

1 WESTERN INTERIOR ALASKA FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE
2 REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING

3
4 PUBLIC MEETING

5
6 VOLUME II

7
8 Aniak, Alaska
9 October 7, 2009
10 9:00 o'clock a.m.

11
12
13 COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

- 14
15 Jack Reakoff, Chairman
16 Ray Collins
17 Timothy Gervais
18 Donald Honea
19 Carl Morgan
20 Jenny Pelkola
21 James Walker
22 Robert Walker
23 Eleanor Yatlin

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27 Regional Council Coordinator, Vince Mathews

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P R O C E E D I N G S

(Aniak, Alaska - 10/7/2009)

(On record)

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Vince has a few housekeeping things to do.

MR. MATHEWS: Okay. Real quickly, we're going to be passing out like we did yesterday the menu thing. You circle it and decide what you want, and then give the money and that, and then we're going to call in the orders for lunch. And Don's going to be handling that part. So I will pass around for.....

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Don's going to pay for it?

MR. MATHEWS:the Council members the menu. He had some for the audience.

The other safety issue is the projector over there is kind of precarious the way it's plugged in, so just don't touch it, if you could do that. Otherwise the power will go off and then we have to start all over from ground zero.

We've already covered the safety stuff. You know where the doors are and the bathrooms.

There will be other people coming in today that we'll try to introduce as they come up on the agenda. We're projecting to have hopefully on line Pete DeMatteo, the area biologist from McGrath, if we can pull that off, and the area biologist for the Galena area, but that's still in negotiations, and trying to get them the numbers, realizing they just came in out of the field from a busy fall season.

So that's all I had, and I'll be plugging in the phone.

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. It's about five after nine, and so we're reconvening the Western Interior Regional Advisory Council meeting, fall meeting.

We covered some fisheries proposals. Last year -- I was looking at one of the proposals that

1 we looked at last year, or yesterday that I would like
2 to reconsider, and that would be Proposal 89, the State
3 proposal, if you can find your State proposal book.
4 I'd like to go over this proposal real quick. It has,
5 you know, some things that -- it's not an allocation,
6 it's -- well, I'll let that thing -- or correction, 98.
7 98. My mistake.

8

9 Okay. Ready there, Vince?

10

11 MR. PEARCE: Yeah, Vince, this is Josh
12 Pearce with Fish and Game in McGrath. I'm on.

13

14 MR. MATHEWS: Okay. So Josh is on.

15

16 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay, Josh. We can
17 hear you. Anybody else on that teleconference?

18

19 MR. MATHEWS: No.

20

21 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: No. So we're going
22 to -- we're going to clean up some of this fisheries
23 stuff from yesterday. And we're on Proposal 98, State
24 Proposal 98. And this was Kwik'pak Fisheries. This
25 actually opens up an additional fishing district in the
26 outer district of the Yukon. So I'm concerned. It's
27 between the Black River and Chris Point, fishing would
28 be permitted with both drift and setnet. And so what
29 this does is actually open more fishing area to
30 commercial fishing in the lower river, and this area
31 has not been open. This is isn't allocating among the
32 commercial users; this is actually opening more fishing
33 area. So I'm concerned that it will allow additional
34 harvest by the comer -- when they have commercial Y-1
35 openings. I'm also concerned that there's going to be
36 -- that those alloca -- that additional fishing
37 pressure will take away from other districts upriver,
38 including districts within our -- and subsistence users
39 within our own region. And I don't feel at this time
40 that any additional commercial fishing should be
41 encouraged on the Yukon River. Additional fishing
42 areas and additional harvest capacity.

43

44 And so I'd like to entertain a motion
45 to adopt the proposal and eliminate this proposal.

46

47 MR. COLLINS: Move to adopt.

48

49 MS. PELKOLA: Second.

50

1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Moved and seconded
2 to adopt the proposal. Any comments on this proposal.
3 Anybody voice additional, my additional fears. Go
4 ahead, Ray.

5
6 MR. COLLINS: Well, this didn't come by
7 the planning group, so it's gone direct to Board of
8 Fisheries. And there's a Kuskokwim River Working
9 Group, and we never looked at it or discussed it, and
10 it should have been discussed by that group.

11
12 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Well, this is on the
13 lower Yukon.

14
15 MR. COLLINS: Oh, it's Lower Yukon.

16
17 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: It's Lower Yukon.

18
19 MR. COLLINS: I thought you said
20 Kuskokwim. Oh, okay.

21
22 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: And so the Lower
23 Yukon, this basically opens additional district
24 capacity for Y-1. And so that's the proposal. Any
25 additional comments. Tim.

26
27 MR. GERVAIS: Yeah, I want to comment
28 regarding they're saying it will improve the quality of
29 their harvested product. And that's the issue, perhaps
30 in the future Kwik'pak could submit a proposal where
31 they're exchanging some area for this outer area or
32 something. Take away some area they have in exchange
33 for getting this more ocean-caught fish.

34
35 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Well, that's nothing
36 but baloney. I could use another term, but all of
37 those lower river fish are very high quality fish all
38 the way through Y-1 and Y-2, and anything that knows
39 anything about a Yukon king. Kwik'pak is full of B.S.
40 They just want additional fishing capacity. And so I'm
41 not happy with this proposal, especially when we have
42 the suppression of run.

43
44 Do you have additional comment.

45
46 MR. GERVAIS: All right. Well, that
47 was my comment.

48
49 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I don't think
50 they're going to want to trim Y-1 in the upper part or

1 some other area. And so any other comments on this
2 proposal.

3

4 (No comments)

5

6 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I'm opposed to the
7 proposal specifically because there's no need for
8 additional harvest capacity on the Lower Yukon River,
9 and they have plenty of -- we have to control the
10 commercial harvest there with openings. And so the
11 districts that are in place are plenty adequate, and so
12 I'm opposed to the proposal, because it may take away
13 allocation from the upper districts, including the
14 subsistence users of the Yukon River. So those are my
15 opposing comments on that proposal.

16

17 So any further discussion.

18

19 (No comments)

20

21 MR. R. WALKER: Question.

22

23 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: The question's being
24 called. All those in favor of the proposal signify by
25 saying aye.

26

27 (No affirmative votes)

28

29 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Those opposed to
30 Proposal 98 same sign.

31

32 IN UNISON: Aye.

33

34 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Proposal fails
35 unanimously.

36

37 And so we're going to go -- that's
38 everything. Now we can go to the ichthyophonus,
39 basically update.

40

41 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, according to the
42 agenda, that's where you would be at.

43

44 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right. I wanted an
45 Ichthyophonus update. In 2003 there was quite a bit of
46 discussion about Ichthyophonus actually killing female
47 Chinook as they migrate up the river. There was --
48 we'll have Don give sort of an overview of the various
49 studies that have been in place. And the Alaska
50 Department of Fish and Game promised to have an

1 Ichthyophonus study. And now six years later I'm
2 asking, where is that study and what is the update on
3 that study. And so I've gotten some preliminary stuff.
4 So Don's going to give us -- I want the Council, we
5 have many Council members that have come onto the
6 Council and are unaware of this issue, and I want the
7 Council to come on the same sheet of music with what
8 this issue really is and what Ichthyophonus really is.

9

10 Go ahead, Don.

11

12 MR. RIVARD: Thank you, Mr. Chair. My
13 name is Don Rivard. I'm a fish biologist with the
14 Office of Subsistence Management.

15

16 I've got basically a summary of the
17 studies that have been done to date on Ichthyophonus, a
18 disease that occurs in Chinook salmon and other salmon
19 as well, but mainly it's been affecting Chinook salmon
20 on the Yukon. I'm going to give you jut kind of a
21 summary of some of the studies that have been done, and
22 I've done my best to just kind of give you the facts,
23 ma'am, kind of thing, because OSM doesn't have a stance
24 on any of this.

25

26 There's not complete agreement on
27 what's happening with Ichthyophonus in the Yukon and
28 the studies have kind of shown that. They go back and
29 forth a little bit. There's statements that are made,
30 and then a subsequent study might say something
31 different. So I'm just going to lay that out for you,
32 and we don't know for sure.

33

34 One of the studies that was funded was
35 by OSM. And it's a 2001 study by Kocan and others. I
36 did -- do you guys have your packets? Did everybody
37 get a packet? Okay. The packet has.....

38

39 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: In the blue folder
40 there was packets that had some of these Ichthyophonus
41 stuff. Maybe you could give just a brief synopsis of
42 what that disease actually is for the Council members.

43

44 MR. RIVARD: I can. Okay. It's an
45 infection of salmon. It usually most affects the heart
46 tissue. But it also starts affecting other things as
47 well. The cardiac muscle is frequently the first
48 tissue affected by Ichthyophonus and is then
49 disseminated throughout the body. Ichthyophonus is
50 transmitted by ingestion of infected prey or other

1 organisms. So it's something that the fish pick up as
2 they're eating. The disease is contracted by salmon in
3 the ocean and possibly near shore as fish are getting
4 close in time to migrating upriver. Because they've
5 done some sampling of fish out in the Bering Sea, and
6 they're not really seeing it there. It's only when
7 they're starting to come into the river systems,
8 getting closer to shore that they seem to pick this up.
9 But that's still not for sure. They're still -- that's
10 one of the unknowns is how they're actually picking
11 this disease up.

12
13 Fish do not recover for Ichthyophonus
14 infections. Once they have it, they're going to have
15 it until they die. And they may die from it, or they
16 may just die from other -- you know, then naturally
17 from after they spawn.

18
19 Water temperatures above 15 degrees
20 centigrade of 59 degrees fahrenheit appeared to be
21 associated with increased disease. And there's some
22 evidence that the average water temperature of the
23 Yukon River has risen over the last 30 years. I didn't
24 see anywhere where it says how much it's rise, but
25 there is some evidence that it has.

26
27 Monitoring of Ichthyophonus in Chinook
28 salmon near Emmonak has been ongoing since 1999, and
29 there has been a downward trend in prevalence since
30 2002. And if you look, there's a figure 1 with the
31 graphs. This is kind of the key take-home message,
32 this graph here. There's also extra -- there were
33 extra graphs on the table yesterday. But there was a
34 fairly high presence as you see, and since 2002 it's
35 been a downward trend. Now, it could be that it's
36 cyclical, it could be that the fish in some way are
37 developing some immunity to it. They're not sure on
38 that either.

39
40 Okay. Very little data for Eagle, 2008
41 appears to have been a low Ichthyophonus year for fish
42 sampled near the Canadian border as well. And I've got
43 a similar graph, I didn't give this to everybody,
44 because there's just so few data in the upper part of
45 the river, but this is for the years 2000, 2002 when it
46 was high just like on your other graph, and then the
47 next data point is 2008 and it's low. It looks like it
48 may be the same trend for the upper river, but there's
49 so much data gap that it's hard to know for sure.
50

1 Now, Kocan in his 1999 through 2003
2 study, in three of the five years infection prevalence
3 was greater in females than males in the Yukon main
4 stem, excluding Whitehorse. The difference, this is
5 Kocan's words now, the difference was significant in
6 1999 and 2000, but only marginally significant in 2001.
7 The percent of infected males increased each year, and
8 again this is 1999 to 2003, increased each year until
9 infection prevalence in males approached that of
10 females. So the range of infection prevalence for
11 females during that study period was 24 to 41 percent,
12 and for males it was 17 to 34 percent. And those are
13 considered minimum percentages.

14
15 In three of the four years in the
16 Tanana River, and this is 2000 to 2003, there was no
17 difference in infection prevalence between males and
18 females.

19
20 No significant age or size-related
21 difference was detected in infection prevalence. Now,
22 that's what Kocan came up with in his study. But
23 subsequent studies have showed that's not necessarily
24 the case, and I'll get into that a little bit later
25 with some of the 2007/2008 studies.

26
27 Kocan postulated that lower rate of
28 prevalence in females on spawning grounds may be due to
29 mortality of infected fish during migration.

30
31 Now, you've mentioned the ADF&G study.
32 They did do it. They did a one-year study in 2004, and
33 their results came out in a report, 2007. 07-64. It's
34 in your packet.

35
36 And for that study, ADF&G, the
37 prevalence of Ichthyophonous can vary greatly throughout
38 the drainage. For example, disease prevalence was 17.8
39 percent at Emmonak, 11.3 percent at Tanana, 36 percent
40 at Chena River, and 13.7 percent in the Salcha River.
41 This river showed via radio telemetry that some
42 Ichthyophonous infected salmon made it to the spawning
43 grounds, and indicated that at least some infected
44 female Chinook salmon migrating up the Chena and Salcha
45 River deposited their eggs. The results of their study
46 showed no difference in spawning success between
47 infected and uninfected females.

48
49 Now, the most current published data is
50 from the Yukon River Salmon 2007 season summary and

1 2000 [sic] season outlook prepared by the United States
2 and Canada Yukon River Joint Technical Committee. And
3 the Joint Technical Committee is reporting this each
4 year to the Yukon River Panel. So they have this on
5 their radar screen. They're very interested and
6 they're keeping track of what's going on with
7 Ichthyophonus as well.

8
9 So in 2007, gross clinical signs
10 typical of Ichthyophonus were noted in 10 percent of
11 fish sampled at Emmonak, but this sample is very small.
12 They only sampled 150 fish, so 15 out of 150. And
13 that's part of the I'd say problem is that they're
14 getting such small sample sizes when they're looking at
15 Ichthyophonus, because 150 out of 80 to 120,000 fish
16 passing, it's rally hard to kind of say what's really
17 going on. And it's one of the reasons that they use
18 prevalence instead of infection rate, because it's just
19 the percent that they're seeing in the fish that
20 they're sampling, so who knows what it is in the fish
21 they're not sampling. So they use the word prevalence
22 instead of rate.

23
24 Also in 2007 prevalence of
25 Ichthyophonus in Chinook salmon sampled at Emmonak was
26 16.7 percent using lab techniques. Of the infected
27 fish, 68 percent were females. Most infected Chinook
28 salmon were age 6. So the females and the larger fish,
29 the older fish, they're seeing more of a prevalence.
30 That kind of again contradicts what I said earlier with
31 the other study, that there was no size and age
32 difference in prevalence of infection. So again it's a
33 real small sample. It's 150 fish, and so that's just
34 showing that, a real small sample.

35
36 Ichthyophonus prevalence at the mouth
37 of the Yukon River varied with time, ranging from a
38 high of 33 percent in 2003 to a low of 17 percent in
39 2004 and 2007. And that again is just resting the
40 graph that I gave you there, that's just talking about
41 that again.

42
43 Now, the latest date that we have, and
44 this is still unpublished, so it's not official, is
45 from the Yukon River salmon 2008 season summary and
46 2009 season outlook, again prepared by the United
47 States and Canada Yukon River Joint Technical
48 Committee. In 2008 gross clinical signs typical of
49 Ichthyophonus infection were noted in 9 and a half
50 percent of fish sampled at Emmonak, 8.7 percent of fish

1 sampled at Rampart Rapids, and 12 percent of fish
2 sampled near Eagle. And the sample size respectively
3 were 298, 150 and 250. Again, these are very small
4 sample sizes, so it's really kind of hard to make a
5 real strong statement as to what's really happening.

6
7 Now the sex and age of Chinook salmon
8 with clinical signs of Ichthyophonus: At Emmonak 53.6
9 percent were female. 60.7 of those fish, of all fish,
10 were age 6, and 35.7 were age 5. At Rampart Rapids,
11 again for 2008, the ones that had the clinical signs of
12 Ichthyophonus, 61.5 percent were female, but no ages
13 were determined for that particular site. And then at
14 Eagle 16.7 percent were female, 66.7 were age 5 and
15 13.3 were age 6 fish.

16
17 So that's my report on Ichthyophonus.

18
19 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Thanks, Don.
20 The upshot is that the Department -- this is a
21 relatively new disease in the Yukon River. People
22 started seeing this disease and started reporting it,
23 and they found out what it is. It went real prominent,
24 but it still is present throughout every year. The
25 Department promised this Council in the Tri-Council
26 meeting, all the Councils of the Yukon that they would
27 do a more extensive study to show what Ichthyophonus --
28 what it's actually doing to fish.

29
30 So these small sample size, I'm not --
31 I'm unhappy with this study that the Department has
32 designed. It doesn't have a very larger sample size,
33 and they're not doing nearly the extent of studying
34 this disease and what that does to the spawning
35 components. See, a lot of these older females have
36 this disease. If the water's real warm, it makes them
37 sick. It can kill them before they get to their
38 spawning areas. Some of the telemetry work that's
39 showed some of the fish made the spawning grounds, but
40 there were fish that had telemetry that didn't show up
41 on the spawning grounds, and so that leads to, as Kocan
42 thought, possible we're losing some fish along the way.

43
44
45 And so any time the Department doesn't
46 consider what a mortality is in the run, they're going
47 to allocate additional fish to the commercial fishery.
48 That's the upshot of this. And so if we're not meeting
49 escapement goals really, if we have a disease that's
50 taking fish out before they reach their spawning area,

1 subsistence -- when these runs come in weak, in the
2 long run, the upriver districts, the subsistence users
3 take the restrictions. And so that's why this disease
4 is concerning me, is the Department is not studying the
5 disease, does not calculate in a mortality, and they
6 allocate fish that are dying to the commercial fishery.
7 That's the upshot of what happens here, and so that's
8 why I want the Council to understand what's going on,
9 what Ichthyophonus is, what that means to our
10 subsistence users, that we're going to have to take
11 restrictions if these runs come in weak, because we
12 haven't met true escapement goals.

13

14 And so I was told by Danny yesterday
15 that they're going to make an Ichthyophonus report to
16 us in our spring meeting. They have some other data
17 here that they're working on.

18

19 But I don't feel that the Department
20 came through with and just paying -- basically ignoring
21 this issue. That's the upshot. The Department, by
22 taking small sample size, they're basically trying to
23 ignore the issue. I think that it's a very concerning
24 management issue. If you're losing, Kocan thought on
25 certain warm water years there could be some
26 significant loss of female fish, and so I think the
27 Department needs to take a more serious outlook.

28

29 And that's about as far as I want to go
30 with Ichthyophonus at this meeting.

31

32 Don.

33

34 MR. RIVARD: Well, Mr. Chair, I just
35 wanted to let you know that there are a couple of on-
36 going studies of -- or they are going to be starting
37 next year. They've already been funded. Both of them
38 will be conducted -- the principal investigator will be
39 Larissa Den, and she's a professor at the School of
40 Fisheries and Ocean Sciences at the University of
41 Alaska at Fairbanks. One is entitled Ichthyophonus in
42 Chinook Salmon, a Continuation of a Baseline in Emmonak
43 and Eagle, and potential links to fecundity and how
44 it's affecting what's going on in the spawning grounds.
45 So that's going to be -- I've got the project
46 objectives here.

47

48 And then the second one -- that
49 particular one is being funded by the Yukon River
50 Panel, restoration and enhancement fund.

1 And the second one is Disease Severity
2 and Ties to Chinook Salmon Condition in the Marine
3 Migration Phase. This is kind of interesting. I
4 talked with Professor Den about this, and what they're
5 going to start doing is to kind of confirm where the
6 disease is coming from, or try to get a better handle
7 of where it's starting, is they're going to start
8 sampling some of the Chinook bycatch from the pollack
9 trawl fishery and seeing if they're seeing any signs of
10 Ichthyophonus in these younger fish, these four and
11 five-year-old salmon that are being caught in the
12 bycatch. And that's being funded by the North Pacific
13 Research Board.

14
15 And one other thing I wanted to point
16 out, and it's in your packet, is -- it's called
17 Ichthyophonus Disease. It's a website that Stan Zuray
18 has put up and maintains. And he's done, I think, a
19 really good job of anything that comes up with
20 Ichthyophonus, he's got links to on his website. And I
21 got a lot of my material frankly right off of that. I
22 mean, it's links to the ADF&G's reports and Kocan's
23 reports, and so if anybody's interested, and you really
24 want to read up on it, that's the place to go, and you
25 can read right on line. And here's some of the reports
26 that I didn't include in your packet. I've got another
27 kind of thick thing here.

28
29 So that's it. Thank you. Mr. Chair.

30
31 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yeah. Thanks, Don.
32 I just wanted the Council to be aware of what this
33 disease is. A lot of Council members are new. This
34 issue's been before the Council for a long time. And
35 it's going to be an on-going management issue. Six
36 years later. I'm not happy with the amount of effort
37 that the Department has put into -- I'm glad that
38 there's continuing studies, but these studies take
39 years to do and to get the data actually published, and
40 so every year that goes by, as far as I'm concerned,
41 we're wasting time. And so I'm glad to hear that.

42
43 MR. COLLINS: Mr. Chair.

44
45 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Ray.

46
47 MR. COLLINS: Don, have they checked
48 the Kuskokwim to see if it's present there, or looked
49 at other drainages?

50

1 MR. RIVARD: Yes, Ray. It's my
2 understanding that, yes, it's prevalent. It's there,
3 but it's not been a problem so far. I don't think
4 they've had quite the complaints from fishermen. It
5 doesn't seem to be a problem yet in the Kuskokwim.
6 Hopefully it won't be.

7
8 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So we have to move
9 on with our agenda. So thanks a lot, Don. And so
10 we're -- the wildlife closure reviews. Larry's going
11 to give us an update on that.

12
13 MR. MATHEWS: Yes. And in your packet,
14 and we can get you additional copies. It's in your
15 colored tab, and I've got to look up the colored tab,
16 but the material he's going to be talking from is under
17 the pink tab. But there are extra copies.

18
19 And then we have to also allow you to
20 look into the special.....

21
22 MR. BUKLIS: Hold off on that.

23
24 MR. MATHEWS: Oh, okay. All right.
25 But anyways the closure review is under the pink tab.
26 And if you need additional copies, I have additional
27 copies. Thank you.

28
29 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, Larry.

30
31 MR. BUKLIS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
32 Larry Buklis, Office of Subsistence Management.

33
34 Mr. Chairman. This agenda item deals
35 with wildlife closure reviews, and this Council went
36 through this work at your winter meeting earlier this
37 year. However, due to issues surrounding publication
38 of the wildlife proposed rule and then that being
39 delayed and withdrawn and then republished, there's an
40 issue with whether the winter Council meetings were
41 duly noticed regarding the wildlife issues. And so
42 we're coming back to you, this is an action item, but
43 it's a simple one. We're asking the Councils who had
44 worked through this back at the winter meetings to
45 reaffirm or not your decisions of that time.

46
47 And so for this Council, it dealt with
48 wildlife closure review 08-20. You already reviewed
49 this. We're coming back to you for reaffirmation or
50 new decision. And just to remind you, I think your

1 coordinator's passed out the earlier analysis that you
2 looked at. This is Unit 24B, 24-Bravo, the Kanuti
3 Controlled Use Area, closed for moose to all but
4 Federally-qualified subsistence take -- subsistence
5 users due to reasons of conservation and to provide for
6 the subsistence uses.

7

8 This Council back in the winter
9 meetings moved to retain the closure as your
10 recommendation. And I would point out to you in your
11 meeting book for this meeting, you earlier yesterday
12 went through your meeting minutes from that meeting,
13 and on Page 12 of your meeting book for this week, are
14 your minutes from the winter meeting. So Page 12.
15 There on Page 12 under item B for Bravo is the Federal
16 closure review and it's a brief summary of your actions
17 back then.

18

19 As an aside, I'd let you know that the
20 North Slope Regional Advisory Council didn't take this
21 up in their winter meeting. I think there was an issue
22 with a quorum, but they took it up this fall, or
23 recently, and they moved to retain the closure.

24

25 And, Mr. Chairman, this closure was
26 imposed back in 1992.

27

28 I think that's my thumbnail sketch of
29 the situation, and we're looking for your reaffirmation
30 of what you did in the winter, or a new direction.

31

32 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Thanks a lot,
33 Larry. We reviewed this, as he pointed out, on Page 12
34 of our minutes from this last spring meeting in Galena,
35 and we affirmed to retain the closure in 24B in the
36 Kanuti Controlled Use Area, Federal lands.

37

38 And so the people of that area continue
39 to have a hardship trying to come up with moose. The
40 concern is that Bettles is like within about 40 miles
41 of Allakaket. There's an air force of transporters
42 that fly out of Bettles dropping hunters all over the
43 place, with float planes. And so there's a high
44 saturation of hunting pressure around that controlled
45 use areas and if this was opened, if there was no -- if
46 it was open to the general hunt, there would be high
47 saturation of all those lake systems in the Kanuti
48 National Wildlife Refuge, and it would be -- the people
49 are already having a heck of a time trying to come up
50 with meat.

1 And it can't take -- the moose
2 population is low. And so we also have a lot of these
3 moose will move in and out of that area. They'll move
4 outside and are subjected to hunting pressure already.
5 They move into the Dalton Highway Corridor, they get
6 into a hunting area over there.

7
8 And so the reality is at this time
9 there's -- I'm unwilling to see this opened up to the
10 general hunt without any control. There's no control
11 under State regulations as far as how many people could
12 be able to hunt there. If there was a limited drawing
13 hunt or something like that in place of a few permits,
14 that would be sustainable. But just to open a general
15 hunt within 40 miles of Bettles, I mean, it's a hop.
16 They would just be -- I mean, you take off from
17 Bettles, you could start hunting immediately, dropping
18 people off in any of the large lake systems. And so I
19 feel that this closure is necessary to be maintained
20 until the State comes up with and has a proposal to
21 stay within a sustained harvest range that would be
22 compatible with local subsistence users.

23
24 And so that's my position on this
25 closure. I would like to poll the Council if they're
26 in agreement. Eleanor's spent a lot of time in that
27 area, lived at Bettles and so forth, and so do you have
28 any statements, Eleanor?

29
30 MS. YATLIN: When we lived up there,
31 there was like four outfitters out of Bettles, and they
32 would drop off hunters in the Alatna River at one point
33 and they'd float downriver and then pick them up,
34 either a three-day -- on a three-day trip or a five-day
35 trip, and picked them up in -- at a different point.
36 And they fly them in. And then coming down Koyukuk
37 River, we could see the, you know, rafts they use. And
38 we mainly just see horns and, you know, there's no way
39 they could be carrying all that meat.

40
41 And then I work for Frontiers for a
42 whole year and a half and I was the one that loaded up
43 all those horns, so I saw a lot of moose taken out of
44 there.

45
46 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right. And so that
47 the area around the Kanuti is highly hunted already.
48 And so without any controls, there's a real need to
49 maintain this moose population in the Kanuti area, and
50 people are having a hard time getting meat there.

1 Any additional comments from the
2 Council. Tim.
3
4 MR. GERVAIS: I'm not understanding why
5 we need to do this over again.
6
7 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: They just want
8 reaffirmation.
9
10 MR. COLLINS: Mr. Chairman. I'll move
11 to reaffirm.
12
13 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. We've got a
14 motion.
15
16 MR. J. WALKER: Second.
17
18 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Seconded. Any
19 additional comment.
20
21 (No comments)
22
23 MR. J. WALKER: Question.
24
25 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: The question's been
26 called. Those in favor of retention of the Federal
27 closure in Unit 24B on Federal public lands signify by
28 saying aye.
29
30 IN UNISON: Aye.
31
32 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Those opposed same
33 sign.
34
35 (No opposing votes)
36
37 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: The Council
38 unanimously affirms that Federal closure.
39
40 Vince.
41
42 MR. MATHEWS: Yes. I need to apologize
43 to Tim. In the rush of moving around the room, I
44 failed to remind you that you added onto the agenda
45 under fisheries a discussion about the Marine
46 Stewardship Council's sustainability certification. So
47 I don't know when you want to get that back up, but
48 that was an addition to the agenda.
49
50 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right. Were you

1 satisfied with that letter to be -- Tim, you've got
2 comment.

3

4 MR. GERVAIS: Well, we had sent the
5 letter to -- or we'll do the letter to Secretary of
6 Commerce, but I would also like to send a similar
7 language letter to the Marine Stewardship Council,
8 which is a certification agency.

9

10 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Can we cc that same
11 letter that's going to the Secretary of Commerce to the
12 Marine Stewardship with a cover letter basically
13 describing our -- that this is a concern, that this is
14 not sustainable as the fishery has some real problems.
15 Sort of cc our letter to the Secretary of Commerce to
16 the Marine Stewardship and then a brief overview.

17

18 Would that be sufficient for what
19 you're looking for?

20

21 MR. GERVAIS: Yeah, that would be fine.
22 And then the second item was a letter in support of
23 this proposal by Southern Norton Sound Advisory
24 Committee asking for Native representation on the North
25 Pacific Council.

26

27 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: We have a letter
28 going the chum salmon to the North Pacific Fisheries
29 Management Council. Was that letter sent to the
30 Secretary of Commerce? Norton Sound, are they talking
31 to the Secretary of Commerce to put additional seats or
32 is that to the North Pacific Fisheries Management
33 Council itself.

34

35 MR. GERVAIS: Stand by. There's some
36 information here in our packet regarding that I think,
37 in this one that Vince handed out yesterday under the
38 yellow tab. Southern Norton Sound Advisory Committee
39 has a letter to Senator Murkowski.

40

41 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Oh, I see.

42

43 MR. GERVAIS: And then she has a
44 response on that. So she's saying the Alaska
45 Delegation's written a letter to Commerce Secretary
46 Locke supporting the request for Association of Village
47 Council Presidents and AFN. Oh, that's for Federal.

48

49 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: We get into a little
50 bit of a sticky point here when we start speaking

1 directly to Senators and so forth. So they're
2 petitioning Senator Murkowski for additional seats.
3 This Council -- Vince, what is the -- the Hatch Act
4 doesn't allow us to speak directly to Senators
5 requesting certain, lobbying certain things. Does that
6 apply to requesting Senator Murkowski to have
7 additional seats on the North Pacific Fishery
8 Management Council?

9

10 MR. MATHEWS: Others on Staff can help
11 me with this, but you're not subject to the Hatch Act,
12 because you're not Federal employees, if my memory's
13 correct, but you're subject to the Council
14 correspondence policy which the Council cannot lobby
15 for a position with Congress. I'll have to pull out
16 the policy, so hopefully I didn't confuse you, but
17 there was a lot of work done on that, that you're not
18 subject to the Hatch Act, but you are subject to the
19 Council correspondence policy.

20

21 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: See, we get into
22 these sticky situations with these Councils writing
23 directly to the Governor or legislators. I've wanted
24 to do that, but we get into some kind of -- our public
25 review policy, they don't want Councils -- or the
26 Councils are supposed to dialogue -- can dialogue with
27 certain entities, but getting into legislation and
28 legislators and so forth gets into a sticky
29 information.

30

31 You've got additional information
32 there, Vince.

33

34 MR. MATHEWS: Yes. I'll get back to
35 you on the Hatch Act. I'm getting different reports
36 from different regions on the Hatch Act. But the point
37 is, is you can't lobby.

38

39 What can be done is you could bring
40 this issue up to who you serve, the Board, and then
41 copy the NP on it.

42

43 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: We can insert that
44 request for four additional seats -- you know, I feel
45 uncomfortable with giving all those seats to all the
46 western Alaskan villages. I would like to see some
47 representation from the in-river people also, at least
48 one seat. And so we can request in our annual report
49 to the Federal Subsistence Board as one of our issues
50 that we would like to see additional seats from western

1 Alaska and Interior Alaska, of the affected AYK stocks,
2 to have seat representation on the North Pacific
3 Fisheries Management Council. That's the most
4 expeditious way for this Council to get that request.
5 And so the Federal Subsistence Board can decide whether
6 they would allow that request to go forward. And I
7 think that's the most expeditious way to do this.

8

9

Vince.

10

11 MR. MATHEWS: Yeah, it is. Yes, it
12 probably -- yes, it would be. The reason I'm
13 hesitating, the annual report goes through its own
14 process. It's not a direct letter. But it would flag
15 them, and then the Board would be informed of it.

16

17 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Well, we could put
18 it in the annual report and then send an additional
19 letter to OSM requesting direct dialogue with Lisa
20 Murkowski, but that probably will fail, so it will have
21 a two-pronged approach. I want to get the biggest bang
22 for the buck out of this.

23

24 MR. MATHEWS: The biggest bang for the
25 buck, my understanding, would be to have a letter,
26 because you're going to be sending it, two things that
27 have to be tracked, and then one is on a more set
28 scheduled kind of a longer range, so it would probably
29 be better just to send a letter directly I would assume
30 to Pete Probasco in charge of this program, instead of
31 putting it in the annual report, and that way there
32 would be a direct response from there and not this
33 other process that goes.....

34

35 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. So probably
36 the best thing to do is send it directly to the head of
37 OSM requesting that OSM, the Federal Subsistence Board
38 recommend that there needs to be additional
39 representation on the North Pacific Fisheries
40 Management Council.

41

42 Would that -- is that satisfactory? Go
43 ahead, Tim.

44

45 MR. GERVAIS: Yeah, that would be
46 appropriate I think to adjusting the make up of that
47 Council, the North Pacific Council.

48

49 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yeah. I'm in favor
50 of that representation on the North Pacific Fisheries

1 Management Council. I don't think that there's nearly
2 enough representation from the affected users.

3

4 And any further comment by the Council.
5 Vince.

6

7 MR. MATHEWS: Just so it's clear, it's
8 just additional representation, not tribal
9 representation, since the request from the AC was
10 tribal representation.

11

12 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Larry, got
13 additional comment.

14

15 MR. BUKLIS: Mr. Chairman. Thank you.
16 Larry Buklis, OSM.

17

18 Mr. Chairman. You're right to be
19 careful about the kinds of correspondence the Council
20 can pursue. But there's no harm done in developing a
21 draft letter and deferring to OSM and their judgment as
22 to whether it can go forward from you directly or not.
23 And that could be packaged with your communication to
24 OSM. So you could pursue everything you've talked
25 about just now, but in communicating to the Assistant
26 Regional Director of OSM, Pete Probasco, as you
27 described, you could accompany that with this draft
28 letter we're talking about that would be from you
29 directly to some authority on this Council issue. And
30 if in his judgment that can go through, all the better.
31 If it can't, it at least underscores what you're trying
32 to communicate. And as I look at the correspondence
33 policy, it says you will provide a draft for review to
34 the ARD for matters -- this includes, but is not
35 limited to, letters of support, resolutions, letters
36 offering comment or recommendations, and any other
37 correspondence to any government agency or any tribal
38 or private organization or individual. So I think, you
39 know, you're talking about government agencies that you
40 want to communicate to and comment to, and this may be
41 the kind of letter that with our review can go forward
42 directly from you. Maybe not. But in pursuing it,
43 you've made your message all the more clearer.

44

45 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Well, my concern is
46 that it only describes agencies or other organizations.
47 It doesn't give us direct contact with legislators, and
48 that's my concern. And so I want this to be expedited.
49 I would like -- I think the Federal Subsistence Board
50 -- it's my opinion that the Federal Subsistence Board

1 can contact legislators; is that true?

2

3

MR. BUKLIS: Yes, I think they can.

4

5

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: And so I would encourage -- I would like our letter to the assistant regional director to understand our position for representation, and I would like to encourage the OSM to talk to the Federal Subsistence Board to try and get a letter written to Senator Murkowski and other delegations. Mark Begich. To try to get additional representation on the North Pacific Fisheries Management Council. And so I don't think that -- I don't want my letter to get like sidetracked. I want it to be expedited and pushed.

16

17

We can send both. And so, you're right, we'll try to send both. We'll send a duality letter, one to Pete Probasco, one to Secretary -- or correction, Lisa Murkowski and Mark Begich requesting this additional seats. They can kill one or the other or both. And so that would be -- that would have the most effect, is to try both routes.

24

25

Carl.

26

27

MR. MORGAN: I'm thinking one of those correspondence should go also to the Governor, because the Governor appoints five of those seats, and at least let it go to the Governor and say, at least appoint one for the subsistence from the State of Alaska, as a rural subsistence user.

33

34

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: We can try, you know, an additional letter, a letter to each, Senator Murkowski, Mark Begich, and the Governor of Alaska, laying out the issue, that there's under-representation by the affected users in Western Alaska, and there's need for additional seats on the North Pacific Fisheries Management Council, and let the chips lay where they fall.

42

43

Tim.

44

45

MR. GERVAIS: And how about Don Young since he has some ties with Fort Yukon.

47

48

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yeah. I mean, if we're going to go for -- we might as well do the whole delegation.

50

1 Go ahead, Larry.

2

3 MR. BUKLIS: Mr. Chairman. I was
4 advised that this kind of discussion did come up at the
5 very recent Seward Peninsula Council meeting and Pete
6 Probasco was there. I knew he was. I didn't realize
7 this conversation came up. And he was counseling along
8 your lines of concern regarding legislators and
9 Congress people. And the strategy there was perhaps
10 better to correspond with the Department of Commerce,
11 which is an agency, and which has authority over the
12 Marine Council system. And that is clearly a place
13 that you and we can communicate to. And many of these
14 concerns could be expressed there to the agency which
15 controls the North Pacific Council.

16

17 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right. And so we do
18 have an avenue in our review process to contact
19 agencies.

20

21 MR. BUKLIS: Correct. After review, a
22 letter like that can go forward.

23

24 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right. And so
25 that's.....

26

27 MR. BUKLIS: You thereby skirt your
28 concern of being sidetracked on this, but you get a
29 more direct communication anyways.

30

31 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right. Well, we'll
32 send basically the same letter to the Department of
33 Commerce, to Assistant Regional Director Pete Probasco,
34 and we'll try to send the letter to the delegation,
35 Lisa Murkowski, Mark Begich, the Governor and Don
36 Young. That will cover all our bases and we'll let the
37 chips lay where they fall.

38

39 Is that adequate to the Council on this
40 discussion.

41

42 (No comments)

43

44 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: We'll have a motion
45 to transmit those letters -- that letter requesting
46 additional seats on the North Pacific Fisheries
47 Management Council with at least one seat from the
48 Yukon River drainage and one seat from the Kuskokwim
49 River drainage, as that would be my points.

50

1 MS. PELKOLA: I'll so move.
2
3 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: It's moved.
4
5 MR. GERVAIS: I'll second that.
6
7 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: And seconded. Any
8 further discussion.
9
10 (No comments)
11
12 MR. HONEA: Question.
13
14 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: The question's been
15 called on that letter. All in favor of transmitting
16 that letter signify by saying aye.
17
18 IN UNISON: Aye.
19
20 (No opposing votes)
21
22 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: The letter shall be
23 drafted and sent. Is there a time frame that this
24 Department of Commerce -- we should get that to them
25 before their deliberations on this approval of the
26 North Pacific Fisheries Management Council. I think
27 that while it's fresh in their mind. I think it's
28 December 2nd I think is their -- that's when comment --
29 Don, I want it to be, that letter to be received by the
30 Department of Commerce before they -- while they're in
31 deliberation on this whole review of the North Pacific
32 Fisheries Management Council. Don.
33
34 MR. RIVARD: Mr. Chair. That December
35 2nd deadline is for comments for the chum salmon, the
36 next round of comments for chum salmon. But these
37 letters you're talking about, they can go on anytime,
38 because you're asking for something that, you know,
39 doesn't really have a timetable, you would just like to
40 see this action take place.
41
42 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right. Well, the
43 Congress is coming into session, and I would -- the
44 sooner, the better, within the next couple months we
45 should probably transmit these.
46
47 Tim.
48
49 MR. GERVAIS: It was my understanding
50 yesterday that that December 2nd day was going to be

1 the time after the rule on the king salmon cap was
2 going to be -- when the comment period for that was
3 going to open up, after the rule was published.

4

5 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right. Okay.
6 Vince.

7

8 MR. MATHEWS: Well, Don can correct me
9 on that, we don't know when that rule's coming out I
10 think Don said early December. So there's no set date
11 for the rule for the chum -- I mean the king, Chinook
12 bycatch. That has not been set. I was just getting
13 concurrence from you in case it did start December.
14 You don't meet until February, so we don't know, and I
15 think Don can confirm that, we don't know when that
16 rule's coming out that's open for 60-day comment
17 period.

18

19 MR. RIVARD: Mr. Chair. Tim. That's
20 correct. Vince has characterized that correctly. The
21 December 2nd deadline is for comments on the next round
22 for chum salmon. Chinook salmon, the proposed rule's
23 going to come out sometime between December and
24 February, and then there will be a 60-day comment
25 period once that rule comes out. So I know there's all
26 these different actions that are taking place sometimes
27 confuse people, so I just want to clarify that.

28

29 Thank you.

30

31 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. I think we've
32 covered these fisheries proposals and the fisheries
33 aspect of this meeting to the fullest extent.

34

35 We have to get into these regulatory
36 proposals, these wildlife proposals and wildlife
37 issues. And so we've covered the closure review, and
38 now we're going into the call for Federal proposals
39 that would be for 2010 through 2012, the period for
40 closure ends on November 5th, so we have to submit our
41 proposals now to the Federal Subsistence Board.

42

43 The Board of Game is also -- when is
44 their call finished? It seems like December 4th or
45 something like that.

46

47 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, it's December 4th.

48

49 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: And so we have to
50 get our proposals for wildlife in at this meeting. And

1 so I've been working with Kanuti National Wildlife
2 Refuge for the Unit 24B, the area around Allakaket is
3 having hardship trying to get meat, and so I've been
4 trying various avenues to get additional harvest
5 opportunity and winter hunting opportunity.

6
7 The State of Alaska a December 1 to
8 December 10th bull season. Conditions are hard to
9 travel in at that time of year. It's freeze up,
10 there's not much snow. It's rough. There's overflow,
11 brush. The moose are way back in the timber. We've
12 got telemetry on those moose, so for about a year and a
13 half now those moose, and Mike Spindler here will tell
14 you they're way back away from the river still at that
15 time of year. Bulls are run down. People don't really
16 like that kind of moose. It's blue, dark meat. It's
17 all tough, it's stringy, and it's not the best meat.
18 And so the State is not providing a good winter hunt.

19
20 The best time for hunting moose is in
21 late winter when we have adequate light. And so I've
22 been working with -- we talked about some of those
23 proposals at our spring meeting, and to promulgate
24 these proposals. And so they had a teleconference with
25 the State of Alaska and we talked about a State
26 proposal, and we've also been talking about some of the
27 problems that the Kanuti National Wildlife Refuge has
28 been having with administering some of the hunt
29 aspects. We have a fall extension from -- the State
30 season closes on September 25th, and we have in
31 regulation a fall extension to the 1st of October, but
32 there's a cow aspect. And so there's not going to be
33 any cow hunting, but they have to get concurrence with
34 all the biologists, and the Chair of the Western
35 Interior Council. And it's quite a problem for the
36 Kanuti National Wildlife Refuge manager.

37
38 So at this time I'll have Mike Spindler
39 come up here, and so we're going to be dialoging with
40 Mike quite a bit on these various proposals. And these
41 are proposals that we need to get off the table here,
42 get out to the Federal and State agencies.

43
44 Vince, we have proposals somewhere?
45 Where are they at. Yeah, this one here. Yeah. The
46 purple one.

47
48 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman. Sorry for
49 the delay, but as you know, we met recently about this
50 proposal for 24B as in Bravo, and I was just providing

1 suggested language, and Mike hasn't seen the suggested
2 language, dealing with the request for the moratorium.
3 So I'll get you that language also, with the caveat
4 that this is just suggested language. This doesn't
5 mean that the programs going to approve this situation
6 or whatever; that's done by the Board. It's just
7 suggested language to deal with it.

8

9 So I think we're also trying to get
10 maybe Mr. Stout on line if possible.

11

12 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. So maybe we'd
13 go to a break until we Mike on the line here, and then
14 we'll cover these.

15

16 MR. MATHEWS: Thank you.

17

18 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So we're going to
19 break or about 10 minutes.

20

21 (Off record)

22

23 (On record)

24

25 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: We're going to bring
26 the meeting to order again. So maybe I'll have the
27 Council back at our seats. Let's see. Robert and
28 James -- oh, James is here.

29

30 Vince, go ahead.

31

32 MR. MATHEWS: Well, I think we can do a
33 quick housekeeping thing if I can get Don up to the
34 mic. We have the little lunch thing to deal with. He
35 can touch that when he gets up here.

36

37 The other thing is, to keep everybody
38 up to speed on this.

39

40 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Say, Don.

41

42 MR. MATHEWS: It's the lunch deal.

43

44 But before he gets up there, you need
45 to be looking at the purple tab for this draft
46 proposal, otherwise we're going to lose you, because
47 it is a complex proposal, speaking from experience with
48 it. So you need to look at that.

49

50 And then Don will give you a quick

1 thing on the lunch thing. It'll only take a second.
2 And then we need confirmation of who's on line for the
3 record.

4
5 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Go ahead,
6 Don.

7
8 MR. RIVARD: I need to confirm this,
9 but apparently there's a lunch special today from the
10 Hound House. And it might make things easier if
11 everybody wanted to go in on this. They don't have to.
12 But it's ribs with potato salad and coleslaw. So if we
13 could make it easy on them and just say we want X-
14 number of orders of that, everybody would pay, of
15 course, but does that make sense? Does it sound like a
16 good idea?

17
18 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: How much is it?

19
20 MR. RIVARD: That I haven't found out.
21 I will find out and let you know.

22
23 MS. WILLIAMS: It's usually around 10
24 bucks.

25
26 MR. RIVARD: \$10.

27
28 MS. WILLIAMS: Somewhere around there.

29
30 MR. RIVARD: So if the Council wants to
31 do that and the audience, you could still do something
32 different than that if you so choose.

33
34 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: All right. Thanks,
35 Don. So, yeah, send a sign-up sheet around.

36
37 MR. RIVARD: Yes, I'll do that once I
38 know for sure about that special.

39
40 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Do you have
41 anything else, Vince.

42
43 (No comments)

44
45 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Mike, do you
46 want to give us an overview of the moose population and
47 some of the issues you have with administering this
48 hunt and so forth and go right ahead.

49
50 MR. SPINDLER: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

1 For the record, I'm Mike Spindler.
2
3 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Oh, excuse me, Mike.
4 We've got to find out who's on the teleconference
5 there.
6
7 MR. RIVARD: Hello, teleconference.
8 Anybody there?
9
10 MR. DeMATTEO: This is Pete DeMatteo
11 with the Office of Subsistence Management in Anchorage.
12
13 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Thanks, Pete.
14 Good to hear your voice.
15
16 Anybody else on there?
17
18 MR. STOUT: This is Glenn Stout with
19 Department of Fish and Game in Fairbanks.
20
21 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Thanks a lot,
22 Glen. Glad to hear you're on here also.
23
24 And so Mike's going to have an overview
25 of the Unit 24B Kanuti area. Go ahead, Mike.
26
27 MR. SPINDLER: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
28
29 You have before you all, Council
30 members, a five-page copy, a six-page copy of a handout
31 which is exactly what's in your meeting books, but I
32 added a sixth page. So whatever's in your meeting
33 books was Pages one through five, and that's the status
34 of the moose population at Kanuti. That was gone over
35 at your spring meeting also. It's the 2008 moose
36 survey data from Kanuti. So you're familiar with that.
37 I will just quickly review that. But I added a sixth
38 page on the reverse side of the handout I just gave
39 you, and that's the harvest data for the moose hunt,
40 both the winter moose hunt at Allakaket and then also
41 the combined general State hunt and Federal hunt this
42 fall in September.
43
44 We have a hired tribal council liaison
45 person at Allakaket, Mr. Kenneth Bergman, that we
46 contract with the tribe for harvest survey type
47 services. And so he did a telephone poll of all the
48 people who received State harvest tickets from the
49 State vendor there, and all the people who received
50 Federal permits for the Federal hunt there.

