COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

Ronald Sam, Chair
Ray Collins
Benedict Jones
Tom Kriska
Carl Morgan
Jack Reakoff
George Siavelis
Michael Stickman
Robert Walker

Regional Council Coordinator; Vince Mathews

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COMPUTER MATRIX COURT REPORTERS, LLC
3522 West 27th Avenue
Anchorage, Alaska  99517
907-243-0668
jpk@gci.net
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(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.
CHAIRMAN SAM: Tommy Kriska.

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

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

MR. STICKMAN: He came by Sno-Go.

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

MR. KRISKA: Here.

MR. MATHEWS: Sorry about that.

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

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

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

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

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

CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay. Any Staff that has
early flights? And I realize that Polly does. So do you have a report to give too?

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

CHAIRMAN SAM: Mike.

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

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

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

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

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

As I said the other day I'm Polly Wheeler for the record. Polly Wheeler with the Office of Subsistence Management. I work specifically for the Fisheries Information Services. Currently I'm the lead anthropologist, but also the only anthropologist working for Fisheries Information Services. We have four biologists working also at Fisheries Information Services and you know Cliff Schleusner who's the Yukon River
biologist and Rich Cannon who is the Kuskokwim biologist. We also have Doug McBride who works in South Central and Southeast and Steven Fried who works in the northern regions and also Bristol Bay and Kodiak Aleutians.

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

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

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

Quick update on the FY 2005 projects. We don't have has much money this year as we did last year. Thank God because last year I had so many proposals to review it wasn't even funny and now this year I get a little bit of a break. This year we got 17 proposals for the Yukon. Twelve of them are sort of the standard biological projects and five of them are harvest monitoring
TEK. And for the Kuskokwim we got 12 projects. Five are sort of your standard biological projects and seven are the harvest monitoring and TEK projects. We as FIS Staff have prepared our reviews for the Technical Review Committee which meets tomorrow morning beginning at 8:00 a.m. to go over those proposals and those projects, so at the Fall 2004 meeting we will be presenting those project selections to you.

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

(Laughter)

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

There's a couple of other planning processes ongoing. So we're waiting for the JTC Plan to kind of evolve and also for the Kuskokwim Strategic Salmon Plan to evolve. Our plan is to have FIS Staff -- for the Yukon it would be me and Cliff Schleusner -- for the Kuskokwim it would be me and Rich Cannon -- convene a workshop that'll include managers, one to two Regional Advisory Council Members for each region and also scientists to meet and go through this process to actually identify the highest priority issues and information needs to again refine the call. The copy of the letter before is from Tom Boyd to Ron Sam explaining that process. But this is an informational for you if you're curious about how that process is going to occur I can give you pointers. We're using this program called AHP, Analytical Hierarchy Program, and it mathematically identifies priorities. But the real key is that it's getting a bunch of people in a room for three days and at the end of it we're going to come up with these issues and information needs and then we'll have subsequent meeting six months or so later to get at that.
I don't expect that we'll come up with anything that is a lot different than what we have now, but there's a lot of benefit in getting different view points in a room for three days to try to work out some issues and hopefully everybody will compromise a little bit.

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

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

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

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

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

Mr. Chair.

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

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.

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.

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?

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

So that's a long answer to a short question.

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

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

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

MR. COLLINS: Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN SAM: Ray.

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

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

CHAIRMAN SAM: Any further questions for
Polly.

(No comments)

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.

Thank you, Polly.

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.

Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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.

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.

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

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.

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
human and lighting ignitions and suppression causing the
fire regime. And then trying to understand the effects of
fire regime on subsistence resources and the effects of
those subsistence resources on communities. And also the
effect of fire fighting wages for communities and some of
the other social implications of fire fighting wages.

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

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

Thank you.

CHAIRMAN SAM: Any questions for Terry
Chapin.

(No comments)

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

Any further questions. Robert.

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

MR. CHAPIN: I don't know anything about
the plans for prescribed fires. We're mainly trying to
understand what's going on rather than trying to be part of
the planning process.
MR. WALKER: Yes I think that maybe you should look into this see maybe there is a plan that, you know, could be utilized in the area.

Thank you.

MR. CHAPIN: That's a really good idea.

Thanks.

CHAIRMAN SAM: Any further questions,

(No comments)

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

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

(Laughter)

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

MR. SPINDLER: There have been many on Innoko.

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

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

MR. WALKER: Yes, Vince maybe I think that it should be put on the agenda here too, you know, even if you give us a five minute report or something like that what you plan in the near future. I would think that would be excellent.
MR. SPINDLER: We can address that in the Refuge report.

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

CHAIRMAN SAM: Anything further? No. You ready Taylor?

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

One of those -- I'm not quite sure who gets the prize for a cute title -- but this is called the Ring of Fire Management Plan and it's basically the Gulf of
Alaska. It involves some of Southeast and some of Southcentral Alaska. The project manager's phone number is there if any of you would have an interest in pursuing details on it.

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

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

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

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

On a little bit more concrete level there were some questions in the Western Interior Council about specific permitting activities. How many guides were permitted for sheep hunting in the Dalton Highway Corridor. And the last paragraph here -- the last bullet -- refers to the fact that four guides are permitted to take clients for sheep hunts in the Dalton Highway Corridor area. It's not literally in the five mile Corridor, but in that area. The State Director had promised in a previous letter that we would issue those permits only for one year to try and see kind of what the operators were like. What kind of consequences might come from this. And that we would monitor there activities. So Roger Delaney the Recreation Specialist -- I guess is the right word -- in Fairbanks did conduct compliance visits on those four sites this summer and they were found to be in compliance with the terms of their permits. In terms of the facilities and the impacts on the ground no violations were observed and so those four permits are going to be renewed. Some of them have already been renewed and the others will if they're requested. So that's basically the picture on actual permit activity in
Again the follow-up material -- the page called Minutes from the Resource Advisory Council shows you the policy statement about in land use plans upcoming we will examine recreational management objectives and following that is the briefing paper that compares the BLM legal authorities with the Parks Service and Fish and Wildlife Service.

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

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

MR. REAKOFF: Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN SAM: Jack Reakoff.

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

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

And so the focus currently has been on the Dalton Highway Corridor area, but as you can see on our Western Interior map there's lots of yellow on this map and
there's a lot of heavy hunting pressure for moose in some of these other lands in the Western Interior. And so I would applaud the Bureau of Land Management on their looking into this and Mr. Bisson's response and direction in implementing this procedure and I'm very pleased with what's progressed and I would like to see this continue in to the planning process.

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

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

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

So, thank you.

MR. COLLINS: Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN SAM: Ray.

MR. COLLINS: Taylor I think based on the testimony heard here we found out how important it is where there are traditional areas that people are using for camps and things like that and it would be good that you flag that, so that in the planning process and the permitting
process you're not giving permits on some key area that's already being used by other users. Because they would tie it up for the whole seasons whereas people may come and go on some of those sites. So that would be a good thing to look at when you're giving permits.

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

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

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

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

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

MR. MORGAN: Mr. Chairman.
CHAIRMAN SAM: Carl.

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

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

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

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

Okay, does that make sense?

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

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

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

MR. SIAVELIS: Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN SAM: George Siavelis.

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

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

That's just a little gleam of hope.

Thank you.

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

(No comments)

CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you.

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

CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Taylor.

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

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

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

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

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

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

So I don't want to down play this, but I don't want to take up time going proposal by proposal. So I'll let you have a chance to look at it and if you have some questions. And I hope you received this earlier in the mail, but if not I kind of need to apologize at this
point. The taking on of another region with the two major
State Board Meetings some of the things may have slipped
through the cracks. So we're going to be tightening that
up. But I'm pretty sure this was sent out to you before.

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

(No comments)

CHAIRMAN SAM: If not -- we covered B
right?

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

CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay. C.

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

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

Remember these agendas are created three
months in advanced, so it's kind of hard to -- I should
actually explain that to the members. These are created
quite a bit in advance through a team review, through an
office review, through a Chair's review, and then it's sent out to a fairly large mailing list in Western Interior, including all the agencies and then there's kind of a deadline to get back with topics. And so there's an extensive amount of review for these agendas. So for the new members that explains -- you know, you're going to be getting these in the mail. If there's something on them that you don't like then you got to get a hold me or at the meeting and then we adjust.

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

(No comments)

CHAIRMAN SAM: Does anyone have anything to add?

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

CHAIRMAN SAM: Go right ahead.

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

As Vince said I was primarily here because of some of the reactions that came out of the Eastern Interior Board to the recent Board of Fisheries action. However, I at least have a time frame of some of these meetings that are coming up on the Yukon. Vince also mentioned because of those timing of those Board meetings the Federal and State Staff weren't able to get together for their normal meetings.

The Federal and State Staff for the Yukon River protocol are scheduled right now I believe to be meet April 1. So they will be meeting and that again with the protocol going over how things are working with, you know,
both systems and try to work that out. That's April 1.
And then I believe April 6th and 7th there's a Kuskokwim I
believe Staff meeting. And then on the 8th and 9th -- or
that may be reversed -- there's a Staff meeting for the
Yukon River pre-season information at that time. I believe
one day of that is the State gets together and then I think
the next day the Federal Staff becomes involved in it. So
that's all scheduled for that first week of April. I
really don't have anything else to add except at least that
they are coming up so.

