

1 WESTERN INTERIOR FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE
2 REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING

3
4 PUBLIC MEETING

5
6 VOLUME II

7
8 Aniak, Alaska
9 March 7, 2007
10 9:00 o'clock a.m.

11
12
13 COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

- 14
15 Jack Reakoff, Chairman
16 Ray Collins
17 Donald Honea
18 Carl Morgan
19 Jenny Pelkola
20 Ron Sam
21 Mickey Stickman
22 Robert Walker
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28 Regional Council Coordinator, Vince Mathews

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P R O C E E D I N G S

(Aniak, Alaska - 03/07/2007)

(On record)

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Vince.

MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chair, we do have a couple of housekeeping things. Real quickly, those that are here, if you haven't signed in, please sign in. It really helps with spelling. There are sign-in sheets on the corner there.

And the Aniak Traditional Youth Council is having a fun raiser for lunch. They're bringing us lunch over. Suggested donation is \$10. That will be at 10:00 o'clock -- not 10:00 o'clock, it will be at noon. So they'll be coming over here, and you guys have always been very supportive of that.

The Mulchatna ones are coming up possibly before the Board of Game today, so that if -- there was different information came in, but we got that tied down that the Board will probably -- may be taking them up today. The main message is they have not taken them up as of this morning. And we'll get confirmation from Pete DeMatteo when he gets on line that he got the information from yesterday to Dan LaPlant, the liaison.

And that I think is it unless someone else has any other -- that's it. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. So we didn't have much public comment last night. There was a little bit from AVCP on our open forum. And so we're back onto the agenda here. There's all these proposals on customary and traditional use for various animals, ptarmigan and stuff, and so we're going -- we had that information that Seward Peninsula didn't like these, and so let's talk about these, Don, a little bit.

MR. RIVARD: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Don Rivard with the Office of Subsistence Management.

You're talking about the Proposals Nos. 39 through 49. They're a series of customary and traditional use determinations, and if you want to, we can go through these. As you just pointed out, Seward

1 Pen Region met I guess it was last week, and this their
2 proposals from their region and they opposed them all.
3 So whatever the Council would like to do with these.

4
5 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: If they're opposed
6 to them, I'm not inclined to even look at these.
7 There's no need to be wasting time on these at all.
8 What's the wishes of the Council.

9
10 MR. WALKER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
11 Who do we have line here, Don?

12
13 MR. RIVARD: Oh, I'm sorry. Thank you,
14 Robert. Terry Haynes so far and we're expecting Pete
15 DeMatteo momentarily.

16
17 MR. WALKER: Thank you.

18
19 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So I think we'll just
20 defer or not even -- no action on these 39 through 49,
21 it would be customary and traditional use for Unit 24
22 -- or, correction, 22 for ptarmigan, foxes, and various
23 animals. And so I don't -- this Council has never been
24 inclined to want to put customary and traditional use
25 for those. Go ahead, Ron.

26
27 MR. SAM: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In
28 that light and in light of Seward Pen's actions, I move
29 for no action on Proposals 39 through 49.

30
31 MR. STICKMAN: Second.

32
33 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So any discussion
34 otherwise from the Council.

35
36 (No comments)

37
38 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So those in favor of
39 no action for these 39 through 49 signify by saying
40 ayes.

41
42 IN UNISON: Aye.

43
44 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Those opposed.

45
46 (No opposing votes)

47
48 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Unanimous. No
49 action on those proposals. Moving to Proposal 50, it
50 would be eliminate the State registration permit

1 requirements for brown bear in Unit 23.

2

3 MR. RIVARD: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Don
4 Rivard. I'm prepared to give that presentation.

5

6 The analysis of this begins on Page 260
7 in your book, and I'm getting to that myself. Actually
8 it's Page 261. Proposal WP07-50 submitted by the
9 Maniilaq Association of Kotzebue requests the
10 elimination of the State registration permit for brown
11 bear hunting in Unit 23.

12

13 The proponent states that the current
14 Federal regulation requiring a State registration
15 permit to subsist hunt for brown bear makes it
16 difficult for village residents. Many times the
17 permits are not available in villages. It is easier to
18 hunt under State general harvest regulations than State
19 or Federal subsistence regulations because of the need
20 of a State registration permit is waived in Unit 23.
21 However, sealing of the hide and skull are required
22 under the State general harvest regulations.

