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WESTERN INTERIOR FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE
REGIONAL COUNCIL MEETING

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VOLUME III

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12

Huslia, Alaska

13

March 11, 2004

14

8:00 o'clock a.m.

15

16

17 COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

18

19 Ronald Sam, Chair

20 Ray Collins

21 Benedict Jones

22 Tom Kriska

23 Carl Morgan

24 Jack Reakoff

25 George Siavelis

26 Michael Stickman

27 Robert Walker

28

29 Regional Council Coordinator; Vince Mathews

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P R O C E E D I N G S

(Huslia, Alaska - 3/11/2004)

(On record)

CHAIRMAN SAM: Are we ready Vince.

MR. MATHEWS: Yes we're ready.

CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay I understand that we have a few people that have some early flights and I believe that they have some reports to get out before we adjourn. I understand there's some flights leaving 10:30, 11:00. So I would like to accommodate these people. I understand that Polly Wheeler is one. So at this time we'll take a quick roll call Vince.

MR. MATHEWS: Yes, Mr. Chairman. Robert Walker.

MR. WALKER: Yes.

MR. MATHEWS: Mickey Stickman. He's around somewhere. George Siavelis.

MR. SIAVELIS: Here.

MR. MATHEWS: Ron Sam.

CHAIRMAN SAM: Here.

MR. MATHEWS: Jack Reakoff.

MR. REAKOFF: Here.

MR. MATHEWS: Carl Morgan.

MR. MORGAN: Here.

MR. MATHEWS: Benedict Jones.

MR. JONES: Here.

MR. MATHEWS: Ray Collins.

MR. COLLINS: Here.

MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman you do have a quorum.

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1 CHAIRMAN SAM: Tommy Kriska.

2

3 MR. STICKMAN: You didn't call Tommy
4 Kriska.

5

6 MR. MATHEWS: I'm sorry. I'm trying to go
7 off the travel schedule. I apologize Tommy. I have to get
8 the.....

9

10 MR. STICKMAN: He came by Sno-Go.

11

12 MR. MATHEWS: He came by Sno-Go. But
13 anyways Tom Kriska.

14

15 MR. KRISKA: Here.

16

17 MR. MATHEWS: Sorry about that.

18

19 CHAIRMAN SAM: The record will note that
20 Mickey Stickman just walked in. And the first thing I
21 would like you to cover real briefly Vince is the travel
22 schedule. Who's going out when, what time. If you can
23 cover that briefly, please.

24

25 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, Mr. Chairman. I called
26 yesterday and everybody's confirm on Warbelow's flights,
27 but there is two flights this afternoon. So I'll try to do
28 this.

29

30 The 750 flight I believe is the 4:00
31 o'clock flight and on that is Ray Collins, Ron Sam, Mickey
32 Stickman, Salena Hile, Tom Kron, Warren Eastland, Jerry
33 Berg, and myself.

34

35 On the later flight, which I don't have my
36 notes in front of me. I think it's like 5:00 -- 5:30.
37 Because it's the timing out of Galena on that one is
38 Benedict Jones, Carl Morgan, Jack Reakoff, George Siavelis,
39 Robert Walker -- and these may have changed -- Randy
40 Rogers, Taylor Brelsford. So those are the afternoon
41 flights.

42

43 For the morning flight on Warbelow's it's
44 my notes are right here it's just Rich. This is just
45 Warbelow's. I didn't talk to Frontier because we didn't
46 book anything with Frontier. So those that are on Frontier
47 need to get a hold of that agent because that plane arrives
48 I think around 10:20 something.

49

50 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay. Any Staff that has

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1 early flights? And I realize that Polly does. So do you
2 have a report to give too?

3

4 MR. CAMPBELL: I'm with Fish and Game and
5 so I thought.....

6

7 CHAIRMAN SAM: Mike.

8

9 MR. CAMPBELL:there might be some
10 question or concerns about the most recent Board meetings.
11 I think there were at the other council meetings. So I'll
12 be there to listen to your concerns and take them back with
13 me.

14

15 CHAIRMAN SAM: All right. We have time at
16 the end of the meeting to list our final concerns. So
17 whether you're here or not we'll see what we can do.

18

19 Polly and any others leaving early? Sandy
20 you had a report too. I just want to accommodate all our
21 Staff who's been bearing with us. We have UAF leaving
22 early, so we'll go ahead with Polly and University of
23 Alaska, Fairbanks. Take those, so we don't have to worry
24 about their travel schedules.

25

26 MS. WHEELER: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
27 Actually, we're not too much out of schedule because I'm
28 Item 8B on your agenda. So you skipped over A, but I am
29 8B. And as I said to you just a few minutes ago, I'll make
30 it brief recognizing that you're feeling the press of the
31 agenda.

32

33 We neglected to get our materials done in
34 time to get in the Board book. So, I actually have three
35 separate handouts which maybe somebody could help me hand
36 out. There's the update on the Yukon River Monitoring
37 Plan, the Kuskokwim River Monitoring Plan, and then there's
38 a letter to you, Mr. Chair about our strategic planning
39 process. So, Staff is helping me hand those out now and
40 I'll just give them a couple minutes and speak to each of
41 those items quickly.

42

43 As I said the other day I'm Polly Wheeler
44 for the record. Polly Wheeler with the Office of
45 Subsistence Management. I work specifically for the
46 Fisheries Information Services. Currently I'm the lead
47 anthropologist, but also the only anthropologist working
48 for Fisheries Information Services. We have four
49 biologists working also at Fisheries Information Services
50 and you know Cliff Schleusner who's the Yukon River

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1 biologist and Rich Cannon who is the Kuskokwim biologist.
2 We also have Doug McBride who works in South Central and
3 Southeast and Steven Fried who works in the northern
4 regions and also Bristol Bay and Kodiak Aleutians.

5
6 Anyway I'm just going to touch on a couple
7 of things. The two larger handouts that you just got
8 again, the Yukon River Overview and the Kuskokwim Overview
9 of the Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program.

10
11 As you know the program is four years old
12 we started in 2000. Since the program began we have funded
13 62 projects in the Yukon River Region and 52 projects in
14 the Kuskokwim Region. Those projects represent roughly
15 half or in some cases a little bit more -- a little bit
16 less of the research on fisheries that's going on in either
17 of those two regions. In the Yukon Region all the 12
18 studies are still -- or I'm sorry -- 12 studies are still
19 ongoing, the remainder are finished. And I said to you the
20 other day, you can go through that update it gives you an
21 overview. Gives you the title of all the different
22 projects and sort of their status if they've been completed
23 and then it gives you an update of the 12 studies that are
24 ongoing. If you're interested in -- and that's for the
25 Yukon -- if your interested in getting copies of any of
26 those reports, let me know because I can get them to you.

27
28
29 On the Kuskokwim all but 15 studies are
30 complete. And again, the overview is provided in those
31 updates. So if you are interested in copies of any of
32 those reports. And I mentioned the other day I'm currently
33 reviewing a draft report on the Koyukuk non-salmon harvest
34 in TEK and so I know there's a couple of you that would be
35 most interested in getting that and I still need to talk to
36 you Jack on your comments. But I do encourage you to take
37 a look at this because again your input is not only in
38 identifying issues and information needs, but also in kind
39 of keeping track of the products and if you have comments,
40 questions, concerns, we're open to them. And since I'm
41 your anthropologist on that end, if you do have questions
42 I'm here for you.

43
44 Quick update on the FY 2005 projects. We
45 don't have has much money this year as we did last year.
46 Thank God because last year I had so many proposals to
47 review it wasn't even funny and now this year I get a
48 little bit of a break. This year we got 17 proposals for
49 the Yukon. Twelve of them are sort of the standard
50 biological projects and five of them are harvest monitoring

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1 TEK. And for the Kuskokwim we got 12 projects. Five are
2 sort of your standard biological projects and seven are the
3 harvest monitoring and TEK projects. We as FIS Staff have
4 prepared our reviews for the Technical Review Committee
5 which meets tomorrow morning beginning at 8:00 a.m. to go
6 over those proposals and those projects, so at the Fall
7 2004 meeting we will be presenting those project selections
8 to you.

9

10 I'll keep going Mr. Chair unless you want
11 me to continue on. Okay. Brings me to my third point and
12 you might want to pick up that letter that's addressed to
13 Ron Sam. I mentioned the other day in the training in an
14 effort to refine our issues and information needs and
15 identify the highest priority projects, so that our call
16 for proposals can be as specific as possible we -- being
17 FIS -- are engaging in a strategic planning process. And
18 you know they always call it strategic planning and I've
19 never understood that because unstrategic planning probably
20 wouldn't be funded.

21

(Laughter)

22

23
24 But in any event we are engaged in a
25 strategic planning process to identify the highest priority
26 issues and information needs. For the Yukon that will be
27 starting in November of '04 and for the Kuskokwim it will
28 be November of '04 as well.

29

30 There's a couple of other planning
31 processes ongoing. So we're waiting for the JTC Plan to
32 kind of evolve and also for the Kuskokwim Strategic Salmon
33 Plan to evolve. Our plan is to have FIS Staff -- for the
34 Yukon it would be me and Cliff Schleusner -- for the
35 Kuskokwim it would be me and Rich Cannon -- convene a
36 workshop that'll include managers, one to two Regional
37 Advisory Council Members for each region and also
38 scientists to meet and go through this process to actually
39 identify the highest priority issues and information needs
40 to again refine the call. The copy of the letter before is
41 from Tom Boyd to Ron Sam explaining that process. But this
42 is an informational for you if you're curious about how
43 that process is going to occur I can give you pointers.
44 We're using this program called AHP, Analytical Hierarchy
45 Program, and it mathematically identifies priorities. But
46 the real key is that it's getting a bunch of people in a
47 room for three days and at the end of it we're going to
48 come up with these issues and information needs and then
49 we'll have subsequent meeting six months or so later to get
50 at that.

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1 I don't expect that we'll come up with
2 anything that is a lot different than what we have now, but
3 there's a lot of benefit in getting different view points
4 in a room for three days to try to work out some issues and
5 hopefully everybody will compromise a little bit.

6
7 The final piece of information that I have
8 to share with you is on the Partner's Program. I mentioned
9 that the other day. The focus of the Partner's Program
10 again is to put professional level biologists and social
11 scientists in to non-profit organizations, so that they can
12 work capacity building at the local level. Get folks more
13 involved in fisheries monitoring, but also fisheries
14 projects.

15
16 The Kuskokwim currently has two people.
17 Both of whom are biologists. We've got Dave Cannon at K&A
18 and actually the Kuskokwim biologist at AVCP is just
19 recently resigned her position, so that position is open as
20 I understand it as we speak. And there are three Yukon
21 River biologists. There's one at AVCP, Dave Waltmeyer, one
22 at Tanana Chiefs Kim Elkin, and one at Council of
23 Athabaskan Tribal Governments Joe Schlosman. So, this
24 region is fortunate in a way because they've actually been
25 able to take full advantage of these positions.

26
27 We also have two positions at Bristol Bay
28 Native Association. Both a social scientist and a
29 biologist and we have a social scientist at Native Village
30 of Eek. So they're sort of spread out throughout the State
31 and getting more involved in fisheries projects and getting
32 local people involved.

33
34 And we've got a number of projects that are
35 going on in the Yukon River beginning in a couple of months
36 that are utilizing those partner's positions. We have a
37 TEK science camp up at Fort Yukon. I'm trying to think of
38 some other -- and there's a number of them that are also
39 working on some of the biological projects.

40
41 So with that, Mr. Chair without taking up
42 too much more time I'd be happy to answer questions. But
43 that's the update from the Fisheries Information Services.

44
45 Mr. Chair.

46
47 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Polly. I have
48 one question. When we have a regular fish cycle meetings
49 -- that's in October, right? And then is that where we
50 prioritize all these projects and make recommendations on

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1 them?

2

3

MS. WHEELER: Yes. At your October meeting we'll bring a -- as we've done in years past -- unfortunately it wouldn't be that many projects in October because we just don't have as much funding this year. So, we will be bringing you the prioritized list recommended by the Technical Review Committee and asking for your support. But as in years past there's your opportunity to engage more on projects and look at the projects. And we'll hopefully have some investigators there too, so that if you have specific questions of them they may be able to help out too. But, yeah that will be at your fall meeting.

14

CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay. That's fine and it's fine time that we don't have too many new ones because I think it is through our request that we keep funding some of the ones that we have on the books and that we really try to keep funding because we think they are a great program. And we've got to have these numbers up there and I think that all I wanted to say is that I think we're doing a good job with those projects and it's our preference that we fund some of the old ones that we keep going. That's why we don't hear that much about them. Jack.

25

26

27

MR. REAKOFF: Mr. Chairman. Under the Partner's Program are there any social scientists for the Western Interior? I thought you were just talking about fisheries biologists and not -- Bristol Bay has social scientists. Are you getting any assistance under that on the Partner's Program?

32

33

MS. WHEELER: Well we just had a competitive bid process for a social scientist position. It was anywhere in the State. And we had the person -- or the entity that was selected for that was Bristol Bay Native Association. It was a competitive bid process. There were a number, you know, a number of different applicants. And so it is my understanding that there actually wasn't any -- there weren't any applicants from Western Interior for the social scientists position. Maybe I haven't done as good a job as I should of showing people how important social science input is to this whole process. So I guess I got my work cut out for me. But I have to say, you know, I mean by in large in the applications that we've had come in right from the get go with the Partner's Program has been for biologists and not social scientists. Even though when you go out to communities clearly people talk about the importance of

50

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1 using traditional knowledge in fisheries management -- in
2 wildlife management, but some how we haven't always been
3 good about making that leap of who's good at helping people
4 do that.

5
6 So that's a long answer to a short
7 question.

8
9 MR. REAKOFF: Mr. Chairman, I would like to
10 see our Staff have assistance under Partner Program or at
11 least assistance in general.

12
13 I'd also like to see our anthropologist
14 have field projects. I feel that the anthropological Staff
15 should have field work in conjunction and have enough Staff
16 to allow them to do that. I feel that it allows them to
17 keep their hand on the pulse of what's really going on
18 rural Alaska and so if our anthropological Staff is stuck
19 in Anchorage or Fairbanks or somewheres they kind of get
20 detached from like from what we see in here at this meeting
21 -- the real pulse of what's going on in rural Alaska. And
22 so a Partnership Program to help take some of the work load
23 off our Federal Staff would be a good thing. And so I just
24 want to state that.

25
26 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Jack. Any other
27 questions for Polly.

28
29 MR. COLLINS: Mr. Chairman.

30
31 CHAIRMAN SAM: Ray.

32
33 MR. COLLINS: Polly, when are they
34 contemplating those three days meetings because some of us
35 may be involved when those? When is that likely to come
36 up?

37
38 MS. WHEELER: All I know at this point
39 member Collins through the Chair is that we are roughly
40 stretching them out for November of '04. So there's not a
41 specific -- when it gets a little bit closer we will, you
42 know, we'll be contacting people to sort of see what their
43 schedules are. We started this spring with Southcentral
44 and Bristol Bay. And the Southcentral meeting is scheduled
45 for the third week in April and Bristol Bay is not
46 scheduled yet. So we're talking sort of short time frames.
47 But as soon as we have our schedules worked out we will be
48 letting you know.

49
50 CHAIRMAN SAM: Any further questions for

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1 Polly.

2

3

(No comments)

4

5

CHAIRMAN SAM: If not, thank you. And I know that this was brief. I know that we will be working with you at our next meeting too. Regular scheduled meeting prioritizing and making some more recommendations.

9

10

Thank you, Polly.

11

12

MS. WHEELER: And Mr. Chair, again, I would urge you to look at those overviews of the different, you know, the Yukon River and Kuskokwim River and if you do want reports or anything I'd be happy to send them out to you. You can just give me call at our 800 number in Anchorage.

18

19

Thank you, Mr. Chair.

20

21

CHAIRMAN SAM: Yeah I glanced at them briefly, but then I covered a lot of -- I had the pleasure of attending the spiritually meeting at Allakaket. So I did cover some of this and again I'd like to thank everybody for their comments and thank you for your presentation.

27

28

Next person new just came in and we're just finding out about him. A new position at the University of Alaska, Fairbanks. He just wanted to met us and give us a brief presentation. I believe. State your name and your affiliation for the record.

33

34

MR. CHAPIN: Thanks, Mr. Chairman and Council Members. I'm Terry Chapin from the University of Alaska, Fairbanks.

37

38

And this is a project on human fire interactions. And what we're trying to do is understand the role of human activities both from management and user standpoints on the fire regime in Interior Alaska. And mainly with the goal of thinking about how the ecological and social situations in rural Alaska might have a more sustainable future. And some of the people that are involved in this project are Sara Trainer and Orville Huntington, and La-ona DeWilde.

47

48

Some of the aspects of this involve studying the history of fire since 1950 where there's a good data base and trying to understand how the role of

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1 human and lightning ignitions and suppression causing the
2 fire regime. And then trying to understand the effects of
3 fire regime on subsistence resources and the effects of
4 those subsistence resources on communities. And also the
5 effect of fire fighting wages for communities and some of
6 the other social implications of fire fighting wages.

7

8 And one of the things that we plan to do on
9 this is use computer simulation models to look at the long
10 term effects of changes in fire regime. So trying to
11 understand how changes in climate, changes in policy might
12 effect fire regime and how that's going to effect
13 subsistence resources and in turn how that would effect
14 communities.

15

16 And so I mainly wanted to just let all of
17 you know about this, so if there's any ways in which we can
18 help in the things that you're doing we'd be more than
19 happy to do that.

20

21 Thank you.

22

23 CHAIRMAN SAM: Any questions for Terry
24 Chapin.

25

26 (No comments)

27

28 CHAIRMAN SAM: I appreciate that because
29 I notice you here throughout our meeting and then there's
30 a few question here and there on moose habitat and I know
31 you we're asking some questions too. But one of the
32 biggest -- I guess most of us in the villages focus our
33 interest on fires mostly for that financial affect, you
34 know. There's some bad financial economic years that we
35 more than welcome fires or we want to fight those fires
36 while we know that it's probably helping our moose. Which
37 is still one of main priorities.

38

39 Any further questions. Robert.

40

41 MR. WALKER: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Is
42 there any future plans for controlled burns for future
43 habitat for moose or anywhere in the Region 6 here? I
44 don't know if you have a map of Region 6, but if you don't
45 we can give you one.

46

47 MR. CHAPIN: I don't know anything about
48 the plans for prescribed fires. We're mainly trying to
49 understand what's going on rather than trying to be part of
50 the planning process.

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1 MR. WALKER: Yes I think that maybe you
2 should look in to this see maybe there is a plan that, you
3 know, could be utilized in the area.

4
5 Thank you.

6
7 MR. CHAPIN: That's a really good idea.
8 Thanks.

9
10 CHAIRMAN SAM: Any further questions,
11
12 (No comments)

13
14 CHAIRMAN SAM: If not, thanks for making
15 that short presentation and letting us know what you're
16 doing.

17
18 Next person we have is Taylor Brelsford BLM
19 report I believe. Taylor, have you filled this one out.
20 Have you made your advocation?

21
22 (Laughter)

23
24 MR. MATHEWS: Well, Mr. Chairman while he's
25 setting up in answer to Robert's question the Refuges have
26 fire management plans and there was a Fire Management
27 Officer here and et cetera. So if you're wondering if
28 there's prescribed burns being planned the Conservation
29 Unit Fire Officer as well as the Refuge would have an idea
30 of that. Because I know they have been doing some around
31 the villages for safety.

32
33 MR. SPINDLER: There have been many on
34 Innoko.

35
36 MR. MATHEWS: And Innoko. I mean I don't
37 want to leave you in the lurch there Robert. There are
38 active planning processes for control burns. So Innoko is
39 planning one. Just to fill in the time, but also to let
40 you know that if you want more information about that we
41 can get that from the Refuges.

42
43 I don't know the process for Bureau of Land
44 Management, so I apologize for that.

45
46 MR. WALKER: Yes, Vince maybe I think that
47 it should be put on the agenda here too, you know, even if
48 you give us a five minute report or something like that
49 what you plan in the near future. I would think that would
50 be excellent.

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1 MR. SPINDLER: We can address that in the
2 Refuge report.

3
4 MR. MATHEWS: Mike is just telling me they
5 can address that through the Refuge report and I'll try to
6 note that on future times to let them know that whenever
7 it's the most convenient. I don't know if it would be this
8 meeting or Fall, but whatever one it is that if they
9 provide at least an update of their management actions that
10 would be forthcoming with fire that would help.

11
12 CHAIRMAN SAM: Anything further? No. You
13 ready Taylor?

14
15 MR. BRELSFORD: Yes. Thank you very much,
16 Mr. Chairman. Members. I appreciate the opportunity to
17 jump out of the line a little bit here and talk with you.

18
19
20 We have several BLM items to catch you up
21 about and my colleagues Tim Craig and Jeff Denton will have
22 some additional material about field level activities in a
23 few minutes.

24
25 But there's been on ongoing discussion
26 between the Western Interior Council and the BLM State
27 Director Henry Bisson on a statewide policy question that
28 you guys have really raised. You've highlighted the
29 concern about guide permits on BLM lands. And I wanted to
30 just sort of bring you up to date on the current status of
31 this.

32
33 So the top sheet of the little handout
34 starts by listing some letters that have gone back and
35 forth between your Chairman, Ron Sam, and my boss Henry
36 Bisson. I believe most of you have followed this
37 correspondence. You've written twice and gotten letters
38 back twice. So that's kind of the previous history and
39 I'll only go in to that if you have questions.

40
41 What I'd like to do is really go to the
42 bottom half of the page where we're at the current status
43 of this discussion about policy. And following on a visit
44 by the -- what in the BLM world is called the Resource
45 Advisory Council it's the BLM RAC. This statewide body met
46 in Wiseman for a field visit last summer and Jack Reakoff
47 -- your colleague -- raised some concerns to the BLM's
48 Advisory Council about guide permits. And the basic idea
49 is that there's an awful lot of pressure on the public
50 lands. More guide permits are being issued and we may be

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1 approaching over capacity. There may be too much effort
2 being directed to the public lands.

3

4 Now your Council has said how come Fish &
5 Wildlife and Park Service can do it one way and the BLM
6 can't do it that way. That was sort of the question. Why
7 is there a different policy. Some limitations on guiding
8 permits on parks and on Refuges and no limitations no
9 guidelines about limiting permits on the BLM lands.

10

11 So, after following this meeting in Wiseman
12 where Jack spoke with this sort of senior Advisory Council
13 to the State Director an issue paper was prepared that
14 compared the legal framework governing BLM lands compared
15 to the mandates and the legal frameworks for Park Service
16 and Refuges. And that issue paper is the last couple of
17 pages.

18

19 Basically the critical issue -- the
20 critical difference is that National Wildlife Refuges and
21 parks are permanent conservation units and so they
22 routinely have thresholds or guidelines for limiting
23 commercial use in a park or in a Refuge. The BLM generally
24 does not manage for commercial uses on the Refuge -- on the
25 BLM lands. They manage the land. The habitat. That's sort
26 of the primary mandate of the BLM. So we don't quite have
27 the same legal authorities that parks or Refuges have.
28 There's a work around where we can sort of get to the same
29 goal post, but it's time consuming.

30

31 The BLM land plans can identify carry and
32 capacity or what's called Recreation Management Objectives,
33 but you have to go through each of those lands plans to get
34 that language in to the plan. And what the State Director
35 in November -- this paragraph that refers to November of
36 '03 -- the State Director said for the future each of the
37 land use plans will examine the question of recreational
38 permits or guide permits from now on.

39

40 And so what I've done in the bottom part of
41 the page is to list three ongoing plans where the BLM is
42 starting this process and those are the ones where we will
43 be able to examine and bring in to the final plan some
44 Recreational Management Objectives and that would provide
45 the basis for limiting permits on the BLM lands in that
46 plan area. The three plans are listed in bold there.

47

48 One of those -- I'm not quite sure who gets
49 the prize for a cute title -- but this is called the Ring
50 of Fire Management Plan and it's basically the Gulf of

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1 Alaska. It involves some of Southeast and some of
2 Southcentral Alaska. The project manager's phone number is
3 there if any of you would have an interest in pursuing
4 details on it.

5
6 Another major planning effort is in the
7 Glen Allen area. It's call the East Alaska Draft Resource
8 Management Plan and the contact number is there.

9
10 And then finally, the newest of these is in
11 the Northwest Arctic basically. The Seward Peninsula Area.
12 It's called the Northwest Management Framework Plan and the
13 project manager's name is -- the project manager's contact
14 number is noted there. So that's what we're going to do in
15 to the future.

16
17 The Dalton Highway Corridor or what's
18 called the Utility Corridor Plan is the one that was sort
19 of the starting point of this whole discussion and that
20 plan is not currently scheduled for revision. We don't
21 have a date for when the Utility Corridor Plan will be
22 updated. When it is announced then this recreation and
23 guide permit question will become part of the planning
24 process for the Dalton Highway Corridor.

25
26 So on statewide policy that's kind of where
27 we got after a year and a half of correspondence between
28 your Council and the State Director.

29
30 On a little bit more concrete level there
31 were some questions in the Western Interior Council about
32 specific permitting activities. How many guides were
33 permitted for sheep hunting in the Dalton Highway Corridor.
34 And the last paragraph here -- the last bullet -- refers to
35 the fact that four guides are permitted to take clients for
36 sheep hunts in the Dalton Highway Corridor area. It's not
37 literally in the five mile Corridor, but in that area. The
38 State Director had promised in a previous letter that we
39 would issue those permits only for one year to try and see
40 kind of what the operators were like. What kind of
41 consequences might come from this. And that we would
42 monitor there activities. So Roger Delaney the Recreation
43 Specialist -- I guess is the right word -- in Fairbanks did
44 conduct compliance visits on those four sites this summer
45 and they were found to be in compliance with the terms of
46 their permits. In terms of the facilities and the impacts
47 on the ground no violations were observed and so those four
48 permits are going to be renewed. Some of them have already
49 been renewed and the others will if they're requested. So
50 that's basically the picture on actual permit activity in

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1 the Dalton Highway area.

2

3 Again the follow-up material -- the page
4 called Minutes from the Resource Advisory Council shows you
5 the policy statement about in land use plans upcoming we
6 will examine recreational management objectives and
7 following that is the briefing paper that compares the BLM
8 legal authorities with the Parks Service and Fish and
9 Wildlife Service.

10

11 So I think this has been an important issue
12 and it's taken us a little bit of time to work out the fine
13 print to really recognize what the legal authorities are
14 for us and how they compare and contrast with the other
15 Federal Agencies. At this point, I think basically all the
16 fundamental information is on the table and the course of
17 action available to us is to get involved in those upcoming
18 plans as they come up in each region. And I think our
19 intention is to continue to provide you information on an
20 ongoing basis about the level of permit activity on BLM
21 lands in your area. The first questions -- the focused
22 questions have really been on the Dalton Highway Corridor,
23 but we would like to sort of keep you current on permit
24 activity as an ongoing report.

25

26 And with that I'll close and see if there
27 is some questions or discussion.

28

29 MR. REAKOFF: Mr. Chairman.

30

31 CHAIRMAN SAM: Jack Reakoff.

32

33 MR. REAKOFF: When I talked to the Research
34 Advisory Council for the BLM in Wiseman this summer they
35 were unaware that there was a multiple guides hunting on
36 top of each other on BLM State lands. And so I brought
37 this to their attention they seemed to be very concerned
38 about that as I am.

39

40 And so I'm very happy and I would like to
41 commend the Bureau of Land Management in looking in to this
42 issue and, you know, actually starting to think about it.
43 But, you know, that over lapping guides -- hunting on top
44 of each other is a bad thing. That lends to over
45 harvested, it lends to high competition, and it's bad for
46 the resource.

47

48 And so the focus currently has been on the
49 Dalton Highway Corridor area, but as you can see on our
50 Western Interior map there's lots of yellow on this map and

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1 there's a lot of heavy hunting pressure for moose in some
2 of these other lands in the Western Interior. And so I
3 would applaud the Bureau of Land Management on their
4 looking in to this and Mr. Bisson's response and direction
5 in implementing this procedure and I'm very pleased with
6 what's progressed and I would like to see this continue in
7 to the planning process.

8

9 There's certain species of animals that
10 under high demand for harvest for sport hunters and those
11 would be currently dull sheep and moose. And so those high
12 competitions for those very expensive hunts and the numbers
13 of guides that are willing to take unlimited amounts of
14 clients without regard to their fellow guides or the
15 resource the APHA is also working on this whole issue and
16 I think this all could work together to the betterment of
17 the resource and I thank you for your briefing.

18

19 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you Jack. You have
20 something to add.

21

22 MR. BRELSFORD: Actually it's a good thing
23 there's some smart people in the back of the room because
24 I made a mistake. I want to clarify. The BLM does permit
25 commercial activities on BLM lands. So in that sense we
26 manage the commercial activity -- the commercial provider.
27 We don't manage the hunting and fishing activities by
28 commercial guides. That is managed ADF&G. A guide
29 requires a license from ADF&G and harvests in an area are
30 managed by ADF&G. The BLM manages the commercial operator
31 and the land on which that operation takes place. So I
32 didn't quite say that right. I want you to think about
33 when it's the harvest levels that the ADF&G responsibility.
34 When it's permitting the site itself that is the BLM
35 responsibility and since we're trying to get this right --
36 I mean it's taken us a little while to get the fine print
37 I needed to clarify that and I thank Tim for paying
38 attention.

39

40 So, thank you.

41

42 MR. COLLINS: Mr. Chairman.

43

44 CHAIRMAN SAM: Ray.

45

46 MR. COLLINS: Taylor I think based on the
47 testimony heard here we found out how important it is where
48 there are traditional areas that people are using for camps
49 and things like that and it would be good that you flag
50 that, so that in the planning process and the permitting

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1 process you're not giving permits on some key area that's
2 already being used by other users. Because they would tie
3 it up for the whole seasons whereas people may come and go
4 on some of those sites. So that would be a good thing to
5 look at when you're giving permits.

6

7 MR. BRELSFORD: Thank you. I think that's
8 actually critical and I think our vision for these permits
9 is to improve the consultation process in analyzing a
10 permit or the impacts of a permit. I know that Tim has
11 actually spoken with some local residents about some other
12 permits and our commitment in the Northern Field Office is
13 try and contact local users to ensure that there not these
14 specific conflict sites -- specific conflicts in new
15 permitted activities.

16

17 I think some of you know that ANILCA has a
18 requirement to evaluate impacts on subsistence from a
19 Federal Land Decision. It's Section .810 of ANILCA and
20 there is a Section .810 or a Subsistence Impact Analysis
21 written up in preparing a permit -- in responding to a
22 permit application. And we have the opportunity to consult
23 with people to try and avoid these site specific conflicts
24 prior to issuing permits. I think that's a process that
25 has kind of it's been quick in the past, but I think the
26 attention that the Western Regional Council has brought to
27 this question means that we're going to be a little more
28 careful about consultation in the permit issuance process.

29

30 Tim does the homework on this, so let me
31 invite him to add to my comments, please.

32

33 MR. CRAIG: Mr. Chairman. Mr. Collins. I
34 think it was at the Wasilla meeting that Mr. Stickman asked
35 me to be sure to somehow implement a system where we would
36 make you aware of every new guide and outfitter permit that
37 came up in a region. So I went to Roger Delaney who's not
38 only is he working in the Northern Field Office, but he's
39 the point of contact for recreation essentially in the
40 State of Alaska. And I made that request and it's my
41 understanding now that from now on every time a new guide
42 and outfitting permit comes up a request for an activity on
43 BLM land in your region that they're going to send a letter
44 straight to you guys so that you can -- we can get input
45 from you.

