

1 WESTERN INTERIOR FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE
2 REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING

3
4 PUBLIC MEETING

5
6 VOLUME II

7
8 McGrath, Alaska
9 October 5, 2005
10 9:00 o'clock a.m.

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12
13 COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

14
15 Ronald Sam, Chair
16 Ray Collins
17 Donald Honea
18 Benedict Jones
19 Carl Morgan
20 Jack Reakoff
21 Mickey Stickman
22 Robert Walker
23
24 Regional Council Coordinator; Vince Mathews

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P R O C E E D I N G S

(McGrath, Alaska - 10/5/2005)

(On record)

CHAIRMAN SAM: I'd like to call this meeting back to order. I understand we have some people that are leaving kind of early. I believe Trooper Sears and probably Gibbens are leaving kind of early. I know Stanley Ned is leaving kind of early. If we can accommodate these people as soon as we can, I'd like to take care of that.

Vince, you have something to add.

MR. MATHEWS: I still have advances for Benedict and Mickey and I appreciate you guys filling out those forms last night. That experiment to try the new streamline method. And then we reported to the hotel that you guys will be having lunch and dinner there. There's no community meal after this. There's snacks over there and et cetera. Then I wasn't able to find out if we have access to a copy machine here, but if we do need on the wildlife proposals, we'll have either here or the refuge make copies if that's needed. That's all I had for housekeeping unless other staff had some housekeeping stuff for the day.

We will have a PowerPoint program here later on, so you may have to shift your seats. Also, when the students come, make them feel welcome, please. There will be 16 or 17 students here, so we'll have to weave them in. Remember, they're the future managers and future legislators and everything else that's imaginable, so we'll try to get them in the room, but that will be a little disruptive while they're getting in here, I assume. That's all I'm aware of that's going to impact us today.

Thank you.

CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Vince. Where does that put us on our agenda then right now?

MR. MATHEWS: Well, on our agenda we left with all the fishery stuff completed. You addressed special actions yesterday. So after a brief discussion with Trooper Sears, then you would start off with wildlife issues right off the bat. I would go over the

1 8/05 letter. I haven't had a chance to talk with Randy
2 if he's doing PowerPoint. I think he might. No, he's
3 not. Okay. He'll talk about different planning efforts,
4 which is key, then we'll have Pete DeMatteo and Laura
5 Greffenius present closure areas and then we'll talk
6 proposals. That's the layout as I see it now.

7
8 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thanks. With that I'd
9 like to bring Trooper Sears up here. Is Trooper Gibbens
10 coming in?

11
12 TROOPER SEARS: He'll be here shortly.

13
14 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay. Then we can get
15 started here. When I spoke briefly with Trooper Sears,
16 while he doesn't have a formal presentation, he's here to
17 address the enforcement issues and questions that we
18 have. I believe Stanley Ned is leaving earlier, so he's
19 got some questions. With that, go ahead, Trooper Sears.

20
21 TROOPER SEARS: Good morning, Mr.
22 Chairman, members of the Board. My name is Jay Sears and
23 I'm stationed in Galena. I've been the trooper assigned
24 there for wildlife enforcement for the last three years.
25 I did not have any kind of a topic or I wasn't asked to
26 prepare any kind of agenda for this meeting. I was just
27 here at a request from some of the board members and also
28 U.S. Fish & Wildlife to answer some questions that you
29 guys might have in reference to this hunting season or
30 future hunting seasons.

31
32 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you. Does the
33 Council have any questions right off the bat for Trooper
34 Sears? I do have one. You know, the driftnet fisheries,
35 are you guys in charge of enforcing that or is that a
36 federal program?

37
38 TROOPER SEARS: Yes, it falls under our
39 enforcement efforts, yes.

40
41 CHAIRMAN SAM: How did that work? I know
42 it's new. I don't think everybody is quite certain on
43 how to handle this because of its newness. Have you had
44 any real problems?

45
46 TROOPER SEARS: No, sir. As far as the
47 troopers are concerned, there wasn't really any issues in
48 reference to that fishery that I'm aware of. We had two
49 troopers that rode in our state boat and worked the
50 entire fishery from the bridge all the way to Kotlik this

1 year. One of them was Lt. Foldger and Trooper
2 Hildebrand. Then there was a second crew who came down
3 and relieved them at the two-week mark and they worked
4 the entire fishery all the way back up to the bridge and
5 with very limited enforcement problems. The main topic
6 of the entire thing was trying to get folks to mark their
7 gear and boats registered and that kind of deal, but
8 nothing as far as serious wildlife violations in
9 reference to the driftnet.

10

11 CHAIRMAN SAM: Any further questions? I
12 know Stanley Ned has some.

13

14 MR. NED: My name is Stanley Ned. I'm
15 from Allakaket. I have some concerns on wildlife
16 enforcement up in my neck of the woods. I worked up in
17 Allakaket, my hometown, for about three and a half months
18 building pre-fab homes and during the hunting season I
19 had some friends of mine that kept calling me and saying
20 someone needs to bring some issues up with the wildlife
21 enforcement agency because they're writing tickets to
22 them. A friend of mine called me and said he got a
23 ticket for not punching his card or whatever that thing
24 is that they're supposed to be punching before they send
25 it in and he told me that he landed up in one of the
26 villages and a trooper came up to him and gave him a
27 ticket for not punching his card before he left the
28 field. He said his concern was about the moose meat
29 only. I didn't worry about the card because he's not
30 going to eat the card. So little things like that is
31 driving a wedge between what's already a fire between the
32 enforcement agencies and the local villagers in our
33 community.

34

35 I see that having a ripple effect later
36 on. The different agencies that want to do research, for
37 example, up in my neck of the woods, they're not going to
38 get all their information that they need because of
39 something like this. I know from before, years ago, when
40 we had different troopers there, there was already a fire
41 in there, you know, but they had a grey area that they
42 had some kind of common sense and not putting more fuel
43 in there. But some of these guys are deciding that
44 they're going to go by the book and that's beginning to
45 have a real big impact on decisions that our people are
46 beginning to make in the villages. So it's beginning to
47 be a big concern of mine.

48

49 I'm worried that if these different
50 researchers that want to do research on fish or moose,

1 for example, are not going to be getting the information
2 that they need to decide on what kind of proposals to
3 write to save our resources later. Those things are
4 going to come into play later, you know.
5

6 I know these guys have to do their job,
7 but that doesn't necessarily mean that they have to go by
8 the book. So something needs to be done about that.
9 There's other ways to address that problem. One is that
10 the villages ought to invite them, the guy that's writing
11 the ticket plus his boss. If his boss can't get there,
12 have Albert Kookesh or somebody from our legislature go
13 there and then bring that stuff down, you know, because
14 that's what it's beginning to be.

15
16 That's all I got.

17
18 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Stanley. Go
19 ahead, Robert.

20
21 MR. WALKER: Stanley, I have one question
22 for you. Stanley, when you mentioned that enforcement
23 agency was checking moose tags and not being punched and
24 not giving time to, I believe there's a 24-hour period
25 that they have. Correct me here, Trooper Sears. Is
26 there a 24-hour period from the time you kill your moose
27 to punch your tag?

28
29 TROOPER SEARS: No, sir. It's
30 immediately after the kill, at the kill site.

31
32 MR. WALKER: At the kill site.

33
34 TROOPER SEARS: Yes, sir.

35
36 MR. WALKER: I thought there was some
37 kind of little regulations that you had to punch it
38 within 24 hours before you left the field.

39
40 TROOPER SEARS: No, that's not correct.
41 And to answer the questions that have been brought before
42 the Board, I am the citing officer in that situation and
43 the village was Huslia. I did make contact with two
44 Huslia residents who had not punched their harvest
45 ticket. I was two or three days after the kill and they
46 were loading and preparing to go on another hunt.

47
48 (Phone call)

49
50 MR. MATHEWS: Okay. He's just going to

1 listen in. It's Orville Huntington from Huslia.

2

3 TROOPER SEARS: Anyway, the correct rule
4 is your harvest ticket must be notched immediately after
5 the kill at the kill site. Both individuals were cited.
6 It is a bailable citation and the legislature has set the
7 fine at \$150. That's pretty much it in reference to
8 that. I did write a couple other citations in the region
9 that he's talking about. One for failure to comply with
10 permit conditions. In that zone, when you sign for a
11 permit, an RM834, before you leave the kill site you must
12 cut the upper antler half of one of your palms and a
13 couple of folks in Huslia did not comply with that and
14 were contacted in the field. One was contacted in the
15 village and one in the field and both were cited.

16

17 MR. WALKER: Yeah, just for Stanley and
18 public information, this is not the first time we've had
19 problems with Huslia area or the Galena area. I think a
20 good percentage of the problems we have is understanding
21 the regulations and just outright communications with the
22 troopers. At one of our last meetings down at Huslia we
23 asked for tack and discretion and explaining in citing
24 and all that, you know, to alleviate some of these
25 problems and hard feelings. I too agree with Trooper
26 Sears that if we can really open up a line of
27 communication, have meetings and have hearings in these
28 villages that have these problems, I think that would
29 solve a good percentage of our problems.

30

31 CHAIRMAN SAM: Jack.

32

33 MR. REAKOFF: That seems to be the main
34 problem, is the public isn't understanding these
35 regulatory changes, so there needs to be some kind of an
36 educational aspect. Maybe going in the wintertime with
37 sort of a fact sheet of what these regulations really
38 mean. These are the things we're looking for. The
39 perception that you can go home and punch your ticket
40 later, these are the perceptions of what is legal and
41 what the realities are. I think there's a
42 miscommunication. These regulatory booklets are pretty
43 hard for urban hunters to understand. It's really,
44 really hard for subsistence hunters to sort through all
45 this stuff and this booklet is not easily read. I mean
46 if you start looking back and forth through this thing,
47 these statutory things are actually fairly hard to
48 discern.

49

50 I think what we'd really like to see is

1 more of what enforcement really wants out of the public
2 and not during the hunting season when everybody is out,
3 but like this winter sometime, working with Fish and
4 Wildlife, getting a meeting together, kind of getting a
5 fact sheet. There was one floating around up there on
6 the Dalton Highway that Officer Bedingfield put out, what
7 the Dalton Highway requirements are. You can't use a
8 four-wheeler, you can't shoot with a -- you know, there
9 are various aspects of this Dalton Highway thing. That
10 was floating around the truck stops, you know.

11
12 So sort of an educational flyer going
13 throughout the villages so that the public understands
14 what you're wanting and what the legal requirements are
15 and I think it would just be better for everybody to sort
16 of alleviate a lot of this tension between you have a
17 job to do, they would probably like to comply and I think
18 it would just help everybody out in the long run.

19
20 Thank you.

21
22 TROOPER SEARS: Yes, sir, I agree with
23 you. We attempt to educate the local communities. Fish
24 and Game have put together some beautiful posters that
25 were posted all through the community as far as the
26 antler requirements to destroy the trophy value during
27 the subsistence hunt. Another topic that has come up is
28 boat registration and I've worked with the tribal
29 councils for the last three years in Galena and have
30 posted those items and done boating education, did a
31 couple of classes in the high school. So I'm trying, I'm
32 making an attempt to try and get out there, and I do try
33 and attend all the advisory committee meetings that I'm
34 able to go to with my schedule.

35
36 I agree with you. I think, for the most
37 part, everybody wants to comply with the rules. Nobody's
38 out there doing this maliciously or on purpose; however,
39 there's some things that need to be enforced. And if
40 folks are planning to go out and hunt again with what is
41 still a legal permit that has not been canceled, at some
42 point they need to cancel that permit or they're allowed
43 to take another moose and that's why the laws are in
44 place. That's what I spoke to earlier as far as Huslia.

45
46 CHAIRMAN SAM: Ray.

47
48 MR. COLLINS: Mr. Chairman. On that
49 issue, I think that is the case from my knowledge of
50 subsistence hunters here, but it's not because they're

1 trying to get a second moose for themselves because often
2 if you go out in a party with other hunters and you take
3 a moose, when you go back it's split up between four
4 people, so you've got a quarter of a moose. So they go
5 out hunting again. What do you do, you sit home and
6 expect them to bring you meat then from the field. So
7 sometimes during hunting season -- or they're hunting for
8 an elder or something. They come home and they give that
9 moose to them. So I'm asking, can they go out again if
10 they have a proxy then legally?

11
12 TROOPER SEARS: Yes, sir. They're
13 allowed to go out if they have a proxy that's signed by a
14 Fish and Game representative to hunt for an elder or, of
15 course, they can accompany their family members in the
16 field. If they've already harvested a moose, then
17 somebody else needs to shoot the next one.

18
19 MR. COLLINS: Right.

20
21 TROOPER SEARS: We can't allow party
22 hunting.

23
24 MR. COLLINS: So you can go back out in
25 the field then with others.

26
27 TROOPER SEARS: Yes, sir. Or you can go
28 out as a driver, packer, helper, whatever. Somebody else
29 needs to harvest the second moose if you've already taken
30 one for the year.

31
32 MR. COLLINS: The other question I had is
33 do you ever issue warning tickets? Because I see the
34 difference between not punching or doing the paperwork
35 and actually making an illegal kill or something like
36 that where there's game wasted. It's just in some cases
37 maybe it would be better feelings if, okay, punch it
38 right there and give a warning ticket or something as an
39 educational issue. It might help some of these
40 situations, to diffuse them a little bit.

41
42 TROOPER SEARS: Yes, sir. I just
43 received my yearly eval. so I have the statistics on my
44 brain. As far as warnings to citations, last year I had
45 87 citations and either 158 or 68 warnings. So it's
46 twice to three times the warnings that I do give out and
47 I do use a lot of officer discretion.

48
49 I understand we're dealing with folks in
50 rural Alaska that it's tough for them to read these regs

1 and keep everything straight and know that it's an
2 imaginary line that they're hunting below. If they're in
3 Hughes and they have to run 12 miles downriver to get
4 onto the Koyukuk Refuge and it's just an imaginary line.
5 It's not anything carved out with signs and a barbed wire
6 fence. So there's a lot of discretion issues in our
7 work, both in wildlife crime investigations and also
8 crimes against people.

9

10 CHAIRMAN SAM: Carl.

11

12 MR. MORGAN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I
13 agree with what everybody else is saying. I'd like to
14 ask you and please don't get discouraged and keep on
15 giving out information. Look at urban Alaska, how long
16 it took for them to get this right and this has been
17 going on for a long time. Click it or ticket. That's on
18 information every time you watch TV. It's there,
19 information from the state, from Canada, from different
20 smaller cities, but they're still putting out
21 information, but they're still giving out a lot of
22 tickets for those.

23

24 Bush Alaska communications, we've got to
25 read. You know how many people read. Usually when you
26 get a lot of information it goes right to file 13. I'll
27 encourage you, please don't get discouraged and keep on
28 informing people that it's not your intent to maliciously
29 go after them. I know we all want to live within the
30 confines of the regulations and the law. I know it's
31 frustrating for you. It's frustrating for all the
32 citizens too.

33

34 Thank you.

35

36 TROOPER SEARS: Yes, sir.

37

38 MR. STICKMAN: Ron.

39

40 CHAIRMAN SAM: Mickey.

41

42 MR. STICKMAN: You know, these
43 regulations were all hammered out in our moose hunters
44 working group and all these things were put in there.
45 Jack was there, Ben was there, the biologist was there,
46 Randy was there, but all these things were hammered out
47 for protection of the resource. One of the things that's
48 probably missing is Jay probably needs somebody from the
49 working group to go out village to village with him when
50 he goes out there to do his education. He needs somebody

1 from the working group from the local area to help
2 educate the users out there that these were all put in
3 there for the protection of the resource and these were
4 ways that we can come up with that seemed reasonable as
5 far as stopping the illegal taking of large bull moose
6 for trophy value only.

7
8 The other thing I wanted to tell Jay was
9 that I can understanding he gave out more warnings than
10 citations, but the whole idea when this Council brought
11 up all these enforcement issues was because of the
12 illegal guiding and illegal transporting. That's still a
13 large problem out there. These citations and things,
14 those are small issues compared to what's happening out
15 there.

16
17 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Mickey. Last
18 year I was one of those 168 warned. Last time I got a
19 permit for that area. (Laughing) It's scary. You won't
20 be allowed to hunt in this area no more. Heck, it's my
21 brother's country, my auntie's country. Just language
22 alone can intimidate a lot of our people whether they're
23 educated or not. I mean you are working in the right
24 direction with those warnings. I just wanted to put you
25 on the table and bring out these issues for informational
26 purposes and I thank you for your patience. Any further
27 questions.

28
29 Robert.

30
31 MR. WALKER: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
32 Trooper Sears, you know where Federal land stops and
33 State land starts, we have a lot of places in our area in
34 21(E) that when we have an August hunt a lot of people
35 don't have maps to justify where Federal land starts and
36 where State land stops. I can see where you're saying
37 that there's no barbed wire fence, no signs, et cetera,
38 and this is frustrating for a lot of people that live in
39 our area, too. Did I shoot on State land, am I going to
40 be in trouble, et cetera, et cetera.

41
42 One of the things that the State
43 department is going to have to do, enforcement or public
44 safety, is come up with kind of a clarification on this.
45 We don't want to have anybody do a criminal act by
46 shooting a moose on State land when it's a Federal hunt.
47 This would be a lot more clearer for us to understand,
48 then there would be a lot less trouble, a lot less hard
49 feelings.

50

1 We don't talk about the troopers being --
2 you know, we're starting a fire, this or that. One of
3 the things we try to do is iron out our problems, get it
4 straight, rather than cause hard feelings, because
5 they've got a job to do and we have a right to have
6 access to these animals.

7
8 So I'm just asking you, with your
9 department, somewhere along the line, to come up with
10 some kind of a map. The maps we get are about this size
11 and 21(E) is like maybe right here. How are you going to
12 find the line?

13
14 TROOPER SEARS: Yes, sir. Well, the
15 majority of the frustrations you have I also share when I
16 try and do my job here locally. I do serve as 21(E) when
17 I'm called down, but that's mainly serviced out of Aniak.
18 Jim Pogle is the trooper that covers 21(E), but I can
19 speak for my region and it's very difficult. I mean I
20 have a copy of the Doyon Ltd land status book that
21 everybody gets and all of the guides and transporters are
22 given a copy of that book. They actually have to sign
23 for it so that they are aware of where they set up their
24 spike camps and whatnot and on what ground they're on.

25
26 I've worked with many of the local tribal
27 entities in my region to try and get signs posted and I
28 noticed that in the last two years we have a lot more
29 signs posted on the river as far as the Gana-A'Yoo land
30 and the Doyon land and part of the need that we need to
31 have as state troopers to enforce a criminal trespass
32 issue in the state is the land has to be posted. Either
33 that or we have to prove that the hunter had knowledge
34 that they were on somebody else's land without
35 permission. So if it's not posted and the hunter doesn't
36 confess, it's impossible to cite them into court for
37 criminal trespassing.

38
39 So my big push was to educate the tribes
40 to mark their local lands and then I could deal with that
41 issue. It is an issue on the Yukon and the Koyukuk
42 Rivers. Trespass issues. Folks hunting on other folks'
43 private Native allotments, their tribal ground. Then in
44 my region I have BLM ground, Federal ground, State
45 parcels. It's a huge checker board and it's impossible
46 to know. I have to actually go to U.S. Fish and Wildlife
47 with a GPS coordinate and that's the only way I can know
48 for sure unless there's a defined border, a drainage, a
49 creek, a mountain range, where I'm standing.

50

1 And it's frustrating that nobody has put
2 together a map, but I'm not sure who's going to bear the
3 financial cost of that. That's the big issue and that's
4 the battle we've had with public safety, is who's going
5 to bear the cost of putting together a large-scale map
6 that would be strictly used for hunting or fishing or
7 trespass issues. I mean what budget can we pull from to
8 do something like that. I can tell you that our outfit
9 is in a budget dilemma and I can pretty much speak for
10 Fish and Game. They're in the same boat. So I'm not
11 sure who's going to tackle that project, but I think it
12 needs to be addressed.

13

14 CHAIRMAN SAM: Robert.

15

16 MR. WALKER: Trooper Sears, we had some
17 people in our area, oh four, five years ago, that brought
18 this up to me before I came here, that why are people
19 being stopped on the river on snowmachines when they're
20 carrying a rifle and given a citation? These people are
21 merely traveling in between villages, they're not
22 hunting. I mean what sort of point here is the
23 enforcement agency using this for?

24

25 TROOPER SEARS: Well, I can speak -- I'm
26 not sure of the incident you're referring to, but I can
27 speak for my personal patrol methods and what's taught to
28 the troopers. If there's a legal hunting season or a
29 trapping season that's going on in the state and somebody
30 is on a snowmachine with a rifle or appear to have traps
31 or a trap box, then we have justification or enough
32 probable cause to at least contact them and ask them if
33 they're trapping or hunting out in the field. At that
34 point, if they tell us they're just traveling, then we
35 don't have any further need for the contact. It's the
36 only way that we get out in the field and check what's
37 going on in the environment, is to get out and stop
38 people and see what's going on or we might contact them
39 on their trapline or they could be traveling to a legal
40 hunting zone.

41

42 I think what you're referring to, and I
43 do work the winter moose program in 21(E), and there are
44 certain areas that are open for moose season and some of
45 the villagers travel on the snowmachine trail to get to
46 those open areas. They might have a rifle in the closed
47 area and they might be stopped by a trooper, but at that
48 point it's sorted out, whether they're traveling to the
49 legal hunting zone or if they're hunting in the closed
50 area.

1 CHAIRMAN SAM: Carl.

2

3 MR. MORGAN: I do travel on the
4 snowmachine and with the boat, but whether it's open
5 season or closed season I take a rifle because it's part
6 of my survival gear in case I break down. I think a lot
7 of people do inter-village travel from village to village
8 and they do take their .22, do take their rifle, because
9 they're up there putting their faith in a mechanical
10 machine and they do break down. It's just for their
11 survival. I know there's a lot of people that do that.
12 You'd be stupid not to during the winter or even during
13 the summer, spring, fall. It's part of your survival
14 equipment.

15

16 CHAIRMAN SAM: It still is stupid. You
17 try to teach that to a lot of our younger people.
18 Benedict.

19

20 MR. JONES: Trooper Sears, going back to
21 that land status of State and Federal land, there's
22 several ways to identify the State land and Federal land.
23 We discussed the high water mark. Is that still in
24 effect for State land?

25

26 TROOPER SEARS: Yes, sir, that's still in
27 effect. The high water mark is considered State land
28 where the natural vegetation occurs on the bank. That is
29 defined in Federal statutes as well as State statutes,
30 the vegetation.

31

32 CHAIRMAN SAM: Anything further for
33 Trooper Sears. Jack and then Mickey.

34

35 MR. REAKOFF: I just want to say this
36 Council and other entities I sit on have asked for
37 enforcement, want to see enforcement, so I'm not saying
38 I'm opposed to you doing your job. I think you're doing
39 -- from what I can see, you're covering the country
40 fairly well and I encourage that. We just want to see
41 that the public is educated more so there's no
42 misunderstanding of what your requirements are. The
43 people just feel like they're being targeted. If they
44 could have the understanding that these are what the
45 parameters are and if I violate those, I'm going to get a
46 ticket, then it's more palatable that way. I do
47 appreciate the work you're doing.

48

49 Thank you.

50

1 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Jack. Mickey.
2
3 MR. STICKMAN: One of the things that we
4 do at Gana-A'Yoo is try to mark a little bit of our land
5 every year and we usually do it with Doyon, so they share
6 the cost of gas. Last year we had Tommy Huntington mark
7 40 different sites for us. Half the signs were Gana-
8 A'Yoo and half the signs were Doyon. As the president
9 of the corporation, I usually patrol corporation land and
10 it stretches from eight miles below Kaltag to up above
11 Galena to 40 miles up the Koyukuk River. This year I
12 didn't go up the Koyukuk River because of the Moose
13 Management Working Group, the regulations are in place.
14 It has moved down river, but I usually try to patrol the
15 corporation land at least four or five days during the
16 moose hunting season.
17
18 I know Orville always do it up on K-Corp
19 land. Those are the kinds of things we do, but we do try
20 to mark off a little bit more of our land and some Doyon
21 land every year on an annual basis and we've been doing
22 that for four or five years now.
23
24 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Mickey.
25 Anything further for Trooper Sears. If not, I think it's
26 a well-deserved update on what we're trying to do and how
27 we're trying to meet all the requirements out there.
28
29 Thank you for your presentation.
30
31 TROOPER SEARS: Thank you, Chairman and
32 members of the Board.
33
34 CHAIRMAN SAM: This will lead us right
35 into wildlife proposals, wildlife issues.
36
37 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, it brings us up to
38 wildlife issues and the first topic is dealing with the
39 805(c) letter, the report card back from the Board on
40 actions that it took in May. That's found on Page 115.
41
42 We've handled this different ways, so
43 I'll need your direction on this. In the past, we've
44 just kind of let you guys review it and if you had any
45 questions about the Board response, then we would clarify
46 why the Board took the action that's listed there or I
47 can summarize what the Board did. It's up to you on
48 that.
49
50 CHAIRMAN SAM: Any direction from the

1 Council members at this time.

2

3 MR. REAKOFF: Mr. Chairman.

4

5 CHAIRMAN SAM: Jack.

6

7 MR. REAKOFF: I attended this Federal
8 Subsistence Board meeting. Basically our proposals that
9 we had before the Board, they went to a consent agenda,
10 so they weren't that contentious. I traveled down not
11 aware that they were going to go in that direction. I do
12 appreciate the way the Federal Board deliberates
13 proposals and I feel the Federal Board's process works
14 very well on looking at the proposals and understanding
15 what the parameters of these issues are. I personally
16 commend the Board on their deliberation process.

17

18 I've sat through like three or four
19 Federal Board meetings and I want this Council to know
20 that I can highly appreciate the Staff Committee process.
21 The Staff Committee looks at the proposals, the Board
22 members themselves then truly enter into the mix. As
23 attending these meetings, I wanted to report back to this
24 Council that the Federal Subsistence Board is a real
25 viable entity. There's been a lot of stuff coming out of
26 the State that they're just rubber-stamping everything
27 that we do and I highly disagree with that. They look
28 heavily to the Councils, but I don't think the Federal
29 Subsistence Board is rubber-stamping everything that the
30 Councils are doing. So I wanted this Council to be aware
31 of that.

32

33 Thank you.

34

35 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Jack. I have
36 one question. Did you ever go beyond the letter, try to
37 address the issues of why we have emergency closures and
38 all that, why we address issues after our subsistence
39 opportunities are gone or taken away from us, that we're
40 trying to address both the State and the Feds? Do you
41 remember what I'm trying to say? That we're addressing
42 the problem of no moose after the fact there's no moose
43 instead of trying to deal with it before it gets to that
44 critical situation.

45

46 MR. MATHEWS: That's in your annual
47 report. There was a response to that. It was Ray that
48 was saying -- I'm stretching it here now -- recovery
49 versus.....

50

1 MR. COLLINS: Maintenance.
2
3 MR. MATHEWS:maintenance and there
4 is a Board response on that. So, yes, that's in your
5 annual report aspect that you wanted the Board and
6 agencies to be pro-active so you would not have to go to,
7 for lack of a better term, predator management or
8 intensive management on a grand scale.
9
10 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay. Thanks. So it is
11 being addressed in the annual report then.
12
13 MR. MATHEWS: Yes.
14
15 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you. Anything else
16 that you had. Go ahead.
17
18 MR. MATHEWS: There's one other thing. I
19 tried to pull it off before I got here, but the computer
20 mouse screwed up on me, or it was the operator actually,
21 but Eastern Interior requested an analysis of how their
22 actions align with the Board or don't align with the
23 Board, so when I did that project I incorporated all of
24 your data and I was hoping to give you a quick report
25 card since 1994, what your report card is. When I tried
26 to do that, the operator didn't do the mouse right.
27
28 The results from Eastern Interior was
29 around 72 percent of the time. That's overall. Yours
30 was higher, but I questioned what came out of the
31 computer because of my error. So I'll try to get you a
32 report back on that to give you an idea of where you're
33 at.
34
35 Now Jack is right, these are not rubber-
36 stamped. Jack and Ron have been on many teleconferences
37 and I think maybe others, but Jack and Ron are on the
38 Staff Committee intensively discussing these issues.
39 When it gets to the Board level, there's an open one
40 because a lot of you guys don't get to see the Board in
41 action, but the representative there is highly engaged
42 when it's on the record and highly engaged off the record
43 by Board members on different issues, so it's a very
44 interactive program. So it's not rubber-stamped. That's
45 not what I'm trying to convey with this 72. I think
46 yours was 75 percent of the time.
47
48 But it is a high level of commitment from
49 your leaders to go into that process and spend those
50 hours on the phone and spend three or four days away from

1 home at a Board meeting. In response to Jack on the
2 consent agenda, we still bring you guys in because
3 anybody could pull it off the consent agenda with the
4 Board's concurrence and then we would not have your
5 expertise there. So it is difficult when we get you all
6 the way in there and most of your items, if not all, are
7 on a consent agenda, but they could be pulled off because
8 of data that comes in or someone else that has a concern.
9 So we will adjust to that when you're there, your travel,
10 but I highly recommend you keep going even though it's on
11 the consent agenda.

12

13 CHAIRMAN SAM: Jack.

14

15 MR. REAKOFF: One thing I want the
16 Council to be aware of is that when I attend those Board
17 meetings, there's other regions that are deliberating
18 proposals in their regions. It's common for the other
19 councils to enter into those deliberations and have input
20 on like questions about moose rut timing and stuff like
21 that. I was not just sitting there, idly just sitting
22 there.

23

24 There were several times I was
25 interacting with the Board on some of those other regions
26 proposals, sort of assisting other regions, as they help
27 us. A lot of times those other regions are actually
28 discussing our proposals, having input on what may work.
29 So it's like 10 regions or usually about eight are
30 present, so we were sort of helping each other out.
31 There's kind of an interesting aspect to the way this
32 Federal Subsistence Board process works. Unless you've
33 been there, the rest of my Council members here wouldn't
34 be aware of what's actually going on there.

35

36 So 75 percent of the time our proposals
37 pass?

38

39 MR. MATHEWS: Well, that's combined,
40 wildlife and fisheries. I didn't memorize the breakdown
41 of fisheries and wildlife, but there's a high percentage
42 there. Realize that's just a gross review of it, meaning
43 the Board did pass, adopt it, and you guys support it.
44 There may have been where you had differences underneath.
45 I don't have the ability to go down into that level. It's
46 just showing that this process has worked over time, the
47 responses there.

48

49 Please realize that that Board only has
50 to look at that one use and there is some balancing of

1 other issues, but they don't have all the issues like
2 Board of Game has or Board of Fish. So I don't want to
3 get into what's the records for those. That's not a fair
4 comparison because of the balancing that needs to be
5 done.

6
7 As this program has evolved over time,
8 I'm hearing rumors that the program is not responsive and
9 Eastern Interior wanted to find out what's the report
10 card and I think it's wise they did ask for it and go
11 from there because sometimes rumors are not true.

12
13 So anyway that, hopefully, I'll get out
14 to you in the next meeting or before the next meeting.

15
16 Finally, the list that's on the back of
17 your charts came from the Staff Committee members talking
18 to me about when they debate your recommendation, they
19 want to know you touched off on those things towards the
20 end of the deliberation because when Ron and Jack are on
21 the phone they can add additional information, but they
22 can't modify your recommendations. So that's why we're
23 trying to, with that, make sure you have it on record
24 here because they do review your transcripts when it's a
25 controversial issue. So it's not just to fill the tape
26 for Salena, it's to make it clear that you did solicit
27 input from other agencies and et cetera. If they hear no
28 one responded and then an agency, for example, says we
29 had this concern, well you didn't have that information.

30
31 That brings us up to a summary of the
32 wildlife planning efforts that Fish and Game has for the
33 region and your involvement in it.

34
35 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Vince. I think
36 that covers it just for Council's information and the
37 public too. It used to be better before Jack started
38 going down to the Federal Subsistence Board meeting. At
39 one time all the chairs got in, we had evening sessions
40 with the Federal Subsistence Board members and top end of
41 OSM. If that didn't work, we had the meeting in the
42 morning until it got to Washington D.C. that we were
43 breaking all the FACA rules and regulations, that we
44 couldn't meet in private with the Federal Subsistence
45 Board. So what they wanted us to do was have a meeting
46 with the Federal Subsistence Board members and tap into
47 OSM at the end of the meeting. We said the heck with
48 that, we'll have all the business done by then. So
49 that's where we stand on that issue. It might have been
50 working too well because when we met with the Federal

1 Subsistence Board and OSM we could have put everything on
2 the consent agenda right off the bat and walk out of
3 those meetings without any kind of deliberations or
4 arguments or anything. So I think that was one of the
5 ways we were bypassing FACA regulations. That's just for
6 your information. That changed and they did away with
7 that.

8

9 Planning efforts. Randy Rogers.

10

11 MR. ROGERS: Good morning, Mr. Chairman,
12 members of the Council. My name is Randy Rogers. I'm
13 wildlife planner for the Department of Fish and Game in
14 Interior Region. It's always a pleasure to be here with
15 the Western Interior Council. I've missed a couple
16 recent meetings and I felt something was missing by doing
17 that.

18

19 Vince laid out quite a list of different
20 projects to give you an update on, so what I've done is
21 I've got a few notes on just some of the highlights of
22 those projects. Probably a little more detail on the
23 main project we're working on, Unit 21(E). We have Beth
24 Leonard, who is the acting McGrath area biologist, Glenn
25 Stout, Galena area biologist, and Roy Nowlin. If you
26 come up with some questions that aren't something I can
27 answer, those folks will help out of course.

28

29 I've also got a few copies of some
30 informational materials that I brought. I've got some
31 information on our wood bison restoration project and
32 I've got some extra copies of our Yukon Innoko moose
33 planning news. Several of you are on the mailing list
34 for these, but a few of you may not, so if there's some
35 of this information you'd like, I've got copies of it.

36

37 I'll start with wood bison. I don't know
38 if you guys are very familiar with this project at all.
39 It's something the department has worked on for over a
40 decade now and in more recent years it's kind of
41 revitalized the effort. This spring we established an
42 advisory group to take a statewide look at the
43 possibility of restoring wood bison. Past efforts have
44 been focused on Yukon Flats alone.

45

46 We established this Wood Bison
47 Restoration Advisors Group. We had two public meetings
48 in Fairbanks. They were two-day meetings. They were
49 very intense with information, presentations. We had six
50 different professors from the university, we had

1 participation from the Fish and Wildlife Service, BLM.
2 We had folks come over from Yukon Territory to explain
3 their experiences with wood bison. In fact, it was so
4 intensive at the end of it, I came up with the idea of
5 giving all the members an honorary diploma for graduation
6 from wood bison university.

7
8 At any rate, from that point that group
9 made some initial recommendations encouraging us to move
10 forward with further planning efforts in the three sites
11 we've identified as possible and those are Yukon Flats,
12 the Minto Flats and then the Lower Yukon-Innoko River
13 area.

14
15 We do intend most likely to move forward
16 with planning in those areas. In our meetings we haven't
17 really identified any significant biologic concerns with
18 the project, although we also recognize that if wood
19 bison are placed out in the landscape we need to have
20 close monitoring to make sure that we don't have any
21 problems with waterfowl, moose or other species. And
22 we've got very strict criteria in place to make sure that
23 would happen.

24
25 In yesterday's conversations we were
26 talking a lot about the implications of global warming
27 and how it's apparently been affecting the moose season
28 here. I wanted to point out that Terry Chapin was one of
29 the people who gave a presentation at our second wood
30 bison meeting. Terry, as you may recall, is a professor
31 at the university. He testified at your last meeting in
32 Huslia. They've been doing work around there with fire
33 ecology. At any rate, his suggestion to our advisor's
34 group was that he foresees major climatic changes taking
35 place here in Alaska and ecosystem changes. He advocates
36 getting wood bison out on the landscape soon so that we
37 could actually measure the effects of them, see how
38 they're doing. He's looking at the potential of major
39 portions of the northern boreal forest being converted to
40 grasslands.

41
42 If that's the case, we need to be
43 thinking about it. It might make it more appropriate
44 than ever to bring this type of animal back. That is, I
45 guess, a bit speculative, but it's an interesting
46 perspective as we all observe some of the changes going
47 on.

48
49 At this point we're working on preparing
50 an environmental analysis of wood bison and looking at

1 each of the three sites. When we get that completed,
2 we'll send that out for public review and comment. We'll
3 have another public meeting. At that point Division of
4 Wildlife Conservation will decide if we're going to
5 continue to move forward with this project or not. If
6 so, where will we do it. It's a project that you might
7 consider is a little extra and with our funding situation
8 we're right on the edge as to whether we're able to
9 support this project and move forward. If we do, it will
10 probably involve significant amounts of private funding
11 outside of the normal Fish and Game funding sources.

12
13 We like to believe it's a project that
14 could build bridges between a lot of different wildlife
15 users. There's an interest to helping to restore an
16 endangered species. Environmental interests have got
17 interest in that. It's a project that could provide
18 benefits for both local subsistence users and other
19 hunters. Sometimes we disagree on some of the issues,
20 we're kind of hoping that maybe this is one that's a
21 conservation opportunity that everyone would like to
22 share in. To make it happen, it's going to have to have
23 broad support from all the interest groups.

24
25 Koyukuk moose. As you all know, we're
26 planning a meeting for the end of October to talk more
27 about the Koyukuk Moose Management Plan. When the plan
28 was written, we put the date 2000 to 2005 on it. That
29 was somewhat of an arbitrary date that I, in many
30 respect, regret even putting the numbers on there because
31 it's a guess. You really don't know. That plan could
32 have been outdated in one year, it might have lasted 10.
33 I think that we've all seen some changes taking place out
34 there and it probably is very timely to give it a very
35 thorough review.

36
37 What's going on with the plan, are we
38 complying with the plan, is the plan working, does it
39 need to be changed, should it be completely scraped. I
40 mean I think all of these issues are going to be on the
41 table.

42
43 As we look at the challenges we have,
44 what I see is the Koyukuk Plan being kind of on the
45 leading edge of where we are with cooperative management
46 in Interior Alaska here. I mean it was the first big
47 plan that I worked on. We were able to achieve some
48 consensus and come up with things that worked pretty good
49 and maybe they need some fine tuning or maybe they need
50 some complete changing at this point.

1 Some of the challenges that we've seen.
2 Recently Glenn took the initiative to put in a proposal
3 to expand the drawing hunts. As we restricted hunting
4 within the Koyukuk controlled use area, we saw folks
5 getting creative to hunt, put camps up right on the
6 border of the controlled use area and expand out and that
7 was affecting the populations. Glenn came up with the
8 idea, in cooperation with other local folks, of expanding
9 those drawing and registration hunt systems to help
10 manage the number of non-local hunters going into the
11 area. So that's been a change and something that's had
12 an effect.