23

24 You can see the extent of public lands
25 and the customary and traditional use determination.

26

27 Some of the history here is that prior
28 to 1992 State brown bear hunting regulations in Unit 23
29 were modified numerous times. It got quite extensive.

30

31 I'm going to go directly to the effects
32 of the proposal here. The proposed regulation does not
33 provide for a brown bear harvest reporting mechanism in
34 Unit 23. Eliminating the requirement for a State
35 registration permit for Federally-qualified subsistence
36 users would effectively eliminate the ability of either
37 State or Federal wildlife managers to track the harvest
38 of brown bear. Maintaining a reporting requirement is
39 an important tool for documenting population trends,
40 and helps ensure the long-term conservation of bears in
41 the region.

42

43 Currently the bear population is stable
44 to increasing. Eliminating the State registration
45 permit could potentially result in increased harvest
46 because hunters would no longer be required to report
47 whether or not they were successful. In addition,
48 village residents who have indicated difficulty in
49 obtaining permits in the past would not be compelled
50 to contact State personnel to report their harvest if

1 permits were not required.

2

3

4 Currently there is no sealing
5 requirement for bear hides or skulls that stay within
6 Unit 23. If the permit requirement were dropped, there
7 would be no way to track Federal subsistence brown bear
8 harvest. Without these data, there would be no way to
9 determine the needs of subsistence users, the number of
10 bears harvested, or population trends.

11

12 The numbers of hunters eligible to hunt
13 in the Gates of the Arctic National Park, the Kobuk
14 Valley National Park, and the Cape Krusenstern National
15 Monument are limited by National Park Service
16 eligibility regulations. Currently National Park
17 Service eligible hunters are required to obtain a State
18 registration permit to hunt on National Park Service
19 lands.

20

21 Finally, eliminating the State permit
22 requirement for Federal subsistence users for harvest
23 reporting could affect the law enforcement processes of
24 both the Federal and State agencies. Maintaining a
25 framework for future management actions, especially on
26 National Park Service lands, in particular on Cape
27 Krusenstern National Monument, because of its close
28 proximity to the large community in the region, which
29 is Kotzebue, is important to ensure that the brown bear
30 harvest does not become excessive.

31

32 Nevertheless, the over all impact on
33 the brown bear population in Unit 23 would likely be
34 insignificant, because the current level of subsistence
35 harvest is low.

36

37 The preliminary conclusion is to oppose
38 the proposal and the reason for that is the need to
39 maintain a harvest reporting mechanism which is
40 essential to the sound management of brown bears in
41 Unit 23.

42

43 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

44

45 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks, Don.

46

47 And so does the State have comments on
48 that, Terry?

49

50 MR. HAYNES: Good morning, Mr.
Chairman. This is Terry Haynes from Fairbanks.

1 Our comments are on Page 270 and 271.
2 And we do support this proposal for basically the same
3 reasons that Don presented from the Staff analysis.
4 The State registration permit requirement is a very
5 important management tool for this hunt because we need
6 to track this harvest and to obtain information that is
7 applied to management.

8
9 There is -- changing to a Federal
10 permit really wouldn't do what the proponent wants,
11 because it would still require obtaining a permit. And
12 we've often found that if you have State permits and
13 Federal permits, or you go back and forth, that becomes
14 very confusing for the users.

15
16 If a person in a village is interested
17 in obtaining a permit, if our Staff are not travelling
18 to one of those villages, we do have a number they can
19 call in Kotzebue and have a permit sent to them right
20 away. So the Department makes every effort to get
21 permits to those people who want them. And we're
22 always looking for ways to improve that process.

23
24 And finally I guess the -- since there
25 are only about five brown bears per year being
26 harvested in this area, it really doesn't make a lot of
27 practical sense to make significant changes to the
28 permit system.

29
30 So for those reasons we support keeping
31 the regulation as it is, and not changing from a State
32 permit to a Federal permit.

33
34 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

35
36 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: All right. Thanks,
37 Terry. It sounds like your voice is doing a lot
38 better, and glad to hear that.