1 And so just as a highly for their
2 hunting success out of Allakaket this fall, if you look
3 at table 4 on the bottom, a total of six moose were
4 harvested. And that's a pretty -- I'm pretty confident
5 in that number as far as the local people go. We had a
6 listing of everybody who received a State green moose
7 harvest ticket, and also the white Federal permits.
8 And in combination of those two, only six moose were
9 harvested.

10
11 The season started out fairly good. A
12 few people good moose. And then it got really warm and
13 so they didn't succeed after that. And then the water
14 got really low. And so right at the end a few more
15 moose were harvested in the Federal hunt. I believe
16 the numbers were four moose were harvested during the
17 State general hunt, and two moose were harvested in the
18 special September 26th to October 1 hunt on Federal
19 lands only. so a total of six moose.

20
21 And as you can see from the comparison back to previous
22 years, '05/06 were 12 moose, '07 was 18 moose and '08
23 was 14 moose. And I caution you this number listed for
24 '09 is a preliminary number. Of course, it doesn't
25 include any harvest from the December 1 to 10 hunt.
26 And there could be some other things going on with
27 people that might have got their harvest ticket
28 somewhere else besides from Steven Bergman, the State
29 vendor there, and then they will file it by mail
30 through the State system, and we won't know about that
31 harvest probably until maybe February or March I think
32 is when the State records become available.

33
34 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: One question I have
35 Mike. Some people go down into the Koyukuk below
36 Hughes to hunt. Are any of those moose included in
37 this?

38
39 MR. SPINDLER: No, these are just moose
40 that came from.....

41
42 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Strictly 24B.

43
44 MR. SPINDLER: 24B moose only. Yeah.

45
46 So the pretext for all this is that
47 there's been a history of the people in Allakaket not
48 getting enough moose in recent years. And we have gone
49 back to the State door-to-door harvest survey data from
50 the late 90s, and generally the harvest there was quite

1 a bit higher between Allakaket and Alatna, somewhere in
2 the neighborhood of 35 or 40 moose. And that I think
3 would be a reasonably good baseline of what the people
4 would like to get. I believe the population there is
5 pretty similar now as to what it was then, the human
6 population.

7

8 And then maybe when I get done, Glenn could
9 just let us know of his knowledge of the number of
10 potlatch moose that were taken, because I know there
11 have been some of those also.

12

13 But just to review, if you go to the
14 front page of this handout I gave you, there are bar
15 graphs there showing the moose population from 1989,
16 which is the first survey that was done there for
17 population estimate, all the way to 2008. And in 2008
18 survey we showed a slight increase from '07, but it was
19 not statistically significant.

20

21 So we're in a situation where the moose
22 numbers are pretty low there. The average density in
23 this last survey was about a third of a moose per
24 square mile, and a population estimate of 872 moose.

25

26 The encouraging things about last
27 year's survey, last November's survey, and the really
28 encouraging things, were that the calf production is
29 really good with 58 calves per 100 cows. The bull/cow
30 ratio is really good with 46 bulls per 100 cows. And
31 the yearling bull ratio has been for the last three
32 surveys pretty good, indicating good recruitment. So
33 those are encouraging things.

34

35 One of the reasons I think the people
36 in Allakaket are having a hard time getting moose is
37 that they really like to hunt the rivers in the fall
38 hunt, and the technique is they'll motor up with a
39 small outboard in the early morning or in the evening,
40 and then just shut the motor off and drift downriver,
41 you know, hoping to see a moose crossing a gravel bar.
42 When they have low water like they did this year, they
43 can't get into any of the sloughs. They just have to
44 hunt along the main channel, and the water's so low
45 that the gravel bars are really, really wide. And what
46 happens then is you're way far away from the moose
47 habitat, the willows along the shore. Your chances of
48 seeing something aren't as great as when the water's
49 higher and you can be close to the edge.

50

1 But foremost I think is a result of our
2 radio collared study, we now have about 18 months of
3 monthly radio tracking data for those moose that were
4 collared there. And what we've learned so far, and
5 again this is preliminary, the moose distribution seems
6 to favor the burns that are away from the rivers. We
7 don't really see moose moving down to the river
8 corridors until about January when the snow starts
9 getting deep. So the moose spend January, February,
10 March, April in the river corridor. And that's not all
11 of them, that's just when you start seeing moose in the
12 river corridor. And then starting in May when calving
13 occurs, they leave the river and go back to the burns,
14 and they spend the rest of the year there. So what
15 you're seeing is that the moose, when we do the surveys
16 in November, are in the burns, and that's the same kind
17 of distribution that must be occurring in September
18 when we look at our radio collaring data, the moose are
19 still in the burns then.

20

21 So we've seen kind of a distribution
22 pattern that does not favor hunting along the rivers at
23 all. And in fact this last time I tracked moose, which
24 was mid September, there were no moose within a meat-
25 packing-able distance from the river. There was one
26 moose about a mile away from the river. There were 21
27 moose that were many miles away from the river and not
28 accessible in any way to a boat hunter. So that's why
29 the people in Allakaket were having a hard time
30 encountering moose.

31

32 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Mike, one question
33 on that telemetry. You have a certain number of bulls
34 collared. Are many of those bulls along the river
35 corridor in late winter, February through breakup?

36

37 MR. SPINDLER: I don't have the data
38 right before me, Mr. Chair, but my recollection is that
39 for example we had I believe about three or four bulls
40 collared along the main channel of the Koyukuk, below
41 Bettles and above the mouth of the south fork. And
42 they were there in March when the snow was deep, but
43 those bulls are pretty much all, like I described,
44 leaving the river corridor sometime in early summer and
45 going off to the burn, the Henshaw Creek burn where
46 they spend most of the time there and don't return to
47 the river until January or so.

48

49 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right. Thank you.

50

1 MR. SPINDLER: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
2 So we have a history now. If you go back to the back
3 side of your handout, table 3, we have a history of
4 having three March moose hunts. In 2007 we did March 1
5 through 5, and it was extremely cold, so the village
6 requested to extend it, and that was approved, and so
7 there's a second period of hunt, March 20th through
8 24th. No moose were harvested, 27 permits were issued.
9 Ten hunters actually went out hunting; they hunted an
10 average of 3.8 days.

11
12 In 2008 the interest in the hunt went
13 down quite a bit. We issued about half the number of
14 permits, only 13 permits. Nine hunters hunted. The
15 season was again March 1 to 5. It was I believe cold
16 again. We received approval with special request to
17 extend it a few more days, so they had it March 8th
18 through 10th again to hunt. No moose were harvested.
19 The average number of days that hunters spent in the
20 field was 2.6.

21
22 And then this past March, March 2009,
23 at the request of the village, they were not interested
24 in a March 1 to 5 hunt, so a special action request
25 again went in to change the dates. And they were
26 approved for March 27th through 31st. Again the
27 interest by the villagers declined again to only six,
28 so it seems to be going down by half each time. And of
29 those six permits that were issued, only two hunters
30 actually hunted and they were out for an average of two
31 days. One bull moose was harvested. And that was a
32 younger fellow who was under the tutelage of Steven
33 Bergman, who really knows his stuff.

34
35 One of my concerns in this hunt all
36 along has been the risk of shooting cows. This
37 population is so low that we can't tolerate any cow
38 harvest whatsoever. And so this hunt has been
39 accompanied by a fairly active enforcement effort on
40 our part. Prior to the actual hunt, also a fairly
41 thorough educational effort, because the hunters when
42 they receive their permit receive some written
43 materials, some handouts that show tips and techniques
44 for telling cows from bulls at that time of year. And
45 we go through that orally and then they are issued
46 their permit. And then there's always the law
47 enforcement present that we're hopeful would really
48 discourage anyone from thinking of taking a cow during
49 that hunt. So no cows have been taken during that
50 hunt, which I'm pleased to see.

1 But given the level of complaints that
2 I hear in the village about difficulties getting moose,
3 I am somewhat disappointed that the effort during this
4 March hunt is low and is getting lower. I'm also
5 disappointed that -- I know I disagree with you, Jack
6 -- that the March hunt -- the December hunt is an
7 opportunity. It may not be the best opportunity, but
8 if people really do need moose meat, March 1 to 10 -- I
9 mean, December 1 to 10 under the State general hunt is
10 an opportunity that they can utilize.

11
12 So I guess I'm disappointed. What I'm
13 not able to reconcile is that I hear these complaints
14 about lack of opportunity, but then I see the actual
15 effort made in this March hunt is low.

16
17 We do have some figures on the December
18 hunt. There was some efforts made in the December hunt
19 last year, and that's the first time in many years that
20 hunters did go out in the December State hunt, but they
21 didn't get any moose last December.

22
23 So for three years in a row this five-
24 day hunt hasn't worked very well. Because it's such a
25 narrow time window, that the chances of it occurring
26 during a real cold spell, the chances of it occurring
27 during a real windy, stormy, blizzardy spell, it seems
28 that you're narrowing -- you're targeting an area, a
29 time period of only five days, and your chances of a
30 encountering something bad that keeps the hunters from
31 being able to utilize that opportunity seem pretty
32 high. So we're thinking that maybe the thing to do
33 would be to expand the window of opportunity.

34
35 The other thing that we had thought
36 about was moving it later into the period, so sometime
37 between March 15th and April 15th the Kanuti manager in
38 concert with all the stakeholders would collectively
39 make a decision as to which 10-day period in that 30-
40 day period they would offer this hunt. I think at this
41 point that's probably the best way to go. I would feel
42 uncomfortable making it, for example, a 30-day hunt
43 given the low population. So I think that's a good
44 compromise, is a 10-day period that would be
45 established sometime within a 30-day window from mid
46 March to mid April.

47
48 The reasons to hold it toward the end
49 of March and early April are that the days are longer,
50 the lighting is better usually for using binoculars, so

1 you could see what you're going to go and try and
2 pursue, and confirm that it is a bull. And that there
3 starts to be a little bit of antler growth towards mid
4 April, so you might even have the chance of seeing the
5 antler knobs better at that point.

6
7 That's kind of the background on this.
8 Administratively it takes me, oh, the better part of
9 two weeks to do all the consultations and phone
10 conversations and village meetings to see if this hunt
11 is wanted, and to consult with all the stakeholders to
12 see what their views are on the hunt, and then write up
13 that documentation, and then go out in the field and do
14 the pre-season hunters' meeting. So about two weeks in
15 preparation for the hunt, and then we have to have law
16 enforcement presence during the hunt, so since Kanuti
17 doesn't have its own officer, I have to borrow an
18 officer. And then I'm the only pilot for the refuge,
19 so I'm up there flying as well. And so it pretty much
20 takes the better part of a month of my schedule to make
21 this hunt happen right now.

22
23 I'd be open to any ideas that other
24 stakeholders have on how to streamline this. Again, I
25 think we do need to have a heart-to-heart conversation
26 with some of the leaders of the village and just ask
27 why the hunt participation is continuing to go down,
28 because what I hear at the meetings is we don't have
29 hunting opportunity, we don't have access to moose, and
30 here is an opportunity where you can use snowmobiles,
31 you can go anywhere along the river corridor pretty
32 easily, and then you can go back to the burns if that's
33 where you want to hunt also. The problem is it's just
34 Federal lands only, so the people have to go about 10
35 miles from Allakaket to get to those Federal lands.

36
37 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: At this point I'll
38 add in why people have told me they're having a hard
39 time hunting moose there. The people on the ground,
40 the Allakaket country gets a lot of snow. It gets a
41 tremendous amount of snow down there. And so to break
42 trail 20 miles away from the village when people barely
43 have gas to get to their wood yards and so forth, it's
44 quite an effort. And it takes quite a bit of fuel to
45 break trail that far out.

46
47 And the problems with the December hunt
48 like I described, and your telemetry work shows it,
49 those moose are not even near the river. And so
50 there's hardly -- people have tried the December hunt,

1 but the moose -- you can drive up and down the river
2 and, you know, in December there's not that much snow,
3 but there's no moose. So if people are driving around
4 looking for a moose, five people look for moose,
5 they're hard up for meat, but they can't get moose.
6 And so nobody like the burn, breaking trail, eight
7 miles to the gallon breaking trail looking for no
8 moose.

9
10 So the problems with the winter hunt,
11 with the Federal only winter hunt, people are not
12 reaching -- I talked to Pollack Simon, and he tells me
13 he was tracking a moose, he found a moose on the
14 Federal lands. Well, the moose move onto the State
15 lands. Well, he couldn't shoot the moose, because he's
16 not going to get a ticket for shooting this moose. So
17 the moose are moving. It's all a checkerboard of Doyon
18 and native corporation lands which are under State
19 control and are closed lands, and then we have the
20 Federal lands are open. And so people are having a
21 hard time delineating where all these checkerboard
22 lands are, and driving around back in the Kanuti flats.
23 And so there's a whole bunch of problems.

24
25 The objective of the Western Interior
26 Regional Council is we see these low harvest rate
27 numbers. Six moose. That's completely inadequate
28 under State subsistence law and under Federal
29 subsistence law. We need to have an opportunity that
30 people can have -- the objective of these proposals is
31 to submit a Federal proposal that allows a large window
32 between March 15th and April 15th. We want to have a
33 10-day -- I would like to see a 10-day season in there.
34 And I would like to have a dual proposal before the
35 Board of Game, and try and get the Board of Game to
36 support an April 5th to April 15th hunt.

37
38 That's when bulls -- it's not you can
39 possibly see antler, you will see antler on bulls.
40 I've looked at a lot of moose in the springtime, and a
41 lot of people that spent a lot of time out in the
42 spring. You start seeing those bulls and it's a great
43 big furry beam that's coming out of its head. You can
44 see that a long ways away. And so the bigger the bull,
45 the better shape they're in. Those are the ones that
46 get fat, because they don't grow, and so they get fat
47 sooner. And so they're in way better shape.

48
49 So if we can get the State Board of
50 Game to support a 10-day season, this Federal proposal

1 will over-lap and so we'd just run both hunts at
2 exactly the same time. I think it would provide a lot
3 more opportunity for people.

4
5 I want Glenn Stout's input on the
6 conference on how many potlatch moose have been
7 harvested to your knowledge. Glenn.

8
9 MR. STOUT: Yeah. This is Glenn Stout,
10 Department of Fish and Game.

11
12 I don't have any that were reported
13 this year, but typically it's one or two a year that
14 get reported. Sometimes I have reports, sometimes I
15 don't, but I kind of hear about it after the fact. But
16 it's usually pretty low for what I get reported up
17 there.

18
19 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: And those are
20 typically cows or bulls?

21
22 MR. STOUT: It's both. It's usually --
23 when we authorize the potlatch harvest, we recommend
24 that they take a bull, but it's not -- I've never
25 restricted it for potlatch purposes to a single sex.
26 And I'll just advise them, if you're hunting, try and
27 take a bull if possible, but you are authorized to
28 harvest either sex. Typically what we've seen in the
29 past the harvest in those area is in proportion to how
30 the sex occurs in the population, and up there about a
31 third of the moose are bulls, and so about a third of
32 the potlatch moose end up being bulls and about two-
33 thirds end up being cows.

34
35 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right. Well, that's
36 a good rule of thumb. And do you have any comments at
37 this time, Glenn.

38
39 MR. STOUT: No, I don't have anything
40 to add other than what we've talked about in the past.
41 So I don't think there's really any new information to
42 add.

43
44 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. And so do you
45 have additional comments, Mike.

46
47 MR. SPINDLER: Yes, Mr. Chair. A
48 little bit of background an history for some of the
49 newer Council members. Back in the late 1990s here was
50 a Koyukuk River Moose Management Planning Group that

1 met very frequently for about a year and a half or two
2 years until they wrote the Koyukuk River Moose
3 Management Plan. Part of that plan set some goals for
4 population growth. And it was kind of a delicate
5 balance, because there's a lot of urban stakeholders
6 that like to hunt the lower Koyukuk. And they were
7 under a drawing permit hunt, and the number of drawing
8 permits for trophy moose, where they could keep the
9 antler, was reduced quite a bit. And then they
10 implemented the antler sawing, which goes all the way
11 up into Unit 24C I believe.

12
13 And then part of that agreement was
14 also that there would be removal of antlerless harvest
15 opportunity in the upper Koyukuk, because they all
16 agreed at the time that the moose numbers up there were
17 quite a bit lower than the lower Koyukuk, and it was a
18 distinct area. The plan had a zone 1 and a zone 2.
19 And so that plan recognized that this area is
20 struggling for moose numbers and that we should not be
21 shooting antlerless moose.

22
23 And so that's why I've gone through
24 great pains, and I know what -- the simple solution was
25 to remove that March hunt, because that's when the risk
26 is of taking antlerless moose. And so that's what the
27 Board of Game did, is remove that March hunt. And then
28 so this effort here that we began three years ago was
29 to replace some kind of hunting opportunity in March
30 when the people really needed it, but to put a lot of
31 sideboards and educational efforts and enforcement
32 efforts into making sure that it only targeted
33 antlerless bulls, so that we had only bull harvest.

34
35 And so I've been working really, really
36 closely with the tribal council and some of the leaders
37 in Allakaket to make sure that the people knew the
38 consequences of taking cows. And so there was no
39 temptation to do out-of-season moose, for example, and
40 take cows. And so I've been doing quite a bit of work
41 towards that goal of removing antlerless harvest from
42 the picture up there in the upper Koyukuk.

43
44 It is a struggle, because I think
45 there's still a risk. And I'm being honest with you,
46 I'm not 100 percent comfortable with this hunt with all
47 these controls, because I'm fearful that there will be
48 some young hunter out there that gets excited about
49 seeing a moose and shoots it and it ends up being a
50 cow. And what we've had on this winter hunt is that if

1 a cow is taken, the whole hunt for the whole village is
2 shut down, and that's the consequence of it. So I'm
3 hoping that there's enough consequences to taking a cow
4 that people won't risk that.

5
6 I just thought you needed to know a
7 little bit of that background on the efforts that we've
8 made to try and conform with the intent of the Koyukuk
9 River Moose Management Plan of removing antlerless
10 harvest up there, but still provide that winter
11 opportunity that they lost under the Board of Game
12 decision a few years ago. And my hope is that because
13 of the checkerboard lands that we can work with the
14 area biologist and with the Department and the Board of
15 Game to restore some type of March, late March, early
16 April hunting opportunity that is highly controlled and
17 targets only the bull component of the population.

18
19 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

20
21 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: You've got a
22 comment, Robert.

23
24 MR. R. WALKER: Yes. Thank you, Mr.
25 Chairman.

26
27 Mike, when we talk about bulls and cows
28 up here in 24, 26, how many of these animals fall to
29 predation during the winter from August until June? Do
30 you have an idea on how many? How many cows, how many
31 bulls do fall in this predation?

32
33 MR. SPINDLER: Member Walker and Mr.
34 Chair. We've had the collars out for 18 months. We
35 started with 29 collars. We're down to 22 now. So in
36 18 months there have been 7 mortalities. In the radio
37 tracking that I've done, and I've done just about all
38 the flights. I've not done the May flights, but I've
39 done all the other flights, so my personal recollection
40 is that I could ascribe most of those mortalities to
41 likely predation and likely wolves, just based on what
42 I saw at the time of tracking that moose.

43
44 Now, this is not a high-budget
45 collaring project, so we do not have the budget to go
46 in there with a helicopter right away as soon as the
47 mortalities detected to confirm that it is indeed a
48 wolf kill or a bear kill.

49
50 But my sense is that in 18 months we've

1 lost 7 moose. One was capture related. So out of
2 those six, I believe I could with some degree of
3 confidence say about four of them were wolf kills.

4

5 MR. R. WALKER: So in other words,
6 you're saying that human consumption come in second to
7 predation. If somebody should accidentally shoot a cow
8 or shoot a cow on purpose, that you're going to take
9 him or her and take them to jail or whatever fines, and
10 do the ultimate that you best can do. I just don't
11 feel that this is -- you're being fair to these people
12 here. These people are being in a sense of direction
13 from your Department threatened. And I feel that this
14 is a prejudice thing toward not only them, but to this
15 board here, because we are here for subsistence, and we
16 are going to make sure that these people have the right
17 due to accidentally or on purpose if necessary, because
18 if you cannot manage these moose here, you know, maybe
19 you should get somebody else that can.

20

21 I mean, we are here to do something,
22 and you are here to do something, too. So we have to
23 come to some kind of a happy medium here.

24

25 Six moose for a community, that's not a
26 lot of meat. I mean, you know, how many of these
27 commercial hunters come in, and how many of them in the
28 fall hunt? I mean, it's not written here inside of our
29 paperwork here. It's just showing directly what we
30 have to do with subsistence.

31

32 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Robert, that area is
33 under that closure. There's no non-rural users allowed
34 to hunt in that area.

35

36 MR. R. WALKER: Yeah. But still yet, I
37 mean, they can wander out of there also, too.

38

39 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right. They do move
40 around a little bit. And so those are good comments.

41 Eleanor.

42

43 MS. YATLIN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
44 First of all, I wanted to state that the working group
45 was run by the State. And we also had the Koyukuk River
46 Advisory Committee, and I was on the Koyukuk River
47 Advisory Committee since 1990, 1989.

48

49 And another thing is I could probably
50 name those five people that, or six people that do the

1 March hunt. And as I stated earlier, yesterday, you
2 know, our people live in this land for thousands of
3 years, so they know. These are probably most likely
4 experienced hunters. And I can see where it cuts in
5 half every year. And it look like to me there's more
6 money being spent on trying to tell these experienced
7 hunters how to hunt. Well, they know where to hunt.
8 And last winter I know that talking to one of these
9 hunters, they went out I think about six miles and they
10 had to have radio because -- then they called because
11 this guy jumped off his snow-go and off the trail and
12 he was chest deep in the deep snow. So that's the
13 conditions they have to hunt under. And then they have
14 all these restrictions, you know, just these education,
15 education, education, you know.

16

17 And if they go out and, you know, try
18 to spend more money on collaring, you know, this
19 telemetry rather than just -- I don't know, I just.....

20

21 Well, another thing is I wanted to
22 stated was I would like to hear, you know, just too bad
23 we don't have any representative here from Allakaket,
24 and I'd like to hear the other side of, you know, what
25 their comments. And I did call them and tell them,
26 well, I told them about the opportunity to get on the
27 teleconference.

28

29 And one question I did have was in
30 their moose hunt, their six moose, do you know the age?

31

32 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Mike.

33

34 MR. SPINDLER: Council Member Yatlin,
35 Mr. Chair. You asked what the age of the moose is or
36 the age of the hunter?

37

38 MS. YATLIN: No, the age of the moose.

39

40 MR. SPINDLER: The age of the moose?

41

42 MS. YATLIN: That's correct.

43

44 MR. SPINDLER: No, we don't. We did
45 take a tooth sample, but we weren't able to get it
46 analyzed yet.

47

48 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: These proposals that
49 we'll be submitting from this Council will go out to
50 the advisory committee, Koyukuk River Advisory

1 Committee. And at that time -- the Koyukuk River
2 Advisory Committee is hopefully going to have a meeting
3 in the end of this month. They'll review these
4 proposals, these Federal and State proposals, and then
5 we'll get comments from the people from Allakaket.
6 There's various people from Allakaket and Alatna that
7 are on the advisory committee. So that's how we're
8 going to get our comments, is having a meeting with the
9 advisory committee. And the meeting is possibly going
10 to be in Hughes or some place like that.

11
12 And so these are just proposals. We'll
13 get input from the people there on if they want to see
14 changes. And in our spring meeting this Council is
15 going to review all of those comments from the advisory
16 committees and then make our final decision on these
17 proposals to the Federal Subsistence Board and the
18 State Board of Game.

19
20 And so that's going to be the -- our
21 meeting is before the Board of Game, right? Slightly,
22 like just a few days.

23
24 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, it's the same week,
25 and that's why we're having you meet jointly with
26 Eastern Interior, so both Councils can get to the Board
27 of Game.

28
29 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So to alleviate your
30 fears, Eleanor, we're going -- the local people are
31 going to be able to review these, make comments and
32 make slight changes to the proposals, so that's how
33 these -- that's going to be the progression of the
34 proposals. We're just submitting proposals now, and
35 those will be out for public comment with the advisory
36 committees.

37
38 And any further comments there, Mike.

39
40 MR. STOUT: Mr. Chairman. This is
41 Glenn Stout.

42
43 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Oh, go ahead, Glenn.

44
45 MR. STOUT: Yeah. I just wanted to --
46 I'm having trouble hearing some of the other Council
47 members' points, but judging from Mike's comments about
48 the questions about predators, I would like to add, and
49 just kind of remind the Council about some of the
50 direction that the Department and the refuge and other

1 agencies that are working on up there in kind of a
2 different direction other than just the harvest
3 opportunities. And that's been the long-term strategy
4 from when we first started with the subdivision of Unit
5 24. And the purpose of that was to isolate the
6 individual areas, for instance, the high density
7 downstream area of the Koyukuk River from the area
8 upstream around Allakaket and Bettles area. And one of
9 the decisions that we had made at that time is starting
10 to build a base of information that could be used in
11 future efforts of intensive management, which one of
12 those would be predator control. And that has been a
13 tact that we have been pursuing for some years now.

14
15 And our hope and our idea on that is
16 the Department's not opposed to cow hunts for one, or
17 the spring hunts. We're not opposed to that, but our
18 management objective right now is for growth. And if,
19 for instance, we can develop that base of information,
20 the biology we needed from things like doing habitat
21 analyses, which we've done two years now, Tom Parguy
22 and with the help of refuge staff have been out there.
23 And then we've got this collaring study going on. And
24 we've started to work towards the position to where we
25 would have a strong case to build for intensive
26 management actions like predator control.

27
28 And if we could get that far, then we
29 could possibly build that moose population, and we
30 wouldn't be worried about whether or not we shot one or
31 two cows. We would say, it's okay to shoot a dozen
32 cows, you know, hopefully. That's kind of our
33 perspective, our vision of what direction we would like
34 to go.

35
36 Just like Mike says, where he's
37 occupied as much as a month of his time for the harvest
38 of one cow over the last -- or one bull over the last
39 three years, that's a lot of effort that we could be
40 redirecting I think towards this intensive management,
41 to where maybe we can get something like that
42 accomplished and these conversations that we're having
43 now, you know, would essentially be a thing of the
44 past, if we could just get more moose, and solve the
45 problem by having more moose.

46
47 And so I just wanted to kind of remind
48 the Council that that's a direction we still would like
49 to go, but it's going to take some effort as far as
50 time to work through that regulatory process. And if

1 we're dealing with other regulatory processes, that
2 certainly takes us away from our ability to accomplish
3 that. And so that's just a different strategy that we
4 would like to explore.

5

6 That's all. Thank you.

7

8 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks, Glenn. I
9 appreciate your reminder to the Council that there are
10 other population enhancements. And I would like to see
11 the Council submit a -- or the Koyukuk River Advisory
12 Committee submit a proposal for requesting intensive
13 management on the State lands and the Native
14 corporation lands in Unit 24B outside of the Refuge
15 lands. And so that's one of the aspects of addressing
16 this harvest by people in Unit 24 B. And so I do
17 appreciate your comments on predator harvest also.

18

19 Do you have further comments, Mike. Go
20 ahead.

21

22 MR. SPINDLER: Yes. In general, to
23 address some of the concerns expressed by Council
24 Member Walker and Council Member Yatlin, and to you,
25 Mr. Chair. It's only by working all together as
26 stakeholders, the Council, the advisory committee, the
27 agencies and the people in the villages that we can get
28 where Glenn described where the Department's vision is
29 and, you know, certainly where the Refuge's vision is
30 to go. I'm trying to walk a tightwire here and I think
31 it's with your cooperation that I can continue to
32 provide at least some kind of opportunity on Federal
33 lands, and I'm hoping that in this cycle that we can
34 attempt to align State and Federal regulations that
35 would at least make it a little less complex for hunter
36 out in the field. I appreciate the frustration and
37 concern that you have for the hunters having to go 20
38 miles through deep snow and break trail when
39 potentially they could hunt closer to the village. But
40 again we need to work together to achieve both the
41 alignment of the regulations, if possible, and we need
42 to work together to achieve this goal of intensive
43 management on the State and Native corporation lands
44 that are near the refuge. And it's only with working
45 together that we can do that.

46

47 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

48

49 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thank you, Mike. At
50 this time I would like to get in the Federal proposal.

1 MR. COLLINS: Mr. Chair.

2

3 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: You've got a comment
4 there, Ray.

5

6 MR. COLLINS: Yeah. I've been
7 listening to all this, and we're talking about
8 providing opportunity. There's two things. One of
9 them, the December hunt is too short, and there may be
10 bad weather. What's the problem with opening the
11 December hunt for a month if there's going to be low
12 participation? And then you -- that gives an
13 opportunity if somebody wants to take to it. And then
14 when you set the spring one, again I don't see why even
15 limiting that to 10 days. Why not two weeks then if
16 there's difficulty in getting out there? Because you'd
17 have the results after a year to see whether that
18 resulted in the harvest that you're trying to achieve.
19 And if the harvest is too great, you can cut back
20 subsequent years. But I think right now we're not
21 providing an adequate opportunity for the ones that
22 want to try it. So why not tack that attack? Would
23 there be a problem in doing that, giving the whole
24 month of December if somebody wants to try it. And
25 then if you've got the result of that, you can use that
26 when you set the spring hunt.

27

28 And in terms of the enforcement, if
29 they're required to report every kill, I don't see
30 closing down the whole hunt if somebody makes a mistake
31 and shoot a cow, as long as that is reported and you
32 have the data on it, which would be the important thing
33 there. And then if it's excessive, you know -- I mean,
34 somebody could make a mistake out there as you're
35 saying, or maybe that's the only opportunity they have,
36 but for the local hunters to take one or two cows is
37 not going to cause the collapse of that herd. So I
38 don't see why they have to pay the same -- they have to
39 pay the full price when we're not doing anything about
40 predation right now. You know, they're free to take
41 whatever they can.

42

43 I think we need to do whatever we can
44 to provide more opportunity right now and then see what
45 that results in.

46

47 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thank you, Ray. The
48 December hunt was never endorsed by the Koyukuk River
49 Advisory Committee. People don't particularly like
50 that kind of a moose. That's a run-out bull moose, and

1 so it's real hard to find it, and it's real poor meat.
2 And so people got forced into -- with low harvest in
3 the fall, some people are forced into trying to find
4 one, but they killed zero bulls. That shows how hard
5 they are to find.

6
7 And so you could open the whole month
8 of December; Mike will tell you those moose aren't even
9 near the river all of December. They're still not
10 going to find any moose. The snow's not deep enough
11 put them down on the river. And so that's not even
12 worth addressing.

13
14 The real way to provide opportunity is
15 to provide a very late winter harvest, and pushing
16 towards April 5 to April 15th, bulls start growing
17 antler. They start gaining weight, and the quality of
18 the moose increase fairly dramatically. And I had
19 caribou every spring, and I've hunted bull moose,
20 killed bull moose in April. Bill Fickus over at
21 Crevice Creek. We used to have a long moose season.

22
23 We had two moose season when I was a
24 kid, and people killed moose real late in the year.
25 And various oldtimers around there killed those bulls
26 in April. They're actually in decent shape. They've
27 got fat on the ribs. Most people have not hunted them
28 to a large degree, don't know that part. but the
29 reality is those moose are -- it's almost night and day
30 between an April moose bull and a December bull moose.

31
32 It's the same thing with a caribou.
33 Caribou comes out of rut, I won't even touch a bull
34 caribou in December. The thing is skin and bones. You
35 don't even think about shooting that caribou. You
36 shoot that same caribou in April, it is nice meat.
37 They've got fat on them. They're excellent meat.

38
39 And so to provide real opportunity for
40 subsistence hunters and to try to get the State to come
41 on board with the Board of Game with an April hunt, we
42 have to set certain parameters so that the Alaska
43 Department of Fish and Game is more comfortable with
44 harvesting bulls. And so this April season for the
45 State is about the only real way that we're going to
46 get opportunity. The snow settles more in April. It
47 starts warming up and the snow settles. You can
48 travel. You've got long days and you can see real
49 well, and they've actually got antler on them, and you
50 can actually see that for a long ways. And so in my

1 mind, that's really the only way we're going to get
2 reasonable harvest opportunity.

3

4 And what do you think about this April
5 aspect, Eleanor.

6

7 MS. YATLIN: From what I heard and what
8 I know from the past, I think that's probably the best
9 time to go out. Because I talked to some people last
10 year when they were considering opening in the time
11 period that you suggested, in April, early April or --
12 I believe they were talking about considering a 30-day
13 at that time, but then the few people that I did talk
14 to, that was what they wanted.

15

16 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Uh-huh. I talked to
17 people down -- Ron Sam, he used to be the Chair of this
18 Council. He says they used to kill moose in April.
19 And it's a good time to dry meat. It's real cold --
20 it's cold, there's no flies. It's real windy, and you
21 can dry moose or caribou just like that. In two days
22 that thing is right up. It's actually a real nice time
23 to make dry meat. And so a lot of people used to make
24 dry meat at that time of year, right before breakup.

25

26 And so coming back to the proposal, we
27 have under the pink tab here, this is a draft proposal
28 that Vince and I and Mike and this Council worked on
29 part of this proposal. There's an aspect of this
30 proposal that Mike -- do you want to speak to this
31 August 25 allowance of antlerless moose. Do you want
32 this stricken from the proposal? Go ahead, Mike.

33

34 MR. SPINDLER: Yes, Mr. Chair. As I
35 mentioned earlier, to do these consultations takes an
36 incredible amount of time. And I'm even getting to the
37 point on this August consultation to close the
38 antlerless part of the August hunt, August 25th to --
39 that part there. People aren't even returning phone
40 calls, because it's a no-brainer. You know, we
41 shouldn't be shooting cows this time of year when bulls
42 are available. So I would like to just remove this
43 antlerless part as a stakeholder consultation or the
44 August portion of the fall hunt, for that
45 August/September hunt. And only require the
46 consultation with stakeholders for the spring hunt.

47

48 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So the -- this
49 proposal has one antlered bull -- this proposal does
50 not have the aspect of any antlered.....

1 MR. SPINDLER: It struck that in the --
2 where we did the strike outs on Page 1, that took care
3 of it. But then you had some concerns about the time
4 as far as how long this would last before we
5 reconsidered it.

6
7 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right. I'm
8 concerned about striking -- right now we do not have a
9 moose population to support any antlerless moose. We
10 can't kill any cows. What I'm concerned about, Royce
11 Pear (ph) and various people who fought cow proposals
12 through originally back 25 years ago or whenever that
13 happened, they're concerned about losing those forever.
14 And so I would like to submit a proposal to the Federal
15 Subsistence Board for a six-year moratorium on cow
16 harvest as one of our proposals that we submit at this
17 round here. And so that would be an aspect of this
18 whole package that we're going to develop for the Unit
19 24B.

20
21 And, Vince.

22
23 MR. MATHEWS: Okay. Basically to get
24 me up to speed, basically the proposal as written that
25 you have under your lavender tab, or purple, is, and
26 correct me if I'm wrong, Mike, if this was to pass,
27 there would be no antlerless season anytime, because it
28 says in there the quota of bulls. So if this proposal
29 as you have in front of you, which you did adopt at
30 your last meeting, we're revisiting, as Larry laid out,
31 because of the need to do that, it would not have any
32 antlerless bull at any season.

33
34 So now you're talking about, please
35 correct me if I'm wrong is that there would be -- with
36 the removal of the antlerless portion for the August
37 season. And during our meeting a week or so ago, there
38 was discussion about a moratorium on cow harvest. We
39 consulted with our regulations specialist as well as
40 the solicitor. The solicitor's your attorney for the
41 program, and they came up with language that would be a
42 note on your proposal. And that note would be, now
43 again this gets confusing, and Mike's going to have to
44 help me with this, because I don't know why they used
45 the geographic language in there, anyways they said, a
46 note, whatever proposal you pass, you know, that you
47 want to go forward to the Board, it would say a
48 moratorium is in effect for cow moose harvest in Unit
49 24B, all drainages north of the Koyukuk River, except
50 the John River, until July 1, 2016.

1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I don't like the
2 solicitor's description of the delineation of the area.
3 I would like a moratorium on all of Unit 24B, Federal
4 public lands, for cow moose for a six-year period.
5 This is an old description of where we used to have a
6 cow hunt. And so I want the f Department of Fish and
7 Game and the Federal managers to be comfortable with
8 moving forward with providing a bull opportunity in
9 April. That what I -- from mid March through mid
10 April. Time frame on the Federal season, a 10-day hunt
11 to be announced. If the State Board of Game signs on
12 to this plan and provides April 5 to April 15th, a 10-
13 day season, there will be a concurrent Federal and
14 State run bull hunt with a moratorium on cow harvest,
15 and a review of the cow harvest -- or the moose
16 population at that time to see if there's any cows to
17 be able to be taken at that time. We might have
18 predator control, we may begin to have moose available
19 for cow harvest.

20

21 Vince.

22

23 MR. MATHEWS: Okay. I've got to kind
24 of go in the middle between you two here. Mike, your
25 concern was the special action exercise you have to go
26 through in fall. Would the language that was provided
27 from our office, minus the geographic, meet that need,
28 that you wouldn't -- the moratorium would have it that
29 you would not have to go through that exercise in fall,
30 since that was a point, an intention of this proposal.

31

32 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: He's got a question
33 for Mike there. Go ahead, Mike.

34

35 MR. SPINDLER: Yes, Vince and Mr.
36 Chair. That would alleviate that concern. It would
37 cause us to have to review it in six years, and I'm
38 comfortable with that.

39

40 The one thing on that suggested
41 language on Page 2, one antlered bull, should we just
42 say one bull at that point, because, you know, that
43 late spring hunt, you may see antlers, but you may not
44 also. And so I'm just wondering if to cover it, it
45 should just say one bull.

46

47 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right. Where the
48 antlered bull thing came about is if we go to the --
49 with the State season requiring an antlered bull, the
50 State would feel more comfortable with that I feel, and

1 that's where that.....

2

3 MR. SPINDLER: Okay. So that's to help
4 it align with a potential State action then.

5

6 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right. That's where
7 that's coming from.

8

9 You had a comment there, Robert.

10

11 MR. R. WALKER: Yes, Mr. Chairman.

12 Thank you.

13

14 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Can you get into the
15 mic more? There's some people that.....

16

17 MR. R. WALKER: Did we have a chance to
18 talk to the chief of Alatna, chief of Allakaket about
19 this? Mike, did you do that? Did you ask them if this
20 would be fine with them or would this schedule be in
21 their -- any kind of consultation with them?

22

23 MR. SPINDLER: We tried to consult with
24 the chief of Allakaket. Calls weren't returned. We
25 did discuss this whole notion when we had the hunters
26 meeting prior to the season this past March, and we
27 talked about possible solutions to make it easier or
28 the hunters.

29

30 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Robert.

31

32 MR. R. WALKER: Did you have a chance
33 to talk to them since then? I mean, now this is a
34 whole new deal here.

35

36 MR. SPINDLER: Again, we tried to
37 consult with them. They did not return our calls.

38

39 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Robert, I called Ron
40 Sam and Pollack Simon. Pollack was an AC member. I
41 tried to get ahold of other advisory committee members,
42 but I couldn't get ahold of them. These proposals will
43 be before the Koyukuk River Advisory Committee. And,
44 Ron, I described what the hunt was. I've been talking
45 to Ron about this hunt. He said, move forward with it,
46 we want to get something. And so Ron was encouraging
47 me. I talked to Pollack, he says they're willing to
48 look at anything to try to get hunting opportunity.
49 This proposal that we're working out here will be
50 reviewed by the Koyukuk River Advisory Committee, and

1 so those people will have opportunity to tweak the
2 proposal. And so we'll take their considerations at
3 our spring meeting in February. And so the proposal
4 will be reviewed by the tribal members and so forth.
5 It will be published in the book and so forth. And so
6 this is just working out some of the preliminary bugs.

7
8 And so this is the strategy that --
9 we've tried various ways. We've tried these Federal
10 hunts. We can't get the -- we've tried for a State
11 hunt at the last Board of Game meeting in '08. Our
12 Council tried for a proposal. That failed. We're
13 trying, I'm trying every which way to try and get
14 hunting opportunity, State and Federal opportunity, for
15 the people of Allakaket and Alatna. That's what I'm
16 after. And I'm trying to do the best to try to get
17 proposals passed that will actually allow people to
18 harvest bull moose, actually get moose. That's what
19 our objective is.

20
21 If we keep asking for cows, we're going
22 to go nowhere.

23
24 MR. R. WALKER: I understand, Jack.
25 Okay. I already talked to Ron about. And can we move
26 forward now?

27
28 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. And so go
29 ahead, Vince.

30
31 MR. MATHEWS: I think somebody on line
32 wants to comment. I don't know who.

33
34 MR. RIVARD: I thought it was Glenn
35 maybe.

36
37 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: You've got a
38 comment, Glenn.

39
40 MR. STOUT: Yeah. Mr. Chair. I just
41 had a question as far as the moratorium. Would that
42 then apply to like customary and traditional or
43 potlatch harvest, too? Is that your idea on that?

44
45 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: That was not in
46 regards to the potlatch moose. This is strictly moose
47 hunting seasons and bag limits for the hunting seasons
48 under Federal and State regulations.

49
50 MR. STOUT: Okay. Thank you, Mr.

1 Chair.

2

3 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I don't want to get
4 into potlatch, mortuary aspects on this proposal.

5

6 And so the antlered bull part of the
7 proposal can be debated by the Advisory Committee. My
8 question for you, Glenn, would the antlered requirement
9 on a State hunt be more palatable than a non-antlered
10 bull?

11

12 MR. STOUT: Maybe I can get Mike to
13 repeat it. I can't hear a lot of what you're saying,
14 Jack.

15

16 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I'm saying -- can
17 you hear me now?

18

19 MR. STOUT: Yeah, a little bit better.
20 Yes.

21

22 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: What the Federal
23 proposal is stating is one antlered bull and it's
24 giving a season to be set between March 15th and April
25 15th. And would an antlered bull, as far as the State
26 biologist, would that be more palatable than just a
27 bull without antlers?

28

29 MR. STOUT: Yeah, I definitely like the
30 idea of having it an antlered bull regulation.

31

32 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: All right. Thank
33 you. See, we're going to work with the State on this,
34 and so to get this proposal to where people can hunt
35 closer to home is to be able to have a State hunt and a
36 Federal hunt occurring at the same time. And so I
37 would like to retain the antlered bull part of the
38 proposal.

39

40 Any comment from the Council on that.

41

42 (No comments)

43

44 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Seeing no more
45 comment on that, I would like to insert into the
46 proposal the language for a cow moratorium, language
47 that would state at some point, what would be a --
48 we'll discuss where in this proposal, in this language,
49 a moratorium is in effect for cow moose harvest in Unit
50 24B for -- until July 1 of 2016.

1 Any discussion by the Council on that
2 language insertion. Go ahead, James.

3

4 MR. J. WALKER: Yes, Mr. Chairman. Are
5 you going to also insert there that it would not affect
6 the potlatch?

7

8 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yes. Good point.
9 This moratorium does not affect mortuary harvest,
10 potlatch moose. Okay. Good point, James.

11

12 Is that okay with you, Eleanor.
13 Eleanor affirms that.

14

15 Any other discussion by the Council on
16 this proposal. Vince.

17

18 MR. MATHEWS: Sorry, I went off line
19 there, so I don't want to back you up. But does this
20 proposal as you're looking at it address the geographic
21 concerns that the refuge had? There was a section cut
22 out in the old regulations. Does this address the
23 geographic cleanup that needed to be done? I believe
24 it does. Okay. Mike is shaking his head yes.

25

26 The reason I went off line is to find
27 out if, and I don't want to muddy the water up, but if
28 you say that the harvest is one antlered bull, how does
29 that affect the discussion on cow harvest? Or does it
30 affect?

31

32 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: There's a
33 moratorium. And that -- it's inserted into the
34 proposal. And so the moratorium addresses the cow
35 harvest.

36

37 MR. MATHEWS: Okay. If everyone's
38 comfortable with that, then fine. Thank you.

39

40 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: And so, Ray, you had
41 questions as to whether there should be a cow moose is
42 taken. Do you feel -- what are your feelings on that
43 still.

44

45 MR. COLLINS: Well, I can't see making
46 the whole village responsible if, one, it's going to
47 cut down the season. I can see maybe that individual
48 -- I don't know. I think it's more important that we
49 have the data and that people get the moose they need.
50 And if a mistake is made, I don't know how it should be

1 treated.

2

3 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right. I feel
4 uncomfortable with that penalty myself. Under all
5 other hunts, an individual is responsible for their
6 actions. And so a provision -- it should be understood
7 that if a cow moose is taken, that individual is under
8 their own risk of penalty, and that the moose would not
9 be distributed throughout the village would be another
10 penalty for taking a cow moose, so that there's no
11 incentive to take moose illegally, and then they would
12 be distributed through the village.

13

14 Any discussion about that. Eleanor.

15

16 MS. YATLIN: I was just going to state
17 that, Mr. Chairman, isn't it mandated by law already
18 without putting more, you know, laws into it, if they
19 make a mistake?

20

21 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: There are penalties
22 for taking the incorrect sex or undersized moose or
23 various aspects in all other hunts. And so I kind of
24 agree with Ray that, you know, the whole community
25 should not be penalized if a cow moose is taken. And I
26 would prefer to strike that, when the quota -- to take
27 out or if a cow moose is taken.

28

29 What would your discussion on that be,
30 Mike.

31

32 MR. SPINDLER: Yeah. If that's the
33 desire of the Council. I mean, that's a hunt condition
34 that we present to the village when we talk to them
35 about whether they want to hunt or not, and they have
36 agreed to it actually. You know, we talked to them
37 about it several times, to the full council and to the
38 village when we have the hunters' meetings. And they
39 had agreed to it.

40

41 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Well, we're moving
42 into a realm of an antlered bull, and we're moving into
43 a realm of a moratorium, and we're moving into a realm
44 of trying to provide a State season for antlered bull.
45 And so I feel that if an individual inadvertently kills
46 a cow moose, then that individual's under their own
47 responsibility for the violation, but it should not be
48 the whole community. Why should the whole community be
49 penalized for the mistake of one individual. We're
50 talking about trying to meet subsistence needs. And so

1 I don't feel that this, with our package that we have
2 here, that that's actually an appropriate penalty for
3 the whole community.

4

5 Vince.

6

7 MR. MATHEWS: Okay. You guys work for
8 the Federal Subsistence Board. The Federal Subsistence
9 Board when it has a proposal in front of it, has to
10 check off three things. One, that it doesn't violate
11 recognized principles of wildlife conservation. Is
12 this a violation of recognized principles of wildlife
13 conservation, by not having the quota based on, you
14 know, one cow, the hunt shuts. I'm just bringing that
15 up, because you have to put on the shoes of the Board
16 members. They have to answer that.

17

18 They have to say is it based in sound
19 data, and that it's not violating or disregarding
20 subsistence practices. I'm not getting the right term,
21 but I'm mainly focusing on conservation.....

22

23 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Well, the thing is
24 that the whole community should not be penalized for
25 the actions of one individual, that the refuge managers
26 have stated that there's -- and I would say that
27 there's very strict enforcement. There are
28 overflights, there's various -- and it's winter. You
29 can track people right down to the kill. And so I don't
30 feel that there's a real -- people are going to
31 purposely try to shoot a cow moose. If they shoot a
32 cow moose, it would be absolutely inadvertent, but that
33 individual should be responsible, as all other hunts
34 that we have, to that violation, so I don't think that
35 the Federal Subsistence Board would feel uncomfortable
36 with that. I don't feel that the whole community
37 should be, since we're moving towards another realm of
38 later time frame when moose are more easily observed
39 and more brighter conditions, with antler growth and
40 stuff, I don't think that people are going to purposely
41 harvest cow moose under a risk of violation. And so
42 this actually makes it easier for the individuals to
43 see what they're looking at at that time of the year,
44 and they've got antler.

