2 the Board of Game meeting in Fairbanks State Proposal
3 70 to reauthorize RM833, which is basically the same
4 winter season on the State side, was adopted with an
5 amendment to include Unit 24C.

6

7 Thank you.

8

9 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks, Trevor. It
10 was my mistake when I, for the Council, submitted the
11 proposal to the Federal Subsistence Board and the State
12 Board of Game that I omitted 24C as part of the
13 original hunt area. So the advisory committee
14 clarified that at our meeting and submitted that
15 amended language. If we adopt this proposal, I would
16 like to have a motion to adopt with an amendment to
17 include 24C as the Board of Game has now instated.

18

19 A report on Board consultations with
20 the tribes and ANCSA corporations. Melinda.

21

22 MS. BURKE: Mr. Chair. I don't have
23 anything in my notes regarding anything specific for
24 that consultation. If anybody called in during that
25 section, I can check in with the.....

26

27 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Do we have anyone
28 online from tribes that would be interested in making
29 comment on Proposal WP14-29.

30

31 (No comments)

32

33 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Pollock lives in
34 Allakaket, so I would like to know what -- so, Pollock,
35 did Allakaket Tribe look at this Federal proposal for
36 extending the winter moose hunt for bulls? Did they
37 look at that?

38

39 MR. SIMON: Thank you, Mr. Chair. This
40 winter was one bull moose taken, kind of a large one,
41 but maybe was in good shape, but we don't get too much
42 moose during the fall season in Allakaket, Upper
43 Koyukuk River because the river is low and warm weather
44 and the moose doesn't leave until it cool off. There's
45 a State season for bull moose around here from December
46 to March and it's open, but not too many hunters. In
47 winter time, the bull moose are tough meat and not much
48 fat on it, but this one taken this winter was -- they
49 gave me a piece of meat. It was pretty good.

50

1 Thank you, Mr. Chair.
2
3 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks, Pollock. To
4 clarify for the record that the hunt is from December
5 15th to April 15, one antlered bull, for those without
6 the proposal before them.
7
8 Trevor.
9
10 MR. FOX: Thank you, Mr. Chair. As you
11 mentioned, a potential thing that the Council could
12 recommend would be to include 24C on the Federal side.
13 That sunset season under Federal regulations was only
14 for 24D, so I just wanted to make sure that.....
15
16 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Oh, is that right?
17
18 MR. FOX: Yeah.
19
20 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: On the Federal side.
21
22 MR. FOX: On the Federal side, yeah.
23 We have some winter seasons, but it's not the December
24 15th through April 15th. That's just on the State
25 side.
26
27 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Oh, I see.
28
29 MR. FOX: We have the 24B area that's
30 set to sunset, but that's only in a portion of 24, 24B.
31 If you'd like, I could pass out my book and show you
32 guys what we have under Federal regulations.
33
34 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So we don't need to
35 amend this proposal then to include 24C. Thanks for
36 the clarification on that.
37
38 Are there ADF&G comments? Do we have
39 ADF&G wildlife conservation online?
40
41 MR. STOUT: Mr. Chair. This is Glen
42 Stout.
43
44 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, Glen. Do
45 you have a comment?
46
47 MR. STOUT: I think Trevor covered
48 everything as far as Board of Game actions and that was
49 approved, so I don't think we have anything else to add
50 on that.

1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Thanks, Glen.
2 Were there agency comments from -- Kanuti National
3 Wildlife was supportive of the proposal as stated.

4
5 MR. FOX: (Nods affirmatively)

6
7 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Any other agency
8 comments.

9
10 (No comments)

11
12 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: We asked for Native
13 and tribal. InterAgency Staff Committee comments.

14
15 (No comments)

16
17 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Advisory comments.
18 The Koyukuk River Advisory Committee supported WP14-29.
19 I think we included 24C as amended because we were at
20 that time unclear about that. Subsistence Resource
21 Commission. Marcy, are you on here?

22
23 (No response)

24
25 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Marcy Okada was
26 Gates of the Arctic Subsistence Resource Commission
27 coordinator. My recollection is that the SRC did visit
28 this proposal and supported this proposal.

29
30 Summary of written comments. Do we
31 have written comments, Melinda.

32
33 MS. BURKE: Mr. Chair. There was one
34 written public comment from Mr. Donald Woodruff from
35 Eagle. The comment can be found in its entirety on
36 Page 26. I can go ahead and read it. It's pretty
37 short. The Western Interior Regional Council
38 understands good and sound game management practices.
39 The effect of spreading the moose hunt will help lessen
40 impact to more heavily used areas, and provide a time
41 when ALL the moose can be kept for use by the people.
42 Keeping the moose frozen provides more food per moose
43 harvested.

44
45 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I appreciate Don
46 Woodruff's comments. I will state for the record he is
47 a RAC member for Eastern Interior Council for those who
48 don't know him. So that's how he would have been
49 reading through these proposals and made that comment.
50 So I appreciate Don's comment on this proposal.

1 Any public testimony here at Aniak.
2
3 (No comments)
4
5 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: No. Regional
6 Council recommendations. The Chair will entertain a
7 motion to adopt the proposal.
8
9 MR. J. WALKER: So moved as amended.
10
11 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Well, Trevor
12 clarified that there's no need for amending the 24C
13 part of it. I appreciate that.
14
15 MR. J. WALKER: (Nods affirmatively)
16
17 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Do we have a second.
18
19 MS. PELKOLA: Second.
20
21 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Seconded by Jenny.
22 So the Council is clear, this had a sunset. There's
23 been one moose taken this winter. Moose, like caribou,
24 they keep getting bull moose that are in rut. They're
25 real skinny right after rut, but they start building
26 weight especially when the temperature comes up like
27 this. In February, the caribou start getting fat in
28 ribs. By late March they've got fat on their back.
29 This would include an antlered bull, so when the moose
30 start actually growing antler, they become legal. So
31 even if it's a button the Board of Game has defined it
32 as an antlered bull.
33
34 Those moose, once they begin to button
35 out after the vernal equinox on the 21st of March, they
36 actually are coming into real good condition. I killed
37 a moose, a bull, later in March like that and it was in
38 really decent shape. And caribou, I've killed caribou
39 in March that have up to a half inch of fat on their
40 back. They keep gaining weight rapidly once the
41 temperature starts coming back. Their whole metabolism
42 picks up after the vernal equinox on March 21. So that
43 was just supplementary discussion on the proposal.
44
45 Any further comments on the proposal.
46
47 (No comments)
48
49 MR. SIMON: Question.
50

1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: The question is
2 called. All those in favor of the proposal signify by
3 saying aye.

4
5 IN UNISON: Aye.

6
7 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Opposed, the same
8 sign.

9
10 (No opposing votes)

11
12 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: The proposal is
13 adopted. So you can introduce the next proposal there,
14 Trevor.

15
16 MR. FOX: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
17 Proposal WP14-30 begins on Page 28 of your meeting
18 book. This was submitted by the Western Interior
19 Subsistence Regional Advisory Council and it requests
20 the harvest limit for sheep in Unit 24A, except that
21 portion within the Gates of the Arctic National Park,
22 be changed from one ram with 7/8-curl horn or larger to
23 one ram under Federal regulations.

24
25 The sheep population appears to be
26 overall stable, albeit at lower densities than
27 historical levels. Survey and harvest data indicate
28 that full curl rams continue to be recruited into the
29 population, which is inconsistent with some of the
30 assertions made in the proposal that the 7/8 curl class
31 is missing. However, harvest pressure from hunters
32 using State regulations has been increasing and may
33 cause rams to disperse to areas that are more difficult
34 to hunt.

35
36 Little information is available
37 regarding the harvest of sublegal rams, which was
38 identified as a reason for the lack of the 7/8 curl
39 rams available for Federally qualified subsistence
40 users. Two sublegal sheep were harvested within the
41 Dalton Highway Corridor Management Area in the fall of
42 2009, but no other illegal harvest has been verified.
43 That was according to a State trooper.

44
45 Some recent surveys in 2013. There
46 were some declines in the Itkillik Preserve, which is
47 outside of the harvest area, but there was little
48 change in adult rams. BLM also conducted some surveys
49 and showed some declines in the lamb counts.

50

1 We considered a couple alternatives --
2 or one alternative and that was in the rationale for
3 submitting the proposal the proponent stated there is a
4 need to modify the harvest limit in the affected
5 portion of Unit 24A to one ram or one ram with a half
6 curl or larger.

7
8 The Federal Subsistence Board approved
9 a recent emergency special action, which was WSA12-01,
10 to temporarily modify the harvest limit of one ram with
11 one-half curl or larger for the 2012-2013 regulatory
12 year, thus modifying the harvest limit to one ram with
13 a half curl or larger was considered in addition to the
14 one ram harvest limit. However, due to overall low
15 harvest rates by Federally qualified subsistence users
16 within the population and the stable sheep population,
17 the proponent's initial request of one ram harvest
18 limit seems reasonable, so we stuck with the one ram.

19
20 The OSM preliminary conclusion is to
21 support WP14-30 and some of the justification is
22 liberalization of the horn requirement from one ram
23 with 7/8-curl or larger horn to one ram will likely
24 result in some impacts to the sheep population,
25 including increased harvest; however, past harvest
26 rates of
27 sheep by Federally qualified subsistence users have
28 been low. Allowing Federally qualified subsistence
29 users to harvest any ram may result in harvest being
30 spread among the different age classes, rather than
31 focusing on larger rams, which seems to be okay given
32 the low harvest rates.

33
34 The sheep population appears to be
35 relatively stable, albeit at densities lower than
36 historical levels, and survey and harvest data indicate
37 that there are some full curl rams being recruited
38 into the population. Then just one last thing.
39 Harvest pressure from non-Federally qualified
40 subsistence users has been increasing and may cause
41 rams to disperse to areas that are less accessible.

42
43 Thank you.

44
45 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks, Trevor. So
46 we have a report on Board consultations with tribes.
47 Was there any consultation with any tribes?

48
49 MS. BURKE: (Shakes head negatively)

50

1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Melinda indicates
2 no. Alaska Department of Fish and Game. Are you on
3 there, Glen?

4
5 MR. STOUT: Yeah, Mr. Chair. I think
6 all the comments are included in the State comments
7 there that people can read, that the Department is
8 opposed to the proposal. We manage on a full curl
9 management strategy and this would deviate from the
10 full curl management strategy that we have for the
11 area. Going to another strategy based on harvest rate
12 would imply that we're doing population estimation
13 surveys where we can monitor harvest rate. Because we
14 aren't doing those types of surveys and the Federal
15 agencies are not as well, then we really don't have an
16 idea of what sustainable harvest rates are. That's why
17 we have the full harvest strategy.

18
19 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks, Glen. Is
20 there any other Federal agency comments.

21
22 (No comments)

23
24 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Vince, is there
25 Arctic National Wildlife Refuge comments. Where did
26 Vince go? I don't see Vince here. I don't know if
27 Arctic Refuge had a comment on that. That's why I was
28 asking that. Let's see. InterAgency Staff, other
29 Regional Councils. Did any other RACs, North Slope
30 comment on this proposal.

31
32 (No comments)

33
34 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: The Koyukuk River
35 Fish and Game Advisory Committee adopted this proposal
36 at our October 6th meeting. And the Subsistence
37 Resource Commission for Gates of the Arctic also
38 adopted this proposal.

39
40 MS. OKADA: Mr. Chair.

41
42 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, Marcy.

43
44 MS. OKADA: Marcy with Gates of the
45 Arctic National Park Subsistence Resource Commission
46 unanimously supports this proposal. It is difficult to
47 find 7/8-curl rams in this area and this proposal will
48 allow local hunters the ability to harvest Dall sheep.

49
50 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks, Marcy. I

1 was asking if you were online for the previous proposal
2 and you weren't there, so I wasn't sure if you dropped
3 off the line or something. So thanks for that input
4 from the Gates of the Arctic Subsistence Resource
5 Commission and the justification.

6

7 Any written comments, Melinda.

8

9 MS. BURKE: No.

10

11 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: She's indicating no.
12 Public testimony.

13

14 (No comments)

15

16 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: No. Regional
17 Council recommendation. The Chair will entertain a
18 motion to adopt Proposal WP14-30.

19

20 MR. SIMON: So moved.

21

22 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Moved by Pollock.

23

24 MR. COLLINS: I'll second.

25

26 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Seconded by Ray.

27 Discussion.

28

29 MR. GERVAIS: Jack.

30

31 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, Tim.

32

33 MR. GERVAIS: Yeah, I had a question
34 for you. Do you have any response to Glen's comments
35 on the State's position?

36

37 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I do and I'm going
38 to comment on this proposal because after we had our
39 Koyukuk River Advisory Committee meeting and I'd been
40 monitoring -- the problem is that in the Dalton Highway
41 Corridor previous to 2010 the Bureau of Land Management
42 did not permit hunting guides to hunt within the Dalton
43 Highway Corridor. So after 2010 we had professional
44 guides with aircraft that were camped right on the road
45 with airplanes basically hunting down every last legal
46 ram on the Dalton Highway Corridor.

47

48 When they allowed multiple hunters to
49 chase the sheep all around, they drove them either away
50 or killed all the legal rams, all the full curl sheep.

1 Rams are a gregarious species that lives together.
2 Rams live in ram units in the summer and through fall
3 and the ewes live separately. So this problem started
4 to affect subsistence harvest.

5
6 Some of the things that I'll point out
7 is that on Table 3 on Page 34 the Federal permits that
8 we get are not -- I know I'm sending in my permits and
9 I do the mail and I know other people send in their
10 permits and I will say that these figures do not
11 reflect what is actually harvested by our community.

12
13 In 2009, it says zero sheep are
14 harvested. Well, I know I killed a sheep and I know I
15 sent in my permit and I know other people sent in
16 permits and somewhere these permits have been lost.
17 I've been saying this for years that OSM or whoever is
18 doing these Federal registration permits has been
19 losing this information, which highly affects our
20 position at the Federal Board process, so I'm unhappy.

21
22
23 At the advisory committee I tell
24 everybody you've got to report your moose. You've got
25 to report because if those animals are not reported,
26 they're allocated to somebody else, to non-subsistence
27 users. People are like, well, we don't want to brag
28 about killing it. That's not the way these Board
29 processes work. They allocate these resources on what
30 customary and traditional use determinations and ANS
31 amounts. If people are meeting those needs and are not
32 reflecting what they're taking, they're cutting their
33 own throat. It's actually going backwards.

34 So these numbers are not actually
35 correct and I've stated for the record before that the
36 normal harvest -- previous to 2010 the normal harvest
37 for our community is typically between three to six to
38 eight sheep. That's the normal harvest. After 2010,
39 it got real hard to find sheep and it got real hard to
40 find legal sheep.

41
42 2011 I couldn't find a legal ram.
43 Well, I went on the guides' websites. The BLM is
44 permitting these guides and I transmitted
45 electronically to Trevor and Melinda photos I took
46 right off a hunting guide's website that show 7/8ths
47 rams. One guy killed five sheep this year. Four of
48 them are 7/8ths and they're six to seven year old rams.
49 They're sublegal. I got real pissed off about that and
50 I went to the enforcement officer trooper and I said

1 are you guys sealing these 7/8ths rams. He goes, nope,
2 we're not doing it. We don't want to count rings. We
3 send those to Fairbanks. Well, somebody in Fairbanks
4 is sealing 7/8ths rams and they're so confident that
5 they can get away with it the hunting guides are
6 actually putting it on their websites. Melinda can
7 show you those photos. I will transmit those photos to
8 you, Glen.

9
10 We've got a real management problem in
11 the Dalton Highway Corridor in Unit 24A and 25. If
12 they're sealing 7/8ths rams, we've got a huge
13 management problem. So what I'm stating for this
14 Council, when the Board of Game calls for proposals
15 again, anything that's not full curl the sheep jaw
16 shall be retained. I had Trevor check on it. They
17 could cut the teeth just like a moose and they can
18 count the rings in the teeth, dentum growth rings in
19 the teeth of sheep. So there needs to be a regulatory
20 change for the Board of Game.

21
22 The reality is I can't hardly find a
23 7/8ths ram. That's why I'm making this proposal. The
24 survey shows all these full curl sheep. Well, I don't
25 actually believe that, Glen, because if these guides
26 could kill full curl sheep, they would kill full curl
27 sheep. They're killing 7/8ths sheep. I will transmit
28 those photos to you.

29
30 So I'm really, really concerned about
31 this sheep issue. There's no control on the number of
32 guides and the number of hunters they take is just
33 unlimited. The Department is relying on full curl.
34 Well, it's not working because they're killing 7/8ths
35 sheep. Anybody that knows anything about sheep is once
36 you start to have 3/4 curl sheep breeding ewes, the
37 biology gets all screwed up big time. The Department
38 knows that. That's why they went to full curl.

39
40 The reality is I have to have sheep
41 meat, so I was asked by a retired biologist why didn't
42 I close the area. I said, well, that would be a real
43 nightmare at the Federal Board level trying to get a
44 closure on the Dalton Highway Corridor. I don't even
45 want to think about that. What's wrong with just
46 allowing me to kill one ram. I don't care what the
47 horns look like. I would prefer to have an adult ram
48 for the record because it's got 20 percent more meat on
49 it than a small ram, but some sheep meat is better than
50 no sheep meat.

1 We only have two sheep species in our
2 area. We don't have fish to a large degree. We cannot
3 have salmon on the Koyukuk River in the Dalton Highway
4 Corridor. We have very few grayling and whitefish and
5 the round whitefish, they're all -- all those fish are
6 about 12 inches, so fish is like 10 days of our whole
7 diet's fish.

8
9 Brooks Range communities, Anaktuvuk
10 Pass, Arctic Village, Wiseman, we rely on large game
11 animals. Sheep and moose are our main animals that we
12 have locally. We can't count on caribou. We went 25
13 years without any caribou in our area. Caribou migrate
14 all over the place. They sometimes don't come to our
15 area.

16
17 So the sheep issue is not -- sheep is
18 like, oh, that's a sport hunt. No, it's not. Go over
19 to Arctic Village Sheep Management Area and see if
20 that's a sport issue. Go to Anaktuvuk Pass. That's
21 not a sport issue. Those are animals that are relied
22 on. So that's why I have this proposal. That's
23 probably enough discussion on that proposal on my part.

24
25 Any further comments from the Council.

26
27 (No comments)

28
29 MR. J. WALKER: Question.

30
31 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: The question is
32 called. Those in favor of Proposal WP14-30 signify by
33 saying aye.

34
35 IN UNISON: Aye.

36
37 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Those opposed same
38 sign.

39
40 (No opposing votes)

41
42 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Proposal WP14-30 is
43 adopted. Do you want to give a review of the next
44 proposal, Trevor.

45
46 MR. FOX: Yes, Mr. Chair. The next
47 proposal which begins on Page 40 is actually going to
48 be presented by Palma Ingles on the teleconference.

49
50 MS. INGLES: Good morning, Mr. Chair

1 and Council members. Can you hear me okay?

2

3 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: We hear you just
4 fine.

5

6 MS. INGLES: Okay, great. I'm going to
7 give you some points for WP14-31. This proposal is
8 submitted by the Denali Subsistence Resource
9 Commission, requesting a community winter hunt be
10 established for rural residents of Nikolai for sheep in
11 Unit 19C from October 1 to March 30 with a quota of
12 three sheep; rams or ewes without lambs only.

13

14 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Hold on here.
15 You're really breaking up. Are you close to your --
16 are you on speaker phone or something?

17

18 MS. INGLES: Can you hear me better?

19

20 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I can hear you
21 better now.

22

23 MS. INGLES: Okay. I picked up the
24 phone. I was trying to use my speaker. But let's try
25 again. So additionally the proposal requests that if
26 sheep numbers are low, the Denali National Park and
27 Preserve Superintendent will have the authority to
28 close the season by emergency order.

29

30 After further discussion with the
31 proponent, it was clarified that the proposal would
32 only affect those portions of Unit 19C within the
33 Denali National Park and Preserve lands that are open
34 to subsistence harvest. So the reason they're trying
35 to do this is because they would like to introduce this
36 back into the culture. It was part of the culture and
37 they want to resume their traditional patterns of
38 winter travel and harvest of sheep.

39 Currently the regulation is one ram
40 with 7/8th-inch curl or larger from August to September
41 20th. What they're proposing then is that would still
42 apply, but then also for Unit 19C residents of Nikolai
43 only with a community harvest quota of three sheep
44 would be able to harvest from October 1st to March
45 30th. The reporting would be done by a community
46 reporting system.

47

48 Overall the survey since the 1980s show
49 that there's not that many sheep harvested in Nikolai.
50 The people do use sheep that's been donated by

1 different guides that bring back sheep from non-local
2 hunters. Overall, there wasn't a very high harvest.
3 The Nikolai residents had traditionally harvested sheep
4 in the Denali National Park and Preserve areas and they
5 used to rely on caribou and sheep, but now that the
6 sheep are protected in the Park they cannot hunt them
7 in the winter when the sheep are lower on the mountain
8 and more accessible to people in Nikolai.

9
10 The younger people are not learning
11 about the traditional ways of hunting because
12 traditionally they hunted in the mountains in the
13 winter when they could get there by dog sleds or
14 snowmachines. So changes in the resource use and
15 restrictive regulations on sheep hunting have caused a
16 sharp decline in the sheep hunting by residents of
17 Nikolai.

18
19 So if this proposal is adopted, a
20 winter community harvest would be established for
21 residents of Nikolai for October 1st to March 30th in
22 19C and in addition this proposal would apply the
23 specific language that would authorize Denali National
24 Park Superintendent to close the seasonal hunt if sheep
25 numbers were low. Once again, the goal is to establish
26 a community hunt that everybody can take part in.

27
28 The proposed community harvest quota of
29 three sheep should not cause an adverse impact on the
30 sheep population in the Denali National Park and
31 Preserve lands portions of Unit 19C, as the population
32 is stable and the harvest of three sheep should be
33 sustainable.

34
35 So OSM preliminary conclusion was to
36 support WP14-31 with modification to add a
37 unit-specific stipulation to allow that if a resident
38 of Nikolai harvests sheep during the August 10th
39 through September 20th Federal season, they can still
40 participate in the community harvest October 1st
41 through March 30th without that counting towards the
42 individual harvest limit.

43
44 The Denali National Park and Preserve
45 Superintendent would be given the authority to open and
46 close the community harvest season and set the quota
47 each year in the Denali National Park and Preserve
48 lands in Unit 19C.

49
50 Any questions.

1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I have one question.
2 Maybe I missed it. Does 19C have a guide use area for
3 Dall sheep in the Denali National Park and Preserve?
4

5 MS. INGLES: I do not know. Trevor,
6 would you know that?
7

8 MR. FOX: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I'm
9 not aware if there is. There may be somebody online
10 that might know that.
11

12 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: In the Itkillik
13 Preserve of Gates of the Arctic National Park, the Park
14 Service has a guide selection process, just like the
15 U.S. Fish and Wildlife, and they allocate one guide's
16 use in that area. My question is, is there a hunting
17 guide within this portion of 19C, which laps into Unit
18 16 portion. Do you know that, Ray?
19

20 MR. COLLINS: Ask that again.
21

22 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: What I'm asking is
23 this area here in 19C and 16, that's the Denali
24 Preserve, does this have a guide area? The guides will
25 want to get guide areas inside those preserves.
26

27 MR. COLLINS: I m not aware of any guide
28 using that area.
29

30 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So we don't have a
31 user conflict then.
32

33 MR. COLLINS: No.
34

35 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: That's where I'm
36 going with that question. Go ahead, Trevor.
37

38 MR. FOX: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I have
39 a couple things to add on to what Palma was talking
40 about. One is that at the Board of Game there was a
41 similar proposal taken up, Proposal 65. That requested
42 a winter season in 19C as well for residents only and
43 the harvest limit in that proposal was one sheep with
44 three-fourths curl or less, not larger than less than a
45 sheep with three-fourths curl or less and also no lambs
46 or ewes with lambs and no rams with broomed horns.
47

48 The season was a little longer. It was
49 from October 1 through April 30th and there was also a
50 stipulation to prohibit the use of aircraft from

1 hunting sheep during that season except for flying in
2 and out of McGrath, Nikolai and Telida airports. It
3 had a quota of 10 sheep or could be closed by the area
4 biologist if there were conservation concerns. And
5 even though the horns were less than full curl, less
6 than three-fourths curl, there would be a sealing
7 requirement.