CHAIRMAN SAM: Yes I think one of our
biggest concerns early in the season is this pre-season
Outlook and I thank you. I just wanted to know if the
Council had any other questions for you, too.
(No comments)

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

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

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

As you're probably aware there was some
changes to the Yukon Fall Chum Salmon Management Plan which
may have some effect on that at the recent Board meeting.
I believe the previous threshold to start any kind of a
fishery on subsistence as the priority was 350,000 fall
chum. The recent Board action -- I have it here -- for the
Fall Chum Salmon Management Plan it was modified and what
they did was they aligned the lower end of the escapement
goal threshold which is 300,000. The escapement goal the
BE&G, Biological Escapement Goal, is 300,000 to 600,000 and
they lowered that threshold from the -- I think it was --
previously was 350,000 down to 300,000, so in effect that
would allow some -- provide for more subsistence fishing
opportunity perhaps in years when the runs weren't as
strong. But they would still be -- nothing would start
until they were assured of that lower end escapement goal
of the 300,000. So that would provide some additional
opportunity.

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

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

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

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

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

CHAIRMAN SAM: Jack and then Vince again.

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

And now with this Area M decision there was
lots of discussion by Staff about having quarter point
openings for chinook and pushing to -- on the edge of --
before there's a realization of really what's coming in.  
This Area M thing throws a whole new mix in. I would 
caution Federal and State Staff to be extremely cautious on 
commercial openings now that we have this new mix we're 
still not out of the woods on recovery for the Yukon and 
Western Alaskan stocks and I'm very -- this makes me very 
uneasy to see this Board of Fish open that Area M when 
we're still in a recovery. And so I wanted our Council to 
be aware that those are my concerns from attending the 
Board of Fish meeting and reading the pulse of the attitude 
of the ADF&G on their anxiousness to return to an 80,000 
chinook harvest on the Yukon before we actually know what 
in the world's going on here.

CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you. Vince you had 
something.

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

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

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

MR. MATHEWS: Yeah it'll help and then I'm 
going to personally request to attend the Yukon one myself, 
but I'm subject to travel constraints they're not because
their -- it'll be in Anchorage I assume these meetings, so.
But I think it's key now that we're back. These are my own
personal opinions that communication is going to be --
we're going to have to focus very closely on that to make
sure we got good communication similar to what we had in
2000, 2001. It doesn't mean we've been lack since then,
but I think we're in a little bit different ball game right
now.

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

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

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

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

CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay Robert and then Jack.

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

MR. MATHEWS: If that.....

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

MR. MATHEWS: Yeah that's fine. I mean if
you want to do that way. I'm a little bit on a limp, but
yeah we can go to a letter saying that you would like it if
at all possible you're team biologist and anthropologist
attend these pre- and post-season meetings because they
need them to do the analysis. And I know they've been to
some in the past, but there's been times where it's not
been known to them.
CHAIRMAN SAM: Yes I think a letter would be -- would suffice from Western Interior. Jack.

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

Thank you.

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

MR. BERG: Thank you Mr. Chair. Yeah I just wanted to add that, you know, usually our biologists from our office do attend these coordination meetings. Certainly the in-season managers always get together and we always try to have somebody from our Staff. It doesn't always include our Staff anthropologist and our coordinator, so it would be good to I think get on record some support to try to get those folks to the meeting as well. But sometimes those meetings get so large that they try to limit the number of people in the room just because there's so many people that get involved, but we do try to coordinate as much as we can at those meetings with Fish and Game.

Thank you.

CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you Jerry.

MR. COLLINS: Mr. Chairman.

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

Thanks.

CHAIRMAN SAM: Jack.

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

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

CHAIRMAN SAM: Ray.

MR. COLLINS: Mr. Chairman, now is the State made -- are they planning any efforts to monitor that Area M in the light of those changes to see like say what
the composition of the Intercept Fishery is or the amounts?
Because if they took the caps off if they just don't even
look at that we may be missing a lot of data as to what's
go ing to happen. We'll see the results when we see what
comes in to the river, but we won't know what happened out
t here. And I'm wondering of they're making any special
effort to monitor that.

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

CHAIRMAN SAM: Anything else. Mickey.

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

CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Mickey. Tommy.

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

MR. CAMPBELL: Through the Chair. Yes, I
don't have the exact changes. There was a -- my
understanding there was a slight change up on the mainland part around Fin Point. I don't know if you familiar with that area to expand that somewhat. But the main fishing, especially on the cape fishing itself, Umiak or I think normally referred as a False Pass that same area is there. The only extension was farther back east in a smaller area. That's the only one that I'm aware. The other fishing remained the same. Of course the effort like everyone else is much lower than it was, you know, five years ago, especially ten years ago. So what effect that would have with a longer fishing time with a smaller fleet -- you know we don't know, so.

CHAIRMAN SAM: Any more questions.

(No comments)

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

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

Thank you.

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

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

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

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

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

MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman. Yeah I think
I'm going to jump to the one I think you guys really want to talk about then we'll go to the Fisheries Proposals.

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

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

MR. MATHEWS: Okay.

CHAIRMAN SAM: Do you have it?

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

CHAIRMAN SAM: Go right ahead.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

So that's before you. I think Jerry can 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
Board, so it would have to be included for all subsistence Councils. Mickey you have something?

MR. STICKMAN: Oh no.

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

MR. STICKMAN: Action.

CHAIRMAN SAM: Action.

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

CHAIRMAN SAM: Jack.

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

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

Thank you.

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

MR. REAKOFF: At the endorsement of the whole concept of this Bristol Bay and Eastern Interior's what they put on paper I agree with heartedly and an additional -- and we should have a cover letter. Not just
our name at the bottom. We should have a cover letter with our other concerns that are effecting our region.

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

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

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

MR. WALKER: Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN SAM: Yes.

MR. WALKER: Also move on the action.

CHAIRMAN SAM: Is there a second.

MR. REAKOFF: Second.

MR. STICKMAN: Second.

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

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

CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay. Any further discussion.

(No comments)

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

MR. STICKMAN: You know before we vote on this, you know, I would like to make sure that we, you
know, we endorse it fully as it's written on with both
points that are -- one and two. Because it seems like the
other Councils only supported one and not the other, but I
feel that we should support both points on the letter.

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

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

IN UNISON: Aye.

CHAIRMAN SAM: Opposed, same sign.

(No opposing votes)

CHAIRMAN SAM: Motion carried. Five minute
break.

(Off record)

(On record)

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

MR. MATHEWS: Yes, Mr. Chairman. And again
we're just providing this to you as, you know, you don't
have to take any action on them. We try to keep you
informed and let me get my --

The one that I passed around first has been
approved. And this is from Eastern Interior and I'll start
passing it around. This is Eastern Interior for the Yukon
Northern Subsistence Fishing Regulations for Subdistrict 5D
for fall chum. They would like to have within Federal
waters a September 15 through 20th fall chum subsistence
opening for Federally-qualified subsistence users. And
that's being passed around. You don't need to take action
on it or anything. It's just informational unless you want
to talk about it.
The second one I'm handing around has not been approved. I didn't get a chance to meet with the mover of the motion, but it's pretty self-explanatory. I just need to get concurrence on the wording. This is from Eastern Interior. They're requesting for the whole Yukon Northern Area that gillnets with greater than six inch mesh may not be more than 35 meshes in depth. And this would apply to both subsistence and commercial gillnets. So I'll pass that around. Again that's not a final on the wording because I haven't had a chance -- the mover of that motion was Virgil and I haven't had a chance to meet with him.

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

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

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

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

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

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

MR. REAKOFF: Chairman that proposal will not go.

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

MR. STICKMAN: Well I guess this will be an action item too?
MR. REAKOFF: Well we have your a.....

CHAIRMAN SAM: Mike. Mike.

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

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

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

REPORTER: Jack.

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

CHAIRMAN SAM: Go ahead.

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

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

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

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

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

And the reason I'm putting that language in there because there was concern at the Federal Board that there was too much fishing time and that fishers -- I was told by one of the Federal Board members that if there was
less fishing time, they would've been more likely to vote for this proposal. Right now in the Yukon it's two 48 hour periods and there was concern that, that was too much fishing time. These two 36 hour periods are exactly what the lower Yukon has and so this would give us equity.

Why should this regulation be changed?

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

What impacts would this change have on fish population?

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

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

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

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

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

How will this change affect other uses, i.e. sport and commercial?

The meeting of subsistence needs of District 4B and C and 5 would or could cause a reduction in commercial harvest and to a much less degree the sport.

And then there's some supplementary information. It helps to have supplementary information points.

And so subsistence harvest levels are monitored over time through the annual subsistence harvest monitoring program. Many village residences along the river participate in these surveys with information from these annual surveys and regulatory Boards. Fishery managers could respond to resource conservation issues if these were to surface.

And the concern was oh my gosh these subsistence users are going to catch a whole bunch of our fish. No they're just going to obtain their subsistence needs and there's already harvest monitoring, so that has to be realized. The intent of the drift gillnet fishing in the upper Yukon to a level that does not exceed that provided in Y13 and that's through these seasons that are exactly the same as Y1 through 3. That was a concern that they had down river that we were going -- that our fishers
were going to fish for longer periods of time.

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

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

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

CHAIRMAN SAM: That was a formal motion; right?

MR. REAKOFF: Right.

CHAIRMAN SAM: Is there a second.

MR. STICKMAN: I second.


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

MR. REAKOFF: Nope this doesn't change the
fishing schedule at all in any portion of the river. It just allows the drift gillnet in 4B and C and 5 on the main stem of the Yukon River to fish the last 36 hours of the window. So if there's a 48 hour window that drift gillnet subsistence gear would fish the last 36 hours of that window. As you move up river that changes and still they fish two 36 hours a week up river. Whatever their window length is.

MR. WALKER: Thank you, Jack.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

MR. STICKMAN: Yeah. As long as you don't just say chinook or fall chum. As long as you just have salmon in there it's pretty well all covered.
CHAIRMAN SAM: Yeah. I wanted to ask Benedict is this fine with you too because I know you guys submitted that proposal. Is this fine with you?