13
14 As we've just discussed here, a critical
15 part of the plan is enforcing the permit conditions and
16 provisions of the plan. We've always had very strict
17 enforcement at Ella's Cabin on permit conditions, on
18 inspecting the meat. As you all know, we had a real
19 focused enforcement program the first year after the plan
20 that really was successful in cutting down some of the
21 wanton waste and problems. It's difficult for wildlife
22 enforcement to maintain that level of effort over the
23 years. To make the plan work, we have to have broad
24 compliance in all areas. Initially there wasn't the
25 focus there was in Huslia. I guess I don't understand
26 the details other than what we've heard today. There's
27 more enforcement taking place farther north.

28
29 You folks have talked a lot about the
30 winter cow hunts, the importance of those to local
31 residents, the importance to subsistence and we need to
32 discuss the sustainability of those in relationship to
33 the population objectives that we're trying to maintain
34 there. How this works out in terms of spreading both the
35 benefits and the impacts among the different users here.

36
37 When we've had the State Board of Game
38 bring up the issue of reviewing all controlled use areas
39 in the state and, inevitably, there will be some
40 discussion this March at the Board of Game on the Koyukuk
41 controlled use area. Many people have advocated taking
42 the controlled use area away and many have advocated that
43 it's central and essential to maintaining the whole plan.

44
45
46 Then there's always the topic of predator
47 control as we look particularly in northern Unit 24 and
48 declining populations there. There's always been an
49 interest. The last Koyukuk meeting we had, particularly
50 when we reviewed what was going on with the moose

1 population, a lot of folks feel that we've done almost
2 everything that we can to control the level of hunting,
3 short of letting it just go to Tier II and Federal
4 permits. Many people would like to see more efforts
5 placed on managing predation up there and improving the
6 moose numbers.

7
8 Whether we can get to that point or if
9 it's appropriate or not, we'll find out. Of course, we
10 all understand that on the Federal lands there's
11 significant constraints on that, but maybe there's areas
12 that are under State management where there's some
13 possibility of moving forward with that.

14
15 Anyhow, it is time we had a good, honest,
16 heart-to-heart discussion on this and involve all the
17 different user groups in it and that's what we've got
18 scheduled for the end of October. I know many of you
19 Council folks will hopefully be there and contribute to
20 that discussion. I'm working to try to get
21 representation from some of the urban folks. Several of
22 the urban representatives that were involved in the moose
23 hunter working group would like to come and participate
24 again and I think that's important since they know how
25 the plan was developed and the trade-offs made.

26
27 Having said all that, we're still in the
28 process of trying to determine whether we actually have
29 the resources to commit to doing a full plan update. In
30 the OSM 809 project funding cycle this year, we've
31 received the initial OSM staff suggestions for possible
32 809 funding. It includes a Koyukuk Plan update. I'm
33 developing a proposal to go ahead and submit that and
34 we're going to hold our final decision until we've had
35 the Koyukuk meeting and find out what all the users want
36 to do. Even if we get the 809 funding, the restrictions
37 on that make it very difficult for us in terms of having
38 the staff time to focus on really doing the planning
39 effort right. You know, first priority is carrying
40 through with 21(E) at this point. Also the non-employee
41 travel side of it, which we're not allowed to use those
42 809 funds for because of some of the FACA constraints.

43
44 On the bright side, too, I'm sure
45 everyone is aware that Huslia was awarded a tribal
46 wildlife grant. Part of that grant involves funding
47 additional participation by local residents in Koyukuk
48 moose management meetings. So that may help out. We
49 have been talking with folks in Huslia about how we can
50 coordinate that and hopefully, if we decide the need is

1 there, we'll find a way to accomplish the task.

2

3 If you guys have questions along the way,
4 you can interrupt me or I can go through this and we can
5 open it up for general discussion. Ron.

6

7 CHAIRMAN SAM: I probably have a bunch of
8 them, but I'm kind of waiting for the actual meeting in
9 Fairbanks and I understand the Koyukuk River Advisory
10 Committee is meeting at the same time, too, so you should
11 have good participation.

12

13 MR. ROGERS: Yes, that's correct, Mr.
14 Chairman. Glenn had the idea, in talking with Polluck
15 Simon, to have the Koyukuk River Advisory Committee
16 meeting in Fairbanks the evening before. That way we get
17 the entire advisory committee in. Vince, as you know,
18 worked to get OSM to support funding for a couple of your
19 Council members to come. I've talked with Royce Pernton
20 and Mickey, who's going to come as a member of the Middle
21 Yukon Advisory Committee, so I think we're going to have
22 real good representation.

23

24 And Huslia now has a funding source.
25 Part of their grant had the concept built in of trying to
26 involve elders and youth. So I think we've got funding
27 for the main participants here, but we've also got the
28 possibility of bringing in a few more folks to start
29 getting advice of elders and input and learning from
30 youth. But it's up to them to decide how they ultimately
31 want to use that grant.

32

33 I really am more concerned about getting
34 sufficient representation on the other side. I've been
35 under constant criticism from the Fairbanks Advisory
36 Committee and some others since we initially put that
37 plan together. I'm in discussions with them to encourage
38 them to participate and the benefit of communicating with
39 the rural advisory committees and the Western Council on
40 this. It may be appropriate for some of the rural AC
41 chair people to talk directly with some of these urban
42 AC's. That really might end up being helpful.

43

44 Anyhow, I better keep moving along here.

45

46 (Laughter)

47

48 MR. ROGERS: Central Kuskokwim moose. As
49 you all know, the Board adopted the Central Kuskokwim
50 Plan in 2004. One of the key provisions there and a

1 particularly controversial one was the non-resident
2 closure in Unit 19(A). That was put in as a one-year
3 sunset. Last year the Board of Game met and considered
4 that sunset and put it back in place but established
5 another one-year sunset on that. So that proposal will
6 be coming forward again. We need to discuss if we're
7 going to maintain that non-resident closure. We're
8 hoping to have a meeting of the Central Kuskokwim
9 Advisory Committee and bring in some people who were
10 involved in the planning committee in early November.

11
12 Just before that Board of Game meeting
13 last year, Beth, Toby and folks were able to complete a
14 new moose population estimation survey down in 19(A) and
15 (B). One of the real difficulties we faced in that
16 planning effort, which is a contrast to the Koyukuk, is
17 very little population data on what was going on with the
18 moose. You know, we still don't have everything we want
19 in the Koyukuk, but, comparatively speaking, it's a
20 really good situation.

21
22 We recommended to the Board some of the
23 provisions based on local knowledge and concern of folks
24 about decline of the moose population and some
25 indications of concern on our biologic data, but not
26 certainty. Anyhow, right before we went to the Board
27 last year, we confirmed that the population was as bad or
28 perhaps worse than we thought, so it essentially
29 confirmed the local knowledge. This is maybe a too
30 infrequent example of where we do take the local
31 knowledge into account and make management decisions
32 based on it.

33
34 At any rate, that threw us into the
35 question of rather than being concerned about maintaining
36 the non-resident closure, whether the Board might want to
37 consider pushing this to a Tier II situation. Throughout
38 the planning process everyone agreed we didn't want to go
39 to Tier II, that it would be counter-productive. It
40 really wouldn't help the people who need the moose the
41 most out there. So the committee didn't recommend that.
42 At this point, the Board has not wanted to go that way,
43 but we do feel we need to talk over this new moose
44 population data, have another year of experience with the
45 registration permit there and how that's worked and find
46 out if people want to stick with the program or if it's
47 time to make some revisions there.

48
49 Also with part of that planning effort
50 the Board approved a wolf predation control plan for Unit

1 19(A). That plan included harvest objectives for what
2 level of wolf harvest we needed to be effective in
3 actually controlling wolf predation. We were not
4 successful in reaching that. There's a number of factors
5 involved there. Some people have indicated that lack of
6 access to TKC lands prevented them from wanting to go
7 work in that area because of the uncertainty of the land
8 ownership and not wanting to trespass where it was not
9 allowed.

10
11 We had multiple programs approved in
12 different areas of the state, so folks from say the
13 Anchorage Bowl area had Unit 16(B) right close, so they,
14 I think, maybe chose if they were going to participate in
15 aerial wolf control they could go to Unit 16(B) or Unit
16 13 and not burn half as much gas as it took to get clear
17 over to 19(A). You know, if we ever get to the point of
18 considering a control program in northern 24, that's
19 going to be a major concern, even if we can get the Board
20 to approve it and have the permits in place, if we can
21 get sufficient participation at the price of gas and the
22 distance involved to make it functional.

23
24 Another key component which involves both
25 the Central Kuskokwim and the Yukon-Innoko Plan is a
26 proposal that's gone into the Board of Game right now to
27 establish community harvest areas for -- the proposal is
28 submitted by ONC, the Bethel Village Council, but it
29 would establish a community harvest area consisting of
30 Unit 18, 19(A) and (B) and Unit 21(E) and could
31 substantially change the whole scope of that community
32 harvest program which was initially put together for
33 Chalkyitsik on kind of an experimental basis. So that's
34 one that you folks may want to watch how that develops.
35 I'm sure that we'll need to talk about that in our
36 meeting in Holy Cross that will be coming up as well as
37 the Central Kuskokwim AC. There are legitimate concerns
38 of folks in terms of difficulty in getting permits and
39 they're talking about the downriver subsistence users in
40 Unit 18.

41
42 Okay. Going on to the Yukon-Innoko Moose
43 Management Plan, formerly called the Unit 21(E) Plan.
44 Beth Leonard has been the lead biologist on this. I'm
45 sure you folks are aware that Toby Boudreau left the
46 State and has gone to Idaho right now. We've lost a lot
47 of expertise right there. Toby was so booked up with
48 work that before we even started this, Roy talked with
49 Beth and Beth was designated to take the lead on this
50 Unit 21(E) moose planning process. As it worked out,

1 we're happy to have Beth working on that with us, but we
2 also don't have the problem of a transition of biologists
3 in dealing with this, so that's fortunate.

4
5 Up to this point we've had three meetings
6 of the Yukon-Innoko Moose Management Working Group.
7 These were January in Grayling, April in Shageluk, and
8 July in Anvik. The next meeting is scheduled for the
9 first week of November in Holy Cross and we need to
10 finalize ideas for what we will be submitting to both the
11 Board of Game and the Federal Subsistence Board in terms
12 of presentations or proposals. Robert Walker is the
13 representative of the Council on that. We've got good
14 involvement of the advisory committee members. Bob
15 Aloysius is the representative for the Y-K Delta Regional
16 Council.

17
18 The first meeting out we identified the
19 need for more current moose population data to give the
20 working group the basis to develop good recommendations.
21 Fish and Game didn't have the resources to do that, but
22 at the initial suggestion of Mike Smith at Tanana Chiefs
23 conference, we got together, pooled resources with the
24 Innoko Refuse, BLM, Tanana Chiefs, and AVCP out of Bethel
25 chipped in also. Beth Leonard coordinated the survey and
26 we were able to accomplish a new survey this last spring.
27 The survey didn't show results that were significantly
28 different from the survey that was conducted in 2000.

29
30 Still, at the same time, local residents
31 and others in the area have for a long time been
32 concerned about a decline in the population there and we
33 still recognized that there might be changes going on
34 that just aren't detected within these two moose
35 population surveys. We might have changes in moose
36 distribution, we might have changes in moose movements
37 and, of course, the fall weather has had a big effect.
38 Right now, the way things are looking, we're not looking
39 at major changes to the moose hunting regulations in
40 21(E).

41
42 In our first meeting, the working group
43 decided that they wanted to see the portion of Unit 21(A)
44 in the Innoko drainage added to the planning effort
45 because a lot of the local folks will go upriver on the
46 Innoko hunting, as well as people who get dropped off by
47 transporters and maybe float down the Innoko, have quite
48 an influence on what happens down in 21(E) and local
49 subsistence use. So we've gone ahead and added that in
50 and that's when it became the Yukon-Innoko Plan.

1 With that addition, we really need to
2 make sure we consult more closely with the McGrath
3 Advisory Committee, who is involved in the portion of
4 21(E) and they've got folks particularly from Takotna
5 that come over into 21(A). So we'll hopefully have a
6 chance to talk more about that tomorrow with them.

7
8 At this point, we're not recommending any
9 regulation changes in 21(A). Hopefully we're not doing
10 anything that would make them unhappy, but, by the same
11 time, this planning effort may be a vehicle. If they
12 want some changes made, we could carry that forward as
13 part of the planning effort.

14
15 The draft recommendations are out for
16 review right now in this Yukon-Innoko Moose Management
17 Planning News and we've got a little public comment form
18 in there. It just went out about a week ago. Before I
19 left the office Monday, I had a stack of responses
20 already coming in. So I hope we get a lot of good input
21 and that will make the job of the working group better in
22 making the final decisions on some of the questions we
23 have.

24
25 I'd like to just read the mission of the
26 plan for you if I might. This is to maintain healthy and
27 abundant moose populations by pro-actively managing
28 moose, predation and habitat and keeping moose harvest
29 within sustained yield so that subsistence needs for
30 moose are met on an annual basis and there's sufficient
31 moose to provide for personal and family use of Alaska
32 residents and some non-resident hunting opportunity for
33 generations to come.

34
35 Again, you folks are experienced with the
36 Koyukuk Plan and the mission is intended to be all-
37 encompassing, but the key word that I tried to emphasize
38 there is proactive. We were just talking about this a
39 little while ago. This is a situation where there are
40 concerns the moose population is still relatively healthy
41 and we want to make sure we keep it that way. Many times
42 we're in a plan, we're reacting, we're in a crisis
43 situation, we get a depressed moose population and maybe
44 the Central Kuskokwim is the example to use there where
45 it's very difficult to reverse that. So we don't want to
46 let that happen in 21(E).

47
48 Some of the proposals right now are keep
49 the State winter season closed. It was closed a couple
50 years ago through action of the GASH Advisory Committee,

1 but keep the Federal winter season open to allow a small
2 antlerless harvest for those with the Federal customary
3 and traditional determination, which is the local
4 communities in Russian Mission.

5
6 Of course, we need to keep in mind
7 concerns that were just mentioned here. At this point,
8 we talked about aligning State and Federal regulations,
9 but we're not necessarily going that way, so we need to
10 make sure that we're going to have information and
11 education to make sure people understand what they could
12 do on Federal lands and State lands. It's really not the
13 ideal situation. If we can have it aligned, it takes
14 that away, but then there could be benefits. Maybe we
15 can support a small Federal cow harvest where we couldn't
16 under the State regs, so that's the trade-off you're
17 looking at there.

18
19 We have an alternative to consider
20 establishing an antlered bulls only season in early
21 December under State regs. Ron.

22
23 CHAIRMAN SAM: Your meeting's when,
24 tomorrow, day after?

25
26 MR. ROGERS: The McGrath Advisory
27 Committee meeting is tomorrow and we're going to talk to
28 them. They haven't been directly involved in the
29 planning effort, but since we expanded to include 21(A),
30 which is part of their jurisdiction, we want to make sure
31 that we're consulting with them and they have the
32 opportunity -- if we're going some direction they don't
33 like, they'll let us know, I'm sure.

34
35 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you for that
36 inclusion because I know we've been meeting here at
37 McGrath and eating at Ray's house and it seems like we're
38 not addressing too many of their issues, so hopefully
39 this addresses their issues.

40
41 MR. ROGERS: Well, this is one point of
42 discussion we need to have among many.

43
44 CHAIRMAN SAM: Robert.

45
46 MR. WALKER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
47 Yes, Randy, we have discussed this at our meetings here,
48 Ron, that when Randy and Roy would meet with McGrath
49 Advisory Committee and discussed 21(A), which we kind of
50 like to have half of it and they have the other half, so

1 we don't kind of like oversee what they're planning and
2 we don't want them to oversee what we're planning for it.
3 So it's kind of like a happy medium here where we can
4 adjust everything here and go from there. In our moose
5 management meeting, we want to let them know -- Randy
6 will let them know what we're doing, so we don't fall
7 into this Catch 21 here.

8
9 CHAIRMAN SAM: I think that's good
10 thinking on their part because, like you said, you don't
11 want to step on each other's toes. I appreciate your
12 efforts in meeting with McGrath because, you know, it's
13 one of our high-publicized problem areas within the state
14 and I'm glad you're addressing some of these issues. Go
15 ahead, Jack.

16
17 MR. REAKOFF: Are we making comments on
18 your presentation or can we at this time?

19
20 MR. ROGERS: You can make them at any
21 time. I was realizing I was going on fairly long. I
22 have a few things I was going to cover, but we can cut
23 out that and we can go straight to any questions or
24 comments you have. I think you guys probably understand
25 the basics. You've got the newsletters that lay out some
26 of the proposals we're looking at for 21(E). So whatever
27 your pleasure is.

28
29 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yes, Randy. We've been
30 involved in the Koyukuk River Moose Management Working
31 Group. Out of that formation is a spin-off at the Yukon
32 Flats, and it's coming all the way down the river. I'm
33 just glad to see you're still involved. Speaking with
34 you privately, I understand you're getting quite a bit of
35 pressure from the urban areas on these plans. I'd just
36 like to thank you for staying with the plan and staying
37 with our group.

38
39 Thank you.

40
41 Jack.

42
43 MR. REAKOFF: I highly appreciate your
44 work that you're doing with all these planning processes.
45 It's been a learning experience from the Koyukuk Plan.
46 Hopefully some of those things that we'll learn will
47 follow through. Every region, every area is going to
48 have a little different twist to it.

49
50 Some of my comments that I would like to

1 make is that I endorse this wood bison introduction where
2 it can be applied. I don't feel that they're a
3 competitive species. As long as they're in good health
4 when they're introduced into the environment. That's my
5 primary concern about that introduction process.

6
7 On the Koyukuk Plan and review that's
8 coming up, there was sort of a perception that the
9 Western Interior diverged from the plan with maintaining
10 a cow harvest or a winter harvest in March this last
11 spring. So I wanted to be on the record with the State
12 in that I did not feel that we have diverged from the
13 plan. The plan did not eliminate winter harvest, so the
14 provided bull season in December, the Koyukuk River, the
15 Western Interior Council, both felt that that is not the
16 traditional time frame when moose are harvested in winter
17 for subsistence when people need meat, so we maintain
18 that. I didn't feel that we diverged from the plan at
19 all and I want to be on the record as stating that.

20
21 I'm a little frustrated that the urban
22 advisory committees are not participating in the plan. I
23 feel that everybody should participate in the plan.
24 Everybody should have a say. When we all got together,
25 everybody was polarized on each side of the room. It
26 melded together during that planning process to a high
27 degree and I felt it was a beneficial thing for the
28 rural/urban split, this worst case scenario.

29
30 I would like possibly our Council to
31 transmit a letter to those AC's to encourage them to
32 participate in the planning process. It's beneficial for
33 everybody to hear their concerns. So just sitting and
34 talking to themselves is not going to help in the
35 planning process. This is very childish as far as I'm
36 concerned. We're adults. They want to utilize the lands
37 that are local to these residents in this area. The
38 residents have a say, they don't want to hear that. You
39 know, they have to grow up and get involved in these
40 planning processes. So I would like a letter transmitted
41 from our Council to the Fairbanks AC and all those AC's
42 that participated in the Koyukuk Plan.

43
44 I'm a little bit concerned about a Bethel
45 harvest community bag limit in the Western Interior
46 regional units. I'm highly concerned about that. I feel
47 that that's like a Pandora's Box and I'm really concerned
48 about that statement. I feel that we've had -- this is
49 sort of an end run to the C&T problem that we've had.
50 We're still working through that process. So I'm

1 concerned about this community bag limit for Bethel.

2

3 On the Innoko Plan, I'll have to review
4 what's being done. It would be sort of the basis of a
5 lot of our Koyukuk planning was revolved around, staying
6 within sustained yield parameters, percentages of
7 harvest, maintaining adequate bull/cow ratios. The wound
8 loss issue. I was concerned to hear that the 40-Mile
9 Caribou Plan does not include any wound loss issues. The
10 Koyukuk Plan did. I feel that there's certain basics
11 that was learned in the Koyukuk Plan that I would like to
12 see incorporated into the other planning processes.
13 These are biological parameters that have to be addressed
14 and maintained.

15

16 So those are my comments so far. I
17 didn't want to inundate you.

18

19 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Jack. Ray.

20

21 MR. COLLINS: Mr. Chairman. I also would
22 encourage the support of that bison re-introduction
23 because we had the herd that was introduced up here at
24 Fairwell. What I wanted to say was that one of the
25 things we learned here is that in the early years there's
26 a real benefit in that the predators didn't know how to
27 deal with bison when you introduce them in there. It
28 took a long time before the wolves up here figured out
29 how to deal with a herd. Now I think there's some
30 efforts in there so that when you introduce them in an
31 area for a while they're kind of predation-free. I don't
32 know if that continues. Has that been discussed in any
33 of these planning efforts about their relationship to
34 predators? Is it different than moose and some of the
35 others in the long term?

36

37 MR. ROGERS: Yes, Member Collins, we
38 talked about that in detail. Most of the experience with
39 wood bison in Canada is they're pretty well predation
40 resistant. In Yukon Territory, they have little to no
41 indication of predation on the wood bison. There's
42 another herd of wood bison further up north around the
43 McKenzie Delta. They have had some predation occurring
44 there. So I guess the general thought is they're way
45 more resistant to predation than moose are. Part of the
46 Fish and Game transplanted policy specifically prohibits
47 bringing an animal in if you know you're going to have to
48 take intensive actions like predator management to
49 maintain them. So we really can't go into this with the
50 full knowledge that it would require predator management.

1 We don't believe it would. Over time you would have to
2 presume, whether it be wolves and/or bears, they would
3 learn how to -- to have some effect of predation on them.

4

5 CHAIRMAN SAM: Go ahead, Don.

6

7 MR. HONEA: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
8 Actually, I was kind of surprised that this would be one
9 of the topics that we're going to bring up and you
10 covered pretty extensively what you do in different
11 areas.

12

13 Ed Sartin, our Ruby Advisory Committee
14 chairman, has been talking about this wood bison here for
15 several years and I think you mentioned three different
16 areas and I was just wondering how do you do that. I
17 mean how do you submit something, an idea like that? We
18 would like to, I believe, introduce that concept into our
19 region there. I believe above the Melozi River there
20 where I don't believe there's a whole lot of moose up in
21 that area, and I believe it would be ideal to introduce
22 wood bison to that area.

23

24 I believe it was four or five years ago
25 that Steven's Village, I believe, didn't they have a
26 cooperative agreement with the Federal government or
27 something to introduce that down near Delta or something
28 and I was just wondering what stage are they in? Did
29 they introduce bison into that area and where are they in
30 that development?

31

32 Thank you.

33

34 MR. ROGERS: Yes, sir. The first
35 question with Stevens Village, they have acquired, I
36 think, 2,000 acres down near Delta and they've been in
37 the process of fencing it with the idea of wanting to get
38 wood bison there. Currently there's a complete closure
39 of the U.S./Canadian border on importing bison. It's
40 related to the mad cow disease closure in primarily Lower
41 48, Canada, so nothing is going to happen until that's
42 lifted. Stevens Village has run into a very difficult
43 time obtaining the stock. They actually had some plains
44 bison stock that they were going to be given, but they
45 couldn't get them here.

46

47 I believe this summer they purchased a
48 small number of bison within Alaska, 20 or something like
49 that, and they've got down there, but those are plains
50 bison, so it's slightly different. But they're

1 proceeding with their efforts and they've also been
2 involved in our Wood Bison Restoration Group and part of
3 the coalition led right now by Council of Athabaskan
4 Tribal Governments, which is pushing for wood bison on
5 Yukon Flats. But Stevens Village right now is dealing
6 with captive wood bison, whereas our project is about
7 wild, free-ranging bison.

8
9 Your second question on how did we select
10 the sites that we've got, we've researched Yukon Flats
11 for a long time and it's pretty clearly the best habitat
12 in the state and probably far better than the habitat
13 where wood bison live in Yukon territory right now.

14
15 When we expanded our project to be more
16 of a statewide examination -- and part of the reason for
17 this is we weren't confident and we still are not
18 confident that we will ever succeed in wood bison on
19 Yukon Flats. There's constraints with the wildlife
20 refuge there and interpretation of whether it's
21 consistent with the purpose of ANILCA or not. We're
22 trying to look for resolution of those issues.

23
24 I think there's also concerns of Doyon
25 right now with the potential for wood bison out in the
26 area where they are attempting to do oil development and
27 if wood bison are potentially listed under the Endangered
28 Species Act, that could have a lot of implications for
29 the oil development.

30
31 Anyhow, when we expanded to the statewide
32 effort, one of our biologists, Craig Gardner, did habitat
33 inventory throughout interior Alaska. Flew around, took
34 samples, checked aerial photos, consulted with different
35 folks and looked at a number of different sites and these
36 are the three best ones he's identified. It doesn't mean
37 there isn't potential other areas out there though. So,
38 down the line, if we ever succeed in this project at all,
39 there may be some possibility of considering areas like
40 the Melozi and I think he actually has checked that area
41 some. I would have to get back to you with more specific
42 information on that site.

43
44 You guys have lots of questions. There's
45 one more 21(E) topic that I want to make sure we touch on
46 before you get tired of me here.

47
48 CHAIRMAN SAM: I am.

49
50 (Laughter)

1 CHAIRMAN SAM: Briefly. A lot of this
2 stuff will be covered in all these upcoming meetings,
3 Randy, and some of them have been discussed already. It
4 is now 10:30.

5
6 MR. ROGERS: Okay. I'll go ahead and
7 keep it to just one more topic that is important to this
8 Council to understand. In the Unit 21(E) planning
9 process, as you folks know, this Federal customary and
10 traditional determination issue has gone on for a number
11 of years. There's been differing views between the Y-K
12 Delta and the Western Interior Council. We had
13 encouraged that issue to be resolved on the Federal side
14 before we got into this planning effort. That didn't
15 occur, so we said, well, fine, we will consider any and
16 all issues that the working group identifies and wants to
17 resolve through this process.

18
19 I perhaps am guilty of pushing that issue
20 a little bit too much, but on a couple instances our
21 working group said that's not one of the primary issues
22 we want to deal with in this plan. So, at this point in
23 time, we're not dealing with it in the plan. The general
24 recommendation there is that there have been ongoing
25 discussions between TCC and AVCP. Anything that comes
26 out of those discussions would obviously need to go
27 through both of the Regional Councils and ultimately to
28 the Federal Board. So the planning group is recommending
29 deferring to that process.

30
31 That having been said, the outcome of
32 Federal C&T, when we talk about maintaining a Federal
33 winter season, which for the current Federally-qualified
34 subsistence users we're looking at 20 to 40 cows. In the
35 past, when there was a State season open, there was
36 harvest of up to 200 cows in a completely different
37 biological situation.

38
39 Before Toby left, his opinion that he
40 unequivocally stated was that we cannot sustain that 200
41 or large number of cow harvest without a decline in the
42 population. Toby acknowledged that the relatively small
43 harvest going on now is probably not a big deal.

44
45 So the focus of the plan is that we're
46 going to manage for a certain allowable harvest of cows.
47 If we see a change in that Federal customary and
48 traditional determination down the line through other
49 processes where there's a lot more people that become
50 eligible and that increases the harvest, that may be a

1 point where we would need to consider closing that
2 Federal winter season. And that's partly where maybe
3 it's advantageous to look at alternatives like the
4 December winter hunt, extending or changing the fall
5 hunts.

6
7 Based on yesterday's discussion and the
8 interest in shifting hunts, it seems that it's likely to
9 come up in our next meeting in January to shift the
10 season a little later. If we really want to do that, we
11 might want to think about getting a Federal proposal in
12 so that we could do that concurrently this spring.

13
14 Now we won't know for sure what will come
15 out of the meeting in early November, but perhaps, if the
16 Council wants, either it could put in some kind of
17 placeholder proposal related to a shift to the 21(E) fall
18 season or I could do that on behalf of the committee so
19 that at least we have that opportunity coming up.
20 Otherwise, if the State regs change and we're behind with
21 the Federal, we would need to catch up in the next
22 Federal cycle.

23
24 So I guess I'll leave it at that. I want
25 to make sure that the Council does focus on a couple of
26 those key issues.

27
28 Thank you very much for your time, too.

29
30 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Randy. One of
31 our intents was for both of your committees on the 21(E)
32 issues was to cover that C&T. When we got out of Wasilla
33 a few years ago, there was nothing we could do about it
34 and we were hoping that you could cover it closer to
35 home, but that's neither here nor there at this time.
36 Carl, you had something to add?

37
38 MR. MORGAN: Yeah, very short. I know
39 you're tired of being up there and Ron is tired of
40 listening, so I'll try to be brief. You brought up the
41 mad cow issue and that's the question I was going to ask
42 you. Like Jack, if we do introduce the wood bison, that
43 they're healthy. I sure don't want to see mad cow come
44 across the borders. The only place we can get wood bison
45 is Canada.

46
47 On the other note, I'm glad you did say
48 something about the Central Kuskokwim and did at this
49 time acknowledge traditional knowledge. Fish and Game,
50 Doug and them, they just started recognizing and taking

1 traditional knowledge as part of the biological data.
2 I'm glad you came up with it. When we gave you our
3 historical knowledge, our cultural knowledge, we're not
4 attacking your degree or the amount of time you went to
5 college. We're just giving you -- we live in this house
6 all our life and you're coming here every three months or
7 so and visit and we're telling you this is what we see.
8 We don't have the degree and I just want to thank you for
9 coming on record and saying you do acknowledge
10 traditional knowledge.

11

12 I really appreciate that.

13

14 MR. ROGERS: Thank you, member Morgan.
15 One of my challenges in doing these planning processes is
16 to look to do a better job at integrating scientific and
17 traditional knowledge. The concept of doing that seems
18 simple, but actually being able to do that is difficult.
19 We're always looking to improve that and I frankly don't
20 think I'm doing anywhere near as good as I should be, but
21 we'll keep working on it.

22

23 By the way, the State veterinarian and
24 our own Fish and Game veterinarian have very strict
25 protocols on what bison they'll allow to come in. In
26 fact, it's potential that we may never meet their
27 criteria to even be able to get them in even if the mad
28 cow disease thing is lifted. So we will be careful.
29 That is one thing I can assure you we won't go forward
30 with any animals that have potential disease.

31

32 Thank you.

33

34 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Randy. I
35 believe you had something to add, Polly. I will
36 recognize you.

37

38 MS. WHEELER: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
39 Polly Wheeler with OSM. Randy had raised the issue of the
40 21(E) C&T determination and how that's been an issue off
41 and on for the formerly 21(E) moose planning effort.
42 Anyway, it was an issue and part of the problem with that
43 planning effort, as you know, and those of you that have
44 been involved in planning efforts, is that it's really
45 critical to have key players involved right from the get-
46 go.

47

48 This planning effort, we had a Tanana
49 Chiefs representative at the first meeting and there
50 hasn't been any Tanana Chiefs representation at the

1 subsequent two meetings. We didn't have an AVCP
2 representative at either of the first two meetings but
3 did have at the third meeting. Then we had a different
4 representative at each of the meetings from the Y-K Delta
5 Regional Advisory Council.

6
7 So you have a core group of people, of
8 participants in the planning process and the first
9 meeting they typically form as a group and then they
10 raise these issues. Now, if they don't raise the issues
11 in the first couple of meetings or they say this isn't an
12 issue for this planning effort or whatever, it's hard to
13 raise it the third way through and when you don't have
14 some of the key players, like Tanana Chiefs or AVCP for
15 whom this has been an issue, when you don't have them
16 participating all along, I think that's been one of the
17 issues with this. But the key players that have been at
18 all three meetings have decided as a group that while
19 this may be an issue for other people, this isn't an
20 issue for them.

21
22 So I just wanted to give a little bit of
23 that background because I think that might help you
24 understand where the group is. I don't know if Robert
25 wants to add anything to that since he was at all three
26 meetings.

27
28 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yes, I believe that we're
29 trying to solve this C&T issue with that old Proposal 33
30 through Randy's group or it was our dream or our hope,
31 but then our last resort was Tanana Chiefs, AVCP efforts
32 to resolve this issue. From what you said, it doesn't
33 seem they've been a key proponent of this plan from the
34 start. Just hit and go. You cannot resolve this issue
35 unless they're there at all the meetings.

36
37 One of the things that really T's Jack
38 and I off is one of the biggest problems on the Koyukuk
39 River Moose Plan is the Huslia resident issue. Every
40 time they send people, they send three or four new people
41 in and they have no continuity and no understanding of
42 what the plan's first intentions were. Until we have
43 that sustained participation by the same group, you
44 probably won't get too far along the plan without using
45 some proponents of this plan.

46
47 CHAIRMAN SAM: Before you get on there,
48 Randy, Robert.

49
50 MR. WALKER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

1 Yes, FP-33, we voted it down here up in Huslia at the
2 meeting. I think it was 10-0. And we still have the
3 State bringing this up, TCC and AVCP, where they're
4 trying to reactivate it and we already voted it down.
5 How many more times do we have to do this to emphasize to
6 the State and other planners that this issue in 21(E) we
7 think is gone or we thought was gone. But I think they
8 have shovels they can dig up past history.

9

10 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

11

12 CHAIRMAN SAM: Randy, you had another
13 comment.

14

15 MR. ROGERS: No, nothing really further
16 to add. Thanks a lot for your time. It's a pleasure to
17 be here with you all.

18

19 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you for your time
20 and your presentation. Thanks for bringing that C&T
21 issue up. Whenever you're dealing with Federal
22 subsistence issues, that final C&T determination has a
23 lot to do with our decisions and I'm glad you addressed
24 that Polly and thank you for that, too. Vince.

25

26 MR. MATHEWS: Just so I get my marching
27 orders correct, you did want a letter sent to the
28 advisory committees to encourage them to be part of that
29 Koyukuk River Plan review? I would need to get on that
30 right away since that's coming up here pretty quick.

31

32 CHAIRMAN SAM: I thought that Glenn and
33 Randy automatically invited the KRAC committee and set up
34 this meeting because they knew we had this moose
35 management meeting set up. Do we have to send out a
36 formal invite? Jack and then Mickey.

37

38 MR. REAKOFF: Mr. Chairman. What I was
39 referring to was the Koyukuk River Advisory is going to
40 be there, the Middle Yukon is going to be there, but the
41 Fairbanks AC and the other AC's are reluctant to show up.
42 What I would like from our Council is a letter of
43 encouragement to be involved in the plan and
44 understanding each others parameters is a positive thing.
45 This polarizing to the opposite side of the field is not
46 going to help this process out. Even if they don't agree
47 with what the other advisory committees are stating, they
48 have to be involved in the planning process. So the
49 letter I would like transmitted is to encourage their
50 involvement in the plan.

1 CHAIRMAN SAM: Is that all you needed?
2
3 MR. MATHEWS: I needed to know if that's
4 the action of the Council. It doesn't have to be a
5 formal motion. I just know that Jack floated it out
6 there and I didn't hear anybody else say anything.
7
8 CHAIRMAN SAM: Consensus. Everyone agree
9 sending out this letter. Okay. We have consensus to get
10 this letter. Randy.
11
12 MR. ROGERS: Just one suggestion that
13 might help make that maximum effective would be, if at
14 all possible, if you could combine that with the request
15 from Koyukuk and Middle Yukon AC's. Sometimes the Urban
16 Advisory Committee folks like to focus on the advisory
17 committee system and they might really listen a little
18 closer if it was some of the advisory committees in
19 addition to the Western Council. So I don't know if
20 that's more than you can really bite off.
21
22 CHAIRMAN SAM: That may be because we are
23 running out of time. We can make a concerted effort to
24 get that out there. Mickey, you had something.
25
26 MR. STICKMAN: Thanks, Randy. I guess,
27 you know, Ron and Jack, they both know that, and Randy
28 and Glenn, when we worked on the plan, the other AC's
29 that are reluctant, they guys that Jack is talking about,
30 they were there in full participation from the beginning
31 to the end, but now that their AC members have changed, I
32 guess things have changed or their attitude has changed,
33 but we did have a concession on the five-year plan at the
34 time with the same participants from the different AC's,
35 but it's like Jack said, you know, and Randy said, maybe
36 we need to get the chair from the Koyukuk AC and the
37 chair from the Middle Yukon AC to write those letters to
38 the other chairs, like Fairbanks AC, Mat-Su, Anchorage
39 AC, just to get their participation. If they don't
40 participate, their concerns are not going to be
41 addressed.
42
43 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you. Did you have
44 any more, Randy.
45
46 MR. ROGERS: Not other than to suggest
47 that if a letter is sent that I think I would really
48 emphasize the fact that it's a chance to really learn
49 what's going on with the Koyukuk Plan, the concerns of
50 what both the urban and rural perspectives are and enter

1 into a discussion about this. Some of the reluctance to
2 participate is really not based on a good understanding
3 of what really took place or what the situation is. So
4 whether you agree or disagree, at least coming to
5 understand the situation is a first step and, from there,
6 maybe you can find some room to agree.

7
8 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you. It is now
9 seven minutes to 11:00. Before I call a break, what do
10 you have to add, Vince.

11
12 MR. MATHEWS: I'll just dialogue with you
13 on this letter because there's some sensitivity that has
14 to be addressed with that, so we'll work on that. And
15 then to seize the moment, Ron, it sounds like you're
16 going to the October 25th, 26th. Benedict, we were going
17 to cover your travel for this meeting at the end of the
18 month and I didn't get a chance to talk to you. Will you
19 be going to that? Koyukuk. And then, Jack, you're
20 covered by the AC and the same with Mickey. Randy and I
21 have been working out who's going. So if you're confused
22 about who's paying your travel, find Randy or I and we'll
23 shuffle the cards.

24
25 Thank you.

26
27 CHAIRMAN SAM: We have a bunch of
28 wildlife issues before us. Right after we break we'll
29 bring up Carl Jack with a review of Federal closures and
30 go on to 8C. Right now we'll take a 10-minute break.

31
32 (Off record)

33
34 (On record)

35
36 CHAIRMAN SAM: I'd like to call the
37 meeting back to order. We have in front of us Carl Jack
38 and Vince Mathews. Whenever you're ready.

39
40 MR. JACK: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My
41 name is Carl Jack. I'm with the Office of Subsistence
42 Management. Subject of closure reviews. These are
43 Federal actions where the Board had closed a certain area
44 to non-qualified subsistence users while leaving it open
45 to the qualified subsistence users. The briefing paper
46 is on Page 120 of your book. I'll just highlight the key
47 points on that.

48
49 The Office of Subsistence Management has
50 started the process of reviewing existing closures to

1 determine whether the justification for that closure is
2 still justified or to take other actions. These closures
3 are on Federal public lands. There are 30 instances
4 where the Federal public lands were closed to the non-
5 Federally-qualified users and these are also listed in
6 sequence on Page 120.