39
40 Does the Federal agencies have any
41 comment on that.

42
43 (No comments)

44
45 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: You've got a
46 question for Terry? Go ahead, Ron.

47
48 MR. SAM: I've got a question for Don.
49 Has the Northwest Arctic met on this?

50

1 MR. RIVARD: Ron, I'm unsure. I don't
2 think they've met.
3
4 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: They meet
5 tomorrow.
6
7 MR. RIVARD: Tomorrow they meet.
8 Tomorrow they meet.
9
10 MR. HAYNES: Mr. Chairman. I'll be
11 going to that meeting.
12
13 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Thanks,
14 Terry.
15
16 MR. COLLINS: Mr. Chairman.
17
18 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, Ray.
19
20 MR. COLLINS: Yeah, I have a question.
21 Terry, is there any cost for the State permits or are
22 those issued free for subsistence hunters?
23
24 MR. HAYNES: Through the Chairman. No,
25 Ray, there is no cost for the permits, although, you
26 know, people do need to obtain a hunting license, and
27 our Staff are prepared to make those available to
28 people if they visit the village, so that they can have
29 all their paperwork in order. But no charge for a
30 permit.
31
32 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Any other
33 questions on this permit so far. Carl.
34
35 MR. MORGAN: Yeah. Terry, I see one of
36 the requirements on sealing, it said when sealed, the
37 skin of the head and front claws would be removed and
38 retained by the Department. What happens to the skin
39 of the head and the claws?
40
41 MR. HAYNES: Through the Chairman.
42 That's only required if a bear is removed from Unit 23,
43 and, you know, I'm not sure what happens to the skull
44 and the claws that are retained by the Department. I'd
45 have to check into that. I'm sorry, I don't have an
46 answer for you.
47
48 MR. MORGAN: They're probably auctioned
49 off.
50

1 (Laughter)
2
3 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Robert.
4
5 MR. WALKER: Thank you, Mr Chairman.
6
7 Terry, I'm looking at your ways of
8 getting your tag or permit. Could you do that on line
9 on the internet, or do you have to have your tag in
10 hand when you're out hunting?
11
12 Thank you, Mr. Chair.
13
14 MR. HAYNES: Yes, Mr. Chairman, you do
15 need to have a permit in your possession and I don't
16 believe you can obtain those on line. Like I mentioned
17 earlier, hunters can call the Department and have one
18 mailed to them, and if they don't happen to be in
19 Kotzebue or in town when our Staff are out in the
20 village.
21
22 MR. WALKER: Yeah. Terry, it's Robert
23 again. Do you have to have your tag in hand when
24 you're out hunting?
25
26 MR. HAYNES: Yes.
27
28 MR. WALKER: Okay. Thank you very
29 much.
30
31 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Any other
32 questions for Terry. Go ahead, Don.
33
34 MR. HONEA: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
35
36 Terry, this is Don Honea. I was just
37 -- because we had something on the books a few years
38 back similar to this one, could you give me the
39 justifications for opposing this again? Because the
40 reasons we had for that was that it, you know, being in
41 a depressed economy area, we didn't think that we would
42 have had to -- we didn't think it fair to have
43 everybody go ahead and get the tag or whatever, and
44 then not being able to use it, because how often do we
45 see a brown bear out there.
46
47 Thank you.
48
49 MR. HAYNES: Well, the reason for
50 having a permit in this area, the subsistence permit,

1 you know, there's no fee required so people don't have
2 to pay for the permit. And people who have the
3 subsistence permit have different requirements than
4 people who are trophy hunting. And this seemed to work
5 pretty well.

6
7 The proposal is not to do away with the
8 permit requirement, but it would simply change it from
9 a State permit to a Federal permit. So hunters out in
10 that area are not looking to do away with the permit
11 requirement. They're just trying to, in the case of
12 this proposal, Maniilaq association is wanting to have
13 a Federal permit. And so our argument is that the
14 permit requirement is important for monitoring the
15 harvest and for management purposes, and that the State
16 permit system has been in place for a number of years.
17 And we think it's more efficient for the State to
18 continue issuing permits and monitoring the harvest
19 rather than having this permit system changed so that
20 Park Service would end up doing that work. Park
21 Service doesn't have Staff out in the villages either,
22 so they would have to set up a system to visit the
23 villages. They would have to be in a position to
24 ensure that hunters have licenses before they obtain
25 permits.