46

47 And that's the only thing I wanted to add.
48 Thank you.

49

50 MR. MORGAN: Mr. Chairman.

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1 CHAIRMAN SAM: Carl.

2

3 MR. MORGAN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am
4 a little confused on the permits. What's your total number
5 of permits? I see it's -- is it -- I know you earlier said
6 five -- four and then I'm reading the last paragraph it
7 says in 2003 the Delta Geographic Team of the Northern
8 Field Office issued five new permits and I heard four
9 earlier.

10

11 MR. CRAIG: Mr. Chairman. Mr. Morgan. The
12 four was sheep permits because that was kind of the thing
13 that was driving it, but there actually are six. There's
14 two fellows that are doing guided bear hunts in the Ray
15 Mountains. So that's the difference between those two
16 numbers. And those two bear hunts were new permits.

17

18 MR. MORGAN: So there was a total of five
19 new, you know, three.

20

21 MR. CRAIG: It's more confusing if you --
22 here's what really happens. Okay. We have one historic
23 sheep hunting permit in Mathews River. Then we had three
24 new applicants. I'm talking about in the last two or three
25 years. Okay. We had three new sheep applicants. So that
26 makes a four total sheep hunters -- guided sheep outfits in
27 the Dalton Corridor. Then we had two new bear hunts in the
28 Ray Mountains apply in the last two years. So there's
29 actually six guide and outfitters. Four of them are sheep
30 hunters and five of them are new.

31

32 Okay, does that make sense?

33

34 CHAIRMAN SAM: Any further questions for
35 Taylor or Tim Craig. Mickey.

36

37 MR. STICKMAN: I just wanted to thank the
38 BLM for the attention to this concern that we had but, you
39 know, now that you have answered some of my concerns
40 another concern that I would have is transporters. You
41 know there's a number of transporters out there and they
42 don't -- I would say they're not as ethical as the guides
43 that are commercial guides out there with, you know, of
44 course there are some unethical guides out there but, you
45 know, if you talk to the commercial guides that do try to
46 work in a conservative manner they'll tell you that they're
47 probably their worst nemesis are the transporters.

48

49 CHAIRMAN SAM: Jack.

50

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1 MR. REAKOFF: I wanted to thank Tim he's
2 been working real hard on mitigating some of these
3 conflicts that we've had in that Dalton Highway Corridor
4 and he's doing a great job on trying to accommodate our
5 concerns and I just wanted again wanted to thank the BLM
6 for addressing this issue. I think that they've seen the
7 light on what the problems are with this over hunt harvest
8 problems on competitive guides areas where there aren't any
9 guide areas and I'm really happy to see that they're moving
10 forward on something to address this.

11

12 MR. SIAVELIS: Mr. Chairman.

13

14 CHAIRMAN SAM: George Siavelis.

15

16 MR. SIAVELIS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
17 I'd like to thank you guys too and I'm real pleased with
18 what I've heard and where this is going.

19

20 I'd like to mention that right now in the
21 Legislature there's two co-bills SB303 and HB442 to try and
22 get -- and this has been put forth by the APHA. We've been
23 working on it for a lot of years. Actually it started ever
24 since Osayjack Decision (ph) that threw out the exclusive
25 guide use area and we don't know if it's going to be
26 passed, of course. So far what I'm hearing is that it's
27 moving along quickly and hopefully that gets passed and
28 that will really work good in hand with what's being done
29 here with the BLM and hopefully alleviate a lot of these
30 issues that this Council and other Councils have had. And
31 hopefully it'll -- we're working hard to include
32 transporters on that too.

33

34 That's just a little gleam of hope.

35

36 Thank you.

37

38 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, George. Any
39 further questions for Tim Craig or Taylor Brelsford.

40

41 (No comments)

42

43 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you.

44

45 MR. BRELSFORD: Thanks very much and I
46 guess I'll say good-bye and thanks for the opportunity to
47 be a part of the meeting this week. I think you guys have
48 done some terrific work and the public testimony from the
49 committee. The kind of vision of bringing this meeting to
50 the village at this point and time I feel really honored to

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1 be a part of it and I thank each of you for that kind of
2 work.

3

4 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Taylor.

5

6 So Vince I think that pretty much wraps our
7 early departures; is that correct?

8

9 MR. MATHEWS: Well I believe so and those
10 that are on the earlier departures the agent said about
11 9:40 he'll be swinging by here, so.

12

13 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yeah. Okay. All right if
14 that's taken care of we can get back in order we'd start
15 with Fisheries Topics right. Okay Vince Mathews.

16

17 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, I'll be passing
18 out -- I believe we mailed this to you also, but this is
19 what's called the .805 letter and I'll just pass it around
20 here.

21

22 For the newer members this is a keystone
23 that we kind of talked about during training, so we
24 emphasize it now. But remember the Board -- you have
25 deference of the decision making before the Board. So when
26 the Board by law is required when they don't follow your
27 recommendation to explain to you in writing why they did
28 not. And it will be based on those three criteria that
29 there wasn't substantial evidence and was detrimental to
30 subsistence or is in violation of recognized principles of
31 wildlife conservation.

32

33 Over the years we have made this that we
34 give you a report on what happened with all your
35 recommendations before the Board. So I'm not going to go
36 through this in detail, but you took up quite a few fishery
37 proposals in October this is the results from the December
38 meeting by the Board and I don't want to down play this,
39 but this is where you -- this is your building blocks for
40 future proposals. Because this in addition to talking to
41 the Staff that did the analysis, talking to the Staff
42 committee, and also talking to Board members gives you an
43 idea of how to build better proposals, how to react to
44 challenges that come up with fisheries.

45

46 So I don't want to down play this, but I
47 don't want to take up time going proposal by proposal. So
48 I'll let you have a chance to look at it and if you have
49 some questions. And I hope you received this earlier in
50 the mail, but if not I kind of need to apologize at this

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1 point. The taking on of another region with the two major
2 State Board Meetings some of the things may have slipped
3 through the cracks. So we're going to be tightening that
4 up. But I'm pretty sure this was sent out to you before.
5

6
7 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yes, I know I received it.
8 Any questions for Vince.

9
10 (No comments)

11
12 CHAIRMAN SAM: If not -- we covered B
13 right?

14
15 MR. MATHEWS: Yes. Polly did a efficient
16 job of covering B. But that's a very important thing and
17 if you do have questions obviously Polly or Cliff or Rich
18 can and would be the key people to get a hold of.

19
20 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay. C.

21
22 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, I talked about
23 that earlier and basically what was there is language that
24 we've kind of hammered out over the years with the in-
25 season managers. I did discuss with the Federal in-season
26 manager about, you know, this meeting Eastern Interior and
27 as I mentioned in the training, the Federal and State in-
28 season managers due to the January Board of Fish Meetings
29 were not able to meet to come up with their outlook or pre-
30 season management plan, so that is why Russ Holder is not
31 here. Rod Campbell's here. I don't think to cover that,
32 but if there is issues that you wanted to know about that
33 possibly for 2004 he may have information he may not. So
34 that's that line that's there.

35
36 I'll just jump to the next one. The
37 Federal/State Coordination I just keep that in there.
38 Usually you guys have been over the years kind of keeping
39 our feet to the fire so this is the wood that's to the
40 fire. Basically I don't know of any conflicts right now
41 between Federal/State Coordination, but in the earlier
42 years there were some communication challenges there, so
43 we've kept that on the agenda that if something came up on
44 coordination -- improvements or problems that it would
45 service. So that's what D's there for.

46
47 Remember these agendas are created three
48 months in advanced, so it's kind of hard to -- I should
49 actually explain that to the members. These are created
50 quite a bit in advance through a team review, through an

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1 office review, through a Chair's review, and then it's sent
2 out to a fairly large mailing list in Western Interior,
3 including all the agencies and then there's kind of a
4 deadline to get back with topics. And so there's an
5 extensive amount of review for these agendas. So for the
6 new members that explains -- you know, you're going to be
7 getting these in the mail. If there's something on them
8 that you don't like then you got to get a hold me or at the
9 meeting and then we adjust.

10

11 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you Vince. Do we have
12 anyone here to cover C Yukon River Salmon Outlook?

13

14 (No comments)

15

16 CHAIRMAN SAM: Does anyone have anything to
17 add?

18

19 MR. MATHEWS: I mentioned that Russ is not
20 here. I don't know if Rod has anything or not. Rod's --
21 Rod's -- I talked to Rod several times. I don't want to
22 put words in his mouth, but basically he's here in response
23 to the Special Action Request that is coming your way. So
24 I don't know if he has any information on the in-season or
25 the future -- I mean the 2004 or any update on what
26 happened in 2003. He may have something, but I think he's
27 mainly here for the Special Action which I passed out to
28 you earlier and we need to discuss.

29

30 CHAIRMAN SAM: Go right ahead.

31

32 MR. CAMPBELL: Yes, Mr. Chairman. Members
33 of the Council. For the record my name is Rod Campbell.
34 Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Division of Commercial
35 Fisheries.

36

37 As Vince said I was primarily here because
38 of some of the reactions that came out of the Eastern
39 Interior Board to the recent Board of Fisheries action.

40

41 However, I at least have a time frame of
42 some of these meetings that are coming up on the Yukon.
43 Vince also mentioned because of those timing of those Board
44 meetings the Federal and State Staff weren't able to get
45 together for their normal meetings.

46

47 The Federal and State Staff for the Yukon
48 River protocol are scheduled right now I believe to be meet
49 April 1. So they will be meeting and that again with the
50 protocol going over how things are working with, you know,

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1 both systems and try to work that out. That's April 1.
2 And then I believe April 6th and 7th there's a Kuskokwim I
3 believe Staff meeting. And then on the 8th and 9th -- or
4 that may be reversed -- there's a Staff meeting for the
5 Yukon River pre-season information at that time. I believe
6 one day of that is the State gets together and then I think
7 the next day the Federal Staff becomes involved in it. So
8 that's all scheduled for that first week of April. I
9 really don't have anything else to add except at least that
10 they are coming up so.

11

12 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yes I think one of our
13 biggest concerns early in the season is this pre-season
14 Outlook and I thank you. I just wanted to know if the
15 Council had any other questions for you, too.

16

17 (No comments)

18

19 CHAIRMAN SAM: I know you didn't have a
20 formal report, but we did speak on this issue. Any
21 questions for Rod Campbell. Go ahead Jack.

22

23 MR. REAKOFF: Is there a projected run
24 forecast yet or is that -- or is this -- are these meetings
25 just going to get together and talk about what the runs
26 strengths may be and what the harvest objectives are going
27 to be? Is that what the in-season planning is about?

28

29 MR. CAMPBELL: Through the chair yesterday
30 that's part of the pre-season. Again I think they're going
31 to be -- they did have a post-season meeting. Probably
32 have some review of how the things went last year, get the
33 what their outlooks are for this year and then try to map
34 out strategies to see if there is any obvious changes they
35 may need to do. Of course we manage on what comes back
36 because then once they came back then they'll -- and they
37 determine that with their indicators then they would move
38 along there.

39

40 As you're probably aware there was some
41 changes to the Yukon Fall Chum Salmon Management Plan which
42 may have some effect on that at the recent Board meeting.
43 I believe the previous threshold to start any kind of a
44 fishery on subsistence as the priority was 350,000 fall
45 chum. The recent Board action -- I have it here -- for the
46 Fall Chum Salmon Management Plan it was modified and what
47 they did was they aligned the lower end of the escapement
48 goal threshold which is 300,000. The escapement goal the
49 BEG, Biological Escapement Goal, is 300,000 to 600,000 and
50 they lowered that threshold from the -- I think it was --

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1 previously was 350,000 down to 300,000, so in effect that
2 would allow some -- provide for more subsistence fishing
3 opportunity perhaps in years when the runs weren't as
4 strong. But they would still be -- nothing would start
5 until they were assured of that lower end escapement goal
6 of the 300,000. So that would provide some additional
7 opportunity.

8

9 There would be no commercial fishing at all
10 allowed unless it was projected to be 600,000 which the way
11 the State plan is set up it felt that the 600,000 obviously
12 would provide for escapement and allow for subsistence
13 opportunity before they ever thought about open up
14 commercial fishery. And I think there were some other
15 elements to that, but those were the major points there.
16 So they will be discussing that.

17

18 Their Board of Fish reports that you're
19 talking about it was -- some of the outlooks were in their
20 Board of Fish reports and they -- it wasn't really numbers.
21 I have one here for chinook. It says the preliminary
22 outlook for 2004 is for similar abundance that you had in
23 2003.

24

25 MR. REAKOFF: I think -- I think that.....

26

27 CHAIRMAN SAM: This was before the lifting
28 of restrictions at Area M, so maybe we should just leave it
29 at that because nobody knows what the lifting of
30 restrictions will do at Area M. Because very time we did
31 get some preliminary outlooks the numbers have always been
32 too rosie. More rosie than actual. So maybe we should
33 just leave it at that then.

34

35 MR. CAMPBELL: Yes sir. So we -- I don't
36 have any numbers.

37

38 CHAIRMAN SAM: Jack and then Vince again.

39

40 MR. REAKOFF: Mr. Chairman, there was a lot
41 of lamenting by the ADF&G Staff that there was supposedly
42 40,000 chinooks that could have been harvested
43 commercially. I take an exception to that position because
44 it's a known fact that the subsistence users have not been
45 obtaining their subsistence needs in Districts 4 and 5 and
46 up river.

47

48 And now with this Area M decision there was
49 lots of discussion by Staff about having quarter point
50 openings for chinook and pushing to -- on the edge of --

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1 before there's a realization of really what's coming in.
2 This Area M thing throws a whole new mix in. I would
3 caution Federal and State Staff to be extremely cautious on
4 commercial openings now that we have this new mix we're
5 still not out of the woods on recovery for the Yukon and
6 Western Alaskan stocks and I'm very -- this makes me very
7 uneasy to see this Board of Fish open that Area M when
8 we're still in a recovery. And so I wanted our Council to
9 be aware that those are my concerns from attending the
10 Board of Fish meeting and reading the pulse of the attitude
11 of the ADF&G on their anxiousness to return to an 80,000
12 chinook harvest on the Yukon before we actually know what
13 in the world's going on here.

14
15 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you. Vince you had
16 something.

17
18 MR. MATHEWS: Yes. I'm stepping out on a
19 limp here a little bit, but hopefully the Staff will follow
20 suit on this. I would think that you would want your team
21 fish biologist to attend these meetings and I'm pretty sure
22 they are, but I think it would help them if you would
23 convey that you would want your -- this is the biologist
24 that do your analysis for fishery proposals. Jerry Berg on
25 the Yukon and Rich Uberuaga for the Kuskokwim to attend
26 these meetings. And -- sorry I always end up doing this --
27 and your team anthropologist. And that's in flux right
28 now, but that would end up being Polly.

29
30 And the reason I say that at the heightened
31 concern on Area M the heighten concern of maintaining good
32 communication that would assist because then they will be
33 up to speed as well and we're not trying to discourage you
34 from contacting the Federal and State in-seasons managers,
35 but their phones get pretty busy at times, so it would be
36 great to have these additional. So I apologize to the
37 Staff for trying to commit you to this, but I think the
38 heightened concern that it'd be wise that they be at these
39 meetings. In the past, the meetings sometimes would --
40 it's nothing intentional -- it was not made known to the
41 team Staff of these meetings and then we were playing catch
42 up. So I hope Rich and Jerry are okay with that. He's
43 coming over here, so maybe he isn't, but.

44
45 MR. UBERUAGA: I only got a couple cards
46 just in case you need to get a hold of me.

47
48 MR. MATHEWS: Yeah it'll help and then I'm
49 going to personally request to attend the Yukon one myself,
50 but I'm subject to travel constraints they're not because

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1 their -- it'll be in Anchorage I assume these meetings, so.
2 But I think it's key now that we're back. These are my own
3 personal opinions that communication is going to be --
4 we're going to have to focus very closely on that to make
5 sure we got good communication similar to what we had in
6 2000, 2001. It doesn't mean we've been lack since then,
7 but I think we're in a little bit different ball game right
8 now.

9

10 CHAIRMAN SAM: So what you are looking for
11 is a request that a biologist from the Kuskokwim and Yukon
12 be present at all our meetings?

13

14 MR. MATHEWS: No. Be present at these pre-
15 seasons as well as your anthropologist if at all possible
16 that they be present at those meetings. These pre-season
17 meetings. That's what we're requesting. I know they were
18 going to go anyways, but I'm putting a little pressure on
19 the State to make sure that, that transpires too. Because
20 at times that doesn't happen because it goes to the in-
21 season manager and then he gets busy and then our
22 biologists are trying to catch up and anthropologist.

23

24 CHAIRMAN SAM: And then which meetings are
25 you talking about then, Vince?

26

27 MR. MATHEWS: I'm sorry to confuse you.
28 These are the meetings that Rod announced of April 6th and
29 7th, April 8th and 9th.

30

31 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay Robert and then Jack.

32

33 MR. WALKER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
34 Vince, shouldn't we have a letter fall from Western
35 Interior Board address this issue to the biologists so, you
36 know, this will be like a paper trail form them too also.

37

38 MR. MATHEWS: If that.....

39

40 MR. WALKER: I don't want to say paper
41 trail, but a reminder?

42

43 MR. MATHEWS: Yeah that's fine. I mean if
44 you want to do that way. I'm a little bit on a limp, but
45 yeah we can go to a letter saying that you would like it if
46 at all possible you're team biologist and anthropologist
47 attend these pre- and post-season meetings because they
48 need them to do the analysis. And I know they've been to
49 some in the past, but there's been times where it's not
50 been known to them.

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1 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yes I think a letter would
2 be -- would suffice from Western Interior. Jack.

3

4 MR. REAKOFF: I think that's an excellent
5 idea and I feel that our anthropologist should be present.
6 There's been a huge change in the attitude of the
7 Subsistence Division in protecting and standing up for the
8 subsistence lack on the Yukon River at the Board of Fish
9 meeting and the Federal Subsistence Board. I was appalled
10 to see the State Subsistence Division not even discuss the
11 lack of harvest of subsistence on the Yukon River and
12 basically it being thrown under the rug and that's there
13 economic constraints. I feel that our Staff should be
14 present at these pre-season meetings to stand up to
15 reiterate the point that we are not obtaining the
16 subsistence needs on the Yukon River and we need to however
17 hard it is for Comm Fish to swallow it reduce commercial
18 harvest to accommodate subsistence needs. And so our
19 anthropologists are going to have to stand in the gap there
20 and I think that's an excellent idea to send that letter.

21

22

23 Thank you.

24

25 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you Jack. Jerry Berg
26 you had something to add.

27

28 MR. BERG: Thank you Mr. Chair. Yeah I
29 just wanted to add that, you know, usually our biologists
30 from our office do attend these coordination meetings.

31

32 Certainly the in-season managers always get
33 together and we always try to have somebody from our Staff.
34 It doesn't always include our Staff anthropologist and our
35 coordinator, so it would be good to I think get on record
36 some support to try to get those folks to the meeting as
37 well. But sometimes those meetings get so large that they
38 try to limit the number of people in the room just because
39 there's so many people that get involved, but we do try to
40 coordinate as much as we can at those meetings with Fish
41 and Game.

42

43 Thank you.

44

45 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you Jerry.

46

47 MR. COLLINS: Mr. Chairman.

48

49 CHAIRMAN SAM: Go ahead, Ray.

50

00405

1 MR. COLLINS: Yes, Mr. Chairman. Just to
2 respond. Jack and I had talked briefly about the
3 subsistence needs and not being met and we also discussed
4 what I think we both feel was important that if some of
5 these groups are under represented -- say on the weekly
6 teleconferences -- that's where Fish and Game and Federal
7 Staff get feedback to see how things are going with the
8 subsistence catches that perhaps -- I don't know if the
9 Council could help or not, but to try to work something out
10 to get more representation there and feedback on those or
11 some other way. I know you say that's kind of difficult,
12 but you know if there's anything you can do that would be
13 greatly helpful.

14

15 Thanks.

16

17 CHAIRMAN SAM: Jack.

18

19 MR. REAKOFF: That's in-season, the
20 teleconferences are a real instrumental in getting a hand
21 on the pulse of what people are getting. But at this time
22 of planning this is when the Department develops it's
23 attitude about how they're going to manage the fishery for
24 that year. And that's before there's actually a run
25 strength implemented and I'm very concerned about the
26 Department's -- the supposedly eight -- 40,000 chinooks
27 that over escape. I think that, that was real weak data.
28 Very weak data. They call that soft data. And I feel that
29 the indications I'm getting from the Department is that
30 they would like to return to the five year previous to the
31 crash historic harvest of 80,000 chinook. That's my
32 personal opinion. That's the indicators I'm getting from
33 the Department.

34

35 I'm very reluctant to go to that type of
36 commercial harvest and so this is the time when the
37 planning phase is when those expectations are realized and
38 how it's going to be planned out. I feel at this point we
39 have to be -- our Staff has to be available. Subsistence
40 Division isn't doing it. They're under economic
41 constraints. We need our Staff there to reiterate that
42 we're under harvest for subsistence use and this the
43 planning phase where we need to come to that realization.
44 And so in-season is a different subject.

45

46 CHAIRMAN SAM: Ray.

47

48 MR. COLLINS: Mr. Chairman, now is the
49 State made -- are they planning any efforts to monitor that
50 Area M in the light of those changes to see like say what

00406

1 the composition of the Intercept Fishery is or the amounts?
2 Because if they took the caps off if they just don't even
3 look at that we may be missing a lot of data as to what's
4 going to happen. We'll see the results when we see what
5 comes in to the river, but we won't know what happened out
6 there. And I'm wondering of they're making any special
7 effort to monitor that.

8

9 MR. CAMPBELL: Through the Chair I'm not
10 aware of any. Of course the cap was taken away from the
11 last Board of Fish meeting. There hasn't been a cap the
12 last -- since the last cycle. They have -- did implement
13 windows and restrictions for the actual fishing, but the
14 cap was removed, you know, three years ago in the last
15 cycle. Except for monitoring catches from normal fish
16 tickets which they do I'm not aware of any. If there are
17 I'm not aware of them.

18

19 CHAIRMAN SAM: Anything else. Mickey.

20

21 MR. STICKMAN: Yeah. You know as a
22 subsistence fisherman -- just only a subsistence fisherman,
23 you know, now that they opened up that Area M, you know,
24 when we had them -- when we petitioned the Board of Fish to
25 close that area that was probably the biggest concession
26 that the subsistence fisherman ever won, you know. Now
27 that we're going backwards and losing, you know, but like
28 Jack said, you know, every time we go before the Board of
29 Fish the subsistence fisherman are losing more and more
30 battles and the commercial fisherman are always winning
31 their concessions, you know. And then, you know, they
32 figure well, you know, we'll just through them a bone.
33 We'll give them an extra 50,000 fish by lowering the
34 biological escapement goals from 350,000 to 300,000, you
35 know. That doesn't do anything for conservation of the
36 fall chum, you know. You know, I mean, you know, they say
37 well we'll even give you an added opportunity we're going
38 to through in 50,000 more fish, but, you know, at what
39 expense though. At expense of lowering biological
40 escapement goals which I think is not a good way to manage
41 the fish.

42

43 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Mickey. Tommy.

44

45 MR. KRISKA: Yeah, Mr. Chairman. I was
46 just wondering about the boundaries of Area M they'll ever
47 change or?

48

49 MR. CAMPBELL: Through the Chair. Yes, I
50 don't have the exact changes. There was a -- my

00407

1 understanding there was a slight change up on the mainland
2 part around Fin Point. I don't know if your familiar with
3 that area to expand that somewhat. But the main fishing,
4 especially on the cape fishing itself, Umiak or I think
5 normally referred as a False Pass that same area is there.
6 The only extension was farther back east in a smaller area.
7 That's the only one that I'm aware. The other fishing
8 remained the same. Of course the effort like everyone else
9 is much lower than it was, you know, five years ago,
10 especially ten years ago. So what effect that would have
11 with a longer fishing time with a smaller fleet -- you know
12 we don't know, so.

13

CHAIRMAN SAM: Any more questions.

14

(No comments)

15

16
17
18 CHAIRMAN SAM: No. Thanks for that brief
19 listening. We had more questions than you did.

20

21 MR. CAMPBELL: Thank you very much Mr.
22 Chair. I appreciate you giving the opportunity and thank
23 you all for your hospitality and I'm going to try to catch
24 the plan here and I'm sure I'll be talking to you all
25 later.

26

Thank you.

27

28
29 CHAIRMAN SAM: Vince what did you have
30 under that Federal/State Coordination?

31

32 MR. MATHEWS: Well, Mr. Chairman, that
33 brings us up to Fisheries Proposals and the Special Action
34 that.....

35

36 CHAIRMAN SAM: What was that Federal/State
37 Coordinator thing there for?

38

39 MR. MATHEWS: That was basically just to
40 allow time to discuss how that's going. It was nothing
41 else. Just to have place marker on the agenda to talk
42 about that where you could -- like you did with BLM.
43 Complement for their efforts to doing consultation or like
44 you've done on other ones say well how come you guys aren't
45 working together. So it was just a place keeper.

46

47 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay thank you. I think
48 that worked out well then. Call for 2005 Fisheries.

49

50 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman. Yeah I think

00408

1 I'm going to jump to the one I think you guys really want
2 to talk about then we'll go to the Fisheries Proposals.

3

4 We do have -- I know of two proposals. I
5 don't know if there was another from YK. But I think the
6 issue that for time will be I passed out early this morning
7 a piece of paper that's is a Special Action Request from
8 Eastern Interior. If you guys could find that then I'll
9 kind of summarize that for you.

10

11 CHAIRMAN SAM: I don't see it in my pile.

12

13 MR. MATHEWS: Okay.

14

15 CHAIRMAN SAM: Do you have it?

16

17 MR. MATHEWS: If you could pass it. Okay
18 it's a one sheet page and on the top it says Special Action
19 Request by the Eastern Interior Advisory Council taken in
20 Beaver February 28-29. Now the one that I handed out is
21 the one that's been submitted. So I hope Jerry's passing
22 out the same one. I believe he is. So when you're ready
23 I'll give you the history and then go over the special
24 action.

25

26 CHAIRMAN SAM: Go right ahead.

27

28 MR. MATHEWS: Okay the history of this is
29 both Eastern and Western Interior Regional Councils are
30 actively involved in all aspects of subsistence including
31 fisheries. So when Eastern Interior met in Beaver recently
32 here they received phone calls from Council members in
33 Bristol Bay about action that they took in Bristol Bay to
34 address the outcome of the Alaska Board of Fisheries
35 concerning Area M. So we've had -- we in Beaver had
36 several phone conversations with Robin Samuelsen on their
37 action. We were unable to get their wording in Beaver, so
38 this is based on conversations between Virgil Umphenour and
39 Robin Samuelsen. So Eastern Interior took it up and you
40 can see on the top that's there Special Action Request, so
41 I'll just kind of read it for the record:

42

43 The intent of this Special Action Request
44 is for the request to be the same as submitted by Bristol
45 Bay Regional Advisory Council on February 27, 2004.

46

47 There's two parts of the request. The
48 first part of the request is they:

49

50 Request the Federal Subsistence Board

00409

1 contact the Governor of Alaska to invalidate the recent
2 Alaska Board of Fisheries action relaxing restrictions in
3 Area M intercept fisheries for the months of June and July
4 which were put in place three years ago to help protect AYK
5 stocks.

6

7 Okay the second step of the Special Action
8 Request -- and for the new members Special Action Request
9 it's an emergency situation and people are saying action
10 needs to be taken. The second step is that:

11

12 If the Governor of Alaska does not take
13 action to reverse the recent actions of the Alaska Board of
14 Fisheries regarding Area M, then the Eastern Interior
15 Regional Council requests that the Federal Subsistence
16 Board request that the Secretaries of Interior and
17 Agriculture take action to exert their extraterritorial
18 jurisdiction over the Area M intercept salmon fisheries to
19 protect AYK salmon stocks.

20

21 So it's a two step Special Action Request.
22 I'll stop there to give you a further update. And I don't
23 have a copy of it. I'm not sure if Jerry does or not. He
24 did talk to me, but my mind's a little blank now, but
25 Association of Village Council Presidents also submitted a
26 Special Action Request. I believe similar to this. So to
27 my knowledge right now we have Eastern which is in front of
28 you. Jerry can probably talk to you about Yukon-Kuskokwim
29 did. We have AVCP submitted a Special Action Request.

30

31 I have been contacted by Kawarek which is
32 the Native Corporation -- non-profit corporation for Seward
33 Pen. I haven't been able to get back to them because I'm
34 here in Huslia, but they've also expressed to me as
35 individuals that they're pursuing getting an endangered
36 species listing for salmon in that area. Now I don't know
37 if they did. They're considering that and they're also
38 considering looking at somehow assisting this Special
39 Action.

40

41 I don't want to read the justification to
42 you but there's two parts of the justification and the
43 first part is the overall justification. The second part
44 which says additional justification from Regional Council
45 member that's from Virgil himself and it happened after the
46 meeting. This has been reviewed by the Eastern Interior
47 Chair, Craig Fleener and approved and I submitted it just
48 before I came here to Huslia.

48

49 So that's before you. I think Jerry can
50 give an update on Yukon-Kuskokwim and then we'll stop there

00410

1 to see what questions you have. Bristol Bay did, but I
2 don't know if we have -- I don't have any language. I
3 don't know if anybody has anything.

4

5 CHAIRMAN SAM: That language shouldn't be
6 so important if we just follow along one concept I think.
7 Just about the concept and go from there I think that will
8 take care of itself because that's pretty important.
9 Jerry.

10

11 MR. BERG: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yeah
12 my understanding is that the Eastern Interior Council
13 recommendation was slightly different than what Bristol Bay
14 did.

15

16 My understanding is that the Bristol Bay
17 Council only passed a Special Action with the part two part
18 of the request. They didn't put in the first part of the
19 request was my understanding from talking with Staff for
20 the Bristol Bay Council.

21

22 And then the Yukon-Kuskokwim Regional
23 Council last week in St. Mary's did pass a Special Action
24 very similar to the Eastern Interior Council. They added
25 a little bit more information on their justification, but
26 they essentially passed the exact same wording in parts one
27 and two.

28

29 And then I also have copies of a resolution
30 from AVCP. They did not submit a Special Action Request,
31 but rather they passed a resolution that basically requests
32 that the Secretaries of Interior and Agriculture exert
33 their extraterritorial jurisdiction over Area M. And then
34 the YK Council supported the resolution from AVCP. So I
35 have copies of that if the Council members would like
36 copies of that. And then in addition to that AVCP wrote a
37 letter to the Federal Subsistence Board requesting that the
38 Federal Subsistence Program review the escapement goals
39 that were changed during the Board of Fish meeting in
40 January. And so those are the three parts. There's a
41 Special Action Request that they took action on and then
42 they supported the AVCP resolution and then there's a
43 letter from AVCP if the Council members would like copies
44 of that.

45

46 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

47

48 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yes I think that if we do
49 anything that, that number one would have to be included
50 because we do work through the OSM and Federal Subsistence

00411

1 Board, so it would have to be included for all subsistence
2 Councils. Mickey you have something?

3

4 MR. STICKMAN: Oh no.

5

6 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay. When you introduce
7 this Vince did -- where you looking for.....

8

9 MR. STICKMAN: Action.

10

11 CHAIRMAN SAM: Action.

12

13 MR. MATHEWS: No, Mr. Chairman, other than
14 that the Eastern Interior wanted to make sure you shared
15 this and I would assume that Bristol Bay would want you to
16 share this as well as YK. But my role is just
17 informational not to ask you guys to take action, but based
18 on your conversation I believe you may.

19

20 CHAIRMAN SAM: Jack.

21

22 MR. REAKOFF: Mr. Chairman, I would like
23 this Council to take action on this. I agree with ever
24 word that's written in to this document and I would like to
25 endorse this document heartedly and I would like us to put
26 a cover letter on top of it from our Council stating a
27 additional concerns.