MR. JONES: (Nods affirmatively)

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

MR. WALKER: Question.

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

IN UNISON: Aye.

CHAIRMAN SAM: Those opposed, same sign.

(No opposing votes)

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

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

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

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

So just for your information. Thank you, Mr. Chair.
CHAIRMAN SAM: Are you suggesting that we submit it under a heading Western Interior or what?

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

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

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

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

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

CHAIRMAN SAM: Is there a second.

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

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

MR. MORGAN: Mr. Chairman.
CHAIRMAN SAM: Carl.

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

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

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

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

Thank you.

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

IN UNISON: Aye.

CHAIRMAN SAM: Opposed, same sign.

(No opposing votes)

CHAIRMAN SAM: Motion carried.

MR. COLLINS: Mr. Chairman.

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

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

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

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

MR. REAKOFF: Okay.

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

MR. BERG: (Shakes head negative)

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

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

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

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

MR. BERG: Yes, Mr. Chair. It might be helpful. I don't know if you want to mention a mesh size?
A certain mesh size that people typically use.

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

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

MR. REAKOFF: So moved.

MR. STICKMAN: Second.

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

IN UNISON: Aye.

CHAIRMAN SAM: Those opposed, same sign.

(No opposing votes)

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

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

I was representing the Western Interior Regional Advisory Council with the State Board of Fish and I wrote to Tom Boyd and thanked him for providing funding because it is very important to have a RAC member there to stand in the gap for some of these proposals. There was huge representation by the YK Area. There was probably thirty people from the YK Delta down there at that Board of Fish meeting and there was vastly under represented up river people and especially on the upper Yukon. Very few people from the upper Yukon to represent their villages. But I wanted to write to Tom Boyd and thank the OSM for providing funding for representation at the Board of Fish
And while I was at the Board of Fish meeting I seen that there was lots of discussion about mesh size and selectivity for salmon and there's lots of antidotal information, but the Department doesn't actually have any real hard information about what size mesh is best for capturing chinook salmon. And it was presented at that Board of Fish meeting by the down river interest that they use eight and three-quarter inch gear. Well, they're catching really huge chinooks and straining the waters and leaving all the small ones to go up river for people in our region.

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

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

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

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

CHAIRMAN SAM: Is there a second.

MR. STICKMAN: I second.

CHAIRMAN SAM: Any further discussion.

Robert.

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

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

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

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

If there's a run of small 20 to 30 pounds well I need to a seven and a half, seven, seven-eighths mesh net. We got big run of big Kings coming here 30, 40, 50, 60 pounders that's where you get up to your eight and eight and a quarter inch mesh. So it varies here and a lot
of it could be determined right at the mouth of the Yukon. It could be sent -- written and directed to Russ Holder. You know that we would like to have your input and your determination on what the size would be -- could be. It could be set for the year, you know. It all depends on what the run strength is and the size.

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

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

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

CHAIRMAN SAM: Benedict.

MR. JONES: I would suggest that if you want a standard size mesh net seven inch is what I've been using all the time and it's 29 inch mesh deep. And you catch 20, 30 pounder average. Where you get 50 pounders it will just glance off the net because the bigger fish they go down deeper and they most of time they'll hit the bottom of your nets just where the deadline is and they won't get caught and you could see them hit the net all right, but when you pull the net up they're not there.
So the standard size that I use is seven inch and 29 mesh deep because if you use 35 and 40 mesh deep you get hanged up on snags. A lot of people -- and a lot of times the people that use eight inch mesh they be fishing all night and they won't get nothing because the smaller fish go right through. You get a hit all right, but they swim right through it.

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

MR. REAKOFF: Okay.

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

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

CHAIRMAN SAM: Jerry.

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

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

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

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

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

Thank you, Mr. Chair.

MR. MORGAN: Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN SAM: Carl.

MR. MORGAN: Yeah. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In the late 70's and early 80's in the Kuskokwim River they use to have the commercial opens were pretty heavy and they didn't have a mesh size restriction. So when the people in the upper Kuskokwim was starting to notice they weren't getting no Kings. So they went down we
had a meeting in Bethel and we determined that the target fish was chums. The incidental catch was kings and at that time they were fishing in the commercial openings they were fishing between seven to probably the most likely gear was eight to eight and a half mesh and they were knocking out the kings and that was not the target fish.

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

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

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

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

So this is a resource issue and so it -- the objective is to look at what that's doing to the gene stocks on the Yukon.
CHAIRMAN SAM: And that is all the study request or.

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

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

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

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

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

Mickey you had something.

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

You know because like Jack said in their test fisheries they use one type of gear and, you know, so it doesn't give the full reflection of the fish. You know so if they, you know, in their test fisheries when they're doing there -- if they switch gear it would give them a more clearer picture of actually what's swimming by. So, you know, I don't see any problems with this because, you know, like Ben said we use seven inch mesh and 29 meshes deep and, you know, so the fish that we catch, you know,
are just basically the medium to the smaller ones. We
don't target the big ones.

MR. SIAVELIS: Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN SAM: George Siavelis.

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

Thank you.

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

IN UNISON: Aye.

CHAIRMAN SAM: Opposed, same sign.

(No opposing vote)

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

MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN SAM: Where are we Vince?

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

CHAIRMAN SAM: And your report on under Tab
C.

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

Again for the new members we didn't go
through this I don't think in training. Topics are
submitted in the fall meeting. Language is drafted up
between the fall meeting and this meeting and this is kind
of your final time to look at it for approval. It doesn't
prevent you from adding topics so. But if you do add
topics then you're going to have to give me -- empower me
to draft it with the Chairs and maybe a key person to
review the final language. Then this is submitted in
April, reviewed by the Board sometime during summer -- I
don't remember the date -- and then you get a response at
your fall meeting. Again this has been very productive
over the years. I did bring it, but I've been analyzing
that and last night I was approached by the Refuge manager
how topics that are in the Annual Report allows them to go
forward with funding on topics because they can say this is
showing that the users would like this done.

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

MR. COLLINS: Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN SAM: Go ahead Ray.

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

CHAIRMAN SAM: Mickey.

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

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

MR. REAKOFF: Second.

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

MR. REAKOFF: Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN SAM: Go ahead.

MR. REAKOFF: I would like to add a section
on the concern about the Senate Bill 298 and the ORV restrictions elimination and those huge, huge impacts to subsistence that, that ORV Bill reducing ORV use restrictions would have on surrounding subsistence resources and subsistence users.

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

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

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

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


(No comments)

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

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

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

There is some question on some that have been deferred, but we haven't had time to decide what deferral meant. So, you were just saying -- the Council was saying that you wanted when Customary Trade proposals
came up that you wanted additional time to develop regional proposals.

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

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

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

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

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

CHAIRMAN SAM: Jeff.

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

MR. WALKER: Thank you, Jeff.

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

CHAIRMAN SAM: You get that Vince?

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

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

(Laughter)

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

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

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

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

Tim Craig brought up and again this would be the Chair would be reviewing the final one. This paragraph under the Hunting Guide Selection for BLM would have to be deleted because you already got the report from Taylor or a modified I should say that you got that report today. So we're going to modify that language there under hunting guides and I think you just would reflect that you were very pleased with the report and the actions and the forward motions of BLM and that would be reflected under this process. Just so you know that's what we were talking about over here.
CHAIRMAN SAM: I think we should reflect that we were all very pleased with the effort put in to trying to at least identify and admit to us that they now realize that it is a problem. And that I think that just may be ongoing that's what I want to do. Jack.

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

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

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

CHAIRMAN SAM: Go ahead Vince.

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

CHAIRMAN SAM: Go ahead.

MR. REAKOFF: Mr. Chairman, I felt that, you know, it's not that big of a deal that I think we have to put it in the Annual Report. But I feel the OSM and the Board should be aware if the Councils haven't met then they should really look to what the current status of those proposals are at the Advisory Committee level at least. And that would have alleviated a lot of this positioning on this December 1 to December 10th moose hunt. The Advisory Committees had already been weighing in on that and so I feel that the OSM should look a little more to the Advisory Committees if we're not -- haven't had a meeting and hadn't
reviewed that proposal yet. To get a little better pulse off of what's happen out in the affected area. And I would like to know how this Council feels about that.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

CHAIRMAN SAM: So we do submit it in the Annual Report. I think that was a good catch there because
even though some of these proposals that we go through under the Federal system it's good sometimes when it comes out of an office it's quite a bit off of what we intended too and I think that -- thanks for getting that on the Annual Report. Ray.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

CHAIRMAN SAM: There has been a few times where in fax after fax under additions to the Annual Report or some clarifications, so Vince and I have been working on that and at this time I cannot think of anything new to add to the Annual Report. Jack.
MR. REAKOFF: I've written down some of the points about this off road vehicle stuff and I would for suggested language for Vince and I can read that or I could just give it to him about some of my concerns about how these impacts will be on subsistence users. So it's your discretion as to what -- but I would like to pass this over to Vince for his use for writing that in to the Annual Report.

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

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

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

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

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

MR. REAKOFF: No this is right now on the Dalton Highway there's a five mile restriction on each side of the road where you cannot use an off road vehicle. That's stopped hunting pressure from going out all over the Unit 25, 26, and 24. This has to -- this a huge effect on the northern part of Region 6.
Mr. Chairman, if I could I would like that this guide area aspect of our Annual Report and this ORV concerns be transmitted to the BLM's Resource Advisory Council. They are the primary land manager of that Dalton Highway Corridor and that Resource Advisory Council should be aware of these concerns also.

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

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

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

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

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

CHAIRMAN SAM: Oh what was that motion then?