7
8 Of the 30, there are three fishery
9 closures that are in Southeast. The authority for the
10 closures is Section 815(3) of ANILCA. That allows
11 closures necessary for conservation of healthy
12 populations of fish and wildlife or to continue
13 subsistence uses of such populations.

14
15 The summary of the proposals were passed
16 out. The four that are before you will be covered by the
17 biologists. Those are listed on Page 3. Wildlife
18 closure reviews, number 08, 20, 23 and 24. The summary
19 of reviews contain a brief history why the closures were
20 implemented along with the summary of the current
21 resource conditions and also includes recommendations as
22 to whether the closures should be continued or deleted
23 from the regulations.

24
25 The Councils are asked to review the OSM
26 recommendations. Expectations are that your
27 recommendations will be helpful in developing the
28 regulatory proposals and all proposals that results from
29 these reviews will be considered through the normal
30 regulatory cycle. For your information, the current
31 proposal windows are on until October 21, 2005. You are
32 encouraged to take a look at these and perhaps develop a
33 proposal. That concludes the summary of my part.

34
35 MR. MATHEWS: We have Pete DeMatteo, your
36 biologist, on line. Pete, we have a projector next to
37 you. Is that fan interfering with your hearing?

38
39 MR. DEMATTEO: The fan is fine. I can
40 hear you just fine.

41
42 MR. MATHEWS: As you know from other
43 meetings, I have to turn the mike on and off, so there
44 may be a little pause when we need to communicate with
45 you. They've been handed out the different closure
46 reviews. I don't know what version you have, so we'll
47 just have to talk paragraphs if there's questions about
48 referring to some text there if that's okay with you.

49
50 MR. DEMATTEO: Sounds good.

1 MR. MATHEWS: Okay. It's all yours for
2 your first one then.

3
4 MR. DEMATTEO: Mr. Chair, Members of the
5 Council. The first one should say at the top of the
6 document WCR-05-08. That's the Federal Wildlife Closure
7 Review. It's for Unit 18 moose and this deals with the
8 closure area for Unit 18. What it says in regulations,
9 Federal public lands in Unit 18 are closed to the hunting
10 of moose, except by rural Alaska residents included in
11 the above customary and traditional use determinations
12 during the Federal open seasons.

13
14 This closure was put into Federal
15 regulations for the 1991-1992 regulatory year.
16 Essentially it was put in there because of the concerns
17 of the declining moose population and also local folks
18 felt they did not have enough opportunity in view of
19 competing with non-local hunters. At the time, keep in
20 mind the Federal Regional Councils did not exist as your
21 first meeting was October of 1993.

22
23 Essentially since this closure was put in
24 place there was a five-year moratorium on moose hunting
25 in the Lower Yukon River drainage, which was very
26 successful in increasing the moose population numbers.
27 That moratorium has now ended. Currently there's two
28 moratoriums. One for the Lower Kuskokwim River and also
29 a second moratorium for the area in Unit 18 south of and
30 including the Kanektok River. Now, for each of these
31 areas, the Lower Kuskokwim River and that area south and
32 including the Kanektok River, there's approximately less
33 than 100 moose for each of those areas, which prompted
34 the need for the moratorium.

35
36 The point of this is because those two
37 areas are closed, there has to be some redistribution of
38 hunters to the areas that are open. For instance, like
39 the Lower Yukon River and the area above Mountain
40 Village. So, in the interest of helping these
41 populations grow, which, as you see the rebuilding
42 process for Unit 18 moose is a long, ongoing process, the
43 OSM recommendation is to leave everything in place as it
44 is. In other words, leave the closure in place for the
45 meantime during the moratorium.

46
47 With that, Mr. Chair, I'll stop and
48 listen to your comments.

49 CHAIRMAN SAM: Any questions, comments
50 for Pete. Go ahead, Carl.

1 MR. MORGAN: Pete, this is Carl. This
2 moratorium, it's just completing its second year of the
3 five-year moratorium?
4
5 MR. DEMATTEO: We're going into the
6 second year, I believe.
7
8 CHAIRMAN SAM: Any further questions.
9 Carl.
10
11 MR. JACK: I'll just add for your
12 information, my understanding is that all of these
13 closures the outcome of that may be that they'll probably
14 submit some proposals as well.
15
16 Thank you.
17
18 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Carl. Any
19 further questions. If not, Pete, please continue.
20
21 MR. MATHEWS: Pete?
22
23 CHAIRMAN SAM: While you're trying to get
24 Pete on line, do we need action on any or all of these
25 proposals?
26
27 MR. MATHEWS: To my knowledge, and Carl,
28 correct me, the office is looking for your advice on it.
29 So, as your coordinator, I think it would be wise if you
30 did take action. On this one in particular, the Y-K
31 Council has not met, so we can't inform on what they feel
32 about it. Yeah, I think it would be wise for you guys to
33 say you support the OSM recommendation or not.
34
35 CHAIRMAN SAM: Jack.
36
37 MR. REAKOFF: Mr. Chairman. I'd like to
38 make a motion to support the OSM review to maintain the
39 status quo of this closure for WCR-05-08.
40
41 CHAIRMAN SAM: Is there a second.
42
43 MR. STICKMAN: I second it, Ron.
44
45 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay, seconded by Mickey
46 Stickman. Any further comments, recommendations. I
47 think we're all notified of this and we're somewhat
48 briefed. Again, whatever action we take hinges on what
49 home region does for a final action, whatever changes
50 they establish or anything like that, that they have the

1 final say on this, but at this time I concur with the OSM
2 recommendation.

3
4 All those in favor of the motion signify
5 by saying aye.

6
7 IN UNISON: Aye.

8
9 CHAIRMAN SAM: Opposed, same sign.

10
11 (No opposing votes)

12
13 CHAIRMAN SAM: Motion carried.

14
15 MR. MATHEWS: Okay, Pete, your next one.
16 Pete? Pete, are you still there before I hang up?

17
18 MR. STICKMAN: I have a question. How
19 come Pete is not here?

20
21 MR. MATHEWS: His health condition
22 doesn't allow him to travel.

23
24 MR. STICKMAN: Does he have someone that
25 can fill in for him?

26
27 MR. MATHEWS: We can have Laura go.

28
29 CHAIRMAN SAM: Laura.

30
31 MS. GREFFENIUS: Good morning everybody.
32 My name is Laura Greffenius. I'm a biologist with the
33 Office of Subsistence Management. The next one we'll do
34 is WCR-05-20. Closure review No. 20. This one is for
35 Unit 24 remainder area moose. The current Federal
36 regulation is Federal public lands in the Kanuti
37 Controlled Use Area are closed to the taking of moose,
38 except by rural Alaska residents of Unit 24, Koyukuk and
39 Galena. This one was initiated in 1992. The
40 justification for the original closure was a priority to
41 the subsistence users.

42
43 The Council recommendation for the
44 original closure. The Western Interior Regional Council
45 hadn't yet been established at that time. The State
46 opposed the closure because of the controlled use area
47 acts to restrict use by non-local users since they cannot
48 fly in with aircraft. They indicated that much of the
49 use occurring in Kanuti is already by local residents.
50

1 As far as the current resource abundance,
2 you're familiar with that area. The moose surveys
3 conducted on the Kanuti National Wildlife Refuge revealed
4 that the 2004 population size and density were
5 significantly lower than the 1999 estimates. So there's
6 some figures there that show some of the difficulties
7 that the population is having there.

8
9 The Koyukuk River Moose Management Plan
10 sets the parameters of the population numbers for sound
11 management. The intent is to maintain or increase the
12 moose populations while providing for continuation of the
13 present moderate number of hunters and level of harvest.
14 So, overall, the interest is in increasing the
15 population.

16
17 The population trend. The population in
18 Unit 24 has experienced several problems: high
19 predation, low calf survival and low yearling bull
20 numbers. So, in summary, with the figures that are given
21 there, moose population for the Kanuti Controlled Use
22 Area is still considered low at this time. The harvest
23 trend has generally remained steady for local residents.

24
25 The OSM recommendation is to maintain the
26 closure and this is based on the population and
27 composition for moose in the Kanuti Controlled Use Area.
28 There is a need for continued harvest restrictions that
29 coincide with the Board's original actions. A regulation
30 giving priority to local residents limits harvest to
31 address conservation concerns and to continue subsistence
32 uses for the moose population in Unit 24. Local
33 residents have expressed concerns about non-subsistence
34 harvest of moose. This recommendation aligns with the
35 management directives from the Koyukuk River Moose
36 Hunters' Working Group.

37
38 That concludes the presentation for
39 closure review No. 20.

40
41 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Laura. Any
42 questions for Laura.

43
44 (No comments)

45
46 CHAIRMAN SAM: Anything to add, Vince?

47
48 MR. MATHEWS: (Shakes head negatively)

49
50 CHAIRMAN SAM: Nothing? Okay. At this

1 time the chair will entertain a motion to accept OSM
2 recommendation to maintain the status quo on WCR-05-20.

3

4 MR. HONEA: I so move.

5

6 CHAIRMAN SAM: Moved by Don Honea.

7

8 MR. REAKOFF: Second.

9

10 CHAIRMAN SAM: Seconded by Jack Reakoff.
11 Any further discussion. Jack.

12

13 MR. REAKOFF: Mr. Chairman. I agree with
14 this recommendation to maintain the status quo, this
15 restriction to nonsubsistence users. This area
16 population has fallen dramatically. Subsistence users
17 are spending more time and effort to obtain subsistence
18 needs, the rising cost of fuel and so forth. It's my
19 intention to submit a proposal at this meeting to
20 lengthen the opportunity for bull moose harvest in this
21 area because of the people not meeting subsistence needs,
22 so this restriction is necessary to accommodate the need
23 of our subsistence users within the Western Interior
24 Region.

25

26 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Jack. As was
27 noted earlier by one of our people, instead of going
28 right to establishment of predator control, these are the
29 avenues that we're trying to use to address our low moose
30 density problems within this area. One of the problems
31 that we have both in the Kanuti Wildlife Refuge and the
32 Henshaw Creek drainage, they are for the most part
33 inaccessible every fall, except this fall there was some
34 water to go up there. So we haven't been harvesting as
35 many bull moose as we'd like to meet our subsistence
36 needs. As you all know by now, all the cow moose seasons
37 in that area are closed for cow moose harvest. I think
38 this is the only way we can address this issue at this
39 time. Any further comments.

40

41 (No comments)

42

43 CHAIRMAN SAM: If not, the Chair will
44 call for the question to support OSM recommendation to
45 maintain status quo on this closure. All those in favor
46 of the motion signify by saying aye.

47

48 IN UNISON: Aye.

49

50 CHAIRMAN SAM: Opposed, same sign.

1 (No opposing votes)

2

3

CHAIRMAN SAM: Motion carried.

4

5 MS. GREFFENIUS: The next one is WCR-05-
6 24. This is Unit 26(A) caribou. This has Federal public
7 lands south of the Colville River and east of the Killik
8 River are closed to the taking of caribou from August 1
9 to September 30, except by rural residents of Unit 26,
10 Anaktuvuk Pass and Point Hope.

11

12 CHAIRMAN SAM: Laura, this covers 26 and
13 I don't think our people really use it. Where do we
14 address this issue within Western Interior?

15

16 MS. GREFFENIUS: I'll get to that at the
17 bottom. The Western Interior Council supported the
18 original closure, so we wanted you to have a chance to
19 comment on this one. When it originally passed, the
20 Western Interior Council was involved. On your map, I'll
21 go over that, the entire shaded area is not part of the
22 closure. It's east of the Killik River, so I just wanted
23 you to note that. The Killik River is about midway
24 between the shaded area.

25

26 Originally, the came about in 1995 and
27 the justification for the original closure was to provide
28 opportunities for the subsistence harvest of caribou on
29 Federal public lands in the Anaktuvuk Pass area and
30 specifically to protect migration corridors for caribou
31 to take their normal route into Anaktuvuk Pass.

32

33 The North Slope Council recommendation
34 for the original closure was to support the closure as it
35 was necessary to protect migration corridors for caribou
36 in the Anaktuvuk Pass area. The Western Interior Council
37 supported the closure as well because it may allow
38 caribou to come over the Brooks Range and into Unit 24
39 and to the south making them available to subsistence
40 users of Western Interior Alaska. So that's why this is
41 being brought before you, so you can comment.

42

43 CHAIRMAN SAM: Any comments, questions.

44

45 (No comments)

46

47 MS. GREFFENIUS: The State recommendation
48 for the original closure was to oppose it. The State
49 indicated the closure affected a wide area and there was
50 relatively little Federal land north and northwest of

1 Anaktuvuk Pass.

2

3 The most significant comments that came
4 before the Board when the original closure came about was
5 the testimony focused on the knowledge of local
6 individuals who objected to the activities of
7 nonsubsistence hunters affecting the movement of caribou
8 in Anaktuvuk Pass and surrounding areas.

9

10 Just to give some background information,
11 when this first came before the Board, the proposal was
12 modified to include parts of Unit 26(B), which would be
13 the Dalton Highway Corridor area, but then a request for
14 reconsideration came about shortly thereafter and it came
15 before the Board and 26(B) was no longer included. The
16 Board voted to remove the restriction in Unit 26(B), but
17 the August 1 to September 30 closure in Unit 26(A)
18 remained in place to protect the opportunities for the
19 subsistence harvest of caribou on Federal public lands in
20 the Anaktuvuk Pass area. So they felt very strongly
21 about having that.

22

23 And just to refer to your map, most of
24 the public lands in the closure area are in Gates of the
25 Arctic National Park. So, on your map, it's these shaded
26 areas at the very southern boundary of Unit 26(A). The
27 national park is closed to nonsubsistence hunting. Other
28 Federal public lands affected include a portion of Gates
29 of the Arctic National Preserve and on the map that you
30 have I've made a highlighted arrow. It's just this very
31 small little corner here that has different shading.

32

33 To amend what this says here, there are
34 relatively small tracts of Bureau of Land Management land
35 north of the park. They're just a rectangle, pretty much
36 straight north of Anaktuvuk Pass. There's kind of a
37 small dot on your map and also a longer rectangle that's
38 above the preserve area. I've since learned that these
39 lands are no longer -- the land status information from a
40 Bureau of Land Management biologist in Fairbanks, David
41 Yokel, says these are select lands at present and they're
42 not within a conservation unit, and because they're
43 select lands they're no longer treated as Federal public
44 lands and they're beyond the reach of the Federal
45 program. So those BLM lands are not within our area of
46 jurisdiction at the present time. So, essentially what I
47 was trying to show on the map here is that the National
48 Preserve lands are really the main area that's affected.

49

50 So as far as the resource abundance

1 related to the management objective, there are three
2 caribou herds present in the area of Anaktuvuk Pass at
3 various times during the year. There's the Teshekpuk
4 Caribou Herd, the Central Arctic Caribou Herd and the
5 Western Arctic Caribou Herd. The State's ADF&G
6 management reports indicate that the management
7 objectives were achieved relative to the populations for
8 these herds.

9
10 So the Teshekpuk population remains high,
11 so no regulatory changes are recommended by ADF&G and the
12 Central Arctic Caribou Herd is beyond the population goal
13 and the Western Arctic Herd is still considered very
14 large.

15
16 The population trends for these caribou.
17 The Teshekpuk has steadily increased since the early
18 1990s and the Central herd declined, but then it
19 stabilized and it's increased substantially. The largest
20 herd, the Western, had a major decline in the 1970s but
21 then it increased and is considered quite large now.
22 Overall the populations of the three caribou herds whose
23 ranges traverse Unit 26(A) are not currently a management
24 concern.

25
26 As far as harvest trends, specifically
27 the harvest information for the community of Anaktuvuk
28 Pass is an estimated 500 caribou taken per year and 80
29 percent of the total harvest is from the Western herd.

30
31 So the OSM recommendation on this one is
32 to initiate a proposal to modify or eliminate the
33 closure. As far as the three caribou herds in the area,
34 there appear to be no conservation concerns. It is noted
35 in the State's management reports that indicates that
36 there are conflicts between non-local hunters, commercial
37 operators and the conflicts continued in portions of the
38 Western Arctic Herd and some of these conflicts were near
39 Anaktuvuk Pass.

40
41 The local knowledge strongly suggests
42 that non-local hunters have an effect on caribou
43 migration routes and that this aspect of the issue should
44 be evaluated more thoroughly. Information from 1995
45 indicated that if the beginning of the caribou migration
46 is disturbed, then the herd will vary its migratory path.
47 The concern for the Anaktuvuk Pass people is that despite
48 the high population of caribou, if the migration turns
49 away from the pass at Anaktuvuk, the caribou migrate too
50 far away for the people of Anaktuvuk to easily harvest

1 them.

2

3 So the proposal was initiated to keep
4 non-local hunters from hunting early in the migration to
5 avoid this from occurring. A proposal to modify the
6 existing closure will provide an opportunity for local
7 users, Federal resource managers and the State to provide
8 the Board with additional information relative to the
9 effects that non-local hunters have on caribou migration.

10

11 The Cooperative management Plan
12 encourages cooperative management of the herd and its
13 habitats among State, Federal and local users to
14 integrate the local knowledge and the biological
15 information. So the relative high abundance of caribou
16 along with the high harvest by local hunters may warrant
17 a more thorough review of this Federal closure.

18

19 That concludes my presentation for this
20 particular one. Thank you.

21

22 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Laura. Any
23 questions for Laura. Benedict.

24

25 MR. JONES: Laura, through closure, which
26 herd are you trying to protect, Central or Western Arctic
27 Caribou Herd?

28

29 MS. GREFFENIUS: When you say which herd
30 we're trying to protect, all three of them occur in the
31 area, but by far the most of what the local folks in
32 Anaktuvuk Pass, the information indicated that 80 percent
33 of their harvest is from the Western herd. So what their
34 main concern is the non-local hunters were diverting the
35 caribou from their migratory paths. I don't think it was
36 a concern as far as the numbers of caribou. Does that
37 answer your question?

38

39 MR. JONES: Yeah. The reason I'm asking
40 that question, I'm on the planning committee for the
41 Western Arctic Caribou Herd, so we discussed this quite a
42 bit and we figure it was pretty healthy for the Anaktuvuk
43 Pass area for the Western Arctic Caribou Herd. That's
44 the reason why I asked.

45

46 CHAIRMAN SAM: Vince.

47

48 MR. MATHEWS: When you guys took this up
49 years ago, the main issue, and this is by memory though,
50 was that it's the taking of the cows in the beginning

1 part of the migration was diverting the migration path,
2 which Laura has pointed out. It was not an issue of the
3 caribou in decline or disappearing, it was accessibility
4 and et cetera, and that was a very long discussion at
5 your Council. Jack might remember. I think it might
6 have been when Ray was chair. But that was the key
7 issue, was the feeling of local knowledge, if you take
8 those lead caribou, which I believe you guys indicated
9 were cows, then the migration may change. There was a
10 feeling from Anaktuvuk -- Anaktuvuk is partially in your
11 region and partially not, but, anyway, that's why it was
12 before your Council and that's why it's before you now.
13 But that's just by memory.

14

15 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Vince. Any
16 further comments, recommendations.

17

18 Jack.

19

20 MR. REAKOFF: Mr. Chairman. I'm on the
21 Gates of the Arctic Subsistence Resource Commission and
22 people there are always very, very concerned about
23 activities to the north, whether it's development
24 activity or hunting activities that would deflect these
25 caribou migrations away from the village. That's where
26 this proposal came from.

27

28 Looking at this land status, the
29 regulation actually doesn't have a whole lot of effect on
30 that though. That's kind of the problem because these
31 aren't Federal lands and I know there's hunting
32 activities within this drawn area on the State controlled
33 areas. So this regulation isn't actually affecting those
34 activities to the north.

35

36 I think the Department and the OSM should
37 address this issue through some type of an educational
38 process with the local people and the hunting public on
39 those State controlled lands in that these are very real
40 concerns about deflecting these caribou migrations. So
41 lots of activities to the north of the village on the
42 lead caribou can deflect those migrations. But looking
43 at what the effects of this regulation is doing, I don't
44 think that the regulation is actually doing anything
45 because it's not Federal land, so there is no real
46 closure there. It's just a perceived closure and it's
47 not actually doing anything.

48

49 So I would prefer to defer this to Region
50 10. I feel that this is in their region. We do utilize

1 those caribou as they come through the passes, but I'm
2 reluctant to fight over, to advocate for a proposal that
3 doesn't actually do anything. So I would prefer to defer
4 to Region 10 myself.

5
6 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Jack. I think
7 you brought out a valid point when you said that
8 education of non-subsistence users and hunters.
9 Throughout the years we know these people of Anaktuvuk
10 Pass and their leaders and one of the things that they
11 always attempt to do is let the first big bunches of
12 caribou that migrate go through and hope that they reach
13 us. Not that they always do, but they've used that as a
14 practice. I think it's ingrained enough that the residents
15 of Anaktuvuk always let the first ones go, but the
16 commercial hunters or non-resident hunters or non-
17 subsistence users that divert these groups. I'm kind of
18 mixed at this time. I still want to express my concern
19 about diverting this herd, but then I would like to see
20 that the non-resident hunters be educated to the fact
21 that they may divert these herds because they are kind of
22 skittish at times.

23
24 Any further comments.

25
26 (No comments)

27
28 CHAIRMAN SAM: Any recommendations. Jack
29 has one. Is that a motion to defer? All through Laura's
30 testimony and even Vince's, this issue is not so much a
31 conservation issue, it's more educational and otherwise
32 than conservation.

33
34 MR. STICKMAN: I have one last one before
35 we vote. Ron, it looked like the original Council
36 recommendation at the closure was because there was a
37 possibility the caribou may go over the Brooks Range and
38 into Unit 24 and making them available to subsistence
39 users of the Western Interior. I was wondering if there
40 were any records supporting that from 1995 to right now.

41
42 CHAIRMAN SAM: I don't know if it's on
43 the record. It's just that since the pipeline went
44 through it just seems that caribou has been migrated so
45 many different ways that sometimes we don't know if it's
46 Kanuti Refuge herd or Western Arctic. Sometimes we just
47 don't see them at all. Last fall there was four shot
48 right off the bat. About eight more of those caribou
49 continued up the Kanuti where they were more or less
50 swallowed up by predators up there. This was pretty well

1 documented. As were three or four moose calves that
2 people were keeping track of. Maybe we could have been
3 better off if we got those calves, but we'd be in jail,
4 too.

5
6 But things happen. They don't always
7 migrate the same way. Before the pipeline we used to
8 wake up in the middle of the river and they're right
9 there in the middle of the river, about 100 feet away, in
10 the moonlight. We didn't have to go far. We just don't
11 see that anymore. Jack, you had something.

12
13 MR. REAKOFF: Mr. Chairman, I would like
14 to make amotion to defer this to Region 10 with an
15 attachment to Region 10 that this regulation does not
16 actually achieve what the perception is. I feel there
17 should be an education of the people of Anaktuvuk Pass.
18 The perception that this is stopping non-local hunters
19 from hunting north of the village is not actually
20 happening and so they have to ask for an educational
21 process of the general public that's hunting to the north
22 of the village and work with the State on getting it
23 across to the general hunting public that hunting on
24 those lead caribou migrations is what's going to cause a
25 deflection Anaktuvuk Pass. With the high population of
26 the Western Herd right now and the effect of this
27 proposal being absolutely nothing to what the objective
28 is, I can't really support maintaining this closure
29 myself, personally.

30
31 I feel that Region 10 should deal with
32 this issue and that there should be an education. So my
33 motion is to defer to Region 10 with a letter of
34 attachment for an educational aspect.

35
36 Thank you.

37
38 MR. STICKMAN: I second.

39
40 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you. Moved and
41 seconded. Everybody understand that?

42
43 (Council nods affirmatively)

44
45 MR. WALKER: Question.

46
47 CHAIRMAN SAM: The question has been
48 called for. All those in favor of deferring to Region 10
49 with an attached letter signify by saying aye.

50

1 IN UNISON: Aye.
2
3 CHAIRMAN SAM: Opposed, same sign.
4
5 (No opposing votes)
6
7 CHAIRMAN SAM: Motion carried. Thank
8 you, Laura.
9
10 Vince.
11
12 MR. MATHEWS: Go ahead then, Pete.
13
14 MR. DEMATTEO: Mr. Chair. The next
15 review should be WCR-05-23. This one is a closure for
16 Unit 26(A) moose. Particularly that portion of the
17 Colville River drainage downstream from and including the
18 Chandler River.
19
20 Mr. Chair, the reason why this is being
21 presented to you today is it affects residents of
22 Anaktuvuk Pass, which, as you know, Anaktuvuk Pass
23 geographically resides in Unit 24, so therefore it's in
24 the Western Interior.
25
26 This closure was put into regulation the
27 1996-1997 regulatory year. What prompted the closure is
28 that during the years of 1991 through 1996 there was a
29 steep decline in the moose population. About 75 percent
30 of the population declined in that five-year period. In
31 1994, the Federal Board adopted the State's aircraft use
32 restrictions for Unit 26(A). Also, in 1995, the Federal
33 and State moose harvest regulations adopted the closure
34 area in 1996.
35
36 To address this issue, the Board adopted
37 the State's closure area, but beyond that the Federal
38 Board adopted Proposal 96-66 that initiated the closure
39 for the Colville River. Now the first closure was for
40 the area from the mouth of the Anaktuvuk River downstream
41 and the Colville. Later it was decided in the year 2002
42 that that area needed to be expanded westward to the
43 mouth of the Candler River, which included the Chandler
44 drainage. It was at that time the North Slope Regional
45 Council supported the initial closure in 1996 and the
46 revised closure in 2002.
47
48 Mr. Chair, since this draft analysis was
49 written, the BLM has come forward and provided some more
50 updated information on the population. Currently the

1 population is at 1,000 moose or better. This meets the
2 management goals for the population, which is to achieve
3 a population more than 1,000. Then also to manage for a
4 sustained harvest for subsistence and general hunt needs.

5
6 With that, Mr. Chair, I think I'll stop
7 and give BLM staff a chance to address this issue if
8 they're present.

9
10 MR. MATHEWS: Pete, Tim Craig is here.
11 He may be addressing it.

12
13 MR. CRAIG: Mr. Chair, Tim Craig. I work
14 for the Fairbanks district office. I am unprepared to
15 address this issue. I just don't have any information on
16 this at all from Dave Yokel. I'm sorry.

17
18 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you. Who else can
19 we call on?

20
21 MR. MATHEWS: I think Pete has more to
22 cover, I believe. Go ahead, Pete.

23
24 MR. DEMATTEO: Mr. Chair. The closure
25 was maintained with the intent to allow the population to
26 rebound, as I mentioned before, to achieve 1,000 or
27 better moose and we're there now. From now on, the
28 direction would be to maintain the population and also
29 manage it for, as I mentioned, sustained harvest for
30 subsistence and also general hunt needs.

31
32 Because we're at that juncture where
33 we've met management goals, it's hard to justify the
34 closure for that reason. So, with that, I would say you
35 have the option -- of course, always the first option is
36 to leave it as is, or the second option would be to
37 recommend something else.

38
39 I'll stop there.

40
41 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Pete. My first
42 thoughts are and it's also a personal opinion that a good
43 portion of the residents of North Slope Region and the
44 Northwest Arctic haven't really harvested as many moose
45 as we do in the Interior and I was just wondering where
46 does that leave us on C&T. If maintaining 1,000 moose in
47 this area is to be sustained strictly for non-resident
48 hunters, is this meeting any kind of subsistence
49 criteria. This is more of a philosophical issue, but
50 then it is also a real one as far as I'm concerned. Any

1 further deliberations.

2

3 MR. STICKMAN: Do you want someone to
4 entertain a motion to adopt this?

5

6 CHAIRMAN SAM: Entertain a motion to
7 adopt it, keep it as -- OSM is.....

8

9 MR. STICKMAN: Wildlife Closure Review
10 05-23, I'll go with OSM recommendation to maintain status
11 quo.

12

13 CHAIRMAN SAM: Is there a second?

14

15 MR. HONEA: I will second.

16

17 CHAIRMAN SAM: Seconded by Don Honea. We
18 don't need a letter or anything for Region 10?

19

20 MR. MATHEWS: No.

21

22 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay.

23

24 MR. MATHEWS: No, I don't think you would
25 need anything to Region 10 on this issue. We will convey
26 through staff your concerns about what you expressed,
27 Ron, that you would like to leave it as a sustained
28 population and that it's right at that crux point. No, I
29 don't think you're overstepping the other Regional
30 Council's feelings on it. They have not met, North Slope
31 nor Northwest.

32

33 CHAIRMAN SAM: The reason for
34 recommending that they sustain that number of population,
35 that will always come out in one of our requests in one
36 shape or form. I want to know who are we maintaining
37 that number for. I just don't think that Anaktuvuk
38 harvest that many moose. They're more used to caribou.
39 It also becomes an ethical question on down the line
40 tying that into C&T requirements, meeting our C&T
41 requirements. I know the only reason we're addressing
42 this issue is because Anaktuvuk Pass in in Unit 24. Go
43 ahead, Don.

44

45 MR. RIVARD: Mr. Chair. Don Rivard with
46 the Office of Subsistence Management. I'd like to just
47 clarify again maybe kind of the reason these closure
48 reviews are coming in front of you. This was just for
49 your information and to see if you had any thoughts on
50 it, recommendations, and whether you might want to put in

1 a proposal as a Council to change a closure if you felt
2 it was warranted.

3
4 Your recommendations may not necessarily
5 be shared with the other Councils that are affected
6 because it's just for your information. They have the
7 independence to also look at these things and they may
8 put in a proposal to change a closure or something if
9 they so choose. I'm not sure if we're going to be
10 sharing it necessarily with the other Councils or not.
11 That wasn't something we discussed prior to coming to
12 these Council meetings. It's just kind of each
13 individual Council being informed that these closures are
14 still on the book and maybe it's time to see if they need
15 to be changed or not. I hope that helps a little bit.

16
17 CHAIRMAN SAM: Not really. Again, my
18 main concern is who are we maintaining this herd for, you
19 know. I don't think we're maintaining it for C&T
20 subsistence users up in that area. That's a point I just
21 wanted stated clearly on the record. We do have a motion
22 on the floor to accept OSM recommendation to maintain
23 status quo. All those in favor of the motion signify by
24 saying aye.

25
26 IN UNISON: Aye.

27
28 CHAIRMAN SAM: Opposed, same sign.

29
30 (No opposing votes)

31
32 CHAIRMAN SAM: Motion carried. That
33 concludes all our -- except for Alaska Board of Game call
34 for Interior Alaska proposals. I will bring Glenn Stout
35 on.

36
37 MR. REAKOFF: I have a proposal.

38
39 CHAIRMAN SAM: We have another Federal
40 proposal from last night from Jack Reakoff. I'd like to
41 get that on the record. Go ahead, Jack.

42
43 MR. REAKOFF: Yesterday we identified
44 this need for an additional time to harvest bulls at the
45 end of -- up through the first of October, so I sat down
46 last night after dinner and wrote out a proposal. We
47 need to go over this as a council to define these areas a
48 little closure, but this would be a proposal submitted to
49 the Federal Subsistence Board for harvest seasons
50 changed.

1 I'll go through the proposal. What
2 regulations do you wish to change and include the
3 management units and species. I've got Unit 24, Unit
4 21(B), Unit 21(D). I put 21(A) and (E). With the
5 planning processes that are going on in 21(A) and 21(E),
6 I was wondering if the Council was still in favor of
7 submitting this season extension change.

8

9 (Council nods affirmatively)

10

11 MR. REAKOFF: Okay. We'll maintain those
12 sub-units. How should the new regulation read. It's for
13 moose, one bull season, to extend to October 1 all hunts
14 for fall bulls only moose hunts. The starts remain the
15 same and that's to October 1. To extend the seasons in
16 all these units and sub-units for bulls to the 1st of
17 October. Those varying start dates all maintain the
18 same.

19

20 Why should this regulation change be
21 made? Because the moose population declines, the
22 restrictions on fall cow harvest, warmer falls with
23 retarded bull movements and the high cost of fuel.
24 There's a need for additional bull harvest opportunity to
25 meet subsistence needs.

26

27 What impacts will these changes have on
28 wildlife populations? The bull/cow ratios are adequate
29 to support subsistence harvests in these units and there
30 should be little impact to the resource.

31

32 How will these changes affect subsistence
33 uses? The extension will help provide for subsistence
34 needs and allow users to allocate hunting resources to
35 when the weather is cool and when the bulls are moving.

36

37 How will this change affect other uses,
38 i.e. sport, recreational and commercial? Subsistence use
39 is the highest priority and some resource may not be
40 available for sport users.

41

42 That's the conclusion of this proposal.
43 Basically we want to move the season forward through the
44 1st of October. I don't personally feel there's any
45 problem with this. This was a special action request, an
46 EO request. This gets it on the table as a permanent
47 change. We've got global warming. We need this.

47

48 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Jack. The
49 chair will entertain a motion to support this requested
50 proposal as read.

1 MR. STICKMAN: So moved, Mr. Chair.
2
3 CHAIRMAN SAM: Is there a second.
4
5 MR. WALKER: (Nods)
6
7 CHAIRMAN SAM: Seconded by Robert Walker.
8 Further discussion. Just for public information, we talk
9 and it seems that we now submit special action requests
10 yearly and this may address a good part of these requests
11 and these problems.
12
13 All those in favor of supporting this
14 proposal signify by saying aye.
15
16 IN UNISON: Aye.
17
18 CHAIRMAN SAM: Opposed, same sign.
19
20 (No opposing votes)
21
22 CHAIRMAN SAM: Motion carried. Robert.
23
24 MR. WALKER: Mr. Chairman. Are we going
25 to have a number for this or is that going to be given
26 later?
27
28 MR. MATHEWS: No, you don't need to
29 attach a number. It will be assigned a proposal number
30 if that's what you mean.
31
32 MR. WALKER: Yes.
33
34 MR. MATHEWS: It will be back before you
35 as a proposal with analysis.
36
37 MR. WALKER: Vince, will this be ready by
38 next week or next month when we have our moose management
39 meeting in Holy Cross? We can also put this on the floor
40 and use this as part of our deal there.
41
42 MR. MATHEWS: Yeah, I can -- when is your
43 meeting date for that because I'm not up to speed on
44 21(E)?
45
46 MS. WHEELER: First week in November.
47
48 MR. MATHEWS: First week in November.
49 Yeah, I think we can give you a draft, but it won't have
50 a number. Now Randy is here hearing this, so I highly

1 encourage that the planning process look at this. But
2 our cut-off date for submitting parallel different
3 proposals for the Federal side is October 21st, just so
4 you know.

5
6 MR. WALKER: That would be fine just to
7 have a draft of it so we could have it on the table.

8
9 Thank you, Vince.

10
11 MR. MATHEWS: Yeah, I'm sure Randy will
12 hound me. Right when I leave this meeting I head to
13 Tanana and then I'm also working the AFN booth, so I'll
14 try to squeeze this in somehow, but we'll be able to pull
15 that off.

16
17 CHAIRMAN SAM: Ray.

18
19 MR. COLLINS: Yeah, Jack. I can't
20 remember all your points as you're reading them off, but
21 I was wondering did we adequately cover that this
22 probably -- we don't anticipate this will result in
23 increased hunting pressure but it will allow the
24 subsistence hunter to be more selective in choosing an
25 appropriate time and place.

26
27 MR. REAKOFF: Yes.

28
29 MR. COLLINS: That's in there.

30
31 MR. REAKOFF: Mr. Chair.

32
33 CHAIRMAN SAM: Jack.

34
35 MR. REAKOFF: How will this change affect
36 the subsistence use. This extension will help provide
37 for subsistence needs and allow users to allocate hunting
38 resources, fuel and so forth, to when the weather is cool
39 and when bulls are moving. The aspect of when the
40 weather is cool is in the keeping of the moose and also
41 in the aspect of the moose moving around, to have the
42 maximum opportunity to harvest. Being forced into
43 hunting when they're not moving, that's a misallocation
44 of very limited economic resources in rural Alaska.

45
46 MR. COLLINS: The thought I had was that
47 this is not anticipated to increase hunting pressure or
48 something to that effect. Do you see what I mean?

49
50 CHAIRMAN SAM: Don.

1 MR. HONEA: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Also,
2 for the record, I'd like to request that when it comes up
3 with a number and a final draft, however it reads, that
4 we who are accessible to e-mail get a copy of this before
5 we have our regular local advisory committee meetings if
6 that's possible.

7
8 MR. MATHEWS: The State will have to let
9 me know when the local advisory committees are going to
10 meet because I think our production is middle of
11 November. Maybe the Staff can inform me. I don't know
12 when we're producing our books. I can get you the same
13 copy that I'll be getting to Randy Rogers for the
14 planning group in 21(E) and I assume the planning group
15 for Koyukuk River would also want a copy of it. But for
16 the advisory committee your new coordinator just started
17 Monday. I don't know when you guys are going to meet to
18 make sure you get a copy. Maybe someone else from OSM
19 can -- I believe it's October 15th when we produce the
20 book, but I don't know.

21
22 CHAIRMAN SAM: We will be addressing this
23 in the next section of our meeting. Jack and I intend to
24 move this proposal on to the State Board of Game and
25 Glenn Stout is here. He's next on the agenda, so we will
26 be addressing this issue on the timing. What Jack and
27 Vince was trying to do getting this proposal out is to
28 meet that October date.....

29
30 MR. MATHEWS: The 21st.

31
32 CHAIRMAN SAM:for Western Interior
33 subsistence call for proposals. Anything further.

34
35 MR. WALKER: Lunch time.

36
37 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yes. It is now 12:15.
38 Let's shoot for 1:30 back here and we'll put Glenn Stout
39 on with the Alaska Board of Game call for Interior Alaska
40 proposals.

41
42 (Off record)

43
44 (On record)

45
46 CHAIRMAN SAM: We'll call the meeting
47 back to order. During lunch I had a special request from
48 one of our Council members. Do we have the troopers
49 here? I don't see anyone here at this time, but they
50 should be back shortly. Okay. Next item on the agenda

1 is Alaska Board of Game call for Interior Alaska
2 proposals.

3

4 Glenn Stout.

5

6 MR. STOUT: Thank you, Mr. Chair, Council
7 members. I will try to go through a few of the proposals
8 here. First off we'll start with just a proposal that
9 was already in the book. If you turn to pages 121
10 through 124 in your handbook it will have the draft
11 proposals we're talking about. We gave you kind of a
12 heads up on this proposal at the last meeting. Since
13 that time I've sent out letters for comments on the
14 proposal. I'll just go through briefly with you and hit
15 some of the highlights for this as far as this proposal
16 that we're submitting to the Board of Game to subdivide
17 Unit 24.