28

29 And some of the additional concerns that I
30 have right now is the under achievement of meeting
31 subsistence needs in our region and the soft data that's
32 been obtained from escapements for chinook salmon on some
33 of our systems and the very reluctance to enter in to a
34 highly commercialize harvest when we have not come out of
35 the woods on this recovery in the AYK stocks. And so I
36 would like to if other Council members have additional
37 input. I feel that a cover letter to the Federal
38 Subsistence Board -- but endorsing this Special Action
39 Request to the fullest.

40

41 Thank you.

42

43 CHAIRMAN SAM: I would be endorsing Eastern
44 Interior's Special Action Request instead of submitting one
45 of our own. I think this be the fastest way anyway. Jack.

46

47 MR. REAKOFF: At the endorsement of the
48 whole concept of this Bristol Bay and Eastern Interior's
49 what they put on paper I agree with heartedly and an
50 additional -- and we should have a cover letter. Not just

00412

1 our name at the bottom. We should have a cover letter with
2 our other concerns that are effecting our region.

3

4 CHAIRMAN SAM: What's the view of the
5 Council. Do you want to submit your own or just endorse
6 this one? Go ahead Robert.

7

8 MR. WALKER: Well, Mr. Chairman, I think we
9 should just utilize one and if we can get more signatures
10 on the letter maybe it probably be better Jack. But you
11 know we can just use one signature of the Chairman that'd
12 be fine with me too.

13

14 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay. So a letter endorsing
15 Eastern Interior's Request would suffice for this Council?
16 That's what I'm getting at. I think that would be the
17 quickest, fastest way. Draft a cover letter and to get it
18 on record and make it a formal act and at this time the
19 Chair will entertain an action to -- entertain a motion to
20 a.....

21

22 MR. WALKER: Mr. Chairman.

23

24 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yes.

25

26 MR. WALKER: Also move on the action.

27

28 CHAIRMAN SAM: Is there a second.

29

30 MR. REAKOFF: Second.

31

32 MR. STICKMAN: Second.

33

34 CHAIRMAN SAM: There's a motion to help me
35 word that.

36

37 MR. MATHEWS: Just a letter of endorsement
38 for Special Action from Eastern Interior with the concerns
39 that Jack expressed I assume.

40

41 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay. Any further
42 discussion.

43

44 (No comments)

45

46 CHAIRMAN SAM: Question's been called --
47 okay one more Mickey.

48

49 MR. STICKMAN: You know before we vote on
50 this, you know, I would like to make sure that we, you

00413

1 know, we endorse it fully as it's written on with both
2 points that are -- one and two. Because it seems like the
3 other Councils only supported one and not the other, but I
4 feel that we should support both points on the letter.

5
6 CHAIRMAN SAM: And yeah for your
7 clarification I think that we are mandated or required to
8 insert that number one in there because we are under the
9 Federal Subsistence Board under OSM and that's some of that
10 communication effort that we talked about the other day and
11 I think we're required too. Okay.

12
13 Okay. All those in favor of the motion
14 signify by saying aye.

15
16 IN UNISON: Aye.

17
18 CHAIRMAN SAM: Opposed, same sign.

19
20 (No opposing votes)

21
22 CHAIRMAN SAM: Motion carried. Five minute
23 break.

24
25 (Off record)

26
27 (On record)

28
29 CHAIRMAN SAM: At this time I'd like to
30 call the meeting back to order and the next item in front
31 of us is the Call for 2005 Fisheries Proposals. I believe
32 that we have -- do you have anything on this.

33
34 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, Mr. Chairman. And again
35 we're just providing this to you as, you know, you don't
36 have to take any action on them. We try to keep you
37 informed and let me get my --
38 the one that a -- well let's just go the other way.

39
40 The one that I passed around first has been
41 approved. And this is from Eastern Interior and I'll start
42 passing it around. This is Eastern Interior for the Yukon
43 Northern Subsistence Fishing Regulations for Subdistrict 5D
44 for fall chum. They would like to have within Federal
45 waters a September 15 through 20th fall chum subsistence
46 opening for Federally-qualified subsistence users. And
47 that's being passed around. You don't need to take action
48 on it or anything. It's just informational unless you want
49 to talk about it.

50

00414

1 The second one I'm handing around has not
2 been approved. I didn't get a chance to meet with the
3 mover of the motion, but it's pretty self-explanatory. I
4 just need to get concurrence on the wording. This is from
5 Eastern Interior. They're requesting for the whole Yukon
6 Northern Area that gillnets with greater than six inch mesh
7 may not be more than 35 meshes in depth. And this would
8 apply to both subsistence and commercial gillnets. So I'll
9 pass that around. Again that's not a final on the wording
10 because I haven't had a chance -- the mover of that motion
11 was Virgil and I haven't had a chance to meet with him.

12

13 So those are two. I don't know -- Jerry
14 may know of some that came out of Yukon-Kuskokwim, but
15 again we're just providing these for information to give
16 you an idea of what's coming down the road.

17

18 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you Vince. I thought
19 this Call for 2005 Fisheries Proposal was calling for
20 proposals from our Council to be submitted under our
21 Council. Jack, what do you have.

22

23 MR. REAKOFF: Mr. Chairman, I have one
24 proposal that I've written on that drift net proposal for
25 the Yukon. And if it's appropriate at this time I'd like
26 to submit this proposal for Council review and for trying
27 to approach this drift net -- subsistence drift net fishery
28 in the Yukon from a -- and address the various points of
29 concern of why our proposal failed.

30

31 CHAIRMAN SAM: If I understand you
32 correctly this hasn't been written out and or this.

33

34 MR. REAKOFF: I have written out the
35 proposal and I can read that for the Council and so they
36 could a -- so we can review it at this time.

37

38 CHAIRMAN SAM: Could -- oh pardon. What I
39 had in mind is just resubmitting the one that we lost and
40 then or just.

41

42 MR. REAKOFF: Chairman that proposal will
43 not go.

44

45 CHAIRMAN SAM: Do we want to have Jack read
46 the whole thing? Go ahead Mickey.

47

48 MR. STICKMAN: Well I guess this will be an
49 action item too?

50

00415

1 MR. REAKOFF: Well we have your a.....

2

3 CHAIRMAN SAM: Mike. Mike.

4

5 MR. REAKOFF: I've put on our agenda
6 where.....

7

8 MR. MATHEWS: Jack it's.....

9

10 MR. REAKOFF:it Calls for the '05
11 proposals and I feel.....

12

13 REPORTER: Jack.

14

15 MR. REAKOFF: Oh, I thought that come on.
16 At this time it's the call for proposals and it's time for
17 our Council to submit another proposal. We can't resubmit
18 the other proposal that we had because that one went
19 nowhere. And I -- there were certain points that people
20 had problems with, so I redone the proposal. It's expanded
21 the area. It's addressed the fishing time frame and a lot
22 of these points should address the issues that people had
23 with our other proposal. So I can read this proposal and
24 the Council can see the direction that I'm going.

25

26 CHAIRMAN SAM: Go ahead.

27

28 MR. REAKOFF: This is for change to the
29 subsistence harvest and methods and means.

30

31 And No. 1 What regulation would you like to
32 change?

33

34 And it's the Yukon District's 4B and C and
35 5 under salmon allow the use of drift gillnet for
36 subsistence salmon harvest.

37

38 How should the new regulation read in the
39 Yukon River Main Stem Districts 4 and 5?

40

41 Drift gillnet for subsistence harvest of
42 salmon is allowed with nets 150 feet long, 35 mesh deep,
43 and fishing with drift gillnet is limited to two 36 hour
44 periods at the end of the window openings and fishing
45 periods stated in regulations for four and five.

46

47 And the reason I'm putting that language in
48 there because there was concern at the Federal Board that
49 there was too much fishing time and that fishers -- I was
50 told by one of the Federal Board members that if there was

00416

1 less fishing time, they would've been more likely to vote
2 for this proposal. Right now in the Yukon it's two 48 hour
3 periods and there was concern that, that was too much
4 fishing time. These two 36 hour periods are exactly what
5 the lower Yukon has and so this would give us equity.

6

7 Why should this regulation be changed?

8

9 The subsistence figures have not been
10 obtaining their subsistence harvest needs in Districts 4
11 and 5 for salmon. Drift gillnet has been historically used
12 in District 5 and 4B and C. Residents are traveling all
13 the way to 4A to drift gillnet fish. This proposal will
14 bring equity of harvest means drainage wide.

15

16 What impacts would this change have on fish
17 population?

18

19 This salmon resource harvest is prioritized
20 to subsistence use under Federal and State laws. The
21 argument that the resource is fully allocated is invalid.
22 Subsistence users in these Districts stop fishing when they
23 obtain their needs as do the down river Districts.
24 Management will accommodate escapement if there's.

25

26 The argument that I kept fighting against
27 even from Federal Staff was and at the Board of Fish
28 Process that it's a fully allocated fishery and we already
29 have commercial harvest and that's all. There's no
30 additional room for subsistence -- this subsistence drift
31 gillnet. No, no. The subsistence fishery is -- has the
32 highest priority and that's just a bunch of B.S. That's
33 just the commercial fishery interest trying to maintain a
34 commercial harvest and not accommodate full subsistence
35 needs. I've done drainage wide on this proposal because it
36 was my indication from the Eastern Council that they didn't
37 -- why should the Western Interior get drift gillnet
38 fishing and them not get it. And so I feel that okay
39 that's fair. Let's just make it the proposal for the whole
40 Yukon River all the way up. Up in the upper Yukon they're
41 not -- they have quite a bunch of chinooks that went up
42 into Canada, but people weren't getting them in wheels and
43 nets. So it shows that their gear type is not correct to
44 harvest.

45

46 This would help the Eastern Interior people
47 out. This proposal should help the Eastern people out.
48 Help them obtain their subsistence needs.

49

50 How will this change affect subsistence

00417

1 users?

2

3

4 The subsistence users will be able to fish
5 near their homes and obtain subsistence requirements. This
6 would accommodate the economy of time, effort, and expense.
7 It would give equity throughout the drainage on Federal
8 waters and to Districts 4B and C and 5 to fishers who do
9 not have good fishing sites.

9

10

11 Now there's people that don't have good
12 fishing sites in 4B and C. There's some people that do and
13 those people that do did. I had a person from Galena that
14 was fought our drift net proposal because they got a good
15 fishing site, they didn't want any drift gillnet fishing
16 near them and that's fair for the other users in the area
17 who don't have good sites. The proposal would allow the
18 fishing to begin the set net and wheel sites would fish for
19 the first part of the period. The last 36 hours of the
20 period would be drift gillnet. So they would get the
21 traditional gear types would actually fish first and would
22 have first shot at the fish.

22

23

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00418

1 were going to fish for longer periods of time.

2

3

4 The other aspect of this thing when they
5 made drift gillnet fishing on the lower river there was no
6 subsistence law. There was no consultation with
7 subsistence users whether they would like to be able to
8 drift gillnet fish in the upper river. There was no
9 subsistence law. They didn't care at that time. The
10 subsistence law came in the late '70's after these drift net
11 fishings were established in the lower river.

11

12

13 The other aspect is that the Board has to
14 understand that the salmon in the upper river are
15 disseminated there lower densities in the water column.
16 There's more water with less fish and so you have to spend
17 more time trying to harvest fish. And so the upper river
18 people have to spend more effort to try to catch and they
19 should be given a harvest means that has less field
20 expenditure and less time and effort involved to obtain
21 their subsistence needs.

21

22

23 And that's the jest of this proposal. This
24 addresses a lot of the concerns that I heard against our
25 drift net proposal from last year. That we would be
26 harvesting the large female chinooks. The 35 mesh
27 accommodates that. I would like to resubmit this to the
28 Federal Board for review again. Let it go through the
29 Board process. It expands into the Eastern Interior's
30 Region. If they think correctly they will see that
31 this will help their subsistence fishers also obtain their
32 subsistence needs and so that's what I would like to
33 submit.

33

34

35 CHAIRMAN SAM: That was a formal motion;
36 right?

36

37

38 MR. REAKOFF: Right.

38

39

40 CHAIRMAN SAM: Is there a second.

40

41

42 MR. STICKMAN: I second.

42

43

44 CHAIRMAN SAM: Any questions for Jack.
45 Robert.

45

46

47 MR. WALKER: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Jack
48 when you get down to Y4 did it say we were going change the
49 windows on the fishing schedule?

49

50

51 MR. REAKOFF: Nope this doesn't change the

00419

1 fishing schedule at all in any portion of the river. It
2 just allows the drift gillnet in 4B and C and 5 on the main
3 stem of the Yukon River to fish the last 36 hours of the
4 window. So if there's a 48 hour window that drift gillnet
5 subsistence gear would fish the last 36 hours of that
6 window. As you move up river that changes and still they
7 fish two 36 hours a week up river. Whatever their window
8 length is.

9

10 MR. WALKER: Thank you, Jack.

11

12 CHAIRMAN SAM: Any further questions on
13 this proposal. Benedict.

14

15 MR. JONES: Yeah. This would give the fish
16 manager more tools to work to monitor the if your drift
17 gillnets that you'll have a daily catch from each
18 subsistence and this will give a good tool information of
19 what how much fish migrating up north Yukon River.

20

21 MR. STICKMAN: Thank you. I think maybe
22 that we should under the title insert chinook salmon. This
23 was starting chinook aren't we?

24

25 MR. REAKOFF: Not necessarily. There's
26 subsistence fishing windows for chinook salmon and then in
27 fall time there could be fall chum fishing also. And so
28 this would still allow -- this is for salmon. It's not
29 just chinook.

30

31 MR. STICKMAN: Okay. The reason I ask that
32 is that I saw that the Middle Yukon Advisory Council
33 submitted one targeting fall chum and that's why I was just
34 wondering if we should submit two to cover all basis and.

35

36 MR. REAKOFF: That's really not necessary.
37 This proposal would cover all species. Still there's
38 windows for the chinook salmon and then there's windows for
39 the fall when the fall season starts. This would give --
40 there's no change. They would still fish these 36 hour
41 periods during whatever species is present. Even for coho.

42

43

44 CHAIRMAN SAM: Is this satisfactory with
45 you? Do you think that this covers all fall salmon and
46 everything?

47

48 MR. STICKMAN: Yeah. As long as you don't
49 just say chinook or fall chum. As long as you just have
50 salmon in there it's pretty well all covered.

00420

1 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yeah. I wanted to ask
2 Benedict is this fine with you too because I know you guys
3 submitted that proposal. Is this fine with you?

4
5 MR. JONES: (Nods affirmatively)

6
7 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay. There is a motion on
8 the floor any further discussion.

9
10 MR. WALKER: Question.

11
12 CHAIRMAN SAM: Question's been called for.
13 All those in favor signify by saying aye.

14
15 IN UNISON: Aye.

16
17 CHAIRMAN SAM: Those opposed, same sign.

18
19 (No opposing votes)

20
21 CHAIRMAN SAM: Motion carried. Any other
22 proposals at this time. Jerry.

23
24 MR. BERG: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just
25 wanted to make sure your that your Council was aware of one
26 more proposal that was submitted by the YK Council. And
27 they submitted a proposal for the Kuskokwim and it
28 addresses the customary and traditional use determination
29 for rainbow trout in the Kuskokwim area.

30
31 There was a C&T determination made by our
32 office in 1993 as a result of a lawsuit actually and so
33 currently our C&T determination for rainbow trout in the
34 Kuskokwim area is for the residence of Akiachak, Akiak,
35 Eek, Goodnews Bay, Kwethluk, Quinhagak, and Platinum.

36
37 So the YK Council submitted a proposal to
38 request a C&T determination for rainbow trout for the lower
39 Kuskokwim Villages because they currently don't have C&T
40 for rainbow trout under our regulations. So and I don't
41 know how were going to define lower Kuskokwim, but I would
42 imagine that your Council may be interested in having other
43 communities also included in that proposal. So this would
44 be your opportunity to -- it might be better to even just
45 submit an additional proposal to make sure that all
46 communities in the Kuskokwim were included.

47
48 So just for your information. Thank you,
49 Mr. Chair.

50

00421

1 CHAIRMAN SAM: Are you suggesting that we
2 submit it under a heading Western Interior or what?

3
4 MR. BERG: Yeah I think if your Council
5 members would like to see other -- just to insure that
6 other communities may be in the middle and upper Kuskokwim
7 are include in this analysis. I think it would be cleaner
8 to make sure that those communities are included in this
9 C&T analysis that's going to be prepared for you guys to
10 review next fall.

11
12 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay. So if we just go
13 ahead and submit under Western Interior heading and then
14 work on the language later would that fine or do we have to
15 work on the language right now?

16
17 MR. BERG: I would just suggest submitting
18 a proposal from the Western Interior Council to have a C&T
19 determination for rainbow trout that includes the middle
20 and upper Kuskokwim Villages.

21
22 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay. Is this an action
23 item then? I think so. Jack.

24
25 MR. REAKOFF: Mr. Chairman, I'd like to
26 move to have the Staff write a proposal for a C&T request
27 for the upper and middle Yukon for under Western Interior.
28 Correction Kuskokwim River from our Regional Advisory
29 Council.

30
31 CHAIRMAN SAM: Is there a second.

32
33 MR. COLLINS: I'll second that but we need
34 to make a modification in that most of the upper river
35 villages in that area have not -- there is no rainbow
36 present. So we have to match with a biology of the
37 streams. And I'm not sure if they're in Hoholitna, but
38 they stop somewhere up there. So a lot of the upper
39 streams don't have any rainbow and it would be foolish to
40 ask for it where they're not present. So I guess there
41 should be some research for those communities that have
42 access to rainbows they should be included.

43
44 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yeah I think the intent of
45 submitting this is to cover all bases and then the language
46 and the area specific would be incorporated into the
47 proposal as it develops. Any further.....

48
49 MR. MORGAN: Mr. Chairman.

50

00422

1 CHAIRMAN SAM: Carl.

2

3 MR. MORGAN: Yeah. I was just going to on
4 follow-up on Ray's comment, but I would thank you Mr.
5 Chairman. And the only place that I've ever caught rainbow
6 in on the Aniak River and it seemed like that's about the
7 further up stream it goes. I, you know, fish and them
8 other tributaries above and I've got Arctic Char, Dolly,
9 and Grayling, but -- and Rays. But you're right it has a
10 stopping point.

11

12 MR. BERG: That's not my country. We can
13 strike that up for Kuskokwim if you'd like to that'd be the
14 middle Kuskokwim.

15

16 CHAIRMAN SAM: I was just thinking that we
17 leave it right now it would be delay this on down the line
18 after research or do you want to strike it right now?

19

20 MR. COLLINS: I think, Mr. Chairman, your
21 comment is make it generic as possible. It may be other
22 things that I don't know of but just and they can do --
23 always modify it later.

24

25 Thank you.

26

27 CHAIRMAN SAM: As it was present then upper
28 and middle go and we go with developments on that land.
29 Any further discussion. If not all those in favor of
30 submitting this under the heading of Western Interior
31 signify by saying aye.

32

33 IN UNISON: Aye.

34

35 CHAIRMAN SAM: Opposed, same sign.

36

37 (No opposing votes)

38

39 CHAIRMAN SAM: Motion carried.

40

41 MR. COLLINS: Mr. Chairman.

42

43 CHAIRMAN SAM: I do have one more that.....

44

45 MR. COLLINS: Could we make sure that had
46 the wording where rainbows are present. So it's in those
47 areas where rainbows are present. So that way they'll --
48 I don't want to look ignorant that we don't even know the,
49 you know, the biology of the area.

50

00423

1 CHAIRMAN SAM: Jack.

2

3 MR. REAKOFF: I have two other letters I
4 would like -- that I passed around the table here that I
5 would like to discuss.

6

7 CHAIRMAN SAM: Let me work on few more
8 proposals then we'll hit this.

9

10 MR. REAKOFF: Okay.

11

12 CHAIRMAN SAM: I think that do we have any
13 more proposals ready or concept of proposals? I think
14 Jerry had a few more. Did you have any more?

15

16 MR. BERG: (Shakes head negative)

17

18 CHAIRMAN SAM: No. Okay. I do have one
19 that I want developed that pretty much came out of the
20 YRDFA meeting up in Allakaket and this is the terminal
21 fisheries. We don't have that many fisheries, but we would
22 like too -- I think that they drafted up a resolution
23 requesting the Board of Fisheries to grant Allakaket Alaska
24 residence 24/7 on harvesting of salmon species. So I would
25 like a proposal drafted on that concept because this is the
26 terminal fisheries and all of lower Yukon agreed with us
27 that even though we're a targeting whitebread fish and
28 sheefish that we don't have to pull our nets out because
29 we're catching too many salmon. So I would like a proposal
30 developed under that line.

31

32 You guys we have to ADF&G and some -- one
33 or two -- Russ Holder was there and they both had no
34 objection of submitting a proposal with this concept in
35 mind. Jack.

36

37 MR. REAKOFF: Mr. Chairman, was there dates
38 for that? That's just throughout the salmon season or did
39 you have dates for that?

40

41 CHAIRMAN SAM: I think that since we were
42 targeting other species and then catching salmon I think
43 that I don't think there was any dates set for that thing.
44 It's just broad and generic that we keep our fish nets in.
45 That's what all the residences asked for. It looks like
46 the residence asked for the spring season a couple nights
47 ago. So could we develop a proposal. Yeah, go Jerry.

48

49 MR. BERG: Yes, Mr. Chair. It might be
50 helpful. I don't know if you want to mention a mesh size?

00424

1 A certain mesh size that people typically use.

2

3 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yes. I think that the mesh
4 size was incorporated into the YRDFA resolution, so it was
5 satisfactory to all the people. I would like this mesh
6 size based on that resolution. I'm just sorry that I
7 didn't bring it down here. I think I did ask Vince, but we
8 were short of time getting it because just they just met
9 recently at Allakaket. So that mesh size and everything
10 could be based on that resolution submitted by YRDFA.

11

12 So at this time the Chair will entertain a
13 motion to develop a proposal on that concept.

14

15 MR. REAKOFF: So moved.

16

17 MR. STICKMAN: Second.

18

19 CHAIRMAN SAM: Moved by Jack Reakoff.
20 Seconded by Mickey Stickman. To develop a proposal for
21 terminal salmon fisheries on the Koyukuk River. All those
22 in favor of submitting this proposal to be developed
23 signify by saying aye.

24

25 IN UNISON: Aye.

26

27 CHAIRMAN SAM: Those opposed, same sign.

28

29 (No opposing votes)

30

31 CHAIRMAN SAM: Motion carried. And any
32 other proposal that you wanted to submit at this time. I'm
33 sure there'll be a whole bunch anyway. If not, Jack you
34 had letters.

35

36 MR. REAKOFF: Mr. Chairman, I'll refer to
37 the Tom Boyd letter first.

38

39 I was representing the Western Interior
40 Regional Advisory Council with the State Board of Fish and
41 I wrote to Tom Boyd and thanked him for providing funding
42 because it is very important to have a RAC member there to
43 stand in the gap for some of these proposals. There was
44 huge representation by the YK Area. There was probably
45 thirty people from the YK Delta down there at that Board of
46 Fish meeting and there was vastly under represented up
47 river people and especially on the upper Yukon. Very few
48 people from the upper Yukon to represent their villages.
49 But I wanted to write to Tom Boyd and thank the OSM for
50 providing funding for representation at the Board of Fish

00425

1 meeting.

2

3

4 And while I was at the Board of Fish
5 meeting I seen that there was lots of discussion about mesh
6 size and selectivity for salmon and there's lots of
7 antidotal information, but the Department doesn't actually
8 have any real hard information about what size mesh is best
9 for capturing chinook salmon. And it was presented at that
10 Board of Fish meeting by the down river interest that they
11 use eight and three-quarter inch gear. Well, they're
12 catching really huge chinooks and straining the waters and
13 leaving all the small ones to go up river for people in our
14 region.

15

16 And so I submitted -- there seems to me
17 there's a data lack and I submitted this RC62 to the Board
18 of Fisheries. It's describing that the Department and
19 probably in conjunction with the Federal program should do
20 a net selectivity study about how many meshes deep is
21 sufficient. There was discussion about how many mesh deep
22 is the deeper the mesh the more fish they'll catch. And
23 what those -- and actually document what those -- if that's
24 true or not.

25

26 The other thing is the most critically
27 thing is what mesh size catches the most amount of fish
28 efficiently. So if they're allowing eight and three-
29 quarter inch gear and they're letting all the smaller fish
30 swim through the net what needs to be done is fish seven
31 inch, seven and a half, eight inch, eight and a half, eight
32 and three-quarter and then enumerate what sex ratios and
33 how many pounds of fish and the criterias holding the fish.
34 If you go too small -- there is discussion from Mr.
35 Umphenour about going the six inch gear. Well when you got
36 too small a net the fish just barely get pinched in there
37 and they drop out and you have this huge drop loss and we
38 don't want to go there. So the criteria would be to gill
39 the fish and hold the fish by the -- and hold the smaller
40 ones at least by the dorsal fin, but select to harvest most
41 of the chinook that are present.

42

43 What we don't want -- I can see if
44 statistically the size of the chinook on the Yukon River
45 are going down. That's because we keep catching all the --
46 the commercial fishery is catching all the biggest ones and
47 letting all the little ones go through and those pass
48 through at our windows to breed and so we're breeding down
49 our genetic stocks. And so this is kind of an important
50 thing and I'm surprised the Department hasn't done any work
51 on this, but I wanted this Council to be aware that I've

00426

1 been through all of these deliberations.

2

3

4 That's something I've seen and so I would
5 like to at this time make a motion to have this RC62
6 submitted to the Federal Program for review as a point of
7 consideration for future studies and a possible funding
8 source.

8

9

CHAIRMAN SAM: Is there a second.

10

11

MR. STICKMAN: I second.

12

13

CHAIRMAN SAM: Any further discussion.

14 Robert.

15

16

17 MR. WALKER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yeah
18 when you order a commercial net from wherever you have it
19 made or you can hang it yourself it goes up to eight and
20 three-quarter inches and it goes all the way down to seven
21 and a half for a King Salmon. The precedence that you're
22 setting here Jack for a subsistence net is what are you
23 asking for eight, seven?

23

24

25 MR. REAKOFF: No. I'm not asking for any
26 mesh size. What this would be to study what is the best
27 mesh size and what is the mesh size that would capture the
28 most fish and that there should be a transition then
29 towards that mesh size and not specifically that size that
30 works the best. It would probably come out between seven
31 and a half and eight inch. Somewheres in there is probably
32 where this mesh size will settle out at. And then fish
33 towards that target on those fish that you're going to get
34 the most off.

34

35

CHAIRMAN SAM: Jack and then -- I mean
36 Robert and then Benedict.

37

38

39 MR. WALKER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Jack
40 you know we get all these faxes from the mouth of the Yukon
41 in the spring from our biologist Russ and a lot of times
42 when they have their test nets down there they catch all
43 these fish and the implicate what the size are. I'm pretty
44 sure that Russ Holder could determine what size net to use
45 when they first start their commercial fishing down there.

45

46

47 If there's a run of small 20 to 30 pounds
48 well I need to a seven and a half, seven, seven-eighths
49 mesh net. We got big run of big Kings coming here 30, 40,
50 50, 60 pounders that's where you get up to your eight and
51 eight and a quarter inch mesh. So it varies here and a lot

00427

1 of it could be determined right at the mouth of the Yukon.
2 It could be sent -- written and directed to Russ Holder.
3 You know that we would like to have your input and your
4 determination on what the size would be -- could be. It
5 could be set for the year, you know. It all depends on
6 what the run strength is and the size.

7

8 MR. REAKOFF: Mr. Chairman. This is not a
9 determination how the gear is going to be used. This would
10 actually determine what is the most efficient for the sizes
11 of fish and so you -- Mr. Holder does not have that
12 information. He's in the blind on what right going right
13 now is he's -- they're allowing these short commercial
14 openings or test fishing with eight and three quarter
15 period. They don't have -- they don't try a selectivity at
16 all. And so their opinions about what they're actually
17 harvesting are sort of little bit skewed.

18

19 This study would show what net fishes the
20 best. Then Mr. Holder can say okay we got a big run we got
21 some big fish coming in this is the size gear we want to
22 fish for that size or target around those mesh sizes. This
23 will move towards improving the more efficient capture of
24 chinook on the Yukon for subsistence and commercial and not
25 selecting out all the biggest ones and letting all the
26 little ones go through to breed.

27

28 This is just a study. This doesn't -- it
29 would be -- come back to the council -- it would be back to
30 the managers to determine what size then is best to use.
31 Right now no one knows. Right now the Department nor the
32 OSM has any idea about this mesh size stuff. It's all just
33 talk about and they don't know a whole lot about what
34 they're talking about. You got them anytime you start to
35 -- these scientist don't like to talk unless they've got
36 actual documentation. So that this -- there is no
37 documentation that's what this direct status is
38 documenting.

39

40 CHAIRMAN SAM: Benedict.

41

42 MR. JONES: I would suggest that if you
43 want a standard size mesh net seven inch is what I've been
44 using all the time and it's 29 inch mesh deep. And you
45 catch 20, 30 pounder average. Where you get 50 pounders it
46 will just glance off the net because the bigger fish they
47 go down deeper and they most of time they'll hit the bottom
48 of your nets just where the deadline is and they won't get
49 caught and you could see them hit the net all right, but
50 when you pull the net up they're not there.

00428

1 So the standard size that I use is seven
2 inch and 29 mesh deep because if you use 35 and 40 mesh
3 deep you get hanged up on snags. A lot of people -- and a
4 lot of times the people that use eight inch mesh they be
5 fishing all night and they won't get nothing because the
6 smaller fish go right through. You get a hit all right,
7 but they swim right through it.

8

9 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Benedict. Before
10 I turn it over to Jerry I think that this study might be
11 nice, but the majority of the tack is I think people
12 already know what they want and what they use is what they
13 got pretty much whether it's legal or not because you come
14 in to buying new gear all the time which our people don't
15 up on the upper Koyukuk. I mean.

16

17 MR. REAKOFF: Okay.

18

19 CHAIRMAN SAM: So that's an area.
20 Sometimes if you put restrictions on some mesh size some of
21 them got bigger nets from older days and I don't know if
22 they'll use it whether you put the restriction or not. Did
23 you have something?

24

25 MR. REAKOFF: The direction that I see this
26 study would go is that it could be used to show that
27 harvesting all the largest fish on the lower river is
28 affecting how the up river people are getting fish. It
29 shows that harvesting with eight and three-quarter inch
30 gear, you know, we all know what's going on. They're
31 harvesting all the big fish when they fish eight inch gear
32 up there by Koyukuk nobody catching anything because
33 they've already strained it out down river. And so we need
34 to get it back to where we have good representation of all
35 age classes in the stocks we have to have documentation.
36 This actually quantifies and documents what's going on.
37 Then we can use the data to manage with. Right now there
38 is no data.

39

40 CHAIRMAN SAM: Jerry.

41

42 MR. BERG: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Yeah I
43 think it's a very good question I think to try to look into
44 and I'm not sure how easy it's going to be to come up with
45 an answer, but I wanted to let the Council know there are
46 two efforts underway currently to address part of this
47 concern.

48

49 One of those studies is being conducted
50 through our office through the Fisheries Information

00429

1 Services Division and they're looking at ASL, age, sex,
2 length data through years past that have gone through some
3 of the weir projects on the Yukon River. And part of the
4 problem is that we're having to get some of that data from
5 Fish and Game and that data is not in a computer data base,
6 so we're having to enter that data manually, so it's taking
7 a little bit longer than we expected. But Karen Eier who's
8 a statistician in FIS is working on that study and will
9 certainly keep the Council up to date on how that study is
10 progressing. There's some members of the Eastern Interior
11 Council that are also concerned about the long term effects
12 of gillnets on some of these larger fish. And so that's a
13 commitment that our office has made and we hope to have a
14 report out before your next fall meeting of the analysis of
15 that study.

