

**WESTERN INTERIOR ALASKA  
FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE REGIONAL  
ADVISORY COUNCIL**

**VOLUME I  
PUBLIC MEETING**

October 6, 1998  
Allakaket Community Hall  
9:45 a.m.  
Allakaket, Alaska

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

CARL MORGAN, CHAIRMAN  
RONALD SAM, VICE-CHAIRMAN  
ANGELA DEMIENTIEFF, SECRETARY  
RAYMOND L. COLLINS, MEMBER  
BENEDICT JONES, MEMBER  
HENRY DEACON, MEMBER  
JACK L. REAKOFF, MEMBER  
MICHAEL STICKMAN, MEMBER  
SAMSON HENRY, MEMBER

Vince Mathews, Coordinator

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1 P R O C E E D I N G S

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3 (On record: 9:45 a.m.)

4 //

5 MR. MORGAN: Yeah, good morning. I think we're getting  
6 ready to get started. Got the sound system all figured out.  
7 At this time I'd like to call the meeting to order at 9:45.  
8 Roll call, please.

9 //

10 MR. MATHEWS: Can everybody hear me? All right.

11 Carl Morgan ....

12 //

13 MR. MORGAN: Here.

14 //

15 MR. MATHEWS: Ron Sam ....

16 //

17 MR. SAM: Here.

18 //

19 MR. MATHEWS: Angela Demientieff ....

20 //

21 MS. DEMIENTIEFF: Here.

22 //

23 MR. MATHEWS: Ray Collins ....

24 //

25 MR. COLLINS: Here.

26 //

27 MR. MATHEWS: Benedict Jones ....

28 //

29 MR. JONES: Here.

30 //

31 MR. MATHEWS: Henry Deacon ....

32 //

33 MR. DEACON: Here.

34 //

35 MR. MATHEWS: Jack Reakoff ....

36 //

37 MR. REAKOFF: Here.

38 //

39 MR. MATHEWS: Michael Stickman ....

40 //

41 MR. STICKMAN: Here.

42 //

43 MR. MATHEWS: Samson Henry ....

44 //

45 MR. HENRY: Here.

46 //

47 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, we have nine members out of  
48 nine. So, we obviously have a quorum.

49 //

50 MR. MORGAN: Thank you. And next on the agenda is

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1 introduction of council members.

2 //

3 MR. MATHEWS: You want me to do that or ....

4 //

5 MR. MORGAN: Yes.

6 //

7 MR. MATHEWS: Okay. All right. I can handle it. I'll  
8 go through the new members and then we'll go to the seasoned  
9 members. The new members are, Samson Henry, at the end of the  
10 table there. He's from Allakaket. The other new member is  
11 Mickey Stickman at this end of the table from Nulato. The rest  
12 of the members going from Samson to his left, my right is  
13 Jack Reakoff from Wiseman, Angela Demientieff from Holy Cross,  
14 Benedict Jones from Koyukuk, Carl Morgan from Aniak, Ronnie Sam  
15 from Alatna, and Ray Collins from McGrath, and then  
16 Henry Deacon from Grayling.

17 //

18 MR. MORGAN: Also the agency and staff ....

19 //

20 MR. MATHEWS: Well, I think to save my voice for the  
21 remainder of the meeting I'll start off by introducing myself  
22 and then others could probably come up to the mike since we do  
23 have new members and some new staff here. I'm Vince Mathews  
24 the Regional Coordinator for Western and Eastern Interior. I  
25 work with the Fish and Wildlife Service out of Fairbanks.

26 //

27 MR. DeMATTEO: Pete DeMatteo, I work with the Fish and  
28 Wildlife Service. I'm a biologist out of Anchorage.

29 //

30 MR. SHERROD: George Sherrod, Interior anthropologist.  
31 I'm stationed in Fairbanks.

32 //

33 MS. MAXWELL: Mary Maxwell, Kanuti National Refuge,  
34 Fish and Wildlife Service.

35 //

36 MR. YOKEL: Good morning. I'm Dave Yokel with the  
37 Bureau of Land Management in Fairbanks.

38 //

39 MR. SKINNER: I'm Bob Skinner (Indiscernible - away  
40 from microphone) Fish and Wildlife Refuge.

41 //

42 MS. SAPERSTIEN: Lisa Saperstien, wildlife biologist.

43 //

44 MR. DENTON: I'm Jeff Denton, biologist for the  
45 Anchorage Bureau of Land Management.

46 //

47 MR. McCLELLAN: I'm Greg McClellan. I'm the assistant  
48 coordinator for the Kanuti National Wildlife Refuge.

49 //

50 MR. ULVI: Steve Ulvi with Gates of the Arctic National

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1 Park. Very pleased to be here.

2 //

3 MR. MILLS: Dave Mills, superintendent, Gates of the  
4 Arctic National Park.

5 //

6 MR. MATHEWS: Maybe Bill can start off at the back.

7 //

8 MR. KNAUER: I'm Bill Knauer. I'm with the Fish and  
9 Wildlife Subsistence in Anchorage, regulations and policy.

10 //

11 MS. ROBERTS: Joanna Roberts, Fish and Wildlife Service  
12 (Indiscernible - away from microphone).

13 //

14 MR. HUNTINGTON: I'm Orville Huntington. I represent  
15 (Indiscernible - away from microphone)

16 //

17 MR. FARMER: I'm Robert Farmer. (Indiscernible - away  
18 from microphone)

19 //

20 MR. GABE SAM: I'm Gabe Sam (Indiscernible - away from  
21 microphone) Tanana Chiefs Conference.

22 //

23 MR. LYNUS: I'm Paul Lynus. I'm (Indiscernible - away  
24 from microphone)

25 //

26 MR. SAM: Mr. Chairman, I'd like to thank and recognize  
27 Paul Lynus. He's been instrumental in getting all the  
28 transportation, the hall and getting people housed, and I'd  
29 like to thank the Allakaket Tribal Council for all their  
30 efforts in getting this meeting going. They had hopes that we  
31 could house over half of the people over Alatna, we had some  
32 good new housing. But, the ice starting running so it dumped  
33 everything on Allakaket, and again I'd like to thank Paul Lynus  
34 and the Allakaket Tribal Council. Thank you.

35 //

36 MR. MORGAN: Thank you. Honored guests ....

37 //

38 MR. SAM: Mr. Chairman, I'd like to introduce them as  
39 they come in, if they come in, and recognize them.

40 //

41 MR. MORGAN: Yes. We've already recognized the new  
42 council members. Item Number IV, opening comments, could we --  
43 is by Allakaket -- Alatna elder.

44 //

45 MR. SAM: Probably ....

46 //

47 MR. MORGAN: When they come in later? Okay. Item  
48 Number V, Council Member Concerns and Topics. Well, if -- we  
49 can start from ....

50 //

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1 MR. SAM: Jack ....

2 //

3 MR. MORGAN: .... Jack, or the new council members.

4 //

5 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, for a new member maybe we  
6 ought to explain what this topic item is. For Mickey and  
7 Samson, this is the time where council members can bring up any  
8 concerns that they have that they're bringing from their  
9 communities or their areas, and just bring them up, and then  
10 the chair may ask you if you want it to be an agenda item or if  
11 you just want it to be information. So, it can be concerns,  
12 topics, anything like that. So, it's an open time for  
13 discussion.

14 //

15 MR. MORGAN: Any concern you have of this area,  
16 anything you want to bring up.

17 //

18 MR. HENRY: One of the things I'd like to talk about or  
19 just think about is the wolves. We have a lot of wolves around  
20 this area that comes down in wintertime, they even come around  
21 here and -- around this village. There's usually two around  
22 this village and -- quite a bit wolves. I know earlier I went  
23 back Kanuti River and then there was four right in --  
24 underneath a bluff -- right underneath a bluff, and then just  
25 about a mile above there there was a cow and a calf, and  
26 population of moose is going down around this area. And,  
27 there's too many grizzlies, nobody hunt them anymore.

28 //

29 MR. MORGAN: Jack?

30 //

31 MR. REAKOFF: I'm still very concerned with this snare  
32 proposal that's going to come on the ballot. I think that the  
33 council should make a news release or a -- some kind of a stand  
34 on -- you know, the council should make a stand so that the  
35 public in Anchorage can understand that the consensus is in  
36 favor of the snare use. I'm not sure how the council would  
37 want to address that. Snaring is very -- it's like more than  
38 half of the take from trapping is from snaring. I'm -- I'm  
39 concerned with -- as usual in our area in this bow and arrow  
40 only hunt with the high wound loss of moose. There was -- I  
41 know of one moose that was killed with bows and arrows near  
42 Wiseman and five were wounded, and the wanton waste -- I'm not  
43 sure there's anything we can do about it, but that's one of my  
44 concerns is the -- it's an unknown harvest. You know, they  
45 don't look -- those don't reflect in the harvest data, but  
46 it's -- those moose are dying, and I'm concerned with the high  
47 amount of wound loss, and then the undocumented of that kill  
48 rate. You know, that's not reflecting in the harvest. We had  
49 a lot more bow hunters around the -- up in the -- in that  
50 country this fall, so there was a lot of moose that got

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1 wounded.

2

3 Another concern I have is this letter we got from the  
4 Park Service regional -- Deputy Regional Director Paul Anderson  
5 regarding the free-ranging furbearer issue. And, the Park  
6 Service's position that they have management authority under  
7 methods and means and bag limits which supersede Federal Board  
8 authority, and I -- they state in this thing that they're going  
9 to maintain no shooting of free-ranging furbearers on trapping  
10 license, and they state that they were worried that the bag  
11 limits were too excessive. I still disagree with this  
12 methodology that the Park Service -- the regional office has  
13 taken regarding management, sort of a side-line management of  
14 park resources through a decision that doesn't have local  
15 knowledge input, you know, that -- I feel that the Federal  
16 Board should go to the -- should have a solicitor decide -- the  
17 Park Service is stating something that they feel that they  
18 should be able to set seasons and bag limits arbitrarily under  
19 their exclusive authority. It's my opinion that the Federal  
20 Board should look at whether that's a correct interpretation of  
21 federal subsistence management, and that's a deep concern.  
22 Because it's my opinion that then if this is allowed to set a  
23 precedence regional office could start setting mains(ph)  
24 restrictions. Well, what's next? They're going to close  
25 trapping? Arbitrarily think that trapping is not correct and  
26 start reducing things arbitrarily.  
27 //

28 I feel that subsistence should be managed by the  
29 Federal Subsistence Board, and only under extreme  
30 circumstances -- Park Service can have input into the process  
31 also, but when they -- regional office didn't go along with the  
32 wishes of this council was that free-ranging furbearers should  
33 be allowed to be taken under a trapping license which is  
34 traditional -- customary and traditional in Alaska, and this is  
35 a divergence, and I don't want to see the Park Service start to  
36 go off in management structure that's vastly different than the  
37 Federal Board process of local input. And, I would like to see  
38 the Federal Board get a solicitor to -- a lawyer to interpret  
39 whether that's a correct line for the Park Service to take.  
40 The Park Service is saying one thing, I feel that the Federal  
41 Board should investigate and see if that's a correct  
42 interpretation. I don't want to take it at face value. Those  
43 are my concerns currently.

44 //

45 MR. MORGAN: Angie?

46 //

47 MS. DEMIENTIEFF: Thank you, Mr. Chair. First, of all  
48 I'd like to recognize -- who is our reporter this time?

49 //

50 COURT REPORTER: Kelly Breeden.

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1 MS. DEMIENTIEFF: Kelly?

2 //

3 COURT REPORTER: Yes.

4 //

5 MS. DEMIENTIEFF: Thank you. We have one concern and  
6 that's our moose season. We're still having problems with  
7 people coming in. We actually had a helicopter flying around  
8 Reindeer Lake and spotting moose. The pilot of that helicopter  
9 is one of the Fish and Game people out of Bethel again. The  
10 same guy we talked about before who was trapping. Now he's  
11 (Indiscernible - away from microphone) and helicopter, and no  
12 one seems to pay any attention to the people in Holy Cross  
13 talking about it. They just say oh he's on his own. I thought  
14 we were a closed area -- controlled use area. And, the other  
15 concern is our people are looking -- really looking forward to  
16 Federal taking over the fishing. Since we -- as everybody  
17 knows we had a real bad fishing season this year. We had  
18 hardly any fish on the Yukon River.

19 //

20 MR. MORGAN: Benedict?

21 //

22 MR. JONES: My concern is mostly in that Koyukuk area  
23 especially the -- on the Yukon area there's -- it seems like  
24 there's more grizzlies moving into the area off the mountains  
25 because their habitat in the mountain areas is deplete or  
26 something. So the -- for that they're taking quite a few moose  
27 calves in our area. And, also the black bears, the black bears  
28 are really depleted this year. Couple of weeks ago I went  
29 moose hunting up the Koyukuk River and I stopped quite a few  
30 places for -- looking for black bear sign. I didn't see not  
31 one track all the way up the Koyukuk. And, I'm glad that the  
32 Federal and State is allowing the non-resident hunters to take  
33 wolves this year so that keeps our wolf population down. And,  
34 we did fairly good on local trappers getting few wolves out of  
35 the Koyukuk River area this year. So, it's keeping our wolf  
36 population down a little bit, especially the Galena/Koyukuk  
37 area so that moose population is stabilized in that area.  
38 Thank you.

39 //

40 MR. MORGAN: Well, the concern I hear from 19(A) and B  
41 is that our concern it's getting worse is the out of state  
42 guiding, outfitters coming in. It's bad because at that time  
43 they start in August for the caribou, and they just got done  
44 this -- not long for the brown bear. We feel -- I know most of  
45 our land is mostly State, but it's the moose that they're  
46 after -- mostly the moose. It's getting worse. It's  
47 getting -- we've got too many guides and outfitters since -- I  
48 don't know if that's the only part of the state -- one part of  
49 the state that's not being regulated. Even people that were  
50 very sympathetic for guides and outfitters and people coming in

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1 are starting to talk. It's getting bad. The -- we see in the  
2 dump, there's meat showing up in the dump. It's -- these  
3 people are not after the meat. They're after the horns. We  
4 want to -- I know even in -- while I was up in Sleetmute they  
5 were talking -- they come down the Hoholitna, and in an island,  
6 it looked like a village, it's for the rafters that come float  
7 down. And, they're concerned of the pollution, the human  
8 pollution, I mean trash. And, it's -- it's getting the point  
9 where it's getting -- to the elders it's getting -- you know,  
10 here it's -- it's sacrificial. They've never seen it that way.  
11 It's -- it really hurts them that when they go to the dump it's  
12 the meat. And, when they do bring it in -- they do give the  
13 meat away, what they can. It's in bags, they put it in bags.  
14 It's not on -- and the bags are sealed. You open the bags and  
15 they're pretty powerful, and that's wanton waste. They say if  
16 that's not wanton waste, what is, and they're wanting help. I  
17 say I'll bring it up to -- make it known here.

18 And, they also were trying to set up a meeting there  
19 with all the concerned people that something's going to have  
20 to -- there's -- it's even getting to the point where some of  
21 the residents are -- you know, there's some bad words back and  
22 forth, and that never used to happen, never used to happen.  
23 And, this year it's getting -- so that's one of our big  
24 concerns. We don't want to react after there's none. We've  
25 got a predator problem with the wolves, and we know that  
26 caribou crash, and we don't want to wait until then. We  
27 want -- whatever man makes, man usually destroys and bigger and  
28 harder than nature. Ron ....  
29 //

30 MR. SAM: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I see a lot of  
31 staff here, and my comments will be directed both to Federal  
32 and the State. As you all know, we have the Koyukuk River  
33 Advisory Council meeting on Wednesday afternoon -- Wednesday  
34 evening. Forewarned is forearmed, so I'll try to cover  
35 concerns for both subsistence and the State regulatory system.  
36 We are concerned about our controlled use areas. We want to  
37 expand it, but then we do not want to jeopardize our controlled  
38 use areas. Again, as Samson mentioned we are concerned about  
39 wolves and their moose take, and the hunter influx both by  
40 planes and boats from both ends of our river. That's one of  
41 the things that we want to keep our controlled use areas in  
42 tact and if not expand them. On other thing that we will be  
43 bringing up to both what -- all agencies will be that we want  
44 to subdivide Unit 24, but that takes -- that will be taking  
45 place as we go along. The next time we appear before the Board  
46 of Game is March 2000. So, forewarned is forearmed and we may  
47 need some help from our biologists.  
48 //

49 I've got one -- every time we see surveys of our moose  
50 population on the Koyukuk River the area always shown as

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1 high -- as sustainable and high population, and we're pos- --  
2 we think that there's some discrepancies on this because we  
3 think that they -- all the surveys aren't done at the same  
4 spots yearly. They might be moving around and then made the  
5 count look good while it may be in decline.

6 //

7 The other concern that we'll be bringing before both  
8 councils -- I mean, both the Federal and State agencies will be  
9 the enforcement of all our laws, our regulations in effect at  
10 this time. One glaring one is that we reported a couple of  
11 moose taken just for the horns with the body left out there  
12 wanton waste, and it -- we reported it. We never got no  
13 answers, nobody say too late to go out and investigate. But  
14 yet when that confrontation happened out at Kobuk they had five  
15 or six different agencies out there now. And, that's the kind  
16 of importance we want to see when comes to wanton waste.

17 //

18 And, let's see -- BLM is here. This fire suppression  
19 we've been dealing with, we'd like to see more regulations or  
20 draft regulations be addressed out in the village level.  
21 Because while the "let's burn" policy might be good for the  
22 moose and caribou, it sure doesn't do any good for all our  
23 furbearing animals, and that is one of our concerns because we  
24 haven't had good trapping for quite some time now. We have  
25 some areas that's burned year after year and it's a let's burn  
26 policy area.

27 //

28 Our last concern is water quality. I've been testing  
29 the river all summer and it's been pretty high both in E. coli  
30 content and all the other bacterial forms. When we travel and  
31 hunt we use the water right out of the river, but we boil it to  
32 make coffee and tea. We drink water right out of the river.  
33 But, this is the worst year in history that we've had bacterial  
34 content, and it's just cannot be animals because animals are  
35 there forever and this is the first time it's been so bad.  
36 That concludes my comments.

37 //

38 MR. MORGAN: Ray?

39 //

40 MR. COLLINS: I had a call the 30th of September from a  
41 local individual kind of irate that points out one of the  
42 problems with the State and the Federal regulations he -- the  
43 State's season's cut on the 25th, and finally on the 30th he  
44 found out that he could have been hunting on some BLM land that  
45 wasn't too far from McGrath because it was open till 30th.  
46 And, he thought it had been a special opening, so he was really  
47 concerned that why didn't BLM announce it on the radio and so  
48 on, and then he found out that it was announced in here. I  
49 don't know how we can do a better job of informing people with  
50 the two systems and the two areas and the maps and so on, but

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1 it's just -- it was finally resolved, he found out why. But,  
2 meanwhile he had lost a week of hunting and was kind of irate  
3 that he could have gone out. So, I guess we've got to  
4 constantly think about updating maps and other kinds of things,  
5 of making people aware of where they can and can't hunt.  
6 //

7 I also observed a lot of meat loss this fall, because  
8 we have a local fellow that sets up and cuts up meat in the  
9 fall during the hunting seasons. Well, they weren't getting  
10 out of the camps soon enough and they were -- I saw the  
11 four-wheelers go by with a bag of meat, and I could smell it  
12 too, and pretty soon I see them coming back from -- towards the  
13 river again because he wouldn't accept it, it was just too bad  
14 shape. I think we've got the meat on the bone regulations in  
15 some, but we might want to look at that and make sure that our  
16 areas where we can that that's there. Because he said when  
17 it's on the bone usually he can salvage what's -- around the  
18 bone will stay sweet, even the outside. But, maybe they  
19 shouldn't be allowed to use plastic bags or something on that  
20 stuff when they bring it in, that it should all be in cloth  
21 bags or -- I don't know how we get at it, but I think there is  
22 a lot of meat being wasted every year, and a lot of it's coming  
23 off Federal land too and how -- what can be done to see that  
24 they better handle it. Because I think that many people just  
25 aren't prepared, that they haven't handled those big animals.  
26 The air taxis aren't responsible for getting that stuff out.  
27 The guides are supposed to be responsible for their activity.  
28 But, it's something to look at.  
29 //

30 Jack said something about snares, and I'm wondering if  
31 that State regulation passed. Since subsistence hunters are  
32 trapping on Federal land in some places, whether they can  
33 continue to use snares. Is that going to apply? Because it's  
34 interfering with subsistence lifestyle, and maybe it could be  
35 that it would not apply for traditional subsistence on Federal  
36 lands at least. But, it's something to look at perhaps.  
37 That's all that comes to mind.

38 //

39 MR. MORGAN: Go ahead, Jack.

40 //

41 MR. REAKOFF: One part of that referendum is that you  
42 can't sell the fur of a snared animal. So, even if you catch  
43 it then how are you going to get rid of it?

44 //

45 MR. COLLINS: Okay. So that would get at that. Yeah.

46 //

47 MR. MORGAN: Henry?

48 //

49 MR. DEACON: Our concern around my area is that a lot  
50 of wolves, there's a lot of wolves down there. Another concern

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1 is the land corporation, individual lands, (Indiscernible -  
2 away from microphone) Holy Cross. They got no trespass sign on  
3 their corporation lands. I don't really know some the  
4 concerns. A lot of people just come up and (Indiscernible -  
5 away from microphone) with us. Even if there is no sign --  
6 seems to me there's no Federals. They don't mind their land  
7 pretty -- not good ones. State -- I never see them come around  
8 to check on hunters or any guides, and I kind of wonder -- like  
9 the waste of meat, that's a serious thing. That's got to be --  
10 that should be looked into right away by the Federal and State  
11 to get the waste that's going -- people from out in the Lower  
12 48 hunt just -- the guide should be responsible for the waste  
13 of the meat. It's out of hand. It's no management because I  
14 see it myself. For our area, I know we're going to have a new  
15 gas power(ph) from each village, and we'll be opposing that  
16 stuff that's going to be going to be coming on.

17 //

18 One of the things that should be -- Federal should  
19 manage their -- that better. They're trying, but it's not  
20 good. State is -- I think they look the other way when they  
21 come into Aniak and McGrath. It's sad to see the meat go to  
22 waste. Sport hunters that's -- I don't know how they can do  
23 that. There's talk about possible suggesting that -- from the  
24 mouth of the Innoko River to Holy Cross how the season will  
25 shut down so -- because most of that land is owned by the  
26 Native people. You know, that that's the suggestion that's  
27 coming up.

28 //

29 There are a lot of other problems but, you know, it's  
30 just -- those guides should be monitored, and the thing that's  
31 coming in now to this is what you call a six pack. You know,  
32 they call it a six pack and bring out their friends from the  
33 Lower 48. And, that's going to be out of hand because it  
34 already is.

35 //

36 MR. MORGAN: Mike -- Michael?

37 //

38 MR. STICKMAN: Okay. I have a few concerns in our  
39 area. I'm from the same area as Ben, but I hunt up -- I -- you  
40 know, we can either hunt up the Koyukuk River, or we have our  
41 own customary area that we use across in the Kaiyuh Flats.  
42 And, this year -- there was some guiding done back in the  
43 Kaiyuh Flats this year, and that was new for the residents of  
44 Nulato and Kaltag. And, even though the guides were local  
45 guides from out of Kaltag, the people in Kaltag and Nulato had  
46 a concern about -- you know, because this is a new user group  
47 moving into our area. You know, we never ever saw guides or  
48 outfitters back there before in the Kaiyuh Flats, but this year  
49 we did. So, it was a concern for the people in Nulato and for  
50 the people in Kaltag because there was, you know, a new user

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1 there. And, there is a lot of wolves back there in the Kaiyuh  
2 Flats, so I don't think the moose population can handle a new  
3 user group, not in the Kaiyuh Flats anyway.

4 //

5 And, you know, like everybody is talking about wanton  
6 waste, you know. Up the Koyukuk River you see a -- you see a  
7 lot of waste coming out of the Koyukuk River because they just  
8 don't take care of their meat good. You know, they don't hang  
9 it, they don't smoke it. You know, they just put it in bags  
10 and they haul it around like that for three or -- two or three  
11 days, and so you see a lot of waste coming out of the  
12 Koyukuk River. You know, and it's not the local hunters who is  
13 doing it, you know. You go to the meat processors in Fairbanks  
14 and they turn away a lot of meat because of the meat being too  
15 bad, you know. So, that's the only real concern I have is the  
16 new user group in the Kaiyuh Flats area.

17 //

18 MR. MORGAN: Thank you. Item Number IV, additions or  
19 corrections to the agenda. Are there any additions?

20 //

21 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman ....

22 //

23 MR. MORGAN: Vince?

24 //

25 MR. MATHEWS: .... I've had no contacts from any public  
26 or agencies for additions to the agenda. There may be council  
27 members or staff here or public that may want to ask to have  
28 something added or changed or clarified. And, of course, all  
29 of the council concerns, you may want to consider those also.  
30 Not all of them, but you may want to consider some.

31 //

32 MR. MORGAN: Ron?

33 //

34 MR. SAM: Yeah. Mr. Chairman, a lot of people are busy  
35 at this time of year, a lot of tribal council members are  
36 gearing up for AFN with all their concerns, and we will have  
37 council members and elders coming in and out. I would like the  
38 agenda open to go ahead and recognize some elders or council  
39 members and put them in as needed if possible.

40 //

41 MR. MORGAN: Okay. Yes.

42 //

43 MR. MORGAN: Any more changes? Ron?

44 //

45 MR. SAM: Mr. Chairman, I'd like to move to adopt the  
46 agenda as presented.

47 //

48 MR. MORGAN: There's a motion to adopt the agenda as  
49 presented with the ....

50 //

00013

1 MR. SAM: Stipulations.

2 //

3 MR. MORGAN: .... stipulations and leave it open.

4 //

5 MS. DEMIENTIEFF: Second.

6 //

7 MR. MORGAN: Been seconded by Angie.

8 //

9 MR. JONES: Questions.

10 //

11 MR. MORGAN: Question's been called for. All in favor  
12 of adopting agenda signify by saying aye.

13 //

14 ALL MEMBERS: Aye.

15 //

16 MR. MORGAN: All opposed, same sign. Agenda has been  
17 adopted. Item Number VII, approval of the February 25th and  
18 26th '98 Fairbanks meeting minutes.

19 //

20 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, the minutes are found under  
21 tab C, and in the past we've kind of given you -- the council's  
22 decided to take a few minutes to review them to see if they  
23 match. There was no comments sent in - unless I forgot some,  
24 and if there are some the staff would remind me - no  
25 corrections or additions provided me unless someone -- unless I  
26 forgot, but I have no notes of any coming in. (Pause)

27 //

28 MR. MORGAN: Did council have enough time to look over  
29 the minutes? One minute. (Pause)

30 //

31 MR. COLLINS: Mr. Chairman, I move approval of the  
32 minutes as presented.

33 //

34 MR. MORGAN: There's a motion to approve the minutes of  
35 February 25th and 25th, '98 as presented.

36 //

37 MR. SAM: Seconded.

38 //

39 MR. MORGAN: Seconded by Ron. Any discussion,  
40 corrections? Got a question?

41 //

42 MR. LYNUS: Yeah. On the proposal (Indiscernible -  
43 away from microphone). I just (Indiscernible - away from  
44 microphone) sometimes the -- they do over populate and then --  
45 when they do they run out of food and they starve.

46 //

47 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, could Paul explain where  
48 he's reading from so maybe we can ....

49 //

50 MR. LYNUS: It's the minutes from the last meeting.

00014

1 MR. MATHEWS: But what page?

2 //

3 MR. SAM: Page 4.

4 //

5 MR. MORGAN: Page 4.

6 //

7 MR. MATHEWS: Page 4.

8 //

9 MR. MORGAN: On Unit 19.

10 //

11 MR. LYNUS: (Indiscernible - away from microphone)

12 //

13 MR. SAM: No, it shouldn't matter. I think we  
14 blanketed all of them.

15 //

16 MR. COLLINS: Right. Unit ....

17 //

18 MR. LYNUS: (Indiscernible - away from microphone)

19 //

20 MR. MORGAN: Anymore discussions on the minutes?

21 //

22 MR. SAM: Question.

23 //

24 MR. MORGAN: Question's been called for. All in favor  
25 of approving the minutes of February 25th, 26th, '98 signify by  
26 saying aye.

27 //

28 ALL MEMBERS: Aye.

29 //

30 MR. MORGAN: All opposed same sign. The minutes have  
31 been approved. Item Number VIII, Regional Council members'  
32 reports, chair's reports, Joint Regional Council Chairs meeting  
33 on May 3rd. We had that in the evening of May 3rd and most --  
34 I think almost all the members -- the chairmen were present,  
35 and it was informing of everybody of what we're doing -- are  
36 doing. And, the biggest item that keep coming up was the C & T  
37 determinations. We wanted something that -- and I think it --  
38 you will see in what we've done in the Western is to -- and I  
39 think the consent there was to make it more inclusive than more  
40 restrictive, and we wanted to bring it up to the Subsistence  
41 Board for the next day -- meeting with them.

42 //

43 And, that came out -- that was one of the biggest  
44 things that came out. We didn't want to -- we had too many  
45 different C & T proposals that was conflicting or overlapping  
46 and -- by approving certain proposals we'd exclude somebody  
47 else. And, I don't think consensus of that meeting -- that was  
48 most of the discussion, was on the C & T. How could we make it  
49 more inclusive when there's no need be. I mean, we could make  
50 it restrictive when there's a shortage. That can always be

00015

1 done at a later date, and so we came out with that, and it was  
2 very good meeting. I -- and what we brought up -- I think the  
3 Western brought up was -- and they liked and I brought it up  
4 that we invite want -- we invite our neighboring chairmen to  
5 our meetings. I think Willie Goodman wrote a letter to come to  
6 this, but I don't know if he's going to make it.

7 //

8 MR. MATHEWS: I doubt -- Willie Goodman did express  
9 interest in coming to this council meeting but they -- his  
10 travel plans got switched and he attended I believe the  
11 North Slope one. For those that don't know, Willie Goodman is  
12 the chair I believe of the Northwest Regional Advisory Council  
13 which is Unit 23. So, anyway ....

14 //

15 MR. MORGAN: All and all it was a real good meeting and  
16 I felt very comfortable. It was my first time meeting with  
17 them. It -- I don't know. I just feel relaxed when I talk  
18 about subsistence. It just something maybe I live. Anyway,  
19 that was the May 3rd meeting. The Joint Regional Council  
20 Chairs for the Federal Board was meet -- that was a good  
21 meeting. I enjoyed it. It was very -- I didn't feel that I  
22 was out of place. I felt very comfortable. I argued our  
23 points, brought it out to them, argued with staff.

24 //

25 And, the -- with the other meeting, I'll just go ahead  
26 and go into the Subsistence Board meeting. And, our proposals  
27 went to that meet -- some of them they kind of disagreed with,  
28 but hearing our side -- and the consensus was when it came out  
29 of that -- and the chairmen and Mitch made a comment that said  
30 respect the Regional Councils' advice. After all that's -- we  
31 should be -- we're -- we live in the area and we are the  
32 caretakers. We're stewards for our land, and we live those in  
33 our Western Interior all year round, and we practice it. So,  
34 therefore, they should respect it. And, again there we -- in  
35 our -- in some of our proposals there if you read the -- in the  
36 minutes and in the recommendations that we did, I did argue  
37 about some of the proposals that we wanted to be inclusive  
38 instead of restrictive, and Eastern came right behind and  
39 agreed. So and then they -- with this they formed a new --  
40 they formed a committee to look into the C & T's. And, I -- at  
41 that time I asked Ron if he wanted to be in it but I don't  
42 know -- they didn't talk -- I think they picked -- how many was  
43 there?

44 //

45 MR. MATHEWS: They picked Craig Fleener from Eastern  
46 Interior. I'm drawing a blank on Bristol Bay. Dan O'Hara ....

47 //

48 MR. MORGAN: Dan O'Hara.

49 //

50 MR. MATHEWS: .... for Bristol Bay, and then Bill

00016

1 Thompson for Southeast along with the chair Mitch Demientieff  
2 formed the working group on C & T, customary and traditional  
3 use determinations.

4 //

5 MR. MORGAN: And they're still meeting?

6 //

7 MR. MATHEWS: We're going to go over that later, but in  
8 case some people leave or et cetera -- yes. They're going to  
9 take your input from this meeting here and the other 10  
10 meetings and meet I believe in November, and then from there  
11 they -- my understanding, and others may clarify further,  
12 they'll probably come up with an alternative or alternatives to  
13 probably float back out at future meetings. So that's the gist  
14 of it. They met several times over summer -- the group. So,  
15 anyway, there will be further discussion on the whole C & T  
16 eligibility question later on in the agenda.

17 //

18 MR. MORGAN: And, I think the general consensus was  
19 that if there's no shortage, if we can be more inclusive than  
20 restrictive -- we can always get restrictive at a later time.  
21 That's about the short detail of my report.

22 //

23 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, for the new members and for  
24 others -- because three of you now have experienced this. Ron,  
25 Ray and Carl have gone to these joint meetings with all the  
26 chairs, and the joint meetings with the Board, and then the  
27 Board itself. I would encourage the other members in breaks or  
28 in other conversations to ask them more about that. You may  
29 end up becoming an officer or you maybe end up filling in for  
30 an officer at these meetings and need to get an understanding  
31 that it is the way Carl said. That the Joint Chair meeting is  
32 a private meeting, generally it's just the chairs. So, I don't  
33 know exactly how their meeting goes. The next meeting with the  
34 Board and the chairs -- it's just the way Carl said. It's  
35 quite relaxing. You're sitting with all the Board members  
36 there. It's an open dialogue. And, in the Board meeting  
37 itself the 10 chairs sit with the Board, and generally the  
38 chairs stay the whole length of the meeting and listen in on  
39 other regions and actually discuss points on other regions.  
40 So, appreciate taking this time up on that because some of you  
41 will be going to these meetings. So ....

42 //

43 MR. MORGAN: Okay. Item B, other members reports.

44 Ray ....

45 //

46 MR. COLLINS: I have a question about the meeting.  
47 Having gone to the one the year before, one of the big issues  
48 then was compensation.

49 //

50 MR. MORGAN: Yes ....

00017

1 MR. COLLINS: And they then recom- -- did they report  
2 back on that to the chairs? Have they gone anywhere?

3 //

4 MR. MORGAN: Yes, that came up. And, we weren't -- we  
5 didn't get our compensations because I think the biggest thing  
6 we want -- to be compensated fairly we'd have to be federally  
7 employed -- employees of the Federal Government, and they  
8 rejected our -- but that came up, and it was going to be looked  
9 into again because you know we're going to get real busy come  
10 December, and it's going to be -- it's going to take some  
11 dedicated people to sit on this council because it's -- they'll  
12 be more demanding of us.

13 //

14 MR. COLLINS: It's interesting because the State has  
15 that issue too, they have boards and commissions. In fact, the  
16 State Game Board is one of them, I think. They don't salary  
17 them. What they do is give a bigger meeting fee, and I'm  
18 wondering why they couldn't take that approach. That there is  
19 a meeting fee for these meetings that includes some of that and  
20 then you're not employees, and so under something -- but it's  
21 adequate compensation for time and ....

22 //

23 MR. MORGAN: Yeah, I hear. And, one of the comments I  
24 heard that came down from these here -- one of the -- was that  
25 if we go -- if they increase the compensation then -- correct  
26 me if I'm wrong, and it didn't sound right. That we'd be more  
27 apt to go for the money, you know, and we'd lose the best  
28 interest of our region, which is not right. I mean, it's -- it  
29 just don't cut it. I mean, that was just an excuse they made.  
30 And, that -- Vince ....

31 //

32 MR. MATHEWS: Yeah. Mr. Chairman, on that I'll have --  
33 I thought we sent out letters to everybody, but it's not in  
34 your book. But, basically the Secretary of Interior has a lot  
35 of advisory bodies and was concerned of the national  
36 implications of this. But, it also did include the fact that  
37 there was concern by the secretary that you would no longer be  
38 volunteers per se, that you would then become employees, and  
39 there was concern that you would not be a representative feel  
40 on that. I am drawing a blank as to where it's going to go  
41 from here. I don't expect the secretary to change, but I think  
42 there was some indication that the chairs were going to write  
43 another letter - but none of that has crossed my desk -  
44 expressing their deep concerns about the lack of approval for  
45 this compensation. For new members, this would be compensation  
46 in addition to your per diem. And, there was figures given on  
47 that and et cetera, so ....

48 //

49 MR. MORGAN: Ron?

50 //

00018

1 MR. SAM: Yeah. For new members, like when you fill  
2 out those forms make sure you sign them and all that. Because  
3 sometimes it takes about three or four months to get your per  
4 diem, and I still don't think that's right, and something that  
5 is being looked into and being addressed. So, that's about all  
6 we can say at this time.

7 //

8 MR. MORGAN: Benedict?

9 //

10 MR. JONES: Just wanted to recognize the new staff that  
11 just arrived.

12 //

13 MR. MORGAN: Recognize them? (Pause) At this time  
14 I've been asked to -- request to recognize the new people that  
15 just came in.

16 //

17 (New members from audience introduce themselves -  
18 inaudible, away from microphone)

19 //

20 MR. MORGAN: Any more? Thank you. Welcome. Item B,  
21 other members reports. Came just in time on cue.

22 //

23 MR. MATHEWS: Yeah. Mr. Chairman, this is kind of a  
24 repeat of the concern part, but some people have concerns that  
25 are separate from their other activities. So, this is the time  
26 if one of the members as a member of a State advisory committee  
27 that wants to share something, or if they're part of a  
28 management process or that -- that they'd like to inform the  
29 council. The fall meeting is a little bit more where we're  
30 exploring issues and avenues and et cetera. We do have this in  
31 the spring meeting, but this is the time really to share  
32 different things. There's a little bit more flexibility in  
33 this meeting.

34 //

35 MR. MORGAN: Ron?

36 //

37 MR. SAM: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I see a lot of  
38 staff here and then -- I'd just like to report on the --  
39 briefly on the Koyukuk River co-management meetings that we've  
40 been having or trying to form co-management for of some sort.  
41 We haven't been very successful in securing funding, and that's  
42 what -- where we're at right now, still trying to secure  
43 funding and travel funds. We will try to incorporate to some  
44 extent or tie in with Koyukuk River Advisory Committee before  
45 the State Board. And, we are meeting Wednesday, and like I  
46 said, all the staff are welcome to stay and attend.

47 //

48 MR. MORGAN: Any more advisory committee reports or  
49 concern or input -- knowledge?

50 //

00019

1 MR. JONES: Mr. Chairman ....

2 //

3 MR. MORGAN: Benedict?

4 //

5 MR. JONES: This year the Koyukuk River -- in this area  
6 the Federal enforcement officer was located in Kateel area,  
7 patrolling the hunters, mostly non-resident hunters. I'm glad  
8 that they brought in the enforcements because of the wanton  
9 waste in the Koyukuk area. They get -- they did give citation  
10 to quite a few out of state hunters, which is good. This will  
11 give -- kind of warn the out of state and non-resident hunters  
12 in that area so that they wouldn't have wanton waste in our  
13 area and cut down the wanton waste.

14 //

15 MR. HENRY: You know, one -- most everybody have  
16 concerns about wanton waste, and one of the things I always  
17 think about is, you know, Federal Government want us to get off  
18 the welfare. A lot of people don't like to be on welfare, and  
19 if we can help get a lot of this meat to people that needs it  
20 in villages and get them off welfare or help them out. You  
21 know, our groceries bill about 80 percent. Help our grocery  
22 bill anyway.

23 //

24 MR. MORGAN: Any more other -- Jack. I mean, Ray.

25 //

26 MR. COLLINS: Are you going down to SRC's yet, or where  
27 are you at? Item number -- well ....

28 //

29 MR. MORGAN: B. We were with the State Local Fish &  
30 Game Advisory.

31 //

32 MR. COLLINS: Okay. I'm down ....

33 //

34 MR. MORGAN: Okay. We can -- yeah. They just kind of  
35 went here.

36 //

37 MR. COLLINS: On GASH?

38 //

39 MR. MORGAN: Excuse me?

40 //

41 MR. COLLINS: You on GASH now or ....

42 //

43 MR. MORGAN: Yeah. GASH Villages meeting in July.

44 (Pause) None. Subsistence resource commission meetings.

45 //

46 MR. COLLINS: Mr. Chair, I'm on the Denali Subsistence  
47 Resource Commission, and there's one item that came up there,  
48 and it was before the State Board, that I think we should be  
49 concerned about. There's a situation that exists on the Denali  
50 Highway that has to do with C & T determinations. When the

00020

1 Denali Park extensions were created people that had used that  
2 area for hunting were allowed to get subsistence permits to  
3 continue to hunt there, but they also had to reside in a  
4 resident community which was Nikolai, Telida or Cantwell, or be  
5 in an area that had a C & T determination of that. Well, the  
6 State said that people that lived between certain mileposts had  
7 no C & T because of all the lodges that developed along there.  
8 That the majority of those people were working in lodges and  
9 things and had never used the Park.

10 //

11 Well, there was an individual that had lived along  
12 there, worked for the Park, had C & T, was given a permit, but  
13 now he can now longer hunt in the park because there's no C & T  
14 determination for the ones living on the Highway.

15 //

16 So, a proposal had gone forward and the Board turned it  
17 down because it was for an individual. And, and the reason I'm  
18 saying that's bad is let's say this highway goes through to  
19 Nome in the future and commercial activities develop along that  
20 highway. But, now instead of living in Allakaket you're living  
21 along the highway, you used to be C & T, and all of a sudden  
22 most of those people along that highway are not. You could  
23 find yourself no longer being able to get a permit to hunt on  
24 that Federal land. So, at some point many areas, they'll have  
25 to go to individual C & T determinations to be able to continue  
26 what your family has done before. And, they didn't want to act  
27 on that because it was an individual. So, I'm not sure where  
28 it is.

29 //

30 You see the State Board, they could have approved that  
31 and said yes. He has a report, he hunted there before, give  
32 him the right to hunt in the park. But, they didn't want to  
33 deal with that. So, I think we have to think about that long  
34 term. It could effect other individuals in the state. It  
35 could effect Jack if a bunch of people moved into Wiseman or  
36 something like that and they said okay now that community no  
37 longer has C & T use in the park. So, therefore, you couldn't  
38 hunt anymore because you're an individual. Your community has  
39 changed. So, I don't know what we should do about that. Or,  
40 maybe you have further comments.