45

46 And so I would like to -- if it's the
47 desire of the Council, to strike or if a cow moose is
48 taken from the proposal. Is this the desire of the
49 Council? Go ahead, Robert.

50

1 MR. R. WALKER: Yes, I would like to
2 have it stricken from the regulation there, Mr.
3 Chairman.
4
5 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Any further comments
6 on that.
7
8 (No comments)
9
10 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: No further comments
11 from the Council. Is the Council satisfied with the
12 way the proposal reads at this time with the amended
13 language for moratorium on cow moose, striking the
14 proposal wording, if a cow moose is taken, the season
15 closes. Those would be the modifications of the
16 Council at this time on the proposal.
17
18 Any further comments by the Council.
19
20 (No comments)
21
22 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Any further comments
23 by the Department. Glenn.
24
25 MR. STOUT: No. No further.
26
27 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Are you satisfied
28 with the deliberation on this proposal, Glenn.
29
30 MR. STOUT: Yeah. Yes.
31
32 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: And the Koyukuk
33 River Advisory Committee will also take this proposal
34 as well as the other proposal that the Western Interior
35 is submitting on the April to April 15th antlered bull
36 hunt also. So we'll be hopefully seeing it there with
37 this proposal also.
38
39 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Mr. Chairman.
40 What is the length of this now? Is it 10 days? What
41 is the number in there?
42
43 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: There was supposed
44 to be a 10-day season here. Right, I don't see that.
45
46 MR. RIVARD: Yeah, it's in there.
47
48 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Where is that at,
49 Mike?
50

1 MR. SPINDLER: Mr. Chair. If a
2 March/April season is authorized jointly, blah-blah-
3 blah, by all those stakeholders, the 10-day to be
4 announced season and numerical quota of bulls will be
5 determined.

6
7 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Oh, yeah, it's right
8 here. 10. It's there. Yeah, I knew it was there
9 somewheres. Okay. Are you comfortable with the
10 deliberation on the proposal, Mike?

11
12 MR. SPINDLER: Yes, I am, Mr. Chair.

13
14 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: And at this time the
15 Chair will entertain a motion to submit this proposal
16 to the Federal Subsistence Board for review and as
17 amended. Can I have a motion to submit this proposal.

18
19 MR. J. WALKER: So moved.

20
21 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Moved by James.

22
23 MS. YATLIN: Second.

24
25 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Seconded by Eleanor.
26 Further discussion on the proposal.

27
28 (No comments)

29
30 MS. PELKOLA: Question.

31
32 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: The question is
33 being called on the proposal. Those in favor of
34 submitting this proposal for Unit 24B winter antlered
35 bull moose hunt signify by saying aye.

36
37 IN UNISON: Aye.

38
39 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Opposed same sign.

40
41 (No opposing votes)

42
43 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: The Western Interior
44 unanimously approves the proposal to be submitted and
45 to be reviewed at our spring meeting and after
46 consultation with the Koyukuk River Advisory Committee.

47
48 Vince.

49
50 MR. MATHEWS: Two things. Is it the

1 intent of the council that the exact wording of the
2 proposal will be worked out through your concurrence
3 until we make sure that we have the exact wording
4 that's been agreed to? That it would be banged out
5 at.....

6
7 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: The moratorium
8 language and so forth?

9
10 MR. MATHEWS: Yes.

11
12 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yeah, the moratorium
13 language. Yeah, you can -- it will be inserted at some
14 point, and I would like the consultation on what point
15 in this dark language here, the highlighted language,
16 where that point would be. I want that clear to the
17 Federal Subsistence Board.

18
19 MR. MATHEWS: Yes. And the full
20 Council understands that. I'm under directive to leave
21 the room with the final proposal in hand signed off by
22 the chair, so I need some latitude here. That's what
23 I'm thinking.

24
25 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I would prefer to
26 see the moratorium language occur after a quota is
27 reached, at the end of the paragraph of highlighted
28 language. And I would like the language to be a
29 moratorium is in effect for cow moose harvested in Unit
30 24B until July 1 of 2016. that's the inserted
31 language, and you can get that out of the transcript.

32
33 MR. MATHEWS: Okay. But it will be
34 after the meeting is what I'm hearing.

35
36 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right.

37
38 MR. MATHEWS: Okay. Thank you. That's
39 all I needed to know.

40
41 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yeah. Any further
42 -- you've got a comment, Don?

43
44 MR. RIVARD: Yes, sir. Not on your
45 proposal, Mr. Chair. But we need to get the lunch
46 order in. I did confirm that they do have the rib
47 special for \$9. So I can come around to your table and
48 collect your orders in about five minutes when you get
49 a chance, and then I'll get the rest and get those
50 orders going.

1 Thank you.

2

3 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Vince.

4

5 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman. The
6 pattern that you just used on this proposal, I believe
7 that the BLM Staff and possibly the area biologist
8 would like to use that same pattern for your proposal
9 for 21E. The pattern was that the biologist provide you
10 background information about the biology, the current
11 hunts and all that. Then you go into the proposal
12 discussions.

13

14 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Are you still on
15 line there, Glenn?

16

17 MR. STOUT: Yes, I am.

18

19 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I would prefer to
20 finish this 24B package off since we have Glenn on
21 line. We don't want Glenn to sit around all day long
22 on the telephone. I would like to go over the proposal
23 for 24B, Koyukuk Controlled Use Area while you're still
24 on the line. Is that agreeable to you, Glenn?

25

26 MR. STOUT: Yeah, that's fine. That
27 would be great.

28

29 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: And so do we have
30 that proposal?

31

32 MR. MATHEWS: Are you talking about the
33 State one?

34

35 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: The State proposal.

36

37 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, it's under your
38 green tab.

39

40 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Our green tab. Go
41 to the green tab. Oh, yeah, here it is. And does
42 Glenn have a copy of this also. Do you have a copy of
43 this proposal that we're going to submit, Glenn?

44

45 MR. MATHEWS: I don't think so.

46

47 MR. STOUT: I don't in front of me, but
48 I recall the discussion of it from last March, so I
49 think I recall it enough.

50

1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yeah. Last March.
2 Right. So I'll inform the Council, last March I had
3 teleconference with Glenn Stout, I think Wennona Brown,
4 Mike Spindler and Vince Mathews on developing this
5 proposal.

6
7 And so basically this proposal -- well,
8 let's see here. Where's -- I actually have it -- oh,
9 it's on number 4. The proposal would be an April 1 to
10 15 -- April 5 to April 15th antlered bull moose hunt in
11 the Kanuti Controlled Use Area, downstream of Henshaw
12 Creek drainage. There was a discussion about that
13 would be getting to close to the Bettles road to the
14 north. This would actually allow other users to come
15 into that area. The controlled use area as described
16 would have very few people that would participate other
17 than Allakaket and Alatna. The harvest quota of bulls
18 would be determined based on the biological
19 sustainability of the population, maintaining the
20 bull/cow ratio management objective. The harvest quota
21 would apply to the Federal and State concurrent hunts
22 if applicable. the area biologist is authorized to
23 close the season once the quota is reached or if a cow
24 moose is taken. And I would like to strike or if a cow
25 moose was taken from that language as we just discussed
26 in the previous proposal.

27
28 And so that's the upshot of the
29 proposal. I would like discussion with the area
30 biologist, Glenn Stout -- or you have comment first,
31 Mike. Go ahead.

32
33 MR. SPINDLER: Yeah, just to clarify
34 things. We had also discussed at that teleconference
35 last March about we did want to include Henshaw Creek
36 as an area that the people from Allakaket could hunt.
37 So I think it might clarify it if we said for the
38 Kanuti Controlled Use area downstream and including
39 Henshaw Creek.

40
41 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Oh, okay. Right.
42 Good point, Mike.

43
44 And so do you have any comments on this
45 proposal, Glenn.

46
47 MR. STOUT: No, I would have just made
48 the same comment that Mike just made.

49
50 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Council

1 discussion on the proposal. We talked about this type
2 of proposal at our Galena meeting. After discussions
3 after our -- this basically would allow the Board of
4 Game to open a 10-day season in April for antlered
5 bulls when those bulls are growing antler, and give
6 people the opportunity to hunt basically from the front
7 door out to the Federal lands on concurrent Federal and
8 State seasons if approved by the Board of Game.

9

10 Timothy.

11

12 MR. GERVAIS: Yeah. Is there a
13 mechanism, or is there some -- what would keep
14 transporters or airplane hunters from flying into
15 that.....

16

17 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: It's a controlled
18 use area, and there's no fly-in hunting into the
19 controlled use area. And so that basically precludes
20 that. The other aspect is most hunters almost
21 completely ignore moose unless they have hard antler.
22 Having a spring bull season like this, there's a vastly
23 reduced number of people. But we did have a certain
24 amount of people came in on the Bettles Road back when
25 we had winter hunts up by Bettles, and we actually had
26 cow hunts, and they shot the tar out of the cows up
27 there on the Wild River just to the north of Bettles.
28 And so that's why we moved this hunt description down
29 to the Henshaw Creek drainage, including the Henshaw
30 Creek drainage, and that precludes air access and
31 hunters coming from the Haul Road, because they plow
32 the road to Bettles, off the Haul Road. So that's some
33 of the hunt parameters.

34

35 Go ahead, Mike.

36

37 MR. SPINDLER: Yes, Mr. Chair. Just a
38 couple other points of clarification. First off, do
39 you intend this to be a registration hunt, where the
40 people would register with the area biologist or his
41 representative at a location in the village?

42

43 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yeah, that could be
44 an aspect.

45

46 MR. SPINDLER: Okay. That's something
47 we didn't discuss at the teleconference, but we ought
48 to finalize that now.

49

50 And then the other point is, we talked

1 about harvest quota, and so that would be somehow
2 jointly discussed between the area biologist and other
3 stakeholders. My concern is that as far as the
4 sequence goes, the Board of Game will take action. If
5 the Board of Game takes this action, then there is
6 really no need for the previous proposal we discussed.
7 We just need to have.....

8
9 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: There would be no
10 March season, there would be no hunt.

11
12 MR. SPINDLER: We just need to have
13 some kind of companion aligning identical proposal in
14 the Federal process to have those aligned. Because of
15 the two-year cycle now, to realign something would take
16 an awful long time.

17
18 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right. Well, we
19 would have -- if the State Board of Game adopts this
20 proposal, this State proposal, and the Federal Board
21 adopts the proposal we just passed, you would then just
22 -- you would have the latitude to align both seasons
23 under the Federal opening. And so you would work in
24 conjunction with Glenn on setting that quota Both
25 hunts would run -- if we don't have the previous
26 proposal, there would be no opening in April. We don't
27 have that.

28
29 MR. SPINDLER: Right. No, I understand
30 that. So the consultation wouldn't be to determine
31 whether there is a hunt. The consultation would be to
32 determine the quotas.

33
34 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yes, to determine
35 the quota.

36
37 MR. SPINDLER: Okay. I just wanted to
38 clarify that that was your intent.

39
40 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: That's good for the
41 record. thank you.

42
43 And discussion on the registration
44 hunt, Glenn. Would you feel comfortable with a State
45 registration hunt, or do you feel that the green
46 harvest tickets the Department issues would be
47 adequate?

48
49 MR. STOUT: Yeah. I guess I would have
50 to give it some thought. I can't think of a reason why

1 we couldn't just go with a green harvest ticket for
2 simplicity, but I guess I'd have to think through that
3 a little more closely.

4

5 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. The previous
6 proposal would issue a Federal registration permit.
7 Would the State feel comfortable with that Federal
8 registration permit working like in the opposite
9 direction?

10

11 MR. STOUT: Mr. Chair. I'm guess I'm
12 not sure if we could. I would have to look into that a
13 little bit more as far as State regulations, whether or
14 not that would work.

15

16 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. You can
17 consider that before the advisory committee meeting,
18 which should be in late October is what I'm trying to
19 get Neesa to have is the last week of October. Is that
20 a good time frame for you for that AC meeting?

21

22 MR. STOUT: I think I'm hoping for
23 November when we're up there doing surveys, because we
24 have some other capture operations going on that last
25 week of October. We're putting out replacements on the
26 local moose collars up there. So that's scheduled now
27 for the 26th, the week of the 26th.

28

29 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Well, if you
30 can get ahold of Neesa and give her your preferred
31 dates. I'm having to work with her as vice chair on
32 that one. Okay. Consider this registration permit
33 aspect.

34

35 The State is unsure about the
36 registration aspect at this time. The AC can modify
37 the proposal. And so I don't want to insert the
38 registration hunt portion.

39

40 Any further discussion by the Council
41 on this proposal. Eleanor.

42

43 MS. YATLIN: Well, I was just trying to
44 -- I believe I asked the same question this last winter
45 meeting and it was -- does this open up to all the --
46 because, you know, there is a -- they do have a trail
47 between Bettles and Allakaket.

48

49 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right.

50

1 MS. YATLIN: I think I already asked
2 the same. That was just the only other concern I had.

3
4 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: The realities of
5 this hunt are it it's on the Kanuti Controlled Use
6 Area. Nobody can fly in. They could come in by snow-
7 go, but Doyon lands are closed to non-shareholders. So
8 that's the parameters of this hunt. The State-
9 controlled lands, the checkerboard lands are the Native
10 lands. That's the rub of this whole thing. People
11 can't hunt on their own lands, and so this provides
12 hunting opportunities under State regulations to try to
13 meet subsistence needs that are vastly below what
14 recognized as customary levels of use of moose by the
15 State or Federal Government, and so the State is under
16 a subsistence law also.

17
18 Any other comments on the proposal.

19
20 MR. R. WALKER: Mr. Chair.

21
22 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Robert.

23
24 MR. R. WALKER: In the fourth paragraph
25 it says at the last, if a cow moose is taken. Do we
26 strike that out?

27
28 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yeah. That was one
29 of the strike points. We're striking or if a cow moose
30 is taken. The other amendment to this proposal would
31 be the Henshaw drainage -- The Kanuti Controlled Use
32 Area downstream of the Henshaw Creek, and including the
33 Henshaw. Downstream of the Henshaw Creek drainage, and
34 including the Henshaw Creek drainage. And including
35 the Henshaw Creek. Something like that. We want the
36 Henshaw Creek drainage in there.

37
38 Go ahead, Mike.

39
40 MR. SPINDLER: Yes. Just as another
41 point of clarification, too. The Kanuti Controlled Use
42 Area is on Federal lands, closed to non-local users.
43 So the Federal Refuge lands and other Federal lands
44 within the controlled use area, only local rural users
45 are eligible to hunt on those lands.

46
47 And then the other point about the
48 registration permit, if it is decided that a permit is
49 needed, I just wanted to clarify to the Council that
50 the Refuge is prepared to make that as easy as possible

1 for the hunters, because, you know, we do have the
2 tribal council liaison hired in Allakaket. And if
3 Glenn was agreeable, that person could issue the
4 permits, or else perhaps the State license vendor there
5 could issue the permits. So I think we can make it so
6 the permits -- if it is decided to go down that route,
7 permits would be issued there in Allakaket.

8

9 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right. I don't see
10 why the State hunt -- the State administers -- the
11 Federal Government uses a lot of registration hunts of
12 the State. I don't see why the State, for the ease of
13 the State, that they can't use the Federal registration
14 hunt in conjunction for that whole area. If you're
15 there, issuing a Federal permit, the Federal permit
16 could include the State lands if there's a concurrent
17 season, or some language like that on the permit.

18

19 Do you think that that could happen,
20 Mike?

21

22 MR. SPINDLER: I'll initiate a dialogue
23 with Glenn about that to just see what's the most
24 workable solution. The bottom line is I want to make
25 it as user friendly for the hunters as we can possibly
26 do.

27

28 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I would like the
29 least adverse impact to the local users and I would
30 like the least expense for the Alaska Department of
31 Fish and Game and the Kanuti National Wildlife Refuge.
32 I don't want duplicity if at all possible.

33

34 Vince, you've got a comment.

35

36 MR. MATHEWS: Well, I just need
37 direction from you, because you're moving along here
38 that we would clean up any language that addresses if a
39 cow moose is taken. You made the reference also in
40 there that I would have to clean up to make sure that
41 the Board wouldn't be confused by justification
42 language. And I don't want you to spend a lot of time
43 on it. It would just basically be based on your
44 removal if a cow moose is taken, that it's reflected
45 throughout the whole proposal is all I'm requesting.
46 We can go through and find those or we just do it with
47 the intent.

48

49 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right. The antler
50 aspect is reducing -- is actually talking about

1 reasonable protection from accidental harvest of cow
2 moose. I don't see where it's a penalty. You may know
3 of another spot, but I don't.....

4

5 MR. MATHEWS: 6-alpha talks about.....

6

7 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: 6A?

8

9 MR. MATHEWS: Yeah. 6A, it talks about
10 the cow moose protection measures should result in
11 fewer cow harvested, allowing the moose population to
12 grow. That may need to be reworded so it doesn't
13 confuse the Board when they.....

14

15 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yeah. We could
16 strike the last sentence of 6-alpha. Yeah. We don't
17 need that one, because we're telling the Board that,
18 you know, seeing antlers is going to be reasonable
19 protection for -- as in other antlered bull moose
20 hunts.

21

22 Any other discussion on that.

23

24 (No comments)

25

26 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: The Chair will
27 entertain a motion to submit this proposal to the State
28 Board of Game regarding an April 5 to April 15th
29 antlered bull moose hunt for the described area, to be
30 reviewed by the advisory committees, and we'll review
31 this at our spring meeting. Entertain a motion to
32 submit this proposal.

33

34 MS. YATLIN: So moved.

35

36 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Moved by Eleanor

37

38 MR. GERVAIS: Second.

39

40 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Seconded by Tim.

41 Further discussion.

42

43 (No comments)

44

45 MR. J. WALKER: Question.

46

47 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: The question's been
48 called on the motion. All those in favor of the motion
49 signify by saying aye.

50

1 IN UNISON: Aye.
2
3 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: All opposed same
4 sign.
5
6 (No opposing votes)
7
8 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: You've got a
9 comment, Vince. The unanimous consent for submittal.
10
11 We'll go to a break now.
12
13 Go ahead, Vince.
14
15 MR. MATHEWS: Okay. Council members,
16 if you noticed, there was a lot of discussion on this
17 and a lot of pre-work on this that, you know, you're
18 trusting your Council members to bring it forth for
19 your area. That's why we're here. So for your area,
20 if you're looking at complex proposals, we'll connect
21 you with the manager, whoever that is, with the State
22 person. Because a lot of this as banged out before it
23 ever hit your book. So realize that Jack spent a lot
24 of effort, but we're here to help any effort that's
25 available, realizing that we're not saying we approve
26 it or whatever. We're just going to make sure that the
27 best product goes forward to the decision-makers. So I
28 know a lot of you guys may think, boy, this thing is
29 really complex. A lot of it was worked out ahead of
30 time, and we can do that in other areas. So that's why
31 we're here. I just want to get that on the record.
32
33 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So you're still on
34 line there, Glenn?
35
36 MR. STOUT: Yes, I am.
37
38 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I appreciate your
39 conferencing in with us, and we're going to break now.
40 We'll be back in about 15 minutes.
41
42 (Off record)
43
44 (On record)
45
46 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Could I have the
47 Council members back a the table.
48
49 And so we -- while we were on break,
50 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Region 7 Director, Geoff Haskett

1 has arrived and so I've invited the Regional Director
2 to attend our meeting. And so I'm going to have him
3 come up to the table and meet the Council. And I would
4 like the Council to have the opportunity to meet the
5 Regional Director.

6
7 And so you can introduce yourself,
8 Geoff. Go right ahead.

9
10 MR. HASKETT: Okay. Well, like he
11 said, my name is Geoff Haskett. I'm the Regional
12 Director for the Fish and Wildlife Service here in
13 Alaska. Actually as of about a week and a half ago,
14 I've been here a year, so I just finished my first year
15 here. As I mentioned to you, this is my second time in
16 Alaska. I was actually here from 1984 to 1988, so it
17 was a good opportunity for me to come back.

18
19 I spent a good part of the last year
20 trying to get out and meet with as many people as I
21 can, and, you know, some meetings like this just all
22 over the State, trying to, you know, figure out what
23 the Fish and Wildlife Service is doing and where we
24 work with our partners, those kinds of things. So I
25 very much appreciated your request for me to come join
26 this meeting so I would be able to sit in today.

27
28 I didn't bring anything prepared in
29 term of like an official statement or anything. I
30 mostly thought I'd come and listen in and learn what
31 you're doing, and pay attention and try to figure out,
32 you know, how things work out here.

33
34 So thanks for letting me come visit.

35
36 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So, yeah, I
37 appreciate you coming, Geoff. And so I, as the Chair,
38 and Ray's gone to these Federal Subsistence Board
39 meetings. I want the Council members to meet one of
40 our Federal Board members. The regional heads of U.S.
41 Fish and Wildlife, National Park Service, BIA.....

42
43 MR. HASKETT: Park Service and Forest
44 Service.

45
46 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Park Service and
47 Forest Service.

48
49 MR. HASKETT: And BLM, yes.

50

1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: And then we have a
2 Chairman is appointed, and that's Mike Fleagle, an
3 appointed Chair.

4
5 And so this is one of our Board
6 members, and the Board members have Staff Committee
7 members that attend our meetings, but it's fairly
8 unusual for a seated Board member to attend our
9 meetings, especially now since the regional heads are
10 sitting at the Federal Subsistence Board.

11
12 And so at this time I'd like -- if
13 Council members have any questions for the Regional
14 Director, I'd open the discussion.

15
16 (No comments)

17
18 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Seeing none, I
19 appreciate your attendance here, and so we're going to
20 be deliberating some various proposals this afternoon.
21 We've been deliberating fisheries proposals and we've
22 been deliberating proposals for moose in the upper
23 portion of the Koyukuk River drainage.

24
25 And so thank you for your attendance.
26 And I'm sure we'll be seeing you here this evening and
27 so forth.

28
29 MR. HASKETT: Yep. Thank you very
30 much. Appreciate the invitation.

31
32 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: And I'm cooking a
33 moose soup right now back at the Aniak Air Guides. And
34 I should call home and see how that soup's doing.
35 Rob's not much of a cook he said, so I hope it doesn't
36 boil dry. I hope he can boil water.

37
38 (Laughter)

39
40 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: At this time I've
41 had various people ask that are leaving -- I wanted to
42 go to proposals, but at this time we're in a fairly
43 short compression on some people's schedules. And so I
44 would like a quick briefing from Subsistence Division
45 and BLM if we can do that. So BLM is under the highest
46 time constraints. And there's a BLM handout here that
47 we'll pass around.

48
49 It's got yellow highlights. And this
50 is Tim Craig. He's our very adept biologist from the

1 northern district of the BLM, and works in the area
2 that I live in.

3

4 And so we'll pass these -- where are
5 they at? We're going to pass these around.

6

7 So we can work you in here, Tim, so
8 we're going to do that.

9

10 MR. CRAIG: Thank you very much, Mr.
11 Chairman, for accommodating me on this. Council
12 members. My name is Tim Craig. I'm a wildlife
13 biologist for the central Yukon field office.

14

15 And for those of you who are new, if
16 you fold this map that you have in your packet in half,
17 the central Yukon field office administers basically
18 all the yellow BLM lands on the northern half of that
19 map, just to orient you. The Anchorage field office is
20 the administrative office for the southern half.

21

22 Before you you have a handout. I've
23 highlighted in yellow, and I'm going to race through
24 it. If you have any questions about specific things,
25 feel free to stop me.

26

27 If you'll follow down under fisheries,
28 it's the first yellow highlight. We're reporting on
29 the Tozitna River salmon escapement project. That
30 river is technically in the Eastern Interior; however,
31 it is right on the border and it flows in between
32 Tanana and Ruby.

33

34 This summer they had almost double the
35 2008 run of Chinook, but it was still below, 15 percent
36 lower than the 7-year average at that weir. And the
37 summer chum, they were higher than 2008 as well, but
38 again 50 percent lower than the 7-year average. And
39 it's the last year that that weir will be operated.

40

41 We're also reporting that the Sulukna
42 River sheefish stock assessment is still going on. A
43 BLM employee, a fish biologist there, is working on his
44 master's on that project.

45

46 On Page 2, the Hughes mining district,
47 again we're in the process of some of those claims are
48 going over to the State of Alaska, other ones are going
49 to Doyon, Limited, and we expect that there will be
50 very few of those claims that will still be under

1 Bureau of Land Management jurisdiction in the future.

2

3 In the Koyukuk mining district, moving
4 northward back up into the utility corridor area, it
5 was a pretty active mining season. The price of gold
6 is high. There's 30 active mines there now. We've
7 permitted six new mining operations and associated
8 camps along the Dalton Highway. There's a list of the
9 creeks there that host those mines.

10

11 There's also been a real increase in
12 gravel sales along the Dalton Highway. I heard people
13 talking -- no, I wasn't right.

14

15 (Re-establishing teleconference)

16

17 MR. CRAIG: Anyway I think that's a
18 reflection of the interest in the various gas
19 pipelines. People are orienting themselves to have a
20 sufficient supply of gravel.

21

22 The Council was interested in a rock
23 pit actually, not a gravel pit, but it was in Roche
24 Mountonnee on the north side. And we did end up
25 issuing a permit, but BP, who was the recipient of the
26 permit, they did not do the exploration and the permit
27 has expired.

28

29 We're involved in preliminary
30 discussions with four different pipeline proposals, one
31 of which it's my understanding that we'll see an EIS
32 probably by December. And that's the stand-alone gas
33 pipeline, also called a bullet line.

34

35 Conveyances to Native and State
36 entities, they're moving along. There have been lots
37 of conveyances, and Vince can hand out -- I brought
38 maps. There's a master map that has all the most
39 recent land status for our whole unit, and then there
40 are five separate copies for different geographic
41 areas. And so you're welcome to take those home and to
42 look at them. And probably Council members that are in
43 different areas will want to just take the whole packet
44 of five so that you've got five copies of the same map.

45

46 However, if you want to see what
47 current land status is, as well as the 17b easements,
48 they're on Page 3, about a third of the way down,
49 there's a web site that you can go right to that have
50 all the land records.

1 The decision incidently, perhaps the
2 Council might be interested in this, to convey to
3 Doyon, Limited, 17b easements in the Nixon Fork north
4 of Nikolai has been appealed to the IBLA, the Interior
5 Board of Land Appeals.

6
7 Under recreation, again we're still on
8 Page 3, about two-thirds of the way down, there's plans
9 to do a new historic display of historic hand-mining
10 operations in Cold Foot. A scenic byway designation
11 for the Dalton Highway is moving along. The second
12 draft of the corridor plan is available, and there's a
13 website there if you're interested that you can look
14 into that issue.

15
16 Again under recreation, we're issued
17 two new hunting guide permits within the Western
18 Interior RAC. Both of them are in the utility
19 corridor, one on Mathews River and one in Poss
20 Mountain.

21
22 Under vegetation, we did a weed
23 inventory on Bonanza Creek, which is a stream that
24 crosses the Dalton Highway and then goes down in the
25 Koyukuk. It actually goes to Fish Creek and then in
26 the Kanuti Refuge. And we looked for invasive plants,
27 and we did not find any. It was a pretty quick trick,
28 but we didn't find any.

29
30 Along that same line, we're continuing
31 to develop a weed management plan for the Dalton
32 Highway. We got some incentive money to hire somebody
33 to kind of move that along. Remember, we have to do an
34 EA. There's going to be a public review and any of the
35 villages nearby will be visited by BLM reps or this
36 person who gets this contract to talk about the use of
37 different way to control weeds there, including
38 herbicides.

39
40 We also worked with Fish and Wildlife
41 Service to do some mechanical control along the Dalton
42 Highway for another year again, hand-pulling weeds,
43 particularly along streams that go down into the
44 Koyukuk north of 98 mile on the Dalton Highway.

45
46 Then on Page 4, we're about a little
47 more than half-way down under wildlife, we're planning
48 to do a GSPE, that's a moose survey, one of the
49 intensive moose surveys, along with Fish and Game,
50 perhaps Park Service, in 24A. It would be the first

1 time that's occurred.

2

3

4 We did a sheep survey in the Dalton
5 area mainly east of the highway. It's the Chandalar
6 block. It's a survey area that we've done repeatedly
7 over the last five years. Fish and Game conducted the
8 survey and BLM helped fund it. We counted 1535 sheep,
9 which is the second highest number ever recorded in our
10 surveys. The number of legal rams was, however, was
11 the lowest. The number of lambs was pretty high,
12 almost 28 lambs per 100 ewes.

12

13

14 And then we initiated a study of sheep
15 mortality along with Fish and Game. Fish and Game's
16 the primary. They're the primary people doing the work
17 on the ground, but it's along with Federal funding that
18 we helped obtain. And that mortality study is starting
19 to turn out some results. We have 20 ewes with GPS
20 collars on, so we're getting good information on
21 movements of sheep, and we have 20 of their lambs that
22 were caught and had collars put on that tell the
23 biologist when that lamb dies, when the radio stops
24 moving. And to date we have had one ewe die. It may
25 have had something to do with capture mortality. It
26 happened within about a day after it was captured. A
27 wolverine got the ewe. But of the 20 collared lambs,
28 we had one die from wolverine predation, one from eagle
29 predation, one drowned accidentally. And then there was
30 an additional lamb later that died, and we were not
31 able to tell what caused that mortality.

31

32

33 Then the Fish and Game, BLM and Kanuti,
34 Mike Spindler referenced this, we're still in
35 cooperation in this radio telemetry study on moose in
36 24A and B. The end of the month we'll be putting some
37 more collars out, replacement collars. And the Park
38 Service and BLM are alternating months in radio
39 tracking these moose on the northern half of that study
40 area.

40

41

42 And then lastly we requested money
43 through the stimulus money that you've heard so much
44 about, to hire somebody to analyze sheep, moose, and
45 caribou radio tracking data which we've, you know,
46 accrued quite a bit of data over the years. And so
47 we'll be writing up the statement of work on that, and
48 the idea is to analyze that information for the utility
49 corridor.

49

50

And that is a pretty quick rendition of

1 what's been going on at BLM. If you have any
2 questions, I'd be glad to try and answer them.

3

4 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So do you still have
5 radio collars on those Hodzana caribou that are active?

6

7 MR. CRAIG: Yes, Mr. Chairman. In
8 fact, last week we went out and put four more out.
9 Fish and Game put four out that BLM paid for. And then
10 I went out and I took some biopsy needles on a dart,
11 and we got some more tissue samples.

12

13 We have some preliminary information.
14 We didn't have enough samples, but there was some
15 tantalizing information on those original samples that
16 we had, if you remember my report on that in the past,
17 that those -- that little group of caribou is kind of a
18 unique group of caribou.

19

20 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yeah, they're
21 bigger. Quite a bit bigger.

22

23 So any other Council questions for Tim.
24 Go ahead, Ray.

25

26 MR. COLLINS: Yeah. Tim, I was curious
27 about the sheep, the low number of rams. I assume that
28 a lot of that is due to hunting pressure; is that
29 right? Or is that norm? How many would you expect
30 1500 sheep? It seems an awful low number.

31

32 MR. CRAIG: Yes, Mr. Chairman and
33 Member Collins. That number of rams is relatively low.
34 You know, I've looked at some other populations around.
35 There's around four percent I think, or say four or
36 five percent on legal rams. I think it may perhaps
37 have -- hunting probably has some bearing on it, but
38 also if you look back in the information, we had some
39 hard winters about four, five years ago, and the lamb
40 production was pretty low. And I think we're seeing
41 that lump, that cohort of depressed number of sheep
42 coming on line now. And if you -- I think in the past
43 I've given you some information on our past surveys.
44 And the last three years of lamb production have been
45 pretty good. So I'm hopeful that in the future that's
46 going to turn around.

47

48 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: On questions on
49 those sheep, were those sheep found in a large
50 aggregate? That's what I saw, the sheep were all were

1 all like compressed into way bigger groups than it's
2 been recently. Did you fly that survey?

3

4 MR. CRAIG: Now you're asking during
5 the survey this summer?

6

7 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: During the survey
8 this year.

9

10 MR. CRAIG: Yeah. No, Fish and Game
11 did the survey, but I've got the information, and they
12 were pretty scattered, but there's some pretty good big
13 groups, especially around in that Snowden country up
14 there. But they were scattered in all the sheep
15 habitat. If you'll remember in the past, we've been
16 mystified, because one year it will be 1500, the next
17 year it will 1100 and the following year it will be
18 1500 again. And I think there's quite a bit of
19 movement. I think that's one of the things I'm real
20 interested in this ewe study with the GPS collars over
21 time to see how far they really move.

22

23 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right. Other
24 questions by the Council. Eleanor.

25

26 MS. YATLIN: Mr. Chairman. Oh, I had
27 one question on the BLM issuing two permit tickets to
28 hunting guides within the WI RAC boundary, and hunting
29 for? I mean, what kind of.....

30

31 MR. CRAIG: What species?

32

33 MS. YATLIN: Uh-huh. (Affirmative)

34

35 MR. CRAIG: Yeah. Mr. Chairman, Member
36 Yatlin. They were -- the one at Poss Mountain was a
37 sheep hunter, and then the Mathews River was -- I
38 believe that he was keying on sheep and bears.

39

40 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Are you tracking the
41 harvest rates in that area, the reported harvest of
42 these sheep in the Dalton Highway corridor and
43 associated areas on the BLM lands? Or do you get that
44 reporting from the Alaska Department of Fish and Game,
45 the harvest reporting for numbers of rams harvested?

46

47 MR. CRAIG: Yes, Mr. Chairman. As --
48 you know, there's a lot of different permits come up
49 that don't even really have to do with hunting, but we
50 do analyses on all of those. And when they come up in

1 an area, for instance, anywhere near Poss Mountain, of
2 course, we kind of dig into that area and try and find
3 out how many sheep are harvested there. And the
4 information for the utility corridor is, you know, on
5 the green harvest ticket you have to write down where
6 you shot your sheep, and not everybody puts down
7 exactly where they got their sheep.

8

9 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right. Okay. Other
10 questions for Tim.

11

12 (No comments)

13

14 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks, Tim. We
15 appreciate you coming all the way down here to give us
16 a report.

17

18 MR. CRAIG: Yeah. Thanks again for
19 letting me get in here out of turn.

20

21 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yeah. And so these
22 are all -- these BLM lands are areas that are around
23 many villages in the upper Koyukuk and in our region,
24 so these reports are very necessary to keeping us
25 updated on what's tracking, what's going on there.

26

27 And I also have Subsistence Division
28 wants to give a real short, brief report. She has to
29 leave also. And so I'm trying to work in some various
30 people that have tighter schedules.

31

32 Tim's got to be at the airplane in five
33 minutes. And so we'll see you, Tim.

34

35 And so state your name for the record,
36 please.

37

38 MS. RAY: Mr. Chairman. Lily Ray.
39 Department of Fish and Game, Division of Subsistence.

40

41 I'd briefly like to you today to
42 introduce a large project that we're proposing to do in
43 the central Kuskokwim this spring. It's a subsistence
44 baseline survey. Basically a baseline survey is to
45 found out about how people are harvesting and using all
46 kinds of subsistence resources. So it differs from
47 post-season harvest surveys in that it doesn't simply
48 focus on salmon or moose or non-salmon fish, but it
49 talks about pretty much any kind of wild resource,
50 including plants, that people are using.

1 If you'll to the second page, why are
2 we doing this project. It is the mission of the
3 Division of Subsistence to document subsistence, and
4 subsistence baselines are very important, because they
5 can really give a picture of a communities dependence
6 on subsistence. And in order to protect subsistence,
7 it's important to document it.

8
9 The reason we have funding to do
10 baselines this spring in the central Kuskokwim region
11 is because of the Donlin Creek Mine project. This is
12 part of the public process for the Donlin Creek Mine,
13 and the information will be used in the NEPA process.

14
15 There will also be public information.
16 It will be published as a Fish and Game technical
17 paper. It will be subjected to community review and
18 will be brought back to the communities first for their
19 approval, and then brought back so that's their data as
20 well that they can use as they see fit.

21
22 Baselines are often important, because
23 you can show uses now, and then if there's changes, for
24 example, impacts from a development project such as a
25 mine, you can show what's been lost.

26
27 This year eight communities have been
28 selected to participate, basically starting in Lower
29 Kalskag and going up as far as Stoney River. Right now
30 we're in the process of doing community approvals, so
31 basically we have funding to do it in these eight
32 communities. We're going to go out and visit, discuss
33 with the councils. Each community will have the choice
34 to participate, to not participate, to add some
35 conditions to their participation.

36
37 The research will occur this spring,
38 2010, between January and March. It will probably take
39 about a year to get the data worked up to a point where
40 we can come back for community review. And then
41 hopefully the data will be finalized in June 2011.

42
43 Basically this project consists of
44 household surveys, mapping, and key respondent
45 interviews. All participation will be voluntary. Any
46 household can decline to participate. The information
47 is confidential. It will be analyzed at the community
48 level, not at the level of the individual. And we're
49 going to be hiring local surveyors in each community.
50 Also what we will be doing is sending Fish and Game

1 Staff to each community and we'll have an equal number
2 of local hires as Fish and Game Staff, and they will
3 be going in pairs to the different households.

4
5 We're hoping for a 90 percent sample
6 for the survey. And it's pretty much going to be
7 quantitative data asking for amounts of harvest, but
8 there will also be questions about the timing of the
9 harvest, and a mapping effort to map important
10 subsistence areas.

11
12 There will also be some key respondent
13 interviews done, and these are more like a conversation
14 as opposed to getting numbers, so we'll probably be
15 going to talk to knowledgeable elders to get context
16 for subsistence in the area, the story behind the
17 numbers, why harvest of certain things might be low or
18 high this year. And that's a chance to really document
19 some of the traditional knowledge that's out there.

20
21 And the reason I'm presenting today is
22 first just to make the Council aware of this major
23 project that's going to be going on in the central
24 Kuskokwim region, and also as a chance for any input,
25 if there's -- we are going to be out in community doing
26 a large project, so if there's any topics of interest
27 or things that we should be aware of, I would be happy
28 to hear that input.

29
30 Thank you.

31
32 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: A very nice
33 presentation, Lily. And I like getting the Council's
34 input on this survey.

35
36 You've got a comment there, Ray.

37
38 MR. COLLINS: Yeah, Lily, we just
39 talked about this already, but I just want to
40 reemphasize it. It's important to get more than one
41 year, so asking the question, you know, how does this
42 compare to your average take of that, you know, or
43 maybe going back one or two years to see, to give a
44 little timeline to see, you know, did you catch -- is
45 this about the same amount of fish you normally get, or
46 what do you normally get and so on, and the other items
47 as well.

48
49 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right. Give a
50 little broader spectrum.

1 Other comments from the Council.
2 Eleanor.
3
4 MS. YATLIN: Lily, you brought up NEPA.
5 Could you just say what that is and why? Because of
6 the Donlin Creek Mine?
7
8 MS. RAY: Absolutely. Mr. Chairman,
9 Member Yatlin. I'm not an expert on NEPA and there
10 might be someone who could answer this better, but from
11 what I do know, is that any major project or
12 development has to go through a process to show how it
13 will affect things such as subsistence, endangered
14 species, the environment. And so as part of that
15 process, they gather the data and then they look at how
16 the project would affect what's out there.
17
18 In terms of how much this would affect
19 the actual process of mine approvals, I do not know how
20 to answer that question, but it might be possible to
21 consult someone who's more of an expert on the NEPA
22 process.
23
24 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thank you. Other
25 questions. Don.
26
27 MR. HONEA: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I
28 just wanted to say I think it's just commendable for
29 Donlin Creek Mine to do this, to gather traditional in
30 a good faith effort, working with the communities that
31 they represent or that's in this area.
32
33 I want to thank you. I enjoyed this,
34 and I mean, it's short and brief and to the point,
35 you're Billy Ray Cyrus. I had to throw that in.
36
37 Thank you.
38
39 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I think the Council
40 appreciates your preciseness on your presentation. The
41 Council.....
42
43 You've got a comment there, Carl.
44
45 MR. MORGAN: Yeah, I'd just like to
46 clarify that. It is not a mine. It hasn't even gone
47 through the permitting processes. It's just in the
48 beginning stages, exploration. They're doing this
49 because they'd got to do a full-blown EIS, and that's
50 when you really get into nitty gritty. You get from

1 the smallest insect, you know, bacteria to moose. From
2 the smallest plant to the trees. How it's going to
3 affect the river system. How it will affect the plant
4 life and wildlife, both fish and game. But this is a
5 beginning and I'd like to see this as an independent --
6 although it's funded through NovaGold, which is a
7 partnership with Barrick, it's the State of Alaska is
8 who is conducting the survey, and much knowledge of
9 gathering all this. And I really commend it that
10 you're doing a document on traditional knowledge
11 because then it -- and get the story behind the
12 numbers, I mean, that means a lot. So thank you very
13 much.

14

15 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks, Carl, on
16 your comments.

17

18 Any other comments from the Council.
19 Tim.

20

21 MR. GERVAIS: Lily, does -- and then
22 after the report comes out, that's it? There's no on-
23 going for future years with the harvest and stuff, and
24 use, subsistence?

25

26 MS. RAY: At this time the funding is
27 lined up to do these communities this coming year.
28 There is talk of a phase II which from the sound of it
29 would actually be additional communities in the near
30 future, perhaps in later 2010 or 2011.

31

32 In terms of in the future, it's always
33 the goal of the Division of Subsistence to do baselines
34 when and where possible, but they're expensive, and
35 funding is always an issue. So I don't know what
36 funding will look like in the future.

37

38 And I would quickly like to just -- Mr.
39 Morgan's comment as well, which is I would like to
40 emphasize that, yes, although it was funded through
41 NovaGold, they contracted the State of Alaska, Division
42 of Subsistence as a neutral party. And our job is to
43 document this information, and it's being done in the
44 same way as it's been done in other communities that
45 were not funded by a mine, and it's a standard process.
46 So it is considered to be independent.

47

48 We don't have a position on the mine.

49

50 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thank you. Vince.

1 MR. MATHEWS: Since Tim is a new member
2 and Jack and Ray can correct me on this, this Council
3 has been very supportive of continuing, the term we
4 use, big game harvest surveys. The area you were
5 talking about, 24B, Unit 24, this Council pushed very
6 hard to make sure that there was multiple big game
7 harvest surveys so there would be clear data so when
8 this Council or others went before whatever regulatory
9 board, there was current information.

10

11 I'm drawing a blank where this Council
12 stood on community studies similar to this, baseline,
13 because those are rapidly getting out of date for most
14 of your communities. And those are expensive. I think
15 Jack could probably talk.....

16

17 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right. This
18 Council, and Ron Sam in particular, was a very high
19 proponent of getting baseline data and maintaining
20 baseline data on harvests, because we've used that data
21 at the Board of Game level and the Federal Subsistence
22 Board level. And we're using that somewhat getting
23 antiquated data for the upper Koyukuk.

24

25 And I feel that this Council should
26 possibly insert into our annual report the need for
27 additional baseline data from OSM or through the
28 Subsistence Division, contracting to get more current
29 data for the middle Yukon and upper Koyukuk. And that
30 was done by the Subsistence Division previously. And
31 so if it's agreeable to the Council, I would -- I'm
32 glad to see that this data is being gathered in the
33 Kuskokwim area, but I also feel that we have a data
34 lack in the upper portion of the region as our data is
35 becoming antiquated. And so if it's agreeable, we can
36 insert that into our annual report requesting -- is
37 that agreeable? Is that a correct methodology, Vince?

38

39 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, it would be.

40

41 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: And so I would
42 just.....

43

44 MR. MATHEWS: And that wasn't my intent
45 to bring this up to get it in your annual report. I
46 was just.....

47

48 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: No, I intended to go
49 this direction anyway. And so, Bob, you've got a
50 statement there? Slide up to the mic.

1 MR. ALOYSIUS: Thank you. I would like
2 to.....

3
4 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Do you want to speak
5 into the mic a little better?

6
7 MR. ALOYSIUS: I would like to publicly
8 thank her for doing the work that you're doing, because
9 it's a face-to-face, not a paper-to-paper, or mind-to-
10 paper kind of thing. And the old people in Kalskag
11 really love what she's doing. And to look at her and
12 to see her and have them respond to them, not to react,
13 but to respond. That's the beauty of it, it's a one-
14 to-one thing that she's doing. And another thing is
15 just to acknowledge the cooperation in that there's too
16 many times something needs to be done, and everybody's
17 out there doing it, but they never come together and do
18 it together, and this is an example of cooperative
19 working to get some baseline information. However the
20 system works, the money comes from one place to another
21 and we work together to make this happen. And I
22 encourage you guys to again, you know, promote this
23 kind of work.

24
25 And thank you.

26
27 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks, Bob. We
28 appreciate your comments as a local person here.

29
30 Lily is a very amicable person. I
31 think that she will work well with Subsistence
32 Division, and I would encourage you to accompany your
33 contractees in each village so the communities become
34 familiar with you and for your future work here, and
35 hopefully you'll have a long career with the
36 Subsistence Division.

37
38 Subsistence Division traditionally has
39 had researchers that stay on staff for many years, and
40 I highly appreciate that, but we have had turn over
41 with the State Subsistence Division, and so I always --
42 and we highly enjoy the anthropological investigations
43 that the OSM and the Subsistence Division do for our
44 Council. We knew those baseline information and
45 harvest information.

46
47 Any further comments. James.

48
49 MR. J. WALKER: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
50 I had a question regarding this, Lily. Is this

1 primarily affecting the Kuskokwim River drainage only,
2 or is it possibly going to affect the potential runoff
3 drainages on the Iditarod/Innoko area also?

4
5 MS. RAY: I actually don't know the
6 answer to that question at this time, but I could look
7 into it and get back to you, or if there's someone else
8 who might know.

9
10 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: It would appear to
11 me that the drainages, or the villages are on the
12 Kuskokwim side, although is the -- Carl, the Donlin
13 Creek area, is it all watershed into the Kuskokwim
14 side?

15
16 MR. MORGAN: I don't think I can make a
17 very educational on that. I mean, I would like to say
18 yes, but, hey, maybe it's not. So I don't know.

19
20 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: And if you have
21 knowledge that it isn't, does it drain into the other
22 side, James?

23
24 MR. J. WALKER: Mr. Chairman, no, I
25 don't -- I haven't any, you know, official knowledge,
26 but there's potential there. It has the potential to
27 drain into Iditarod and the Innoko River.

28
29 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right. Go ahead,
30 Mike.

31
32 MR. THALHAUSER: Thank you, Mr.
33 Chairman. Mike Thalhauser with KNA. Yeah, I do
34 believe that the only thing that would drain out of the
35 Kuskokwim, at least as far as the proposed project so
36 far is I think part of the road access to the mine from
37 the Birch Tree Landing site where they would land
38 barges and then move things in with trucks to the mine,
39 I think some of that does dip into the Yukon drainage
40 slightly. But, yeah, this study looks like it's all on
41 the Kuskokwim.

42
43 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Vince.

44
45 MR. MATHEWS: I think that either Lily
46 can do it or someone else. It would be part of the EIS
47 process. What I'm understanding is there may be a
48 connection between Holy Cross and this mine on some
49 kind of supply situation, so I would assume the EIS
50 process would be looking at what is the base of this

1 project and where is it going to effect. But I don't
2 know that for a fact, so one of us can see. But that's
3 in the EIS. I don't know if they've actually. They're
4 just getting the data down, so I don't know the scope,
5 but I would guess it would go all the way down to
6 Bethel, the whole scope of the area.