16

17 And then also while were in the meeting in
18 Beaver for the Eastern Interior meeting a talked to Joe
19 Sullivan with YRDFA and my understanding is that they are
20 also doing a study on the effects of different sizes of
21 gillnets on the fisheries in the lower Yukon and I don't
22 know a lot of the specifics about that study, but he just
23 told me briefly. I don't know Ron if you know anymore
24 about it. If that was discussed in Allakaket.

25

26 So anyway those are two efforts that I know
27 of that are specifically going to address some of the age,
28 sex, length data and the net fisheries impacts on some of
29 the salmon stocks in the Yukon.

30

31 So we'll certainly try to keep the Council
32 as informed as we can on those two studies and it may even
33 be a good idea to try to add this specific question that
34 Jack has and forward that question to the folks doing these
35 analysis, so that they mean be able to try to tease some of
36 the data out to try to answer that question. Although it
37 may be somewhat difficult.

38

39 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

40

41 MR. MORGAN: Mr. Chairman.

42

43 CHAIRMAN SAM: Carl.

44

45 MR. MORGAN: Yeah. Thank you, Mr.
46 Chairman. In the late 70's and early 80's in the Kuskokwim
47 River they use to have the commercial opens were pretty
48 heavy and they didn't have a mesh size restriction. So
49 when the people in the upper Kuskokwim was starting to
50 notice they weren't getting no Kings. So they went down we

00430

1 had a meeting in Bethel and we determined that the target
2 fish was chums. The incidental catch was kings and at that
3 time they were fishing in the commercial openings they were
4 fishing between seven to probably the most likely gear was
5 eight to eight and a half mesh and they were knocking out
6 the kings and that was not the target fish.

7

8 So at that time there was ruling that they
9 made that because that's an incidental catch chinook they
10 knocked down the mesh size to six inch and that made a lot
11 of difference of kings that were going back up going up the
12 Kuskokwim and that was the subsistence catch. That's was
13 what people went after in the upper Kuskokwim was kings.
14 And you know there is some data that the mesh size makes a
15 big difference and we have seen it in upper Kuskokwim that
16 kings has improved.

17

18 CHAIRMAN SAM: We do have a motion on the
19 floor. Yes, we do have a motion on the floor again just
20 one last question. What would we do with this data and who
21 would it target or who would it benefit and that's what I'm
22 kind of worried about.

23

24 MR. REAKOFF: This data would benefit the
25 resource. You know where talking about maintaining our
26 genetic stocks and maintaining the resources. And so right
27 now the resource is getting smaller, and smaller, and
28 smaller.

29

30 It's apparent that harvesting in the lower
31 river with eight and three-quarter consistently is reducing
32 the size of the fish and so there's no way you can point
33 that. I mean that's just -- you can see that's what it
34 does, but you have to quantify that. You got to show that
35 when you fish eight and three-quarter inch gear you set
36 eight and three-quarter inch gear you catch a 45 pound or
37 35 pound fish average. You pull that gear you set eight
38 inch year gear you drop that down to 25 pound fish average.
39 If you set seven and a half you catch an average of 18 to
40 24 pound chinooks and you catch more of them. And so what
41 it shows that your targeting only the biggest ones with the
42 biggest gear. Well and when you do that if everybody's
43 fishing that subsistence and commercial on the lower river
44 your affecting the gene stocks for everybody else up river
45 and the stock in general.

46

47 So this is a resource issue and so it --
48 the objective is to look at what that's doing to the gene
49 stocks on the Yukon.

50

00431

1 CHAIRMAN SAM: And that is all the study
2 request or.

3

4 MR. REAKOFF: That's basically what the
5 objective of this is to have an understanding and have data
6 on how the managers and how the Council would implement
7 that, you know. So the Council might say it would be -- it
8 would have be a Tri-Council -- addressed by the Tri-
9 Councils, by the Federal Board, and that, you know, it's
10 not acceptable to fish eight and three-quarter inch gear on
11 the lower river. That's what the objective would be.

12

13 There should be more of an eight and a
14 quarter to seven and half range. Fishing straight eight
15 and three-quarter that's just -- eight and three quarter
16 inch gear is knocking down all the gene stocks. That's
17 what it's doing.

18

19 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yes, but then with this
20 study -- what this study will show and broadcast what is
21 the most efficient means of fishing and then that in itself
22 would create some restrictions I think.

23

24 I think that people already know what's
25 more effective -- most effective and I think that they are
26 already using it and it's already in use. I don't know
27 that a study and the data from the study would curtail some
28 activities or not.

29

30 I think that at our October meeting down at
31 Wasilla I said that most efficient ways will be used to
32 gather -- I mean we more or less granted the most efficient
33 ways to gather our subsistence harvest the quicker we could
34 get out of the river and I don't if that will work.

35

36 Mickey you had something.

37

38 MR. STICKMAN: I think there's a general
39 miscommunication going on here because, you know, all this
40 would do is give the Department additional data.

41

42 You know because like Jack said in their
43 test fisheries they use one type of gear and, you know, so
44 it doesn't give the full reflection of the fish. You know
45 so if they, you know, in their test fisheries when they're
46 doing there -- if they switch gear it would give them a
47 more clearer picture of actually what's swimming by. So,
48 you know, I don't see any problems with this because, you
49 know, like Ben said we use seven inch mesh and 29 meshes
50 deep and, you know, so the fish that we catch, you know,

00432

1 are just basically the medium to the smaller ones. We
2 don't target the big ones.

3

4 MR. SIAVELIS: Mr. Chairman.

5

6 CHAIRMAN SAM: George Siavelis.

7

8 MR. SIAVELIS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I
9 kind of am liking the idea. Also if nothing else take some
10 of that -- unless I misunderstand -- seems like there's
11 some real good traditional knowledge and just if nothing
12 else to organize it and quantify it and, you know, for a,
13 you know, just to broaden, you know, and recognize it.

14

15 Thank you.

16

17 CHAIRMAN SAM: Any further discussions. If
18 not all those in favor of submitting RC62 to the Board of
19 Fisheries signify by saying aye.

20

21 IN UNISON: Aye.

22

23 CHAIRMAN SAM: Opposed, same sign.

24

25 (No opposing vote)

26

27 CHAIRMAN SAM: There's a lot of argument in
28 sending out one letter too long.

29

30 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman.

31

32 CHAIRMAN SAM: Where are we Vince?

33

34 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, Mr. Chairman. Let the
35 record reflect that that'd be the Federal Subsistence Board
36 on that action. We're now to my understanding we're done
37 with the Fisheries Topic section. We would go in to the
38 Annual Report section, if that's okay with you, Mr. Chair.

39

40 CHAIRMAN SAM: And your report on under Tab
41 C.

42

43 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, Mr. Chairman. This is
44 your 2003 Annual Report.

45

46 Again for the new members we didn't go
47 through this I don't think in training. Topics are
48 submitted in the fall meeting. Language is drafted up
49 between the fall meeting and this meeting and this is kind
50 of your final time to look at it for approval. It doesn't

00433

1 prevent you from adding topics so. But if you do add
2 topics then you're going to have to give me -- empower me
3 to draft it with the Chairs and maybe a key person to
4 review the final language. Then this is submitted in
5 April, reviewed by the Board sometime during summer -- I
6 don't remember the date -- and then you get a response at
7 your fall meeting. Again this has been very productive
8 over the years. I did bring it, but I've been analyzing
9 that and last night I was approached by the Refuge manager
10 how topics that are in the Annual Report allows them to go
11 forward with funding on topics because they can say this is
12 showing that the users would like this done.

13

14 So anyways it's in front of you. I'm not
15 going to go through each topic. I will leave that up to
16 you. And if there's additions let me know and again
17 empower me to write it with the Chair and a key persons
18 review so it's as accurate as possible.

19

20 MR. COLLINS: Mr. Chairman.

21

22 CHAIRMAN SAM: Go ahead Ray.

23

24 MR. COLLINS: I can think of one addition
25 that might be critical would to be to add a paragraph on
26 our concern over the action taken by the Board in Area M.
27 And that would highlight that too that, that is a concern
28 as to what the impact of that is going to be on subsistence
29 fishing in our area.

30

31 CHAIRMAN SAM: Mickey.

32

33 MR. STICKMAN: I'd like to make a motion to
34 approve the Annual Report at this time so any concerns that
35 we have in the review will be include.

36

37 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yes and be recorded as an
38 action item too. Thank you for that oversight. Is there
39 a second.

40

41 MR. REAKOFF: Second.

42

43 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay. Second is by Jack.
44 Okay. Any further questions or requests to be added.

45

46 MR. REAKOFF: Mr. Chairman.

47

48 CHAIRMAN SAM: Go ahead.

49

50 MR. REAKOFF: I would like to add a section

00434

1 on the concern about the Senate Bill 298 and the ORV
2 restrictions elimination and those huge, huge impacts to
3 subsistence that, that ORV Bill reducing ORV use
4 restrictions would have on surrounding subsistence
5 resources and subsistence users.

6
7 I represent Anaktuvuk Pass and those ORVs
8 going across the North Slope and shooting all the caribou
9 in front of Anaktuvuk Pass that come down in the Western
10 Interior Region would have huge impacts. And so I would
11 like to see the Board -- Federal Board come up with a
12 contingency if this is to happen.

13
14 This has catch the Federal managers off
15 guard. They don't know what in the world they're going to
16 do. I think the Federal Board has to have some contingency
17 plan in place in case this happens. And so I would like to
18 have that included in to the -- in to our Annual Report.

19
20 CHAIRMAN SAM: For my information what's an
21 ORV briefly.

22
23 MR. REAKOFF: Off road vehicle. That would
24 -- off road vehicles would include track vehicles, four-
25 wheelers, Argos, snowmachines, all those things could be
26 just going all over and over and over.

27
28 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay. Thank you. Any
29 additions to the Annual Report.

30
31 (No comments)

32
33 CHAIRMAN SAM: Vince, for my clarification
34 No. 5 on Page 323 Additional Time for C&T Regulations.
35 What were we trying to do with this one again?

36
37 MR. MATHEWS: You would just after your
38 discussions on Customary Trade you just wanted to make sure
39 that the Board would give plenty of time to review
40 proposals requesting regional regulations.

41
42 I think you guys were feeling that the time
43 schedule was pressuring you guys on it. There are no
44 Customary Trade proposals to my knowledge going be
45 submitted.

46
47 There is some question on some that have
48 been deferred, but we haven't had time to decide what
49 deferral meant. So, you were just saying -- the Council
50 was saying that you wanted when Customary Trade proposals

00435

1 came up that you wanted additional time to develop regional
2 proposals.

3

4 CHAIRMAN SAM: And this Customary Trade
5 proposals that were discussing was that just covered as
6 fish strips that we talked about before or acted on
7 already?

8

9 MR. MATHEWS: Yes and it wasn't fish strips
10 it was fresh fish. But, yes it's just fish that at this
11 time that Customary Trade is addressing. It may not be
12 needed in the report anymore. I don't know. But you guys
13 requested it in fall that it be a topic.

14

15 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay. Any other questions
16 or additions for Vince. Robert and then Mickey.

17

18 MR. WALKER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
19 Vince here on 323 on Hunting Guide Area Selection Process
20 Bureau of Land Management Area. When we talk about the
21 Northern Region what about the Southern Region, Region 6?
22 Are we dealing in process of working with this also what
23 Jack stated off road vehicles here on BLM lands here or is
24 there a policy in State here?

25

26 MR. MATHEWS: Well the -- you had a
27 briefing on the area guides from Taylor Brelsford the ORV
28 is a separate issue. It happens to be in the same area.
29 The restriction in the corridor is five miles. Jack
30 correct me if I get it wrong. That you can use any ORVs
31 within the five miles of the corridor there. The Bill I
32 understand is to lift that to provide opportunity for
33 recreational and hunting for there. Maybe Jeff has an
34 update. But this here is separate from that issue. And
35 Jack has request -- if you guys agree to add in the section
36 on the Senate Bill 298 or whatever the number is.

37

38 CHAIRMAN SAM: Jeff.

39

40 MR. DENTON: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Robert
41 in response to yours for the areas further south, basically
42 in the Anchorage Field Office I'll cover that when we -- in
43 some detail when we do the BLM report because there's
44 several issues dealing with that and I'll update you in
45 some detail on that at that time.

46

47 MR. WALKER: Thank you, Jeff.

48

49 CHAIRMAN SAM: Mickey.

50

00436

1 MR. STICKMAN: Thank you. The only other
2 thing that I can think of that I think that should be in
3 the Annual Report is the -- remember at our last Council
4 meeting that we ask for more predator control. You know
5 that there was, you know, the Council had a concern that
6 because there was a lack of predator control so I would
7 like that to be reflected in the Annual Report.

8

9 CHAIRMAN SAM: You get that Vince?

10

11 MR. MATHEWS: No I did not. I'm sorry I
12 was addressing another.

13

14 CHAIRMAN SAM: We want total predator
15 control in Region 6.

16

17 (Laughter)

18

19 CHAIRMAN SAM: Oh no strike that. You have
20 to reiterate again.

21

22 MR. STICKMAN: At our last Council meeting
23 the Council had a concern as far as predator control. It
24 was an issue and we thought that there was not enough
25 predator control, so we need to reflect that issue in the
26 Annual Report.

27

28 CHAIRMAN SAM: I think it's quite
29 appropriate at this time because they are drafting some
30 policies to deal with it. At least deal with the issue.

31

32 MR. MATHEWS: Right. Mr. Chair, I think
33 I'll note it here as an Annual Report topic. We do have a
34 report on that policy and we have direction from the Yukon-
35 Kuskokwim Delta on that policy. So I suppose put a
36 bookmark for the Annual Report, but then when you have the
37 discussion about the predator policy you may need to adapt
38 your request.

39

40 Tim Craig brought up and again this would
41 be the Chair would be reviewing the final one. This
42 paragraph under the Hunting Guide Selection for BLM would
43 have to be deleted because you already got the report from
44 Taylor or a modified I should say that you got that report
45 today. So we're going to modify that language there under
46 hunting guides and I think you just would reflect that you
47 were very pleased with the report and the actions and the
48 forward motions of BLM and that would be reflected under
49 this process. Just so you know that's what we were talking
50 about over here.

00437

1 CHAIRMAN SAM: I think we should reflect
2 that we were all very pleased with the effort put in to
3 trying to at least identify and admit to us that they now
4 realize that it is a problem. And that I think that just
5 may be ongoing that's what I want to do. Jack.

6
7 MR. REAKOFF: I'm pleased with those
8 efforts. Now I think we're coming to a point in the
9 process where we need to identify those areas where we have
10 intensive guiding on BLM lands. And so we would encourage
11 those areas be identified.

12
13 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay. Thank you, Jack.
14 Mickey is just going to put it on hold for now until we
15 hear that report and then we could ask to ask if we want to
16 incorporate that policies on predator controls submitted.

17
18
19 MR. STICKMAN: Oh sure, but a, you know,
20 just so that you know we already discussed it at our last
21 Council meeting so it already should be a part of the
22 Annual Report even if they do have a policy coming before
23 us it was something that we already asked for at our last
24 Council meeting. So it should be a part of the Annual
25 Report.

26
27 CHAIRMAN SAM: Go ahead Vince.

28
29 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, I'm kind of
30 prejudging Jack here, so hopefully I'll get it correct, but
31 he asked to have a discussion about his concern about OSM,
32 Office of Subsistence Management, having positions on State
33 of Alaska Board of Game Proposals that, that seemed to be
34 out of sink and made it difficult for him to represent at
35 that meeting. I'm prejudging him, but I think that might
36 be an Annual Report topic. I don't know.

37
38 CHAIRMAN SAM: Go ahead.

39
40 MR. REAKOFF: Mr. Chairman, I felt that,
41 you know, it's not that big of a deal that I think we have
42 to put it in the Annual Report. But I feel the OSM and the
43 Board should be aware if the Councils haven't met then they
44 should really look to what the current status of those
45 proposals are at the Advisory Committee level at least.
46 And that would have alleviated a lot of this positioning on
47 this December 1 to December 10th moose hunt. The Advisory
48 Committees had already been weighing in on that and so I
49 feel that the OSM should look a little more to the Advisory
50 Committees if we're not -- haven't had a meeting and hadn't

00438

1 reviewed that proposal yet. To get a little better pulse
2 off of what's happen out in the affected area. And I would
3 like to know how this Council feels about that.

4

5 CHAIRMAN SAM: I don't know. I think that
6 we met before the Board of Games meetings and it didn't
7 matter. I suggestions didn't matter. They over ruled us
8 all the way through I think.

9

10 MR. REAKOFF: What I'm talking about is the
11 OSM came to the Board of Game meeting with a statement and
12 the Koyukuk River was at the same meeting. The OSM
13 statement was out of sink with what was actually the
14 Advisory Committee's position. I feel that the OSM should
15 have looked to the Advisory Committees in the affected
16 area. The middle Yukon, the Koyukuk and seen what are line
17 of thought was and then sort of more tempered their
18 position.

19

20 CHAIRMAN SAM: Was this what you were
21 looking for Vince?

22

23 MR. MATHEWS: Well I was prejudging Jack
24 that, that would be part of the Annual Report and he's
25 saying it doesn't need to be.

26

27 It's a policy question. I did get a chance
28 to review those positions, but there was such a rush that
29 I didn't so I'm kind of disagreeing with Jack that it may
30 need to be in the Annual Report so it would force myself as
31 well as other Staff -- if the Board agrees -- to make sure
32 that when we review these that we do our best to see if the
33 Councils have met. If they haven't or even if they have
34 that we also look at the local Advisory Committees. That
35 in a nutshell is where I was going. I just didn't even
36 think to look at that. It was -- again we -- in my opinion
37 had a train wreck this year. Board of Game, Board of Fish,
38 and coming off a Tri-Council it was pretty difficult day to
39 day to know what to do next.

40

41 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yeah that Tri-Council was a
42 was a wreck in itself. Jack.

43

44 MR. REAKOFF: I think now that yeah we
45 should include that in to our Annual Report that, you know,
46 this policy of looking to the Advisory Committee needs to
47 be in place.

48

49 CHAIRMAN SAM: So we do submit it in the
50 Annual Report. I think that was a good catch there because

00439

1 even though some of these proposals that we go through
2 under the Federal system it's good sometimes when it comes
3 out of a office it's quite a bit off of what we intended
4 too and I think that -- thanks for getting that on the
5 Annual Report. Ray.

6
7 MR. COLLINS: Yeah, Mr. Chairman. I'm not
8 clear where you're going with my comments on the Area M.
9 Whether that should be in the report or not. And what I
10 was thinking was that we should at least say that we are
11 very concerned about the recent actions of Fish and Game
12 lifting restrictions and we're concerned specifically about
13 what the impact is going to be on salmon stocks in AYK and
14 the Kuskokwim. In our letter before we only talked about
15 AYK, but also affects the Kuskokwim. So I think putting
16 that in the letter is another place of getting that to the
17 attention of the Secretary of the Interior.

18
19 CHAIRMAN SAM: Didn't we already included
20 that? No.

21
22 MR. MATHEWS: Well Ray brought it up
23 earlier and this happens every time we do Annual Report.
24 These topics come up and until the final motion is passed
25 it's not clear if the Council -- I believe Ray was getting
26 a clear read out if the Council wanted that additional
27 paragraph. And when I get my hands on it then I would
28 request it reference your endorsement of the Special Action
29 Request as showing how intense it is. That you guys are
30 willing to go to a Special Action.

31
32 CHAIRMAN SAM: Shouldn't we still
33 incorporate it in to the Annual Report?

34
35 MR. MATHEWS: Yes. I think Ray was not
36 sure if that kind of got lost in the discussion I think.

37
38 CHAIRMAN SAM: All right that's taken care
39 of. Anything else?

40
41 MR. COLLINS: And I wanted to make sure
42 that the Kuskokwim was mentioned because it wasn't in our
43 previous -- in this letter it's not mentioned.

44
45 CHAIRMAN SAM: There has been a few times
46 where in fax after fax under additions to the Annual Report
47 or some clarifications, so Vince and I have been working on
48 that and at this time I cannot think of anything new to add
49 to the Annual Report. Jack.

50

00440

1 MR. REAKOFF: I've written down some of the
2 points about this off road vehicle stuff and I would for
3 suggested language for Vince and I can read that or I could
4 just give it to him about some of my concerns about how
5 these impacts will be on subsistence users. So it's your
6 discretion as to what -- but I would like to pass this over
7 to Vince for his use for writing that in to the Annual
8 Report.

9
10 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yes I would then suggest
11 that once Vince develops this language he shots me a copy
12 and Jack a copy for approval.

13
14 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, Mr. Chairman. And then
15 if other Council members are interested in getting more
16 faxes we can add you to the list.

17
18 The difficulty I have is turning this
19 Annual Report around is timely. So I, you know, I'm going
20 to be -- if you guys want to get the faxes you're going to
21 have to get back to me by a certain date. Ron's very good
22 at that and Jack. I'm saying the others aren't, but if you
23 don't reply by the date I have to move forward because the
24 -- in addition we have cycles upon cycles that it's -- my
25 windows are getting closer to completing these cycles and
26 for Eastern Interior they weren't able to get a report
27 together, so I have draft one from the ground up for them.
28 So just to give you an idea. If you want them I would
29 appreciate everyone if that's what they want, but realize
30 it may say in two or three days you got to get back to me
31 because the Board can't change it's scheduled too much to
32 met that and anyways enough whining on my part. But you
33 get the drift that there's a timeline with this so, there's
34 not a lot of time to turn it around.

35
36 CHAIRMAN SAM: I think that you ahead and
37 shot the whole Council a copy and then I think that if
38 there's anything of importance to them they will
39 automatically respond. I think that should take care of
40 itself. Robert.

41
42 MR. WALKER: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Jack,
43 is this going to be Region 6 wide or just your area or.....
44

45 MR. REAKOFF: No this is right now on the
46 Dalton Highway there's a five mile restriction on each side
47 of the road where you cannot use an off road vehicle.
48 That's stopped hunting pressure from going out all over the
49 Unit 25, 26, and 24. This has to -- this a huge effect on
50 the northern part of Region 6.

00441

1 Mr. Chairman, if I could I would like that
2 this guide area aspect of our Annual Report and this ORV
3 concerns be transmitted to the BLM's Resource Advisory
4 Council. They are the primary land manager of that Dalton
5 Highway Corridor and that Resource Advisory Council should
6 be aware of these concerns also.

7

8 CHAIRMAN SAM: You get that Vince? Go
9 ahead I think that's more.....

10

11 MR. MATHEWS: Yes I do have that and BLM
12 Staff is here. I don't know how the Annual Report if it
13 goes back through that way, but sure we can -- I assume it
14 will be approved that you can do that correspondence
15 through the Board is what I'm hesitating about. And if it
16 isn't the State Director is on the Board, so it's -- yes.

17

18 MR. REAKOFF: It's my perception that the
19 Resource Advisory Council was not aware of this guide area
20 issue and I would like to have after the Federal Board
21 reviews our concerns that they be transmitted to that
22 Resource Advisory Council. They have a lot of weight with
23 the BLM on these types of concerns.

24

25 CHAIRMAN SAM: Anything else on our Annual
26 Report? If not what's the next?

27

28 MR. MATHEWS: Well you have a motion on the
29 floor by Mickey. So that needs to be closed out.

30

31 CHAIRMAN SAM: Oh what was that motion
32 then?

33

34 MR. MATHEWS: To approve the Annual Report
35 with the -- yes additional.

36

37 CHAIRMAN SAM: With additions and with the
38 understanding that we may delete or add right? Okay. I
39 wanted that for the record.

40 All those in favor of the motion signify by
41 saying aye.

42

43 IN UNISON: Aye.

44

45 CHAIRMAN SAM: Those opposed, same sign.

46

47 (No opposing votes)

48

49 CHAIRMAN SAM: Motion carried.

50

00442

1 MR. MATHEWS: This brings this very timely
2 this brings up the Office of Subsistence Management
3 reports. Tom Kron's going to talk about that draft
4 Predator Management Policy and then I think Jack has got
5 some discussions about it and then there may also be some
6 information from the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta. So with that
7 these are informational items for sure, but we want to make
8 sure that you understand them.

9

10 CHAIRMAN SAM: Go ahead Tom.

11

12 MR. KRON: Yeah, Mr. Chairman. Again we're
13 under Item No. 10 on your agenda and all of those items are
14 included under Tab D. I understand Vince has a copy of the
15 letter from Secretary Norton to the Governor which would be
16 Item No. C, so we'll get that passed out to you.

17

18 But, again as people have mentioned the YK
19 Council has requested some modification to the draft
20 Predator Management Policy. This was a draft. Well you'd
21 seen earlier versions of this. You saw them at the Tri-
22 Council meeting and probably the thing to do I think Vince
23 now has copies of what the YK Council was asking you to
24 consider and probably the thing to do is just pass those
25 out and have you look at those and work from those. Maybe
26 turn it over to Jack because I know.....

27

28 MR. MATHEWS: Right.

29

30 MR. KRON:some of the Council members
31 have discussed this with Greg Roczicka.....

32

33 MR. MATHEWS: Yeah we'll get Jack up to
34 speed.

35

36 MR. KRON:from the YK Council.

37

38 MR. MATHEWS: Because I'm not sure the
39 version I have is the same that Jerry's so, just take ten
40 seconds here.

41

42 MR. KRON: Yeah, Mr. Chairman, again the
43 original draft that went out in the various Council books
44 is included in your books on Page 325 and 326. Three
45 twenty-six is actually the policy and that's all under Tab
46 D. Everything that I'll be touching on is under Tab D.
47 And Predator Management is first on the docket.

48

49 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

50

00443

1 (Pause)

2

3 CHAIRMAN SAM: Any time you're ready.

4

5 MR. KRON: Again, Mr. Chairman, I think
6 probably the appropriate thing to do -- I was not at the YK
7 Council meeting myself. I think there have been some
8 discussions and communications and maybe if Councilman
9 Reakoff would want to take the lead that would probably be
10 the best.

11

12 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

13

14 CHAIRMAN SAM: Go ahead Jack.

15

16 MR. REAKOFF: Greg Roczicka called me this
17 last Sunday and faxed me this penciled in copy this RC145
18 that he had submitted to the Game Board and he felt that we
19 had acted a little bit prematurely from the Western
20 Interior.

21

22 I explained to him that we had endorsed the
23 principle of predator of management and not the policy per
24 se. And so he faxed me this penciled in copy that he would
25 like to see resubmitted to the Federal Board to address
26 some concerns that he has that basically there would be no
27 recourse for anything that had to do with predator control
28 of proposals were submitted by individuals on predator
29 management. They would be sent back to the proponents.

30

31 He feels that there should be a different
32 way to be a different way to be addressed. And some of
33 those concerns were brought out at the Federal Board
34 meeting December that, you know, there was individuals that
35 weren't satisfied with the way the current policy is
36 written. So, I feel that these -- Greg's languages is
37 warranted and should be incorporated into the Federal
38 Management Policy and to us. And so that the Board would
39 have more options for addressing these predator management
40 problems that we're having throughout out our region.

41

42 And so I would like to see what the other
43 Council members have to say about this -- the language. I
44 feel that this language gives a little broader scope to how
45 predators could be managed.

46

47 CHAIRMAN SAM: I don't know at this time.
48 I can't read mine.

49

50 MR. MATHEWS: Well, Mr. Chairman, looking

00444

1 at it fairly quickly, both documents we handed out seem to
2 have the same language in bold. That means its added too.
3 So someone correct me if I got that wrong. The only
4 difference I see is -- and I know it's hard to read -- is
5 the discussion that he hand wrote below paragraph marked B
6 and then below that. So I think Jack and I can walk you
7 through that, but I don't see any other differences other
8 than the languages that he hand wrote in. We can try to
9 read that for you if you'd like.

10

11 CHAIRMAN SAM: So the clear one with the
12 large dark typing in there is that the latest one?

13

14 MR. MATHEWS: Well yeah I think so. The
15 one that has an arrow that comes up and points up to it and
16 I need assistance maybe from Jerry. The one you handed out
17 is what they actually did or I know I'm putting him on the
18 spot, but I don't -- this was submitted by Greg Roczicka,
19 so the one there, but which one did the Council really
20 adopt, if at all possible.

21

22 MR. BERG: Mr. Chair, yeah I'm trying to
23 figure that out from my notes from that YK meeting. My
24 understanding was that they primarily adopted the type
25 wording that you have in there. I don't recall Greg
26 Roczicka reading in to the record additional wording that
27 he passed. Oh actually I do. So a motion by Greg with
28 changes as outlined in his testimony and then that
29 resolution passed without opposition. The YK Council does
30 not feel that these changes are contrary to the Federal
31 Subsistence Board Policy and would like to see the Federal
32 Subsistence Board become more responsible to predator
33 management. So he did read in to the record the written
34 language on your draft there and they passed that without
35 opposition.

36

37 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

38

39 CHAIRMAN SAM: What are we looking for on
40 this?

41

42 MR. KRON: Mr. Chairman, again OSM is
43 looking for your input and direction. You know this is
44 your opportunity to provide comments on what you have
45 before you.

46

47 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

48

49 MR. REAKOFF: Mr. Chairman.

50

00445

1 CHAIRMAN SAM: Jack.

2

3 MR. REAKOFF: Mr. Chairman, I would like to
4 state that I feel that this language additions that the YK
5 Council has submitted are consistent with more of what
6 we've heard in testimony here at Huslia for trying to
7 address predator management and harvest and so forth. And
8 I feel that this language that Greg has suggested is not
9 out of line with what -- it's consistent with what local
10 people would like to see implemented and it would give more
11 broader options to the Federal Board and the land managing
12 agencies on predator management, so I would like to make a
13 motion to adopt this language to be submitted under the
14 Western Interior title also.

15

16 Thank you.

17

18 CHAIRMAN SAM: Is there a second.

19

20 MR. SIAVELIS: Second.

21

22 CHAIRMAN SAM: Any further discussion.

23

24 (No comments)

25

26 CHAIRMAN SAM: Question's been called for.

27 All those in favor of the motion signify by saying aye.

28

29 IN UNISON: Aye.

30

31 CHAIRMAN SAM: Opposed, same sign.

32

33 (No opposing votes)

34

35 CHAIRMAN SAM: Motion carried.

36

37 MR. KRON: Mr. Chairman, again, the next
38 item under Tab D is an update on the Statewide Rural
39 Determine Process. Again it's just there for your
40 information. No action required and I was not asked to
41 give a presentation on that. Item C, however, Vince has a
42 copy a recent letter from Secretary Norton and maybe if we
43 can pass that around. Essentially what information we have
44 is right there in the letter. I have some backup
45 information on the Record of Decision from 1992 for you,
46 but again it's real important to get this out to let people
47 know what the status is on that issue.

48

49 Thank you Mr. Chairman.

50

00446

1 (Pause)

2

3 MR. MATHEWS: The second thing I'm passing
4 out is the Record of Decision which is the basis of the
5 Secretary's action. We're not just trying to give you
6 inform -- paper -- extra paper, but it references in the
7 letter it's called a ROD, Record of Decision.

8

9 MR. KRON: Again, Mr. Chairman, basically
10 the letter leads off by noting that in the July 17, 2003,
11 request from Governor Murkowski he was requesting the
12 appointment of a representative from the State of Alaska to
13 serve as a non-voting member.

14

15 That's what was requested and again I know
16 it was discussed with all the Councils across the State
17 late last summer. What, in fact, the Secretary has
18 responded with is based on the Record of Decision from
19 1992. We passed around Page 17 from that record.
20 Essentially what was provided at that time was the
21 opportunity for a liaison from the State of Alaska to serve
22 as a consultant to the Board.