41 //

42 MR. MORGAN: Vince?

43 //

44 MR. MATHEWS: Well, I think the issue is coming up  
45 under agency reports. I don't want to defer the discussion  
46 now ....

47 //

48 MR. COLLINS: Right.

49 //

50 MR. MATHEWS: .... but you do have some letters that

00021

1 are from the Denali SRC - for people that's subsistence  
2 resource commission - that are in your notebook -- excuse me,  
3 your file folder here. So, I don't know how you want to deal  
4 with it. I think we need to consult with Hollis on that. If  
5 you want to wait until agency reports to discuss this because  
6 there's several other things that I think Hollis wants to talk  
7 about. But, for the record, I believe Ray was really talking  
8 about the Parks Highway. You mentioned the Denali Highway ....

9 //

10 MR. COLLINS: Okay.

11 //

12 MR. MATHEWS: .... but just so that the record's clear  
13 that it's the Parks Highway, and I think the wishes(ph) of the  
14 council in talks with the staff would be when agency reports  
15 comes up to bring this up again at that time -- it will  
16 automatically. I believe Hollis is going to talk about it, so  
17 it might be easier at that time. But, it is an area -- issue  
18 of concern, and it relates to action you took in your Annual  
19 Report also on a different light that those got coupled  
20 together, and we'll get a briefing I believe from Hollis and  
21 possibly Paul on that. Refresh your memory: The request you  
22 had was to have individual C & T determinations available, that  
23 option available on other Federal lands, and you did get a  
24 response on that in your Annual Report, but it's -- will -- it  
25 addresses the similar concerns that you just mentioned.

26 //

27 MR. MORGAN: Mem- -- I don't know, maybe I might be  
28 wrong. If memory serves me, did we discuss this in another  
29 meeting that we approved somebody's individual C & T? Was it  
30 in Denali?

31 //

32 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, you talked about it both. It's --  
33 Proposal 38 is what Ray's talking about. I'd have to look in  
34 my notes to see what action you took, but I believe you  
35 probably supported it. Then when you got into Annual Reports  
36 there was a discussion about the Dalton Highway corridor and  
37 other areas needing individual C & T's. Yeah. I think what  
38 the ....

39 //

40 MR. SHERROD: That's what Eastern did, and that was  
41 rejected by ....

42 //

43 MR. MATHEWS: Right. Right. So, I think what we need  
44 to do is when the -- when staff's all ready to flush it out on  
45 the agenda then we'll go through it. He's informed me about  
46 Eastern Interior's action also on this issue. So ....

47 //

48 MR. COLLINS: That's the only thing that comes to mind  
49 down at the Denali meeting that I think I need to bring.  
50 Hollis may have things that he recalls in the agency reports.

00022

1 MR. MORGAN: Any more subsistence resource commission  
2 meeting reports? Ron?

3 //

4 MR. SAM: Yeah, just a question for Jack. You sit on  
5 the same national parks commission that Pollack ....

6 //

7 MR. REAKOFF: Yeah.

8 //

9 MR. SAM: Okay. You don't have anything else to report  
10 on that?

11 //

12 MR. REAKOFF: Well, we had a meeting in April but we  
13 had a lack of quorum so we don't really have anything to report  
14 on that meeting because it was a non-meeting.

15 //

16 MR. MORGAN: Any more subsistence resource commission  
17 meetings to report? If not, Tribal/Village Council meetings.  
18 Ron?

19 //

20 MR. SAM: Yeah. This resolution was passed recently by  
21 Alatna Tribal Council. Again, it's just expressing our  
22 concerns over wanton waste. And to reiterate, it's just that  
23 we called for some Troopers or Fish and Game enforcers and  
24 nobody came, and we took it to the different bodies. Right now  
25 that's as far as we've gone. I just wondering if you aware  
26 that we are concerned about this issue, wanton waste issue. I  
27 know this was a bad year for keeping any kind of meat, but we  
28 save all that we get around here. And, like Ray said if you  
29 keep the meat on the bone you can keep it longer, and that's  
30 one of the regulations that is in existence. And, for the most  
31 part I just wondered if you aware of our concerns on this.

32 //

33 MR. MORGAN: Vince?

34 //

35 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, Ron, has a copy of this  
36 been provided to the Department of Fish and Game? Because this  
37 just happened on October 1st, and I think we have an extra copy  
38 that they may want.

39 //

40 MR. SAM: We did mail it, but I think all these  
41 people -- okay.

42 //

43 MR. MATHEWS: Oh, you have it on -- oh, I'm sorry.  
44 Okay. I'll try to stay away -- I'm -- anyway, fine. Thank  
45 you.

46 //

47 MS. DEMIENTIEFF: Mr. Chair ....

48 //

49 MR. MORGAN: Angela?

50 //

00023

1 MS. DEMIENTIEFF: I'm from the Holy Cross Tribal  
2 Council, I sit on their council as their first chief. And, at  
3 our last meeting we're going to start working on drafting  
4 ordinances, and one of the ordinances that we're going to work  
5 on is the Fish and Game issues. We seem to have too many  
6 problems in our region. And, so anytime we pass any ordinances  
7 we'll get them on to you. But the first one we want to get rid  
8 of is the sports hunting -- first.  
9 //

10 MR. MORGAN: I got a little report. I know my wife  
11 sits in the Kuskokwim Native Association, non-profit. And,  
12 this was the concern that we got is the wanton waste. More and  
13 more hunters come out of state, and we know that most of our  
14 land is State owned property. And, we're trying to set up a --  
15 she's trying to set up a meeting with the Federal, the CKEC,  
16 the ABCP and the regions that's going to be affected by -- we'd  
17 like to -- everybody we can on this pressure that we're getting  
18 from out of state. We look at it -- we look at it, yes. We  
19 say supposedly under the State constitution that natural  
20 resource belongs to all the citizens of Alaska, and most of our  
21 pressure's coming from non-residents of Alaska. And, we look  
22 at it -- and just looking at it in kind of a -- in a State  
23 constitutionality form. How come is it because of your guide  
24 license your take of moose is unlimited, and your clients are  
25 all non-residents of the state. Yet we that live in the state  
26 are limited to one moose. There's something wrong, and we're  
27 saying it's money, and when money talks we tend to forget  
28 what's constitutional. So, I'd just like you to be aware that  
29 we're going to try to set up a meeting. So, we're very  
30 concerned about this pressure. We are going to act instead of  
31 react. Any more Tribal/Village Council meetings?  
32 //

33 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, I think Paul has something.

34 //

35 MR. MORGAN: Paul?

36 //

37 MR. LYNUS: Yes. I'd like to (Indiscernible - away  
38 from microphone) because of that low fish all summer our  
39 fish -- we don't have anything to eat all this winter, and  
40 because all our -- we're able to gather (Indiscernible - away  
41 from microphone) this fall. And, then my concern is about, you  
42 know, these outside hunters coming in because all these wolves  
43 and all these grizzly bears taking our moose anyway. And, then  
44 we have these outside hunters coming in (Indiscernible - away  
45 from microphone) toward our area, where our moose is. And,  
46 this wanton waste (Indiscernible - away from microphone).  
47 Where will we get our enforcement for the -- all this wanton  
48 waste? This year was really bad. Last couple of years wasn't  
49 this bad. Only problem we had before was we couldn't  
50 (Indiscernible - away from microphone) that there was -- one

00024

1 portion is open down there, I know that. But now they're just  
2 flying in from every direction, back of Kanuti. They're  
3 just -- I don't know where we can stop them from coming in like  
4 that. We don't allow guide hunters around here (Indiscernible  
5 - away from microphone). I know they're flying out  
6 (Indiscernible - away from microphone). I know that.  
7 //

8 MR. MORGAN: Any more Tribal/Village Council meeting?  
9 Henry?  
10 //

11 MR. DEACON: In my area down here we have meeting maybe  
12 twice a year I think about. Our area (Indiscernible - away  
13 from microphone) and I don't know (Indiscernible - away from  
14 microphone) never seem to materialize when we talk to Fish and  
15 Game. They should be checked by (Indiscernible - away from  
16 microphone). What we talk about, we materialize. Most of the  
17 concerns that I have for our area is that from what I hear now  
18 those guys are pricing moose for 4,000, \$10,000 a head. They  
19 get a moose from those guides. Who puts the price on this? We  
20 should know how much money get out of that -- those guides  
21 using our land. (Indiscernible - away from microphone) Those  
22 are concerns the village has, and it make you really very  
23 unhappy to see outsiders coming in with those guides and making  
24 all that money, getting \$10,000 if they get a bull moose.  
25 Those are concerns of the village in my area.  
26 //

27 MR. MORGAN: Any more Tribal/Village Council meetings?  
28 Mike?  
29 //

30 MR. STICKMAN: Yeah. I'm the second chief of the  
31 Nulato Tribe. So -- you know, they have one concern with the  
32 sport fishing. You know, there's more and more sport fishermen  
33 going into the Kaiyuh Flats, you know. The people there  
34 they're not concerned about the fish population, but they're  
35 concerned about the activity of -- you know, the constant  
36 activity, you know. You know, people, they don't like to --  
37 nobody likes to go too far for moose, you know. But the  
38 fishermen are chasing the moose further back into the flats or  
39 they're chasing them further down the Kaiyuh hills. So, you  
40 know, their concern is probably more like with, you know, who  
41 goes in there and how many times they go in there, you know.  
42 Because there is sport fishing back there in the Kaiyuh Flats.  
43 They do have boats. They leave their boats there. They fly  
44 in. You know, we're not concerned about the fish population  
45 because we know there's a lot of fish, but, you know, just the  
46 activity alone is stressing out the env- -- not the  
47 environment, but the animals in the environment.  
48 //

49 MR. MORGAN: I know that in the Kunaghak(ph), I know  
50 they're doing something about it. They're also looking at the

00025

1 health hazard because of human waste. They're -- I know  
2 they're requesting they bring -- I don't know if they're doing  
3 it. They request they bring a honey bucket. But, they do,  
4 they have a concern. Any more on Tribal/Village council?

5 //

6 MR. SAM: Mr. Chairman, can I ask for a break?

7 //

8 MR. MORGAN: Yes. Fifteen minute break.

9 //

10 (Off record: 11:00 a.m.)

11 //

12 (On record: 11:20 a.m.)

13 //

14 MR. MORGAN: Could we get the meeting back to order  
15 again. (Pause) Thank you. Item Number is Agency Reports,  
16 A - Native corporations, Regional - Village. Any Native corps?  
17 Ron?

18 //

19 MR. SAM: Mr. Chairman, if and when (Indiscernible -  
20 mumbled speech) would like to recognize them off of the floor  
21 if they're -- if any.

22 //

23 MR. MORGAN: Okay.

24 //

25 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, then -- remember this is  
26 just kind of a blanket agenda ....

27 //

28 MR. MORGAN: Yeah.

29 //

30 MR. MATHEWS: .... so if there's nobody that wanted to  
31 speak, the Native corporations, either the regional and tribal,  
32 then you can just move on to Alaska Department of Fish and  
33 Game.

34 //

35 MR. MORGAN: Oh, wait ....

36 //

37 MR. MATHEWS: Oh, Gabe Sam would like to speak.

38 //

39 MR. MORGAN: Okay.

40 //

41 MR. MATHEWS: For the people that are here, I didn't  
42 interrupt at the last -- earlier before break, but you do need  
43 to come up to the mike. The meeting is being transcribed and  
44 recorded, and many of you are not being picked up by the mike.  
45 The other thing, if you can't hear us, we're going to have to  
46 work on that. Meaning, council members as well as public,  
47 we're going to just have to speak up so everybody can hear each  
48 other, and if need be we'll just move into a big circle here  
49 and work on it.

50 //

00026

1 MR. MORGAN: Gabe?

2 //

3 MR. GABE SAM: Thank you, board members. I'm just  
4 getting my battle plan all laid out there. As I was sitting  
5 there listening to the concerns it's -- there are a lot of  
6 concerns that the people on the Koyukuk River are severely  
7 concerned about, and one is the increased population of the  
8 wolves.

9 //

10 Right now I sit as the co-chair on the WOL(ph)  
11 Coalition for the Alaskan way of life. We are raising money --  
12 trying to raise money. We hired George Aska(ph) to be our fund  
13 raiser. We hired an outside agency to help us campaign pretty  
14 aggressively throughout the State of Alaska. We have a slotted  
15 time at AFN to present this to AFN, the Regional Councils, and  
16 the corporation boards. So, we're going to -- we're hoping  
17 that this -- we're not hoping. We're pretty sure that we could  
18 win this, but like everything else it takes money and money  
19 isn't exactly everything -- what everybody's going to let go  
20 of.

21 //

22 And, so we found out through a poll study that this  
23 valid initiative -- or ballot initiative, is not just geared at  
24 trapping. There's a much bigger, broader picture than that.  
25 We have the poll study - which I had with me but I don't have  
26 it now - we can prove beyond a doubt that this is an attack of  
27 a way of life, the Native culture in the State of Alaska. I  
28 forget her name, it was some lady. That our opponents said we  
29 have to do away with this barbaric way of living, and they  
30 determined that to be our way of life. If they win this  
31 snaring initiative you can be for sure next year there will be  
32 a trapping leghold on the ballot, and that's for sure. After  
33 that, what's next? Maybe hunting? Stop the whole slaughter of  
34 moose? That's a possibility. And, so this -- we have raffle  
35 tickets available. We're going to be sending them out to all  
36 the tribal councils. It's by the Alaska Trappers Association.  
37 They're going to be -- it's like for a snow machine is the  
38 grand prize, a .300 Winchester Magnum is second, and there's a  
39 whole other list of prizes that we're going to be raffling off  
40 that was donated.

41 //

42 But we are running out of time pretty severely, and so  
43 we need to raise approximately 250,000 more. And, right now  
44 we're talking with some of the corporation board presidents  
45 and -- you know, for example, our own corporation Doyon gave  
46 \$150,000 to an organization in Anchorage for the Heritage  
47 Foundation Center. We presented to them, asked them for  
48 \$50,000, and, you know, basically they said we can't give  
49 \$50,000. It has to be approved by the full board. Our mission  
50 statement for Doyon was to preserve our culture. You know,

00027

1 that's the argument we're going to have to use now. And, if we  
2 can get Doyon and the other regional corporations to jump on  
3 board there's a possibility we could win this coalition and,  
4 you know, stop this outside special interests groups from  
5 interfering with our way of life.

6 //

7 I'm going to just rush right down through this and, you  
8 know, if anybody has questions after this -- there's a whole  
9 bunch of things we're working on. I was talking with Ron about  
10 it earlier. He was like, you know, it's not like we don't have  
11 nothing better else to do than to be on a migratory bird,  
12 another working group, you know. It's not like I have a whole  
13 bunch of time. This month alone I am home but one week with my  
14 family, and that's -- you know, that's a pretty severe  
15 sacrifice for me especially I have a one-year old boy that sees  
16 me one week out of the whole month. You know, so we are very  
17 strapped for time.

18 //

19 We are working on salmon for dogs that was donated from  
20 Valdez. It's pinks. Right now it is sitting in a freezer  
21 house out at Fort Wainwright. The problem is to get that fish  
22 out to the villages is we need air transportation, and a lot of  
23 the air carriers now are in the height of their season for  
24 delivering cargo to the villages. So, we're holding that, and  
25 hopefully that they can come up with some kind of idea or plan  
26 that -- if they had -- they're going out with empty planes they  
27 could drop this fish off.

28 //

29 One of the big issues right now on this Koyukuk River  
30 is big game guide hunters. I've been asking a few people here  
31 from the agencies on what is the best road I could take to get  
32 this resolved. We have a hunt -- a big game hunter guide  
33 that's guiding out of Huslia. There's some ethical issues that  
34 we need to address, and I think that forum is here. What  
35 happened is he hired some key people in the community and it's  
36 divided the community. So, the big game hunter guide leaves,  
37 but what he leaves is a bunch of pissed off people at each  
38 other, you know, and that's not good. And, so there's some  
39 real serious issues there, and there's some State and Federal  
40 laws that possibly were broken. And, I asked that - is that an  
41 offense that could remove his permit to guide there - to a  
42 special agent in Fairbanks, and he said it's no big deal to  
43 shoot sea gulls. Now, I don't know if that's an appropriate  
44 thing for a Fish and Wildlife protection agent to say, but  
45 that's what he told me.

46 //

47 And, so, from what I understand US Fish and Wildlife is  
48 mandated by -- a letter from President Clinton and Secretary  
49 Bruce Babbitt to work with the government relationship with the  
50 tribes. When this big game guide hunter's license was up

00028

1 October 1, I thought there was a process where there's public  
2 comment whether the village or the Regional Corporation,  
3 village corporation opposed his renewal, and they said that  
4 it's already been renewed in July. And, so I started calling  
5 around asking the village corporation. They opposed his  
6 renewal. The Doyon Corporation endorsed the village  
7 corporation for the objection. I got letters -- signatures  
8 from the village of Huslia. All these people opposed the  
9 renewal of his permit to hunt there. It says: We the people  
10 of Huslia are writing the petition regarding Virgil  
11 Umpenhower(ph) and his guide business for Unit 24. We feel  
12 that if we don't stop this business right now we will be  
13 depleting our moose in the next couple of years. Therefore,  
14 the petition -- Virgil's guide business to be stopped  
15 immediately. And, you know, I've called around and wanted some  
16 kind of response from this so that we can get a -- you know, to  
17 re-visit this, and so far everybody's telling me that, no, we  
18 can't re-visit it. It's a done deal. So, I don't know if this  
19 body here could address that or, you know, recommend that we  
20 re-visit this. It's a clear ethical issue that needs to be  
21 addressed.

22 //

23 So, another possibility is to have a check station in  
24 Huslia. We have one at Ellas Cabin, but I was talking to  
25 Mr. James there and I think that's a proposal that needs to be  
26 brought to the Board of Game. And, the reason being is  
27 they're -- I went to Huslia to go moose hunting, and somebody  
28 called me up and said hey there's a hunter up here with three  
29 moose sitting on the runway, one antler, and it's all still on  
30 the skin. So, I went up there and started talking to this guy,  
31 and, yeah. There was three moose sitting on the runway, one  
32 antler. And, I asked to see his license to hunt there, and he  
33 wouldn't show it to me so I, you know, told him I was with this  
34 TCC organization and he has to show it to me, you know. So, he  
35 showed it to me. He had a license from Texas, a license to  
36 hunt in Texas, and, you know, he started getting all nervous.  
37 I was getting more nervous because he still had on his -- I  
38 don't know if it was a .44 or what kind of pistol it was, and  
39 so I didn't want to ask him anymore hard questions.

40 //

41 But, as soon as I walked away he covered up all that  
42 meat, and he was trying to give it away right on the runway,  
43 you know. He had transfer papers signed, but the person that  
44 signed that transfer papers she did not know she was accepting  
45 all that meat and she -- all she wanted was some ribs and  
46 brisket, and this was an elder. You know, she said no sense in  
47 letting good meat go to waste. And, nobody wanted that meat so  
48 it sat there on the runway. And, he was getting prepared to  
49 leave back to Fairbanks, and he had to transport that meat out  
50 and pay for the freight. I called the protection officer in

00029

1 Fairbanks to check it out and he said well the guy had all  
2 legal papers, transfer papers, and if he doesn't get that meat  
3 out there's a question of wanton waste. And, that was  
4 basically it.

5 //

6 In the next five years I think we're going to have  
7 severe problems as the people on the Yukon Flats are  
8 experiencing. I think you people are well aware they're having  
9 a hard time catching moose up there, as it is around GMU 19.  
10 You know, they're having severe problems with hunting up there,  
11 and we're going to be facing that very same concern here on  
12 this river if we don't start getting somebody to listen. Every  
13 year I listen about wanton waste. Wanton waste. But, what is  
14 ever done about it? You know, during hunting season I think  
15 maybe we need more protection officers out there, you know,  
16 that -- I think that's what needs to be done. We need to  
17 really monitor this situation before it gets to the point where  
18 everybody will be restricted.

19 //

20 There's historic data that can prove that the Koyukuk  
21 River has accumulated more poundage of meat per person than the  
22 whole State of Alaska. Sixteen hundred pounds of meat and fish  
23 is consumed per person on the Koyukuk River, and it's a clear  
24 documentation. So, if there's no moose to hunt here, what are  
25 we going to live off of? You know, that's one question that we  
26 need to think about.

27 //

28 And, I think something seriously has to be done with  
29 this 50 inch restriction. From 30 feet away I couldn't tell if  
30 the moose was 50 inches or 40 inches, you know, I -- unless I  
31 walked up to it and measured the thing, you know. Held him at  
32 gunpoint and asked him to surrender friendly. But, you know,  
33 it's -- I think that's something that needs to be looked at.  
34 We had one situation where an elderly couple shot a moose. It  
35 was like 48 inches, just a couple inches shy of 50 inches, and  
36 U. S. Fish and Wildlife sat on top a hill and watched them skin  
37 it out and take care of it. And, they were watching them as  
38 well. They thought they were in their rights. They did  
39 everything legal. They punched out their card and everything.  
40 And, then they come down and they took the -- confiscated the  
41 whole moose and told them you have to go show up on this date  
42 at such and such time. And, you know, it turns out there was  
43 nothing we could do about it if they shot an illegal moose that  
44 was not 50 inches size. And, they went to all the trouble of  
45 asking the air -- not Air Force, but Army for -- to go --  
46 permission to go on the lands and hunt. So, there's got to be  
47 some kind of leniency there that they thought they were in  
48 their right, and, you know -- to look at that. Especially if  
49 they're elders, you know.

50 //

00030

1           And that's -- that pretty much sums it up. I -- you  
2 know, we got an early moose hunt for the GMU 24 because of the  
3 low fish that returned up this river. So, we're -- the reason  
4 being was to try to beat the mad rush up the Koyukuk River  
5 during the general hunt. And, other parts of the Yukon River,  
6 they got the early hunt as well. So, that's something that  
7 we're working on. Other than that -- I like the idea of what  
8 Ron brought up about subdividing Unit 24. I think it's a good  
9 idea. We can get more accurate counts of moose density in  
10 certain areas where there's high hunter pressure, and maybe  
11 that's another way to get more protection officers out there to  
12 monitor these places. And, with that I'll stop my little spiel  
13 there and answer any questions if there are any.

14 //

15           MR. MORGAN: Benedict?

16 //

17           MR. JONES: Mr. Chairman. I'm concerned about your  
18 area because Huslia area is not that big an area for moose  
19 population, and I could see Gabe's view of the future that the  
20 guide population increase and over harvesting our adult matured  
21 bulls. And, I could see in the future, maybe next five years,  
22 and Huslia area will be depleted of all matured bulls and the  
23 moose population gradually decline. And, I was talking to some  
24 hunters in the -- local hunters in the Dulbi River area,  
25 residents from Huslia. They generally go down there sometime  
26 to go hunting. And, the reports they gave me was that up the  
27 Huslia, river's already depleted of all the bulls in that area.  
28 Just at the mouth, only around the mouth. But, if you go  
29 further up the Dulbi, go 20 miles up, they said there's hardly  
30 any matured bulls or moose up in that area. This year has been  
31 really pressured in the Dulbi area for out of state hunters and  
32 non-resident hunters, so I could see that. And, it's going --  
33 eventually going to drastically decline in our Three Day Slough  
34 area too. It's being hard hit every year, and you can see in  
35 the study there that it's declining every year.

36 //

37           MR. GABE SAM: Mr. Chairman, Mr. Jones, that is  
38 correct. You know, there's some question from the assistant  
39 guides for this guide hunter that they have shot moose, and  
40 they walk about into the woods. I don't know for certain how  
41 far they walk after this animal, but they did not get it. And,  
42 the analogy was this hunter is paying 8,000 bucks to get a  
43 moose, and there's a lot of moose around here so we're going to  
44 get one sooner or later, and eventually they did get a moose.

45 //

46           When we shoot -- when the people that live on this  
47 river shoot a moose and it's bleeding they're going to follow  
48 it until they find it. You know, whether they have to carry it  
49 five miles or not, they're going to follow it. And, the  
50 assistant guide, he's ready to sign an affidavit stating that

00031

1 they went only so far back into the woods and did not find it  
2 and they left it. So, you know, what it's really doing is -- I  
3 understand that there's limited jobs. I understand that people  
4 need to make money to feed their families. But, selling our  
5 resources that -- for the future is not the way. And, dividing  
6 the community -- and this will affect the community for years  
7 to come.  
8 //

9 My dad was an assistant guide to one of the big game  
10 guide operations, and he's no longer a guide now because --  
11 well, I talk to him quite about this, and it has created -- you  
12 know, me and my dad were pretty close, but this has created a  
13 tension that's going to take some time to figure out, you know.  
14 And, if that's the way that it's going to be for our people,  
15 you're going to put a dollar amount on your food source, then,  
16 you know, I think we better think about building bigger stores  
17 in the villages, because that's what's going to happen. So, I  
18 think we need to look at the economics for the communities and  
19 better ways of employing our people. And, we can't have these  
20 guide outfitters come in, disrupt the community for three  
21 weeks, and then leave with their 3-, \$400,000 profit. And,  
22 with that -- any more questions? I would close.  
23 //

24 MS. DEMIENTIEFF: Gabe, I have a question for you.  
25 What's the transfer paper that was signed by an elder? What is  
26 that?  
27 //

28 MR. GABE SAM: It's on the back, one of these books,  
29 these regulation books, that there's a transfer of meat from  
30 the hunter to a person in the community. Unless you knew where  
31 it was -- hardly anybody would know what it meant. But, the  
32 lady in the community signed the paper she's going to receive  
33 the whole meat that this guy had, and that's all that was  
34 required. So, I think there needs to be a better method of  
35 transfer of meat. And, I think there also needs to be a  
36 question of the quality of the meat, you know. They keep it  
37 all bunched up. And, there's meat on the Koyukuk River up  
38 around Dulbi River that was just piled up, and two bends from  
39 before you get there you could smell the meat, and that's a  
40 pretty long ways. I went up there to check it out myself. You  
41 know, I bought the gas myself to go check this out, and when I  
42 got there all the hunters took off, and so I thought I had my  
43 camera but I didn't have my camera. So the guys that were with  
44 me we just -- you know, there was a lot of meat up there just  
45 hanging around. I don't know how long they had been there.  
46 But, that's the transfer for meat from hunters to the people in  
47 the community.  
48 //

49 MS. DEMIENTIEFF: My other question is -- I've never  
50 heard of a transfer of position form. I guess I haven't read

00032

1 the regs. Who gets these? Does every single hunter have this  
2 in their position when they go out hunting, or do they go  
3 somewhere to get this transfer paper? Where does it come from?  
4 //

5 MR. GABE SAM: They can take that with them. The  
6 regs ....  
7 //

8 MS. DEMIENTIEFF: This right here? Okay. Because I've  
9 never seen one.  
10 //

11 MR. GABE SAM: And, people in the community hunt for  
12 their own meat. I mean, there's only so much meat that you  
13 could -- you can give away. This registered guide caught over  
14 50 moose out of Huslia. That's a lot of moose. You know, not  
15 everybody in the community could take that much meat, you know.  
16 And, he brought in friends that he said were his friends. They  
17 were not hunters, just friends. I can't prove that they were  
18 out hunting, but, you know, you just don't fly that far just to  
19 check out a camp, you know. So, I'll save that for later.  
20 //

21 MR. MORGAN: Mike?  
22 //

23 MR. STICKMAN: You know, I was at the state advisory --  
24 you know, this other council, but I was at their meeting.  
25 Remember, Gabe?  
26 //

27 MR. GABE SAM: Yeah.  
28 //

29 MR. STICKMAN: Ben was there in Koyukuk. And, I asked  
30 them who chose -- remember that, Gabe? I asked them who chose  
31 what guides goes into when they cross sectioned the state out  
32 and they chose a guide for each area. You know, only one guide  
33 can have an area, you know. He can have a bunch of assistants,  
34 but that's his area. And, I asked the State at that time who  
35 chose, but they never did answer my question, you know. I  
36 asked them who chose the guides that can go an in area, you  
37 know, because I want to find out. Because it's exactly like  
38 Gabe says, you know, it's the same guide that's doing the  
39 damage in the Kaiyuh Flats, you know. It's the same guy. It's  
40 not -- you know, maybe it's not him directly. It's people that  
41 he had assistant guides. You know, you can be an assistant  
42 guide for three years and then you can become a registered  
43 guide on your own. All you have to do is just past the test,  
44 you know. But, this is the same person, you know. That's the  
45 same person that's -- you know, he isn't impacting the Koyukuk  
46 River, but he's impacting the Kaiyuh, you know. So, you know,  
47 he's monopolizing a huge area, you know.  
48 //

49 MR. GABE SAM: From Three Day Slough all the way up to  
50 Hog River. That's a pretty huge area.

00033

1 MR. MORGAN: Ron?

2 //

3 MR. SAM: Yeah, I got a question -- a couple questions  
4 for Gabe. Are you going to be here for Koyukuk River Advisory  
5 Council meeting?

6 //

7 MR. GABE SAM: Yes, I am.

8 //

9 MR. SAM: Okay. There's a few of the issues that we  
10 should discuss there, and thank you for your .... (pause)

11 //

12 MR. GABE SAM: Out of this body I'm hoping to get some  
13 kind of resolution or something that's supporting the people  
14 Huslia, their concerns, their objections. You know, this is  
15 disrupting the community and I don't think it's going to -- you  
16 know, there's a lot of hard felt feelings, you know. So --  
17 there was one other thing that I was thinking but I couldn't  
18 quite place it. With that, I thank you.

19 //

20 MR. MORGAN: Thank you. Item B, Alaska Department of  
21 Fish and Game.

22 //

23 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, maybe looking at the  
24 time -- unless the State wants to go before lunch, it might be  
25 best to go to lunch.

26 //

27 MR. MORGAN: Go to lunch.

28 //

29 MR. MATHEWS: And that way we can do -- the State is  
30 not one big group, but it would flow together unless they want  
31 to get you while you're hungry.

32 //

33 MR. MORGAN: Ron?

34 //

35 MR. SAM: Yeah. It was my understanding that lunch was  
36 going to be brought back here. Is that your understanding?

37 //

38 MR. MATHEWS: Yeah. I think it -- I saw a box come in,  
39 but I'm not sure. I haven't had a chance to go over and check.

40 //

41 MR. MORGAN: Want to have lunch?

42 //

43 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Your box is here.

44 //

45 MR. MATHEWS: Oh, the box is outside. Okay. It's  
46 somewhere here. And, the lunch is for basically the council  
47 members and some of the staff, but first he council members.

48 //

49 MR. SAM: Yes. Yeah, we expected about 20 or 30 people  
50 and it seems that we're overflowing. So ....

00034

1 MR. MORGAN: Take an hour for lunch. Break for lunch.

2 //

3 (Off record, lunch break: 11:53 a.m.)

4 //

5 (On record: 12:53)

6 //

7 MR. MORGAN: Back to order. Before we get started, Sam  
8 want to say a few words.

9 //

10 MR. SAM: Okay. You know, we've been talking about  
11 hosting the Western Interior Subsistence Council meeting for  
12 quite a few years. We threw it on the floor last fall, and  
13 everything is turning our real good, and I would like to thank  
14 a few people at this time for lunch. We have Linberg and Lydia  
15 Bergman brought in sandwiches. Johnson, Bertha brought in a  
16 whole bunch of food plus spaghetti. Avin Kay(ph) brought in  
17 some soup. Lucy Strassburg donated some soup, and I'd like to  
18 thank all the people in the community for participating in this  
19 manner and thank you for a good lunch.

20 //

21 (General applause)

22 //

23 MR. MORGAN: And Paul Lynus want to introduce a few  
24 important guests.

25 //

26 MR. LYNUS: Yeah. I just wanted to mention since we're  
27 the host for these meetings throughout this week here in  
28 Allakaket. I just wanted to introduce myself for those of you  
29 who don't know me. I'm Paul Lynus. I'm on the Allakaket  
30 Village Tribal Council and I'd like to welcome everybody. And,  
31 I just wanted to recognize the high school students we have  
32 here this afternoon. They're joining us as guests. And,  
33 that's our future leaders and -- for our community and hope  
34 they listen in.

35 //

36 (General applause)

37 //

38 MR. MORGAN: Vince?

39 //

40 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, I failed to mention it this  
41 morning, there is a sign-up sheet. It's over by the door.  
42 We'll probably get someone to pass it around. But, folks, we  
43 need it for our records, but also the two tribal councils were  
44 interested in knowing who was here. So, if people could fill  
45 out just once the sheet as it goes around then we have a better  
46 idea of who's here. Okay. Appreciate that.

47 //

48 And, then last thing I need to bring up is new members  
49 have received their operation manuals. If some of the members  
50 that are not new would like a copy of the operations manual I

00035

1 have some here. I believe we gave them out at the last  
2 meeting, but I'm not sure. If not, there's some extra here.  
3 If there's no takers from the council for this then I'll  
4 probably leave them with the tribal councils here because it  
5 answers all the questions that they might have on the federal  
6 subsistence program. So, if a member needs it, please stop by.  
7 If not, I'll give it to Paul and Ron to get to the different  
8 tribal councils.

9 //

10 MR. MORGAN: Okay. With that I'd like to go on to  
11 Item B, Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Statewide and area  
12 biologists.

13 //

14 MR. JAMES: Mr. Chairman, members of the council and  
15 guests: My name is David James. I'm with the Alaska  
16 Department of Fish and Game, Division of Wildlife Conservation.  
17 I'm the management coordinator in Region 3. I'd like to  
18 describe just to make sure everybody knows what I mean by  
19 Region 3 for the Wildlife Division. We're talking about  
20 essentially the Interior and eastern North Slope of Alaska.  
21 The jurisdiction starts at down below Holy Cross on the Yukon  
22 and goes up to the Canadian border up the Yukon River, and on  
23 the Kuskokwim starts around Kalskag and goes upriver there.  
24 The areas between -- north of I should say, the Alaska Range  
25 and south of the Brooks Range, and then also our area includes  
26 the eastern North Slope, which in game management unit talk is  
27 26B and 26C.

28 //

29 Our region is divided into six area offices and -- for  
30 administering our programs, and the two offices the coincide  
31 with your jurisdiction are the McGrath area office and the  
32 Galena area office. We've had some personnel changes going on  
33 with those two offices recently. Toby Boudreau sitting here on  
34 my right who will be talking to you shortly has been the area  
35 biologist, new area biologist there to replace Jack Whitman  
36 since about June or so of this year. Jack, as some of you  
37 know, was there for around, oh, 11 or 12 years. He's  
38 transferred down to Sitka and is learning all about  
39 Helly Hensen rain gear and that sort of thing right now.

40 //

41 The other personnel change is for the Galena area  
42 office. As you know, in Galena Tim Osborne was there for about  
43 15 years. Well, Tim retired and moved on and Jim Woolington  
44 replaced him, and Jim was there for just a very short period of  
45 time and for reasons far too lengthy and boring to talk about  
46 right now he ended up in Dillingham somehow. That almost never  
47 happens with our organization but it did this time. So we have  
48 a new, new area biologist, Glen Stout. Glen is on his way  
49 here. He was in -- started in Galena, had to go through  
50 Fairbanks, so he's supposed to be here any minute as I

00036

1 understand it. So, we do have somebody in Galena at this point  
2 and it's going to take a while for him to get to know the area.

3 //

4 MR. MORGAN: What is his name again?

5 //

6 MR. JAMES: Glen Stout, S-t-o-u-t. As far as issues go  
7 just a very brief summary. Toby's going to talk about issues  
8 going on in his area when I finish talking. I'll go ahead and  
9 skip right over and talk about four things worth I think a sort  
10 discussion concerning the Galena Management Area. That  
11 includes the Lower Koyukuk moose hunt and the Ellas Cabin, then  
12 there's Nowitna check station. Another issue concerns  
13 intensive management which is under the purview primarily of  
14 the Fish and Game Advisory Committee but -- which I know is  
15 also very important and of interest to this group too. Then  
16 the last -- I'll say something briefly about moose management  
17 planning.

18 //

19 I have some preliminary figures from the Koyukuk check  
20 station effort. This year we had Beth Leonard helping us.  
21 Since Jim Woolington had moved on, Beth is a biologist that  
22 works out of the Fairbanks and she was on the check station for  
23 the entire time that it was open. And, working with her was  
24 Ted Jones. He did his usual excellent job, and they were able  
25 to keep records on the hunting pressure and the harvest that  
26 took place there. Our preliminary information shows that 580  
27 people registered to hunt through the Ellas Cabin check station  
28 this year. There were 324 moose harvested. That's 58 cows and  
29 266 bulls. And, these are preliminary figures, they will  
30 change a little bit. We so far haven't been able to clean up  
31 all of our records from the Huslia end of the operation for  
32 instance. So, those will go up a little bit.

33 //

34 We have both subsistence permits and general permits  
35 that are administered from the check station. The subsistence  
36 permits we had -- issued 138 to local residents and 137 to  
37 other Alaska residents. Of those, local folks reported 52  
38 moose harvested and other Alaska residents reported 96 moose  
39 harvested. In the other permit hunt, the general registration  
40 permit, we had 16 local people get permits, 181 residents from  
41 other parts of Alaska, and 115 non-residents. The harvest for  
42 those three groups -- let me back up. I haven't combined. The  
43 total harvest for the Alaska residents was 102, and for  
44 non-residents was 63. Later when our report is complete we'll  
45 have the information broken out a little more clearly.

46 //

47 Some general observations that Beth wanted me -- Beth  
48 and Ted both wanted to pass along to you all was that it was  
49 fairly warm the first half of the season. There were a couple  
50 days of frost around the 12 and 13th, and then the second half

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1 of the season was rainy and windy. Comments they heard were  
2 that moose were not responding to calling, or people could not  
3 hear very well -- one of the two. Yet, some of the people did  
4 call moose in. There were lots of smaller and medium sized  
5 bulls, but not as many large bulls were seen this year. Many  
6 people mentioned they did not see many calves and cows. One  
7 group said they did, but they were back in the sloughs way off  
8 the main channel. A couple of black bears were taken, but  
9 there were no -- or not many problems anyway with bears in  
10 camps. Wolves were seen occasionally. One was harvested.  
11 Most everyone brought out all the meat for the most part and  
12 the meat looked pretty good. There were three moose shot and  
13 left and the Troopers are currently investigating that wanton  
14 waste.

15 //

16 And very briefly some information from the Nowitna  
17 check station, and this was primarily run by the Refuge folks  
18 there, the Koyukuk Refuge and then we also had a Fish and Game  
19 employee there for part of the season. There were about 110  
20 people that stopped at the check station. Keeping in mind that  
21 it was not mandatory and there were not permits this year, so  
22 that was just voluntary visits. And there were 52 moose  
23 harvested. At least six moose were harvested by locals, and  
24 that check station operated from the 3rd of September to the  
25 27th. That was all of the information I was going to present  
26 to you on the check stations. I can go ahead and move into the  
27 next topic unless there's a question about that before I do  
28 that.

29 //

30 MR. MORGAN: Benedict?

31 //

32 MR. JONES: On your harvest report, do you have any  
33 record of how many mature bulls 50 inch and over was harvested?

34 //

35 MR. JAMES: (Pause) Yes, I do, and I'm trying to find  
36 it here. I was just looking at it. (Pause) Mr. Jones, why  
37 don't I get back to you later. I think it's in a stack over to  
38 the side of the room here. What I can tell you is that, yes,  
39 they do measure all of the antlers that go through the check  
40 station and we do have records of that. I -- and as I  
41 recall -- well, I'd be -- I'd best look at the paper before I  
42 try to tell you what it was.

43 //

44 MR. JONES: You wouldn't know if -- in your head that  
45 it's -- the take of last year -- from last year's records were  
46 above or below the harvest of last year.

47 //

48 MR. JAMES: I'm not sure, I think it was below. But,  
49 I'll check and then get back to you all and let you know  
50 what ....

00038

1 MR. JONES: Thank you.

2 //

3 MR. REAKOFF: Mr. Chairman ....

4 //

5 MR. MORGAN: Jack?

6 //

7 MR. REAKOFF: Are you still pulling teeth and aging  
8 those moose each individually?

9 //

10 MR. JAMES: Yes.

11 //

12 MR. REAKOFF: So we'll -- in the near future we'll be  
13 able to see what the -- I would like to be able to see what the  
14 age correlation to the horn size, and then that age composition  
15 of the bulls, whether that age component is going down to a  
16 younger moose. That's the information that I want to see on  
17 the check station moose.

18 //

19 MR. JAMES: Yes, Mr. Reakoff, the database is there.  
20 We haven't done any really detailed analysis of it yet, but we  
21 have recently made a decision that -- it's considerable expense  
22 to collect those teeth and process them, and we have a fairly  
23 large database now and that's -- we're going to do some  
24 population modeling and look at that to address the question  
25 you just asked for instance. And, you know, if we get some  
26 good information from that we will probably continue, and if it  
27 seems like it's not very useful then we're probably not going  
28 to take teeth in the future. But that's going to be assessed  
29 in the next year.

30 //

31 MR. REAKOFF: Tim Osborne showed me that they were  
32 pulling all the teeth from the moose and there should be an age  
33 correlation between the kind of moose that have been harvested  
34 in years before and what the trend in that age composition of  
35 the bulls is -- if it's going the same or going down or -- this  
36 would be just an addition to that, but I would like to know a  
37 previous -- a recent previous year, the last four or five  
38 years, whether that age component is going down to a younger  
39 adult moose bull, which I think that's fairly pertinent with  
40 this moose population.

41 //

42 MR. JAMES: Okay. If there are no further questions on  
43 the check stations, the next topic I wanted to mention to you  
44 was intensive management. We will be going into that subject a  
45 lot more detail with the Fish and Game Advisory Committee  
46 meeting here. It starts tomorrow night, I guess. I know that  
47 you all have some interest in that. The intensive management  
48 issue, what we're talking about essentially is that the  
49 legislature - I guess it must have been a couple years ago -  
50 passed a law that requires the Board of Game to initiate very

00039

1 specific management actions if it cuts back significantly on  
2 the harvest of moose, caribou and deer in certain parts of the  
3 state. The -- keep in mind, I'm trying to do the short version  
4 of this. It's going to take about 30 minutes to get through it  
5 at the advisory committee meeting.