8

9 The Board of Game did pass that. They
10 amended it to take out a proposed proxy portion of that
11 hunt, but they did adopt that with the amendment.

12

13 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: My question is would
14 the Federal proposal, the cumulative quota, would that
15 be a total of 13 then with the 10 State and the three
16 community harvest limit for the Federal proposal?

17

18 MR. FOX: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I
19 think that would probably have to be worked out with
20 the superintendent of the Park and Preserve and the
21 Department of Fish and Game to see what's the best way
22 to manage that hunt as there would be some authority
23 delegated to set quotas.

24

25 I guess a couple things to think about
26 would be some of the area open under the State season
27 and what could potentially be open under the Federal
28 season. It's a pretty limited amount of Park and
29 Preserve lands that are Federal public lands.

30

31 Then to add on a couple other
32 alternatives. On Page 44 under other alternatives
33 considered there are a couple options.
34 Proposal 31 discussed a community hunt. There are a
35 couple other options such as a cultural and educational
36 permit, but those have some additional stipulations
37 which would require the community of Nikolai having a
38 qualified program that has instructors, enrolled
39 students, minimum attendance requirements and standards
40 for completing a course. And then there's also the
41 potential of just opening up a winter season rather
42 than a community hunt.

43

44 We just sort of went through as OSM
45 with our recommendation to put out one of those
46 potential ways to get at this.

47

48 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

49

50 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Ray.

1 MR. COLLINS: Yeah, I'd like to speak
2 to that. First of all the tradition is -- and I
3 observed this up until the '60s. The people in Nikolai
4 that opened traplines out to the Alaska Range were
5 hunting sheep and bringing them back and sharing them
6 with the community at the community potlatches for
7 Russian Christmas and so on at the end of the year.
8 They only brought back maybe a half dozen or so sheep
9 to share at that time.

10
11 The Board of Game two years ago
12 recognized that C&T use, but they didn't provide a
13 season. They stated that the fall season gave them
14 enough opportunity, but the hunting records show that
15 no one from the village was able to take sheep during
16 that time. In fact, very few residents of the state
17 even take sheep in 19C because of the heavy use by
18 guides and others. So that's where the proposal came
19 in to the Park Service to open that Park because they
20 had traditionally used that area and they were willing
21 to go all the way to Telida and out to the range and
22 open a trail to conduct a traditional winter hunt.

23
24 With the passage of this -- they
25 submitted it again. The Mcgrath Fish and Game Advisory
26 submitted it again. Actually I guess it was the
27 community of Nikolai that put it in, but the advisory
28 committee supported it and the Board passed it this
29 last time. It would be up to the area biologist to
30 determine. It's 1 to 10 sheep, 3/4 or smaller, and the
31 biologist said that he'll open it for five, but under
32 the State they could not -- regulations, they can't
33 stipulate that it's only members of certain communities
34 that had this customary and traditional use. So any
35 state resident who was willing to fly in to McGrath,
36 Nikolai or Telida and then hunt out to the mountains on
37 the ground, which takes about two days to break a trail
38 out there, can do it. So we don't know who will put in
39 for those permits.

40
41 The way they'll manage that State hunt
42 is that the permits are available to any qualified
43 state resident, but they'll have to call the Fish and
44 Game to initiate it and he'll only allow five in the
45 field at a time. They call within three days of them
46 going on the hunt and then they have to report within
47 three days of coming back. He stated to me personally
48 that they're only going to allow five this year. So we
49 hope that people from Nikolai will be able to get
50 those, but it depends on who applies for them first.

1 Then they'll close it once five sheep are harvested.

2

3 If they take it under that, they
4 probably won't take advantage of this Park one, but it
5 is a protection for them. And then the Nikolai one
6 only -- there has to be five individuals going out
7 there each taking just one sheep. They eliminated the
8 part on -- what do we call it, the elders -- oh, proxy
9 hunting. They eliminated the proxy. So there will
10 have to be actual five hunters go out to take the five
11 sheep.

12

13 This Park one is a community hunt,
14 which is better. That means that whoever goes can take
15 the three for the community. It would be nice if it was
16 a larger number. It's kind of a fallback position and
17 I think it's very important to get it on the record,
18 especially looking long term. If they ever get a road
19 into the area, we're going to be heavily impacted more
20 than now, but that would make the Park lands more
21 accessible to people of the area so they could still
22 get up to travel out there in the winter and take care
23 of a traditional hunt and it won't damage the resource
24 as has already been stated. The Park Superintendent,
25 if there is a danger, has the authority to close it.

26

27 So that s the way the two will be
28 monitored and I know the residents in Nikolai want this
29 passed and get it on the record so that it will be
30 there whether they're able to use it this winter or
31 not.

32

33 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I'm wondering why
34 the State goes to the end of April. Did they amend the
35 proposal or was the original proposal to the end of
36 April and why isn't this Federal proposal in alignment
37 on the closure date?

38

39 MR. COLLINS: They were separated
40 separately. Nikolai turned in the one with that
41 October 1 to 31st, but actually the hunting will take
42 place probably before the end of December because they
43 like to get them before that time. The Denali SRC
44 submitted the other one and it could close in March.
45 It doesn't matter. It's going to be difficult travel
46 late in April anyhow. They're not likely to go out
47 that late.

48

49 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right. Another
50 question I have for the Upper Kuskokwim Advisory

1 Committee. A trail goes through that area and was
2 there discussion about these trail-breakers if they
3 would be eligible to hunt under this regulation?
4 Trevor, did you have a comment?

5
6 MR. FOX: Yes. Thank you, Mr. Chair.
7 That was mentioned at the Alaska Board of Game meeting
8 that that could improve some access once the Iditarod
9 Trail is broken into the area, that it could be a way
10 to access from the other side.

11
12 Thank you.

13
14 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks. Did they
15 talk about that?

16
17 MR. COLLINS: Well, the feeling is that
18 they'll be through with the hunt before that time and
19 it will be closed by that time.

20
21 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Oh, they'll take the
22 quota before that time.

23
24 MR. COLLINS: Yeah. Because they plan
25 to get out there in the fall and take them.

26
27 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right.

28
29 MR. COLLINS: But if they don't, then
30 it is open and it provides opportunity for others,
31 which the State prefers to have, you know, opportunity
32 for others.

33
34 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: When does the
35 Iditarod Trail go in?

36
37 MR. COLLINS: They're punching it in
38 now. It's mid February it goes in.

39
40 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. I just wanted
41 to clear that up in my mind a little bit. I lost track
42 where I'm at here, Melinda. We had ADF&G comments.
43 Did we have any tribal comments from Nikolai or any of
44 the tribal organizations. They're not online.

45
46 MS. BURKE: Yes. I covered it up with
47 my own notes. On Page 51 there is a written public
48 comment from Miki and Julie Collins from Lake
49 Minchumina. They are speaking in support of Proposal
50 14-31. I'll go ahead and read it into the record. The

1 Nikolai people have been deprived of this cultural
2 activity and
3 traditional food source for so long that only older
4 folks even remember doing it. Let's get this passed
5 while they are still able to show the younger
6 generations how to do it properly. The very small
7 number of sheep should not impact the population,
8 especially with the Superintendent's ability to shut it
9 down quickly if need be (without going through a
10 years-long proposal process!).

11
12

13 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thank's, Melinda.
14 There's no other Regional -- did Eastern act on this at
15 all. And the Kuskokwim River AC is supportive.
16 Subsistence Resource Commission is supportive of the
17 proposal as written?

18
19

MR. COLLINS: Yes.

20
21

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So we have the
22 summary of written comments. We have no public
23 testimony.

24
25

Trevor.

26
27

MR. FOX: Thank you, Mr. Chair. There
28 are a couple issues before you get into your
29 deliberations that are mentioned in the OSM preliminary
30 conclusion in the affect section, which talked about if
31 the Council wishes to go in the direction of the
32 community hunt, but there are some potential issues
33 with accumulation of harvest limits. Basically if
34 somebody were to take advantage of the existing fall
35 season as the regulations are written, they would be --
36 and they harvested, they would be precluded from taking
37 part in the community hunt.

38
39

Under Federal and State regulations,
40 it's different with the community structure. You can't
41 opt in or out of the Federal community hunts. In the
42 OSM preliminary conclusion, we tried to address that by
43 changing some of the Federal regulations to basically
44 allow for that accumulation, so that's some of the
45 additional language beyond the Unit 19C regulations.
46 Basically saying individual residents of Nikolai may
47 harvest sheep during the August 10th through September
48 20th Federal season and not have that animal count
49 against the community harvest limit. Then there is
50 that stipulation at the end of that portion, individual

1 residents of Nikolai that harvest a sheep under State
2 regulations may not participate in the community
3 harvest because we can't allow for the accumulation
4 between State and Federal harvest limits.

5

6 Thank you.

7

8 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: The Chair will
9 entertain a motion for WP14-31 with modification for
10 OSM as OSM has presented.

11

12 MR. COLLINS: So moved.

13

14 MS. PELKOLA: Second.

15

16 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Moved and seconded
17 by Ray and Jenny. Discussion on the proposal.

18

19 MR. COLLINS: I don't know if at this
20 late point we could increase that to like five sheep,
21 which may -- or a larger number or maybe actually an
22 amendment to parallel the one that the State had there
23 of 1 to 10 and it would be up to the -- allow the
24 discretion of the Superintendent of the Park to
25 determine the number in a given year based on what was
26 available. But it may be a little late to amend it at
27 this time.

28

29 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yeah, this is real
30 late in the game to do that. Plus this is only for the
31 19C Park and Preserve area, which you wouldn't want to
32 kill all five sheep in one place, in that little teeny
33 spot.

34

35 MR. COLLINS: Yeah, that could be true.

36

37 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So I'm comfortable
38 with the three sheep community limit right now to get
39 it on the books. We don't want to start changing
40 things at the Federal Board level and then the State
41 gets cross-threaded, so I wouldn't want to go there.
42 And so we have the modification for the proposal with
43 OSM language.

44

45 Trevor.

46

47 MR. FOX: Yes. Thank you, Mr. Chair.
48 As far as what the quota would be, that would be at the
49 discretion of the Council. Just to let you know, the
50 OSM preliminary conclusion basically took out the three

1 quota and said that the quota would be set by Denali
2 National Park and Preserve Superintendent each year.

3

4 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: In consultation with
5 the chair of the Subsistence Resource Commission?

6

7 MR. FOX: That could be an additional
8 modification.

9

10 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I would prefer to
11 see that inserted into the modification language that
12 the quota is set, as in most of these moose hunts, in
13 consultation with the chair of the Regional Council and
14 the SRC. That's what happens on like the 21E moose
15 hunt and the advisory committees. Go ahead, Trevor.

16

17 MR. FOX: Thank you, Mr. Chair. In
18 Appendix 1 we have a delegation of authority letter
19 that sets out basically the whole process for
20 determining those quotas.

21

22 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Oh, okay.

23

24 MR. FOX: We can make sure that that's
25 in there, but if you want to make sure that the SRCs
26 are addressed, then you could add that to your
27 modification.

28

29 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Where is that again?

30

31 MS. PELKOLA: On Page 48.

32

33 MR. COLLINS: Mr. Chair. There is a
34 Denali Park SRC Council and I'm wondering if it
35 wouldn't be deferred to them because they're the one
36 that look at the management of the resources with the
37 Park.

38

39 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: It says you will
40 notify the Office of Subsistence Management and the
41 Denali Subsistence Resource
42 Committee -- it's Commission, change that -- regarding
43 your quota. So I would prefer that this delegation of
44 authority for the Superintendent of the Gates of the
45 Arctic National Park that you will consult under 4,
46 guideline for delegation, that you will consult with
47 the Denali Subsistence Resource Commission chair and
48 possibly the Regional Advisory Council chair. That's
49 the normal process that is being used in delegation of
50 authority for like Unit 21E in other moose hunts, like

1 the Koyukuk Controlled Use Area moose hunt.

2

3 So I would like under Appendix 1(4) to
4 include the SRC chair consultation and -- because the
5 Park Service might say, well, we think we're going to
6 set a one-sheep limit or we're not going to open the
7 hunt, so the chairs should be able to advocate for the
8 resource users, the subsistence users, with certain
9 positions. So I feel that that's a very important part
10 of this proposal, is this delegation of authority and
11 this consultation process.

12

13 So the Chair would entertain an
14 amendment to the main motion to include delegation of
15 authority Appendix 1(4) to include consultation with
16 the SRC chair and RAC chair.

17

18 MS. INGLES: Okay. Mr. Chair, I can
19 work with Trevor on that and whoever else I need to at
20 OSM to add that in.

21

22 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I'm getting a motion
23 on the table to do that. Do I have a motion to amend
24 the main motion.

25

26 MR. GERVAIS: So moved.

27

28 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So moved by Tim. Do
29 we have a second.

30

31 MR. COLLINS: I'll second.

32

33 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So we vote on this
34 amendment. Those in favor of that amendment to include
35 the SRC chair and RAC chair to the consultation process
36 signify by saying aye.

37

38 IN UNISON: Aye.

39

40 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So we're on the main
41 motion to adopt the OSM modified proposal. Any further
42 comments on 14-31.

43

44 MR. COLLINS: Could I clarify that the
45 actual motion itself now no longer has the three in
46 there, but it says to be set by the Superintendent of
47 the Park after consultation. Is that the way it's.....

48

49 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Delegation of
50 authority, the Superintendent of the Denali National

1 Park.

2

3 MR. COLLINS: Yeah. Okay. That's
4 good.

5

6 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Is that clear to the
7 Council. Any further discussion. Robert.

8

9 MR. R. WALKER: I have a question. It
10 says for potlatch use only. How many potlatches a year
11 are we going to have, 10, 20 a year?

12

13 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: What page were you
14 on there, Robert?

15

16 MR. COLLINS: Those are the occasions
17 when they're usually shared with the community. The
18 purpose for hunting is to be able to share traditional
19 sheep meat with the community and it takes place at a
20 winter potlatch. If they took it later in the season,
21 I guess it would be a funeral potlatch or some memorial
22 potlatch. Whatever is taken under this quota would be
23 shared with the community.

24

25 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Clear on that? So
26 any further discussion.

27

28 (No comments)

29

30 MS. PELKOLA: Question.

31

32 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Jenny called the
33 question. Those in favor of Proposal WP14-31 as
34 modified by the Council to include the SRC consultation
35 chair and the RAC chair and the modified language of
36 OSM eliminating the set quota of three with a
37 delegation of authority. Those in favor of the
38 proposal as modified signify by saying aye.

39

40 IN UNISON: Aye.

41

42 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Opposed same sign.

43

44 (No opposing votes)

45

46 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: WP14-31 is adopted
47 as modified. Melinda.

48

49 MS. BURKE: Mr. Chair. I think it
50 would be good if we went ahead and broke for lunch.

1 Just to let everybody know, Cynthia and Charles from
2 KNA -- there's a menu that I've got a couple copies on
3 the back table. We're invited to participate in all of
4 the meals that they're having and folks are starting to
5 arrive for the conference this morning. There is a
6 lunch at the high school from 12:00 to 1:00 today and I
7 was thinking this might be a good time to break. We
8 can get the Council members over to the store to take
9 care of per diem check cashing. They're going to go
10 ahead and take care of that for you folks and then get
11 folks started to shuttle to lunch and try to get back
12 by 1:15, 1:30.

13
14 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Sounds good,
15 Melinda. We'll recess until 1:15, 1:30 for lunch.
16 Thanks for the conference participants.

17
18 MS. INGLES: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

19
20 (Off record)

21
22 (On record)

23
24 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Bringing the meeting
25 back to order. We're going to have the Koyukuk/Nowitna
26 staff give their presentation because they have to
27 return back to Galena. So put them in out of agenda
28 cycle. The first one up will be -- they have a
29 PowerPoint presentation on screen here. Who is
30 speaking first? Jeremy?

31
32 MR. HAVENER: Yes. Thank you, Mr.
33 Chair and Council members. My name is Jeremy Havener.
34 I'm the subsistence coordinator for Koyukuk/Nowitna
35 National Wildlife Refuge. I just want to give a quick
36 update before Brad goes into his moose survey results.

37
38 In front of you, I've given you a
39 handout. We'll just kind of go through that real
40 quick. The first thing on here is the Galena flood. I
41 think we talked about it a little bit at our last
42 meeting. I'm sure everybody knows about it. We
43 experienced one of the worst floods in Galena history
44 according to many of the elders. We're recovering. As
45 of about a month ago we just moved into our office, so
46 now things are up and running and we're moving along
47 pretty good there.

48
49 During the flood we ha eight living
50 quarters that were damaged and a garage and our office

1 were all damaged. It had damage ranging anywhere from
2 the floor insulation getting wet to having four feet of
3 water in the building. All those are recovered and
4 everybody is living in the houses right now, so things
5 are good there.

6
7 Onto environmental education and
8 outreach. We at Koyukuk/Nowitna have just come up with
9 a Facebook page and I'm sure some of you have seen it.
10 I know Jack is on it. We're pretty excited about that.
11 It's a good tool for our outreach. I encourage anybody
12 if they're on Facebook to look us up and check out what
13 we're doing.

14
15 Migratory bird calendar. We just
16 completed that and currently right now for 2014 you can
17 pick up the new migratory bird calendar and the topic
18 is healthy birds for healthy people. Some of you might
19 have seen that around.

20
21 Hunter education. Currently at the
22 Refuge there's two certified hunter's education
23 instructors and I'm one of those. We are looking for
24 people that are interested in completing hunter's
25 education. If anybody knows of anybody that would like
26 us to come and put a class on, we'd be more than happy
27 to try to get down there and make that happen.

28
29 Galena Science Fair. We held that this
30 -- it was last year during the spring. Fish and
31 Wildlife Service employees worked with the Galena
32 school and the students there and helped them put on a
33 science fair project where they completed experiments
34 and we worked with them on the scientific method and
35 then worked them through their experiments and their
36 demonstrations to the public. So that was a really
37 interesting project and we'll be doing that again this
38 spring.

39
40 Science camp. We were lucky to get
41 that done with budget cuts and the flood of Galena, of
42 course. We did that in September. Karin Bodoni, she's
43 our outreach specialist, went to the school and was
44 assisted by an author named Clare Walker Leslie and
45 they created a nature activity book called Connecting
46 With Nature, which was used in the science camp. They
47 worked with the kids and it turned out to be a good
48 program, so we're happy for that.

49
50 On the fire. For the summer of 2013 we

1 had the following fire activity. On the Koyukuk Refuge
2 we had two wildfires totaling 466 acres. On the
3 Nowitna we had four wildfires totaling 30,000 acres and
4 one of those we had to send people out to protect
5 cabins and structures along the Nowitna River. On the
6 North Innoko we had one wildfire totaling 21 acres.

7

8 On to biology. An interesting project
9 we've got going on this summer and we've been kind of
10 doing it for the last two summers, our fisheries
11 biologist Frank Harris worked with OSM and got some
12 funding to do a radiotelemetry project and we're going
13 to be looking at abundance and distribution of chum
14 salmon within the Koyukuk River drainage.

15

16 This project with the funding, we're
17 going to be tagging 1,000 chum salmon and I think
18 radiocollaring around 220. With that, the objectives
19 of this project are going to be to get a proportional
20 distribution of chum salmon within the Koyukuk River.
21 We'll use the radiotelemetry to detect ultimate
22 spawning destinations upstream in the tagging
23 locations. Describe migration rates and run timing in
24 the Koyukuk River. We will identify and document
25 previously unknown chum salmon spawning locations. For
26 the fifth objective, we'll estimate the abundance of
27 chum salmon entering the Koyukuk River.

28

29 So that's a big project that will be
30 going on this summer. I think Fish and Wildlife
31 Service with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game are
32 going to put out a release for the villages upriver on
33 the Koyukuk River. It's a description on what to do if
34 you find any fish that are tagged or have radio
35 transmitters on them. I m not sure when they're going
36 to put that out, but I'll make sure to try to send that
37 to the villages.

38

39 For subsistence, I put together some
40 charts. We'll kind of go through each hunt here. For
41 the Federal subsistence moose hunt FM2406, which is the
42 hunt in GMU 24C and D on the Koyukuk Refuge. We held
43 that April 10th through the 15th of 2013. It turned
44 out to be a good hunt. To make some conservative
45 measures, we held the hunt in April as opposed to March
46 1 through 5, so that way we could ensure bulls only
47 were taken. For that hunt we issued 10 permits and
48 four bull moose were harvested.

49

50 For 2013 in our trend count areas we

1 were seeing a downward trend north of Huslia in the
2 Treat Island and Huslia area. Refuge biologists
3 recommend a conservative harvest strategy for all GMUs
4 under consideration and do not support cow or bull
5 harvest for any areas under consideration. GMU 24D saw
6 a somewhat significant drop in adult moose numbers. It
7 was down 27 percent from the long-term average, which
8 raises concerns and warrants a conservative approach
9 for winter harvest of cows.

10

11 In addition, with bull/cow ratios
12 falling below the management target of 30 bulls to 100
13 cows, it also recommends to forego any additional bull
14 harvest. Due to this decrease in adult moose and the
15 bull/cow ratios, there will not be a Federal March 1-5
16 or April 10-15 moose hunt in GMUs 24C and D within the
17 Koyukuk Refuge.

18

19 For a Federal subsistence moose hunt
20 FM2106, which is relatively a new hunt, and this hunt
21 came about because of the flood in Galena and the
22 subsistence users got a hold of OSM and let them know
23 that they were having a hard time getting out during
24 the regular season and wanted some additional harvest
25 opportunities. This hunt was opened in GMU 21D, which
26 is around Galena, from September 27 through October
27 2nd. There were a total of 11 permits issues, which
28 all of them were from Galena, and two bull moose were
29 harvested.

30

31 Then Federal subsistence moose hunt
32 FM2101, which is on the Nowitna River, and this hunt
33 goes from September 26 through October 1st. We had 10
34 hunters check in this year. Three were from Galena,
35 one was from Ruby, six were from Tanana and five bull
36 moose were harvested, which, through the history of
37 this hunt which started in 2007, was the highest number
38 of moose we've had harvested. You can see that on the
39 chart over here in Figure 4.

40

41 At the check station, we held it from
42 August 28 through October 1st at the Nowitna River. We
43 had a total of 106 hunters check in and we had 31 moose
44 harvested. I have a chart for that. It's attached to
45 the very back. It takes up the whole page. You can
46 see our numbers from 1988 through 2013 and it gives
47 hunters registered and the number of moose harvested.

48

49 At the Koyukuk Refuge check station for
50 2013, I got this information from Glen Stout, there

1 were 608 registered hunters that registered at the
2 Koyukuk check station out of Huslia and Hughes. 431 of
3 those were from the Koyukuk check station, 151 were in
4 Huslia and 26 were out of Hughes. Out of these hunters
5 that registered, a total of 261 moose were harvested
6 within the Koyukuk Controlled Use Area.

7
8 To wrap it up, staff. We currently do
9 not have a law enforcement officer, but we do plan on
10 detailing law enforcement officers out, especially
11 during fisheries season. Otherwise we're fully
12 staffed. We do have a new addition to our staff. It
13 is our pilot Ed Mallek and he's actually here, if he
14 could stand up and wave. He just came to us from
15 Migratory Birds, so we're excited to have him on board.

16
17 Other than that, that concludes my
18 presentation and I'm open for questions.

19
20 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Thanks,
21 Jeremy. Questions from the Council. Tim.

22
23 MR. GERVAIS: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

24
25 Thanks for your presentation, Jeremy.

26
27 MR. HAVENER: Yeah.

28
29 MR. GERVAIS: What's the approximate
30 cost to do a salmon telemetry study like the one you're
31 proposing.

32
33 MR. HAVENER: I believe we put in for a
34 grant, and Kenton might be able to correct me, but I
35 believe it was for \$150,000.

36
37 MR. MOOS: Over a couple years.

38
39 MR. HAVENER: Yeah, over a couple years
40 \$150,000.

41
42 MR. GERVAIS: Thank you.

43
44 MR. HAVENER: Yep.

45
46 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I had a question on
47 that salmon. For Pollock, how late are chums going by
48 Allakaket? I know there's chums going up the South
49 Fork way into late August and September. How late did
50 they go up there, Pollock?

1 MR. SIMON: This year was warmer, so I
2 don t know.

3
4 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: If you average time,
5 are chums going up the South Fork way through late
6 August and way into September, there's still fish going
7 up there?