23

24 The State had up and until this point had
25 never even asked for that position to be appointed. So
26 essentially at this point the Secretary is saying okay
27 we're taking your request as the first request now since
28 1992 to respond to that issue and the Secretary offered the
29 Governor the liaison position.

30

31 It's my understanding that I don't think
32 we've gotten the nomination of a name yet, who that person
33 would be, but that's the process we're in right now. And
34 again this letter is hot off the press. I think we've had
35 it just a week and a half or so.

36

37 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

38

39 CHAIRMAN SAM: That information great.
40 Didn't we -- oh no we opposed that appointment to the
41 Board. Okay. Any questions for Tom Kron.

42

43 (No comments)

44

45 CHAIRMAN SAM: If not, let's go on.

46

47 MR. KRON: Mr. Chairman, if there are no
48 other questions on that the other information in your
49 packet under again Tab D, Item D, there's a briefing on the
50 Inter-Agency Staff Committee and again that's

00447

1 informational.

2

3

4 The final item that I was asked to actually
5 talk with you about is the Safari Club litigation. And
6 again there's a briefing in the packet on that. I brought
7 along copies of the actual court documents which I'll make
8 available here. I don't have enough for everyone, but
9 those that are interested.

9

10 And then, Mr. Chairman, as soon as I can
11 find my notes here I wanted to touch on some key issues
12 from the Safari Club litigation. And again I will be
13 touching on some key points from the summary packet that's
14 included under Tab D.

15

16 In 1998 the Safari Club International, the
17 Kenai Peninsula Outdoor Coalition, and hunting guide Jerry
18 Jacques filed a lawsuit challenging the Federal Subsistence
19 Management Program. One component of the lawsuit
20 challenged the way the Federal Subsistence Board makes
21 Customary and Traditional Use, C&T determinations. Among
22 the complaints was that the Board gives too much defence to
23 the Regional Advisory Councils and that the process for
24 making C&T determinations is riddles with flaws. The
25 lawsuit sought to have all C&T determinations made by the
26 Board set aside. Six hunters and guides submitted
27 affidavits alleging that they were harmed by the C&T use
28 determinations. However, Judge Holland found that the
29 plaintiffs did not show that they suffered injury as a
30 result of the decision and, therefore, do not have standing
31 to challenge the aspects of the program. Consequently,
32 Judge Holland dismissed the claims dealing with the C&T use
33 determinations.

34

35 A second component of the case challenged
36 the composition of the Regional Advisory Councils that
37 advise the Federal Subsistence Board.

38

39 Your Council being one of ten.

40

41 The Safari Club contended that the
42 membership of the Councils has not always been fairly
43 balanced, as required by the Federal Advisory Committee Act
44 or FACA. Judge Holland agreed with the Safari Club
45 plaintiffs that sport and commercial interests are affected
46 and must be considered when decisions are made regarding
47 fish and wildlife management on Federal lands. He issued
48 an injunction halting implementation of the 70/30 policy
49 and directed the Board to begin rule-making proceedings to
50 adopt the Council membership regulation that is consistent

00448

1 with FACA.

2

3

4 In an executive session on January 27 the
5 Board decided not to initiate an appeal of Judge Holland's
6 decision and to promptly begin rule making process to
7 comply with Judge Holland's order. The rule making process
8 will allow the public to comment on any proposed changes to
9 Council composition.

9

10 so I guess again a couple of summary
11 points.

12

13 the court ruling recognizes the critical
14 importance of the Regional Advisory Councils and their role
15 in providing recommendations to the Federal Subsistence
16 Board regarding fish and wildlife management on Federal
17 public lands. The court decided against interfering in
18 anyway with this ongoing management pending the court's
19 requirement to initiate a rule making process regarding
20 Council member composition.

21

22 And again that's probably the best summary
23 of the situation. But this has been a litigation process
24 has been on for a long time and again a major portion of it
25 has been settled. The Council composition issue is one
26 issue that is still out there.

27

28 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

29

30 CHAIRMAN SAM: Questions for Tom.

31

32 (No comments)

33

34 CHAIRMAN SAM: Did you have anything more
35 Tom.

36

37 MR. KRON: Mr. Chairman, again on the issue
38 of Council composition. As a Council you may provide
39 comments to the Board on the 70/30 concept during this
40 meeting and you may also comment as private citizens during
41 the comment period after the proposed rule is published.
42 We will insure that all Council members are provided a copy
43 of the proposed rule when it is published.

44

45 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

46

47 CHAIRMAN SAM: Haven't all those windows
48 closed to comment on this the composition?

49

50 MR. KRON: Mr. Chairman, as you know there

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1 was an earlier discussion of this issue with the court
2 decision. It's being opened up through the formal rule
3 making process again, so again if you chose to make
4 comments you can do so at this meeting. There will be
5 additional opportunities for comments later on this year as
6 well.

7

8

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

9

10

CHAIRMAN SAM: What's the consensus of the
11 Council. I think that we made our stand known. It was
12 more or less discarded with and I think that we come to the
13 conclusion that we are now 70/30 or close to it and that it
14 has been accepted. However, when's the dateline for that
15 thing? When's the closing period for comments?

16

17

MR. KRON: Again, you can comment at this
18 meeting. There will be additional opportunities for
19 comments later this spring and this summer and we'll keep
20 the Regional Councils advised on this issue.

21

22

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

23

24

MR. STICKMAN: I think at this time this
25 Council right here meets that 70/30 criteria as it stands.

26

27

CHAIRMAN SAM: What's the pleasure of the
28 Council? Do you want to make any statements now you can do
29 it individually and/or as a Council. As far as I'm
30 concerned I think that we can make them later if we need
31 too. I think it's been pretty much accepted throughout the
32 State that you have to meet FACA regulations. Any further
33 comments? George.

34

35

MR. SIAVELIS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
36 I'd like to say that I endorse the 70/30 idea. In the
37 spirit of, you know, communication, consultation,
38 cooperation, and conservation.

39

40

Thank you.

41

42

CHAIRMAN SAM: Any further comments.
43 Vince.

44

45

MR. MATHEWS: Yes Mr. Chairman. You guys
46 got a step ahead of me. The Eastern Interior in Beaver
47 passed a resolution on this and wanted it shared with you,
48 so I apologize for scrambling to find that, but and then
49 I'll read it into the record. Sorry I keep forgetting.

50

00450

1 Mr. Chairman, they discussed this at
2 length. This is the Council composition, so I'll read this
3 in to the record.

4

5 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yeah I just want to state
6 for the record that all -- probably all other Regional
7 Councils are of different composition where they have urban
8 versus rural. We do not have a urban versus rural. I just
9 want that noted in to the record and that why. Okay.

10

11 MR. MATHEWS: Okay. Mr. Chairman, I'll do
12 this as quickly as I can, but I have a faint feeling you're
13 going to want to hear what they say. This is from Eastern
14 Interior Resolution 04-01. It says:

15

16 Whereas, the timing of the proposed rule
17 making and final rule is being conducted after the winter
18 meeting and before the fall meeting of the Regional
19 Advisory Councils.

20

21 Whereas, Regional Advisory Councils
22 currently only meet twice per year and most subsistence
23 activities happen during spring, summer, and fall between
24 the twice yearly meetings.

25

26 Whereas, the timing of the rule making does
27 not take in to consideration the ability for most
28 subsistence users or Regional Advisory Councils to make
29 comments.

30

31 Whereas, the Regional Advisory Council
32 previously requested the opportunity to review the draft
33 proposal before publication.

34

35 Whereas this ruling will affect all
36 Regional Advisory Councils, and

37

38 Whereas, Subpart D section 11(a) of
39 subsistence management of public lands in Alaska states,
40 The Regional Councils shall provide for public
41 participation in the Federal regulatory process. By not
42 providing an opportunity for the Regional Councils to
43 address this proposed rule, in a public forum, this
44 function of the Regional Advisory Council is being
45 circumvented, and

46

47 Whereas, we do not challenge the 70/30
48 composition representation of the users on the Council.
49 However we disagree that each Council applicant must choose
50 only one user group to represent.

00451

1 Whereas, the current requirement for the
2 applicant to select either commercial/sport or subsistence
3 does not recognize the diversified experience of the
4 subsistence users in Alaska.

5
6 Whereas, many applicants may be recognized
7 as diverse users of the resource within their region.

8
9 Therefore, we are requesting the Federal
10 Subsistence Board provide an opportunity for the Regional
11 Advisory Councils to address and comment on the proposed
12 rule in a public forum during the comment period, and

13
14 Therefore, we request that applicants be
15 able to provide a percentage breakdown of their activity
16 and type of user group, and

17
18 Therefore, the 70/30 composition should be
19 achieved by combining the percentages of each Council
20 applicant ratings and that this composition rating shall be
21 considered towards meeting the requirements of the
22 composition so as to ensure a diverse and balanced Council.

23
24 And that was anonymously passed at the
25 Beaver meeting. So basically in a nutshell they're asking
26 for either additional time or additional meeting to take up
27 this. They took it as a core part of their processes of
28 who gets selected and in addition they want to use a
29 percentage that they said like some of them said well I'm
30 50 percent commercial and 50 percent subsistence that, that
31 percentage would be used then to get to the 70/30 split.

32
33 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

34
35 MR. WALKER: Mr. Chair.

36
37 CHAIRMAN SAM: Robert.

38
39 MR. WALKER: Thank you, Chair. Vince here
40 they did this January 4th here. They're really way in
41 front of us here. You know maybe we should do something
42 similar to this also just to be up to speed. Jack you know
43 that would be a good something that we step in to.

44
45 CHAIRMAN SAM: Jack.

46
47 MR. REAKOFF: I think this is a real good
48 idea. This would accommodate -- we have some commercial
49 fisheries on this Board that a percentage of their use
50 would be considered commercial. Right now we have we're

00452

1 approaching our 30 and maybe if we had a combination of
2 percentages the declaration under the Advisory Committee
3 system you check off your user groups. And so the Board
4 has mult -- the Board process for the state is multiple
5 check offs are you commercial this and that and subsistence
6 and so forth. This Federal make up doesn't -- it's just
7 either or and I feel that there should be a little wider
8 base and so we should adopt this language. I like this
9 language and we should adopt this language.

10

11 Thank you.

12

13 MR. SIAVELIS: Mr. Chairman.

14

15 CHAIRMAN SAM: George.

16

17 MR. SIAVELIS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I
18 agree with more time and work this over, but I do not
19 support the taking in to consideration small percentages.
20 What it does is create a loop hole. You could essentially
21 have ten members with ten percent each interest, if you
22 start breaking it down like that. And then you just
23 totally eliminate the whole -- I mean it's gone, you know.

24

25 Thank you.

26

27 CHAIRMAN SAM: Vince before you start, just
28 goes back to what Mickey said. If we truly wanted to do
29 something about this we have a good ten years or so to do
30 it. Because we knew at that time that we had a lot of
31 commercial interest already incorporated in the composition
32 of the Western Interior before appointments of George
33 Siavelis and Tommy Kriska. So, we knew this at that time
34 and I don't know whether it was -- we didn't interpret it
35 right or just chose not to act on this. I think our only
36 opposition at that time was that since this was a
37 subsistence Council that we uphold appointments of
38 commercial interest at the time. But we were over ruled
39 again by FACA.

40

41 Tom.

42

43 MR. KRON: Mr. Chairman. I guess just a few
44 additional things for clarification. Again the Federal
45 Subsistence Board has discussed the issue. We're operating
46 under a Judge's order. You know the order doesn't look
47 back, it looks forward. But essentially it would stop any
48 future appointments until we get this resolved. It doesn't
49 affect prior appointments.

50

00453

1 The proposed rule will be published this
2 spring followed by a public comment period. The final rule
3 will be published in the fall. This rule making process
4 will be complete prior to the Secretary's appointments for
5 2005.

6
7 CHAIRMAN SAM: Did we have a motion on the
8 floor or what did you have? What's the pleasure of the
9 Council. Do we just go ahead and wait on this or? Robert.

10
11 MR. WALKER: I say we go ahead and move on
12 this here since we got our new two Board members here.

13
14 CHAIRMAN SAM: And your motion what would
15 be to -- what would your motion do Robert there for them.
16 I'm not clear on.

17
18 MR. WALKER: I'm making a motion?

19
20 CHAIRMAN SAM: What kind of move or action
21 or what did we want to do with this? Should we ask for
22 more time or what? That's what I'm trying to find out.

23
24 MR. WALKER: Mr. Chairman, I think that
25 Jack would be willing to draw one up similar to this here
26 with all the points that he said with George's input too.
27 You know where we have to be careful about where out loop
28 holes would be so, I would make a motion that we do a
29 resolution today and pass it this afternoon and forward it
30 on. If that's no problem Jack.

31
32 MR. REAKOFF: I -- this crinkling noise is
33 over here is huge. You're making motion to adopt this as
34 a written and then.

35
36 CHAIRMAN SAM: The concept and that we
37 draft a similar resolution under Western Interior heading
38 along with George's help.

39
40 MR. REAKOFF: Right. That would be fine.

41
42 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay Tom that take's care of
43 that, doesn't it?

44
45 MR. KRON: Yeah. Again just for
46 clarification we discussed this at OSM last week and
47 because again that this would block future appointments to
48 the Councils until it's resolved I think people feel that
49 it needs to go, you know, fairly quickly. It needs to be
50 resolved this year. Also, again we're operating under a

00454

1 judge's order to get it resolved. So, for that reason
2 they're going to move ahead with this initial ruling for
3 review and then look at finalizing it next fall. Getting
4 it settled, so it doesn't block future appointments to the
5 Councils because it definitely will do that if we don't
6 resolve it. So, I just wanted to give that to you for your
7 consideration.

8

9 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

10

11 CHAIRMAN SAM: Did you have anything else?

12

13 MR. KRON: No sir. I'm done. Thank you.

14

15 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay. Thanks for
16 representing OSM and I think that we did get some
17 resolution to these problems.

18

19 MR. WALKER: Mr. Chairman.

20

21 CHAIRMAN SAM: Robert.

22

23 MR. WALKER: There is a motion for it after
24 you get a second on it.

25

26 CHAIRMAN SAM: I thought -- I was going to
27 exempt order it through. Okay there is a motion to have --
28 motion and a second to have Jack Reakoff and George
29 Siavelis draw up a resolution similar to the one that was
30 introduced by Eastern Interior. Is that it?

31

32 MR. WALKER: Yep. Question.

33

34 CHAIRMAN SAM: All those in favor of the
35 motion signify by saying aye.

36

37 IN UNISON: Aye.

38

39 CHAIRMAN SAM: Oppose, same sign.

40

41 (No opposing votes)

42

43 CHAIRMAN SAM: Motion carried. What's up
44 next on our agenda Vince.

45

46 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, unless I missed
47 something here that brings up to Agency Reports and you had
48 added on there the or noted I should say under Native
49 Corporations and that the Nulato Petition and then Huslia
50 Tribal Council concerns. And I know Bill Derendoff has

00455

1 been in and out of the meeting, so that would be the next
2 on the agenda would be those reports. And obviously you
3 already got BLM report and I don't see anybody here from
4 the Park Service, so.

5
6 Oh there is some more BLM reports. I'm
7 sorry. That was just Taylor.

8
9 But anyways Park Service is not present
10 here, so the next thing would be any of the Village Tribal
11 or Native Corporations if they had any reports.

12
13 CHAIRMAN SAM: What's the pleasure of the
14 board? Smoke break, lunch break?

15
16 MR. WALKER: Lunch.

17
18 (Laughter)

19
20 MR. STICKMAN: Mr. Chair, I would suggest
21 that we take a half an hour lunch break.

22
23 CHAIRMAN SAM: Consensus. Half an hour.
24 Let's reconvene in half an hour.

25
26 (Off record)

27
28 (On record)

29
30 CHAIRMAN SAM: At this time we'll call the
31 meeting back to order. Vince.

32
33 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, this would be
34 the time for the Tribal Council if it wanted to talk about
35 some issues and concerns and then we need to deal with the
36 Nulato Petition.

37
38 Oh and the finalization on the resolution.
39 I'm sorry. We didn't close out on the resolution that
40 George and Jack was working on.

41
42 CHAIRMAN SAM: Do we have any one from the
43 Huslia Tribal Council that wanted to make a few comments?

44
45 MR. STICKMAN: Well mine should go fast.

46
47 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay. We'll start with the
48 Kaiyuh Flats Reservation.

49
50 MR. STICKMAN: Oh, Mr. Chair, I gave you a

00456

1 copy of the petition and I just wanted to go on record so
2 that, you know, that this is a concern for Nulato right
3 now. You know I'll probably once I go back home, you know,
4 we share the Kaiyuh Flats with the residence from Kalskag.
5 I gave them a copy of this petition, so they'll probably be
6 coming up with a petition of their own. But I just want to
7 go on record so that the people of Nulato know that I
8 brought this forward for them and you guys just got a copy
9 of the front page, but the original copy I have right now.
10 I have 70 signatures on the petition. So you know it's a
11 village wide concern when you have 70 residences signing
12 the petition. And at this time I just wanted to bring it
13 forward so the Council will know it. So the residence of
14 Nulato know I put it on record for him and that's all I
15 have.

16

17 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

18

19 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you. So that's all
20 this is far as you want to note it that it has been
21 integrated into our record.

22

23 MR. STICKMAN: The reason I say that is
24 because well, you know, actually it would have been better
25 if we had some kind of a proposal written up but, you know,
26 just looking at the petition itself will be good enough for
27 right now. Because once I go back home I'll try to figure
28 out some way to write a proposal and address the concerns.

29

30 Thank you.

31

32 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Mickey. Any
33 questions for Mickey.

34

35 (No comments)

36

37 CHAIRMAN SAM: It has the Kaiyuh -- the
38 preservation of Kaiyuh Flats has been submitted on to the
39 Western Interior record.

40

41 At this time I would like to recognize
42 Huslia Tribal Council if they have any more comments or
43 concerns to be brought before the Western Interior Council.

44

45 MR. BIFELT: Well I'm not the -- I'm not
46 the Chief, but I'm on the Council and so I guess since I'm
47 the only Council member here I must be the Council, I
48 guess. Well I guess kind of in closing we thank you guys
49 for coming here and actually just by chance were able to
50 find out some things that were happening to our moose hunts

00457

1 and we were able to get something done. We really
2 appreciate that.

3 I think I noticed on your agenda it said
4 something about corporations and other organizations maybe
5 having something to say right now at this time on your
6 agenda.

7
8 When I do go back to Doyon because I sit on
9 a Doyon Board and when I got back to Koglaska Limited (ph)
10 Board I want to tell them that we should start putting some
11 money towards wolf perdition. Wolf and bear. We got to
12 find a way to try to contribute to finding some solutions
13 to the problems that we have out there in our areas. And
14 more than anything it takes money and we can talk about it
15 and study it forever, but if we don't put money towards it
16 we really don't achieve the results we want. So I want to
17 do that and also with our Tribal Council we'll probably try
18 to do more. But I would encourage that this is what we
19 should do in all areas. Not only in the Doyon Region or
20 wherever, but just all over.

21
22 It look like to me we're going to have more
23 collaboration I think. That we can't wait for people to do
24 things for us, we got to do it ourself. We got to initiate
25 these things, but we have to do it together. Feds, State,
26 the local people, corporations. Put all that energy
27 together and I think we can achieve our results. When it's
28 all said and done we can't depend on Game Board to save us
29 every time. And I think over the course of time if we stay
30 involved and just continue to work together we will get
31 what we want.

32
33 We could bring the moose populations back
34 up. It's really unfortunate and it hurts an individual to
35 see what's going on over in Lime Village an area like that.
36 And I know them people are suffering over there and we all
37 know that and that could happen anywhere. We can almost
38 look at it like that's ground zero or whatever. That's a
39 start there then it's going to spread out to other places
40 in the State, so we have to work together I think.

41
42 And I think the more that we try to get
43 that word out I think we can all come together and start
44 working together. You know, the Feds, the State, our
45 corporations, Tribal Governments, that's what it's going to
46 take because there's not enough money in anyone pot to take
47 this problem on at the magnitude that it is and plus we
48 have people like Pricilla Farrell and all them others
49 that's working against us.

50

00458

1 I think wolf predation is -- wolf and bear
2 predation is one big thing we have to work on now.

3
4 Also another critical area that I see is
5 there's lot of sports hunters coming in under the guys of
6 subsistence and they're taking advantage of that avenue
7 there. That's something that we're going to have to work
8 on too. And that -- I think that's going to take money
9 because there's no enforcement there. We don't see what's
10 going on with a lot of this meat that these guys are coming
11 in and saying they're subsistence hunters and when they
12 leave this area we don't know what they do with the meat.
13 I'm sure a lot of them aren't subsistence hunters. So, but
14 they only way we can really monitor that is it takes money
15 and it takes personnel. So that's something that we're
16 going to have to work on. We can hammer this thing with
17 drawn permits and all kinds of restrictions until we're
18 blue in the face, but that's not the fix all, that's just
19 a part of it that we have use. We have to look at from
20 predation side and also enforcement. And I know you guys
21 know this, but I just want to go on record as saying that
22 and if I have anything to do or any way I can help and I
23 pledge that I'm going to try my best to try to influence
24 this process with which ever way I can. And when I go back
25 to Doyon next week I'm going to tell them this and
26 fortunately Mike's on our Board too.

27
28 So, but anyway I thank you guys for coming
29 here. I know our community really appreciate it.
30 Hopefully we gave you guys good hospitality.

31
32 I would before our close here I would like
33 to say that I hope that people don't leave this community
34 thinking that my people are at odds with anyone of you. I
35 mean I know we heard some strong comments several nights
36 ago, but that's -- that's -- although our people are hurt
37 and everything, that's really not that's not everything
38 there. I mean that's just one side of them. If they know
39 that we all have to work together and they know that the
40 State and Federal Government is helping us out. But yet
41 sometimes they're just so frustrated and I think lot of
42 that is miscommunication and that's something that we have
43 to focus on. Both sides of the table. My people and the
44 Federal Government. My people and the State Government or
45 whoever. We have to start working together and that will
46 go a long way to solving a lot of this problems we have.
47 I know Mike really goes out of his way to help us but I
48 know that, but a lot of my people don't know that. And
49 that's why they get up right here and they think he's the
50 problem when he really isn't. But it's just a matter of

00459

1 communication that's all it is. But with that said I
2 appreciate you guys coming out there and hopefully we can
3 start a long way towards working together.

4

5 Thank you.

6

7 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you. Fred Bifelt and
8 I would like to thank you too for the first night of
9 testimony helping us out with our deliberations the last
10 couple of days and for your help and testimony yesterday
11 when were addressing the issues that was facing the Huslia
12 residences right in the face and thank you for your help.

13

14

15 Please extend on behalf of the Western
16 Interior Regional Subsistence Council to your Tribal
17 Council that we know that we gave them a short notice to
18 set up a meeting here. It is with our deep felt thanks and
19 gratitude to be expressed to your Council and the residence
20 here that we held the meeting here and thank them all for
21 the good food and everything else that they provided and I
22 speak on behalf of the Western Interior Council. Does any
23 Council members have anything to add.

24

25 MR. SIAVELIS: Mr. Chairman.

26

27 CHAIRMAN SAM: George Siavelis.

28

29 MR. SIAVELIS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
30 Fred thank you very much. I just want to say I can't
31 express enough how much I appreciate your innovative way of
32 thinking and what I see you bringing to this process and I
33 just can't thank you enough and I just want you to know how
34 much appreciate and those who I represent appreciate
35 innovation and striving for the future of working together
36 and just improving communication and etc. I don't have any
37 questions for you at this moment, but I got a feeling I
38 will in the future.

39

40 Thank you.

41

42 CHAIRMAN SAM: Any further.

43

44 MR. WALKER: Mr. Chairman.

45

46 CHAIRMAN SAM: Robert.

47

48 MR. WALKER: Yes, thank you. Mr. Bifelt
49 for your testimony and your people's testimony here. It
50 was something that I haven't experience in a long time and

00460

1 I know the frustrations too because I live in the village
2 here where a lot of these things do happen to us too
3 because lot of it is that we've misunderstand or
4 misinterpret the law and the cards here and you're
5 hospitality is impeccable. I forgot how it is to be in
6 Huslia. I haven't been here since 1975, but hey, you know,
7 things never change here we just get older that's all.

8

9 Thank you, again, Fred and thank your
10 Tribal Council.

11

12 I also made a donation to your Tribal
13 Council for the elder's lunch here. This fish was posted
14 for Emmitt Peters, but he didn't show up, so I gave it to
15 your Tribal for elder's program again thank you.

16

17 And Bill is up next here he's the Chief, so
18 Bill thank you too before you even start speaking.

19

20 CHAIRMAN SAM: It's a time. While Bill's
21 on the hot seat I would also like to express our apologies
22 to the dog mushers -- Huslia dog mushers. I know they were
23 planning to have a bingo to raise a funding for Koyukuk
24 River Championships. Please pass that on that we apologize
25 for taking over the hall and continuing our meeting. Carl
26 then Tommy.

27

28 MR. MORGAN: Yes I'd like to say thank to
29 people of Huslia and thank you Fred. You said some very,
30 very important information and it came from the heart and
31 that's what means a lot to me. And like you too, in my
32 other hat I use I am like you very frustrated, getting very
33 frustrated. Very frustrating job working with people from
34 the government. Seem like since I've been done there in
35 Juneau -- it's only been six years and we had so many new
36 faces that I go I'm gone through and just re-educating the
37 educated. And it's a frustrating job being from Alaska
38 born in Alaska and your heart is for the people. The real
39 people of Alaska and the people that was born here pre-
40 statehood. You know some comments that's always being made
41 from urban Alaska is well just move. God we were here
42 before statehood. We've been here before Anchorage was
43 there. We've been here before Juneau was there. We've
44 been here before Fairbanks was there and by God we'll be
45 here after those places are gone, but I'd like to say thank
46 Fred.

47

48 Thank you very much and the people of
49 Huslia.

50

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1 CHAIRMAN SAM: Go ahead Tommy.

2

3 MR. KRISKA: Yeah just to say thank you
4 Fred for all your input with everything that's going on
5 nowadays and knowing that you're here with your people and
6 as young as you are and knowing that, you know, things in
7 Huslia is always going to be coming from the heart with
8 guys like you around. And really looking forward to
9 working with people like you in the future.

10

11 Thank you.

12

13 CHAIRMAN SAM: Ray and then Jack.

14

15 MR. COLLINS: Mr. Chairman, thank you.

16

17 Fred you mentioned one thing that I wanted
18 to comment on. This might be a place to do it. You talked
19 about trying to get Doyon to come up with some money to put
20 towards predation programs or wildlife management. You
21 know we've got a product out here that isn't used in the
22 village and yet it's very value and that is in terms of
23 moose horns. If you on eBay and type in moose horn and
24 look you'll see that there's horns for sale on there. They
25 bring two, \$300 or more.

26

27 Now I know there's problems with legality,
28 but maybe that can be approached. People could donate
29 something like antlers or something that somebody could
30 sell then on eBay and that money could come back in to
31 programs like that, but just an idea or maybe there's some
32 other item that people could donate from the area that
33 could be sold. But they'd have to look in to legal
34 implications of how did you go about donating and selling
35 those things because it's done right now. You can see them
36 for sale on eBay and that would be bring some money back in
37 to rural Alaska.

38

39 Thank you.

40

41 CHAIRMAN SAM: Jack and then.....

42

43 MR. BIFELT: For one thing as far the
44 selling antlers that's a pretty viable industry here in
45 Huslia. Our people go out and we pick up these antlers,
46 but we don't give it away, but we sell it to someone, but
47 our Tribal Council is currently investigating the
48 possibility of advertising on eBay. What we're going to do
49 is I think is we're going to consult with somebody out of
50 Anchorage he's going to come out there and he's going to

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1 run a workshop over he's going to show our people to
2 advertise artifacts on eBay and start selling it. So and
3 maybe we could work with maybe antlers, so that's what
4 we're going to be doing.

5
6 MR. REAKOFF: Yeah and I guess the thought
7 that there maybe an item like that, that some might want to
8 contribute if they knew that the money was coming back for
9 some kind of a program like to compensate wolf hunters or
10 something.

11
12 MR. BIFELT: You'll have to realize that we
13 are subsistence users with limited funding, so if you have
14 a chance to make two, three hundred bucks here and there it
15 will go directly to our pockets Jack.

16
17 I don't think I'm going -- I don't think I
18 want to have any problem convincing the Doyon Board that
19 because Doyon contributes a lot of money to charity and
20 what better effort to raise then donating the money to your
21 shareholders to work for something that use as part of
22 food. I don't see it as a hard sell.

23
24 MR. REAKOFF: I want to thank Huslia for
25 having us come here and I enjoyed the stay here. People
26 are always very hospitable and Tony, Sam, and Elsie put me
27 up pretty nice.

28
29 And I always told people that the
30 grassroots predator harvest is the best way to go. It's
31 the least controversial and so harvesting by local people
32 is a win, win thing. Selling those skins Doyon or the
33 Huslia Tribal Council could sell those skins on eBay. You
34 could make good money to fund. It would be a way for local
35 guys to go out and get wolves, get them tanned and sell
36 them on eBay for big money and have a gas pool to out and
37 get more wolves.

38
39 I told Glenn Stout people -- those guys in
40 my Village and myself we got out and catch wolves. It's
41 graphic. You can look at our valley we got moose there.
42 We're consistently harvesting the threshold. You go on the
43 John River no one's over there catching any wolves there's
44 way less moose. Bigger river, more willows, less moose.
45 And so there's avenues that Doyon could assist on getting
46 that project started on eBay. But there's markets for the
47 wolves. There's lots of people want them. I sell them to
48 tourist. I don't need -- I have to do a lot of talking to
49 sell them, but I sell them tourist. I get \$300 to \$850.00
50 for wolves. Big ones -- those good ones -- 850 bucks.

00463

1 Those eight footers, they loves those. Those tourists want
2 them bad. And so I encourage that grassroots harvest.

3

4 We're not going anywheres with this
5 predator control. We change administration we're going to
6 go backwards. This is the way to have consistent predator
7 harvest is to have -- and it's a win, win thing. It puts
8 the money here it doesn't -- it's not somebody flying in
9 from Anchorage to shot wolves in your backyard. That's put
10 the money right here and so and I really appreciate being
11 here in Huslia and all you're good comments.

12

13 Thank you.

14

15 CHAIRMAN SAM: Mickey.

16

17 MR. STICKMAN: Yeah, Fred, I want to thank
18 you for your testimony. You know I also sit on the Board
19 for Gana-a'Yoo Limited and the Gana-a'Yoo Limited land
20 stretches 40 miles up the Kaiyuh River, so I'll be bringing
21 out, you know, maybe I'd like to sit down and talk to you
22 at some point maybe this weekend in Fairbanks or something
23 and see how you're going to approach your Board -- your
24 Village Corporation Board because I would like to do the
25 same thing with the Gana-a'Yoo Limited Board.

26

27 Another thing, you know, talking about eBay
28 and the, you know, the cyber world out there one thing we
29 did at another Tribal Council was we're developing a web
30 site of our own so that we can -- so that our Tribal
31 Council have -- because our Tribal Council members live all
32 over the world and they have this access to computers we
33 want to be able to have those Tribal members have all the
34 same access that we do just living right there at home in
35 Nulato. So, we're developing a web site for the Tribe. So
36 maybe's that something that Huslia Tribal Council can do is
37 develop a web site of their own.