7

8 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Robert.

9

10 MR. R. WALKER: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
11 I believe at this time that the Yukon communities have
12 letters addressed to this issue here where Donlin Creek
13 Mine is not to dump any kind of material into the
14 headwaters of the Innoko River. So that has been
15 addressed.

16

17 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So I would -- my
18 comment to your project would be that the Council seems
19 to be concerned that the scope of investigation does
20 not include villages in the Yukon side. Those villages
21 would be Shageluk, Holy Cross and Anvik and Grayling.
22 Those communities would be affected within our region,
23 and so we would feel that the scope of the project
24 should possibly include those villages also, because of
25 the various aspects of the mine. And so that would be
26 the Council's comments in a sort of synopsis
27 appreciation for the work that you're doing, and the
28 data that we will be -- have access to also, because it
29 will be public information. So appreciate those
30 aspects of the project.

31

32 Any further discussion.

33

34 (No comments)

35

36 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thank you, Lily.
37 Appreciate that. Thanks for washing dishes for us and
38 other things.

39

40 MS. RAY: Well, thank you for making
41 time, and thank you for your input. I appreciate it.

42

43 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: And so we're at a
44 quarter to. Vince.

45

46 MR. MATHEWS: Okay. To clear up on the
47 maps, what's going on with the maps is there's five
48 copies of each section. I have a full set. So for
49 your area, if you wanted a land status map, for
50 example, in Lime Village, I have that in front of me.

1 Obviously BLM will provide you any maps that you would
2 like, but they're big. So we can work that out. I do
3 have extra copies. So there's only five copies of each
4 of the area maps.

5
6 Lunch is supposed to arrive about one,
7 so we do have a little slot here. If it's okay with
8 the Chair, I'd like to read into the record a written
9 public comment that we received here while we've been
10 in town.

11
12 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yes. Go ahead,
13 Vince.

14
15 MR. MATHEWS: Okay. This is from
16 Esther and Dave, I think it's Dryall. They're the
17 owners of the Hound House. And obviously they couldn't
18 be here, because they're cooking your food. But
19 anyways, this is from them, and this is concerning Unit
20 19A moose. So I'll just read it in the record.

21
22 It says, families in the subsistence
23 use area should be allowed one moose per year any time,
24 multiple underline under any time, of the year. We are
25 locked into a 20-day period where everybody and his
26 brother are vying for a moose. This is not a fair
27 system. Each family only needs one moose. We do not
28 waste, plus we share with those who did not get one.
29 There should be no season, since we haven't been able
30 to kill cows for years anyways.

31
32 And that's the complete comment.

33
34 You don't have any -- well, Staff will
35 correct me, but you don't have any proposals at this
36 time in front of you in 19A, but you've had a high
37 interest in 19A, because of the Tier II and .804
38 situation, as well as other ungulate population
39 concerns.

40
41 So anyways that's the full comment.

42
43 Now, Mr. Chair, we could go into 21E,
44 because Mr. Chase, the Chair of the GASH committee,
45 he's got to catch a plane at 2:00, so we could at least
46 get his comments and concerns from the 21E area since
47 he is an AC chair.

48
49 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yes, at this time
50 we'd like to go into this 21E proposal. Do you want to

1 come up to the chair there, Ken. And we'll also get --
2 we'll have input from Innoko and the BLM on this
3 proposal both.

4
5 Have you reviewed this proposal, Ken?

6
7 And where is this proposal at in our
8 packet, Vince?

9
10 MR. MATHEWS: It's under your lavender
11 or purple table It's towards the end of that tab. I
12 don't have mine open, but it's towards the end before
13 you go to the next color tab. And Ken should have a
14 copy of that.

15
16 MR. CHASE: Mr. Chair and members of
17 the Council. Thank you. My name is Ken Chase. I
18 chair the Grayling, Anvik, Shageluk, Holy Cross State
19 Advisory Committee.

20
21 And before I get in the proposal, I'd
22 like to say thank you for the opportunity. I just
23 started coming to these meetings. Last year was in
24 Galena. And I brought back to our committee a lot of
25 concerns and comments from the committee here, and they
26 were real pleased with that. So I think it will be a
27 continued thing.

28
29 Our committee is really pretty active
30 over the years, and we've really been proactive type in
31 the areas of moose management, fish, and predator
32 control. And I believe some of the concerns I have are
33 not necessarily, of course, what the committee has, but
34 on the proposal for the moose in 21E, the change of
35 season from August 20th to the -- August 25th to the
36 end of September, it was discussed in Galena and we
37 don't have too much of a problem with that; however, a
38 lot of the people did recognize that the moose in the
39 end of September are getting toward the rut and
40 nobody's going to shoot them anyway, but it seemed to
41 be the consensus that they wanted to try it, or make
42 that opportunity.

43
44 The hunt that we have in the State in
45 the winter, we have like a registered permit hunt, so,
46 you know, it's a kind of accountability type thing.
47 And I think the Federal side of it could do that,
48 should do that to where the State knows and the locals
49 know what's going on with what's being harvested.

50

1 Our moose management plan was permitted
2 a couple years ago. Our committee and the villages
3 themselves were really adamant about the taking of cow
4 moose at the time. They strictly wanted it out. And
5 the State advisory committee recognized that, so we
6 proposed that to the State to stop all cow hunting
7 until a time that we could see there was an increase in
8 our overall population. And although we see increase
9 in the ratio of cows/bulls, myself, I don't see any
10 increase in the twinning or the calf ratio.

11
12 And I have a problem with that 40
13 permit thing under the State, under our management
14 plan, because in the winter hunt -- let me go back a
15 little bit here. I'm kind of mixed up because of all
16 the other proposals.

17
18 But our winter hunt, we had wanted to
19 stop the take of moose within a half-mile corridor of
20 the Yukon and the Innoko. And it was in the plan and
21 in the regulation. However, I noted last year there
22 was a moose taken right at the mouth of the Anvik
23 River. It was further than a half a mile from the
24 Yukon, which was legal, but we failed to recognize the
25 Anvik and the Bonasila River, which is also subject to,
26 you know, cow moose, pregnant cow moose being taken
27 during that late season. And in talking to the manager
28 of the Innoko Wildlife Refuge, we and the local people
29 think that the 10-day hunt maybe should be kind of
30 spread out or changed to a later time in the year
31 rather than the February hunt, because, you know, as
32 noted, the temperature. And we get warmer weather
33 toward February and March. And maybe a 30-day hunt,
34 since it is a permitted hunt, and the number of moose
35 taken really doesn't affect that at all, that it should
36 be maybe expanded to 30 days rather than just a 10-day
37 window.

38
39 I'll stop right there for any
40 questions.

41
42 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Those are
43 good comments, Ken.

44
45 Do we have comments, questions from the
46 Council members. Any -- for Ken's discussion there.
47 Go ahead, James.

48
49 MR. J. WALKER: Mr. Chairman. Yeah.
50 Mr. Chairman. Ken, in looking at the proposal as it

1 reads now, it says it's going to be discretionary
2 between February and April. Is there a problem with
3 those numbers there?

4

5 MR. CHASE: No, I really don't, but for
6 the management I think -- or the resource, you know, to
7 monitor it, I think if we had a 30-day season that was
8 more concrete, you know, to name it rather than to say
9 10 days between February and March at the discretion of
10 the manager. I think if you're wanting to provide for
11 the resource to be harvest by the people in there, you
12 know, and also have it monitored right, I think it
13 should be a little later on in the year and a 30-day
14 period. I do have a -- and I think I mentioned this in
15 Galena, that I do have a problem with a 10-day window,
16 you know.

17

18 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. I was
19 discussing this proposal parameters with the Refuge
20 manager last night. And I personally, with a quota
21 hunt, and if the Refuge manager's comfortable with a
22 30-day season and the local GASH Advisory Committee
23 Chair is also comfortable with a 30-day season, would
24 you be comfortable with a March 15th to April 15th time
25 frame?

26

27 MR. CHASE: That's correct.

28

29 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: And so we can change
30 the proposal dates from March 15th to April 15th, set
31 that as a season. Not to be announced, but that as a
32 season. Would you be comfortable with that?

33

34 MR. CHASE: Yes, Mr. Chairman.

35

36 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: And so we would
37 change this proposal to a March 1 [sic] to April 15th
38 season, not to be announced, but that's the season.
39 And so.....

40

41 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: March what?

42

43 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Correction. March
44 15. March 15 to April 15, a 30-day season. And so
45 the Refuge manager felt uncomfortable with working out
46 all the details of trying to find out when people would
47 like to hunt, and that would be -- it actually gets to
48 be quite a nightmare for these managers, and so we're
49 trying to move away from making too much workload for
50 the refuge managers. We want to set this more precise

1 and take the monkey off their back, and it's a real
2 monkey. And so I've had to deal with trying to make
3 these determinations as the Chair, and trying to get
4 ahold of the ACs and the biologists, and it gets to be
5 a real nightmare. So we should move aware from this.
6 And we were taking this comment from Mike Spindler on
7 the same issue.

8

9 And so is the Council comfortable with
10 changing that to a one-month season, March 15 to April
11 15. I see an affirmation of the Council. No problem
12 with that from your area.

13

14 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: No.

15

16 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: And so other aspects
17 of the proposal. Do you have concerns about cow
18 harvest in the 40 moose quota, Ken, is that what you're
19 saying?

20

21 MR. CHASE: Yes, Mr. Chairman. I do.
22 Like I mentioned, you know, the committee's real active
23 and voices its opinion on that, and we did not want cow
24 harvest anyway, because some places in our district, in
25 the 21E especially is really suppressed for moose yet.
26 There's areas that used to have a good population, and
27 the density was, you know, pretty good, but now it's
28 really depressed. And, you know, there was discussion
29 always at the Federal side subsistence to open an area,
30 we would like to have seen it in the areas where the
31 moose density could handle it, you know, rather than to
32 open it in an area that's depressed, especially for
33 cows.

34

35 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right. And so we'll
36 take your points under consideration as we deliberate
37 the formation of this proposal.

38

39 And any comments from the Council to
40 Ken on the cow harvest in the winter hunt. Do Council
41 members have a feeling one way or another on that. Go
42 ahead.

43

44 MR. HONEA: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I
45 guess it went right over my head here. I don't know
46 what your current regulations are. Are we changing
47 this from a 10-day and I don't know, you know, whether
48 this was in December. What dates are we changing it
49 from to.

50

1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Vince, go ahead.

2

3 MR. MATHEWS: Yeah. If you would look
4 on -- and I apologize, I didn't put numbers on these
5 pages. If you look at the one that -- if you look
6 half-way down, it has a number 2, and it says a 10-day
7 harvest parameters, to be announced. It's under the
8 lavender one, and that's what we're focusing on now.
9 and the exiting regulations for the record are one
10 moose; however, only bulls may be taken from August
11 20th through September 25th, and moose may not be taken
12 within one-half mile of the Innoko or Yukon rivers
13 during the February season.

14

15 And then if I understand, Mr. Chair,
16 while he's being pointed out that, you're going to
17 continue to work on the details of this proposal,
18 because I think BLM Staff and Refuge Staff may have
19 some background data or information that you.....

20

21 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right. I want to
22 bring them up also. I want to go over some of the
23 parameters with Ken since he has to leave. And so I
24 want to get some of this stuff hammered out with the AC
25 Chair first.

26

27 And so, Don, the proposal was a window
28 in February, and so that whole season it can be cold.
29 It's kind of a tough time to hunt. The proposal we
30 want to make it the easiest for the refuge managers and
31 the easiest for the people who live there, and so
32 giving a one month's window March 15th to April 15th
33 with a quota leads to a comfortability with allowing a
34 harvest without exceeding a large number of moose.

35

36 And so we're talking about the cow
37 component of this hunt. And so the Chair of the GASH
38 AC is stating that concerns about cow harvest in the
39 winter, and I want dialogue with the Council about what
40 the Council members from that area feel about cow
41 harvest as part of the 40 moose quota. And so at this
42 point I will ask those members who live in the GASH
43 that are on our Council. Go ahead, James.

44

45 MR. J. WALKER: I think we only look at
46 cow harvest as part of the ceremonial process.

47

48 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Say again?

49

50 MR. J. WALKER: We only look at cow

1 harvest as part of the ceremonial process.

2

3 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right. Yeah. What
4 James is saying is that any ceremonial cow harvest is
5 not part of this quota and does not enter into this
6 hunt at all. The mortality harvest of moose is not part
7 of this hunt parameter, and so it's no bearing on the
8 quota or any constraints on the Federal hunt.

9

10 Any other comments. Robert.

11

12 MR. R. WALKER: No.

13

14 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Do you feel
15 comfortable with cow harvest or without cow harvest?
16 State on the record.

17

18 MR. R. WALKER: Yeah. Mr. Chairman. I
19 believe that the AC has done a good enough job where we
20 don't have direct anything from the Board here, or
21 anything for cow harvest. I think we'd be happy with
22 whatever we could get.

23

24 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Would you be
25 comfortable with bull only harvest during those dates?

26

27 MR. R. WALKER: No, I would go with
28 whatever the AC goes with, because we don't have very
29 much differences here. Whatever AC request, I think we
30 can follow their direction on that.

31

32 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: The AC's requesting
33 no cow harvest. That's what you would be requesting
34 under this proposal would be no cow harvest in the
35 March 15th to April 15th, is that what you're saying,
36 Ken?

37

38 MR. CHASE: Personally I'd like to see
39 that, but I don't know. We haven't heard from Josh,
40 our biologist in McGrath, but I don't understand what
41 Mr. James Walker's comment was.

42

43 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: His comment was was
44 that any mortality moose, you know, basically potlatch
45 moose should not -- if there's cow harvest or any kind
46 of moose that are harvested for potlatch or mortality
47 should not enter into the quota, they're not part of
48 that -- they're not part of this hunt. That's strictly
49 a different aspect of moose harvest in that area, but
50 it does not enter into the 40-moose quota or have any

1 bearing on this hunt at all.

2

3 MR. CHASE: Okay. Yeah, that's fine.

4

5 My other statement would be there was a
6 lot of talk earlier about the quality of moose,
7 especially bulls in winter, and I agree with that. But
8 it's on the same side, it's the same thing with cow
9 moose in the spring. If you get a cow moose late, if
10 it's open in March, late March, the cows are starting
11 to deteriorate because of they're carrying their
12 calves, so, you know, I think there's an area that we
13 should watch, and be concerned about.

14

15 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right. Vince.

16

17 MR. MATHEWS: Through the Chair, if I
18 could ask a question of Ken.

19

20 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, Vince.

21

22 MR. MATHEWS: Ken, if this proposal,
23 however it's written, was passed, it would only be on
24 Federal lands in 21E, and it would only be the
25 residents of 21E and Russian Mission that could hunt
26 it, okay? Now, the reason I bring that up is because I
27 was there at the meeting when your advisory committee
28 agreed to remove the cow harvest in 21E, and there was
29 talk about maintaining that cow harvest on the Federal
30 side as an option. Ray was there at that meeting. So
31 I just want to get it clear on the record, that this
32 proposal you're talking about only Federal lands and
33 only Federally-qualified hunters. So it would not be
34 hunters from elsewhere coming up or coming to hunt.

35

36 MR. CHASE: That's correct.

37

38 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So thanks, Vince,
39 for the clarification on that. Tim.

40

41 MR. GERVAIS: I wanted to clarify with
42 Ken, you're speaking for the GASH Advisory Committee or
43 for yourself regarding the cow moose?

44

45 MR. CHASE: I believe I'm speaking for
46 the GASH Committee, because we've already had some, you
47 know, proposals passed on this, and we discussed it
48 numerous times on the record. And personally I'm not
49 -- I can't -- I'm not putting my own personal views
50 into it.

1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right. I feel
2 comfortable with Ken discussing this with the Council
3 since they've had meetings on this.
4
5 Yeah, this would be a Federal hunt
6 only. It would basically be on Innoko to the north of
7 Grayling, north of Shageluk, and then also the BLM
8 lands scattered throughout the Paradise Controlled Use
9 Area and downriver. And so a lot of those lands are
10 off the river.
11
12 So go ahead, Ken.
13
14 MR. CHASE: Mr. Chair, Josh is on the
15 line.
16
17 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Do you have
18 comment, Josh.
19
20 MR. PEARCE: Can folks there hear me?
21 This is Josh Pearce with Fish and Game in McGrath.
22
23 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Turn the mic. Stand
24 by a second. Okay. Go ahead.
25
26 MR. PEARCE: Yes. Is that better? Can
27 you hear me now?
28
29 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yeah. We can hear
30 you now. Go ahead.
31
32 MR. PEARCE: Okay. I actually can hear
33 you less, but I think you said you can hear me fine.
34 I'm having a little bit of a hard time following the
35 discussion, just being able to hear folks, but there's
36 a couple of important points to bring up with this.
37
38 The GASH did submit a proposal where
39 they would have a 10-day to be announced season in
40 February, and this move to switch to a 30-day season,
41 March 15 to April 15 would certainly simplify trying to
42 pick a 10-day window. However, increasing it to a 30-
43 day length of time does definitely introduce the
44 possibility of harvesting more moose than we're looking
45 to harvest. And the Yukon and Innoko Moose Management
46 Plan does specifically identify 40 moose in the
47 wintertime as an acceptable level of cow [sic] harvest.
48 And so I've heard people mentioning a quota.
49
50 However, an important part of that GASH

1 proposal was to establish a registration permit, a
2 Federal registration permit. The current system right
3 now, that hunt is administered with a green harvest
4 ticket which has very poor harvest reporting. And so
5 for us to be able to actually manage that hunt, to keep
6 it within 40 animals harvested with the current system
7 that we have would basically be impossible.

8
9 So changing to a 30-day season would
10 definitely reduce some of the administrative burden of
11 trying to pick a 10-day season; however, in-season
12 management also becomes an administrative burden. And
13 if a registration permit were put into place, and some
14 mechanism would also need to be put into place where an
15 emergency closure could be issued once that harvest had
16 been obtained, which requires other things on the
17 hunter's part, such as fairly prompt harvest reporting.

18
19 So anyways that was a pretty important
20 part of the GASH's proposal was that registration
21 permit, and you may want to have some discussion on
22 that issue.

23
24 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks for those
25 very important issues you brought up. And so I do feel
26 that those are very pertinent. We are shooting for a
27 40-moose quota, and this should be under a registration
28 permit, a Federal registration permit with an emergency
29 closure provision incorporated into the hunt so that
30 the State and Refuge managers can close the hunt when
31 that quota's met. It may be within 10 days, and so
32 then that season would close, to be announced, the
33 closure, some mechanism for emergency closure
34 dissemination. And so that should be incorporated into
35 the proposal.

36
37 We have other comments from the Council
38 members. Robert.

39
40 MR. R. WALKER: Thank you, Mr.
41 Chairman. Ken, was it discussed as something -- that
42 the February 15th to March 15th with register this
43 hunt, how we're going to do this? I think you said
44 March 15th to April 15th. Was there a little confusion
45 here? Do we want to have a recess for five minutes so
46 we can discuss this with Geoff?

47
48 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yeah, if you want to
49 go for a recess, we can do that. Is lunch ready,
50 Vince? Well, maybe you can chat about this at lunch.

1 MR. R. WALKER: One more comment.
2 You're going to leave at 2:00 o'clock, right?
3
4 MR. CHASE: Somewhere in there. 2:30.
5
6 MR. R. WALKER: Okay. We'll recess for
7 lunch so we can come back and we get this straightened
8 out.
9
10 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: We'll go to a
11 compressed lunch of about 25 minutes.
12
13 MR. COLLINS: Mr. Chairman.
14
15 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead.
16
17 MR. COLLINS: I think another question
18 that needs to be asked when they discuss, is the
19 reporting requirement. Within 24 hours or whatever,
20 because there's got to be some way of keeping track of
21 how many are harvested. So they better deal with that
22 issue.
23
24 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right. We're off
25 record though.
26
27 (Off record)
28
29 (On record)
30
31 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: And we're going to
32 bring this meeting back to order again. So Vince has
33 some various housekeeping things to do for our Council.
34 Go ahead, Vince.
35
36 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, a lot of you Council
37 members and Staff are on aircraft charters. The
38 charter that's going to go from Aniak to Fairbanks, I'm
39 negotiating what time that's going to depart, but my
40 stomach's telling me it's going to have to depart
41 earlier than I told you earlier. So I know I was one
42 of the latest ones to get up this morning. But we may
43 have to depart from Aniak at 8:30. I'm in negotiations
44 with the air carrier through our MBC office. So that
45 one we're still working out.
46
47 The other charter is planned to leave
48 at 10:00 for those Staff that were going from here to
49 McGrath. And I haven't had any communication with
50 Tanana Air on that, and I don't think we have any

1 concern. But the charter to Fairbanks, probably 8:30
2 and the other one will be 10:00.

3

4 That's all I had, Mr. Chair.

5

6 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Yeah, I need
7 to get home tomorrow. I've got to meet a 1:00 p.m.
8 flight out of Fairbanks.

9

10 And so at this time we had sort of a
11 subcommittee break with various Staff members and the
12 effected users and we worked out some of the parameters
13 of this proposal that we were just working on 21E
14 winter hunt. And so I'll bring up U.S. Fish and
15 Wildlife Refuge Manager Bo and Geoff up to the mic
16 here, and we'll go through the rest of this proposal
17 with the Federal Staff. Federal land management in 21E
18 basically about half refuge lands and half BLM lands
19 along the four GASH villages, approximately.

20

21 And so did you fellows want to make
22 comment before we start into the nuts and bolts of this
23 proposal. Go ahead.

24

25 MR. BEYERSDORF: Mr. Chair. Members of
26 the Council. I believe Josh is still on line. And
27 this morning and I talked and went over some of the
28 survey efforts that have been conducted in the last
29 year. I don't know if this is a good time to try and
30 take a look at those?

31

32 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yes, that would be
33 good, getting some of the biological parameters so that
34 the Council can understand what the population is we're
35 working with.

36

37 MR. BEYERSDORF: Okay. Then I guess
38 what I would do is I'd turn the Council's attention to
39 the PowerPoint presentation if I can somebody over
40 there to just switch the slides when they need to.

41

42 And for the record, Geoff Beyersdorf,
43 Bureau of Land Management, Anchorage field office,
44 subsistence biologist.

45

46 What I want to do is Josh was
47 originally intending to fly here, and he passed along
48 his regrets this morning in regards to not being able
49 to attend to this information in person. So what he
50 and I did was just kind of discuss everything over the

1 phone, and I've got some bullet items. I participated
2 in most of these surveys, so I've got some familiarity.

3
4 I guess one of the first things that I
5 wanted to do, and it's somewhat of a formality, but I
6 think it's a very important point, is that the Council
7 has been interested in some of this information in
8 regards to 21E and 21A for several years now, and the
9 information that I'm going to relay, all of it has been
10 a cooperative effort between Fish and Game, Fish and
11 Wildlife Service, and the Bureau of Land Management.
12 And I really want to express my appreciation for all
13 the efforts that the Innoko Refuge Staff and Fish and
14 Game have done in this last year. I think we've made
15 some really great strides towards some partnerships
16 here.

17
18 With that said, I want to start off
19 with the 21E moose surveys. This year in February we
20 were able to do a GSPE population estimate, and you can
21 go to the first one there, Kevin. Thanks. We had five
22 pilots and planes from BLM, Fish and Wildlife Service,
23 and Fish and Game. We based out of the Innoko field
24 cam starting in late February, early March. We were
25 able to do a survey for 21E. 21E is about 7,000 -- or
26 almost 8,000 square miles. We were able to survey
27 almost 5,000 of that, so we got about two-thirds of
28 that area surveyed this year.

29
30 We sampled 150 different survey blocks,
31 and those are the survey block that Kevin had there up
32 on the board originally. They're little two-by-two
33 blocks, and James and Robert are a little bit familiar.
34 I took them out on a flight to survey some areas after
35 we finished the moose surveys.

36
37 What we found from that, as Kevin has
38 up there is about 6,218 moose. We had about 21 percent
39 calves and figured about 1.2 moose per square mile.
40 And this compares to the 2000 and 2005 estimate. I
41 think it's the next slide. I'm not sure. That
42 population estimate has a confidence interval at 90
43 percent of plus or minus 17 percent, so it gives us a
44 range of about 5,140 animals to 7,280 animals. And
45 that falls within the estimates for the 2000 and 2005
46 estimate. The calving in the 2000 survey efforts, we
47 had 16 percent calving, in 2005 we had 18 percent
48 calving. This year we had 21 percent calving, so we're
49 seeing a slight increase there. And the calving does
50 fall within the Yukon/Innoko Moose Management Plan.

1 They're looking for a calving of around 20 percent calf
2 survival.

3

4 Next slide, Kevin. Well, let me back
5 up a little bit. There's two things that I want to
6 point out from there in addition to the fact that the
7 surveys this year overlapped with the surveys that were
8 done in 2000, 2005. So in regards to the population
9 level as a whole, we really didn't have any detectable
10 change in the moose population at this time.

11

12 One of the things that has come out of
13 this though is that the survey effort that was done, we
14 don't have a sightability correction factor for that.
15 And I think that's going to be an important point that
16 I'm going to bring out here.

17

18 When we finish the moose surveys, one
19 of the things that came up during the moose survey is
20 we had a discussion on trying to get some local people
21 involved with what we're doing. And I was able to work
22 with Fish and Wildlife Service here and we went into
23 Anvik and picked up Robert and we went into Holy Cross
24 and picked up James and spent a day flying with them.
25 We did a couple things. One was to show them how the
26 surveys were and then bringing that back to the
27 villages in regards to, you know, how do the agencies,
28 how do they do these surveys.

29

30 The other thing from that that I think
31 was especially helpful was talking to James and Robert
32 in regards to migration patterns out there and kind of
33 what they're seeing and when they see the migration
34 patterns.

35

36 When we finish with that, I went back
37 to my office and wrote up a challenge cost share
38 proposal to try and get some of these moose collars to
39 try and figure out where are these moose going. I
40 mean, I think one thing that we're seeing here is that
41 in the fall people are telling us how difficult it is
42 to hunt, and yet when we're doing these spring surveys,
43 we're not seeing the change in population.

44

45 So that in combination with what I'm
46 hearing from people in the GASH area, there's got to be
47 some movement going on there. And so I've put together
48 a proposal. I talked to Fish and Wildlife Service.
49 They ended up putting in for funding. And we talked to
50 Fish and Game. And we have a collaring project that

1 will start this next April. We've got about 50 collars
2 that we're going to put out between our three agencies.
3 And what we're hoping from that is to be able to look
4 at when are they migrating. We're trying to get an
5 idea as far as where the wintering areas are. We're
6 trying to get an idea of where the calving sites are.
7 I think this will help address a lot of the questions
8 that we've got with what's going on with this
9 population.

10
11 And one of the things that we did -- in
12 the past, you know, there's been attempts to do this,
13 and it hasn't been all that successful. We were able
14 to get -- I think we've got about 40 of the 50 collars
15 that we're putting out, 40 of them have the GPS
16 locators on them. So literally we can be sitting in
17 our office in Anchorage or McGrath, and we'll be able
18 to see where these animals are.

19
20 And one of the things I wanted to point
21 out is that this is the first time that bull moose in
22 Alaska have been collared with these GPS collars. So I
23 think there's some really good research ramifications
24 that will come out of this study.

25
26 And what I wanted to move onto next was
27 the -- and I think there's a slide on the fall comp
28 stuff. Go back. Yeah, right there.

29
30 Josh and Roger are going to be going
31 out in the first part of the November and they're going
32 to be doing some more comp surveys, but I just wanted
33 to present you the data from 2007/2008 to bring the
34 Council up to speed in regards to some of the bull/calf
35 [sic] ratios and calf/cow ratios that we've been
36 seeing. In 2007 the survey showed 74 collars per 100
37 calves, and 62 -- or, excuse me, bulls per 100 cows and
38 then 62 bulls per 100 cows in 2008. And then the
39 calf/cow ratios from those surveys in 2007 showed 37
40 calves per 100 cows, in 2008 65 calves per 100 cows.
41 And again, the objectives in regards to the bull/cow
42 ratios are within what was set forth in that
43 Yukon/Innoko Moose Management Plan.

44
45 Moving on to twinning surveys, again
46 Fish and Wildlife Service was able to provide a pilot
47 and a plane, and I went in as an observer. And Josh
48 and Roger also were able to get out. And we were able
49 to do some twinning surveys in 21E and a little bit in
50 21A. In 21E the 2008 survey showed 47 percent

1 twinning, and this last round of surveys that we did at
2 the end of May, early June showed a 50 twinning rate.
3 And kind of what this telling us that habitat isn't
4 limiting out there.

5
6 And I wanted to compare this to the
7 2000 to 2007 average, which was about 30 percent
8 twinning. So I think we're seeing some really good
9 productivity out there.

10
11 Now, of course, there's still going to
12 be some questions in regards to how many of those are
13 actually being recruited into the population.

14
15 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: A comment. Did you
16 yearling bull component when you did that bull
17 inventory for productivity? The yearling bull
18 component?

19
20 MR. BEYERSDORF: No, we didn't. That's
21 been a point of discussion between myself and Fish and
22 Game in regards to how advantageous that information
23 is. I think that what Fish and Game looks at, is in the
24 spring surveys as far as the percent calves, because
25 that will give them an idea when they've done the twin
26 surveys and then coming into the population estimate in
27 the spring, that gives you an idea as far as how many
28 calves made it into there.

29
30 There's been some question in regards
31 to how easily detectable some of those yearling bulls
32 are.

33
34 I think the next thing that I was going
35 to discuss that I know that the Council was interested
36 in was the 21E wolf survey results, which I believe is
37 the next slide, and I think this is the last slide
38 there. We were able to -- as soon as we finished the
39 21E, the moose surveys, we had all the pilots and
40 planes there. We had a couple of decent weather, I
41 wouldn't say it was great weather, and we were able to
42 do a partial wolf survey. And I wanted to point out
43 that this is the first time that a wolf survey's been
44 done for Unit 21 E. What we found from there was 146
45 to 156 wolves. And what this works out to is about 18
46 to 20 wolves per 1,000 square miles for all of 21E.

47
48 And if you look at just the area that
49 we surveyed, which we ended up surveying from the
50 Village of Grayling over to the Innoko River drainage,

1 and then south to the confluence of the Innoko/Yukon.
2 And then we also surveyed up the Bonasila and the Anvik
3 drainages about 10 miles upriver to the west.

4
5 So if you look at just that area, the
6 area that we surveyed, the wolf ratio per square mile
7 is about 20 to 24 wolves per 1,000 square miles. And
8 just to kind of put that in context, one of the highest
9 wolf ratios in the state is in Unit 20A. And I just
10 want to point out that this is very comparable to the
11 high wolf ratios that we see in 20A.

12
13 And I wanted to remind the Council that
14 the GASH Advisory Committee has put in a proposal to
15 establish predator control in Unit 21E. Now the Board
16 in 2007 took that up and decided to defer that, but
17 that is going to come before the Board of Game at their
18 2010 March meeting.

19
20 And I think that that's all that I have
21 in regards to some information that's pertinent to what
22 you guys are taking up on this proposal. And I guess
23 at this point I'm available for questions, or if you
24 want to discuss the regulatory proposal and work
25 through some of the items that we discussed earlier on
26 the break, I'm available for that.

27
28 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Thanks,
29 Geoff. Has the Council got questions on the biological
30 parameters of 21E moose and wolf population.

31
32 (No comments)

33
34 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: That was clear.
35 Thank you for a good presentation. Do you have a
36 comment, Bo, or is that sufficient for your side.

37
38 MR. SLOAN: Yeah.

39
40 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. And so my
41 synopsis of the data presented was that there's a very
42 high bull/cow ratio for that area. That's a very
43 bull/cow ratio and some of the higher bull/cow ratios
44 I've seen in the current populations in Alaska. So I'm
45 happy with that.

46
47 I've been asking for that bull/cow
48 ratios for many years, and I'm very happy that that
49 bull/cow ratio has been produced. We were completely
50 in the blind, in a fog bank as to what those bull/cow

1 ratios were, and so I'm happy to hear that it's nothing
2 like the 19A bull/cow ratios of 8, 12 bulls per 100
3 cows at the crash here. And so those calf production
4 numbers and twin rate productions are all very healthy
5 moose population parameters.

6
7 Fairly high wolf numbers. That's the
8 down side of the presentation.

9
10 So we'll move back into the nuts and
11 bolts of the proposal. We had a lot of conference over
12 there with Robert, James, Geoff, Bo, myself and who
13 else was there at the -- oh, Ken Chase. Right.

14
15 And we went through -- I moved a little
16 bit too fast on those dates. The upshot of what the
17 micro conference was, that the seasons should be a
18 fixed 30-day season, February 15th to March 15th, not
19 March 15th to April 15th. My mistake. I'll take
20 responsibility for moving too fast on that. Setting a
21 40-moose quota. Having a Federal registration permit
22 to be administered by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife, with
23 the E.O. authority or emergency closure authority. 24-
24 hour reporting of the moose harvested in that hunt.
25 Permits should be issued to head of households of
26 households that did not harvest moose in the fall hunt,
27 or in the previous regulatory year period. And those
28 are the points that I had.

29
30 Was there another point I missed? Go ahead, Geoff.

31
32 MR. BEYERSDORF: I think if I may, Mr.
33 Chair, for the last two years I've been issuing permits
34 out of Unalakleet for a Federal registration moose
35 permit. And the head of household aspect has been
36 discussed, and it was somewhat difficult to work with.
37 What they ended up deciding on there was one per
38 household, and they didn't have it designated one per
39 head of household. That's just something to consider,
40 sir.

41
42 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: That's probably
43 better. One per household language. The household --
44 the adults of the household would be basically
45 responsible for their children if they participate.
46 And so I have no problem with that.

47
48 Does the Council feel comfortable with
49 one per household.
50

1 (No comments)

2

3 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: And so those were
4 the parameters of the hunts that we discussed. Does
5 Council have discussion on those hunt parameters.

6

7 MR. GERVAIS: Mr. Chairman.

8

9 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yes, go ahead, Tim.

10

11 MR. GERVAIS: I think this Council
12 should consider making the reporting either 36 or 48
13 hours in case they're hunting far from home, or they
14 have a breakdown or get stuck in overflow or inclement
15 weather. They won't be in violation if anything comes
16 up that keeps them from being back right within a 24-
17 hour period of the -- 24 hours of the kill, is that
18 what you're going off of?

19

20 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yeah, that was what
21 the discussion was about. Would 48 hours be
22 unreasonable to report within? The manager's position.

23

24

25 MR. SLOAN: For the record, Bo Sloan,
26 the manager at Innoko National Wildlife Refuge.

27

28 You know, it's like we talked about
29 earlier. The tighter we can get that reporting
30 interval, the more accurate we're going to be in, you
31 know, stopping the harvest somewhere around that quota
32 goal. Because, you know, some years depending on how
33 the harvest is going, the rate of the harvest, we may
34 stop it just a few moose shy, you know, we may stop it
35 a few moose over. That's going to be a little bit of a
36 moving target, but we're always going to be right in
37 there, around that number. So the tighter we can make
38 that reporting the better we'll be, but we certainly
39 want to do what's practical. And you guys know better
40 than I of what's practical or impractical out there.

41

42 You know, I would venture to say that
43 most law enforcement officers and this, that and the
44 other should be able to exercise some prudent judgment
45 in those cases where extenuating circumstances have
46 prevented an individual from, you know, being able to
47 get back to a telephone. You know, some things, acts
48 of God, so to speak, that you just have no control
49 over. So, you know, hopefully, you know, maybe this is
50 my downfall, having a little bit of faith in human

1 nature, but I would hope that we've got people out
2 there that would exercise that type of judgment. And
3 with that said, the 24-hour would not scare me.

4

5 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Other Council
6 members comments. James.

7

8 MR. J. WALKER: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
9 Now, I don't have any particular reason to have an
10 issue with this. I think generally the hunters out in
11 that area, most of them do have a VHF with them. If
12 there's a reporting necessary, they need to report it,
13 they could do it through the channel.

14

15 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So if somebody come
16 up missing, they may have somebody go look for them and
17 respond to their absence.

18

19 MR. COLLINS: Mr. Chairman.

20

21 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, Ray.

22

23 MR. COLLINS: Yeah. I assume then
24 you'd have a dedicated phone or there's an answering
25 service on, so that it doesn't matter when they call
26 in. They could just leave a message there so they
27 don't have to get ahold of somebody.

28

29 MR. SLOAN: Yes, Mr. Collins, that's
30 exactly right. We've kind of batted around a little
31 bit of the particulars on actually managing the hunt,
32 and certainly that would be something that we would
33 definitely have. You know, it wouldn't be that, you
34 know, they had to catch somebody between the hours of
35 eight and five. I mean, we would be able through, you
36 know, some sort of automated system to be able to take
37 that information any time during that 24-hour period.

38

39 And, you know, not to get off point,
40 but part of some of the other administration of the
41 hunt, you know, one of the things that we certainly
42 plan on doing is during the initial issuances of these
43 permits, of course, that kind of stuff would be done
44 face-to-face in the villages, you know. We would go
45 out and hopefully with information and educational
46 effort and permit issuing effort. So, you know, we'd
47 have a lot of one-on-one contact with individuals out
48 there in the community.

49

50 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So I have faith in

1 the Innoko Refuge manager to administer the hunt in a
2 manner to take into consideration proper notification
3 and so forth, and so I have kind of fairly high
4 confidence in you and your Staff.

5

6 You've got a comment, Vince.

7

8 MR. MATHEWS: Yes. Bo, as you know
9 that Russian Mission is basically within the Yukon
10 Delta Refuge, so it would be on the permit what number
11 they need to call, because they may more likely
12 communicate with the Refuge office in Bethel.

13

14 MR. SLOAN: Yes, sir. You know, since
15 like you said Russian Mission, they have a C&T finding
16 for that area, for that hunt, we would work
17 specifically with that community, making sure that they
18 -- you know, try and make it as sure as is humanly
19 possible to minimize any confusion that, you know, when
20 they're exercising their permits for this hunt, you
21 know, this is the number they need to call. That
22 number would be in McGrath.

23

24 One of the ways, too, that we would
25 disseminate information across that part of the world,
26 and, you know, to be honest with you, I forgot ask Ken
27 Chase about this. Someone here may know. But he did
28 say that KSKO radio, you know, got down into Holy Cross
29 and that part of the world. I'm not sure if it reaches
30 to Russian Mission or not. Does it? Great.

31

32 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, Ray.

33

34 MR. COLLINS: Yeah. Mr. Chairman. I
35 assume also that the proxies would be in place if
36 elders need meat, because the hunter may actually be
37 someone who got one earlier in the fall, but would be
38 hunting for elders. The household would get the permit
39 and use a proxy.

40

41 MR. BEYERSDORF: Through the Chair,
42 Member Reakoff -- or Member Collins, excuse me. Yeah,
43 that was an important point that we brought up during
44 our discussion was that, to make sure that people were
45 aware that designated hunter permits would be
46 available.

47

48 And also, Member Collins, to follow up
49 on your earlier comment, I think one of the things that
50 I'm finding from some of the other permit issuance that

1 I've done is that I'd like to probably, working with
2 the Innoko Staff, to probably do a daily radio
3 announcements as far as letting people know where that
4 harvest currently sits every day. Because one of the
5 things that I specifically heard this year was that,
6 yes, we were issuing permits, but that, yes, we were
7 issuing permits, but we weren't getting back to people
8 in regards to kind of where things stood, and one of
9 the problems that we ended up having in one of the
10 hunts I administer was we had 20 percent over-harvest
11 in one day. And this ties into what Member Gervais was
12 saying. We have a three-day reporting period there,
13 and just missed it. I mean, we talked to people on
14 Friday as to whether to have a closure or not, and on
15 Monday we just blew right through our harvest quota.
16 So I think it's really important as far as what Bo was
17 saying that we really need to maintain some tighter
18 restrictions on that.

19

20 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So good comment,
21 Ray. And one parameter that we discussed in the micro-
22 meeting was that this is for one moose, but there would
23 be an encouragement to harvest bulls, because the moose
24 population -- you know, a lot of people are concerned
25 about the Innoko moose, 21E, moose population and so
26 there would be an encouragement. There's been various
27 winter hunts that have shown hunters how to determine
28 bulls by pedestal and all those kinds of factors that
29 most hunters, older hunters know, but younger hunters
30 might not know. And so that was another part of the
31 discussion.

32

33 At this time, is the State still on
34 there, Jason.

35

36 MR. RIVARD: Josh, are you there?

37

38 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Josh. Josh.

39 Correction.

40

41 MR. PEARCE: Yeah. I'm still here.

42

43 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So can you --- have
44 you heard these deliberations on the formation of this
45 proposal?

46

47 MR. PEARCE: I heard most of that
48 discussion. But that last question, Mr. Chairman, I
49 missed entirely.

50

1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: The last question
2 that Ray Collins had was whether there would be proxy
3 designation to hunters. And then there was also
4 discussion about the closure once the quota is met.
5 And then I was discussing the encouragement of harvest
6 of bulls during the hunt. And those were the last
7 discussions.

8
9 Did you have comments on the proposal?
10 Should I read you the points of the proposal?

11
12 MR. PEARCE: Yeah, that all sounds
13 good. You know, encouragement to take bull moose is
14 fine. And, of course, if it remains an any moose
15 season, then you can only encourage.

16
17 And then the reporting period with
18 being able to close it sounds find as well.

19
20 And then for Member Collins, as far as
21 a proxy hunt, I'm not familiar with how that works
22 under Federal regulations, if there is a proxy or the
23 ability to do that. Under State regulations you
24 certainly can get a proxy for somebody who's over 65,
25 legally blind, or I believe it's 70 percent disabled.
26 70 percent or more disabled. So I'm not sure what the
27 Federal regulations have for proxy authority.

28
29 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Do you want to speak
30 to that Geoff.

31
32 MR. BEYERSDORF: It's a little bit
33 different under the Federal system. It's actually a
34 bit more liberal under the Federal system than it is
35 under the State. There is no age restriction, there's
36 no handicap restriction. It's simply if a hunter is
37 not able to hunt, they can designate another hunter to
38 hunt for them. That individual must take the original
39 permit and then they take that designated hunter permit
40 out with them. So they take both. And you can hunt
41 for I believe up to two individuals at any one time.

42
43 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So does the State
44 have any comment on that?

45
46 MR. PEARCE: No, that's fine, because
47 really it doesn't -- I mean, it doesn't matter who
48 takes those moose if your quota is 40 and that's your
49 objective, it really doesn't matter so much who
50 harvests those. And then this idea to put one per

1 household kind of takes care of -- or that distributes
2 those permits fairly evenly across the communities.

3
4 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right. Okay. That
5 completes your comments? I say, does that complete
6 your comments, Josh?

7
8 MR. PEARCE: Geoff, could you repeat
9 that? I can't quite hear him.

10
11 MR. BEYERSDORF: I'm sorry, Geoff, he's
12 asking if you have any further comments or if that
13 completes your comments on that regulation, on the
14 amended regulation.

15
16 MR. PEARCE: Yeah. No, I have no
17 further comments on that.

18
19 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Any further
20 comments. Tim.

21
22 MR. GERVAIS: Are the -- the Federally-
23 qualified users for this hunt would just be GASH plus
24 Russian Mission, without any Kuskokwim residents?

25
26 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yes. Any further
27 comments from the Council. Go ahead, Geoff.

28
29 MR. BEYERSDORF: Through the Chair.
30 Members. One of the things that I think that we need
31 to be aware of here is in regards to that 40 number.
32 That already exists in the Innoko/Yukon moose
33 management plan, and we don't necessarily have to have
34 an established quota. If we have an established quota,
35 then at some point we may have to either increase or
36 decrease that quota and/or remove it off from the books
37 if we end up having a biological concerns. That's
38 definitely something to consider. The 40 number
39 already exists in the Yukon/Innoko moose management
40 plan which our agencies are already signatories to. So
41 you don't necessarily have to have that as part of this
42 proposal.

43
44 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. I would be
45 concerned about the hunt being stopped if they could
46 not harvest 40 moose and going through some other
47 regulatory structure. If the Innoko plan states 40
48 moose, and we meet the biological parameters for that,
49 that would be the target, that is the understanding of
50 the Council here, but we don't necessarily have to put

1 it into the plan in case that number has to be
2 downgraded. But if that number is reduced, there would
3 need to be consultation with the Chair of the Regional
4 Council and the Chair of the Advisory Committee.

5
6 You have a comment, Vince.

7
8 MR. MATHEWS: Well, I didn't know if
9 you want to reference in your proposal, in regulation
10 that it would be tied to the plan. I don't know if you
11 want to go there, because the plan is subject to what
12 level of review timewise. So that was my suggestion,
13 but I don't know if it's viable any more.

14
15 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right. Comment,
16 Geoff.

17
18 MR. BEYERSDORF: I'm trying to think
19 fast. You know how they have that Snicker's commercial
20 where they eat and then they think?

21
22 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right.

23
24 MR. BEYERSDORF: Okay. That's where
25 I'm at. I think it's probably best, I think our
26 agencies understand that we've already signed onto the
27 Yukon/Innoko moose management plan in regards to what
28 levels are allowed. And leaving it just as the Innoko
29 -- giving the Innoko Refuge manager the authority to
30 close that season, and then he would do that with the
31 knowledge that it's tied into what's been set forth in
32 the Innoko moose management plan. Updates to that, I'm
33 not sure.

34
35 I'd have to talk -- you know, that was
36 a State-driven effort. We'd need to talk to the State
37 in regards to when they're planning on updates. I
38 believe that was finalized, Vince, in 2006, so I
39 wouldn't foresee any updates in the near future,
40 unless.....

41
42 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: If it's like the
43 Koyukuk plan, that plan is still in place 10 years
44 later. And so I would feel comfortable with not
45 inserting the 40 moose quota language in the proposal,
46 just the quota with the understanding that that quota
47 revolves around the Innoko plan of 40 moose, unless
48 there's biological need to reduce that.

49
50 So any further comments by the Council.

1 The language parameters -- go ahead, Bob. Step to the
2 mic.

3

4 MR. ALOYSIUS: It's not about the
5 parameters, but about the 21E proposal. My name is Bob
6 Aloysius. I'm from Kalskag. I was born and raised
7 around here. I've lived here most of my life.

8

9 And one thing that is really upsetting
10 to many of our hunters here is the words and residents
11 of Russian Mission every time they talk about Unit 21E.
12 I would strongly suggest that you eliminate those words
13 and residents of Russian Mission for four reasons.
14 First of all, they already have five moose seasons.
15 Two from the Fed and three from the State. The other
16 thing is that they are in Unit 18 and they are in the
17 Yukon-Kuskokwim region. And if you want to add anybody
18 to the and residents of, it should be residents of
19 Lower Kalskag, Kalskag, Aniak, Chuathbaluk, and
20 Crooked Creek because of the boundary of 21E. It's
21 just on the north side of the ridges separating the two
22 drainages.

23

24 Thank you.

25

26 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I appreciate your
27 comments on the customary and traditional use
28 determinations, but this is not a customary and
29 traditional use determination. Those determinations
30 have already been made. This proposal, Russian Mission
31 already has a customary and traditional use
32 determination in 21E. I can't change that. The
33 Council can't change that at this time. We can't
34 include Aniak and other communities at this time, and
35 may not want to.

36

37 The bottom line is this proposal is to
38 try and get a winter hunt as prescribed in the Innoko
39 moose management plan. And so this is to implement
40 that winter hunt. I can't change the -- we cannot, the
41 Council cannot change the customary and traditional use
42 determination to exclude Russian Mission. We can't do
43 that. That's a completely different Board action.