18

19 First and foremost, one of the key
20 reasons that we're wanting to subdivide Unit 24 had to do
21 with our frustrations over the fact that we're blessed
22 with a lot of moose in the southern portion of 24 but
23 substantially declining populations in the northern
24 portion of Unit 24.

25

26 As you'll recall a couple years ago at
27 the Board of Game there was a request for the Board of
28 Game to have the Department initiate an intensive
29 management predator plan for Unit 24 but that failed
30 because when they reviewed the intensive management
31 objectives, the number of moose on the southern portion
32 of Unit 24 basically buoys up our total population, so we
33 couldn't fall outside those lower ends of those
34 management objectives. Without being able to do that,
35 they just couldn't authorize that kind of intensive
36 management predator plan.

37

38 So that was really one of our main
39 reasons for pursuing the boundary changes in Unit 24.
40 There's several other factors and I'll go through them
41 briefly. First of all, moose population characteristics.
42 I think we found out quite a bit more about the moose
43 population in Unit 24 over the last five years.

44

45 One big for instance, the Gates of the
46 Arctic National Park. We had never done a survey over
47 the whole area and last year, with the help of BLM,
48 Kanuti Refuge, the Gates of the Arctic National Park and
49 Fish and Game, that whole area in 24 was surveyed. That
50 gave us information that we never had before. When we

1 came together five years ago for the moose management
2 plan, our working estimate for that portion of the unit
3 was about 300 moose. That was kind of a thumbnail
4 estimate that we had for the area. When we did that
5 survey, our estimate came to just about 1,000 moose. So
6 700 over the whole area isn't a lot, but it's three times
7 our estimate in there.

8
9 Another example is down on the Huslia
10 River drainage. We had never done that area up to that
11 point when we first started the plan. We found that
12 there's a lot more moose in there.

13
14 I think some of these numbers were
15 relatively close. I think we had good guesses. When we
16 proposed and gave our ideas to the Board of Game as far
17 as our intensive management objectives, we tried to go a
18 conservative route. We tried to give them conservative
19 population estimates because of the alternative. If we
20 had too low a number, the harvest objective numbers, were
21 we going to be able to meet those harvest objectives. If
22 we gave them too high an estimate, we weren't
23 conservative, then that would potentially allow for a
24 much higher harvest objective and we were concerned about
25 that option. So I think there were good reasons that we
26 went in with those conservative population objectives
27 because of some of the other aspects of it that we were
28 concerned about.

29
30 So that's some of the changes that have
31 happened to the population and some of the discussion
32 that we're going to have to take with the Board of Game
33 on how things have changed as far as our understanding of
34 the area.

35
36 Also, you know, hunting patterns are
37 really different. Potentially we may see much different
38 hunting patterns along the Haul Road, so that was another
39 factor when I went in with these proposed boundaries that
40 we considered in that.

41
42 Current regulations and the potential of
43 simplifying these regulations. We've talked about that
44 and there was a proposal on the Federal side last year to
45 try and achieve some simplification of the regulations to
46 make it easier for the hunters to understand where these
47 regulations apply.

48
49 Certainly Federal land closures or any of
50 the land management issues that may take place within the

1 area was a factor that I considered when drawing up some
2 of these proposed boundary lines. We also had to look at
3 some of our data input information and you'll see when I
4 pull up the map here that we have a certain way of
5 entering in our harvest data. We have what we call
6 UCU's, which are uniform coding units. We use those
7 which are typically based on drainages to help draw our
8 line and we didn't want to have any conflicts with how
9 our data is entered into our databases now that we get a
10 lot of resource information on, resource use information
11 on, and have that change all of a sudden in how we did
12 our analysis, you know, in any subsequent analysis. So
13 that was a big consideration for drawing up these
14 boundaries.

15
16 Certainly the cost that would have on the
17 Department for changing anything like that. Our ability
18 to describe those hunting regulations. These boundaries
19 are going to be important that they're understandable.
20 If we make these changes on some areas that are easily
21 identified by the hunters as well as enforcement reasons,
22 being able to enforce reasonable boundaries.

23
24 Finally, as far as the list that I have,
25 certainly, besides moose, even though that was one of our
26 important species in the areas, there's a number of other
27 species in the areas that we have to consider. Caribou
28 being at the top of that list, but certainly fur-bearer
29 management, sheep, bears, wolves, whatever it was that we
30 had to consider in drawing up these boundaries.

31
32 So I'll just go ahead and show you the
33 map that we came up with. I know looking at the black
34 and white map here it's kind of hard to see the lines, so
35 I'm going to have to just kind of point out where these
36 subdivisions that we're proposing are going to be. Maybe
37 what I'll do for a little bit here is just turn out the
38 lights and I'll stand up and kind of show you where these
39 boundaries are.

40
41 The first one over here and I'll start
42 off with the subdivisions that were proposed in here
43 going from the east to the west. It follows along
44 basically creating a subdivision that we would call 24(A)
45 and this would run down basically to include this middle
46 fork, south fork of the Koyukuk River here on the upper
47 end and then some of the upper drainages here that go up
48 into the hills off to the west. The primary purpose of
49 this one was to create a sub-unit that would enclose all
50 of the Dalton Highway Corridor management area.

1 As I said before, there were a lot of
2 concerns that we had about future and even changing
3 harvest patterns, hunting patterns that we're seeing
4 right now. So we wanted a sub-unit that would encompass
5 all that Dalton Highway Corridor area, so that's where we
6 come up with this line right here.

7
8 The second sub-unit basically we had a
9 pretty similar hunting regulations throughout most of
10 this area here in the middle and what we're going to call
11 24(B). We also wanted to make sure some of these
12 existing regulations areas were included in that, like
13 the Kanuti Controlled Use Area, the Kanuti Refuge in here
14 in most of the parts of it even though small portions of
15 the Kanuti Refuge I think did just get into 24(A), but it
16 didn't seem substantial enough.

17
18 You can see on some of these lines these
19 gray lines here that you're saying. These are the UCU's
20 that I talked about. These are those statistical sample
21 units that we used for inputting our harvest data. So
22 that's why if you see these lines kind of squiggling
23 around it's not just haphazardly drawn in there. We drew
24 those in to match up with those existing units.

25
26 Also I wanted to make sure -- there's two
27 places on here that Kanuti Refuge recognizes maybe a
28 problem. One is right here is here on the south part
29 where they would come out of 24(A), say a hunter floating
30 would come out of 24(A), be on that hunting regulation,
31 come into 24(B), re-enter 24(A) and 24(B). I just wanted
32 to show you that this is actually just a draft map and
33 these areas are based on drainages. So the legal
34 description is more accurate and this situation would
35 actually be resolved just by looking at the regulations
36 we have and not worrying too much about this draft copy
37 of this map. It is certainly an issue that we want to
38 make sure gets cleaned up before we publish a regulation
39 so that's clear for the hunters, but that's a really good
40 example of things that we've just got to kind of clean up
41 right now.

42
43 In this current situation, we just cut
44 through one UCU and it was this one here that came way
45 over here into this Dalton Highway Corridor. Looking at
46 the harvest data, this one here, there's not much harvest
47 that is ever taking place in here we don't feel,
48 particularly in the way of moose, so it wasn't going to
49 be a big harvest data management problem for us for this
50 small area.

1 Then basically that boundary then
2 proceeds down to Unit 24 boundary. So all Gates of the
3 Arctic Park, the middle portion here, the Koyukuk
4 drainage, including Allakaket, and that was another
5 aspect that I didn't talk about. We didn't want to put
6 Allakaket or Hughes right on a boundary. We wanted to
7 avoid that. So they weren't in a position like say in
8 Ruby where it is kind of a problem where the village is
9 sitting right on a Game Management Unit boundary and
10 they've got one set of regulations on this side of town,
11 one set on the other side of town. That was another
12 thing we tried to avoid in here.

13
14 This one here basically, the division
15 between 24(B) and (C) then would be a subdivision
16 parceling out this portion of the Hog River and Indian
17 River drainages. That's important because right now we
18 have some existing drawing permit hunts. We're starting
19 to see a big transition between very low moose densities
20 in here. As we get further downriver, this is where we've
21 got these high moose densities areas.

22
23 This is going to be an area where we have
24 a lot more Federal land and a lot higher moose and it was
25 important in that respect as far as looking at the
26 intensive management predator implementation plan. These
27 two areas are low density areas where we've seen really
28 substantial declines and where I think we have a lot more
29 State land and I think potentially have more prospects,
30 hopefully, of getting a plan in place and doing something
31 that we could say we actually have State lands there or
32 that kind of a strategy may work.

33
34 The last one down here is the division
35 between 24(C) and (B) and includes mostly the Koyukuk
36 River Refuge down on this lower part. This is really
37 where most of the moose are. There's a substantial
38 number of moose down in here and it's really a big
39 population change when we see that. This mimics pretty
40 close in the Koyukuk Moose Hunters Working Group, the
41 Moose Management Plan, the Zone 1 and 2. That's pretty
42 close to where that line was drawn. So that's where this
43 line comes up and it's pretty much that same line we drew
44 in there. The only difference is it actually follows
45 those UCU's to maintain that data management problem that
46 we've talked about.

47
48 So I think that's pretty much it. I
49 guess we can go ahead and turn on the lights. The
50 information I gave you that's already in the booklet,

1 there's a draft proposal that would actually implement
2 those Game Management Unit changes.

3
4 One thing, to kind of give you an
5 awareness of how this is all going to transpire, it's
6 relatively infrequently that Game Management Unit
7 boundary considerations are before the Board. This one
8 is up this year and it's going to be in the statewide
9 meeting which is going to be held in January. So we're
10 going to take this proposal, the Game Management Unit
11 changes, before the January Board. They may or may not
12 adopt it, of course. We don't know how that's going to
13 fall out.

14
15 If that's to take place, then we're going
16 to have to follow up in the March meeting and we're going
17 to have a proposal that's going to change all those
18 seasons and bag limits. As you can imagine, we've got
19 all these seasons and bag limits for just 24. Well, now
20 we've got to have a new set of seasons and bag limits for
21 each one of those sub-units. It's going to be mostly
22 housekeeping to sort that all out, but that's going to be
23 a substantial thing.

24
25 I didn't include that in the packet.
26 I've already drawn that up and if you want to sit down
27 and discuss it, we can, but it's about 14 pages and it's
28 just legal language of changing all those seasons and bag
29 limits. I didn't think it was really worth putting in
30 there at this point because so much could change
31 potentially on what happens there.

32
33 But there's a lot that's got to be done
34 before that March meeting that we just can't anticipate
35 at this point. The one thing that I did put in there was
36 kind of a summary of those seasons and bag limits and I
37 think that's on Page 124, a summary of the potential
38 changes that would come to play. I'm not going to go
39 through those, but most of them are moose related and
40 most of them are changes that will achieve some
41 simplification of the regulations. You can kind of go
42 through there and see how some of those changes are.

43
44 For instance, the boundary between 24(B)
45 and (C). In the drawing permit regulation, that drawing
46 permit actually uses the west edge of the Kanuti
47 Controlled Use boundary as the boundary for that drawing
48 permit. Well, it would just be simpler to say that
49 drawing permit is 24(C), then you wouldn't have this real
50 convoluted description of where that drawing permit ends

1 there in trying to describe for just that drawing permit
2 hunt. So things like that are what's going to change and
3 it will affect a little bit of a change, so that's some
4 of those changes that you would see in there.

5
6 As far as this proposal, that's pretty
7 much all I had to say and see if you had any questions on
8 it. Then I have several other proposals that we can talk
9 about.

10
11 CHAIRMAN SAM: Any questions for Glenn at
12 this time. If not, I'm just going to let you know on
13 record that even though I'm serving on Western Interior I
14 haven't seen too much of this and haven't been too much
15 involved in the planning. I can see where we need to go
16 over those harvest quotas and harvest numbers. So that
17 is coming up shortly, right?

18
19 MR. STOUT: Yes, Mr. Chair. That would
20 be another thing that we're going to have to work on all
21 these proposals and I think really at this point it will
22 end up happening mostly with the advisory committees and
23 discussing all these proposals individually. That's one
24 of the proposals here that I'll talk about.

25
26 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you. Any questions
27 for Glenn. Go ahead, Ben.

28
29 MR. JONES: Yeah, Glenn, you were
30 pointing out the lower portion of 24 and 21(D) there.
31 Does that include Koyukuk River or Huslia River drainage?

32
33 MR. STOUT: Member Jones, the 24(C) and
34 (D) proposal are sub-units. There's just that portion of
35 the Unit 24 area. Further down on the map is 21(D) and
36 that won't be affected by this proposal. That will all
37 stay the same further downriver in 21(D). But that
38 24(C), (D) area would be around Huslia and just below
39 Hughes.

40
41 CHAIRMAN SAM: Any further questions.

42
43 (No comments)

44
45 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay, go ahead.

46
47 MR. STOUT: The next proposal, and this
48 would be in the March meeting that potentially would come
49 up, would be new intensive management objectives for Unit
50 24. These are going to be pretty important discussion to

1 take place with the advisory committee meetings on
2 setting new harvest objectives for each of these sub-
3 units and then moose population objectives for those
4 areas.

5
6 I've already talked about the laundry
7 list of the seasons and bag limits proposal, and that
8 will be in the March meeting as well. One thing that I
9 wanted to say on this, in both of these cases, just
10 talking with Roy and Terry Haynes and Randy, what we've
11 decided to do on this is that we're going to be
12 submitting, in addition to these State proposals, we're
13 going to be submitting placeholder proposals on the
14 Federal side, for the Federal Subsistence Board. There's
15 going to be some challenge in that because we won't know
16 a lot of what's happened by the time you guys meet for
17 that March 8th and 9th meeting because our Board of Game
18 meeting isn't until the 10th. So we're going to submit a
19 placeholder proposal. A lot could change based on what
20 the Board of Game's decisions are on that. But we're
21 going to have placeholder proposals for these seasons and
22 bag limits, and we're going to have a proposal for the
23 subdivisions as well submitted on the Federal side as a
24 follow up.

25
26 CHAIRMAN SAM: Glenn, what exactly do you
27 mean by placeholder? Just submit a proposal in case they
28 approve this one area or the other one?

29
30 MR. STOUT: Exactly. If the Board of
31 Game approves those subdivisions, what we wanted to be
32 able to do to get these going as fast as we can, both to
33 make sure regulations on the State and Federal side are
34 in alignment as much as possible. What we would like to
35 do is get those in the same regulatory year. So we
36 thought having a placeholder proposal in place would be
37 beneficial. It's going to be tough though because you're
38 going to have your meeting and consideration of that will
39 be kind of taking place in a black box a little bit
40 because we won't know exactly how that's going to
41 transpire.

42
43 CHAIRMAN SAM: Roy, you had something to
44 add.

45
46 MR. NOWLIN: This is Roy Nowlin. I'm the
47 management coordinator for wildlife conservation in
48 Fairbanks. We expect that on the State side here and on
49 the Federal side as well making these boundary changes
50 that Glenn is talking about that any given piece of land

1 that the actual regulation that applies there is going to
2 change very little, if at all. So what I asked Glenn to
3 do was prepare a list of things that might be affected,
4 that might change from existing regulation.

5
6 I know this all sounds kind of confusing,
7 but when we re-draw these boundaries what we have to do
8 is re-describe these seasons so they fit the boundaries.
9 As far as a change for the hunter on the ground, there's
10 going to be very little, except that we hope it's going
11 to be easier for them to understand. Because things are
12 pretty complicated up there and that's what we're trying
13 to do with this.

14
15 With the Board of Game, what we're hoping
16 is that they will just do like a housekeeping thing and
17 they won't have to take action on every one of these
18 things that will be re-described, but it's going to be a
19 challenge because we want to make sure that everybody
20 that's involved in the decision-making process
21 understands where they are, if there are any changes for
22 any given piece of ground out there, that everybody
23 understands when they make a decision that this is what
24 might change in there.

25
26 We're not trying to have a wholesale
27 rewriting of what's going on out there. We just want to
28 describe it differently in terms of dividing up Unit 24
29 to hopefully make it clearer for everyone involved. And,
30 as Glenn said, get this placeholder in the Federal system
31 because we felt we needed to get something in front of
32 the Federal system that could be used during the
33 regulatory process, depending on what the Board of Game
34 does.

35
36 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Roy. Any
37 questions so far.

38
39 (No comments)

40
41 MR. STOUT: Okay. This one here is not
42 really so much a proposal as it will be a follow up to
43 what our primary motive here is and that's to try to get
44 an intensive management predator plan in place. That
45 will be another issue that we'll address with the Board.

46
47 One issue that we've discussed here
48 recently in-house that we wanted to bring to your
49 attention is redrawing the boundary because it may be
50 quite a while before we have this opportunity to talk

1 about boundary changes to the Board of Game. We
2 discussed management in 21(B) and the upper portion of
3 the Nowitna drainage on 21(A). We feel like it's
4 important at this point and primarily from a hunter
5 management perspective to redraw that boundary line to
6 make 21(B) include all of the Nowitna River drainage.

7
8 You know a lot of the things that have
9 gone on in the past with the Koyukuk River where we saw
10 hunter patterns change as a result of those and that's
11 one thing I think would make it a lot easier for hunters
12 rather than changing regulations upriver and downriver to
13 understand that. The way it is right now the Nowitna
14 Refuge is split in half and I think it would make a lot
15 more sense to include that all in one Game Management
16 Unit there. I think hunter patterns and management
17 reasons really suggest that's one we would like to see
18 just all one unit and then have that whole drainage
19 managed by the Galena Management Area Office.

20
21 CHAIRMAN SAM: Go ahead, Jack.

22
23 MR. REAKOFF: So you're talking about
24 taking 21(B) and taking those boundaries right up to the
25 divide between the Innoko and the Nowitna, right up to
26 the 19(D) border? Basically just extending the western
27 boundary of 21(B) right up to the -- 21(B) border right
28 along the divide?

29
30 MR. STOUT: That's correct. It would be
31 just taking out that boundary that splits 21(B) and (A)
32 there and just taking that line south of the Poor Man
33 Road, going due south until it hits basically about that
34 southern line. It's not quite that way because that
35 Nowitna drainage goes a little bit over to the west, but
36 it would include all that Nowitna drainage.

37
38 MR. HONEA: Ron.

39
40 CHAIRMAN SAM: Go ahead, Don.

41
42 MR. HONEA: Thank you, Mr. Chair. What
43 is the justification for this, I mean the reasoning
44 behind this? I know that right in 21(B) there that it
45 won't adversely affect whatever we do, but what is the
46 reasoning or justification?

47
48 MR. STOUT: Thank you, Member Honea. The
49 biggest reason would be for managing hunters, hunting
50 patterns. I think what we see a lot of is hunters being

1 dropped in on the upper river and floating down and then
2 they end up having two different hunting regulations.
3 That's one issue. Maybe trying to get better compliance
4 on some of our downriver regulations, working with the
5 Nowitna Refuge on management because the Nowitna Refuge
6 right now is split with two sets of regulations over
7 there and I think it would make a lot more sense for us
8 to be able to handle all that Nowitna Refuge with me
9 being right there in Galena and the Nowitna Refuge being
10 there in Galena. I think there's a lot of issues that
11 would be handled very easily being right out of one
12 office and being right across the street from each other.

13

14 CHAIRMAN SAM: Anything further for Glenn
15 at this time.

16

17 (No comments)

18

19 CHAIRMAN SAM: If not, go ahead.

20

21 MR. STOUT: Just to give you a heads up,
22 I had one proposal that was handed off to me as far as
23 requiring forfeiture of the antlers in 21(D) in that
24 December season. That was an issue that had been brought
25 up before. Then some of the other changes that we
26 certainly wanted to talk about at the working group
27 meeting had to do with discussions about proposals that
28 we saw at the 2004 Board of Game meeting and the
29 discussion had to do with closing or eliminating that
30 Kanuti Controlled Use Area boundary on the State side.
31 That was something that we really felt was important to
32 address and have proposals in hand or a discussion on
33 what the perspectives were by all the users in there on
34 that Koyukuk Controlled Use boundaries.

35

36 I think I'll stop at that. These are
37 just kind of housekeeping proposals.

38

39 CHAIRMAN SAM: What else did you and Roy
40 had?

41

42 MR. STOUT: That's all I had at this time
43 as far as proposals for the area.

44

45 CHAIRMAN SAM: So it's already covered
46 under other proposals?

47

48 MR. STOUT: That's all that I had. I
49 don't know if anybody else had any on the State side.

50

1 CHAIRMAN SAM: Would it be appropriate at
2 this time to introduce Jack's proposal that we were
3 introducing under Federal programs, just requesting it
4 under the State system, too? Would it be appropriate at
5 this time to do that? Go ahead, Roy.

6
7 MR. NOWLIN: Mr. Chairman. Do you mean a
8 discussion of Jack's proposal to extend those seasons?
9 Is that what you mean?

10
11 CHAIRMAN SAM: Maybe I'm just looking for
12 an automatic submission under your program. Go ahead.

13
14 MR. NOWLIN: What I had expected from
15 this morning was that those proposals would come from the
16 AC's. Is that correct, Jack? Am I correct in assuming
17 that?

18
19 CHAIRMAN SAM: Jack and then Benedict.

20
21 MR. REAKOFF: This is a Western Interior
22 generated proposal. I could bring this before the
23 Koyukuk River Advisory Committee and the Moose Hunter
24 Working Group, but I would like to get it on the table.
25 I feel that the endorsement of this proposal by the
26 Council has an aspect to it. I would like advice from
27 the Council. Would you prefer to have this proposal
28 submitted from the advisory committee process or we could
29 submit this from the Western Interior? I would enjoy
30 your comments.

31
32 CHAIRMAN SAM: I would rather have it
33 submitted under Western Interior. Consensus. Any
34 opposition. Benedict.

35
36 MR. JONES: Yeah, Glenn. I think Tom
37 introduced that the winter hunt antler be cut off like in
38 the fall on the palm because there's several illegal
39 guide in the winter hunt and they're out there trophy
40 hunt, they're not hunting for the meat, so what Tom
41 suggested is the antler be cut to devalue the trophies.
42 It's mostly on the Federal land that this occurred last
43 December season and it's really accessible to
44 snowmachine. They can pick out the big bulls. They can
45 drive up to 10 bulls in one pack and pick out the ones
46 they want. So I'd like to see that proposal go through
47 to cut the antlers in the winter hunt.

48
49 CHAIRMAN SAM: Has this proposal already
50 been submitted?

1 MR. STOUT: Mr. Chairman. I was given
2 that proposal from Mr. Kriska and he asked me to submit
3 that, so it will be going in from Tom as his personal
4 proposal that he wanted submitted.

5
6 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Glenn. So at
7 this time we're back to Jack's request to submit this
8 proposal under Western Interior. Is that fine with
9 everyone?

10
11 (Council nods affirmatively)

12
13 CHAIRMAN SAM: What do you have, Vince.

14
15 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman. Maybe you
16 ought to consider, and Roy can correct me, December 1 is
17 the due date for Board of Game proposals. Assuming the
18 advisory committees meet before that window, you could
19 put a clause in your proposal that you would submit this
20 proposal if none are submitted by the local advisory
21 committees. Because Koyukuk is meeting on the 24th,
22 Middle Yukon I don't know when they're meeting. I don't
23 know who else I'm leaving out on advisory committees. So
24 that might be a way to separate the jurisdictions. And I
25 think the Board of Game, my own personal opinion, may be
26 a little bit more favorable because that's their advisory
27 process feeding into them. So that's an option. It is
28 December 1st then, Roy? So you'd have a window there
29 possibly.

30
31 CHAIRMAN SAM: Mickey and then Carl.

32
33 MR. STICKMAN: Thank you, Ron. I think
34 it would be best if we had it as a proposal from this
35 Council here, but also requesting action on the proposal
36 from the separate AC's on the State side. But I'd rather
37 have it come from this Council here and send it to the
38 AC's and have them endorse it also.

39
40 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay, thank you, Mickey.
41 I think that's what we were looking for.

42
43 MR. MORGAN: Mr. Chairman. I thought we
44 kind of had it settled this morning when Robert requested
45 to send the draft copies down to the GASH villages before
46 their meeting so they can take it up and endorse it and,
47 if anything, send one also, written in the same language
48 from the GASH. I think it would pull a little bit more
49 weight if both the AC's, Federal and State, send their
50 proposal in. It might be the same proposal.

1 What the heck. More is better I think.
2
3 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Carl. I would
4 still like to see this submitted under the Western
5 Interior heading even though it's adopted verbatim at the
6 local KRAC and Middle Yukon AC.
7
8 Roy.
9
10 MR. NOWLIN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
11 One thing to consider. What Carl just said prompted me
12 to think about this. This is a pretty large geographic
13 area and moose populations are -- there's different
14 bull/cow ratios, there's different allowable surpluses
15 and harvestable surpluses in these areas and if the
16 individual advisory committees were also looking at this,
17 they may want to modify this in some way based upon
18 what's going on in each individual area. That's kind of
19 the advantage of having individual advisory committees
20 look at it as well as this group, so you might want to
21 consider that in your strategy.
22
23 CHAIRMAN SAM: Consider it. Consider it.
24 We all want to eat moose meat. Did we want to take this
25 up any further? We know it will be submitted to two or
26 three different councils, maybe more. Jack, do you have
27 something.
28
29 MR. REAKOFF: Mr. Chairman. I think that
30 we could submit this as a blanket place-holding proposal
31 from the Western Interior but also transmit it to each
32 advisory committee in the affected areas so they can
33 review it at their next meeting, which is coming up. So
34 Roy is correct, there are probably some adjustments that
35 each advisory committee is going to go through. This
36 blanket proposal will get it on the table though.
37
38 If the Council feels they would like to
39 endorse this concept in general, then I'd make a motion
40 to submit this proposal to the State Board of Game as
41 written and a copy sent to each advisory committee in the
42 affected areas.
43
44 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Jack. Is there
45 a second.
46
47 MR. STICKMAN: I second.
48
49 CHAIRMAN SAM: Seconded. I think that
50 will take care of the whole deliberation. All those in

1 favor of the motion signify by saying aye.
2
3 IN UNISON: Aye.
4
5 CHAIRMAN SAM: Opposed same sign.
6
7 (No opposing votes)
8
9 CHAIRMAN SAM: Motion carried. Did you
10 have anything more?
11
12 MR. REAKOFF: No.
13
14 CHAIRMAN SAM: Randy.
15
16 MR. ROGERS: I don't know if you're about
17 ready to leave the Federal wildlife proposal section of
18 your agenda, but there is one I wanted to make you aware
19 of that we're planning to submit for 21(E). Is this the
20 correct time to go ahead and mention that?
21
22 CHAIRMAN SAM: Is that fine with you,
23 Robert?
24
25 MR. WALKER: I wanted to get these guys
26 out of here if we could.
27
28 CHAIRMAN SAM: I see Trooper Sears.
29 Could you hold off a minute?
30
31 MR. ROGERS: This is 30 seconds.
32
33 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thirty seconds. Go ahead,
34 then.
35
36 (Laughter)
37
38 MR. ROGERS: You don't believe me. We're
39 intending to submit a proposal as part of the 21(E) plan
40 to require under Federal regulations to align them with
41 State regulations for salvage of black bear, partly with
42 the idea of increasing black bear harvest down there.
43 Currently Federal regs require salvage of both the meat
44 and the hide. Under State regs it is required to salvage
45 the meat between January 1 and May 31 and the hide or
46 meat from June 1 to December 31. So we're intending to
47 do that under the Federal regulations, so I just wanted
48 to make sure you guys were aware of that. It's not a
49 huge deal, but it's under your purview.
50

1 Any questions, I'll answer them.

2

3 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Randy. There
4 was a request from a Council member that we bring back
5 Trooper Sears and I believe Trooper Quist. I believe
6 that Council Member Walker had a few questions he wanted
7 clarified before we have all these advisory committee
8 meetings.

9

10 Your questions, Robert.

11

12 MR. WALKER: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Could
13 you restate your name in the microphone for the record,
14 please.

15

16 TROOPER SEARS: Trooper Jay Sears,
17 Galena.

18

19 TROOPER QUIST: And I'm Scott Quist from
20 Fairbanks.

21

22 MR. WALKER: Thank you, Mr. Sears and
23 thank you, Mr. Quist. I've got two questions. The first
24 one is FAA Part 135, air charters into Region 6, I'll say
25 the whole region just to cover not only 21(E), but we do
26 have people that fly in and drop off hunters outside the
27 controlled use area or what they call management, what we
28 have Don called 21(E), you can't land or hunt in there.
29 Anyway, on this FAA Part 135, ability to salvage all meat
30 of big game except wolverine, waterfowl, whatever, but it
31 says you have to take the meat out first before you take
32 out the horns. On this FAA Part 135, 90 percent of the
33 time they don't take the meat out, they just take the
34 horns out and fly back to Aniak or wherever they're going
35 and not salvage the meat. So this is a question on 135
36 that's happening in 21(E) and probably in Region 6.

37

38 I'm just curious on why this is
39 continuing on. Why is the State or enforcement agencies
40 -- I'm not picking on you. Why aren't they checking to
41 see if they are salvaging the meat? It goes back even
42 further to Page 23, salvage to transport edible meat,
43 skull and hide, as required by the statute of
44 registration of game, animals and wildfowl, to a location
45 where the edible meat can be consumed by humans or
46 processed for human consumption. In this manner,
47 preserve edible meat from waste and preserve for human
48 use.

49

50 I mean this is wanton waste. Am I

1 correct here? This is literally saying that we can do it
2 but you can't. The subsistence side says that you can't
3 do this, but on the Federal State side you can do this.
4 There has to be some kind of clarification here. The
5 reason why I'm asking is I wanted to be on record so
6 we'll have it on the record so if we have to come back to
7 this somewhere along the line we can refer back to this
8 meeting and say these officers did explain what, why and
9 how come.

10

11 TROOPER QUIST: Thank you, Mr. Chairman
12 and Members of the Board. I guess I can start out by
13 trying to explain what transporters responsibilities are
14 and Part 135 operators. As far as the FAA is concerned,
15 and Part 135 is an FAA regulation regulating air taxis,
16 and on the State side air taxis have to be licensed as
17 transporters in order to advertise for providing a
18 service involving big game hunting, transporting hunters
19 and charging more than the normal tariff to transport
20 hunters. That's where they have some responsibility as
21 far as State regulations are concerned regarding waste
22 and all other game regulations.

23

24 What the State statutes say basically is
25 that anybody who is licensed under this chapter, which is
26 occupational licensing chapter, they basically can't
27 knowingly violate or assist in a violation of that
28 chapter or a Fish and Game regulation and they also have
29 to report violations. They can't knowingly not report a
30 violation. They have a certain time period to do that.
31 So there's a bit of a hurdle there where we would have to
32 prove that they knowingly failed to report a violation of
33 the occupational licensing statute or a Fish and Game
34 regulation. It gets kind of difficult to do that. We
35 have to show that they knew there was a violation and
36 then that they failed to report it.

37

38 As far as waste is concerned, there are a
39 couple of different things that they can do, that a
40 hunter can do, to get antlers out of the field without
41 the meat. He can transfer the meat to someone else,
42 either somebody else in their hunting party, and then the
43 responsibility of getting the meat out of the field falls
44 to that person it's transferred to, or they can transfer
45 it even to the air taxi or the transporter. Does that
46 answer part of your question or do you have more
47 questions along that line?

48

49 MR. WALKER: Yes, it does answer some of
50 my question, but again it falls back to if you transfer

1 the meat over to the air taxi, then he takes care of it,
2 but if he transfers it over to somebody who's going to
3 say, well, I'll just let it go bad and I'll throw it
4 away. A good example in Holy Cross, a transporter
5 brought their meat back to Holy Cross and threw it in the
6 dump. That's a slap in our face. People are trying to
7 get a moose to eat and here we have people throwing it in
8 our dump. I mean this is not acceptable.

9
10 There's got to be a law here somewhere
11 that the State is going to have to push harder. I know
12 the enforcement agents are stretched pretty thin. It's
13 hard to follow up. A lot of times when you do get there
14 it's already too late. Maybe if you can come to Holy
15 Cross when we're having our moose planning meeting and
16 explain that to them. I think this would be more than
17 sufficient. Randy could also have you or somebody
18 present there to do this.

19
20 I know you're pressed for time for
21 leaving. I just want this for the record. Maybe there
22 will be a change in the near future. Maybe somebody will
23 put a proposal in and somebody in the State Board of Game
24 will accept it. But this kind of makes us feel why do we
25 live in this part of the world.

26
27 Thank you very much. That's all I needed
28 to hear from you. Unless you wanted to add something
29 else.

30
31 CHAIRMAN SAM: Do you have anything else?

32
33 TROOPER QUIST: In terms of waste and
34 throwing meat away and that sort of thing, we are working
35 on that and the last thing we want to see is moose meat
36 in the dumpsters in Fairbanks or the dumps in the
37 villages. Our intent is to do everything we can under
38 the existing laws to keep that from happening. There are
39 times when meat goes bad and it ends up in the dumpster,
40 but our intent is to use every means that we can to stop
41 that from happening.

42
43 CHAIRMAN SAM: Does that answer your
44 questions, Robert?

45
46 MR. WALKER: Yes, it does. I just wanted
47 it for the record. Thank you very much. You have a good
48 day and take care of yourselves.

49
50 CHAIRMAN SAM: Ray has a question.

1 MR. COLLINS: Well, it's not a question,
2 but maybe it is. We've observed the same thing here in
3 McGrath. As I understand it, it's really hard to
4 enforce. If they bring that in and it's smelling, not
5 usable, I know the local person that cuts meat here often
6 rejects a lot of it. At that point it goes to the dump
7 and they have met the requirements of salvaging and
8 bringing it in and they say it's an act of God, the
9 weather or rain, even though some of it's in a black
10 plastic bag. What would have to be done to make that
11 enforceable I guess is the question I'm saying because we
12 do know there's waste going on. Is there anything we
13 could do in terms of proposing regs or something else
14 that would be enforceable to get at that issue?

15
16 TROOPER SEARS: I think you're on the
17 right track. We, as State troopers, are very frustrated
18 with this process and we need to clean up through the
19 proposal process the waste statutes in our state. We
20 currently have three that cover waste. The first being
21 wanton waste, which is grievous waste, where the entire
22 carcass is left in the field to rot. The second is the
23 fail to salvage all of the edible meat statute, which
24 means they salvage portions of it and leave portions to
25 rot. The third statute that's outlined is fail to
26 salvage for human consumption.

27
28 Unfortunately, like you mentioned, we
29 need to clean up the statutes a little bit through the
30 Board of Game process because we can only enforce what's
31 on the law books of our state. Currently, if they
32 salvage it from the field and take every means necessary
33 as a hunter to salvage it, we don't have a leg to stand
34 on to charge them for it. It's frustrating for us to see
35 moose in the dump or certainly in the city dumpsters of
36 Galena, which I observe very frequently during hunting
37 season and that's a problem.

38
39 CHAIRMAN SAM: Jack and then Robert.

40
41 MR. REAKOFF: It would be my opinion that
42 transferring the possession of the meat to a transporter
43 and taking the antlers is circumventing the whole
44 regulation of transporting the antlers with the last load
45 of meat from the field, so I feel that there should
46 probably be a proposal moved forward that the whole
47 animal has to be removed out of the field before transfer
48 of possession. That would get the animal out of the field
49 in a timely manner. Right now there's no real incentive
50 to get it out of the field in a timely manner if it's

1 been transferred. The hunter flies off to where he's
2 going to and the animal can hang in a tree until it rots
3 off the pole, then the transporter can throw it in the
4 dump. That seems to be a negation of that whole line of
5 regulation. That might be something we could talk about
6 at the Koyukuk River Advisory Committee as a proposal.
7 Would that help your process?

8
9 TROOPER QUIST: Yeah, I think it would to
10 some degree, but there are times when that transfer is
11 valid and reasonable. Whoever the person that ends up
12 with the meat, he still has a legal obligation to salvage
13 it for human consumption. What we're trying to hang our
14 hat on is the salvage for human consumption portion of
15 the regulation and that's actually in a definition under
16 5 AAC where they have to put the meat in a condition
17 where it will stay for 15 days. If I transferred my
18 moose to you and you left it hanging out in the field and
19 it rotted, then there still may be a violation there.

20
21 CHAIRMAN SAM: Robert and then Mickey.

22
23 MR. WALKER: One more question here.
24 Right now the transporters leave their clients out in the
25 field sometimes two weeks and they kill the moose the
26 first day, so they're sitting out there two weeks with
27 the meat hanging. The client's not checking on them or
28 broke down and can't get out there. So there's a gray
29 area here I see, but I can see where it would be a
30 violation of wanton waste still yet. The transporter is
31 the one responsible, but he's not responsible at all.
32 I've got a lot of feelings about this. I know it's not
33 your fault. We need some kind of a direction here to go.
34 Not right now, but probably by next year or the year
35 after.

36
37 Thank you.

38
39 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Robert. The
40 next meeting is at Koyukuk and that's where we address
41 more proposals. Mickey and then Carl.

42
43 MR. STICKMAN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
44 I had three things. The first one, we actually have some
45 registered guides and we have some assistant guides in
46 our area. They were up in the Kaiyuh Flats, but it's not
47 a guide area for any guide or they didn't have a special
48 use permit. Then we had another guy from Nulato who was
49 guiding up there that doesn't even have a transporter
50 license or a guide license or an assistant guide license

1 of any kind. And the third one I had was a personal
2 complaint from one of my tribal members. Him and his
3 wife and two of their hunting partners were driving up to
4 a cow moose but there was a bull on the edge and it was
5 on the very last day of the season and one of the State
6 trooper planes flew right over the back of them and
7 scared those moose back into the woods and away from the
8 river and they missed their opportunity to get a bull
9 this year because of a State trooper flying over the back
10 end of them when they were driving up to a cow and a
11 bull.

12

13 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Mickey. Do you
14 have a response to that or should I just go to Carl?

15

16 You have a response.

17

18 TROOPER QUIST: I certainly can, but I
19 don't think we need to. I can certainly talk to you
20 about that on a private basis unless you'd like me to
21 here.

22

23 MR. STICKMAN: Actually, if you do it
24 here you'll be on record and we can hold you to it.

25

26 TROOPER QUIST: You can hold me to
27 anything I say any time. We were aware of an unlicensed
28 guide operating in the Kaiyuh Flats and that person that
29 flew over on that last day after putting things together
30 was me. It turns out that I was actually looking for the
31 unlicensed guide and that's why I circled over that boat
32 twice. I didn't see any moose, but that often happens.
33 I can tell you that statewide we make a significant
34 effort not to ruin anyone's hunt. That's the last thing
35 we want to happen. That's the last thing I would want to
36 happen on my hunt. But we do have to be there, we do
37 have to be in the field and we do have to contact
38 hunters. So I'm sorry that it happened. I can't say
39 that it won't happen again. As far as the unlicensed
40 guide is concerned, if you have specific information,
41 we'd like any information you can give us. That's all I
42 have.