8
9 MR. SIMON: Yeah, I believe some were
10 going up, but that was in August, late August and early
11 September.

12
13 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I wanted the staff
14 to be aware that there are like the main summer run,
15 but then there's some later runs that go into the
16 Alatna, the South Fork of the Koyukuk below the Jim
17 River drainage, so your timeframe might not actually
18 capture when some of those -- there's quite a few
19 salmon that go up the Malamute fork of the Alatna, the
20 Malamute fork of the John River, Helpmejack drainage of
21 the Alatna River and the South Fork drainage and those
22 are late runs. They're there in September, so you
23 might not be capturing all the chum salmon.

24
25 MR. HAVENER: Okay. I believe, Mr.
26 Chair, that we'll be out tagging and I think I've got
27 some methods in here that it's going to be for most of
28 the month of July and I think maybe some of June too.

29
30 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yeah. That was
31 June, Koyukuk will be using small mesh gear through --
32 in the Koyukuk in June 2014. What I'm stating is I
33 think that there are possibly considerable amounts of
34 fish that would continue way into -- I get fish -- I'm
35 sampling in the Upper Koyukuk. I'm getting fish way
36 into the middle of August of chums. They've gone
37 through there in July in your part of the river.

38
39 Any other comments from the Council,
40 questions.

41
42 (No comments)

43
44 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I wanted the Council
45 to be aware that we've had this Unit 24C and D winter
46 moose hunt. When Kenton got a hold of me and I went
47 through the biological data, I was -- the increase in
48 the number of hunters in the fall hunt on the Koyukuk
49 check station shows 608 and it seemed like when Glen
50 reported that was an increase of like 140 or some -- it

1 was a significant additional number of hunters that had
2 gone through the check station. The harvest had also
3 increased in the fall considerably. We were told that
4 a lot of people had taken a lot of moose in the fall
5 time up out of Huslia and Hughes.

6
7 My main concern of why I'm not -- this
8 year not real excited about the winter hunt is the
9 bull/cow ratio has dropped below the 30 bull per 100
10 cow objective and especially around the Three Day
11 Slough area. It's gone way down. So I'm not real
12 super excited about that. We have to maintain the
13 biology of that moose population.

14
15 I don't think that the local hunters
16 are the problem. I think that we have an increasing
17 number of non-local hunters going down there and since
18 the Board of Game has eliminated some cow hunts in 20A,
19 that might actually push more hunters towards the
20 Koyukuk. You know, if you squeeze the balloon here,
21 it's going to go somewhere else.

22
23 We may have to in the future actually
24 address this increasing number of hunters coming into
25 the -- we have the antler destruction, which is to slow
26 down the -- if you kill a moose on the subsistence
27 permit, cutting the antler disincentivizes harvesting
28 on subsistence, but there's guys from Fairbanks who go
29 down there and shoot a moose and take pictures of the
30 big moose and then whack off the antler and that's good
31 enough. They want the meat anyway.

32
33 If we keep increasing another 100
34 hunters on top of the 140 increase, this could get to
35 be a problem. If this bull/cow ratio starts going over
36 a cliff, the Council may have to start addressing some
37 additional restrictions somehow and we've been told by
38 the solicitor at the Federal Board level that they can
39 modulate non-subsistence uses. So the Council has to
40 be aware of these things. I want this all to be on the
41 record.

42
43 At this time, this particular season,
44 with high harvest of local people for subsistence at
45 Huslia, I don't think we can support an additional bull
46 moose harvest around Huslia. There are caribou up by
47 Hughes, but from what I hear not that many right now.

48
49 So any other comments from the -- oh,
50 one of the other questions I had was the special action

1 request. There was 11 permits issued for the Galena
2 21D hunt, 27th of September to the 2nd, and two bulls
3 were harvested. Then there was a State hunt. Wasn't
4 there a total of like 12 moose harvested on the State
5 and Federal hunts emergency order?

6

7 MR. HAVENER: Mr. Chair. I don't have
8 those numbers from Glen. I know we talked about it at
9 the last RAC meeting.

10

11 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: In our fall meeting
12 we were told, since we didn't have full Council, that
13 there was not only the two moose harvested under the
14 Federal hunt, but there was an additional like 10 moose
15 harvested under the State simultaneous hunt. I want
16 the Council to be aware that there were moose actually
17 taken on that hunt also.

18

19 So that's all my comments. Any other
20 comments from the Council. Tim.

21

22 MR. GERVAIS: Jeremy, I was wondering
23 does the Refuge mind or does it like cause money
24 problems having that check station remain open for that
25 2101 Federal hunt?

26

27 MR. HAVENER: Yeah, Tim, for us to
28 remain open it's usually not a problem for the extended
29 hunt up the Nowitna you're talking about. Yeah, no,
30 it's not a problem for us to stay open. Sometimes in
31 the past there's been some weather issues, but lately
32 here the last couple years it's been not too bad and
33 we've had no problem holding it open until October.

34

35 MR. GERVAIS: Thank you.

36

37 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Any other discussion
38 on Jeremy's portion.

39

40 Go ahead, Robert.

41

42 MR. R. WALKER: Thank you, Mr.
43 Chairman. Jeremy, as you probably know, the Refuge in
44 McGrath is going to be moving to Galena in the near
45 future here. We're just kind of like wondering in the
46 southern part of Region 6 here are you going to be able
47 to come down and have these harvest tickets -- whatever
48 done for the winter hunt? Is this going to be
49 possible? How is this going to work here with all this
50 -- I mean is there any plans here that you know of

1 that's going to go on? I'm just taking a shot in the
2 dark here for you. If you could like give us an idea
3 of what's going to happen in the near future.

4
5 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Robert, I intended
6 to have a Refuge manager Kenton Moos come up to address
7 this particular issue separate from these other
8 presentations. So we're going to delve into this
9 McGrath Field Office closure issue more deeply. So I
10 appreciate you bringing that up.

11
12 MR. R. WALKER: Okay. That was my
13 question. That's fine. You can do that.

14
15 MR. HAVENER: Thank you, Robert.

16
17 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: We'll finish off the
18 PowerPoint presentation, then we'll bring Kenton up and
19 talk about McGrath. So any other questions for Jeremy.

20
21 (No comments)

22
23 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Brad, do you want to
24 come up.

25
26 MR. HAVENER: Thank you very much.

27
28 MR. SCOTTON: Members of the Council,
29 Mr. Chairman. For the record, my name is Brad Scotton.
30 I'm the supervisor wildlife biologist at
31 Koyukuk/Nowitna National Wildlife Refuge. Jeremy kind
32 of covered the bad news for the most part. I, in the
33 past, have done full biological presentation and I can
34 really detail these things as little or as in as much
35 detail as you want. My primary intent with putting
36 this presentation together was just to provide the
37 biological justification for the closure of that winter
38 hunt in 24D and C this year. It's continuously been
39 open for 10 years. This is the first time I've
40 recommended closure based on the data.

41
42 I'll run through the basics of the
43 moose. There's some good news too in some other places
44 and then there's some of that bad news, but you've kind
45 of already processed and digested and gone along with
46 that decision. So if there's questions, I'm happy to
47 answer them. I have the data.

48
49 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I would like you to
50 present those bull/cow ratio data for the Koyukuk so

1 this Council.....

2

3 MR. SCOTTON: Okay.

4

5 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: And do you have the
6 number of hunters that were increased over previous
7 years at the Koyukuk check station? Do you have that
8 kind of data?

9

10 MR. SCOTTON: Glen really is the
11 primary holder of the harvest data for the Koyukuk and
12 you're exactly right in terms of the numbers on the
13 Koyukuk. It was up over 100 hunters this year and the
14 harvest was up about 30 bulls over long-term average.
15 I'll address that a little bit when we get into the
16 bull/cow ratios and stuff.

17

18 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: All right.

19

20 MR. SCOTTON: Melinda is going to do
21 button pushing for me. Just real briefly for those of
22 you that are familiar with my presentations, Galena is
23 sort of dead center, middle bottom of that map. The
24 downriver end is Kaltag and then all the way upriver,
25 the big, red patch upriver on the Koyukuk is near
26 Huslia. Those are the trend areas. Then the Nowitna
27 is off to the right. Those are the trend area units
28 that we fly moose surveys every year, year in and year
29 out. That's the minimum we do. It's over 1,000 square
30 miles. We essentially try to count all the moose in
31 there. That's where we get our ratio data that helps
32 us understand what's going on with predator activity
33 and survival of calves till fall, recruitment of
34 yearling bulls into the adult population and gives us
35 those basic management data. It's a count of moose,
36 but it's the ratio data that we're really after.

37

38 Next slide. I'll start at the Nowitna,
39 which is not good or bad news. It's just kind of a
40 continuation of the same. The overall bull/cow ratio
41 is about 25 bulls per 100 cows on the Nowitna, which is
42 real stable. That's what it's been long term. The
43 management objective there I believe is 20. It's not
44 30. So it's within the management objective. We had
45 calf/cow ratios this year that were only 16/100, which
46 is not great. Yearling bull recruitment 7/100, kind of
47 average, low average.

48

49 Generally speaking, what I look at on
50 this graph is the pink line on the top graph is the

1 adult cow numbers in those trend areas and it's been --
2 you know, you see it vary from year to year up and down
3 with the weather and sightability, but it's long term
4 pretty stable. Maybe a little dip here at the end, kind
5 of got to watch it, but no real biological concerns
6 with that population on the Nowitna.

7
8 Go to the next slide. That's the
9 summary, which I just went through. Medium of bull
10 numbers may be down a little bit, but still a ratio of
11 25/100. Last winter it was kind of deep snow. It
12 affected recruitment a little bit. Just what I
13 basically said. The population is stable at that
14 moderate to low density. No big concerns, but we are
15 going to continue to survey that every year no matter
16 what and make sure that we know what we've got there
17 for those hunts.

18
19 The next slide. That's the hunter
20 check station data that I think is in your packet that
21 Jeremy gave you, so that's the number of hunters on the
22 top all the way back into the '80s and the number of
23 harvested moose on the bottom. So pretty long-term
24 stability. Maybe a little bit of a very gently
25 declining trend overall, but that's what we've got for
26 harvest on the Nowitna.

27
28 Next slide. So here's some of the good
29 news. Again, these graphs don't show up great at this
30 distance, but this is the Kaiyuh Slough trend area.
31 It's only one trend area, but it's from the water down
32 to Kaltag on the main stem of the Yukon there. This
33 graph goes back to 2002. If you look at the top graph,
34 the pink line and the overall top line in the blue,
35 you're seeing an increasing trend in the number of
36 moose counted in that trend unit long term.

37
38 I believe this is real. We've got
39 bull/cow ratio close to 50 bulls for every 100 cows,
40 which is fantastic. We've got really good calf numbers
41 here compared to anywhere else on our refuge complex.
42 We had 48 calves per 100 cows this year and last year
43 it was in the 40's as well, which is fantastic. It's
44 better than everywhere else. I can't explain exactly
45 why, but the data are telling us that the ratio data
46 are corroborating the overall numbers data, suggesting
47 an increase in the population. That's good news on the
48 Kaiyuh.

49
50 Next slide. Is more good news. This

1 is Galena on the right
2 in the map, Koyukuk downriver a ways and then up the
3 Koyukuk River, so there's three trend areas right there
4 at the mouth of the Koyukuk where it hits the Yukon.
5 This area is showing the same trend in the left-hand
6 graph at the bottom. The pink line is adult cows.
7 You're seeing a gently increasing trend. In the last
8 few years, it's been pretty consistently up. We see
9 better calf/cow ratios in this area than most places
10 and we see yearling recruitment. It was nine yearling
11 bulls per 100 cows. Sometimes it's in the double
12 digits. That's really good. We think this population
13 is probably increasing a little bit.

14
15 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Explain that yearling bull
16 to the cows so that actually when you take the yearling
17 bull number, you multiply that times two and that means
18 that your moose are increasing by 18 yearlings, cows
19 and bulls, or more cows because some of the yearlings
20 may be shot.

21
22 MR. SCOTTON: Yeah. What I try to
23 explain to people when we talk about recruitment --
24 when I say recruitment, it's just a biological term for
25 recruitment into the adult population of moose. So
26 they're a little over a year old, they've survived
27 their first winter as a calf, they're going into their
28 second winter. We can count yearling bulls by spiked
29 fork antlers or real small, little tiny bulls. They're
30 essentially a surrogate for yearling cows. If there's
31 nine yearling bulls, there's at least nine yearling
32 cows that are also being recruited into that adult
33 population and breeding population at least because
34 some of those yearling bulls, as we know, get shot.

35
36 So if we saw 10 yearling bulls per 100,
37 there's probably, you know, 12, 13 yearling females per
38 100. Just think of that in terms of what they'll
39 replace. So if you had 10 percent mortality of adult
40 cows, you lost 10 out of every 100 and if you've got
41 10, 11 or 12 yearling cows coming in at the bottom end
42 to replace those old, dying cohorts, then you've got a
43 stable or increasing population.

44
45 What we saw and you'll see later is
46 around Huslia and Three Day Slough we've been seeing
47 yearling bull/cow ratios of 5/100 and 4/100, which is
48 really poor recruitment. They're not getting past that
49 first winter and the next winter into the adult
50 population. If you hunt them at the same level, then

1 you see the bull/cow ratio go down and if you have
2 normal adult cow mortality, which is 5-8 percent a
3 year, and you're not recruiting enough cows, you'll see
4 a declining trend in the overall number and we're going
5 to see some of that when we get here to the not so good
6 news.

7

8 Next slide, Melinda. So Three Day
9 Slough and Dulbi River mouth. So this is middle of the
10 Koyukuk Refuge, north of Galena. The trend line on the
11 left, adult cows across the center, it kind of raised
12 up there in mid to late 2000s and then it's dropped
13 down kind of precipitously in 2012 and then bounced
14 back up a little bit in '13.

15

16 There's our concern. The numbers of
17 adults have declined, the ratios have been poor, 5
18 yearling bulls per 100, only 15 calves per 100. Those
19 typically are not enough to support stability or
20 growth, so it corroborates the lower adult numbers.
21 The bull/cow ratio 24/100 is below the management
22 objective of 30. I think that's essentially because we
23 haven't had the recruitment of the young calves
24 surviving and we've had the same level of hunting,
25 maybe even a little more hunting. So we're cropping
26 off the bulls and we don't have enough replacing them.

27

28 The graph I keep not talking about on
29 the right there that shows a lot more fluctuation, the
30 pink line is the calf/cow ratio for each one of those
31 years. So some years you see it above 35 and then you
32 see this periodic really low years, those spikes down.
33 Those are just terrible recruitment years. 2009 was
34 terrible calf/cow ratios. It was like 12/100. And
35 2012 and 2013 were both real low, so we've got two
36 years in a row real low recruitment. That's what
37 happened also in the late '90s when we had some
38 population decline. So hence our concern at the
39 population level on the northern part of the Koyukuk
40 Refuge.

41

42 So the next slide is the zoom down the
43 graph, so that's just showing the overall density. So
44 instead of raw numbers it's the density of moose
45 plotted. You kind of saw a long-term stability, a bit
46 of a climb and then 2012 and 2013, the actual density,
47 the moose per square mile, is also declining. Again,
48 there's our concern.

49

50 The next one should be the Huslia

1 Flats, Treat Island. Focus on the left-hand graph
2 there on the bottom. 2012 and 2013 are the first two
3 years since 2002 that we can't say that cow population
4 is stable. Last year we had real low snow, poor
5 conditions in 2012 and the number dropped way off on
6 adult cows. Down by a couple hundred, like 35 percent
7 drop in one year. We didn't freak out because the
8 conditions were poor, but we were concerned and we also
9 had low calf/cow ratios and low yearling/bull ratios.

10

11 This year we had excellent snow
12 conditions. We went back and again the numbers are
13 down. They're not down as much. We had good
14 sightability, so we're real confident in the numbers,
15 but it's down. I think Jeremy said 27 percent or 24
16 percent, depends on how you count the figures. It's
17 for the first time down. That's essentially the
18 justification. The lower adult numbers and the lower
19 calf/cow ratios and yearling bull/cow ratios, we're
20 just not getting the recruitment. This isn't just a
21 postage stamp little area we're counting. We're
22 counting a couple thousand moose up there and it's
23 biologically significant to the population. So that's
24 the bad news from the Huslia area and the northern
25 parts of the Refuge.

26

27 Next slide. Again, that's the plot of
28 the long-term trend in density. So we were stable at 3
29 cows per square mile for a long time and now we're down
30 all the way, you know, into the 2 cows per square mile.
31 A significant decline in density. We're going to keep
32 a real close eye on that the next few years.

33

34 This is just the data. When you add it
35 all together the thousand square miles we survey, you
36 still actually end up with more or less a stable
37 overall population because, as I said, it's probably
38 increasing around Kaltag and Nulato and Galena and it's
39 decreasing around Huslia and the northern area, so it
40 balances out.

41

42 When you separate the two areas, we
43 have two separate trends and that's the first time
44 since I've been in Galena that I can say that. How to
45 explain it, I don't know because the weather patterns
46 are similar. The predator numbers similar. You know,
47 there's nothing real obvious, but the ratio data and
48 the survey data I don't think lie, so we're having to
49 follow what the signs are telling us.

50

1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I know those boys around
2 Galena and Kaltag are shooting the tar out of those
3 brown bears in the springtime, those big brown bears
4 that hunt moose calves and that's probably of
5 significance.

6
7 MR. SCOTTON: Yeah. Bear densities are
8 one of those things that's really difficult and
9 expensive to measure and that may be one of the
10 factors. Even black bear densities overall may be
11 lower on the Kaiyuh than they are in Three Day Slough
12 and the Dulbi River Flats. Certainly all bears are the
13 biggest predator of calves for their first 60 days and
14 then after 60 days wolves are the primary predator for
15 the first couple years of their lives.

16
17 MR. COLLINS: There's no change in the
18 browse availability or difference between the two
19 areas?

20
21 MR. SCOTTON: Not that we can tell.
22 The habitat surveys we've done -- we do another survey,
23 a twinning survey, and we'll have the results up here.
24 When we do spring twinning surveys, it tells you a fair
25 amount about the pregnancy rates and the twinning rates
26 of those cows. Generally speaking, the fatter, the
27 healthier the cows are, the more twins they have. We
28 do see a difference, northern to southern. So the
29 habitat conditions on the northern part of the Refuge
30 where there's higher densities of moose tend to be
31 lower. We see lower twinning rates, in the 30 percent
32 range average.

33
34 South of Galena we've consistently seen
35 38 to 42 percent for 10 years. So we've got probably
36 little better habitat conditions in the low density
37 populations and a little worse. But still, when you
38 see 30 percent twinning, nobody gets alarmed. That's
39 still pretty good twinning rate. You get to places
40 like Yukon Flats with real low densities of moose,
41 really excellent habitat, you see 50-60 percent
42 twinning. The Innoko tends to see pretty high twinning
43 rates because the moose are at low densities and
44 there's lots of feed and they can go lots of places.

45
46 It's one way we look at habitat
47 quality. I'm not concerned about the quality of
48 habitat in Three Day Slough or around Huslia. I think
49 it's adequate. It's probably primarily predation and
50 weather that's affecting the recruitment of the calves

1 and the yearlings. Habitat does play a role, but I
2 don't think it's the dominant role at this point.

3

4 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: And deep snow, they
5 overbrowse heavily and it stresses the cows and then
6 they don't nurse the calf as well and the calf is
7 weaker for a longer period of time, the bears catch
8 them at a higher rate.

9

10 MR. SCOTTON: We have noticed a trend
11 of winter severity affecting. So if we have a deep
12 snow winter in '11-'12, like we kind of did, 2011 and
13 2012, then the fall of 2012 we tend to see lower
14 calf/cow ratios and I think that's exactly for the
15 reasons Jack said. The cow is stressed coming out of
16 the winter. She has a calf. She might have even had
17 twins. She just doesn't have as much to give. She
18 doesn't have the nutritional reserves to nurse it all
19 summer. She may not have the energy to fight off that
20 bear in the spring.

21

22 As a result, ends up as a lower
23 calf/cow ratio in November from the winter before. You
24 have to think about that. Having been around moose and
25 studied them, I really think those are behavioral and
26 energetic issues that affect our calf recruitment. Deep
27 snow winters do have an effect.

28

29 There's a direct effect in a deep snow
30 winter if the snow gets too deep, it's real easy for
31 the wolves to catch them and eat them, but there's also
32 this effect on that unborn calf that it's not going to
33 get taken care of as well the next summer.

34

35 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: The positive thing
36 for the Koyukuk is we had hardly any snow there last
37 winter and then this year was real easy on snow again.
38 So I think the Koyukuk -- we're going to probably see
39 an uptake in calf production next year and hopefully
40 things will start to turn around a little bit so it's
41 not all bleak up there.

42

43 MR. SCOTTON: Yeah. And the other
44 thing I didn't actually mention, it's on one of those
45 slides, is there was a great deal of concern around
46 Galena that the actual flood event, it occurred at the
47 peak of calving. It started on the 27th of May. We
48 were flying twinning surveys when we saw the ice jam
49 form and it made a lake, a massive lake, and people
50 were really concerned that they probably drowned or

1 those calves got hypothermic in a lot of cases. Our
2 survey data -- I'm sure we lost a few, but our survey
3 data in the areas that got flooded had normal calf/cow
4 ratios. So it's just another testament to the
5 resiliency of these animals. They find a way to
6 survive even at some of the more vulnerable times a
7 year. The Pilot Mountain area was completely under
8 water and there's a lot of calves born in there, but
9 the calf/cow ratio on Pilot Mountain was over 20/100,
10 so it was good.
11 So kind of allayed some of those concerns.

12
13 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Any other questions
14 for Brad. Jim.

15
16 MR. J. WALKER: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
17 I've got a question. I don't know if you do any of
18 this data, but on the number of hunters that use this
19 area, do you have any location of where they really
20 come out of?

21
22 MR. SCOTTON: The number of hunters?

23
24 MR. J. WALKER: Yes.

25
26 MR. SCOTTON: Early slides on it. The
27 check station is on the Lower Koyukuk, so when the
28 numbers that I think you've got in your packet from
29 Jeremy, the State runs that check station, so upriver
30 on the Koyukuk that's where you get the 400-some
31 registered moose hunters going upriver on the Koyukuk.
32 The local moose hunter numbers, Galena, Kaltag, Nulato,
33 Glen has the numbers because it's a registration
34 permit.

35
36 I can tell you the average harvest for
37 Galena is about 90 bulls every year. It's pretty easy
38 to get the average harvest for all the villages along
39 there. Then we do get some non-local hunters coming
40 down from Fairbanks, but most of the hunters that come
41 from Fairbanks are actually going up the Koyukuk. They
42 go through the check station.

43
44 So there's not a whole lot of
45 competitive pressure on the Yukon from non-locals. You
46 get some competition between villages. We'll get calls
47 from Nulato that people from Koyukuk are hunting in
48 their areas and people from Galena go downriver and
49 hunt on the mainstem of the Yukon and kind of compete
50 in those areas, but for the most part those are all

1 local rural residents.

2

3 Occasionally somebody from Fairbanks
4 will set up a camp on the Yukon, but the primary reason
5 people come out there, the non-locals, is to go up into
6 the permit areas for the drawing permits and the
7 registration hunt on the Koyukuk River. The harvest is
8 definitely on the access points. You know, it's on the
9 river and on the Koyukuk River. There's a controlled
10 use area on the Koyukuk too, so it's only boat access.
11 You can't use aircraft.

12

13 Does that answer your question?

14

15 MR. J. WALKER: (Nods affirmatively)

16

17 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I would like to know
18 if Glen Stout is still on the call.

19

20 MR. STOUT: Yeah, Mr. Chair, I'm here.

21

22 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I was wondering -- I
23 should have asked you. There was an increase this year
24 to 430 through the check station at Ella's cabin or
25 that Koyukuk check station. What was the increase over
26 the average of the last four or five years? Wasn't it
27 like 140 or 50 additional hunters?

28

29 MR. STOUT: I don't have the average
30 right in front of me, but for 2013 we had 431 at the
31 check station for a total of 608 in the controlled use
32 area. Just like Brad and Jeremy already mentioned,
33 that adds in the Huslia and Hughes data also. For 2012
34 there was 382 hunters at the check station for a total
35 of 72, including Huslia and Hughes. So that was an
36 increase of 36 hunters. There was an increase both in
37 non-local and local. Part of that was a few more
38 people from Nulato this year coming upriver mostly
39 because (indiscernible) than normal.