6 //

7 The point of it is I believe - the big picture or the  
8 philosophical stance of the legislature - was that they were  
9 very uncomfortable with Fish and Game becoming an observer,  
10 it's simply monitoring and watching and documenting what goes  
11 on especially at downturns in game population cycles. What  
12 they want the Board of Game to do is require specific intensive  
13 management actions when hunting opportunity's cut back, and  
14 there are all kinds of -- there are certain qualifications that  
15 an area has to meet in order to come under that. There's  
16 high -- use of high levels of consumption, you know, by humans.  
17 Several points which I'm resisting the urge to get into the  
18 detail right now. But, under certain circumstances what it  
19 does is the Board of Game no longer has a choice but they are  
20 forced to institute intensive management practices when harvest  
21 goes below a certain level. Intensive management includes  
22 control of predation, the use of fire for habitat management or  
23 habitat manipulation through other techniques. But those are  
24 the types of management tools typically that would be used in a  
25 situation like that.

26 //

27 This intensive management requirement is found in two  
28 separate regulations. The first regulation was what the Board  
29 went through for the Interior last year when they identified  
30 certain areas where the intensive management law will apply,  
31 and other areas where it will not apply, and those are in  
32 regulation right now. The second part of that regulation is to  
33 decide what are the population objectives in terms of absolute  
34 numbers of animals, and the harvest objectives. That is  
35 undone. It's been done for a few of the areas that they  
36 identified for intensive management, but others it has not.  
37 And, for instance, Unit 24 right here in this area is one of  
38 the areas it was identified for intensive management. But  
39 there -- as of yet we have no official population or harvest  
40 objects, and that's what we're going to be working on from now  
41 till March 2000 when the next board meeting makes place to deal  
42 with this issue. So, it's something that will be up before the  
43 committee and the council this year at this meeting, but also  
44 in successive meetings until we arrive at a -- you know,  
45 mutually agreeable figure that the Board then will make a  
46 ruling on. That's the short version. I'm afraid I haven't  
47 done it justice, but if you are interested stay tune for the  
48 Fish and Game Advisory Committee meeting and we can spend more  
49 time on it.

50 //

00040

1 I'm going to move onto my last subject unless there are  
2 questions on that. Okay. The last one has to do with moose  
3 management planning. The topic has been discussed off and on  
4 now for at least the past year. It's been the topic of special  
5 meetings that were held in Huslia about a year ago I think,  
6 another one in Hughes, there's another one probably going to  
7 take place in Koyukuk at the end -- near the end of this month.  
8 Much of the concern has to do with allocation issues and  
9 concern about what's perceived by some to be too much hunting.  
10 Inter-mixed with that is questions of the biological health of  
11 the moose and so on and so forth.  
12 //

13 It's becoming increasingly clear that our existing  
14 management goals and objectives, which we do have on record,  
15 need to be looked at again and overhauled. We need to have a  
16 process that makes sure that our objectives and goals are in  
17 line with the concerns and issue that people in the area see.  
18 And, we have arrived at a point where the existing goals and  
19 objectives probably are not in line with concerns and issues.  
20 Last year after the hunting season, it was Jim Woolington that  
21 sent around the Koyukuk moose hunt bulletin with the little  
22 questionnaire inside. We had fairly good response from the  
23 hunters. Oh, by the way this was sent to everyone that had  
24 registered for that hunt on the Koyukuk for the previous two  
25 years. And, we learned some things. We learned that the  
26 generally feeling at that time was a fairly satisfied group of  
27 hunters. At the same time we feel that the sample, the  
28 response to this was weighted towards non-local residents.  
29 //

30 In other words, local folks responded to this at a much  
31 lower rate than others. So, the response we got to it we think  
32 is a biased sample, you know, one that we can't be very  
33 comfortable with. Based on my limited experience at the check  
34 station and Three Day Slough and on the river this fall when I  
35 made a quick trip out and talked to a few people and generally  
36 enjoyed myself on the river, plus the experience that  
37 Beth Leonard had running the entire operation, was that it is  
38 indeed time to go back and re-visit these objectives and goals  
39 and make sure that the program we have in place is really going  
40 to be the one that's going to keep us on the track for the near  
41 and foreseeable future. We're going to be talking about this  
42 in -- like I said mentioned these other meetings that are  
43 taking place sponsored by -- usually by local tribal councils  
44 and TCC, and then also within our Fish and Game advisory  
45 committees.  
46 //

47 This is a very high profile area. I don't need to tell  
48 any of you that. Last -- not this year, but around the hunting  
49 season last year I was receiving calls from staffers, from  
50 state senators, for instance on this hunt. It's very high

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1 profile. There's people that like to come up here and hunt who  
2 have a lot they feel invested in it personally. It goes  
3 without saying that local people that live here and hunt here  
4 have a lot invested in it. So, there's going to be very side,  
5 diverse collection of opinions and ideas and feelings, and  
6 we're going to have to sort through those. According to State  
7 law and regulation, we have to come across to all of our user  
8 groups as being fair and unbiased and see just how much common  
9 ground there is there among the different users.

10 //

11 My hunch is that there's a lot more common ground than  
12 some people think right now, but we'll see. And, this is going  
13 to be an issue that -- it's going to take some time to resolve  
14 because we don't want to do a sloppy job. And, the next step  
15 will be that the continued dialogue in the meetings, like I  
16 just mentioned, and then also in our region now. We have a  
17 planner that works with our area biologist on specific issues,  
18 and when they get to a level of involvement with the public  
19 that requires extra help and expertise, we now have that in the  
20 region. So, we're going to be relying on that person's  
21 expertise to help the new area biologist here, Glen Stout  
22 address this issue in the future. So, at any time during the  
23 breaks, after the meeting, when I have a chance to talk with  
24 you individually, or certainly when you get a chance to meet  
25 and talk with Glen Stout we'd be glad to hear your concerns.  
26 Thank you. That's all I had. Unless you had questions I can  
27 turn it over Toby.

28 //

29 MR. MORGAN: Sam?

30 //

31 MR. SAM: Yeah. Are you going to be here for the  
32 Koyukuk Advisory Council?

33 //

34 MR. JAMES: I will.

35 //

36 MR. SAM: And the Koyukuk Co-management meeting to  
37 (Indiscernible - mumbled speech) I understand.

38 //

39 MR. JAMES: Yes. I'm planning to attend.

40 //

41 MR. SAM: Okay. Thank you.

42 //

43 MR. BOUDREAU: Good afternoon. As David said I'm the  
44 new area biologist in McGrath, moved there from Fairbanks. My  
45 name is Toby Boudreau, and I've just been busy trying to get  
46 everything settled in McGrath and get up to speed on all the  
47 issues and wildlife population throughout the 59,000 square  
48 miles that they put me in charge of. I'd like to give you a  
49 brief overview of what the current status on wildlife  
50 populations are in the area, and if you have any questions

00042

1 throughout the overview please just interrupt me and go ahead  
2 and ask.

3 //

4 Start off with furbearer populations overall are pretty  
5 healthy, harvest remain low in most of the areas due to  
6 depressed fur prices as we all know. Wolf populations as far  
7 as our surveys indicate are healthy throughout the area based  
8 on recent surveys in both -- and talking to trappers and  
9 hunters too. Current plans are to conduct a survey in the  
10 spring out the Ho-ho and Holitna Drainage in 19(A), a place  
11 that we did a moose survey last spring. Brown bear populations  
12 appear to be healthy and stable, harvests remain low. However,  
13 recent liberalizations in the seasons and bag limits in parts  
14 of the area might encourage harvests. I haven't seen those  
15 yet. Black bear populations are doing real good throughout the  
16 area, and information on harvest really isn't available since  
17 sealing of black bears isn't required.

18 //

19 There are five resident caribou herds in my area.  
20 Those are the Big River, Farewell, Sunshine Mountains, Beaver  
21 Mountains and Tonzona herds. However, the Mulchatna herd has  
22 ranged into Units 19(A) and 19(B) over the past few years. The  
23 resident herds are all small, less than 2,000 animals and  
24 appear to be stable. However, harvest of the resident herds  
25 are also low. Over 700 Mulchatna caribou were actually taken  
26 in Units 19(A) and B last year alone, so people are getting  
27 quite a few of the Mulchatna herd as they come through those  
28 two sub-units.

29 //

30 As far as the bison herd goes up by Farewell, there are  
31 about 350 bison, and August surveys indicate that the calf  
32 production was real good this year and so -- and the mild  
33 winters have really increased there -- they're doing pretty  
34 good. I have plans next spring to put on six new collars so I  
35 can try to keep a handle on where they're moving around. They  
36 seem to be expanding their range every year, more and more.

37 //

38 Now on to moose, the moose populations are pretty  
39 variable throughout the area. Start off in 19(A), we have  
40 long-term survey data from the Holitna and the Hoholitna  
41 Rivers. We also conducted a moose survey in March in 19(A)  
42 south of Old Woman -- or actually north of Old Woman Rock all  
43 the way to -- almost to Sleetmute, in an area about 1,700  
44 square miles. The population appears to be stable in that area  
45 with pretty good calf/cow ratios and moderate bull/cow ratios.  
46 The density estimate from the March survey was about one moose  
47 per square mile in that area, although we didn't get any  
48 composition data from that survey because it's a spring survey  
49 and you can't see the -- there's no antlers on the bulls.  
50 However, bull/cow ratios in that same area have decreased over

00043

1 the past few years, but they're not down to, you know, any  
2 dangerous levels. They're still between 14 and 22 bulls per  
3 100 cows, so they're still doing fine.  
4 //

5 In Unit 19(C) up around Farewell and in the mountains  
6 of Alaska Range based on trend counts in the area, the  
7 population is stable with a slightly decrease in bull/cow  
8 ratio, but the total numbers of moose aren't decreasing in our  
9 trend area count. The population in sub-unit 19(D) is low,  
10 densities are between a quarter of a moose and half a moose per  
11 square mile based on a 1996 estimate in eastern 19(D).  
12 However, I have observed optimistic signs of the population  
13 growth as evidenced by seeing and hearing about people -- well,  
14 seeing myself and talking to folks about moose cows that  
15 they've seen with calves still in September. So, I'm hopeful  
16 that the population will continue to grow.  
17 //

18 In sub-unit 21(A) in the Upper Innoko River where we do  
19 trend count areas most years, densities of moose are moderate  
20 with good numbers of moose observed every time and high  
21 bull/cow ratios. However, the calf/cow ratios are variable,  
22 and the Department believes that the calf/cow ratios are  
23 variable due to predation and to a function of severe winter  
24 weather where long cold winters with deep lasting snows takes  
25 their toll on calves.  
26 //

27 Sub-unit 21(E) trend counts in the Lower Innoko in  
28 density estimates in that same area indicate high densities of  
29 moose within that general vicinity with high bull/cow ratios  
30 and strong cow/calf ratios. This past fall I conducted a moose  
31 check station -- or, actually a check station up on the Upper  
32 Hoholitna river up stream of Old Woman Rock about 30 miles --  
33 or, I'm sorry. More like 20 miles above Old Woman. And, we --  
34 all the hunters that came through took good care of their meat  
35 and of the 10 floating groups of people that we checked only  
36 one group had a moose with them and they had -- they actually  
37 had two. One was a resident, and he was with a non-resident  
38 person. But, they were the only group that actually took a  
39 moose. Everyone else that came through the check station was  
40 unsuccessful in getting a moose. And, most of the floaters  
41 were actually picked up before they even reached the 19(A)  
42 border up above Old Woman. However, most of the floating  
43 groups did get caribou and were fairly successful of that.  
44 But, there were no signs of wanton waste at all with any of the  
45 groups that we checked, and we were there for two weeks and  
46 only checked 10 groups of floaters and -- we checked two groups  
47 of folks with boats from down in Sleetmute and such and they  
48 were successful getting caribou also but they didn't have any  
49 moose with them. We had seen some moose come out in the lower  
50 river, but we didn't -- we weren't checking everybody.

00044

1 As far as the sheep population goes, sheep inhabit the  
2 western Alaska Range in sub-units 19(C) and 19(B), and we did  
3 some surveys between the south fork of the Kuskokwim and the  
4 Big River Drainage. Sheep populations looked strong there with  
5 pretty good lamb/ewe ratios upwards between 28 and 40 lambs per  
6 100 ewes. We have plans for next summer to do some more  
7 extensive sheep surveys in some areas that haven't been  
8 surveyed for a long time.

9 //

10 Another project that we're trying to work on is in  
11 cooperation with BLM is to burn -- re-burn the Farewell burn  
12 that happened back in the late seventies. We've had some  
13 public meetings about it and we're trying to get that going so  
14 we can begin to re-burn the area to create better moose habitat  
15 up in that country, and we're going to try to do it in small  
16 chunks during the early spring when it's not going to heavily  
17 impact the land but it's going to knock back all the spruce  
18 trees that are all about four feet tall, and if we can kill  
19 those back then we'll probably have some pretty good moose  
20 range out in that country for a long time to come. And, that's  
21 about it. Yes, sir?

22 //

23 MR. COLLINS: Yeah, Toby, you mention wolf populations  
24 healthy. Were you able to do any counts and compare them with  
25 what -- have they gone down in numbers? Some locally felt that  
26 they have decreased, that maybe we've suppressed them a little  
27 bit. Any indication of that or ....

28 //

29 MR. BOUDREAU: I think Jack saw some indication of the  
30 moose -- of the wolves densities going down in 19(D) after the  
31 moose crashed. But, we don't -- I'm trying to figure out  
32 exactly what I'm going to do for wolf surveys this spring and a  
33 lot of it's weather dependent, but I'm going to try to do  
34 something in 19(D) also to kind of get an idea. Because with  
35 calf moose, you know, increasing we're bound to see some  
36 increases in the wolf population soon. So, be interesting ....

37 //

38 MR. COLLINS: And in the sheep survey were you able to  
39 tell whether there was many mature sheep? They've been hitting  
40 wounding(ph) some of those pretty hard. Are they knocking down  
41 the number of large rams or are there still a pretty good  
42 healthy ram ....

43 //

44 MR. BOUDREAU: Well, the percentage of large rams -- of  
45 adult rams that we saw in the survey was comparable to every  
46 other year. It's about 25 percent -- or, between 20 and 25  
47 percent mature rams, and quite a few sub-legals in the -- as  
48 far as numbers go. But, you're right that country is hit  
49 pretty hard. There's a lot of guides operating in that area,  
50 and they do take quite a few sheep.

00045

1 MR. MORGAN: Ron?

2 //

3 MR. SAM: Yeah. This Farewell burn that you're  
4 planning on burning over again, how many people does it impact  
5 immediately?

6 //

7 MR. BOUDREAU: As far as ....

8 //

9 MR. SAM: Population, proximity.

10 //

11 MR. BOUDREAU: Well, the Farewell burn is -- the  
12 closest village to the Farewell burn is going to be Nikolai and  
13 it's not going to be -- the plan as I know it is not going  
14 to -- the burn is not going to go near Nikolai. It's going to  
15 be farther to the south there.

16 //

17 MR. COLLINS: From what I heard there's nothing that  
18 can grow in Farewell burn. I keep hearing about it, and I've  
19 did -- seems like nothing would grow out there. Is there a  
20 possibility of bringing that -- bringing back that moose out  
21 there?

22 //

23 MR. BOUDREAU: Oh, yeah. You know, there's lots of  
24 decadent willows there that, you know, I think if we could burn  
25 that it would really make that habitat really good. It's  
26 actually not bad if you've seen really habitat. That's -- but,  
27 yeah. If could burn it it would make it a whole lot better.  
28 That burn actually created some good land. There was a lot of  
29 black spruce in there before and birch and it was getting  
30 higher, and the bison dramatically increased after that burn,  
31 and the bulls moved -- a lot of cow -- moose moved in there  
32 too. More seem to be ranging down in that. And, they want to  
33 try to keep that productivity.

34 //

35 MR. COLLINS: Is that bison herd being utilized or  
36 harvested in any way?

37 //

38 MR. BOUDREAU: Yeah. We -- there's a drawing permit  
39 hunt for it. We issue 40 permits a year to hunters, and  
40 harvests are variable but success is about 90 percent for  
41 people who hunt in the spring, and about 30 percent for people  
42 in hunt in the fall.

43 //

44 MR. MORGAN: On your moose counts on 19(A), you said  
45 you just go from Old Woman to Sleetmute. You know, there's  
46 also 19(A), Aniak River Drainage which covers 19(A) and B. Is  
47 there any -- in the future, any plan of doing a moose count  
48 down there?

49 //

50 MR. BOUDREAU: Actually, in 1997 they did a moose count

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1 in the Aniak River Drainage and counted quite a few moose  
2 during a 62 minute survey. I can't remember exactly where it  
3 was physically, but Jack did do moose count there in the fall  
4 of '97. And, I'd like to get down into the Aniak River  
5 Drainage because I know that a lot of people are floating it  
6 for the caribou herd that's coming through and I imagine  
7 they're combination hunting or trying to do that.  
8 //

9 MR. MORGAN: Yeah. It's combination hunting, and it's  
10 very disturbing when you -- I hear you say there was none -- no  
11 wanton waste, but I was up there in Sleetmute almost two weeks  
12 ago and there was a concern that they brought up. Were you  
13 there in the early part of the season or later part of the  
14 season?  
15 //

16 MR. BOUDREAU: I got on the -- I started checking  
17 hunters on the 8th of September. So, I was there from the 8th  
18 through the 22nd on the river so -- and I didn't see any waste  
19 at all. And, we -- and protection also had a Super Cub on  
20 floats with a protection officer and a helicopter, and granted  
21 the Cub and floats landed on a lake and caught some guys that  
22 were -- that had wasted a caribou -- two caribou and -- but  
23 none of the floaters had wasted any of the meat.  
24 //

25 MR. MORGAN: When you say wasted that means they're --  
26 they just left the meat there, or taking it out?  
27 //

28 MR. BOUDREAU: Well, I mean they had all the meat ....  
29 //

30 MR. MORGAN: With them?  
31 //

32 MR. BOUDREAU: Yes, they had. And, for the most part  
33 it was in pretty -- they -- you know, for floating upwards some  
34 for 13 days, they actually kept pretty good care of it. And,  
35 you know there's only so much you can do and -- over a 13 day  
36 period. But, yeah. They were doing a good job of keeping good  
37 meat. Because it seemed pretty important to most of them that  
38 they were going to -- you know, that the meat was part of it.  
39 And, most of the floating groups had one or two residents with  
40 them actually, so they were a lot more -- I don't know.  
41 //

42 MR. MORGAN: So when you say residents, that's  
43 residents of a surrounding village or from the State of Alaska?  
44 //

45 MR. BOUDREAU: Of the State of Alaska, yeah. There  
46 were only two parties that came upriver and went passed our  
47 check station, and they were both from Sleetmute. And, I only  
48 found one guy on the Hoholitna that actually had a motor other  
49 than a 40 horse, and he had a 60 horse motor. So, everybody  
50 else was legal with the 40 horse regulation.

00047

1 MR. MORGAN: Henry?

2 //

3 MR. DEACON: When -- I question this when you saw that  
4 the meat is in good condition when you examine it. You know, I  
5 question that pretty much. That's -- by Fish and Game  
6 agencies. Another thing that I kind of wonder is the wolves,  
7 when did you last have counts on that? Since you're new, what  
8 do the records say in McGrath?

9 //

10 MR. BOUDREAU: Well, we've tried to do wolf counts  
11 whenever we have the weather. But, having an area as big as  
12 mine you can't do wolf counts in the whole area every year, and  
13 in 19-- -- we've tried to do wolf counts every year that we have  
14 good conditions in -- you know, during February and March, and  
15 I can't rem-- -- I don't know when the last time they did wolf  
16 counts over in the Lower Yukon was. But ....

17 //

18 MR. DEACON: Yeah. I kind of question those too. You  
19 know, the -- I'd like to see more studies on the Innoko Refuge  
20 stuff and your ratios and how much bears -- brown bears take  
21 moose out of that area, wolves. Those questions were asked  
22 about a couple of years ago to see if any way we can find that  
23 stuff out and said -- you know, there are a lot of moose taken  
24 by brown bears and other animals. So ....

25 //

26 MR. BOUDREAU: Well, I'd like you to support a calf  
27 mortality study for the Innoko River Drainage and I'd be glad  
28 to do it, but I don't have the money to do it. I mean, a calf  
29 mortality study is very expensive thing to do, to go out and  
30 mark a bunch of calf moose and then follow them every day to  
31 see if they die, and if they die what take -- what killed them.

32 //

33 MR. DEACON: Yeah, that's good information though.

34 //

35 MR. BOUDREAU: Oh, it's excellent information.

36 //

37 MR. DEACON: That's what you biologists should study.

38 //

39 MR. BOUDREAU: And the Department of Fish and Game  
40 is -- does have a calf mortality study on moose going in the  
41 Tanana Flats, and they didn't find much mortality actually.  
42 And -- but the mortality they did find was split between  
43 grizzly bears and black bears for calves, at least during the  
44 summertime.

45 //

46 MR. HENRY: Mr. Chairman ....

47 //

48 MR. MORGAN: Samson?

49 //

50 MR. HENRY: .... I was going to ask him -- you were

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1 talking -- you were saying a minute ago about the floaters  
2 floating down and taking about 13 days. Is there any way we  
3 can get them to get the meat out of the field sooner than that  
4 so it wouldn't have to be wasted? Because after 13 days  
5 there's no way in the world you can keep that meat.

6 //

7 MR. BOUDREAU: Yeah. That's the hard part about  
8 floating that from Whitefish Lake down to a place that an  
9 airplane can land. Pretty much between Whitefish and where the  
10 south fork comes in there's no place to land, and then there  
11 are very few places to land before you get down close to the  
12 Old Woman Rock -- to land a float plane and pull out the meat  
13 early. I think one of the important things -- and I try to  
14 strive to the hunters is that they do have that long of a trip  
15 and they have to, you know, make -- you know, when I talk to  
16 them on the phone I tell them that, you know, they've got 10  
17 days and don't shoot a -- don't shoot something on the first  
18 day because it's going to be really hard to care of the meat  
19 and have it good at the end. And I understand that, and I try  
20 to reiterate to those people that they should really consider,  
21 you know, not taking it at first because it is a long time.  
22 But, it's difficult.

23 //

24 Also, the caribou distribution this year was that most  
25 of the caribou were up fairly close to Whitefish Lake, and  
26 that's where most of the hunting went on. But, the river was  
27 fairly difficult to raft this year. Floaters had to drag their  
28 rafts for upwards of two miles and that took a couple days and  
29 there were lots of sweepers and stuff that -- boats tipped over  
30 and everything. It's not a float I would really want to do.  
31 So, it -- I think a lot of people have the impression that it  
32 was a much shorter float because it's only about 40 river miles  
33 between Whitefish Lake and a good pick up spot, but there's no  
34 way they can make that -- I mean, some people anticipated they  
35 could make that in four days and on day 13 they came wallowing  
36 into my camp wondering how far they were from their pick up  
37 point.

38

39 So, most of the floaters that did come through -- of  
40 course, the regulation is that you have to have it taken out of  
41 19(B) before you get -- the meat had to be transported out of  
42 19(B), so they were having the meat picked up. But, most of  
43 them - because they had been on such a long float - they were  
44 getting picked up also, they weren't continuing on. We only  
45 checked three -- three of the 10 groups went on downriver past  
46 the Old Woman, and two of those groups were unsuccessful, and I  
47 don't know about the third group.

48 //

49 MR. MORGAN: Benedict?

50 //

00049

1 MR. JONES: Yeah. Toby, I've been reading in the paper  
2 about Native corporation limited outboard motor horsepower 40  
3 and under and not beyond that. Why is that enforcing this  
4 horsepower motors, for fish habitat or what?

5 //

6 MR. BOUDREAU: Well, I don't know all the ins and outs  
7 and the histories of why they got the 40 horse regulation, but  
8 I believe it has something to do with the fact that it limits  
9 the distance that people want to travel, and so it -- people  
10 are not going to be so readily wanting to come all the way from  
11 Bethel to hunt in the Holitna river if they can only take a 40  
12 horse motor to get there. And, I think it was a way that  
13 people saw -- local people saw that they could limit the number  
14 of people that were hunting moose in their area.

15 //

16 MR. MORGAN: Any more questions? Thank you.

17 //

18 MR. GOLEMBESKI: Mr. Chairman, council, public: I'm  
19 glad they gave you the good news. My name is Vincent  
20 Golembeski and I'm with the Commercial Fisheries Division. I'm  
21 an assistant area biologist on the Yukon area. And, I had two  
22 handouts I believe I put on each person's desk. One of them is  
23 a report the Department put on some of the ocean and climatic  
24 changes that have been happening, and then there's the other --  
25 the second report is a report that we are just giving this week  
26 to the North Pacific Fishery Management Council in Seattle.  
27 We're trying to get them to reduce the fly by-catch of salmon  
28 on the high seas there by trollers and things like that. So,  
29 that's in the works now.

30 //

31 Basically, just to summarize the season in western  
32 Alaska pretty much throughout the area we had below average  
33 harvests, below average productivity. Mainly due to -- what we  
34 suspect is the ocean climatic conditions there. We had good  
35 parental escapements, four, five and six year -- six years ago.  
36 We're missing age classes of salmon, both for chinook and for  
37 chum salmon in all age classes. It's not like just one year  
38 class of fish disappeared. It's just that things came back  
39 weaker throughout the whole run. And, it was confined to any  
40 one stock or any one system, we had poor runs pretty much  
41 throughout Bristol Bay, pretty much the Kuskokwin area, and  
42 also in the Yukon area.

43 //

44 There were some concerns going into the season that  
45 some areas we thought might be weaker than others. We  
46 suspected that possibly the Koyukuk River might be weak this  
47 year for chum salmon due to the fact that there was all that  
48 flooding in 1994 on the Koyukuk river. So, we thought, you  
49 know, it could have been mortality from the eggs being shifted  
50 out or being silted in. But, it wasn't just the Koyukuk River

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1 that was weak, it was the whole Yukon river and western Alaska.  
2 //

3 That's the general overview for western Alaska, but on  
4 the Yukon River we had -- we were expecting a near average  
5 chinook salmon run, it came in very poor. We had our lowest  
6 commercial harvest since 1952. We harvested somewhere around  
7 43,600 chinook salmon which is way below -- our statehood  
8 average has been around 100,000 chinook salmon each year.  
9 Summer chum salmon were also very weak. We were expecting  
10 commercial harvest on the Yukon River somewhere around 500,000  
11 to 800,000. We had a natural commercial harvest of 23,600, and  
12 those were caught incidental during our chinook salmon period,  
13 so we only had one directed summer chum salmon period and that  
14 was a three hour test opening on the Lower Yukon in first week  
15 of July -- July 2nd, I believe it was.  
16 //

17 Basically, we just got poor returns on the escapements  
18 that we did have. Like I said, parental escapements four,  
19 five, six years ago were pretty good. We just got low returns  
20 on first spawner. Other indicators that we had for possible  
21 marine stress were salmon were smaller than usual. Our kings  
22 are generally in the Yukon average throughout the area about 20  
23 pounds, 20.2 pounds. They averaged about 18.2 pounds. Our  
24 summer chum salmon generally way about 7 and a half, 7.7  
25 pounds. This year from the limited data we had it was about 6  
26 pounds, 6 and a half pounds. Most of all we had reports that  
27 fish were in poor conditions when they were coming into the  
28 mouth of the river, and also people throughout the river system  
29 were reporting more bruised fish, more blushed fish, higher  
30 incidents of parasites also. So, those are some of the  
31 contributing factors for -- we suspect for this poor return  
32 this year for chinook and summer chum salmon. And, that is  
33 pretty much outlined in this western Alaska report here.  
34 //

35 Like it says, we had a run of a commercial catch of  
36 43,600 kings and about 23,600 summer chum salmon which is way  
37 below anything we'd seen in recent history. Generally the  
38 kings come in a strong steady pulses. This year it started off  
39 normal timing and then it just dropped off. We just had a  
40 series of short weak pulses this year compared to normal. That  
41 was something we hadn't seen before. Pretty much it was the  
42 same thing with the summer chum salmon.  
43 //

44 For king salmon we had reduced commercial fishing  
45 periods. We had approximately three periods in District 2 and  
46 four periods in District 1. There was no commercial fishing in  
47 District 4 for summer chum or for king salmon due to market  
48 conditions for the kings and also for the -- and mainly for the  
49 summer chum. Estimating fishery in District 4, there just  
50 weren't any fish there available for harvest. District 5 had

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1 one period and District 6 had one period. They were directed  
2 for chinook salmon. The only district on the Yukon River that  
3 met the guideline harvest range was District 6, the Tanana  
4 River. The rest of them were all well below the lower end of  
5 the guideline harvest range.

6 //

7 Escapements for chinook throughout the drainage in the  
8 Alaska portion of the Yukon River were pretty much all below  
9 escapements goals. We had one stream system that we monitored  
10 that made the escapement goal. Summer chum salmon were all  
11 below the escapement goal levels. Even the Anvik River which  
12 is strong -- generally a strong producer was below the  
13 escapement goal. Generally for the summer chum salmon they  
14 were 20 to 80 percent the escapement goal levels, and for king  
15 salmon they were 20 to 60 percent below the escapement -- the  
16 receive five year averages, and also below the escapement goal  
17 levels.

18 //

19 MR. COLLINS: That's the spawners? The escapement, you  
20 mean the number of spawners.

21 //

22 MR. GOLEMBESKI: Yeah. It's the spawners going up the  
23 spawning streams. We have numerous escapement monitoring  
24 projects that we run in cooperation with U. S. Fish and  
25 Wildlife Service, the Kaltag Tribal Council, Tanana Chiefs  
26 Council there, Nulato Tribal Council and we had poor  
27 escapements throughout. Aerial surveys, this wasn't a good  
28 year for flying aerial surveys due to poor weather, smoke, a  
29 lot of high turbulent(ph) water made it real difficult flying  
30 aerial surveys and getting any good information.

31 //

32 Things were weak in Canada from what we've -- reports  
33 we've got for chinook salmon. Things were way below average  
34 there also. We didn't meet our objective for getting chinook  
35 salmon across the border for spawning. And, their  
36 commercial -- they had a limited commercial harvest. They  
37 had -- they harvested 390 chinook salmon this year which is way  
38 below average there. It's usually about 5,000. So, it was  
39 pretty much throughout the drainage, poor returns. Yes, Ray.

40 //

41 MR. COLLINS: Did you estimate production just on the  
42 basis of escapement then? Are you monitoring let's say the  
43 number of fingerlings coming down at all or not? See what ....

44 //

45 MR. GOLEMBESKI: No, we don't. We don't have -- on the  
46 Yukon we don't have any smolt or fingerling assessment  
47 projects. It's just such a vast area.

48 //

49 MR. COLLINS: So, the returns in fish will be based on  
50 these escapement numbers.

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1 MR. GOLEMBESKI: Right. On our selected escapements  
2 that we have for -- you know, being monitoring since  
3 statehood -- there's a number of aerial surveys that we've been  
4 doing since statehood, a bunch of long-term escapement  
5 projects, weirs and towers. Yes, Ronald.

6 //

7 MR. SAM: Yes. When you say chinook you mean kings,  
8 right?

9 //

10 MR. GOLEMBESKI: King salmon, yes.

11 //

12 MR. SAM: And one my other question was: What do you  
13 consider a mature salmon? I mean, how many yearwise?

14 //

15 MR. GOLEMBESKI: Mature? On the Yukon River four and  
16 five year olds are ....

17 //

18 MR. SAM: What Koyukuk ....

19 //

20 MR. GOLEMBESKI: Koyukuk River, same thing. They're  
21 four or five year old. Some years the predominant age class is  
22 four years old, some years it's five years old. It switches  
23 back and forth on the Yukon. But you -- generally your adult  
24 chum salmon are either four or five years old. The chum jacks  
25 are generally three years old.

26 //

27 MR. SAM: The reason I ask is because we were wondering  
28 about the effect of the flood, but we didn't know how to go out  
29 and collect data this. There was one devastating flood we went  
30 through around this time ....

31 //

32 MR. GOLEMBESKI: Right. Like I said, we would have  
33 expected -- you know, based on the escapement that we got in  
34 '94, which wasn't too bad -- we didn't have a big harvest in  
35 '94 but we had some -- we made a lot of our escapement  
36 objectives in 1994 for chum salmon. We would have expected to  
37 have seen more chum salmon based on that in the Koyukuk River,  
38 but we just didn't get them. We didn't get chum salmon  
39 anywhere in relation to what we would have expected.

40 //

41 Clear creek, which flows into the Hogatza River, flows  
42 into the Koyukuk has averaged about 90,000 chum salmon the last  
43 three years, '97, '96 and '95. This year in '98 we only had  
44 two days on partial counts on it due to high water, but we only  
45 counted 174 chum salmon, and then during an aerial survey I was  
46 only able to count 120. So that shows you what kind of  
47 magnitude that was there that wasn't there this year.

48 //

49 MR. MORGAN: Samson?

50 //

00053

1 MR. HENRY: Yeah, Mr. Chairman. You were mentioning  
2 something about parasites on the fish. Like this summer --  
3 especially this summer even though we've had fairly high water  
4 all summer. A lot of fish with -- they look fairly healthy,  
5 but there some round spots on them.

6 //

7 MR. GOLEMBESKI: In the flesh?

8 //

9 MR. HENRY: Uh-huh (affirmative).

10 //

11 MR. GOLEMBESKI: Yeah. That's a fung- -- that was a --  
12 it was analyzed as a fungus. It's cropped up before in the  
13 Yukon River, but it seemed to have a -- be more prevalent this  
14 year.

15 //

16 MR. HENRY: And I heard some people on the Yukon River  
17 said there was some fish down there like that.

18 //

19 MR. GOLEMBESKI: Right, yeah. There was quite a few  
20 people that reported fungus on the fish this year on the Yukon.  
21 I'm not sure about other areas, but on the Yukon River, yeah.  
22 It was definitely noted this year. It was note -- it hadn't  
23 really noticed by people on the Lower Yukon in the past. It's  
24 usually been noticed up in the Upper Yukon, generally above the  
25 Tanana River is where it's been reported in the past. This  
26 year we had reports in the Lower Yukon and the Middle Yukon,  
27 and it's the white cysts in the flesh of the fish. You can't  
28 tell a lot of times that they have it from the external  
29 characteristics, but once you open up the fish and fillet it  
30 then you would see the white there.

31 //

32 MR. MORGAN: Benedict?

33 //

34 MR. JONES: Yeah. There was concern brought up at the  
35 Nulato mid-year TCC meeting. These foreign fisheries,  
36 especially the Japanese are dumping their hatchery fish out  
37 in -- I don't know it's an international water and what -- I  
38 don't know whether the State or the Federal doing in research  
39 on this. It's a possibility that they're starving our fish out  
40 there on in the high seas. I don't know whether the chums come  
41 from the Siberia coast or the Pacific coast. But, the summer  
42 chums we know it come from the Pacific. Main concern was  
43 whether this parasite interfere with the feeding out in the  
44 seas, because we did catch some in the Koyukuk area, Bishop  
45 Rock area that far down that's been caught. But, what we see  
46 in the future if Japanese keep dumping their hatchery fish out  
47 there, what -- 10, 20 years from now what our fish population  
48 going to be? That's the most concern, so I'd like to see the  
49 State and the Federal do some research on that.

50 //

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1 MR. GOLEMBESKI: Yeah. We don't have precise  
2 production figures on what the Japanese have. I know  
3 they're -- I haven't heard anything recently, but I know they  
4 were expecting a record return of their fall chum salmon this  
5 year. They've had two year -- the last three years of each  
6 year has been a record year for chum salmon returns. So, it's  
7 hard to say. There are a lot of fish out there. It's not just  
8 the Japanese that are farming fish or having hatchery fish.  
9 The Russians are involved in that now, a lot of that's been  
10 financed by the Japanese. The United States has a lot of farm  
11 fish, and we have a lot of hatcheries in this state also at  
12 this time that contributed putting fry out there. So, yeah.  
13 No one really knows right now what the carrying capacity is for  
14 chum salmon, and it's hard to tell how well or how badly the  
15 Yukon chum compete with other stocks of fish for the same  
16 resource. We just don't have that information right now. But,  
17 it is a concern. We've had that concern for a while there, you  
18 know, but like he says it's -- they've done it in their own  
19 national waters when they release their fry. It's within their  
20 own coastal waters. And, everyone right now -- used to be the  
21 old coastal waters were three to 12 miles off shore. Every one  
22 now claims out to 200 miles as their own territorial waters and  
23 then after that it's international waters. But, no. There  
24 isn't a whole lot of research on that.  
25 //

26 MR. MORGAN: One of the concerns that -- from around  
27 the Aniak area, 19(A) and that way, is that the -- you know,  
28 the State has their priority system on these fisheries. I  
29 don't know who put the priorities, and I look at most of the  
30 priority system, and it looked like it's basically the same  
31 escapement, subsistence, commercial, sports. Yet we see -- it  
32 seems it might be the other way around. With the big pressure  
33 for commercial opening and with -- they seem to know already  
34 the fish counts is low. Their test fisheries are showing low.  
35 Yet they'll have an experimental or the test -- the test fish  
36 have a commercial opening and it's been -- it's commercial  
37 opening. And, the priorities seem like it's -- it went ahead  
38 of the escapement, subsistence, commercial opening -- I mean,  
39 commercial. And, with that 200,000 fish that was caught this  
40 year, it seems to me if you knew it was low -- the people on  
41 the river knew it was going to be low, yet they still had a  
42 commercial opening and took those fish anyway. And, what we  
43 going to see another four years down the road with the -- like  
44 the Aniak River, escapement level is supposed to be 250,000  
45 plus. I don't know if -- it barely made it this -- I don't  
46 know what they made this year. It was real low, low as ever.  
47 You know, we're compounding the problem by having these  
48 openings and it's just -- I just want to share with you this  
49 concern from down there that let's get our priorities back on  
50 line.

00055

1 MR. STICKMAN: Okay. I fish in Nulato. I don't  
2 commercial fish, but I fish for my sisters and my uncle. And,  
3 it seem like this year like the king run, you know, it was --  
4 the kings were small, you know. There was a lot of fish with  
5 like fungus like you say, but then there was also an increase  
6 in fish that were, you know, they were beat up. They were  
7 scarred up, they were cut up, you know. Half their faces were  
8 gone, you know. And, usually you see that at the end of the  
9 run, you know. But, this summer you could -- you see it right  
10 from the beginning of the run. And, then instead of, you know,  
11 like having two separate king runs it seems like it was just  
12 one solid run from the beginning to the end, but it was just  
13 like a slow steady run instead of like two separate runs. I  
14 don't think there was any place where you could distinguish  
15 between the two runs actually. Not like before.  
16 //

17 MR. GOLEMBESKI: Okay. Yeah, it was -- like he says --  
18 normally like he says it comes in -- the kings usually enter in  
19 pulses, strong pulses that are really noticeable. This year  
20 like he says it was slow pulses or short pulses but steady,  
21 kind of steady, but really slow, a real slow level and steady.  
22 They were just trickling in all along which was different. And  
23 like he says, those beat up fish that usually come in the tail  
24 end of the run were right there in the middle, they were there  
25 in the beginning. But, then we got a -- in the end we got a  
26 shot of some bright fish in late June, and they hit Nulato  
27 around, oh, I think around July 15 -- about July 15th, 16th we  
28 got reports of people starting to catch some bright fish at  
29 that time, medium size and larger bright fish. Because at that  
30 point they got some tagged Canadian fish at that time that were  
31 caught in Kaltag and Nulato, people turned them in. But, yeah.  
32 Normally those fish are usually by earlier. But, yeah. It was  
33 definitely a different entry pattern this year.  
34 //

35 MR. REAKOFF: Mr. Chairman ....

36 //

37 MR. MORGAN: Jack?

38 //

39 MR. REAKOFF: I was wondering if the Department was  
40 going to investigate the by-catch of the troll fleet with  
41 the -- you know, the Pollock Fishery was real slow this year so  
42 they're extending the season which increases the by-catch of  
43 chum and king salmon, and I was wondering if you had an input  
44 into reducing those seasons.  
45 //

46 MR. GOLEMBESKI: That's -- we have some representatives  
47 of the Department down at the North Pacific Management Council  
48 right now as we speak trying to get the by-catch reduced.  
49 //

50 MR. REAKOFF: Another question I have about that

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1 by-catch: Where's all the -- I hear they have to freeze those  
2 fish this year. Where are those fish going? Are they selling  
3 those or ....  
4 //

5 MR. GOLEMBESKI: No. They're not -- as far as I know  
6 they're not allowed to sell them anymore. At one time they had  
7 to discard them, now they're supposed to be given away for  
8 charity to one of the food banks in Seattle when they deliver.  
9 //

10 MR. REAKOFF: Shouldn't they be returned to their  
11 systems of origin like back up here or something?  
12 //

13 MR. GOLEMBESKI: Well, that would be an ideal  
14 situation, but I don't think that's going to happen.  
15 //

16 MR. REAKOFF: I was wondering how long those king --  
17 what the life of those kings were in like in these Yukon  
18 Drainages. Are they like six year old average fish?  
19 //

20 MR. GOLEMBESKI: Right. The majority of the king  
21 salmon that come back to the Yukon are six year old fish, and  
22 most years it averages somewhere around -- it's close to 60%  
23 six year olds with some five year olds and some seven year olds  
24 and some four year olds. Most of them come back as four, five,  
25 six and seven years old. But, most of them come back as six  
26 years most years. This was not one of the big years for six  
27 year old king salmon. It was pretty weak.  
28 //

29 MR. REAKOFF: Another thing I was wondering about is if  
30 you plan on doing a smolt health survey in the future here in  
31 the Yukon and compare those to the southeastern hatchery fish.  
32 It's my opinion that hatchery fish are larger and more  
33 competitive than the weaker fish after they've had saltations  
34 and so forth and whether those are ....  
35 //

36 MR. GOLEMBESKI: That's one of the ....  
37 //

38 MR. REAKOFF: .... those hatcheries should be throttled  
39 down and quit grinding them up and spitting them out.  
40 //

41 MR. GOLEMBESKI: That's one of the strategies of people  
42 that run the hatcheries is when the fish emerge out of the  
43 grav- -- their artificial substrates and out of their fresh  
44 water incubation tanks they're put into salt water pens and  
45 they're fed for a couple of weeks. They're not brought up  
46 to -- they're generally not brought up to smolt size, but  
47 they're fed for two weeks to maybe four weeks. For chum  
48 they're brought up to a good fingerling size rather than a  
49 small 30 millimeter fish. I'm sure those fish that are fed  
50 constantly have better survival than unfed fish, or wild stock

00057

1 for the most part. Yeah. That's one of the strategies for  
2 short term rearing. Get those fish learning to feed and they  
3 grow size, and they do have a better survival. That's been  
4 practiced, you know, up and down the coast. And, chinook,  
5 they're generally -- when they're reared, they're reared in  
6 fresh water tanks inside, warmer water and fed regularly also,  
7 brought up to size and then released.