26
27 And again for the small number of brown
28 bears that are being harvested in that area, about five
29 per year, it just didn't seem practical to make a big
30 change to the current permitting process.

31
32 I hope I've answered your question.

33
34 MR. HONEA: (Nods affirmatively)

35
36 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks, Terry. Does
37 that answer your question, Don? They're not required
38 to buy the \$25 tag, they're just required to have a
39 registration permit, just like a moose green tag or
40 something.

41
42 So, Vince, you've got a comment.

43
44 MR. MATHEWS: Well, it's to Terry.
45 Terry, I'm looking over the proposal real quickly here.
46 They're saying just eliminate the State permit.
47 There's no discussion that I see about establishing a
48 Federal permit, unless I'm missing something.

49
50 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yeah, Terry, that's

1 what I see here is that they're -- it's an elimination
2 of the State permit, and there's no mention of this
3 Federal permit. Where did you come up with that.

4

5 MR. HAYNES: Well, I can assure you if
6 the State permit is done away with, the Park Service is
7 going to require some paperwork. The Park Service has
8 concerns about brown bear harvest on Federal lands, and
9 their concern I think would compel them to have some
10 type of permitting process. Doing away with the State
11 permit is not going to -- I'm getting some interference
12 on the line. I don't know where it's coming from.

13

14 MR. RIVARD: Yeah, we're hearing it,
15 too, Terry.

16

17 MR. HAYNES: Anyway, I realize that is
18 not part of the proposal, but I can assure that if
19 there's movement to do away with the State permit, that
20 the Park Service will step in and require some type of
21 permit.

22

23 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay, Terry. Well,
24 that's supposition. In the Gates of the Arctic Park
25 we're allowed to hunt sheep over there and the State is
26 sending no permit requirements for our sheep reporting,
27 and so I'm working with the Park Service on coming up
28 with a system of harvest reporting in the Gates of the
29 Arctic on sheep.

30

31 That's not necessarily -- the Park
32 Service may or may not -- Unit 23 is larger and
33 encompasses lands that's aren't in the park. There are
34 some BLM land and whatnot.

35

36 Yeah, I'm personally not in favor of
37 this proposal, but we're going to continue through this
38 process here.

39

40 So we've got -- any tribal
41 organizations on line at all here, Don? Don, do we
42 have any tribal organizations from Maniilaq on line
43 here to comment?

44

45 MR. RIVARD: No, Mr. Chair.

46

47 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. And has there
48 been InterAgency Staff work on this.

49

50 MR. KESSLER: (Shakes head negatively)

1
2 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: None. So we've got
3 -- our Regional Council hasn't met in that area, the
4 Northwest has not met. Did the advisory committee come
5 up with any position on this proposal, Vince?
6
7 MR. MATHEWS: I just need to check to
8 see if Seward Pen took up this proposal. They didn't?
9
10 MR. RIVARD: No.
11
12 MR. MATHEWS: No. Okay.
13
14 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Do you know if an
15 advisory committee over there take up this proposal?
16
17 MR. RIVARD: This proposal is only
18 scheduled to go before your Council and Northwest
19 Arctic.
20
21 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. So the Gates
22 of the Arctic Subsistence Resource Commission hasn't
23 met and it did not address this proposal. And I'm not
24 sure about Kobuk Valley/Krusenstern SRC, whether
25 they've met. Do we have any information on that?
26
27 (No comments)
28
29 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: None that I see. I
30 see heads shaking. No comment from that SRC, which
31 they're intermittent on their meeting over there. And
32 so they may or may not meet for several years at a
33 time. And so the Gates of the Arctic SRC will be
34 meeting in late April. Okay.
35
36 We're up to Regional Council
37 recommendation and motion.
38
39 MR. COLLINS: Mr. Chairman, could we
40 have just a little discussion before we make a motion.
41
42 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go right ahead.
43
44 MR. COLLINS: My first inclination
45 would be to ask the Federal Board to defer this until
46 those affected Councils meet, like Gates of the Arctic
47 and the other and so on. And if they were to adopt
48 this, I think I would like to see at least a reporting
49 requirement in there so we've got the data on what the
50 data is. So in its present form I don't think I could

1 support it, and I would hate to be taking an action
2 when some of these other regional groups haven't even
3 met and discussed it, and they're more affected.