44

45 And I understand your frustration with
46 that. I understand the frustration with not being able
47 to hunt in that game management unit, but this proposal
48 strictly revolves around within the customary and
49 traditional use determinations that the Federal
50 Subsistence Board has set out. These are the

1 communities that are eligible to hunt in that game
2 management unit. And so this proposal to provide a
3 winter moose hunt for the people within our region
4 within Unit 21E. This is the proposal that we have to
5 submit to provide that to the people of the GASH area.
6 We can't change the customary and traditional
7 determinations.

8

9 One more comment.

10

11 MR. ALOYSIUS: Yeah. How can we as the
12 hunters of 19A who are really strapped with low numbers
13 of moose have the language changed? Is there a process
14 that we go through to make sure that we are included in
15 the customary and traditional use of moose in 21E?

16

17 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Vince can answer
18 that question. Larry is going to answer your question.
19 Go ahead, Larry.

20

21 MR. BUKLIS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
22 Not to take a position on the issue, but process wise,
23 this is an open all for wildlife proposals. And the
24 straw dog proposal you're working with and fleshing out
25 is what you described.

26

27 But an independent proposal could be
28 advanced to look at C&T, to add communities or, in a
29 very unique way, remove communities. You're right that
30 that's perhaps unprecedented, to remove communities who
31 have already had a positive determination and exercised
32 it. But to add communities that have not yet exercised
33 an opportunity under our regulations is not uncommon.
34 So to add or remove is an open part of the call.

35

36 MR. ALOYSIUS: Thank you very much.

37

38 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I would like to get
39 this proposal through before we start talking about
40 customary and traditional use determinations for
41 Russian Mission. And so we have this proposal. I
42 would like to entertain a -- I've been working on this
43 too long, Vince. Have we made a motion to adopt this
44 proposal, I don't think.

45

46 MR. MATHEWS: You haven't to my
47 knowledge.

48

49 MR. J. WALKER: Move to adopt.

50

1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Moved by James to
2 adopt the proposal and the current language that we've
3 amended.
4
5 MR. J. WALKER: As amended.
6
7 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: As amended.
8
9 MR. R. WALKER: Mr. Chairman. What's
10 the number?
11
12 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: It doesn't have a
13 number. It's a proposal to be submitted to the Federal
14 Subsistence Board. And it will be numbered and we will
15 review the proposal when it comes back to us in our
16 February meeting.
17
18 MR. R. WALKER: I second.
19
20 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Oh, you second?
21
22 MR. R. WALKER: Second.
23
24 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Robert has seconded.
25 And so the GASH members of our Council have moved the
26 proposal. Should I read the -- is it clear what the
27 language is, Vince.
28
29 MR. MATHEWS: For me, it's not, but
30 it's better on the record, because then everyone can
31 reference it right at the motion time what you've
32 actually adopted.
33
34 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. I'll lay out
35 the proposal and the amended language. It's for a 30-
36 day season within Unit 21E, one moose, encouragement of
37 bulls. The season shall be between February 15th and
38 March 15th. There is no set quota, but the
39 understanding is it's within the 40-moose Innoko quota
40 unless biological parameters ratchet that down with
41 consultation of the Chair of the Western Interior
42 Council and the State area biologist. The Federal
43 registration permit will be issued by the Innoko
44 National Wildlife Refuge. The Innoko National Wildlife
45 Refuge shall have the emergency closure authority. It
46 will be issued to households that have not harvested
47 moose within that regulatory year, or in the fall hunt.
48 And there shall be reporting within 24 hours of the
49 take of the one moose to the Innoko National Wildlife
50 Refuge if at all possible, without foreseen acts of God

1 or other issues. And those are the hunt parameters
2 that I have notation.

3

4 One more -- go ahead.

5

6 MR. BEYERSDORF: Mr. Chair. I realize
7 that we're a small and humble agency, but if you could
8 add that BLM be part of the consultation process, I'd
9 appreciate it.

10

11 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Oh, yes. Excuse me.
12 BLM. Consultation will be with BLM, wildlife
13 management, the Chair of the Western Interior Council,
14 the Chair of the AC and the State area biologist.

15

16 Another comment, Bo.

17

18 MR. SLOAN: Yeah. Mr. Chair. Well,
19 you know, I guess what we're looking for, we're all
20 working so closely together you guys can't tell us
21 apart. Maybe we're getting where we need to go.

22

23 My comment was though, and you may have
24 just inadvertently skipped it, but in the language of
25 the permit per household, that would be, you know, one
26 permit per household for those that did not harvest a
27 moose during the September season.

28

29 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: One permit per
30 household. So understanding of the language, Vince?
31 Understanding by the Council? Any further discussion
32 by the Council on the proposal.

33

34 (No comments)

35

36 MR. J. WALKER: Question.

37

38 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: The question's been
39 called on the proposal to be submitted to the Federal
40 Subsistence Board for Unit 21E winter moose hunt.
41 Those in favor of the proposal as described signify by
42 saying aye.

43

44 IN UNISON: Aye.

45

46 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Those opposed to the
47 proposal same sign.

48

49 (No opposing votes)

50

1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: The proposal is
2 moved forward unanimously.

3
4 On to our next proposal. It's also in
5 Unit 21E. It's a rearrangement of the 21E bull hunt in
6 the fall, taking five days from the August -- currently
7 it's August 20th to September 25. This would shift the
8 season back by five days, basically going from August
9 20th to August 25th. 25th of August opening, and
10 closure on September 30th. That's the extent of the
11 proposal is this shifting the time of harvest back five
12 days.

13
14 So comments from the Bureau of Land
15 Management and the Innoko National Wildlife Refuge.

16
17 MR. BEYERSDORF: I think the only
18 comments that we had relate to earlier where we had
19 that group discussion in regards to whether you guys
20 felt getting into that later season and potentially
21 getting into the rut, if that's going to affect your
22 abilities or desires to harvest an animal in that time
23 period. But as you and I have discussed, you know, if
24 you get some of those younger bulls, like a two-year-
25 old, that would be I'm assuming what you're trying to
26 focus on.

27
28 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: It's my opinion,
29 having been around and chewing on moose meat with no
30 teeth when I was a baby, that bulls are aggregated with
31 cows in the end of September, the breeding is starting
32 to occur, and the 28th of September through the first
33 week in October typically. And the bulls that you
34 would normally see moving around in the very end of
35 September are young bulls. And that would be the
36 highest encounter rate by the subsistence users would
37 be young bulls, two-year-old bulls moving around.
38 They're basically kicked out by the breeding bulls.
39 They're not allowed to be near the breeding aggregate
40 any more. They can be near there earlier, but they
41 make them go away. And so the likelihood of harvesting
42 those two-year-old bulls, which still eat and they've
43 still got a little bit of fat on them. They're not
44 like a big bull that stand there just drinking water.

45
46 So my opinion is that this hunt would
47 be not detrimental to the moose population. And with
48 the bull/cow ratio that was portrayed at upwards of 70
49 bulls per 100 cows, there's lots of breeding bull
50 capacity. And so I don't even have a real high concern

1 for breeding bulls, it's that high. With that kind of
2 bull/cow ratio. And so I see no biological reason for
3 this proposal to not move forward.

4

5 Robert.

6

7 MR. R. WALKER: Yes, Mr. Chairman.
8 Geoff, Bo, this was put in by the four villages, the
9 chiefs, Anvik, Grayling, Shageluk and Holy Cross. This
10 was one that they would like to see done with the Board
11 here, because if they didn't get a bull, somebody's
12 going to poach a cow, and we don't want that problem,
13 because there's law enforcement involved. If we can do
14 this legally, we wouldn't have this problem, because
15 they can get a small bull to sustain their yield for
16 the winter, and that's the whole point on those thing
17 here, to, you know, keep away from poaching. And also
18 putting meat in your freezer, because it's a long time
19 until February, until the next opening for moose if
20 they didn't catch any. And if they did get a moose in
21 these five days, that's one they would have gotten
22 earlier if there was adequate time or place or higher
23 water.

24

25 Thank you.

26

27 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks for your
28 comments, Robert. Very pertinent comments.

29

30 Do you have a comment, Bo.

31

32 MR. SLOAN: Yes, sir. Mr. Chairman.
33 Member Walker. Innoko National Wildlife Refuge does
34 not have any problem with moving those season dates
35 five days.

36

37 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Geoff.

38

39 MR. PEARCE: Mr. Chairman, this is Josh
40 in McGrath again.

41

42 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yeah, Josh, I was
43 going to get to you. Can you -- I'll give you time
44 right after Geoff there.

45

46 Have you got one more comment, Geoff.

47

48 MR. BEYERSDORF: I did have one more
49 comment. And I just want to make Council members
50 aware, and I think we've discussed this. I brought a

1 map. Josh asked me to bring a map to look at some of
2 the distribution of the Federal and the State lands,
3 which is on the back board there. Just for members to
4 be aware and to pass along to people in the villages
5 when and if these proposals go forth as far as where
6 the Federal lands are that they would be allowed some
7 of these potential hunts in regards to where the State
8 and Native corporation lands are. So just be aware, in
9 some cases there may be some distance for these
10 opportunities to be available to them.

11
12 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yeah. I appreciate
13 that comment. Some Innoko is right up against the
14 river, there's a little bit of BLM lands in a few
15 places along the river. On our little maps, or the
16 maps that we have before us, you can see the white
17 areas under State control. The yellow and pink areas
18 are under Federal control. And also the map in the
19 back of the room.

20
21 And so, Josh, you wanted to make
22 comment. Go right ahead.

23
24 MR. PEARCE: Yeah, I just a little bit
25 of context to put this into, again referring back to
26 the Yukon/Innoko moose management plan. And in that a
27 recommendation was to maintain the current Federal fall
28 season from August 20 to the 25th, and one of the
29 reasonings behind that was to allow opportunity for
30 local hunters to basically have the hunt to themselves.
31 The State season starts on September 5th. And so part
32 of the rationale of keeping it in that early part of
33 the year was to allow that hunting opportunity for
34 local residents before others start to come into the
35 area. So that's something for you to consider.

36
37 And then as Geoff Beyersdorf mentioned,
38 it's also mentioned in the moose management plan, so I
39 thought I would reiterate it, but there was concern
40 from the Yukon/Innoko working group about meat quality
41 as you start to get later into the fall and towards
42 October 1st.

43
44 So those are just a few considerations
45 for the Council there.

46
47 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks for those
48 comments. We discussed this with Ken Chase. He didn't
49 seem to have a problem with moving the season. A
50 little bit of a concern for the quality of the meat.

1 But as Robert said, a bull unharvested in the fall is a
2 cow possibly poached. And so the reality is I'm a
3 proponent of trying to get the best number of moose
4 provides for local people for subsistence use, and so,
5 I don't now if you could hear us, but we were talking
6 about the quality of young bulls that are basically
7 known as satellite bulls that move away from those
8 breeding aggregates would have the highest encounter
9 rate with the hunters. And so those are the best moose
10 to harvest at that time of year, because they retain
11 fat, they still eat, and they have the higher quality
12 meat than the breeding bulls.

13

14 But with the bull/cow ratio that we
15 have right now, there's really no biological even
16 concern about the breeding bull component when you have
17 70 bulls per 100 cows, and so that would be my position
18 on the proposal. And so I'm a proponent of the
19 proposal.

20

21 Do you have a further comment.

22

23 MR. PEARCE: I have no further comment.

24

25 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Now, as Robert said,
26 there was the chiefs of the four GASH villages want to
27 see this shift. Recent years warm weather and various
28 things have caused hardship on trying to meet
29 subsistence needs in the fall. That's the driving
30 force of this proposal.

31

32 And so further comment by the Council
33 on the proposal.

34

35 (No comments)

36

37 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Any further comments
38 from Staff.

39

40 (No comments)

41

42 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: And the Chair will
43 entertain a motion to adopt the proposal as written.

44

45 MR. R. WALKER: Didn't we already have
46 a motion and a second?

47

48 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: No, we haven't. I
49 have no motion or second on the proposal. We had on
50 the previous one.

1 MR. R. WALKER: I make a motion.
2
3 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Robert motion to
4 adopt the proposal as written for a five-day shift from
5 August 25th to September 25th in Unit 21E for the fall
6 bull season. Do I have a second on that proposal?
7
8 MS. PELKOLA: Second.
9
10 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Seconded by Jenny.
11 Further discussion on the proposal.
12
13 (No comments)
14
15 MR. J. WALKER: Question.
16
17 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: The question's been
18 called on the proposal. Those in favor of the proposal
19 as promulgated signify by saying aye.
20
21 IN UNISON: Aye.
22
23 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Those opposed to the
24 proposal same sign.
25
26 (No opposing votes)
27
28 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: The Council
29 unanimously supports submitting the proposal to the
30 Federal Subsistence Board.
31
32 We have on more proposal, don't we,
33 Vince? The Unit 24D?
34
35 MR. MATHEWS: Yeah. You have a
36 proposal dealing with 21D as in Delta. And that's,
37 just walk back through your tab, the purple tab and
38 just look there. Sorry, I'm stumbling around here.
39 It's basically a five-day to be announced season
40 between March 1 and April 15th. And from there I'll
41 let that go. I think there's some Refuge staff that
42 want to.....
43
44 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: All right. Have you
45 found the 24D and 24C, which are real close to the
46 Koyukuk National Wildlife Refuge. Do we have Koyukuk
47 Staff here? Oh. Jetta. What happened to Kenton?
48
49 MR. RIVARD: He had to leave.
50

1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Oh, he had to leave?
2 Okay. So we have Mike Spindler who used to be the
3 refuge manager for Koyukuk.
4
5 So go ahead. You have a statement,
6 Jetta?
7
8 MS. MINERVA: Mr. Chairman. Council.
9 This is Jetta Minerva, Koyukuk/Nowitna Refuge,
10 subsistence coordinator, for the record.
11
12 And is it very clear with the proposal
13 as it is now?
14
15 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: No, we haven't gone
16 over the proposal yet. Did you have a statement from
17 Kenton, Mike, or what's your position at the time?
18
19 MS. MINERVA: Do you want me to do the
20 statement now or afterwards.
21
22 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Well, I was
23 wondering what your parameters are there. Do you have
24 a statement? Okay.
25
26 I think we've got to get the proposal
27 on the table. I'll kind of read the proposal in.
28
29 Is Glenn Stout about? We talked about
30 this one on a teleconference with Glenn.
31
32 MR. STOUT: Yeah. Mr. Chairman. I'm
33 still on the phone.
34
35 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. That's good,
36 Glenn.
37
38 So this is this 21D and 21C proposal.
39
40 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: 24.
41
42 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Or, correction, 24D
43 and 24C proposal. Thank you. It would be, under two,
44 Unit 21D [sic] Koyukuk Controlled Use Area, one moose;
45 however antlerless moose may be taken only during the
46 August 27 to August 31. And a five-day season to be
47 announced season between March 1 and April 15th if
48 authorized by announcement by the Koyukuk/Nowitna
49 National Wildlife Refuge manager and BLM central Yukon
50 field manager. Harvest of cow moose accompanied by

1 calves is prohibited. The harvestable surplus of cows
2 will be determined, and this is an important part of
3 this proposal, the harvestable surplus of cows will be
4 determined for a quota. If it is determined that there
5 is not a harvestable cow surplus, then a harvestable
6 bull quota will be set and it will be taken from April
7 10th to April 15th.

8

9 During the August 27th to September
10 20th season, a State registration permit is required.
11 During a five-day to be announced season between March
12 1 and April 15th, a Federal registration permit is
13 required. Announcement for the antlerless moose and
14 cow quotas and/or bulls only quotas will be made after
15 consultation with the ADF&G, the biologists, Chairs of
16 the Western Interior Alaska Subsistence Regional
17 Advisory Council and the Middle Yukon Fish and Game
18 Advisory Council.

19

20 The 24C proposal basically sets those
21 same parameters. And so this proposals lengthens the
22 season to be announced from March 1 to April 15th. It
23 gives the manager leeway, latitude to set that season.
24 If the cows aren't -- last winter we lost the hunt for
25 Huslia, because there wasn't enough cows, and we
26 completely lost the winter hunt, and so we don't want
27 to see that happen again. This hunt causes the Koyukuk
28 Refuge manager to have a bull quota and have some kind
29 of a winter hunt. They can't worm their way back out
30 of it again. And so I feel this proposal has many
31 merits.

32

33 And so, Eleanor, are these hunt
34 parameters -- how do they sound to you? This is
35 probably one of the first times you've seen this
36 proposal.

37

38 MS. YATLIN: Mr. Chairman. This is the
39 first time I've seen this proposal. And it sounds good
40 to me.

41

42 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Jackie Wholecheese
43 and various people in Huslia have been complaining
44 fairly bitterly that there was no hunt provided for
45 Huslia last spring, a winter spring hunt, and so I feel
46 that the bull/cow ratio is adequate for bull harvest,
47 and the cow population with predator harvest that
48 Huslia does, they harvest black bears and some wolves,
49 that some limited cow harvest can be sustained in the
50 Koyukuk

1 Refuge. And so I feel that this proposal will provide
2 some kind of winter hunting opportunity one way or
3 another for the people of Huslia and Hughes.

4
5 So it looks good to Eleanor. I would
6 like to take the Koyukuk National Wildlife Refuge
7 manager's, Kenton Moos' statement through Jetta. Go
8 ahead, Jetta.

9
10 MS. MINERVA: Mr. Chairman. Kenton has
11 a lot of concerns with this proposal. Most of them
12 because of a lot of additional burden that it would
13 cause to the Refuge staff. He would like to have a
14 minimum of two-week notification to open up the five-
15 day hunt. If we have a set March 1 through 5 hunt,
16 that would allow the hunters to plan around that date.

17
18 As far as weather, if we do have a
19 problem with weather, we still can do a special action
20 to allow for a hunt to be delayed. And two-week
21 notification, we can't really plan around the weather
22 two weeks in advance.

23
24 So those are the concerns that Kenton
25 has with this proposal.

26
27 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: All right. Those
28 are points. Do you have some points to make Mike?
29 You're at the mic there.

30
31 MR. SPINDLER: Yes, Mr. Chair. I would
32 go along the fact that if the hunters can count on a
33 certain date and they're kind of used to those dates,
34 that that would be most user friendly to the hunters.
35 And I'm trying to take the perspective of the hunters,
36 but also the manager trying to implement that hunt as
37 well. If it's a time frame that we can count on, I
38 think that would be preferable.

39
40 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. I understand
41 that. And I understand that these refuge managers
42 wrestle with these notifications. So I would like to
43 consult with Eleanor.

44
45 Do you feel that March 1 to March 5 is
46 a good time to have -- if they're going to harvest
47 cows, is that a good time to harvest? Is it going to
48 be too cold? Do you want to move -- what dates would
49 you like to see in March if we're going to have a five-
50 day moose season with cows? If they don't have cows,

1 then the refuge is going to be more comfortable with an
2 April 10th to April 15th season for bulls. And so if
3 we have a mixed bull and cow harvest, and have enough
4 cows to harvest, do think March 15th to March 20th,
5 March 1 to March 5? Which -- I think it's probably a
6 little better towards the middle of March myself. What
7 do you think about that.

8

9 MS. YATLIN: Well, in the past they --
10 well, last winter we did not have a winter hunt between
11 March 1 and March 5.

12

13 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Not enough cows, we
14 lost the winter hunt.

15

16 MS. YATLIN: Yeah. And what are you
17 saying, that if they are going to have a winter hunt,
18 it would be March 1 to 5 for the bulls and then March
19 15 to 20 if they do open for cows, right?

20

21 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Well, the problem is
22 what happened last year is there weren't enough cows
23 and so the season was March 1 to March 5. If there's
24 enough cows, they were going to have a season. If
25 there's not enough cows, they closed the season period.
26 They provided no season. And so what we're trying to
27 do is have a window of opportunity, and so I was going
28 to make a large window. Well, then they don't want
29 that. We could take five days. If there's enough cows
30 to harvest, we can harvest in March. So what would be
31 a good time to harvest if we're going to harvest cows
32 and bulls in March? Would that be the 1st to the 5th
33 or more the 15th to 20th or any time in March?

34

35 MS. YATLIN: Any time in March. I
36 think people are just used to March 1 to 5.

37

38 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. So we'll
39 retain the March 1 to March 5 season if there's enough
40 cows to harvest for a quota of cows. And so we'll set
41 that as part of the hunt.

42

43 If there's not enough cows to harvest,
44 we still want a bull hunt.

45

46 Do you have a comment, Jetta?

47

48 MS. MINERVA: Kenton was for that, for
49 bulls only.

50

1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Well, I know he's
2 for that only, but I feel that there's cows to be
3 harvested, but that's between me and him.

4
5 You've got a comment, Vince.
6

7 MR. MATHEWS: Well, you kind of put
8 Eleanor on the spot there. You may want to put in
9 here, somewhere in the body of the description, not the
10 actual regulations that depending on consultation with
11 the affected advisory committees.

12
13 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Well, that's what
14 the managers don't want. They don't want to
15 consultation with everybody about -- I want everybody
16 to understand where we're at here. This is a proposal.
17 This proposal is going to go before the Koyukuk River
18 Advisory Committee, it's going to come back to our
19 Regional Council in February again. So these are just
20 languages, kind of rough languages that we're setting
21 out. We're also consulting with the managers to set
22 some of their concerns and alleviate some of their
23 concerns with the proposal. So we can set this March 1
24 to March 5 if we have cow component. We'll let the
25 Koyukuk River Advisory Committee comment on that.
26 We'll have people from Huslia commenting on it, and
27 we'll encourage comment from the affected communities.
28 And so we're not setting this in stone. This is just a
29 proposal. We're kind of getting it more defined.

30
31 Vince.
32

33 MR. MATHEWS: I misused the word
34 consult. What I meant in there is you've been on
35 advisory committees, you have a ton of proposals coming
36 forward. You vote them up or down. The involvement of
37 modifying those sometimes get washed out. So it would
38 be a message -- because you're going to be on the
39 Koyukuk Right. I don't think anybody's here from the
40 Middle Yukon, do we? No. So they need to know that
41 you selected 1 through 5, but you're not vested in 1
42 through 5. They could come in with 10 through 15 or
43 whatever else. So the idea doesn't get lost to have a
44 set season, but that you wanted their input for that.
45 So that can be communicated verbally, but there's no
46 one here from Middle Yukon. And I don't know if this
47 affects Ruby. I don't think so, but I'm drawing a
48 blank.

49
50 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: This proposal

1 primarily affects Huslia and Hughes. That's the
2 communities that this proposal affects primarily,
3 because of where it's at. It's hard for anybody
4 downriver to even get there.

5
6 So you feel comfortable with March 1 to
7 March 5 if there's cow harvest. To get a bull harvest
8 out of the Koyukuk/Nowitna Refuge manager, I feel that
9 the April 10 to April 5 [sic] bull hunt with quota set
10 for the bull hunt would be the most palatable for the
11 refuge manager to take. And I think that this is going
12 to be kind of a new hunt, so this will be something
13 that we'll talk about at the Koyukuk River Advisory
14 Committee.

15
16 But as we did last year, I don't want
17 to lose the winter hunt because the refuge manager's
18 concern about killing cows. I don't want to lose any
19 winter hunting opportunity, and so you can convey that
20 back to Kenton. I do not want to lose winter hunting
21 opportunity for the people of Huslia and Hughes like we
22 did last year. I told Kenton, I'm not happy with his
23 decision to preclude that hunt and not provide any bull
24 hunting opportunity when we've got lots of bulls to
25 harvest.

26
27 And so I would like to see two portions
28 of this hunt, March 1 to March 5 for mixed cow/bull.
29 If there's not a high enough cow population, I would
30 like April 10 to April 15 for bulls only.

31
32 And so at this time I'd like to have
33 Glenn's comments, ADF&G biologist on the
34 teleconference. Can you hear all this deliberation,
35 Glenn.

36
37 MR. STOUT: Yeah. Thank you, Mr.
38 Chair. I can only hear pretty much what you're saying
39 and what Jetta said.

40
41 I only would make a comment that the
42 season that we had traditionally had on the book was a
43 March 1 to 5 season. And then I thought I heard you as
44 you were reading that, there was a reference to an
45 August 27 to August 31 season, and I just wanted to
46 acknowledge that there is a proposal being submitted to
47 align that late August hunt with the September State
48 season, and I'm not sure that would be a relevant date
49 any more, that you may want to revisit.

50

1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Well, there's
2 currently one moose, August 27 to August 31. That's in
3 the regulation. Those fall cow moose hunts have been
4 precluded by special actions as far as I know. Those
5 have been precluded in the Koyukuk Controlled Use Area.

6
7

8 And so at this time I think it would
9 behoove this Council to insert a six-year moratorium
10 for fall cow harvest or eliminate the fall cow harvest.
11 What would you think about that, Eleanor? We're not
12 going to get fall cow harvest when we have bull hunts.
13 We just keep going through these special action
14 requests to stop that hunt, and so that's just a pain
15 in the butt for me and everybody else.

16

17 You've got comment, Vince.

18

19 MR. MATHEWS: No, I've got to check the
20 right books. I think we have some errors in this
21 proposal, and I'm lost, but that doesn't mean you can't
22 go forward. It doesn't match up, what's in the regs
23 here, so I need to verify that.

24

25 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. I don't know
26 where this language is coming from, but I don't think
27 that cow harvest is ever going to float in the fall.
28 And so the intention is to have a mixed one moose quota
29 if cow population supports it, bulls only April 10 to
30 April 15th, in late winter. And so that's the proposal
31 at this time.

32

33 You had further comments, Glenn.

34

35 MR. STOUT: No, Mr. Chair. Thank you.

36

37 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. That's the
38 proposal laid out. Oh, okay. Mike.

39

40 MR. SPINDLER: Mr. Chair. Just to
41 clarify. If you did strike the part of the first
42 sentence that said, however an antlerless moose may be
43 taken only during August 27 to 31, that would solve
44 that special action situation, which would be parallel
45 to what we did for Unit 24B. And then add the
46 moratorium language that you had added for 24B.

47

48 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I would feel
49 comfortable with striking that August 27 to 31
50 language.

1 Do you feel that we can do that,
2 Eleanor?
3
4 MS. YATLIN: What do you mean, strike
5 it?
6
7 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Take that August
8 27th to August 31 cow part out. We haven't been able
9 to have that.
10
11 MS. YATLIN: We never did. We never do
12 the cow hunt.
13
14 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right. In the
15 falltime. So we'll strike.....
16
17 MS. YATLIN: But it's always in the
18 language.
19
20 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: There's language
21 around there. This is old language that was around
22 from years.....
23
24 MS. YATLIN: You mean taking out the
25 language, that five-day?
26
27 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Taking out that
28 language for five days right there. We want the
29 proposal to pass. And so we can strike August 27th to
30 August 31 and put a moratorium language in both, after
31 the April 10 to April 15th point, highlighted portion.
32 A moratorium is in effect for cow moose harvest in Unit
33 24D and 24C in the fall hunts until July 1 of 2016.
34 That would alleviate that review process, Mike?
35
36 MR. SPINDLER: Yes, Mr. Chair. That
37 would streamline it quite a bit.
38
39 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. I appreciate
40 what these refuge managers have to go through, because
41 I have to go through a similar kind of thing.
42
43 And so inserting moratorium language
44 would be part of tightening up this proposal.
45
46 Any other comments from the Council on
47 the proposal. Vince, you've got a comment.
48
49 MR. MATHEWS: Yeah, I've just got to
50 get it clear in my head then. The moratorium, because

1 I was consulting over there, you were going to remove
2 the antlerless moose may be taken during the August
3 27th to the 31st?

4
5 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yes, that's
6 stricken.

7
8 MR. MATHEWS: Okay. If that's
9 stricken, I'm a little lost here, then why would you
10 have moratorium language for fall cow moose harvest if
11 you've already removed it?

12
13 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: No, it's a
14 moratorium for fall moose cow harvest, because we're
15 still going to have cow harvest in winter hunters.

16
17 MR. R. WALKER: Mr. Chairman.

18
19 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yes, Robert.

20
21 MR. R. WALKER: Jack, Mr. Chairman.
22 Eleanor, how long has this been in the 21D Koyukuk
23 Controlled Use Area, this August 27 to the 31st? Has
24 it been there like forever?

25
26 MS. YATLIN: It seems like it's always
27 been on there, as long as I could -- I read these, you
28 know, every year. That was since I was started getting
29 on the advisory, and that was in 1990.

30
31 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right. This
32 language was in the regulation, but then the State of
33 Alaska took that out.

34
35 MS. YATLIN: Excuse me. We did have,
36 you know, like five days for subsistence hunt in the
37 past, but then this -- I don't know this past how many
38 years we did not.

39
40 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right. Yeah. There
41 was an earlier -- there was a regulatory change. There
42 was an earlier August season. The season closed on the
43 20th of September. they moved it to the 25th of
44 September, so they shifted the season forward kind of
45 like what you're doing. The State of Alaska in 2004
46 out any cow harvest on the State seasons. So this is
47 just old language that's floating around. The refuge
48 managers have not wanted to have any cow harvest at
49 all, and so this old language is just sitting around
50 there and we need to get rid of it is what we need to

1 do.

2

3

Robert.

4

5 MR. R. WALKER: Yeah. I'm just kind of
6 curious. Who put this in here? Did the State put this
7 in here, or did the Federal Government put this in
8 here? Mandate it?

9

10 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: This regulatory
11 language, August 27th to 31?

12

13 MR. R. WALKER: Yeah. Was it the State
14 or who?

15

16 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Well, it was the
17 State, it was a State regulation from a long time ago,
18 from back in the 80s is where that came from. It
19 allowed -- when you came down on the end of the season
20 -- at the beginning of the season, you could take
21 antlerless moose. You could kill antlerless moose.
22 And you also could kill antlerless moose late in
23 September also back in those days. And so now all that
24 stuff has gone away. This is just hold-over language
25 and so we need to get rid of it. And so the
26 intention.....

27

28 MR. R. WALKER: Mr. Chairman, what does
29 Glenn say? Does Glenn say this is a good idea? Mr.
30 Stout.

31

32 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: You're still on
33 there, Glenn? Robert's asking if elimination of any
34 cow moose harvest in the fall is a good idea. That's
35 his question to you.

36

37 MR. STOUT: Yeah. Mr. Chair. That
38 shift to that August season actually start at the
39 Koyukuk working group, and it was kind of a similar
40 design that Josh described earlier where the people
41 there thought it would work good to have kind of a
42 local hunt, and so that early August season was shifted
43 then. And at that time we did have cow harvest
44 opportunity. As we went down through that process,
45 there was a stepwise process and one of the first
46 things that was eliminated was that all cow harvest,
47 and then a couple of years later we progressed to where
48 we eliminated that winter cow harvest and that season
49 there. And what we offered in return is the 10 days in
50 March plus that December 1 to 10 season, and that was

1 kind of how that was handled at that time.

2

3 At this time, the State's perspective
4 has still been that our management objective is for
5 growth, and so any harvest of cows is not what we want
6 to do right now until we return back to those
7 population levels that were our target established by
8 that Koyukuk moose hunters working group.

9

10 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So thanks for the
11 clarification, Glenn. The chronology of that had
12 slipped my mind. and so that is where that came from,
13 from the Koyukuk River moose management plan. That was
14 eliminated. It's one of the first things that was
15 eliminated was the fall cow harvest. And so we're not
16 going to have that on the Federal side, so we don't
17 really need that language floating around there.

18

19 Another comment.

20

21 MR. R. WALKER: Yeah. The only reason
22 why I asked here is because I know once it's
23 eliminated, it's so hard to get it back. But the
24 clarification have, you know, clarified what the intent
25 was. So, yeah, that's fine.

26

27 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yeah. That's why
28 I'm inserting after the April 15th bold print that
29 there's a moratorium for six years. That's so that we
30 retain the fall cow harvest as we'll revisit this
31 issue. By putting the moratorium on the fall cow
32 harvest, it will retain the option to reinstitute that
33 if the population grows within six years. That's why I
34 want the moratorium language in the proposal. That's
35 why -- but I still feel that we have an adequate moose
36 population. We have plenty of bulls for harvest in
37 falltime.

38

39 I feel that the Koyukuk moose
40 population can support some cow harvest. That's my
41 personal opinion, because people harvest black bear,
42 big animals, and wolves. And so we have some cows to
43 give in the winter when they're the most critical for
44 subsistence harvest.

45

46 So the moratorium language to be
47 inserted would be a moratorium is in effect for cow
48 moose harvest in the fall hunts until July 1 of 2016,
49 and that keep our foot in the door if the population
50 grows again and we can again have cow harvest in

1 falltime.

2

3 With that clarification on that, you're
4 still lost, Vince.

5

6 MR. MATHEWS: Yeah. I understand what
7 you're trying to do. Your intent is to keep the cow
8 moose season on the books, and your moratorium is
9 lifting the requirement for the refuge manager to go
10 through that analysis. It's also meaning that the cow
11 moose season would come back on the books at the end of
12 six years; is that your intent?

13

14 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: That's the intent.

15

16 MR. MATHEWS: Okay. Then I think I'm
17 clear.

18

19 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Well, let's just put
20 -- you're right. Let's put the moratorium in effect
21 for cow moose harvest August 27th to the 31st of August
22 until July 1, 2016. That clarifies the intent.

23

24 Thanks, Vince. That's why we need
25 Vince here, to keep us on track.

26

27 MR. STOUT: Mr. Chair. This is Glenn.

28

29 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, Glenn. Go
30 right ahead.

31

32 MR. STOUT: Yeah. And I just want to
33 make sure that I said it correctly. We are changing
34 that. The Federal season is changing to where it's
35 September 1 to 25th. And so I don't know if you're
36 looking to add on additional days, because that would
37 be the effect of keeping those August dates in there,
38 because we do have that proposal that's going forward
39 to shift that season later in the season right now.

40

41 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yeah. Right now
42 that with the moratorium we're not even going to be
43 having that hunt at all, and so it will probably go
44 back through another confederation process to see if
45 there's even the harvestable surplus for cows in the
46 fall in six years. So at this time I would prefer just
47 to leave it as it is, not to muddy up the waters too
48 much. Is that okay, Glenn?

49

50 MR. STOUT: Yeah, that's fine. I just

1 didn't know if it was clear that that season wouldn't
2 actually be announced on those dates any more, because
3 it was shifting to the September 1st date as the
4 opener.

5
6 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right. So we can
7 revisit -- when we revisit this after the moratorium,
8 after July 1, 2016, we can adjust the season at that
9 time. It's going to be a huge consideration of what
10 the population status is anyways.

11
12 Go ahead, Mike.

13
14 MR. SPINDLER: Yes, Mr. Chair. Just a
15 point of clarification. You were discussing the dates
16 on the moratorium that you were going to have in there.
17 But if you follow the bold print after the dates, April
18 10 to 15, there is a sentence that says during August
19 27th to September 20th season a State registration
20 permit is required. I think you need to visit that so
21 that in case the State proposal goes through, that's
22 not going to be a complicating factor. Otherwise we're
23 going to have kind of a train wreck.

24
25 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right. Yeah, we'll
26 strike the language during the August -- we strike
27 August 27 and insert September 1 to September 25, which
28 is the current State registration permit hunt period.
29 Corrected that. Good catch, Mike. Striking August
30 27th, inserting September 1 to September 25, a State
31 registration permit is required.

32
33 Good catch.

34
35 Any further discussion by Staff.

36
37 (No comments)

38
39 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: The Chair will
40 entertain a motion to submit this proposal. The
41 proposal is to strike the August 27th to 31 language,
42 allowing a March 1 to March 5 mixed sex with assessment
43 if a harvestable surplus of cows is adequate; if not,
44 then April 10 to April 15th, bulls only hunt, quota
45 will be set and prosecuted in Unit 24 -- correction,
46 Unit 21D and Units 24C and 24D. And we strike the
47 language August 27th and we insert September 1 to
48 September 25, a State registration permit is required.

49
50

1 Is that clear. Vince.

2

3 MR. MATHEWS: Is the language remaining
4 in there on the consultation on the bulls quota, any of
5 the quota things and you mentioned that this mainly
6 benefits Huslia, Huslia is not represented by the
7 Middle Yukon. It's represented by the Koyukuk River.
8 So I don't want to muddy the water there, but if that's
9 the intent of this, Middle Yukon doesn't have
10 jurisdiction over Huslia.

11

12 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right. Well, the
13 Koyukuk River. Well, let's see. Yeah, there will be
14 the consultation process.

15

16 MR. MATHEWS: So there would be a
17 consultation on the quota?

18

19 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: There will be a
20 consultation because the refuge manager is going to try
21 and preclude the cow hunt, and I want consultation with
22 the advisory committee and the RAC Chair.

23

24 Is that clear?

25

26 MR. MATHEWS: It's clear to me. And
27 then I assume you're adding in the Koyukuk River and
28 Middle Yukon also, or just.....

29

30 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Well, the Middle
31 Yukon has advisement in 21D in the Koyukuk Controlled
32 use area. And so it would be Koyukuk Advisory
33 Committee and the Middle Yukon Advisory Committees
34 would both consult on this proposal, because it's a
35 simultaneous prosecution. Is that understood, Mike?

36

37 MR. SPINDLER: Yes, Mr. Chair. We just
38 took a look at that. And you have Middle Yukon and
39 Koyukuk AC consultation in both parts of the
40 regulations for 21D and 24C and 24D. And your point
41 was that you wanted the Middle Yukon to be consulted
42 for anything that happens in the Koyukuk Controlled Use
43 area, and that spans both those areas.

44

45 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yeah, basically it's
46 one hunt, and so I want the Middle Yukon involved in
47 that process also.

48

49 MR. SPINDLER: Yes. The regulation
50 does include that at the present time.

1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Thank you.
2
3 MR. R. WALKER: Mr. Chairman.
4
5 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Robert.
6
7 MR. R. WALKER: Mike, I'm looking at
8 the map here for 21D. It runs all the way down right
9 down to 21E. I mean, your boundary line for 21D. It
10 passes Kaltag and goes all the way as far as Blackburn.
11 I mean.....
12
13 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: That's the Koyukuk
14 Controlled Use Area.
15
16 MR. R. WALKER: Right. Right.
17
18 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: And see this dashed
19 area here, and it would be Federal public lands, so
20 it's way up above Koyukuk. It's within the.....
21
22 MR. R. WALKER: Okay. I see what you mean.
23 You're talking about the Innoko National Wildlife
24 Refuge. It runs -- does it cross over.....
25
26 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: No, not Innoko.
27 Koyukuk. It's the Koyukuk Controlled Use Area. It's
28 this area right here. This part. See this dashed
29 area? This is the Koyukuk Controlled use area. And
30 this is a Federal proposal, so it's on the Federal
31 lands up the Koyukuk River. So is the Council clear on
32 where the hunt area is?
33
34 Any further comments about the language
35 of the proposal.
36
37 (No comments)
38
39 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: The Chair will
40 entertain a motion to submit the proposal as described.
41
42 MR. R. WALKER: I'll move.
43
44 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Moved by Robert.
45
46 MS. YATLIN: Second.
47
48 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Seconded by Eleanor.
49 Further discussion.
50

1 (No comments)
2
3 MR. J. WALKER: Question.
4
5 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: The question's
6 called on submitting the proposal. Those in favor of
7 submitting this proposal as described signify by saying
8 aye.
9
10 IN UNISON: Aye.
11
12 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Those opposed same
13 sign.
14
15 (No opposing votes)
16
17 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Unanimous consent of
18 the Western Interior Council to submit the proposal as
19 described.
20
21 Where are we at now on our -- oh, go
22 ahead, Robert.
23
24 MR. R. WALKER: Mr. Chairman. When we
25 do this, this Unit is 21D, 24C, and 24D for the
26 controlled use area and that's it?
27
28 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: That's the Koyukuk
29 Controlled Use Area only. It's a fairly precise area
30 that people are used to knowing where the boundaries
31 are and so forth.
32
33 MR. R. WALKER: Well, just as long as
34 they control the use here, because my mix up was I
35 thought the whole thing was 21D.
36
37 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right. Okay.
38 Vince. Oh, go ahead, Mike.
39
40 MR. SPINDLER: Mr. Chair. Just one
41 other point of clarification as well. As you'll recall
42 when we did this for 21B this morning, we had some
43 consultations with the area biologist, Glenn Stout, as
44 to whether he would support a companion State proposal.
45 And at this time I would urge the Council to have some
46 discussions about a companion State proposal and maybe
47 seek Glenn's thoughts on that.
48
49 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right. That's where
50 I was going next is since we have Glenn on -- are you

1 still on the phone there, Glenn?

2

3 MR. STOUT: Yeah, Mr. Chair. I'm still
4 here.

5

6 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Good. Where
7 I'd like to go next is a State proposal for the Koyukuk
8 Controlled Use Area that would allow a five-day April
9 10 to April 15th, one bull hunt. And what would you
10 think about that, Glenn?

11

12 MR. STOUT: Yeah, Mr. Chair. I guess
13 that's probably going to be something we would want to
14 look and do a little bit more analysis on before I
15 could just come up with a decision. I think having
16 bull hunts is consistent with our strategy overall. I
17 guess I want to kind of balance that though with how
18 many bulls are being harvested in the fall, and data
19 I've shown you in the past is, well, because our
20 bull/cow ratios were increasing, the number of moose
21 harvested in the villages was also increasing, and so
22 we've been pretty successful in that vein to increase
23 those harvest in that fall hunt. And hopefully reduce
24 the dependency on those late spring hunts. It would
25 just have to be analyzed to see, you know, what kind of
26 harvest we would expect to see in an April type hunt,
27 what kind of risks we would fact as far as cows being
28 harvested, how many bulls would actually be
29 identifiable with antlers during that period of time.
30 So I think there's several things that we would want to
31 look at pretty closely before, you know, I could really
32 say affirmatively in one direction or the other.

33

34 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: All right. Yeah.
35 So I think that an April 10 to April 15th antlered bull
36 hunt, they would have antlers at that time. That would
37 give some hunting opportunity on the Native corporation
38 lands that are adjacent to Huslia and Hughes.

39

40 Glenn, one question is, is the bull/cow
41 ratio is considerably lower in the lower part of the
42 Koyukuk Controlled Use Area; is that the recent data
43 that you have? Like in 21D portion of it?

44

45 MR. STOUT: Yeah, Mr. Chair. There's
46 kind of a donut hole effect I think in the controlled
47 use area. Most of the hunting pressure is Three-Day
48 Slough, the Dalby River, and that's probably where our
49 bull ratios tend to be the lowest. Certainly as you
50 get up towards Huslia, our bull/cow ratios improve.

1 And so there's quite a few bulls, like you mentioned,
2 to be harvested up there. I think there is a lot of
3 opportunity for the upriver. But the management
4 objective wants us to look at the controlled use area
5 as a whole. And so that's another one of those kind of
6 management challenges is trying to get the distribution
7 of the harvest in the areas we want it, and where the
8 opportunities exist. So, you know, there's a lot of
9 different things that would be worthwhile looking at.
10

11 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: All right. That's
12 the information I needed to have. My perspective is
13 trying to get a winter hunt for Huslia and trying to
14 get this proposal, a State proposal to pass the Board
15 of Game, it's apparent that the only way I'm going to
16 be able to fight this proposal through is to get -- if
17 the proposal is for Unit 24D and 24C within the Koyukuk
18 Controlled Use Area, not 21D portion. I don't think
19 that we will be able to win that with the bull/cow
20 ratio that's in 21D.
21

22 So if we had a proposal submitted to
23 the State Board of Game for a one bull between April 10
24 to April 15th, which would then -- if passed would run
25 concurrent with any Federal hunts that happened at that
26 time, and it was in for 24D and 24C, I think that would
27 facilitate what we're after on trying to provide winter
28 opportunity for Huslia and Hughes.
29

30 And so are you comfortable with that
31 Eleanor?
32

33 MS. YATLIN: Yes.
34

35 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: And are you more
36 comfortable with that, Glenn?
37

38 MR. STOUT: Yeah, Mr. Chair. I think
39 that's a really good example of a consideration that
40 should be made.
41

42 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. And so is the
43 Council clear on this is just similar as our Federal
44 proposal but for 24D and 24C within the Koyukuk
45 Controlled Use Area, that dashed line that shows, it
46 would be the white areas on our maps here which are
47 closest to Hughes and closest to Huslia, which are
48 actually Doyon and Native corp lands is the State-
49 controlled areas. So people don't have to go as far
50 for hunting opportunities. And so that would be the

1 proposal to be submitted to the State Board of Game.
2
3 The Chair would entertain a motion to
4 submit that proposal as described at this time.
5
6 MS. YATLIN: So move.
7
8 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Moved by Eleanor.
9 Do we have a second to that proposal.
10
11 MR. GERVAIS: I'll second.
12
13 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Timothy seconds
14 that. Any further discussion.
15
16 (No comments)
17
18 MR. J. WALKER: Question.
19
20 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: The question's
21 called on submitting that proposal to the State Board
22 of Game for an April 10 to April 15th bull season
23 within the Koyukuk Controlled Use Area in Units 24D and
24 24D. All those in favor of that proposal signify by
25 saying aye.
26
27 IN UNISON: Aye.
28
29 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: All those opposed
30 same sign.
31
32 (No opposing votes)
33
34 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: And so at this time
35 I think we've covered all of your game management
36 units, Glenn, and I appreciate your conferencing in
37 with us and look forward to seeing you at our Koyukuk
38 River Advisory Committee if we can work out those dates
39 with you.
40
41 MR. STOUT: Great. Thank you, Mr.
42 Chair and all the other Council members. I appreciate
43 the time.
44
45 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thank you. And so
46 at this time we'll go to break for about how long,
47 Vince. About 15 minutes.
48
49 (Off record)
50

1 (On record)
2
3 MR. MATHEWS: Okay. Mr. Chairman. If
4 I look at the agenda here.....
5
6 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So we're back at
7 session. Go ahead, Vince.
8
9 MR. MATHEWS: Yeah. I think, and Staff
10 can correct me if I'm wrong, we were working under
11 number 9, wildlife issues. And I believe we've
12 confirmed all the proposals that were before you before
13 and not remodified or whatever done on that.
14
15 So that would lead us up to
16 organization and agency reports on wildlife issues and
17 concerns. The reason that's in there, for the new
18 Council members is we tend to have agency reports at
19 the end. They may have data that would help you make
20 your decision when you're reviewing proposals or
21 writing proposals, so we put this little reminder in
22 there that they can get agency reports up there.
23
24 My understanding, BLM already covered
25 theirs, but I could be wrong. And Fish and Wildlife
26 Service I think also did. But we can check on that.
27
28 And that would bring us up to the
29 determining your future meetings. So unless I've miss
30 something on report.
31
32 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I think BLM lower,
33 southern Alaska, Geoff needs to make a presentation.
34 And so we're -- do we have any -- I think we've covered
35 everything except I haven't gone over the refuges
36 reports. I would like to get these reports out of the
37 way before we go into the meeting dates and so forth.
38 And so we'll put Geoff, BLM northern has presented, Tim
39 Craig. And so are you going to be ready there in a
40 couple minutes, Geoff?
41
42 MR. BEYERSDORF: Yes.
43
44 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: And so there's no
45 other -- let's see whether there will be. Is Innoko
46 going to make a report?
47
48 MR. MATHEWS: Yes.
49
50 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Uh-huh. And so

1 Innoko, Koyukuk /Nowitna, and Kanuti. The Park Service
2 has nobody here. And there was an electronic -- did
3 you get that.....

4
5 MS. SWANTON: Mr. Chair.