40

41 As far as that other question about
42 pressure on the Koyukuk, I just looked at that number a
43 few days ago for the Board of Game meeting and 72
44 percent of the harvest for 24D and 21D comes out of the
45 Koyukuk Controlled Use Area, so it's just as exactly
46 what Brad was saying, that a high portion of the
47 harvest does come out of that controlled use area, but
48 of course that's where a lot of the moose are.

49

50 Just to kind of keep people apprised,

1 we are reducing the number of permits for the Koyukuk
2 Controlled Use Area. It went from -- last year we
3 issued 108. We're reducing that to 50 permits next
4 year. We also reduced to 15 the total of -- well, for
5 the Gisasa/Kateel drainage area. We have two
6 reductions in there to address the decline of bull/cow
7 ratio.

8

9 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: What was the
10 previous Gisasa permits?

11

12 MR. STOUT: Thirty.

13

14 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thirty. Okay. That
15 was going to be one of my questions. Thank you.

16

17 Any questions for Glen Stout on the
18 State side.

19

20 Go ahead, Robert.

21

22 MR. R. WALKER: There's a cabin down
23 about 60 miles below Kaltag on the west side of the
24 river there that Iditarod used as a check point. It
25 belongs to some guy there, but it's being used as a
26 transporter station there for moose hunting. Any idea
27 about that, Glen, or anybody else?

28

29 MR. STOUT: Mr. Chair. I think that's
30 probably down there at Eagle Island. That's just
31 outside the 21D. I'm not really too certain how that's
32 being used.

33

34 MR. R. WALKER: That was a question I
35 had because it's been there for about 10 years and the
36 guy that used it used to live up at the Native
37 allotment up above that, but he moved down and he
38 buried his wife there. I was kind of like wondering
39 how is this kind of like giving him the right to have
40 kind of like transporters for moose there in the fall
41 time just because his wife is buried there. That is a
42 question that was brought up to me this last time I was
43 traveling through that area.

44

45 MR. STOUT: Yeah. Mr. Chair. I guess
46 I'm just not sure about the particulars of that. If
47 it's a private allotment, there wouldn't necessarily
48 for deeded land be a restriction on doing that, but I
49 don't know.

50

1 MR. R. WALKER: This would be just like
2 an illegal or squatting place here that should be
3 looked into.

4
5 MR. STOUT: I'll talk to Roger Savoy
6 about that. He'd probably have more information about
7 that.

8
9 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Thanks, Glen.
10 Any other questions for Brad or Glen on the biological
11 aspect of the Galena 21D, 21A and 24D areas.

12
13 (No comments)

14
15 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Seeing none. Thanks
16 so much. Do you have any additional comments, Brad?

17
18 MR. SCOTTON: There's a few more
19 slides. Let me run through them real quick. That's
20 the summary and I already gave that to you verbally, so
21 we'll skip it.

22
23 There's twinning rates and again around
24 40 percent is the pink line for the areas south of
25 Galena. The long blue line is Glen's data, the
26 historical Three Day Slough. So you see how it can
27 vary, Ray. Back at peak densities in the '90s, late
28 '90s, the twinning rate got down below 10 percent and
29 that is an indication, just like they see south of
30 Fairbanks, of a lower nutritional plain for those
31 moose. When you start seeing the twinning rates really
32 drop, that's something to pay attention to as a
33 biologist.

34
35 Next. I have a lot on winter severity
36 here and I'll skip through these, but we've essentially
37 had three kind of severish winters out of the last 12
38 and those do affect moose. I'll keep going. More of
39 the same data. Skip it. That's a population estimate
40 that we try to repeat periodically over that
41 Koyukuk/Kaiyuh area. Given what we're seeing, we're in
42 a tight budgetary situation, we may be scrounging up
43 money and trying to repeat this in the next year or two
44 so we get not just numbers of adult moose, but we get
45 precision estimates around those counts, so we get plus
46 or minus 10 percent or 20 percent, so we can really
47 feel confident knowing what's going on.

48
49 Skip that. More that's just data from
50 the past and these are other population estimates we've

1 done in the past. So skip. I think we've probably
2 covered it. That's the Hog River area, moose research.
3 Some of you have seen this multiple times. We've
4 covered what we need to cover.

5
6 If you don't have anymore questions,
7 I'll just leave it at that.

8
9 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I think that's
10 covered the meat of what the Council wanted to see.
11 Any other questions.

12
13 MR. GERVAIS: I have a question.

14
15 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, Tim.

16
17 MR. GERVAIS: Brad, does the Refuge or
18 the State have any kind of population estimates on bear
19 densities for these areas? I'm wondering -- I don't
20 even know how the Board of Game ruled on it, if they
21 passed that allowing brown bears to be harvested at a
22 bait station. I'm just trying to get a feel for how
23 these bear regulations might change the bear density in
24 the future.

25
26 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Did they change
27 that, Glen, in that area to allow baiting of brown
28 bears at black bear baiting stations?

29
30 MR. STOUT: Yes, Mr. Chair, the Board
31 of Game did adopt the proposal to bait brown bears in
32 all of 21D and 24C and D. All of that area we have
33 opportunity. As far as population estimates, we have
34 estimates but they're based on extrapolation from
35 surveys where other bear surveys have been conducted on
36 similar habitat. It's just like Brad said earlier,
37 it's just really expensive and hard to get their
38 estimates and we just don't have the budget for it.

39
40 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Thanks. Any
41 other questions, Council. Tim.

42
43 MR. GERVAIS: Yeah. So with the
44 Federal budget situation, are you planning on having
45 the Refuge budgets maintained at the same level.....

46
47 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: We'll get to that
48 with Kenton here.

49
50 MR. SCOTTON: I'd love to address that.

1 Personally, yeah, I do plan on keeping the same or even
2 increased levels of funding for the biological program.
3 It is a big picture scenario over the whole state and
4 we have our areas of concern. My job as the local
5 Refuge biologist is to protect the core of what we do
6 so that we can provide relevant information to the
7 decision-makers.

8

9 When it comes to some of the game
10 species and subsistence species, that's our focus. We
11 do also do other surveys on breeding birds and
12 waterfowl. I think we have a responsibility for
13 everything, but our goal is -- and I think Kenton
14 agrees with me -- we protect the main part of our
15 budget to do the biological work. Having said that, we
16 also have a law enforcement program and we also have an
17 education program and we have administration. We have
18 to take care of our airplanes, of course.

19

20 So he can answer the questions about
21 the transition and the changes that may occur on the
22 other Refuge.

23

24 I would like to go back real quickly
25 about the bear question you had because it's important.
26 Whenever I get the chance to have this talk as a
27 biologist, I like to get people to think about what we
28 have learned about bears. While we don't have density
29 estimates specifically for our area, we've got density
30 estimates for McGrath. They did a tremendous amount of
31 bear work, black bear work, particularly around
32 McGrath, and they
33 removed those bears. They did experiments and they saw
34 what it did to the calf recruitment and the calf/cow
35 ratios in the fall just climbed through the roof.

36

37 We know they're the number one predator
38 at whatever density we have on neonatal calf mortality.
39 If you remove enough of them, it will impact the
40 population. The trick is these regulation changes,
41 whether there's ever enough additional harvest to
42 actually functionally decrease the population of bears.

43

44 So around McGrath they used helicopters
45 and darts and slung them out of there. I mean they
46 removed 90 percent of the bears and, yeah, it showed a
47 result. They went to 70-80 calves per 100 cows in the
48 fall, which is fantastic. Lots of recruitment. But
49 there's very few places in the state that I've seen
50 where public hunting pressure has gotten sufficient to

1 reduce bears that much. We've tried it and I think the
2 State continues to try it and it probably helps to some
3 extent.

4

5 Sometimes it's not noticeable in the
6 biological data because our fall calf/cow ratios, one
7 year it's 40/100, the next year it's 45. Is that
8 additional five as a result of increased hunting or
9 predators? Maybe, maybe not. You just can't tease it
10 out and say for sure.

11

12 The thing that's interesting to me
13 about bears is they have elastic behavior. They're
14 kind of a generalist. They're a herbivore and a
15 predator. They can eat berries or eat moose, they can
16 eat roots, they can eat fish. I think individual bears
17 have preferences, but when one food source is short or
18 they're running skinny, they'll adapt and do something
19 else. So I think bears can be really interesting.

20

21 In one year they might have a real
22 significant impact on moose calves. If they come out
23 of the dens skinny -- and I'm just kind of
24 hypothesizing now, but if they come out of the den in
25 poor condition, there's no leftover berries, they might
26 hunt moose a little harder in the spring than if they
27 come out of the den fat and they're in good shape and
28 they can wait until the fish show up or whatever.

29

30 And then behaviorally we know from
31 research projects that individual brown bears that got
32 collared some of them never killed a moose calf. As
33 near as they could tell, they just didn't hunt moose
34 calves and other individual bears killed 20. Those are
35 historical studies.

36

37 MR. GERVAIS: In one year?

38

39 MR. SCOTTON: Yeah. It just really
40 depends. There's only a couple of published studies on
41 it. It's again that individual behavior. People
42 believe and some biologists, I think it's entirely
43 possible, that a sow who is really good at hunting
44 moose calves might teach her cubs and her offspring are
45 more likely to have that behavior, whereas another sow,
46 she might be successful at raising cubs up in the
47 hills, rarely even encounters a moose, and her cubs
48 never hunt moose calves.

49

50 So it's really complicated with bears.

1 I think it's dynamic and it can change from year to
2 year. But the bottom line is at the population level
3 those bears have a significant impact on moose
4 dynamics. The individual bear may or may not have any
5 impact on them. So it's just kind of a way to think
6 about it.

7

8 You know, whereas wolves in the winter
9 they've got one prey source for the most part and it's
10 moose. If you're a wolf and you're alive, you're going
11 to eat moose. So they're the year round number one
12 predator on moose populations.

13

14 MR. GERVAIS: Thank you.

15

16 MR. STOUT: Mr. Chair. This is Glen.

17

18 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, Glen.

19

20 MR. STOUT: Yeah, I just would
21 reiterate everything that Brad just said there. I
22 would just add too as far as the regulation that the
23 Board of Game approved. They specifically identified
24 baiting opportunity as increasing hunter opportunity
25 and it specifically did not have anything to do with
26 predator control. They too recognized, as the
27 Department has, that public bear harvest opportunity
28 has really not had much effect on the population of
29 bears. So I think that just goes right along with what
30 Brad was saying.

31

32 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Since you
33 participated in the Sleetmute bear control, just tell
34 the Council real briefly what occurred down here. I
35 don't know that the Council actually is aware of what
36 the Department did down here this last spring, Glen.

37

38 MR. STOUT: Yeah, we did do that. I
39 had the opportunity to fly as an observer in one of the
40 four planes that were flying and they shot 88 bears I
41 think it was. There was sows with young of the year
42 cubs they did not take and the Department is planning
43 to go back out there again this spring.

44

45 From a personal perspective, when we
46 were up there flying and as an observer in a plane, I
47 would see three or four bears a day and that's real
48 similar to what I see up in the Galena area that same
49 time of year when I'm doing twinning surveys. So I
50 think those densities, just like Brad was saying about

1 McGrath, I think in Sleetmute are probably going to be
2 real comparable. So I think the people up in that
3 Lower Koyukuk area, you know, could probably be pretty
4 confident in some of those bear density estimates are
5 similar to those removal projects.

6

7 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yeah, thanks so much
8 on that. Both the McGrath and the Sleetmute, the
9 Departments get surprised at how many bears are
10 actually there once they really start doing that.

11

12 Like an old-timer told me, if you kill
13 a moose or a caribou, it's your obligation to take a
14 bear or a wolf. So I always encourage local people to
15 take predators. It's like, oh, I don't want to eat a
16 bear. Well, we were up there in Fairbanks, the
17 Department took those bears and some of those bears
18 went back to Fairbanks. They turned them into sausage
19 and various dried bear meat. They're actually a real
20 decent eating animal.

21

22 So the perception is that brown bears
23 you can't eat. Well, in a salmon stream in the fall
24 time, but in the spring time you see a bear -- the way
25 I look for predatory bears, they got real long claws.
26 They're usually not preoccupied digging around or doing
27 anything and they've got long claws because they don't
28 do any digging roots or anything and they're usually
29 traveling crosswind, trying to cut the scent of a moose
30 that's got a calf and they'll kill a moose calf a day
31 or two moose calves a day.

32

33 There's some data over in Canada where
34 they kill a lot of moose calves. So those are real --
35 if you see one of those, shoot it, skin it out, take it
36 home. You might be saving 20, 30 moose calves with a
37 bear like that. Those big ones that come out in deep
38 snow and buck around trying to hunt moose cows and
39 calves, those are the ones that are doing all the big
40 damage.

41

42 I know guys in Galena, Nulato, Kaltag,
43 they're shooting those big brown bears in the spring,
44 either guiding or just shooting them, going hunting for
45 them, and they're saving a lot of moose calves. That's
46 a huge deal. I would suspect that that's one of the
47 factors for the Kaiyuh Slough area.

48

49 Any other comments from the Council.

50

1 (No comments)

2

3 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks so much.
4 We'll have Kenton come up next.

5

6 MR. STOUT: Thank you.

7

8 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks, Glen.
9 Kenton, you're going to give us an overview of the
10 McGrath issue.

11

12 MR. MOOS: Sure. For the record, my
13 name is Kenton Moos. I'm the Refuge manager at
14 Koyukuk/Nowitna out of Galena. Essentially the
15 decision is put on hold again. This decision came down
16 a little while ago. As many of you know, there was a
17 hold put on it until our regional director could meet
18 with the people of McGrath. That meeting happened
19 about two weeks ago now. From that meeting a number of
20 questions were brought up and some issues. Geoff
21 Haskett felt that until we adequately supply the
22 information that has been requested that we need to put
23 this decision on hold.

24

25 So, with that said, officially the
26 decision is on hold. So, officially, I guess what I'm
27 reporting to you all is we're still working on it.
28 Some of the questions that were brought forth were some
29 analysis. The decision is based on a belief and an
30 understanding that our budgets are decreasing or
31 remaining flat. As all of you know, gas prices are
32 going up, so a flat budget in actuality is a decreasing
33 budget. The last couple years we've had actually
34 decreasing budgets. This year we're anticipating the
35 same.

36

37 With that said, a budget actually was
38 passed through Congress. Part of the thing that I'm a
39 little bit between a rock and a hard place with here is
40 we have not received a budget yet. Preliminary
41 indications are that the budget should be better than
42 anticipated, including an increase from last year.
43 Now, with that said, again, we have not received any
44 numbers. The Director of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife
45 Service in Washington, D.C. said a draft was developed,
46 but then has been drawn back. The latest I've heard is
47 that maybe another week or so before we get to some
48 preliminary numbers as far as our budgets are
49 concerned.

50

1 So I'm here to report that I don't know
2 what's happening. We've got budgets that we're unsure
3 of and we've got a decision that's put on hold. With
4 that said, I've got some ideas as far as what may
5 happen, but I'll let you guys ask any questions because
6 probably some of those will be answered in any
7 questions that you might all have.

8

9 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Do Council members
10 have questions? You were having questions down there
11 -- where'd Robert go?

12

13 MR. MOOS: I can answer Robert's
14 question.

15

16 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay, go ahead.

17

18 MR. MOOS: Okay. Robert's question was
19 essentially how do we anticipate providing service,
20 particularly the communities in the southern portion or
21 that are close to the Refuge on the southern portion of
22 the Refuge, which is the furthest point from Galena.
23 The answer is we have concerns about that. At the
24 Refuge, we recognize that unless we get assistance and
25 keep positions filled, the reality of it is we will not
26 be able to provide the service that was provided in
27 McGrath. That's the reality of it.

28

29 Now, with that said, with declining
30 budgets, that is also a reality with the Koyukuk Refuge
31 and Nowitna as well. I mean that's just the way things
32 are. We've had to selectively cut. As Brad mentioned,
33 some of the biological information that we feel is key,
34 we are committed to continuing on doing. Some things
35 that we could maybe cut back were maybe doing surveys
36 every other year. That's just the biological part of
37 things. There's other areas where we could also cut.

38

39 Science camp was cut, but now, because
40 of the more optimistic view on what our budget is going
41 to be, our predictions of what our budget is going to
42 be, I guess funding is going to come down for science
43 camps, which is a great thing. Science camps are key
44 for us. We were planning on trying to scrounge money
45 as well for those.

46

47 So we do have concerns. We have been
48 allowed to make suggestions on what we feel is
49 necessary to adequately provide services and to
50 disseminate information in communities like the GASH

1 communities, McGrath, and there's some strategies that
2 we are going forward with, such as we'd like to get an
3 RIT located in potentially one of the GASH communities
4 or somewhere down here towards the southern part of the
5 Refuge, Innoko Refuge. But those are suggestions and
6 unfortunately I'm not the decision-maker on this.

7
8 So I've got to -- I'm lobbying, I'm
9 fighting for what we feel is necessary to do a good job
10 for Innoko Refuge in the communities that depend on
11 Innoko Refuge. I mean that's my pledge to you as the
12 Refuge Manager up in Galena, is we are going to fight
13 to get the resources we can get. Unfortunately, that's
14 all I can do is fight for them and suggest them.

15
16 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks. Go ahead,
17 Ray.

18
19 MR. COLLINS: Yeah, a question. You
20 said the science camp. Does that include the science
21 camp in the McGrath area or is that off the books now?

22
23 MR. MOOS: Mr. Collins, through the
24 Chair. I do not know. Currently innoko is operating
25 under their own budget. To this point they are still
26 operating under their own and I'm not privy to that
27 information. My understanding is that all science
28 camps that came from this pot of money, the funding
29 that was available, will be restored this year. Our
30 science camp cost 5,000 bucks. We are getting the
31 5,000 bucks. Innoko, that's a question for Shawn
32 Bayless.

33
34 MR. BAYLESS: I'm on, Ken.

35
36 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Oh, who's online
37 there? Go ahead, Shawn.

38
39 MR. BAYLESS: This is Shawn Bayless,
40 Refuge Manager for Innoko. Maybe I could weigh in on
41 the science camp issue anyway. We are also funded for
42 our science camp, to answer Ray's question.

43
44 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thank you. Is that
45 at that same level, \$5,000?

46
47 MR. BAYLESS: I'm not sure, Mr. Chair.
48 I can check into it, but they basically assured us it
49 would be 4 or 5,000.

50

1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. That's good
2 to know. Other questions for Kenton or Shawn on the
3 Innoko issue.

4
5 MR. J. WALKER: Mr. Chair.

6
7 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, James.

8
9 MR. J. WALKER: I've got a question.
10 You stated that you're going to be looking for any
11 funding that you can get to monitor the lower part of
12 the Refuge, mainly the Holy Cross, Anvik, Grayling,
13 Shageluk area. With the increased hunters that come
14 out of this area, outfitters that is, and the use
15 that's been multiplying in these areas, how is there
16 going to be any monitoring on your part to ensure that
17 these violations that are known to be going on stop?

18
19 MR. MOOS: Mr. Walker, through the
20 Chair. As Jeremy had noted earlier, one of the
21 positions that we currently have open is a law
22 enforcement officer position. Again, one of the things
23 that -- they're suggestions that are -- I can only make
24 suggestions at this time, but one of the things that we
25 are suggesting are asking for in this is a law
26 enforcement officer with piloting capabilities and I'm
27 requesting that it be placed in McGrath.

28
29 Now, again, these are only suggestions.
30 That's all I can do is make suggestions. I mean we do
31 need some assistance with law enforcement up towards
32 Galena as well, but we feel that it would be more
33 beneficial to have it down towards Innoko, placed in
34 that location.

35
36 Also one thing that we are going to be
37 doing is -- we did receive some funding. It's now
38 actually becoming annual funding to support an RIT
39 position that will assist with our outreach and
40 information dissemination regarding fisheries. We, up
41 in Galena, received about \$20,000 last year. Combined,
42 Shawn and I, are getting \$50,000 to do that. That
43 would be a part-time position, Koyukuk Refuge, probably
44 Galena, and then a second position down somewhere in
45 Innoko.

46
47 Again, we are going to be recruiting
48 and looking for -- and I'm asking actually all of you
49 too, if you know somebody who would be possibly
50 interested in Refuge Information Technician position,

1 especially down here towards the GASH communities or
2 Aniak or wherever, we're looking for somebody who could
3 potentially fill that position. Shawn and I are
4 talking about that. If you know of somebody, call
5 Shawn. We're going to be advertising for that position
6 very shortly and trying to get somebody to assist us
7 with some of those issues.

8

9 I'm hoping to take a boat ride this
10 year and stop in all the GASH communities this coming
11 summer with our fisheries biologist if time and if
12 weather and all that stuff allows. Again, my
13 commitment is if we do take over management, we are
14 going to do our darnedest and our best to make sure
15 that we hear what's going on in the GASH, we understand
16 your concerns and can hopefully address them to the
17 best of our abilities.

18

19 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks, Kenton. Did
20 you have a question, Robert?

21

22 MR. R. WALKER: No.

23

24 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Other questions for
25 Kenton. Tim.

26

27 MR. GERVAIS: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
28 Kenton, can you explain like what's the jurisdiction
29 that the refuge system or the Fish and Wildlife Service
30 has on the salmon. I'm asking this along the line if
31 we're having trouble getting what we feel is like
32 proper protection or conservation of the salmon species
33 from North Pacific Council, is there any kind of
34 jurisdiction that the Fish and Wildlife Service has
35 over the salmon in the rivers?

36

37 MR. MOOS: Mr. Gervais, through the
38 Chair. I'm going to refer that to the expert, Fred
39 Bue.

40

41 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yeah, that gets off
42 track here. Just a quick answer to that. We don't
43 really want to get into fisheries. We're on the
44 Koyukuk/Nowitna/Innoko issue.

45

46 MR. BUE: Mr. Chairman. Fred Bue, Fish
47 and Wildlife Service. Fish and Wildlife Service is
48 under the Department of Interior. The Bering Sea, Gulf
49 of Alaska is under the Department of Commerce, so it is
50 two different sections and we do what we can to the

1 Department of Commerce. We provide testimony to the
2 Councils and whatever, but it's at a much higher level
3 than our office and the State is involved with.

4

5 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks, Fred. I
6 wanted to ask a question on the subsistence
7 coordinator, Jeremy's position. That would be a shared
8 position with Innoko and all of the -- if combined?

9

10 MR. MOOS: Mr. Chair. There's actually
11 -- the majority of our positions are going to be
12 combined. It will be a complex. Our biologists are
13 going to be working down at Innoko as well as
14 Koyukuk/Nowitna. Jeremy will be working on all three
15 refuges. Our RITs will be sharing duty. I'll be
16 responsible as the manager for all three units. So our
17 entire staff will actually have to absorb in some way,
18 shape or form part of all three refuges, yes.

19

20 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: At this point, I
21 feel that this Council should, since there's this two-
22 month interim hold on information flow, I feel that the
23 Western Interior Regional Advisory Council should
24 transmit a letter to Geoff Haskett, Regional
25 Director, to maintain hunter contact personnel in
26 McGrath for enforcement issues and also for information
27 flow to the non-local hunters that are coming through
28 there.

29

30 I feel that the biological staff that's
31 at Innoko, especially on important projects like the
32 moose telemetry work and so forth that certain key
33 biological staff should be maintained at the Innoko
34 Refuge, not sent to another refuge system. I feel that
35 there needs to be a law enforcement pilot stationed in
36 McGrath because it doesn't make any sense if they're
37 trying to cover the Innoko to send them up to Galena
38 for gas and so forth and you have no idea what's going
39 on back in McGrath. That's where all these guys are
40 going to go through to go get fuel. So they need to
41 have a pilot enforcement in McGrath, not in Galena.

42

43 Downsizing the facilities in McGrath,
44 but maintaining a year-round presence in McGrath with a
45 downsized facility is necessary for maintaining the
46 integrity of the community of McGrath's relationship
47 with the Innoko Refuge.

48

49 Does the Council have any additions. I
50 feel this letter should be transmitted at the soonest

1 possible time after the meeting. Melinda.