4

5 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right. Ron.

6

7 MR. SAM: I feel the same way.
8 However, I am ready to make a motion, a no action
9 motion and that this motion goes on record as a
10 deferment to the home region. And my main reason for
11 that is that if you're looking at five bears a year, I
12 don't think there's any conservation concerns or any
13 other concerns that it have any kind of major impact.
14 If you are only harvesting five bears per year, I think
15 that it can be handled reasonably and without any
16 further cost to the residents.

17

18 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So you make that as
19 a motion, Ron?

20

21 MR. SAM: Yes, that was a motion to
22 take no action with the understanding that it is more a
23 deferment to the home region than anything else.

24

25 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. A second on
26 that.

27

28 MS. PELKOLA: Second.

29

30 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Under discussion, my
31 comment is that, sitting on the Gates of the Arctic
32 Subsistence Resource Commission, I'm very aware that
33 documentation of use is very important. And I think
34 that this would be basically counterproductive to the
35 subsistence users to not have documentation, and so I
36 -- but I would like to defer this to the Regional
37 Council over there, and the advisory committees and the
38 SRC. We have people from Ambler and Shungnak on the
39 SRC.

40

41 So any further discussion on this
42 Proposal 50.

43

44 MR. WALKER: I call for the question.

45

46 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: The question has
47 been called. Those in favor of deferment signify by
48 saying aye.

49

50 IN UNISON: Aye.

1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Opposed.

2

3 (No opposing votes)

4

5 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Unanimous consent to
6 no action. So on to Proposal 51 and 54 are combined,
7 and this is another one of these. Muskrat season and
8 beavers.

9

10 (Pause)

11

12 MR. DEMATTEO: Mr. Chairman. I'm Pete
13 DeMatteo with the Office of Subsistence Management.
14 The analysis starts on Page 272.

15

16 Proposals WP07-51 and WP07-54 were
17 submitted by the Native Village of Kotzebue Council,
18 and requests creation of Federal seasons for beaver and
19 muskrat hunting in Unit 23.

20

21 The proponent requests that seasons for
22 beaver and muskrat be created to accommodate
23 subsistence hunting during the spring, summer and fall
24 for food and fur. The State has done away with the
25 beaver sealing requirement and harvest limits in Unit
26 23 because both effort and take are well below
27 sustainable hunts.

28

29 Federal Public lands comprise
30 approximately 56 percent of Unit 23. The National Park
31 Service manages 40 percent of the lands in Unit 23; the
32 Fish and Wildlife Service manages 7 percent; and the
33 Bureau of Land Management manages 9 percent.

34

35 Because there is no customary and
36 traditional use determination for beaver or muskrat
37 hunting in Unit 23, all rural residents would be
38 eligible to hunt these species if there was a Federal
39 hunting season. However, subsistence users may harvest
40 beaver and muskrat under the Federal trapping
41 regulations.

42

43 The beaver and muskrat populations are
44 considered healthy in Unit 23, therefore there are no
45 biological concerns to limit harvest for either of
46 these species.

47

48 Currently only a few subsistence,
49 recreational and professional trappers harvest
50 furbearers in Unit 23. As far as beaver, this amounts

1 to about an average of 30 beaver per year.

2

3 Adoption of the proposed hunting season
4 would meet the proponent's intent to provide more
5 opportunities for subsistence users to hunt muskrat and
6 beaver for food. If adopted, Federal and State
7 regulations would be more consistent. Subsistence
8 users would have an alternative to harvesting beaver
9 and muskrat other than under the trapping regulations.
10 Subsistence users would be allowed to take beaver and
11 muskrat with a firearm throughout Unit 23, including on
12 National Park Service lands.

13

14 Mr. Chair. The preliminary conclusion
15 for the two proposals is as follows. For Proposal 51
16 the preliminary conclusion is to support the proposal
17 to make a year-long hunting season for beaver with no
18 limit. For Proposal 54, the preliminary conclusion is
19 to support the proposal with modification to make a
20 year-long hunting season for muskrat with no limit.