6
7 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Oh, there's somebody
8 on the teleconference there.

9
10 MS. SWANTON: Nancy Swanton from the
11 Park Service. I've been attending most of the meeting.

12
13 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Oh, that's Nancy.
14 Okay.

15
16 MS. SWANTON: And I'd be happy to
17 report on behalf of the Park Service if you'd like.

18
19 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Wait a second,
20 Nancy, we've got to put the mic up to the phone there.
21 And so go ahead, Nancy.

22
23 MS. SWANTON: Are you ready now?

24
25 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: No, we're not ready
26 now, but you'll be ready to present something for Park
27 Service at the appropriate time?

28
29 MS. SWANTON: I can, yes.

30
31 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. I didn't
32 realize you were still there. Sorry.

33
34 MS. SWANTON: I've been hanging in
35 there.

36
37 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So we're going to go
38 through the BLM presentation, and then I might do the
39 Park Service since you're sitting on the phone there.
40 And we'll let you get out of the way.

41
42 Okay. Go ahead, Geoff, if you're ready
43 to present.

44
45 MR. BEYERSDORF: Mr. Chair. Members of
46 the Council. For the record, Geoff Beyersdorf, the
47 subsistence biologist for the Anchorage field office.
48 And I'll go through this fairly quickly. I realize you
49 guys are on a tight timeline for today.

50

1 So one of the first things that I
2 wanted to -- I did want to highlight though for you is
3 that similar to the Fish and Wildlife Service with
4 their comprehensive conservation plans, BLM is moving
5 forward with a resource management plan for the Bering
6 Sea/Western Interior area. And that is planned for
7 starting next spring of 2010. And I wanted to make you
8 aware of that. The public scoping meetings and such
9 will start at that point. And obviously for the
10 Western Interior subsistence is going to be one of the
11 big issues, so we'd like to get input from people in
12 the villages on that.

13

14 In regards to recreation, there were
15 eight special recreation permits that were terminated
16 in this last year. We've got 11 current and active,
17 both moose and bear guides within the BLM lands in the
18 southern areas of the Anchorage district office. And
19 we've had two applications that are currently being
20 processed for guides in the BLM lands out of the
21 Anchorage district office.

22

23 One thing I did want to the attention
24 of the Council is that I know there's been some
25 question in regards to the guide use areas and BLM's
26 process in that. BLM is currently working with
27 Department of Natural Resources in regards to revising
28 the proposed hunting concession areas. There is -- I
29 can give more details now if you need them. I've got
30 kind of a frequently asked questions from the DNR on
31 that. But I just wanted to make you aware that the Big
32 Game Commercial Services Board is going to be meeting
33 in Anchorage December 7th to the 9th.

34

35 In regards to the vegetation
36 program.....

37

38 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: One comment there.
39 The BLM is going to allow the Commercial Services Board
40 to implement guide areas on the BLM lands; is that what
41 you're saying?

42

43 MR. BEYERSDORF: What I'm saying is
44 that the BLM is currently working with the Department
45 of Natural Resources to analyze and develop a program
46 to address some of the problems that have been
47 occurring out in the field.

48

49 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: My comment to that
50 is that Henri Bisson, Regional Director for BLM at a

1 resource advisory committee, BLM Resource Advisory
2 Council meeting that was held in Wiseman, promised that
3 when any of these general management plans came up,
4 that guide areas would be implemented on BLM lands.
5 That was a promise from the regional director back in
6 2003. This Council was told that, that the BLM was
7 going to implement guide areas in the general
8 management plans. I want you to be aware of that. And
9 I want you to take that back to Tom Lonnie, that the
10 regional directors cannot go around and make promises
11 that they're not going to subsequently follow through
12 on.

13

14 And so as the Chair of the Western
15 Interior Council, this is a very concerning issue, this
16 guide areas, not having guide areas on BLM land and
17 control of the number of guides on the BLM. Right now
18 it's a free-for-all system. And so this Council has
19 been concerned about the State and the Bureau of Land
20 Management lands having a free-for-all, multiple guides
21 hunting on top of one another, whereas the refuges and
22 the park/preserve lands have a guide selection process.
23 This Council has been a proponent of a guide selection
24 process on the BLM lands.

25

26 And so I want to refresh the BLM's
27 memory about that. And so I want that transmitted back
28 the Regional Director Tom Lonnie, that that was a
29 promise made by Henri Bisson of past administrations.
30 And so that's.....

31

32 You can continue with your report.

33

34 Thank you.

35

36 MR. BEYERSDORF: Through the Chair. To
37 clarify, I know that Fish and Wildlife Service and
38 National Park Service have established guide use areas
39 for their conservation system units. What the BLM is
40 looking to do is to work with the State and establish
41 guide use areas under the State program, and then
42 making that at a statewide level. I think that gets to
43 what you're talking about and what BLM has said that
44 they would comply with.

45

46 I can still take back your concerns,
47 and I think I would as you to, when the public comment
48 period for the resource management plan comes about,
49 that those comments be folded in to that also. But I
50 will take this back and I will also talk to our

1 recreation person to make sure that when we look at
2 these RMPs that we look at guide use areas being a
3 component of the resource management plans.

4

5 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right. That's what
6 I wanted to clarify, that if the State of Alaska
7 Commercial Services Board does indeed produce a guide
8 area, which they have not yet on State lands, then that
9 would be fine with me. But if they don't, then the
10 resource management plans shall reflect some kind of a
11 guide use selection on its own. And that was the
12 promise of Henri Bisson, Regional Director, in 2003.
13 And so I'm going to hold the BLM's feet to the fire on
14 that one, because that's a very important issue is
15 guided operations on BLM lands.

16

17 So continue.

18

19 MR. BEYERSDORF: Okay. Thank you, Mr.
20 Chair. Similar to what Tim was presenting in regards
21 to invasive species, the BLM has been conducting plant
22 inventories and assessment especially along the
23 Iditarod Trail. And I just wanted to make the Council
24 aware that there were invasive plants found at the Roan
25 cabin this year. One of the things that we've been
26 doing is trying to work with the Iditarod mushers and
27 some of the other trail users in regards to weed
28 mitigation, especially bringing in weed-free straw.

29

30 Fish and Game has requested that we
31 take a look at doing a prescribed burn in the Fairwell
32 area. And I spent some time this last September
33 looking at some of the fires that we had in the McGrath
34 area. I looked at Dillinger, Katalitna and Apple
35 Mountain, kind of the effects of those fires and what
36 some of the habitat was coming back at. I also worked
37 with Fish and Game in regards to picking up some of the
38 bison collars that they had out there, which gave me a
39 really good opportunity to get on the ground and look
40 at the habitat as far as knowing some of the fire
41 history and how it was coming back. So I wanted to
42 make you guys aware that we are open and willing to
43 work the State in putting together a prescribed burn
44 plan for that area.

45

46 And I think lastly, Bo is probably
47 going to speak a little bit more to this in regards to
48 my program, the wildlife program. We are planning to
49 do a population GPSE level survey for 21A starting in
50 November.

1 And then I understand that the Council
2 members had some questions in regard to the Mulchatna
3 herd. I do have some information here that I received
4 via Fish and Game and Fish and Wildlife Service out of
5 Dillingham with I can share. It sounds like, through
6 the Chair, some of your concerns were in regards to
7 what the 2008 census levels were. What I show from
8 Fish and Game is that they estimate a population level
9 from that census of 30 to 40,000 caribou.

10

11 One of the things that Jim wanted me to
12 pass along though was that the Council be aware that
13 last year's census, the conditions were not very good
14 for it. The herd was spread out from one end of their
15 range to the other. They didn't have very good
16 conditions for caribou aggregations, and very poor
17 light and rain conditions as far as the actual
18 photographs that were taken. So I would caution you
19 that that's a minimum estimate at this point.

20

21 And then in regards to calving, Fish
22 and Game was able to get out and look at some of the
23 radio collared females that they had out there. And it
24 looks like of the 36 radio-collared animals, almost 90
25 percent of the age class 4 -- excuse me, age class 3
26 and above were pregnant. And then the distribution of
27 the caribou calves this spring was similar to what's
28 been going on since about 2000. Pretty much there's
29 two basic areas where they've been calving, and that's
30 southeast of Kemuk and then just below Tundra Lake in
31 the Lime Village area.

32

33 And in regards to my presentation, that
34 concludes it. I would be happy to take any questions
35 at this time.

36

37 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: There was no
38 bull/cow data presented?

39

40 MR. BEYERSDORF: Not at this time. I
41 did share with the Council at their Galena meeting, I
42 passed along that information in regards to 2008
43 composition counts that were done. The 2009
44 composition counts are not going to start until this
45 weekend.

46

47 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. So do Council
48 members have questions or comments on Geoff's
49 presentation.

50

1 (No comments)

2

3 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: No? And so my
4 comments would be I highly appreciate that you're
5 working with BLM. You used to work for Fish and
6 Wildlife. I have high confidence in Geoff's work. I'm
7 very happy that you have approval to fly. I'm very
8 happy to see that you've presented us with bull/cow
9 ratios and have driven the gathering of this bull/cow
10 data for the 21E population. It makes me much more
11 comfortable on how to approach the Boards about these
12 animals. And we have to have these biological
13 parameters. I'm very happy that you are the driving
14 force for that, Geoff. So at this time I just
15 appreciate your presentation and your presence here.
16 Go ahead.

17

18 MR. BEYERSDORF: Just one final
19 comment. I appreciate that. I would say though that
20 the driving force here has been the partnerships that
21 are being forged. And I really appreciate what the
22 Innoko Refuge and Fish and Game have being in this last
23 year. We've made some really significant headway I
24 think.

25

26 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I do appreciate the
27 partnerships that were involved, the Innoko Refuge, the
28 Alaska Department of Fish and Game, but it wasn't until
29 you lit the fire under them before this stuff started
30 to happen, so I appreciate your ignition of this
31 bull/cow ratio data. And so thank you.

32

33 MR. BEYERSDORF: Thank you, Council
34 members.

35

36 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: And so we'll go to
37 the National Park Service, because Nancy's sitting on
38 the phone there, and we want Nancy to relax. And so,
39 you've got a presentation, Nancy. Go ahead.

40

41 MS. SWANTON: Yes. It should be just a
42 short one. Thank you for allowing me to make this
43 presentation. I regret no one from the Park Service
44 was able to make it out to the meeting this time
45 around, but next time. There are three items that I
46 would like to address just briefly.

47

48 If you look on Page 108 of your book,
49 you will see a full-page write-up regarding subsistence
50 use of horns, antlers, bones and plants. The National

1 Park Service.....

2

3 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Stand by, Nancy.

4 Nancy. Nancy.

5

6 MS. SWANTON: Sorry. Yes?

7

8 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Nancy, wait until
9 the Council members -- on Page which? 100?

10

11 MS. SWANTON: 108.

12

13 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. 108. Okay.

14 Go right ahead then.

15

16 MS. SWANTON: Right. I'll just briefly
17 go through it, but generally speaking the Park Service
18 is considering whether to allow the collection and use
19 of the plans and shed or discarded horns, antlers and
20 bones by NPS qualified local rural residents in Alaska
21 national park system units. This whole effort started
22 through the request by various Subsistence Resource
23 Commissions and a request by the Eastern Interior RAC
24 over the last several years. Their request was to the
25 National Park Service and not to the Federal
26 Subsistence Board. And this is not about hunting, it's
27 about gathering and using these items from NPS lands.

28

29 Currently the collection and personal
30 use and making of handicrafts using shed or discarded
31 horns, antler and bones is not currently allowable
32 under National Park Service regulations, and so the
33 interest is in considering whether that could be
34 allowed. And the Park Service will be developing an
35 environmental assessment which it must do under the
36 National Environmental Policy Act. And we'll be
37 working on that through the next few months.

38

39 We're developing alternatives right
40 now. A no action alternative is one which has to be
41 evaluated under any environmental assessment. Another
42 alternative would be the unlimited collection and uses
43 of these items. And a third alternative would be the
44 same as the unlimited collection; however it would
45 allow the Park Service superintendent of the park units
46 to establish some individual conditions under which
47 this collection could occur.

48

49 So all of this will be evaluated an
50 environmental assessment which should be -- I believe

1 the intent is to have it available early next year. If
2 you've got any comments about what should be included
3 or any questions, you're welcome to call any of the
4 individuals listed on the last page of this handbook
5 that's in your book. For the Gates of the Arctic
6 Preserve, that would be Dave Krupa. For Denali
7 National Park and Preserve, it would be Amy Craver. You
8 can also call Sandy Rabinowitch. Sandy's taken the
9 lead on working this project, and Sandy's available out
10 of our regional office. I think you all know Sandy.

11
12 And I guess that's all I would plan to
13 say about that at this point, other than to invite any
14 comments and questions that you may have.

15
16 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I'm vice chair of
17 the Gates of the Arctic Subsistence Resource
18 Commission, and the Gates of the Arctic Subsistence
19 Resource Commission is having a meeting on the 4th and
20 5th of November. Ray Collins is here, Denali SRC Chair
21 also. So as SRC members, we'll be tracking that issue.
22 And I want the Council to be aware that the Subsistence
23 Resource Commissions are a part of -- are just like an
24 advisory committee. The commissions will advise the
25 Regional Councils about various things that happen on
26 park lands, and so that's where these kinds of things
27 come up.

28
29 So continue, Nancy.

30
31 MS. SWANTON: Okay. Thank you very
32 much. The other two items, I wasn't sure that Vince
33 received a copy of the Gates of the Arctic update
34 before you left, Vince. Did you?

35
36 MR. MATHEWS: No, I didn't receive
37 that.

38
39 MS. SWANTON: Okay. Well, I have it
40 and I've also got a little bit of an update from
41 Denali. And what I could suggest, I can go over that
42 information very quickly, but we have something in
43 writing that we can send to Vince who can in turn then
44 end it out to each of you if you wish.

45
46 So, Mr. Chair, would you like me to
47 just briefly run through these items or would you
48 simply want me to send them to Vince.

49
50 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Just briefly go over

1 the bullets, Nancy, so the Council is aware of what the
2 SRCs are doing.

3

4 MS. SWANTON: I would just say as far
5 as -- I'm not quite sure I heard exactly what you said,
6 but I think it's -- could you repeat it please?

7

8 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I said go over the
9 highlights of what the Gates of the Arctic and the
10 Denali SRCs are -- the highlights of their issues
11 they're covering. Go right ahead.

12

13 MS. SWANTON: Okay. With respect to
14 the Gates of the Arctic, that SRC held a work session
15 recently on August 27th in Fairbanks. We did not have
16 a quorum for that SRC meeting. The full SRC is
17 scheduled to meet in Fairbanks on November 4th and 5th
18 as you had mentioned. And we now have a full roster
19 for the first time in almost 10 years with respect to
20 that SRC. So we're kind of excited about that.

21

22 The second point, at the request of
23 culture camp organizers and the Alisivik (ph) College,
24 NPS assisted in forwarding and supporting of a proposal
25 to the Federal Subsistence Board for the taking of one
26 sheep on Federal lands near Anaktuvuk Pass for purposes
27 of teaching.

28

29 I would say -- let's see, the NPS
30 biologist, Kyle Joly, continues to do research on
31 Western Arctic caribou winter range and how wildfire
32 might affect it. The 2007 census of the herd revealed
33 a 20 percent decline in the herd, from 490,000 down to
34 377,000 since the previous total census was completed
35 in 2003.

36

37 The Unit 24A and B cooperative moose
38 project involving NPS, ADF&G, BLM and Fish and Wildlife
39 Service is continuing with an additional 20 collars
40 scheduled for deployment at the end of October. I'm
41 not sure if I might have missed a report that someone
42 else may have given on that, but the animals are
43 tracked by air monthly, while about 10 GPS collars
44 track movements every eight hours.

45

46 Our Arctic network inventory monitoring
47 program conducted aerial dall sheep surveys in 2008 in
48 northeastern Gates of the Arctic National Park and
49 Preserve. The surveys also were conducted in July of
50 2009 in the Western Bairds of the Noatak Preserve.

1 We received good staff support from
2 ADF&G and we'd like to acknowledge that. There's a bit
3 more information about that point, but I will leave
4 that for you to take a look at when we send this to you
5 in writing.

6
7 The NPS in cooperation with ADF&G, BLM
8 and the Fish and Wildlife Service was able to deploy
9 about 40 GPS collars on Western Arctic herd caribou at
10 Onion Portage. And this is the first time GPS collars
11 have been deployed in this herd.

12
13 And that completes the report that Dave
14 Krupa put together. If you've got any questions, I'd
15 be happy to convey them to Dave, or you may feel free
16 to contact Dave yourself if you have any other
17 questions or would like more information. Dave Krupa
18 is the program manager for ethnography and subsistence
19 for Gates of the Arctic National Park and Preserve.

20
21 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead with the
22 Denali update.

23
24 MS. SWANTON: I just have a short
25 report from Denali, from Amy Craver. A couple of
26 points. The wildlife program at Denali is in the
27 process of putting together information updates. And
28 Amy reported that we will be getting that information
29 out to you as soon as it's completed.

30
31 And the four program, subsistence
32 related projects actually that Amy just wanted to
33 mention and then she will provide some additional
34 written information that I then could in turn provide
35 to you through Vince. But projects that Denali is
36 involved with that are subsistence related include a
37 timber resource project, a place name project, trapline
38 project and a fisheries monitoring project. That would
39 subsistence fisheries in northwest Denali. And I do
40 have a write up on each of those, a short one, but I
41 think it would be better if I just provided that
42 information to you in writing.

43
44 And that's it.

45
46 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Thanks a lot,
47 Nancy.

48
49 MS. SWANTON: You're welcome.
50

1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I do like the
2 Council to be aware of what the SRCs are doing, because
3 there's considerable work that the SRCs do. And so
4 that feeds into our RAC occasionally.

5
6 And so at this time we can go to the
7 Refuge reports. And do we'll have Innoko come up. And
8 if you've got a report for us, Bo.

9
10 MR. SLOAN: Okay. For the record, Bo
11 Sloan, Refuge Manager at Innoko National Wildlife
12 Refuge.

13
14 Mr. Chair, I couldn't agree with you
15 more. We'll give credit where credit's due. Geoff
16 Beyersdorf was the igniter. He was the fire lighter
17 behind, you know, the beginning of the moose collaring
18 project. And, you know, Geoff, like you said, he wrote
19 that challenger cost share with BLM and as able to get
20 some funds. And with that idea, Kevin and I wrote an
21 extra funding need project request within Fish and
22 Wildlife Service. And so I'd like to give a little
23 credit to Tracy McDonald behind me and Geoff Haskett,
24 because without their support and those extra funds
25 coming into Innoko's budget, we wouldn't have been able
26 to come into this thing and play ball to the degree
27 that we are. So like say, thank you, thanks, guys, for
28 the help on that for sure.

29
30 I'm real excited about the different
31 things that the Innoko staff's been doing since last we
32 met. Like I said, we've talked about the moose
33 collaring project, our participation in the joint
34 effort of the 21E Game Management Unit GSPE survey.

35
36 Right now we're in the throes of trying
37 to execute a moose composition count in 21A. And, you
38 know, weather permit, we'll get that done prior to
39 November 1. And on or about November the 1st, we're
40 going to try to launch into conducting a GSPE survey in
41 Game Management 21A and 21D. And this effort, I'll
42 tell you, it's certainly an all hands on deck approach.
43 BLM, they're in the game, Fish and Game as well as
44 Selawik Refuge, Kenai Refuge and Tetlin. We've got
45 assistance coming from those place in here to help us
46 out. So if you guys get a chance, pray for about knee
47 deep snow in early November. That will help us out a
48 lot.

49
50 One of the other activities that we're

1 doing as of late, and we had a lot of cooperation here
2 with the Troopers in Alaska, especially the guys out of
3 Aniak, doing patrol work and stuff out there on the
4 refuge and then land surrounding the refuge with some
5 of the Fish and Wildlife Service personnel. We don't
6 have a law enforcement officer right now at the refuge,
7 so we -- actually our zone officer came in out of
8 Fairbanks and worked the refuge in conjunction with our
9 pilot. And also the trooper stationed here in Aniak
10 stayed out on the refuge at our field camp for about a
11 week and patrolled a big area.

12

13 Some of the other things going on that
14 are kind of annual events. Our waterfowl work
15 continued. Had a real successful goose banding effort
16 out there on the refuge this year with migratory birds
17 as a cooperator as well as guys at Koyukuk/Nowitna came
18 down and helped out. Migratory Birds conducted an
19 expanded breeding bird survey on waterfowl. So we got
20 a lot of work in the bird department going on at
21 Innoko.

22

23 On the fisheries, we threw in and did
24 what we could to help out monitoring the Chinook run,
25 trying to get it, you know, up the river and into
26 Canada, so we had some success there.

27

28 I'll try to brief this quick, because I
29 know you guys are tired of sitting and listening to
30 everybody talk. From a staff standpoint, one really
31 great thing that happened as of late was that Claire
32 Dementieff, a past RIT at Innoko was able to be
33 reinstated as a full-time RIT there at Innoko. Just in
34 a short while some of the things that she's done I
35 think has been outstanding. We've been able to have a
36 science camp this summer that wasn't even a planned
37 event, yet we were able to have 12 to 15 kids, some
38 coming out the GASH villages, a few from McGrath there
39 at our science camp facility that we run in cooperation
40 with the Iditarod School District just outside McGrath.
41 It was absolutely excellent. She attended the teacher
42 conference where all the teachers from the Iditarod
43 School District came into McGrath, and basically let
44 those guys know what resources are available to them
45 for the children through the refuge. And she was a
46 participant down at Anvik at a culture camp for a week.
47 This was probably about a month and. And said that was
48 really good.

49

50 We just had a fire management officer

1 positioned filled. That person just got to the office.
2 We left about the -- we go on the plane to come here
3 about the time she got off the plane to walk in the
4 office. We just kind of said hi, bye, real quick. And
5 so I hope she's still there. But she's been in Alaska.
6 She actually has a home in Fairbanks, but more
7 immediately she came up here as a fire management
8 officer from Wyoming. And this position will serve
9 Togiak and Yukon Delta Refuges as well as Innoko, so
10 it's kind of a far-reaching position.

11
12 You know, hats off again to Director
13 Haskett and Supervisor McDowell, because we actually
14 got approved for an addition to our biological staff.
15 We'll be adding another wildlife biologist to the
16 Innoko team. And we're kind of in the throes of
17 getting our certified selection list out of Human
18 Resources Department. So hopefully the selection will
19 be made on that as well as the law enforcement position
20 here pretty soon.

21
22 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Bo, really
23 appreciate that report. Does the Council have
24 questions to Innoko's presentation?

25
26 MR. HONEA: Yeah, I do.

27
28 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, Don.

29
30 MR. HONEA: Yeah. Bo, I was just
31 wondering, you know, I mean, what your population is
32 moose-wise nowadays, whether the State is -- what
33 exactly -- I mean, did it just fade into the past, the
34 predator control thing? And I know that the weather
35 was kind of inclement and maybe in the last few years,
36 I don't know that they've been able to harvest very
37 many. You know, when we met before, it was just like
38 -- I believe it was up in Allakaket, maybe when I first
39 came aboard four or five years ago or something. The
40 thing was, I mean, that, you know, to be able to get
41 State assistance in predator control, it was kind of
42 non-existent. I mean, you would have really -- you
43 know, and I'm just wondering what happened to the
44 program there, because, you know, a lot of villages --
45 I mean, not a lot of villages, but we can help out I
46 think in our respective regions by creating some
47 incentives, the tribal councils and stuff like that can
48 pay extra to people that go out and harvest, get the
49 wolves. So I was just -- you know, is that still an
50 ongoing thing or is it pretty much -- is it pretty much

1 gone.

2

3 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, Bo.

4

5 MR. SLOAN: Don, I'm not 100 percent
6 sure I exactly synthesized the question on that. As
7 far as -- I'll tell you what, do me a favor. Repeat
8 once again what you're asking me exactly so that I'll
9 understand the question.

10

11 MR. HONEA: I'd probably be able to ask
12 Ray Collins right here, because he's up on these
13 issues. What I'm asking is, you know, boy, for many
14 year right in McGrath they had a wolf control, they had
15 a predator control program. And I believe -- I don't
16 know if that was the only one within the State. Maybe
17 they did in Tok or some other areas, but is the program
18 still being funded, would you know? I mean, is it
19 still being initiated, carried out?

20

21 Thank you.

22

23 MR. SLOAN: Okay. Yeah. I think I
24 understand now. One thing let me kind of clarify is
25 the refuge headquarters office is there in McGrath.
26 However, of course, the refuge itself is -- probably
27 our closest boundary is somewhere around 40 miles from
28 McGrath. And that's outside of that intensive moose
29 management area that surrounds McGrath.

30

31 But I can tell you that there at
32 McGrath, yes, I mean, the wolf predator control is
33 ongoing. And I can also tell you that this spring,
34 and, Ray, you correct me if I'm wrong, but this spring,
35 and I want to say it's from April the 15th to June the
36 30th, 19D I believe, which is that area, was approved
37 for -- not the whole area, but an area right there
38 around McGrath was approved for bear snaring, you know,
39 for permitted individuals. So, yeah, that program
40 continues full throttle from what I can tell right
41 around McGrath.

42

43 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I'll enter into this
44 discussion. The refuge lands are not, cannot with huge
45 review, have any kind of predator control, so the
46 Innoko Refuge is not going to have an intensive
47 management program on the refuge lands. And there's
48 associated intensive management programs going on in
49 19A and possibly in the future in 21E, in the lower
50 portion on the BLM and State lands can have predator

1 control efforts. But the refuge lands are not subject
2 to predator control efforts.

3

4 And so did you have any further
5 comments on that, Geoff.

6

7 MR. BEYERSDORF: Through the Chair to
8 Member Honea. I guess I just want to remind you that
9 in regards to that portion of 21E, the Board of Game
10 did have a proposal from 2007 that's been deferred. It
11 will be picked up at this March 2010 meeting, looking
12 at establishing predator control for 21E on State-
13 managed lands.

14

15 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: That will apply to
16 BLM lands, too, right?

17

18 MR. BEYERSDORF: You're pressing my
19 memory banks a little bit, but I believe that on the
20 BLM side there is more liberal opportunities in regards
21 to predator control on BLM lands; that's correct.

22

23 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: It is my
24 understanding that most predator intensive management
25 programs that the State is prosecuting are effective on
26 BLM and State lands in most of the control areas that I
27 know of. And I wouldn't see why the BLM would respond
28 any differently in 21E than they have in other areas.
29 And so that's my perception with the way it's been
30 prosecuted to date.

31

32 And any other questions. Ray.

33

34 MR. COLLINS: Well, I could just
35 comment that it has been successful, and the moose
36 numbers are up and we were able to open up the hunting
37 last year. And this year is the second year we've been
38 able to hunt in the control area. And later on in
39 October they're going to come out and have a meeting
40 with the local people and the advisory committee there
41 to report where they're at with the program. So if
42 there's some handouts after that, I could get them and
43 get them to Vince to be sent around to some of you that
44 would give a summary of the program. But we're having
45 a meeting as I say the end of October.

46

47 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Any other
48 comments to Innoko.

49

50 (No comments)

1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: My comment to the
2 Innoko report is, and to the Refuge Manager and Staff
3 is that I'm very pleased with your performance to date.
4 The previous refuge manager was a dismal failure in my
5 eyes. I felt that -- I requested bull/cow ratios
6 multiple times at public meetings, on the record, and
7 those bull/cow ratios were not investigated. I feel
8 that since you've been there, Bo, you've facilitated
9 looking for funding for collaring and various projects,
10 and I'm also happy to see that your project list is
11 much more higher grade performance than the previous
12 manager. And so I appreciate your work that you're
13 doing there at Innoko, and working with our local
14 people, and rehiring Claire back to her previous
15 position. And so I feel that for the people of the
16 Innoko area, that your leadership will benefit the
17 local people and the resource. And so I appreciate the
18 work that you're doing there.

19

20 Thank you.

21

22 MR. SLOAN: Than you very much.

23

24 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: And I'm glad you've
25 got Kevin there, the wide receiver.

26

27 And so we're going to go to Kanuti
28 National Wildlife Refuge report.

29

30 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chair. While Mike's
31 getting up there, at some point the Council members
32 should think about, because each of the refuges as well
33 as the parks approach me and say what should be in our
34 report, how should our report be. And maybe you want
35 to think about that and then let these refuge managers
36 know as well as the parks what you would like in their
37 reports when they bring up. Because they have -- I
38 mean, they could bring up the Bible or they can bring
39 up, you know, the Cliff notes. So please let them
40 know, because they're willing to provide that
41 information. They just want to know what you would
42 like to know.

43

44 Thank you.

45

46 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Some of the
47 parameters that the Council -- the Council is very
48 interested in biological parameters for the large game
49 species and predators on the refuge areas. The
50 Council, myself in particular is interested in the

1 projects regarding waterfowl and various furbearer
2 projects also. And so the highlights of those
3 projects. Those would be the primary as most of the
4 refuges present is adequate to my knowledge flow, and
5 they are pretty good about bringing the moose
6 biological parameters and the large game species
7 parameters.

8

9

Go ahead, Mike.

10

11 MR. SPINDLER: Yes, Mr. Chair. Fellow
12 Council members. For Kanuti refuge, probably one of
13 our highlights this year is we finished the
14 comprehensive plan for Kanuti Refuge and it was
15 published and signed off and it's a long-term
16 management plan and covers our goals and objectives for
17 the next 15 years. If you're interested, there's
18 copies of this over on the table.

19

20 This year we completed installation of
21 six water gauges. This is a six-year project. One of
22 the four legal purposes of Kanuti is to maintain water
23 quality and quantity. The goal of this project is to
24 measure the water coming into the refuge and to be able
25 after six years to get enough data to file for Federal
26 reserved water rights with the State of Alaska.
27 Because without water, the refuge cannot be productive
28 for fish or wildlife.

29

30 We plan to collar 10 more moose in late
31 October to supplement. When I was on the hot seat
32 before talking about the distribution of moose, I noted
33 that we have lost some moose due to predation and so
34 we're going to be replacing collars on those moose that
35 have been lost and we hope to keep a sample of about 30
36 collars out there for about three more years until the
37 study is over with.

38

39 We also noted that Allakaket has been
40 having a hard time getting enough moose. I was happy
41 to report and learn that they were successful in
42 harvesting 11 caribou from the Western Arctic herd that
43 moved through the area late last winter. So that was
44 kind of exciting for them. And when we do our monthly
45 surveys, we are up there at the end of the month or the
46 beginning of the month for a couple of day measuring
47 show depth, and we also look at caribou distribution.
48 So if we do see that caribou are near the village, we,
49 of course, let the tribal council know that there may
50 be some opportunity for those guys to get out, because

1 the Western Arctic herd as you may know has got a huge
2 number of caribou available for harvest. That that
3 would certainly help their meat situation there.

4
5 Also we have a confiscated moose from a
6 law enforcement case on the adjacent part the Gates of
7 the Arctic National Park, and that confiscated will be
8 donated to the Village of Allakaket, so I'm working on
9 that right now.

10
11 A very interesting large shorebird
12 project was initiated this summer. Fifteen wimbrels,
13 which are a large shorebird with a down curved bill,
14 were implanted with satellite radio transmitters. And
15 this is in cooperation with the USGS shorebird
16 researchers out of the Alaska Science Center. A pretty
17 fascinating study. These guys took off out of -- after
18 nesting in Kanuti. They spread out across western
19 Alaska, some to Selawik, some to Yukon Delta, some to
20 Alaska Peninsula, some to Togiak where they spent a few
21 weeks. So they kind of shared the refuge system with
22 Kanuti to support these birds as they stocked up on
23 their energy reserves to make a migration directly
24 across the Pacific Ocean from Alaska to northern Mexico
25 where they spent another month stocking up on migration
26 energy reserves. And they're currently, most of them
27 either at or on their way to southern South America.
28 So this is basically a migration almost all across the
29 globe with a stop there right around Mexico. And so
30 it's pretty fascinating to learn and participate in
31 this kind of research where we're unraveling some of
32 these mysteries. And that was done as a partnership
33 between use, a private foundation and the USGS Alaska
34 Science Center.

35
36 Also we've had some staff changes.
37 Lisa Saperstein, our lead biologist who has addressed
38 this council in the past and helped us get some of the
39 excellent biological data that we've been able to put
40 together to support some of these decisions, she took a
41 transfer to the Department of Defense down in central
42 Washington, so we'll be recruiting to fill that
43 critical position on our staff hopefully this fall and
44 winter.

45
46 And if you have questions, I'd
47 certainly be glad to entertain them, but I do also want
48 to call attention to a possible housekeeping measure
49 that you may want to make sure that the proposal you
50 voted on for the Koyukuk Refuge that it includes the

1 housekeeping measure that you want to align the dates,
2 September 1st to 25th. That is on the margins of that
3 proposal, but we talked about it only in terms of the
4 State registration permit requirement, but we didn't
5 talk about it in terms of that it needs to be aligned,
6 and that was something that Kenton had to file a
7 special action for.

8

9 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

10

11 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I spoke to Jetta
12 back there. I requested the Koyukuk/Nowitna Staff
13 promulgate that proposal land submit it to the Federal
14 Subsistence Board. This Council will review that
15 proposal. It's a housekeeping proposal. If the State
16 has submitted the same proposal, it will be redundant,
17 but I addressed that at the break. So thank you.

18

19 Questions for Mike Spindler. Tim, go
20 ahead.

21

22 MR. GERVAIS: Manager Spindler, I'd
23 like to comment that in regard to the earlier exchange
24 today regarding providing subsistence opportunities to
25 Allakaket, I don't find that your actions to be
26 offensive to this Council, and I don't find them to be
27 offensive to the general spirit of subsistence that
28 we'd like to -- that we have in western Alaska. And I
29 appreciate the effort. In my estimation, it looks like
30 quite a bit of time and financial resources have been
31 devoted to try to provide a subsistence opportunity for
32 the villagers of that region.

33

34 MR. SPINDLER: Yes. Thank you, Mr.
35 Gervais. And Chairman, Mr. Reakoff. As managers we
36 have to balance a lot of things. There's many, many
37 requirements and mandates and only limited budgets, so
38 we're balancing that all the time. We're walking a
39 tightrope. We're trying to do the best we can in terms
40 of the research and the monitoring that we need to do
41 to provide you with the data that you need for making
42 these decisions. Some of the things we have to do
43 aren't exactly popular. We're not here to win a
44 popularity contest. Foremost we're here to protect the
45 resource and secondarily to provide the subsistence
46 opportunity. That is our legal mandate. Our first,
47 under the Alaska Lands Act is to protect the natural
48 diversity of the refuge, and within that scope, then
49 provide for subsistence opportunities. And so we're
50 trying to do the best we can. Part of that protection

1 is law enforcement. Law enforcement isn't usually a
2 popularity contest in the villages, but it's a
3 necessary component to make all this happen and to keep
4 our cows in the population, keep them producing moose
5 for the future.

6

7 I appreciate your comments, Mr.
8 Gervais. Thank you very much.

9

10 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks, Mike. Any
11 questions for Manager Spindler.

12

13 (No comments)

14

15 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: My comments to your
16 presentation, Mike, is that I feel that you've gone
17 beyond the call of duty and have done an excellent job
18 trying to provide for subsistence opportunities and yet
19 protect the resource, moose resource of the Kanuti
20 National Wildlife Refuge. I feel that -- you and I
21 have worked through these various proposals, and you've
22 been instrumental in providing me with information
23 about your constraints and the problems you have with
24 administering our proposals and so I have -- that's why
25 I feel that I have much more of an understanding of the
26 manager's perspective on these issues. That's been
27 helpful in our deliberations.

28

29 And I highly appreciate all of your
30 various projects. I understand your short staffed and
31 so forth at this time. We did send a letter to
32 Allakaket and Alatna this summer describing to the
33 communities that, you know, there's some members of the
34 communities are annoyed with additional enforcement
35 monitoring and so forth, but when we're administering
36 highly contentious hunts that the State is not
37 endorsing at all, we do have to have enforcement. And
38 it would be so easy for Mike to do just what the
39 Koyukuk did, just not have a winter hunt. Well, that
40 would have provided no opportunity. At least one moose
41 was harvested last spring, and so I do appreciate all
42 of the pains, and I'm sorry for the pains that we've
43 caused you administratively, but that is our job also.
44 The job of the Western Interior Regional Advisory
45 Council is to identify subsistence needs of the
46 residents of our region and try to provide for those
47 subsistence needs and that's what this Council has been
48 trying to do also. And so I appreciate the push and
49 pull that we've gone through.

50

1 And I did appreciate the State of
2 Alaska being on teleconference and working out some of
3 the bugs in these various proposals. And so I
4 appreciate all the work that you've done with this
5 Council and for this Council and the constituents of
6 the Western Interior region.

7
8 Thank you.

9
10 MR. SPINDLER: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

11
12 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: And so at this time
13 we'll have Jetta come up. And I'd also like to
14 introduce Tracy. I would like to have her come up to
15 the mic here also. I don't want Jetta to be out there
16 by herself. And so this is -- state your name, Tracy.

17
18 MS. McDONALD: Tracy McDonald, Refuge
19 Supervisor for Fish and Wildlife in Anchorage.

20
21 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: And so I wanted to
22 introduce Tracy. Describe the refuges that you're in
23 charge of.

24
25 MS. McDONALD: I supervise Innoko,
26 Koyukuk/Nowitna, Selawik, Togiak, Kodiak, Kenai and
27 Alaska Peninsula-Becharof.

28
29 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: And so there are two
30 refuge oversights for the various refuges. And Mike
31 Blaland is in charge of the other refuges in Alaska.
32 And I wanted the Council to meet Tracy. She's at her
33 first Council meeting, and so I wanted her to meet our
34 -- put a name to her face and what she really is doing
35 here.

36
37 And so did you have any comments you
38 would like to make to the Council or your meeting us is
39 sufficient?

40
41 MS. McDONALD: I just want to say that
42 it's a pleasure to finally get out and meet some of
43 you. I've heard your names before. I have been
44 working Alaska now for three years. So it's kind of a
45 delayed getting to my first meeting, but I'm glad I
46 finally made it.

47
48 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks, Tracy. And
49 so Jetta is going to give Koyukuk/Nowitna's report.
50

1 MS. MINERVA: For the record, Jetta
2 Minerva, Koyukuk/Nowitna Refuge.

3
4 I'm not going to read through this.
5 It's on Page 100 of your books, but I'll highlight a
6 couple of things.

7
8 Our CCP is complete, our comprehensive
9 conservation plan. There are CDs available over there
10 for you.

11
12 The other thing I wanted to highlight
13 is we're recruiting a fisheries biologist, which is
14 huge for our refuge. I wanted to thank Tracy and Geoff
15 Haskett for getting the money down to us so we can have
16 a fisheries biologist, and we're hoping that they'll be
17 able to do some contaminant work and hydrology work for
18 the refuge.

19
20 The other additions that we have to our
21 biology program is we'll be doing some forest health
22 monitoring as well as wetland monitoring. Those are
23 some new projects for biology. We don't have any data
24 for you for the biology programs that were conducted
25 this year, but we will have minimally preliminary data
26 for your spring meeting.

27
28 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. I wasn't
29 making a slanderous remark against your refuge manager.
30 Your refuge manager felt that the risk to harvesting
31 cows last spring was too high for his -- a bar for him.
32 And I felt that the population could support that, so I
33 was at odds with him. But as far as Kenton's job with
34 the refuge, I think that he's doing an excellent job
35 with all of the various programs. And working through
36 that CCP is a very trying thing for any refuge.

37
38 Does the Council have any -- Western
39 Interior Council members have any questions to Koyukuk
40 to be conveyed back to the refuge manager. Go ahead,
41 Tim.

42
43 MR. GERVAIS: Jetta, I was wondering,
44 do you have any preliminary numbers or estimates for
45 the amount of hunters and the number of moose that went
46 through the check station?

47
48 MS. MINERVA: There was 89 moose that
49 went through the Nowitna check station, and of those 28
50 moose were harvested. We were open for about a month

1 out there. We shut down early for the last four days,
2 but we had issued two additional permits and two moose
3 were harvested so there was a total of 30. There was
4 two moose that were harvested for that late hunt. So a
5 total of 30 came out of the check station.

6

7 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Do you have any
8 numbers for the Koyukuk?

9

10 MS. MINERVA: I don't have them
11 personally, but we can get them.

12

13 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yeah, they just came
14 out of there. We could ask Glenn that and we should
15 have probably. My mistake for not asking for the
16 recent data.

17

18 And any other questions. You can
19 submit questions to Jetta, she can bring those back to
20 Kenton. Kenton had to leave the meeting.

21

22 And any questions for -- Don. You've
23 got a comment.

24

25 MR. HONEA: Yeah. Jetta, just a
26 comment to relay to Kenton. I appreciate, and we
27 appreciate, if we did not get a moose in that early
28 season, that, you know, the fact that they had the
29 check station there, and it was facilitated by
30 somebody, and, you know, the weather isn't always good.
31 So we appreciate that last season there, and thank him
32 for helping us in that.

33

34 Thank you.

35

36 MS. MINERVA: Thank you, Member Honea.
37 I'll pass that on to Kenton.

38

39 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: That doesn't sound
40 like -- you know, two moose. What's that, two moose.
41 Two moose is a lot of meat for a community. And I
42 don't agree with some of those Subsistence Division's
43 calculation on what those moose are actually worth. I
44 remember seeing numbers of \$3 a pound. That's not what
45 moose -- you go into the Galena store and look at what
46 meat prices are in rural Alaska. If you can buy meat
47 in rural Alaska, it's very expensive. A moose to a
48 rural village is worth a lot of money, and so I hear
49 concerns by various refuges about the cost of
50 implementing these Federal priority hunts. That's part

1 of the refuge system in Alaska. Congress mandated
2 these subsistence priorities. And so funding for these
3 implementations of these hunts -- of course, we want to
4 do it in the most economical manner, but we also want
5 to provide the opportunity, and so these -- to the
6 people that live there, these resources are -- they
7 have more than their economic value. They have just
8 the self-worth of the community of harvesting their own
9 meat and having the various parts of the animals.
10 There's much more to harvesting an animal, and all the
11 traditions that go with that.

12

13 And so that would be my comment.

14

15 Tim. Or Eleanor. We'll give Eleanor a
16 chance there. Go ahead, Eleanor.

17

18 MS. YATLIN: I stated this at our last
19 meeting in trying to get the moose hunt open for March
20 1 to 5 last year. And I did state at that meeting that
21 I did not agree with their -- and it was not only my
22 personal disagreement with their counts and the State
23 and the Feds count. It was just because the people
24 that told me from around Huslia that, you know, it was
25 different than what the State, them flying over. And
26 the people, like Butch Ascott driving down to his camp,
27 and he knew where the moose were, so, you know, it
28 didn't -- it's just two different things. Because the
29 people that live there, to me they're more reliable,
30 because we live there. And them doing their aerial,
31 you know, moose count, and the moose does move around,
32 that's what Butch Ascott stated. So I stated it this
33 last fall, and I didn't agree with it. But then it was
34 just, you know -- I was just doing the reporting back
35 to what the people from Huslia wanted. And I did ask
36 people in Huslia what their wants and needs were, and I
37 brought it to the table, and like Jack stated, we can't
38 afford to buy the meat. But we're fortunate enough to
39 go all the way out to hot springs to get caribou in the
40 wintertime. I mean, that's a lot of expense, but, you
41 know, we've got to survive.

42

43 Thank you.

44

45 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: To clarify this
46 discussion to Tracy and Geoff, last spring there was a
47 provision for March 1 to March 5 moose season. The
48 moose population had really shifted. The cows had
49 moved down the river and moved just outside of the hunt
50 area, but the perception was by the Koyukuk Staff was

1 that the cow population had reduced. In reality there
2 was a huge influx in the Three-Day Slough, just outside
3 the hunt area. It was my contention that the moose
4 population hadn't fallen, the cow population hasn't
5 fallen. It had just shifted. The refuge manager
6 precluded the hunt entirely without any bull provision
7 or any other hunt, and so that's what we're talking
8 about. And that's why the drive for this 24D and C
9 proposal and the 21D proposal. And so that's just to
10 clarify why we keep bouncing back to that issue.

11
12 Timothy, you had a comment. Go ahead,
13 Tim.

14
15 MR. GERVAIS: Jetta, I was wondering, I
16 don't know if the refuge tracks it or not, but do you
17 have any numbers on the amount of black bear or wolves
18 that were harvested during the check station operations
19 on the Nowitna?

20
21 MS. MINERVA: Are you talking about the
22 amount that were harvested during which time period?

23
24 MR. GERVAIS: During the moose season.

25
26 MS. MINERVA: I was out there for two
27 weeks and I have like all the data for that, and there
28 wasn't any moose that were -- any bears that were
29 harvested. There were bears that were seen, a couple
30 bears and a couple wolves, but no one harvested any
31 bears. But there was a large animal that was seen in
32 one of the camps.

33
34 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thank you.

35
36 MR. COLLINS: Mr. Chairman.

37
38 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yeah, go ahead, Ray.

39
40 MR. COLLINS: Yeah. Could you clarify
41 where the statistics were for? Were these for the
42 Nowitna, the ones you gave us?

43
44 MS. MINERVA: Yep. That's correct.
45 The Nowitna, 21B.

46
47 MR. COLLINS: So we don't have any on
48 the Koyukuk?

49
50 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: No, we should have

1 asked Glenn those figures.

2

3 Jenny.

4

5 MS. PELKOLA: Yes, Jetta, I was just
6 wondering out of the 30 moose that you got out of that
7 area, would you be able to tell us how much was local
8 and how much went away to the city?

9

10 MS. MINERVA: I don't know off the top
11 of my head, but there was quite a few -- more were
12 nonlocal than local, which is normal for that hunt.

13

14 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: There's a lot of
15 Fairbanks people go down there to go hunt on the Novi.

16

17 So other questions.

18

19 (No comments)

20

21 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: And so I appreciate
22 -- I'm very happy that you're working with the -- you
23 were sort of scoping out at our last meeting, and I'm
24 happy that you've moved to Galena. And I'm very happy
25 with Koyukuk/Nowitna's performance working with our
26 Council and so forth. And I hope you enjoy Galena and
27 continue to stay there. I think you're doing a great
28 job for the local people there as a subsistence
29 coordinator.

30

31 So I think that's all the questions we
32 have for you. Thank you.

33

34 MS. MINERVA: Thank you, Chairman and
35 Council. It's a pleasure to be here, and it's an
36 honor, and I look forward to future meetings.

37

38 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thank you. Nice
39 meeting you, Tracy.

40

41 And so where are we at here, Vince.

42

43 MR. MATHEWS: Well, since you're going
44 through agency reports and that then what's left for
45 agency reports would be Native corporations and that.
46 I didn't know if KNA has a.....

47

48 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Does KNA have an
49 additional report, Mike? Any other.....