2

3 MS. BURKE: Mr. Chair. I just wanted
4 to let the Council members know we did prior to the
5 February 12th meeting in McGrath we did write a letter
6 of support from the Council as we had voted on at the
7 December teleconference. You might not have received
8 it, Council members, in the mail before you got here.
9 It's on the right side of your packet. It's about the
10 third letter back. So I just wanted to make folks
11 aware of that. I just want to make sure I'm clear
12 here. Because the information -- because we received
13 the information today that the decision is on hold,
14 we're going to follow up and have some more
15 clarification points, is that right?

16

17 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: We want additional
18 clarifications. There's thresholds that this Council
19 feels that the Innoko should be not allowed to go
20 below. So we feel that there needs to be -- I feel,
21 and I feel that the Council feels, that there needs to
22 be a year-round presence in McGrath with the downsized
23 facility. Close down the big giant office, but go down
24 to a reasonable office there for year-round presence
25 for Innoko in McGrath.

26

27 I feel that there needs to be a law
28 enforcement presence there during the main hunting
29 season at least. For enforcement, I also feel that
30 there needs to be a contact person in McGrath for all
31 these hunters that are going through McGrath, going
32 through the main feed point for fuel going back across
33 the Alaska Range to Anchorage.

34

35 And I feel that the RIT person needs to
36 be maintained in McGrath or at least one of the GASH
37 communities. These are the thresholds that I feel that
38 this Council cannot tolerate the regional office going
39 below. And I feel that the biological staff that are
40 working on projects need to be maintained, like Jerry
41 Hill, who is working on all these moose projects. We
42 don't want to lose him, so we want to maintain him as
43 part of the staff either in Innoko or in Galena. I
44 don't care where they put him, but not outside of the
45 complex.

46

47 So what does the Council feel on that?

48 Ray.

49

50 MR. COLLINS: Well, yes, I'm very much

1 in support of that. Also I'd point out that the State
2 law enforcement is located in McGrath and also the
3 biologists that are serving that area and have
4 cooperated in the moose surveys and so on are located
5 in McGrath, so it's important that the Federal presence
6 be maintained there to continue that cooperative
7 working with the State on those issues.

8

9 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: That's a good point,
10 Ray. Incorporate that language into the letter.

11

12 Other comments from the Council to be
13 included in this letter to Geoff Haskett, Regional
14 Director. Jenny.

15

16 MS. PELKOLA: Jenny Pelkola. I would
17 just like to say to make our point even stronger we
18 could probably address the other Councils too to get
19 them involved somehow. I mean I would feel terrible if
20 they pulled everybody out of Galena and put them in
21 another area. I could sense the local people's concern
22 about this. This is a very big thing that's happening.
23 It would probably put more work on the Galena staff.
24 Like Kenton said, they wouldn't be able to reach out to
25 the other areas. I mean you'll get more illegal stuff
26 going on and then they'll have to start all over from
27 page one.

28

29 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks, Jenny. I
30 appreciate those comments. I do think that the
31 adjacent Regional Councils, Seward Pen, YK Delta, EIRAC
32 and North Slope should be aware of this issue here so
33 that if the regional office is contemplating downsizing
34 other refuges, this is our thresholds of mandates, so
35 that they're aware of what we're doing also.

36

37 Any other insertions into this letter.

38

39 (No comments)

40

41 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Do we need a vote on
42 this? The Chair will entertain a motion to transmit
43 this letter of concern about combining the Innoko
44 Refuge with the Koyukuk/Nowitna Refuge and there are
45 minimum thresholds of standards that this Council feels
46 is necessary to maintain the proper management of the
47 Innoko National Wildlife Refuge. Do I have a motion to
48 that effect.

49

50 MR. J. WALKER: So moved.

1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Moved by James.
2
3 MR. COLLINS: I'll second.
4
5 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Seconded by Ray.
6 Further discussion.
7
8 (No comments)
9
10 MR. R. WALKER: Question.
11
12 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: The question is
13 called. Those in favor of the motion signify by saying
14 aye.
15
16 IN UNISON: Aye.
17
18 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Those opposed same
19 sign.
20
21 (No opposing votes)
22
23 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Melinda.
24
25 MS. BURKE: Mr. Chair. I'll go ahead
26 and get this letter ready this evening. We can review
27 it tomorrow and we will be voting on several pieces of
28 Council correspondence, so I'll just make a list.
29 We'll finish those items up tomorrow in the afternoon.
30
31 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Appreciate that,
32 Melinda. Thanks, Kenton. We'll let you and your staff
33 return back to Galena while you've still got sunshine
34 and appreciate your presence here.
35
36 So where are we at. We're going to go
37 back to our proposals. We're at Proposal WP14-32, I
38 think.
39
40 Trevor.
41
42 MR. FOX: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
43 Proposal 14-32 starts on Page 54 of your meeting book.
44 This proposal was submitted by Robert Walker and it
45 requests a modification of the Paradise
46 Controlled Use Area, the boundary in Unit 21E under
47 Federal regulations, by extending the eastern boundary
48 two miles along the east bank of the Innoko River and
49 along the east bank of Paimiut Slough.
50

1 The proponent states that transporters
2 and guides are accessing lakes within two miles of the
3 current boundary east of the Innoko River via aircraft
4 as a way to circumvent the present Paradise Controlled
5 Use Area boundary to hunt moose. The proponent also
6 states the Paradise Controlled Use Area was created to
7 protect resources for the villages of Holy Cross,
8 Anvik, Grayling, and Shageluk, and that the proposed
9 boundary changes would lessen the impact of those
10 hunters on the moose population.

11
12 The moose population in this portion of
13 Unit 21E has been stable and limited composition data
14 shows bull/cow ratios have remained fairly high, around
15 62 to 74 bulls per 100 cows. Calf to cow ratios have
16 met the State's management objectives in most years
17 except 2009 and twinning rates were estimated at 32
18 percent in 2013.

19
20 Reported harvest by Federally qualified
21 subsistence users has remained relatively stable, while
22 non-local harvest has declined.

23
24 The proposed modification of the
25 Paradise Controlled Use Area would not adequately
26 address the proponent's concerns about non-Federally
27 qualified users accessing lakes within two miles of the
28 present boundary. The Federal Subsistence Board does
29 not have jurisdiction to control access to Federal
30 public lands. That would be under the purview of
31 individual Federal land management agencies.

32
33 For example, the Innoko National
34 Wildlife Refuge limits the number of guides that can
35 operate on the refuges, and guides and transporters
36 must acquire special use permits to operate on refuge
37 managed lands. Currently, Innoko Refuge has three
38 guide use areas, of which each can only have one guide
39 operating in that specific area.

40
41 The Federal Subsistence Board can only
42 restrict other users via closure of Federal public land
43 and there are currently no conservation concerns that
44 would justify a Federal closure in the
45 affected area. While the Federal Subsistence Board can
46 technically create or modify controlled use areas under
47 Federal regulations, they cannot modify the State
48 definition.

49
50 To be effective in areas of mixed land

1 management jurisdiction, like the affected area, both
2 State and Federal controlled use area provisions need
3 to be in place. Therefore, the OSM preliminary
4 conclusion is to oppose WP14-32.

5

6 Thank you.

7

8 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Does the Council
9 have questions on the presentation from Trevor on the
10 proposal.

11

12 MR. COLLINS: Mr. Chair. Robert, had
13 you considered submitting a change to the State that
14 would accomplish what you wanted to have both since the
15 Federal can't do it alone or is there one in to the
16 State?

17

18 MR. R. WALKER: Yes, that is true, Ray.
19 It was supposed to be written to the State and the
20 Federal so it would coincide with the Federal lands and
21 the State lands, yes.

22

23 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So the State
24 proposal was not submitted or the Board of Game didn't
25 visit a proposal to this effect. So this proposal in
26 reality would only affect basically from the Innoko
27 Wildlife Refuge lands here. I guess it would hit these
28 checkered areas or BLM lands. So it kind of kicks in
29 and out of Native corp lands around Shageluk.

30

31 I've never seen a proposal to increase
32 a controlled use area on the Federal side. The Federal
33 program has adopted State controlled use area
34 boundaries but have not seen one that increased the
35 area for controlled use. I'm not sure how the Federal
36 Board would look at this one.

37

38 I would like the Council -- any other
39 discussion on the presentation.

40

41 MR. R. WALKER: Jack.

42

43 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead.

44

45 MR. R. WALKER: The intent was for like
46 a September hunt. Not so much the winter hunt because
47 you can't hardly use aircraft in the winter hunt here.
48 It was for the September hunt for Federal lands to be
49 considered to be taken and corp lands to be taken and
50 used in this. If there has to be another one submitted

1 for the State, then I could get somebody to help me
2 work on this also.

3

4 But my intent was just to get this so
5 we can understand that all the people who use this land
6 here have -- you know, that we don't have to have a --
7 every fall there's a screaming, hollering contest
8 almost like with the State with the controlled use area
9 and with the transporters and the guides. It's just
10 fingers pointing this way and that way and everything.

11

12

13 If we could put this in place there, it
14 would eliminate a lot of hard feelings, it would
15 eliminate a lot of going on the controlled use area
16 with transporters and guides and taking their canoes or
17 boats and going into corporation land or whatever,
18 controlled use area. It's just an avenue where, hey,
19 you know -- and the State is not going to do anything
20 about it because the transporters -- you can do a same-
21 day hunt as long as you paddle across the lake and
22 shoot a bull. It would eliminate a lot of small
23 issues.

24

25 If nothing is done, well, that's fine,
26 nothing would be done, but it is on record what I said.

27

28 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks, Robert. The
29 statement the Federal Subsistence Board does not have
30 jurisdiction to control access to Federal public lands.
31 Is that an opinion of the solicitor? Is that where you
32 derived that or how did that get entered into OSM's
33 preliminary conclusion.

34

35 MR. FOX: Mr. Chair, thank you. I
36 believe that s correct. Basically -- go ahead.

37

38 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: When I've been at
39 Federal Subsistence Board meetings, the Federal
40 Subsistence Board's solicitor, their attorney has told
41 the Board that they can restrict non-subsistence uses,
42 so that would indicate that the Board can restrict non-
43 subsistence users in various way. And it was stated on
44 the record at the Federal Subsistence Board that it's
45 not an on/off switch. It's a modulation.

46

47 I would like to know if the question
48 whether the Federal Subsistence Board can control
49 access has actually been run past the solicitor.

50

1 MR. FOX: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Yes,
2 this is the direction I was given while going through
3 the analysis.

4
5 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: From who, the
6 solicitor, or who gave you this direction?

7
8 MR. FOX: From OSM. And then, as this
9 went through the interagency staff, that also includes
10 our solicitor as well.

11
12 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I personally would
13 like to push this issue. I feel that this Council
14 needs to find this out. I feel, from what the past
15 solicitors have placed on the record and I've heard it
16 several different times, that the solicitors told the
17 Federal Subsistence Board that they can restrict non-
18 subsistence uses, meaning they can modulate the non-
19 subsistence uses.

20
21 I want Robert to be aware that the
22 Native corp lands are still under State jurisdiction.
23 We cannot -- so this is going to be kind of a
24 checkerboard, but it actually doesn't affect the
25 subsistence users because they're not flying aircraft.
26 I think that this proposal has merit. I think it
27 should have had a State Board of Game proposal, but of
28 course the State Board of Game would not have increased
29 the size. In fact, I'm always concerned to put a
30 controlled use proposal before the current Boards that
31 we have because they're more likely to trim, like they
32 did on the Kanuti. They're more likely -- you're more
33 likely to lose than you are to gain at the State Board
34 level.

35
36 If you're concerned about the Federal
37 lands areas and there seems to be kind of a significant
38 amount of Federal lands along this boundary that you've
39 got here, I would like to pursue this proposal, so
40 we're going to continue on with that.

41
42 Did we have Board consultation with the
43 tribes on this issue? I would like to know that.

44
45 MS. BURKE: Mr. Chair. I don't have
46 anything from our Native liaison for the consultation
47 call.

48
49 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Was there
50 participation in the consultation call?

1 MS. BURKE: The participation has been
2 pretty low across the state so far in these new calls
3 that we're having before the Federal and State
4 proposals are taken up at the Board level. It's been
5 pretty low. We are trying to get increased
6 participation, but I don't have anything from the
7 Native liaison reporting any specific comments coming
8 forth on these proposals.

9

10 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. I wanted to
11 get that off the table. Go ahead, Tim.

12

13 MR. GERVAIS: I have a question. In
14 your discussion with Trevor, you keep using this term
15 solicitor. Is that an attorney?

16

17 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: That's a term for a
18 lawyer. The Federal government's attorney is referred
19 to as a solicitor. And I sit right at the Federal
20 Subsistence Board. There will be the Chair, there will
21 be the OSM head and there will be the solicitor. He's
22 sitting right there in the middle. So he's kind of
23 keeping them legally on track. I can go back through
24 the record. I've been at Federal Subsistence Board
25 meetings several different times and the State will
26 disagree, but the solicitors have said that they can
27 regulate non-subsistence uses.

28

29 Did you have a comment? You seem to be
30 fidgeting over there, David.

31

32 (Laughter)

33

34 DR. JENKINS: It's my nature to fidget,
35 but I don't have a comment.

36

37 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Say again.

38

39 DR. JENKINS: I said it's my nature to
40 fidget.

41

42 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay.

43

44 MS. FEYEREISEN: I'm not sure that the
45 outreach for these proposals has reached the tribes,
46 especially in this area where a proposal like this, as
47 you've seen in the summary, it is our traditional and
48 customary use, we've not seen this proposal before
49 because it wasn't before the State. I was at the State
50 Board meeting. So, for us to have -- I'm sure we would

1 have presented a comment on it, but we didn't have it
2 before us and we were never contacted by anybody about
3 any teleconference or anything and we read our mail.

4

5 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Melinda.

6

7 MS. BURKE: This is really helpful
8 information. We have a new Native liaison who's been
9 at OSM for I think a little over a year and a half.
10 But this is really helpful. We've been trying to give
11 him feedback regarding how the outreach has been going
12 and this is very helpful information. We'll make sure
13 we carry that to him.

14

15 One of the things that I, myself, have
16 been encouraging is more phone calls versus just
17 sending out emails and mailings, to actually be calling
18 the tribes. I know a couple of the Council
19 coordinators are also going to be helping him in that
20 outreach and doing some more specifics and more phone
21 calls and direct contact versus just mails and email.

22

23 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: My red light just
24 lit up on my screen here, like that mic right there.
25 This tribal consultation is not working, so I'm
26 concerned about that. When we went through the tribal
27 consultation issue, I laid out how this should occur.
28 This should be proposals that affect certain
29 communities. We have Refuge staff or BLM subsistence
30 personnel. Jeremy Havener is one of those people.
31 They should evaluate -- Vince Mathews is one of those
32 people. We have people who are on the ground and they
33 should evaluate proposals that are going to affect
34 certain communities that have customary and traditional
35 use in the affected area and those communities should
36 be notified by those coordinators so that they can get
37 on the teleconference. That s the way this is supposed
38 to be working. We can't rely on a Native liaison to
39 send out a whole Federal proposal packet and everybody
40 is supposed to figure out what it all really means.
41 It's like no. Let's make this easy for the tribal
42 consultation.

43

44 So we just had a highlight on this
45 tribal consultation issue and this needs to be
46 addressed. This is a mandate by the Secretary of
47 Interior through the OSM review process, so this needs
48 to be fixed, so we need to back up and get these
49 Refuges and get these subsistence coordinators with the
50 BLM, Park Service and the Refuges and the Forest

1 Service to start doing their job because we've
2 apparently not had the job done.

3
4 Has any of the GASH communities seen
5 this proposal? Robert.

6
7 MR. R. WALKER: Yes, Mr. Chairman. The
8 GASH -- I wasn't at the meeting, but I was informed by
9 the tribal leaders from Grayling and Anvik that the
10 GASH AC board consists of transporters and they just
11 immediately took a look at it and threw it out because
12 it's not going to be in their best interest.

13
14 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: That's not what the
15 question is. It's the tribal councils from Grayling,
16 Anvik, Shageluk and Holy Cross. They're supposed to be
17 informed of this proposal and those tribal councils are
18 supposed to make a recommendation on what they would
19 like to see go on with this Federal proposal. We don't
20 care what the Board of Game's process is doing at the
21 GASH AC level because there is no proposal before the
22 Board of Game.

23
24 MR. R. WALKER: Mr. Chairman. I
25 believe that the tribes did not know about this until
26 they went to the AC meeting and that's how they found
27 out.

28
29 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Well, that's a
30 problem.

31
32 MS. GAMACHE: Mr. Chairman.

33
34 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yes. Go ahead.

35
36 MS. GAMACHE: Mr. Chairman and Council
37 members. This is Jean Gamache with the National Park
38 Service. Can you hear me okay?

39
40 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yes, we can hear you
41 fine. Go ahead, Jean.

42
43 MS. GAMACHE: Great. I just wanted to
44 mention that I'm going to be giving a briefing with you
45 here shortly. This afternoon or tomorrow morning. I'm
46 going to be updating you on an implementation guideline
47 that is going to hopefully address some of the specific
48 issues that we've identified in the consultation
49 process. So if anyone wants to take a look at the
50 draft that's been put forward by a workgroup that was

1 put together by the Federal Subsistence Board, it
2 starts on Page 106 in your materials book.

3

4 But I just did want to mention that
5 this is something the Board and OSM and all of the
6 member agencies to the Board have been looking at and
7 we've been working on these guidelines for about a year
8 and a half now. It's going to be really important for
9 us to get your feedback, but I did want to just mention
10 that this is something we'll be talking about here
11 shortly during this meeting.

12

13 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

14

15 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks, Jean. We'll
16 get to that. It's apparent that in the interim that
17 the tribes are not being involved in a meaningful role
18 in this tribal consultation process. So the longer
19 this process is going on and on, the Councils, us, are
20 concerned that the tribes are not actually being
21 consulted properly. Nobody is receiving what the
22 meaningful proposals that affect their communities and
23 the effects on those tribes at each community level
24 needs to be sorted out so they can sit down with two or
25 three proposals and address those concerns. Put their
26 concerns on the records. I should have a whole list of
27 stuff right here is what I should have in front of me.

28

29 So this Council is concerned that
30 there's not enough -- there's too much regionality to
31 this thing. There needs to be on the ground
32 subsistence coordinators that already are on staff that
33 are utilized to delineate what those proposals are for
34 each tribal community. We'll get to that pretty soon
35 though. I just wanted to vent on that one a little
36 bit. I'm venting today.

37

38 So no tribal consultation because
39 apparently nobody was informed. So we're to Alaska
40 Department of Fish and Game. Is anybody on for
41 Department of Fish and Game for this proposal WP14-32.

42

43

44 (No comments)

45

46 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: No. Any other
47 Federal agencies, BLM. Are you on there, Dan Sharp?
48 There's quite a bit of BLM land on this one.

49

50 (No comments)

1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: No.
2
3 MR. SHARP: Jack, I'm on here.
4
5 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Oh, okay.
6
7 MR. SHARP: No comment.
8
9 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Oh, go ahead, Dan.
10 Do you have a comment on this proposal WP14-32? Which
11 is to delineate a two-mile boundary extension to the
12 east along the Paradise Controlled Use Area and it kind
13 of blips in and out of Innoko and BLM lands to the
14 Yukon Delta Wildlife Refuge, so basically there's
15 considerable Federal lands along that boundary
16 extension as requested by RAC member Robert Walker.
17 Are you still there, Dan?
18
19 MR. SHARP: Yeah, Jack. I'm listening
20 in, Jack, but, no, I'm not proffering up an opinion at
21 the moment.
22
23 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Oh, okay. I'm
24 sorry. I guess I didn't understand. So we have no
25 other Federal comments. Do we have any other Regional
26 Councils? We haven't had any advisory committees and I
27 guess the GASH AC wouldn't take it up.
28
29 MS. BURKE: (Away from microphone)
30
31 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Oh, did the GASH
32 take a position on it?
33
34 MS. BURKE: They did take no action.
35 Neesa had sent along the minutes. They discussed the
36 implications of having different Federal regulations
37 than a statewide regulation and what it would mean for
38 Federally qualified hunters. There were concerns
39 expressed by extending the boundary by two miles
40 instead of using the drainages for boundaries, but
41 there was no action taken.
42
43 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yeah. Well, I mean
44 the Federally qualified users aren't actually affected
45 by this because they're typically not flying aircraft.
46 The main burden of delineation would be upon the non-
47 Federally qualified users that are being flown in by
48 air taxis. That would be the burden of delineation. So
49 the AC didn't take -- or Subsistence Resource
50 Commissions wouldn't have taken a look at that.

1 Do we have any written comments at all
2 on this one.

3

4 (No comments)

5

6 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Do we have any
7 public testimony? Is anybody in this room that would
8 like to comment on this proposal? Would the Middle
9 Kuskokwim chair like to comment on this proposal.

10

11 MS. FEYEREISEN: The Central Kuskokwim
12 chair would not like to, however the Native Village of
13 Chuathbaluk would like to comment and support this
14 proposal. It is -- like when you do read the
15 background information on it, it does include
16 Chuathbaluk, Aniak and the Kalskags as a custom and
17 traditional use of this area. As we stated previously
18 or I stated as a Central Kuskokwim chair, there is a
19 huge influx and there's a lot of tension currently and
20 we respect the Yukon River. If they're feeling that
21 the tension on the ground is such that this would help
22 eliminate some issues, we would highly support that.

23

24 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Appreciate those
25 comments. Any other comments.

26

27 (No comments)

28

29 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So we had public
30 testimony. Regional Council recommendations. The
31 Chair will entertain a motion to adopt Proposal WP14-
32 32.

33

34 MR. SIMON: So moved.

35

36 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Moved by Pollock.
37 Do I have a second.

38

39 MR. MORGAN: Second.

40

41 MR. GERVAIS: Second.

42

43 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Seconded by Carl.
44 So discussion. Does the Council want to discuss the
45 proposal. I intend to get on the record a little bit.
46 Go ahead, Robert.

47

48 MR. R. WALKER: Mr. Chair, members of
49 the board. My intent was not to point fingers at just
50 a certain organization, but it is just to assure that

1 we -- the controlled use area would be working because
2 when it was drawn up, it was drawn up with a lot of
3 people who didn't know how this would -- or which way
4 it would benefit or who it would benefit.

5
6 When it was drawn up, the original
7 proposal was put outside the boundary like what it was
8 now, what I would like to see now or asked to be seen
9 now. That's what the original boundary was, but when
10 it came back from the State and that's the way it was
11 drawn up and it was adopted by the State with nobody's
12 understanding in how this was done. This was pretty
13 much when I was on the AC board when this came out and
14 there was certain other things that were done on this,
15 but they were made smaller, they were taken out of the
16 Bonasila River and went as far as this -- so far.

17
18 What I'm just saying, I'm not
19 discriminating against anybody, any user. I mean
20 anybody can use this controlled use area, but restrict
21 the flying is one of the issues that was brought up on
22 the northern part of the Unit 21E. Grayling used a lot
23 of the portion up there, but they have to compete with
24 a lot of aircraft that are flying out of Anchorage in
25 the northern part of 21E.

26
27 So this is what I'm asking and working
28 with our tribe to say, hey, you know, let's try this,
29 we'll see what happens. It's not intended to hurt
30 anybody. The intent was to make sure that we have a
31 sustainable bull/cow ratio in the northern region and
32 the southern region.

33
34 Another thing. I am really discouraged
35 about OSM opposing this. I mean aren't they supposed
36 to be like we're here for you for your subsistence.
37 Now they're saying, you know, hey, we can slap you in
38 the face. You don't need this. You guys are just
39 nothing but a bunch of Natives and that's what it seems
40 to me. We're just really being stepped on by OSM. I
41 mean they're the ones that are supposed to be
42 supporting us. On one hand you tell us, okay, we're
43 here for your subsistence and on the other hand they
44 tell us, okay, transporters and guides, this is public
45 land.

46
47 How are we supposed to survive with
48 dual management. We have to make it work somehow.
49 This is what this board is for. This board is here to
50 ensure all the tribes in the state of Alaska, inside

1 Region 6, Western and Eastern Interior have this
2 resource for the next 100 years. This resource can't
3 run out in five years and that's what I'm looking at.

4

5 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

6

7 MR. J. WALKER: Mr. Chair.

8

9 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: James.