43

44 Thank you.

45

46 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Trooper Quist.

47 Carl.

48

49 MR. MORGAN: This is just for
50 information. It's not a question to you guys. It was

1 brought up that the Board of Game can change a statute.
2 The Board of Game cannot change a statute. Only the
3 legislature can enact and change a statute. The Board of
4 Game operates under strict guidelines under the law.
5 They can change the regulatory process. That's why we
6 have proposals to change regulations. They cannot change
7 a statute. Just the legislature can.

8

9 Thank you.

10

11 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Carl. Did you
12 have something to add?

13

14 TROOPER SEARS: Yes, Mr. Chairman. I was
15 going to respond to Member Morgan. Most of those fail to
16 salvage statutes are actually covered under the 5 AAC, so
17 it would be a Board of Game issue if the proposals were
18 forwarded.

19

20 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you and thank you
21 for coming back up here. I know the last three or four
22 meetings we've been screaming for enforcement and I'm
23 glad that you could spend some time with us and answer a
24 few questions.

25

26 Thank you.

27

28 MR. HONEA: Mr. Chair, may I.

29

30 CHAIRMAN SAM: I'm going to start
31 enforcing time pretty soon. Go ahead, Don.

32

33 MR. HONEA: Thank you, Mr. Chair. My comments
34 are mostly a suggestion or something. We out in Ruby, I
35 realize that the check station in Galena and whatever,
36 maybe they're transporting meat out of there. I realized
37 this fall that they probably helped out a lot of elders
38 with meat. What I'd like to see is -- probably after you
39 had left Galena there is no other check station between
40 Galena and the bridge or wherever they pull out, checking
41 for meat or whatever. And I believe it was two years ago
42 in the fall where a lot of meat was found below Ruby,
43 maybe eight miles down there.

44

45 My comment is more of a suggestion.
46 We've been wrestling with this for years. We at the
47 school there have a lunch program at the Ruby school and
48 we even try to avail ourselves to be open to hunters. Of
49 course, we can't go down there, but if there was a way to
50 let hunters know that people in the village would be more

1 than happy to accept whatever they can't haul back or if
2 they want to give up the meat, something like that. I
3 don't know if it would be like a hunter class or
4 something, but if there was a way to make those people
5 aware that we would accept it.

6

7 That's just a suggestion. Thank you.

8

9 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Don. Benedict.

10

11 MR. JONES: I think another way if you
12 want to avoid wanton waste, before it gets to the green
13 stage I think it's still salvageable for human
14 consumption to make dry meat out of it if you get it to
15 the village before it gets too rotten. It's still edible
16 for dry meat purposes.

17

18 On the wanton waste, the Middle Yukon
19 Advisory Committee, we did suggest that any hunters or
20 anybody that goes up the Koyukuk Controlled Use Area that
21 they have to bring their meat out within one week so
22 there will be no wanton waste there.

23

24 Thank you.

25

26 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Benedict.

27 Anymore. If not, thank you all again.

28

29 TROOPER QUIST: Thank you, Mr. Chairman
30 and members of the Council.

31

32 TROOPER SEARS: Thank you.

33

34 CHAIRMAN SAM: Vince, is this an

35 appropriate time for a break?

36

37 MR. MATHEWS: Yes. And then we need to
38 consult with those that were on a charter. I don't know
39 what time they were leaving. We may want to see if they
40 want to step in front here or not. So maybe during the
41 break they can get a hold of you.

42

43 CHAIRMAN SAM: While we're on our break,
44 just go ahead and get a hold of Vince and/or me if you
45 want to get on the agenda right away. If not, we'll go
46 right into break and open up with annual report.

47

48 Thank you.

49

50 (Off record)

1 (On record)

2

3 CHAIRMAN SAM: Let's get back to our
4 seats. We'd like to get started.

5

6 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, we just have
7 one housekeeping and practically everybody here is with
8 an agency. It's very helpful for all the agency staff
9 and public to sign the sign-in sheets. That's how we
10 keep track that you're here. All your bosses have called
11 in. No. The reason is we need it for spelling, for
12 attendance and we need it if it ever does go to a level
13 beyond the Board that who was present during that
14 dialogue if it happens to be some kind of legal. So
15 please sign in.

16

17 CHAIRMAN SAM: Vince, who do we have
18 next?

19

20 MR. MATHEWS: I think we're moving into
21 Agency reports.

22

23 CHAIRMAN SAM: Go ahead, Tim.

24

25 MR. CRAIG: Mr. Chairman, Board Members.
26 My name again is Tim Craig. I'm a wildlife biologist for
27 the Fairbanks District Office, Bureau of Land Management
28 in Fairbanks, Alaska. A number of things. I'm going to
29 go through them pretty quick. Just stop me or ask
30 questions at the end if you like.

31

32 The big news in our office is we finally
33 did reorganize. We're no longer called the Northern
34 Field Office. Now we're called the Fairbanks District
35 Office. The portion of that area that overlaps Western
36 Interior is now called the Central Yukon Field Office.
37 It's south of 26(A), which is up on the North Slope,
38 which is why I didn't know anything about that proposal.
39 Anyway, it runs all the way down here to Kaltag almost
40 and it amounts to about 27 million acres of Federal land.
41 Central Yukon is this dark line right here. So this is
42 the new unit to which I am assigned.

43

44 We're hiring three new field office
45 managers. One for the Eastern Interior, one for the
46 Arctic and one for the Central Yukon and then we're all
47 going to be called Field Offices under the overarching
48 administrative unit, the District Office. So there's
49 going to be two biologists in this area and I think we're
50 going to get all the land north of the Yukon River, the

1 two of us. That's one thing.

2

3 The next point I'd like to make is I
4 mentioned at the last meetings the challenge cost share
5 project that we have with the Alaska Department of Fish
6 and Game. I thought you'd be interested to know how we
7 spent that money since you helped us get it. We've radio
8 collared five more caribou in the Hogatza Hills, so we've
9 got a total of eight there now. Then Fish and Game used
10 funding from BLM to conduct sheep surveys in the utility
11 corridor in GMU 24 and 25 in July. Then just this Sunday
12 we finished doing a herd comp in the Ray Mountains and
13 the Hogatza Hills and the results of all those studies
14 are kind of still in the process of coming out. Anyway,
15 that's how we used that money.

16

17 The BLM has not issued any new
18 recreational guiding permits in the Central Yukon Unit in
19 2005. I think there are 39 hunting guides and 8 tour
20 operators permitted by the Fairbanks District Office now
21 and those are the permit areas that overlap the Western
22 regional boundary.

23

24 In lands actions, BLM received a proposal
25 to permit an all-season ATV trail from the Dalton Highway
26 to private land in the Big Salt Drainage. This is for
27 your information only because it's not actually in your
28 region but right on the border. This trail would go back
29 between the Big Salt River on one side, the Ray River on
30 the other side, back a long ways from the highway, the
31 Dalton Haul Road and I have a telephone number on your
32 handout if you're interested in finding out more about
33 that. We haven't started the NEPA process there.

34

35 The next point is, as I mentioned last
36 spring, we received a proposal for a plan of operations
37 to placer mine Federal mining claims at Aloha Creek, a
38 tributary of Hogatza River. We notified the applicant
39 that a mineral examination will be required before we
40 even start NEPA there because that land is withdrawn.
41 It's an ACEC for spawning chum salmon. To date, the
42 applicant has not scheduled an exam. So we're kind of
43 hanging fire on that one.

44

45 Another mining action last spring. We
46 granted an application to a miner to build a road into
47 his mining claims in Marion Creek north of Coldfoot.
48 Again, this is for placer mining and I'm pretty sure the
49 permit he started construction last week, though I
50 haven't seen the road except for just off the highway

1 there.

2

3

4 Then the last point and the real reason I
5 put together a PowerPoint is the State office asked me to
6 talk a little bit more about this BAER team. I talked to
7 you about it last year a little bit. Again, 2005 was a
8 banner year for forest fires, wildfires in Alaska. I
9 just did kind of a quick GIS thing to show where some of
10 the boundaries were in the Western Interior and then I
11 did a quick list. These are all the fires that are in
12 the Western Interior plus their acreages. The bottom
13 line here is that there is about two million acres
14 burned again. 2005 was the second biggest fire year for
15 Alaska. 2004 was number one and the third one was 1957.

15

16

17 As we have mentioned before at meetings,
18 in Interior Alaska, the ecological effects of these
19 fires, while not benign at the level we're seeing them
20 now, the ecosystems are fire-adapted. The stand-
21 replacing fires occur on a regular basis and we get these
22 pretty nice mosaics depending on burn severity of the
23 individual fire. Generally they return to burn
24 conditions within 70 to 150 years. From my perspective,
25 we're almost in a new ballgame here. We're burning a lot
26 of Interior Alaska every year it looks like to me.
27 Nonetheless, they are fire-adapted ecosystems and we get
28 these nice mosaics that through time change into what we
29 see in the unburned habitats.

29

30

31 The Federal government has this
32 organization, for want of a better word, called the
33 Burned Area Emergency Response Team. There's a national
34 one and a state one in Alaska. The national one was here
35 last year because of this tremendous fire season we had.
36 This year I think they looked and said Alaska is
37 fire-adapted, all these ecosystems are fire-adapted, so
38 we're just going to let you take care of it on the local
39 level.

39

40

41 So, in 2005, rather than the people
42 coming up from the Lower 48, the BLM, Parks Service, Fish
43 and Wildlife and BIA are going to handle the BAER
44 reporting and funding on their own. Now this BAER Team
45 thing has two parts. Emergency stabilization. That's
46 where there are actual threats to life and property and
47 that's short-term, needs to be done right now. And then
48 more long-term rehabilitation efforts. That's to repair
49 lands unlikely to recover naturally and to restore
50 healthy ecosystems.

50

1 The process is that the field offices of
2 those four agencies are going to initiate review of their
3 fires and then they'll field check these fires for
4 severity and if there's any suppression damage, like CAT
5 trails they put in for fire lines that are eroding, that
6 kind of thing, and then ultimately they'll each write an
7 emergency stabilization and rehabilitation plan if they
8 feel it's warranted. That's where the Western Interior
9 and other RAC's might come in. If you are aware of
10 problems that need to be rehabilitated, you can approach
11 our BAER representative in the State office, Scott Guyer,
12 and there's his telephone number.

13
14 Right now in the Western Interior RAC the
15 BAER team has looked at Chapman Creek, Jim River 3, North
16 Bonanza, the Tozitna and Ray River and their preliminary
17 findings are that winter trails, weeds, weed invasion
18 mainly from the Haul Road is what we're mainly concerned
19 about, fisheries, because there are some salmon spawning
20 areas in those areas, and then, of course, watersheds
21 related to fisheries. Those are issues that are being
22 considered in those fires.

23
24 So if you have any other information or
25 anything you want to talk to the team about, that's the
26 fellow's telephone number you would contact. With that,
27 I'm finished with my presentation and I could entertain
28 any questions before we move on.

29
30 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Tim. Questions
31 for Tim. Robert and then Jack.

32
33 MR. WALKER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
34 Tim, just looking at where your Central Yukon Flats
35 Office is, your land is running into Galena zone, all the
36 way down to the mouth of the Yukon, north of the Yukon.
37 I mean you're coming down just below Kaltag here. Whose
38 going to be taking over the southern part of this Central
39 Yukon Field Office? Is there going to be somebody else
40 down below your boundary line?

41
42 MR. DENTON: That's us.

43
44 MR. WALKER: Oh, Jeff. Okay.

45
46 MR. DENTON: I've always been there.

47
48 MR. WALKER: Oh, okay. Sorry, Jeff.

49
50 MR. CRAIG: Just a quick clarification.

1 I didn't put the Anchorage Field Office. If you fold
2 that map in half, everything kind of on the bottom half
3 of the fold is Anchorage Field Office, everything in the
4 north half is the Fairbanks District Office.

5
6 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you. Jack.

7
8 MR. REAKOFF: On that Marion Creek Road,
9 I was wondering why there was no public input on that
10 trail and what kind of restrictions are going to be put
11 on that road going back there off the Dalton Highway as
12 to hunter access into that drainage. A lot of local
13 people are concerned about building that road back into
14 Marion Creek and a lot of hunters are going to get back
15 in there on that road. So what kind of mitigations and
16 without a public comment or hearing, we have no idea
17 what's going on there.

18
19 MR. CRAIG: Mr. Chairman, Mr. Reakoff.
20 First of all, for mitigations, my suggestions ultimately
21 became stipulations for that project. The first one was
22 I wanted to be able to control access to that road. I
23 don't know if you've noticed, but I think they were
24 following that stipulation and the road begins behind the
25 gate into the Marion Creek admin site. So any time that
26 gate is closed the public will not be able to get there.
27 I'm in hopes that just the fact that it's back there
28 we'll kind of keep it hidden from people. That was my
29 reason for insisting on that stipulation.

30
31 The second stipulation that I put in was
32 that we don't know if that mine is going to materialize
33 into a long-term thing. If it is not a viable mine at
34 the end of four years, I have stipulated that it be
35 brought back to bed. In other words, it would be brought
36 back to slope. That's what the EA says and those were
37 the mitigations I was able to get into that permit.

38
39 MR. REAKOFF: Thank you.

40
41 CHAIRMAN SAM: Ray.

42
43 MR. COLLINS: Mr. Chairman. You
44 mentioned that there seemed to be a change with the big
45 fires. I assume that's associated with the weather and
46 the warming up here and so on. What are we going to see
47 in terms of replacement of these? Is there any thought
48 given to the scenario of how those lands may differ with
49 this warmer, dryer climate than what we used to have with
50 this 70 to 150 years? What are we likely to see in terms

1 of habitat change?

2

3

4 MR. CRAIG: Mr. Chairman, Mr. Collins.
5 I'm not an expert. I've been on the periphery of many
6 discussions about this. Some people believe, as was
7 mentioned earlier in this meeting, that we're moving
8 towards more of a grasslands setting. Part of that will
9 have to do with the way water lays on the land. As the
10 underlying permafrost goes away, there's going to become
11 drainage. So the idea is we're going to see more
12 grasslands. That's maybe a 50-year scenario. In the
13 interim, I think we're going to see every last piece of
14 older black spruce burn up. That's kind of the way I'm
15 seeing it. Eventually we would get to the point where
16 the remaining stands would be armored against fire just
17 because there's new growth coming in around them. If the
18 way the weather patterns have developed in the last five
19 years continue, I would guess we're going to continue to
20 see what we are now kind of seeing as almost catastrophic
21 fires. Big fires.

22

23 I don't know if that answers your
24 question.

25

26 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Tim. I think I
27 stand to be corrected, but you will be seeing more, like
28 he says, more grasslands, but you'll be seeing a heck of
29 a lot more dry grasslands, such as is happening
30 throughout our region, a good portion of our region.
31 That figure that was used, the 70 to 150 year
32 rehabilititization, that for the most part doesn't work.
33 In the early '90s I worked for BLM. One of my non-
34 firefighting duties was to map the old fires and do a
35 little fire history for these areas. A good portion of
36 Kanuti Flats burns every 12 years, but then it's wet
37 enough to regenerate enough vegetation for the animals in
38 that area. For the most part, a lot of the area within
39 our region burns every 25 years anyway, so it doesn't
40 totally regenerate itself or rehab. It does change
41 though.

42

43 Any further questions for Tim. Robert.

44

45 MR. WALKER: Not for Tim, but for Jeff.
46 Are you ready, Jeff?

47

48 MR. DENTON: You bet.

49

50 MR. WALKER: The burn area in the lower
51 portion of Region 6 here, on the State land and Federal

1 land, one of the things that we asked in our moose
2 management meeting in 21 was that we have some burn so we
3 can get rid of some of this old growth there, but it
4 seemed like we burned something like maybe 80 to 100,000
5 acres this summer during the fire season. I don't know
6 what the actual total acres were. Maybe you can offhand
7 tell us.

8

9 MR. DENTON: Thank you, Mr. Chair and
10 Member Walker. I didn't intend to talk about fires south
11 of the line for Anchorage. We're still field office,
12 district office, it doesn't really make a lot of
13 difference because we only have one person in any staff
14 position anyway.

15

16 But the GASH area in particular, we had
17 about 110,000 acres burn over there by Reindeer Lake and
18 Goblet Creek country and a couple smaller fires. For our
19 GASH meeting, about 50,000 acres really burned in areas
20 that may respond for moose habitat. There was a lot of
21 basically tundra-type fire that's not moose habitat that
22 burned, so it's all not effective burn for moose habitat
23 for sure. But in the GASH area, like I say, around
24 110,000 acres burned. Of that, 50,000 acres and
25 primarily Goblet Creek stuff and further up above
26 Reindeer Lake. Once you get in the hill country it would
27 be a benefit to moose.

28

29 In the rest of the Western Region there
30 in our district, there was another 100,000 acres burned
31 and of that probably only 30,000 acres in the next 20 to
32 30 years would be of fairly high value to moose. There's
33 a lot of stuff in this state that burns. Black spruce
34 begets black spruce. Unless you can burn it very
35 repeatedly before it starts to reseed itself, you'll just
36 get black spruce. It's not going to buy moose a heck of
37 a lot. It's great for birds, great for berries, but
38 that's about it.

39

40 And, again, the global changing climate
41 thing. We're seeing permafrost going out. I think a lot
42 of you people have witnessed this in the rivers. You see
43 these ice shelves that kind of leak water into the rivers
44 every year. A lot of those are going away and there's
45 not this water going into the river systems and these big
46 bottomlands anymore. Those ice shelves are basically
47 gone. So we're seeing some big changes in permafrost,
48 effective root depth, and I think we're going to see a
49 lot more when white spruce goes out.

50

1 In some of these north slopes that are
2 really influenced a little bit by permafrost, when that
3 goes out, you're going to get some replacement of those
4 to more birch type, you're going to get a change in
5 forest type. Those aren't going to go to grass types
6 right away because they're north slopes. There's an
7 effective moisture thing there.

8
9 So you're just going to get a changing
10 landscape here in specification and then over the long
11 term, if things keep burning, of course we will tend
12 toward some of these areas going to more grass sedge
13 types, park land types. Probably similar to some of the
14 country in Canada, central/northern Canada. So does that
15 answer your question for now?

16
17 CHAIRMAN SAM: Anything further. You had
18 more, Jeff.

19
20 MR. DENTON: Yeah, I'll just finish up.
21 We mentioned maps and the need for mapping before and
22 we've gone through this exercise here before. When we
23 did produce a map for the GASH area a few years ago,
24 which is out of print now, and we don't have the monies
25 to put together a new and updated one yet, but we fully
26 intend to do that.

27
28 All the conveyance changes are really
29 happening. There's going tremendous changes in land
30 ownership in the next few years. Because of the cost of
31 these things, it costs about 17 to 25,000 dollars to
32 produce a map like we did, that we really want to wait
33 until there's a little more stable land ownership pattern
34 out there that isn't going to be changing dramatically
35 from year to year. Until we can get that pretty
36 stabilized and I can get all the selections and
37 conveyances finalized. I think in the GASH area we're
38 getting close to that.

39
40 And then the State selections are going
41 to change quite radically as the Native conveyances occur
42 and the parcels that the Native corporations don't get
43 conveyed, the State is going to adjust their priorities
44 on top of that. So we're seeing a really changing
45 picture for land ownership. It's going to be very
46 difficult for the next at least three to four years until
47 we get this land things stabilized. So it's going to be
48 real difficult to give you a good, meaningful map. From
49 my standpoint, I have to ask for your patience because I
50 created that first map at pretty high expense and it was

1 pretty good for a few years. It's still a pretty good
2 template to use. But we want to wait until that's
3 stabilized before we start kicking out new maps. They're
4 really, really expensive and hopefully when we get to
5 that point we can have State, Federal and corporations to
6 actually share in the burden of trying to produce and
7 print these things.

8
9 The next item. Of course, we're working
10 with the Central Kuskokwim Moose Planning Group kind of
11 in an advisory capacity as well as to the GASH, the
12 21(E), 21(A) efforts there. We'll just continue
13 providing what help we can on that as well as
14 cooperative, on-the-ground surveys as we can. We're all
15 going to be impacted probably especially the Feds by all
16 this Katrina stuff. Our budgets may take major hits
17 because we have to pay for that, our operations dollars.
18 So that's still up in the air. We really don't know how
19 that's going to impact us for this coming year, let alone
20 down the road here.

21
22 Coming up on the horizon, it still seems
23 like a long ways off, in 2008 for the Western Interior
24 portion of the Anchorage Field Office, we're going to be
25 doing a major land use plan, which you people will
26 probably be pretty intimately involved in that. That's
27 all the decisions on allocations of resources, what sorts
28 of uses, intents of uses, we're going to be looking at
29 mineral development scenarios, all these sorts of things.
30 These big plans actually have a lot of influence over the
31 next 10 to 15 years of management out there. This is the
32 place to discuss transporter and guide policies. Those
33 kinds of things have to be incorporated in these plans.
34 Wood bison introduction on BLM. This is where we
35 consider it. We won't probably consider it prior to
36 that. So these things are fairly significant.

37
38 This particular plan will be covering a
39 huge piece of country. All the country from McGrath all
40 the way to Unalakleet, all the way south to Lime Village.
41 So it's going to be a huge piece of country. We will
42 keep everybody informed when the time comes. I'm just
43 kind of letting you know. This is three years in
44 advance, but there's issues developing you need to keep
45 in mind and maybe write down kind of a checklist when we
46 get there so things don't get forgotten.

47
48 Other than that I'll shut up.

49
50 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Jeff. Jack.

1 MR. REAKOFF: Has the regional director
2 entered into that plan? He stated at the Resource
3 Advisory Council meeting that he was going to direct the
4 BLM to incorporate this guide area selection process in
5 these future plans. Has the regional director stated
6 that in this new planning process?

7
8 MR. DENTON: You mean our State director.
9 He's ultimately responsible, but the issue has to, again,
10 be brought up through that process, through the public
11 comments and so on. He's aware of it, but he needs to
12 know each region at a time how big of an issue it is, so
13 he can or cannot address it as he sees fit. We will work
14 it up, make the recommendations, but he's ultimately
15 responsible for a lot of those decisions. I would keep
16 it at the forefront. If you consider it to be a big
17 issue, make sure that it stays a front-end type issue.

18
19 MR. REAKOFF: Mr. Chair. Yeah, there was
20 a Resource Advisory Council meeting for the BLM in
21 Wiseman July 14, 2003. He stated in that meeting that
22 the future plans would incorporate this guide area
23 selection process, so I'm going to hold his feet to that
24 fire. So I want to be on the record right now and I want
25 him to see that in the process. I don't want to have to
26 come up and catch up to it. We were already out in front
27 of this thing. He's made statements in public on the
28 record, so I want to see that in this process.

29
30 MR. DENTON: Yeah, I think from the
31 public process it needs to stay in the forefront and also
32 remind him of that commitment. There's no promise that
33 he'll be here in 2008. We may have an entirely new
34 management staff by then. So, again, these things need
35 to always be kept -- kind of the pressure kept on if you
36 feel it is warranted.

37
38 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you. Who's the
39 current State Director of BLM?

40
41 MR. DENTON: The current State Director
42 is Henri Bisson.

43
44 CHAIRMAN SAM: And he does serve on the
45 Subsistence Board, doesn't he. Okay. Thank you. Any
46 further questions for Jeff. I just wanted you to note
47 that. Tim, do you and Ingrid have any more.

48
49 MR. CRAIG: Yeah. Mr. Chairman. I
50 neglected to say, and Jeff reminds me of this, that the

1 current schedule shows the Utility Corridor Plan as being
2 for 2008 also. So be sure to be aware of that.

3

4 Thank you.

5

6 CHAIRMAN SAM: Robert.

7

8 MR. WALKER: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Tim,
9 are you going to have some kind of map like this for the
10 March meeting to show where the Central Yukon Field
11 Office is going to be -- I mean where boundaries are
12 going to run other than this on this little map here
13 because I can't hardly make it out on this one.

14

15 MR. CRAIG: Mr. Chairman. Yeah, the map
16 that I showed at the beginning of the slide presentation,
17 the GIS guys have just put that together and it shows
18 ownership and I can be sure and bring copies of that if
19 you'd like to see them. You've got to remember
20 everything is in flux until all the land selections and
21 what have you. But, yeah, the March meeting I can bring
22 copies.

23

24 CHAIRMAN SAM: Go ahead.

25

26 MS. MCSWEENEY: Mr. Chair, Council
27 Members. My name is Ingrid McSweeney and I'm with the
28 Eastern Field Office, but I'll be reporting on fisheries
29 projects that were completed in '05 in the Central Yukon
30 Field Office.

31

32 The first project was the Clear Creek
33 Weir. In 2005, the BLM operated a weir on Clear Creek
34 from June 22nd to August 1st. During this period 26,420
35 summer run chum salmon, nine chinook salmon and 18
36 sockeye salmon were counted. This year's escapement was
37 32 percent below the 10-year average. Sex composition of
38 the chum escapement was 57 percent male and 42 percent
39 female from a sample of 902 fish. Scale samples have
40 been sent to Fish and Game in Anchorage for age
41 determination. I'll have that information available to
42 you in March. This project will continue in '06.

43

44 The next project is again on Clear Creek.
45 It's a cooperative project with USGS and it's a chum
46 salmon smolt study. In the spring, the USGS and BLM
47 operated two experimental incline plane traps about half
48 a kilometer upstream from Clear Creek's confluence with
49 the Hog. This took place from May 9th through June 1st.
50 A total of 29,703 chum smolts were captured. We marked

1 and released 12,684 smolts, of which 176 were recaptured.
2 Total trap induced mortality was 0.3 percent. Trap
3 efficiency averaged 1.40 percent. The initial estimate
4 of out-migrating chum salmon is about 2.5 million and
5 indicates an over-winter survival of about 14 percent.
6 This closely follows the survival rates estimated for
7 past years.

8
9 During the summer we also mapped
10 distributions of spawning chum salmon upstream from the
11 weir. This information is being put into a GIS database
12 system that will allow the extraction of specific habitat
13 data for analysis as well as provide for map based
14 products. A final report to the AYKSSI committee is due
15 December 13th of this year. This project is also funded
16 in '06.

17
18 A third project is the Nowitna River
19 sheefish radio telemetry project. This is a cooperative
20 project with Fish and Game and USF&W. The preliminary
21 results found that 16 of the 30 sheefish tagged at the
22 mouth of the Nowitna River spawned in the Sulukna River.
23 The spawning area used by the sheefish in 2005 very
24 closely approximate the 52 kilometer reach used by
25 sheefish in '03, indicating that this section of the
26 Sulukna River may have some very unique characteristics.
27 No other sheefish spawning areas were located in the
28 Nowitna.

29
30 In October of this year US Fish and
31 Wildlife Service plans to make several more aerial
32 tracking flights within the Koyukuk River drainage near
33 Hughes, within the Alatna River drainage, and along the
34 mainstem Yukon upstream of the Porcupine River confluence
35 to determine if any of the sheefish tagged in the Nowitna
36 are using these previously documented spawning habitats.
37 This project will continue in '06.

38
39 The last fisheries project completed was
40 a cooperative project with Fish and Game, DNR and YRDFA.
41 The BLM fisheries staff completed their fifth and final
42 year of inventorying salmon production habitat in the
43 Yukon River. The focus has been on expanding our
44 knowledge of salmon production areas by assessing streams
45 and portions of streams not catalogued as known
46 anadromous waters.

47
48 A secondary goal of the inventory is
49 habitat characterization and includes collecting
50 information on riparian condition and stream channel

1 attributes. This year work was conducted along the
2 Dalton Highway. Investigators visited 54 sites within
3 the Kanuti, Ray, Koyukuk, Bettles, Dietrich and Jim River
4 drainages. New salmon habitat was discovered in the
5 south fork of the Koyukuk River, Prospect Creek and
6 Twelve Mile Creek and this year's findings added nine
7 stream miles of previously unknown salmon habitat. Since
8 '01, the project has added a total of 413 miles of
9 anadromous habitat throughout the Yukon River and has
10 yielded vital information on stream conditions and
11 distributions of other resident fish species.

12

13 In your handout, on the last page,
14 there's a map. The areas in red would be the extensions
15 of anadromy that we were able to document in this five-
16 year period and the drainages that are highlighted in
17 bold, those are all the areas that we looked at over the
18 last five years.

19

20 CHAIRMAN SAM: Jack.

21

22 MR. REAKOFF: I see where I live there
23 and you didn't look at the Hammond River drainage when
24 you went up there. It's just above Wiseman and there's
25 salmon that spawn in that lower Hammond River drainage.

26

27 MS. MCSWEENEY: Mr. Reakoff. Areas that
28 we looked at, we sat down with the State and they wanted
29 us to look at areas where they had data gaps and they
30 must have looked at the Hammond River and the data that
31 they felt they collected was good. Data gaps and
32 questionable data were areas that we looked at.

33

34 CHAIRMAN SAM: Any further questions for
35 Ingrid. Ray.

36

37 MR. COLLINS: Mr. Chairman. I'm curious
38 about the sockeye there. Is there a viable run somewhere
39 in the Yukon or are those just strays that wandered in
40 from somewhere else?

41

42 MS. MCSWEENEY: Sir, I believe those are
43 strays, but all along the Yukon this year there was more
44 than normal amounts of sockeye coming up creeks.

45

46 MR. COLLINS: We had the same thing at
47 the head of the river here. Some of them showed up here
48 and we hadn't seen them before, so something is changing
49 in that area.

50

1 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Ray. Any more
2 questions. Robert.

3
4 MR. WALKER: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
5 Ingrid, we had a trip to the Anvik River and I was
6 talking to Cliff there and he said this year he counted
7 120 sockeyes going up the Anvik River and this is like a
8 jump over 200 percent from last year. Last year they
9 only had something like 35 or 40 they counted. So this
10 is something that's really new to the Anvik River also.

11
12 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Robert. Any
13 more questions. Did BLM have anything else to add?
14 Seeing no questions, thank you for your presentation.

15
16 Thank you.

17
18 Might as well stay on Agency reports.

19
20 MR. MATHEWS: Yeah, I believe those are
21 on that same charter need to present. Fred Anderson,
22 possibly Hollis. I think it would be best just to
23 continue with Agency reports and then we'll come back
24 into the agenda under annual reports.

25
26 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yes, go ahead.

27
28 MR. ANDERSEN: Mr. Chairman. Fred
29 Anderson with the National Park Service. This will be
30 very brief. Two items only and one of which is coming up
31 on the agenda in a few minutes, so there's no need to
32 talk about that twice. It has to do with a Subsistence
33 Resource Commission appointment.

34
35 The other is just to advise the Council
36 that the Park Service in conjunction/coordination with
37 OSM is pursuing a special action closure of the cow moose
38 season in the John River within the Gates of the Arctic
39 National Park just to align cow moose seasons in the
40 upper portion of Unit 24. Fish and Wildlife Service and
41 BLM effected a special action closure in August, I
42 believe, and it's for a couple of reasons. It's taking
43 us longer to get the same thing done in the upper John
44 River. Fortunately, however, very few cows or bulls
45 either for that matter are taken there.

46
47 One of the reasons we've waited or it's
48 taking this long is that the special action closures by
49 law are effective for only 60 days. We think that it's
50 more likely that moose hunting would occur after snowfall

1 than earlier in the year because water is shallow there
2 and boating is pretty difficult if not impossible. So,
3 if all goes according to plan, that closure will be made
4 effective on November 2nd and 60 days from then would run
5 to the end of the season, which typically runs to the end
6 of December.

7
8 Members of this Council that are affected
9 or potentially affected by this action have had this
10 issue discussed with them, but I just mention it for the
11 balance of you. That's all I have.

12
13 Thank you.

14
15 CHAIRMAN SAM: I have a question. Thank
16 you, Fred. How many people actually use that hunt and
17 how many people are we actually serving? In the event we
18 can't get an extension of one week, we have 60, 90 day
19 seasons on moose up in this area and for what, two to
20 three people?

21
22 MR. ANDERSEN: To the extent that the
23 harvest records are accurate, we know that only three cow
24 moose have been taken there in the last 21 years. So
25 it's not something that's frequently taken advantage of.
26 We're talking about the Anaktuvuk Pass area for the most
27 part and I think it's safe to say those folks prefer
28 caribou. It's a low density moose population anyway.
29 Jack may be able to add to that.

30
31 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you for restating
32 what I stated, who are we serving or who are we
33 maintaining this herd for. Jack.

34
35 MR. REAKOFF: Mr. Chairman. People in
36 Anaktuvuk they use moose when they don't have an
37 opportunity to harvest caribou. There's a few who
38 harvest moose routinely. Most of the people there say
39 they prefer to harvest bulls in the fall time. Their
40 season starts early. It runs through December. They
41 don't really hunt cows too much. That's why the harvest
42 is fairly low on moose in that area. They use it as a
43 reserve animal. It's not impacting the herd at all.
44 It's far below the sustainable yield of that population,
45 so I don't feel there's a huge problem up there at all.

46
47 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Jack. I think
48 we discussed this that it has no impact on conservation
49 issues on subsistence users. That's all I had. Any
50 further questions for Fred Anderson.

1 MR. ANDERSEN: While I'm thinking about
2 it, Jack, the Hammond River is currently listed in the
3 anadromous fish stream catalogue, the State document, the
4 repository for all such information, for king salmon.
5 You said yesterday there were a few summer chums in there
6 and I don't know that it's listed for that, but I'll look
7 into that and try to get it listed or at least get back
8 to you.

9
10 MR. REAKOFF: Thank you.

11
12 CHAIRMAN SAM: Anything further for Mr.
13 Anderson.

14
15 (No comments)

16
17 CHAIRMAN SAM: If not, thank you, Fred.
18 Hollis.

19
20 MR. TWITCHELL: Chair and Council
21 Members. I'm Hollis Twitchell with Denali National Park.
22 I want to thank you for allowing us to speak at this
23 time. I'd like to beg indulgence of the rest of the
24 agency and people who may be on the agenda before us. I
25 appreciate this opportunity. I only have a few things to
26 mention and I'll keep them very specific to the villages
27 associated in the Western Interior region as associated
28 with Denali rather than the myriad of issues that Denali
29 deals with, primarily on our eastern flank.

30
31 The first thing I'd like to do is
32 recognize and honor Ray Collins as a member of our
33 Subsistence Resource Commission. These commissions were
34 established through ANILCA for parks and monuments to
35 advise the Secretary of the Interior and the Governor and
36 the Park Service about subsistence on Park lands.
37 They've been in existence for a long time. 1984 is when
38 they began. Ray Collins was one of the initial members
39 appointed to that commission and it's with great honor
40 and respect that I'd like to thank him for 21 years of
41 service on that commission. He's been an incredible
42 asset to the Park Service and to the local communities
43 for his representation. So thank you, Ray.

44
45 There's been many proposals that have
46 come forth from this commission and one of them
47 specifically was a Ray Collins proposals. When Fisheries
48 Management assumption was occurring, Ray brought forth an
49 issue that we had very little traditional knowledge or
50 biological knowledge on fisheries in the Denali area and,

1 as such, recommended through a motion that we do
2 something to try to gather that.

3
4 Just several weeks ago I received a
5 report on the historical fisheries traditional knowledge
6 project we had with Lake Minchumina, Telida and Nikolai.
7 I don't have any copies of it to share with you now since
8 it's still in a draft phase, but maybe at our next
9 meeting I can provide you with that. Nikolai and Telida
10 have also been very much on the Parks interest to advance
11 to government recognition through agreements with those
12 tribal councils. We've also completed with Nenana and
13 Cantwell Tribal Councils formal recognition and, with
14 that, a very formal consultation and communication
15 process. So we're very excited about taking it to the
16 next step to integrate our local villages into our
17 communications and decision making.

18
19 The third thing I'd like to mention is we
20 finally had some action out of the Governor's office for
21 appointing two members to our Subsistence Resource
22 Commission. The Commission is made up of nine members,
23 three appointed by the Governor, three by Secretary of
24 the Interior and three by Regional Advisory Councils.
25 We went through about four years where there was no
26 action out of the Governor's office and had a number of
27 seats vacated and appointments that had expired.

28
29 One of the issues that has come up is
30 Steve Eluska out of the village of Telida was the State
31 Governor appointment to our Subsistence Resource
32 Commission. This recent round of appointees, Mickey
33 Collins from Lake Minchumina was appointed to his seat,
34 so at this point now we don't have any direct
35 representation from Telida or Nikolai on our Commission.
36 Although Ray Collins has been exquisite in his
37 communications to the park about those villages, it would
38 be very nice if we had a representation from one of those
39 communities.

40
41 There's a potential that the Secretary of
42 the Interior might be able to advance a recommendation if
43 one of those seats are vacated from those appointees and
44 we would certainly be interested in doing that. Right
45 now we don't have anyone from Nikolai or Telida. Steve
46 Eluska, as a member of the Commission, has been on for 17
47 years. He has a lot of knowledge in terms of the local
48 area and has been a good member.

49
50 I think with that, those are specific

1 issues that associate the communities within the Western
2 Interior Region and with the Park Service.

3

4 I'll just stop at this point and answer
5 any questions.

6

7 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Hollis. Any
8 questions for Hollis. I do appreciate Ray Collins' work,
9 not only on the Subsistence Resource Commission, also in
10 Western Interior.

11

12 Thank you, Ray.

13

14 (Applause)

15

16 MR. COLLINS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
17 I'd also like to commend the Park Service. In all the
18 time I've spent on voluntary commissions, the Park
19 Service is the first one that ever presented the members
20 with something. I actually got an Eddie Bauer coat here
21 a couple of years ago from them in recognition of service
22 and I want to thank them for that and acknowledge that
23 and maybe some of the other agencies will keep that in
24 mind.

25

26 (Applause)

27

28 CHAIRMAN SAM: Jack.

29

30 MR. REAKOFF: I sit on the Gates of the
31 Arctic Subsistence Resource Commission and I can also
32 state that they gave us a really nice jacket also. When
33 we first started working with the Park Service, we had
34 some real contentious issues to work through and
35 currently we have a very good working relationship with
36 the Park Service.

37

38 CHAIRMAN SAM: Getting any messages,
39 Vince?

40

41 (Laughter)

42

43 CHAIRMAN SAM: I understand we have a few
44 more agencies that might leave early. Do we have any
45 that you know of? Yes, Kanuti Wildlife Refuge. At this
46 time the Chair will recognize and introduce them. We
47 have Wennona Brown and Lisa Saperstein.

48

49 Thank you.

50

1 MS. SAPERSTEIN: Thank you, Mr. Chair,
2 Council Members. My name is Lisa Saperstein, Kanuti
3 Refuge. Before I start, I'd like to extend Mike
4 Spindler's apologies for not being able to make the
5 meeting. Normally he would be but he was unable to make
6 this one.