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

CHAIRMAN SAM: With additions and with the understanding that we may delete or add right? Okay. I wanted that for the record. All those in favor of the motion signify by saying aye.

IN UNISON: Aye.

CHAIRMAN SAM: Those opposed, same sign.

(No opposing votes)

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

CHAIRMAN SAM: Go ahead Tom.

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

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

MR. MATHEWS: Right.

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

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

MR. KRON: .....from the YK Council.

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

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

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
(Pause)

CHAIRMAN SAM: Any time you're ready.

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

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN SAM: Go ahead Jack.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRMAN SAM: What are we looking for on this?

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

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Thank you.

MR. SIAVELIS: Second.

CHAIRMAN SAM: Is there a second.

CHAIRMAN SAM: Any further discussion.

(No comments)

CHAIRMAN SAM: Question's been called for. All those in favor of the motion signify by saying aye.

IN UNISON: Aye.

CHAIRMAN SAM: Opposed, same sign.

(No opposing votes)

CHAIRMAN SAM: Motion carried.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

(No comments)

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

MR. KRON: Mr. Chairman, if there are no other questions on that the other information in your packet under again Tab D, Item D, there's a briefing on the Inter-Agency Staff Committee and again that's
The final item that I was asked to actually talk with you about is the Safari Club litigation. And again there's a briefing in the packet on that. I brought along copies of the actual court documents which I'll make available here. I don't have enough for everyone, but those that are interested.

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

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

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

Your Council being one of ten.

The Safari Club contended that the membership of the Councils has not always been fairly balanced, as required by the Federal Advisory Committee Act or FACA. Judge Holland agreed with the Safari Club plaintiffs that sport and commercial interests are affected and must be considered when decisions are made regarding fish and wildlife management on Federal lands. He issued an injunction halting implementation of the 70/30 policy and directed the Board to begin rule-making proceedings to adopt the Council membership regulation that is consistent
In an executive session on January 27 the Board decided not to initiate an appeal of Judge Holland's decision and to promptly begin rule making process to comply with Judge Holland's order. The rule making process will allow the public to comment on any proposed changes to Council composition.

so I guess again a couple of summary points.

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

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

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN SAM: Questions for Tom.

(No comments)

CHAIRMAN SAM: Did you have anything more Tom.

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

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

MR. KRON: Mr. Chairman, as you know there
was an earlier discussion of this issue with the court
decision. It's being opened up through the formal rule
making process again, so again if you chose to make
comments you can do so at this meeting. There will be
additional opportunities for comments later on this year as
well.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

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

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

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

MR. SIAVELIS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

I'd like to say that I endorse the 70/30 idea. In the
spirit of, you know, communication, consultation,
cooperation, and conservation.

Thank you.

CHAIRMAN SAM: Any further comments.

Vince.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Whereas this ruling will affect all Regional Advisory Councils, and

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

Whereas, we do not challenge the 70/30 composition representation of the users on the Council. However we disagree that each Council applicant must choose only one user group to represent.
Whereas, the current requirement for the applicant to select either commercial/sport or subsistence does not recognize the diversified experience of the subsistence users in Alaska.

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

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

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

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

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

Thank you, Mr. Chair.

MR. WALKER: Mr. Chair.

CHAIRMAN SAM: Robert.

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

CHAIRMAN SAM: Jack.

MR. REAKOFF: I think this is a real good idea. This would accommodate -- we have some commercial fisheries on this Board that a percentage of their use would be considered commercial. Right now we have we're
approaching our 30 and maybe if we had a combination of percentages the declaration under the Advisory Committee system you check off your user groups. And so the Board has mult -- the Board process for the state is multiple check offs are you commercial this and that and subsistence and so forth. This Federal make up doesn't -- it's just either or and I feel that there should be a little wider base and so we should adopt this language. I like this language and we should adopt this language.

Thank you.

MR. SIAVELIS: Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN SAM: George.

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

Thank you.

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

Tom.

MR. KRON: Mr. Chairman. I guess just a few additional things for clarification. Again the Federal Subsistence Board has discussed the issue. We're operating under a Judge's order. You know the order doesn't look back, it looks forward. But essentially it would stop any future appointments until we get this resolved. It doesn't affect prior appointments.
The proposed rule will be published this spring followed by a public comment period. The final rule will be published in the fall. This rule making process will be complete prior to the Secretary's appointments for 2005.

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

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

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

MR. WALKER: I'm making a motion?

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

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

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

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

MR. REAKOFF: Right. That would be fine.

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

MR. KRON: Yeah. Again just for clarification we discussed this at OSM last week and because again that this would block future appointments to the Councils until it's resolved I think people feel that it needs to go, you know, fairly quickly. It needs to be resolved this year. Also, again we're operating under a
judge's order to get it resolved. So, for that reason they're going to move ahead with this initial ruling for review and then look at finalizing it next fall. Getting it settled, so it doesn't block future appointments to the Councils because it definitely will do that if we don't resolve it. So, I just wanted to give that to you for your consideration.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN SAM: Did you have anything else?

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

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

MR. WALKER: Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN SAM: Robert.

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

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


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

IN UNISON: Aye.

CHAIRMAN SAM: Oppose, same sign.

(No opposing votes)

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

MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, unless I missed something here that brings up to Agency Reports and you had added on there the or noted I should say under Native Corporations and that the Nulato Petition and then Huslia Tribal Council concerns. And I know Bill Derendoff has
been in and out of the meeting, so that would be the next
on the agenda would be those reports. And obviously you
already got BLM report and I don't see anybody here from
the Park Service, so.

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

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

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

MR. WALKER: Lunch.

(Laughter)

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

Let's reconvene in half an hour.

(Off record)

(On record)

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

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

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

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

MR. STICKMAN: Well mine should go fast.

CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay. We'll start with the
Kaiyu Flats Reservation.

MR. STICKMAN: Oh, Mr. Chair, I gave you a
copy of the petition and I just wanted to go on record so
that, you know, that this is a concern for Nulato right
now. You know I'll probably once I go back home, you know,
we share the Kaiyuh Flats with the residence from Kalskag.
I gave them a copy of this petition, so they'll probably be
coming up with a petition of their own. But I just want to
go on record so that the people of Nulato know that I
brought this forward for them and you guys just got a copy
of the front page, but the original copy I have right now.
I have 70 signatures on the petition. So you know it's a
village wide concern when you have 70 residences signing
the petition. And at this time I just wanted to bring it
forward so the Council will know it. So the residence of
Nulato know I put it on record for him and that's all I
have.

Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

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

Thank you.

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

(No comments)

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

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

MR. BIFELT: Well I'm not the -- I'm not
the Chief, but I'm on the Council and so I guess since I'm
the only Council member here I must be the Council, I
guess. Well I guess kind of in closing we thank you guys
for coming here and actually just by chance were able to
find out some things that were happening to our moose hunts
and we were able to get something done. We really appreciate that.
I think I noticed on your agenda it said something about corporations and other organizations maybe having something to say right now at this time on your agenda.

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

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

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

And I think the more that we try to get that word out I think we can all come together and start working together. You know, the Feds, the State, our corporations, Tribal Governments, that's what it's going to take because there's not enough money in anyone pot to take this problem on at the magnitude that it is and plus we have people like Pricilla Farrell and all them others that's working against us.
I think wolf predation is -- wolf and bear predation is one big thing we have to work on now.

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

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

I would before our close here I would like to say that I hope that people don't leave this community thinking that my people are at odds with anyone of you. I mean I know we heard some strong comments several nights ago, but that's -- that's -- although our people are hurt and everything, that's really not that's not everything there. I mean that's just one side of them. If they know that we all have to work together and they know that the State and Federal Government is helping us out. But yet sometimes they're just so frustrated and I think lot of that is miscommunication and that's something that we have to focus on. Both sides of the table. My people and the Federal Government. My people and the State Government or whoever. We have to start working together and that will go a long way to solving a lot of this problems we have.

I know Mike really goes out of his way to help us but I know that, but a lot of my people don't know that. And that's why they get up right here and they think he's the problem when he really isn't. But it's just a matter of
communication that's all it is. But with that said I appreciate you guys coming out there and hopefully we can start a long way towards working together.

Thank you.

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

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

MR. SIAVELIS: Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN SAM: George Siavelis.

MR. SIAVELIS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Fred thank you very much. I just want to say I can't express enough how much I appreciate your innovative way of thinking and what I see you bringing to this process and I just can't thank you enough and I just want you to know how much appreciate and those who I represent appreciate innovation and striving for the future of working together and just improving communication and etc. I don't have any questions for you at this moment, but I got a feeling I will in the future.

Thank you.

CHAIRMAN SAM: Any further.

MR. WALKER: Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN SAM: Robert.

MR. WALKER: Yes, thank you. Mr. Bifelt for your testimony and your people's testimony here. It was something that I haven't experience in a long time and
I know the frustrations too because I live in the village here where a lot of these things do happen to us too because lot of it is that we've misunderstand or misinterpret the law and the cards here and you're hospitality is impeccable. I forgot how it is to be in Huslia. I haven't been here since 1975, but hey, you know, things never change here we just get older that's all.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Thank you.

MR. COLLINS: Mr. Chairman, thank you.

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

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

Thank you.

MR. BIFELT: For one thing as far the selling antlers that's a pretty viable industry here in Huslia. Our people go out and we pick up these antlers, but we don't give it away, but we sell it to someone, but our Tribal Council is currently investigating the possibility of advertising on eBay. What we're going to do is I think is we're going to consult with somebody out of Anchorage he's going to come out there and he's going to...
run a workshop over he's going to show our people to
advertise artifacts on eBay and start selling it. So and
maybe we could work with maybe antlers, so that's what
we're going to be doing.