10

11 MR. J. WALKER: I'd like to comment
12 also on this. You know, it's pretty sad when you have
13 to have a proposal like this drafted up from the
14 Council to try to address issues that pertain to
15 subsistence and use out in an area when it's not being
16 monitored or maintained or enforced by the right people
17 to do the job, like the State and the Feds. It's
18 really a shame that it has to come to the Council to
19 make a proposal to try to address an issue like this.
20 The State should be out there trying to address this
21 issue.

22

23 We know along that river, we live out
24 there, so there's a lot of lakes that's being utilized
25 by transporters to land clientele along there and
26 they've been doing it for years, but yet nothing is
27 ever done about it. What this was trying to address
28 was to clean up an issue to alleviate the problem
29 that's been going on out there for years and that's
30 what I see this proposal trying to address.

31

32 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Let me be clear for
33 the record. There s people that are flying in and out
34 of the Innoko River and they're using the river and the
35 lakes adjacent to the river. It's in direct
36 competition with people's main mode of access by boat
37 into that area. So we have all these camps and all
38 these people flying in and out and so I don't -- I feel
39 that if local people feel that this -- from Holy Cross,
40 Shageluk, Anvik, feel this is a problem, then maybe it
41 is a problem.

42

43 The moose problem we've identified on
44 the Koyukuk was identified as a problem long before the
45 Board of Game and the Federal Subsistence Board. This
46 Council identifies problems and that's what our job is,
47 is to identify issues.

48

49 So if local people are having an issue
50 with this, I feel that it's in the purview of this

1 Council to address that issue for the benefit of the
2 customary and traditional subsistence users of that
3 affected area. Any other Council members comments.

4

5 MS. PELKOLA: I do.

6

7 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, Jenny.

8

9 MS. PELKOLA: This is in relation to
10 what actually happened in our area, to us, to my
11 husband and I. We were hunting where we normally hunt
12 year after year and there was a lake back there behind
13 us and we'd go in there and all of a sudden we started
14 hearing shots and we're like what the heck. So we took
15 off through the woods and there was a plane back there,
16 you know, shooting the moose that maybe we would have
17 gotten. So I think this relates. It's happening in
18 another area and it will surely move to other areas, so
19 I think we need to be on top of this.

20

21 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Ray.

22

23 MR. COLLINS: Yeah. Most of the
24 controlled use areas -- I know I was the one that
25 pushed one through up in the McGrath area there. It's
26 because of access by airplane is the whole reason for
27 doing it, to get everybody hunting on the ground. For
28 some reason they stopped the boundary at the river,
29 which doesn't make sense. Most of the controlled use
30 covered both sides of the river. But I think a
31 proposal needs to go back to the State to extend that
32 like all the other areas. On McGrath, they cut ours
33 down too and we went back to them, but at least they
34 left us a corridor on each side of the river where
35 there could not be any plane access.

36

37 So I think it was a shortcoming in the
38 creation of this that they did not originally cover
39 both sides of the river there because you're trying to
40 restrict and get everybody hunting on the ground and
41 they're using that to fly in closer.

42

43 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: There will still be
44 access to those rivers. It's not closed to hunting.

45

46 MR. COLLINS: Right.

47

48 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: They will just have
49 to land outside and float down in there and you won't
50 have all these Beavers and 185s roaring in and out of

1 the river, making lots of noise and dumping off lots of
2 floaters right on the Innoko River. So I feel that
3 this proposal has merit. I feel that this proposal is
4 the justification for my supporting the proposal is I
5 feel that the proposal would be beneficial to the
6 customary and traditional eligible subsistence users of
7 that area.

8

9 I feel that the Federal Subsistence
10 Board can restrict, as the solicitors have stated it on
11 the record at the Federal Subsistence Board meetings.
12 This would not be a burden to subsistence users to
13 delineate the boundary because they're using ground
14 surface access. It would be the burden of land status
15 identification by the air access users themselves. The
16 air taxis and the individuals who would be flying float
17 planes, they would be the ones that would have to
18 delineate the two-mile boundary line that's outside the
19 river corridor.

20

21 Like Ray said on the record just now,
22 and it's a key point, the Koyukuk Controlled Use Areas
23 and most controlled use areas extend on both sides of
24 the river to maintain an equal footing with the other
25 hunters. So this has a discrepancy in that it allows
26 air access right up against the Paradise Controlled Use
27 Area, which Innoko is the main corridor for local
28 people utilizing the drainage. So I intend to support
29 the proposal.

30

31 Any further discussion by the Council.

32

33 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: David, do you want
34 to come to the mic. I want to get all this stuff on
35 the record. We love lots of -- Salena gets 10 bucks a
36 page now, I guess.

37

38 (Laughter)

39

40 DR. JENKINS: David Jenkins, policy
41 coordinator for OSM. I want to just address two
42 issues. The first was the issue that Robert Walker
43 brought up that OSM is not responsive to this
44 particular proposal. Let me point out that what OSM
45 has here is a preliminary conclusion. We always come
46 back to the Regional Advisory Councils and we ask did
47 we get it right, give us your opinion. OSM, in fact,
48 changes its preliminary conclusion if warranted. So
49 the dialogue here is very helpful for us. So that's
50 the first point I wanted to raise for Mr. Walker.

1 The second one is the issue that you've
2 been raising, Mr. Reakoff, is whether the Federal
3 Subsistence Board has the authority. At this point,
4 the argument is that the Board does not have the
5 authority to limit access and there are two issues
6 there. One is that 43 percent of the lands that we're
7 talking about are State lands. The Board doesn't have
8 authority over those lands. And 57 percent are Federal
9 lands and the Board does have some authority over
10 issues of take on those particular lands.

11
12 The question that you've asked us to
13 clarify is whether the Board has authority to control
14 access in this way, if I understand you correctly.

15
16 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yes. But my
17 position is that the Federal Subsistence Board through
18 the solicitors have been directed that they have the
19 authority to restrict, and this is a restriction on
20 access, methods and means. I feel that they have the
21 ability to restrict certain non-subsistence users that
22 are in conflict with subsistence users that have
23 customary and traditional use of a resource.

24
25 I feel that the 50-something percent is
26 Federal lands, but the other portions are Native corp
27 lands. As far as I know, most Native corp lands are
28 closed period by trespass, so those are maybe under
29 State control. You might need a Board of Game
30 proposal. But, in reality, these are Native corp
31 lands. These white areas, as far as I know, those are
32 mostly Native corp lands. Those aren't State lands,
33 State itself.

34
35 So I feel that this proposal actually
36 -- it's a valid question of the Council that we feel
37 that this is a valid proposal, that it does not
38 incorporate the characteristics of other controlled use
39 areas for being on both sides of a major access
40 corridor and that it's my opinion that the Federal
41 Subsistence Board, you know, listening to the solicitor
42 that said they could regulate, it wasn't an off and
43 off switch, and that they could actually modulate.

44
45 So this is a modulation. It's not that
46 they're precluding, it's not that they're stopping
47 hunters under 810 of ANILCA that there's additional
48 resource, it's just that they're modulating the effect
49 of the subsistence users, the disruption of subsistence
50 users by aircraft flying on and off the river.

1 That's not happening on the Koyukuk
2 Controlled Use Area. That's not happening on the
3 Kanuti Controlled Use Area. That's happening on the
4 Innoko. I'm putting all this on the record for the
5 Federal Board's edification. So it also gives OSM the
6 opportunity to go to the solicitor, Ken Lord, and have
7 a little chat about what this modulation level is.

8
9 So, no, I don't get mad at OSM. Don't
10 get me wrong here. I'm not tweaked or anything. I
11 just feel I have a position on this proposal.

12
13 MR. J. WALKER: Jack.

14
15 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: James.

16
17 MR. J. WALKER: I'd just like to say
18 that, you know, I think the intent of this proposal
19 here was just to point out to assist the appropriate
20 authorities who has adequate control in regulation with
21 regard to enforcement to this Paradise Use Area, the
22 potential violations of areas that they have. That's
23 what it was.

24
25 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: The other question I
26 would have if OSM is going to be asking a lot of legal
27 questions is what the Refuges have in restricting areas
28 from use by the Refuge system under the permitting for
29 these transporters and these hunting guides and what
30 their regulatory abilities are and so that would be
31 another question for OSM. So when we get down to the
32 Federal Subsistence Board meeting in April we can have
33 a chat about this one.

34
35 Any further discussion on the proposal.

36
37 (No comments)

38
39 MR. SIMON: Question.

40
41 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: The question is
42 called on the motion. Those in favor of WP14-32
43 signify by saying aye.

44
45 IN UNISON: Aye.

46
47 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Opposed same sign.

48
49 (No opposing votes)

50

1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Proposal as stated
2 is adopted. So thanks so much for doing your -- I want
3 to commend you for doing great work on these analyses,
4 Trevor. Don't get too worried if Robert gets a little
5 crusty around the -- he does that with me too.

6
7 (Laughter)

8
9 MR. GERVAIS: Mr. Chair.

10
11 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yeah, go ahead.

12
13 MR. GERVAIS: I'd like to have the
14 Council discuss. It seems that there's a law
15 enforcement problem down in this area. Do we need to
16 draft a letter to the troopers or to Fish and Wildlife
17 enforcement officers that we need to find out if their
18 level of policing is adequate or what's going on. If
19 it just comes down to money, it seems like the amount
20 of fines that they can generate from people poaching is
21 adequate to cover the amount of money to be spending on
22 aircraft time. Is this an issue we should bring up
23 with public safety?

24
25 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: That was in our
26 letter to the Region 7 director, is that we would like
27 to maintain an enforcement presence in McGrath. That's
28 where they go from McGrath. They're going to fly over
29 there to the Innoko. They'll follow those hunters
30 back over to McGrath. They go over there to gas up
31 whether they're on land aircraft or float aircraft. So
32 the enforcement in McGrath, presence in McGrath, is
33 going to maintain this enforcement presence.

34
35 We've always been requesting
36 enforcement presence in this area for several years and
37 they're funding at the level they can support. The
38 governor for the last two administrations has reduced
39 Fish and Wildlife protection enforcement levels.
40 Previous Governor Palin cut the budget for Fish and
41 Wildlife protection by \$1.5 million. So there's
42 720,000 people in Alaska and they've reduced the number
43 of enforcement officers exponentially. So they've got
44 all these people in the Mat-Su Valley doing all kinds
45 of crazy stuff over there. Well, they can only
46 allocate so much funds for enforcement.

47
48 That's a State issue and we cannot
49 advocate under the Hatch Act for any kind of funding or
50 any kind of political funding, but the tribes can.

1 (Laughter)

2

3 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: The GASH tribal
4 councils and all the tribal councils can ask for
5 funding for enforcement. They can do that, but we
6 can't. That's not our job. But we can ask the Federal
7 government for enforcement and we're doing that in the
8 letter to the Regional Director for McGrath.

9

10 MR. COLLINS: Mr. Chairman.

11

12 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead.

13

14 MR. COLLINS: Yeah. I think part of it
15 here is that what they're doing is not illegal. They
16 found a way to get around because they're landing on
17 lakes that are open to landing, using that for access,
18 and then they're going by inflatable boat or canoe or
19 whatever into the Refuge land. So I don't know if
20 there's an enforcement issue right now until you have
21 that landing area declared illegal. They're not flying
22 into the Refuge per se. They're landing adjacent to it
23 and using it for access. That defeated the purpose of
24 the original, but I don't know if it's all illegal
25 right now. They're finding a way around the law. So I
26 don't think the law enforcement could stop this without
27 changing the boundaries.

28

29 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: There's a lot of
30 these lakes that are right next to the river. They're
31 just like a slough about from me to Trevor right into
32 the river and that's totally legal for them to go in
33 and out of there. So you've got all these planes
34 flying in and out of there.

35

36 MR. COLLINS: Yeah.

37

38 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Robert.

39

40 MR. R. WALKER: Jack and Ray. The
41 issue was brought up two years ago when we talked about
42 it was that transporters fly a plane, land the plane on
43 the other side of the lake on the boundary line. The
44 lake runs right through the controlled use area. Their
45 guy paddles across, shoots the moose and that's a same
46 day airborne and there's a law against that, but the
47 State can't figure out how to do that because they
48 can't enforce it because it's in like another
49 jurisdiction for them. So with this here, this would
50 close that loophole. The State would say, well, okay,

1 if you did that now, we could enforce that. So it is a
2 different issue, but to me the same thing.

3

4 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: We've discussed this
5 proposal enough. Do you want a little time break
6 there, Melinda.

7

8 MS. BURKE: Just till 3:30.

9

10 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: 3:30. That's about
11 10 minutes or so.

12

13 (Off record)

14

15 (On record)

16

17 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: We've got a few more
18 things to do today before we have to recess. We're
19 going to have Trevor Fox come up. There he is right
20 there. I think the Council is back. You're going to
21 give us a Board of Game rundown, Trevor. Go ahead.

22

23 MR. FOX: Yes, thank you, Mr. Chair. I
24 have all my notes from the meeting. If there's
25 anything in particular. I think the four proposals
26 that the Council made recommendations on to the Board
27 of Game have already been -- we've already talked about
28 those and what the Board's decisions were. If there's
29 anything else, I can talk about it.

30

31 One thing in general is this boundary
32 change proposal for Units 18, 19 and 21. That has been
33 deferred to the statewide meeting that's coming up in
34 March. If that's a concern to the Council, there's
35 still opportunity to provide comments. The Board of
36 Game did sort of put out a preferred alternative for
37 that. They talked about wanting to have a preferred
38 line out there for people to comment on instead of just
39 having a lot of different opinions. It seems like it's
40 still fairly open to any suggestions for the boundaries
41 that are out there.

42

43 So I can talk in generalities and if
44 there's anybody from the Department online that wants
45 to add more to it, we can do that. The Council does
46 have this little handout.

47

48 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yes.

49

50 MR. FOX: And I can tell you what the

1 Board had as a preferred alternative.

2

3 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. If you could
4 walk us through this sheet. I was a little bit gray.
5 So there is no map that actually shows the preferred
6 alternative?

7

8 MR. FOX: It's a combination of two of
9 the maps in this handout.

10

11 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. So if you
12 could walk the Council through this handout, the
13 colored handout, proposed boundary change for Units 18,
14 19 and 21.

15

16 Go ahead, Trevor.

17

18 MR. FOX: Okay. Thank you, Mr. Chair.
19 I will say that this could have implications for the
20 Federal regulations too. There's a discrepancy between
21 the maps that are in both the State and Federal
22 regulatory books, the Handy Dandy, and what's in the
23 codified language. So likely there's going to be a
24 change that occurs here. We don't have a Federal
25 proposal going through the system right now and so
26 there could be some alignment on the Federal side with
27 whatever happens on the State side. That's just what
28 I'm speculating.

29

30 So if you start, you have number 1,
31 which is the current boundary as printed on the hunting
32 regulations and that's the same boundary that's in our
33 Federal regulations as well.

34

35 The second map is the description of
36 the boundaries in the codified language, so this is how
37 it currently stands based on regulation.

38

39 Map 3 is a proposed boundary for
40 Proposal 10 and this is the one that's going to be
41 taken up in the March meeting. This has part of the
42 combined boundary. The yellow line from Paimiut down
43 to Mud Creek, just outside of Lower Kalskag, that line
44 going north there between Paimiut and the river, that's
45 basically what they were looking at for the northern
46 portion of the boundary.

47

48 The rest of the boundary that the Board
49 was looking at as a preferred is on the following page,
50 that purple line, and it would basically be a

1 combination of that yellow line to the Kalskags and
2 then that purple line going south.

3
4 As I mentioned, this was just based on
5 what the ACs were saying. This was sort of a preferred
6 alternative, but I don't think it is necessarily going
7 to be what happens. That's just what they're moving
8 forward with to give folks a chance to make their
9 comments.

10
11 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. So is the
12 Council clear that they'll use a composite of both.
13 Did you want o speak to the board about your feelings
14 about this boundary change, Lisa?

15
16 MS. FEYEREISEN: Sure. This is Lisa
17 Feyereisen, chairman of the Central Kuskokwim. As I
18 said, we're having a meeting on March 7th down in
19 Bethel where the Yukon portion of it -- because it
20 affects 21 and it affects Anvik, Shageluk and Grayling,
21 their AC, and then the Lower Kuskokwim had an amendment
22 to the proposal, so they're included in this meeting.
23 They are flying in both complete ACs, not just the
24 chairmans, for this meeting.

25
26 It's a pretty controversial issue. We
27 had 51 people in Lower Kalskag attending the meeting
28 and giving public testimony, so it went on for quite a
29 while. The angst is the current -- the most
30 controversial part of the boundary maps for the local
31 people is the portion that goes from Kuskokwim to
32 Paimiut Portage, which is a straight line. Because
33 there's some winter trails and portages and creeks and
34 lakes on that map that people traditionally travel on
35 and they're not sure what part of that red line those
36 lakes and maps and stuff when they're out there hunting
37 in the wintertime.

38
39 So they're asking the State to look at
40 the boundary as a natural traveling boundary. They're
41 comfortable that even though the left side of the trial
42 might go into 18 and the right side would go into 19.
43 At least then they would know which side goes into
44 which unit.

45
46 There's a little bit more controversy
47 dealing with the lower part of it and that's more of a
48 controversy between the Lower Kuskokwim and the Middle
49 Kuskokwim. Right now how the boundary goes is that
50 Lower Kalskag is dissected through the middle of the

1 village and Lower Kalskag feels very strongly that
2 their cultural identity is that of the 19 hunters and
3 that they hunt -- that their traditional hunting areas
4 are the same as their relatives in this area and they
5 do not want to be part of 18, so they've asked that
6 that boundary line be moved out of the center of their
7 village and down to recognizable landmarks such as Mud
8 Creek.

9

10 Then the Lower Kuskokwim feels pretty
11 strongly that their traditional and customary goes
12 almost all the way up to the Aniak River, which is
13 essentially kind of a territory issue between two ACs
14 and who feels that they're more traditional and
15 customary. So we'll sit down and we'll try to hash out
16 negotiations. We have been told by the State if we
17 don't come up with an agreement, they will go to the
18 codified language and nobody wants to see that. I
19 haven't heard from any AC that they want to see the
20 codified.

21

22 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Go ahead,
23 Jim.

24

25 MR. J. WALKER: I'm a little confused
26 about which map you're really addressing to, which one
27 is preferred. Could you explain to me which map is
28 preferred by your user groups.

29

30 MS. FEYEREISEN: So the current map --
31 the very first page where the red line is, that's the
32 map that shows.....

33

34 MR. J. WALKER: Okay. Yeah.

35

36 MS. FEYEREISEN: Yeah, the very first
37 page, the very first map, that's the map that we've
38 been looking at for years in our regulation books and
39 we think that that's the map. So it's always been
40 confusing for people that hunt between the Yukon and
41 the Kuskokwim where that straight line goes because
42 they're not carrying GPSs, so they've asked that to be
43 aligned with creeks and lakes and traditional portage
44 routes.

45

46 This proposal has gone before the State
47 Board I believe for the last 12 years several times by
48 Lower Kalskag. They've brought it forth many times.
49 So they want that issue resolved. By resolving that
50 issue they created another issue, which is on the other

1 side of the Kuskokwim. If they're changing the one in
2 the Lower Kuskokwim wants to change that red line.
3 Regardless, the red line, which is the map that we're
4 following, is not the correct map. The State made a
5 mistake. So it has to be changed one way or another or
6 we go to the codified language, which is on the map on
7 page 2, which none of us want.

8

9 MR. MORGAN: Nope.

10

11 MS. FEYEREISEN: Yeah, nope. It's a
12 very scary map for everybody locally anyway, including
13 those people on the Yukon. So keeping that in mind,
14 because what happens if it goes to the codified
15 language, something that you can't see so clearly on
16 here, but the boundary form Kalskag going upriver
17 actually splits the river in two. It goes right across
18 an island. So you have an old river and a new river,
19 so they're putting a boundary right in the middle of
20 the Kuskokwim River across an island. Many people from
21 Aniak and Kalskag hunt that island and they won't know
22 if that moose runs to one side or the other side of the
23 island where they're at. So they definitely don't want
24 the Kuskokwim River to be split straight up the middle
25 of it. That makes no sense to anybody.

26

27 So it's going to take some negotiation.
28 What we've been asking the ACs to do is to come back
29 with some fallback positions. Everybody has their
30 position that we're going into this meeting with, but
31 they'll look at some negotiation on what their ACs can
32 live with. Hopefully we'll have a big Kumbaya moment
33 and everyone will agree and then the joint Board will
34 look at those. I believe it's in April. Is that when
35 it is, or March?

36

37 MR. FOX: March.

38

39 MS. FEYEREISEN: March, yeah. So we
40 have to make decisions quickly. Like I said, the State
41 is willing to fly everybody down for a meeting on March
42 7th, so hopefully it will be resolved soon.

43

44 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks so much on
45 your perspective. Council members position, Holy Cross
46 and the GASH will be.....

47

48 MR. J. WALKER: One more question.

49

50 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I want to get good

1 input from this Council on this. Go ahead, James.

2

3 MR. J. WALKER: Thank you. Are you
4 referring to Proposal 10 as the one that you're in
5 favor of?

6

7 MS. FEYEREISEN: Proposal 10 was put
8 forth by Robert Aloysius. It wasn't put by the ACs,
9 the Central Kuskokwim AC. We just discussed it. The
10 Central Kuskokwim AC actually supported what was called
11 Proposal 67, which we don't have in here. It wasn't
12 Proposal 10. We voted knowing that it wasn't going to
13 be approved at the Board of Game meeting because the
14 Board of Game was not going to make a decision until
15 all the ACs could get on the same page with it.

16

17 We were aware during the Kalskag
18 meeting that there was controversy with this with our
19 neighboring ACs, but they did recommend to accept
20 Proposal 67, which is essentially about the same as 10.
21 It's a little bit different. Proposal 10, like I said,
22 it wasn't an AC proposal. It was brought by Robert
23 Aloysius.

24

25 I think what we did was we just took a
26 bunch of public testimony. We took three hours of it
27 one night and two hours the next day so that we could
28 feel where people -- what caused the most anxiety. It
29 seemed to us that the highest point of anxiety was the
30 area between the Yukon and the Kuskokwim. That was the
31 largest anxiety point for Kalskag people because they
32 were wanting to abide by the regulations and they felt
33 they couldn't identify the boundary in order to abide
34 by the regulations.

35

36 And the other area, which I think
37 everyone kind of agrees, is to take that boundary out
38 of Lower Kalskag. I think that's pretty much -- we
39 don't have issues with the other ACs. They feel like
40 we can drop it down below Lower Kalskag. That makes
41 sense that half a village shouldn't be one AC and the
42 other half is in a different area. So that's kind of
43 unified in the area.

44

45 Of course, after Proposal 10 was put
46 forth, then the Lower Kuskokwim put forth a proposal
47 which was on page 4 or 5 and that was the Lower
48 Kuskokwim's AC amended. So it didn't really address
49 the issue that Kalskag was having between the two
50 rivers at all. What it did is it actually took quite a

1 bit of 19A and moved it into 18, so that didn't go over
2 very well with the Central Kuskokwim.

3
4 Realizing that there is a greater
5 population downriver and we might need to make some
6 adjustments accordingly, but that's -- like you said,
7 those are kind of -- it was definitely -- within the
8 room in Kalskag there was a consensus that they
9 definitely, 100 percent, needed a clarification on the
10 boundary between the Yukon and the Kuskokwim and that
11 they wanted it out of Lower Kalskag. The other part of
12 the map was a little bit more difficult for them to
13 come up with a consensus on.

14
15 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So are you clear
16 about -- and I would like to know what the RAC members
17 feel about from -- like on the map on page 3, how do
18 you feel about that north of the Kuskokwim River below
19 Lower Kalskag, what does the Council feel about that
20 yellow line there, how that's drawn? That's your
21 preferred line on page 3 to the north of the river?

22
23 MS. FEYEREISEN: That's the State Board
24 of Game's preferred line.

25
26 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: What's your
27 preferred one?

28
29 MS. FEYEREISEN: Our preferred line
30 isn't shown on any of these maps. It was a line in
31 Proposal 67. That's the one we discussed.

32
33 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Is it closer to
34 Kalskag or below.....

35
36 MS. FEYEREISEN: It's close to Proposal
37 10. It's pretty close to Proposal 10.

38
39 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: But kind of like
40 that?