7
8 Knowing that the Council is normally
9 pressed for time and tired by the time the Agency reports
10 come up, I tried to put as much as possible in your
11 briefing books. There's a fairly lengthy report Kanuti
12 had and I really don't want to repeat a lot of that. You
13 can look at it at your leisure. I'm going to concentrate
14 on some other things that have come up since that didn't
15 get included.

16
17 Mike Spindler and Zoe and enforcement
18 Officer Bill Rafton, he's a Federal officer, they did get
19 up to do some law enforcement during the moose hunting
20 season on Kanuti. They were up there the 8th through the
21 12th. They planned to be up there through the 15th, but
22 Officer Rafton had to be reassigned for Hurricane Katrina
23 detail. After that Mike was able to make some
24 overflights until the 15th, but he does not have law
25 enforcement capabilities, so his role was mostly to see
26 what was going on and potentially stop and talk to
27 hunters, but he can't write out citations.

28
29 The intent was to look for major
30 violations, illegal guiding, air taxi activity. Other
31 than that, they wanted to play more of an educational
32 role this year. There has been concern about the low
33 water levels that have been written in the special action
34 request, so they were keeping an eye on that. They
35 detected that the water level started rising pretty early
36 in their trip and by the 14th the Kanuti River was very
37 high and travel was unrestricted. Later on I know we had
38 a work crew out at Kanuti Lake and people were making it
39 upriver past the cabin, so people were able to get around
40 pretty well during the season.

41
42 They did make contact with both local and
43 non-local hunters. Didn't see any illegal major
44 problems. Kind of reminded some people of some things.
45 They did see one outboard jet board up Fish Creek and
46 were able to contact them via a radio that did reach the
47 watercraft and they did remind them about the controlled
48 use area and those folks were aware of that. And they
49 were also out there to remind people about changes in the
50 regulations downriver and the permit system.

1 The other update that I have is on Andy
2 Brown's whitefish project and I believe he spoke to you
3 and gave a thorough report at your spring meeting. So
4 this summer, this was the second season of the two-year
5 telemetry study and in late May they tagged and
6 additional 32 humpback whitefish and these are telemetry
7 transmitters that they implant. That was on the south
8 fork Koyukuk River. Before that they just put the
9 transmitters in fish on the Kanuti River. They also put
10 transmitters in 11 least cisco. I'm sorry, the least
11 cisco are in Kanuti Lake. When they went back in early
12 September, they still had some transmitters left and they
13 tagged an additional 21 humpbacks in their spawning
14 grounds in the upper Kanuti River. Randy says that these
15 transmitters will provide information on fish location
16 during spawning, overwintering and feeding seasons for
17 two years and then the batteries run out.

18
19 In your briefing paper, we have the full
20 report about a spring wolf survey that was conducted on
21 the refuge. It's fairly lengthy. In general, we sent a
22 contract pilot with a lot of wolf tracking experience up
23 on his own to survey the refuge and get a minimum count
24 of wolves for that time period. He found 58 wolves.
25 Quite a few, 19 of them were located outside of the
26 survey area even though he first detected their tracks
27 within it. Basically we used a total of 48 wolves for
28 being within the survey area itself, which gave us a
29 density estimate of just under 17 wolves per 1,000 square
30 miles. The report that I gave to you goes through the
31 details of how we came up with those calculations.

32
33 We conducted a similar survey in March
34 2001 using slightly different techniques, but basically
35 looking for minimum count for that type of year and in
36 2001 we had 14 wolves per 1,000 square miles. Previous
37 telemetry work also indicated a density of about 15
38 wolves per 1,000 square miles.

39
40 If we take a look at that 17 wolf per
41 1,000 square miles estimate and the results of the 2004
42 moose estimate, the ratio is about 18 moose per wolves
43 during that time period based on that minimum count of
44 wolves during that survey. I should also point out that
45 part of the area could not be surveyed because the snow
46 conditions were not good enough.

47
48 This density of observed wolves is
49 typical for areas of Interior Alaska do not have predator
50 control. The moose to wolf ratio is low, but it is

1 consistent with other low density areas within the
2 Interior. Like I said, a full report is in the book and
3 Jack and Ron had received earlier copies of that to look
4 through.

5
6 We had two fires on Kanuti this summer.
7 The big one was the Old Dummy fire and that fire burned a
8 total of 232,529 acres and of those 206,311 acres were on
9 the refuge itself. The North Bonanza Fire was mostly
10 outside the Refuge. The entire fire was 190,942 acres,
11 but 5,293 of these were within the boundary. I provide
12 the Chairman with a poster on fire history on the Refuge
13 since 1950, so that's floating around someplace if people
14 want to take a look at it.

15
16 For the Old Dummy fire, we did have smoke
17 jumpers on that. They were there and they lit a back
18 fire to protect the administrative cabin on Kanuti Lake.
19 They also went to protect some allotments north of the
20 Kanuti River. Looking at the fire perimeter, the fire
21 did creep up towards those allotments. I don't know if
22 they were actually burned. We also had to remove a
23 communications repeater via helicopter to protect it from
24 the fire.

25
26 People should keep in mind that when we
27 talk about the fire perimeters, like Tim said, it is a
28 mosaic. Not everything within those perimeters are
29 toast. It's a mixture of severely burned areas, lightly
30 burned areas and some areas that didn't burn at all. You
31 often hear these large acreage numbers and it's often not
32 quite that extensive.

33
34 For the 2004 fires, I don't have the
35 acreage, but we did have fires in 2004 and we did have
36 some of that BAER team activity looking at those. We had
37 a crew float down the South Fork River looking for
38 invasive, non-native plant species that they were afraid
39 might move into the more severe burned parts of the burn.
40 The thing that they're really concerned with is a special
41 called white sweet clover that is moving up the Dalton
42 Highway and there is a possibility for the seeds to be
43 transported via water and get on gravel bars or disturbed
44 areas, such as burned area. They did not find that or
45 any other non-native species on their trip.

46
47 We also went out with the regional
48 archeologist and looked at two cultural resource sites
49 within the burn perimeter. There are two old mining
50 camps, turn-of-the-century gold mining areas, Seaforth

1 City and Sioux City, where supposedly miners had
2 overwintered. We had never found any evidence of these
3 before, but thought maybe we could locate them and find
4 some evidence if they had been burned over. We were
5 unable to detect anything.

6
7 That is something with the BAER teams, as
8 Tim was talking about. We can put in for money and
9 assessments for the 2005 fires as well and I'm planning
10 on writing up a proposal. One of the things that we are
11 concerned with or might be of interest is on the northern
12 part of the Old Dummy fire, it burned over a portion of
13 the winter trail. One of the things we might be able to
14 do is get some money to hire local people to go out and
15 clear maybe trees that had burned or fallen across the
16 trail and if they want to mark it because it might be
17 hard to find that trail through the burn, a lot harder
18 than it was prior to the burn. So those are some of the
19 things we can include in this burned area emergency
20 response. That proposal has to be done by the end of
21 November, I believe.

22
23 You probably are aware that we've been
24 updating our comprehensive conservation plan for the
25 Refuge and receiving newsletters about its progress. We
26 submitted a draft to the planning division in March and
27 it's being reviewed by the planner assigned to Kanuti.
28 We'll have additional edits and then it's going to be
29 circulated for internal review. So that's where that's
30 at.

31
32 We have some personnel changes coming up.
33 Deputy Manager Mary Maxwell is leaving in November. She
34 accepted a position as a manager in Nevada. We're going
35 to try to fill her position as soon as possible. The
36 other person that's leaving is Park Ranger Jodi Dimeyer
37 and she's leaving in the spring. Jodi spent most of her
38 summers representing Fish and Wildlife Service in
39 Coldfoot at the Interagency Arctic Visitor's Center. She
40 was also responsible for developing the newsletters that
41 a lot of you have seen.

42
43 The next to last thing was back in 2002
44 we had a review of our biological program and we finally
45 got the report from that out, so that's available. Then
46 a couple things you might find of interest with the
47 climate change issues, the University of Alaska Fairbanks
48 received a grant to look at the issue of wetland drying
49 on all Alaska National Wildlife Refuges and they're also
50 planning to investigate how subsistence may be affected

1 by this phenomenon.

2

3 There has been a previous study and that
4 was mostly a study using satellite imagery to detect
5 changes and they're going to expand that to all the
6 refuges and also have some additional work on how
7 subsistence might be affected. So they just got this
8 funding and they're in the preliminary stages of figuring
9 out what the project will be and it's going to be a Ph.D
10 project. The woman who is doing that is Jennifer Roach.
11 And I did provide her with information about the meeting
12 we had on drying wetlands in Allakaket back in 2000 or
13 1999, so she's very interested in talking to people up
14 there.

15

16 Also they had some USGS researchers who
17 were experts in climate change research from around the
18 country meet in Fairbanks to try to develop a framework
19 on how to better get funding for climate change research
20 in Alaska and they did have Fish and Wildlife and Park
21 Service folks sit in. Kind of give them an agency
22 perspective as to what we might be looking for with the
23 research. They don't have any funding yet, but this is a
24 good start.

25

26 That's all I have. Any questions.

27

28 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Lisa. Is that
29 part of your report, too, Wenona?

30

31 MS. BROWN: I had just a couple more
32 things I wanted to add quickly if I may.

33

34 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yes, go ahead. We'll save
35 the questions.

36

37 MS. BROWN: Just to add on to what Lisa
38 said about Jennifer Roach. I have met with Jennifer and
39 discussed the formation of her project quite a bit and
40 she is hoping maybe next spring she can get her project
41 fleshed out enough that she could come to the RAC's and
42 kind of give you an overview of what she's hoping to do
43 with her project.

44

45 Second, I did want to report that we did
46 conduct a steelshot clinic in Allakaket last spring.
47 Even though I didn't get to go myself after putting it
48 all together, I understood it was very well attended.
49 Like 40 to 50 people. They had all the students from the
50 Allakaket school as well as the Koyukuk Refuge was kind

1 enough to fly up the students from the Hughes School so
2 they had good participation between the two communities.

3
4 Also, the last thing I wanted to mention
5 was in regard to the Alaska Migratory Bird Co-Management
6 Council on the spring waterfowl harvest for regulations
7 in harvest. I did get appointed to the communications
8 outreach team for the Alaska Migratory Bird Co-Management
9 Council, so I have been attending meetings recently.
10 Also in the harvest survey they have divided the state up
11 into regions for when they will conduct the harvest
12 surveys. In 2006 the Interior is on the rotation for
13 having harvest surveys conducted in those villages. So I
14 just wanted to mention that. So Western Interior, at
15 least villages that I deal with, and then all the ones in
16 Koyukuk, Nowitna, could at least have a heads up that
17 they do plan to conduct a survey starting in the spring
18 of 2006.

19
20 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you. I see we have
21 a couple people ready with some questions, so remain
22 seated. Ray.

23
24 MR. COLLINS: Mr. Chairman. In light of
25 what I said before about proactive management, I just did
26 some quick figuring on the low density of wolves.
27 They've got 56 there. The ideal is 17 or something per
28 moose. To get 30 you'd need half that many, 28 wolves,
29 so it looks to me like you've got twice as many wolves as
30 you'd need for ideal conditions. What would it take to
31 trigger any kind of management that would bring about a
32 better balance between predator/prey or is there any
33 consideration for that?

34
35 CHAIRMAN SAM: Lisa.

36
37 MS. SAPERSTEIN: I started looking at
38 some of the other things. I had directives from the
39 regional office, the regional director, about predator
40 control on wildlife refuges. There were two memos that
41 came out. One was recent in 2004 and it was kind of a
42 letter that was addressed to Mr. Fleegle, I believe, and
43 he kind of outlined some of the proof of a biological
44 need and some of the stuff that had to be in place. I'll
45 provide a copy of both these things. Off the top of my
46 head, he provided kind of a list of items of what needed
47 to be done prior to any kind of predator control.

48
49 I started thinking because of the whole
50 process we've been going through with our CCP about our

1 purpose being natural diversity and what constitutes
2 natural diversity versus biological need. I found the
3 1992 memo from then regional director and that was also
4 in a letter addressed to someone with the same question
5 and that one specifically states that providing more
6 animals for hunting is not considered a biological need.
7 Since then we've also had our biological integrity policy
8 come out, which would also kind of reinforce that. So
9 those are the things I have to go on. Like I said, those
10 are 1992 and 2004 direct letters and responses from two
11 different people.

12

13 If you look at the reports, a lot of the
14 wolves on the refuge do go off the refuge and given some
15 of the plans the State has with the GMU 24 subdivisions,
16 there are ways that might be addressed on the State side.

17

18 MR. COLLINS: I would like to commend you
19 for the report also because it's nice to have this kind
20 of data and it gives us something to look at year to year
21 to get a better handle on what's really going on, not
22 just the number of moose or the number of wolves
23 occasionally, but the relationships between them.

24

25 So thank you for that.

26

27 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Ray. There is
28 one person missing up on the table, two actually. We
29 have Mary, who just left. They handled everything
30 professionally and kept Alatna, Allakaket very well
31 informed. That's why I think you don't have too many
32 complaints. They're handling a lot of the problems in-
33 house or right at the home station. I'd like to direct a
34 thank you letter to Mary Maxwell coming from at least
35 Jack and I because I don't think the rest of the Council
36 have met them. We could send it on behalf of the Western
37 Interior because they did a lot of work for us out at
38 Kanuti. They were there at all the major moose meeting
39 that I called before the moose season opened. They were
40 there covering for Mike Spindler when he was new. I'd
41 just like to say thank you very much for all the work.

42

43 Anything further. Jack.

44

45 MR. REAKOFF: I just wanted to express my
46 appreciation for all the projects that Kanuti is doing
47 and you can express my thanks to Mike for coming up with
48 that funding for the wolf inventory. We requested that
49 and within a few days that survey was being done, so I
50 have a high appreciation for that response to this

1 Council.

2

3

Thank you.

4

5 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you. They not only
6 address these issues, but they have Mike find this money.
7 They also go to schools. I see a lot of our wildlife
8 refuges do a lot of good work down at different schools.
9 A lot of that educational efforts on behalf of US Fish
10 and Wildlife and/or the State, joint effort, we are
11 educating the people on regulations.

12

13

Thank you.

14

15 Any more questions for Lisa or Wennona.
16 Benedict.

17

18 MR. JONES: I just wanted to ask a
19 question. You spoke about waterfowl. I noticed the last
20 four years we're getting less and less waterfowl coming
21 back to this state. Is this because of the farming in
22 the eastern states or what? Not only the waterfowl, but
23 a lot of different species of birds haven't returned the
24 last three years.

25

26 MS. SAPERSTEIN: Mr. Jones. I can't
27 really address that very well. The Fish and Wildlife
28 Service does do statewide breeding waterfowl surveys
29 every spring that covers the entire state. I don't have
30 that data available, but I can get that to you. Off the
31 top of my head I can't really say anything about one
32 particular species at this point. I don't know if you
33 have anything on waterfowl.

34

35 MS. BROWN: Mr. Jones. There was some
36 discussion particularly in relation to geese the last day
37 of the AMBCC meeting I went to, which was just last week,
38 and some of the members had meetings with farmers down in
39 Washington and Oregon regarding their farm fields and
40 winter habitat. Some of the western states are now also
41 looking at reducing their brant and cackling goose
42 harvest limits in order to encourage regrowth of the
43 population. Out on the Yukon Delta they've instituted
44 some closures that will be put into effect this year for
45 brood rearing and nesting habitat for brant and cackling
46 geese. Those were some specific issues that they looked
47 at.

48

49 I'd also mention the draft regulations
50 for next season were published in the Federal Register on

1 the 22nd for 60-day review. If anybody would like to see
2 those, I'll be happy to send you a copy.

3
4 CHAIRMAN SAM: Anything further. Any
5 questions for Wennona and Lisa.

6
7 (No comments)

8
9 CHAIRMAN SAM: If not, thank you very
10 much.

11
12 MS. BROWN: Thank you, Mr. Chair, Council
13 Members.

14
15 MS. SAPERSTEIN: Thank you.

16
17 CHAIRMAN SAM: Vince.

18
19 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, while Geoff
20 Beyersdorf is getting up here for Koyukuk and Nowitna,
21 unless I misunderstood, Clara Demientieff does have a
22 report but she wasn't able to be here today, so I'll hand
23 out the report to you and if you have any questions I'll
24 give Clara a call back. For myself, I really do
25 appreciate all the RIT information. They make my life a
26 lot easier on information distribution and information
27 input. So I just wanted to get that on the record, that
28 without them I don't think OSM could do as good a job.
29 Anyway, I'll pass our Clara's report. If you have
30 specific questions, get back to Clara or maybe Bill or
31 Steve in the back if there's something you need further
32 clarification in her report.

33
34 Thank you.

35
36 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Vince. Bill,
37 aren't you with Innoko?

38
39 MR. SCHAFF: Yes.

40
41 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay. We do have a few
42 Innoko people around too.

43
44 MR. BEYERSDORF: Mr. Chair, Members of
45 the Council. My name is Geoff Beyersdorf. I'm currently
46 the acting refuge manager for the Koyukuk/Nowitna Refuge.
47 I wanted to thank you for having me up here and giving me
48 a chance to speak to some of the programs the refuge has.

49
50 There's seems to be a law enforcement

1 theme here, so that's the first subject that I'll touch
2 upon. We did have State and Federal staff that did
3 patrols in the Kaiyuh and the Nowitna and on the Koyukuk.
4 Mike Vivian came out from Fairbanks and then we also had
5 the new zone officer from Anchorage came out and flew
6 with Joey Huhndorf and did patrols in several areas.

7
8 At this point I'd really like to extend
9 my thanks also to Trooper Sears. I think he did a
10 tremendous effort this past season in trying to touch
11 base in several of these areas and sitting down with our
12 Federal staff and seeing what areas we felt needed to be
13 looked at and trying to get to those areas and contact
14 people. So I wanted to express my thanks for that.

15
16 Moving on I know that another area that
17 this Council has been interested in is the drift gillnet
18 permits and I did want to speak to that for just a
19 moment. Russ Holder from the Fairbanks office came out
20 and he and myself held an afternoon meeting at the city
21 office there in Galena and just had people come in if
22 they wanted to apply for permits and did face-to-face
23 meetings with people, pulled out the maps, went over the
24 permit conditions with them.

25
26 Also there was some questions from you,
27 Member Reakoff, as far as law enforcement efforts and
28 such. I went on several trips with our refuge officer,
29 Greg McClellan. It was mostly an educational trip and we
30 did see some use of the areas. I also did a couple
31 flights, especially to the 4(A) area down below. We did
32 have some use of the areas. I did stop and talk to some
33 of the elders in a couple villages to see what areas they
34 were suggesting for drift gillnets in the Federal waters.
35 And I did talk to several of the permittees and passed
36 along the sites that the elders had talked about and they
37 did try several of those sites. We had a couple people
38 lose their nets in the area and from what Jonathan Gerken
39 said yesterday, it sounds like there wasn't a whole lot
40 of success in many of the areas.

41
42 I also wanted to let you know, Polly was
43 up here yesterday talking about the fisheries information
44 program and one of the projects that was funded this year
45 was a Yukon River in-season harvest interviews for
46 salmon. We are working with the Lauden Tribal Council to
47 get an interviewer for next year to get input for Galena
48 and get that on teleconferences and pass along input to
49 the Federal in-season managers and the State managers.

50

1 I also wanted to commend -- I think all
2 of you know Patrick Madros. He's an RIT out in Nulato.
3 He was able on his own initiative get the Kaltag Tribal
4 Council involved with the in-season interviews and get
5 them to participate in that.

6
7 In regards to waterfowl, Fish and Game is
8 still analyzing the 2004 data, but for our region it
9 looks like the 2004 waterfowl harvest is fairly
10 comparable to the 1990 to 2000 harvest averages. I also
11 wanted to point out that we were able to form
12 partnerships with the Laudon Tribal Council and with Ruby
13 and get them to hire local surveyors to get survey
14 information.

15
16 This spring the refuge and Fish and Game
17 were also able to do spring moose twinning surveys. I
18 have information from three different areas; Kaiyuh,
19 Three-Day Slough and Treat Island. It looks like Kaiyuh
20 had 54 percent and the area southwest of Pilot Mountain
21 had 54 percent twinning rates. Three-Day Slough was
22 37 percent. Treat Island, Huslia Flats area was 36
23 percent. I do know that our office is planning on doing
24 surveys of the trend count areas this fall and if the
25 weather and funding allow, we're trying to do a mini
26 census for the area between Huslia and Hughes.

27
28 I also wanted to let you know that Fish
29 and Wildlife Service, in cooperation with the Park
30 Service and Fish and Game is going to be weighing and
31 collaring female calves in the Koyukuk and Kaiyuh area.
32 This is to gain information on survival and the movement
33 in addition to any calf weight gain/loss. They're doing
34 this throughout the state, so they're going to look at
35 different moose densities and different moose habitats.

36
37 I just came back from the Nowitna check
38 station this last Wednesday. It looks like there was 130
39 hunters and there was a total of 38 bulls that were
40 harvested. This compares to a 17-year average of 143
41 hunters and 45 bulls that have been harvested out of
42 there.

43
44 In regards to fires, 4.5 million acres
45 burned throughout the state. In this region here and
46 Innoko, there were 10 fires totalling 242,000 acres.
47 Also our fire management officer, Bob Lambrecht, who I
48 believe many of you met at the Allakaket meeting this
49 last March, was able to complete a fire reduction project
50 in Huslia this last year. I know that in 2006 he's

1 slated to do a similar fire reduction project around
2 Hughes and Kaltag.

3
4 The last thing that I have, and Randy
5 Rogers mentioned this before, that the Huslia Tribal
6 Council was awarded a tribal wildlife grant and our
7 office is working with them to implement some of the
8 goals of that project.

9
10 That's all I have if anybody has any
11 questions.

12
13 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Geoff. Any
14 questions for Koyukuk/Nowitna. Jack.

15
16 MR. REAKOFF: How old are those female
17 calves that you're weighing?

18
19 MR. BEYERSDORF: Glenn might be able to
20 explain more, but I think they're doing this year's
21 young.

22
23 MR. REAKOFF: I think they're going to be
24 doing them next month is my understanding.

25
26 MR. STOUT: (Nods affirmatively)

27
28 CHAIRMAN SAM: Go ahead, Glenn. Clarify
29 a little bit.

30
31 MR. STOUT: Mr. Chair. Yes, just what he
32 said.

33
34 (Laughter)

35
36 CHAIRMAN SAM: Any further questions for
37 Geoff. Mickey.

38
39 MR. STICKMAN: I guess you already know
40 about my complaints about the guides and the unlicensed
41 guides in northern Innoko and that's also the area that
42 you're the manager for, so I'm hoping that you would
43 check into any special use permits or if any of those
44 people do have guide areas within that refuge area in the
45 northern Innoko.

46
47 MR. BEYERSDORF: Chairman Sam, Member
48 Stickman. I'll actually be going to Anchorage on Friday
49 and I'll talk with the refuge supervisor there and see
50 what options we may have in order to address your

1 concerns there.

2

3 Thank you.

4

5 CHAIRMAN SAM: Anything further for Geoff
6 Beyersdorf.

7

8 (No comments)

9

10 CHAIRMAN SAM: If not, thank you for your
11 report. We will go into Innoko. We're off the agenda,
12 but sometimes I get tired of putting these people last,
13 so I moved them up on the agenda. Bill.

14

15 MR. SCHAFF: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My
16 name is Bill Schaff, refuge manager for Innoko National
17 Wildlife Refuge. We've had a number of projects going on
18 this year. I'm not going to go into a recap of a lot of
19 them because a lot of them are cooperative projects. The
20 first one that comes to mind is the moose management
21 planning session for the Innoko, Yukon River and Innoko.
22 I like to put Innoko first.

23

24 We have goose banding, goose survey
25 project going on. That's an ongoing project. We also
26 have invasive species projects that was just started this
27 year and Steve Kovach, if he wants to add anything to
28 that or if you have any questions, he might be able to
29 speak more directly about that. But that's to identify a
30 number of species that may be invasive to our area, both
31 plant and one of the things I've been pushing for is
32 insects, eventually causing a lot of problems. The
33 insect portion is cooperative with the US Forest Service.

34

35 We're also working cooperatively with the
36 Fish and Wildlife Fisheries Offices out of the southern
37 portion of the state to cover some of the whitefish
38 studies on the Kuskokwim River, which is really outside
39 of the Innoko Refuge area but because of our location in
40 McGrath, it's convenient for us to assist that office for
41 the flight schedules and telemetry work.

42

43 I can't say enough about Clara's work.
44 Her information that Vince passed out, if you have any
45 questions on it, pretty familiar with everything that
46 Clara is doing on it. She's doing an excellent job and
47 I'd like to second what Vince said, a lot of the work on
48 Innoko, whether it's education, whether it's talking with
49 the folks in the village, just wouldn't get done without
50 our RITs from all Refuges, in our case Clara.

1 We have a change of Staff at Innoko also.
2 Our existing long time deputy Sandra Siekaniec and her
3 husband who was the maintenance worker at Innoko left
4 last April and that position has been vacant since then.
5 It was advertised in September, hopefully it will be
6 filled in the next couple of months. I have not seen the
7 list of qualified people yet, but I'm looking forward to
8 doing that. The maintenance portion of that couple has
9 been filled. We were able to switch a person over from
10 an administrative part-time person, that person is Mike
11 Bye, and he has switched over to a full-time maintenance.
12 And we do have a new person, Robin Cochran who's in the
13 back of the room and she is going to be a secondary
14 biologist working closely with Steve, and she'll be
15 specializing on a lot of Avian species, a lot of bird
16 work. Steve is specializing on mammals, however, they
17 will, because of our small Staff, they'll be working
18 cooperatively on whatever needs to be done.

19
20 Fires. Fires is a big issue all over.
21 We had, oh, a little less than 200,000 acres burn on the
22 Refuge. In some areas it hopefully will produce some
23 good moose habitat. As everybody else has said, fires
24 can be very nondescript. People think of fire as one
25 issue but there's so many types of fires, depending on
26 severity, types of burn, where it burned, season,
27 moisture, a whole bunch of things that we need to look
28 at, and I'm really interested in trying to look at that.
29 Steve is also putting in a plan to do that, just exactly
30 that, if we get funded for that program through the fire
31 and through the BAER program, we will be looking at what
32 types of fires do we need to produce the best moose
33 habitat, what the rotation would be under different
34 forest conditions.

35
36 That's it in a nutshell of what we have.
37 I said, with Clara's multi-page paper that you have,
38 report that you have, that completes my report for the
39 day.

40
41 Any questions, please.

42
43 CHAIRMAN SAM: Go ahead, Jack.

44
45 MR. REAKOFF: Sort of an odd question but
46 since you're the last Refuge up, I hate to put this on
47 you, but are you monitoring corbids or ravens and grey
48 jays and stuff for this West Nile Virus that may be
49 intruding into Alaska?

50

1 MR. SCHAFF: West Nile Virus is a
2 interest to a lot of agencies. I know the Department of
3 Fish and Game is also looking at it. Any time we see
4 something really unusual like multiple die off of any
5 species, what we do on Refuges is pick up the birds and
6 send them back to the Madison Health Lab and they would
7 identify it. We have not seen anything, any multiple die
8 offs that have alerted us to any large concern. That is
9 part of kind of an ongoing monitoring program, be it
10 informal, that whenever we see something that takes our
11 notice we usually report it internally to the Refuge
12 Staff. If it kicks up our interest, anything other than
13 one or two birds occasionally then we would collect them
14 and send them in. And I would say that's probably true
15 for most Refuges.

16
17 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you. Any further
18 questions for Bill Schaff.

19
20 Vince.

21
22 MR. MATHEWS: Yeah, I'm glad Jack brought
23 that up, I apologize, it was requested by Kanuti Refuge
24 and others that we provide materials on the Avian flu,
25 and safety concerns for hunters. And my office got
26 flooded with different versions, so I have two versions
27 here, one is from Fish and Game and one is from USGS. I
28 know Fish and Game's is the most current but I have seen
29 another one from USGS. Salena will pass those out. We
30 didn't plan on making a presentation on that. I suppose
31 if there's some specific questions there's phone numbers
32 down here. Eastern Interior has made this an issue that
33 they want to keep monitoring the Avian flu. So, again, I
34 apologize for not making that available earlier but it is
35 here and if you have any questions contact the numbers
36 that are on here.

37
38 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you. Ray.

39
40 MR. COLLINS: Yeah, Mr. Chairman. I'd
41 like to commend Innoko for their work in cooperation with
42 the school district on putting on a science camp which
43 they've been doing for a number of years. And I think
44 that's a good activity for any of the Refuges to do, to
45 involve with the local school systems to get young people
46 out there and get them some training in what's going on
47 and encourage them to move towards considering wildlife
48 as a potential career also.

49
50 CHAIRMAN SAM: Do we have anything more

1 for Innoko.

2

3

(No comments)

4

5

CHAIRMAN SAM: If not, thank you for
6 filling in for Clara and putting in your own two cents
7 worth. It is now 4:25, do we keep going with the Agency
8 reports?

9

10

MR. MATHEWS: I think that'd be the
11 wisest thing.

12

13

CHAIRMAN SAM: Yes.

14

15

MR. MATHEWS: Now, I think we've gone
16 through all the people that are catching a charter at
17 5:30, I hope, because usually they -- okay. So my
18 understanding by the note taking we have, Bureau of Land
19 Management is completed, Fish and Wildlife Service,
20 that's just the Refuges, that is completed. Park Service
21 is completed. That would leave you with Alaska
22 Department of Fish and Game and Native corporations if
23 they wanted to give any updates.

24

25

So I don't know if Fish and Game has some
26 additional organizational reports at this time.

27

28

CHAIRMAN SAM: Roy Nowlin.

29

30

MR. NOWLIN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
31 I'm Roy Nowlin with the Department of Fish and Game,
32 Wildlife Conservation. You've given us a lot of your
33 time over the last two days and I really appreciate that.
34 I have just one additional thing that I'm just going to
35 leave it up to you if you'd like to hear a brief report
36 on it, it's this failure to report list that the State
37 Board of Game recently passed and is being implemented
38 this year for the first time, which has bearing on
39 Federal subsistence users because we share, the Federal
40 system uses a number of State registration permits. I
41 don't know if we have any drawing hunts, we certainly
42 have a lot of registration hunts. So if you'd like, I
43 could give you a brief report on that. Like I say it's
44 up to you folks if you'd like to hear that.

45

46

CHAIRMAN SAM: What's the wishes of the
47 Council, like I said it's approaching 4:30. Brief
48 report.

49

50

MR. REAKOFF: Yeah.

1 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay, go ahead.

2

3 MR. NOWLIN: Okay, this potentially could
4 become very controversial and that's why I brought it to
5 your attention.

6

7 What this is is people call this the
8 black list, and the politically correct term in Fish and
9 Game now is failure to report list, but I think black
10 list is probably more descriptive.

11

12 We've had a problem for a lot of years
13 with people not reporting, and we've talked about it, I
14 believe at this Council, and we've talked about it at
15 virtually every planning effort that we've had, the
16 difficulty of trying to get folks to report and the
17 impacts of that when they don't. Because we have, in
18 this region, in the Interior, not jut the Western Council
19 area, but in the Interior, I was looking at this and I
20 was surprised to find out that we issue about 12,000
21 registration permit hunts along annually and that's an
22 awful lot of reports. What we've experienced is
23 increasing lack of reporting from folks. And we're
24 getting sometimes as high as 20 percent of those people
25 do not report, that means we have in the neighborhood of
26 2.400, say 1,200 to 2,400 reports that don't come in and
27 so the impact of that is that we don't get timely
28 information to make decisions about management of
29 resources, and the Federal system doesn't get timely
30 information either, consequently.

31

32 And so the Board of Game felt -- well,
33 let me pursue that just a little further. We don't get
34 the timely information, it also costs us a good deal of
35 money because what we do is we send out reminder letters
36 to people and we've been sending out, two, three reminder
37 letters and so we have a couple of Staff people that most
38 of their time is devoted to this and that's a big deal
39 for the State because we don't have that many Staff
40 people around to begin with. And we spend about \$8,000
41 or so just on this kind of activity, and so it's
42 expensive and we'd rather spend that Staff time and money
43 on other things, collecting data, you know, finding out
44 about West Nile virus for crying out loud. But we've got
45 a lot of things.

46

47 So we need to get the information. And
48 the Board of Game got, I would say, it's safe to say it
49 sent us a very clear message about this, that is the
50 Department, that they want us to start using this failure

1 to report list. And we got our last message from the
2 Board of Game about that last spring and they were very
3 clear that they wanted us to be very assertive in
4 implementing this. So what this means is that hunters
5 who fail to report, starting this year, and we also had
6 -- well, anyways, hunters who fail to report this year on
7 drawing, registration or Tier II hunts will be ineligible
8 to receive permits next year any place in the state if
9 they do not report.

10

11 And so this is a pretty serious step.
12 And I think we're going to have a lot of letters to the
13 Commissioner, to the Governor before we see this --
14 before this thing actually gets implemented. So it is
15 very serious. And it's also Tier II hunts. So, of
16 course, Tier II hunts are subsistence hunts. And so
17 we're talking a very serious thing.

18

19 This regulation has actually been in
20 place for -- this is actually the third year because it
21 was a couple of years ago that the Board of Game actually
22 first passed this and we started putting it on our
23 registration permit hunts. When people pick up a
24 registration permit, they read the conditions, hopefully,
25 and on there it says, at least last year it said, if you
26 do not report you may not be eligible to receive any
27 permit statewide next year, and when they sign that they
28 agree that they understand that. And so, you know,
29 that's been around awhile.

30

31 But this year for the first time, what
32 we're going to do is if people -- the way this is going
33 to be laid out if people do not report during the time
34 period required for the registration hunt they'll get one
35 notification and that will say that you're on this black
36 list or failure to report list and you can get off it if
37 you report to is. And they'll have a report attached to
38 that letter that they can just send back to us. And
39 we're going to suggest to them that they get some
40 documentation that they have sent that back to us so that
41 if there's any question later that they did that they'll
42 have some evidence of it.

43

44 Also that they can be cited by Fish and
45 Wildlife Protection because at that point they will be in
46 violation of State regulation and so they could be cited.

47

48 But if they send us the report then we'll
49 take them off the list.

50

1 If two weeks later, if they haven't sent
2 that report they'll get another notification letter that
3 will say that you are on the list, this is the final
4 decision. The way you can get off of this list is by
5 appeal. There's an appeal process that lasts 180 days
6 and when those appeals come in they will be -- the area
7 biologists will be the ones who will be looking at those
8 and they will be examining that and under regulation, if
9 there's unavoidable circumstances that caused a person to
10 not report then potentially they can be taken off the
11 list and we're considering some other things as well on
12 this, and I think it's reasonable. But this hasn't been
13 laid out yet, we're still working on this. But if we
14 made a mistake, I mean if someone sent in the report and
15 we were wrong or we screwed up somehow or other, then,
16 yeah, the person will be taken off of it. Also I think
17 it's reasonable, I don't have official policy on this but
18 if someone went to court over this and they were found
19 not guilty for not reporting, then they could get off the
20 list that way as well. Now, there'll be some, in this
21 unavoidable circumstances category, that will provide
22 some flexibility for the area biologists as they're
23 considering these individual cases, to take people off of
24 this list.

25
26 And we are not, in terms of follow up on
27 this, if a person is on the list we are not going to be
28 asking the private vendors that we have that distribute
29 these permits for us, we're not going to be asking them
30 to enforce this. In other words, we have down in Unit
31 19(A), for example, we have villages councils who issue
32 permits for us, we're not going to ask them to be denying
33 anyone a permit because they're on this failure to report
34 list, but if someone, next year, after we launch this
35 thing this year, next fall if someone's on that list and
36 they come in and they get a permit it will say on there
37 that by signing it you are certifying that you are
38 eligible to receive a permit. If you take that permit
39 and you're actually on this failure to report list then
40 you can be cited again for a violation of State law.

41
42 So this is a serious thing and it's
43 something, once again, that we have some pretty clear
44 marching orders on from the Board of Game.

45
46 Thank you.

47
48 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you. That was
49 longer than brief.

50

1 (Laughter)

2

3 CHAIRMAN SAM: We've gone through this.
4 But part of our discussions earlier today when we were
5 discussing the wildlife issues is that you keep pushing
6 and pushing them into a corner the farther and farther
7 they'll drift away from you and that is what's happening
8 with these reports. When we were up at Huslia, some of
9 them told me that it's getting harder and harder to cut
10 the palm off and it's getting harder and harder to turn
11 it in, of course, some of them wanted to sell the moose
12 horns but they just don't like being cornered, and I
13 think we addressed this issue a little bit.

14

15 Jack.

16

17 MR. REAKOFF: From my side of the
18 equation, I've sent my caribou harvest report in and have
19 gotten reminders and reminders and it's like it gets lost
20 in the mail, or I'm not sure what's going on with these.
21 I sign up for the Western Arctic registration, they're
22 supposed to send me, to try to remember how many caribou
23 I killed in the spring and fall, I never get the letter.
24 And so on the other end of the equation, there's some
25 glitches going on. Sometimes you send the stuff in and
26 you're not getting reminders back and I'm not sure how
27 that's happening, whether it's lost in the shuffle or
28 what the deal is. But there's some other facets to this
29 that may not be perceived, you know, personally I've sent
30 things in and I'm getting reminders and I'm not sure
31 what's going on there.

32

33 MR. COLLINS: Mr. Chairman.

34

35 CHAIRMAN SAM: Did you have an answer for
36 Jack or just an explanation.

37

38 MR. NOWLIN: Yes, Mr. Chairman. He's
39 right. That there are problems with the system. And
40 that's why this thing about if Fish and Game screws up
41 that you'll be taken off the list if it's our fault. And
42 we have taken steps to try and reduce that. And these
43 will be permits only, not harvest tickets that we're
44 talking about here.

45

46 But I can explain to you, we've improved
47 our tracking on these things, like we're scanning all
48 these things now when they come into our offices so that
49 you know that that permit number was received in an
50 office. And we're asking all of our Staff to scan that

1 because recognizing the problem you just pointed out, I'm
2 sure that we're going to have to do more because I think
3 it's only fair that if we're going to start tightening up
4 on this and asking the public to tighten up on it, we
5 have to tighten up on our own procedures in Fish and Game
6 as well.

7
8 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you. One of the
9 only things that ever worked on this program, and Western
10 Interior has continually asked this program to be funded
11 but it's just thrown out the window, at one time Dave
12 Andersen out of the office had an annual year to year,
13 door to door survey, I think that was the only thing that
14 worked. But I think a lot of our individuals just don't
15 want to meet you head on or even phone you. I got a big
16 runaround when I was cited and it took awhile to get,
17 even that second survey in, with my report of my hunt.
18 There are glitches on your side, too.