8 //

9 MR. COLLINS: Does the State have any involvement on  
10 observers on those trolling(ph)? (Indiscernible - mumbled  
11 speech) in terms of this escapement. The reason I ask that is  
12 I have a friend in our area that was fishing on some of those,  
13 and it appalled him of the waste. That anytime someone turned  
14 their back they would just have them shake them out of the  
15 nest. They weren't -- you know, out of the net, going back  
16 into -- so they weren't counted in the by-catch.

17 //

18 MR. GOLEMBESKI: Right. No ....

19 //

20 MR. COLLINS: He felt there was a tremendous amount of  
21 waste there and that nobody was really -- even with observers,  
22 they weren't being held to the line.

23 //

24 MR. GOLEMBESKI: No. That's -- that observer program  
25 is run by the Federal Government. It's a federal ground fish  
26 program. The only observers the State has -- and we don't  
27 have -- they're contracted, but the State trains them and  
28 certifies and debriefs them, is with the shell fish program.  
29 We have observers on the shell fish program for the crab and  
30 scallop fisheries. But, right now the Federal Government has  
31 jurisdiction for all ground fish.

32 //

33 MR. COLLINS: I guess I got the impression from him  
34 from working on that, that we don't even have accurate numbers  
35 on what that is. I mean, they were supposedly were getting  
36 reports on by-catch and they're taking them back, but they're  
37 not accurate. There's -- they're actually cheating on that  
38 where ever they get -- they were under pressure from the one  
39 supervising them to do that. He was the one pulling, you know,  
40 that. So, anytime they turn their back ....

41 //

42 MR. GOLEMBESKI: Okay. There's a one, eight hundred  
43 number over there ....

44 //

45 MR. COLLINS: He did some writing and he said he got no  
46 responses.

47 //

48 MR. GOLEMBESKI: Really?

49 //

50 MR. COLLINS: Yes. And he finally quit the fishery.

00058

1 MR. GOLEMBESKI: Okay. National Marine Fishery Service  
2 usually is pretty up on that -- their agents.

3 //

4 MR. MORGAN: Benedict?

5 //

6 MR. JONES: Yes. I don't know what your test fishery  
7 down in (Indiscernible - mumbled speech) area was this year,  
8 but I noticed the fall chum were smaller this year because  
9 they -- two or three year olds. There were hardly any four and  
10 five year old fall chums.

11 //

12 MR. GOLEMBESKI: Okay. Yeah. The fall chum salmon  
13 mainly come back as four year olds, they're different than a  
14 summer chum. The summer chums come back as both four and five  
15 years old, you know, some split some years 50/50 four year  
16 olds, five year olds. But, predominantly the fall chum,  
17 probably 75 percent of them come back as four year olds.  
18 There's a few five year olds, but -- no. I'm not aware of what  
19 they saw at the test nets on those fall chum this year.

20 //

21 MR. JONES: Yeah. Because I've been fishing in  
22 September, before this closure -- open and closure. That's  
23 when I got most of my fall chums, and it's now smaller ones,  
24 very few big ones, maybe I'll get about three out of 100 fish.  
25 But, I was concerned about ....

26 //

27 MR. GOLEMBESKI: Like I says, that was the trend this  
28 year was smaller fish, like I says, with this summer chum. You  
29 know, we had the weights on those, and the same thing with the  
30 chinook there we had av- -- you know, had average weights on  
31 that. On the fall chums, since we had no commercial openings,  
32 we don't really have any average weights on those, so I  
33 couldn't tell you for sure. But, you know, I'm sure your  
34 observations are right. You know, it was pretty much small  
35 fish across the board this year.

36 //

37 MR. MORGAN: Angie?

38 //

39 MS. DEMIENTIEFF: Okay. I have a question for you.  
40 Is -- you probably know that I'm on the YURDFA board also,  
41 that's Yukon River Drainage Fishermen's Association, and we've  
42 had tele-conferences all from around on fishing. And, during  
43 one of our tele-conferences we heard from very reliable sources  
44 that some fish caught up in the Unalakleet River -- Yukon River  
45 king, did Fish and Game ever up to Unalakleet to get those fish  
46 scale patterns from the Unalakleet people to see if those were  
47 indeed Yukon River king they were catching there? The other  
48 things is: We were also in Nulato for that mid-year meeting  
49 for the Tanana Chiefs which represented 43 villages. They also  
50 had commissioners there that were studying about, you know,

00059

1 this whole state, and one of the commissioners is about of  
2 Barrow. His name is Arnold Brower, Jr. Arnold Brower, Jr.  
3 lived -- was born and raised in Barrow, and he said on a good  
4 year he'd get five king salmon, but this year he has a freezer  
5 full of king salmon he doesn't know what to do with. Has Fish  
6 and Game thought to go up to Barrow to take fish scale patterns  
7 from Barrow people because he got so many kings up there? You  
8 know, where they getting them and how are they got them.

9 //

10 MR. GOLEMBESKI: No. We heard that. We talked to  
11 Arnold.

12 //

13 MS. DEMIENTIEFF: But, did you go?

14 //

15 MR. GOLEMBESKI: Yeah, we talked to him. I didn't talk  
16 to him, Dan Bergsson(ph) talked to him quite a bit at that  
17 meeting.

18 //

19 MS. DEMIENTIEFF: But did anybody ask for scale  
20 patterns to see if those were indeed Yukon kings went up north?

21 //

22 MR. GOLEMBESKI: It's hard to say. There's some, you  
23 know, Norton Sound, and there's some local Unalakleet fish.  
24 But, yeah. Unalakleet possibly got some Yukon kings that way.  
25 The -- you know, with that southerly wind that we had and some  
26 of the northerly winds there was quite a few fish that were  
27 spread out that way that were in that Unalakleet area more than  
28 likely. That's happened in the past. Generally when that wind  
29 blows the fish Hooper Bay and out of the Scammon Bay area they  
30 generally do go up to that Unalakleet area. They've been  
31 caught there in the past with the same wind conditions there.

32 //

33 But we didn't go up there and collect scales. They  
34 collected scales there in Unalakleet. They'll be looking at  
35 those later on this winter. I'm not sure how many scales were  
36 collected, but there were some. They collected scales there  
37 every day that they catch king salmon in their test nets. They  
38 have a regular test fishery there in Unalakleet.

39 //

40 MR. LYNUS: Mr. Chairman ....

41 //

42 MR. MORGAN: Paul?

43 //

44 MR. LYNUS: (Indiscernible - away from microphone)

45 //

46 MR. MATHEWS: Got to go up to the mike.

47 //

48 MR. LYNUS: Yeah. When you're saying wind patterns,  
49 what kind of effect does that have with temperature of the  
50 water? Would that make any difference?

00060

1 MR. GOLEMBESKI: Probably not, just the wind there.  
2 You know, it was just this year we had a lot of off-shore  
3 winds. Usually we have a fair amount of in-shore winds,  
4 generally end of May, beginning of June that bring the fish up  
5 river. When we have storms with an in-shore wind we get strong  
6 pulses of king salmon and some pulses of summer chum salmon  
7 coming up the river. This year we didn't have that many  
8 on-shore winds there. We had stuff blowing off shore. Like I  
9 says, it disrupted the pattern there. Fish that normally get  
10 caught off Hooper Bay and Scammon Bay just weren't there. They  
11 just ranged farther off shore and some of them got pushed up  
12 north. And, I'm not sure how the wind would affect the air --  
13 the water temperature.

14 //

15 MR. MORGAN: Mike?

16 //

17 MR. STICKMAN: Yes. I have a question for you about --  
18 as far as the commercial fishing like in Nulato. I'm not a  
19 commercial fishermen, but there's some members of my family who  
20 are. Like in Y-4 -- but there was no commercial openings in  
21 Y-4, but there was openings below Nulato and above Y-4. Who  
22 determines what areas are going to be opened and not opened?

23 //

24 MR. GOLEMBESKI: Right. The Department determines that  
25 and opens them and closes them by emergency order. The main  
26 reason District 4 didn't open - or 4(A) I should say - is because  
27 mainly that's a summer chum salmon commercial harvest there.  
28 There's very few if any king salmon caught and sold  
29 commercially there. In the last few years there hasn't been  
30 any because the guideline harvest range is so small for king  
31 salmon that people don't want to catch them because if they'd  
32 catch the summer chum salmon season would be closed. The  
33 districts below you, Districts 1 and 2 and 3 that were open,  
34 were open and targeting king salmon. And, the districts above  
35 you, Districts 5 and 6, were targeting king salmon. Above you,  
36 District 5 got, oh, about 110 chum salmon, and somewhere around  
37 300 king salmon. And, District 6, the Tanana River, got a  
38 little over 800 king salmon and somewhere around 100 chum  
39 salmon.

40 //

41 MR. STICKMAN: Okay. The only other question I have  
42 is: Y-1 is ready at the very beginning, right?

43 //

44 MR. GOLEMBESKI: Right. It's from the coast until the  
45 Anuk River there.

46 //

47 MR. STICKMAN: So there -- you don't even have no  
48 indication of how close to your escapement goals you are, even  
49 have an idea of what you're going to have. So, how do you  
50 determine to have a commercial season or not?

00061

1 MR. GOLEMBESKI: We have a test fishery. We look at  
2 relative catch per unit efforts from our test fishery. We look  
3 at the subsistence harvest in the area in Districts 1 and 2.  
4 And, we're also looking at our sonar counting numbers in  
5 District 2. And, we also -- there's one escapement project in  
6 District 2, the east fork, Andreafsky. Those are our earliest  
7 indicators that give us some type of run timing and relative  
8 strength of how the run is, and that's how we open and close  
9 our periods in the Lower Yukon. Is based on the test fishery,  
10 reported subsistence harvest and what little escapement  
11 information we have. It's easy to determine the run as it  
12 progresses up river because you have more indicators. There's  
13 more subsistence fishing going on, there's more escapement  
14 projects as you go up river and you just get to see things  
15 more. But, down in the lower river we have less things to  
16 determine there. We just have to go by how things looked in  
17 past years. How many fish we had by a certain time with so  
18 much effort.

19 //

20 MR. MORGAN: Vince?

21 //

22 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, I know this is all -- it's  
23 very important to the council and et cetera, but I have to  
24 advise you at this time you don't have any jurisdiction over  
25 fisheries and -- that was one point. The other point before we  
26 ended the State I wanted to talk about our efforts of  
27 coordinating presentations. So, I'm not trying to put a stop  
28 to this discussion, but the tools in your tool kit you can't do  
29 anything with this at this moment, but you are all on -- many  
30 of you are on advisory committees so it's still worth while.

31 //

32 MR. GOLEMBESKI: Any other questions, I'll be the  
33 Koyukuk River Fish and Game Advisory Committee. I'll be at the  
34 Ruby Fish and Game Advisory Committee. I'll be at the Middle  
35 Yukon and the GASH Fish and Game Advisory Committees. So, you  
36 can hit me up any time you want or at breaks and stuff I'll  
37 answer any questions that I can. One thing before I'm done is  
38 every time I come to one of the meetings here people are always  
39 on Fish and Wildlife protection for whatever reason. Some  
40 people like them, some people don't, some people say they don't  
41 respond to calls, some people say they respond too quickly.  
42 But, for anyone that wants them there's an eight hundred number  
43 for the Alaska Fish and Wildlife safeguard program, and then  
44 there's the local numbers for Fish and Wildlife protection in  
45 Bethel, Aniak, McGrath, Galena and Fairbanks. That pretty much  
46 will cover most of the Kuskokwim and Yukon areas, so if anyone  
47 has any problems. And, if you don't get satisfaction with the  
48 person you're talking to you can always ask for the commander  
49 of the detachment of that area. If you don't feel like you're  
50 getting the service you want from one of the regular troopers

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1 just give your Anchorage number a call. I don't have an  
2 Anchorage number, but the Fairbanks office there -- the  
3 commander there is pretty good, and so is the one in Anchorage.  
4 And, right now in McGrath there's a sergeant there so they're  
5 pretty response.

6 //

7 MR. MORGAN: Ron?

8 //

9 MR. SAM: Yes. I'd like to thank you for your report,  
10 and I guess it's an oversight then on all of our parts because  
11 we deal with mostly game, both the Koyukuk River Advisory  
12 Council and this -- and I think that's -- the reason I call it  
13 an oversight is you don't miss it until it's gone. It's just  
14 so drastic that this couldn't get out subject -- I thank you.  
15 And, I'd like to thank you for staying for the Koyukuk Advisory  
16 Council.

17 //

18 MR. GOLEMBESKI: No problem. Thank you.

19 //

20 MR. MORGAN: Vince?

21 //

22 MR. MATHEWS: Yeah. Carl, what I was getting at when I  
23 was talking about that was that this is the first year we sent  
24 a -- with your signature we sent a specific letter to the State  
25 asking for information on certain areas. I've already gotten  
26 feedback from the State that they appreciate that, so I'm  
27 wondering if the council would assist me and the State and  
28 other agencies as we move into busier meetings if -- on the  
29 assumption you will have fisheries. That if you could talk to  
30 your chair or to me individually what needs you need in  
31 presentations at these meetings in a timely matter then I can  
32 transmit that to the State or to whoever, so they can target  
33 their presentations pretty much the way they did now, but if  
34 you needed it any further refined. So, I'm seeing a lot of  
35 heads nodding that there was appreciation of doing that. The  
36 council initiated this of asking specifically for information  
37 on 21(D), 21(E), et cetera, et cetera. Okay. The State  
38 indicated that me -- during training of new members, and we'll  
39 try to do that if you can give me that or you can initiate it  
40 yourself, whatever, that we have to be clear to the agencies in  
41 general what you want would help better than just having them  
42 come. Okay. Thank you.

43 //

44 MR. MORGAN: Item C, Bureau of Land Management.

45 //

46 MR. SAM: B, 2.

47 //

48 MR. MORGAN: Oh, B, 2. Excuse me, David Anderson.

49 Sorry.

50 //

00063

1 MR. ANDERSON: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I'll refer  
2 council members to -- under tab D in your books, there -- the  
3 first double-sided page there is part of my presentation. My  
4 name is Dave Anderson. I'm with the Division of Subsistence in  
5 Fairbanks, Department of Fish and Game. And, I wanted to  
6 report to the council on my 1998 big game harvest survey  
7 project that we did, especially since it focused in part on the  
8 Koyukuk River area -- this area.

9 //

10 You may recall that last year I reported to you on the  
11 results of a big game harvest assessment project that we  
12 initiated in five Middle Yukon River communities. We found  
13 that the harvest ticket system works very well for recording  
14 the harvest of the large number of non-local hunters that come  
15 into an area like this, but it does not provide a very accurate  
16 account of what local harvests are at the village level. So,  
17 using local people hired in each community we interviewed  
18 hunters to collect information on their harvest and use of  
19 moose, caribou and bears. And, this past spring we repeated  
20 that project in Nulato, Kaltag, Galena, Ruby and Tanana, which  
21 were our original five. And, then we added the Koyukuk River  
22 communities this year of Huslia, Alatna, Allakaket, Bettles and  
23 Evansville, surveying a total of 10 communities in all. We  
24 were able to survey 467 of the 682 households in these 10  
25 communities, that's a 68 percent contact rate. And, survey  
26 results were expanded to unsurveyed households.

27 //

28 The summary sheet under tab D presents the findings  
29 from the 1998 survey effort, keep in mind this data for last  
30 year. Our survey period was April '97 through March of '98.  
31 Looking at the table on the backside of the summary you'll see  
32 that local hunters in these communities took an estimated 444  
33 moose, 141 caribou, 68 black bear during the 12 months period.  
34 No brown bear were reported harvested. These data highlight  
35 the importance of moose as a food resource to these villages  
36 with over 90 percent of all household using moose, two-thirds  
37 of all households participating in the hunting of moose and  
38 nearly half of all households harvesting one or more moose.

39 //

40 Copies of this summary sheet were mailed to every  
41 household in all 10 communities during the last week of June.  
42 The methodology of using local residents to collect harvest  
43 information has been both successful and well received by the  
44 residents of the survey communities. It appears that this  
45 methodology results in a more accurate reporting of big game  
46 harvest than the existing harvest ticket system in this area.  
47 It's hoped that better harvest information will help biologist  
48 better manage these resources, and at the same time help  
49 communities document baseline levels of subsistence uses.

50 //

00064

1           It turns out that it was especially useful to have this  
2 information this year as the Board of Game was dealing with  
3 requests from areas on the Koyukuk and the Middle Yukon both  
4 for extended moose seasons due to the salmon shortage. These  
5 data were pulled together and made available to the Board of  
6 game while they were making those decisions. And, having  
7 reliable data showing when and where local hunters typically  
8 take moose played a significant role in the Board's decision to  
9 open extended seasons.

10 //

11           We think this project is a good example of a  
12 cooperative effort between ADF & G and local communities. It  
13 has benefits to both part parties. And, we have tentative  
14 plans to continue this project in the same 10 communities in  
15 1999. I don't know if you want to go through any of the data  
16 community by community, but it is there for you to look at and  
17 if you have any questions I'd be glad to answer them.

18 //

19           MR. MORGAN: Ron?

20 //

21           MR. SAM: Yeah. I'd just like to commend you people  
22 for putting this -- getting this survey done. It's so much  
23 easier having someone from the -- your own community going to  
24 each household instead of answering somebody from out of town.  
25 And, you get the full complement -- I mean, you get all the  
26 data that you re-question. And, I would like to see the same  
27 format used in the future.

28 //

29           MR. SIMON: How many were taken by wolves?

30 //

31           MR. ANDERSON: By wolves? Well, I don't have that  
32 information. We did have a comment box on the survey forms,  
33 and we didn't get a whole lot of comments from -- out of the  
34 400 and some surveys we got a -- I bet less than 10 percent of  
35 them had comments. But, those that did have comments, many of  
36 them dealt with wolves, and they were generic comments like too  
37 many wolves in this area, or wolves are getting all the moose.  
38 Those were real common comments from actually this village --  
39 Alatna and Allakaket both. We got -- so we get some indicators  
40 that people are concerned about wolves in their area, but we  
41 didn't actually have a question in the survey that dealt with  
42 that. So, I can't answer that question. (Pause) Anything  
43 else?

44 //

45           MR. MORGAN: Any questions?

46 //

47           MR. ANDERSON: Thank you.

48 //

49           MR. MORGAN: Thank you. Now we can go to the Bureau of  
50 Land Management.

00065

1 MR. YOKEL: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm Dave Yokel  
2 with the Bureau of Land Management's Northern District Office  
3 in Fairbanks, and I guess we're the first of the Federal  
4 agencies today. So, the land areas that we manage are on these  
5 maps on the walls behind you. The orange on this map or the  
6 yellow on this one over here shows the Bureau of Land  
7 Management lands. And, Jeff and I work in two different  
8 offices, and we split this region about in half. If you drew a  
9 line east/west across the top of Denali National Park over to  
10 the top of the Innoko Refuge, the lands that I represent are to  
11 the north of that line pretty much, and Jeff, the lands to the  
12 south.

13 //

14 In the northern field office we don't feel that we have  
15 any major issues at this time to bring forward to you on the  
16 land in the northern part of your region. We do plan to attend  
17 the meeting on moose co-management in Koyukuk at the end of  
18 this month. But, other than that I don't have any thing to  
19 present to you, but I'd be glad to try to answer any questions  
20 if you have any.

21 //

22 MR. MORGAN: Any questions?

23 //

24 MR. YOKEL: I could say that we're ....

25 //

26 MR. MORGAN: Ray? Paul?

27 //

28 MR. LYNUS: (Indiscernible - away from microphone)

29 //

30 MR. YOKEL: Well, the BLM will be represented there. I  
31 won't be there personally. Ruth Gronquist who is the -- our  
32 wildlife biologist for the -- that portion of our field office  
33 will be there.

34 //

35 MR. MORGAN: Ray?

36 //

37 MR. COLLINS: Yeah. The question would probably be  
38 fore Jeff. It's the one that was raised to me about the BLM  
39 land that was opened down the Kuskokwim River. There's not  
40 much there, but it's longer to the (Indiscernible - mumbled  
41 speech). What's the best way of finding out where that is and  
42 so on? And, I don't know if you can tell maps in here, can  
43 you, what -- you know, what -- how do local people actually use  
44 that information to find out where they can go?

45 //

46 MR. DENTON: Actually, in McGrath, that's State lands.  
47 They have all the master title plat copies there for fire.  
48 They have all the ownership maps there. They should be up to  
49 date, especially for the people in McGrath. That's probably  
50 the best local source of the ownership all through that country

00066

1 there.  
2 //

3 MR. COLLINS: Yeah. Has there been a map that's very  
4 readable of the Kuskokwin area that shows that system, how you  
5 can get -- I mean ....  
6 //

7 MR. DENTON: No, there has not. BLM statewide has  
8 really not got into that kind of a map making program. One,  
9 because of expense. Two, because the land conveyance process  
10 in Alaska is such a dynamic thing. There's millions of acres  
11 going back and forth ever year, that oftentimes a map is  
12 obsolete before you can get it printed. And, we're moving more  
13 into getting a lot of this mapping type data on the computers  
14 and able to print from the computers, that we're getting to a  
15 stage where we can update maps fairly rapidly. We're not there  
16 yet, but we're working on that. So, the day may be coming here  
17 in the next few years that we can actually produce, you know,  
18 good, viable maps for people to actually use. But, it's really  
19 not on the horizon right now, except probably with -- maybe the  
20 exception of what we're doing on the Innoko here. It's kind of  
21 issue driven.  
22 //

23 MR. COLLINS: I'm wondering if maybe there -- you could  
24 like say work with the Native village councils or somewhere  
25 where one map could be updated that they could get before the  
26 hunting season that they could put up in a public place there  
27 that people could go refer to or something like that. Because  
28 of the changing status it ....  
29 //

30 MR. DENTON: Those are available at our State office to  
31 the nearest section, all they got to do is ask.  
32 //

33 MR. COLLINS: Okay. Okay. So I should refer them that  
34 they need to get active before the hunting season and maybe ask  
35 the State office for them so they could get one posted.  
36 //

37 MR. DENTON: Right. And the State Department of Lands,  
38 D & R, also has that capability.  
39 //

40 MR. COLLINS: Probably be of interest down river there  
41 too in your area so they can figure out ....  
42 //

43 MR. JONES: Yeah. There was an interest down  
44 there ....  
45 //

46 MR. HENRY: Mr. Chairman ....  
47 //

48 MR. MORGAN: Go ahead, Samson.  
49 //

50 MR. HENRY: I was going to mention that -- you know,

00067

1 what Ray was saying, you know, about getting a map,  
2 communicated with the council, local village councils and see  
3 if they could get a map and say when the seasons -- what part  
4 of the -- like for instance, Unit 24. What part of Unit 24  
5 or -- yeah. What part of the river or whatever season could be  
6 open, and what day, and for what purpose, you know, like sport  
7 hunting or subsistence.

8 //

9 MR. DENTON: Yeah. To coordinate those things, you  
10 know -- I mean, that's part of the process and why the maps are  
11 in the book. And, I agree, you know, they're pretty small  
12 scale to figure out where you are and the landmarks aren't  
13 there. But, producing these kind of maps is extremely  
14 expensive and if you're -- things and land ownership are  
15 changing quite rapidly in some of these areas, it's pretty hard  
16 to justify the expense. To generate what we're working on on  
17 the Innoko, probably to put it to a production state you're  
18 looking at \$25,000. I mean, it's not a cheap thing and it's  
19 very time intensive and you've got distribution, you've got a  
20 lot of other problems creating those maps. So, it's not a  
21 quick and easy thing to develop these kind of maps. It's very  
22 timely. It takes a lot of time to put them together.  
23 Especially the kinds of information you need on them, where the  
24 Native allotments are, who owns what lands, where the 17(B)  
25 easements are. These things take a lot of time to put  
26 together.

27 //

28 MR. MORGAN: Any more questions?

29 //

30 MR. DENTON: Okay. Let me do the southern part here, I  
31 guess. My name is Jeff Denton. I'm the subsistence  
32 coordinator and wildlife biologist for the Anchorage field  
33 office which covers the lands that Dave mentioned plus we cover  
34 the southeast, the Kwecharak, the whole southwestern part of  
35 Alaska. And, so I'm spread pretty thin. This is one of six of  
36 these Regional Councils that we deal with one way or the other  
37 out of the 10. So, I'm spread real thin. I'm the only one  
38 there is. So ....

39 //

40 But for activities, BLM activities in your area this  
41 year we've been doing so cooperative works with Ducks Unlimited  
42 and the Refuge system for land cover mapping for actually  
43 several years in Alaska. This was the first big project this  
44 year. We covered basically everything from the Kilbuck  
45 Mountains north to the Unalakleet Drainage, and it covered the  
46 biggest portion of the Innoko Refuge and the Innoko -- the  
47 Middle Innoko/Yukon Bottoms, Paimute slough area. That was  
48 this year's project. The final products of the -- it's  
49 vegetated cover mapping to get us our first baseline of where  
50 habitat types lie and what the distribution of these are so we

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1 can start relating it to moose and caribou and various habitat  
2 and wildlife species.

3 //

4 That was this year's project. Next year in your region  
5 the Farewell/McGrath line village areas, Sparrevohn areas will  
6 be covered basically on the Air Force dollar because the Air  
7 Force training area is out and potential impacts to wildlife  
8 due to the low level aircraft training that they military does  
9 out there. And, we're going to fill in the gaps outside those  
10 military areas to go ahead and bound up against what we did  
11 this year. So, we'll have complete coverage all across  
12 basically our portion of the Western Interior Region. And, so  
13 that's kind of what we're looking at here and next year for --  
14 to finish up that project.

15 //

16 I guess an issue that's been around for a couple of  
17 years is the development of a land use, kind of a recreation  
18 and user map that depicts land status, where the 17(B)  
19 easements are so on to help avoid some of the trespass problems  
20 folks are having in the Yukon and Innoko Bottoms there. We've  
21 been working on this. There still isn't -- I guess our State  
22 office still has not made a decision whether to publish such  
23 map. The District office is putting together all the things  
24 into the computer so we can just put it to contract for  
25 printing so we'll have everything ready to go. What you see on  
26 the wall over here right behind you, the yellow, brown, green,  
27 white combination map -- and this is a draft. There's still  
28 some things that have to be done on it. But, basically what  
29 we're having on there is the 17(B) easements, which are the  
30 legal access that was reserved through Native corporation lands  
31 to public lands. It has the Native allotments on it. It also  
32 has the corporation lands in general, not separated out to  
33 village corporations. We'd have 15 different colors on that  
34 map if we would depict every different land owner and type of  
35 land out there which would be too -- much too complicated of a  
36 map to read.

37 //

38 The white is the selected lands, the blue is the State  
39 lands, and we'll put two other colors on there for the State  
40 selective and the Native selected that are still not conveyed  
41 yet. But, the intent is is to hopefully if this map gets  
42 published it will be something every user out there can sit and  
43 be on the river, have a map in hand and know where he's at. It  
44 will be of a scale that -- this scale here is a half inch to  
45 the mile. And, it'll be a top half -- a north half and a south  
46 half. There will be two sides that will cover that region  
47 there where the conflicts are.

48 //

49 So, there were some comments last time. One was about  
50 if all the village corporations could have their land on there

00069

1 in a different color, and like I said there is too many owners  
2 out there. It would blind you to look at it. So, we have to  
3 keep it relatively simply so you can read the thing. And, I  
4 think Jack mentioned something about color blind people, but we  
5 talked to a bunch of people that are professional map makers  
6 and they said there are so many kinds of color blindness you  
7 could never make a single map that would accommodate them.  
8 Because there's several types of color blindness, and depending  
9 on the person. And, so these are kind of the standard colors  
10 that are almost used nationwide for these kinds of land  
11 ownership situations. That's basically kind of the choice we  
12 have to make relative to that. So, any questions so far on  
13 that map situation?

14 //

15 MR. MORGAN: Benedict?

16 //

17 MR. JONES: There was concern brought up in one of our  
18 state advisory boards in Middle Yukon from a GASH area that  
19 this individual have a Native allotment and he's enterprise, a  
20 commercial into the Native. He's a non-Native and they're not  
21 legally married or nothing. And, what's the status on that for  
22 this non-Native to establish a hunting lodge in that Native  
23 allotment?

24 //

25 MR. DENTON: That I guess -- Ida is here with BIA. But  
26 that becomes -- once Native allotments are certificated to an  
27 individual, it's like they're private lands. They can lease  
28 it. They can sell it with BIA's approval. It's their private  
29 land to do with as they please. And, it has all the rights and  
30 privileges of private land with oversight from BIA. And,  
31 there's many, many statewide Native allotments that have been  
32 sold to date, many of them. And, you see them for sell all the  
33 time in Anchorage in the realty magazines. There's lots and  
34 lots of rural plots out there in Bush Alaska that are Native  
35 allotments that are for sell right now. Many of them have been  
36 sold. So, does that semi-answer your question?

37 //

38 MR. JONES: So there's no restriction on commercial  
39 enterprise on a Native allotment, huh?

40 //

41 MR. DENTON: No.

42 //

43 MS. HILDEBRAND: I needed this block of wood. This is  
44 Ida Hildebrand staff committee member for the BIA. In response  
45 to your question if that -- you'd have to find out whether or  
46 not that land has -- the subsis- -- excuse me. Whether the  
47 Native allottee received a certificate as just stated, and if  
48 the woman in this case has her certificate then she's free to  
49 do with as she pleases including letting this other person  
50 develop her land. But, if she has sold that land or leased it

00070

1 to that man she needs to have a sign off from the Bureau of  
2 Indian Affairs. If she did that without the sign off you can  
3 challenge it. So, you'd need to establish what are the facts.  
4 //

5 MR. DENTON: Thanks, Ida. Appreciate that. I don't  
6 know all the details that go with BIA over there. And there  
7 are in this -- in this area there are two actually from the  
8 1930's some commercial and trade private lands that were  
9 developed under a totally different act of congress. There's  
10 two of them in that area. One is right near Anvik, and the  
11 other's down in the Innoko slough area. There's two actually  
12 commercial and trade sites that were established, you know,  
13 decades ago. So, it's -- that's one of the other different  
14 kinds of colors you can have on the maps. Any other questions  
15 relative to that -- this map thing? It's been kind of going  
16 back and forth for a couple years now.  
17 //

18 MR. MORGAN: Ron?  
19 //

20 MR. SAM: Yeah. Is that -- commercial and trade, is  
21 that the same as MC(ph) manufacturers, trade?  
22 //

23 MR. DENTON: Yes. Yes. Yes.  
24 //

25 MR. MORGAN: Excuse me. Mike?  
26 //

27 MR. STICKMAN: Yeah. The only other thing I have to  
28 bring up is: The Native corporations, the village corporations  
29 and the regional corporations, they have like no hunting policy  
30 on their lands, so they spend a lot of money to post their  
31 lands, you know. Why doesn't the BLM or the Refuge -- why  
32 don't they spend some of the United States government's money  
33 and post their own lands? You know, you got people that go out  
34 hunting, they don't know if they're on Native corporation land  
35 or State land or BLM or Refuge, you know. But they know when  
36 they're on Native corporation land because we post our land,  
37 you know.  
38 //

39 MR. YOKEL: If I understand your question you asked why  
40 does not BLM post their land?  
41 //

42 MR. STICKMAN: Yeah. Why don't -- I mean, how do  
43 people know the difference? I mean, you know ....  
44 //

45 MR. YOKEL: Well, posted land to me means put up like a  
46 no trespassing sign and we don't do that because the bureau of  
47 lands are the federal public lands. They belong to everyone.  
48 They're not -- you know, they're managed according to Federal  
49 laws. As far as to identifying where those lands begin and  
50 end, that is done in some places where it's more easy to do so,

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1 especially along highways where you can put up a sign saying  
2 you're entering or leaving Federal public lands. But, to go  
3 out into the Bush along the rivers and through the woods and  
4 run signs to show where all the boundaries are, it's just too  
5 large of a task to take on. Is that directed towards your  
6 question?

7 //

8 MR. STICKMAN: I don't know. It just seem like, you  
9 know, there's so many people out there using the land and they  
10 don't know actually whose land their really on, you know.

11 //

12 MR. YOKEL: Well, that may be true. We try to monitor  
13 the BLM lands to see who is using those lands and see if  
14 they're doing so legally, but we don't get over ever acre of  
15 land every year.

16 //

17 MR. STICKMAN: I mean, there is a certain level of  
18 animosity out there to people who are not the regular users,  
19 you know.

20 //

21 MR. YOKEL: Well, we'd certainly be glad to hear about  
22 any land use that you feel is not in accordance with the laws.

23 //

24 MR. DENTON: There are avenues available to you, and  
25 we've discussed this before in this body. Of course, you  
26 weren't a member at that time. But the 17(B) easements are  
27 something BLM is very willing if the corporations are will to  
28 sit down and work with us to mark those so people know exactly  
29 where the access to public lands are through the corporation  
30 lands. In fact, we've set those up in some cases to have  
31 helicopters and personnel and materials to have it dropped at  
32 the last minute. And -- so, but this is always an option  
33 that's available to every corporation out there, as far as  
34 access to the Federal public lands, across the corporation  
35 lands. Which when you read the end of that 17(B) easement  
36 there's a sign that says you're entering Federal public land.  
37 And, so there are some ways to get at parts of this. Another  
38 part is good maps, and people need to take the responsibility  
39 to one, learn how to read a map, and two, go to the folks that  
40 have the land records which would be in a lot of cases the  
41 corporations, where their lands are, and read the map and  
42 realize where they're at.

43 //

44 So, there's some responsibility that comes on the part  
45 of the user as well as the land owner, and, you know, we've got  
46 a long ways to go in Alaska relative to that. Very few people  
47 recognize land ownership in this state, but we're --  
48 unfortunately we're entering the 21st century here.

49 //

50 So, the only -- I have to other subjects. One was the

00072

1 Farewell burn which was covered by Toby. This is actually a  
2 very long term prescribed fire fuels management wildlife  
3 habitat plan we're looking at 100 years on the future. We're  
4 looking at a very aggressive long-term program. It's not just  
5 burn a huge area and walk away from it. It's a series of  
6 smaller areas that target particular objectives and keep it  
7 under control so we don't have another great big Farewell burn.  
8 It actually has good and bad points, but you're kind of -- it's  
9 a flip of the coin what you're going to come out with. So, we  
10 want to have -- kind of guarantee the benefits and avoid the  
11 bad points of -- that fire can do.

12 //

13 MR. STICKMAN: Excuse me. I think Ben had a question.

14 //

15 MR. MORGAN: Benedict?

16 //

17 MR. JONES: Yeah. I'm kind of -- what's the situation  
18 about the guide -- big game guide and a fishing guide  
19 established in a hunting cabin in Federal land? Like this  
20 summer, there was one guy move out of Nowitna River and move up  
21 the Koyukuk River. We still couldn't locate him, where he's  
22 at. But, we know he established -- try to establish lodge or  
23 something in the Kateel area. And, we haven't found -- what's  
24 the situation -- are they required to apply for allots or use  
25 area?

26 //

27 MR. YOKEL: If there's any kind of commercial operation  
28 going on on the Federal public lands then they're required to  
29 have a permit to carry out that operation, yes. I don't  
30 personally work in that area, but I'll -- I can go back and  
31 look in to see if there are any outfitters, guides permitted in  
32 the Kateel River area and get back to you. Again, like I said  
33 to Michael earlier if you think there's some kind of operation  
34 going on and you know it's BLM managed lands, and you're  
35 concerned about whether or not the operation is legal you can  
36 call in. We have eight hundred number ....

37 //

38 MR. JONES: Yeah. We're aware he's in that area, but  
39 we just couldn't locate him. That's our problem. He's in the  
40 Kateel River area somewhere.

41 //

42 MR. YOKEL: But, yes. Any commercial operation of any  
43 type on the Federal lands is required to be permitted.

44 //

45 MR. JONES: So you're not aware if he applied for a  
46 permit, huh?

47 //

48 MR. YOKEL: I am not personally aware of it. I don't  
49 personally work in that region except when I come to these  
50 meetings on subsistence. I deal with subsistence in this

00073

1 region. I don't deal with realty issues out there.

2 //

3 MR. DENTON: Yeah. The -- what's come up many  
4 times ....

5 //

6 MR. MORGAN: Excuse me. Samson?

7 //

8 MR. DENTON: Oh, go ahead.

9 //

10 MR. HENRY: Before you give a permit to a person like  
11 going to have some kind of commercial -- business out in the  
12 BLM area or whatever, isn't there supposed to be a hearing for  
13 local people of that area?

14 //

15 MR. YOKEL: No. We have to go through a process that's  
16 according to the Federal law called the National Environmental  
17 Policy Act. And, that means we have to evaluate that activity  
18 to see if it'll have significant impact on the human  
19 environment. Then there's also a section under the Alaska  
20 National Interest Lands Conservation Act, Section 810, that  
21 says we have to look at the activity to see if it'll have any  
22 significant impact on subsistence uses in the area. If we  
23 determine that, yes, there will a significant impact on  
24 subsistence uses then there's several things we have to do, and  
25 one of those is to hold a hearing in a local area. But, in my  
26 experience we have never had a positive Section 810 finding on  
27 a single small-time operation like that.

28 //

29 MR. DENTON: Yeah. By and large BLM's -- you know, in  
30 terms of permitting guides, outfitters or other commercial  
31 use -- especially guides and outfitters we require that they --  
32 first through the State Board of Commercial Licensing, they  
33 have their -- basically their guide's license from them. Fish  
34 and Game doesn't control guides and outfitters either. That's  
35 a total separate bureaucracy in the State that handles that.  
36 So, the guiding and outfitting people are actually licensed and  
37 permitted by another State entity completely. But for -- when  
38 BLM, in terms of guides and outfitters, we require they have  
39 the insurance. We require that they have the appropriate State  
40 permit and they're basically -- we go through our process, but  
41 they're given the permit to operate with stipulations about if  
42 they're going to build lodges or camps or have permanent or  
43 semi-permanent camps, how to handle their garbage so on and so  
44 forth. So -- and those become license or permit stipulations  
45 for them.

46 //

47 Relative to that, we had one guide in your area this  
48 year that his permit was suspended this year for violation of  
49 permit conditions. Currently he's suspended, and until he  
50 corrects the situation he will remain suspended for use on --

00074

1 for his activities on BLM lands. Now, on State administered  
2 lands he's still, you know, a legal operator, but not on BLM  
3 lands. Okay. Any questions to this point?

4 //

5 MR. REAKOFF: I was wondering if you -- if there's ever  
6 a consideration for a limitation of the number of a certain  
7 species that the guide may harvest. Like Gabe was saying, they  
8 got a guide with 50 moose hunters. I would consider that a  
9 significant impact.

10 //

11 MR. YOKEL: Well, the -- your question kind of crosses  
12 jurisdictional boundaries here. What we are permitting when we  
13 allow a guide to operate in an areas is we permit them to use  
14 the land that their camp is on. Okay? We don't have any  
15 jurisdiction over the hunting they do. So, that's -- it's just  
16 not something that we are allowed to consider.

17 //

18 MR. DENTON: State jurisdiction.

19 //

20 MR. REAKOFF: Mr. Chairman ....

21 //

22 MR. MORGAN: Jack?

23 //

24 MR. REAKOFF: This brings about a question that I have  
25 in general for Federal agencies and the Federal Board. Is it  
26 within the prerogative of the Federal Board to maybe allow  
27 guiding, but to put a limitation on the numbers of animals that  
28 each guide is allowed to harvest? Like 10 moose or some amount  
29 of moose, not an unlimited -- have camps all over the country  
30 and have 20 assistant guides and killing 50 moose a year. Is  
31 that in the prerogative of the Federal system to limit the  
32 number of animals per guide?