41
42 MS. FEYEREISEN: Right. Essentially
43 Proposal 10 or the yellow line goes on a known portage
44 and then it goes on one side of a well known, used
45 subsistence lake out in the middle and then it hits up
46 to Napaimiut. The issue that we heard from a few
47 people that were hesitant was that there were some
48 people that actually knew where that straight red line
49 went and they were comfortable with things as is, so
50 they wanted the codified language to change to the

1 normal boundary. The red line boundary.

2

3 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Oh, I see. Right.

4

5 MS. FEYEREISEN: So there was -- and we
6 weren't sure. We needed clarification, like I said,
7 from the Yukon Advisory Council as to why they
8 preferred -- they preferred a straight line still
9 instead of a natural portage line. So we're going to
10 get clarification from them as to why that's important.

11

12 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Who wanted that?

13

14 MS. FEYEREISEN: The SHAG. They wanted
15 to keep the straight line. They voted against Proposal
16 10. Their recommendation was to not do that.

17

18 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: What are your
19 feelings about this, Carl?

20

21 MR. MORGAN: You say who was against
22 Proposal 10?

23

24 MS. FEYEREISEN: The Shageluk, Holy
25 Cross, Anvik, Grayling AC voted against accepting it.

26

27 MR. MORGAN: Proposal 10.

28

29 MS. FEYEREISEN: Well, we voted on
30 Proposal 67. We didn't have Proposal 10, but it's
31 essentially the same.

32

33 MR. MORGAN: Essentially the same.

34

35 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: They just renumber
36 it for the next Board meeting, don't you.

37

38 MS. FEYEREISEN: I believe what SHAG
39 said was they felt comfortable with what the existing
40 straight line was. That they didn't want to go with
41 the jagged portage line.

42

43 MR. MORGAN: What's the reasoning
44 behind that? You don't know the coordinates, you don't
45 know the longitudinal -- you need a GPS almost all the
46 time. Even a GPS going at a slight angle.

47

48 MS. FEYEREISEN: You'd have to ask
49 their AC about it.

50

1 MR. MORGAN: I kind of support Proposal
2 10 because it follows the natural dog team trail.
3 That's the natural dog team trail from Paimiut down to
4 -- it used to go straight to Kalskag, but this time
5 they came down below to not decrease 19, but kind of
6 increase 19 a little bit, but Proposal 10 decreased 18.
7 If you look at the original on page 1 of 5, it comes
8 right to Kalskag.

9
10 And their reasoning behind splitting
11 Kalskag and Lower Kalskag in two was a violation.
12 Somebody got a violation that they caught a moose in 18
13 when 18 was closed, but as you see it's a line and they
14 said, well, show me the line. We went to court and
15 beat it because it wasn't clear. So the Board of Game,
16 Fish and Game says right there at the Sam Parent's
17 store is the line. They just came and said here's the
18 line right here. This side is 19 and that side is 18
19 and they used Sam Parent's existing store that he had
20 that.

21
22 I do support Proposal 10. Too bad they
23 didn't put your guys's proposal on here, but it kind of
24 mimics pretty close.

25
26 MS. FEYEREISEN: Yeah, 67 is pretty
27 close. The State can clarify the difference between
28 the two. I'm not sure. I know that Board of Game
29 didn't discuss Proposal 10 at all.

30
31 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So you're
32 comfortable with south of the Kuskokwim River to the
33 yellow line basically following a divide between that
34 plateau.

35
36 MS. FEYEREISEN: (Nods affirmatively)

37
38 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So you're
39 comfortable with that line also?

40
41 MS. FEYEREISEN: The Central Kuskokwim
42 is comfortable with Proposal 10.

43
44 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So the Lower
45 Kuskokwim is not.

46
47 MS. FEYEREISEN: Correct.

48
49 MR. GERVAIS: Mr. Chair.

50

1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: What is -- now I
2 want to know -- oh, go ahead, Tim.

3
4 MR. GERVAIS: Does Robert determine
5 what ACs doing what the GASH -- what GASH say about
6 Proposal 10?

7
8 MS. FEYEREISEN: GASH voted against it.
9 Proposal 67 they voted nay to support it. The
10 reasoning behind it was -- my understanding was that
11 they liked things as is, which was the top one, which
12 we can't -- we just need to get together. I believe
13 that, you know, if the Central and the GASH got
14 together and said where do you guys want this line
15 between the river, Kalskag is willing to negotiate on
16 where that line goes. They just want it to be by
17 natural markers. That seems to be the biggest thing.
18 They're not worried about losing land. They're not
19 worried about losing hunting units or whatever in that
20 area. They are worried about south of the Kuskokwim
21 moving more things into 18 and less things in 19.

22
23 But on the northern part they just --
24 they really want a boundary that follows natural or
25 portages or old dog team trails, something that they've
26 known for history. So they're willing to take GASH's
27 -- whatever GASH feels are natural boundaries that they
28 want to live with. So I think we just actually need to
29 -- like on March 7th hopefully at least two of the
30 three ACs involved will come together with an
31 agreement.

32
33 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Any more
34 discussion. Robert.

35
36 MR. R. WALKER: Thank you, Mr.
37 Chairman. Ma'am, you know, I can't speak for the AC or
38 I can't speak for the people from the villages there,
39 but I would be careful on how I say this. This would
40 be a real good plan for your part of the country, yes,
41 but we're going to lose probably maybe 50 to 100 square
42 miles with this new boundary line off of 21E.

43
44 But if we could swap or you could work
45 at it and say the top of where the boundary of 21E just
46 go right south of the meridian, I can't see the numbers
47 there, and this cuts right across to where the curve
48 is, we'll give you that and you'll give us this. I
49 mean, you know, I think the people will go for that
50 because nobody wants to give up any kind of land. You

1 don't want to give up any land. I mean you want to get
2 land.

3

4 MS. FEYEREISEN: But.....

5

6 MR. R. WALKER: It's the same for us.
7 I mean you give, we need, you want, we'll work it out.
8 The Federal government worked with them. Hey, you
9 know, it might work for us.

10

11 MS. FEYEREISEN: Yeah, I guess I don't
12 -- I never heard anybody having the anxiety that they
13 didn't have -- that they were concerned about the land
14 between the two rivers. The concern was more to be
15 able to identify it. So I do think they're willing to
16 let us move really -- I think we can move really far on
17 that boundary as long as they have identifying lines on
18 that side because that side is pretty much subsistence
19 people between the two villages and between the two
20 rivers.

21

22 They're much more concerned about
23 moving the line and losing any land south of the
24 Kuskokwim, but I do believe that we can easily
25 negotiate and move it -- I think that the predominate
26 voice was that they just want it with natural markers
27 so that they knew where it was.

28

29 So if Grayling and Holy Cross and Anvik
30 come up with natural markers, like let's follow this
31 creek and let's follow this lake, I believe that the
32 Central Kuskokwim would readily agree to that. I know
33 we would.

34

35 MR. R. WALKER: Mr. Chair.

36

37 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, Robert.

38

39 MR. R. WALKER: I think maybe we can
40 work the difference out here by the time we have
41 another meeting here in McGrath. It will be in
42 October. I know it's going to cost you money to go
43 there, but if things work out, whatever.....

44

45 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: The Board of Game is
46 going to visit this in March, so they're going to be
47 done by March and they're probably going to take action
48 on this one. They will take action. So the GASH AC
49 and the Central Kuskokwim need to come to a consensus
50 on what that boundary is for this far up the river and

1 set a position.

2

3 I'm inclined to maintain this divide
4 area to the south of the Kuskokwim because that is a
5 natural feature. Drainages would be going to the
6 northeast and to the southwest. I like the dog sled
7 trail that's drawn, but I do feel that those ACs have
8 to come to a consensus. This Council can support
9 something to the effect of Proposal 10 with minor
10 delineations with the GASH and Central Kuskokwim AC to
11 take a position for the overall AC meetings that's
12 going to include the Lower Kuskokwim AC.

13

14 Carl.

15

16 MR. MORGAN: Yeah, I kind of support 10
17 because 19A is under a Tier II system right up until
18 George River and from George River up the Swift River
19 it's closed. I don't see any other -- I don't see 18
20 in any distress on the moose population and I don't
21 know if 21E is under distress in moose population. So
22 I think right it's all about moose, not about area.
23 It's about providing our subsistence users a little bit
24 more leeway in trying to catch moose. Because right
25 now 19A, from Kalskag all the way up to Georgetown, is
26 on Tier II system and from Georgetown to Swift River
27 it's closed on both sides of the river. You can't
28 hunt.

29

30 Right now we're being questioned by the
31 Department of law enforcement. Some of the families
32 have no control over the kids filing for this Tier II
33 and they're being brought to court to say you guys
34 broke the law because there's two people in a family
35 that filed for a permit. It should be the Fairbanks
36 office that controls that. They only issue one permit
37 per household and people here are being questioned and
38 they're serving a -- if they report to court, either
39 plead guilty and pay a \$200 fine or some of them are
40 being written up just because they have the same post
41 office box numbers.

42

43 There's a lot of families around here
44 that file. They're not living there, but they just
45 naturally put their dad and mom's post office box
46 number. They're not lying. It should be up to the
47 State to determine which household and it is supposed
48 to. They should do their homework. Now they're
49 putting the burden on the subsistence user Tier II
50 applications.

1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks, Carl. I
2 think this Council should take a position on something
3 because this issue is going to go before the State
4 Board of Game in March. I'm inclined to take a
5 position that the Council would like the GASH and
6 Central Kuskokwim ACs to delineate a line that would be
7 similar approximately of the map in Proposal 10 and
8 work out that boundary to go before the AC big group
9 with the Lower Kuskokwim. Those are the natural
10 features. That makes a lot of sense and that's what
11 the people who live near the boundary, who are the
12 closest to the boundary need to have to know where
13 their -- in and out of the game management units.

14
15 How does the Council feel about
16 adopting a motion to be -- a position to be sent to the
17 State Board of Game to provide a -- that we would like
18 to see a boundary similar to the Proposal 10 map worked
19 out by the GASH and Central Kuskokwim ACs. Is the
20 Council comfortable with that?

21
22 MR. COLLINS: Mr. Chair.

23
24 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead.

25
26 MR. COLLINS: I don't see where there
27 -- it looks to me like 10 follows that trail and it's
28 not that far off the line that's on the red line on the
29 map.

30
31 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: If you start drawing
32 a line, it kind of weaves back and forth across the
33 current straight line boundary.

34
35 MR. COLLINS: I mean right here, from
36 there to there.

37
38 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right. If you look
39 at map 10 and then you overlay the current straight
40 line, red line boundary, it actually weaves back and
41 forth across.....

42
43 (Pause)

44
45 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yeah, this gets a
46 lot more complicated than what I was looking at on the
47 map here. The map 10 looks like it makes a lot of
48 sense, but that's not what's on any of the maps. We're
49 combining three different maps now. I would prefer
50 that the affected users here from the RAC and the

1 Central Kuskokwim get together and come up with the
2 language that this Council should approach the Board of
3 Game on sometimes before the end of this meeting. So
4 we'll move on. When they bring that back before us
5 tomorrow, then we can act on that.

6

7 Go ahead, Tim.

8

9 MR. GERVAIS: Yeah, that reminds me.
10 Did we ever get any Memorandum of Understanding that
11 the Board of Game recognizes the subsistence RACs?

12

13 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: We're going to get
14 to that under the annual report issues, so we'll get to
15 that further down the agenda here. In fact, that's an
16 issue and, yeah, we're going to be talking about that.

17

18 So we're going to table this issue,
19 this GMU 18, 19, 21 boundary until it's worked out to
20 where we can have a consensus between Robert, Carl,
21 James and Lisa here on this boundary that we want to
22 approach the Board of Game with.

23

24 Do you have anything else for us there,
25 Trevor?

26

27 MR. FOX: No, Mr. Chair. That's it. I
28 just wanted to bring that to your attention.

29

30 (Laughter)

31

32 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Oh, okay. Melinda.

33

34 MS. BURKE: All right. We're coming on
35 4:00 o'clock, so I kind of want to make a little game
36 plan here. Part of my strategy is to see who is still
37 on the phone. Do we still have Jerry Hill on the
38 phone?

39

40 MR. HILL: Hi, Melinda. Yes, I'm here.

41

42 MS. BURKE: Hi, Jerry. What about Jean
43 Gamache, do we still have Jean Gamache online.

44

45 (No comment)

46

47 MS. BURKE: Mr. Chair. I would suggest
48 that we go ahead and take care of the Kanuti and Innoko
49 Wildlife Refuge updates since we heard from
50 Koyukuk/Nowitna earlier today.

1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. We might as
2 well do Jerry because he's been hanging on the phone
3 there all day. I've been there, done that, and that's
4 not so fun.

5
6 Go ahead, Jerry.

7
8 MR. HILL: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
9 Members of the Council. Jerry Hill, wildlife biologist,
10 Innoko National Wildlife Refuge. I apologize I couldn't
11 be there in person. I don't have a lot to report on
12 this round. The cost and scheduling kind of prohibited
13 our attendance.

14
15 It hasn't been too busy here other than
16 catching up on some previous data collection analysis.
17 We ended up putting our regular field season schedule
18 on hold based on the status of the Refuge, which Kenton
19 Moos discussed. So we're sort of proceeding on a
20 limited basis until we hear more about the final
21 decision of the Refuge.

22
23 I do have a little update on the
24 permitting for the Federal winter moose hunt in 21E.
25 We were able to make it to all four GASH villages to
26 issue permits here early February. We ended up issuing
27 37 total registration permits and I believe six
28 designated hunter permits in this round, which is up
29 slightly from the previous year, down from the first
30 two years, which are the highs at 48 and 46.

31
32 At this point we have two reported
33 harvests and those are out of Shageluk. Merben Cebrian
34 with BLM is going to provide an update on the Paimiut
35 Slough area and Aniak and the Kuskokwim villages later
36 on. No reported harvest out of that Paimiut zone as to
37 this point.

38
39 I just want to remind you that we are
40 planning to do that collar recovery in 21E starting
41 March 17th. Fish and Wildlife and BLM provide a lot of
42 the financial assistance and administrative assistance,
43 Fish and Game here out of McGrath, Fairbanks, will
44 actually be doing the recovery. Once that takes place
45 we'll be able to get the actual information off those
46 collars and start the reports.

47
48 Like I say, we're making some
49 contingencies for what may happen this summer based on
50 the final decision of the refuge office here in

1 McGrath. We're planning on continuing with our bird
2 surveys, trying to establish some other regional
3 priorities like inventory monitoring. It's important
4 on a regional scale, since we're not going to have our
5 normal summer staff, summer seasonal hires available to
6 us.

7
8 So basically that's about it unless you
9 guys have any specific questions. I don't really have
10 a lot to report. Most of the reporting of biological
11 data occurred in that November meeting.

12
13 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Thanks,
14 Jerry. Does the Council have any questions for Innoko.

15
16 MR. J. WALKER: Mr. Chair.

17
18 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, James.

19
20 MR. J. WALKER: I do have a question.
21 I don't know if you addressed this or not, but has
22 there been any increase in hunter activity in the upper
23 part of the Innoko?

24
25 MR. HALL: Mr. Councilman, are you
26 referring during winter hunt or overall?

27
28 MR. J. WALKER: Overall.

29
30 MR. HILL: I don't know if there's been
31 an increase. I'd say that as far as the Federal winter
32 moose hunt in the northern part of the Innoko that's in
33 Unit 21E. Like I say, it's dropped a bit. The harvest
34 has probably been a little higher in the northern
35 Innoko and out of Shageluk and Grayling and what's been
36 reported out of the southern portion near Holy Cross
37 and south of Anvik.

38
39 As far as the fall hunt, we really
40 don't track that. Most of our hunting takes place in
41 the 21E portion of the Refuge, quite a bit upriver from
42 21E. Does that answer your question?

43
44 MR. J. WALKER: (Nods affirmatively)

45
46 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: James is satisfied.
47 Any other questions for Jerry. Go ahead, Ray.

48
49 MR. COLLINS: Yeah, Jerry. What are
50 the final numbers like on hunters that went through

1 McGrath? Was there an increase in the number of
2 hunters going through or was it about the same as
3 previous years? And anything on their success that
4 they reported yet.

5
6 MR. HILL: As far as the fall hunt
7 goes, yeah, I don't think there's really an increase in
8 number of hunters. I think that's been pretty
9 consistent. This year they had a pretty significant
10 drop in harvest reported. I think they went from about
11 21 in 2012 hunt to I believe it was 12 to 14 off the
12 top of my head in 2013 hunt. I think a lot of that had
13 to do with the high water and the warm temperatures.
14 They delayed the rut a bit and hunters had reduced
15 access and I think the bulls weren't as active as they
16 would have been in previous years.

17
18 MR. COLLINS: Thank you.

19
20 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks, Jerry.
21 Other questions for Jerry Hill on the Innoko.

22
23 MR. J. WALKER: Mr. Chair.

24
25 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead.

26
27 MR. J. WALKER: I have one more
28 question. I don't know if this could be addressed or
29 not. It's in regards to the tagging process that took
30 place here a couple years back on the moose and was
31 their tags on wolves also.

32
33 MR. HILL: I'm not aware of that. That
34 would have been a Fish and Game project. The Refuge
35 hasn't been involved in any tagging of wolves, at least
36 not at our station. I think maybe Fish and Game here
37 in McGrath would have a better answer to that, but I'm
38 not aware of that on either our end or on Fish and
39 Game's side of it.

40
41 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Any other
42 questions.

43
44 (No comments)

45
46 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So you were online
47 when you heard our position on our mandates regarding
48 the Innoko transition with Koyukuk/Nowitna and
49 staffing?

50

1 MR. HILL: Yes, Mr. Chair, I was.
2
3 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: We would like to
4 retain you, to retain the biological integrity aspect
5 of the Innoko Refuge, among other things. Okay?
6
7 MR. HILL: Okay. I appreciate your vote
8 of confidence there and we'll see where it goes.
9 Hopefully we'll know something sooner than later.
10
11 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Hopefully within the
12 next two months we'll find something out here. So,
13 Vince. Thanks a lot, Jerry.
14
15 MR. HILL: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
16
17 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Kanuti National
18 Wildlife Refuge is going to hand out a report to us.
19
20 MR. MATHEWS: Good afternoon. My name
21 is Vince Mathews, the subsistence coordinator for
22 Kanuti, Yukon Flats and the Arctic. You've probably
23 seen this summary before, but with the changes in
24 meeting dates and that we'll go over the high points.
25
26 First I want to report that right now
27 the Staff is struggling. There was a furnace failure
28 at the Bettles facility, so they're scrambling to get
29 that cleared up. It's not the pipes froze, but there
30 must have been a backup in the furnace, so everything
31 is covered with oily soot, so they're working on that.
32
33 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: In the visitor's
34 center? In the new center?
35
36 MR. MATHEWS: Yeah -- no, no, in the
37 housing. Not in the -- let me correct that. It's not
38 in the InterAgency Visitor's Center. It's in the --
39 I'll call it the bunkhouse.
40
41 We've been getting good compliance on
42 the permitted hunt for the August 25th through October
43 1 and December 15th to April 15th hunt. There's two
44 hunts. Basically describe it above and below Henshaw
45 Creek. For the one below Henshaw Creek, which has the
46 extended winter season that you were able to get
47 implemented, eight permits were issued and four people
48 hunted. To date, no moose have been reported
49 harvested.
50

1 For the August 25th through October 1,
2 that would be the Bettles area, Evans area, but there
3 was interest from Allakaket in that hunt. That did
4 increase in my opinion. And 11 permits were issued and
5 six people hunted and they reported harvesting three
6 bulls. Again, participation has been involved and it
7 demonstrates use for the area. We now have one vendor
8 issuing both State and Federal permits. I think that
9 reduced the confusion there of where to go to get their
10 permits. Pollock can give you an update on that if I
11 got that wrong.

12

13 I'll jump down to the.....

14

15 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Vince. These
16 figures for the December 15th to April 15th, that's
17 2013.

18

19 MR. MATHEWS: I'm struggling with that
20 because this was written so long ago. The season is
21 ongoing.

22

23 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So what you gave us
24 was for 2013, but now we have a new issuance for the
25 winter hunt and Pollock said that there was one moose
26 harvested so far.

27

28 MR. MATHEWS: I think you're right that
29 this is previous year data.

30

31 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right. So one moose
32 was harvested this winter in the winter bull moose
33 hunt?

34

35 MR. SIMON: Uh-huh. (Affirmative)

36

37 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yeah. So I wanted
38 to clarify that for the Council. I don't want
39 confusion that there was no moose harvested, but
40 Pollock is saying one moose has, but that's 2012-13 and
41 now we're in '13/'14.

42

43 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, the season is
44 ongoing and I've been away from my desk, so there could
45 be a report on my desk. I know I did get a bunch of
46 permits in, but not from that hunt, but I don't know
47 until I open up the envelope.

48

49 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right. Go ahead. I
50 just wanted to clarify that.

1 MR. MATHEWS: But the whole point of it
2 is that there is interest in that hunt and there was
3 discussion that there might not have been interest in
4 the past. There is interest in the hunt as it becomes
5 more well known.

6
7 I didn't expect to come up to the mic
8 today, so basically on the moose population survey the
9 Refuge, Bureau of Land Management and Fish and Game did
10 conduct a moose count this fall in the Refuge and I
11 assume beyond that. I don't know if Glen is still
12 online if he wants to share information. What I did
13 get from Tim Craig by email this morning was that
14 they're reviewing the data and he has some draft data
15 that he would send me, but obviously I'm here and not
16 where I can connect. I don't know if Glen is still
17 online.

18
19 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Let me ask. Are you
20 still online, Glen?

21
22 (No comment)

23
24 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Probably not. If
25 you get those numbers, I would appreciate to see those
26 from Tim Craig tomorrow if you get those. So just
27 continue with whatever you have.

28
29 MR. MATHEWS: I can provide that, but
30 realize it hasn't been fully reviewed and all that.
31 It's just draft data.

32
33 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right.

34
35 MR. MATHEWS: So we'll go from there.
36 The moose telemetry study beginning in 2008, that's a
37 joint effort with the Refuge, Gates of the Arctic,
38 Bureau of Land Management and Alaska Department of Fish
39 and Game, they have cooperated in a radiotelemetry
40 study of moose in GMU 24A and B. They finished the
41 field work and have started data analysis. That brings
42 a lead-in. I think what I'm trying to do with the
43 three Refuges I work with is we target our Refuge
44 summaries for this meeting and we can also, if you
45 desire to have, like Brad Scotton, have a person come
46 in or have a program that goes through in detail.

47
48 Your fall meeting tends to be a lot of
49 action items, so it's difficult to put in the agency
50 reports, but be assured that during your fall meeting

1 if something that relates to a Refuge, they're going to
2 come up to the mic. It's not like they're going to say
3 we only can talk in the winter meeting, just so it's
4 clear.

5
6 So anyway, the moose browse study --
7 some of you may have met Erin. She moved over to BLM.
8 She's working for BLM and her study on moose browse is
9 continuing. She's slated to complete her field work
10 next year. I assume that's 2014.

11
12 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Vince. She's
13 continuing her work in the Refuge?

14
15 MR. MATHEWS: That I don't know. It
16 just says she is slated to complete her field work next
17 year.

18
19 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. On the moose
20 telemetry update, once that study is completed I would
21 like to receive a detailed report of that and then I
22 would like the Council to be aware of -- the main thing
23 was how the moose move in and out of the Kanuti
24 Controlled Use Area and what hunting pressure they
25 would be subjected to by movements. The main thing
26 about that telemetry was how the moose moved. All
27 that's been top secret work, so at some point I want to
28 know what happened. I mean we've pushed for years for
29 that telemetry work, so I would like to see a detailed
30 report on that.

31
32 So continue.

33
34 MR. MATHEWS: Yeah, I don't know the
35 timeframe of how long the analysis would be, but I will
36 carry that back to the office and share it with the
37 Refuge Manager as well as Glen Stout. I assume those
38 are the two main ones that are behind that.

39
40 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Pollock's got a
41 comment. Go ahead, Pollock.

42
43 MR. SIMON: I've got a question, Vince.

44
45 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Turn on the mic.

46
47 MR. SIMON: I've got a question on the
48 moose survey. Burn years is good for moose, since
49 you're talking about the moose browse study. Since
50 they had a lot of fires, maybe it's global warming or

1 something, but some years back they used to come down
2 to the river and eat the river willows as opposed to
3 eating some in the burnt areas. The moose seems to
4 have less fat. When they come down to eat river
5 willows, they had three-inch fat on their rump. Now
6 the most is about 2-inch fat or inch and a half. I
7 just wondered what you found about the moose browse
8 areas.