19
20 Ray.

21
22 MR. COLLINS: Yeah, Mr. Chairman. It
23 seems to me that we could also phone in last year, I
24 think I phoned in. Is there a phone or a toll free
25 number that you could call and that way you don't have to
26 deal with the mail, is that a possibility on this?

27
28 CHAIRMAN SAM: Roy.

29
30 MR. NOWLIN: Mr. Chairman. Member
31 Collins. We have -- actually we've gone the other way on
32 phones because of lost reports when voicemail systems
33 fail. And we have implemented an on line reporting
34 system. On any of these registration permit hunts you can
35 go on line and report, and that one we're trying to move
36 more and more to on line, issuing a permit and on line
37 reporting. The phone is problematical. And the stakes
38 now are a lot higher than they were before and we're very
39 concerned about these phone systems.

40
41 MR. COLLINS: What's the on line address?

42
43 MR. NOWLIN: Well, I'll have to get that
44 for you.

45
46 (Laughter)

47
48 MR. COLLINS: Okay.

49
50 CHAIRMAN SAM: Vince.

1 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman. Roy brought
2 up a topic that we were going to talk about later, and
3 you do have a press release that's come out on the
4 Federal government side, the Federal Subsistence Board on
5 this topic on 155. But as your coordinator, you've made,
6 and particularly the Chair, Ron, has made a strong point
7 that the villages need to maintain and provide good data.
8 I'm encouraging you, in light of what Roy has just said,
9 that with your contacts, get people to realize this and
10 call Fish and Game up and understand what's going on
11 here.

12
13 I can remember your words, in particular,
14 that in Huslia were, that if we can't get people to trust
15 this program, they're not going to provide data, then
16 we're going to be back to where we don't know what to do.
17 So I would encourage, through your contacts, to let them
18 know of this situation, just as your coordinator.
19 Because I see this as a major change here. Well, let's
20 put it another way, they're going to be calling you up
21 quite a bit if you haven't informed them of this because
22 they've sought you out when there's been problems in the
23 past. So it might be better to be a little proactive
24 when you're out in your villages to talk about this, use
25 this press release, use whatever you can from Fish and
26 Game to get this word out, because it's going to be
27 confusing.

28
29 Those are just my opinions. But,
30 anyways, we can help you whatever way on that.

31
32 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you. Anything
33 further. Roy, that was it, right.

34
35 MR. NOWLIN: Just one point, that we are
36 pursuing this on a state -- this coordination with the
37 Federal system on a statewide basis and Terry Haynes is
38 assuming a major role here in communication with the
39 Federal Subsistence Board and the Federal system.

40
41 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Roy. Is that
42 all you had.

43
44 MR. NOWLIN: Yes, thank you.

45
46 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you. Native
47 corporations.

48
49 (No comments)

50

1 CHAIRMAN SAM: Regional.
2
3 (No comments)
4
5 CHAIRMAN SAM: Tribal.
6
7 (No comments)
8
9 CHAIRMAN SAM: If not, was that the last
10 agencies that we had in the list?
11
12 MR. MATHEWS: Yeah, I think we've worn
13 out all the agencies, Mr. Chair.
14
15 (Laughter)
16
17 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay. Yeah, we have one
18 action item for Maureen Clark, with the pleasure of the
19 Board I would like to take care of this before we move
20 on, an action item I believe it is.
21
22 MS. CLARK: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. For
23 the record my name is Maureen Clark and I'm the public
24 affairs person with the Office of Subsistence Management.
25 You've been listening to people for a long time now, if
26 you want I can try to keep this very brief. All the
27 information that I was going to present to you begins on
28 Page 143 of your book.
29
30 This is an action item for the Council.
31 The Federal Subsistence Board is seeking comments through
32 October 28th from the Regional Advisory Councils and also
33 from the public on communities that are proposed for
34 further analysis in the Board's rural review process.
35
36 The Board is seeking comments on whether
37 communities or areas should be added or removed from this
38 proposed list and also on the rural or nonrural status
39 and characteristics of these communities. And the
40 Council can choose to make a recommendation to the Board
41 of not.
42
43 Also additional opportunity for public
44 comment will be provided next year after the analysis are
45 completed.
46
47 I'll just kind of jump ahead here, you've
48 probably seen the proposed list of communities. Kodiak
49 and Sitka are both on this list because their populations
50 have increased further above 7,000.

1 Adak is on this list because its
2 population has dropped substantially below the 2,500
3 threshold.

4
5 There are some groupings that the Board
6 has also proposed looking at. The Fairbanks Northstar
7 Borough is one of those groupings they're looking at.
8 When the Board determined that Fairbanks was nonrural at
9 the start of this program, it adopted the Fairbanks
10 Northstar Borough boundaries as the boundaries for the
11 nonrural. Basically it's been proposed that we look at
12 whether or not those boundaries should be brought closer
13 into urban Fairbanks.

14
15 The Kenai area has been proposed so that
16 we might look at whether or not Clam Gulch should be
17 excluded from the Kenai grouping and possibly be
18 considered as rural.

19
20 Seward. It's been proposed that we look
21 at excluding Moose Pass and possibly evaluating whether
22 or not that should be a rural area.

23
24 Three more groupings that we're looking
25 at, whether or not areas should be added to them, for
26 instance, Wasilla. We're looking at whether or not
27 Willow and Pt. McKenzie, it's been proposed.

28
29 (Phone ringing)

30
31 CHAIRMAN SAM: Answer it.

32
33 MR. WALKER: Answer it.

34
35 (Laughter)

36
37 MR. MATHEWS: Just turn it on and off.

38
39 MS. CLARK: Hello.

40
41 (Laughter)

42
43 MS. CLARK: The Wasilla area, we're
44 looking at whether or not we should consider including
45 Willow and Pt. McKenzie in there. That's one of the
46 proposed areas.

47
48 Homer area. It's been proposed that
49 perhaps we should look at whether or not Fox River and
50 Happy Valley should be included in the Homer area as

1 nonrural.
2
3 The Ketchikan area. It's been proposed
4 that we look at.....
5
6 (Laughter)
7
8 MS. CLARK: Hello.
9
10 MR. HUNTINGTON: Yeah, is that meeting
11 still going on over there.
12
13 MS. CLARK: Sure is.
14
15 MR. HUNTINGTON: Yes, is Vince still
16 there?
17
18 MS. CLARK: Yes, he is.
19
20 MR. HUNTINGTON: Okay, well, this is
21 Orville. I was told to call back in later.
22
23 MR. MATHEWS: Okay, Orville just stay on
24 line and we'll pick you up next after Maureen makes her
25 presentation.
26
27 MR. HUNTINGTON: Okay.
28
29 MS. CLARK: Hang on. The Ketchikan area.
30 It's been proposed that we look at whether or not Saxman
31 should be included and also some areas outside of
32 Ketchikan that have developed, whether they should be
33 included in that nonrural area.
34
35 And finally it's been proposed that we
36 look possibly at a new grouping, and that's Delta
37 Junction, Big Delta, Deltana and Ft. Greely. It's an
38 area that's seeing some population growth and some
39 changes.
40
41 These are all proposed areas. This is a
42 two step process that's kind of being used in this
43 review. At this point in time -- this step will end in
44 December when the Board meets, it will meet December 6th
45 and if necessary December 7th to decide on a final list.
46 And what I need to let you know is that the Chairman is
47 inviting to that meeting, the Chairman's of the Regional
48 Advisory Councils December 6th and 7th. And we have lots
49 more information for you if you would like to get into
50 this more. As you can see there are no communities

1 within the Western Interior on this list but it is an
2 important issue, we understand that eligibility kind of
3 goes to the heart of the Federal Subsistence Program.

4
5 Vince has a big fat report that he can
6 send you and we've also got plenty of public information
7 materials that we've been distributing and if you'd like
8 some of these, for anyone who's interested we've got
9 those.

10
11 That's it.

12
13 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Maureen. Just
14 for your information Mickey Stickman and I did attend one
15 of these meetings just when we started the afternoon
16 session everybody just started hollering and screaming at
17 each other and just walked out. I don't know where it
18 would go. We have no areas of concern within the Western
19 Interior. I think sometimes it would be better to just
20 quietly take no action on some of this stuff because
21 they'll call us for emergency meetings somewhere down the
22 line.

23
24 (Laughter)

25
26 CHAIRMAN SAM: And at this time I would
27 ask Jack if he wanted to make a comment.

28
29 MR. REAKOFF: My concern about this is
30 how this, in the future, will affect our region. And so
31 I'm wondering, is some of these groupings, is there a
32 range between, like do they have to be really close, or a
33 mileage distance between communities or some kind of road
34 link up criteria or what's this criteria for grouping
35 these communities?

36
37 CHAIRMAN SAM: Maureen.

38
39 MS. CLARK: That's a good question. The
40 criteria changed a little bit. Back in 1990 the criteria
41 they used was do 15 percent or more of the people commute
42 between communities. Do they share a common school
43 district. And are there daily shopping trips made
44 between communities. And it's being revised a little bit
45 this time.

46
47 We're looking at, do 30 percent or more
48 of working people commute from one place or another, it's
49 a little higher threshold.

50

1 MR. REAKOFF: Uh-huh.
2
3 MS. CLARK: Do they share a common high
4 school attendance area, kind of a higher threshold. And
5 also are the places in proximity and road accessible.
6
7 So it's not a population number, but
8 that's the criteria that they're looking at for grouping.
9
10 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yes, what kind of action
11 were we looking for on this Vince, because it is duly
12 noted on the agenda that it is an action item.
13
14 MR. MATHEWS: Well, the action was to
15 decide if you thought that these communities should be
16 looked at or not looked at.
17
18 I think you've already indicated and some
19 of the heads are shaking that you'll leave that to the
20 home regions and areas to deal with that. Now, the heads
21 are shaking the other way.
22
23 The thing I need to know from you and for
24 Maureen, and I apologize I'm not up to speed on this, is
25 that the Phase II, this Council doesn't have any areas in
26 question, does Phase II then also be reviewed by this
27 group by this group or not?
28
29 MS. CLARK: Yes, it will be.
30
31 MR. MATHEWS: Okay, so we will have to
32 program that in your agenda timewise, meaning where to
33 place it wisely because I don't know how much time you'll
34 want to spend on it, where Eastern Interior or
35 Kodiak/Aleutians we probably are going to have to set
36 aside a good part of a day.
37
38 So this is going to come back to you,
39 you're going to be kept informed of it. We'll just
40 wisely place it on your agenda with the appropriate time
41 that you'll need.
42
43 CHAIRMAN SAM: Is this the pleasure of
44 the Council to let it slide to the spring.
45
46 Jack.
47
48 MR. REAKOFF: Yeah, I'm very appreciative
49 of Maureen coming and informing us. I'm very interested
50 in this issue for future reference and want to be

1 apprised of that in the future. But I don't feel that
2 our Council, since we don't have any of these areas in
3 our region, but I'm interested in being informed what the
4 other regions, how they deal with these issues.

5
6 Thank you.

7
8 MS. CLARK: Thank you.

9
10 CHAIRMAN SAM: Any further comments.

11
12 MR. STICKMAN: Ron.

13
14 CHAIRMAN SAM: Mickey.

15
16 MR. STICKMAN: Yeah, thank you, Maureen.
17 Yeah, like Ron said, me and him, well, we tried and it
18 was, I don't know, you know, it was real difficult
19 because well with the criteria, you had to meet a certain
20 criteria and we couldn't even get to the criteria of
21 population because we spent so much time arguing over
22 relationships to the land and to the animals, you know,
23 we couldn't even -- we spent our whole two or three hours
24 arguing about our relationship to the land and to the
25 animals and we never even got past that. That was where
26 we left it at. You know, we didn't even have consensus
27 or agree on anything.

28
29 MS. CLARK: That's what I heard.

30
31 MR. STICKMAN: Yes.

32
33 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Mickey. For
34 the record, we just want the record clear that we did
35 discuss this issue and he Chair will ask for no action
36 since we do not have any area or land in question,
37 however, we would like to be informed on further
38 deliberations on where this is going because I know
39 they'll start having some meetings in rural areas. And I
40 understand, too, that wasn't Kenai on the list as
41 nonrural and then they went back to rural and stuff like
42 that, that was decided by the Federal Subsistence Board
43 and that's -- it's a powerful tool but I'd just like to
44 stay out of it if we do not have any lands in question.

45
46 Vince.

47
48 MR. MATHEWS: I assume we're done with
49 the rural/nonrural issue.

50

1 CHAIRMAN SAM: Do we have any more
2 questions for Maureen.
3
4 (No comments)
5
6 CHAIRMAN SAM: Vince.
7
8 MR. MATHEWS: Okay, if not, we don't want
9 Maureen to leave the table she has another topic here.
10
11 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay.
12
13 MR. MATHEWS: The student art program
14 that she wanted to talk to you about. She's the sole
15 person running that contest. What do I mean? The front
16 of your regulation book, that artwork comes from student
17 art products, she'll talk more about it but I'll put my
18 little soapbox up. The program needs your support for
19 this program to function and succeed.
20
21 And I was trying to find real quickly but
22 I believe there was a couple in there from Anvik but I
23 don't remember. So there is some artwork there from
24 there. But Maureen will talk about it and has a handout.
25 But what we've discovered over the few years is
26 submittals have dropped off and she can cover the details
27 on that.
28
29 CHAIRMAN SAM: Maureen.
30
31 MS. CLARK: Actually they've gone up but
32 they're not distributed very well.
33
34 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay, at one time, as I
35 stated earlier, the Chairs of the Regional Advisory
36 Councils voted on these contests but even that was taken
37 away from us, and I don't know why. I don't know the
38 justification on that.
39
40 What did you have to add then Maureen.
41
42 MS. CLARK: I just wanted to let you know
43 that we have handouts with entry forms and nominations
44 and if you'd pass them off to teachers, parents,
45 students, anyone who might be interested and, yes, the
46 Council Chairs will pick the winners. They did last year
47 and will again. And somebody's got to replace you on
48 this Board some day so we might as well start informing
49 young people a little bit about the Federal Subsistence
50 Program. Once their pictures appear in the regulations

1 book, they get a copy of the regulations book and so at
2 least there's some familiarity there to start.

3

4 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay, thanks. Jack.

5

6 MR. REAKOFF: Yeah, I attended that
7 December meeting down in Anchorage and I was requested to
8 vote as our Western Interior representative so I did
9 weigh in on those - beautiful artwork, those kids went to
10 a lot of work to produce that and I appreciate that.

11

12 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thanks. Vince.

13

14 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, Mr. Chairman, on this
15 -- stepping a little out on a limb. But any support from
16 the Council on assisting with awards and prizes on this,
17 it's a lot easier with agencies to have an outside
18 interest to fund that part. If you have any advice on
19 that talk to Maureen. A lot of these award programs that
20 I've been aware of have been sponsored by Commonwealth
21 Edison in another state I worked at would fund these type
22 of funding award systems through educational things. So
23 if you have any money burning.....

24

25 (Laughter)

26

27 MR. MATHEWS: No. But if you have any
28 contacts in that area, let Maureen know on that because
29 these things generally then evolve into the private
30 sector, if that's the term to use, so if you have any,
31 let Maureen know that, that would help that continue.

32

33 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yeah, I see some people
34 leaving. Thanks Fred Andersen and Geoff for attending
35 our meeting. Lisa. Wennona.

36

37 Thank you.

38

39 Where does that put us on our agenda.

40

41 MR. MATHEWS: Well, Mr. Chairman, that
42 picked up a couple of topics there. The only other one
43 and it's a written briefing, and it's in your book on
44 marine waters jurisdiction. There's no presentation on
45 that. You talked about it. Your position on it was to
46 add in the bays of the Kuskokwim Bay, I believe, into
47 that jurisdiction. And that information can be found on
48 154.

49

50 MR. CAMPBELL: 154

1 MR. MATHEWS: 154. Again, you don't have
2 any marine waters but you were concerned, if my memory is
3 correct, that the fish that travel through the Kuskokwim
4 area obviously travel through those bays.

5
6 Other than that I don't know if there's
7 -- I shouldn't say you have any interest, but that is in
8 front of you to give you an idea on that.

9
10 If not then we would move back up the
11 agenda, back to annual reports.

12
13 CHAIRMAN SAM: We did cover registration
14 hunt reporting, that was Roy, right?

15
16 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, you did.

17
18 CHAIRMAN SAM: That was Roy, okay.

19
20 MR. MATHEWS: That was what Roy talked
21 about and then you have the news release in here.

22
23 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay.

24
25 MR. MATHEWS: And I personally encourage
26 you to talk to people in your villages about this change.

27
28 CHAIRMAN SAM: So the next item on our
29 agenda then would be the annual report.

30
31 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, Mr. Chairman. And,
32 again, I'm in the wrong book here. Your annual report
33 and your response is on Page, 125 is your actual annual
34 report, and 132 is your annual report reply.

35
36 I don't know how to handle this, Mr.
37 Chairman. In the past you guys have just looked at it
38 over and if you have any questions on it -- I will tell
39 you that it's one of the longest annual report replies
40 on record, I think but that's because you brought up very
41 important and complex topics. So maybe you'll want to
42 look over those replies and see if you have any
43 questions. You should have received a copy of this
44 earlier in the summer, on your annual report.

45
46 So with that I'll drop off and see if you
47 have any questions on the reply from the Federal
48 Subsistence Board. Again, that's on Page 132 and goes
49 through 142.

50

1 (Pause)
2
3 CHAIRMAN SAM: What's the pleasure of the
4 Council, you need a little time to go through it.
5
6 (Council nods affirmatively)
7
8 CHAIRMAN SAM: I think throughout, Vince,
9 stated, we got this sometime like late this summer,
10 between Vince and I and Jack we've been working a lot of
11 this stuff one item at a time, and going through a lot of
12 this stuff. I cannot remember all of it but I do know
13 that we've been going through it.
14
15 MR. WALKER: Mr. Chair.
16
17 CHAIRMAN SAM: Robert.
18
19 MR. WALKER: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I had
20 a chance to read it this summer here. I got a copy of
21 this, I read it and a lot of it is pertaining to what we
22 talked about last year, the year before and what we're
23 talking about this year. The windows for subsistence
24 fishing and so forth, mortality for the moose, calf or
25 the calf mortality and so forth.
26
27 I mean what do you want us to do, do you
28 want us to read it all over again and give you a verbal
29 report or what?
30
31 MR. MATHEWS: No, Mr. Chairman. We just
32 want a reality check that you understood the response and
33 if you had any questions as to why the Board responded
34 that way or whatever, that's what it's there for.
35
36 Again, we'll talk a little bit more about
37 this when we get into evaluations because we'll talk
38 about -- this always falls at the end of the meeting and
39 it's difficult to know how to tackle this so I need
40 direction on that but we'll cover that later.
41
42 This is now, basically you got the
43 response earlier, you have it in front of you, is there
44 something in there that you want further clarification
45 why the Board agreed with you or disagreed, we could
46 provide that. If not then we would go into developing
47 topics for your 2005 report.
48
49 CHAIRMAN SAM: Pardon me, but Orville
50 Huntington you still on line?

1 MR. HUNTINGTON: Yes.
2
3 (Laughter)
4
5 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thanks for your patience
6 and thanks for bearing with us. Vince, what did Orville
7 have?
8
9 MR. MATHEWS: I don't know.
10
11 MR. HUNTINGTON: I was just going to give
12 a brief update of jobs over the summer in Huslia.
13
14 MR. MATHEWS: Yeah, I know the Council
15 would like that so I think you could go ahead. We've
16 talked on and off about Huslia's situation this
17 afternoon. So go ahead.
18
19 MR. HUNTINGTON: Okay. Well, just a
20 brief update. Thank you Honorable Chair and members.
21 Sorry I couldn't be there. This is RIT Orville
22 Huntington.
23
24 The contaminants project we did on Billy
25 Hawk is now complete, all contaminants are out of there,
26 out of the river and being taken care of.
27
28 I also worked on in-season fishing
29 harvest assessment all summer. Largely all subsistence
30 fishing needs were met as far as I know. I don't know of
31 anybody that didn't get fish and pretty much the same
32 with waterfowl, it was hit or miss with waterfowl.
33 Hunters were either getting them or not getting them but
34 there was a lot of sharing going on.
35
36 I've been working with the fire ecology
37 team from the University of Alaska-Fairbanks, and our
38 fire management officer Bob Lambrecht, I just got done
39 presenting on climate change here. I did two
40 presentations and I had one for you but I couldn't make
41 it in so at the next meeting I'll try to make sure I
42 bring that.
43
44 And I also did a lot of work with the
45 Huslia Tribal Council providing technical assistant to
46 get their wildlife grant funded but I don't think they
47 were happy with the amount they got, I think they wanted
48 a little bit more for administration or something so I'm
49 not sure what's going on with that wildlife grant now
50 other than it was approved.

1 And if you have any questions I can
2 answer them now, but that's all I have for you.
3
4 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you. Any questions
5 for Orville.
6
7 MR. WALKER: We missed you.
8
9 (Laughter)
10
11 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yeah, did you get that. I
12 was kind of expecting you down here to give a better
13 report on what is going on with the moose issues but I
14 think it was fairly well covered, we heard a good portion
15 of it from Glenn Stout, Geoff Beyersdorf and a few other
16 agencies, both Roy Nowlin and Randy Rogers.
17
18 Any further questions for Orville.
19
20 (No comments)
21
22 CHAIRMAN SAM: Again, sorry for that
23 oversight, we just kind of forgot about you on line
24 there.
25
26 (Laughter)
27
28 MR. STICKMAN: Ron.
29
30 MR. HUNTINGTON: Well, thanks a lot Ron
31 -- Chair Sam and see you guys at the moose management
32 meeting probably.
33
34 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yes, I think that's why I
35 didn't miss you as much as I would have if I didn't know
36 that you were going to that moose management working
37 group meeting and Koyukuk River Advisory Committee
38 meeting at the same time. I think one of the biggest
39 reasons that I wanted you down here was to communicate
40 with your people especially at Huslia, that even they got
41 that grant to fund about three or four people to attend
42 that Koyukuk River Advisory Committee meeting and the
43 Koyukuk River Moose Working Group. So I would like you
44 to work on that and see what you can do to bring in some
45 extra people.
46
47 Mickey Stickman has a few questions for
48 you.
49
50 MR. STICKMAN: No question for Orville

1 but I just wanted to thank him for all the work that he
2 does, you know, he's an important resource person to
3 actually go to as far as hooking up with the elders,
4 especially from the Koyukuk River. Being from the middle
5 Yukon, you know, I pretty much know a lot of people
6 further on up the river but, you know, just through
7 talking with them, along with Orville, you know, makes it
8 so much easier.

9

10 I just wanted to thank Orville for all
11 the work that he does in the Huslia area as far as when
12 it comes to moose and birds and the environment.

13

14 Thanks Orville

15

16 MR. HUNTINGTON: You bet, thank you,
17 Member Stickman and Chair Sam.

18

19 CHAIRMAN SAM: Is there anymore for
20 Orville.

21

22 (No comments)

23

24 CHAIRMAN SAM: If not, thank you for your
25 patience, thanks for bearing with us.

26

27 MR. HUNTINGTON: I got a Powerpoint for
28 you next time I see you.

29

30 CHAIRMAN SAM: All right, we'll
31 appreciate that. Thank you, Orville.

32

33 While Vince is making his way back to his
34 seat, just for most of you, your information, another
35 oversight, when they talked about funding for that Tanana
36 Allakaket marked trail, Mike Spindler, our new
37 coordinator, Kanuti Wildlife Refuge, did stop in
38 Allakaket and let us know about this problem that we kind
39 of expect this coming fall. He also let us know that
40 he's working on funding for us clearing the trail, if we
41 wanted to pursue that. But we do know that you can ask
42 for funding. At that time even though he meet with two
43 chiefs and myself, both the Chief of Alatna, Chief of
44 Allakaket and myself, we were all busy working and/or
45 hunting and we kind of know that when a fire decimates so
46 much of our acreage that we do have this problem anyway.
47 It's just a matter of pursuing this issue and finding
48 some funding with Mike Spindler.

49

50 And that's just for your information, we

1 did meet with our wildlife Refuge manager.

2

3 Okay, back to the annual report, where
4 are we Vince.

5

6 MR. MATHEWS: Well, Mr. Chairman, it
7 appears to be that the Council members are comfortable
8 with the annual report reply, that they didn't have any
9 questions on the annual report reply from the Board.

10

11 So if that is the reality then we're at
12 providing topics for your 2005 annual report with the
13 caveat that those would be drafted up, shared with
14 leadership or whoever you decide on your Council to
15 review and then those would be before you as a draft at
16 your spring or -- or winter meeting, so now would be a
17 time to list topics.

18

19 Now, I know it's late in the day but you
20 usually left the door open after these listing of topics
21 for topics in the next month or so to give me a call or
22 give Ron a call. So those are what we need at this step,
23 is the list of topics you would like in your annual
24 report.

25

26 CHAIRMAN SAM: Do we have anything at
27 this time. I, for one, will have some -- we want a
28 clearly defined map of the new split of Game Unit 24.
29 From what I read out of that decision you've got to have
30 a map and a GPS with you at all times to know where
31 you're at on that description of Subunit B in Unit 24.
32 Do we have anything else to add? I'm asking for, I
33 guess, totally simplify it.

34

35 MR. STICKMAN: Ron.

36

37 CHAIRMAN SAM: Mickey.

38

39 MR. STICKMAN: I guess one thing for sure
40 that we would have on the annual report would be our
41 proposal, the one that passed through the Council here as
42 far as stretching out the season to the beginning of
43 October, that first week in October anyway. We
44 definitely want to have that in our annual report.

45

46 CHAIRMAN SAM: Mr. Chairman, Not only
47 the proposal as is, we'd like some insight or some
48 studies on what we possibly could do on the global
49 warming trend.

50

1 I see Don's up here, do you have anything
2 to add?

3
4 MR. RIVARD: Yes, Mr. Chair. Don Rivard
5 with OSM. Mickey, just to clarify a little bit about
6 what the annual report is and isn't. The annual report
7 is usually for topics that are not covered through the
8 regulatory process. So you're covering, getting that
9 extension of the seasons, through the regulatory process,
10 so it doesn't need to be in the annual report.

11
12 Okay.

13
14 CHAIRMAN SAM: You're not done yet. But
15 there is a reason for it, portions of it, or the main
16 reason for it being on the annual report, that is to
17 address global warming issues, that would automatically
18 fit under the annual report, wouldn't it, to address or
19 study that somehow.

20
21 MR. RIVARD: If you wanted to address
22 global warming trends, yes, you could put that in an
23 annual report, yes.

24
25 CHAIRMAN SAM: Is that what you're
26 looking for Mickey.

27
28 MR. STICKMAN: I guess that's what I
29 would be looking for. But I guess now that I understand
30 the annual report, I guess, one of the things for sure
31 that we didn't discuss in the last couple days was
32 predation. I mean not in a forum of where we got answers
33 from anybody or not clear-cut policies on predation.

34
35 CHAIRMAN SAM: Again, thank you, Mickey.
36 Go ahead and sit down Don in case we might need you. We
37 did -- again, it is another oversight on my part, it
38 seems that sometimes I'm only strong in my unit, and we
39 are so close to asking for predator control in the Kanuti
40 Wildlife Refuge area that it has been discussed to some
41 extent and I believe that Mike Spindler is watching it
42 pretty closely. If we cannot do anything about getting
43 some of the moose numbers back up, we will address that
44 issue, but that's just for that one area.

45
46 So were you looking at more under
47 predator control or addressing it in some way?

48
49 MR. STICKMAN: I don't know. I just
50 wanted to, I guess, part of the annual report was to talk

1 about things that we haven't really talked about here.

2

3 And, you know, one of the other things
4 that was mentioned here that we never really talked about
5 but we are being threatened with, is in some areas of the
6 Western Interior we're close to having Tier II hunts in
7 our area and that's going to be pretty substantial as far
8 as subsistence use.

9

10 MR. COLLINS: Mr. Chairman.

11

12 CHAIRMAN SAM: Go ahead, Ray.

13

14 MR. COLLINS: Yeah, I had a thought about
15 that. I think we might, in the report, commend Kanuti
16 for doing the study and giving the relationships between
17 predator/prey, the numbers and so on and ask that in the
18 light of the changing game populations, that more reports
19 be done like this in other areas and maybe recommending
20 studies on moose calf survival and mortality. Because
21 they're going to need that data before you move towards
22 any -- the State will need it, if the State's going to be
23 involved, but just this idea of reporting and looking at
24 the relationship between predator/prey, that they
25 continue to do that so that we can more closely assess
26 the situation maybe and then when it does become critical
27 we'd have already some of the groundwork to ask for
28 control. So maybe something like that could go in the
29 report.

30

31 And one other thing, I think that would
32 be important is, along with that report on the fall of --
33 extending the season, talk about the changing weather
34 patterns and the impact that it's having on subsistence
35 hunters. Like this fall was a real rainy fall, you know,
36 and it's really making a hardship, we need a system
37 that's a little more flexible and can more quickly
38 respond or we're going to continue to have problems in
39 the future for -- and I'm not sure what can be done about
40 this, but some thought has to be given to that, of having
41 a little more flexibility in adjusting seasons and things
42 in light of extreme low water one year, let's say, or
43 something else that can come in. But just alert them
44 that we see that as being a growing problem because it
45 seems to be coming up every year.

46

47 Something like that.

48

49 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Ray. Anything
50 further on the annual report at this time.

1 Yeah, Robert, just for your information,
2 too, we can get a hole of Vince any time.....

3

4 MR. WALKER: 24/7.

5

6 (Laughter)

7

8 CHAIRMAN SAM: Go ahead, Robert.

9

10 MR. WALKER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

11 Don. Vince. Coming into this, I believe the fiscal year
12 for right now is past, and our budget is already set for
13 the next year or are we going to have to do some kind of
14 money crunching here, what is the budget going to be for
15 OSM here in Alaska? Is there going to be any cuts, any
16 additions, what? I would say that would be for our
17 annual report, too, because whatever happens, you know,
18 it's going to affect us.

19

20 MR. RIVARD: Mr. Chair. Mr. Walker. I
21 don't have any specific numbers to give you, I know that
22 we're belt-tightening. I don't think it looks real
23 critical, I wouldn't put it in those terms for OSM for
24 the coming year. But the pressure is really on to
25 tighten up. And, you know, there's always scenarios of
26 cutting back two percent, five percent that they always
27 look at every year. If you had less money what would you
28 do differently.

29

30 So if I understand correctly, you want to
31 know the status of the OSM budget as a topic for your
32 annual report and what the outlook is for maybe the next
33 couple of years; does that capture it?

34

35 MR. WALKER: Five years out.

36

37 MR. RIVARD: Five years out, okay, we'll
38 try to give you some sense of that.

39

40 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Robert.
41 Anything further at this time to add to the annual
42 report.

43

44 (No comments)

45

46 CHAIRMAN SAM: If not, again, the windows
47 are open and you know who to call. I think for the most
48 part there's three or four of us on the Council if you
49 make a request, any kind of formal request we
50 automatically go to work on it and that's just for your

1 information.

2

3

Vince.

4

5 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, in light of
6 Robert Walker's talking about budget, I failed to mention
7 to you that in the past I would say in my little speech
8 about the annual report, you could bring in topics at
9 your next meeting and then we'd put them in there. Don
10 and I have talked about that, and that causes a lot of
11 staffing problems to do that. We are a reduced Staff due
12 to retirements, we're not sure how that's all going to
13 work out. So what does that mean to you, that means
14 prior to the Board meeting in January, is that when the
15 Board meeting on fish proposals is -- anybody?

16

17

(No comments)

18

19

MR. MATHEWS: Okay, Salena nods yes. You
20 should get those topics in to Ron or myself, otherwise if
21 you bring them to the next meeting, we can't really do
22 the work.

23

24

Now, some of these there's not a lot of
25 work, several of them and rightfully so were a lot of
26 work to enter dialogue with other agencies, so I think we
27 now have to put a stop on trying to catch up in spring
28 and you'll say, okay, well, let's add ATVs or whatever it
29 happens to be on there, we can't pull it off anymore in a
30 professional manner. So let's try to put a deadline on
31 that Board meeting to get it to Ron or I on that, so that
32 would help.

33

34

The other thing I needed to advise you,
35 and this came from BLM, it's not a complaint it's just
36 basically a process thing, you submitted in your annual
37 report in a topic and then you also submitted a letter to
38 BLM. BLM went through, rightfully so, responding to your
39 public letter and then they had to also answer the annual
40 report, so I'm going to -- if you do to that again in the
41 future, say, no, let's just either go with the letter or
42 the annual report, not both. And it's somewhat, and Jack
43 knows this very well, sometimes it's better when you go
44 directly to the agency because you can work it out. When
45 you go to the Board, all the agencies are made privy to
46 that. And it's not like you're exposing dirty laundry or
47 whatever, it's just that then it's in a different arena,
48 whether balancing different things.

49

50

So I will try to be a coach, ref, I don't

1 know, on those issues.
2
3 MR. WALKER: Warden.
4
5 (Laughter)
6
7 MR. MATHEWS: Warden.
8
9 (Laughter)
10
11 MR. MATHEWS: But we need to watch that
12 because BLM, as well as all the other agencies have been
13 very thorough in responding to you and then they got to
14 respond to the annual report, and, yes, it's a summary of
15 the letter but it causes some stumbling. So I appreciate
16 the topics, we've captured them, and that Board meeting,
17 I don't remember when it is in January, but we will have
18 that as a cut off.
19
20 And then finally, because Laura just
21 reminded me, Ron, we need to know by the end of this
22 meeting, if all possible, if you want to send yourself or
23 a representative to this rural determination meeting
24 December 6th and 7th.
25
26 (Laughter)
27
28 MR. MATHEWS: Now, I'm not saying you
29 have to go.
30
31 CHAIRMAN SAM: That one's easy.
32
33 (Laughter)
34
35 CHAIRMAN SAM: I don't want to go.
36
37 (Laughter)
38
39 MR. MATHEWS: Okay, well, we got it clear
40 then. Because that makes it easier on that, so that's
41 all I have on the annual report.
42
43 CHAIRMAN SAM: Go ahead, state your name.
44
45 MR. KESSLER: I'm Steve Kessler with the
46 Forest Service, Department of Agriculture. Thank you for
47 giving me a moment.
48
49 Mr. Walker, in response to how budgets
50 might be changing, I thought I'd let you know that, well,

1 first of all, the program is a joint program between the
2 Department of Agriculture and the Department of Interior,
3 and this year we, the Department of Agriculture, received
4 a 15 percent cut from 2005 to fiscal year 2006. So you
5 may have a concern about what occurs in the overall
6 program. I'm telling you, at least in agriculture we
7 already do have a problem, and how that's going to affect
8 the overall program, the Federal Subsistence Program, I
9 don't know yet. I think in 2006, even with the 15
10 percent cut that we've received this year, it's not
11 significant -- well, it's not greatly significant but it
12 could change in the future.

13

14 So if you're concerned about budgets
15 there's -- you can see from the agriculture side there's
16 already reason for that concern.

17

18 MR. WALKER: Thank you for your report.
19 Mr. Chairman.

20

21 CHAIRMAN SAM: Do we have anything else
22 on the annual report?

23

24 MR. MATHEWS: No, I think we covered it
25 other than do call if you have topics and then I will go
26 on the record that you would probably want those topics
27 reviewed by yourself and maybe your other officers. And
28 then if you guys go, yes, that should be in there then
29 I'll charge ahead with a draft, write it up, it will go
30 back to the person who called it in so you get a chance
31 at saying, you know, is it right or wrong, and then your
32 final changes will be at your winter meeting in Koyukuk.

33

34 So that brings us up to Regional Council
35 business.

36

37 MR. WALKER: Regional Council business,
38 what's this been.

39

40 (Laughter)

41

42 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yes, last page, Page 4.

43

44 MR. WALKER: Oh, I'm on the next page.

45

46 (Laughter)

47

48 CHAIRMAN SAM: Meeting and coordinator's
49 evaluation surveys; isn't this what we do every time or
50 do we.....

1 MR. MATHEWS: No, we've never done this.
2 This is something I'm going on -- being your coordinator
3 since 1994 and I'm evaluated, rightfully so of as an
4 employee of an agency but I've never asked for an
5 evaluation of you guys. I was going to give you a survey
6 but it triggered that it has to be approved by OPM [sic]
7 so there is no survey but I don't want to pass up the
8 opportunity.

9
10 I need direction, we are reorganizing the
11 office, we're under budget cuts, we're under other
12 different changes, not to make it dark outside or
13 whatever, I need to know from you, what level of
14 involvement do you want your coordinator in, in planning
15 involvement. I think Robert, rightfully so signaled to
16 me that he was disappointed I didn't attend the 21(E)
17 moose planning meetings, I need to know if that's the
18 direction. I'm not saying it's going to be funded, I'm
19 just saying I need to know and the program needs to know.
20 On that, I need to know, I am struggling covering two
21 drainages, I have basically ignored the Kuskokwim
22 drainage, I think Ray knows that because the Yukon issues
23 were too complex. I need to know if that's what you want
24 me to do.

25
26 And then the last thing I need to know on
27 involvement issues is what feelings do you want of your
28 coordinator and/or other team members in local advisory
29 committee meetings. Yes, they're State meetings but your
30 unwritten policy is you'd rather have the committees work
31 out the local issues but do you want us involved, and,
32 again, there's no commitment that will be funded that
33 we'd be involved in, but I feel the program and myself
34 need direction from you so we can prioritize those in
35 light of budgets and reorganization.

36
37 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Vince.

38
39 MR. WALKER: I have something for Vince.

40
41 CHAIRMAN SAM: Go ahead, Robert.

42
43 MR. WALKER: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Well,
44 I would have liked to have seen you down there at the
45 moose management working group there but I know as busy
46 as you were, we're just glad that we had Polly there to
47 sit in, which really gave us a lot of good definitions
48 and answers to our questions that we had to ask from the
49 OSM. So, you know, I put you on the spot there, Vince,
50 but, you know, I know you're busy too but Polly sat in

1 really great and I thank you for sending her.
2
3 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman. On that we
4 are reorganizing the teams also and I don't know where
5 we're going to end up with our anthropologist so I'll
6 just leave you at that, that the message that you're
7 sending to the program that.....
8
9 MS. WHEELER: What.
10
11 (Laughter)
12
13 MR. MATHEWS: No, that you are signaling
14 to OSM that you do want OSM Staff present when
15 appropriate in these planning processes and that you
16 appreciated Polly's presence there but I don't know if we
17 can guarantee that.
18
19 MS. WHEELER: Are you trying to tell me
20 something Vince?
21
22 (Laughter)
23
24 MR. MATHEWS: No. No. I'm just saying
25 that there's going to be a shift in who is staffed as
26 anthropologist so on that.
27
28 (Laughter)
29
30 MR. MATHEWS: But what about the drainage
31 coverage, do you want me to prioritize my time 50/50,
32 75/25 or what. Again, you lost your, due to retirement,
33 temporarily, we don't know how long that's going to be,
34 your fish biologist retired.
35
36 MR. WALKER: Just go over to the State
37 and get another one.
38
39 (Laughter)
40
41 MS. BROWN: Robert.
42
43 (Laughter)
44
45 MR. MATHEWS: I don't want to belabor
46 this, I'm just saying.....
47
48 (Laughter)
49
50 MR. MATHEWS: I'm just saying is in my

1 career when I hit a 10 year spot in doing something I get
2 worried because I do things so routinely that maybe I'm
3 just walking over you guys and don't even realize it or
4 don't even see the stop sign in front of me which Robert
5 pointed out the other night I didn't stop at the corner
6 down there.