50

1 MR. MATHEWS: I think there's TCC here,
2 but I'm not.....
3
4 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: TCC took off.
5
6 MR. MATHEWS: Okay. So no other
7 reports.
8
9 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: And TCC gave us
10 their partnership report, and Brandy is multiple times
11 has -- Mike Smith does not transmit anything to the
12 Council, and so I've expressed my frustration with TCC
13 for not transmitting something to the Council in
14 previous meetings.
15
16 MR. MATHEWS: Well, that would bring us
17 up to talking about future meeting dates, just to get
18 that clear. That should go pretty fast. If you want
19 to turn to Page 83.....
20
21 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: That's right.
22
23 MR. MATHEWS: I'm sorry.
24
25 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: One point here Ray
26 has reminded me. At the early part of the meeting we
27 had made a motion to transmit a letter to the
28 Joint.....
29
30 MR. COLLINS: The Canadian.....
31
32 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: The Canadian -- a
33 letter basically protesting that there had been
34 commercial harvest. After discussion with the State
35 biologist and Staff that the commercial harvest was
36 very small, 360 fish, and so I feel that, and Ray feels
37 that that letter was premature, not knowing what the
38 commercial harvest was up in Canada. It was basically
39 the same amount as was incidentally harvested in the
40 directed chum fishery, and coho fishery at the end of
41 the run.
42
43 And so the Chair would entertain a
44 motion to retract that motion.
45
46 MR. COLLINS: Mr. Chairman. I'll move
47 to reconsider that.....
48
49 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Reconsider that
50 vote?

1 MR. COLLINS: Yeah.
2
3 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Do we have a second
4 to reconsider that vote on the letter to the Canadians
5 on commercial harvest of Chinook salmon in the 2009
6 season.
7
8 MS. PELKOLA: Second.
9
10 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Seconded. The Chair
11 will entertain a motion to rescind.....
12
13 MR. COLLINS: Well, that brings it back
14 and then we can vote against. It brings it back
15 before.....
16
17 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Oh, okay. It's back
18 on the table. Right. Okay.
19
20 MR. COLLINS: And I'd like to speak to
21 it.
22
23 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Go ahead,
24 Ray.
25
26 MR. COLLINS: What I found in the
27 report on Page 9 here on the fisheries there, on the
28 Canadian fisheries, they had 364 fish caught by
29 fishermen in the commercial, and 2,832 were caught by
30 the First Nations of there. So their total catch was
31 3,196. And their share of the harvest allocated was
32 from 9 to 11,000. So they only caught a third of what
33 their total allowance would have been. So they did
34 contribute to escapement. In other words, they forego
35 about two-thirds of what they could have caught if you
36 figure around 9,000 was the average there. And I would
37 guess that probably those 364 that were caught
38 commercially went to local people, so they were
39 consumed by the local people there. It wasn't like
40 shipping them Outside or something. So that's why I
41 think we ought to probably rescind that letter.
42
43 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right. And so there
44 was additional fish that were released for escapement,
45 and that's what I was concerned, is that they had
46 totalled -- made their escapement, and that they had
47 taken out the rest as commercial. No, they let two-
48 thirds of those go up for escapement. So I feel that
49 the letter was premature. And it was probably my
50 driving that letter a little too fast that caused this

1 problem. I'll take responsibility for that. And so
2 the Chair brings this back.

3

4 Any further discussion. Vince.

5

6 MR. MATHEWS: So basically if there's
7 consensus amongst the Council that the issue is back on
8 the table. You didn't close your vote on the
9 reconsideration.

10

11 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Well, I was going to
12 take another vote.

13

14 MR. MATHEWS: Because I believe
15 reconsideration is not debatable. So I think it's now
16 on the table based on consensus. How you decide on
17 your original motion with the letter to go forward or
18 not. And vote on that.

19

20 MR. COLLINS: No, reconsideration
21 brings the motion to send the letter before us, and you
22 can vote for it or against it.

23

24 MR. MATHEWS: Oh, I thought it brought
25 just the issue back on the table.

26

27 MR. COLLINS: No, it brings the actual
28 motion back before us. So if we just vote it down,
29 then it's dead.

30

31 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: And so any further
32 discussion.

33

34 MS. YATLIN: Question.

35

36 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Question called on
37 the motion to send a letter in protest to the Canadians
38 on commercial harvest in the Yukon, Canadian territory.
39 Those in favor of transmitting the letter signify by
40 saying aye.

41

42 MR. GERVAIS: That's rescinded the
43 letter, right?

44

45 MR. COLLINS: No, no, sending the
46 letter.

47

48 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: No, to send.

49

50 MR. COLLINS: The motion was to send a

1 letter to them. You want to vote against that if you
2 don't want a letter sent.

3

4 MR. MORGAN: I kind of lost you hear.
5 You said send or rescind.

6

7 MR. COLLINS: No, I voted to reconsider
8 the motion to send the letter. So that motion is back
9 before you right now. So if you want a letter sent,
10 you'd vote for it. If want a letter not to be sent,
11 you'd vote against it. Defeat the motion.

12

13 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Coming back
14 to the vote again. The question's been called. The
15 motion is to send a letter to the Canadians. Those in
16 favor of sending the letter signify by saying aye.

17

18 (No affirmative votes)

19

20 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Those opposed to
21 sending the letter same sign.

22

23 IN UNISON: Aye.

24

25 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: And so we've negated
26 my mistake. I'll take responsibility for driving that
27 letter without complete data. I didn't realize the
28 data was in our presentation somewhere.

29

30 And so we're back to our agenda.
31 Vince.

32

33 MR. MATHEWS: Yes. If you'd look at
34 Page 83, real quickly we had a consult with the Chair
35 of Eastern Interior and Western Interior. If you look
36 at the calendar there, it's already been predetermined
37 when you're going to meet. And if you look at that,
38 it's projected to be February 23rd through the 25th.
39 Yes, it's a three-day meeting. We're going to
40 structure it, because you're doing a joint meeting with
41 Eastern Interior on fishery issues, and then we have to
42 do separate meetings on Western Interior issues an
43 Eastern Interior issues.

44

45 So the reason we had to consult with
46 the Chairs on that is the schedule with the deferred
47 proposals, the Board will be taking those up in April,
48 so everything had to back up, and it backed up into
49 Eastern Interior meeting that week of February 22nd,
50 and then Western meeting on March 8th. I made a strong

1 plea that that would not work, because I know your
2 interest in Board of Game, and your deputy assistant
3 regional director agreed with me, and then we went with
4 a joint meeting the week of the 22nd. That's the
5 history.

6
7 Now we get to reality. Will that work
8 for you? We have to have a quorum to have a meeting,
9 and, yes, it will be no joke. You're going to be away
10 from home a week, because it's usually a day before. I
11 haven't really developed the structure of the meeting,
12 but it's possible that you'd be there through Friday.
13 You know, I'm hoping I can reduce your time away from
14 home, but I can't guarantee that without structuring
15 the meeting.

16
17 So does the week of February 22nd work
18 for you guys, knowing that meeting's going to go
19 forward anyway.

20
21 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Council comments.
22 Who would like to speak to this time frame. I'll go
23 around the table. Eleanor, are these meeting dates --
24 I would prefer to travel on the 22nd to the meeting,
25 travel home on the 26th. Eleanor, do these meeting
26 dates work for you? 23 to.....

27
28 MS. YATLIN: Yeah. I.....

29
30 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Speak to the mic,
31 please.

32
33 MS. YATLIN: Yeah, it will work,
34 because I think our YKSD is the first week of each
35 month. The first Friday of each month. Uh-huh.

36
37 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Each Friday,
38 so that would be March 5th.

39
40 MS. YATLIN: I'm not talking about
41 February.

42
43 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Tim.

44
45 MR. GERVAIS: Yes, these dates work
46 okay.

47
48 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Don.

49
50 MR. HONEA: These dates would work for

1 me. Whether I'm there or not is -- I don't know yet,
2 but I'm open to anything.
3
4 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: We're hoping you're
5 there. Ray.
6
7 MR. COLLINS: Is the meeting in
8 Fairbanks?
9
10 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: In Fairbanks.
11
12 MR. COLLINS: Yeah. Okay. Yeah, I'll
13 just be getting back that week into Anchorage from a
14 trip, but I can stay in there and go up to Fairbanks on
15 Monday.
16
17 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. And, Carl.
18
19 MR. MORGAN: I'm open. I'll go along
20 with yours. I think this -- looking at my schedule
21 here, it looked like I can make the meeting.
22
23 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Robert.
24
25 MR. R. WALKER: I've got no problem
26 with being in Fairbanks at that time.
27
28 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. James.
29
30 MR. J. WALKER: Yes, Mr. Chairman. I
31 have no problem with those dates.
32
33 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Jenny.
34
35 MS. PELKOLA: No problem.
36
37 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: All right. Council.
38 And if we can get Mickey to agree to that, we'd have a
39 full Council it would appear.
40
41 I can make these meeting dates. I was
42 consulted, and I could make these meeting dates. It's
43 my daughter's birthday in Galena. I'd rather be in
44 Galena for my daughter's birthday, but I'll go to the
45 meeting. I'll do anything to get -- do whatever it
46 takes for this Council.
47
48 MR. R. WALKER: Mr. Chairman. You have
49 to remember that our coordinator gave up his wife's
50 birthday to be here.

1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right. So our
2 coordinator's of the same mentality. Okay. Vince.

3
4 MR. MATHEWS: Okay. That would bring
5 us.....

6
7 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: We're hard core.

8
9 MR. MATHEWS: That would bring us, if
10 you flip up to the next page, Page 84, now you have to
11 look at a year from now. Now, why do we ask a year
12 from now? Well, to pull this all off, we need to do it
13 -- the parameters are we avoid two meetings per week
14 because of staffing, and I know that September is out
15 of the question, because you guys moose hunt. So if
16 you look at the calendar, here's the updated
17 information. Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta, and, Bob, if I've
18 got this wrong, please correct me, they're looking at
19 meeting on September 30th and October 1st. The other
20 update I have is Seward Peninsula is going to meet on
21 October 13th and 14th. So that leaves you the week of
22 October 4th through the week of October 11th.

23
24 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Well, I prefer the
25 week of October 4th, approximately the 5th and 6th,
26 that's my preference. Our moose season goes through
27 October 1 and our sheep season goes through September
28 30th. I do not forego meat. I will not attend
29 meetings if it gets into the hunting season, and so
30 this is a Subsistence Council and I have to be able to
31 hunt. And so a lot of our members will also possibly
32 have opportunity to be hunting. So October 5th and
33 6th, it works for me. Or 6th and 7th. Or sometime in
34 that week. That works for me.

35
36 Moving around the table, we'll go to
37 Eleanor. Do you have a preference on those dates?

38
39 MS. YATLIN: I couldn't think that far
40 ahead. I couldn't plan.

41
42 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Basically it's the
43 same.....

44
45 MS. YATLIN: Yeah. Well, 6 and 7 will
46 do.

47
48 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Basically 5th and
49 6th, or 6th and 7th, sometime in the middle of that
50 week.

1 MS. YATLIN: Yeah, I missed the
2 election this year, voting, but I could have did early
3 voting. No, I'll do 6 and 7.
4
5 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: 5th and 6th, 6th and
6 7th, anytime in that week. That's the week we're going
7 for. Tim.
8
9 MR. GERVAIS: I would prefer to have it
10 on the 5th and 6th just because if it's an early freeze
11 up, that starts -- ice starts forming on the Yukon any
12 time from the 5th after, so I'd prefer to have the
13 meeting dates on the 5th and 6th as opposed to the 6th
14 and 7th, because we're right on the borderline.
15
16 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. We'll
17 consider that. Yep.
18
19 MR. HONEA: That would be fine.
20
21 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Don. And Ray.
22
23 MR. COLLINS: Yeah.
24
25 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: And Carl.
26
27 MR. MORGAN: Yeah, that's fine with me.
28
29 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Robert.
30
31 MR. R. WALKER: Yeah, but where's it
32 going to be at though?
33
34 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: We haven't selected
35 that yet. James.
36
37 MR. J. WALKER: That's fine.
38
39 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Jenny.
40
41 MS. PELKOLA: (Nods affirmatively)
42
43 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: And so the 5th and
44 6th would be more conducive to river travel. I'd also
45 suggest that we almost lost two of our Ruby members
46 because of weather and this fall flying out of Ruby
47 thing. I was wondering what exploring of the
48 possibility of the Ruby members meeting the plane in
49 Galena. Would you feel comfortable with that?
50

1 MR. GERVAIS: Yeah, that's no problem
2 to skiff down there.
3
4 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: And is that all
5 right, Don?
6
7 MR. HONEA: That would be great.
8
9 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I'm concerned about
10 losing our Ruby contingent on the Council without
11 having quorum, or even just the input from the Ruby
12 contingent of our Council members. And so I would like
13 to explore having our Ruby members boat down there and
14 be reimbursed for that travel to Galena to meet the
15 airplanes flying out of there.
16
17 Okay. Vince.
18
19 MR. MATHEWS: So the location would be
20 Galena that you're talking.....
21
22 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: No.
23
24 MR. MATHEWS: I don't know how we
25 can.....
26
27 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Oh, yeah, well, we
28 could go to Galena. Yeah, that would be good.
29
30 MR. MATHEWS: Well, that's your two hub
31 communities.....
32
33 MR. GERVAIS: We just had it.
34
35 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: We just bounce back
36 and forth between Aniak and Galena.
37
38 MR. MATHEWS: Of if you have compelling
39 reasons, we can petition Mr. Probasco to consider other
40 communities based on a cost analysis and issues.
41
42 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I feel fairly
43 strongly about going back to Galena, because we've got
44 various fisheries issues and so forth there, and up in
45 Galena. That's my position on this meeting.
46
47 MR. GERVAIS: What about Anvik?
48
49 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: We can't have
50 meetings -- right now our Council is constrained with

1 the budgetary curtailment. Assistant Regional Director
2 Probasco described the newer program only allows the
3 Councils to have regional hubs as their -- and under
4 special consideration we can only get McGrath if we
5 have compelling reasons to go to McGrath. And so our
6 hubs for this region are Galena and Aniak. There is
7 not other village. We use to be able to meet up in
8 other villages, Holy Cross, Anvik, Huslia and other
9 places. But we can't do that any more. And so I feel
10 strongly that Galena with the various fisheries issues
11 that are going on on the Yukon, that that should be our
12 next place of meeting. That's my position. And so
13 we'll go around the table. Or I'll just poll the
14 Council. Does that sound good?

15

16 MR. R. WALKER: McGrath.

17

18 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: McGrath.

19

20 MR. R. WALKER: What about McGrath,
21 yeah.

22

23 MR. MORGAN: I like the way Ray hosts
24 us with his dinners.

25

26 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Well, the reason I
27 don't -- I have opposition to McGrath personally, is
28 because of reduced level of Federal land up in that
29 portion of our region, and the issues that we have on
30 the Yukon River, the fisheries issues and so forth.
31 There's going to be these possible net size proposals
32 and various things coming before the Council. I would
33 feel more comfortable and more effecting meeting in
34 Galena. That's my position.

35

36 MR. R. WALKER: Mr. Chairman. I think
37 we take a vote on it.

38

39 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Well, the
40 Chair will entertain a motion to vote on meeting in
41 McGrath.

42

43 MR. R. WALKER: Mr. Chairman. I'd like
44 to entertain a vote here -- I mean, entertain a motion
45 to partake into -- the Board will meet in McGrath as
46 first alternate and Galena would be the second
47 alternate.

48

49 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. A second to
50 that motion.

1 MR. J. WALKER: Second.
2
3 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: The motion's been
4 seconded. Any discussion.
5
6 (No comments)
7
8 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: We'll vote on the
9 measure. Those in favor of meeting in McGrath signify
10 by saying aye.
11
12 IN UNISON: Aye.
13
14 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: And how many votes
15 is that? Raise your hands. Oh, we've got a whole
16 bunch.
17
18 (2 opposed)
19
20 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So we're meeting in
21 McGrath. So that's the place of meeting.
22
23 MR. MATHEWS: Yeah. I'll work up the
24 cost analysis and then someone's going to have to give
25 me some other issues that would be compelling to meet
26 in McGrath, and then we'd go from there. And then
27 we'll see what comes out the other end.
28
29 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So the problems are
30 we have to -- it's not one of our meeting places. The
31 only reason we met there is because we had issues that
32 we needed to deal with there last time. And so we have
33 to make a compelling case to meet in McGrath. And so
34 the Council that have compelling reasons.....
35
36 MR. R. WALKER: Mr. Chairman. I made a
37 motion that McGrath would be our first priority, and
38 then Galena. If we can't get into McGrath with what
39 we're going to do, Galena is our second choice.
40
41 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right. But what I
42 was going to say was that you have to submit
43 compelling, or state a compelling reason on the record
44 why we have to meet in McGrath. That would probably be
45 the most expeditious thing.
46
47 MR. R. WALKER: I would think one thing
48 would be the moose population at McGrath, how the Fish
49 and Game handled the department with the predator
50 situation there. That would be something that I would

1 like to see and hear from what they have to discuss
2 there.

3

4 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. That would be
5 one.

6

7 MR. COLLINS: And to see what the
8 studies on the Innoko come up with. If they've
9 conclusions by then. They're going to do their
10 composition studies. I guess that would relate. But I
11 concur, that if.....

12

13 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Well, those are all
14 just reports.

15

16 MR. COLLINS: Yeah. Right.

17

18 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Where I come from,
19 public meetings are to -- the forum for the Regional
20 Councils are to provide a platform for people to
21 comment on proposals and issues to bring before the
22 Council. And so when we have a public meeting in
23 Galena, people come forward with comments. Well, we'll
24 get Sydney. We'll get people to comment on the
25 proposals. The public forums is what the Councils, the
26 meetings in these areas area all really about. And so
27 we can get reports about wolf control or Innoko's
28 whatever they're doing, those are just reports. And
29 they can come from anywheres.

30

31 But what I always want to do, I would
32 love to meet in Huslia and other villages. I would
33 love to meet in Holy Cross and various places like that
34 to hear what local people -- places where we've had
35 huge amounts of people come and discuss issues with us.
36 We had a meeting in Holy Cross, we had half the
37 community there. We've had a meeting in Huslia were we
38 had almost all the community there. People were
39 crying. I mean, Catherine Atla was crying about not
40 getting moose in wintertime. I mean, I like that kind
41 of a meeting.

42

43 And so the Regional Council forum is
44 for public comment, it's not for accommodation or stuff
45 like that. It has to do with a platform. And under
46 .805 of ANILCA, this Council is to provide a platform
47 for people to express views about -- local people are
48 supposed to have a meaningful role in fish and wildlife
49 management. And so that's what this Council is
50 supposed to be about. It has nothing to do with

1 accommodations or anything else. And so I.....

2

3 MR. J. WALKER: Mr. Chairman.

4

5 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead.

6

7 MR. J. WALKER: Mr. Chairman. I
8 appreciate your concern and your need for an issue to
9 explain to use why you believe that it should be in
10 Galena. However, we already took a vote, and let's
11 move on with the issues.

12

13 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I'll adhere to the
14 vote, it's a democratic process and I adhere to the
15 vote. But there needs to be -- at some time between
16 now and then I would like you to submit something to
17 Vince, because he's going to have to make a case to
18 OSM.

19

20 Okay. Vince, we're going to move along
21 here.

22

23 MR. MATHEWS: And then not to compound
24 it, but if you come up that another community, like you
25 said, Huslia, Holy Cross, something takes off down
26 there, do not hesitate to contact myself and Jack.
27 We'll run it up the flag. 21E's got a lot of issues
28 going on, so maybe that's something that will come and
29 you want to. Then all it means is I have to give cost
30 analysis and justifications to the assistant regional
31 director, and he makes a decision, yeah or nay. And so
32 you have an open window, it's just not wide open like
33 you had before.

34

35 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right.

36

37 MR. HONEA: Mr. Chair.

38

39 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Don.

40

41 MR. HONEA: Not to drag this on or
42 anything, but I thought we were relegated to hubs. I
43 mean, you're bringing up mentioning villages that are
44 not hubs. I mean, do we have the choice in that? Is
45 that clear?

46

47 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Well, if we have --
48 Vince is telling us that we have enough compelling
49 reasons, we can sway OSM into providing a meeting in
50 one of our other region villages. And so in the future

1 we might have enough issues in Holy Cross, in 21E.
2 There's going to be requests for C&Ts. There's going
3 to be the Aniak C&T request. There's going to be some
4 issues that we're going to need to go over into 21E and
5 have a meeting over there, and those are going to be
6 compelling enough reasons to have a meeting in Holy
7 Cross, I can see that. I love Anvik, but I don't want
8 to land on top of that hill again in the falltime.

9
10 MR. MORGAN: That's where you get your
11 exercise.

12
13 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: No, no. It's
14 getting socked in there. That's the problem.

15
16 Okay. Vince, we've got to.....

17
18 MR. MATHEWS: Okay. I think we got the
19 meeting stuff out of the way. If you're still not
20 clear on it, pull me aside and we'll talk about it. So
21 I think we got that clear.

22
23 That moves us into annual report. And
24 I'll move a little quickly on it, because you've
25 already gotten a copy of the reply letter, it's on Page
26 85, from your past issues. So I'll just pause a second
27 if you want to look at that, if you have any questions
28 about it. And then I'll go down a list of what I heard
29 you talk about possible annual report topics. So if
30 you look at Page 85.

31
32 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Well, in discussion
33 about our annual report from last year, on the issue 1,
34 I was not satisfied. I don't think that the OSM took
35 into consideration what I personally and the Council
36 issues. Anytime that -- like the Mulchatna is the
37 driving force. Anytime the populations fall below
38 recognized scientific principles of management
39 objectives for moose and caribou, the Federal
40 Subsistence Management Program should be highlighting
41 those populations. And so the Mulchatna Caribou Herd
42 fell below 35 bulls per 100 cows, fell to 14 bulls per
43 100 cows. What this annual report is requesting, that
44 those Federal managers start to bring those issues to
45 the Council for action. That's what this is
46 requesting.

47
48 The Board believes that those plans
49 which involve people who know the resource and
50 geography most intimately have worked well and would

1 support development of a more local plan in the future.
2 We're not asking for plans. We're asking for
3 recognizing scientific principles that are known in
4 biology that when bull/cow ratios in 19A dropped to 8
5 bulls per 100 cows, red lights should be going off all
6 over the panel. OSM's response is not addressing the
7 issue 1.

8

9 Issue 2, local hire, I still feel that
10 the Office of Personnel Management needs to work with
11 the Interior Department and the Forest Service on
12 providing a local hire program that incorporates local
13 people as ANILCA described in Title 1308 of ANILCA.
14 And so I don't think that the responses were adequate.

15

16 I do feel that issue 1 needs to be
17 readdressed, that there's recognized scientific
18 principles and those principles should be incorporated
19 into the Federal Subsistence Management Program.
20 That's what maintaining viable ungulate population
21 management strategy, issue 1, was all about.

22

23 And so then other Council members have
24 comments on this response from OSM, Federal Subsistence
25 Board.

26

27 (No comments)

28

29 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I would like to
30 resubmit issue 1 back to the Federal Subsistence Board,
31 that recognized scientific principles, which I think is
32 ANILCA language for refuges and Federal public lands,
33 adequate bull/cow ratios and so forth, recognized
34 scientific principles shall be implemented on Federal
35 public lands, and those principles shall be highlighted
36 to Councils when State harvest exceed those
37 sustainability parameters, and those should be brought
38 before the Councils to be addressed by regulatory
39 changes. And so that's what the objective was. And so
40 I would like to resubmit number 1.

41

42 Does the Council have any problems with
43 that.

44

45 (No comments)

46

47 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Council members seem
48 to be agreeable to resubmittal.

49

50 Vince.

1 MR. MATHEWS: Well, just to keep the
2 Council up to speed on this, you submitted it twice
3 already, and the Board has said in general terms it's
4 more within the agencies themselves or within plans.
5 So resubmitting it may work. Another option would be
6 to actually bring this up when you have your Chairs
7 section before the Board, that you have approached the
8 Board twice and still are not satisfied. So those are
9 two avenues to go with on it. So that's just a
10 suggestion from here, because the Board has answered
11 you twice.

12
13 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Go ahead,
14 Tim.

15
16 MR. GERVAIS: Is there a way that we
17 could go about it through the annual plan to get some
18 better information on this, or better response?

19
20 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Well, this is the
21 annual report. And so this is our annual report
22 response. And so I'm not satisfied with the response
23 of the Federal Board. I think the Federal Board is
24 trying to shirk their duties as overseeing harvestable
25 surpluses and so forth for these ungulate populations.
26 I think the Federal Board is shirking their duties to
27 maintaining sustainability. And then when the State
28 exceeds sustainability, the Federal Board should be
29 amicable to maintaining those recognized scientific
30 principles of game management and start curtailing
31 exterior hunting pressure that's basically competing
32 with local subsistence users. And so I could bring
33 this up before the Federal Board at the Chairs portion,
34 which is usually at the end of the meeting, isn't it?

35
36 MR. MATHEWS: No, Mr. Chair, it's at
37 the beginning of the meeting. There is a risk of doing
38 that, because may know ahead of time that you're
39 bringing it up, but they won't have the benefit of all
40 the review from their Staff. So there is a risk of
41 doing that. I'm just as your coordinator laying out
42 various options since the Board has addressed it twice.

43
44 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right. Okay. Go
45 ahead, Tim.

46
47 MR. GERVAIS: What if we, the WI RAC
48 submitted a proposal asking the Board to disallow
49 transporting hunting of hunters on this herd?
50

1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: The Federal
2 Subsistence Board working under Title VIII of ANILCA,
3 the Title 8.15 does not allow preclusion of non-
4 subsistence uses, and so that's -- the Federal
5 Subsistence Board can't actually do that unless there's
6 a biological need to do that. And if there's an excess
7 population, they have to allow non-subsistence uses.
8 So that's -- they're under a legal constraint.

9
10 And so I would like to convey back --
11 is Larry here or who's here from OSM? Larry. I would
12 like to convey back to Pete Probasco that I'm
13 unsatisfied with this response from the Federal
14 Subsistence Board. I do not feel that the Federal
15 Subsistence Board is addressing the issue that we have
16 Federal biologists and we have a Federal Subsistence
17 Management Program, and that the Federal Subsistence
18 Board is in charge of regulating the fish and wildlife
19 resources on Federal public lands, and if they're not
20 recognizing that the State of Alaska has exceeded
21 sustainability through recognized scientific
22 principles, exceeding bull/cow ratios, which I feel
23 strongly have suppressed many game populations in the
24 Western Interior Region, including 19A moose, Mulchatna
25 Caribou Herd, 19D moose, various places where bull/cow
26 ratios have been exceeded, game populations crash.

27
28 And so recognizing scientific
29 principles, I feel it's within the prerogative of the
30 Federal Board to maintain, any time those populations
31 have been -- sustainability thresholds have been
32 exceeded, the Federal Board should recognize that, and
33 the Regional Councils shall begin exploring regulatory
34 reduction in non-subsistence uses. And I want Mr.
35 Probasco to understand what this -- I'm unsatisfied
36 with issue 1, maintaining viable ungulate populations,
37 but the response does not address that issue. Is that
38 clear?

39
40 MR. BUKLIS: Yes, Mr. Chairman. It's
41 clear. I will carry that message back. It's certainly
42 in the record now, and I will flag it so I bring it to
43 his direct attention. And I understand the points
44 you're making. Specifically you're saying that we, the
45 program, should be monitoring the State-managed hunts
46 and fisheries and being more poised to assert the
47 priority in restricting or closing those opportunities
48 if they've exceeded certain sustainable thresholds.

49
50 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right. Because

1 typically these exceeded thresholds provide less
2 opportunity for the local rural residents, because
3 there's less resource available to the local rural
4 residents. And the local rural residents have to
5 endure long periods of time in reconstruction of these
6 populations after these populations crash. And so I'm
7 getting tired of this wiping moose populations out and
8 going on moratoriums and drawing permit hunts here in
9 19A and going, exceeding the sustainability parameters,
10 and then the people endure the long rebuilding,
11 reconstruction of these populations. And so I feel
12 that the Federal subsistence managers, it's their
13 mandate to protect the subsistence users, and ANILCA
14 mandates them to harvest within recognized scientific
15 principles. When the State does not harvest within
16 recognized scientific principles, it's the Federal
17 Government's mandate to do that. And to begin a
18 regulatory process to return to a sustainability. If
19 the State -- it's like you've got a pilot and a
20 copilot. If the pilot passes out, the copilot pulls
21 the throttle. That's exactly what I'm talking about.

22

23 And so I want that conveyed back to Mr.
24 Probasco that this response is not adequate to what
25 this Council is speaking to.

26

27 MR. BUKLIS: I understand.

28

29 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So thank you. And
30 so we won't submit that. I'll speak before the Board
31 to that issue the next time I attend the Federal
32 Subsistence Board.

33

34 There was other issues brought up
35 during the meeting. Vince, do you want to read that
36 list?

37

38 MR. MATHEWS: Yes. And I may not have
39 captured these in the best words, but I noted early on
40 that you talked about in your annual report the lack of
41 data on small net gear, six-inch nets. You wanted that
42 in there. That there should be more investigation or
43 look into that data that it lacks.

44

45 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Well, there's a data
46 lack on drop-out rates, incidental fishing mortalities
47 with the use of small mesh gear in a directed fishery.
48 There is no data on dropping kings out of chum gear.
49 And so I personally am concerned that the Department
50 and the managers, the Federal manager was a proponent

1 of six-inch gear restrictions last year and this year
2 for Chinook harvest. And so I -- people that know
3 anything about using gillnets will tell you that you
4 start catching too big a fish in too small a gear
5 you're going to lose them, and they're going to be dead
6 and wasted. And so there's no data on that, and so
7 this is a highlight as the Yukon River fishery
8 continues to decline, there's higher and higher
9 incident of use of six-inch net for directed chum
10 fisheries. And there's proposals to require six-inch
11 net in the State Board of Fish, and so I feel that the
12 Federal Subsistence Board should be aware that there is
13 no data anywheres that the State or Federal managers
14 can produce that shows what approximate dead loss rates
15 are.

16

17 Is there any comments from the Council
18 on that issue. Ray.

19

20 MR. COLLINS: Well, Mr. Chairman. I
21 guess I differ a little bit in that the alternative is
22 to allow the eight-and-a-half-inch for kings, which
23 would catch those big ones. But I would say that
24 you're probably going to catch more of them than you
25 would lose. So if the process is to let more big fish
26 get there, the six-inch may be one of the responses
27 even though there's a possibility of losing some of
28 them. But the alternative of just using eight-and-a-
29 half-inch, you're certainly going to be taking all the
30 big fish out there. So.....

31

32 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right. Well, I'm
33 not.....

34

35 MR. COLLINS: Because I know in the
36 Kuskokwim working group there, we've allowed a limited
37 harvest of the Chinook with the small gear and their
38 catch was mostly male and mostly small salmon. Very
39 few females were caught in the gear. Now, what the
40 loss was, I don't know.

41

42 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Well, that's the
43 issue. There's no documentation on what that loss is.

44

45 MR. COLLINS: Right.

46

47 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: We have no known
48 data about how many dead female Chinook. Yeah, they're
49 not in your catch, but you don't know where they went
50 either. And so ask any fisherman. Ask any fisherman

1 that's used six-inch-net, how many big kings do you see
2 rolling off down to the lead line and falling off the
3 end of the gear. Ask these guys. These guys fish all
4 the time. Ask anybody that's used -- how many kings
5 have you seen rolling off your red gear. You'll see
6 dead large fish falling out right and left. Any fish
7 that's caught on the face can fall out and roll off the
8 net. The rougher the water is, they pop out of the
9 gear.

10

11 And so this is an issue when we've got
12 a directed chum fishery, a commercial chum fishery.
13 The perception is, oh, there's a few kings getting
14 caught. We've harvested 3,000 kings or 4,000 kings.
15 That's what was retained. There's a whole bunch of
16 kings that fell off the net. And so that's an
17 incidental mortality that we don't know about and it's
18 a data lack.

19

20 Vince.

21

22 MR. MATHEWS: I don't want to get into
23 the debate here, but the annual report request, Ray and
24 Jack, was to say there's a lack of data. If this data
25 comes forward, the discussion you have now then would
26 be on the table. Right now you have two major
27 opinions. One is that there is a tremendous drop-off
28 rate; there's others that says it is reasonable or not
29 significant. Without any data, that's where you're at.
30 So the annual report is not to -- unless I
31 misunderstood it, Mr. Chair, is not to debate not using
32 six-inch nets or whatever; it's just that there's no
33 data to move this discussion out.

34

35 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right. It's to
36 recognize that we don't have -- we have an unknown
37 mortality factor. We have a data lack. That's what
38 the issues revolves around. It's not a proponent for
39 or against any kind of gear size. Is the Council
40 agreeable to submit that as an issue?

41

42 MR. GERVAIS: Yes.

43

44 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: The Council members
45 are affirmative to that. Other issues, Vince.

46

47 MR. MATHEWS: Okay. And then for
48 everyone to know, because there's some people -- it's
49 late in the day and et cetera, these are draft ideas.
50 I draft them up, I run them by the Chair. He goes yes

1 or no on them. And then that draft comes before you at
2 the next meeting. So, you know, this is not like, oh
3 my God, we're definitely going to do this or that.
4 This is just to get you the drafts there.

5
6 The next one I got, and I put this in
7 politically correct terms hopefully, others can express
8 it their own way, but is to look at the local hire
9 issue and that the Federal Subsistence Board work with
10 OPM to address the hurdles on local hire. The hurdles
11 that I heard was the application process and other
12 ideas. So I'll leave it at that. That was an annual
13 report topic that you talked about earlier.

14
15 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I would prefer that
16 it refer -- the Federal Subsistence Board would
17 highlight the issue to the Department of Interior and
18 the U.S. Forest Service, the land managing agencies
19 within Alaska.

20
21 MR. MATHEWS: So that would include
22 OPM, Forest Service, whatever hiring process is there.

23
24 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right.

25
26 MR. MATHEWS: And for newer Council
27 members, you know, later on today or whatever, if you
28 want to see the actual provisions on local hire, I have
29 copies of that here.

30
31 So there appears to be agreement that
32 would be an annual report topic. I'm seeing heads
33 shake. Okay.

34
35 This one I think I captured right, is
36 the Federal Subsistence Board should look at the under-
37 reporting of king bycatch associated with the pollock
38 fishery.

39
40 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Tim.

41
42 MR. GERVAIS: And I thought we were
43 going to communicate that also in our letter to the
44 North Pacific Council.

45
46 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right. Well, we'll
47 transmit that to the North Pacific Fisheries Management
48 Council, Secretary of Commerce, but we also want the
49 Federal Subsistence Board to be -- we would like them
50 to highlight that issue also to those agencies.

1 MR. MATHEWS: Okay. And then the next
2 one I had was the Federal Subsistence Board should
3 support or be aware of, I'm not sure which term you
4 want to use, on the draft rule for bison re-
5 introduction in the Innoko area. I don't know if that
6 was to inform them or get their support?

7
8 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I would like the
9 Federal Subsistence Board to be aware that the Western
10 Interior Regional Council supports re-introduction of
11 bison into the Unit 21E, Shageluk, area, and that if
12 the Federal Subsistence Board and Regional Director for
13 U.S. Fish and Wildlife can expedite the 10(j) rule
14 which allows them to be introduced without fear of
15 interfering with oil and gas exploration. The Western
16 Interior would like that, the Federal Subsistence Board
17 to press that issue forward.

18
19 Is that agreeable to the Council?

20
21 (Council nods affirmatively)

22
23 MR. MATHEWS: Okay. Then.....

24
25 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Don.

26
27 MR. RIVARD: Mr. Chair. There's always
28 kind of a debate between should this be an annual
29 report topic or a letter. And I guess it all depends
30 on the timing, because you're going to get your answers
31 back a year from now, whatever you put in. So if you
32 need something sooner than that, you might want to just
33 have a letter directly to the Federal Subsistence
34 Board.

35
36 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: The Regional
37 Director's here. Come on up, Geoff. We'll speak to
38 the horse's mouth I guess.

39
40 MR. HASKETT: Yeah, the horse is here,
41 so I might as well go ahead and address it.

42
43 I'd just let you know that we are
44 supporting the State completely on getting the 10(j)
45 rule done and supporting the re-introduction of bison.
46 And the State has the lead, and I can't tell you what
47 the time frame is, but we are definitely trying to move
48 that forward.

49
50 Now, there are some concerns from a

1 number of parties out there about whether a 10(j) rule
2 will really work, and we're trying to address that for
3 folks. I've had direct involvement with it when I was
4 in the Southwest with both Mexican gray wolf and
5 Applematal (ph) falcon and it worked great.

6
7 So we're pushing it. So go ahead and
8 send the letter, but I mean we're doing what you want
9 us to do I think.

10
11 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. I would like
12 the Council to be on record as supporting that. And
13 instead of the annual report, it would probably be most
14 expeditious to send a letter directly to you to be on
15 the record.f

16
17 Is the Council agreeable with that, a
18 letter to that effect sent to the Regional Director.

19
20 (Council nods affirmatively)

21
22 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks, Geoff. And,
23 Vince, the next issue.

24
25 MR. MATHEWS: Okay. I have two more
26 that's left. And one is support and need for updated
27 baseline studies or data for the upper Koyukuk area. I
28 didn't know if you wanted to narrow that or expand it.
29 That was in response to the baseline study that Ms. Ray
30 was talking about.

31
32 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right. The baseline
33 study data for the middle Yukon and Koyukuk is becoming
34 antiquated, and I would like to see in the near future
35 that harvest data for fish and wildlife from those
36 villages of the middle Yukon and Koyukuk River would be
37 updated. The Subsistence Division is -- their data is
38 becoming around 10 years old.

39
40 Any discussion by the Council on that.

41
42 (No comments)

43
44 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Is the agreeable to
45 the Council to submit that.

46
47 (Council nods affirmatively)

48
49 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So that's agreeable
50 to the Council. Go ahead, Vince.

1 MR. MATHEWS: The only other one, and I
2 apologize, I may have been pulled away from the desk
3 here, was there was -- because I flagged these in
4 double star red, but then when my blue pen goes out, I
5 start writing in red. But I had down here
6 reconstruction project 2012, that you wanted something
7 related to that in the annual report. Again, I can
8 pull it off from the transcript and run it through the
9 Chair, but my notes had something to do with the
10 reconstruction project and 2012, and that action would
11 be taken on in 2010 or 11.

12
13 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, Tim.

14
15 MR. GERVAIS: This was in regard to
16 trying to put the bycatch data into the Yukon Stock
17 Reconstruction Model that OSM was going to do as one of
18 their projects. OSM was talking about the projects
19 that they had ongoing and I'd asked about putting the
20 bycatch data into that, and OSM informed us that those
21 projects were -- it was probably too late for those
22 projects. So that we might submit a request for a
23 research project regarding how that bycatch affected
24 the reconstruction models.

25
26 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Larry.

27
28 MR. MATHEWS: I think Larry can cover
29 it, but I'm getting it clear in my head, but Larry's
30 very good at crystallizing this. I think I know why I
31 flagged it.

32
33 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, Larry.

34
35 MR. BUKLIS: Mr. Chairman. Member
36 Gervais has it correct, that is what the prompt was in
37 Vince's notes. And what we said is very much along
38 your lines, Tim, that the project that's been proposed
39 for 2010, run reconstruction for Chinook on the Yukon.
40 Their narrative does include some look at the bycatch
41 levels and the run reconstruction levels in the river
42 and relating the two. Now you raised some challenges
43 about how good is the data in the bycatch fishery, and
44 what I said is that goes beyond that study. But I
45 think when that study does deliver its results, it will
46 look at the relationships between bycatch levels and
47 in-river levels.

48
49 Now, if you want to get at the quality
50 of the bycatch data, that's another matter. And what I

1 said yesterday was that really is kind of stretching
2 our jurisdiction and our involvement, and a proponent
3 would need to make the case that that is important for
4 management up in the rivers on Federal lands, because
5 you have to connect back to Federal lands and
6 subsistence. That would be for the 2012 call.

7
8 So I don't know how much you want to
9 pursue that now. If you want to wait to let things
10 unfold in the Council process and in this in-river
11 reconstruction process. But that was the issue you
12 raised yesterday.

13
14 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, Tim.

15
16 MR. GERVAIS: So I thought with our
17 discussion we had -- I mean, we're not going to do
18 those 2012 proposals now, right? They happen in 2011,
19 when you put in the calls for that, and that it might
20 be a potential thing we might add to the call for
21 proposals at that time.

22
23 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: You might highlight
24 that for future reference, Vince.

25
26 MR. MATHEWS: Yeah, that's where I
27 concur with Larry is that you may request that in
28 future calls. But with the caveat that you have to
29 make a connection to Federal lands on that. I'm sure
30 you can on that, but there would have to be -- you
31 don't want to put in looking at Chilean something fish
32 down there and say you want to study it. It's great
33 you want to know that but it has to relate to what your
34 jurisdiction is.

35
36 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right. Okay. That
37 was a completion of a list of the highlighted issues
38 that you had, Vince?

39
40 MR. MATHEWS: When my red pen was
41 working.

42
43 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right. And so I
44 don't recall any additional issues that the Council had
45 discussed for the annual report during this fall
46 meeting.

47
48 Do any Council members have additional
49 issues that they would like to see inserted into the
50 annual report. Robert.

1 MR. R. WALKER: Mr. Chairman. Thank
2 you. About four or five years ago we discussed having
3 burns in our area. Whatever happened to this deal that
4 we did ask for from the government?

5
6 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Don't know. That
7 would be in the -- does anybody in Innoko or BLM
8 recall? Or is there an prescribed burns being
9 contemplated for 21E. Vince.

10
11 MR. MATHEWS: I mean, Geoff will have
12 some reports, but that might be something you want to
13 put in the annual report, that you would like an update
14 on the use of fire as a management tool to improve
15 habitat, or yada-yada. And that way they can be
16 empowered to actually look into the whole studies. I'm
17 sure Geoff can bring up some, but there may be other
18 Staff that's not present here.

19
20 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I heard Geoff
21 describing looking at burns, or doing trophic level on
22 those burns, is the productivity of the browse? Are
23 you looking at that aspect or just the burn regime and
24 growth rates?

25
26 MR. BEYERSDORF: Mr. Chair. Members of
27 the Council. A couple different things. The only
28 burns right now that BLM is potentially looking is in
29 19D. And there was the 1977 burn in the Bear Creek
30 drainage which we potentially -- I've been looking at
31 putting in a funding request to look at that and look
32 at what's come back since then, species diversity and
33 such There was a three-year study following that that I
34 would like to mimic.

35
36 And the only other ones that I'm aware
37 of, with Fish and Game, is that we potentially do a new
38 burn to the southeast portion of Fairwell, and then
39 potentially -- there was a burn plan put together in
40 2004 for the Windy Creek drainage. So currently all of
41 those are in 19D. That's the only areas that we're
42 looking at.

43
44 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: The question that
45 Robert had was -- was it in the Innoko moose plan? Go
46 ahead, Robert.

47
48 MR. R. WALKER: Thank you, Mr.
49 Chairman. Geoff, we discussed quite lengthy about
50 burning a lot of this old growth here, because one of

1 the issues that we discussed was the moose migration,
2 and we're kind of like looking for a new habitat for
3 them to feed in, you know, so they can slow down their
4 migration to wherever they're going, further down to
5 Unit 18. I think that was discussed -- I can't
6 remember what year this was, but this was a few years
7 back. I think you were manager at Galena somehow when
8 we discussed it.

9

10 MR. BEYERSDORF: Okay. Mr. Chair. To
11 Member Walker. As you said, I was not part of that,
12 putting together that plan. I can go back and take a
13 look at that moose management plan and I can also work
14 with Fish and Game out of McGrath and see if there are
15 any potentials for prescribed burns in those areas that
16 we want to take a look at, and I'll do that when I get
17 back this next week.

18

19 MR. R. WALKER: Thank you, Geoff.
20 Appreciate that.

21

22 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I don't know that
23 it's an annual report issue. If it's in the Innoko
24 management plan, then we can look at it. That's not
25 something the Federal Subsistence Board would be
26 interested in looking at. That's a land manager issue
27 with BLM and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife.

28

29 Other points that the Council would
30 like to see inserted into the annual report.

31

32 (No comments)

33

34 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I don't see any,
35 Vince. Oh, go ahead, Bob.

36

37 MR. ALOYSIUS: Bob Aloysius, Central
38 Kuskokwim Advisory Committee.

39

40 One thing that I never heard anybody
41 discuss is our Native source of white meat. White
42 meat. Whitefish, there are five species. Sheefish,
43 pike, lush, grayling. And those are our Native fish.
44 And we're having a lot of problems getting access to
45 them because of beaver dam. Abandoned beaver dams.
46 I'm not talking about beaver dams on the main streams.
47 I'm talking about beaver dams that are away from the
48 main streams. And Jenny and I sit on the whitefish
49 strategic planning committee. And all up and down from
50 way up north all the way to the Bering Sea people have

1 concerns about, you know, what can we do about clearing
2 up clearing up abandoned beaver dams. I'm talking
3 about not only, you know, one or two-year-old abandoned
4 beaver dams. I'm talking about some, what, 30, 40, 50
5 and I know of 60-year-old beaver dams that are still up
6 in the headwaters. What can we do, you know, legally,
7 and how can the Federal Subsistence Board help us to
8 get some kind of program that we can deal with,
9 because, you know, our population of whitefish has gone
10 way down because of their inability to migrate through
11 the streams that they used to go to.

12

13 And we had an elder from the lower
14 Kuskokwim address this issue about we are having
15 problems with beaver dams because -- not only them, but
16 with the climate change. It's drier, drier, drier, and
17 later freeze up and early breakup. And the volume of
18 water is not like it used to be where in the spring we
19 had a lot of floods and it sluiced out the beaver dams
20 and created new water, fresh water for the fish and the
21 other aquatic animals that live in these creeks,
22 sloughs and lakes.

23

24 So they're all concerned. We need to
25 do something to eradicate the beaver dams and the
26 people -- well, you (in native tongue), you know, the
27 beaver who are creating these dams and leaving them
28 behind.

29

30 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yeah. We hear about
31 this throughout the whole region, these beaver dams and
32 stopping the whitefish from getting into the lakes in
33 the summer and stuff. Yeah, but this is -- the Federal
34 Subsistence Board can't -- this is again another land
35 manager issue. It would be BLM and Fish and Wildlife.
36 A lot of the lands along the Kuskokwim here, along the
37 river, are Native corporation land and State lands and
38 so forth, and those landowners, the landowners here
39 would have to initiate some kind of a program. They
40 would have to approach some entity to try and get --
41 there might be -- you know, KNA might approach some
42 local Federal agency to help them with a program to
43 remove older beaver dams. But this Regional Council
44 can't really petition the Federal Subsistence Board to
45 do land management issues like that. That's something
46 that the land managers themselves. KNA is the primary
47 land managers, owners. and so we can't get the Federal
48 Subsistence Board to do it. They only regulate the
49 seasons and bag limits for fish and wildlife. They
50 don't manipulate the habitat. That's not the Federal

1 Subsistence Board's job. It's the land managers. You
2 can discuss this issue with the land managers, BLM and
3 U.S. Fish and Wildlife. But this Council is
4 responsible to the Federal Subsistence Board and the
5 Federal Subsistence Board can't manipulate the lands
6 themselves. That's the landowner's prerogative.

7
8 I'm sorry we can't do that, but that's
9 -- but it is a big issue. I mean, I hear about it all
10 over. The Koyukuk country, I hear about that
11 everywhere. Those beavers are just -- beavers used to
12 be the biggest animal to trap. Now when I was flying
13 in here, I seen two beaver houses right over there.
14 Right across the river, right over there. They're back
15 to back here. You've got thick beavers around here.
16 And so trapping is the primary way to harvesting
17 beavers, is a good way to control beavers. And beavers
18 are good eating. You know, if I was down here, I would
19 catch a lot of beavers. I like to eat them.

20
21 But we can't do anything about that
22 beaver dam issue. So we have to kind of move on in our
23 agenda. It's a long day.

24
25 And so you've one teeny little comment.

26
27 MR. ALOYSIUS: I just want to.....

28
29 MR. R. WALKER: Jack, is there any way
30 we can get some dynamite to him?