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

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

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

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

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

I told Glenn Stout people -- those guys in
my Village and myself we got out and catch wolves. It's
graphic. You can look at our valley we got moose there.
We're consistently harvesting the threshold. You go on the
John River no one's over there catching any wolves there's
way less moose. Bigger river, more willows, less moose.
And so there's avenues that Doyon could assist on getting
that project started on eBay. But there's markets for the
wolves. There's lots of people want them. I sell them to
tourist. I don't need -- I have to do a lot of talking to
sell them, but I sell them tourist. I get $300 to $850.00
for wolves. Big ones -- those good ones -- 850 bucks.
Those eight footers, they loves those. Those tourists want them bad. And so I encourage that grassroots harvest.

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

Thank you.

CHAIRMAN SAM: Mickey.

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

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

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

CHAIRMAN SAM: Any more comments? Just one more and then we'll go on to Bill Derendorff and other
residences from Huslia. Ben.

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

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

Thank you.

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

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

I've been involved with Fish and Game issues since almost 30 years with the State and then I was also I had the opportunity to serve with subsistence the Regional Council and getting involved on these other communities like with the State and the subsistence or the Federal -- U.S. Fish and Wildlife for some reason I thought the most important part for me to play was at the local
level. I seem like I could give a better input at the
local level because I talked directly with the people and
so working with the local level it's a lot more important
for me.

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

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

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

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

And I don't know if the Council ever dealt
with some of these kind of a touchy cases and I'm just
wondering after this testimony where will all this
testimony go? And I'm really open for questions because I
really believe as a subsistence user creating some kind of better comm -- really -- well we have good communication already, but trying to make it more local level and in return I believe the people of the village will be more involved. I would like to have questions and feedback, especially on how we can get something going.

Thank you.

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

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

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

MR. STICKMAN: I have one.

CHAIRMAN SAM: Go ahead.

MR. STICKMAN: You know Bill, you know, when Robert said, you know, that, you know, the Tribal Government could, you know, just, you know, the State when they give the moose to the Tribal Government for the Elders' Program, you know, the Tribal Government itself could have did anything that he wanted with that meat without even being worried about their Tribal Government funding. Because the Tribal Government funding that the Tribal Governments' get are those are grants and, you know, but, you know, it's not a hand out or anything it's money
that the United States Government owes to the Tribe through the constitution, so I don't think it would have any affect on the Tribal Government funding.

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

Thank you. You next. Go ahead.

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

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

And I thank you again.

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

(No comments)

CHAIRMAN SAM: If not, thanks for your testimony too. It will be recorded. I do not see Tanana Chiefs, AVCP, or any other Tribal Councils here, so that
would take care of our Native Corporations, Village Council, Tribal Councils, and everything. ADF&G I believe you had a report or did they already report it?

MR. MATHEWS: I think they all reported earlier.

CHAIRMAN SAM: Good thing that plane came early.

(Laughter)

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

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

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

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

The next thing is that again ADF&G conducted a herd comp count in the Hogatza Hills and the Ray Mountains and for those of you who aren't really familiar with that portion of Interior Alaska I thought I'd kind of real quickly show you that the Ray Mountains are in
this selected. Dark blue is State land and light blue is the State Selected Land. The yellow patches will remain in BLM irregardless apparently, but the blue is in contention. We don't know whether it will go to the State or not.

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

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

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

Anyway, again we're just trying to keep our finger on the pulse of what's happening in some of these populations. One of the things that we're really interested in as Jack Reakoff mentioned earlier the Western Arctic caribou herd for the first time in quite a few years
has come over in to this same area that these two small
herds are occupying so that I think Kanuti recently counted
1,700 caribou on a recent flight here in the Kanuti Flats
and they're actually kind a eastern boarder of that herd's
wintering area this year overlap the corridor. So we may
be out of the caribou busy entirely if they pick up all
those radios and go back north with them when they leave.
We don't know.

And then the last thing the Alaska
Department of Fish and Game BLM Gates to the Arctic and the
Arctic National Wildlife Refuge have entered into
discussions just in the last two months about how to
monitor sheep populations in the vicinity of our shared
boundaries. As you know there's been an increase in a
number of guides in that area and we're all pretty
concerned. There has also been an apparent decline in the
sheep population. We're not sure if that's a real figure
or not because we don't have that much data. But anyway as
part of this money that you helped us acquire for wildlife
work we are developing what may turn out to be kind of a
grandiose plan on how to monitor them and this a map.
Let's see I just get your oriented. Here's Coldfoot and
this is basically Eastern Brooks Range. The white area
here that's not colored is the Chandalar River and we have
outlined a number of different survey units and we're going
to try to have each agency be responsible to survey on some
schedule those units. And the BLM we hope that if we can
continue to maintain funding would probably pick up funding
for these ones that are next to the corridor. For
instances, the Gates might pick up the ones along here that
are adjoined Gates National Park and then Arctic is talking
about picking up these up here and then the State some of
the other ones that are further out in State land.

But anyway I just wanted to let you know
that funding is contracting both at the State level and the
Federal level and we don't know how long we'll be able to
pull this off, but at least for this year we're pretty sure
we can come up with money -- the BLM can anyway to continue
our surveys. And we hope to get everybody involved and to
concentrate our efforts there.

Then the last thing just to mention that we
are going to continue to do some aerial sheep surveys in
the five areas of critical environmental concern. Again
those were five areas that were identified in the Resource
Management Plan which is the overall governing plan for the
Utility Corridor and again that's this yellow strip here
north of the Yukon River. Everything yellow here. There
are five areas that were set aside for sheep habitat protection and we're going to continue to do some work there in the next year.

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

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

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

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

Thank you.

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

MR. CRAIG: No.

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

However, we do have C&T uses for them it's just that we don't harvest them and I think that one year
we did harvest a few animals from that area which you described as a Hogatza herd area. And I'll tell you we had ADF&G up there in two hours from Galena area to investigate whether they were the Kanuti herd because they on that Northwest Arctic herd we are entitled to five caribou a day and if there's some restrictions I mean why do they sit up there inside two hours to investigate us. I mean we're just subsistence people and I just want to know why more pressure is being put on subsistence users that are already Federally-qualified subsistence users than anybody else that harvests the other herds for some guiding outfit that I heard of.

You had something Jack?

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

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

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

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

Robert.

MR. WALKER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Craig here on the bottom of here it says that you also
placed radio transmitter for animals in the Hogatza Hills under agreement. How far did they migrate from where did you tag them. Did they migrate a long ways or do you have a map showing that where they actually wintered and summered?

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

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

CHAIRMAN SAM: Any further questions.

(No comments)

CHAIRMAN SAM: Did you have anything more on that.

(No comments)

CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay. Thanks for that clarification.

MR. CRAIG: Thank you.

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

MR. DENTON: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Council members. My name is Jeff Denton I'm with the BLM Anchorage Field Office. It's real interesting what Tim presented.
I guess I have the advantage of working in the 70 Federal Subsistence areas and I've watched the rise and fall of the Kilbuk caribou and rise and fall of Mulchatna caribou and to call a herd a distinct herd we'll need to discuss a lot, but there'll be a distinct herd for awhile then there won't be. Caribou dynamics over time you've got to manage them contemporarily with what you're dealing with because the Kilbuk caribou were an independent herd for a long time and we had many radioed animals in there. They stayed to home. They calved in the same area every year. The Mulchatna caribou expanded and took over that entire range. Those same radioed animals were moving 400 miles over to Iliamna that were Kilbuk animals and calving areas change. They've modified their calving areas in the last 12 years several times so. Caribou they will always prove you wrong at some point in time so. And it's great fun to work caribou, but you've got to work with caribou with what you have because tomorrow it may be different. You've got to be very flexible in caribou management and I think we're learning that more with putting a lot of radios and actually find out what's going on with these. I think this is real exciting stuff that's going on up here, so. Enough of that.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Okay. I'm encouraged. I worked very closely with the Central Kuskokwim Management planning group. I'm looking forward also to working with the 21(E) effort that hopefully will get started here in the next year or so and these plans are really important beginnings. The biggest thing we've learned I think out of the Koyukuk
Plan which is really important is once you got the plan written, that's your beginning point. As painful as some of these planning processes are all that does is establish the beginning point and the real work and the real money and the commitment of time and effort to monitor recovery of these moose populations it comes after the plan. So, realize they're long term commitments, not short term. And I really appreciate the folks we've worked with on that because it's a tremendous test of perseverance.

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

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

So, I mentioned land use plans. We're currently working on two and we're learning a lot from how to do those. The ring of fire that was mentioned by Taylor. We're doing Bristol Bay. It starts this year.
Which is a major one. As soon as we get into it we will start Kuskokwim-Yukon which will include everything from Unalakleet, McGrath, George River country, Aniak country, all the Yukon, Innoko bottom country. Our planning areas are grossly large and they're a tough thing to get your hands around from my standpoint anyway. So those are coming down the pike. So, you know, they're too far down the road in your area to really be thinking intensively on, but we want to involve you folks up front in that because you have a great deal at stake and your input is critical. So, enough said there.

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

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

Last item on here is just an update a little bit on the predator control things relative to BLM lands as we've covered before. BLM considers predator control and wolf population management a State issue. The State currently in all these areas that they have been approving for predator control, there's considerable BLM lands. Whether it's selected land or unencumbered BLM lands that are involved in those areas. We view it as a State issue. The State has met all the exceptions for us for the Airborne Hunting Act and those areas essentially are being, you know, predator control is being conducted on
those lands. So, under the auspices of the Fish and Game's management responsibilities. So, that may help. For BLM lands people can rest a little easier because those activities do occur and can occur on BLM lands and are probably today they're going on.