7

8 (Laughter)

9

10 MR. MATHEWS: So any way you can give me
11 advice on that I'd appreciate it. Because we are moving
12 into a different world and it's not just budget, there's
13 a whole bunch of other things there. So whenever you can
14 provide that to me would be great.

15

16 Now, I'll step away from that unless you
17 have some comments on it. Because the agency reports,
18 I'm really disappointed at the way we handle those, and I
19 write the agenda so that's my responsibility. But it's
20 just not working. You guys are giving them respect
21 because you know them but it's just not working.

22

23 Anyway, so let's cover the involvement on
24 coordinators, if that's done, then any suggestions of how
25 to do these agency reports, they spent two days here
26 waiting, they spent weeks sometimes putting these things
27 together, they want to work with you because they know
28 you can possibly solve some of the problems or help solve
29 them and then we shove them in at the last moment. I
30 don't know what to do.

31

32 CHAIRMAN SAM: I know, don't bring them
33 in until noon the second day. I think that's the only
34 way we can accommodate them. It's not that we're putting
35 them last on purpose, it's just that, in a lot of our
36 villages we meet until 11:30 at night and we cover a lot
37 of issues, I know it's not working that's why I just let
38 it slide today and I really do appreciate their -- not
39 only their interest, all their efforts and everything
40 that they do.

41

42 As far as this coordinator evaluation
43 survey, I think we can do this either by letter or by
44 phone but to begin we would have to know who is there,
45 who's going out and who do you expect to come in and see
46 if there's any major changes in their duties or what do
47 you expect them to cover. Because I think we can do that
48 by just communicating with you on that 800 number, and
49 that's a start.

50

1 MR. STICKMAN: Ron.
2
3 CHAIRMAN SAM: But then we would still
4 have to know who is there, who's going out, who's coming
5 in, how much more of budget cuts are we expecting and all
6 that, you know, if we're cutting a lot of people out, of
7 course, we won't have a big of Staff to work with.
8
9 I believe Jack was next, then Mickey.
10
11 MR. REAKOFF: I think it was early in the
12 program we had agency reports right away.
13
14 MR. MATHEWS: Right.
15
16 MR. REAKOFF: And personally it's six to
17 one, and half-dozen to another when that's presented.
18 But I would prefer to hear those agency reports early in
19 our meeting so that I can get an overview of what some of
20 the problems are and some of the problems that we may
21 address. If we hear the agency reports later in the
22 meeting we run out of time. And so they may bring
23 forward certain issues and so I would prefer to see
24 agency reports earlier in the meeting myself. That's
25 what I prefer and then work through our work session
26 after those reports. But that's just -- but somehow it's
27 turned around to where they're all at the end, they wait
28 all that time, they have, you know.
29
30 And as far as attendance at these
31 planning meetings, I would really like to see Polly down
32 there at those meetings more often than not. She's got a
33 lot of experience, especially in this region here and so
34 I would prefer to see Polly at those meetings.
35
36 And as far as your evaluation, Vince,
37 you're doing very well. I think that these fisheries
38 issues sort of dissolved this year. I don't think the
39 workload is going to be there nearly as much. I think
40 that the Kuskokwim has to be paid attention to but I just
41 think that we're just going to have less work to do on
42 these fisheries issues on the Yukon and Kuskokwim.
43
44 That's my input on this discussion.
45
46 CHAIRMAN SAM: Mickey.
47
48 MR. STICKMAN: You know, just going back
49 to Vince's comments about all the work that they put into
50 it and then the short time that we give them at the end,

1 you know, I think that's another thing that should be --
2 another topic for the annual report, is one thing that we
3 haven't talked about at this meeting but we've talked
4 about it at other meetings, was, adding a third day, you
5 know, to show the agencies proper respect for the work,
6 and not just the work but the people themselves, we need
7 to give them the time that they need to really share
8 their information that they want to share.

9
10 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Mickey. Ray,
11 you had something.

12
13 MR. COLLINS: Yeah, maybe we could look
14 at a new format where we didn't put them all at the end
15 or all at the beginning but look at the topic or
16 information they're bringing us and maybe have them at
17 different places. Like if it's wildlife issues, it might
18 come before that or fish before and then some of it would
19 be wrap up business, like the communities, you know,
20 which communities and how they're looking at them or
21 something like that. That would disperse them a little
22 bit through there. And then some could come in later,
23 like Hollis came in, Park Service right at the end, gave
24 his report, he didn't have to wait two days for that. So
25 some might choose to come later if they didn't have
26 things that were going to -- but I appreciate them here
27 and I think it does give them an education and some
28 interaction by having them listening to our discussion
29 throughout, too, but they have to weigh that, I think.
30 But I do appreciate their efforts and patience.

31
32 And you do good Vince.

33
34 CHAIRMAN SAM: Anything further.

35
36 (No comments)

37
38 CHAIRMAN SAM: If not, we'll go on with
39 the agenda Vince.

40
41 MR. MATHEWS: Well, I'll work on the
42 agenda and your officers get a chance to review that
43 agenda and we'll work with that. The three day meeting
44 is an option, I just didn't know, your efficiency drops
45 off after two days and that's just any group, so we can
46 explore three days on that, that's a wise suggestion
47 there, and in light of budget and that we'll analyze
48 that.

49
50 So that brings us up to Council

1 appointments, that can go pretty fast.

2

3 You have one appointment -- well, I'll
4 just assume you're going to reaffirm your people that are
5 on CFC, I'll just ask that before the season -- we can
6 ask again at the next meeting, Coordinating Fishery
7 Committee, that you would reaffirm your two members on
8 the Kuskokwim, Ray and Carl, and your two members on the
9 Yukon, Robert and Benedict.

10

11 (Council nods affirmatively)

12

13 So I'm assuming those are still firm and
14 we'll ask you again in spring to make sure those are
15 current.

16

17 The only other appointment I know unless
18 Benedict's is up or I'm missing one, is you appoint a
19 seat to the -- it's late in the day, the Gates of the
20 Arctic Subsistence Resource Commission. I charged ahead
21 on that because usually we're scrambling at the last
22 moment, I did contact your appointee which is Polluck
23 Simon, Sr., of Allakaket, was he still interested in
24 serving, he definitely was. So if that meets your
25 requirements, it'd probably be wise to have a motion to
26 reappoint Polluck Simon. And then if that -- well, we'll
27 wait and then I'll have a follow up.

28

29 CHAIRMAN SAM: Jack.

30

31 MR. REAKOFF: Mr. Chairman, I'm vice
32 chair of the Gates of the Arctic Subsistence Resource
33 Commission and I'm appointed by the Secretary of
34 Interior, and Polluck is a Council appointee. And
35 Polluck is Chair of the Gates of Arctic Subsistence
36 Resource Commission and I would make a motion to endorse
37 his reappointment.

38

39 CHAIRMAN SAM: Is there a second.

40

41 MR. STICKMAN: Second.

42

43 CHAIRMAN SAM: Seconded by Mickey. All
44 those in favor of the motion signify by saying aye.

45

46 IN UNISON: Aye.

47

48 CHAIRMAN SAM: Opposed, same sign.

49

50 (No opposing votes)

1 CHAIRMAN SAM: Motion carried.
2
3 MR. MATHEWS: Okay, Mr. Chairman, in
4 light of that I'll pass you a letter you can sign that
5 captures that Mr. Polluck Simon has been reappointed by
6 this Council to that Commission. So that speeds that up,
7 usually this takes three months to pull off.
8
9 CHAIRMAN SAM: Do we have to reappoint
10 our Coordinating Fisheries?
11
12 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, I think you all shook
13 heads and the record reflected that you agreed that the
14 two members for the Kuskokwim, two for the Yukon would be
15 reaffirmed. If there's any differences, we'll talk about
16 that in spring.
17
18 And, Benedict, I don't know the terms of
19 your Western Arctic Caribou thing, so I apologize I
20 didn't investigate that but I think your term is not up
21 on that caribou group; is that correct?
22
23 MR. JONES: I asked my Middle Yukon
24 Advisory Committee what is the term and all they told me
25 is it's a lifetime term.
26
27 (Laughter)
28
29 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Middle Yukon.
30
31 MR. WALKER: Forever.
32
33 (Laughter)
34
35 MR. MATHEWS: Other than that, unless
36 Council members or Staff know of any other appointments
37 that we have pending out there, they usually get lost and
38 then we scramble later, so I don't know of any.
39
40 (No comments)
41
42 MR. MATHEWS: Okay, so I'll just move
43 along here since it'll be quick.
44
45 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yes.
46
47 MR. MATHEWS: Correspondence sent and
48 received is in your book. That's a summary of it and you
49 get copies in the mail so if you have questions we can
50 bring them up, from your book.

1 (No comments)

2

3 MR. MATHEWS: Hearing none then we would
4 go into, and Ron gave his opinions on it but it still is
5 an opportunity in the January meeting for your
6 representative, either Ron or whoever goes in case Ron
7 can't, to bring up topics at the Board meeting. It is at
8 the end of the meeting, correct, so if you have any
9 topics this would be a time to share them as a Council or
10 you can call up -- well, it would be best to share it as
11 a Council at this point.

12

13 And the reason we ask now is we know
14 ahead of time then Staff can say well let's do some
15 background work on whatever that topic is.

16

17 So that's it.

18

19 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Vince. I see
20 Don Rivard's still out here and Carl Jack, too, like I
21 said in the earlier years we used to meet with the
22 Federal Subsistence Board and OSM before the Federal
23 Subsistence Board meets and that was the time we brought
24 some new topics and anything else that we wanted to
25 before the Federal Subsistence Board. Because they put
26 it at the end, I think all the Chairs said there was no
27 use to even have a meeting or bring up other topics if it
28 was at the end of the Federal Subsistence Board meeting
29 because anything else new would be brought out in the
30 regulatory process anyway.

31

32 Am I right, Don, we just don't meet with
33 the Federal Subsistence Board as Chairs anymore.

34

35 MR. RIVARD: Well, you do but it's got to
36 be in a public setting now, it can't be before the
37 meeting, it's got to be done in a public setting. And
38 that's, as you pointed out earlier, yesterday, that it's
39 due to the FACA requirements. So you still have the
40 option of bringing up topics to the Board but it all has
41 to be discussed in a public forum.

42

43 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yeah, we have the
44 opportunity and prerogative to bring them up all year
45 round, though, and I think in case of any kind of
46 emergency we submit the special action requests and
47 that's usually taken care of two weeks, as soon as Vince
48 set up a teleconference, it usually goes pretty fast. I
49 just haven't seen -- maybe I'm missing something.

50

1 Did you have a meeting with the Federal
2 Subsistence Board just by the Council Chairs only, Jack.

3
4 MR. REAKOFF: No, we didn't have an
5 individual meeting, the Council Chairs are sitting at the
6 table and we have interaction with the Board, so I feel
7 we have free flow to the Board. There's no restraint.
8 There's no timeframe to comment. And so we have pretty
9 good interaction with the Board on various issues.

10
11 CHAIRMAN SAM: Maybe I'm missing
12 something but is that the topics that we might bring up?

13
14 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, it is. We're asking
15 all the Councils, you know, when they meet before a Board
16 meeting, or every meeting if they have any topics that
17 they're going to share when Mitch Demientieff asks at the
18 end of the meeting are there some topics that you'd like
19 to talk about. And then that way, like I said earlier,
20 we can prepare, like if it happens to be your feelings on
21 antler restrictions or something that are applied
22 statewide, three brow-tines, whatever that issue is, then
23 Staff can start looking into it so the Board members are
24 better prepared to dialogue with you.

25
26 If you have no topics then when you go
27 there, then you would listen in to what other regions, if
28 they bring up other topics.

29
30 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yes, we've had that
31 opportunity and as Jack stated, we do have the
32 prerogative to testify on any proposal that any advisory
33 Council brings up and they do ask us for input. So we're
34 covered pretty much all over the place.

35
36 Was there anything else on that line?

37
38 MR. MATHEWS: No, Mr. Chairman, we just
39 want to make the opportunity that you can provide topics.

40
41 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay.

42
43 MR. MATHEWS: So that brings us.....

44
45 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Don.

46
47 MR. MATHEWS:to the future meeting
48 planning. And if you'd look at Page 164 that's the
49 window for meeting in 2006. Now, I've heard you guys
50 talk and maybe the State will share with us also, your

1 schedule, you selected a year ago and confirmed at your
2 last meeting that you want to meet in Koyukuk on March
3 8th and 9th. There was quite a bit of discussion of
4 alignment and working and paralleling with Board of Game.
5 The Board of Game for the Interior meets around that
6 time.

7

8 MS. BROWN: 10th through the 20th.

9

10 MR. MATHEWS: The 10th through the 20th.

11

12 MS. BROWN: I can't remember when they
13 start deliberations.

14

15 MR. COLLINS: Yeah, starting the 10th.

16

17 MR. MATHEWS: Okay, so the 10th through
18 the 20th, now in the past, now, this is the past, I'm not
19 saying it works this time, before you shared your
20 comments on Board proposals on the State side, so this
21 would allow that to happen, I think, because we could fax
22 them to the Board.

23

24 MS. BROWN: Yeah, they could still be put
25 in.

26

27 MR. MATHEWS: If you wanted to go that
28 way. If you wanted to go that way, I'm sorry to do this
29 this way, so if that's the case then you can still
30 position yourself on State proposals if you so desire and
31 we could get those into the system under the fax option.

32

33 Why did I bring this all up, well,
34 whatever the Board of Game does or doesn't do, then it
35 made track to the Federal Board afterwards. So it's kind
36 of like do you want to go before one Board makes its
37 decision or do you want to go after that Board to
38 position, and I don't know if it's of high enough
39 interest but I just heard you guys talk so much about it.
40 So did I lose you there, I mean, if what the Board of
41 Game you want the Federal Board to do the same or do
42 something different, you will not be aware of that and
43 not have input to the Federal Board afterwards because
44 you'll have already met and the Board of Game will have
45 not -- or you won't be able to act on Board of Game
46 actions.

47

48 CHAIRMAN SAM: If we do want anything out
49 of ADF&G, it'll be mostly housekeeping. For the most
50 part all we've been doing is just matching up or aligning

1 seasons and harvest numbers and stuff like that.

2

3

MR. MATHEWS: Okay.

4

5

CHAIRMAN SAM: It's mostly housekeeping,
6 if it does come up on the State Board of Game agenda, but
7 for the most part and for a good portion of our Council
8 we deal through the Federal system and Federal lands and
9 Federal waters.

10

11

MR. STICKMAN: Ron.

12

13

CHAIRMAN SAM: Mickey.

14

15

MR. STICKMAN: I guess the only other
16 thing that I would say is we have to consider Carl, too,
17 and Carl's spot, I mean his participation here with the
18 Western Interior because it looks like he would only be
19 able to -- well, he wouldn't be able to come here or
20 maybe even he'd only be able to go to Koyukuk for one day
21 and leave the next day. So, you know, that would be --
22 if we had any consideration for proposals to the State
23 Game Board we'd have to discuss them and pass them the
24 very first day because if Carl was going to show up in
25 Koyukuk we'd only have that one day of opportunity to
26 give him our proposals.

27

28

CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you. I think we can
29 deal with that when we get there. Because a lot of
30 proposals that you've heard of in the last couple of
31 days, I'd rather have Carl sitting up there in the State
32 Board for his deliberations and I think that he will be
33 well aware of what we're doing or trying to do or will
34 do. I believe that he's well up to speed on the
35 operation of this Council.

36

37

At this time I will ask Carl if he sees
38 any conflict coming up with that March 8th and 9th
39 meeting of the Western Interior.

40

41

MR. MORGAN: You know, it's just going to
42 cost the Western Interior just that much more money
43 because I'll be going in and I'll have to travel to
44 Koyukuk on the 7th, a done day meeting, and I'll have to
45 leave on the 9th to go to Fairbanks to start the meeting
46 on the 10th. And I don't know if you have an evening
47 session, usually sometimes we do.

48

49

MR. COLLINS: Well, we could have it a
50 day earlier.

1 CHAIRMAN SAM: Vince.
2
3 MR. MATHEWS: When we set these dates we
4 generally try to put them in the middle of the week, so
5 would it work better for Carl if you moved it to the 7th
6 and the 8th. We usually put it in the middle of the week
7 so you have a flight day there. For example, the meeting
8 in Tanana which starts on Sunday [sic] causes a lot of
9 difficulty because there's not a lot of flights on
10 Sunday, so if we shift one day, I don't see any Staffing
11 problems unless someone else in the crowd does, then does
12 that allow Carl to fully participate in the meeting as
13 well as he'd like?
14
15 MR. MORGAN: Yeah.
16
17 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you. I wasn't all
18 that worried about Uncle Sam's money but we're going to
19 spend it anyway.
20
21 (Laughter)
22
23 CHAIRMAN SAM: Benedict and I and who
24 else and a good portion of our Staff is going on to
25 Fairbanks anyway so that part wasn't really an issue.
26 But if you want to change it to the 7th and 8th that will
27 be fine with me.
28
29 MR. MATHEWS: Benedict does that work
30 with your community, the 7th and 8th.
31
32 MR. JONES: Yes.
33
34 CHAIRMAN SAM: Do we need a formal motion
35 or not?
36
37 MR. MATHEWS: No, you don't need any
38 motion, we're just getting our calendars filled out so we
39 don't conflict.
40
41 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay.
42
43 MR. MATHEWS: So that would -- it's still
44 Koyukuk 7th and 8th. Then you would need to look at a
45 year for now, when would you like to meet, and
46 Kodiak/Aleutians is the only report that I have in and
47 they're meeting on the 21st, one day the 21st. Why do I
48 bring that up, the Staff Committee members and others
49 travel to these meetings, we would prefer that we don't
50 put three meetings or more per week in there. So the

1 only one I know of now is September 21st. You guys
2 aren't going to meet in September anyways but at least
3 it's on the record. So you would look at which weeks
4 would you want to meet and we talked about it at lunch,
5 not saying that your proposal will pass, but if your
6 proposal does pass that does impact the first week of
7 October.

8
9 CHAIRMAN SAM: If I remember that right,
10 if our proposal passes we'll be free after the 2nd or so
11 because we're just extending it one week from September
12 25th for the most part?

13
14 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, but if you did get a
15 moose towards the end of that season, it'd be pretty
16 quick to put it away to get on a plane on the 2nd. I
17 don't know, maybe you're quicker than I am.

18
19 CHAIRMAN SAM: For the most part our
20 people are.

21
22 (Laughter)

23
24 CHAIRMAN SAM: When we do luck out
25 there's three or four boys, we just automatically take
26 care of it and it's put away and it's taken care of. We
27 don't wait for no spoilage out in the bush or nothing.

28
29 MR. MATHEWS: Okay.

30
31 CHAIRMAN SAM: Mickey.

32
33 MR. STICKMAN: I don't know with the
34 change in the climate and, you know, we always used to
35 say, well, we never want to have our meeting any time in
36 September but now it seems like now at the very beginning
37 would be a good time.

38
39 CHAIRMAN SAM: Robert.

40
41 MR. WALKER: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Our
42 Moose Management Working Group is going to add probably
43 five or six more days to the end of the season in
44 September so we're looking at going until October 1st or
45 2nd, so a good time would be anytime after the 9th of
46 October would be okay with me, and I can safely say Carl.

47
48 (Laughter)

49
50 MR. WALKER: And Ray kind of agreed on

1 that, too. So there's three in favor of anytime after
2 the 9th.

3

4 MR. COLLINS: Like 11 and 12 maybe.

5

6 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay, I'm hearing October
7 11 and 12 from both Ray and Jack, and it looks like
8 everybody's nodding their head yes.

9

10 (Council nods affirmatively)

11

12 CHAIRMAN SAM: This is only a tentative
13 date and that's about all we can do at this time.
14 Because whenever we schedule a meeting in one of our
15 local villages, you know, it all depends on what is going
16 on in that small local village. A few times now, even
17 villages of 200 and above, if there is a funeral when we
18 schedule these meetings, that takes preference, we
19 automatically cancel ours and either move to Fairbanks or
20 move to a later date. So it's with that understanding
21 that it's only tentative.

22

23 MR. COLLINS: But where?

24

25 CHAIRMAN SAM: We discussed this the
26 other night, too. We have been kicked out of Ruby a good
27 many times because of the Iditarod and if we do meet in
28 Ruby October 11 and 12th that will break our self-imposed
29 cycle, our regulation to have one meeting up river, one
30 meeting down river, one meeting up river, one meeting
31 down river, but this is the only time that we can
32 possibly accommodate or meet at Ruby. And then next
33 March we'll meet down river someplace else.

34

35 MR. MATHEWS: If I get the drift of the
36 Council it'll be on 11th and 12th, most likely.

37

38 (Council nods affirmatively)

39

40 CHAIRMAN SAM: I believe that's what
41 we're shooting for.

42

43 MR. MATHEWS: And I just want to advise
44 you that, and, again, I'm not sure, we're fairly certain
45 that, and maybe the State can correct us, when is the AYK
46 before the Board of Fisheries, isn't that 2006?

47

48 MR. CAMPBELL: Yes.

49

50 MR. MATHEWS: Okay, so it's 2006. The

1 last time AYK was up we did try to get together a tri-
2 Council meeting so realizing.....

3

4 (Council shakes head negatively)

5

6 MR. MATHEWS: I know.

7

8 (Laughter)

9

10 MR. MATHEWS: I realize that.....

11

12 CHAIRMAN SAM: No.

13

14 MR. MATHEWS: No. Even our fish liaison
15 is staying no -- okay, then I'll just stop.

16

17 But anyways there may be talk of a tri-
18 Council meeting at that time but we'll see.

19

20 MR. WALKER: Say that again louder.

21

22 (Laughter)

23

24 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman. That does
25 complete it, and, again, you guys are flexible within a
26 day or two. You've honored the fact that your team is
27 not going to be conflicting with another region which is
28 Eastern Interior or YK, and so I think all the needs are
29 met unless Staff Committee or other OSM Staff have
30 something we've missed here, you've met the requirements
31 and you're the first out of the hoop on the Yukon and so
32 you get your choice -- you get the first choice.

33

34 CHAIRMAN SAM: So the last thing on the
35 agenda then is Council member closing comments. Okay,
36 we'll start with Jack and head down this way.

37

38 MR. REAKOFF: I wanted to thank McGrath
39 for hosting us here and all the Staff. The Staff goes to
40 a lot of work to provide the forum for our meetings and
41 I'm highly appreciative of our Federal and the State
42 participation here.

43

44 I wanted to inform the Council, you know,
45 that we had a regulatory change for dall sheep in the
46 area that I live in, this year that regulatory change
47 assisted myself and another person in my village in
48 getting a sheep. If we didn't have those additional days
49 to hunt at the end of September we wouldn't have gotten
50 dall sheep. This program works.

1 So I feel very confident in how we work
2 through all these proposals, there's issues and things
3 that are continuously coming up and we need to work
4 together to stay in step with climatic changes and
5 population shifts but with a dual system, this is about
6 as close to semblance of a working relationship that
7 we're going to get.

8
9 I want to thank my fellow Council members
10 for their diligence in travel and in attendance and Ray
11 for hosting us at his house for dinner. And so that's
12 about all I have to say. I thought we had a real good
13 productive meeting here.

14
15 Thank you.

16
17 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Jack.
18 Benedict.

19
20 MR. JONES: Yeah, I want to thank McGrath
21 residents for hosting this meeting here this year. I
22 want to especially thank Ray for the wonderful dinner
23 last night and I was glad to hear that the fish came from
24 the Yukon, I thought it came from the Kuskokwim River.

25
26 (Laughter)

27
28 MR. JONES: It was really a productive
29 meeting, I think, a lot of issues that have been
30 resolved. And with that I want to thank the Council and
31 the Staff for hosting this meeting.

32
33 Thank you.

34
35 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Benedict. Don.

36
37 MR. HONEY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I'd
38 like to also thank the village of McGrath for hosting
39 this. I'd like to personally thank Ray also for the
40 great dinner and the beautiful home he has, the
41 hospitality he's shown us over the years, I mean just
42 with his knowledge and expertise.

43
44 I was a little disappointed in not -- I
45 mean in not having more testimony from the public. I
46 would have liked to have known how -- whichever area that
47 we're in, what problems they have been facing with the
48 wolf, the predator control, stuff like that. But beyond
49 that, it's good to be here. The last time I was here was
50 back in '75 and I think it's a beautiful community. I'm

1 just glad to be able to be here.

2

3 I also agree with Jack here that maybe
4 some of our reports out of our Refuges should come a bit
5 earlier because it seems like we're -- on the last day we
6 have a lot of questions and maybe a third day would be
7 the answer. But it seems like that the second day is
8 when we really get down to a lot of question and answer
9 stuff that's the nuts and bolts of it.

10

11 But I just want to, again, thank this
12 community and thank the Board members for traveling here
13 and for committing themselves to this.

14

15 Thank you.

16

17 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Don. Mickey.

18

19 MR. STICKMAN: Okay, me, too, I just
20 wanted to thank the city of McGrath and not only for
21 letting us have our meeting here but also for the meeting
22 space. I wanted to thank Ray for the dinner. That was
23 my second time having dinner over at Rays since I've been
24 on the Western Interior and it's always been great.

25

26 It's real important for the rest of the
27 Council here and the Staff that do go to Ray's dinner
28 that a large portion of the money that's donated goes to
29 the school for their school programs. So, you know, the
30 McGrath school here is lucky to have people like Ray that
31 cares about education.

32

33 So the only other thing that I have is I
34 wanted to thank Vince and the Staff that are still here,
35 you know, without the input from the Staff that we get,
36 we wouldn't be able to really make the tough decisions
37 that we have to make. You know, all the information that
38 you gather and provide us with is important, you know,
39 we're always talking about Western science hooking up
40 with traditional ecological knowledge and this is a
41 perfect forum for it. And without the Staff and the
42 Council here we would never have that.

43

44 And the one last thing that I had was a
45 personal thank you to Caroline Brown from the elders in
46 my region, you know, they always see her and they saw her
47 over at the Tanakanaga and in Grayling and, you know, I
48 just wanted you to know personally from the elders from
49 my region that they were personally grateful for all that
50 you do for us.

1 And one last thing, Yukon River
2 Intertribal Watershed Council, the nonprofit that's
3 trying to clean up the Yukon River, they bought
4 memberships for two people in each village along the
5 Yukon for the Yukon River Drainage Fishermen's
6 Association, and I thought that was a pretty neat idea.

7
8 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Mickey.
9 Robert.

10
11 MR. WALKER: Thank you, Mr. Chair. For
12 awhile there I thought you were going to make me last.

13
14 (Laughter)

15
16 MR. WALKER: I'd like to thank the Board
17 members. It's always nice to sit down and do get
18 something positively done and visit with one another,
19 even if it's only twice a year. And the Staff, you know,
20 if it wasn't for them a lot of this material wouldn't be
21 here so I'd like to thank them, too.

22
23 And also the State, I like to see Roy and
24 Randy even though I called Randy a devil.

25
26 (Laughter)

27
28 MR. WALKER: And I thank Tina and Vince
29 and Polly, too. Don, and all the other Fish and
30 Wildlife, and Geoff back there who was kind of holding
31 the wall up.

32
33 (Laughter)

34
35 MR. WALKER: But we did accomplish a lot
36 today. In fact, I did learn a few good pointers today
37 that got my attention when they were brought up.

38
39 I'd like to congratulate Ray on a
40 magnificent dinner, him and his beautiful wife had put up
41 for us last night, and let us watch the ball game.

42
43 (Laughter)

44
45 MR. WALKER: And I congratulate Ray on
46 being on the Board since Day 1, too, you've done a job --
47 I watched him in Huslia, when he spoke in Degatan, he had
48 the attention of the elder people there which really put
49 a little smile on my face.

50

1 Again, thank you very much. I'm glad to
2 have met some of you. I didn't meet some of you but
3 today was a day I met some of you for the first time. I
4 don't remember if I met Laura before, have I?

5
6 MS. GREFFENIUS: Allakaket.

7
8 MR. WALKER: Well, see there I go, my
9 memory's going.

10
11 Thank you very much.

12
13 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Robert. Carl.

14
15 MR. MORGAN: Again, not to be repetitive.
16 Most of the Board members have expressed their thoughts
17 and knowledge about different issues, which I have the
18 same value or thanks. But I will be repetitive and thank
19 Ray. Thank you very much for a real nice dinner. That's
20 my first time in your house and the first time I seen it
21 it was being constructed. And I'd like to thank you,
22 again, also for participating in the Kuskokwim Salmon
23 Management Working Group. You know you got me off the
24 hook, and I'd like to thank you.

25
26 (Laughter)

27
28 MR. MORGAN: I very much appreciate that.
29 And, you know, I've heard some pretty, you know, eye
30 opening stuff here, especially on the State hunt report
31 on registration, Tier II, those got some serious -- and I
32 think we've got our work cut out to do when we go home
33 and try to spread the word because they're going to start
34 implementing this and I mean start taking action on this.
35 You know, of all the education we did and time we spent
36 in Huslia last year and we stayed there until way late at
37 night on some of the regs and requirements that they have
38 to do to the antlers and it was a little disheartening to
39 hear there's still people being cited for that, and I
40 know this year you're going to be issuing a lot of
41 letters and I don't know how many you're going to be
42 acting on. I'm interested to see what the Subsistence
43 Board of Game, I guess we'll have to call Dan LaPlant,
44 because they do follow the reporting requirements that
45 are set out by the State. I haven't heard anything from
46 what the Feds are going to do in Federal land and I was
47 kind of interested to see what they're going to do when
48 these people are convicted, fined and they cannot qualify
49 for a permit there or elsewhere.

50

1 But that alone got my eyes opened so I
2 got my work cut out for me but, I'm letting you know, I'm
3 one person but I'll try to spread the word. My pockets
4 are not deep, I'll do the best I can.

5
6 Thank you.

7
8 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Carl. Ray.

9
10 MR. COLLINS: Yeah, well, I want to thank
11 you for coming to McGrath. And I enjoyed hosting you
12 last night. I'm hoping that kind of having a little more
13 informal atmosphere allowed people to do some visiting
14 and so on that doesn't happen, and I'd like to see us
15 have something like that in the future. It isn't always
16 possible but it is nice to be able to sit around and
17 visit a little bit and get acquainted with people.

18
19 Also I'd like to thank you for your
20 donations last night. After I met out of pocket, I've
21 got \$224 I'll be donating to the school so thank you for
22 that.

23
24 (Applause)

25
26 MR. COLLINS: And also I appreciate the
27 cooperation we're seeing between agencies, especially on
28 the Kuskokwim River, there's been good cooperation
29 between State and Federal and the fisheries management
30 group. And one of the things they've got coming up this
31 fall is a meeting, when they get together in the fall,
32 and share all the reports, and I'm hoping that you'll be
33 able to send me to represent the group to that meeting.
34 I know it didn't come up in this meeting but I found it
35 important to get all that information when they go in
36 depth on the projects and things, but it's good to see at
37 that level.

38
39 And that, again, is an interagency
40 meeting so it's good to see that and I hope we can keep
41 working. I think we are making progress and doing some
42 good things for the people out there.

43
44 I'll close with that, thank you.

45
46 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Ray. I don't
47 have that much but what I'm going to say is deeply felt.
48 I really would like to thank both the State Department of
49 Fish and Game and the Federal system. If you noticed,
50 while this wasn't a wildlife issues meeting, we have so

1 many meetings out there scheduled to address the wildlife
2 issues. We have a meeting here with McGrath Local
3 Advisory Committee, all the Innoko people, we have
4 meetings scheduled at Holy Cross, the GASH area, we've
5 got Koyukuk River Advisory Council meeting along with the
6 Koyukuk River Moose Meeting Work Group and these are just
7 so great to see happening all at once, especially when
8 the State Board of Game is meeting in Fairbanks. What
9 this tells me is that both agencies, both the State and
10 the Feds are more than willing to work together and set
11 up these meetings to bring all these people in,
12 especially the Local Advisory Councils. Even though we
13 have seats on some of them, we kind of leave them out of
14 the picture. And you go back through the minutes or any
15 concerns that were brought up in the past, like Carl and
16 Don Rivard can tell you, along with Vince, that we
17 addressed this issue that we would like to meet more with
18 the Local Advisory Committees. This is happening and I
19 would like to thank both the State and the Fed people for
20 getting this together and setting up the money for these
21 meetings. Like I said I see so many meetings being set
22 up to address the same issues within this month alone. I
23 do not want that to stop. I will be forever grateful to
24 all of you for making that happen. That is something
25 that I haven't seen since I started serving on the
26 Western Interior Council.

27
28 Again, while everybody's kind of tired of
29 being last, these agency reports being last, we, as
30 Council members are getting kind of ear-achy, too, from
31 that.

32
33 (Laughter)

34
35 CHAIRMAN SAM: But we do try to
36 accommodate everybody.

37
38 And through that courtesy I believe that
39 we've thanked you in the past, all the Staff members from
40 both the State and the Feds for working with us, bearing
41 with us and putting up with us, and like I said we are
42 now bearing fruits. We have so many meetings scheduled
43 all this month and all the way through January working
44 together and that is what I never expected to see when I
45 started working with the Western Interior.

46
47 Last, but not least, I would like to
48 thank Ray for hosting us and feeding us again.

49
50 And thank you one and all, let's give the

1 Staff a big hand.

2

3 (Applause)

4

5 CHAIRMAN SAM: And thank you to Tina and
6 Vince for always being here.

7

8 MR. COLLINS: Mr. Chairman.

9

10 CHAIRMAN SAM: Go ahead, Ray. Then
11 Vince. Go ahead.

12

13 MR. COLLINS: I'm always forgetting
14 something, I'll have to apologize for my age. I'd wanted
15 to mention that it wasn't that the McGrath people weren't
16 interested for not showing up last night, but most of
17 their hunting that they're concerned about now is right
18 around McGrath on State land and tomorrow we're meeting
19 with the State here and having the Advisory Committee in
20 and there'll be a lot of input on that. But we'll also
21 be discussing about how to increase bear harvest so what
22 we share at that time may have bearing on the rest of you
23 in the future. So it wasn't lack of interest it was just
24 the fact that it's the State land and their pressing
25 issues right now are on State land.

26

27 So thank you.

28

29 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Ray. Vince,
30 you had something else.

31

32 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, just two housekeeping
33 items.

34

35 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay.

36

37 MR. MATHEWS: One is nominations are up
38 so the three seats that are up in your region for 2006
39 are Benedict Jones, Carl Morgan, and the former seat of
40 George Siavelis, so you guys, if you want to reapply,
41 there's applications here but there's also a miracle here
42 with that vacant seat that we can pick up someone else so
43 other Council members could help us get good applicants
44 for that. And looking at a map last night late in the
45 evening, we don't have representation for the
46 Koyukuk/Nowitna Refuge, mainly the Koyukuk up north from
47 Huslia so maybe you could encourage some people to apply
48 from Huslia.

49

50 In addition, the last housekeeping item,

1 the charter which I didn't have a chance to call, will be
2 8:00 a.m., tomorrow unless I have something different so
3 you're going to have to keep in touch with me. I'm not
4 going to be able, tonight, to run to each of your
5 locations so you're going to have to the locations to say
6 you need earlier breakfast because where I'm staying,
7 they start at 8, well, that's not going to work. So
8 I'll leave that upon you to do that. And then I'll try
9 to let you know if there's a change in that. The reason
10 it's 8:00 is so that we can get back to Fairbanks so you
11 guys can connect with 1:00 o'clock flights. That's the
12 reason we're doing it. It takes 45 minutes to turnaround
13 in Anchorage assuming there's no security problems.
14

15 So anyways 8:00 o'clock unless you hear
16 different. And then talk to your hotels about you need
17 earlier breakfasts on that.
18

19 Any billing with lodging do not pay. You
20 do not pay lodging, you guys should know that by now but
21 in case they come up and say, you need to pay for your
22 room, this is for Council members only.
23

24 (Laughter)
25

26 MR. MATHEWS: We've already paid that.
27 If there's any confusion tell me and I'll go talk to
28 them. I will try to meet with them to clear up the
29 billing. Meals are on your, you know, nickel which we
30 reimburse through per diem. And that's all the logistics
31 I have.
32

33 MR. REAKOFF: Vince, we're all meeting
34 over at that B&B restaurant where we've been eating for
35 the charter departure?
36

37 MR. MATHEWS: Right. Yeah, I can meet
38 you there. Some of you guys are staying in -- yeah, I
39 get you now, Jack, yes, meet at the main lobby of the
40 hotel there or the PenAir check station, whatever that's
41 called now.
42

43 MR. REAKOFF: Right.
44

45 MR. MATHEWS: Be there by 8:00 and then
46 we can coffee if the plane is late or just jump on the
47 plane if it's on time.
48

49 CHAIRMAN SAM: The Chair will entertain a
50 motion to adjourn.

1 MR. STICKMAN: So moved.
2
3 CHAIRMAN SAM: Second.
4
5 (Laughter)
6
7 MR. HONEY: Second. Aye.
8
9 (Laughter)
10
11 CHAIRMAN SAM: All those in favor signify
12 by saying aye.
13
14 IN UNISON: Aye.
15
16 CHAIRMAN SAM: Opposed, same sign.
17
18 (No opposing votes)
19
20 CHAIRMAN SAM: Motion carried. Thank you
21 all, one and all.
22
23 (Off record)
24
25 (END OF PROCEEDINGS)

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C E R T I F I C A T E

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA)
)ss.
STATE OF ALASKA)

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 161 through 328 contain a full, true and correct Transcript of the WESTERN INTERIOR FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING, VOLUME II taken electronically by Salena Hile on the 5th day of October 2005, beginning at the hour of 9:00 o'clock a.m. at McGrath, 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 16th day of October 2005.

Joseph P. Kolasinski
Notary Public in and for Alaska
My Commission Expires: 03/12/08