33 //

34 MR. DENTON: Well, we -- when they apply -- most of the  
35 folks when they apply for their permit they'll say what species  
36 they hunt, what there anticipated numbers or clientele are a  
37 year. Because we need this because they pay us money for that  
38 use as well. They pay a fee per individual and per mandate or  
39 whatever it is that they're out there. So -- but, a lot of  
40 these guys cross jurisdictional lines. They have some camps on  
41 BLM and some hunting on BLM, some on State, some on Native  
42 corporation lands through a lot of agreements that are outside  
43 that. One operator operates on a lot of different land. So,  
44 we only can deal with what's on BLM lands and then they have a  
45 use report. They turn into us what they harvest each year, how  
46 many days that were spend in pursuit of the various species and  
47 so on. So, we do have a record of that. But, we don't -- we  
48 can't dictate to them, you know, how many animals they can  
49 take. That's basically out of our jurisdiction altogether.  
50 So .... (pause)

00075

1           Okay. The other item that I have here basically is the  
2 harvest reporting. Lime Village has been a long-term harvest  
3 reporter and required by regulation. Phil Graham who used to  
4 serve on this board has decided not to continue his keeping  
5 those statistics. I had one phone call from him last spring  
6 that says there's two other fellows in Lime Village that want  
7 to take that over and have been doing that. I asked him to  
8 give me that in writing so I have their names and I can  
9 re-write all the agreements that -- because these are kind of  
10 contractual agreements to do this. There's been no response to  
11 that, and they're basically six months delinquent on their  
12 harvest reporting via the regulations and the harvest system  
13 agreement we have with them for Lime Village.  
14 //

15           I would -- actually, at this time ask you folks to  
16 consider through the council here to also give them a little  
17 bit of initiative to go ahead and get back into compliance. It  
18 threatens their village -- potentially their village quota that  
19 they have. It's kind of unique in the state, and it's required  
20 by regulation, and they're currently in violation of the  
21 regulations. So, we'd like to get it worked out and get things  
22 working again. As far as they did their harvest reporting it's  
23 outstanding and very valuable information.  
24 //

25           And then also in terms of harvest reporting, the -- a  
26 year ago we had agreed to sit down with the -- at least have  
27 persons in each of the GASH villages, had set up agreements  
28 through the village councils and what have you to have people  
29 within -- pay people within those villages for harvest  
30 reporting of moose, bear, caribou and furbearers if they  
31 wished. We had folks set up. We had all the materials sent  
32 out to the individuals. To date Grayling is the only village  
33 that's reported any for about six months, and we have heard  
34 nothing for the last year for harvest reporting for any of the  
35 other GASH villages. And, those dollars are now gone because  
36 this -- our fiscal year just ended. So, the dollars we could  
37 have paid those folks are not there anymore. I guess I need to  
38 ask you folks want to make a re-try at this, or find some other  
39 way to get that kind of harvest reporting. It was an  
40 initiative of the GASH villages. They said they'd volunteer  
41 that harvest information and we said we would pay you for that  
42 if we could get some specific data items relative to location,  
43 sex, you know, species, so on and so forth. And, it was agreed  
44 and we went through a fairly good process of filling all the  
45 procurement paperwork and allocating dollars and this sort of  
46 thing, and basically that effort was a failure. So, I guess  
47 I'm asking should we try that effort again? Or do we need to  
48 take a whole different tack on harvest reporting for the GASH  
49 villages? (Pause)  
50 //

00076

1 MR. MORGAN: (Indiscernible - mumbled speech) council.

2 //

3 MR. DENTON: I mean, I don't mean to put you on the  
4 spot. You can discuss it and get back or make it an agenda  
5 item if you so desire or whatever. But, I'm just reporting on  
6 what the situation has been, the effort that we put out, and  
7 the results that we got are not meeting your needs or ours.

8 //

9 MR. MORGAN: As far as Lime Village, could I make a  
10 suggestion? Try calling the Central Kuskokwim Advisory  
11 Council. I know they've got a member from Lime Village.

12 //

13 MR. DENTON: Now that's the Fish and Game Council ....

14 //

15 MR. MORGAN: Yes. It's ....

16 //

17 MR. DENTON: .... for the State. Okay. This is a  
18 federally required one, so they don't ....

19 //

20 MR. MORGAN: Well, maybe we can ....

21 //

22 MR. DENTON: .... get it from all angles.

23 //

24 MR. MORGAN: Yeah.

25 //

26 MR. DENTON: Yeah. We can do that.

27 //

28 MR. MORGAN: And let them know that they're going to  
29 lose that.

30 //

31 MR. DENTON: Well, and, you know, we're willing to work  
32 with them and our relationship with them until that -- until  
33 they quit sending in reports and basically Phil decided to turn  
34 it over to somebody else were excellent.

35 //

36 MR. MORGAN: I'll help you in the -- as far as the  
37 village council. When I got back I'll have my wife call ....

38 //

39 MR. DENTON: Okay. That would help.

40 //

41 MR. COLLINS: Did I hear you correctly that Grayling  
42 had reported, but they were the only GASH or ....

43 //

44 MR. DENTON: Grayling was the only GASH committee that  
45 reported, and they reported for about six months and then that  
46 kind of fell off. We had a little up front(ph) time to pay  
47 these folks. We got to go through a long drawn out process  
48 through Denver and back, and the individual we had to pay for  
49 some reason the government won't pay somebody at a general  
50 delivery address. So, his paychecks were -- gone through a

00077

1 very long, drawn out process through BIA and somebody else. We  
2 finally got that straightened out. And, I assume at that  
3 time -- I kept checking on checks being sent, when they sent  
4 them, where they were sent and they should have been on time.  
5 So, we just didn't hear anymore from him after a certain point  
6 in time. He got tired of it or whatever. I'm not sure.

7 //

8 MR. MORGAN: Henry?

9 //

10 MR. DEACON: The reason Grayling was cut is he went out  
11 to schooling. There's nobody that took his place.

12 //

13 MR. DENTON: Who was that? I didn't hear you.

14 //

15 MR. DEACON: He went out to school, the guy that was  
16 reporting subsistence.

17 //

18 MR. COLLINS: He left the community. He went to  
19 school.

20 //

21 MR. DENTON: Oh, he did.

22 //

23 MR. DEACON: Yeah. He went to school and came back.

24 But, I don't know. I didn't know he never went back to

25 reporting. And, as a -- me from the village I really like to

26 see that subsistence count record be kept up in every village.

27 Because that's ....

28 //

29 MR. DENTON: Yeah. It would tell us a lot.

30 //

31 MR. DEACON: .... that's what going to count in long

32 run.

33 //

34 MR. DENTON: Yeah, it's real -- he did a great job what

35 he did get to us. It just kind of stopped. And I didn't --

36 wasn't aware -- see, part of our agreement was for the village

37 governments to have not only a -- the primary one but somebody

38 to act in his absence, and so we assumed the village had that

39 done and apparently -- maybe that didn't happen. So ....

40 //

41 MR. MORGAN: At this time it's suggested we take a 10

42 minute break.

43 //

44 MR. DENTON: Okay. I'm done.

45 //

46 MR. MORGAN: We do have some left over sandwiches over

47 there ....

48 //

49 (Off record: 3:12 p.m.)

50 //

00078

1 (On record: 3:31 p.m.)

2 //

3 MR. MORGAN: Can we call the meeting back to order? At  
4 this time -- I know before we took a break there was some  
5 questions on BLM on their -- the GASH, that you needed some  
6 kind of direction from this body.

7 //

8 MR. DENTON: I guess what was asking -- it basically  
9 relates to the harvest reporting systems that we were trying to  
10 initiate that have been kind of an issue the last three or four  
11 meetings here. Is if you want to try to resurrect BLM actually  
12 have these kind of agreement contracts with the village  
13 councils for the village councils to go ahead and appoint  
14 somebody in the village to actually do the harvest monitoring  
15 and provide these reports. We paid -- \$200 a month was what  
16 the agreement was for those for moose, bear, caribou and wolf.  
17 And, if you folks feel that's still a viable thing to try again  
18 we will try it again, but we were, you know, not real happy  
19 with how it went the last time obviously. And, we committed  
20 funds to that, \$15,000 to all these things and basically had to  
21 give that money back. So .... (pause)

22 //

23 MR. MORGAN: Angie?

24 //

25 MS. DEMIENTIEFF: I -- only speak as far as Holy Cross  
26 goes. In Holy Cross we had that position advertised for three  
27 months. We had two big meetings, and the two big meetings  
28 are -- you know, everybody is there in the hall. We discussed  
29 this -- why it should be done and how important it was, and  
30 everybody spoke loudly and said oh yes that's a good idea, and  
31 we need this kind of information. But, when it came right down  
32 to doing it even those who were appointed wouldn't. We tried  
33 to use our GA workers, these are people who are -- work for the  
34 council on different things. We tried to get the GA's to do  
35 it, they wouldn't do it. We tried to find somebody to do it.  
36 You know, say well you were disorderly last night, the fine is  
37 \$50 and instead of paying a \$50 fine for "x" number of hours  
38 you will do moose hunting reporting.

39 //

40 MR. DENTON: Well, that's original.

41 //

42 MS. DEMIENTIEFF: Well, it was a way of doing it, but  
43 even they said they'd rather go do something else in the  
44 community to pay back their \$50 fine. They would not be put on  
45 the moose. But, I still see it as important to our community,  
46 reporting. And, I'll still be bringing it up at different  
47 meetings that we have, but as far as Shageluk and Anvik, I  
48 can't tell you what they've done. But, I do know we're having  
49 elections today in the -- for our village for a brand new GASH  
50 committee, and maybe you could go and meet with the new GASH

00079

1 committee when they're elected and talk to them some more.

2 //

3 MR. DENTON: Okay. That might be a good thing, and it  
4 might help if this council also helped -- meet with the new  
5 GASH committee also or at least send them letter that this is a  
6 fairly important thing. I'm wanting to do whatever we can do,  
7 and, you know, it's real important for us to do a good job too.

8 //

9 MR. MORGAN: Okay. We'll move -- direct Vince to write  
10 the letter.

11 //

12 MR. DENTON: There you go. You can sign it, he can  
13 write it.

14 //

15 MR. MATHEWS: If I understand the wishes of the council  
16 it's a letter to the Grayling, Anvik, Shageluk, Holy Cross  
17 Advisory Committee giving a little background on the history of  
18 this harvest collection and the importance of it. Not any type  
19 of embarrassment that it didn't happen, but the importance of  
20 it and that the council would like them to go forward with  
21 that. As long as I got the mike, when are they meeting next,  
22 GASH, do you know?

23 //

24 MR. DENTON: I don't know that.

25 //

26 MR. MATHEWS: I do get announcements from the State,  
27 but ....

28 //

29 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: It's undetermined at this time.

30 //

31 MR. MATHEWS: Okay. Okay. What I'll do with that then  
32 is -- going further with the council's recommendation, would be  
33 to copy that to their state coordinator, but I think it might  
34 be wise if it's okay with the council to send it to the village  
35 councils. Because essentially that's where it's going to end  
36 up anyway. So, if that's the wishes of the council then I'll  
37 do that with Carl's signature.

38 //

39 MR. COLLINS: I think you might thank Grayling for  
40 their participation.

41 //

42 MR. DENTON: Yes.

43 //

44 MR. COLLINS: They participated for six months.

45 //

46 MR. DENTON: Did an outstanding job too. He did a  
47 great job. The other request would be to help get Lime Village  
48 back on line as well. I've written them, you know, certified  
49 letters and so on and I've gotten no response. So .... (pause)

50

00080

1 MR. MORGAN: Yeah. I'll help you in Lime Village.

2 //

3 MR. DENTON: Okay. I would greatly appreciate that.

4 Anything else? Thank you.

5 //

6 MR. MORGAN: Thank you. Item D, Fish and Wildlife  
7 Service, Statewide Refuges, 1 - Update on Migratory Bird Treaty  
8 Amendments & New Regulatory Process.

9 //

10 MR. MATHEWS: Okay. Mr. Chairman ....

11 //

12 MR. MORGAN: What?

13 //

14 MR. MATHEWS: I never know if this is on or off. I'll  
15 cover the Migratory Bird Treaty Amendment & New Regulatory  
16 Process, essentially that was done last night, but Angela was  
17 not here. So -- and I'm not sure the council wants to do  
18 anything as a council.

19 //

20 But, Angela, your book, tab D I believe it is, about  
21 halfway through is the section on migratory bird amendments.  
22 But, if I can capsule real quickly, what it meant is that  
23 they amend the treaty with Canada to allow the subsistence  
24 harvest of migratory birds in spring and summer. Okay. Out of  
25 that they were looking at what kind of management bodies. This  
26 will be a term that we'll probably be seeing quite a bit in the  
27 next few years. They want to set up management bodies to look  
28 at harvest monitoring, how that should be -- I don't know if  
29 managed is the term, but how the harvest should be. "Managed"  
30 I suppose is the best way to say that. And, then how that  
31 management body would interact with the four flyaway councils  
32 that cover birds that do migrate to and from Alaska.

33 //

34 So, in a nutshell that's what the program was last  
35 night is what type of management bodies did the public here in  
36 Allakaket want. One statewide, more than one statewide, and  
37 how that makeup would be. The time line for submitting  
38 suggestions for this managing -- management body is -- wasn't  
39 set, but it would be in the next couple of months that you  
40 would need to put in for that.

41 //

42 The management body would equal representation between  
43 the State, Federal Government and Native. That was one  
44 stipulation that was there. So, with that -- I don't know if  
45 the council wants to move on further with that or we'll wait to  
46 see how it develops. And, maybe I'll stop. Because the rest  
47 is in the book here, and if I missed anything I think there  
48 would be some other staff that will correct me, but that's  
49 generally what they're look at is setting these management  
50 bodies. And, then down the road would be an allowing of spring

00081

1 waterfowl -- spring and summer waterfowl to be allowed legally.  
2 Nothing like covering everything in 30 seconds that took about  
3 50 years to happen. But, again, I don't want to downplay it  
4 but I'm not clear if the council wanted to do anything, and we  
5 needed to bring Angela up to speed.

6 //

7 MR. MORGAN: Okay. Item 2, Innoko National Wildlife  
8 Refuge update -- oh, wait a minute. Excuse me.

9 //

10 MR. LYNUS: I was just advised here during the break  
11 here -- any way, I do as a representative for Allakaket, I  
12 still have something to mention to the council here about the  
13 fisheries. It's up to you to allow me to do that.

14 //

15 MR. MORGAN: I notice probably tonight there will be --  
16 we're going open it. I wonder if that will be a good time.

17 Sam?

18 //

19 MR. SAM: Yeah. During the cover dish we expect a good  
20 turnout of people, and we would like to invite locals for  
21 the -- an evening session, informal type. And, I think it  
22 would be more appropriate at that time, plus we are going to a  
23 Koyukuk River Advisory Committee meeting tomorrow sometime, and  
24 we'll start it off tonight maybe.

25 //

26 MR. MATHEWS: Are you indicating then that fisheries  
27 would be discussed during that time? Or, just general  
28 topics ....

29 //

30 MR. SAM: General topics.

31 //

32 MR. MATHEWS: Okay. Because I kind of envision you  
33 guys getting an update on potential Federal Subsistence  
34 management of fisheries today. Is that -- okay. I see heads  
35 nodding. Thank you.

36 //

37 MR. MORGAN: Okay. Item 2, Innoko National Wildlife  
38 Refuge update.

39 //

40 MR. SKINNER: I've worked on the Innoko Refuge for  
41 about 10 years and lived in McGrath, and this is the first  
42 meeting of this sort I've been to. So, I planned -- I've given  
43 you each a list of our current projects and the new projects we  
44 play for 1999. And, you can see we've done a lot with moose  
45 habitat, and we do law enforcement, environmental education,  
46 several other projects. We've kind of specialized in a lot of  
47 habitat work because that's a big interest of mine. We're  
48 trying to branch out in 1999 as you can see up to some more  
49 population survey work, and expand our GIS computer capability.

50

00082

1 But, since I'm just here this one time and, you know,  
2 probably won't be coming back very often I was thinking I'd  
3 talk to you about a project that I think will have -- you will  
4 be interested in. And, it's something for you to think about  
5 as you spend the next year or so in the woods, you might want  
6 to mull some of these ideas over. That's -- and I have -- my  
7 notes that I'm going to give to you are on these following  
8 pages, and you can follow along or just keep them for the  
9 future.

10 //

11 But, moose and wolves and bears have been studied a lot  
12 here in Alaska. We count them; we collar them. But, the  
13 capacity of the land to support these animals has been studied  
14 very little, and there at Innoko we've just -- are just now  
15 completing a five-year study on the capacity of lands to  
16 support moose populations. And, if you think about it this is  
17 a really basic item in management because when you set hunting  
18 seasons, basically you're looking at that population out there  
19 and you're thinking -- you're comparing it what you think the  
20 land will carry, and you're thinking it's -- there's less than  
21 could carry others more.

22 //

23 And, the same with predator control. You're looking  
24 out there and you're thinking that here's how many moose are  
25 here, but here's how many should be there, so we don't need  
26 predator control or we do need predator control. And -- but  
27 one of the interesting things though, although it's really  
28 basic to our management, we really haven't measured what the  
29 land will carry, and this what our study is about.

30 //

31 And it is -- applies to Innoko. One of the -- kind of  
32 the principles of habitat is different -- place. So, this is  
33 what happening at Innoko. It may not be what's happening in  
34 your area, but still you might think about some these things as  
35 I mention them. I'll try to keep this within my 20 minutes. I  
36 have some definitions here. You can see the definition of  
37 habitat. A place where an animal finds water, food and shelter  
38 for survival for an extended period of time. Caring capacity  
39 is simp- -- kind of the simplest way the largest number of  
40 animals that an area can support. And, then there's maximum  
41 sustainable yield, and that's similar, but it's generally the  
42 number of animals that adds the most young animals to the adult  
43 population each year. It's usually a little less than caring  
44 capacity. It's at the -- a number where they're putting out  
45 lots of young and they're surviving to adulthood. That's  
46 generally the number that produces the most animals for hunting  
47 and what -- it's a good numb- -- level to think about managing  
48 for.

49 //

50 We've looked at habitat and caring capacity and we see

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1 that it changes, it's constantly changing phenomenon. It  
2 changes with the seasons. The carrying capacity in the summer is  
3 different than the winter, and it changes between years  
4 depending on things like the amount of snowfall. And, we  
5 generally find that winter is the season when both habitat and  
6 carrying capacity are most limited, and this is the season where  
7 on Innoko a lot of the animals move from the hills down along  
8 river corridors in our area in the winter. And, they're  
9 generally moving in response to the density of food. They move  
10 into areas where food plants grow close together, but food --  
11 it's more than food. They also need shelter and other things  
12 in conjunction with these food patches.

13 //

14 And, in the winter they -- only a few of the plants out  
15 there eaten by moose as you know -- and willows are the most  
16 important, and probably the most basic they're most important  
17 is that they don't produce a lot of toxic compounds that  
18 discourage browsing. A lot of plants do. They have toxic  
19 compounds that have evolved with the animals that are there to  
20 discourage browsing. And, we've found that these plants must  
21 have adequate nutrition, and they must be within reach of the  
22 moose, which means they can't be covered with snow or high up.  
23 The twigs that they browse on can't be too small because they  
24 just can't eat enough of them, or too big because they aren't  
25 nutritious. And, the plants must be close enough to gather  
26 that they gain more from eating them than they lose from  
27 walking, and that changes dramatically with the amount of snow.

28

29 Now, we've gone through a big statistical and GIS  
30 computer process to map winter habitat, and those two maps I  
31 put up over there on the wall represent the winter moose  
32 habitat on two years, and we have another year which I haven't  
33 complete yet. Two different parts of the Refuge, north and  
34 south.

35 //

36 But I guess the big point and the surprising point is  
37 that area represents about 6,000 square miles, and of that  
38 6,000 square miles there's only about 3- to 600 square miles,  
39 or five to 10 percent of it that's actually good winter  
40 habitat, where a moose could actually survive for several  
41 months. And, from our surveys we've concluded that the  
42 population of moose at the present time -- and it's varied a  
43 lot, and I'll talk about that just briefly in a second. But,  
44 is about .7 moose per square mile on the Refuge as a whole.  
45 But, when you look at the numbers of moose in this winter  
46 habitat in the winter in the winter, then the numbers are about  
47 seven per square mile on the average, up to as many as 12 or  
48 more in some of the better locations. So this -- so you can  
49 look at density in different ways and that's another way of  
50 looking at it. One thing that we found out is that it's -- we

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1 often tend to look at how many moose the land will carry based  
2 on how many were there in the past at some point, which makes a  
3 lot of sense in some ways, but it can be misleading because  
4 from what I'm about to tell you finding out that those past  
5 populations sometimes are well above what the land can sustain  
6 for long periods.

7 //

8 Now in the late 1980's the moose population on Innoko  
9 Refuge was in excess of 6,000 moose, and as you know in the  
10 early nineties we had a series of bad winters, and the low  
11 point in the population was in the spring of 1995 when the  
12 population was less than 3,000. Now since 1995 we've had a  
13 series of low snow winters and the population as of last spring  
14 was up to 4,600 from 3,000 or a little less. That's a dramatic  
15 jump really of over 50 percent in three years, an annual rate  
16 of increase of about 18 percent a year. Now, based on our  
17 studies of food on the Refuge we think that the -- we're  
18 estimating now that the long-term maximum sustainable yield of  
19 the Refuge is about 4,000 moose, which is less than are present  
20 at the moment.

21 //

22 And -- so to kind of talk about some of the things that  
23 are causing these fluctuations. We found that population  
24 levels are very correlated with snow depth and with previous  
25 numbers and -- in other words, large declines in moose are  
26 caused by a combination of moose populations above maximum  
27 sustainable yield and deep snowfall winters. And, along with  
28 this snow depth and habitat we've also found this relationship  
29 between moose numbers and the amount of the food plants eaten.  
30 Generally when we get into areas where more than 80 percent of  
31 the available food had been utilized, we find that at that  
32 point it's just essentially unavailable as far as the animals  
33 go. It's gotten so thin and there's so little left that  
34 they're not able to efficiently use the rest or find the rest  
35 and we're -- we find starvation situations occurring at that  
36 point. And, we're also looking at the health of the plants,  
37 the food plants, and generally when the use of those plants  
38 exceeds about 60 percent of the current annual growth, the  
39 plants start to weaken or die.

40 //

41 And so when we see start -- consistently seeing more  
42 than about 60 percent use we will -- can expect to see declines  
43 in the future. And, you can see the little chart here of use.  
44 In 1994 we had 80 percent use. This is an extensive survey all  
45 up and down the river. And, in '94 and '95 we were  
46 experiencing big population declines, massive predation and  
47 starvation. Those were also deep snow winters. Since 1995 you  
48 can see -- in '96 you can start to see an increase where we're  
49 back up to about 73 percent use now. And, so we will -- we  
50 expect the population of moose to fall in the future, and that

00085

1 amount that it will fall will depend we think on the number of  
2 mild winters we have before the first deep snow winter. If we  
3 have several more mild winters the population will continue to  
4 grow and we'll have a big drop. If we have a deep snow winter  
5 this winter it would be more of a leveling off with less of a  
6 drop -- is what we're predicting.

7 //

8 So, the things we're kind of learning different than we  
9 thought is we have learned that the amount of critical winter  
10 moose habitat on the Refuge is less than we thought, much less  
11 than most people thought. And, we've learned that the  
12 availability of foods within those habitats is less than we  
13 thought. You know, all of it isn't food out there. And, we've  
14 been surprised at how high the use of that food resource is.  
15 And, this has given us some insight into predation. Now, one  
16 thing we know from our past experience is that predators are  
17 having a tremendous affect on the moose population. The rate  
18 of growth in this -- during these low snow winters was about 18  
19 percent. But, we know from our twining rates, which are 70  
20 percent or so for adult cows and -- that the population without  
21 predation would be growing at 50 percent a year or more. And,  
22 so predators do have a tremendous impact on the population out  
23 there.

24 //

25 But, I guess the question is is this all bad. We're  
26 finding out that during these deep snow winters that perhaps  
27 the worst enemy of the moose at that time are other moose  
28 because they're competing for very limited resources and not  
29 all going to survive. So, one, there are positive aspect to  
30 predation that we really don't see because we always have  
31 them -- we've always had them. Is that they may be preventing  
32 huge drop offs.

33 //

34 MR. MORGAN: Excuse me, want to ask questions. Samson?

35 //

36 MR. HENRY: You said something about moose -- worse  
37 enemies of moose during deep snow. What I understand from some  
38 other people talking is -- you think that over kill of the  
39 healthy moose would have anything to do with it? Like the rule  
40 of the woods, you know, survival of the fittest.

41 //

42 MR. SKINNER: I don't think I understood.

43 //

44 MR. HENRY: Yeah. Well, think too many healthy moose  
45 are being killed, bull moose?

46 //

47 MR. SKINNER: And how -- is that connected to the ....

48 //

49 MR. HENRY: Well, there's a lot of -- there's a moose  
50 decline then moose are not very healthy.

00086

1 MR. SKINNER: Because there are so few bulls in other  
2 words sometimes?

3 //

4 MR. HENRY: Yeah. And then they're fighting over their  
5 little food, and then what I understand from different areas is  
6 the moose are not very healthy.

7 //

8 MR. SKINNER: When the percent -- that's the problem is  
9 when they are crowded into these areas they run out of food.  
10 This winter -- where we had this big drop they were essentially  
11 out of food by Christmas and all the calves were gone died and  
12 some of the adults. And, the cows are generally the last to go  
13 because they go into winter with big fat stores, and the calves  
14 are the first to go because they don't have any fat plus  
15 they're small and the cows browse the stuff way out of reach of  
16 the calves, and the moose are also -- they, not as quick as the  
17 calves, but they go too because they generally enter winter in  
18 poor condition after the rut -- or not fat at least. And ....

19 //

20 MR. HENRY: Excuse me. What I was saying if you know  
21 the healthy moose are being killed and the cows are breeding  
22 with not healthy moose.

23 //

24 MR. SKINNER: Oh, I see what you mean. Yeah. The fact  
25 that we take these big trophy type bulls that are probably the  
26 prime breeders and the strongest animals and leaving smaller  
27 bulls to breed with the cows and producing an inferior type of  
28 animal, and I think -- you know, I don't know the answer to  
29 that, but I think that that's a possibility. We definitely  
30 with our hunting affect the -- we may not be affecting the  
31 numbers of animals out there as much as we might think, but  
32 we're definitely affecting sex age groups, and we're affecting  
33 things like -- could be affecting things like genetics.  
34 Because, you know, predators don't select that way, you know,  
35 it's humans that do that. And, so that's a possibility but I  
36 don't know if I know the answer.

37 //

38 But, to finish here, I just have a little more here.  
39 The other thing I wanted to point out regarding long-term moose  
40 populations is to emphasize -- and this is third from last  
41 paragraph here. Is to emphasize the plants, that's something  
42 that is not considered very often, but when we see these high  
43 populations we have -- we are also seeing a tremendous amount  
44 of damage to the food plants, and if that were sustained for  
45 long periods we would see these plants disappear and be  
46 replaced. Particularly the species of willow that grows, not  
47 the river sandbars, but back in the meadows. And, this doesn't  
48 happen generally because we usually have a bad winter come  
49 along and the populations collapses and the plants recover.  
50 We've seen tremendous amount of recovery in the last few years

00087

1 in these plants. But, I wanted to point out that those moose  
2 depend on those plants and therefore we depend on those plants  
3 too, and it's something that we have to keep in our mind as far  
4 the future goes is the health of these -- or basic resources.

5 //

6 So, I have a few management suggestions here. You  
7 know, we are just not seeing the -- we are seeing the  
8 tremendous effects that predators are having on moose  
9 populations, but we're not seeing it in as bad a light after  
10 this as we did before. We're seeing that predators do have  
11 some positive things, so we are not seeing a need for predator  
12 control as -- after looking at this. We are -- but we are  
13 seeing that we're potentially at times wasting a lot of  
14 opportunities to harvest moose. We're -- because we don't know  
15 this carrying capacity information we're having times when we  
16 could forecast that the population is going to crash and we  
17 could be harvesting moose -- cows I'm talking about  
18 particularly here. We already harvest a heck of a lot of the  
19 bulls. As you know they take the whole blunt of the harvest.

20 //

21 We are missing a lot of opportunities we think to  
22 harvest cows, and we're thinking that that could be done as --  
23 where you could harvest cows without calves, since most of them  
24 don't have a calf by the end of the season, or by fall. And,  
25 that could allow us to put out a few more permits. It might  
26 event improve the productivity of the herd a little bit if we  
27 didn't do it too bad -- much. Be times when we could harvest  
28 cows and we'd have to spread that harvest out so we didn't  
29 harvest them all right around the village or something. Have  
30 to spread them out throughout the management area. But, we  
31 kind of think that there are many opportunities that go by for  
32 harvesting cows that are lost because we're not basically  
33 familiar with carrying capacity, and we're basing our carrying  
34 capacity estimates on past populations, on populations from  
35 other areas and other things that may not nec- -- that can be  
36 misleading.

37 //

38 So, with 4,600 animals at the present on the Refuge and  
39 growing, we certainly don't see the problem with harvesting 100  
40 cows if it was done properly, and which could fill up a lot of  
41 freezers. And -- so that's what I have to say, and again it  
42 may not apply to your area because habitat is different. But,  
43 some of the principles I almost guarantee you will apply. Some  
44 of the principles, not the specifics. And, I'd like for you to  
45 think about these things.

46 //

47 MR. MORGAN: Ron?

48 //

49 MR. SAM: Yeah. For your information we've been  
50 harvesting cows for two or three years now, and it has been

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1 shown to be fairly in successful bull/cow ratio. But, I do  
2 have two questions. How many feet of snow you consider  
3 dangerous down that area for winter habitat?  
4 //

5 MR. SKINNER: On these bad winters I'm talking about  
6 there was four feet of snow on the ground, and I think when it  
7 gets to be over about three feet it's a problem -- the snow on  
8 the ground. And, also really important too is when the snow  
9 falls. The worse combination is a deep snow early in the  
10 winter. You know, if a deep snow falls later in the winter  
11 they can survive that much better than one that falls in  
12 November.

13 //

14 MR. SAM: I'd like to thank you for that information,  
15 because if you talk about deep snow, we get up to five or more  
16 feet around this area too. And, thank you for that. And, has  
17 BLM considered any controlled burns in that area for moose  
18 habitat?

19 //

20 MR. SKINNER: Well, we had a tremendous burn out there  
21 just year before last. We know it burned three quarters of a  
22 million acres on the Refuge. And ....

23 //

24 MR. SAM: So, it may be in the process of bringing back  
25 the moose habitat then.

26 //

27 MR. SKINNER: Yes. But, there's thing to know about  
28 that too. The fires -- we've had fires out there in the past  
29 too, and some of the fires are very good at bringing back moose  
30 habitat. They burn back the moss layer and expose a lot of  
31 soil and you get a lot of willows. But, I would say most fires  
32 are cooler than that and they don't burn the moss layer off and  
33 you get very little willow regeneration. So, there's many  
34 types of fire. And, the other thing regarding fire is that  
35 generally even on the best upland fired, you don't get the  
36 willow regeneration like you do in the lowlands, I mean where  
37 the plants are growing this far apart. And, so sometimes those  
38 fires help out with the -- sort of the moderate years, but when  
39 the weather really gets tough they still aren't dense enough  
40 and they have to move out of those areas into the lowlands in  
41 our area. Now other areas that doesn't apply to. Other areas  
42 the snow -- like in the Farewell area, it hardly ever gets deep  
43 and so the plants can be spread out further. So, there's a lot  
44 of factors. A fire may help a lot, it may not help at all, you  
45 know.

46 //

47 MR. MORGAN: Ray?

48 //

49 MR. COLLINS: Yeah, Mr. Chairman. It's interesting  
50 your conclusions there because some of what you're saying is

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1 very compatible with what I was told with the elders about  
2 traditional moose hunting in the past, up in the Upper  
3 Kuskokwim area. What they said was they usually preferred to  
4 hunt bull moose early in the fall because they're real fat  
5 after the summer. About this time year when -- at the end of  
6 the rut they would not go after those bull moose, they're real  
7 run down. But, they would look for a barren cow right now.  
8 Because they're not raising a calf, and they're going to be  
9 fairly fat and they're good eating. So, they were - at least  
10 in the high years - they were doing what you suggested. Taking  
11 some bulls and then targeting barren cows during this later  
12 time of the winter there and leaving the bulls alone to  
13 survive. It was kind of compatible with what you're saying of  
14 harvesting more cows, especially those without calves when the  
15 moose populations are fairly high. I'd be curious to see if  
16 that was done in other areas too. They were thinking about the  
17 condition of the moose and the meat that they were providing.  
18 But, that's what they said in our area, what they told me. And  
19 sometimes we had -- we were allowed to do that in the past.  
20 There was cow seasons that would open the first of October over  
21 there for a while.

22 //

23 MR. GABE SAM: Mr. Chair ....

24 //

25 MR. MORGAN: Oh, go ahead.

26 //

27 MR. GABE SAM: I just ....

28 //

29 MR. MATHEWS: Gabe, sorry but some people have ....

30 //

31 MR. GABE SAM: I heard two things kind of -- I don't  
32 know, kind of interest me. One, you said that -- I don't know.  
33 You supported more taking of moose in a particular area. I  
34 heard that somewhere on the Koyukuk River because there is so  
35 much cow moose on the riverbanks, you know, where they chew off  
36 the trees, that they're over browsing the land. And, so to  
37 thin it out would be a good idea. But here I am sitting up  
38 here telling -- saying that we're over hunting the area, you  
39 know, it's been like that for years and years. And, it's not  
40 really having that great of impact with -- even with all the  
41 moose -- they don't stay in that one area, they move around.

42 //

43 And then also I heard you say that you wouldn't  
44 abdicate for predator control, and yet in the -- around that  
45 surrounding area in Innoko we're having a high density of wolf  
46 out -- like the -- here why your analogy for not supporting a  
47 predator control when we have a wolf coalition for snaring of  
48 wolves, and, you know, we had this -- throughout the whole  
49 State of Alaska we have so much wolves. So, as a refuge  
50 manager I just want to hear what you ....

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1 MR. SKINNER: Well, by wolf control I'm talking about  
2 where you eliminate 80 percent of the -- you know, for  
3 effective control I think the procedure is the eliminate 80  
4 percent of the animals and keep them that way for about three  
5 years at least to effectively, you know, allow to --  
6 populations to, you know, zoom upwards. And, that's the part  
7 that I don't find necessary on this Refuge because the  
8 population is already above what it can carry. Now, that  
9 does -- that hasn't -- it's not anything to do with -- I mean,  
10 I fully support -- we all support the trapping, hunting of  
11 wolves and bears. But, what I -- oh, speaking of wolf control  
12 I mean a specific program where you went in to remove 80  
13 percent of them and you were going to keep it that way for  
14 several years in this area from our information, but that isn't  
15 necessary. But, that in no way applies that you can't and  
16 shouldn't have a very rigorous harvest of wolves and bears for  
17 fur and meat or whatever you're using them for.  
18 //

19 MR. GABE SAM: Okay. That makes a little more sense.  
20 Because the way I perceived it was you wouldn't support  
21 predator control, but now that you explained 80 percent -- you  
22 didn't say the 80 percent mark.  
23 //

24 MR. SKINNER: Well, yeah, I didn't. But, that's  
25 normally when you are talking about controlling predation to  
26 allow that moose -- or to expand rapidly. They're talking  
27 about removing, you know, most of the predators and keeping  
28 them that way. Most of the wolves, and keeping it at that low  
29 level for several years to allow the population to break out of  
30 the cycle that they're believed to be in. And, that I don't  
31 find necessary out there. But, at the same time we would  
32 encourage a -- you know, harvest of wolves and bears just like  
33 we do the moose, you know, maximum benefit of people for fur or  
34 meat.  
35 //

36 MR. MORGAN: Thank you.  
37 //

38 MR. DEACON: Mr. Chairman ....  
39 //

40 MR. MORGAN: Oh. Henry?  
41 //

42 MR. DEACON: Is there any increase of hunters, sport  
43 hunters up in that area that -- you say there's -- does anybody  
44 count how many moose they get out of Innoko?  
45 //

46 MR. SKINNER: Yeah. Laura Reed prepared a -- I didn't  
47 hand it out, I'll give you one. What's happened, but there has  
48 been an increase in the number of air taxis, and there's been  
49 an increase in the number of moose harvested through these air  
50 taxi operations. There's like -- and I have those figures.

00091

1 It's not tremendous, but it's gone up from like 40 animals up  
2 to 75 just in the last couple three years. And, so guiding and  
3 air taxi service is increasing out there, and this is -- may  
4 not be impacting the whole population, but it's certainly -- I  
5 think could possibly be an impact on this sex/age structure in  
6 the big bulls then, and will have an impact in those kind of  
7 things. And, I have a handout on those.

8 //

9 MR. DEACON: How do you know those moose are starving?

10 //

11 MR. SKINNER: How what now? Say that again.

12 //

13 MR. DEACON: You said this moose -- some of them are  
14 starving. You know, those moose are migrating where they can  
15 get food. There's no food in Innoko, they move to Yukon. They  
16 move around, those animals. So, it's -- I don't really buy  
17 that -- they don't stay in one place and starve there. They  
18 look for food. They migrate to Holy Cross, down the river.  
19 You know, they go where ever there's food.

20 //

21 MR. SKINNER: Well, that's true. We have -- we do see  
22 tremendous movement into these rive corridors. But, during  
23 those years when we have those deep snows, four or five feet,  
24 when they get down to those -- whatever river corridor they  
25 move to, the Innoko or the Yukon, we've found them to be stuck  
26 in those places when it gets to be that deep. They eat up  
27 everything that's there, and we find them moving less and less  
28 because they're weak, and, you know, tremendous amounts are --  
29 numbers are killed by predators, but many too are -- you'll see  
30 them standing there in the same spot for a few days and pretty  
31 soon they'll be dead. You know, but these are the extreme  
32 situations in those cases.

33 //

34 MR. MORGAN: Any more questions? Thank you.

35 Koyukuk/Nowitna National Wildlife Refuge update.

36 //

37 MR. HUNTINGTON: My name is Orville Huntington. I'm  
38 going to have Robert Farmer, our new RIT, introduce himself  
39 briefly, and Joanna, and then I'll go over the moose stuff with  
40 you.

41 //

42 MR. FARMER: As Orville said, my name is Robert Farmer.  
43 I'm the -- called the Refuge information technician out of  
44 Huslia, and I work with the villages from Hughes, Huslia,  
45 Koyukuk, Nulato, Kaltag, Galena and Ruby. And, right now we're  
46 just doing the geese survey at this point, but I also will be  
47 interacting with the tribal councils and try to settle possible  
48 issues and matters with the U. S. Fish and Wildlife and tribal  
49 councils.

50 //

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1 MS. ROBERTS: Good afternoon. My name is Joanna  
2 Roberts and I am the brand new subsistence coordinator at  
3 Galena. So, this is I think just as much a learning process  
4 for me today as it is for you, but I'm glad to be here.  
5 //

6 MR. HUNTINGTON: I don't have very much -- many  
7 handouts, but I think I'll have one left with you guys and I'll  
8 have the rest returned for the meetings with Fish and Game.  
9 Maybe you could hand them out. Just make sure I get some of  
10 that back because I didn't get enough copies made.  
11 //

12 I'm not going to talk much about trend count areas  
13 today, but everything Benedict said earlier today about Huslia  
14 and the area down there, out data backs up what he says. I  
15 don't have my trend count area report done so I'm just going to  
16 report on the moose census briefly. If you look back here  
17 behind me there's -- on the wall is my graphs of the moose  
18 census we did. Each area is broken down. The areas I'm  
19 concerned with are Three Day Slough and Kaiyuh Slough. One's  
20 on the Kaiyuh Flats and one is on the Koyukuk river.  
21 //

22 I've really got a problem with Three Day Slough. It's  
23 just -- we've tried everything. The State's got a registration  
24 hunt there. And, I was really surprised today when my friend  
25 David James reported that the harvest increased again. That  
26 really took me by surprise because looking at my data to see  
27 that many bulls taken out -- an increase in cows taken out I  
28 could live with. But, I figured last they took about 41  
29 percent of the bulls, and to take more than that it's -- I  
30 think like he said we're going to have to re-visit that issue  
31 on our objectives for the Fish and Game, especially for that  
32 area. Because I'm not going to be going to that meeting but  
33 I'll make sure Joanna has the data to take with her. But, I've  
34 looked through all the data, I've talked to professors at the  
35 University of Alaska Fairbanks, I've talk to my Uncle Sidney,  
36 and, you know, it -- there's a limit on how much you can  
37 harvest out of an area. And, when you have high hunting  
38 pressure and predation and, you know, that -- there never were  
39 a lot of moose on the Koyukuk until my dad -- my late father  
40 and Don Stickman took those wolves out there, and then that's  
41 when we had something to fight about. And, all I'm doing is  
42 I'm trying to manage that best -- best I can. Just -- every  
43 time seems like I think I got a handle on it, something new  
44 comes up. Why they increase hunting pressure? I didn't expect  
45 that.

46 //

47 You know, I started hunting when I was 11 years old,  
48 and I hunted in this area. My short 42 years on this earth I  
49 started going to Fish and Game meetings when I was really  
50 young. I really troubles me when I see a respectful group of

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1 you people sitting here and you ask hard questions and the  
2 answers are turned on you. They say I don't know, I'll get  
3 back to you. I've worked very hard with my friend David James  
4 to look two, three years down the road. What are the problems  
5 we see? You know, these moose co-management meetings we have,  
6 a lot of good information. You know, I look -- what kind of  
7 information are guys going to need three years down the road,  
8 and it's over there on the wall now. And, that's because of  
9 those co-management meetings where Benedict, Tim Osborne when  
10 Tim was in there. All those guys kind of gave me an idea of  
11 where -- what kind of information we'd need.

12 //

13 And, I really need to sit down and look at my report  
14 because it's just -- I said in this area that the moose  
15 population -- there was no significant change. And, I never  
16 said it was the same. And, I really have to apologize. Last  
17 year I went on the radio and said there's probably more than  
18 10,000 moose on the Koyukuk River -- on the Koyukuk Refuge, and  
19 that wasn't true. I looked through the data and there was  
20 never more than 8,000 moose up there, and that's pushing it.  
21 So, really I have to watch what even my supervisors write down  
22 because I might not want to say those things any more. I want  
23 to say what's true.

24 //

25 I see yearling bulls going down in the Western  
26 (Indiscernible - mumbled speech) Sub-unit, and calves. And,  
27 the bulls -- a lot of cows. And, like you said, you know,  
28 they're looking for barren cows. Well, with a lot of wolves  
29 and bears up there a lot of those cows don't have their calf,  
30 you know, the calf's been killed already. Because I know I  
31 went out and looked for one. And, I was very thankful for Fish  
32 and Game for that emergency hunt -- that early hunt. I worked  
33 five days really hard and I managed to get one. I mean, you  
34 know, those kind of little things -- I'm really grateful for  
35 Gabe Sam and David James and Dave Anderson for giving us an  
36 opportunity to hunt a little bit more. Because it looks good  
37 on paper, but I think we have problems especially around  
38 Kaiyuh Slough where Mickey was talking about. That's not the  
39 area where we want to promote hunting.

40 //

41 And, the area north of my census area, from  
42 Dulbi Slough, north of Huslia, the data's getting old but all  
43 indications are as Benedict said that, you know, the bulls are  
44 being hammered. And, when you see a lot cows is what they're  
45 seeing, the old people say that that population is going  
46 downhill.