38

39 MR. BIFELT: Yeah, our Village Council out
40 of Koglaska Limited for several years we put up some money
41 for a bounty. We didn't call it a bounty, but essentially
42 that's what it was, but we didn't do it this year because
43 we were focusing on some other things, but I think that
44 when we do have another board meeting I'll bring that up
45 and I'll say look we got to kick in some money. But that's
46 basically all you do. You just convince your Board members
47 and most of them will do it anyway, you know.

48

49 CHAIRMAN SAM: Any more comments? Just one
50 more and then we'll go on to Bill Derendoff and other

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1 residences from Huslia. Ben.

2

3

4 MR. JONES: Yeah I want to thank the Huslia
5 Village Council for hosting this meeting here. It was a
6 real good turn out and I like the way the elders came out
7 to express their concern, their testimony, and the
8 hospitality, all the good meals. And I want to thank Josh
9 Inisbo for their hospitality.

9

10

11 I always enjoy the meeting up here or
12 whenever there's potlatch dog races, I always enjoyed it up
13 here and I know for the last 13 years I've been racing up
14 here a dog race every year and I enjoy it. The competition
15 with the boys here, but this year I didn't come up, but I
16 still feel good in my heart. The people still respect me
17 for what I'm doing for the dog mushers because the Native
18 mushers are kind of fading out and me and George and Lester
19 Airhard try to keep the sports going and I hope that
20 younger peoples go in and take our places after we're gone.
21 So, I want to thank the Huslia people for hosting this
22 meeting.

22

23

Thank you.

24

25

26 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Benedict. Before
27 I recognize Bill Derendoff First Chief of Huslia I would
28 like to -- I would like you to understand that a good part
29 of our thank you's and everything we were expressing Bill
30 was towards you and all the residences of the community
31 too. Bill Derendoff.

31

32

33 MR. DERENDOFF: Thanks. First of all I
34 would like to -- I didn't get the opportunity when the
35 Council and all the Staff got started out. I've been
36 pretty busy the last couple of days, so I wanted too -- I
37 have time to welcome the Council, but I didn't really get
38 around to it, so I'd like to at this time I'd like to
39 welcome the Western Interior Regional Advisory Council and
40 then also the Staff of BLM, the State and Federal and it's
41 been a really -- a really learning for the community of
42 Huslia to host a meeting on something that's really
43 important like our fishing game issues.

43

44

45 I've been involved with Fish and Game
46 issues since almost 30 years with the State and then I was
47 also I had the opportunity to serve with subsistence the
48 Regional Council and getting involved on these other
49 communities like with the State and the subsistence or the
50 Federal -- U.S. Fish and Wildlife for some reason I thought
the most important part for me to play was at the local

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1 level. I seem like I could give a better input at the
2 local level because I talked directly with the people and
3 so working with the local level it's a lot more important
4 for me.

5
6 That's not the reason why I'm kind of
7 holding back I select to be involved with anything. I've
8 been involved with lot of this issues and I think what I
9 was trying to get at the other day was try to create a
10 better communication not only with the villages, but with
11 -- not only the Village of Huslia or the surrounding
12 villages, but all over on the whole area. And your
13 response if we could get some good communication with the
14 village and the Council and then the village with another
15 village, where the villages could support each others and
16 gain more understanding in their areas because our areas
17 are different.

18
19 And I'd like to kind of respond a little
20 bit on -- I didn't response too much on that on what we
21 spoke on the testimony the other night because lot of
22 things I believed in were already said and I had a feeling
23 that I just didn't know how far the Council members -- the
24 Council -- the Tribal Council would be involved in some of
25 these cases, especially these touchy cases like on Ray's
26 case or this moose antlers.

27
28 The one on Ray's case there's kind of two
29 parts to that case. One of it is the case is pretty far
30 already underway. There's lot of action taken already and
31 then now there was some of the testimony was asking -- were
32 saying that it was up to the Tribal Council, but I have not
33 been approached to discuss anything on it as a Tribal
34 member, so I didn't really know what to say. But the
35 reason why I said that is because I don't really know -- I
36 know we could help in a certain areas, but in certain areas
37 we have to kind of avoid because one of the area is I don't
38 -- I think the Tribal Council would be jeopardy to get
39 involved on trying to find out who did the reporting. So
40 that's one part of it.

41
42 And on the other hand I believe the Tribal
43 Council should start work with the people on in cases like
44 the antlers or even this Ray's case trying to get the best
45 out of it with the help of the Tribal Council.

46
47 And I don't know if the Council ever dealt
48 with some of these kind of a touchy cases and I'm just
49 wondering after this testimony where will all this
50 testimony go? And I'm really open for questions because I

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1 really believe as a subsistence user creating some kind of
2 better comm -- really -- well we have good communication
3 already, but trying to make it more local level and in
4 return I believe the people of the village will be more
5 involved. I would like to have questions and feedback,
6 especially on how we can get something going.

7

8

Thank you.

9

10

CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Bill. If you're
11 looking for the communications liaison or something located
12 in every village I do not think that would be funded. And
13 one the of the reasons that I don't think it will be funded
14 because even within villages I can see that even in my own
15 village where I sit as Chair we have some
16 miscommunications. It's sometimes it's taken out of
17 context and it creates a little bit more problems than it
18 solves and again I don't think we could fund the liaison
19 officer. And I would like to leave it at that and Jack.

20

21

MR. REAKOFF: Mr. Chairman, I think that
22 one -- I've been listening to Bill on that issue. One way
23 that would be cheap is if our coordinator sent out to all
24 the villages in our Region a request for from the village
25 Councils issues that are affecting them for subsistence use
26 and to have those sent back to our Regional Coordinator and
27 so that we can -- they can be compiled for our review at
28 every meeting. And I think that would be a real worth
29 while project that wouldn't cost that much. The village
30 Councils can address issues and then we can review them and
31 maybe help them with their problems.

32

33

CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you. I think that
34 would work. I think it's just a matter of perseverance to
35 go over it. Any further comments?

36

37

MR. STICKMAN: I have one.

38

39

CHAIRMAN SAM: Go ahead.

40

41

MR. STICKMAN: You know Bill, you know,
42 when Robert said, you know, that, you know, the Tribal
43 Government could, you know, just, you know, the State when
44 they give the moose to the Tribal Government for the
45 Elders' Program, you know, the Tribal Government itself
46 could have did anything that he wanted with that meat
47 without even being worried about their Tribal Government
48 funding. Because the Tribal Government funding that the
49 Tribal Governments' get are those are grants and, you know,
50 but, you know, it's not a hand out or anything it's money

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1 that the United States Government owes to the Tribe through
2 the constitution, so I don't think it would have any affect
3 on the Tribal Government funding.

4

5 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Mickey. Again I
6 would hesitate to give any direction to local villages. I
7 think that it would just make the problems more complex and
8 more insolvable. You'd gather more people and you'd have
9 to get consensus from more people. I think that if a
10 Tribal office could just work and persevere on their own
11 problems I think that would just make it so much easier by
12 us not being involved.

13

14 Thank you. You next. Go ahead.

15

16 MR. DERENDOFF: I would like to thank you
17 all for expressing your feeling for our concerns. Like I
18 said before this is I'm really working on the local level
19 and I think a lot of this has to be done at the local
20 level. Really at the local level we have to get something
21 going on our fish and game issues.

22

23 And like I heard Mickey speaking earlier
24 about this internet deal and about working through the
25 internet. But along that same line I've also have been
26 really involved in our elders' knowledge and our
27 traditional knowledge. To me those are that's one of the
28 most important tool we have today. Is our tradition
29 knowledge. That's been like Robert or Carl just spoke
30 we've been -- that knowledge has been around for years and
31 years. So gaining that tradition knowledge -- I mean
32 putting that traditional knowledge in to -- not in to
33 management, but as a tool that maybe could be heard or may
34 be it could not be heard. But putting it on the internet
35 I'd like to see all that knowledge be at the Tribal control
36 because there's reason for that. There's lot of things
37 that I don't believe that the people should just go out and
38 bring that kind of information out. It has to be in the
39 Tribal control.

40

41 And I thank you again.

42

43 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Bill. Any other
44 questions.

45

46 (No comments)

47

48 CHAIRMAN SAM: If not, thanks for your
49 testimony too. It will be recorded. I do not see Tanana
50 Chiefs, AVCP, or any other Tribal Councils here, so that

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1 would take care of our Native Corporations, Village
2 Council, Tribal Councils, and everything. ADF&G I believe
3 you had a report or did they already report it?

4

5 MR. MATHEWS: I think they all reported
6 earlier.

7

8 CHAIRMAN SAM: Good thing that plane came
9 early.

10

11 (Laughter)

12

13 CHAIRMAN SAM: Bureau of Land Management I
14 think we have about three or four reports already, so go
15 ahead.

16

17 MR. CRAIG: Mr. Chairman, a lot of effort
18 for very little gain here I'm afraid, but I just wanted to
19 take a few minutes and brief you on some things the Council
20 really had a big part in accomplishing in management in the
21 Northern Unit 24 northern part of this region.

22

23 I reported at the last meeting that BLM
24 entered in to a cost share agreement Alaska Department of
25 Fish and Game to fund surveys of sheep, moose, and caribou
26 around the Dalton Highway Management Unit and the agreement
27 will last for five years. Started this past year. As long
28 as money is available. Budgets are really getting tighter
29 and tighter. The BLM funding for this agreement was
30 largely do to your urging at the meeting in Fairbanks
31 several years, if you'll remember that. There was actually
32 you sent a letter to the BLM about that and I just wanted
33 to kind of keep you abreast of how we're using that money.

34

35 In 2003 we used it in three different ways.
36 First of all Alaska Department of Fish and Game, BLM, and
37 the Kanuti National Wildlife Refuge continued to conduct
38 moose trend counts in the upper Koyukuk basin and if you
39 look on page I think it's 336 in your book you'll see the
40 results of the most recent moose trend counts. Again
41 that's partially the result of your rough efforts on behalf
42 of funding wildlife research in that unit, so I'd like to
43 thank you for that. So that was one thing I wanted to
44 point out.

45

46 The next thing is that again ADF&G
47 conducted a herd comp count in the Hogatza Hills and the
48 Ray Mountains and for those of you who aren't really
49 familiar with that portion of Interior Alaska I thought I'd
50 kind of real quickly show you that the Ray Mountains are in

00469

1 this selected. Dark blue is State land and light blue is
2 the State Selected Land. The yellow patches will remain in
3 BLM irregardless apparently, but the blue is in contention.
4 We don't know whether it will go to the State or not.

5
6 But anyway the Ray Mountain herd occurs
7 here and then this Hogatza Hills area where we're are
8 beginning to do some work now is over in this area right
9 here kind of between Yukon Flats and the Dalton Highway.
10 I think before you -- if Jerry passed out this handout you
11 can see some of the results of the herd comp information
12 that we gained out of that. I thought it was kind of
13 interesting. The question -- Jack Reakoff kind of peaked
14 my interest in this group because nobody really knows if
15 this a separate herd of caribou or not. Is this group
16 actually calve in that area and as a separate herd of
17 caribou.

18
19 Well after we put some radio transmitters
20 out there that allowed us to go out and do a herd comp and
21 you can see that there about 306 caribou were comped and
22 I'd like to point a couple of things here. The main thing
23 is that there's a pretty good percentage of big bulls to
24 cows and also if you will just again let me jump back and
25 forth a bit you'll notice that the area where this heard of
26 caribou occurs is really close to the highway, so it's --
27 we're anxious to kind of keep track of that herd. To kind
28 of see if that really is a separate herd number one and
29 then also with the affects of any new developments in that
30 area might be.

31
32 In addition to this Hogatza Hills comp and
33 radio telemetry that we're doing we also continue to
34 conduct herd comps in the Ray Mountains and that's what
35 both of these charts are about up here. The top one is --
36 I apologize I didn't get the title quite right -- but it's
37 the most recent one. This one I've reported on before and
38 I just put them up here they are two years apart and just
39 to give you an idea of comparison there. But Ray Mountains
40 herd is probably we think it about 1,700 animals and
41 interestingly it almost looks from the data. Of course we
42 don't know yet that maybe the number of bulls per 100 cows
43 may be going down and the calves per 100 cows is kind of
44 remaining the same.

45
46 Anyway, again we're just trying to keep our
47 finger on the pulse of what's happening in some of these
48 populations. One of the things that we're really
49 interested in as Jack Reakoff mentioned earlier the Western
50 Arctic caribou herd for the first time in quite a few years

00471

1 are five areas that were set aside for sheep habitat
2 protection and we're going to continue to do some work
3 there in the next year.

4

5 And that's really all I have to say. I
6 just thought you might be interested to know where we're
7 going with some of this funding that you helped us to get
8 and I wanted to also express my appreciation that you had
9 an interest in what we're doing. With that I'll take any
10 questions you might have.

11

12 MR. STICKMAN: Yeah, the Chair stepped out,
13 so as Vice-Chair I'll be asking the Council if they have
14 any questions.

15

16 MR. REAKOFF: I really appreciate all the
17 work you're doing Tim. That's very instrumental in
18 documenting these resources that there's very little data
19 about.

20

21 I would encourage that in your sheep
22 surveys that you continue on that same time frame in late
23 June. That's the best time to count sheep and I'm really
24 happy and that the Department and the BLM has started --
25 initiated that time frame. There's a survey in July and
26 that's a terrible time to start counting sheep because
27 they're all in the tough spots to find. In late June
28 they're just moved up on top of the ridges. It's all green
29 and they're up there feeding. Real easy to stop them. And
30 I would encourage continuing to monitor these populations.
31 If this off road vehicle thing comes through these kind of
32 data is going to be very instrumental on how to manage
33 those animals, so I'm very happy that the BLM had the
34 foresight to come through with funding to look at these
35 populations.

36

37 Thank you.

38

39 MR. STICKMAN: So are you sure that's a
40 separate herd?

41

42 MR. CRAIG: No.

43

44 MR. STICKMAN: Okay. That's what I wanted
45 to know. Just keep monitoring it and we are seeing a lot
46 of the Kanuti Flats which is known as a Kanuti herd, but
47 they stay more around Tanana Rampart in that area.

48

49 However, we do have C&T uses for them it's
50 just that we don't harvest them and I think that one year

00472

1 we did harvest a few animals from that area which you
2 described as a Hogatza herd area. And I'll tell you we had
3 ADF&G up there in two hours from Galena area to investigate
4 whether they were the Kanuti herd because they on that
5 Northwest Arctic herd we are entitled to five caribou a day
6 and if there's some restrictions I mean why do they sit up
7 there inside two hours to investigate us. I mean we're
8 just subsistence people and I just want to know why more
9 pressure is being put on subsistence users that are already
10 Federally-qualified subsistence users than anybody else
11 that harvests the other herds for some guiding outfit that
12 I heard of.

13

14

You had something Jack?

15

16

MR. REAKOFF: When did the Ray Mountain
17 telemetry work they never found any of those Ray Mountain
18 caribou. The ones that you would see in the Kanuti they
19 never found any of those east of the highway. And I told
20 them there's a whole bunch of caribou. They're just seeing
21 some of those. I think there's about 500, 600 caribou that
22 live in all those hills all the way over towards Venetie
23 and those never -- they kind of mix together, but no
24 really, so I'm real happy to see that they're actually
25 going to document that there's two parts of that.

26

27

There's two different little range of hills
28 and there's two different separate little groups of
29 caribou. And so the seasons and everything are pretty much
30 similar from the Hogatza's all the way in to the Ray
31 Mountains and those are a lot bigger caribou. Those
32 caribou are like the real old time caribou and they've been
33 there when the western herd went in there in the old days
34 and left.

35

36

Those caribou never seem to go with them,
37 so there's sort of a little homogeneses group out there and
38 I'm going to be very interested to see what if some of
39 those don't pack up and go. They're probably be maybe
40 some, but maybe they seem to stay there even when that big
40 herd comes in.

41

42

MR. STICKMAN: Yes we are allowed to
43 harvest one a year just for your information sake and
44 that's why we wanted to harvest them they're bigger,
45 fatter.

46

47

Robert.

48

49

MR. WALKER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr.
50 Craig here on the bottom of here it says that you also

00473

1 placed radio transmitter for animals in the Hogatza Hills
2 under agreement. How far did they migrate from where did
3 you tag them. Did they migrate a long ways or do you have
4 a map showing that where they actually wintered and
5 summered?

6

7 MR. CRAIG: Mr. Chairman. Mr. Walker.
8 Those radios were put on last fall and they were put on
9 right on the boundary between the yellow and the green here
10 which is BLM and Yukon Flats, just kind of right in the
11 area at the tip of my finger. And the last time any of us
12 checked two of them hadn't moved, but the other two had
13 moved across the highway and were just on the other side of
14 the highway.

15

16 In fact I went up there and I thought I
17 might be able to pick them up with the radio receiver from
18 the highway. I've checked once a month all winter.
19 They're apparently just beyond where I could pick them up.
20 Maybe 15 miles out. So the answer is we don't know, you
21 know. We've just had those radios on a short period of
22 time, but maybe by this time next year I'll have a better
23 answer for you because I'm real anxious to see if the calve
24 in those hills. I mean when the Western Arctic herd
25 presumably books it out of there and goes back north, if
26 they remain there and calve in that are then we should have
27 some pretty good information about whether that's a
28 separate herd or not.

29

30 CHAIRMAN SAM: Any further questions.

31

32 (No comments)

33

34 CHAIRMAN SAM: Did you have anything more
35 on that.

36

37 (No comments)

38

39 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay. Thanks for that
40 clarification.

41

42 MR. CRAIG: Thank you.

43

44 CHAIRMAN SAM: How many BLMs we had now?
45 We have another one. Okay. Jeff Denton.

46

47 MR. DENTON: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Council
48 members. My name is Jeff Denton I'm with the BLM Anchorage
49 Field Office. It's real interesting what Tim presented.

50

00474

1 I guess I have the advantage of I guess you
2 call it an advantage of working in the 70 Federal
3 Subsistence areas and I've watched the rise and fall of the
4 Kilbuk caribou and rise and fall of Mulchatna caribou and
5 to call a herd a distinct herd we'll need to discuss a lot,
6 but there'll be a distinct herd for awhile then there won't
7 be. Caribou dynamics over time you've got to manage them
8 contemporarily with what you're dealing with because the
9 Kilbuk caribou were an independent herd for a long time and
10 we had many radioed animals in there. They stayed to home.
11 They calved in the same area every year. The Mulchatna
12 caribou expanded and took over that entire range. Those
13 same radioed animals were moving 400 miles over to Iliamna
14 that were Kilbuk animals and calving areas change. They've
15 modified their calving areas in the last 12 years several
16 times so. Caribou they will always prove you wrong at some
17 point in time so. And it's great fun to work caribou, but
18 you've got to work with caribou with what you have because
19 tomorrow it may be different. You've got to be very
20 flexible in caribou management and I think we're learning
21 that more with putting a lot of radios and actually find
22 out what's going on with these. I think this is real
23 exciting stuff that's going on up here, so. Enough of
24 that.

25

26 I need to cover some things in the
27 Anchorage Field Office. Again, I mentioned we cover seven
28 or portions of seven of the Federal Subsistence Areas and
29 there's just me. So, I'm spread just a little thin, but I
30 want to address guides and outfitters and transporters just
31 a little bit for your advocation because we're not, you
32 know, reporting to you folks the dynamics of the guiding
33 industry, especially on a regional basis because we have
34 between guides and outfitters and other special recreation
35 users and some were very high intensity recreational
36 tourism type uses we have over a hundred. And there's
37 probably ever year, you know, a lot of them falling out, a
38 lot of new ones coming in. It's a very extremely dynamic
39 process. So we deal with a lot of people, a lot of
40 outfitters.

41

42 We don't even deal with transporters yet
43 because there's really not a permitting requirement. And
44 I'm very encouraged with what the State's doing and the
45 outfitters are doing to kind of organize and get a handle
46 on this. All the different Federal Agencies with a
47 different approach to business leaves tremendous loop
48 holes.

49

50 And for an example as the Fish and Wildlife

00475

1 Service have modified and they've got guide areas they
2 basically separate the good guys from the bad guys. Where
3 do the bad guys go? They got the BLM and DRN lands because
4 it's wide open. We have lots of problems with unpermitted
5 guides and outfitters. We have lots of them and it's hard
6 to be in the field enough to catch most of them and they
7 know it. There's real good operators and there's a lot of
8 marginal operators out there. The problems between
9 transmitters and outfitters on BLM lands. If you're -- a
10 lot of these guys avoid being permitted because when there
11 on BLM lands they are a transporter. Don't need a permit.
12 They don't have to pay their permit fees. If they land on
13 State waters that's a big loop hole they can get away with
14 it every time. A lot of them do. And so they avoid
15 permitting. We don't even know they're operating out
16 there.

17
18 So, like I said in order to get a handle on
19 this the outfitters and the local folks and all the
20 agencies really need to take a look at planning efforts
21 similar to what we're doing with Central Kuskokwim moose
22 and so on to actually get a uniform playing field for the
23 actual management of guides and outfitters and
24 transporters. That whole program really needs to have a
25 unified approach and hopefully we'll get there eventually.
26

27 Also associated somewhat with guides and
28 outfitters in other areas and we encourage you folks if you
29 have ORV problems and that's come up several times we have
30 several problem areas and we realize that and we've had
31 complaints out of the Fairwell area and some other areas.
32

33 We're going to go into these land use
34 plans. The area I work in we got two going on
35 simultaneously. Now the next one on line will be the
36 Kuskokwim-Yukon Drainages in the Anchorage Field Office.
37 That will start in 2007. So we'd like to have some front
38 end information on these kinds of areas, so we can have
39 them identified up front before we walk in to these plans,
40 so we can start, you know, addressing them and doing
41 something about it. So we need to be aware. People need
42 to, you know, talk to me or whatever. We're going to get
43 the information where it needs to be.
44

45 Okay. I'm encouraged. I worked very
46 closely with the Central Kuskokwim Management planning
47 group. I'm looking forward also to working with the 21(E)
48 effort that hopefully will get started here in the next
49 year or so and these plans are really important beginnings.
50 The biggest thing we've learned I think out of the Koyukuk

00476

1 Plan which is really important is once you got the plan
2 written, that's your beginning point. As painful as some
3 of these planning processes are all that does is establish
4 the beginning point and the real work and the real money
5 and the commitment of time and effort to monitor recovery
6 of these moose populations it comes after the plan. So,
7 realize they're long term commitments, not short term. And
8 I really appreciate the folks we've worked with on that
9 because it's a tremendous test of perseverance.

10

11 Okay next item is the Donlan Creek
12 development out there. Some of you folks are aware of it,
13 but the mining -- the magnitude of some of these mining
14 proposals are almost boggle the imagination. As you are
15 aware that's a pretty rich potential ore body there. This
16 winter we've had exploration permits for actually test
17 drilling in drainages. Actually they're looking for
18 absence of ore, so they can fill those entire drainages
19 with waste rock. And we're talking entire drainages.
20 We're talking drainages that are five to six miles long,
21 two miles and they're going to fill them brim to brim with
22 waste rock. They're going to be moving entire mountains
23 and putting them somewhere else. So, this is the magnitude
24 of these kind of operations we're talking about. They're
25 big. They're not little and there's a lot of support
26 structure, roads, power lines, that are going to come with
27 that, so it will modify lifestyles for a very large region.
28 And so you want to try to keep up to date and think ahead
29 a little of what the implications of these kinds of
30 operations are because they are going to be very large.

31

32 Next item is and it's come up several times
33 habitat, prescribed fire, fire management. Currently,
34 we're trying to again revitalize the Fairwell Prescribed
35 Fire Plan. We've made several attempts at this, it's never
36 worked out very well. Again we're going to work at it.
37 We're going to actually look at a long term 100 year cyclic
38 burning plan out there to maintain bison as well as moose
39 habitat and as well keep successional stages and so on
40 balanced across the land, so we have the caribou habitat
41 maintained as well as martin habitat. We're looking at a
42 lot more what I'd say a long term ecosystem landscape
43 approach instead of one shot fire deals which are actually
44 short sided and actually can cause you more problems than
45 benefits sometimes.

46

47 So, I mentioned land use plans. We're
48 currently working on two and we're learning a lot from how
49 to do those. The ring of fire that was mentioned by
50 Taylor. We're doing Bristol Bay. It starts this year.

00477

1 Which is a major one. As soon as we get in to it we will
2 start Kuskokwim-Yukon which will include everything from
3 Unalakleet, McGrath, George River country, Aniak country,
4 all the Yukon, Innoko bottom country. Our planning areas
5 are grossly large and they're a tough thing to get your
6 hands around from my standpoint anyway. So those are
7 coming down the pike. So, you know, they're too far down
8 the road in your area to really be thinking intensively on,
9 but we want to involve you folks up front in that because
10 you have a great deal at stake and your input is critical.
11 So, enough said there.

12

13 Enforcement efforts. This year and I've
14 tried for several years to actually get funding as a
15 subsistence oriented project to get our enforcement people
16 in the field. And for your, I guess, information our
17 particular district we have no road system. All the BLM
18 lands out of the Anchorage Field Office are a minimum of 45
19 minutes by air and further. And so our operations for
20 enforcement require a great deal of support aircraft,
21 boats, field infrastructure. It's a real expensive
22 business and it's not viable with today's budgets is part
23 of the problem. So, we're trying to work with Taylor to
24 try to enhance that program if we can't. And it's very
25 difficult to have a good enforcement presence on BLM lands
26 and right now our hands are still pretty tied. We would
27 like to have a great more of a presence out there.
28 Currently I pick up more stuff when I'm out in the field
29 then our enforce people because I'm out there more. So,
30 we'll hope that, that will improve over time.

31

32 We would encourage you folks if you feel
33 that there's those kinds of problems out there to go
34 through the BLMs Resources Advisory Council, our State
35 Directors, our District Managers. You know, there's
36 several approaches to business there to try to enhance that
37 if you feel it's a real issue we would -- we need that
38 support I guess to try to get that kind of emphasis.

39

40 Last item on here is just an update a
41 little bit on the predator control things relative to BLM
42 lands as we've covered before. BLM considers predator
43 control and wolf population management a State issue. The
44 State currently in all these areas that they have been
45 approving for predator control, there's considerable BLM
46 lands. Whether it's selected land or unencumbered BLM
47 lands that are involved in those areas. We view it as a
48 State issue. The State has met all the exceptions for us
49 for the Airborne Hunting Act and those areas essentially
50 are being, you know, predator control is being conducted on

00478

1 those lands. So, under the auspices of the Fish and Game's
2 management responsibilities. So, that may help. For BLM
3 lands people can rest a little easier because those
4 activities do occur and can occur on BLM lands and are
5 probably today they're going on.

6

7 So, if you have any questions. That's a
8 quick run down. Like I said I got seven of these regions
9 and I have a hard time even writing up a deal for you
10 because it's the same things are going on in all these
11 regions, so I'm spread a little thin.

12

13 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Jeff. Short,
14 Jack.

15

16 MR. REAKOFF: I'm wondering if the State
17 over selections, have you gotten any of those lands back?
18 And another question I have is which villages are affected
19 by the Donlan Creek under the .810 Analysis for affects on
20 the local villages?

21

22 MR. DENTON: Okay your first question is
23 the selected lands the over selections that are coming
24 back. That program, of course, you realize is an
25 accelerated program right now. I don't know the precise
26 status. I know Bristol Bay area, the regional, and the
27 villages down there are amongst the first out the of shoot.
28 I also believe the area around Holy Cross is also one of
29 the first ones out of the shoot. So, as this happens and
30 there'll be schedules and so on come out I'll try to give
31 you about an annual update on that because it's going to
32 probably some cases radically change the federal public
33 lands on our that are under Federal Subsistence Program.
34 But currently in the last year not a great deal of movement
35 because they're just getting all the stuff lined up, but
36 they're getting ready to really role on it. This year
37 there's several large areas that are I think will come to
38 conclusion. So, that process will move very rapidly over
39 the next few years.

40

41 Let's see, what was your second question?

42

43 MR. REAKOFF: The villages that were
44 affected by the Donlan Creek mining I need to know who's
45 going to get hammered.

46

47 MR. DENTON: Okay the Donlan Creek
48 operation depending on how big it gets and what stages of
49 development, of course, Aniak will be one of the biggest
50 communities that will be impacted, but you also you have

00479

1 Sleetmute, Stony River, Crooked Creek, potentially
2 depending on access routes and some things like that, if
3 these come to pass, Holy Cross may be heavily involved
4 because they're looking at major haul roads potentially to
5 the Yukon River.

6

7 They're looking at a major road from the
8 mine site to Crooked Creek, you know, to actually utilize
9 barge traffic there, but actually the Yukon River gives
10 them a better shot. So, there you have major impact
11 potential.

12

13 There's also potential for an access road
14 all the way to Flat and also to the Innoko River in that
15 direction. So, they've got several options that they're
16 looking at right now. They have State right of ways
17 already in existence to the Innoko River. There's already
18 a State right of way there. So, I mean they could do that
19 without any restriction right now. So, it's yet to
20 develop.

21

22 These big mining operations, you know,
23 depending on the prices worldwide they go up they go down
24 they get really roaring for awhile then they die back. We
25 can't predict how far this developments going to go before
26 it dies or goes. So, you just got to kind of keep up to
27 date on it and make sure you're up to date enough so if
28 you're going to impacted you have something to say about.
29 So, that's really about all I have on that as far as my
30 knowledge goes. There's people that are working much more
31 directly with it that probably know more than myself.

32

33 Thank you.

34

35 MR. SIAVELIS: Mr. Chairman.

36

37 CHAIRMAN SAM: George.

38

39 MR. SIAVELIS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Do
40 these road access that you're talking about now these
41 options mean that the a -- originally we heard probably
42 just rumors or talk that a dredging the Kuskokwim was a
43 possibility to aid in accesses, supplies. Is that totally
44 out of the picture or is that still a possibility?

45

46 MR. DENTON: I would suspect at this time
47 as preliminary as things are anything is possible right
48 now. I mean there thinking big and they're looking at
49 every plausible option and they have a window and this
50 administration and the State is highly encouraging it. The

00480

1 State has actually paid for the preliminary work on
2 roadwork. You know, basically the State is paying for
3 industry to help develop this ore body. So, in fact,
4 everybody voted for that about a year ago on one of the
5 bond bills. So, everybody in the State said go for it.
6 So, I think at this time anything is possible.

7
8 They're looking at options all the way from
9 power lines from Bethel to cold bed methane to all kind of
10 things to power this plant. Those things there's
11 associated infrastructure with roads that would follow a
12 power line for example from Bethel all the way to the mine
13 site. Those are always accompanied with roads. So there's
14 a lot of things that are conjecture right now. So don't
15 jump to conclusions. Kind of wait until some concrete
16 proposals come out because there's just lots of rumors out
17 right now and I would suspect, you know, have calmer minds
18 prevail until something concrete comes down the pike here.

19
20 CHAIRMAN SAM: Robert do you have
21 something?

22
23 MR. WALKER: Yes. Thank you, Mr. Chair.
24 Just for Jake and George, and the rest of the Board's
25 information. They're going to use a 2477 right of way road
26 that comes right through our corporation land in to the
27 Yukon, so there's still a lot of questions here that we
28 have to go through.

29
30 Jeff, you mentioned a while ago the Kilbuk
31 herd moved out and the Mulchatna herd moved in. Wasn't the
32 Kilbuk herd kind of like wiped out at then by was it
33 permits or how was this done?

34
35 MR. DENTON: Actually in the late 80's
36 early 90's there were still a remnant Kilbuk caribou herd.
37 And we went through -- we actually through the Federal
38 Subsistence Program an allocation process that many of the
39 villages on the Delta out there got an allocation of, you
40 know, two caribou this village, five this one, and so
41 forth. They worked that out, out there and that was in
42 place for I believe two years and about that time and we
43 still had it was small number. There was I'm trying to
44 remember the exact numbers, but they had less than 1,000
45 animals. So, they weren't taking very many animals out of
46 there.