31
32 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yeah, if we had some
33 dynamite, we'd give it to you. One more last comment
34 there, Bob.

35
36 MR. ALOYSIUS: You know, the thing that
37 really upsets me, you know, subsistence is being slowly
38 and slowly, slowly and slowly eliminated because of
39 bureaucracy, through legislation, regulation. It's
40 just eroding. And it doesn't make sense to me that the
41 Federal Subsistence Board allows all of this crap to go
42 on and on and on. And they restrict the people who are
43 the beneficiaries supposedly of subsistence, to have
44 access to something that can help them. I mean, the
45 Federal Subsistence Board is part of the Federal
46 bureaucracy. They should be able to help the people,
47 you know, and it's just.....

48
49 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Well, the Federal
50 Subsistence Board has provided very long beaver seasons

1 here. There's lots of beaver trapping opportunity.
2 That's as much as the Federal Subsistence Board can do.
3 And so that's all we can do is provide lots of harvest
4 opportunity. The reality is, nobody's going to go kill
5 bears, nobody's going to -- the Federal Government's
6 not going to come here and kill bears. Nobody's going
7 to come and kills wolves, unless you get the State to
8 do it. The Federal Government's not going to do it.
9 Nobody's going to harvest beavers. Some of this stuff
10 comes down on the shoulders of the local people. I
11 trap wolves in wintertime. If I've got issues, I see
12 bears killing moose calves, I shoot my grizzly bear. I
13 put them in my freezer. I eat the meat. A lot of
14 these things, I told people in Ruby that there's a lot
15 of dry cows down there around Ruby. I said, you guys
16 have got to start shooting more bears. You see a lot
17 of dry cows like that, you've got to start killing more
18 bears. I had to refer to that with mixed company here,
19 but these large animals are a big problem. And local
20 people have to stop relying on the government to do
21 anything for them. Local people have got to go out and
22 do -- just like the oldtimers. The oldtimers killed
23 lots of beaver. Oldtimers killed a lot of bears. The
24 oldtimers did a lot of things for themselves. We can't
25 rely on the Federal Government to do this stuff. And
26 so that's my position on this.

27

28 So I can't keep discussing this. We're
29 at the end of a long day here. And so at this point
30 we're going to continue on.

31

32 Go ahead, Vince. You got further
33 discussion.

34

35 MR. MATHEWS: No. And on that issue we
36 can provide you, that's a dear issue to Yukon-Kuskokwim
37 Regional Council, and they've had it in their annual
38 report for many years. So that's why Bob is bringing
39 it up. Six years.

40

41 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right. I feel your
42 frustration with these beaver populations. Everybody's
43 got this beaver problems. But the price is so low.
44 But people have to go start catching some beavers.
45 You've got to start doing -- so people have got to get
46 it through their head. I don't care if you're in
47 McGrath, you're in Wiseman or wherever you're at around
48 this table, people have got to start harvesting
49 predators and animals that compete with our local
50 resources. That's just the way it has to be. We can't

1 make the government control all these animals. We
2 can't keep relying on that. We have to be part of the
3 -- we're part of the ecosystem. Congress recognized
4 the subsistence users as part of the ecosystem. And as
5 part of the ecosystem, we have to do our part. If we
6 kill a moose or a caribou, it's our obligation to
7 harvest a bear or a wolf. If we've got beavers
8 plugging up a creek that I've got whitefish that went
9 up, I'd be up there trapping beavers like crazy. I'd
10 be eating every last one of those beavers, I'd be
11 selling beaver -- it costs me money to trap wolves, but
12 I'm saving 10 moose for every wolf I take. It costs me
13 money to trap wolves, and I try to make money off them.

14

15 MR. MORGAN: Mr. Chairman.

16

17 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead.

18

19 MR. MORGAN: A point well taken. I
20 think for the time I think you've been hashing it out,
21 and both of you guys made good points, but I think
22 because time is running out, I'd like to continue.

23

24 Thank you.

25

26 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks for bringing
27 a point of order. I appreciate that. And so, Vince,
28 we've got to finish this meeting up.

29

30 MR. MATHEWS: Yes. We just have some
31 briefings or updates from OSM, and Larry's going to
32 cover three of those and I'll cover the other ones very
33 quickly on that.

34

35 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, Larry.

36

37 MR. BUKLIS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
38 I'll be very brief. The first one is on key dates, the
39 schedule ahead. Page 88 in your book. This is not an
40 action item, this is informational. This abbreviated
41 schedule of main landmark dates for the program ahead
42 goes out more than a year.

43

44 A couple of points I'd make is the
45 January 2010 Federal Board meeting has three main
46 agenda items coming up. Actually that third one,
47 voting on wildlife closures is better placed down in
48 their May meeting when they take up wildlife proposals.
49 So that's kind of misplaced there.

50

1 MS. YATLIN: What page?

2

3 MR. BUKLIS: Page 88. The January
4 Board meeting lists three main items. The third one
5 deals with wildlife closures. You've begun looking at
6 those and which ones should go forward for analysis,
7 that won't be coming up in January, any of those
8 closures that are up for voting would come up in May
9 with the wildlife proposals.

10

11 Secondly, I would just point out that
12 you scheduled your winter meeting in Fairbanks, that's
13 that February to March 2010 window, and you can see the
14 main issues you'll be dealing with in Fairbanks.
15 Review of wildlife regulatory proposals and the
16 analysis, making recommendations, develop fishery
17 regulatory proposals so it's the call for fisheries and
18 then the special track for the Yukon deferred
19 proposals. We've talked about that. That's what's
20 ahead of you during that winter window coming up.

21

22 Finally, I'd point out that you
23 scheduled a fall 2010 meeting for McGrath or Galena and
24 you debated which location is better given the agenda,
25 the agenda you'll be looking at at that time, year from
26 now, is to review the analysis on fisheries proposals,
27 so you'll be looking at fisheries regulatory proposal
28 analysis a year from now. And that would be the main
29 purpose of your meeting in McGrath or Galena, whichever
30 way that goes.

31

32 That's all I had on that agenda item.

33

34 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks, Larry. Any
35 questions about the layout of this meeting schedule.

36

37 (No comments)

38

39 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: No, okay. Continue.

40

41 MR. BUKLIS: Thank you. The second one
42 is a briefing on Section 19 regulations and a revision
43 of those regulations, Page 89 in your book. I will try
44 to distill this down to the main points.

45

46 The reasons for this rulemaking are
47 given on these bullet points. It's basically an update
48 and clarification of our regulations. Our regulations
49 have parts that deal with the process and the program
50 and parts that deal with the annual harvest regulations

1 and C&Ts. What you deal with all the time with the
2 Board is the harvest regulations and the C&Ts. This
3 deals with the process and the program. This isn't
4 even under the authority of the Board, it's
5 Secretarial. So the Board's role is to make a
6 recommendation to the Secretaries on how to update and
7 clarify these process regulations. Your role is to
8 advise the Board, so you're welcome to make comments on
9 this if you want, it's not required and, in fact, the
10 Board will only be making a recommendation. They'll be
11 making their recommendation in the form of a proposed
12 final rule.

13

14 And this part of the process
15 regulations deals with special actions and how those
16 are handled. Any comments we do get from you we will
17 advance to the Board. We anticipate the Board will be
18 making their recommendation at their January 2010
19 meeting. That depends on whether this gets published,
20 as we anticipate, and then the comment period closes
21 December 18th, as we anticipate. If that all happens,
22 then the Board can deal with it in January and move it
23 forward to the Secretaries.

24

25 The several pages that follow provide
26 the proposed rule. But really it comes down to two
27 pages, Pages 97 and 98, that's really where the
28 regulation is dealt with.

29

30 There's three parts to this. One part
31 deals with the Federal Subsistence Board and it
32 clarifies their role on special actions. There's a
33 second part that deals with Section 18, how regulations
34 are adopted, and, again, that's sort of clarifying
35 language. And then the third bolded section is the
36 actual special action regulation. And it sort of
37 organizes this more clearly into emergency special
38 actions, which last 60 days and temporary special
39 actions which go through the whole regulatory year.

40

41 So, Mr. Chairman, this is mainly sort
42 of administrative but we don't want you to be unaware
43 that we're working on it. I would say the closest we
44 get to content matter here is where, on Page 98, over
45 in the second column, that Part C talks about -- one of
46 the criteria is time sensitive circumstances. The
47 current regulations talk about extenuating
48 circumstances, and then the proponent needs to explain
49 what's extenuating, why this is so critical at this
50 time and can't wait, and so now it's called time

1 sensitive. Some of this has come up in terms of
2 litigation against the Board in how they've handled
3 some special actions and so we're trying to tighten up
4 and be clearer on what the criteria are. So it's time
5 sensitive meaning it can't wait for the regular call.

6
7 And then some of this gets into posting
8 on the web and using electronic communications as a way
9 of promulgating special actions.

10
11 So, again, that concludes my overview
12 of this. We didn't want this to be proceeding without
13 you being aware. And if you or your representative
14 come to the January meeting, this may have come to
15 completion at that point and the Board may be ready to
16 make their recommendation to the Secretary.

17
18 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thank you for your
19 overview on that. Do any Council members have any
20 comments on this proposed revision to the Federal
21 regulations governing special actions.

22
23 (No comments)

24
25 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: No comments from the
26 Council members.

27
28 (No comments)

29
30 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: My comment would be
31 that I feel that since I've had to deal with special
32 actions and trying to explain extenuating
33 circumstances, this time sensitive specific language is
34 beneficial to the subsistence users to address needs
35 that arise out of cycle to be addressed by the
36 regulatory process and so I feel that this language to
37 the largest degree is, in a just brief overview, I've
38 read it over once, I'm not a lawyer, but it looks like
39 it's going to benefit the subsistence users and from my
40 personal perspective that this proposed regulation will
41 benefit the subsistence users of the Western Interior
42 region.

43
44 That would be my comment.

45
46 MR. BUKLIS: Thank you for the comment,
47 Mr. Chairman.

48
49 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay, I think we've
50 covered that issue. Vince.

1 MR. BUKLIS: Third and final for me.

2

3 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Oh, go ahead, Larry.

4

5 MR. BUKLIS: There is no material on
6 this third point. In your agenda it says climate
7 change and subsistence management. It has my name
8 there. There's no briefing on it.

9

10 The only point we wanted to make here
11 is that with increasing attention to and concern with
12 climate change, we want the Councils to be aware that
13 we are going to try to be more consistent about keeping
14 the dialogue open with you at your regular meetings,
15 that we may have a prompt like this on the agenda, and
16 I know we're in a rush right now, but we want to have a
17 dialogue and an ongoing basis as to climate change,
18 what you're seeing, what your concerns are. And that
19 gets expressed in a couple different ways already.

20

21 First, regulations, we're aware of
22 regulatory proposals and special action requests that
23 want to adjust seasons and other aspects of the
24 regulations in response to climate change. I think
25 we've heard that this week to some extent with the
26 moose proposals. We've heard it with beaver
27 management. So we're hearing you, it's in the
28 transcripts.

29

30 Secondly, our Fisheries Monitoring
31 Program, we specifically built in climate change as a
32 factor in our call. You heard about one proposal in
33 this region that deals with climate change as a
34 subject, so we're moving there.

35

36 We want to know how climate change
37 affects the resources and the uses.

38

39 And, then, finally, sharing
40 observations. We appreciate the comments you make.
41 Eleanor has talked to me on the side and with others
42 and we've heard it on the record, about factors in the
43 environment that you're noticing and we appreciate you
44 telling us what you know better than we do.

45

46 So that's all I had on that, Mr.
47 Chairman.

48

49 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I appreciate OSM's
50 interest in this climatic change or warming trends that

1 affect resources and resource use, beaver and various
2 aspects of drying and so forth, and so I appreciate OSM
3 tracking this because it's going to be integral in if
4 we have to adjust seasons or bag limits in the future,
5 that's going to help us get the proposals through OSM
6 if they're tracking these various issues that we
7 comment on during meetings.

8

9 Any questions to Larry on that issue.

10

11 (No comments)

12

13 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: No. Thanks a lot,
14 Larry.

15

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

17

18 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Vince.

19

20 MR. MATHEWS: Yeah, I'll cover the
21 Council correspondence policy. The reason we're
22 bringing it up is it was of concern this past early
23 summer or spring, basically the Council correspondence
24 is basically you work for the Board. The Board
25 encourages you correspond directly with the Board. You
26 also are limited, or your scope, I should say, for your
27 subject matter is .805(a)(c) .808, .810, I won't
28 explain each of those, but your driving base is Title
29 VIII of ANILCA, who you serve for is the Board. Okay,
30 that's that.

31

32 So the Board encourages you to directly
33 correspond with them.

34

35 They also encourage you to make use of
36 the annual report process. You heard Don talk about
37 direct letters, that's another aspect of the process.
38 With those letters they need to stay within those
39 parameters and if they're more than just thank you
40 letters or more than responding to .810 analysis or
41 .808, they may need to be reviewed by the ARD. Now,
42 what the ARD's doing and other Staff are doing, are
43 looking at the best.....

44

45 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Would you explain
46 what an ARD is, Vince, please?

47

48 MR. MATHEWS: Yeah, I'm sorry. That's
49 Mr. Probasco, he's Assistant Regional Director. He's
50 the one in charge of the Subsistence Program is a

1 better way of saying it.

2

3 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Uh-huh.

4

5 MR. MATHEWS: But we call him the ARD
6 just to shorten it down.

7

8 But, anyway, he reviews those on
9 content. He's the one that mainly reviews on content.
10 The rest of the reviews, for example, all the letters
11 you mentioned, my process with that is I draft up a
12 draft, I run it by Jack or the mover of the motion or
13 both, they say I'm in the ball park or I'm not in the
14 ball park or whatever, I may do a parallel review with
15 the affected Refuge, not to get them to agree to the
16 content or change it, just to make sure that it's
17 written in the best way, then that goes back to the
18 Chair and the Chair says fine and then it's submitted
19 to this Council review, correspondence review process
20 and that goes to my supervisor and she looks at it for
21 readability and all that and then if it falls under one
22 of these then it goes to the Assistant Regional
23 Director. If he sees no concern on it it just goes
24 forward. If he sees concern on that or who he
25 delegates it to sees concern on that then they directly
26 contact the Chair and say, we have concern that you're
27 asking for the color of the dollar bill to be changed
28 -- that's not within your parameters -- that's a joke
29 but if you've.....

30

31 (Laughter)

32

33 MR. MATHEWS:ever been to a
34 Federal Subsistence Board meeting, we had a gentleman
35 that showed up for at least six years straight on the
36 color of the dollar bill and we had to go through his
37 testimony.

38

39 (Laughter)

40

41 MR. MATHEWS: Anyways, so he would
42 contact directly on that, the Director of the
43 Subsistence Program, to the Chair about concerns on the
44 content. He has that authority. I don't have that
45 authority to say that content's off base or, you know,
46 what you want to do is wrong, et cetera, so you can
47 continue to submit regulatory proposal changes, written
48 comments to Alaska Board of Fish, Board of Game, the
49 only request is that when those proposals and comments
50 are forwarded to the Board of Game or Board of Fish,

1 that a copy be submitted to the process.

2

3 Here it says the Assistant Regional
4 Director, but basically it's in the record, so his
5 Staff knows that the Council has submitted this
6 proposal. There's been no problem with that and we've
7 done that because of the extent of involvement at the
8 meeting. This correspondence policy doesn't affect
9 letters of appreciation, requests for other agency
10 reports, anything like that, or cover letters, it's not
11 bound to that.

12

13 And I gave you a copy, what I have to
14 follow, it's in your notebook, and so I'll leave it at
15 that. It is a review process. Yes, it can be
16 cumbersome, Jack knows that well, but it's to improve
17 and to maintain that it's within the parameters of the
18 program.

19

20 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right.

21

22 MR. MATHEWS: So I think that concludes
23 that. And if you have any questions you can ask now or
24 later, or whenever.

25

26 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Any questions for
27 Vince on the correspondence review process.

28

(No comments)

29

30 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: No. Thanks for the
31 overview, Vince, it's one of the knots that the Chair
32 has to -- well, go ahead there Robert.

33

34 MR. R. WALKER: I just have a question
35 here, Vince. Is Russ in hiding right now. Ever since
36 the incident with the fishing, is he hiding out
37 somewhere? And my second question is since he's going
38 to retire, what is the Board going to give him?

39

40 MR. MATHEWS: Oh, if you're referring
41 to Russ Holder?

42

43 MR. R. WALKER: Yes.

44

45 MR. MATHEWS: Okay. No, he's not in
46 hiding.

47

48 (Laughter)

49

50

1 MR. MATHEWS: I wouldn't use that term.
2 He has three Staff -- well, he has more than three
3 Staff, but three Staff that I mainly work with. And so
4 he's going to Eastern Interior, obviously in response
5 to their proposals that are kind of comprehensive.

6
7 MR. R. WALKER: No, is he going to
8 retire?

9
10 MR. MATHEWS: Oh, no, is he going to
11 retire, no, no, no. He's going with Fish and
12 Wildlife Service to the Idaho office, if I got it
13 correct, and he's going to be dealing with that easy
14 topic of endangered species. He left the contentious
15 world of subsistence and going into that; I'm sure he's
16 going to have a lot of grey hair with endangered
17 species projects down in Idaho.

18
19 (Laughter)

20
21 MR. MATHEWS: So he's moving.

22
23 MR. R. WALKER: What are we going to
24 give him -- what is the Board going to give Russ?

25
26 MR. MATHEWS: Oh, I -- if you want to
27 pursue some kind of effort of recognition to Russ, then
28 we can work on that. My plate's been pretty full but
29 we can address that.

30
31 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I would like to see
32 a letter written from the Council to Russ Holder for
33 his service to the fishery and wish him well in his
34 future job and, et cetera. So is that adequate for the
35 Council's consideration.

36
37 (Council nods affirmatively)

38
39 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So that can be done.

40
41 MR. MATHEWS: And then to follow up on
42 that.....

43
44 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I'll give you
45 literary license with that Vince.

46
47 (Laughter)

48
49 MR. MATHEWS: I have so much licenses.
50

1 (Laughter)
2
3 MR. MATHEWS: And citations.
4
5 (Laughter)
6
7 MR. MATHEWS: The hiring process is
8 moving forward. I'm not involved in that, I just get
9 comments in the hallway, but they're moving forward to
10 get somebody in there fairly rapidly because the
11 assistant or Deputy, I don't know which, but his right-
12 hand person, that in-season manager is also open, so
13 you basically have two major positions that are open.
14 So that's moving forward, so hopefully soon they'll
15 have somebody hired as the Federal in-season manager
16 for the Yukon River and then that person will be
17 involved in hiring the assistant.
18
19 Now, if anybody else has an update on
20 that, I mean it's within another program but I work
21 very closely with fisheries because that's the issues
22 that's before this Council.
23
24 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right.
25
26 MR. COLLINS: Do you want a motion to
27 adjourn.
28
29 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: We're at the
30 completion of the meeting, Vince, do we want to -- my
31 Council is hungry and tired and cranky so we want to
32 move on.
33
34 (Laughter)
35
36 MR. MATHEWS: Oh, you guys are never
37 cranky.
38
39 (Laughter)
40
41 MR. MATHEWS: I can either give you a
42 summary or provide you later.....
43
44 MR. R. WALKER: Later.
45
46 (Laughter)
47
48 MR. MATHEWS:a status of -- you
49 asked on the status of commercial sport representatives
50 on the Council, the 70/30 rule, it is a little complex,

1 I could probably get back to you in a letter or
2 something.

3

4 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Just transmit that
5 to the Council by letter and so we'll move on, we want
6 to complete the meeting now.

7

8 MR. MATHEWS: Okay, I can do that, or
9 basically Ann will do that because it is a sensitive
10 topic.

11

12 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right.

13

14 MR. MATHEWS: Then that moves us into
15 -- not, sensitive, it has to be well written because
16 there's lawsuits that were involved with it that
17 resulted in it, it's not anything to do with the
18 makeup.

19

20 The next thing is Regional Council
21 business. Now, we've moved around quite a bit in these
22 past two days so now I kind of get you guys to put some
23 names forward. Okay, now, Staff can correct me, I'm
24 going to get these dates, I hope, correct. But you
25 have the Federal Subsistence Board meeting in January,
26 you have a Federal Subsistence Board in April, I
27 wouldn't worry about that right now, but your Federal
28 Subsistence Board in January, you have a Board of Fish
29 meeting in January, you have a Board of Game meeting in
30 February, on all those Boards you have either proposals
31 or a vested interest in. It would be nice at this
32 point for you to determine who's going to these
33 different meetings.

34

35 Okay, now someone will correct me if
36 I'm wrong, is the Federal Subsistence Board meeting in
37 January, it's when.....

38

39 MR. BUKLIS: Page 88.

40

41 MR. MATHEWS:Page 88, I'm sorry.
42 And just so you know, and I know January's the coldest
43 month and that and the issues before the Board, et
44 cetera, so if you look at Page 88, it's January 12th
45 through the 14th, it's deliberations on special action
46 regulations rewrite, and you can read the rest.

47

48 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I would prefer not
49 to attend this Board meeting, January 12th and 14th, on
50 special action regulations rewrite and the Fisheries

1 Monitoring Plan, we've approved those, those are
2 basically like a consent agenda type thing. I do not
3 want to waste my time going to that since I have a very
4 compressed meeting schedule this whole winter. Do we
5 want to send an alternate, is anybody interested, it's
6 basically sitting at the Federal Subsistence Board
7 table for two days listening to the Federal Subsistence
8 Board talk.

9

(Laughter)

10

11
12 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I don't feel that
13 the Council has really a lot of reason to be at that
14 meeting and it would cost the OSM extra money. I don't
15 feel that we'd need to have representation there for
16 those issues.

17

18 MR. MATHEWS: Okay, that sounds like
19 the wishes of the Council on that. And, again, it is,
20 it's an assessment of the issues and the issues that
21 are there.....

22

23 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Basically a consent
24 agenda.

25

26 MR. MATHEWS: Right.

27

28 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: And so I don't like
29 to attend meetings for consent agenda. If it's to
30 fight a proposal for this Council I'll do it.

31

32 MR. MATHEWS: So then you have the
33 Board of Fish meeting on January 25th, or 26th, I think
34 you got some stakes in there. But that's going to be
35 an intense meeting. I used to work for Fish and Game
36 as their State coordinator, that meeting is going to be
37 like this meeting, you're going to be putting in a lot
38 of hours.....

39

40 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right.

41

42 MR. MATHEWS:to maintain
43 connections on that.

44

45 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right.

46

47 MR. MATHEWS: So that's something you
48 want to go to.

49

50 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: You got a comment

1 there, Don.

2

3 MR. RIVARD: Yeah, just for the dates,
4 it either starts the 25th or the 26th and it runs
5 through the 31st.

6

7 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right.

8

9 MR. RIVARD: So just to make that clear
10 on the dates.

11

12 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yeah, this Council
13 does have a stake in some of those State Board of Fish
14 proposals. Is there someone on the Council that would
15 like to attend the January meeting and can articulate
16 the position of this Council on those proposals that we
17 reviewed.

18

19 (No comments)

20

21 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Do I have any
22 volunteers.

23

24 (No comments)

25

26 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Vince, you got a
27 comment.

28

29 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, I'm not pressuring
30 the Council members but you talked at length, the whole
31 Yukon River salmon chinook management plan's going to
32 be on the table, rumors have there may be a whole draft
33 plan brought up during that meeting.

34

35 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right.

36

37 MR. MATHEWS: And that's going to set
38 the parameters for the fishing season.

39

40 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Would you attend
41 that meeting, Tim.

42

43 MR. GERVAIS: Yeah, I would volunteer
44 to attend it.

45

46 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Are there any other
47 members interested in attending that meeting.

48

49 (No comments)

50

1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I have other --
2 these other Regional Council meetings and AC meetings
3 and so forth that I have to attend and so I feel that
4 Tim understands the issues of the Council and I have
5 confidence that he can attend the meeting and speak
6 articulately to the positions of the Councils on those
7 various proposals, including protecting -- I would like
8 sort of a brief history produced about our positions on
9 various things that Tim has to take to that Board of
10 Fish meeting. So if the Council's agreeable to sending
11 Tim to represent the Council, Western Interior Regional
12 Advisory Council to the State Board of Fish meeting in
13 January.

14
15 (Council nods affirmatively)

16
17 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: That seems to be
18 agreeable to the Council and so we designate Tim as our
19 representative.

20
21 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, and, for Tim I'll
22 have to negotiate with the Assistant Regional Director
23 on how long we will fund you there, but in the past
24 it's been at least two days, possibly three at the
25 meeting.

26
27 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: As Chair I would
28 request that full funding for a very important meeting
29 like that, that may open up the management plan for
30 chinook, that full funding for his stay be provided.

31
32 MR. MATHEWS: For the full length of
33 the meeting is what you mean?

34
35 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: For the full length
36 of the meeting, until their extinguished, our concerns.

37
38 MR. MATHEWS: Right. And to lighten
39 the room, the horse is in the room so he's hearing that
40 also.....

41
42 (Laughter)

43
44 MR. MATHEWS:so we'll see where
45 that ends up on that.

46
47 (Laughter)

48
49 MR. MATHEWS: But, anyways, so that
50 would be your one for the Board of Fish. And then the

1 Board of Game, remember we structured your February
2 meeting to get you right before the Board of Game, so
3 whoever is determined to do that is going to stay
4 longer, is just going to stay on, we're not going to
5 send you home and turn you around and come back, unless
6 there's a compelling reason to do that.

7

8 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I will volunteer to
9 fight those proposals for the Western Interior Council
10 before the Board of Game.

11

12 MR. MATHEWS: Okay. I think the only
13 thing that's left and I couldn't keep up with it so I
14 apologize on the record to the biologist Benti out of
15 Nome, you had a concern, I don't remember the timing of
16 the concern, but it was with the Western Arctic Caribou
17 Herd Working Group. Your past Council member who
18 retired, Benedict Jones was on that, kept you informed.
19 And so you no longer have that person there so you
20 don't have a direct connection through that process to
21 that working group and Mr. Benti provided myself and
22 Jack a listing of the working group members so maybe at
23 this point Jack can explain the concerns about it and
24 then if there's any actions you want to take on the
25 Western Arctic Caribou Herd.

26

27 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I'm concerned about
28 the Western Arctic caribou population, it took a 20
29 percent decline and I was -- I called up Jim Dau, the
30 area biologist for Western Arctic Caribou management
31 and so he told me that the Western Arctic Caribou Herd
32 Working Group plan does not incorporate bull/cow ratio
33 mandates. I do feel that the Western Interior should
34 be -- any of the Western Arctic Caribou Herd Working
35 Group meetings, I would like the Council members to
36 receive their minutes. And I would also like to
37 transmit a letter to the Western Arctic Caribou Working
38 Group from the Western Interior Regional Advisory
39 Council urging them to incorporate bull/cow ratios at a
40 minimum threshold of 35 bulls per 100 cows into the
41 management plan, if they open the plan up. And so I
42 don't see where Regional Advisory Councils -- Federal
43 Regional Advisory Councils are provided a seat on the
44 working group but I do wish to have dialogue with them.
45 We might not be able to attend meetings but I want to
46 know what their minutes are revolving around and what
47 -- and we wanted to make comment to them, that there
48 are concerns about the bull/cow ratio.

49

50 Jim Dau also has concerns that that was

1 not incorporated and the bull/cow ratio was not
2 incorporated into the management plan and I would like
3 to transmit a letter to the working group, if they do
4 open the plan up, that they would consider providing an
5 absolute minimum threshold of 35 bulls per 100 cows.

6

7 So how does the Council feel about
8 transmitting that letter to the working group and
9 receiving these minutes from the caribou working group
10 also?

11

12 MR. GERVAIS: It sounds appropriate,
13 yes.

14

15 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Is the Council
16 satisfied with that.

17

18 (Council nods affirmatively)

19

20 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: And so that
21 completes that issue, Vince.

22

23 MR. MATHEWS: Okay. Just an
24 administrative thing, you can look at it on your own
25 time. I provide you a list of correspondence sent and
26 received, that's just kind of a record, you can look at
27 that on Page 112. There's really no reason to go over
28 that. If there's something in there that you'd like a
29 copy of that I failed to mail to you or whatever then
30 let me know.

31

32 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: One directive for
33 correspondence. I would like all of the proposals that
34 we've promulgated at this meeting to be sent to all of
35 the Advisory Committee members in the GASH, the Koyukuk
36 Advisory Committee, and the Middle Yukon Advisory
37 Committee. Those are the Advisory Committees that
38 would be affected by the -- Ruby Advisory Committee,
39 also all of the membership, I would like to -- I talked
40 to -- including our past Chairman Ron Sam, I would like
41 him to be -- he called me -- actually he called during
42 our meeting, he called home down here at Air Guides
43 yesterday to find out what we're doing -- Ron's not out
44 of the loop, Ron wants to know what's going on with
45 these proposals, and so I would like each one of those
46 members of those Advisory Committees to receive those
47 proposals that affect their Advisory Committee.

48

49 And all of the correspondence that we
50 receive from Vince, each member of our Council receives

1 those and so we don't really have to review those sent
2 and received correspondence, and so that completes that
3 correspondence issue.

4

5 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, it does. And then
6 the last thing I have besides an award we have to give
7 out, is nominations. Now, several have approached me
8 about the nominations for 2009, they're still pending.
9 I don't know where they are in D.C., but generally we
10 get a response on Secretarial appointments, we hope in
11 September, but sometimes it comes in December, so for
12 the incumbents, we'll let you know as soon -- I mean
13 the Secretary will let you know as soon as that
14 decision is made on the appointments for 2009. Then
15 that brings up 2010, and for 2010, I have applications
16 here for Donald Honea, Jr., and Robert Walker and let
17 me check my list here because usually there's three,
18 oh, the third one is Mickey Stickman, so, yes, I mail
19 you one and, yes, the office mails you another and,
20 yes, you may get one in a massive mail out, but in
21 Eastern Interior they all got mailed out to one
22 individual but I didn't realize mail isn't delivered to
23 his home, so I'm now working with the Park Service,
24 when they fly over to drop it in.

25

(Laughter)

26

27
28 MR. MATHEWS: So I apologize for the
29 multiple applications but we want to make sure you get
30 the application and have the opportunity to apply for
31 the seat. For the other Council members that seats
32 aren't open, we also encourage you if there's people in
33 your communities or in your travels that you think
34 would be interested to be on the Advisory Council
35 [sic], have them fill out -- our applications, number
36 of applications has dropped off quite a bit so we'll be
37 working on ramping up on getting more applicants to
38 apply so you and the process have a pool of candidates
39 that's going to bring forth quality people. So with
40 that I'll get these to Robert and Donald.

41

42 So that brings us up to, for me, and
43 then you have closing comments afterwards, we have an
44 award, and I just need a second to get the award and
45 then Mr. Haskett was going to assist me in giving that
46 award out.

47

48 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So should we do the
49 award right now?

50

1 MR. MATHEWS: If that's okay.
2
3 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay, we'll do the
4 award and then we'll do our final comments and we'll
5 close the meetings, that sounds great.
6
7 MR. MATHEWS: And, of course, we need
8 to get a group shot somewhere and I'll leave that up to
9 Liz to pull that off. I'm not good at getting you guys
10 to all stand in one spot.
11
12 (Laughter)
13
14 MR. RIVARD: Maybe a shot of everybody
15 eating moose soup.
16
17 (Laughter)
18
19 (Pause)
20
21 MR. MATHEWS: Is anybody on the phone.
22
23 (Laughter)
24
25 MR. MATHEWS: Okay, I think we'll hang
26 up.
27
28 MR. DEMATTEO: I think I'm the last one
29 hanging on here.
30
31 MR. MATHEWS: Oh, you're going to hang
32 on, okay, Pete, I don't want to cut you off, sorry
33 because you know this individual well.
34
35 As you know -- oh, let me turn the mic
36 on -- let me take a deep breath here.
37
38 The foundation of the whole program is
39 the Regional Advisory Councils, that's the structure
40 that was set up in ANILCA. The Board, which we have a
41 Board member next to you, has to understand where you
42 guys are coming from and, et cetera, to get that
43 quality information there, you have to have people
44 serving on the Councils that have the dedication to
45 follow through on that. We are now recognizing
46 people's length of service. And so this goes to.....
47
48 MR. HASKETT: I can hold the cup.
49
50 (Laughter)

1 MR. MATHEWS: Well, I'm real nervous
2 and I'm probably turning beet red, but we'll get over
3 it.

4
5 (Laughter)

6
7 MR. MATHEWS: This is a certificate of
8 appreciation presented to Donald Honea, and we will get
9 this corrected, it should say Jr., and I apologize for
10 the program for not putting down Jr., here, in respect
11 to your father, in recognition of his contribution to
12 the Federal Subsistence Management Program, as a member
13 of the Western Interior Subsistence Regional Advisory
14 Council for the years 2004 to 2009.

15
16 So if you'd like to come forward and
17 we'll get you the corrected certificate of
18 appreciation.

19
20 (Applause)

21
22 (Laughter)

23
24 MR. HASKETT: He asked me if I wanted
25 to do it and I thought it'd be better if you presented
26 it, but thank you very much, it's really a good deal.

27
28 Oh, I think she wants to get a picture.

29
30 MS. WILLIAMS: Would you all do that
31 handshake again.

32
33 MR. HASKETT: Okay, we can do that.

34
35 (Laughter)

36
37 MS. WILLIAMS: Okay.

38
39 MR. HASKETT: Get it, very good.

40
41 MR. HONEA: Just sign the treaty.

42
43 (Laughter)

44
45 MR. HONEA: More land.

46
47 (Laughter)

48
49 MR. MATHEWS: Let the record reflect
50 there was no treaty on the table.

1 (Laughter)
2
3 MR. MATHEWS: Thank you, Mr. Haskett.
4
5 MR. HASKETT: Sure.
6
7 MR. MATHEWS: And, Mr. Honea, for your
8 years of service. Hopefully they will continue. It is
9 valuable for all people involved in this process to
10 hear directly from the users.
11
12 Thank you.
13
14 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Congratulations,
15 Don. You've been a very significant contributor to our
16 Council and we appreciate your participation here at
17 all times.
18
19 Thank you.
20
21 MR. HONEA: Thank you.
22
23 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: And so we're going
24 through closing comments at this time, aren't we,
25 Vince?
26
27 MR. MATHEWS: Yes.
28
29 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: And so we'll go
30 around the table. I'll start with Jenny since -- go
31 ahead, Jenny, ladies first.
32
33 MS. PELKOLA: Okay. This has been a
34 very good meeting. I learned a lot again. I just want
35 to thank my peers, you know, for just bearing with the
36 hardness, and also I was just thinking we have so much
37 on our plate that I don't know, you know, it seems like
38 we just rushed through some things, and I would liked
39 to have had spent a little bit more time on it and
40 there are some things that I think we spend too much
41 time on or talking too much and I think we need to look
42 into coming to our meetings and just try to stick to
43 the topic.
44
45 I guess that's all I have to say, thank
46 you.
47
48 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: My apologies for
49 speaking long-winded on various issues. But I --
50 there's some issues that need to be on the record. All

1 of this is transcribed and if you go to the Federal
2 Subsistence Board meeting, the State's going to pin you
3 unless you got all of this stuff down in the
4 transcripts and so that's why I get a little bit long-
5 winded, but sometimes I get -- I apologized to Bob over
6 there about getting too long-winded on that discussion,
7 as I am right now.

8

9 So, Eleanor.

10

11 MS. PELKOLA: Can I say one more thing?

12

13 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yes, go ahead.

14

15 MS. PELKOLA: I wasn't speaking to only
16 you, I was speaking to all of us.

17

18 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Oh, all of us, okay,
19 I thought it was just me.

20

21 (Laughter)

22

23 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I got the gift of
24 gab, so -- okay, I'm going to give Eleanor, ladies
25 first, closing comment, Eleanor.

26

27 MS. YATLIN: I wanted to say thank you
28 to Aniak for the hospitality. Too bad there's not very
29 many residents here, Carl, but it seems like we're --
30 it's like that at every meeting we go to except for the
31 villages we don't choose to go to, but I sure
32 appreciate all the comments and I know we represent a
33 diverse area, all the way up to Wiseman, all the way
34 down to Innoko area. So we're on a big area and we --
35 like Jenny said, we rushed through some things, but
36 some of it was very, very important that we had to go
37 through and I appreciate that. I might not agree with
38 everyone, or disagree with some of the decisions that
39 the Federal or State has to make, but I would like -- I
40 would much rather be open and honest and everybody
41 else, when they put their opinions on the table or
42 their facts and figures, I appreciate that.

43

44 So I just wanted to say thanks to all
45 of you.

46

47 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I appreciate your
48 participation in the meeting, Eleanor, and so you fill
49 a very vital gap for the Koyukuk, the
50 Koyukon/Athabaskan people that you communicate up and

1 down. I appreciated your research for this meeting
2 with the people, the local elders along the river, and
3 I really do appreciate that.

4
5 And, so I'll go back over here to
6 James, go ahead, James.

7
8 MR. J. WALKER: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
9 I'd like to thank Aniak also for hosting this area.
10 I'd also really like to thank the agencies that gave
11 their reports and all the other Staff members that gave
12 reports. It was very helpful for me to realize and
13 understand some of the issues that we're dealing with.

14
15 And I'd also like to thank and commend
16 the Council members themselves, each one of them, for
17 their participation, for bringing their concerns
18 forward.

19
20 And, again, Jack, this is only my
21 second meeting, but I do appreciate your wholehearted
22 concern that you bring forth in showing that you want
23 to do something for this Council.

24
25 Thank you.

26
27 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thank you,
28 appreciate that. Robert.

29
30 MR. R. WALKER: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
31 I thought you were going to go over to Tim over there.

32
33 (Laughter)

34
35 MR. R. WALKER: It's always nice to
36 come back to Aniak here and be here again for a couple
37 days here and I thank the Board members for being here,
38 too, superintendent and Vince. I kind of miss Russ not
39 being here, though, I mean I'd like to get on his case
40 one more time before he leaves. Thank the Staff. We
41 have some new Staff members that did show up here, too,
42 Jetta, I believe this is your first or second meeting.
43 And, also, I think Tracy and the Director's here.
44 Thank you, very much. And congratulations to Don, but
45 I guess there was no check there Don, but maybe next
46 time around.

47
48 (Laughter)

49
50 MR. R. WALKER: Yeah, it's still in the

1 mail, yep, still in the mail.

2

3 Thank you, very much.

4

5 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: All right, thanks,
6 Robert. I do appreciate James and Robert being here
7 for this Unit 21E, very important issues that keep
8 occurring there and so I do appreciate your work with
9 the Council.

10

11 Carl.

12

13 MR. MORGAN: Yeah, thank you. I can't
14 even remember how many years I've been going through
15 this and it always amazes me that each meeting I learn
16 something different, you know, sometimes it's better
17 just to listen and speak a little bit but I looked at
18 some of these and look at you and look at Staff and
19 said, that proverb of old Chinese, a picture's worth a
20 thousand words. I do take it at heart. And I do
21 believe if it's written down that it will mean
22 something, it'll go through and somebody will see it.
23 And so our comments and the comments we make here in
24 every meeting, somebody's reading them, they go from
25 here out and somebody is reading them. And I feel that
26 I wouldn't live long enough to learn everything. I'm
27 learning -- I'll never quit learning. And the more I
28 I've been in this, in the Western Interior, the more I
29 kind of realize man I don't know everything, I know
30 just a little bit, I'm still learning, but some of it
31 gets repetitive but maybe that's what it takes
32 sometimes to make it stick.

33

34 And I'd like to welcome you all, thank
35 you for coming, you know, I put out the word, Eleanor,
36 but I can't -- you know, and that's just sometimes the
37 nature of the game, sometimes some villages just don't
38 participate for some reason or another. And I can't
39 apologize for the people that didn't come or didn't --
40 or the ones that did so -- and so I'd like to thank you
41 all for coming, it was a wonderful meeting. Long. But
42 wonderful.

43

44 (Laughter)

45

46 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks, Carl. I
47 appreciate you being from the Kuskokwim River here and
48 representing this lower portion of our region and we
49 always rely on your input for this area down here.

50

1 Ray.

2

3 MR. COLLINS: Yeah, it was a good
4 meeting.

5

6 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Turn the mic on.

7

8 MR. COLLINS: Yeah. It was a good
9 meeting and I appreciate the patience of all the Staff
10 that sit out there and listen to us as we go through.
11 It seems that it doesn't get any easier to solve these.
12 As long as I've been on here it's still faced with the
13 same issues and problems and challenges but I do feel
14 we're making some progress. I want to thank you all
15 for your participation. I enjoyed our lodging, where
16 we're staying there, that was a good choice again, and
17 the opportunity to visit outside of the meeting with
18 people was good.

19

20 So thank you all.

21

22 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks a lot, Ray.
23 Ray has been on the Council with me since its inception
24 in '93 and so Ray brings a lot of the information from
25 the upper Kuskokwim area and has a longstanding history
26 in that and so people in the off -- or not during the
27 meeting, but outside of the meeting, Ray informs us
28 about very integral parts of life ways up there, and so
29 we really appreciate your continuance on this Council.
30 Thanks, Ray.

31

32 Don.

33

34 MR. HONEA: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I
35 guess I -- I missed the meeting in Galena so I don't
36 like missing too many meetings if I don't have to, so
37 I'm thankful that the plane stopped by and picked up
38 Tim and I and I'm pretty happy to have these ladies
39 with us out here because we get a different
40 perspective, and they're down to earth and I like their
41 comments.

42

43 I just -- you know, whatever we've
44 done, if we've made an affect, if we've helped the
45 people in the Allakaket and, you know, it now goes to
46 the Federal Subsistence Board and the State proposals
47 go to the State, but if we've made an affect on
48 somebody then, you know, then we would have helped
49 somebody then we would have made this worthwhile.

50

1 But I'm just thankful for KNA or
2 whoever the -- the village of Aniak, it's good to be
3 here. You know, I'm just throwing a pitch for McGrath,
4 I think that -- you know, I think that, you know, we
5 should cover both rivers. I mean if there's issues
6 over there, I mean there's region wide and, you know, I
7 don't -- this is my opinion, myself, that we don't have
8 to have any definite reason, we don't have to give
9 that, and I -- I enjoyed all these years. It seems
10 like just -- just -- but a lot of people have come and
11 gone, it's good to always see Geoff, he was our
12 wildlife Refuge manger, I believe, up there at one
13 time, and, you know, there's a lot of people throughout
14 the years that we don't see. There's some people that
15 aren't here, different people may have come in, but
16 like Carl said it's a learning experience and you learn
17 something every year and, you know, I'm grateful for
18 the input from each of you. I mean I believe Tim has
19 vast knowledge of fishing issues and, you know, we need
20 that on here and we need the lower Yukon, Anvik, we
21 need their -- I believe these guys are both fishermen
22 and, you know, we bring -- I welcome that experience to
23 the table.

24
25 Thank you.

26
27 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks, Don.
28 Appreciate those comments. I do think that the ladies
29 on our Council bring a different angle to the Council
30 and balance the Council and so I appreciate the lady's
31 participation on the Council.

32
33 Tim, you got closing comment.

34
35 MR. GERVAIS: Yes. I'd like to thank
36 the community of Aniak and the residents of the
37 Kuskokwim for welcoming us down this way. And
38 particularly for educating me on what happens in this
39 region, it's the first time I've ever been on the
40 Kuskokwim. I realize there's a lot of shortage down
41 this way and I hope we'll be able to -- with our
42 efforts, and other efforts, we'll be able to get some
43 of these populations back up to better levels.

44
45 I'd like to thank the various agencies
46 and Staff for spending a long time, I know you have to
47 sit down for a day or several days just to get a short
48 amount of time to present your information or your
49 issues and it's a lot of commitment to do that.

50

1 I'd like to thank everybody involved
2 with the meeting for coming up with some good solid
3 response on the fisheries issues, I know it's very
4 important to several of the communities in Western
5 Alaska, but, in particular, the citizens of Ruby are
6 very, very appreciative of everyone's efforts in trying
7 to get the chinook and chum salmon populations to
8 maintain healthy escapement and harvest levels.

9
10 We cover some diverse issues from areas
11 that some, myself and other members don't normally get
12 into and I was glad we were able to go through these
13 issues well and listen to each other's points, be
14 respectful. I think in the end we realize we all have
15 more in common than we have in differences, and I don't
16 think anybody would bother to sit through all this
17 deliberation if they didn't really think that
18 subsistence and the subsistence lifestyle is a
19 beautiful thing.

20
21 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thank you. I
22 appreciate those words.

23
24 My comments would be I appreciate Aniak
25 hosting our meeting place here and appreciate Bob
26 Aloysius sitting through our meeting and Ken Chase
27 coming to our meetings. I appreciate the AC, Advisory
28 Committee members Chairs coming to our meetings and
29 bringing perspective from a -- it adds to and it's part
30 of our program to incorporate that.

31
32 I appreciate the Regional Director,
33 Geoff, attending our meeting, and Tracy also attending
34 our meeting. I feel that it's important for the seated
35 Board members and Staff to understand how the Councils
36 are working and how these Councils, the kind of work
37 load that these Councils are going through.

38
39 And I appreciate all of our Staff, the
40 National Park Service, didn't attend, but -- and so
41 they made presentation -- but BLM and the Refuges sat
42 through the whole meeting and I appreciate the dialogue
43 and the input from the Refuges and the Bureau of Land
44 Management in participating in this meeting.

45
46 I very much appreciate Vince's very
47 important role in facilitating our meeting, our travel
48 and working with the Council members throughout the
49 whole year, every day, work day, almost every day I'm
50 emailing and dialoging with Vince, and so Vince is a

1 very, very important part of this process.

2

3 I highly appreciate the OSM Staff
4 attending our meetings and conveying back to the OSM
5 office concerns that the Council has and facilitating
6 clarity of OSM's policies and so forth and so I highly
7 appreciate Larry being here and Don at this meeting.

8

9 I extremely appreciate the strong
10 Council that we have right now. I feel that our
11 Council is a very strong Council. And I feel every
12 member, or lack of member -- I feel Mickey not being
13 here, I rely on Mickey, and so when our Council is at
14 full quorum I feel we have a very powerful Council, and
15 every Council member is vital to doing the business of
16 providing for the resources of the Western Interior
17 region and the people who reside here, the rural people
18 who reside within the Western Interior region. And so
19 I feel that the Federal Subsistence Management Program
20 and the Federal Subsistence Board is providing a
21 meaningful role in subsistence management through the
22 Council process and the OSM Federal Subsistence Board
23 process.

24

25 And so those would be my shortened
26 versions of my comments.

27

28 (Laughter)

29

30 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So the Chair will
31 entertain a motion to adjourn the meeting.

32

33 MR. J. WALKER: So moved.

34

35 MS. PELKOLA: Second.

36

37 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Moved and seconded,
38 those in favor of adjourning the meeting signify by
39 saying aye.

40

41 IN UNISON: Aye.

42

43 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Vince.

44

45 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, I assume your stew
46 is open to everybody.....

47

48 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yeah, I was going to
49 go home and cook now.

50

1 MR. MATHEWS: and so Bob and
2 others in the room, if you're not staying at the lodge
3 we'll figure out a way to pick you up.

4
5 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay, we're
6 adjourned.

7
8 (Off record)

9
10 (END OF PROCEEDINGS)

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C E R T I F I C A T E

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

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DATED at Anchorage, Alaska, this 20th day of October 2009.

Salena A. Hile
Notary Public, State of Alaska
My Commission Expires: 9/16/10