47 //

48 Now what I'd like to see is I'd like to work with the  
49 council members here and come up with some proposals that might  
50 help give the subsistence people a better opportunity to get

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1 the moose they need. Because since I was a little boy I never  
2 remember people in Huslia saying they didn't get a moose. This  
3 was the first year I heard that. And, around Galena -- I mean,  
4 you know, it's pretty good I -- there was a big fire behind  
5 Galena 15 years ago and there's a lot of moose around there.  
6 But, something is not right when these oldtimers are coming up  
7 and say hey these guys didn't get a moose every here. Why is  
8 that? You know, I know they're not that bum hunters. You  
9 know, maybe the opportunities are not there; maybe we're not  
10 doing our job good enough.

11 //

12 I don't really like to talk about data, but what I'll  
13 do is I'll hand these out. And, I'm not going to go over it in  
14 detail, but if I could get them back and then when my report is  
15 done I'll make sure you guys all get a copy. And, what I'd  
16 like to do is just answer questions if you have questions. I  
17 don't want to really sit here and present data.

18 //

19 MR. MORGAN: Questions? Sam?

20 //

21 MR. SAM: Did you say you're leaving before the Koyukuk  
22 River Advisory Council?

23 //

24 MR. HUNTINGTON: No. I'm going to stay here for that,  
25 that's why I want these back. Because I want to work with that  
26 committee, it's really -- I've never had a chance to really  
27 work with them. The one I'm going to miss is the one in  
28 Koyukuk, the co-management meeting. I haven't missed one yet.  
29 And, that's where I got all my good ideas from. Those came two  
30 years ahead of when the problems actually showed up, and that's  
31 where we got all our good planning from. We didn't fight over  
32 who was in control, the jurisdiction stuff. We just got the  
33 information we needed.

34 //

35 MR. MORGAN: Samson?

36 //

37 MR. HENRY: I forgot what I was going to say for a  
38 minute there. This council could propose permit hunts around  
39 Huslia -- what is that? National -- Koyukuk National Wildlife  
40 Refuge. I wonder if we could propose permit hunts because of  
41 the -- some of the hunts that's being done up north of Huslia.  
42 What I heard is a lot of people are talking moose out there,  
43 and then it's just a lot of wanton waste.

44 //

45 MR. HUNTINGTON: I'll defer that to Vince.

46 //

47 MR. MATHEWS: Well, if I understand the question, is  
48 can this council -- or did they put in for permits out on the  
49 Koyukuk River? Is that the general -- or how did they come to  
50 be?

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1 MR. HENRY: Koyukuk National Wildlife Refuge. I think  
2 that's what they call it. It's right on this moose census  
3 data, the study area.

4 //

5 MR. HUNTINGTON: Actually, the areas he's talking about  
6 is north of there. We have a registration hunt to goes as far  
7 as Huslia. He's asking about a permit hunt north of Huslia.  
8 What's the possibility of a proposal for that area? I know  
9 there's a lot of State land, and a lot of our corporation lands  
10 that off limits already. Our lands are posted, Federal lands  
11 are not.

12 //

13 MR. MATHEWS: What -- Orville's answering your  
14 question. When you have a mixed land status makeup of State  
15 and Federal, and even within the Federal lands -- until that  
16 navigable water becomes under the jurisdiction under Federal  
17 Subsistence management you end up with regulations that only  
18 apply to certain lands and not to others. So, that's why  
19 Orville has talked about working together with others. We'll  
20 talk a little more about that with the Annual Report. That we  
21 need to get beyond jurisdictions and look at the issues that  
22 are there and find out what tools that be applied to the  
23 concerns of the different parties. I'm really not answering  
24 your questions, but the land status would have to be looked at  
25 in that area. But, you could put in a proposal for a hunt but  
26 the effect of it would be possibly more restrictive if you did  
27 it under Federal on subsistence users than it would be on other  
28 hunters. So, that's the kind stuff we have to pull out maps  
29 and really look at. Which is the most effective to the needs  
30 that you want, or to the concerns that you have. And, we're  
31 going to get into that in the next -- we may get into that in  
32 this cooperative management strategy that's going to be  
33 discussed under Annual Reports.

34 //

35 I don't know, other staff -- I may be lost on this one,  
36 but the main thing that's crying out to me is we have to look  
37 at land status. And, this body answers to the Federal  
38 Subsistence Board. You can submit proposals to the State  
39 Board, but we need to weigh out what you want to do and who  
40 that's going to affect. I'll stop there.

41 //

42 MR. MORGAN: Ray?

43 //

44 MR. COLLINS: Yeah. It sounds like we'd have to be  
45 submitting proposals to the State for a registration or a  
46 restriction. Because I don't think we can really restrict  
47 subsistence users, and the Federal can't restrict subsistence  
48 users until the State hunting is cut down or eliminated. So  
49 that proposal -- it seem to me that the State would be the one  
50 to initiate a registration permit or a limit to who could go

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1 in.  
2 //

3 MR. MATHEWS: Well, definitely on private and State  
4 lands when and if we get into managing fisheries, my  
5 understanding is that all the waters that are within the  
6 conservation units would fall under this program. And, at that  
7 time then you could, but I would assume the State would contest  
8 that. I don't have my pocket lawyer here. So -- but I would  
9 rather have the council look at the issues and then see what  
10 tools are there. Because when we get into this game of --  
11 we've been down this road before, and we don't want to re-visit  
12 where we do some action on one regulatory regime, the State,  
13 and do a different one on the Federal, and then we keep going  
14 back and forth. We may need to do that, but let's look at the  
15 other opportunities before we get into that. Not only for the  
16 users, it's very draining on staff time and resources. So, any  
17 ways, enough of my soapbox.  
18 //

19 MR. HUNTINGTON: Well, I understand, you know, you guys  
20 are spread so thin, you know, with the whole state to deal  
21 with. Maybe there's some other ways we could deal with it like  
22 limit how much the guides that -- you know, that are taking  
23 moose out of there, limit that number. What about the  
24 outfitters? Who controls those? Where do they get their  
25 permits from? Because those two seem to be the biggest  
26 problems in that area that he's -- just north of Huslia. Seems  
27 to me that would be one way other than doing some kind of  
28 proposal and going through the whole process.  
29 //

30 MR. MORGAN: You got to go with the line(ph). Henry?  
31 //

32 MR. DEACON: I got a question for all -- you know,  
33 Innoko River, that Refuge is the last -- pretty near the last  
34 moose population. It used to be like all around here and up  
35 Ruby and all that. And, that's the last place that's going to  
36 be any moose left. And, how do we go about protecting those?  
37 That's the question that we had meetings last -- two years ago.  
38 TCC had meetings, and still nothing has been -- come up from it  
39 because we don't know how to work it.  
40 //

41 MR. HUNTINGTON: I think we'd have to look at how many  
42 moose are there and who's using them and -- there's a lot of  
43 things. Bob's study, I think that's pretty important. Because  
44 I got some ideas there today too, because what he said about  
45 the moose hanging around those river corridors, when they get  
46 pushed in that area. That's what's happening right now in some  
47 of those areas we studied around Kaiyuh Slough. If we ever get  
48 a big flood year, severe winter, all those moose are going to  
49 be right there in that area and down the river they go. So,  
50 there's a lot of things we can't do about it ....

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1 MR. DEACON: What concerns me now is that I was  
2 Innoko River -- up way above -- I did lots of traveling around,  
3 and out of the two days I seen 22 cow moose and two bulls.  
4 And, that's a sign of something that's -- you know, it's  
5 something wrong there.

6 //

7 MR. HUNTINGTON: Yeah. Well, what the elders tell me  
8 is when you start seeing a lot of cows and no bulls and no  
9 yearling bulls and no calves that means that the population  
10 is -- there's a problem there. What really upsets me is when I  
11 have the data that say that, and then I go talk to an elder and  
12 they'll say that, and then I go talk to somebody that just came  
13 in with a big rack and they'll say oh there's a lot of bulls up  
14 there. I say how can that be when they -- I looked at the data  
15 and they're taking half of those bulls out of there. I mean,  
16 what's a lot of bulls?

17 //

18 MR. MORGAN: Michael?

19 //

20 MR. STICKMAN: Okay. How about like -- I mean, like  
21 here -- I mean, this council here we can write a proposal for  
22 the Kaiyuh Flats because it's all Federal land, isn't it? I  
23 mean, like what I talked about earlier, there's guides going in  
24 there now, there was none last year, you know. And, if you  
25 look at his graphs the moose population is going down, you  
26 know. And, all of a sudden there's a new user in the area, you  
27 know. What's going to happen? The area's going to be  
28 devastated and it's going to be in my area, you know. And,  
29 that -- the Kaiyuh Flats is the prime moose area for Nulato  
30 people. Even though a lot of Nulato people go up to the  
31 Koyukuk River, the majority of Nulato people go over to the  
32 Kaiyuh Flats.

33 //

34 MR. HUNTINGTON: That's a good point. I just looked at  
35 the map back there and I don't see too much Federal land in  
36 there, but there is some right in that area in Kaiyuh Slough.  
37 A little area but ....

38 //

39 MR. STICKMAN: I mean, you know, there's a problem  
40 of -- you know, compatibility there. You know, there's the  
41 people there, and then there's the people who were not there  
42 now, you know. So, it's almost, you know, where there's --  
43 there's some animosity there, you know. It was -- you know, it  
44 was not visible but it was, you know, it sensible, you know,  
45 with the people who traditionally use the area and the people  
46 who are back there with guides, you know. It was almost, you  
47 know -- you know, even though the guides was local there was  
48 still animosity because it -- because I guess -- because of the  
49 I guess this success rate wasn't -- I mean, there was a lot of  
50 people who came back from the Kaiyuh Flats with no moose, but

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1 they see this people who are guided back there, and that take  
2 off and they take the horns, you know. They -- that's all they  
3 take, you know. I mean, they give the meat to somebody who  
4 needs it, but that's not the idea of it, you know. The idea  
5 is, you know, we want to kind of, you know, keep it the way it  
6 is, you know, there for the subsistence users, not here for,  
7 you know, commercial.

8 //

9 MR. MORGAN: Pete?

10 //

11 MR. DeMATTEO: Mr. Chair, I just wanted to pick up  
12 where Orville left off concerning guides and outfitters on  
13 refuges. Under the current management it is the refuges, okay,  
14 that issue special use permits to guides and outfitters on  
15 refuges. But, aside from that from what I hear correctly is  
16 there's concern that in the villages around Kaiyuh and up  
17 Koyukuk River that not everyone got their moose this year. So,  
18 the question is is it wise to use the Federal program to submit  
19 proposals, okay, to control access or to control harvest.

20 //

21 You have to understand that the Federal program does  
22 not control harvest or access to non-rurally qualified users,  
23 be it non-locals. So, is your energies best served by  
24 submitting proposals to the Federal Board?

25 //

26 MR. COLLINS: But isn't the Federal agency responsible  
27 to manage for subsistence first before they allow the other  
28 uses. If they are issuing the permits, then aren't they by  
29 their actions setting up or allowing a use that is harming  
30 subsistence?

31 //

32 MR. DeMATTEO: I hear what you're saying Mr. Collins  
33 but the Federal Board does not issue permits to non-local  
34 users.

35 //

36 MR. COLLINS: But they're issues to -- their agencies  
37 are issuing them, aren't they? They're allowing someone to  
38 operate on that Federal land.

39 //

40 MR. DeMATTEO: You're referring to the guides and  
41 outfitters.

42 //

43 MR. COLLINS: Yeah. Yeah. They're giving them a  
44 permit to operate on that land.

45 //

46 MR. DeMATTEO: No. That's -- okay. That's the same  
47 regional director with a different hat on if you follow me.  
48 That's a different program that he manages which -- yeah.  
49 That's exactly what you're saying. Again, like Vince I don't  
50 have my pocket attorney with me today, but that's how it is.

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1 MR. MORGAN: Vince?

2 //

3 MR. MATHEWS: Let's see if I can clear the water, or  
4 probably muddy it up. The permitting for outfitters and guides  
5 go through Refuge Management. You can, you know, make  
6 recommendations to that process - I don't know where it is  
7 right now - on selecting that. But, you don't have a special  
8 standing process in that process. I understand what you said,  
9 Ray, that activity. But, what you do have standing in is on  
10 seasons and harvest limits and methods and means. So, under  
11 that note - and I'm not recommending this - but your options  
12 are to deal with seasons that you can, which would only affect  
13 you, or you can recommend closure, but closer to  
14 non-subsistence users are going to require a certain standard  
15 to have that, and I don't know if we're at that standard where  
16 you would -- the Board would be accepting the closing Federal  
17 land to other users. But, you know, that's an option you can  
18 deal with. But, those are the ones you can deal with is that  
19 you can comment to the process on guides and outfitters, but  
20 I'm not sure you -- what affect that would have. I'm not  
21 saying they're going to ignore it, but the refuges are there  
22 for multi-purposes in addition to subsistence.

23 //

24 So, you're option would be to deal in the vein that you  
25 have which is seasons and that -- but when you start doing that  
26 then you need to weight out -- well, then you get it from  
27 analysis. I'm not going to get into it further. But, you  
28 understand you can -- which Ray knows this well and Jack was  
29 involved with it at that time, is displacement. We have to  
30 look displacement and all these other factors which you would  
31 get some inkling of that when you do analysis.

32 //

33 MR. MORGAN: Ray?

34 //

35 MR. COLLINS: With the example of the Kaiyuh that I've  
36 heard, if that's the primary subsistence area for Nulato and  
37 who else goes in there, and they can allow permits, why allow  
38 it -- they -- the Federal can decide which area. The State has  
39 less control over that about where guides can operate. Why  
40 allow a new permit for a guide to operate an area that's very  
41 sensitive for subsistence. Not to say eliminate all guide, but  
42 target some areas that are particularly sensitive and say that  
43 area is close to guiding activities.

44 //

45 MR. MATHEWS: I can't answer that because that's  
46 Refuge Management's decision.

47 //

48 MR. COLLINS: Yeah.

49 //

50 MR. MATHEWS: And that's ....

000100

1 MR. LYNUS: You said you can't answer that?

2 //

3 MR. MATHEWS: No. I ....

4 //

5 MR. LYNUS: When you said ....

6 //

7 MR. MATHEWS: No. That's under Management, I can't.  
8 Paul was asking that -- a clarification of why I said I cannot  
9 answer the process that the Refuge goes through on sensitivity  
10 of areas to villages in that. I -- we would have to have  
11 Management here to address that and -- they're not here I don't  
12 believe. So .... (pause)

13 //

14 MR. MORGAN: Ron?

15 //

16 MR. SAM: For your information, we did come before the  
17 Board of Game through the Koyukuk River Advisory Committee and  
18 we instigated the permit system down at Galena. Year after  
19 year was asked that the permits issued be cut down. We've also  
20 asked that a certain amount of harvest be recorded taken be  
21 shut down after a certain number is taken. Let's put it that  
22 way. And, I honestly feel that we can deal with this permit  
23 system north of Huslia through the Koyukuk River Advisory  
24 Council. I've stated this before and I'll state it again, the  
25 State Board of Game as we see it now is one of the most  
26 receptive that I have ever seen in my life to tell the truth.  
27 And, I think that we can put some more restrictions on the  
28 permit hunt and the general hunts out of Galena area through  
29 use of Ellas Cabin and probably putting one in that -- or  
30 around Huslia. And, I'd like to deal with this more at the  
31 Koyukuk River Advisory Committee meeting. That's why I wanted  
32 you guys to stay. We have been very successful before the  
33 State Board of Game.

34 //

35 MR. LYNUS: Mr. Chairman ....

36 //

37 MR. MORGAN: I think it's Pete, then you, then Jack.  
38 Go ahead, Pete.

39 //

40 MR. DeMATTEO: The question was asked before Mr. Chair  
41 how guides are awarded permits on National Wildlife Refuges in  
42 Alaska. Basically, a Supreme Court decision back in, I  
43 believe, '92 said that -- on the National Wildlife Refuges  
44 basically every square inch will be offered up to sport  
45 guiding. Which means the program was set up that sport guides  
46 could submit what they call prospectuses to the refuge manager.  
47 And, basically the prospectus outlined what size the operation  
48 would be. In other words, how many clients this person  
49 intended to take in and how many moose would be taken and  
50 where. And, these zones -- in other words, sections of the

000101

1 refuges were awarded based on points that were ranked to each  
2 prospectus based on the merits of the guide's operation. But,  
3 as Vince said the National Wildlife Refuge is a national  
4 program per se, and these refuges -- some of the refuges in  
5 Alaska were set aside for subsistence uses, but at the same  
6 time they have other programs that they have to operate, and  
7 one of them be guiding. But, to answer your question, yes. A  
8 subsistence -- I don't want to call it a study, but an 810  
9 determination is done which is mandated under ANILCA which  
10 tried to determine if a guiding operation in a specific area  
11 will impact the local subsistence users. So, that was done for  
12 each one of those areas.

13 //

14 MS. HILDEBRAND: Hi, I'll borrow your mike. Ida  
15 Hildebrand, staff committee member. I agree with all your  
16 comments and suggestions and especially with Ron Sam that you  
17 should also present this to the Advisory Council for proposal  
18 to the State. But, you are also -- it also your prerogative to  
19 send it to the Federal Board as a proposal and request either  
20 they limit it or they do something about the negative impact on  
21 subsistence. And, if it's interfering with subsistence you  
22 have a right to ask that it be closed to all but subsistence  
23 users. I don't know that they'll agree with you, but that is  
24 your prerogative, and at the least if they disagree with you  
25 they may request that a management plan of all the users be  
26 instigated or the workings begin, and that may be the end  
27 result. But, you do have a right to present it to the  
28 Federal Board as a proposal. Thank you.

29 //

30 MR. MORGAN: Benedict?

31 //

32 MR. JONES: Yeah. I'd like to ask Paul and Pete on the  
33 guide and outfits in the area, say for instance from Kateel to  
34 Dulbi, how many guide outfit and assistant can be in that area  
35 at one time?

36 //

37 MR. MATHEWS: Everyone is looking at me. I have no  
38 data on that, so I'll refer you to Refuge staff that's present  
39 if they have it.

40 //

41 MR. HUNTINGTON: I believe there's only one guide, and  
42 I don't know of any -- I don't know the number of assistant  
43 guides or outfitters. I know there's outfitters working around  
44 there. They've asked to go farther north around Huslia. We  
45 recommended that they don't because of all the conflicts. I  
46 don't know if they did. They may have sounds like. I guess  
47 that's management. They're not here. They don't have -- we  
48 don't have that data. We don't know who is all in there  
49 but ....

50 //

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1 MR. JONES: What I'm asking is how big an area can they  
2 be assigned to the -- certain guide outfit.

3 //

4 MR. HUNTINGTON: I think that's -- isn't that State has  
5 that -- defines the guide area?

6 //

7 MR. DeMATTEO: Mr. Chair. As I mentioned the entire  
8 refuge is sectioned into zones, guiding zones, and each guide  
9 is awarded one or two zones. I'd -- I'm not sure, Orville. I  
10 don't think that's a State delineation. I think that's  
11 something that the Refuge system had to design. They're fairly  
12 large areas, but I don't have a map to show you today.

13 //

14 MR. JONES: Yeah. What I'm concerned about is sport  
15 hunters in that area with the outfits. You know, that's our  
16 main concern for Koyukuk controlled use area. So, we want to  
17 try to limit so many sports hunters on -- you know, cut down  
18 their harvesting.

19 //

20 MR. HUNTINGTON: I would suggest we probably address  
21 that with the Middle Yukon Advisory Committee. I think that  
22 might be a good one for that area. The Koyukuk Advisory  
23 Committee could -- I'll defer that to Vince a little bit. But,  
24 one thing I forgot to say is that report I gave you, I asked  
25 Uncle Sidney, you, Mickey, all those questions while I'm in the  
26 village. You guys are quoted in that report and I'll make sure  
27 you guys get a copy of it and anybody else that's on the  
28 council. But, Vince could add a little bit as where we go  
29 with ....

30 //

31 MR. MATHEWS: Right. If -- well, Ron will be at the  
32 meeting and Jack Reakoff will be at the meeting. If you're  
33 submit a proposal on the Federal side, if that's the decision  
34 of that body, the due date for that is October 23rd. The  
35 State -- and correct me, they're not -- the Interior is not up  
36 for -- until I guess in 2000. But, that doesn't mean you can't  
37 petition but that -- they can address that, but right now  
38 they're normal cycle for taking in regulatory changes is  
39 somewhere else. Southeast or Southcentral, somewhere else.  
40 It's not Interior. And, just -- I had planned on attending the  
41 local -- the Koyukuk Advisory Committee meeting through --  
42 until its closure. But, any way, I'll stop there. That's the  
43 deadlines you have to deal with.

44 //

45 You've already dealt with things like this before.  
46 That when you submit a proposal you can withdraw it, you can  
47 modify it at a later date under the Federal system. Under the  
48 State system you'd have to talk with (Indiscernible - noise in  
49 background) et cetera. So, I would caution you to talk amongst  
50 yourselves on all these issues and look at a lot of

000103

1 alternatives, but, you know, go forward with what you feel is  
2 the best for your area and your needs.

3 //

4 MR. MORGAN: Jack?

5 //

6 MR. REAKOFF: I would like to ask Orville the same  
7 question I asked David James. Do you have access to the age  
8 composition of the bulls that come through Ellas Cabin? And, I  
9 also want to know the timing of the harvest of the large bulls.  
10 Because I'm under consideration of a proposal for reducing the  
11 general hunt season by five days if the moose harvest is like  
12 to the areas to the north of here. Most of the big bulls are  
13 killed at the end of the season. And, everybody here is saying  
14 that the big bills are being killed off. The data shows the  
15 big bulls are being killed off. I would like to see this age  
16 composition to have a biological basis to stand on. And, then  
17 I think that it would be something for the Koyukuk River  
18 Advisory Committee to look through as far as reducing the  
19 general hunt season, because that's when the majority of those  
20 big moose are killed off. That's what I would like to find  
21 out. If you got it in your papers there somewhere maybe you  
22 can show me that stuff.

23 //

24 MR. HUNTINGTON: Well, I broke it down a little bit. I  
25 gave him the report. Actually, I kind of wanted to say that I  
26 have it, but I don't have those ratios. Like you said, a lot  
27 of big bulls -- well, to be honest I went out there and counted  
28 and there's not many big bulls out there. So, I don't know  
29 where these big bulls are coming from there -- people are  
30 talking about. I looked at them at the beach, none of them are  
31 really that big. You know, they're probably big, medium bulls  
32 maybe. No breeding bulls that I saw taken out. Only one  
33 breeding bull came out of -- up by my trap line up by Hog  
34 River. I think that was the only one I saw. It was below  
35 there a little bit. And, that's the only one I know of. That  
36 kind of data we'd have to get from David. I don't know where  
37 he is. But, we'll deal with that tomorrow.

38 //

39 Yeah. Because all I broke it down was like bulls and  
40 cows. I wanted to see what percent harvest there was. There  
41 was 2 percent harvest of cows, which is nothing. And, then  
42 41 percent of the bulls, which is -- I felt was not good. And,  
43 we've got even more this year -- I don't like it.

44 //

45 MR. MORGAN: Mike?

46 //

47 MR. STICKMAN: Okay. With -- you see the data he has  
48 here from 1987 to 1997, you see the difference there. There's  
49 a substantial difference, you know. And, we're supposed to,  
50 you know, kind of be there for the subsistence users, you know.

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1 And, that's the Nulato and the Kaltag people that hunt in the  
2 Kaiyuh Flats, you know. We're supposed to protect their -- you  
3 know, their hunting area. And, you know, with the impact of  
4 guides coming in there, I don't think there's room for it, you  
5 know. I mean, there's got to be something that we can do to  
6 say hey, this area cannot handle another user, you know.  
7 //

8 MR. HUNTINGTON: I think Vince was right. I think we  
9 need to sit down amongst each other with -- in the different  
10 areas and go over it and see what we can come up with. It's  
11 too much. You guys are swinging back from different areas on  
12 me, and it's -- you know, the Kaiyuh Flats. It went down quite  
13 a bit, more than I expected. It wasn't significant, but if you  
14 look back at the graph it was very close -- the confidence  
15 intervals were really close to being significant. And, which  
16 means to me that probably that population was at that low end  
17 down there during both censuses. But, the good things that  
18 happened a long time ago was like I said, you know, Dad and  
19 Donald took those wolves out. We had some good fires in there  
20 that weren't burning hot like they do now.

21  
22 I don't like to get on my soapbox about fire, but  
23 there's some places where -- along the river where we probably  
24 could use a little bit of fire and put some local people to  
25 work. I think that's an opportunity we haven't been doing.  
26 That's just something else since we can't go out and really  
27 manage predators like Henry would like or anybody else. Maybe  
28 we could do something else, habitat enhancement or something to  
29 get -- at least it would move those moose away from that area  
30 where they're hanging out too close to the river. That's what  
31 I'm concerned with that might -- the Yukon is a big river.  
32 When we get a big flood in there it -- it's pretty hard. But,  
33 that's not saying there's not critical caribou habitat up here  
34 too, you know. I'm up in Allakaket. I don't want to get on my  
35 soapbox about fire because there's time when fire probably  
36 doesn't need to burn so hot and it would just -- that's a  
37 different subject.

38 //

39 MR. LYNUS: Mr. Chair ....

40 //

41 MR. MORGAN: Paul?

42 //

43 MR. LYNUS: On this guide thing, what they're talking  
44 about is -- there's -- I know there's a lot of that going on  
45 down around Huslia area, and then when we're -- we're on the  
46 Koyukuk River too, but we're further up. And, there's -- we're  
47 starting to see guides up this way now. And, I look at it --  
48 the reason for that because last year on the Daily News-Miner  
49 that really got to me, all these guides they're selling off all  
50 their antlers and stuff out of the newspaper. And, then that's

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1 the reason why I think we're getting the guides around here. I  
2 know it's up for Harvey and them too. I just wanted to bring  
3 that up.

4 //

5 MR. HUNTINGTON: Yeah. I think Kanuti will answer  
6 those questions about -- I'm going to be helping them do their  
7 census this fall. I look forward to working with Lisa and Mary  
8 on that, but they'll discuss that a little bit. I'm just  
9 helping where I can. I get spread a little thin sometimes.  
10 I -- as a favor Henry's always helped us at Middle Yukon  
11 Advisory Committee meetings whenever we've had a joint meeting  
12 with GASH or anything at these meetings. I've always been  
13 grateful, so I went out of my way to go down and help them with  
14 their moose co-management. Try to get some local input because  
15 the local input is so important, and it really shows in my  
16 report because that's where I got my data where I -- I got them  
17 what they wanted. It wasn't what I wanted; it was what they  
18 needed, so that was where I put my effort in and I was funded  
19 by Pete's office and -- the Regional Office and very grateful  
20 for that support that they've always given from there.

21 //

22 MR. MORGAN: Any more questions? Sam -- Ron?

23 //

24 MR. SAM: Just a comment. It's kind of refreshing to  
25 see that we have somebody on board that's not retiring in the  
26 matter of next year or two years.

27 //

28 MR. MORGAN: Any more questions? Thank you. (Pause)  
29 Item Number 4 is Kanuti National Wildlife Refuge update.

30 //

31 MR. WHITEHILL: Mr. Chair, council, the public: It  
32 might look like a formidable group here, but, you know, I'm  
33 really pleased. We've actually been pretty short-handed  
34 staff-wise for a long time. What you see here is, you know,  
35 the major part of our staff makeup. And, with that, my name is  
36 Barry Whitehill. I'm the assistant manager at Kanuti National  
37 Wildlife Refuge. To my right -- and I'll left people introduce  
38 themselves and tell their function.

39 //

40 MS. MAXWELL: Mary Maxwell, biological technician, and  
41 this past summer I took responsibility for the biological  
42 program on Kanuti.

43 //

44 MR. WILLIAMS: Yeah. I'm Harvey Williams with Kanuti  
45 National Wildlife Refuge. I started working this spring and  
46 it's been quite an experience.

47 //

48 MS. SAPERSTIEN: Lisa Saperstien, wildlife biologist  
49 for the Refuge. I've been on board for about a whole week now,  
50 and this has been a great opportunity to come and hear some of

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1 the current issues and get updated on what's going on. And,  
2 I'm still learning about what's been done on the Refuge and  
3 what can potentially be done in the future.  
4 //

5 MR. McCELLAN: And my name is Greg McCellan. I'm the  
6 subsistence coordinator. I'm a shared position with the three  
7 refuges out of the Fairbanks office, the Yukon Flats, the  
8 Arctic Refuge and the Kanuti Refuge. And, thanks for having us  
9 here.  
10 //

11 MR. WHITEHILL: Well, I put on the table for you took  
12 look at we just -- hot of the press. Actually, Greg put  
13 together a newsletter and for the members of the public that  
14 are here, by the door we have a copy of this as well and it  
15 kind of gives some of the highlights. You know, I guess what  
16 it doesn't say is this summer we've had a very aggressive  
17 program for things that we tried to do this field season,  
18 especially in light of not having a permanent biologist with  
19 Lisa just now coming on board. And, as Harvey alluded to we --  
20 he was on a strong learning curve, I guess, and with his  
21 help -- with everybodys' help we had a very successful field  
22 season.  
23 //

24 Some of the things I wanted to point out, not  
25 necessarily biological. There's a little blurb in here and a  
26 picture of Ray Brevieska(ph). He's a CBS cameraman that  
27 basically has fallen in love with Kanuti National Wildlife  
28 Refuge and Alaska. And, Ray has -- he came up initially in  
29 March, got some subsistence footage that the U. S. Fish and  
30 Wildlife Service and our Regional office intends to put into a  
31 video as well as footage from other wildlife refuges in Alaska  
32 to better inform and tell the public about what national  
33 wildlife refuges do here in Alaska. And, then Ray came back in  
34 July and assisted us with a rafter survey in the canyon through  
35 Old Man there in the Kanuti River, and actually when it talks  
36 about here -- his footage from Allakaket and Alatna, actually  
37 it was footage from that July float during the rafter survey  
38 that was aired the other day -- well, I guess a couple three  
39 weeks on Sunday morning on CBS. So, starting to get a little  
40 bit of coverage there.  
41 //

42 Some of the other things that -- I know Harvey helped  
43 me out with and we also had a couple of volunteers that worked  
44 for us, Roger Ratcliffe and Donna Young who are now working  
45 with the Park Service out of Bettles. But, we had the  
46 opportunity in August to take high school students who were  
47 pretty much hand selected from all over Interior, Northern  
48 Alaska from village areas as much as possible, and bring them  
49 to an area out of Fairbanks and expose them to natural resource  
50 projects, chum salmon studies, small mammal studies, a number

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1 of different things. We took them backpacking, floating rivers  
2 and hopefully set the hook for future generations. We did this  
3 in cooperation with many of the agencies that are here, Park  
4 Service, Army Corps of Engineers, Alaska Department of Fish and  
5 Game. And, I think Jack Reakoff can share with you -- his two  
6 children, Jesse and Michelle, were two of the students involved  
7 with that. So, very pleased with about the success of that  
8 program as well as the knowledge from Bertha Moses and Johnson  
9 Moses who came as elders for a few days to kind of share some  
10 of the Native knowledge of the things, not just from a natural  
11 resource manager's perspective. So, tried to round out some of  
12 the experience.

13 //

14 So, kind of in a nutshell that was some of the outside  
15 things, but I'd kind of like Mary - especially since she's been  
16 in charge of everything from wolf radio tracking to breeding  
17 bird surveys and whatnot - to share a little bit more about  
18 some of the biological things we've been doing.

19 //

20 MS. MAXWELL: So, I thought I'd really quickly just go  
21 over the seven major projects for you that I was involved in  
22 the coordination of on Kanuti this summer. One of those was  
23 the re-establishment of four point counts. We were counting  
24 new tropical migrant songbirds by sight and sound in two areas  
25 on the Refuge. One was at -- or two point counts were at Lake  
26 Takhakdona(ph) and two were on the Koyukuk and Harvey and I did  
27 those. We surveyed for birds there and then we continued our  
28 survey with a couple of river surveys on the Koyukuk and on the  
29 Kanuti. In addition to that we continued some of Patsy  
30 Martin's work on post-fire studies, and that included some  
31 linology(ph) sampling on 14 perid lakes and some vegetation  
32 sampling, and we did waterfowl surveys in conjunction with that  
33 also.

34 //

35 As Barry mentioned, we also conducted a rafter's survey  
36 on the Kanuti River. And the three big projects that you might  
37 be particularly interested in involved a census of moose, and  
38 there's a graph on the wall that Lisa has been kind enough to  
39 generate showing the transects that we flew in an attempt to  
40 begin the definition of a moose winter range assessment based  
41 on the work that Bob Skinner has been doing. In addition to  
42 that we did a Greater White Front Goose Survey, a brood survey  
43 on the Kanuti, and finally in March of this year we continued  
44 collaring efforts. We collared 12 wolves and -- I'm sorry 10,  
45 and re-collared 2 to continue efforts to understand wolf  
46 territories on the Refuge.

47 //

48 MR. WHITEHILL: You might want to add the map on the  
49 right, right above Pollock's head, is -- those six dots on that  
50 map are snow marker locations that we erected here in the last

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1 month that will go along with that survey. So, that's part of  
2 that map situation. See, Lisa, do you want to maybe give a  
3 future look? Orville alluded to we have a moose survey coming  
4 up at the end of this month, first part of November. And,  
5 maybe talk about where we can go with the vision with the new  
6 biologist.

7 //

8 MS. SAPERSTIEN: Well, first of all the (Indiscernible  
9 - away from microphone) colored map with the other two just  
10 shows some of the moose census units that delineated during the  
11 1993 census, and will be used again in 1998. And, the  
12 different colors are the different moose density stratification  
13 levels. The orange is a high density, the blue is the low  
14 density areas, and the hot pink is the medium areas. So, that  
15 kind of gives you an idea. If you look closely you can see  
16 there's black lines through them delineating the specific  
17 units, and we could talk more about that if people wanted to  
18 take a look at it later on when we're done talking.

19 //

20 I think that with the winter range work and the census  
21 and also the information on the wolves we're going to have a  
22 pretty good, comprehensive picture of some of the things going  
23 on on the Refuge. I think the habitat work is really  
24 important, and particularly the snow work. You know, a lot of  
25 times we get information on refuges and talk about well yeah  
26 the snow as deep that year, maybe it was an effect, and this  
27 will be a good way to keep track of it over time and I think  
28 that's really important.

29 //

30 My background in the past has been oriented toward  
31 habitat work, mostly caribou and fire work. I know that's a  
32 concern of some people in this area, so hopefully I'll be able  
33 to address some those concerns. I think there's a lot of  
34 interesting projects that can be done, and particularly with  
35 your input we can continue the good work that's been done on  
36 the Refuge in the past.

37 //

38 MR. MORGAN: Benedict?

39 //

40 MR. JONES: Question, Mary. On your moose collaring,  
41 have you track the area as one or is it all in one area that  
42 you collared the moose or different -- separate areas?

43 //

44 MS. MAXWELL: I'm sorry. We collared wolves. We  
45 haven't done any moose collaring. We've flown transects to  
46 figure out where the moose are, but we haven't done any moose  
47 collaring.

48 //

49 MR. JONES: Wolf collaring.

50 //

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1 MS. MAXWELL: Wolf collaring. At -- are you asking me  
2 where the wolves are?

3 //

4 MR. JONES: Yeah. What they're ....

5 //

6 MS. MAXWELL: Are they concentrated in a particular  
7 area?

8 //

9 MR. JONES: Are they all in one area or separate area?

10 //

11 MS. MAXWELL: They're in very different areas all over  
12 the Refuge. We identified -- or we believed at the time that  
13 we collared the wolves that we had identified five historical  
14 packs. I think probably we identified four, the Henshaw Pack,  
15 Bonanza Creek Pack, Taclodahten Pack, Sithylemencat Pack and a  
16 South Fork Pack. We hope that we had identi- -- I'm sorry.  
17 And, a Kilolitna/Kanutu Pack. We hoped that we had identified  
18 a pack in the Chalatna area, but I believe that a mistake that  
19 I made at the time. We'd hope we'd collared an adult that  
20 would lead us to a pack, but he has since dispersed.

21 //

22 MR. WHITEHILL: Five, six ....

23 //

24 MS. MAXWELL: How many did I mention?

25 //

26 MR. WHITEHILL: You said four, maybe five. But, five,  
27 maybe six.

28 //

29 MS. MAXWELL: Five, yeah. We think there's probably  
30 another pack in the South Fork area that we do not have on the  
31 air right now based on tracks.

32 //

33 MR. JONES: Yeah. The reason I ask is this -- how big  
34 a area to one pack of wolf?

35 //

36 MS. MAXWELL: Well, are you familiar with the areas  
37 that I just described? I'm not positive. I kind of did some  
38 quick calculations in my head and thought that -- I think that  
39 one wolf occupies about 50 square miles, and then that whole  
40 things gets kind of complicated by the size of the packs. A  
41 couple of packs are 12 in number, and there are as few as 4 in  
42 others. So, it's not quite as straightforward as it might  
43 appear. And, since 1990 when the surveys were initiated the  
44 dynamics of the packs have changed. For instance, there were  
45 more packs I believe and fewer in number, and now we have fewer  
46 packs but some of them are up to 12 and 11 in number.

47 //

48 MR. JONES: Yeah. The reason I ask because I know in  
49 our area we have different pack of wolves. One from Galena  
50 area and one from Koyukuk area. And, I witnessed several

000110

1 places where they crossed their boundary line, different pack,  
2 and they would kill one another.

3 //

4 MS. MAXWELL: Sure. Sure. And, in fact, in 1990 when  
5 Allie Zerkle(ph) - and I believe Patsy Martin initiated this  
6 collaring program - there was a Kanuti Pack and a Kilolitna  
7 Pack. At this time, we believe that those animals pretty much  
8 took care of each other as they began to expand their range,  
9 and now we have what we're calling a Kanuti/Kilolitna Pack.  
10 There's one pack there now, no longer are there two. Yeah.  
11 They do kill each other.

12 //

13 MR. JONES: So you mean that they both umbrella(ph) the  
14 area?

15 //

16 MS. MAXWELL: Uh-huh (affirmative). So, they killed  
17 enough of each other that maybe some members combined or maybe  
18 they just re-populated the area, and one pack is in that  
19 territory now instead of two.

20 //

21 MR. WHITEHILL: You might talk about the dispersers.  
22 We have one at Stevens Village and one at ....

23 //

24 MS. MAXWELL: Uh-huh (affirmative). Yeah. We have a  
25 young, a fairly young male, who I hoped would lead us to a pack  
26 because there were quite a few tracks in the area when we  
27 collared him. He might have been two and half or three years  
28 old, and I collared him. And, he has since dispersed into an  
29 area just northwest of Anaktuvuk Pass. And, we also have a  
30 female who had pups this spring who has dispersed into the  
31 Stevens Village area.

32 //

33 MR. JONES: So when was this wolf pack collared? What  
34 year?

35 //

36 MS. MAXWELL: March of this year.

37 //

38 MR. JONES: March of this year? Okay. How many were  
39 collared?

40 //

41 MS. MAXWELL: Twelve, and two of those are re-collars.

42 //

43 MR. JONES: (Indiscernible - mumbled speech)

44 //

45 (General laughter)

46 //

47 MR. WHITEHILL: Actually -- well, when we collared them  
48 we brought the maps in of the exact location where the wolves  
49 were collared, and wanted peoples' input on -- you know, colors  
50 and numbers and the pack to get that information to see --

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1 especially trying to figure out if we're missing a pack up like  
2 in the Henshaw area. So .... (pause)

3 //

4 MR. SAM: Yeah. I have reason to believe that there is  
5 a pack within the Koyukuk area. You get -- we travel with snow  
6 machines back and forth and there's always tracks in that area  
7 you come by the river. So, I do believe there's a pack there  
8 and maybe up to about eight, little more.

9 //

10 MS. MAXWELL: Uh-huh (affirmative). I think you're  
11 probably right.

12 //

13 MR. WHITEHILL: You know, and one thing -- and  
14 hopefully -- and our plane arrangements haven't always worked  
15 out. I know we had an opportunity with Pollock and Gilbert  
16 Vent to go up with us when we did a spring survey of -- oh,  
17 trap line, caribou areas on the Refuge. And, we'd still like  
18 to continue with that, you know, as time -- we'd sign people up  
19 as volunteers and go up with us and if we have the opportunity  
20 to fly in an 185 as opposed to a Super Cub, you know, maybe we  
21 can have times where we can do that. And, I know it was a lot  
22 of information I gained from listening to Pollock and Gilbert  
23 talk about different things on the Refuge when we were actually  
24 overlooking at things. You know, it helps broaden my  
25 perspective of what's out there.

26 //

27 MR. MORGAN: Jack?

28 //

29 MR. REAKOFF: Are you going to continue to track that  
30 dispersing male up into the Gates of the Arctic or ....

31 //

32 MS. MAXWELL: Yes. We'll probably have to take the  
33 collar off of him unless he returns to the Refuge, yes.

34 //

35 MR. REAKOFF: Well, there's a certain amount of wolves  
36 that are single and nomadic and I doubt that there's very many  
37 of those that are documented.