47
48 The Mulchatna herd expanded in to that area
49 big time and basically overwhelmed that small herd and a
50 lot of those animals just joined up and moved with Kilbuk

00481

1 animals. Some stayed. But a lot of Mulchatna animals
2 stayed as well and they've basically caribou have
3 reoccupied, you know, all the way out on the Delta and Good
4 News Bay country. We've got caribou all over that country.
5 They're calving out there now. They weren't there, you
6 know, ten years ago at all.

7

8 And so, caribou dynamics, like I say, you
9 got to deal with what caribou deal you a little bit.
10 They're not predictable. You got to deal with what they
11 deal you and make your management with what you got right
12 now sort to speak. So, did I answer your question I hope?

13

14 MR. WALKER: (Nods affirmatively)

15

16 MR. DENTON: Okay.

17

18 CHAIRMAN SAM: Any further questions.

19 Benedict.

20

21 MR. JONES: Yeah I heard rumors that
22 they're going to have a controlled burn in Three-Day Slough
23 area. Is that under your plan?

24

25 MR. DENTON: No. No. That's out of my
26 area. I'm south quite a bit actually. The Anchorage Field
27 Office is all south of the Yukon River and further south to
28 a large degree. So, we cover basically the Kuskokwim
29 Drainage and the Innoko-Yukon bottom country. We don't go
30 north of that country. That would be I think Fish and
31 Wildlife Service, one of the Refuges there.

32

33 CHAIRMAN SAM: Any more questions for Jeff.

34

35 (No comments)

36

37 CHAIRMAN SAM: If not, thank you Jeff.

38

39 MR. DENTON: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

40

41 CHAIRMAN SAM: Does this take care of BLM?
42 Anybody else walk in? Anymore BLM reports? I know this is
43 fast and we tend to blame BLM for a lot of things in our
44 time too.

45

46 MR. STICKMAN: We tend too?

47

48 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yes. Because they cover a
49 bigger area. Fish and Wildlife Services Refuges that's
50 next. Mike Spindler now what now?

00482

1 MR. SPINDLER: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I'll
2 keep this brief and directed to questions that came up
3 during the last couple days of meetings.

4
5 Tribal Council member Josh Owen asked me to
6 address some of the questions that came up during the
7 testimony the other evening.

8
9 Refugees Law Enforcement Program is a very
10 minor part of our program, but a necessary one. We
11 cooperate with the State Troopers when they ask us for help
12 we help them and likewise. If we ask for their help, they
13 help us.

14
15 In one case that occurred up here that
16 generated a lot of complaints it was appears to be someone
17 in the village tried to get a teacher in the school in
18 trouble and the word got to the troopers and they have to
19 investigate that and they came up and it turned out it
20 wasn't a teacher in the school.

21
22 Nevertheless, it's not our job as agency
23 officials to exercise judgment. The job of judging is left
24 up to the judges. When were given a tip we have to pursue
25 it and get the information and that's what happened. The
26 judge will hopefully look at all the other circumstances
27 involved.

28
29 There was a question about search warrants.
30 If the moose is in plain view, a search warrant is not
31 needed. In this case the moose was not in plain view. Mr.
32 Sam did not allow the trooper in to the smokehouse. The
33 trooper then went and got the alleged violator to get the
34 moose out for her and -- or agreed to let the Tribal
35 Council get the moose out for her. And so she said because
36 of that a search warrant was not necessary.

37
38 There are a lot of other questions I'm sure
39 and there specific and I won't talk about a specific case,
40 but I will put this out there on the table. There was a
41 similar case of wasted pike that was reported to us by Mr.
42 Umphenour at a camp that he uses near Tom Cook Hill and we
43 investigated that as we do all other cases that when we get
44 a tip we investigate it.

45
46 We worked through the Tribal Council here
47 in Huslia to bring that case forward through Tribal Court
48 instead of Federal Court. And the sentence that was weeded
49 out by the Tribal Council was an educational program
50 involving the violator that he would then go to the schools

00483

1 and talk about his violation and that these pike that were
2 wasted could be 30 year old pike and that's it's important
3 not to waste them. Our RIT Orville Huntington has been
4 involved in that along with the violator.

5
6 So, if that's something the Tribal Council
7 wants to pursue I would urge them to work through the State
8 Court System and see if that's something they're agreeable
9 too. The Federal Court System in our case was agreeable to
10 working through the Tribal Court.

11
12 Also there are a lot of complaints
13 generated by the 17 violations of people here who did not
14 adhere to the requirement to saw through the antlers and
15 turn in the antler to the State. There's a poster there
16 kind of right behind Ray. That poster's been in all the
17 places where this hunt is valid and it pretty clearly
18 indicates you need to saw the palm right across the middle
19 and turn in the antler. And it says on the bottom of the
20 poster that failure to do this will result in viol -- could
21 result in violations.

22
23 I did a little research just to find out
24 what educational efforts had been made and, you know, when
25 those permits are issued out it's made clear that, that's
26 a requirement of the permit.

27
28 Secondly our RIT here went to the
29 individuals and reminded them repeatedly. I'm told that he
30 was blown off by some of the individuals and so again you
31 have some failures to communicate.

32
33 But the bottom line here that I'd like to
34 present before the Council is that we have a full time
35 employee here. A dedicated Refuge employee that's involved
36 in liaison between villagers and the Fish and Wildlife
37 Service. If we can't find a way to make that
38 communications work then I wonder what we can do in places
39 where we don't have RITs.

40
41 So, the challenge before us is we just went
42 through some major changes in moose hunting regulations
43 this year and so my take home message from this meeting is
44 that, you know, we have a lot of work to do in terms of out
45 reach to get the information out about all these changes.
46 And I'll pledge to you that we will use all the resources
47 that we have available to us to make sure that word gets
48 out. I won't guarantee that those efforts will be
49 infallible. As pointed out by the testimony the other
50 night. We went through great effort to make sure that the

00484

1 people knew the requirements of the permit, but yet there
2 were people who still wanted to violate the conditions of
3 that permit.

4

5 Again I would like to say that we will do
6 everything we can to do the educational efforts and we will
7 respond to all enforcement tips and that's tips including
8 illegal guides, tips including illegal transporters, tips
9 including violations from sport hunters and want and waste,
10 as well as tips including violations from the villages. I
11 think to be fair we need to respond to all of them the same
12 way.

13

14 I'm going to just highlight a couple of
15 other outreach efforts. You know we do a lot of work with
16 steal shot. We've had some violations this past spring
17 with the water foul spring hunting season and people using
18 lead shot. We went real easy on folks with lots of
19 education. Been to every school. We've had steal shot
20 clinics all throughout the region for several years in a
21 row.

22

23 After about 10 years of education we
24 decided it was time to start enforcing it, so last year we
25 have been enforcing the requirement to use non-toxic shot
26 when hunting water foul in the spring. We did make a case
27 last year as a result of that. We will be doing enforce
28 again this spring water foul season.

29

30 I don't want to emphasis enforcement, but
31 that's were a lot of the questions came up and I wanted to
32 provide some answers to you before you were done. I want
33 to also emphasize that enforcement is a very small part of
34 our program. We have only one Refuge officer on our Staff.
35 A Staff of 14 people. He covers a huge area and he works
36 with the State and relies on their cooperation with the
37 State. We usually borrow one to two other enforcement
38 people to help us out during the moose season and we also
39 do I mentioned spring water foul, we also do water foul
40 during the salmons subsistence sea -- we do enforcement
41 during the salmon subsistence season on the Yukon.

42

43 Jenny Bryant from our Staff presented the
44 results of our moose surveys. We put a lot of effort in to
45 those moose surveys this year.

46

47 We did a wolf survey. The highlights of
48 that are on the map on the wall. We plan next year another
49 wolf census and we plan a moose census on the Koyukuk. And
50 one of the reasons we plan a moose census on the Koyukuk is

00485

1 because of the issue of all these changes and regulations.
2 We want to keep our finger pretty close to the pulse of the
3 moose population here.

4

5 There were also several questions about
6 fire management, so I'll touch on that. The Refuge just
7 completed a draft of the Koyukuk Fire Plan. It's out for
8 comment. In progress are plans for the Nowitna, the
9 Selawik, the Innoko, and the Yukon Delta. There have been
10 requests from Tribal Councils in Kaltag, Nulato, and Galena
11 that we consider prescribed burns mainly to benefit moose
12 habitat near the village and also berry picking. As these
13 fire plans get completed prescribed burn plans will be made
14 with the cooperators. The lands involved near the villages
15 are corporation lands. So, if the corporation so desires
16 we will offer technical assistance to get those burns to
17 happen.

18

19 A question asked by Mr. Jones specifically
20 about a burn on Three-Day Slough. Yes, indeed there has
21 been some discussion of a prescribed burn at Three-Day
22 Slough mainly to benefit moose because of the old Willow
23 habitat there, there's been no burns in Three-Day Slough in
24 quite awhile. And so discussion have occurred between our
25 fire officer and Glenn Stout as to where the best place
26 might be to conduct a burn in Three-Day Slough. If I had
27 to make a guess I would say any prescribed burns are at
28 least two years off and perhaps Three-Day Slough might be
29 a little bit further off in the future. Innoko Refuge is
30 also planning prescribed burns and they'll happen sometime
31 in the next couple of years.

32

33 With that I'll just go ahead and end and
34 say thanks a lot for all your hard work on the Council and
35 representing your people and thanks a lot for listening to
36 the agencies and also thank Huslia for hosting this
37 meeting.

38

39 Anabossi.

40

41 And if there's any questions I'll answer
42 them.

43

44 CHAIRMAN SAM: Tommy Kriska.

45

46 MR. KRISKA: Yeah. I just to need to know
47 something. It's kind of, you know, I see this illegal
48 guiding that I know I'm pretty sure that you guys know who
49 I'm going to be talking about. I mean I wouldn't say no
50 names, but this guy's been coming out of Galena for -- he

00486

1 was a guide before, anyway, but he's still a legal guide
2 and I'm pretty sure you guys know that and tips, like you
3 said, tips and stuff will be accepted like this. Then tips
4 and all of this stuff been going in to you guys for I don't
5 know how long it's been going on. Five or six years like
6 that. And it's happening around here with the airplanes
7 and everything like that and nothing is done with that.
8 But soon as one Native -- you guys get a tip on a Native
9 shooting moose or a duck or something like that you're out
10 there and prosecute the guy almost the same day. I don't
11 understand what's going on there.

12

13 MR. SPINDLER: Without knowing exactly who
14 your talking about I can't really speculate, but I can say
15 that there have been some tips about illegal guides,
16 illegal transporters. There have been some cases made and
17 one of the individuals involved continues to illegal guide
18 even after or illegal transport even after being cited for
19 violations in the past few years. To make a solid case on
20 an illegal transportation or illegal guiding requires
21 essentially an undercover operation which costs a ton of
22 money. And so I would have to say that any tips that we
23 get will all be put together and try to make a case as best
24 as we can without doing the undercover work. But sometimes
25 to make an iron clad case on an illegal guiding or illegal
26 transporting situation you pretty much need that undercover
27 work.

28

29 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you. I just got a
30 comment we spent three hours the other night, two or three
31 hours in session again yesterday and now we've got another
32 session here. I think that if you in conjunction with the
33 State Trooper use some tact and decency -- maybe not
34 decency, but some tact and just work some things out
35 instead of going through some of the procedures he did I
36 think that a lot of our the fears and everything else would
37 be alleviated from the villages. Though I'm glad that we
38 did bring it out in the open. I think a lot of what we
39 spent six hours on could have been taken care in private or
40 in conjunction with the State Troopers and Village Council.
41 So, I was wondering if you intend to go through that avenue
42 before coming up to some full blown six, seven hours of
43 work here because it seems like we're acting as a court
44 system of some sort here the Western Interior. I would
45 suggest that use some tact.

46

47 Any further questions for Mike Spindler.

48

49 MR. WALKER: Mr. Chairman.

50

00487

1 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay, Robert.

2

3 MR. WALKER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. You
4 know Mike in order to ride a bike, you know, you got to
5 fall off two or three times before you learn, so this is a
6 process like I say where you using your posters and
7 everything to educate. Anyway, my question was Innoko
8 River, what part of Innoko River you talking about?

9

10 MR. SPINDLER: Was the question about the
11 Innoko River in regards to fire?

12

13 MR. WALKER: Yeah.

14

15 MR. SPINDLER: I don't know exactly and I
16 can get that information to you. The Innoko Refuge has a
17 representative here and I did inquire as to whether they
18 knew exactly what the plans were and that's not the right
19 person on their Staff, so we'll get that information to
20 you.

21

22 CHAIRMAN SAM: Any further questions.

23

24 (No comments)

25

26 CHAIRMAN SAM: If not, does that conclude
27 Nowitna?

28

29 MR. SPINDLER: That does and your point is
30 well taken about the discretion. You know I'll do
31 everything in my power to utilize that, but I do want to
32 emphasize is that's the judge's job generally.

33

34 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay. Thanks for taking
35 that in to consideration. I think Kanuti's up, heading up
36 this way. Kanuti.

37

38 MR. SHULTZ: Mr. Chairman. Council. My
39 name is Robert Shultz. I'm the Refuge manager for Kanuti
40 National Wildlife Refuge.

41

42 Starting on Page 332 of your booklet there
43 it pretty much explains where we were last year with our
44 moose, beaver, and whitefish. There's a write up there and
45 I'd be happy to answer any questions that you have about
46 that write up.

47

48 Where we're headed this coming field
49 season. Some of you may know that on January 27th we lost
50 our Bettles facilities. It burnt to the ground. The fire

00488

1 has not been determined what the cause of it was. I've
2 been working closely with the Gates of the Arctic Staff.
3 We jointly use that facilities. It was owned by the Fish
4 and Wildlife Service. Plans are moving ahead. We are
5 going to stay in Bettles. We are going to be rebuilding
6 there. It looks like we'll be building two structures
7 there in the future. One of them will be the contact
8 station and an office complex and another building will be
9 the bunkhouse complex there for the two agencies there.
10 Both agencies, the Regional Director and the Acting
11 Regional Director for the Park Service have moved the
12 reconstruction of those two structures up as their number
13 1 priority in the region. So hopefully in a year or two
14 we'll be back up and running at full speed.

15

16 This spring we were going to try to do a
17 wolf survey, but because we got about a 1,000 to 2,000
18 caribou milling around a central portion of the Refuge it's
19 we aren't going to be able to pull it off. There's just
20 too many tracks out there to sort out what is caribou and
21 what is wolf tracks out there. So, hopefully conditions
22 will improve next year there for that, but it's still on
23 our radar screen and we want to try to get it done as soon
24 as possible.

25

26 This spring hopefully late May, early June
27 we'll be putting 60 transmitters out on our whitefish
28 there. We'll be targeting humpback whitefish, broad
29 whitefish, and least ciscos. From the whitefish that we
30 collected last year we found that quite a few of the broad
31 whitefish and the least ciscos made it to the ocean. Spent
32 some time in the ocean and came back up to the Kanuti
33 Refuge waters to spawn and to continue on with their life
34 there. So, it gave us a little of information another
35 piece of the puzzle has been determined there. Hopefully
36 with these radio transmitters we'll be able to see a lot
37 more of their movements. Where they're spawning, where
38 they're feeding, things like this and we'll have a better
39 understand of those fish there.

40

41 Coming up next fall, early winter we're
42 going to do an intensive moose survey. We do this every
43 five years. This will give us a good handle on what our
44 moose population is. For the last four years we've been
45 doing trim surveys. They're just a snapshot of what our
46 moose population is. This year should give us a better
47 handle on where are moose are actually going out there on
48 the Refuge there.

49

50 Couple other things. For the last three

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1 years Henshaw Creek we've had a weir project going on there
2 with the Fairbanks Fisheries Office. It was not funded in
3 2004. The Refuge has been supporting that project and we
4 would really like to see it go through a full cycle. We
5 would like to see that go for six or seven years straight.
6 I've been talking the last two weeks with fisheries
7 biologists and it looks like we're going to put together a
8 stone soup project where the Refuge is going to kick in
9 some money, Fairbanks office is going to kick in some
10 money, and some Anchorage offices are going to kick in some
11 money and we're going try to get that Henshaw Creek weir
12 running this year. If we can get it to run this year,
13 we're pretty sure that in 2005 and 2006 we will have money
14 to run that project there. I'd really like to see it go a
15 full cycle, so at year six or seven we can say that those
16 fish there are the results of our first year of study
17 there. I think it's really important that we have that
18 information there.

19

20 Couple other things we've been working on.
21 We've been working with the migratory co-management people
22 on the spring migration harvest surveys. They want to come
23 out and go through the villages and conduct a survey this
24 year. Myself, the Refuge Manager Ted Heuer from Yukon
25 Flats, and Richard Voss the Refuge Manger from Arctic don't
26 feel that there's enough outreach has been done with the
27 people of our communities there. I don't want people
28 running around in Allakaket, Alatna, Evansville, and
29 Bettles without understanding who they're talking with
30 there and that. I think they need to respect those peoples
31 and their knowledge out there and we want to conduct an outreach
32 program prior to somebody running around at there and
33 banging on doors and going into peoples houses and asking
34 questions in the wrong way. I think that migratory harvest
35 survey is a very important information. If we're going to
36 have spring take we need to have that information to build
37 a strong case for those species that have historically been
38 harvest all along there.

39

40 As I mentioned before we're condition
41 rewriting our comprehensive conservation plan. It's the
42 foundation plan that we use for managing the Kanuti Refuge.
43 April 22 we're scheduled to hold a meeting in Bettles and
44 Evansville to gather local concerns and issues. The next
45 day, April 23rd we're going to be done at Alatna and
46 Allakaket there. We're sending out newsletters. We're
47 sending out flyers. We're sending out posters. So that
48 right now they're going out so that we can get the people
49 informed. We really want that public on the ground
50 information on the concerns and issues that we should be

00490

1 looking at and managing the Refuge.

2

3

4 A couple of issues on the horizon that I
5 see can really effect the management of the Kanuti Refuge.
6 Jack has brought it up a couple times. The Dalton Highway
7 Access is a buffer for the Kanuti Refuge lands. If that is
8 opened the ATV use on it, it could be really devastating
9 there.

9

10 And the other thing that we're having a
11 problem with is the loss of the Fish and Wildlife
12 protection people. Them being assimilated in with State
13 Troopers. I think we're right back to square one there.
14 Those folks are being turned in to State Troopers and the
15 priority for fish and wildlife is way down at the bottom of
16 the list. You know they're going to be dealing with
17 assaults and murders, robbery, and things like this and two
18 years ago Jack brought it up that we had a real problem
19 with law enforcement and I can see where we're going right
20 back to there with this there. We work closely with those
21 folks on law enforcement efforts and the loss of those is
22 going to leave a real whole in wildlife protection out
23 there.

24

25 So with that, that's it. Any questions
26 folks.

27

28 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yeah I've got one right off
29 the bat. On that Henshaw Creek weir I would like at this
30 time to get the consensus if the Western Interior Council
31 to have a letter drafted to OSM. Finance probably to
32 completely fund the Henshaw Creek weir. I've seen it in
33 operation. I don't think they've had a complete season of
34 data to work off of simply because of the high water they
35 couldn't complete those. So, I too would like to see that
36 in completion. So without objections from the Western
37 Interior Council I would like to see a letter drafted to
38 this affect.

39

40 Can you see to it Vince.

41

42 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, Mr. Chairman.

43

44 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you. Jack.

45

46 MR. REAKOFF: Mr. Chairman, I've always
47 appreciated all of the projects the Kanuti Wildlife Refuge
48 is investigating. They got lots of very interesting work
49 that's now as we see as these other resource users enter
50 the area in greater and greater numbers this information is

00491

1 very critical. And so I'm very appreciative both to BLM
2 and the Kanuti and the other Refuges also.

3

4 But one bright spot, we're always talking
5 about the bleaker issues, I found out that I was in
6 communication with Cornell Julia Grimes of the Alaska State
7 Troopers and I talked her in to hard. I had a letter
8 writing campaign for local people there and we've got
9 Trooper Kurt Bettingfield returned. She fought that.
10 She's now consented to allowing him -- he's made the bid.
11 He will return back to Coldfoot. And I've heard from
12 Lieutenant Gary Foldger that he's got plans on giving
13 assistance to some additional enforcement officers on the
14 Hall Road. So there'll be more enforcement to control some
15 of that tremendous amounts of abuses that have been going
16 on, on the Hall Road for the last two years. So, that's a
17 bright spot and so that's relatively recent information
18 that's why it hasn't come to the attention of a lot of the
19 agencies and so I see it's a -- that area has been under
20 lack of protection for a couple years now and so we're back
21 on the right track a little bit. If this ORV comes through
22 they'll overwhelm those three guys though.

23

24 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Jack. I would
25 like you to keep an eye on that. I think that is more than
26 a step in the right direction, especially in light of that
27 Bill trying to do away with the ORV restrictions and I
28 would like you to keep me informed on the colored map. I
29 think that we discussed under the Proposal 67 history.

30

31 MR. REAKOFF: Uh-huh.

32

33 CHAIRMAN SAM: Is that right one? 67.
34 Yeah. I would like to keep an eye on the development of
35 that map. I'd like to see one put in use. Go ahead Jack
36 and then Ray.

37

38 MR. REAKOFF: One other point that I wanted
39 to make was the I've always talked about getting telemetry
40 data and I would still like to see that funding source
41 investigated. As these moose numbers dwindle and there's
42 no information about their movements in that area. Now
43 that telemetry data saved the Koyukuk here. That telemetry
44 data showing that moose have migratory distances of 27
45 miles when the Board tried to reduce that, that they
46 couldn't hardly fight against those kinds of numbers.
47 That's where this telemetry data is going to really help us
48 out. It's going to pay off big time in the long run. And
49 so I still would like to see funding sought for telemetry
50 data and moose movements in the upper Koyukuk, especially

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1 in that Kanuti and Gates of the Arctic area.

2

3

Thank you.

4

5

MR. REAKOFF: Mr. Chairman.

6

7

CHAIRMAN SAM: Ray.

8

9

MR. COLLINS: Yes, Mr. Chairman. Just a quick questions. I was interested to hear about the whitefish tags that some of those went clear to the ocean. Is that wintering when they pull out they went to the ocean? And did other winter in the main river then in the Kuskokwim that were tagged?

15

16

MR. SHULTZ: We're not sure on that Ray. Right now our thinking is, is though fish probably got flushed out with the spring flow when they were juveniles and they lived for several years in the ocean and saltwater environment and then they've come back there. Some of the work that we did up in the upper Tanana there drainages with the humpback whitefish. It doesn't seem like the spawning grounds is really important to those fish. They go back to the same area and spawn every year, but the individual fish doesn't go back to the same area. But they go back to the same feeding lake and so it appears like these feeding areas may be more important to those fish than the actual spawning areas there.

29

30

But its really surprising. Whitefish are really important for the subsistence users in the Interior regions and if you go back and look in the literature there's not very much known about them. We're inventing the wheel here with the studies. Randy Brown is the Fisheries biologist and I think right now bar none he probably considered the whitefish specialist in the world there on his tagging efforts and on his movements and that. Every time we turn around he's picking up something new on these species on these fish there.

40

41

They're very old a lot of them. Ten Mile Lake up above Northway there we had fish from zero years to 30 years of age in their nets. So their long life. There's years that are missing. We had fish from one year old up to 30 years old, but there were several years in there where we had no age class was in there, so were those fish someplace else or was it a bust year, we don't know there. So, just about everything we're finding out about these whitefish are it's new knowledge there.

50

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1 And one of the things I was talking with
2 Jack about earlier today is, is that I don't think it's
3 really that well understood or well documented this flow of
4 nurturance from the marine environment to the Interior
5 environment there. We talk about escapement goals and
6 things like this. Those salmon coming back, the whitefish
7 coming back, the sheefish coming back, they're bringing a
8 tremendous load of nutrients with them. They die there.
9 They start decomposing. The bears eat them. The bears
10 move off, you know, out of the riparian habitats up you
11 know 30, 40 miles up in to the hills and start denning up
12 there. So that's where our nutrient flows are there and
13 it's a very crucial thing that I think we need to start
14 looking in to more. You know, Katherine here the other
15 night was talking about whitefish there, you know, not
16 having the oils and that and it may be a nutrients thing.
17 Difference in between fish moving great distances or
18 something. We need to start looking at that and taking
19 more paying more attention to it.

20

21 MR. COLLINS: When those reports come out
22 I'd appreciate it if you could make them available to Vince
23 and maybe they could circulate some of those to us.

24

25 MR. SHULTZ: Sure.

26

27 MR. COLLINS: Because I'd like to learn
28 more about them myself.

29

30 MR. SHULTZ: Yeah.

31

32 CHAIRMAN SAM: Benedict you have something?

33

34 MR. JONES: Yeah, thank you, Mr. Chairman.
35 There has been a great deal of change the last 60 years in
36 the whitefish. I don't know whether it's there habitat,
37 their nourishment, different nourishment or what or
38 vegetation change in the last 50 years. I don't know
39 whether it's from the insect or what. Less insect in the
40 water or what. I asked several fish biologists, but they
41 haven't given a good answer, but 60 years ago you catch a
42 whitefish you catch a lot of grease in the spring time
43 right after breakup. But now you don't see nothing and
44 then right after freeze up they lose their flesh get kind
45 of mushy. But in spring time and this time of the year
46 their flesh start getting hard again.

47

48 MR. SHULTZ: Yeah, like I said Benedict
49 it's, you know, our knowledge on Whitefish is pretty small,
50 you know. Everything we're doing is we're finding out new

00494

1 things about these fish, you know. Mapping out their
2 spawning areas. Mapping out their feeding areas and, you
3 know, is one thing that I think is very important. There
4 with this radio telemetry we're going to find that out.

5

6 CHAIRMAN SAM: Robert.

7

8 MR. WALKER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. You
9 know we're pushing for time here. It's already after two
10 here and we still got whole bunch a list to go yet.

11

12 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yes. Let one more Refuge
13 and then we'll put everything off for the next meeting.

14

15 MR. SHULTZ: Thank you, gentlemen.

16

17 CHAIRMAN SAM: Innoko.

18

19 MS. DEMIENTIEFF: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
20 RAC members. My name is Clara Demientieff Refuge
21 Information Tech for Innoko National Wildlife Refuge Holy
22 Cross and McGrath. And I'd like to also recognize Paul
23 LaDegard, our pilot, from Innoko Refuge for the record.

24

25 I want to thank you for letting me have
26 this opportunity to share with you some of the subsistence
27 outreach activities I have participated in. Bill Schaff
28 apologized for not being here for this RAC meeting due to
29 family medical.

30

31 About a week ago we conducted a moose
32 survey out on the lower portion of Innoko National Wildlife
33 Refuge beginning February 26 through March 5 and the
34 weather hampered us, so flying was limited daily. I don't
35 have a data summary right now and that will be available in
36 a few months.

37

38 The water fowl shooting clinic will be held
39 in Anvik and Takotna this year during the first full week
40 of May and I would to thank Robert for submitting a letter
41 to us at the last RAC meeting. Right now I'm currently
42 working with Charles Drew who's a VPSO in preparing to set
43 up for this activity for the communities. On March 23rd,
44 24th I'll be attending a migratory bird harvest survey
45 training in Bethel. So this coming fall I will be visiting
46 the GASH villages and supposedly the McGrath area villages
47 also to do the survey training.

48

49 I want to thank all the Tribal members and
50 the Council of Huslia for this wonderful hospitality we've

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1 been having and it's also nice to see, you know, relatives
2 and friends who I've known from before.

3

4 With the GASH meetings I think throughout
5 my two years I've attended only three of them because it is
6 a State activity and I've asked my supervisor if I can
7 attend all the meeting to support the GASH villages. But
8 it also, you know, if we do have a pilot available, do have
9 a plane available, we will go. But now since I do live in
10 Holy Cross and, you know, it is going to be a much more
11 difficult time either for Paul or someone else to fly me
12 around to the villages. But I, you know, I will bring that
13 up again and hopefully, you know, we can do much more in
14 attending the GASH villages.

15

16 We have Sidney Charbenout who's our
17 operation specialist will be completing his law enforcement
18 training in about eight weeks. So he will be the second
19 law enforcement person besides our Refuge Manager Bill
20 Schaff. As you probably all know I did tack a little
21 address card on the report so to let you know that we do
22 have our office above the city office in Holy Cross and
23 everyone of you are welcome, you know, to come by and visit
24 or if your just passing through, please come by and visit.

25

26 So everything is going well there. I do
27 work eight hours a day from either to 8:00 to 4:30 or 8:30
28 to 5:30 making up my 40 hour week. I've had a lot of local
29 people visiting and asking questions about subsistence
30 activities. They've been picking up the regulation books
31 and I've had students come by to visit the office and see
32 what, you know, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife office about.
33 So I do outreach activities with the students and the
34 teachers.

35

36 This summer I'm very sure I'll be
37 participating in the fishing season's surveys, so we'll be
38 out on the river visiting the fish camps and visiting the
39 local GASH villages.

40

41 And that concludes my report. Do you have
42 any questions.

43

44 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Clara. Questions
45 for Clara. Benedict.

46

47 MR. JONES: Yeah Clara how often does the
48 Fish and Wildlife or Fish and Game do that moose survey in
49 the Kanuti -- I mean Innoko Flats.

50

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1 MS. DEMIENTIEFF: The U.S. Fish and
2 Wildlife does the survey every two years. So two years ago
3 we did the upper portion and this past year we did the
4 lower portion. But like I said, you know, the weather
5 hampered us to do. So we didn't put in too many hours, but
6 I did leave early, but and it was completed. I'm pretty
7 sure it was completed.

8
9 MR. JONES: Have you noticed what the moose
10 population doing increasing or declining?

11
12 MS. DEMIENTIEFF: For what I have
13 personally seen and observed the cows and bull is real,
14 real low and not very many calves.

15
16 CHAIRMAN SAM: Any further questions for
17 Clara? If not.....

18
19 MS. DEMIENTIEFF: Thank you.

20
21 CHAIRMAN SAM:I would like to thank
22 you for that report. It seemed like a with all the things
23 you do, I do not know how else to handle this because all
24 the Staff come in here with reports and they feel compelled
25 to put them on the floor and at the next meeting about all
26 we can do is just put five minute time constrain with
27 questioning and answers period if we want to speed it up.
28 But questions are keep coming up and I think that this
29 Council just wants to the know the answer before they act
30 on anything that's why we keep questioning all our Staff
31 and various agencies that come before us.

32
33 I would like to thank you for all for
34 bringing your reports.

35
36 I don't think we have anymore agencies
37 around.

38
39 The next item Regional Council Business.

40
41 MR. WALKER: We're done.

42
43 (Laughter)

44
45 CHAIRMAN SAM: We are right?

46
47 MR. WALKER: Yep we are.

48
49 MR. STICKMAN: We're down to elections?

50

00497

1 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yes. Oh yes.

2

3 MR. REAKOFF: One item to complete here
4 before we get in to that. Now this resolution after our
5 lunch break George and I looked this thing over and there's
6 something I don't like about this and it's actually asks
7 for delaying and I'm worried about the appointments of some
8 our seats lapsing and not if this stops the process we will
9 have open seats with nobody filling them. So I'm a little
10 bit concern about that aspect and then George had concerns
11 that he wants to talk about.

12

13 MR. SIAVELIS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
14 I'm concerned about that also and also I disagree with
15 anything that would delay appointments.

16

17 Also I disagree with the second half the
18 general pretence of the second half of the resolution and
19 the reason is I believe the applicant does need to declare
20 who they represent because I believe you need separate
21 sport and commercial seats.