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

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

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

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

Let's see, what was your second question?

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

MR. DENTON: Okay the Donlan Creek operation depending on how big it gets and what stages of development, of course, Aniak will be one of the biggest communities that will be impacted, but you also you have
Sleetmute, Stony River, Crooked Creek, potentially depending on access routes and some things like that, if these come to pass, Holy Cross may be heavily involved because they're looking at major haul roads potentially to the Yukon River.

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

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

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

Thank you.

MR. SIAVELIS: Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN SAM: George.

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

MR. DENTON: I would suspect at this time as preliminary as things are anything is possible right now. I mean there thinking big and they're looking at every plausible option and they have a window and this administration and the State is highly encouraging it. The
State has actually paid for the preliminary work on roadwork. You know, basically the State is paying for industry to help develop this ore body. So, in fact, everybody voted for that about a year ago on one of the bond bills. So, everybody in the State said go for it. So, I think at this time anything is possible.

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

CHAIRMAN SAM: Robert do you have something?

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

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

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

The Mulchatna herd expanded in to that area big time and basically overwhelmed that small herd and a lot of those animals just joined up and moved with Kilbuk
animals. Some stayed. But a lot of Mulchatna animals
stayed as well and they've basically caribou have
reoccupied, you know, all the way out on the Delta and Good
News Bay country. We've got caribou all over that country.
They're calving out there now. They weren't there, you
know, ten years ago at all.

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

MR. WALKER: (Nods affirmatively)

MR. DENTON: Okay.

CHAIRMAN SAM: Any further questions.

Benedict.

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

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

CHAIRMAN SAM: Any more questions for Jeff.

(No comments)

CHAIRMAN SAM: If not, thank you Jeff.

MR. DENTON: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRMAN SAM: Does this take care of BLM?

Anybody else walk in? Anymore BLM reports? I know this is
fast and we tend to blame BLM for a lot of things in our
time too.

MR. STICKMAN: We tend too?

CHAIRMAN SAM: Yes. Because they cover a
bigger area. Fish and Wildlife Services Refuges that's
next. Mike Spindler now what now?
MR. SPINDLER: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I'll keep this brief and directed to questions that came up during the last couple days of meetings.

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

Refuges Law Enforcement Program is a very minor part of our program, but a necessary one. We cooperate with the State Troopers when they ask us for help and likewise. If we ask for their help, they help us.

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

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

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

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

We worked through the Tribal Council here in Huslia to bring that case forward through Tribal Court instead of Federal Court. And the sentence that was weeded out by the Tribal Council was an educational program involving the violator that he would then go to the schools
and talk about his violation and that these pike that were wasted could be 30 year old pike and that's it's important not to waste them. Our RIT Orville Huntington has been involved in that along with the violator.

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

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

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

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

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

So, the challenge before us is we just went through some major changes in moose hunting regulations this year and so my take home message from this meeting is that, you know, we have a lot of work to do in terms of out reach to get the information out about all these changes. And I'll pledge to you that we will use all the resources that we have available to us to make sure that word gets out. I won't guarantee that those efforts will be infallible. As pointed out by the testimony the other night. We went through great effort to make sure that the
people knew the requirements of the permit, but yet there
were people who still wanted to violate the conditions of
that permit.

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

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

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

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

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

We did a wolf survey. The highlights of
that are on the map on the wall. We plan next year another
wolf census and we plan a moose census on the Koyukuk. And
one of the reasons we plan a moose census on the Koyukuk is
because of the issue of all these changes and regulations. We want to keep our finger pretty close to the pulse of the moose population here.

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

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

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

Anabossi.

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

CHAIRMAN SAM: Tommy Kriska.

MR. KRISKA: Yeah. I just to need to know something. It's kind of, you know, I see this illegal guiding that I know I'm pretty sure that you guys know who I'm going to be talking about. I mean I wouldn't say no names, but this guy's been coming out of Galena for -- he
was a guide before, anyway, but he's still a legal guide
and I'm pretty sure you guys know that and tips, like you
said, tips and stuff will be accepted like this. Then tips
and all of this stuff been going in to you guys for I don't
know how long it's been going on. Five or six years like
that. And it's happening around here with the airplanes
and everything like that and nothing is done with that.
But soon as one Native -- you guys get a tip on a Native
shooting moose or a duck or something like that you're out
there and prosecute the guy almost the same day. I don't
understand what's going on there.

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

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

Any further questions for Mike Spindler.

MR. WALKER: Mr. Chairman.
CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay, Robert.

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

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

MR. WALKER: Yeah.

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

CHAIRMAN SAM: Any further questions.

(No comments)

CHAIRMAN SAM: If not, does that conclude Nowitna?

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

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


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

Where we're headed this coming field season. Some of you may know that on January 27th we lost our Bettles facilities. It burnt to the ground. The fire
has not been determined what the cause of it was. I've been working closely with the Gates of the Arctic Staff. We jointly use that facilities. It was owned by the Fish and Wildlife Service. Plans are moving ahead. We are going to stay in Bettles. We are going to be rebuilding there. It looks like we'll be building two structures there in the future. One of them will be the contact station and an office complex and another building will be the bunkhouse complex there for the two agencies there. Both agencies, the Regional Director and the Acting Regional Director for the Park Service have moved the reconstruction of those two structures up as their number 1 priority in the region. So hopefully in a year or two we'll be back up and running at full speed.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Can you see to it Vince.

MR. MATHEWS: Yes, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you. Jack.

MR. REAKOFF: Mr. Chairman, I've always appreciated all of the projects the Kanuti Wildlife Refuge is investigating. They got lots of very interesting work that's now as we see as these other resource users enter the area in greater and greater numbers this information is
very critical. And so I'm very appreciative both to BLM and the Kanuti and the other Refuges also.

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

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

MR. REAKOFF: Uh-huh.

CHAIRMAN SAM: Is that right one? 67.

Yeah. I would like to keep an eye on the development of that map. I'd like to see one put in use. Go ahead Jack and then Ray.

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

Thank you.

MR. REAKOFF: Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN SAM: Ray.

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?

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 came 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.

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.

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

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

MR. SHULTZ: Sure.

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

MR. SHULTZ: Yeah.

CHAIRMAN SAM: Benedict you have something?

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

MR. SHULTZ: Yeah, like I said Benedict it's, you know, our knowledge on Whitefish is pretty small, you know. Everything we're doing is we're finding out new
things about these fish, you know. Mapping out their
spawning areas. Mapping out their feeding areas and, you
know, is one thing that I think is very important. There
with this radio telemetry we're going to find that out.

CHAIRMAN SAM: Robert.

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

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

MR. SHULTZ: Thank you, gentlemen.

CHAIRMAN SAM: Innoko.

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

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

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

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

I want to thank all the Tribal members and
the Council of Huslia for this wonderful hospitality we've
been having and it's also nice to see, you know, relatives
and friends who I've known from before.

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

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

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

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

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

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

MR. JONES: Yeah Clara how often does the
Fish and Wildlife or Fish and Game do that moose survey in
the Kanuti -- I mean Innoko Flats.
MS. DEMIENTIEFF: The U.S. Fish and Wildlife does the survey every two years. So two years ago we did the upper portion and this past year we did the lower portion. But like I said, you know, the weather hampered us to do. So we didn't put in too many hours, but I did leave early, but and it was completed. I'm pretty sure it was completed.

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

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

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

MS. DEMIENTIEFF: Thank you.

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

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

I don't think we have anymore agencies around.

The next item Regional Council Business.

MR. WALKER: We're done.

(Laughter)

CHAIRMAN SAM: We are right?

MR. WALKER: Yep we are.

MR. STICKMAN: We're down to elections?
CHAIRMAN SAM: Yes. Oh yes.

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

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

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

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

Thank you.

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

MR. REAKOFF: Basically I'm uncomfortable with having open seats on our Council. We're spread pretty thin as it is and I don't like the language of asking for a delay in the process. Because if the OSM goes in to delay then there will be people coming and their seat will vacate and we won't have anybody to fill it. So, I'm concerned about that and George's plan is actually has some validity to it. It would in reality this letter would basically the upshot would it violate the FACA. We would be asking for a delay for a long period of time for
analysis and then it would actually it's going to sort out
to where that's where the FACA thing and we come right back
to the FACA thing again and so I don't see -- I feel that
we should just let the Eastern do what they want to do. I
don't see where this is going to help us out at all.

I would like input from other Council
members also.

CHAIRMAN SAM: Carl yeah. Carl and then
Benedict.

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

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

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

I'll tell you one thing I know the friends
of the animals and the conservationists just love to hear
us attack the wolves because it means more donations, more
money in to the their coffers. If I, you know, I'm it's a
cautious step we're going to be taking because if you think
that they don't have political clout I've got to give you
an example. Look at ANWR. Our two Governors support. Our
two Senators in Washington D.C. support. Our sole
Congressmen in Washington D.C. support and the majority of
the people of the State of Alaska support. Yes we've got
oil money that's going to open this. We've got dedicated
money from the State level to try to get support. Even
with oil money, big oil money, and the State of Alaska in
complete support of this opening up ANWR we can't get the
votes.
This is a cautious thing that we walking. This land here belongs to all the people of the United States and I think we keep expanding this we've opened the door and the only way the door is going to swing is going to get wider. You know I think if we God fight amongst each other then some ways going to, you know, there's very powerful lobbyist out there that we can't even change the minds of and the State as a whole has a great -- whether you agree with ANWR or not, you know. Whether you agree with opening or not, we can't even get that very few acres to get drilled on, you now.

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

Thank you.

CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Carl. I still haven't quite gotten an answer. Where does this leave us with the resolution we directed?

MR. REAKOFF: Mr. Chairman, I kind of agree with Carl's changing and I agree that we shouldn't be walking the boat on the 70/30 really. Because we start asking for more representation then we're going to get -- what was her -- Kathryn Deathridge here to help us out. And so lets just leave it the way it is. The FACA says your declaring there have to have a commercial representation.

Let's just table that leave it alone and move on.

MR. WALKER: Mr. Chairman, I'll make a motion to table.

CHAIRMAN SAM: Is there a second?

MR. STICKMAN: I second.

CHAIRMAN SAM: There's a move to table further discussions on the this what would you call it?

MR. MATHEWS: Council composition.

CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay, Council composition. A tabling motion usually doesn't take much discussion either.
So all those in favor of motion to table signify by saying aye.

IN UNISON: Aye.

CHAIRMAN SAM: Those opposed.

(No opposing votes)

CHAIRMAN SAM: Motion carried. Thank you.

MR. WALKER: We're done.

CHAIRMAN SAM: That's 12?


CHAIRMAN SAM: As we decided before it's election of officers. Robert.

MR. WALKER: Mr. Chairman, I'd like to nominate Ron Sam for Chairman, Mickey Stickman Vice-Chairman, and Jack Reakoff for the Secretary.

MR. JONES: Second

CHAIRMAN SAM: It's been moved and seconded. If that was a motion that would take care of all business. Carl.

MR. MORGAN: With the motion maker and the second and I ask for anonymous consent.

CHAIRMAN SAM: Are there any objections, if not how come we didn't do this all through the meeting?

(Laughter)

CHAIRMAN SAM: This is not how Jack, Mickey, and I are re-elected as officers.

MR. WALKER: And Jack.

CHAIRMAN SAM: Yeah, Jack, Mickey, and I, I said. Okay. I don't know whether to thank you or not at this time so.

(Laughter)

CHAIRMAN SAM: Regional Council
MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, you do not have any SRC appointments. You can just reaffirm your coordinating Fishery Committee and Kuskokwim Committees. That's Benedict and Robert Walker with alternate Emmitt Peters on the Yukon and then you have Carl Morgan and Ray Collins on the Kuskokwim. You don't need to make any appointments on that unless they people want to get off or whatever.

MR. MORGAN: Could I appoint George as an alternate?

CHAIRMAN SAM: Yes we do have an alternate on the Yukon River Coordinating Fisheries. I think that would be appropriate. Mickey motions?

MR. STICKMAN: I don't have a motion but, you know, Randy Rogers is not here, but he left, but you know under Planning Committees on there he was looking for someone from this Western Interior Regional Advisory Committee to be on that Planning Committee. So at this time I'd like to ask the Regional Council to support Robert as that committee member on the planning group down in the GASH area.

CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay. We don't have a motion before us do we?

MR. STICKMAN: Okay. We have a motion that we didn't act on, this anonymous extent that was it?

CHAIRMAN SAM: Yes that was it. As far as election of officers went. Okay.

MR. STICKMAN: Okay I just want the Western Interior Regional Advisory Committee here to put Robert's name forward to Randy Rogers for the planning committee.

CHAIRMAN SAM: The Central Kuskokwim?

MR. MATHEWS: It's the GASH.

CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay. Yes I think that was an oversight. Okay. Then was Jack and I appointed to the Koyukuk moose then? Because we were just.

MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, you were technical advisories. This Council appointed Benedict
Jones to be their representative.

CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay.

MR. MATHEWS: You were brought in as courtesy and, Jack, I think was because of Advisory Committee. But your appointee was Benedict Jones on that one. The GASH working group its the same thing. You need to appointment somebody to part of that working group.

I thought I heard Mickey say that was a motion, but I'm not sure.

CHAIRMAN SAM: Are you willing to serve on this Robert?

MR. WALKER: Yes. I'm already at home base there.

CHAIRMAN SAM: That's we wanted I think basically. So was that a formal motion Mickey?

MR. STICKMAN: Yes, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRMAN SAM: Is there a second.

MR. REAKOFF: Second.

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

IN UNISON: Aye.

CHAIRMAN SAM: Opposed same sign.

(No opposing votes)

CHAIRMAN SAM: Motion carried.

MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, in light of that you were also approached by Polly Wheeler to say that they'll be a strategic planning process for the prioritization of those fishery monitoring projects and she did say that they were looking at two Council members per region. It puts a burden on you guys because you cover both the Yukon and Kuskokwim. And they were looking at November. I don't know if you have to make appointments, but it would be good to possibly think that way because October your meeting will be busy.
CHAIRMAN SAM: At this time the Chair will entertain a motion to name the Coordinating Fisheries Committee members.

MR. MATHEWS: It could be those. I not saying it couldn't.

CHAIRMAN SAM: That's what I want for now. We can work on it down the line. Name all our Coordinating Fisheries members as a primary and alternate and whoever's available will be considered the primary. The Chair will entertain that motion.

MR. WALKER: So moved.

CHAIRMAN SAM: Is there a second.

MR. JONES: Second.

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

IN UNISON: Aye.

CHAIRMAN SAM: Those opposed, same sign.

(No opposing votes)

CHAIRMAN SAM: Motion carried. Any other appointees?

MR. MATHEWS: No. Not that I know of, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRMAN SAM: With the consent of the Council I would like to I think we all received the correspondence sent and received out on May already didn't we.

MR. MATHEWS: Yes, Mr. Chairman. And next time I'll have the summary done. There was just no time to do that. Plus we were waiting for the policy on correspondence, so there wasn't a really a lot.

CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay.

MR. MATHEWS: Next time you'll have a summary.

CHAIRMAN SAM: Yeah, I know we did take
some action on that subject, so until they come out with something final from OSM, just leave it as is I think.

Council topics what are we looking for?

MR. MATHEWS: Well, Mr. Chairman this came up out of the program that we're hoping that if the Council has topics that they want their Chair to present or discuss at the May Board meeting that they would express those now. So for two reasons, one so the Chair would know, but also that the office could start preparing to understand, you know, background on those topics.

CHAIRMAN SAM: Yeah.

MR. MATHEWS: It's kind of going back Ron to where you use to have an agenda for the meeting of the Chairs. This is a step back to that direction. So you would be better prepared to bring topics forthcoming on that and again that might be for example, not to say you would do that, but your concerns about the positions on OSMs positions or something like that might be one that you'd being sharing with the Chairs as an example.

CHAIRMAN SAM: Any topics. Mickey.

MR. STICKMAN: You know Ron I just think that really the only thing you would need for something like this would be to present them with our Annual Report because it'd have all our issues and concerns in there.

CHAIRMAN SAM: Oh, no, they've got an agenda already. We just sit there as a courtesy of the Federal Subsistence Board and then the only thing we do is make an argument as far as our proposals go and that's it.

Isn't that about right, Vince?

MR. MATHEWS: Yes. It's changed a little bit Ron at the last meeting, but basically at the end of the meeting and this may have changed, but at the end of the Board meeting they ask the Chairs if they have topics. This is in a public session to discuss with the full board. Maybe Jack wants to talk about it because I think I had to leave at that point. But my understanding at the very end of the meeting -- remember you guys use to do this before the meeting. The Board now is accommodating your request that there still needs to be dialogue and so now they're doing it during the public meeting at the end. And I think Jack was there. I think I had to step out for that
section.

CHAIRMAN SAM: Go ahead Jack.

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.

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.

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.

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 FACAzed 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.

Future meeting plans.

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
week. The Staff that serves Eastern Interior also serves Western Interior so there's no way that we can pull that off there.

In Beaver, we requested that maybe they would like to move their dates, they said, no, they're not going to move their dates. So they're going to meet in Eagle, Northway, so they'll meet in Northway in the fall of -- or the winter of 2005. So as your coordinator, to speed this along, you really either need to select another week that's available within the window there until October 19th, but I think logic would apply that if that doesn't work then you're going to have to suggest dates outside the window and we'll just go down that path.

Again, I know the reasons why you can't meet in September so you don't need to inform me of that, but that leaves you with the three weeks of October and with that I'll leave it -- and you talked earlier about going to Ruby instead of Evansville.

CHAIRMAN SAM: Robert.

MR. WALKER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

MR. MATHEWS: Well, let me see, Jerry was at that meeting and also Salena's over here as a wealth of information, she may also know the dates that they selected. Again, it's kind of a first come, first serve deal which is a problem.

MR. WALKER: Well, how come we weren't first served?

(Laughter)

CHAIRMAN SAM: It seems like we're always dictated on our meeting dates and I think that we should just set one, divide our Staff and then maybe our meetings would last a day and a half.

MR. MATHEWS: Well, that's the same response I got in Beaver. And, again, I think, my own personal opinion, this is a problem when we have this type of window but we've not been able to change that window.

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.
MR. REAKOFF: Mr. Chair.

CHAIRMAN SAM: Jack.

MR. REAKOFF: I don't like those either. If I don't get a moose I'm going to be caribou hunting or something around that time and I just can't -- I would rather see this very tail end there, this October 18th and 19th if we got to go that way, and push it away from that big conglomerate, and then we get more selection of ADF&G and Fish and Wildlife Staff, but that's my opinion.

CHAIRMAN SAM: Man, why do we have so much hard times on this. Any other suggestions, Jerry, I haven't heard from you on YKD.

MR. BERG: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Yes, the YK Council did confirm their dates of October 14th and 15th and they announced that they would try and meet in Kalskag next fall.

Thank you.

CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay.

MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, it could still work with working the agenda differently. That still leaves open, I avoid Sunday travel, not just because of religion just because there's not as many planes, but that still would leave open the 12th and 13th but we would have to work the agenda to make sure Staff that are needed in Kalskag can get down to Ruby so it changes your agenda.

CHAIRMAN SAM: I don't know, we'll just take it and go and fly.

MR. WALKER: Let's just start the 9th, Vince, travel the 9th, meet the 10th, 11th and John Doe and Jane Doe could be in Kalskag on the 14th.

CHAIRMAN SAM: Go ahead, that sounds good enough for me, 9th, 10th and 11th.

MR. WALKER: And the rest of the Board, it's up to them, too.

MR. STICKMAN: 9th, 10th and 11th.

CHAIRMAN SAM: That's a weekend.
MR. WALKER: Vince says nobody goes to church.

MR. STICKMAN: Yeah.

(Laughter)

MR. MATHEWS: No, Mr. Chairman, I don't have a problem 9th, 10th and 11th is a weekend, and I'm not against that, Staff is available, that's not my point. My point when we tried to do that in Beaver resulted in different planes, but at this point we'll just go, as you said, 9th, 10th and 11th, meaning you'd travel on the 9th, meet on the 10th and 11th and then fly home on the 12th, and then if that doesn't work out we'll obviously be back, and now you need to decide on a location.

I was prejudging that before you said it would be Ruby.

CHAIRMAN SAM: No, one of the things that Robert brought out is that it has been our pattern to meet up river and then down river, up river and then down river, wherever we can find a spot.

Any suggestions.

MR. MATHEWS: Well, Mr. Chairman, I think in light of your lengthy discussions on fish, in light of the other Councils meeting on the Yukon, it should be somewhere on the Yukon if possible because the fish issues are -- I think people are going to want to meet with you on the river.

CHAIRMAN SAM: Robert.

MR. WALKER: I believe that we go up and down the river, up river on even, down river on odd, I think 2005 we should have it in Holy Cross or Anvik would be two places to look at. It is on the Yukon River. And Holy Cross is in Y3 and Anvik is in Y4, so this is a suggestion here.

MR. MATHEWS: So you're saying that for this upcoming fall, correct, you said 2005?

MR. WALKER: (Nods affirmatively)

MR. MATHEWS: Yeah, and for your coordinator it works tremendously if there's a Council
member in the village. I mean I really had to put a lot of
pressure on the Tribal Council here to pull this off and
that worked, but, you know, it's better to have a Council
member in the community, so your suggesting Anvik then for
10th and 11th.

CHAIRMAN SAM: Anvik. Just make one
choice, Anvik.

MR. WALKER: I'm just saying Anvik or Holy
Cross, you know, because they're only 30 miles apart, too,
also.

CHAIRMAN SAM: Tom.

MR. KRON: Mr. Chairman. Jerry just
mentioned something to me, one of your proposals relates to
the driftnet fishery issue. And, again, it would be
affecting the areas further up river than Anvik and Holy
Cross and, you know, just was wondering maybe if you would
want to consider meeting potentially at Galena or somewhere
that would potentially affected by that driftnet proposal.
Just throwing that out, it's your call.

(Laughter)

CHAIRMAN SAM: Anchorage.

(Laughter)

CHAIRMAN SAM: That's down river enough for
me.

(Laughter)

CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay, we've got to come to
a decision. It seems like we always do this every meeting,
Anvik.

MR. STICKMAN: Yeah.

MR. WALKER: Yes.

CHAIRMAN SAM: Anvik, October 9th, 10th,
11th, right within that area.

MR. MATHEWS: Correct. Mr. Chairman, and
maybe Jerry can help me out, we need now to look at winter
2005, I know, don't spend a lot of time on this, but I've
drawn a complete blank on what Eastern Interior did on that
but if there's time here you could look at 2005 for the 
dates and I just could not find what Eastern did and he has
what YK did.

MR. EASTLAND: Eastern Interior did the 2nd
and 3rd of March, Northway.

MR. MATHEWS: Okay, 2nd and 3rd of March in
Northway. Thank you, Eastland for reminding me. And do we
know what YK did, they may not have gotten to it.

MR. BERG: Yes, Mr. Chair. The YK Council
chose February 24 and 25 and they did not pick a location
yet.

MR. MATHEWS: Right, Salena.

REPORTER: (Nods affirmatively)

MR. MATHEWS: Then, Mr. Chairman, I think
TCC Convention, I don't -- I guess is the week of March
14th, but Mickey may know better. That seems to be the
pattern.

CHAIRMAN SAM: This is 2005 right?

MR. MATHEWS: Yes.

MR. STICKMAN: So I would have to say maybe
March 7th, 8th and 9th.

MR. MATHEWS: Okay, that sounds good to me.
I usually try to get you if there's flexibility, on
Tuesday, Wednesday because that gives us flight days on
Mondays and Thursday, so any idea of location. That
meeting would be wildlife, a year from now so it should be
mainly a wildlife focus. You don't have to pick a location
now but it would help for planning.

CHAIRMAN SAM: Yeah, tentative.

MR. WALKER: Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN SAM: Go ahead, Robert.

MR. WALKER: Mr. Chairman, just to offer a
suggestion to the Board, that if we're going to go into
another community, try to find a window where they're
having their spring break, that way the school could be
utilized also besides the community building.
CHAIRMAN SAM: Again, we can go down to Anchorage, it would simplify everything, I mean, Jesus.

(Laughter)

MR. WALKER: Well, we could watch the dog race.

(Laughter)

CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay, move it up to March 3rd, 4th and 5th.

(Laughter)

MR. COLLINS: Mr. Chairman, I'd like to have you consider coming back to McGrath at some point, I don't know if that would be the appropriate one but we have facilities there. You'd probably watch some of the dogs going through then, it's about Iditarod time, I don't know what time they're taking off next year.

CHAIRMAN SAM: It's always the first Saturday in March, so I think that we would be in conflict with the Iditarod at that time.

MR. WALKER: Yeah, lodging would be overflowing.

CHAIRMAN SAM: Uh-huh, lodging would be overflowing. Anchorage.

(Laughter)

MR. MATHEWS: Well, you've got to meet within the region, so it's -- no, that's not correct, we have been to Aniak to recently.

MR. WALKER: Yeah.


MR. MATHEWS: It's usually at the end of TCC.

MR. WALKER: Well, Warden, what do you say Warden?

(Laughter)
MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, I would say we just save the dates and then look at a location down the road because I don't -- for planning purposes we just need to know the dates at this point.

CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay, 7th, 8th and 9th, tentative.

MR. WALKER: September.

CHAIRMAN SAM: March.

(Laughter)

CHAIRMAN SAM: March. 7th, 8th and 9th winter of 2005.

MR. WALKER: Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN SAM: Robert.

MR. WALKER: Is that the window here.

(Laughter)

CHAIRMAN SAM: That's all you needed, right?

MR. MATHEWS: Yes, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay.

MR. WALKER: Vince, could we do 2005 fall.....


MR. WALKER: .....so we could get a jump on these guys.

(Laughter)

MR. WALKER: Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN SAM: Go ahead, Robert.

MR. WALKER: Could we do 2005 October meeting so we can get a jump on these other guys so we could have a first choice for a change.
CHAIRMAN SAM: You lost me someplace.

(Laughter)

CHAIRMAN SAM: Go ahead.

MR. WALKER: Mr. Chairman, I would recommend that the Board try looking at October meeting now at this meeting so we will have a schedule, rather than have to work around the other RACs, we can be first choice, that way we can pick the date now so we can be on the calendar in October of 2005.

CHAIRMAN SAM: Go ahead.

MR. WALKER: What's a good day for you Benedict next year.

(Laughter)

CHAIRMAN SAM: Oh, my God.

MR. MATHEWS: Well, Mr. Chairman, it might be easier just to say 2005 you want the first week of October, if that....

MR. WALKER: Good, get it.

CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay.

MR. WALKER: Yes.

MR. MATHEWS: If that works.

CHAIRMAN SAM: That's good enough.

MR. MATHEWS: Yeah, we'll just say the first week.....

CHAIRMAN SAM: It's after 3:00, we've got some people that need to leave.

MR. MATHEWS: The first week of October.

CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay, Tommy Kriska, you're excused, anybody else wants to go, I want to run out of quorum. Please.

(Laughter)
MR. KRISKA: I'll wait for you guys.

CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay. Only thing I got now is just closing comments, right?

MR. MATHEWS: And I need to tell you what planes you guys are on but that's all.

CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay. How many of us at 4:00 o'clock?

MR. MATHEWS: Okay, the first plane that comes in, we had to rearrange it a little bit here because these people have to catch connecting flights to Anchorage.


The second plane, which is only an hour later would be Mickey, Benedict, Jack, Salena, Ron and myself.

CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay. Member closing comments, I think we heard most of them already.

MR. WALKER: Yes.

(Laughter)

CHAIRMAN SAM: I think we did. Benedict and then George and then we're adjourned.

MR. JONES: Yeah, I'd just like to announce that the Caribou Management Plan, John Trent is changing jobs, he probably did already change jobs so we don't know who our coordinator will be for the Western Arctic Caribou Herd, but we do plan a meeting May 4th in Girdwood.

MR. SIAVELIS: I just want to thank Staff and all the Council members for welcoming me and understanding my deficiencies of being a new guy.

CHAIRMAN SAM: The verdict is not in yet.

(Laughter)

CHAIRMAN SAM: I'm joking.
(Laughter)

CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you all for being here. I'd like to thank Staff for bearing with us. And Salena, you need help packing up?

REPORTER: I got it.

CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay. It is now 3:12, the Western Interior is now adjourned.

(END OF PROCEEDINGS)
CERTIFICATE

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

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