38 //

39 MS. MAXWELL: Well, we did -- when we initiated the  
40 collaring project, I talked about the 12 that we collared, but  
41 we did count numbers too, and we did a lot of tracking as you  
42 can imagine covering the entire Refuge. Because we were trying  
43 to find all of the packs and then trying to identify the  
44 breeding pair in order to put collars on them. We weren't  
45 always successful, but we tried to find breeding members. For  
46 instance, we have collars on two breeding females in what we're  
47 calling the Taclodahten Pack. But, we believe that we had a  
48 pretty good view of what might be on the Refuge, and we came up  
49 with a low number of 54, excluding the wolves that we believe  
50 are in the South Fork that we do not have on the air. Just

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1 based on the wolves that we saw, it was a real concentrated  
2 effort, three days of flying two and three Super Cubs at a time  
3 and a helicopter, and really looking at what was on the Refuge.  
4

5 MR. WHITEHILL: We might add that was in cooperation  
6 with Alaska Department of Fish and Game, the biologist from  
7 Galena at the time. So .... (pause)  
8 //

9 MR. MORGAN: Paul?  
10 //

11 MR. LYNUS: Yeah. I just wanted to mention on this  
12 wolf thing, sounds like (Indiscernible - mumbled speech)  
13 substantially. I was wondering in the future if it's  
14 necessary -- if it's necessary in the future maybe to relocate  
15 some of them like they did in the Tok Area?  
16 //

17 MR. WHITEHILL: Give them to Fortymile at Tok? Well, I  
18 don't foresee that in our management gameplan, you know,  
19 it's -- but who is me to look into the crystal ball? So, at  
20 this point we're trying to find out -- just answer some basic  
21 baseline information and help us, you know, work to answer  
22 questions that you would have.  
23 //

24 MS. MAXWELL: We'd also like to in conjunction with the  
25 wolf collaring project begin to -- some of the habitat work  
26 that Bob Skinner has talked about here today to try to  
27 understand other factors that may be involved in determining  
28 the number of moose on Kanuti. Part of that work will be doing  
29 a full-blown census this fall with the help of Orville and  
30 trying to determine what kind of a trend we might be seeing.  
31 We don't believe that we have that data at this point. We'd  
32 like to have that data and we'd also like to know what kind of  
33 caring capacity we actually have on the Refuge. We feel like  
34 we have a stable population of wolves right now, and all of  
35 those factors will probably tell us how many moose can really  
36 be supported on Kanuti.  
37 //

38 MR. COLLINS: You mention that before you thought you  
39 had a lot more smaller packs when they surveyed. When was  
40 that?  
41 //

42 MS. MAXWELL: 1991, 1991.  
43 //

44 MR. COLLINS: What was going on? Have there been a lot  
45 of harvest about that time?  
46 //

47 MS. MAXWELL: Yes. And it was in response to the ....  
48 //

49 MR. WHITEHILL: Aerial ....  
50 //

000113

1 MS. MAXWELL: Yeah. In response to the -- the end to  
2 the aerial hunting. Yes.

3 //

4 MR. COLLINS: Yeah. That's what I heard when I was on  
5 a state group that was looking into that. They found the same  
6 thing was over in Canada. That when they had intensive  
7 management sometimes you reduce the wolf, you get all kinds of  
8 breeding after that because all these pairs end up breeding.  
9 So, you're worse off sometimes after then before because once  
10 the packs get established they'll kill the others off that come  
11 into their area and kind of maintain them.

12 //

13 MR. MORGAN: Any more questions? Jack?

14 //

15 MR. REAKOFF: Was there any attempt to do any kind of  
16 salmon surveys, or was the river too muddy?

17 //

18 MR. WHITEHILL: Oh, good point. As a matter fact,  
19 there was a weir established. I believe they even tried to  
20 hire some people to help with that from here. And, the water  
21 stayed high on the South Fork and it's been pretty discouraging  
22 because this has been about the second or third year where  
23 they've had those kind of problems. So, I know in September  
24 the biologist in charge of that, the Fisheries biologist, did a  
25 survey of some areas and may be looking at some alternatives.  
26 So, at this point -- I can't speak for them, and I don't know  
27 exactly what they have planed. But, we were flooded out.  
28 So .... (pause)

29 //

30 MR. WILLIAMS: Yeah. It was in '96 I believe when the  
31 fish weir first started, and now it's been -- that's been the  
32 only summer that they successfully had a full summer of  
33 counting fish. And, the last three years it's been either too  
34 high water or it's been just -- that's been pretty much the  
35 whole case for the last two summers is too high water to  
36 continue counting fish on a full summer scale.

37 //

38 MR. MORGAN: Any more questions? Ron?

39 //

40 MR. SAM: Just a comment. Who do you have monitoring  
41 these snow markers?

42 //

43 MS. MAXWELL: Well, Lisa will determine that in the  
44 next few weeks. We expect to fly this -- the snow markers in  
45 conjunction with the tracking that we do. We're cont- -- we  
46 continued to track the wolves every two weeks to note anything  
47 that we can about their response to aircraft or kills in the  
48 area and that kind of thing, and definitely their location.  
49 So, we expect to be flying the snow markers at the same time  
50 weather permitting.

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1 MR. SAM: Can you guess -- or can you read those snow  
2 markers from the air?

3 //

4 MS. MAXWELL: Yes.

5 //

6 MR. SAM: Okay. I'd like to commend Bob Skinner for  
7 bringing that. Because we do have deep snow up here, and I'm  
8 glad you are monitoring its affect on our resources. Thank  
9 you.

10 //

11 MS. MAXWELL: You're welcome.

12 //

13 MS. SAPERSTIEN: So if you're out snow machining this  
14 winter and you see these tripods that are in the middle --  
15 that's what they are.

16 //

17 MR. WHITEHILL: They are -- yeah. And, it's valuable  
18 information that will be important to the people here, so we  
19 hope that people will respect these markers. They're not very  
20 intrusive. They're about 10 foot tall and they're -- it's a  
21 small metal pole is what they're on. So, hopefully, you know,  
22 they won't -- I'm afraid more they might attract a bear  
23 scratching his backside. But, they're anchored down with  
24 cables and they seem pretty stout.

25 //

26 MS. MAXWELL: In the same token that we hope that  
27 they're respected we've made a real effort not to put them  
28 where they might in some way be in conflict with your use.  
29 We've tried to put them in areas that are fairly isolated.

30 //

31 MR. SAM: Yeah. In response to that, if we have a high  
32 turnout tonight I would like you to go ahead and discuss that  
33 and the value of those markers, and we will also discuss this  
34 at the Koyukuk Advisory Council. And, as we go along I think  
35 that we -- because I think the whole Koyukuk River is  
36 information gathering mode to fight the bureaucrats and  
37 bureaucracies involved. So, we do respect and we do -- we have  
38 started demanding more and more information from all fronts.

39 //

40 MR. MORGAN: Any more questions?

41 //

42 MR. HENRY: Are you -- if you see the markers and you  
43 see the tip of it you know you're in trouble, huh?

44 //

45 (General laughter)

46 //

47 MR. WHITEHILL: Yeah. You won't be seeing any moose.

48 //

49 MR. MORGAN: Any more questions? Vince?

50 //

000115

1 MR. MATHEWS: We need to look at our schedule here and  
2 timing. The wheels got turned and planes will be arriving  
3 tomorrow afternoon, so if I could ask the council to have --  
4 after the covered dish an open forum, but maybe say for an hour  
5 or so and then go back into the agenda. The Park Service, I've  
6 already talked to them they're willing to present their reports  
7 after that public forum, and then probably we can get into  
8 update on Fisheries Management. If we could get through Annual  
9 Reports tonight my blood pressure will go down.

10 //

11 (General laughter)

12 //

13 MR. MATHEWS: And you will be on a plane tomorrow  
14 afternoon. So, I supposed I'm twisting your arm there, but  
15 that's the challenge I see before you. So .... (pause)

16 //

17 MR. MORGAN: Any more questions for -- Paul? Last  
18 question.

19 //

20 MR. LYNUS: Well, I mentioned this during the Nulato  
21 mid-year -- TCC mid-year convention in Nulato. I mentioned to  
22 them -- I just want to inform you people, since there's no fish  
23 for couple -- hardly any fish for last couple years and the  
24 grizzly bears haven't had anything to eat besides moose calves,  
25 and I was wondering if you guys were monitoring the grizzly  
26 bears.

27 //

28 MS. MAXWELL: That's a good question, we are not. We  
29 haven't done any work with bears in recent history that I'm  
30 aware of. There's been a lot of discussions about it lately  
31 and there are a couple of things that we're thinking about for  
32 next year that Lisa will be actively involved in. One might be  
33 a decision about monitoring bears on the refuge. We're also  
34 considering doing some invertebrate sampling, and maybe looking  
35 at some furbearer work. But, those decisions will be made  
36 soon.

37 //

38 MR. MORGAN: More questions? Break.

39 //

40 (Off record - 5:33 p.m.)

41 //

42 (On record; 6:55 p.m.)

43 //

44 MR. MORGAN: I'd like to call this meeting back to  
45 order. At this time, I think before we break, we were going to  
46 go in kind of an open discussion. Right now, I think we  
47 deferred early from this morning, since there are some honored  
48 guests and some elders, we want to ask them if they want to  
49 make any comments or if they want to address this board or --  
50 your concerns. At this time, you've got the floor. Anybody?

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1 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: I have a question.

2 //

3 MR. MORGAN: Go ahead.

4 //

5 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: How many years have they been  
6 talking about subsistence? Anybody know on that? It seems  
7 like a long time (inaudible - too far from microphone).

8 //

9 MR. MORGAN: Anybody care to answer that? Ron?

10 //

11 MR. RONALD SAM: Yeah, just for your information, if I  
12 remember, it's at least a good 20 years that -- on the problems  
13 with the oversight by the settlement, the Land Claim,  
14 introduction of ANILCA and the last five to ten years that  
15 we've been dealing with the state against the feds against the  
16 Natives. Last year was the epitome of all the bad feelings,  
17 the complications for the resources and the state legislature  
18 that was done down in place -- in place down in Juneau. This  
19 year you can make a difference by your votes and you'll be  
20 voting November 3rd, plus we will be losing two or three  
21 opponents of subsistence out of the Anchorage area for sure.  
22 They resigned, so we know that they aren't coming back to  
23 Juneau and the ones that they left down there will make a  
24 difference. Again, we do not expect a settlement on the  
25 subsistence issue this year because I think it will take more  
26 than a few years to develop a plan that can be acceptable to  
27 the Natives, to the republicans, to the democrats, and to  
28 Washington, D.C. And, like I said, your votes will really  
29 count on November 3rd.

30 //

31 MR. LYNUS: Yeah, to answer here a little bit, I will  
32 say something on subsistence that I heard during the Tanana  
33 Chiefs radio conference. One of the people that under the  
34 juris- -- the way I understood is, as you all know -- I just  
35 wanted to mention this. They're talking -- asking about  
36 subsistence, and then this whole thing about the federal  
37 government taking over subsistence, and one thing I understood  
38 when I went to Nulato is this person that told me, and not only  
39 me, everyone there, we all know the federal government already  
40 regulates subsistence big game in Alaska and they do tell us  
41 when the seasons open and stuff. And the biggest thing right  
42 now is they're going to try to take over the fisheries and I  
43 think that's where it stands right now. And that's all I have  
44 on that subsistence.

45 //

46 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: I have a (inaudible - too far from  
47 microphone) talking about subsistence. I think we don't treat  
48 a lot of people -- a lot of people don't understand.  
49 (Inaudible - too far from microphone). We're so used to  
50 hearing about it, that we just don't -- we just kind of ignore

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1 it and just go on with our lives and we (inaudible - too far  
2 from microphone). I don't know if you understand what I'm  
3 trying to say, but that's the way I feel about it (inaudible -  
4 too far from microphone).

5 //

6 MR. RONALD SAM: That is understandable statewide and  
7 we do have subsistence in place, for what it's worth, under  
8 Title 8 of the ANILCA Act and that's why we have been backing  
9 up federal regulations over the state. But then subsistence is  
10 being recognized by the board -- Board of Game in place out of  
11 Juneau. As I said - I may sound like a broken record - but  
12 when we do testify before the Board of Game, this is one of the  
13 most receptive, understanding Board of Game that we've had in a  
14 long time. We've got three Natives on there, plus we've got  
15 two or three swing votes on any given issue. So, all we have  
16 to do is keep playing that political game and when you testify  
17 before the Board of Game, you justify every request that you  
18 make. We have been very successful to what extent that we can  
19 carry it to. You keep hearing about the Koyukuk moose problems  
20 down in the Lower Koyukuk. We've got -- in the last four or  
21 five years, we started the permit system through the Board of  
22 Game, the state, which never happened before; probably will  
23 never happen again. But that's one of the protections that we  
24 do have in place and, again, it's who you send before the board  
25 and how you justify your requests and needs that makes the  
26 difference in both state and federal policy. Because a lot of  
27 our meetings when we discuss these proposals that hit both  
28 sides, we pretty much just put them in line with the state or  
29 the state puts their regulations in line with ANILCA. And  
30 we're at that stage right now where we're both working together  
31 and trying to improve on our working relationship.

32 //

33 MR. LYNUS: If anybody wants some more information, I  
34 read this paper right here. It says that during the Joint  
35 Chair-Board meeting in May 1998, it says -- mentioned the  
36 Regional Advisory Council is -- Federal Subsistence Board is  
37 making customary and traditional use determinations and I could  
38 see the council names and stuff right here. I wonder if  
39 they'll comment on that?

40 //

41 MR. MORGAN: Any more comments, concerns from anybody?  
42 The floor is open. Ron?

43 //

44 MR. RONALD SAM: Yeah. If the word hasn't gotten  
45 around yet, please pass the word that the Koyukuk River  
46 Advisory Committee will be meeting tomorrow. This is -- what  
47 you're seeing here today is a federal subsistence side of the  
48 issue. Tomorrow when we go into session on the Koyukuk River  
49 Advisory Committee meeting, we're under state regulations. So,  
50 a lot of us are in the process of changing hats tomorrow. So

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1 you're all welcome here and let everyone in the city know that  
2 we are continuing with the subsistence meetings for what it's  
3 worth.

4 //

5 MR. JONES: Mr. Chair?

6 //

7 MR. MORGAN: Benedict?

8 //

9 MR. JONES: Yeah. A lot of people have been -- the  
10 Natives and non-Natives have been asking the question, what is  
11 going to happen with the federal take-over after December 1st.  
12 But their main concern is, is it going to be controlled from  
13 Washington, the regulations and stuff like that. But I foresee  
14 that we -- we have our say and Washington will have to  
15 recognize what we want up here under subsistence regulations.  
16 So, the non-Natives are concerned because they are afraid  
17 everything will be controlled from Washington, D.C., not the  
18 State of Alaska. That's what their concern is with the Federal  
19 Subsistence Board. Thank you.

20 //

21 MR. MORGAN: Vince?

22 //

23 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, that's on the agenda later  
24 to talk about, the federal subsistence program moving into  
25 fisheries. So we can either try to answer now or wait till it  
26 comes up on the agenda item in response to Benedict's question  
27 there. Because we would -- we have the public forum and then  
28 we were going to go back to agency reports and then go into  
29 federal subsistence management update on the fisheries. So, if  
30 Benedict would like to wait until that comes up on the agenda,  
31 then that will be addressed. Mr. Chair, I think the people  
32 that are here know that the mike's been open if they raise  
33 their hand or whatever. So, it's not completely stopped at  
34 this point if we go back to agency reports. All you need to do  
35 is get Carl or Ron's attention and then they'll recognize you  
36 and you can come up and testify. If someone comes in that we  
37 need to have talk, that's part of the agenda that was past.  
38 So, the next agency reports would be for the National Park  
39 Service if -- I assume we've concluded on the Kanuti. I think  
40 we're on the Park Service then.

41 //

42 MR. TWITCHELL: Hollis Twitchell with Denali National  
43 Park. I have three items that I was going to mention to the  
44 council today. Only one of them I would hope that there would  
45 be an ensuing response by the council. The other two are  
46 primarily just for your information. Earlier, I dropped off a  
47 copy of what's called a "Subsistence User Guide for Denali  
48 National Park." I only had five copies so I dropped it off  
49 between individuals to share. On August 28th, a couple of  
50 months ago, the Denali Commission met and the main purpose was

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1 to discuss a subsistence management plan for Denali which would  
2 try to discuss further subsistence programs on the Park area.  
3 When the commission met, they suggested that we develop with  
4 them a subsistence user's guide which would be more of a  
5 condensed version of what the subsistence programs are on  
6 Denali National Park lands and they wanted this guide to be  
7 targeted towards the subsistence users themselves, people in  
8 our villages. They didn't feel that the real thick Subsistence  
9 Management Plan which we were working on with the  
10 commission was something that the general person walking down  
11 the street or in our villages would be able to pick up and help  
12 them understand the subsistence programs - the federal program  
13 and the park service program. So, what we have here is the  
14 first attempt to try to pull together a subsistence user guide  
15 for our local users. And it is still in the draft stage. The  
16 commission has reviewed it, initially. Other comments have  
17 been gathered from internally within the park. So it's by no  
18 means a final version. So what you have here is certainly open  
19 for suggestions and we welcome those from the councils. We  
20 will be coming back to you again with this in a more completed  
21 version after we have had more time to work with different  
22 advisory groups.

23 //

24 The focus here was to discuss eligibility: Who was  
25 eligible for Denali and the park areas. Another section deals  
26 with the sport and subsistence hunting in the preserves where  
27 we have both types of uses going on on park preserve lands.  
28 Federal registration permits for subsistence since we have a  
29 number of federal registration programs in the Denali area.  
30 Access issues regarding how to get in and out of the park and  
31 preserve. Transportation through the old Mt. McKinley Park  
32 which isn't open to subsistence to reach the Kantishna area  
33 which is open for subsistence. The role of Denali Subsistence  
34 Resource Commission, what its tasks are and who's on that. How  
35 to make changes in the Federal Regulations, discussing the  
36 regional councils, the Federal Subsistence Board and the cycle  
37 that they go through for taking and dealing with proposals for  
38 subsistence take. Other subsistence uses such as harvest of  
39 timber, plants and berries that goes on from the park areas.  
40 Construction and use of subsistence cabins in Denali and where  
41 to find information -- further information on state and federal  
42 regulations.

43 //

44 So, that gives you sort of a flavor of what this is  
45 involved with. I'll leave the copies with you and if you have  
46 an interest in looking at it and offering some suggestions, we  
47 will welcome that. Again, that will come back to you in a more  
48 formal version the next time we can meet. On that same note,  
49 we are working with the commission to do a more detailed  
50 description of subsistence management at Denali and the

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1 commission is working diligently with us on this. They've only  
2 met and looked at this once, so we're not ready to bring it  
3 forward for review yet. It will also come around in the next  
4 cycle of meetings.

5 //

6 The second item I was going to talk about was regarding  
7 four letters that came out of the commission meeting. I  
8 believe Vince has provided for you in your packet, your manila  
9 packet, copies of at least three of those letters. They're  
10 green in color so you can either refer to those. I will go  
11 over just one of them in detail and just talk about the others  
12 briefly. The first one I was going to mention was the  
13 commission's position regarding the task force on customary and  
14 traditional use determinations. They took it up at their  
15 meeting and reviewed it and passed a motion of support for the  
16 modified option version in that C&T request. They had several  
17 changes to make to a couple of the elements in that modified  
18 factor option and then they recommended adding a sixth factor  
19 to that. I won't go into details on that since it will be  
20 coming up tomorrow I believe on your agenda, and Ray or I can  
21 speak to the commission's position at that time.

22 //

23 The second letter is the one that I'm most interested  
24 in discussing with you. It's a letter to the Federal  
25 Subsistence Board from the commission discussing the board's  
26 action on Proposal 38 in May. At that meeting, the board  
27 deferred Proposal 38 and then requested that the solicitor  
28 review the legalities on whether or not the board has authority  
29 to make individual customary and traditional use  
30 determinations. To backtrack just a little bit, Proposal 38  
31 dealt with an individual at Denali who is a subsistence user  
32 for Denali and is a -- has a subsistence permit to use the park  
33 area. He happens to live in a community that doesn't have C&T  
34 use for the use of moose. He requested through an existing  
35 regulation in the federal program that would allow the board to  
36 make on National Park Service lands only an individual  
37 exception to a community's C&T determination. The letter to  
38 the commission expresses their disappointment in the fact that  
39 the board didn't act on Proposal 38 in stating that they didn't  
40 believe it was necessary to have a solicitor's review and that  
41 they hope that the solicitor will come to a decision as quickly  
42 as possible so that this proposal could come back to the board  
43 for a decision. As I understand, we have not heard anything  
44 back from the solicitor's office, so we don't know the time-  
45 table for when that review is going to be completed. I think  
46 the last two paragraphs summarizes the commission's position  
47 pretty clearly and, if I may, I'll read those. "The Denali  
48 Subsistence Resource Commission does not believe that the  
49 deferral and legal review are necessary. This regulation has  
50 been in place many years, specifically to address situations

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1 such as Dan O'Connor's. However, since the board has taken  
2 this action, the commission requests the legal review be  
3 expedited and that Proposal 38 come back before the board at  
4 the earliest possible date. The delay in resolution of this  
5 matter has been extremely frustrating for the O'Connor family  
6 and for the Denali Subsistence Resource Commission. The  
7 O'Connor's family traditional subsistence use of moose from  
8 Denali National Park lands has been impacted by state and  
9 federal use determinations for a decade. The board's deferral  
10 continues to present hardship to the family and affects their  
11 ability to pass on customary and traditional skills and  
12 knowledge to their children."

13 //

14 The last thing that I'll mention is that this Proposal  
15 38 was modified by the Eastern Regional Advisory Council. They  
16 were uncomfortable with the idea of an individual's name  
17 showing up in the regulation booklet and modified Proposal 38  
18 so that all individuals who have gone through the task of  
19 showing their eligibility to the park service through customary  
20 and traditional past use, that those individuals should be  
21 granted C&T on park lands for subsistence resources. That  
22 particular modification was reviewed and, I believe, adopted by  
23 the Western Interior Council, as well as by the Southcentral  
24 Regional Advisory Council. Those three councils have  
25 involvement within the Denali area. So all three councils  
26 stand in agreement in terms of how to proceed with not having  
27 individuals' names in the regulation booklet, but yet allow  
28 individuals who have customary and traditional use of park  
29 lands to be able to continue that.

30 //

31 I guess at this point I would request if you have the  
32 interest that certainly any sort of support that you could lend  
33 toward the solicitor completing this review in a timely manner  
34 would be appreciated. The following letter you have in your  
35 packet is a letter that was sent to Dan O'Connor by the  
36 Subsistence Resource Commission regarding Proposal 38. There  
37 was -- the commission also requested a letter be sent to the  
38 Secretary of the Interior so a copy of the letter that -- as it  
39 was sent to the Federal Subsistence Board was also sent to the  
40 Secretary of the Interior. That completes the second point I  
41 wanted to bring forward. I guess before I go forward, if there  
42 are any other questions regarding that, I would try to answer  
43 them.

44 //

45 MR. MORGAN: Jack?

46 //

47 MR. REAKOFF: Mr. Chair, the solicitor is the federal  
48 board solicitor that they're requesting this from?

49 //

50 MR. TWITCHELL: That's correct.

000122

1 MR. REAKOFF: Uh-hum.

2 //

3 MR. TWITCHELL: So that would be the solicitor in  
4 Anchorage who advise the Federal Subsistence Board and the  
5 agencies.

6 //

7 MR. REAKOFF: Is there somewhat of a history of how  
8 long it takes for them to resolve these or come up with a  
9 finding?

10 //

11 MR. TWITCHELL: I couldn't say.

12 //

13 MR. REAKOFF: Do they take their sweet time about it?

14 //

15 MR. TWITCHELL: I think it depends on how much interest  
16 is expressed in coming to an answer. There are many, many  
17 issues before the solicitors and how they set their priorities,  
18 I'm not aware of it, but I'm sure they have a process.

19 //

20 MR. REAKOFF: Mr. Chairman, I feel that this is an  
21 important issue that needs resolution and I would urge the  
22 federal board solicitor to be expeditious about their findings  
23 on this issue. This has ramifications in other areas, so I  
24 would like to make a resolution to be adopted that states -- or  
25 letter to be -- correction: a letter to be drafted to the  
26 solicitor encouraging him to make a timely finding.

27 //

28 MR. MORGAN: Are you making a motion for him or -- you  
29 want to take time to make it a motion?

30 //

31 MR. REAKOFF: I'm making a motion for a letter to be  
32 drafted to the solicitor -- federal board solicitor to be  
33 expeditious in making a finding on this Proposal 38 for the  
34 Federal Subsistence Board.

35

36 MR. COLLINS: I'll second that.

37 //

38 MR. MORGAN: There is a motion and been seconded. I  
39 will not repeat the motion. It's kind of lengthy. The letter  
40 from the Western Interior, right?

41 //

42 MR. REAKOFF: Uh-hum (affirmative).

43 //

44 MR. MORGAN: That a letter be sent. Vince?

45 //

46 MR. MATHEWS: It's my understanding the motion -- you  
47 may want to visit this action when we bring up the Annual  
48 Report because in the Annual Report you asked for individual  
49 C&Ts on other federal lands. If I understand correctly, the  
50 response from the board is that they're requesting legal review

000123

1 of regulations allowing individual C&Ts for areas on the  
2 (inaudible - coughing) National Park Service and also this idea  
3 of allowing individual C&Ts on other lands so they are now  
4 culpable, if I've got that correct. So I'm just advising you  
5 that the board decided to put that legal review together, both  
6 the review of your request to have individuals similar --  
7 individual eligibility permits for other park lands (inaudible)  
8 together. So it doesn't defer from your action on the table.  
9 I'm just saying that when we'll be revisiting this in later  
10 topics here ....

11 //

12 MR. JONES: It will be deferred for later? Can we try  
13 the motion?

14 //

15 MR. MORGAN: Okay. With the second?

16 //

17 MR. JONES: Yes.

18 //

19 MR. TWITCHELL: Thank you. The third topic I wanted to  
20 discuss with you, I believe you have a letter -- also in that  
21 packet was a letter to Chair Roy Ewan of Southcentral Regional  
22 Advisory Council. This was in response to an inquiry they had  
23 about a temporary Kantishna firearms discharge closure and  
24 their concern that it not set a precedent for similar actions  
25 elsewhere on the park lands. The response -- I'll go over it,  
26 I guess, in summary. The Denali doesn't believe that the  
27 situations at Kantishna or the firearms discharge closure there  
28 sets a precedence for Denali or anywhere else for that matter.  
29 It is in response to a very unique set of circumstances. It's  
30 associated with Kantishna which is a seasonal community at the  
31 end of the park road that is just beyond Wonder Lake. There's  
32 about a 90-mile road that goes through the park to that  
33 particular community. In that community there are numerous  
34 private inholdings and commercial businesses. They have  
35 special access rights via the park road and, as a result, there  
36 are high levels of visitor use associated with this narrow  
37 developed corridor in the Kantishna area. We acknowledge that  
38 federal regulations do prohibit shooting from, on, or across a  
39 public road which would apply to the Kantishna Road, but we  
40 didn't feel that that was acceptable providing the margin of  
41 safety for the use that's going on in this high-visitation  
42 developed area. There was a proposal in 53 in 1995 --  
43 Proposal 53 which we had requested of the board to deal with  
44 this public safety issue in the Kantishna area. The board  
45 tabled that motion and recommended that the park service deal  
46 with it through their own administrative process. We returned  
47 to the Denali Subsistence Resource Commission after that  
48 meeting and consulted with them on how to proceed. We did make  
49 a number of adjustments regarding this Kantishna area. One of  
50 them was to shorten the closure period to September 15th which

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1 would allow 15 days of moose hunting within this developed  
2 corridor area after the public safety issue was not a factor  
3 there. In addition, the Denali Subsistence Resource Commission  
4 recommended that there -- that same year that there be a winter  
5 hunt in this area of Denali Unit 20(C) from November 15th to  
6 December 15th. The federal board reviewed and approved that  
7 proposal. So what we have now in this developed area of  
8 Cantwell is a total of 45 days of moose hunting opportunity  
9 that's open to hunting with a firearm, with a rifle. Just  
10 beyond this one-mile corridor on either side of the Kantishna  
11 Road, the area is open for a total of 60 days of moose hunting  
12 opportunity.

13 //

14 The other point that we wanted to clarify is that the  
15 firearms discharge closure is just for firearms; it doesn't  
16 deal with other approved methods of take, for instance, such as  
17 bow and arrows if someone so chooses to utilize that within  
18 this developed area. So the closure is not a closure to  
19 subsistence; it's just a closure for public safety regarding  
20 high-powered firearms being discharged in a high-visitor use  
21 area which is open habitat, and that was its focus.

22 //

23 The final comment to the Southcentral Regional Council  
24 is that Denali area in the Kantishna Hills has the 60 days of  
25 moose hunting opportunity provided and that the only other area  
26 within the Southcentral Region II that has a longer moose  
27 hunting period is within Denali National Preserve on the south  
28 side of Denali which has 120 days of moose hunting opportunity.  
29 Both the north and the south side are the longest moose hunting  
30 opportunities that the Southcentral Region provides for  
31 subsistence use. We are -- because of the recurring seasonal  
32 use that occurs in this area and the concerns for public safety  
33 in that area, we are putting together after consulting with  
34 Denali Subsistence Resource Commission a proposed regulation  
35 that would do a temporary closure annually for the discharge of  
36 firearms within this developed Kantishna area. That regulation  
37 has not come out in the federal -- the proposed regulation has  
38 not come out in the Federal Register yet. When it does, then,  
39 all the regional advisory councils and the commission and the  
40 public at large will have an opportunity to comment further on  
41 it.

42 //

43 So this letter is simply a clarification to  
44 Southcentral because of their concerns of a possible precedent  
45 setting that the temporary closure might have. That's the last  
46 item I have.

47 //

48 MR. MORGAN: Vince?

49 //

50 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, I may have missed it, but

000125

1 did the motion that was seconded go to a full vote for the  
2 letter to the solicitor to expedite the review? Okay.

3 //

4 MR. MORGAN: No.

5 //

6 MR. MATHEWS: So they still have to vote ....

7 //

8 MR. MORGAN: It was withdrawn.

9 //

10 MR. MATHEWS: Oh, it was withdrawn?

11 //

12 MR. MORGAN: Yes, to be brought up later. Any  
13 questions? Thank you.

14 //

15 MR. TWITCHELL: Thank you.

16 //

17 MR. ULVI: Good evening. I appreciate everybody's  
18 patience and certainly appreciate that fine cover dish meal.  
19 It's good to be here. I'm Steve Ulvi and I work as management  
20 assistant for Gates of the Arctic National Park. I work with  
21 subsistence in ANILCA. And I'll let Paul introduce himself for  
22 those of you that don't know him.

23 //

24 MR. HUNTER: My name is Paul Hunter. I work in the  
25 Anchorage office, assisting the parks with subsistence when  
26 requested, and I'm here to update you and brief you on the park  
27 service's response to a letter that you sent earlier this year.

28

29 MR. ULVI: So, Mr. Chair, and council, if it's all  
30 right with you, I'd like to go ahead and just quickly go  
31 through some -- considering the time of the evening and such,  
32 go through a few things about Gates of the Arctic we're doing  
33 regarding subsistence and a little bit about some wildlife  
34 surveys and things that might help you in your deliberations  
35 tomorrow and then we'll go ahead and Paul and I will try to  
36 address Jack Reakoff's concerns and other concerns about that  
37 letter and the response from the park service, if that's all  
38 right.

39 //

40 MR. MORGAN: Uh-hum (affirmative).

41 //

42 MR. ULVI: Okay. I wanted to mention our subsistence  
43 resource commission which Jack mentioned earlier, we tried to  
44 meet in April in Bettles and had a lack of quorum, so we had an  
45 information meeting only and I think some good things came of  
46 that. But Jack is on that subsistence resource commission for  
47 Gates of the Arctic as well as serving here and on the local  
48 advisory committees, so he's wearing all the hats and doing a  
49 fine job helping us out. We hope to meet again here in  
50 November, looking at possibly Hughes as a meeting place. I

000126

1 might remind you, you do have the appointment authority, the  
2 Western Interior Regional Council, for one member to our SRC  
3 and that is currently Pollock Simon, Sr. here from Allakaket.  
4 He's a very valuable member and has been for well over a  
5 decade, and his term will expire, I believe, in November of '99  
6 so you have some more time before you need to make a  
7 reappointment or whatever it is you choose to do. There's a  
8 subsistence resource commission chair's meeting which I believe  
9 this will be our third where park superintendents and staff  
10 such as ourselves and the chairs of the subsistence resource  
11 commissions for the parks will meet in Anchorage on  
12 October 13th, the day before AFN. And there's an agenda and we  
13 will have both Pollock as the vice chair and Delbert Rexburg  
14 from Barrow as the chair attending that. And I wanted to  
15 mention that one of the agenda items kind of touches on part of  
16 what Jack has brought up and you brought up in your letter and  
17 your annual report to the secretary about the NPS customary  
18 trade and farms and trapping and that is this business between  
19 how the regional advisory councils and subsistence resource  
20 commissions relate legally, you know, based on ANILCA and  
21 everything else. And there's going to be a session about that,  
22 so we'll try to make sure we get some good notes and Pollock  
23 can report back or the next time we see you folks we can report  
24 back and that might help clarify some of this, as well as we'll  
25 report back to the SRC when we do meet.

26 //

27 I mentioned, I believe, the last time we were with you  
28 folks last winter, I mentioned we were in the process of --  
29 which has been over a ten-year process of trying to determine a  
30 process for figuring out where subsistence uses have been  
31 traditional in Gates of the Arctic National Park. It's kind of  
32 a long, complex issue and I won't get back into it unless Jack  
33 wants to discuss some aspects of it. But, essentially, we're  
34 waiting for the go-ahead from our deputy director to form a  
35 working group and try to tackle the issue. We've done a lot of  
36 background research and we've got a lot of good information I  
37 think to work from. And that working group, I mentioned to you  
38 before, would include Pollock from -- as your appointment to  
39 the SRC as well as the two other regional council appointments  
40 and then Jack as a fourth member. So, there will be four local  
41 subsistence users to the park and people very familiar with  
42 these advisory roles who would be on that working group. And  
43 the other members have not yet been designated because, as I  
44 say, it's kind of on hold right now. Along with Denali and  
45 Wrangell-St. Elias National Parks, we have also been working  
46 with our subsistence resource commission on a subsistence  
47 management plan that kind of covers everything for the park.  
48 And we hope to -- we've been working for about a year and a  
49 half on that. We hope to bring it to kind of a final draft  
50 version here in November when we next meet and then that

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1 document will go out for public review and this council, as  
2 well as the other two councils - North Slope and Northwest  
3 Arctic - that have some authority and jurisdiction in Gates of  
4 the Arctic will have a chance to review that and get your  
5 comments back to us on that. So we're still on track on that,  
6 but it's taking some time.

7 //

8 Wildlife surveys that impact you in this region: The  
9 only one I could think of that we have ongoing at this time is  
10 a sheep collaring project in the immediate vicinity around  
11 Anaktuvuk Pass. So that's in the northernmost part of GMU-24.  
12 And I did forget to mention for those of you that may not be  
13 familiar, new members or otherwise, that on this map of your  
14 huge Western Interior region, we are the purple in Gates of the  
15 Arctic at the very farthest northern end of GMU-24. Anaktuvuk  
16 Pass is actually in GMU-24, but they are part of the North  
17 Slope region due to some changes they asked for early on in  
18 this whole process. But anyhow we have some collars out on  
19 some sheep around the community there, been working with the  
20 community, and we hope to better understand the seasonal  
21 movements of those sheep and whether or not there are  
22 subpopulations of sheep that can be overharvested. This is in  
23 part because we have a community harvest, sheep harvest, in  
24 Anaktuvuk Pass that was passed by the board. This is the  
25 second year they've been involved in that. It's a 60-sheep,  
26 any sheep, limit for the community and we work locally there to  
27 register hunters and they have set the season and that's the  
28 bag limit they suggested and we went along with that. So we  
29 have this sheep project going on in conjunction with that.  
30 About ten sheep were taken last year and this year we're about  
31 halfway into the season. It's July 15th, December 31st, and  
32 about six sheep have been harvested so far. To my knowledge,  
33 we don't have any other wildlife monitoring programs or  
34 research going on in GMU-24. If I think of something I'll  
35 remind you of it.

36 //

37 The only other thing is hunt monitoring. Some of you  
38 may have read in the paper or heard something about -- and I  
39 believe Ron Sam mentioned the Kobuk River conflicts that  
40 occurred this fall. We have been monitoring sport hunting and  
41 subsistence hunting on the Kobuk River for the communities of  
42 Shungnak and Kobuk because we heard their concerns in the last  
43 few years, as voiced at SRC meetings and otherwise have been  
44 trying to pay attention to that. I think we're two or three  
45 years into it now. We're starting to get some reasonably good  
46 data about where these users or visitors are coming from, the  
47 numbers, their success rates - mostly moose hunting, some bear  
48 hunting and caribou - and trying to reduce conflicts and  
49 educate those hunters coming from elsewhere as much as we can  
50 about Native allotments, private land, traditional practices,

000128

1 you know, these sorts of things. We think we're making some  
2 headway. I was out there myself for ten days just following  
3 these conflicts that occurred. I think we are making some  
4 headway. I have to admit, being a longtime Alaskan hunter  
5 myself, that the issue that has been brought up here about,  
6 shall we say, people who are following the letter of the law  
7 regarding wanton waste with salvaging the appropriate meat and  
8 then taking it on this long trip in warmish weather down the  
9 river and having that taint and go bad. I saw some of that  
10 myself. We're trying to work on methods that we might nip that  
11 in the bud and try to prevent that from being a larger issue  
12 than it already is. Right now, I think we might -- if an  
13 advisory group were to want to propose leaving the meat on the  
14 bone or that sort of thing, I think we -- the park service  
15 would support that probably, very probably. And the other  
16 thing is we're going to try to continue to contact those  
17 hunters through the air transporters and other people to be  
18 sure they understand that even if they may be meeting the  
19 letter of the law, that we consider it an ethical violation not  
20 to either cut their trip short or in some way take care of that  
21 meat. So we've been trying to walk into these camps and talk  
22 to these people about those sorts of things. And if we notice  
23 some meat in plastic or not hanging out in the air or some  
24 tainted meat, we bring up the subject and confront it directly.  
25 Ray?

26 //

27 MR. COLLINS: Mr. Chair? Yeah, I was suggesting to one  
28 of the biologists from Innoko that maybe the agencies could put  
29 out a brochure on salvage of meat that would contain all that  
30 information that could be given to these hunters. Then, if they  
31 weren't doing that, it would be easier to catch them for wanton  
32 waste. In other words, if they're specifically told this is  
33 what happens when you leave meat in plastic bags, this is what  
34 happens when it doesn't get air around it and so on, or various  
35 steps about -- it would apply to salvage of meat in all these  
36 areas, in the warm weather and so on, you know, tips for how to  
37 keep it. And if they got that information and then they  
38 disregard it, you know, put it in plastic bags and leave it  
39 there tight, it only takes about a day in the sun when it  
40 starts spoiling if it's really sealed in.

41 //

42 MR. ULVI: I think that's exactly the vein we're trying  
43 to work in. It's more education and kind of prevention because  
44 once the meat is tainted, it's really too late. And my  
45 understanding of the wanton waste regulation is that if you  
46 salvage the meat from the carcass and you are attempting to  
47 preserve it and take care of it, even if you lose that meat due  
48 to ignorance or whatever, it's still not breaking that law. And  
49 that's the problem we have because we -- I, personally, and I  
50 think the agency considers it a very serious ethical violation

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1 to waste any portion of these wild animals taken on public  
2 lands. The other side of it is the side that you folks are  
3 very familiar with and that is the perception by locals of  
4 what's going on. And we do see that as a serious problem and  
5 so we're going to try to continue to work on that. And if  
6 regulation is necessary, then we hope we'll get the lead from  
7 the Subsistence Resource Commission or other locals or groups  
8 such as this, but we're going to, even without regulation  
9 change, we're going to go ahead and try to contact these folks  
10 and make them realize the responsibility they have, if they  
11 haven't already.

12 //

13 So, the only other thing I wanted to add about that,  
14 about the hunt monitoring we've been doing on the Kobuk River  
15 is that we heard some rumors just recently that there were some  
16 conflicts or troubles of some sort on the Alatna River here  
17 within and just adjacent to the park where -- which is quite  
18 a ways up the Alatna up in the park. And we haven't heard  
19 anything substantive about what went on or just some rumors.  
20 And so I was going to stay for the Koyukuk meeting hoping that  
21 I might hear something that would help us with that. But if  
22 there's an indication that we need to be paying closer  
23 attention to fall hunting on the Alatna, then we will begin to  
24 do so in a similar way we have on the Kobuk with having rangers  
25 camped out and visiting folks. So, I'll leave it at that. If  
26 there are any questions about anything I've said, I could field  
27 those now and then we could move on to our letter.

28 //

29 MR. MORGAN: Any questions? Yes?

30 //

31 MR. HARVEY WILLIAMS: Yes. Up the Alatna River, is  
32 that considered a preserve up into the parks area?

33 //

34 MR. ULVI: It's a park.

35 //

36 MR. WILLIAMS: A park?

37 //

38 MR. ULVI: The Gates of the Arctic is 7 million acres  
39 of park and then about 900,000 acres of preserves in two units.  
40 One unit is up on the Itkillik River off the Dalton  
41 Highway, ....

42 //

43 MR. WILLIAMS: Uh-hum.

44 //

45 MR. ULVI: .... and the other preserve unit is the  
46 Kobuk unit.

47 //

48 MR. WILLIAMS: Oh, okay.

49 //

50 MR. ULVI: But if you go up the Alatna and cross into

000130

1 the park, then that's into park and wilderness.

2 //

3 MR. WILLIAMS: So then there could be sport hunting up  
4 there then up into the ....

5 //

6 MR. ULVI: No, there cannot.

7 //

8 MR. WILLIAMS: Up into the Alatna Mountains?

9 //

10 MR. ULVI: That's right -- well, where that park  
11 boundary is on the Alatna River, once you go north into the  
12 park, sport hunting is prohibited.

13 //

14 MR. WILLIAMS: Yeah, about that rumor that -- I was  
15 familiar with those people who saw those people way up into the  
16 park. Yeah, there was a big group of people back in there and  
17 they didn't know who to contact and who to report this to and  
18 so I was kind of wondering if there could be a way to like  
19 we -- if there's a number to call or what we can do once we see  
20 somebody into the preserve, you know, sport hunters, who could  
21 we contact and stuff like that.

22 //

23 MR. ULVI: Sure. I'd be glad to talk with you at  
24 length here and any information we can get where we might be  
25 able to trace this down a little better, visit the site, or  
26 anything. But we can certainly get some business cards and  
27 phone numbers out to locals here so that if it occurs again,  
28 you can contact somebody and we can pay attention to it.