9
10 MR. MATHEWS: My understanding of the moose
11 browse survey would be that that would be looking at
12 the nutritional value of the browse. I have not talked
13 to Erin on this, but I have been in many of your
14 meetings where it was discussed on the Three-Day Slough
15 and other areas that there is various levels of
16 nutrition in the browse. You can't just go by, you
17 know, there's a lot of willows out there. There's an
18 age structure as well as a nutritional. I would assume
19 this would give indications to it. I'm not sure it
20 would be a direct saying.

21
22 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: What I saw on moose
23 browse in the Koyukuk was the browse was the trophic
24 level or the amount of energy in the willows. The
25 Koyukuk was almost twice as much in the Koyukuk as it
26 was on the Tanana Flats. So that can be big variations
27 on how much food -- which means moose don't have to
28 move half as far. I keep seeing those skinnier moose
29 or the thinner moose than when I was a kid. We used to
30 get moose with really thick fat, but you hardly ever
31 get a moose that has like six inches of fat on the top
32 of the hem.

33
34 I suspect it's because there's half as
35 many moose and the moose that are there are pushed
36 around a lot by predators, so they have to keep running
37 around more. They're encounter rate with predators is
38 actually really high. Because of disturbance it keeps
39 making them wear off additional fat. That's what my
40 impression would be. I just wanted to put that on
41 there since Pollock was talking about moose fat. Fat
42 is a big deal for people. The fatter the moose, the
43 better.

44
45 Continue, Vince.

46
47 MR. MATHEWS: The Refuge staff is
48 looking into invasive weeds and conducted bird surveys
49 along the South Fork of the Koyukuk and the Jim and
50 Kanuti Rivers this past summer. The purpose of the

1 surveys was to monitor nesting of the northern goshawk
2 using broadcast calls and second is to participate in
3 the national breeding survey and to look for weeds that
4 may have moved downstream along the Dalton Highway.
5 They didn't detect many birds. Tim Craig shared with
6 me that it's summarized there it appeared to be the
7 timing of the nesting was very late. He was using
8 calls to attract these birds. If you ever run into
9 Tim, he'll give you a lot more information on it, but
10 that's something he's really up to speed on.

11
12 They did not find any weeds within the
13 Refuge. Now for those that are not familiar with the
14 area, the Dalton Highway is to the east of the Refuge.
15 The drainage goes off of the Dalton Highway into the
16 Refuge, so it is a possible pathway for invasive weeds
17 to get in. Now the focus is on white sweet clover and
18 bird vetch.

19
20 You can look at the shorebird inventory
21 and the molting goose survey. Basically they were
22 cancelled, so I don't know the future of what's going
23 on with that.

24
25 The salmon studies. The Henshaw weir I
26 think has been going on for quite a few years providing
27 information to the in-season managers as well as the
28 overall picture of the salmon returns on the Yukon
29 River. You can see that the total passage, this would
30 be last year, for chum salmon was 22,064 in round
31 figures, which is the second highest count on record.
32 They only counted 706 chinook, which was the second
33 lowest for the project. So the results were online,
34 but the drainage-wide assessment of a very weak chinook
35 run. I think you guys will be talking more about the
36 chinook runs later in your meeting.

37
38 There's been an effort by the Friends
39 of the Alaskan Refuges along with other agencies to do
40 weed pulls along the Dalton Highway. My wife and I did
41 it. It was an interesting experience. What really
42 shocked me was to find bird vetch that far north. The
43 white sweet clover has been there for years along the
44 roadside. It's no longer mowed, I believe, so it's
45 prevalent there, but the bird vetch getting in there
46 was quite surprising. Those weeds can cause change in
47 habitat and can cause some real problems and that's a
48 direct relation with possibly moose population.

49
50 Just kind of skipping around here a

1 little bit because you have this -- I think this is the
2 second time you've had this in front of you. I'm just
3 hitting some.....

4

5 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: As most of the
6 Council wasn't present at the fall meeting, it's kind
7 of good to go over it.

8

9 MR. MATHEWS: The Fish and Wildlife
10 conducted field work on vegetation classification on
11 the Kanuti this past summer. It was a team of
12 biologists who visited over 110 plots on the Refuge.
13 When they do that they use transects and they collect
14 vegetation and abiotic data on plots around the route.
15 This is to give a floristic inventory and document
16 landscape vegetation patterns. My term it's a baseline
17 study if it gives you baseline and if there's climatic
18 changes, you can see if there's been a change in
19 vegetation.

20

21 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: One question.
22 What's an abiotic data?

23

24 MR. MATHEWS: A means it's not biotic,
25 so I don't know. I would assume it may be -- well, I
26 won't even go that far. I was going to say non-
27 vascular plant, but that is a vegetation.

28

29 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Maybe that's like
30 soil contents. Maybe when these reports are written
31 maybe they could use more plain English. I know quite
32 a few years, but I've never seen that one before.
33 Anyway, you can look it up.

34

35 MR. MATHEWS: Someone's looking on
36 their computer over there already. So anyway there's
37 vegetation studies going on. I think you guys get the
38 idea that now there's emphasis to get a more complete
39 picture of ecology, environment or the whole world
40 within these different conservation units, which you
41 guys have been asking for, I think, quite a while.

42

43 Water resources, Fish and Wildlife
44 Service Water Resources Branch will continue to monitor
45 stream flow and other variables at eight stream gauges
46 in 2014. They're installed on rivers and creeks within
47 or near the Kanuti Refuge.

48

49 Dovetailing off of what Pollock said
50 earlier today on the winter moose hunt and fall the

1 water level is too low to get to some areas, having
2 monitoring going on in these streams may give some
3 indication what's happening with water levels.

4

5 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: One question. Is
6 there snow gauges like Koyukuk has snow gauges. Are
7 there snow gauges and are those online to view? I was
8 looking at Koyukuk's snow gauges to see what the snow
9 depths are, which I want to know what those depths are
10 that would have an effect on moose overwintering. At
11 some point I'd like to know if those are online. Some
12 of those things are real hard to find. They're real
13 hard to get a hold of.

14

15 MR. MATHEWS: Well, there are snow
16 gauges on the Refuge because when I flew with Mike
17 Spindler helping out with the moose survey I couldn't
18 see them. He'll note that because I was in the back of
19 the plane and I couldn't see them, but there are snow
20 gauges, but I don't know if any of them have cameras on
21 them if that's what you mean.

22

23 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: It's not that the
24 data would be posted to the internet somewhere, so I
25 have to get a hold of Koyukuk/Nowitna to find out what
26 their snow depths were. Maybe the Refuge systems could
27 come up with a better way of making this data available
28 sort of in real time so we don't have to wait. Snow
29 depth has a huge effect on moose overwintering and
30 other things. So just to comment. Go ahead.

31

32 MR. MATHEWS: I know that it's being
33 collected because when they do the moose telemetry he
34 looks for those gauges and then he was asking me do you
35 see what level. Of course I couldn't see it, so he
36 would fly around and then see it again. So they are
37 taking the data. I don't know if it's structured
38 timewise, but it is being taken because they want to
39 know what effect, how much is out there, and then from
40 there what it may have on effects. But I will ask on
41 that if it could be available online or something.

42

43 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Just a way of
44 accessing it. I would like to know how to access that
45 a little easier than to try and contact the Refuge
46 every time I want to know how deep the snow is there
47 every month when they do those surveys. So just a
48 comment. Continue.

49

50 MR. MATHEWS: Okay. Then stream

1 studies began in 2011. That was, again, with the
2 Refuge and the Water Resources Branch partnered with
3 University of Alaska Anchorage, the Natural Heritage
4 Program, Aquatic Ecology Program, to catalog baseline
5 microinvertebrate and diatom communities and habitat
6 conditions on the three representative rivers; Kanuti,
7 South Fork Koyukuk and the Kanuti Kilolitna Rivers on
8 the Refuge. The last sampling trip was conducted in
9 June of 2013 and laboratory work will continue to 2014.
10 Again, this is to do a baseline water quality data.
11 It's especially important in light of anticipated
12 climate warming and increase in mining activities in
13 tributaries upstream of the Refuge boundary.

14
15 I encourage all of you if you have time
16 to look at what Jack brought up earlier in the meeting,
17 the Central Yukon Resource Management Plan by BLM
18 because they're going to be addressing mining
19 activities that affect these areas. I think that's on
20 your agenda later, but I'm not sure. I don't know,
21 Jack, do you want me to go over the fire management
22 activity or do you want to leave it up to them to look
23 at. I know fire is important and et cetera, but it
24 wasn't a major factor this past summer.

25
26 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: No, it wasn't a real
27 big fire year, so we can kind of skip over that.

28
29 MR. MATHEWS: Okay. You've already
30 heard Kenton talk about the budget. I'm kind of out of
31 that picture, but obviously we've had declining
32 budgets. Kanuti Refuge lost two staff. Erin moved
33 over to BLM. It was a good advancement for her career.
34 And the pilot biologist out of Bettles moved on. So
35 those slots are open. On the positive side, I think
36 you met Andy Flack at your meeting, is that correct?

37
38 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: He came to the RAC
39 meeting that we had in Fairbanks, but we didn't have a
40 full Council. Some of the Council members met him, but
41 several did not.

42
43 MR. MATHEWS: Well, he's going to be a
44 pilot law enforcement and his duties will patrol, and
45 it is huge, Arctic, Kanuti, Yukon Flats, Gates of the
46 Arctic National Park and Preserve, so he's got a huge
47 area. Hopefully Andy will have time to come to one of
48 your meetings to talk about law enforcement probably in
49 more reference to the Dalton Highway, but there are
50 other issues.

1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Andy Flack is living
2 about six miles from Wiseman. It's a Park Service
3 ranger station is what that place actually is. I
4 talked to him and he told me that currently he's gone
5 through the Federal law enforcement school, but he has
6 to do several details and he has no law enforcement
7 authority until he finishes these details.

8
9 The other aspect of his presence is
10 that he doesn't have an airplane that actually will run
11 in cold weather. He flew a Park Service Super Cub up
12 there and it won't fly -- the carburetor is screwed up
13 and it won't fly below 15 degrees Fahrenheit, so he
14 can't fly anywhere either. I'm real happy to see that
15 there's going to be some kind of a Federal law
16 enforcement officer to help out the trooper who intends
17 to leave this next year.

18
19 We keep getting a turnover with
20 troopers, so there's no continuity when that happens.
21 The BLM has a ranger, but he has a huge northern part
22 of Alaska to deal with. This U.S. Fish and Wildlife
23 enforcement officer should be almost a baseline for
24 enforcement for the Yukon Flats, Kanuti and Gates of
25 the Arctic National Park and the Arctic Refuge.

26
27 So continue. I just wanted to give a
28 supplement for this enforcement officer.

29
30 MR. MATHEWS: Well, since you brought up Yukon
31 Flats, one of our officers is giving up his badge, if
32 that's the term, and so there is talk in that office.
33 Then the Arctic, some of you know Hollis Twitchell is
34 no longer going to be a law enforcement. He'll still
35 be a pilot. So we're down by two law enforcement in
36 that area and that is of concern because we have
37 different challenges with chinook salmon as well as
38 other things. So law enforcement is key, but I do want
39 to get across to you that it takes a lot of training to
40 get these officers up to speed, so we need to applaud
41 that Andy is surviving that. That's a long period of
42 time of training and continuing.

43
44 On environmental education, that's
45 continuing. I think it was brought up earlier today.
46 I can't remember how -- oh, it was during the
47 Koyukuk/Nowitna. All the science camps, et cetera,
48 were cancelled due to the government shutdown. We've
49 been assured that they're going to be brought back up
50 again, so that was brought up by Kenton. Last year

1 there was a day event at Allakaket School where they
2 visited classrooms from preschool to high school and
3 they learned about the annual life cycle of migratory
4 birds and they got to play games with me and we
5 survived, but it was neat to have the youth learn about
6 different birds and that.

7

8 Dragonfly Days, which is basically an
9 event in Fairbanks since Kanuti Refuge was the one that
10 discovered a never-reported-before dragonfly. They
11 have an event in Fairbanks that's open to the public
12 where they're able to learn more about the different
13 species of dragonflies, damselflies and et cetera.

14

15 Jack has been a big push on this and
16 then the Flats area has been a real push on this and if
17 you see my neck cringe up, I'm one of those that
18 cringes on Facebook, but we are now doing a lot more on
19 Facebook. To be honest with you, the response has been
20 well as a way of getting out. So I bring that up as
21 personally, but also the Kanuti Refuge has a Facebook
22 page. Check it out. Maybe that's a main way of
23 communicating with Kanuti.

24

25 With the Flats, which I work with a
26 little bit more, we've done job announcements on there
27 and et cetera, so we're waiting to see that response.
28 On the Arctic one, again Arctic Refuge is a nationally-
29 known Refuge, we put on there the Council nominations
30 and we got 190 replies of, you know, liked it or looked
31 at it. Now that doesn't mean they're all going to
32 apply, but it indicates that people are watching these
33 Facebook pages, so it's something that if you're not
34 using the one for Kanuti, I don't know if the Delta has
35 one, you should use it so that it shows interest in it
36 so we can use that medium for communication. The Flats
37 villages have pretty much told us flat out to do things
38 on Facebook, so we're doing quite a bit on Facebook, as
39 much as you can with Facebook.

40

41 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I wanted to comment
42 to the Council on the Facebook thing. You know, a lot
43 of people are like, well, I don't do Facebook. Well,
44 but a lot of kids use Facebook and we've got to start
45 talking to these kids about issues. I watch the Kanuti
46 page, there's the Park Service, Gates of the Arctic,
47 BLM has a page, and I watch all those and they keep
48 posting various things.

49

50 I would like to see more feeding of

1 like the winter hunt permit, sort of educational stuff
2 about like these seasons for moose and the winter hunt
3 seasons and what the requirements are. If we start
4 feeding some of this information because a lot of
5 people that attend meetings they may not be
6 Facebook/computer literate, but there's a whole bunch
7 of people that are and I'm surprised at some of the
8 people -- you know, there's people in Huslia that are
9 in their 70s, close to 80 years old using Facebook. So
10 not everybody is in the Dark Ages. Pollock Simon, Jr.
11 practically lives on Facebook. I know where the
12 caribou are at. I know all kinds of stuff just by what
13 Pollock is up to.

14
15 So I do feel that the Facebook media,
16 that the Council system and the Federal Subsistence
17 Board needs to be moving forward with and the Federal
18 Board I want to see more posting on the Federal Board
19 process to what's feeding into the rural people, OSM,
20 so that they know what's coming up. I'm always
21 requested to post it on my -- I have a Facebook page
22 that's Western Interior Alaska Subsistence, but it's
23 not my job to do all that. I feel that OSM and the
24 Federal Subsistence Board needs to pick up a Facebook
25 page and start processing this stuff themselves.

26
27 Go ahead, Melinda.

28
29 MS. BURKE: We did just recently start
30 the Office of Subsistence Management Facebook page.
31 There was -- I was one of the folks who pushed for it a
32 lot last year. There was a lot of hesitation at first,
33 but one of the things that I explained to some of the
34 leadership who weren't so Facebook savvy was that you
35 can put really tight controls on it. You can make it
36 to where -- they were really hesitant about having any
37 kind of argumentative type of feedback on there, but
38 you can really put some controls on there so it's just
39 the office that's putting information out there, such
40 as nominations, upcoming proposals.

41
42 I believe the tribal consultation
43 opportunities is another thing that really should be
44 placed on there. It has been a little slow at first,
45 but myself and a few other folks are going to keep
46 trying to get more put on there. It can be a one-way
47 just for the pure dissemination of information and I'm
48 really glad this is being put on the record.

49
50 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: There's a lot of

1 people -- Orville Huntington is on Facebook. He's
2 posting what the Board of Fish is doing. There's a
3 whole bunch of stuff going on on Facebook. People can
4 stay in the Dark Ages and they'll die in the Dark Ages,
5 but there's a whole bunch of people that are not in the
6 Dark Ages. They've got an iPhone in their hand and
7 they're talking to each other and they're on Facebook a
8 lot. The reason being, because it's real expensive to
9 start calling all over Alaska on telephones and it's
10 just a heck of a lot easier to look at a Facebook page.
11 I use it all the. So, you know, I didn't know anything
12 about computers about six or eight years ago and now I
13 use them all the time.

14

15 Any comments from the Council on
16 Vince's presentation on Kanuti National Wildlife Refuge
17 update from October. The Council didn't meet quorum,
18 so a lot of Council members weren't here. Any Council
19 members comments. Ray.

20

21 MR. COLLINS: Yeah, Vince, just a
22 question on what is the white clover. That seems to be
23 spreading, but what s the problem with that and moose,
24 do you know?

25

26 MR. MATHEWS: I had a similar question
27 on that too because it's prevalent. It's a forage crop
28 that's used, but my understanding attending the Forum
29 for the Environment recently is that it can crowd out
30 on your sandbars and your islands, in the river along
31 the banks. It can crowd out other vegetation that is
32 more conducive for moose habitat. I had a similar
33 question about it because -- well, it's everywhere. I
34 mean white sweet clover.

35

36 Now the bird vetch is a different
37 situation. That's a bit different. It can climb up
38 over different plants and that. The white sweet
39 clover, which it appears to be true, is it could be a
40 problem on your sandbars and that. My observation, not
41 as an invasive weed biologist, it tends to stay in
42 disturbed areas. I didn't see it really advancing much
43 into what I call a natural habitat. If that is pretty
44 stable, it just can't seem to get a foothold.

45

46 The other thing that came up, which I
47 didn't follow up on, is that the pollinators are more
48 attracted to white sweet clover and that's not -- that
49 may be -- well, my term, may be affecting the berry
50 production. I didn't follow up on that summit to see

1 because the counterpart to that is if there's more to
2 eat, then there's more bees and the logic would be then
3 you're have more pollinators.

4
5 But, yes, it is a concern, white sweet
6 clover.

7
8 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I've seen pictures
9 of it. The epicenter of all these invasive weeds comes
10 from the University of Alaska extension service in
11 Fairbanks and they refuse to take responsibility for
12 their giant mistake of introducing -- trying to
13 colonize fodder for animals. You go around Fairbanks,
14 here's bird vetch. It grows in -- bird vetch is
15 dangerous because it grows in spruce forest and acidic
16 soils, whereas sweet clover primarily grows in alkaline
17 soils where they use calciums near roads, so that's why
18 it likes to grow along the road.

19
20 Once it gets up into the Brooks Range
21 there's a lot of limestone mountains up there and once
22 it gets onto the bars of the Brooks Range, I'm real
23 concerned that sweet clover -- on the Nenana River they
24 showed pictures of it just colonizing the whole
25 riparian area. So maybe bison or something will like
26 this stuff, but that basically excludes all the willows
27 and so forth. So these invasives are being spread.

28
29 Apparently to me the State of Alaska
30 blades the snow off the shoulder of the Dalton Highway
31 and they push it in the springtime -- push all the
32 seeds to the north as they're blading the snow away
33 from the road. I said you're spreading this stuff all
34 the way up the road. If you're going to blade, you've
35 got to steam clean your blade and blade south. Blade
36 away from the Brooks Range, don't go north with this
37 stuff. There's ways to try to control that. The
38 problem is this stuff, sweet clover, I've pulled it,
39 it's got tap roots that are about a foot and a half
40 long. Great big thick things and grizzly bears love
41 them. They're like carrots. They actually help the
42 bears out.

43
44 So that's the supplement to this weed
45 problem. I live right in the weed zone. But bird
46 vetch, birds eat it and carry the seeds around and this
47 stuff ends up in my yard. I didn't even carry it to my
48 yard. The birds brought it there. So it's starting to
49 go out and it can colonize various places. So that's
50 on the weed thing.

1 Any other comments on the Kanuti
2 presentation.

3
4 (No comments)

5
6 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Seeing none. Thanks
7 a lot, Vince. For the record, Vince was our past
8 coordinator and did a great job for us.

9
10 MR. MATHEWS: I appreciate that. I do
11 want to thank you all for your dedication. Your
12 dedication is very high. In this little report, it
13 shows some of your past efforts coming to fruit, but
14 you do face new challenges. I hope that someday there
15 will be come younger people following behind you. I've
16 given this speech across the state. We do need to look
17 at recruitment and that comes from you. You know the
18 younger guys and gals that have these skills and
19 interest in that to encourage them to fill out the
20 applications over on the table over there. I serve on
21 two nomination panels and it's frustrating to see the
22 low numbers of people applying for such an important
23 thing. And there's various reasons for that, but you
24 guys can start at your level to get more people to
25 apply. We can send out everything in the world and it
26 doesn't hit the right person at the right time.

27
28 Thank you.

29
30 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks a lot, Vince.

31
32 Melinda.

33
34 MS. BURKE: Mr. Chair. I'd like to ask
35 you and Lisa and the Council how we'd like to proceed.
36 The senior class again is going to have dinner prepared
37 for us as their second fundraiser meal. It will be
38 taking place over at the school. It will be a great
39 chance to visit with the folks who have traveled in
40 from the conference. We still do have an hour. I
41 wanted to ask the Council and Lisa would you like to do
42 the sidebar work on the map and the boundary line
43 quickly this evening or would you like to meet maybe
44 earlier in the morning before we adjourn. I'm kind of
45 trying to get an idea what time we should wrap up here.

46
47 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Lisa.

48
49 MS. FEYEREISEN: Yes. I've called our
50 board support Alissa Joseph and she's preparing a map

1 that I believe will be comfortable with GASH and that
2 we'll be able to present it to you as instructed by the
3 Chair. We might not have the language, but one of the
4 issues that we were not aware of, why GASH had issues,
5 was the 21E issue of it, and so we've resolved that
6 issue. Proposal 67 or Proposal 10 actually took quite
7 a bit of 21E away and Central Kuskokwim didn't pay
8 attention to that. So that's been resolved and I think
9 we've come up with a pretty good situation that we'd
10 like to present to you guys and then present to the
11 Lower Kuskokwim on March 7th.

12

13 But we can still have sidebars. I'm
14 not saying -- though my son is cooking. Stormy
15 Phillips is out there cooking senior food for you guys.

16

17 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I think that the
18 Council would like to have the map in front of us, so
19 if that map can be transmitted -- we don't have
20 internet capabilities here. So when we can get that
21 transmitted to -- you could email it to Melinda.

22

23 MS. FEYEREISEN: She's going to send it
24 to me and then I'm going to try to print it off, but
25 also I have her card in my pocket already.

26

27 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Just transmit it to
28 Melinda. She'll have printing capabilities. So you
29 can worry about washing dishes or something.

30

31 MS. FEYEREISEN: Like I said, I grabbed
32 her card. I might have taken it out at lunchtime
33 today, but I have her card and I'll talk to her about
34 it to make sure I have the right thing. I don't know,
35 you know. It's a State worker, done at the end of the
36 day at 5:00 o'clock, but Alissa thought she could get
37 it to me tonight.

38

39 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Yeah, I would
40 like to have something graphic in front of the Council.

41

42 MS. FEYEREISEN: We'll have some of the
43 language. We just won't have the 21E language, but I
44 think we essentially -- well, we can talk about it
45 tomorrow. Yeah, I think it's -- something came to
46 light that even the State wasn't aware of the reason
47 why it wasn't accepted by them, so I think we've
48 compromised pretty well.

49

50 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks, Lisa. I

1 appreciate you going behind the scenes and helping us
2 out there.

3

4 MS. BURKE: I'll leave it up to you,
5 Mr. Chair, and to the Council if you'd like to go ahead
6 and adjourn, have a little break before dinner, that's
7 fine. We can try to cover the C&T issue. I leave it
8 up to the Council.

9

10 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So we will recess
11 for the evening so we can pack up.

12

13 (Off record)

14

15 (PROCEEDINGS TO BE CONTINUED)

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

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 02 through 138 contain a full, true and correct Transcript of the WESTERN INTERIOR FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING, VOLUME I, taken electronically by Computer Matrix Court Reporters, LLC on the 25th day of February, 2014;

THAT the transcript is a true and correct transcript requested to be transcribed and thereafter transcribed by under my direction and reduced to print to the best of our knowledge and ability;

THAT I am not an employee, attorney, or party interested in any way in this action.

DATED at Anchorage, Alaska, this 14th day of March 2014.

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