22

23 The reason otherwise you won't have true
24 accurate representation of those user groups. You won't
25 have accurate input, you know, and get the true impulse of
26 what's going on with that industry if you have only a
27 partial, you know, if one seat member has just a limited
28 degree of involvement. Even if you have multiple examples
29 of that you basically nullify the true impulse of the
30 industry. You don't get the import from what's going on in
31 the industry at that moment or at anytime. And I believe
32 supporting the resolution would violate FACA. The, you
33 know, Federal Advisory Committee Act and bring us back to
34 square one on this whole issue.

35

36 Thank you.

37

38 CHAIRMAN SAM: So what did we come out of
39 this with Jack?

40

41 MR. REAKOFF: Basically I'm uncomfortable
42 with having open seats on our Council. We're spread pretty
43 thin as it is and I don't like the language of asking for
44 a delay in the process. Because if the OSM goes in to
45 delay then there will be people coming and their seat will
46 vacate and we won't have anybody to fill it. So, I'm
47 concerned about that and George's plan is actually has some
48 validity to it. It would in reality this letter would
49 basically the up shot would it would violate the FACA. We
50 would be asking for a delay for a long period of time for

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1 analysis and then it would actually it's going to sort out
2 to where that's where the FACA thing and we come right back
3 to the FACA thing again and so I don't see -- I feel that
4 we should just let the Eastern do what they want to do. I
5 don't see where this is going to help us out at all.

6

7 I would like input from other Council
8 members also.

9

10 CHAIRMAN SAM: Carl yeah. Carl and then
11 Benedict.

12

13 MR. MORGAN: You know I was going to save
14 this for my closing comment, but since it's brought up, you
15 know, it's very troubling for me to see this come up.

16

17 I can see, you know, we're representing
18 Federal lands out there. That's who we're representing and
19 if you look at the definition of the Federal lands out
20 there that belongs to the United States all the people.
21 Not only the people of this State. And I'm getting a
22 little concerned about expanding and always expanding this
23 committee whether it's in the AC level or in the
24 Subsistence Board.

25

26 Now we got the Governor writing a letter to
27 have a person sit there. It's troubling to me. Are we
28 going to -- I think this door is going to get wider I
29 think. There's people out there, the public out there that
30 we've got to listen. We've got a very, very strong public
31 out there that kind of knows the system of the Federal
32 Government is the conservationist and some actions we take
33 here does have far reaching affects.

34

35 I'll tell you one thing I know the friends
36 of the animals and the conservationists just love to hear
37 us attack the wolves because it means more donations, more
38 money in to the their coffers. If I, you know, I'm it's a
39 cautious step we're going to be taking because if you think
40 that they don't have political clout I've got to give you
41 an example. Look at ANWR. Our two Governors support. Our
42 two Senators in Washington D.C. support. Our sole
43 Congressmen in Washington D. support and the majority of
44 the people of the State of Alaska support. Yes we've got
45 oil money that's going to open this. We've got dedicated
46 money from the State level to try to get support. Even
47 with oil money, big oil money, and the State of Alaska in
48 complete support of this opening up ANWR we can't get the
49 votes.

50

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1 This is a cautious thing that we walking.
2 This land here belongs to all the people of the United
3 States and I think we keep expanding this we've opened the
4 door and the only way the door is going to swing is going
5 to get wider. You know I think if we God fight amongst
6 each other then some ways going to, you know, there's very
7 powerful lobbyist out there that we can't even change the
8 minds of and the State as a whole has a great -- whether
9 you agree with ANWR or not, you know. Whether you agree
10 with opening or not, we can't even get that very few acres
11 to get drilled on, you now.

12

13 We want to think that we control, but down
14 the road in the long haul I think we'll realize how much
15 little control we have.

16

17 Thank you.

18

19 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Carl. I still
20 haven't quite gotten an answer. Where does this leave us
21 with the resolution we directed?

22

23 MR. REAKOFF: Mr. Chairman, I kind of agree
24 with Carl's changing and I agree that we shouldn't be
25 walking the boat on the 70/30 really. Because we start
26 asking for more representation then we're going to get --
27 what was her -- Kathryn Deathridge here to help us out.
28 And so lets just leave it the way it is. The FACA says
29 your declaring there have to have a commercial
30 representation.

31

32 Let's just table that leave it alone and
33 move on.

34

35 MR. WALKER: Mr. Chairman, I'll make a
36 motion to table.

37

38 CHAIRMAN SAM: Is there a second?

39

40 MR. STICKMAN: I second.

41

42 CHAIRMAN SAM: There's a move to table
43 further discussions on the this what would you call it?

44

45 MR. MATHEWS: Council composition.

46

47 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay, Council composition.
48 A tabling motion usually doesn't take much discussion
49 either.

50

00500

1 So all those in favor of motion to table
2 signify by saying aye.

3
4 IN UNISON: Aye.

5
6 CHAIRMAN SAM: Those opposed.

7
8 (No opposing votes)

9
10 CHAIRMAN SAM: Motion carried. Thank you.

11
12 MR. WALKER: We're done.

13
14 CHAIRMAN SAM: That's 12?

15
16 MR. WALKER: Yep. Elections.

17
18 CHAIRMAN SAM: As we decided before it's
19 election of officers. Robert.

20
21 MR. WALKER: Mr. Chairman, I'd like to
22 nominate Ron Sam for Chairman, Mickey Stickman Vice-
23 Chairman, and Jack Reakoff for the Secretary.

24
25 MR. JONES: Second

26
27 CHAIRMAN SAM: It's been moved and
28 seconded. If that was a motion that would take care of all
29 business. Carl.

30
31 MR. MORGAN: With the motion maker and the
32 second and I ask for anonymous consent.

33
34 CHAIRMAN SAM: Are there any objections, if
35 not how come we didn't do this all through the meeting?

36
37 (Laughter)

38
39 CHAIRMAN SAM: This is not how Jack,
40 Mickey, and I are re-elected as officers.

41
42 MR. WALKER: And Jack.

43
44 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yeah, Jack, Mickey, and I,
45 I said. Okay. I don't know whether to thank you or not at
46 this time so.

47
48 (Laughter)

49
50 CHAIRMAN SAM: Regional Council

00501

1 appointments.

2

3

4 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, you do not have
5 any SRC appointments. You can just reaffirm your
6 coordinating Fishery Committee and Kuskokwim Committees.
7 That's Benedict and Robert Walker with alternate Emmitt
8 Peters on the Yukon and then you have Carl Morgan and Ray
9 Collins on the Kuskokwim. You don't need to make any
10 appointments on that unless they people want to get off or
11 whatever.

11

12 MR. MORGAN: Could I appoint George as an
13 alternate?

14

15 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yes we do have an alternate
16 on the Yukon River Coordinating Fisheries. I think that
17 would be appropriate. Mickey motions?

18

19 MR. STICKMAN: I don't have a motion but,
20 you know, Randy Rogers is not here, but he left, but you
21 know under Planning Committees on there he was looking for
22 someone from this Western Interior Regional Advisory
23 Committee to be on that Planning Committee. So at this
24 time I'd like to ask the Regional Council to support Robert
25 as that committee member on the planning group down in the
26 GASH area.

27

28 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay. We don't have a
29 motion before us do we?

30

31 MR. STICKMAN: Okay. We have a motion that
32 we didn't act on, this anonymous extent that was it?

33

34 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yes that was it. As far as
35 election of officers went. Okay.

36

37 MR. STICKMAN: Okay I just want the Western
38 Interior Regional Advisory Committee here to put Robert's
39 name forward to Randy Rogers for the planning committee.

40

41 CHAIRMAN SAM: The Central Kuskokwim?

42

43 MR. MATHEWS: It's the GASH.

44

45 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay. Yes I think that was
46 an oversight. Okay. Then was Jack and I appointed to the
47 Koyukuk moose then? Because we were just.

48

49 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, you were
50 technical advisories. This Council appointed Benedict

00502

1 Jones to be their representative.

2

3 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay.

4

5 MR. MATHEWS: You were brought in as
6 courtesy and, Jack, I think was because of Advisory
7 Committee. But your appointee was Benedict Jones on that
8 one. The GASH working group its the same thing. You need
9 to appointment somebody to part of that working group.

10

11 I thought I heard Mickey say that was a
12 motion, but I'm not sure.

13

14 CHAIRMAN SAM: Are you willing to serve on
15 this Robert?

16

17 MR. WALKER: Yes. I'm already at home base
18 there.

19

20 CHAIRMAN SAM: That's we wanted I think
21 basically. So was that a formal motion Mickey?

22

23 MR. STICKMAN: Yes, Mr. Chair.

24

25 CHAIRMAN SAM: Is there a second.

26

27 MR. REAKOFF: Second.

28

29 CHAIRMAN SAM: All those in favor of the
30 motion signify by saying aye.

31

32 IN UNISON: Aye.

33

34 CHAIRMAN SAM: Opposed same sign.

35

36 (No opposing votes)

37

38 CHAIRMAN SAM: Motion carried.

39

40 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, in light of
41 that you were also approached by Polly Wheeler to say that
42 they'll be a strategic planning process for the
43 prioritization of those fishery monitoring projects and she
44 did say that they were looking at two Council members per
45 region. It puts a burden on you guys because you cover
46 both the Yukon and Kuskokwim. And they were looking at
47 November. I don't know if you have to make appointments,
48 but it would be good to possibly think that way because
49 October your meeting will be busy.

50

00503

1 CHAIRMAN SAM: At this time the Chair will
2 entertain a motion to name the Coordinating Fisheries
3 Committee members.

4
5 MR. MATHEWS: It could be those. I not
6 saying it couldn't.

7
8 CHAIRMAN SAM: That's what I want for now.
9 We can work on it down the line. Name all our Coordinating
10 Fisheries members as a primary and alternate and whoever's
11 available will be considered the primary. The Chair will
12 entertain that motion.

13
14 MR. WALKER: So moved.

15
16 CHAIRMAN SAM: Is there a second.

17
18 MR. JONES: Second.

19
20 CHAIRMAN SAM: All those in favor in the
21 motion signify by saying aye.

22
23 IN UNISON: Aye.

24
25 CHAIRMAN SAM: Those opposed, same sign.

26
27 (No opposing votes)

28
29 CHAIRMAN SAM: Motion carried. Any other
30 appointees?

31
32 MR. MATHEWS: No. Not that I know of, Mr.
33 Chair.

34
35 CHAIRMAN SAM: With the consent of the
36 Council I would like to I think we all received the
37 correspondence sent and received out on May already didn't
38 we.

39
40 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, Mr. Chairman. And next
41 time I'll have the summary done. There was just no time to
42 do that. Plus we were waiting for the policy on
43 correspondence, so there wasn't a really a lot.

44
45 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay.

46
47 MR. MATHEWS: Next time you'll have a
48 summary.

49
50 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yeah, I know we did take

00504

1 some action on that subject, so until they come out with
2 something final from OSM, just leave it as is I think.

3

4 Council topics what are we looking for?

5

6 MR. MATHEWS: Well, Mr. Chairman this came
7 up out of the program that we're hoping that if the Council
8 has topics that they want their Chair to present or discuss
9 at the May Board meeting that they would express those now.
10 So for two reasons, one so the Chair would know, but also
11 that the office could start preparing to understand, you
12 know, background on those topics.

13

14 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yeah.

15

16 MR. MATHEWS: It's kind of going back Ron
17 to where you use to have an agenda for the meeting of the
18 Chairs. This is a step back to that direction. So you
19 would be better prepared to bring topics forthcoming on
20 that and again that might be for example, not to say you
21 would do that, but your concerns about the positions on
22 OSMs positions or something like that might be one that
23 you'd be sharing with the Chairs as an example.

24

25 CHAIRMAN SAM: Any topics. Mickey.

26

27 MR. STICKMAN: You know Ron I just think
28 that really the only thing you would need for something
29 like this would be to present them with our Annual Report
30 because it'd have all our issues and concerns in there.

31

32 CHAIRMAN SAM: Oh, no, they've got an
33 agenda already. We just sit there as a courtesy of the
34 Federal Subsistence Board and then the only thing we do is
35 make an argument as far as our proposals go and that's it.

36

37 Isn't that about right, Vince?

38

39 MR. MATHEWS: Yes. It's changed a little
40 bit Ron at the last meeting, but basically at the end of
41 the meeting and this may have changed, but at the end of
42 the Board meeting they ask the Chairs if they have topics.
43 This is in a public session to discuss with the full board.
44 Maybe Jack wants to talk about it because I think I had to
45 leave at that point. But my understanding at the very end
46 of the meeting -- remember you guys use to do this before
47 the meeting. The Board now is accommodating your request
48 that there still needs to be dialogue and so now they're
49 doing it during the public meeting at the end. And I think
50 Jack was there. I think I had to step out for that

00505

1 section.

2

3

CHAIRMAN SAM: Go ahead Jack.

4

5

MR. REAKOFF: Mr. Chairman, there was some data presentation over at the Yukon Panel, so I left to go see that which I felt was more critical to my understanding of the Yukon River.

8

9

I feel like as this Council presents their concerns at the beginning of the meeting that the Federal Board should hear -- go around the table with the Chairs of the Councils and here their number 1 concerns. Not the whole list of our Annual Report, but the number one concerns in the Region. An overview of what some big problems are and then deliberate the proposals. I feel that dropping it back to the end of the meeting that doesn't give the Board -- what's the Board going to do with it then at the end of the meeting. I feel if they can hear at the beginning, just like we do. If we hear something we can work it through and so I would rather see the Federal Board do it that way.

23

24

But I would like to see, you know, you can look our Annual Report over. Vince can poll the Council on what the priorities of all the Councils are and then that will float one or two of these issues up to the top for the Chair to look at and I think that would be the way to really address those.

30

31

CHAIRMAN SAM: Yes that moving you or me or whoever represent Western Interior to the end of this meeting is just another example of being FACAed out. The reason we couldn't meet in private before even with the OSM was against the principle and rules of FACA and like I totally agree with you that meeting at the end of the meeting or after the meeting is over is totally useless. So we'll just play this by ear I think. Again, you can poll the Council members. Is that fine with everyone? I still don't know how it will work out yet though. That fine with everyone? Consensus. Okay.

42

43

Future meeting plans.

44

45

MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, you guys need to turn Tab E and we need to focus on -- there's no number on it, but you need to look at Fall 2004. And you'll see that there's -- you projected to meet on October 7th and 8th in Evansville. But if you look at that same week, there's five Regional Councils that are meeting in the same

00506

1 week. The Staff that serves Eastern Interior also serves
2 Western Interior so there's no way that we can pull that
3 off there.

4 In Beaver, we requested that maybe they
5 would like to move their dates, they said, no, they're not
6 going to move their dates. So they're going to meet in
7 Eagle, Northway, so they'll meet in Northway in the fall of
8 -- or the winter of 2005. So as your coordinator, to speed
9 this along, you really either need to select another week
10 that's available within the window there until October
11 19th, but I think logic would apply that if that doesn't
12 work then you're going to have to suggest dates outside the
13 window and we'll just go down that path.

14

15 Again, I know the reasons why you can't
16 meet in September so you don't need to inform me of that,
17 but that leaves you with the three weeks of October and
18 with that I'll leave it -- and you talked earlier about
19 going to Ruby instead of Evansville.

20

21 CHAIRMAN SAM: Robert.

22

23 MR. WALKER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
24 Vince, you got the YKD to be announced yet, I mean there's
25 still the 12th, 13th, 14th, 15th, 16, 17 and 18, you know,
26 if you can get them to declare their days there then that
27 will give us a little more room.

28

29 MR. MATHEWS: Well, let me see, Jerry was
30 at that meeting and also Salena's over here as a wealth of
31 information, she may also know the dates that they
32 selected. Again, it's kind of a first come, first serve
33 deal which is a problem.

34

35 MR. WALKER: Well, how come we weren't
36 first served?

37

38 (Laughter)

39

40 CHAIRMAN SAM: It seems like we're always
41 dictated on our meeting dates and I think that we should
42 just set one, divide our Staff and then maybe our meetings
43 would last a day and a half.

44

45 MR. MATHEWS: Well, that's the same
46 response I got in Beaver. And, again, I think, my own
47 personal opinion, this is a problem when we have this type
48 of window but we've not been able to change that window.

49

50 MR. COLLINS: Mr. Chairman, is the

00507

1 September 30, October 1 out of the question, that would put
2 us before the others and we could set our dates for the
3 next meeting and be ahead of those other groups.

4

5 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, that's not out
6 of the realm, I just don't know your moose seasons well.
7 And Tom's here. Again, we have to say these things, we
8 don't say them to cause trouble, we just have to say these
9 things, the reason it says end of fiscal year 2004,
10 beginning of 2005, that does cause a little bit of
11 difficulty but maybe Tom can shed some light on that, but,
12 sure, that's another option. I see heads shaking no over
13 here that that's not another option as far as subsistence
14 uses, I'm not saying no for Tom, so maybe before you guys
15 seriously look at, and get Tom to go through his magic
16 ball, do you guys really want to look at September 30th,
17 October 1st.

18

19 CHAIRMAN SAM: Tom.

20

21 MR. KRON: Yeah, Mr. Chairman. The window
22 in the fall for the Council meetings was expanded. We
23 heard from a number of the Council Chairs that they wanted
24 a window in the fall that went later than we have had in
25 recent years so we have expanded it about 10 days from what
26 it's been. And what that does, basically, is opens it up
27 all the way up to just before AFN, which in this case is,
28 you know, so October 18th and 19th are options.

29

30 Again, September 30th and October 1st, they
31 are options for you but the reason we colored them like we
32 did on the map is that if you choose to do your meeting
33 during that timeframe, if you -- you know, let's say you
34 travel on the 29th, you meet on the 30th, October 1st come
35 back, or October 1st or 2nd, it generates twice the amount
36 of paperwork connected with the travel because it's the
37 close of the fiscal year. And our request is that you try
38 to avoid that if you can, but if you can't we'll just have
39 to deal with it.

40

41 CHAIRMAN SAM: In other words, they don't
42 want to give us two checks.

43

44 (Laughter)

45

46 MR. KRON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

47

48 CHAIRMAN SAM: Oh, no, I can understand
49 that.

50

00508

1 MR. REAKOFF: Mr. Chair.

2

3 CHAIRMAN SAM: Jack.

4

5 MR. REAKOFF: I don't like those either.
6 If I don't get a moose I'm going to be caribou hunting or
7 something around that time and I just can't -- I would
8 rather see this very tail end there, this October 18th and
9 19th if we got to go that way, and push it away from that
10 big conglomerate, and then we get more selection of ADF&G
11 and Fish and Wildlife Staff, but that's my opinion.

12

13 CHAIRMAN SAM: Man, why do we have so much
14 hard times on this. Any other suggestions, Jerry, I
15 haven't heard from you on YKD.

16

17 MR. BERG: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Yes, the
18 YK Council did confirm their dates of October 14th and 15th
19 and they announced that they would try and meet in Kalskag
20 next fall.

21

22 Thank you.

23

24 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay.

25

26 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, it could still
27 work with working the agenda differently. That still
28 leaves open, I avoid Sunday travel, not just because of
29 religion just because there's not as many planes, but that
30 still would leave open the 12th and 13th but we would have
31 to work the agenda to make sure Staff that are needed in
32 Kalskag can get down to Ruby so it changes your agenda.

33

34 CHAIRMAN SAM: I don't know, we'll just
35 take it and go and fly.

36

37 MR. WALKER: Let's just start the 9th,
38 Vince, travel the 9th, meet the 10th, 11th and John Doe and
39 Jane Doe could be in Kalskag on the 14th.

40

41 CHAIRMAN SAM: Go ahead, that sounds good
42 enough for me, 9th, 10th and 11th.

43

44 MR. WALKER: And the rest of the Board,
45 it's up to them, too.

46

47 MR. STICKMAN: 9th, 10th and 11th.

48

49 CHAIRMAN SAM: That's a weekend.

50

00509

1 MR. WALKER: Vince says nobody goes to
2 church.

3
4 MR. STICKMAN: Yeah.

5
6 (Laughter)

7
8 MR. MATHEWS: No, Mr. Chairman, I don't
9 have a problem 9th, 10th and 11th is a weekend, and I'm not
10 against that, Staff is available, that's not my point. My
11 point when we tried to do that in Beaver resulted in
12 different planes, but at this point we'll just go, as you
13 said, 9th, 10th and 11th, meaning you'd travel on the 9th,
14 meet on the 10th and 11th and then fly home on the 12th,
15 and then if that doesn't work out we'll obviously be back,
16 and now you need to decide on a location.

17
18 I was prejudging that before you said it
19 would be Ruby.

20
21 CHAIRMAN SAM: No, one of the things that
22 Robert brought out is that it has been our pattern to meet
23 up river and then down river, up river and then down river,
24 wherever we can find a spot.

25
26 Any suggestions.

27
28 MR. MATHEWS: Well, Mr. Chairman, I think
29 in light of your lengthy discussions on fish, in light of
30 the other Councils meeting on the Yukon, it should be
31 somewhere on the Yukon if possible because the fish issues
32 are -- I think people are going to want to meet with you on
33 the river.

34
35 CHAIRMAN SAM: Robert.

36
37 MR. WALKER: I believe that we go up and
38 down the river, up river on even, down river on odd, I
39 think 2005 we should have it in Holy Cross or Anvik would
40 be two places to look at. It is on the Yukon River. And
41 Holy Cross is in Y3 and Anvik is in Y4, so this is a
42 suggestion here.

43
44 MR. MATHEWS: So you're saying that for
45 this upcoming fall, correct, you said 2005?

46
47 MR. WALKER: (Nods affirmatively)

48
49 MR. MATHEWS: Yeah, and for your
50 coordinator it works tremendously if there's a Council

00510

1 member in the village. I mean I really had to put a lot of
2 pressure on the Tribal Council here to pull this off and
3 that worked, but, you know, it's better to have a Council
4 member in the community, so your suggesting Anvik then for
5 10th and 11th.

6

7 CHAIRMAN SAM: Anvik. Just make one
8 choice, Anvik.

9

10 MR. WALKER: I'm just saying Anvik or Holy
11 Cross, you know, because they're only 30 miles apart, too,
12 also.

13

14 CHAIRMAN SAM: Tom.

15

16 MR. KRON: Mr. Chairman. Jerry just
17 mentioned something to me, one of your proposals relates to
18 the driftnet fishery issue. And, again, it would be
19 affecting the areas further up river than Anvik and Holy
20 Cross and, you know, just was wondering maybe if you would
21 want to consider meeting potentially at Galena or somewhere
22 that would potentially affected by that driftnet proposal.
23 Just throwing that out, it's your call.

24

25 (Laughter)

26

27 CHAIRMAN SAM: Anchorage.

28

29 (Laughter)

30

31 CHAIRMAN SAM: That's down river enough for
32 me.

33

34 (Laughter)

35

36 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay, we've got to come to
37 a decision. It seems like we always do this every meeting,
38 Anvik.

39

40 MR. STICKMAN: Yeah.

41

42 MR. WALKER: Yes.

43

44 CHAIRMAN SAM: Anvik, October 9th, 10th,
45 11th, right within that area.

46

47 MR. MATHEWS: Correct. Mr. Chairman, and
48 maybe Jerry can help me out, we need now to look at winter
49 2005, I know, don't spend a lot of time on this, but I've
50 drawn a complete blank on what Eastern Interior did on that

00511

1 but if there's time here you could look at 2005 for the
2 dates and I just could not find what Eastern did and he has
3 what YK did.

4

5 MR. EASTLAND: Eastern Interior did the 2nd
6 and 3rd of March, Northway.

7

8 MR. MATHEWS: Okay, 2nd and 3rd of March in
9 Northway. Thank you, Eastland for reminding me. And do we
10 know what YK did, they may not have gotten to it.

11

12 MR. BERG: Yes, Mr. Chair. The YK Council
13 chose February 24 and 25 and they did not pick a location
14 yet.

15

16 MR. MATHEWS: Right, Salena.

17

18 REPORTER: (Nods affirmatively)

19

20 MR. MATHEWS: Then, Mr. Chairman, I think
21 TCC Convention, I don't -- I guess is the week of March
22 14th, but Mickey may know better. That seems to be the
23 pattern.

24

25 CHAIRMAN SAM: This is 2005 right?

26

27 MR. MATHEWS: Yes.

28

29 MR. STICKMAN: So I would have to say maybe
30 March 7th, 8th and 9th.

31

32 MR. MATHEWS: Okay, that sounds good to me.
33 I usually try to get you if there's flexibility, on
34 Tuesday, Wednesday because that gives us flight days on
35 Mondays and Thursday, so any idea of location. That
36 meeting would be wildlife, a year from now so it should be
37 mainly a wildlife focus. You don't have to pick a location
38 now but it would help for planning.

39

40 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yeah, tentative.

41

42 MR. WALKER: Mr. Chairman.

43

44 CHAIRMAN SAM: Go ahead, Robert.

45

46 MR. WALKER: Mr. Chairman, just to offer a
47 suggestion to the Board, that if we're going to go into
48 another community, try to find a window where they're
49 having their spring break, that way the school could be
50 utilized also besides the community building.

00512

1 CHAIRMAN SAM: Again, we can go down to
2 Anchorage, it would simplify everything, I mean, Jesus.

3
4 (Laughter)

5
6 MR. WALKER: Well, we could watch the dog
7 race.

8
9 (Laughter)

10
11 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay, move it up to March
12 3rd, 4th and 5th.

13
14 (Laughter)

15
16 MR. COLLINS: Mr. Chairman, I'd like to
17 have you consider coming back to McGrath at some point, I
18 don't know if that would be the appropriate one but we have
19 facilities there. You'd probably watch some of the dogs
20 going through then, it's about Iditarod time, I don't know
21 what time they're taking off next year.

22
23 CHAIRMAN SAM: It's always the first
24 Saturday in March, so I think that we would be in conflict
25 with the Iditarod at that time.

26
27 MR. WALKER: Yeah, lodging would be
28 overflowing.

29
30 CHAIRMAN SAM: Uh-huh, lodging would be
31 overflowing. Anchorage.

32
33 (Laughter)

34
35 MR. MATHEWS: Well, you've got to meet
36 within the region, so it's -- no, that's not correct, we
37 have been to Aniak to recently.

38
39 MR. WALKER: Yeah.

40
41 CHAIRMAN SAM: What time does the North
42 American goes on. Fairbanks.

43
44 MR. MATHEWS: It's usually at the end of
45 TCC.

46
47 MR. WALKER: Well, Warden, what do you say
48 Warden?

49
50 (Laughter)

00513

1 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, I would say we
2 just save the dates and then look at a location down the
3 road because I don't -- for planning purposes we just need
4 to know the dates at this point.

5
6 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay, 7th, 8th and 9th,
7 tentative.

8
9 MR. WALKER: September.

10
11 CHAIRMAN SAM: March.

12
13 (Laughter)

14
15 CHAIRMAN SAM: March. 7th, 8th and 9th
16 winter of 2005.

17
18 MR. WALKER: Mr. Chairman.

19
20 CHAIRMAN SAM: Robert.

21
22 MR. WALKER: Is that the window here.

23
24 (Laughter)

25
26 CHAIRMAN SAM: That's all you needed,
27 right?

28
29 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, Mr. Chairman.

30
31 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay.

32
33 MR. WALKER: Vince, could we do 2005
34 fall.....

35
36 REPORTER: Robert. Robert.

37
38 MR. WALKER:so we could get a jump on
39 these guys.

40
41 (Laughter)

42
43 MR. WALKER: Mr. Chairman.

44
45 CHAIRMAN SAM: Go ahead, Robert.

46
47 MR. WALKER: Could we do 2005 October
48 meeting so we can get a jump on these other guys so we
49 could have a first choice for a change.

50

00514

1 CHAIRMAN SAM: You lost me someplace.

2

3 (Laughter)

4

5 CHAIRMAN SAM: Go ahead.

6

7 MR. WALKER: Mr. Chairman, I would
8 recommend that the Board try looking at October meeting now
9 at this meeting so we will have a schedule, rather than
10 have to work around the other RACs, we can be first choice,
11 that way we can pick the date now so we can be on the
12 calendar in October of 2005.

13

14 CHAIRMAN SAM: Go ahead.

15

16 MR. WALKER: What's a good day for you
17 Benedict next year.

18

19 (Laughter)

20

21 CHAIRMAN SAM: Oh, my God.

22

23 MR. MATHEWS: Well, Mr. Chairman, it might
24 be easier just to say 2005 you want the first week of
25 October, if that.....

26

27 MR. WALKER: Good, get it.

28

29 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay.

30

31 MR. WALKER: Yes.

32

33 MR. MATHEWS: If that works.

34

35 CHAIRMAN SAM: That's good enough.

36

37 MR. MATHEWS: Yeah, we'll just say the
38 first week.....

39

40 CHAIRMAN SAM: It's after 3:00, we've got
41 some people that need to leave.

42

43 MR. MATHEWS: The first week of October.

44

45 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay, Tommy Kriska, you're
46 excused, anybody else wants to go, I want to run out of
47 quorum. Please.

48

49 (Laughter)

50

00515

1 MR. KRISKA: I'll wait for you guys.

2

3 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay. Only thing I got now
4 is just closing comments, right?

5

6 MR. MATHEWS: And I need to tell you what
7 planes you guys are on but that's all.

8

9 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay. How many of us at
10 4:00 o'clock?

11

12 MR. MATHEWS: Okay, the first plane that
13 comes in, we had to rearrange it a little bit here because
14 these people have to catch connecting flights to Anchorage.

15

16 Ray Collins. Carl Morgan. Robert Walker.
17 George Siavelis. Jerry Berg. Tom Kron. Warren Eastland.
18 You are all on the first plane. They have to connect with
19 Alaska Airlines to get to Anchorage.

20

21 The second plane, which is only an hour
22 later would be Mickey, Benedict, Jack, Salena, Ron and
23 myself.

24

25 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay. Member closing
26 comments, I think we heard most of them already.

27

28 MR. WALKER: Yes.

29

30 (Laughter)

31

32 CHAIRMAN SAM: I think we did. Benedict
33 and then George and then we're adjourned.

34

35 MR. JONES: Yeah, I'd just like to announce
36 that the Caribou Management Plan, John Trent is changing
37 jobs, he probably did already change jobs so we don't know
38 who our coordinator will be for the Western Arctic Caribou
39 Herd, but we do plan a meeting May 4th in Girdwood.

40

41 MR. SIAVELIS: I just want to thank Staff
42 and all the Council members for welcoming me and
43 understanding my deficiencies of being a new guy.

44

45 CHAIRMAN SAM: The verdict is not in yet.

46

47 (Laughter)

48

49 CHAIRMAN SAM: I'm joking.

50

00516

1 (Laughter)

2

3

CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you all for being
4 here. I'd like to thank Staff for bearing with us. And
5 Salena, you need help packing up?

6

7

REPORTER: I got it.

8

9

CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay. It is now 3:12, the
10 Western Interior is now adjourned.

11

12

(END OF PROCEEDINGS)

00517

C E R T I F I C A T E

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

I, Joseph P. Kolasinski, Notary Public in and for the state of Alaska and reporter for Computer Matrix Court Reporters, LLC do hereby certify:

THAT the foregoing pages numbered 378 through 516 contain a full, true and correct Transcript of the WESTERN INTERIOR FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING, VOLUME III taken electronically by Salena Hile on the 11th day of March 2004, beginning at the hour of 8:00 o'clock a.m. at Huslia, Alaska;

THAT the transcript is a true and correct transcript requested to be transcribed and thereafter transcribed by under my direction and reduced to print to the best of our knowledge and ability;

THAT I am not an employee, attorney, or party interested in any way in this action.

DATED at Anchorage, Alaska, this 25th day of March 2004.

Joseph P. Kolasinski
Notary Public in and for Alaska
My Commission Expires: 03/12/2008 _