29 //

30 MR. WILLIAMS: Thank you.

31 //

32 MR. ULVI: Sure.

33 //

34 MR. MORGAN: Any more questions?

35 //

36 MR. GABE SAM: I would just like to make a quick --  
37 commend the park service for coming out and publicly say that  
38 it's an unethical violation for wanton waste. I mean I don't  
39 believe for a second that if you stay ten days out in the field  
40 under warm temperatures, then the meat is going to be good.

41 //

42 MR. MORGAN: Any more questions? Comments? Ron?

43 //

44 MR. GABE SAM: Yes. When do you need the action on  
45 reappointment or appointment of a new SRC member, concerning  
46 Pollock?

47 //

48 MR. ULVI: Mr. Chair, Mr. Sam, I believe that would  
49 work quite nicely to be at your meeting next year at this time.

50 //

000131

1 MR. GABE SAM: Next year?

2 //

3 MR. ULVI: At this time, yeah. You can choose to act  
4 at your winter meeting if you would like, but Pollock Simon  
5 would continue to serve particularly since he's such a valuable  
6 member and in good standing. He will continue to serve until  
7 you as the appointing authority take action. So even if that  
8 date were to be exceeded for some reason, you got busy and  
9 didn't manage to do it, he still continues to serve until you  
10 take action to either replace him or reappoint him. So  
11 there's ....

12 //

13 MR. GABE SAM: Yeah, it's been awhile, but we are  
14 responsible for filling that seat, aren't we?

15 //

16 MR. ULVI: That's right.

17 //

18 MR. MORGAN: Any more questions? Comments?

19 //

20 MR. ULVI: Okay. Thank you. So, what we would like to  
21 do now is Paul will take the lead on this and we'll try to  
22 respond and explain some of the background and respond to  
23 questions you may have or comments, Jack, or questions you may  
24 have about the letter to you, Mr. Chair, from our regional  
25 director, August 24th, that's in your packet in section D.

26 //

27 MR. HUNTER: Mr. Chairman, members of the council, your  
28 letter of request is under Tab H. It was a letter that you  
29 sent dated January 21st to the park service with two requests  
30 and the letter under Tab D, the last item under Tab D, is the  
31 park service response to your January request. I'll summarize  
32 what you requested and then also summarize the park service  
33 answer. The first item that you requested from the park  
34 service was that the park service allow the use of firearms for  
35 trapping in order to be the same as the trapping regulations on  
36 other federal public lands. The situation there is that the  
37 park service has interpreted its separate regulations as  
38 restricting the use of firearms for trapping -- the use of  
39 firearms to take a furbearer, the park service takes the  
40 position that that's hunting and is allowed under hunting  
41 regulations and that taking furbearers with a trap is what is  
42 allowed under trapping regulations on park service lands. This  
43 is a different interpretation of trapping than the other  
44 federal public lands. The way it developed was as a  
45 consequence of the high profile wolf trapping issue in the mid  
46 eighties and -- in which under state regulations, same-day  
47 airborne land-and-shoot trapping of wolves became very  
48 controversial and the park service received a lot of  
49 recommendations from people who were opposed to that type of  
50 trapping of wolves that it not be allowed on park service

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1 lands. At that time the park service went and looked at its  
2 existing regulations and interpreted them to mean that trapping  
3 was defined under the existing park service regulations as  
4 taking with a trap and, therefore, the use of a firearm to take  
5 a furbearer that wasn't in a trap was not trapping and so you  
6 couldn't land an aircraft and shoot a free-ranging wolf that  
7 wasn't in a trap already. So that was a novel interpretation  
8 of existing regulations that up until that point nobody had  
9 interpreted one way or the other to deal with a high-profile  
10 wildlife situation at the time. It was high profile on a  
11 national level. That situation eventually was resolved by  
12 adoption of a same-day airborne regulation that precluded that  
13 kind of trapping, but the park service's interpretation that  
14 trapping was taken with a trap and didn't include using a  
15 firearm when a furbearer wasn't already caught in a trap caught  
16 the attention of various interest groups with opinions on  
17 taking of wildlife in parks and they liked that interpretation  
18 and so we have been -- we've gotten strong recommendations from  
19 those folks with those kind of views to continue our  
20 interpretation and we have also gotten strong views from  
21 trappers and subsistence users such as yourselves that that is  
22 not the way trapping is done in Alaska. It never has been and  
23 isn't currently done that way.

24 //

25 We listened intently to both positions because both  
26 groups have real strong interests in how we manage the national  
27 parks. So now that the same-day airborne wolf issue is long  
28 behind us, we still have this residual novel interpretation  
29 that the park service still maintains. The practical effect is  
30 that trapping continues as it always has; the park service does  
31 not have a program to be looking for this sort of activity and  
32 to cite anybody as far as I know. To date, nobody has ever  
33 been -- a trapper has never been cited for taking a free-  
34 ranging furbearer with a firearm in a park service area and the  
35 park service's position is that's how we will continue to  
36 enforce this particular interpretation of our regulations. Our  
37 answer to your letter was that the park service continues to  
38 have that interpretation officially; that's the position of the  
39 agency. If you notice on the second page of that letter,  
40 however, the regional director says that ". . .we acknowledge  
41 that there may be a legitimate need for bona-fide trappers  
42 actively working a trapline to be able to use a firearm to take  
43 furbearers and certainly to dispatch furbearers already in a  
44 trap." And then the final sentence there, "Historically, the  
45 need for enforcement of the park service regulation has been  
46 minimal to nonexistent." So, I guess the simple answer to your  
47 request is that the agency is declining to change its  
48 interpretation of the regulation at this time, but with that  
49 qualifier that I just read that we acknowledge that this is a  
50 traditional practice for trapping in Alaska and we will

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1 continue to review this issue. There are -- there's a  
2 significant number of staff with the park service who are  
3 spokespersons for this position as well as the other position.  
4 So it's not that your request is falling on deaf ears; it's  
5 falling on ears that are open to hear it and we will continue  
6 to review this regulation in the context where we've got strong  
7 public interest on both sides of it that make it necessary to  
8 go slow, I guess, on backing away from the interpretation that  
9 resulted from the same-day airborne land-and-shoot wolf  
10 circumstances. So that's our answer on that particular  
11 question.

12 //

13 The second question -- request that your letter made  
14 was that the park service correct its regulations related to  
15 customary trade to allow the sale of handicrafts made from the  
16 nonedible by-products of fish and wildlife. And the answer to  
17 that request is that that park service regulations currently  
18 allow the sale of handicrafts made from by-products of fish and  
19 wildlife taken for subsistence purposes. The confusion there  
20 is that the definition of subsistence uses in ANILCA which is  
21 repeated verbatim in park service regulations as well  
22 categorizes the levels or classes of subsistence use. And one  
23 class that is expressly authorized in the law is the sale of  
24 handicrafts made from the nonedible by-products of fish and  
25 wildlife. And then it goes on and it gives another class which  
26 is barter, it gives another class -- I forget what the third  
27 one is. The fourth one then is "and customary trade." So  
28 because they're different items on a list, the first item, the  
29 sale of handicrafts made from the by-products of fish and  
30 wildlife taken for subsistence uses, that sounds like an item  
31 of customary trade and if it didn't show up separately on the  
32 list apart from customary trade, it would be probably  
33 classified as customary trade. But because it's listed  
34 separately, it's authorized separately and it's authorized  
35 separately as well in park service regulations. The park  
36 service then goes to that fourth item, customary trade, and  
37 further defines it because it's not defined in ANILCA other  
38 than it just says "and customary trade." The park service,  
39 when ANILCA was first passed, adopted -- at that time they were  
40 called interim regulations to get this subsistence program on  
41 the books for the park service. This is in 1981 I believe. At  
42 that point, a definition in the park service regulations, a  
43 further definition of customary trade says that what was  
44 included was put in the park service regulations and that  
45 definition says that the sale of furs for cash is customary  
46 trade and other activities that are further designated or that  
47 may be later designated and would be listed under each  
48 individual parks regulations in Part (C) of the park service  
49 regulations. So, we have the definition of customary trade  
50 meaning sale of furs for cash and then a provision that other

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1 things could be designated. Kobuk Valley National Park has the  
2 designation that sale of handicrafts made from plant material  
3 is authorized. That's to distinguish handicrafts made from the  
4 nonedible by-products of fish and game. So at the time our  
5 regulations were passed, the communities near Kobuk Valley  
6 asked that that be added. If other park areas have something  
7 like that, some other kind of customary trade that's not  
8 currently covered - customary trade being something that's  
9 traded for cash, for money - there is that provision in the  
10 park service regulations that it be considered and it can be  
11 added to that particular park area's separate regulations.  
12 //

13 So, the answer to your request, your specific request  
14 that we allow the sale of handicrafts made from nonedible  
15 by-products of fish and wildlife, the answer to that is it's  
16 already allowed and so what you're asking us to do, we're  
17 already doing. So that's, I guess, the longwinded answer to  
18 your letter.  
19 //

20 MR. MORGAN: Jack?

21 MR. REAKOFF: Mr. Chairman, though I'm happy that the  
22 park service regulations reflects the customary sale of  
23 nonedible by-products handicrafts, that's not exactly clear in  
24 the regulations. That's not -- I mean, maybe a clarification  
25 is in order or something. Going back to the free-ranging  
26 furbearer issue, I'm still not satisfied with this -- the  
27 deputy regional director Paul Anderson's letter is  
28 contradictory. He states that the regional council's  
29 recommendation to allow the customary use of a firearm for  
30 dispatching free-ranging furbearers while trapping had a high  
31 concern for the population -- natural and healthy population.  
32 Then he goes on to say at the end of his statement,  
33 "Historically, a need for enforcement of the NPS regulations is  
34 minimal to nonexistent." Well, if the park service is so  
35 worried about these fur animals, why don't they reflect that in  
36 the enforcement part of it? I'm still of the opinion and I  
37 speak for the people of Anaktuvuk on this issue that people who  
38 utilize the trapping harvest and season and bag limits, while  
39 trapping they may encounter wolves in open country and may  
40 shoot wolves while trapping. And I'm speaking for the people  
41 of Anaktuvuk on this issue. They customarily and traditionally  
42 use their trapping season and bag limits. Because of the  
43 change in -- we've discussed this issue at other times and one  
44 of the issues is that the hunting license expires on  
45 December 31; the trapping license goes through the end of the  
46 season. If Ben Hobson is way off in the Niego (ph) River and  
47 leaves on December 30th and comes up to a wolf over there in  
48 the first part of January, he can't shoot it under his hunting  
49 license. These are some of the reasons why the trapping  
50 license is extended all the way to October 31 of the next year.

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1 I still feel that the federal board has authority to allow  
2 customary and traditional use methods and means and I feel that  
3 we should still submit in our annual report and also a proposal  
4 to allow the use of trapping regulations to shoot free-ranging  
5 furbearers on national park lands within the Western Interior  
6 and let the solicitors fight it out; the national park  
7 service's solicitor and the federal board solicitor.  
8 //

9 MR. ULVI: Mr. Chairman? Yeah, Jack, in response to  
10 that, I think that's entirely within the purview of this group  
11 to submit a proposal like that. My best professional guess,  
12 and I have to share that with you for whatever it's worth, is  
13 that I don't think there'd be any fight between the solicitors  
14 at all. I think the law is fairly clear that in this case the  
15 agency's specific regulations trump the federal subsistence  
16 program regulations. And so I really think that -- and you  
17 know that I agree that for Gates of the Arctic - and remember  
18 we're talking statewide, so this letter is in response  
19 statewide - I do not feel that we have any problems with the  
20 furbearer populations at Gates of the Arctic; however, other  
21 parks may have and this would be a statewide regulatory change.  
22 So that letter is from a statewide perspective. But I think  
23 that it's pretty clear that your best avenue is to continue  
24 through the subsistence resource commission to continue to  
25 document that this is a traditional practice and, if possible,  
26 if the time is ripe, then try for a park service regulatory  
27 change or definitional change. You know, that's my best  
28 advice. But I think that if you want to spend the time or  
29 continue to push at the federal board level, that you should  
30 certainly do so. I think that it's unlikely that you will get  
31 the answer that you're looking for, but that's just my guess.  
32 //

33 MR. JONES: How often do you come up with the park  
34 service thing of regulating change?  
35 //

36 MR. ULVI: All the time, Mr. Chairman.  
37 //

38 MR. JONES: All the time?  
39 //

40 MR. ULVI: Yeah, you bet. You know, the thing to  
41 remember is that as important, absolutely important as this  
42 whole program is that you're part of and all of that, is that  
43 out of all of ANILCA this program represents three sections in  
44 one title and, as you know, there are seventeen sections in  
45 Title 8 alone. And the parks and the refuges and the other  
46 areas created by ANILCA, we have to deal with all of that.  
47 There's a ton of specific regulatory language and change going  
48 on all the time that's within and outside the subsistence  
49 realm. Access is a good example. The federal board has  
50 nothing to do with access. It's a highly important issue for

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1 all of our public lands. The use of aircraft for subsistence  
2 is not allowed in park areas. That's a specific regulation.  
3 Our regulations having to do with cabins and shelter use are  
4 somewhat different from the refuges and BLM. Those are all  
5 agency-specific regulations that the federal board has no  
6 purview or authority in whatsoever. So, you know, it can just  
7 go on and on and on down the list. And by that I just mean to  
8 say that what you are doing is very important and it's the  
9 heart of Title 8 and we're trying to struggle through this all  
10 ourselves, but I can say that I hope, too, that we change - the  
11 agency, the park service - changes that definition to more  
12 accurately reflect traditional practices of trapping in Alaska.  
13 For the time being, it's kind of an immovable object and I  
14 think we should keep trying to put pressure on as you think  
15 necessary. But at the same time, we're not going out and  
16 enforcing that regulation, we have never cited anybody for  
17 that, we've got other things to pay attention to and it's not  
18 high on our priority list at all although I certainly  
19 understand, you know, in talking with you about this for years,  
20 Jack, where your concerns are.

21 //

22 MR. MORGAN: Jack?

23 //

24 MR. REAKOFF: I still feel very uncomfortable  
25 maintaining a status quo of nonenforcement. As all subsistence  
26 users did when they were hunting ducks in the springtime and  
27 why are we trying to change that? Because we don't like  
28 snaking around in the brush and all that. The reason that the  
29 park service deputy regional director adopted this stance is in  
30 response to the environmental community who didn't like  
31 shooting wolves at all. So, I still feel very uncomfortable  
32 with this, this going along with the nonenforcement stance.  
33 That's just like you're waiting for something to happen. And I  
34 feel that this issue should be resolved. I don't feel that the  
35 park service's CFR regulations have been the kind of dialogue  
36 with the -- there were no regional councils. There were very  
37 few -- there weren't any SRCs to discuss this with. I don't  
38 feel that this regulation met the intent of 808 and 805 when it  
39 talked about local input into -- meaningful role of input into  
40 this regulation. I feel that this regulation is in violation  
41 of the ANILCA Title 8. So I feel therefore we should make a  
42 proposal and let the solicitors talk about. Mr. Knauer has  
43 piles of books over there about laws.

44 //

45 MR. MORGAN: Ray?

46 //

47 MR. COLLINS: Who could we appropriately ask to  
48 document traditional trapping practices? Would it be the  
49 subsistence division or do the parks have people that are  
50 overseeing it that they could document it? Because I think one

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1 step in this would be to document what has been, and we don't  
2 have the resources to do that, but certainly the park as part  
3 of it could in their area. But I don't know who we would  
4 address that to if we ask that that be done. And would this be  
5 one step in this process?

6 //

7 MR. HUNTER: Mr. Chairman, I could make a comment on  
8 that. I'm not aware of anyone in the park service that's  
9 challenging that that's a traditional practice. It's purely a  
10 novel interpretation of regulations that were adopted not with  
11 that in mind, but that later on were able to be read to solve  
12 the immediate problem that was occurring at that time which was  
13 the high level controversy over the land-and-shoot trapping of  
14 wolves. It just got huge media coverage. And that novel  
15 interpretation of existing regulations that weren't originally  
16 adopted with that in mind caught the attention of the  
17 environmental community, you know, the park constituencies that  
18 are opposed to trapping and taking of wildlife, generally, and  
19 so once it got the attention, now it's hard to put the glue  
20 back in the bottle or whatever the expression is on that, once  
21 it gets out. And, you know, it's a matter of opinion as to  
22 whether or not the park service's definitions for trapping in a  
23 trap really do amount to a prohibition of the use of firearms  
24 for trapping. That was when the park service was -- it was  
25 recommended to the park service to clarify that that  
26 definitional regulation to make a specific prohibition in the  
27 regulations -- that was the proposal that brought this to your  
28 attention back in 1994 and '95, and the good news is that the  
29 park service proposed that and then withdrew it and didn't  
30 clarify it and put a specific clear no-doubt-about-it  
31 regulation on the books. Now we have a debatable regulation  
32 that's on the books and the debate is going on right now and  
33 you're one side of the debate and the park service is kind of  
34 in the middle, you know, listening over here and then listening  
35 over there. And that's why it's tough to, you know, when there  
36 are sort of like equal sides in a debate to just easily settle  
37 it.

38 //

39 MR. COLLINS: My question wasn't about the debate. It  
40 was about how do we get documented what has been done, what was  
41 being done in the park? How do we get that on the record of,  
42 historically, how were furbearers taken? Because at some point  
43 if it comes down to a legal issue, it is important to have that  
44 documentation. And there's elders and others around who have  
45 trapped there that could clearly state what they've been. I'm  
46 just -- I'm thinking of maybe it won't be resolved now. Maybe  
47 we shouldn't resolve that now, but at least we should get  
48 documented what's been done and then see -- well, we can still  
49 bring it up in the report and other things. But who is  
50 appropriate to direct that to? Would it be the subsistence

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1 division or would it be the park itself? Because it's in the  
2 parks now is the only place this exists.

3 //

4 MR. TWITCHELL: Hollis Twitchell. The Denali  
5 Subsistence Resource Commission has reviewed this and passed a  
6 motion that they don't believe that the park service's  
7 interpretation of taking a furbearer with a trapping --  
8 free-roaming furbearer with a trapping license is correct and  
9 they've passed that in a motion and submitted it to the park  
10 service. We are intending to work with the commission to  
11 incorporate that belief into the subsistence management plan to  
12 identify regionally and in Denali that that was the traditional  
13 practice of taking. We will document that through our public  
14 meetings and through our own subsistence management plan.  
15 Beyond that, I suppose we could hold hearings in communities  
16 around the park area in which we could take public testimony  
17 from subsistence users and others that could further define and  
18 clarify what that use was. So there are ways of bringing the  
19 public record in and incorporating it. So there are options  
20 that way; there are certainly other tools that the commission  
21 holds in terms of their ability to communicate to the  
22 secretary. So there's a number of avenues that are out there  
23 that have not been done yet.

24 //

25 MR. MORGAN: Ida?

26 //

27 MS. HILDEBRAND: The council -- Ida Hildebrand, staff  
28 committee member. This council and other councils have for the  
29 years I've been working with this council requested monies for  
30 studies and have been denied. However, you are, as the  
31 regional council of this area, appointed because of your  
32 expertise and knowledge of subsistence uses in your region.  
33 Your personal testimony and the testimony of any of the users  
34 in your region would document that prior use.

35 //

36 MR. MORGAN: Steve?

37 //

38 MR. SHERROD: No, George.

39 //

40 MR. MORGAN: George.

41 //

42 (General laughter)

43 //

44 MR. SHERROD: Ray, in addressing your question, I'm not  
45 so sure that the documentation isn't there in the form of the  
46 fact that we have regulations on our books that recognize this  
47 as a practice. The state has regulations on their books that  
48 recognize this as a practice. So I'm not sure that the need to  
49 go beyond that right now is even an issue.

50 //

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1 MR. COLLINS: Okay.

2 //

3 MR. SHERROD: And, as Ida said, certainly your own  
4 testimony - this is why you're here, this is why you're  
5 selected - suffices in the absence of any information.

6 //

7 MR. MORGAN: Any more comments? Questions? Thank you.  
8 Item No. 4, Other Agencies. Other Agencies. BIA? No. Time  
9 out.

10 //

11 MR. FARMER: As you guys already know, my name is  
12 Robert Farmer and I'm an RIT with the Koyukuk/Nowitna Refuge.  
13 I would just like to bring to your attention that I do the  
14 geese and duck surveys for the Koyukuk/Nowitna area and I do  
15 have some charts up there. Some of it is from the checking and  
16 seeing how the geese -- baby geese and baby duck population is  
17 and as you can see on the charts there, we are going down in  
18 numbers. There are some years that we have a lot more baby  
19 ducks than we do adult pairs and then there are some years that  
20 we have more adults and less baby ducks. So we need to -- if  
21 you guys just want to take a look at that because it does  
22 affect Koyukuk and Nulato. And we did do a float survey in the  
23 Koyu Flats area and as Micky will get the information from  
24 Debra Webb that the numbers are way, way down and that we have  
25 to at some point look at what we're going to have to do to try  
26 to utilize these stocks to come back because we are losing  
27 them. And if you guys want any of this information while I'm  
28 here, we may be able to try to get some copies from the tribal  
29 council and give them to you guys. And so I just wanted to let  
30 you guys know that.

31 //

32 MR. MORGAN: Ray?

33 //

34 MR. COLLINS: Any thoughts on why? Any indication or  
35 information on why that might be happening?

36 //

37 MR. FARMER: Well, like they say, some years, you know,  
38 it depends on the weather pattern, like this spring the big  
39 issue was where's all the geese. This spring we did have three  
40 thaws and three refreezes and, as we were told, the population  
41 of the geese -- the population over in Kotzebue had multiplied  
42 while ours had declined. You know, we did not get to see any  
43 numbers over in the Kotzebue area, but, you know, as we gather  
44 the information and try to work with other agencies, you know,  
45 we hope to have a solution, but at this point we don't. But we  
46 are continuing the survey as I get done from here.

47 //

48 MR. MORGAN: Sam -- Ron?

49 //

50 MR. RONALD SAM: Yeah, I think that you're very close

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1 to the truth when you talk about the thaws and freezes because  
2 it has happened more than once in the recent years around here,  
3 too. I think we're just hitting the natural cycle right now.  
4 Thaws and freezes, thaws and freezes.

5 //

6 MR. FARMER: And also another thing is also the high  
7 waters when your geese start having nests and then they have  
8 their youngs and then we get to high waters that just rapidly  
9 come up. Those, you know, just kill off the eggs, also. So,  
10 you know, it just depends on how Mother Nature works in  
11 correlation because we had high water, but we had a lot of  
12 nests that were down in the Dulbi River and Dulbi Slough area  
13 that were still high enough off the ground that they were able  
14 to survive. But, you know, there's always those that are  
15 always in the lowlands.

16 //

17 MR. RONALD SAM: Mr. Chair. I notice in the spring  
18 hunts when the female eggs that there wasn't that many -- each  
19 female, there wasn't that many eggs in there, you know, so it's  
20 something to do with their habitat or what.

21 //

22 MR. FARMER: Mike Spindler had said that a lot of times  
23 it will also have to do with the weather if it does get cold at  
24 night while they're, you know, making their nests and stuff, a  
25 lot of geese do not -- will not have a lot of eggs, you know.  
26 But if -- I would just have to consult with the main office to  
27 find out why -- the real answer of why some of them don't have  
28 large population of eggs and youngs. At this point, I don't  
29 know because I just started, but, you know, we are noticing  
30 that and trying to take heed and trying to find out.

31 //

32 MR. MORGAN: Jack?

33 //

34 MR. REAKOFF: Mr. Chairman, in our -- this country up  
35 north here, we had real high waters in springtime and geese  
36 laid nests up on the bars in the old logs and stuff. That all  
37 just washed away and right after the flood, I seen geese  
38 wandering -- Canadian geese wandering all over the -- they lost  
39 their nests big time up there, all up in the upper drainage.

40 //

41 MR. FARMER: Yeah. A lot of the geese will have their  
42 nests right at the willow edges. A lot of times some of them  
43 will be higher off the ground, but a lot of them are down on  
44 the lowlands on the sandbars and the grassy areas and those are  
45 the ones that are susceptible of losing their nesting areas.

46 //

47 MR. REAKOFF: We had water three feet going through the  
48 woods, right through the spruce trees.

49 //

50 MR. FARMER: Right.

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1 MR. REAKOFF: So it's wiped them out.

2 //

3 MR. MORGAN: Ron?

4 //

5 MR. RONALD SAM: Yeah, just one comment. Many of you  
6 should know that the scheduled Tanakanaga (ph) meeting here the  
7 first week in June, our airport flooded out again. So you know  
8 what kind of summer we had. High water all summer.

9 //

10 MR. FARMER: Yeah, have the people of Allakaket really  
11 noticed any -- a lot of ducklings and baby geese around or have  
12 they just been seeing a lot of pairs of ducks?

13 //

14 MR. RONALD SAM: It has been not that much.

15 //

16 MR. FARMER: Yeah.

17 //

18 MR. RONALD SAM: I think we'll bring this up on the  
19 (inaudible).

20 //

21 MR. FARMER: Right. That's something that should be a  
22 concern that while people are going up and down the rivers that  
23 they should be noticing these and maybe, if nothing else,  
24 trying to document and trying to, you know, keep the cycle of  
25 why we ain't getting them. We're losing our population. Try  
26 to help out. I'm sure Fish & Wildlife is always looking for  
27 helping hand.

28 //

29 MR. MORGAN: Michael?

30 //

31 MR. STICKMAN: You know, one thing over there in the  
32 Koyu Flats this summer, one thing you could notice for sure was  
33 the water was -- there was a -- the level was a lot higher than  
34 it normally is throughout the whole summer.

35 //

36 MR. FARMER: Exactly. We went through those lakes out  
37 in the Koyu Flats there and we actually used a power boat when  
38 most of the time they've been using canoes and paddles. You  
39 know, so, yeah, it does take an effect. But we did see some  
40 youngs, but not the numbers near to where we have seen in the  
41 past and Orville has noted that and it's my first year with the  
42 float trip. Up on the Nowitna, they also had the same effect.  
43 But also I'd like to say on the Nowitna, when I was up there at  
44 the check station, the water was pretty low when the Koyukuk  
45 was very high. And so ....

46 //

47 MR. MORGAN: Any questions? Comments? Thank you.

48 //

49 MR. FARMER: All right. Thank you.

50 //

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1 MR. MORGAN: We'll break for ten? Ten minutes? Oh,  
2 you've got one?  
3 //

4 MR. BURR: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This won't take  
5 but a second. It became clear to me this afternoon that there  
6 are a number of folks here that don't know me, except the  
7 members of the board that I've talked to with before. My name  
8 is John Burr. I work with the State of Alaska. I'm an aerial  
9 biologist for sport fish division and my area is the Yukon  
10 Drainage of the North Slope and upper half of the Kuskokwim.  
11 You can relax. I did not prepare a report for tonight. I just  
12 wanted to solicit any comments you might have about hook and  
13 line taking of fish or any questions or comments you might have  
14 about angling activities that are occurring in the area. And I  
15 will be here through Thursday for the advisory committee  
16 meeting, so we can do that any time between now and then.  
17 //

18 MR. MORGAN: Take ten?  
19 //

20 (Off record)

21 //

22 (On record)

23 //

24 MR. MORGAN: Call the meeting back to order. I guess  
25 we'll cover one more item and then we'll break for the day.  
26 Vince?  
27 //

28 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, Mr. Chairman. I think I promised  
29 to -- the new area biologist is here for the Galena area, so I  
30 don't know if Dave or if Glen wanted to introduce themselves.  
31 But he's here obviously for this meeting, but more for the  
32 local advisory meetings. So maybe if Glen wants to -- so you  
33 know who are the new area biologists you may be dealing with.  
34 I can do it. I mean I just know him as Glen Stout and you may  
35 want to come up and do it. That's Glen over there. That's the  
36 new area biologist.  
37 //

38 MR. MORGAN: Okay. Well, we'll continue with the  
39 agenda. We'll go to the Federal Subsistence Fisheries  
40 Management update.  
41 //

42 MR. KNAUER: Good evening, Mr. Chairman, members of the  
43 council. My name is Bill Knauer. I work in the Anchorage  
44 office of the Fish & Wildlife Service's subsistence division.  
45 I have been part of the fisheries task force or efforts since  
46 it started. I'd like to go through this rather quickly. Under  
47 Tab G, you do have an update that follows through. I just want  
48 to hit some of the high points. Certainly the Katie John  
49 decision by the 9th Circuit Court back in December of '95 where  
50 the federal government was to include the reserve waters as

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1 part of the program. You're aware that the case was appealed  
2 to the U.S. Supreme Court which, in 1996, refused to hear the  
3 appeal making the 9th Circuit's decision final. Following  
4 that, we published a proposed rule back in December of 1997.  
5 In the winter meetings in February and March of 1998, there  
6 were 31 public hearings around the state, plus comments  
7 solicited from the regional councils at the same time, the ten  
8 regional councils.

9 //

10 Specifically, with the Western Interior Regional  
11 Council, you folks have offered comments to us three different  
12 times. In October of 1996 as we were preparing what became the  
13 proposed rule, you suggested that we should keep the structure  
14 very close to the existing state structure and work closely  
15 with both state and regional council. You indicated that you  
16 would prefer that we continue the status quo on customary trade  
17 with a conservative dollar estimate and do not include sales to  
18 processors as customary trade. You indicated that you felt  
19 that harvest reporting is needed and as far as the seasons and  
20 harvest limits and methods and means, that we should use the  
21 existing state regulations unless there was a specific problem.  
22 And, in fact, the proposed rule that was developed actually  
23 followed these -- all four of these suggestions rather closely.  
24 In February of 1997, again before the proposed rule came out,  
25 you had some other suggestions: one, that specific exception  
26 should be made for some traditional harvest methods such as  
27 weirs, use of weirs and things like that. I'll go ahead and  
28 respond to that right now.

29 //

30 We believe that that particular item is more  
31 appropriately addressed as a proposal after the final  
32 regulations come out in a similar manner to which proposals for  
33 changes in wildlife regulations are made. You indicated that  
34 there needs to be more dialogue between fishery biologists and  
35 fishermen prior to making in-season management decisions, and  
36 that buying fish strips should not be curtailed. We  
37 wholeheartedly support both of those last two. And then in  
38 October of '97, you indicated that there was concern that the  
39 agencies develop regulations without review or approval by the  
40 board. You indicated that there was -- that someone felt that  
41 there was a need for a transitional period of state resumption  
42 of management; that there was a need to allow, again, the same  
43 comment that we heard in February of '97, that the need to  
44 allow legal take by traditional harvest methods, again the fish  
45 fences and weirs, and concern about the definition of customary  
46 trade and barter. And I can say right now that the board has  
47 still not come to a decision on how it will define or place in  
48 regulation the customary trade and barter issue. There is  
49 concern all over the state with that issue. There is concern  
50 for the resource. There is concern that subsistence take in

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1 resources could end up in the commercial market and could cause  
2 an amount of undue pressure on the subsistence resources,  
3 adversely affecting the subsistence user. And there is also  
4 concern that may be more properly dealt with on a regional  
5 basis. In other words, each region may be a little different  
6 in how things have occurred in the past and that might be the  
7 better way. But let me highlight some thinking that we're  
8 using as we proceed with the drafting of the final rule.

9 //

10 Currently, the thinking is that there would be  
11 consistency between the definition of federal waters between  
12 Department of Interior and Department of Agriculture.  
13 Previously, for Department of Interior waters, for inland  
14 waters, it was all waters within or adjacent to the boundaries  
15 of the conservation system units. On Department of  
16 Agriculture, it was similar only if those waters were touched  
17 on at least one side by federal land. In other words, if there  
18 was a significant inholding and the waters ran through that, if  
19 there wasn't forest service land on one side or the other, that  
20 water would not be included. That created some blocks that  
21 were not within the jurisdiction and provided an inconsistency  
22 between the two departments. So the thinking now is to make it  
23 consistent so it would be all inland waters within the CSUs.  
24 Another would be that -- we heard comments from a number of  
25 people that we should better identify those specific waters  
26 where there might be marine reservations or pre-statehood  
27 withdrawals that need to be better identified. So, as we're  
28 drafting the final regulations, we're being a little more  
29 specific in identifying waters. We had a number of comments  
30 regarding the statement on extraterritoriality. In other  
31 words, the secretary's authority to extend their jurisdiction  
32 off of federal land in certain instances and, although this  
33 authority has been very rarely exercised over the past 100  
34 years, it is an authority that does exist and so it was -- we  
35 believe that it is appropriate to retain that description of  
36 that authority in the regulations.

37 //

38 The customary and traditional use determinations, we  
39 felt that we did need to try and be more consistent with the  
40 state and also to bring into play many of the more recent C&T  
41 determinations that the state has made since 1990. So we have  
42 tried to adopt that. Now, bear in mind that there is another  
43 task force composed of members of some of the regional councils  
44 working with staff to try and determine just how customary and  
45 traditional use determinations are made. That could influence  
46 this in the overall effect. We're also trying to work closely  
47 with the state to make sure that the regulations we have got  
48 are very consistent with what is in place with the state. We  
49 don't want to disrupt the user out there and confuse the user.  
50 We recognize that for the first year it's going to be a sort of

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1 an experiment to see if we can get through the year, all of us,  
2 without becoming too confused. The second year is when the  
3 changes might start to take place, the proposals that come in.  
4 The intent is to proceed very similarly to what we did when we  
5 started off the program with wildlife where the federal and  
6 state programs were very similar and then the federal programs  
7 started to accept proposals to try and meet the needs and  
8 concerns of the subsistence user. And, as it did so, it  
9 drifted away from the state. Now we're seeing recently that  
10 there is some convergence, both changes on the state side  
11 because they've seen that some of the things that the federal  
12 program is doing better; some changes on the federal side,  
13 recognizing that maybe they want to change a little to avoid  
14 confusion. So that may be the case with fish; we don't know.  
15 The one thing that we do have that is different from the state  
16 regulations over the past seven years, eight years now, the  
17 board has made a number of decisions specifically directed at  
18 fish. Those would remain in even though they are different  
19 than what the state has.

20 //

21 We've also tried to eliminate references to regulations  
22 where there are obviously no federal waters and that would be  
23 to avoid confusion. We're coming very close to achieving a  
24 document that would be signed by the secretaries of the  
25 interior and agriculture. We're anticipating that would occur  
26 some time about December 1. It then has to go through a review  
27 in Washington, including a review by the Office of Management  
28 and Budget, and we would anticipate, if there is no moratorium,  
29 publication in the Federal Register in early January and become  
30 effective in early to mid February. You should be aware that  
31 over the past three years there has been a moratorium in place  
32 by Congress that has prevented the federal agencies from  
33 implementing or publishing any rule that would extend  
34 jurisdiction. Currently, there are three such moratoriums in  
35 proposed legislation; one of them proposed by Representative  
36 Young would have been contingent on action by the state  
37 legislature for passage of constitutional amendment language.  
38 As you are aware, that did not happen, so that particular one  
39 is moot. It essentially went away. There is another one that  
40 is part of a budget bill that was proposed by Senator  
41 Murkowski. Right now it appears that that particular budget  
42 bill with its numerous add-ons may be the target of a veto. We  
43 don't know. We have no idea of knowing what Congress and the  
44 president will do.

45 //

46 A third moratorium that would extend it through  
47 December of 1999, I believe, is part of a bill called an  
48 Omnibus Parks Bill. That, from the readings I have, is the one  
49 that could be most likely to pass; however, as you're aware,  
50 Congress has got other things on its mind right now including

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1 the passage of budget legislation to keep the federal  
2 government operating and also some other matters involving  
3 possibly, you know, banting around terms like impeachment and  
4 things like that. So whether that bill has enough priority to  
5 come to the foreground, I don't know. Currently, there is no  
6 funding increases in any of the bills that I'm aware of for  
7 fiscal year 1999 which is what we're in right now. There is,  
8 however, in the proposed funding bill for the year 2000 funding  
9 requests for fisheries. Currently, federal and state  
10 administrators are having discussions about how best to  
11 integrate management, how to accomplish such things as  
12 in-season actions, emergency orders, because as you're aware  
13 when fish come in the river, you've got to make a decision  
14 right now or they're past either for commercial opening,  
15 subsistence opening, or whatever. If the run is real low,  
16 there has to be action right now to stop a commercial opening  
17 to assure that there is adequate fish for our sporting  
18 escapement or for subsistence. So the two groups are talking  
19 about how best something like that can be accomplished. So  
20 that's where we are right now. I'd be happy to try and answer  
21 any questions.

22 //

23 MR. MORGAN: Any questions? Vince?

24 //

25 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, Bill has portrayed this  
26 very well that this has been evolving and continues to evolve.  
27 I just need, so I can understand when you guys discuss this  
28 down the road, a clarification on customary trade. I think --  
29 well, maybe Bill can go back over that, but there is customary  
30 trade as you've talked at several meetings and I think there is  
31 now ultimate language. And I don't know if Bill brought that  
32 up because it was consulting with levels ....

33 //

34 MR. KNAUER: I indicated that the board is still  
35 considering how to deal with it. The state regulations are  
36 very restrictive, although they do provide that the Board of  
37 Fish can authorize specific instances. Certainly, the concern  
38 that we have heard throughout the state is we want to protect  
39 the resource, we don't want to impact the subsistence user, but  
40 for the most part, we don't want subsistence-taken fish ending  
41 up in the commercial trade either. So -- but we're not -- on  
42 the federal side, we're not sure what type of language that  
43 will entail. The board does want to maintain flexibility such  
44 that there can be differences from region to region. Some  
45 regions have indicated that customary trade is normally only  
46 maybe the selling of, you know, one to half a dozen white fish  
47 and maybe a few strips. Other regions have indicated that it  
48 might be a little more extensive than that. Some have  
49 indicated that, no, nothing. So, I think the board does want  
50 to preserve that regional -- that option for regional

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1 variation.

2 //

3 MR. MATHEWS: The reason I bring that up is because the  
4 council in Holy Cross and elsewhere has kind of made it clear  
5 that these practices have gone on for thousands of years and  
6 they don't -- they want them to continue to go on, but also to  
7 be recognized as legal. And I think on a case-by-case, I could  
8 be wrong, that until it's brought up case-by-case, it would not  
9 be legal. Is that fair to say, Bill, or ....

10 //

11 MR. KNAUER: Well, that's the way the state has it  
12 right now and I don't know whether -- which way the board is  
13 going to go on that.

14 //

15 MR. MATHEWS: And I'm not trying to sway you. What I'm  
16 trying to do is, I know it's late and I know that you've  
17 commented on this for several meetings, but, you know, that was  
18 one of your main concerns, was trade. At least in Holy  
19 Cross -- well, every meeting, actually. So I just wanted to  
20 inform you that there are now kind of like two options before  
21 the board.

22 //

23 MR. COLLINS: What are those options?

24 //

25 MR. MATHEWS: Well, Option 1 would be: it's permitted,  
26 accepted, it cannot be sold in commercial markets, that it's  
27 not a significant commercial enterprise. The Option B, if I  
28 understood it correctly, would be that when the final rule is  
29 completed and there's a call for proposals, then you would put  
30 in a case for the selling of salmon strips to be considered a  
31 customary trade. I assume there's some kind of analysis or  
32 something that would go on, and then the board would say, yes,  
33 it is or, no, it isn't. I think that's what I'm hearing. And,  
34 again, Bill's right; this has been evolving. It's been a  
35 massive project on this and it's been hard to keep staff up to  
36 speed and so I'm trying to learn at the same time here. But  
37 that's my understanding. Bill can correct that, but it would  
38 be through a proposal system that the salmon strip that reigned  
39 so well in Holy Cross would have to be put forward as a  
40 proposal for this region or for statewide or something like  
41 that, and the board would review it and say yes or no as a  
42 recognized customary trade. Did I get that right, Bill, on the  
43 Option B?

44 //

45 MR. KNAUER: Fairly close, although I don't know that  
46 it's quite that stripped, but we have -- we definitely have all  
47 their comments on record, as you can tell by the way I  
48 reiterated them and where they came from, and we've got that  
49 for each of the councils. And so we are considering them and I  
50 don't know how the board is going to go on that. This is one

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1 of the most complex issues and the issues that we received the  
2 most comments on on the proposed rule from all entities.

3 //

4 MR. MORGAN: Benedict?

5 //

6 MR. JONES: Mr. Chair, thanks. On December 1st, 1998,  
7 the federal take-over is -- in 1999, the fishing season, the  
8 federal is going to manage the fish on the YK Delta?

9 //

10 MR. KNAUER: If there is no moratorium prohibiting us  
11 from doing so we would be handling the subsistence fisheries on  
12 federal waters in the fishing season 1999.

13 //

14 MR. JONES: Because the reason I ask that is if you go  
15 there, if there's enough abundance of fish and there's going to  
16 be a commercial opening, it'll be the same as the state on -- I  
17 think it's June 20th or something like that, if I recall, for  
18 commercial opening if there's abundance of fish in the Yukon.

19 //

20 MR. KNAUER: We would be managing to assure a  
21 subsistence priority. In other words, we would assure that  
22 there are probably, you know, like so many fish in the river  
23 for subsistence or that so many fish could be caught for  
24 subsistence, consistent with healthy fish stocks and wildlife  
25 populations. In other words, the first priority is protection  
26 of that spawning escapement. If you don't have that spawning  
27 escapement, it doesn't make any difference what you want for  
28 subsistence; there aren't going to be fish there for it. So  
29 you've got to have the stock first. And so what we would  
30 probably be doing is working with the state to -- they would  
31 let us know what they believed would be needed for spawning  
32 escapement and we'd work quite closely with them and the  
33 regional councils to determine what was necessary for  
34 subsistence. Anything over and above that, the state would be  
35 allocating for personal use, sport, and commercial.

36 //

37 MR. MORGAN: Any questions? Comments? Thank you.

38 //

39 MR. KNAUER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If anybody wants  
40 to pigeonhole me some time over the next day or so, I'll be  
41 here through the end of the meeting and they can ask me any  
42 questions or put any comments on my paper for me.

43 //

44 MR. MORGAN: Thank you. Okay. Thank you. At this  
45 time, we'll recess till tomorrow at nine. Tomorrow morning at  
46 nine.

47 //

48 MR. RONALD SAM: We'd better get done. I'm in the  
49 tabling mood.

50 //

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1 (General laughter)

2 //

3 (Meeting recessed - 9:03 p.m.)

4

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\* \* \* \* \*