21

22 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

23

24 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: All right, thanks,
25 Pete.

26

27 And one of the problems that arose is
28 that on Park Service land the Park Service does not
29 recognize harvest of furbearers with a trapping
30 license, with a rifle, free ranging. And so you need
31 to have a hunting season for furbearers to actually be
32 able to shoot them even though on a State license you
33 wouldn't. So that's where this is coming from.

34

35 So does the State have comments, Terry.

36

37 MR. HAYNES: Mr. Chairman, our comments
38 are on Page 276. And a lot of the comments are
39 basically policy issues that the Department doesn't
40 believe it's necessary to create duplicate Federal
41 regulations; however, the Federal response to that
42 usually that the State regulations would not apply to
43 the affected Park and Monument lands.

44

45 The State is also suggesting that there
46 should be customary and traditional use determinations
47 made if Federal seasons are established. And I think
48 as Pete mentioned to you in the Staff analysis that
49 there in fact is no funding in Federal regulation,
50 which means that all rural residents are qualified to

1 harvest beaver and muskrats in Unit 23. Practically
2 speaking, it's unlikely that all State residents or all
3 rural residents would plan to do that.

4

5 At the end of the day I think the
6 Department would support this proposal, because it
7 would line up the regulations.

8

9 Thank you.

10

11 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: All right. Thanks,
12 Terry.

13

14 And so do we have any -- as Maniilaq
15 has -- or no native organizations are on line to make
16 comment. Do we have any comments, Vince?

17

18 MR. MATHEWS: Well, I may be out of
19 step here. Seward Pen did take up this proposal. I
20 don't know if that's the step you're at now or not.

21

22 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yeah, we could do
23 that. The advisory committee and the Councils.

24

25 MR. MATHEWS: Yeah. I'm not connected
26 with -- it's obvious I'm not connected with the State
27 coordinator. I'm connected with Rita and I'm not
28 connected with that coordinator. I'll need to do that
29 in the future. Rita's been very good, that's the State
30 coordinator, of providing me minutes from each of the
31 committees. I'm not connected with the Northwest
32 Arctic committee.

33

34 But anyway Seward Pen did take up this
35 proposal and they support the proposal, because both
36 beaver and muskrat populations are high and few
37 subsistence users are taking these species.
38 Consequently there's not biological reason not to allow
39 greater opportunity for subsistence harvest.

40

41 Let's see. Creation of a year-long
42 hunting season for beaver and muskrat meets the
43 proponent's intent to provide subsistence users with
44 more opportunity to harvest for food.

45

46 If adopted, Federal and State
47 regulations would be more consistent, thus create less
48 confusion for hunters, encouraging participation,
49 developing trust, and improved compliance.

50

1 So they support the proposal, Seward
2 Pen.
3
4 And Northwest has not met.
5
6 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, Don.
7
8 MR. RIVARD: Just to clarify, they
9 supported the proposal as modified by Staff.
10
11 MR. MATHEWS: Yes.
12
13 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. I don't think
14 they were quite clear, that Council wasn't quite clear
15 that without a hunting season in Kobuk Valley and on
16 the Park Service lands, you could not go rat hunt
17 hunting in the springtime, and so that's what this is
18 about. Without that hunting season, you can't shoot
19 rats in the springtime. And that's why this proposal
20 is there, and I'm very in favor of this proposal.
21
22 And so we've gone through the Council's
23 recommendations. We have no advisory committee, and
24 the Gates of the Arctic Subsistence Resource Commission
25 has not met.
26
27 And do we have any other written
28 comments?
29
30 (No comments)
31
32 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: And so we're at the
33 point of Regional Council recommendation and motion.
34 Ron.
35
36 MR. SAM: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I move
37 to adopt Proposals 51 and 54 as modified by the Staff
38 recommendation, as set out under the Staff
39 recommendation.
40
41 MR. STICKMAN: I second it.
42
43 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Moved and
44 seconded. Discussion on the proposal. Ron.
45
46 MR. SAM: Just that beaver and muskrat
47 I think while they're not noted, really haven't -- I
48 mean, they can proliferate, and just like moose they
49 just start harvesting -- I think this region just
50 started harvesting these animals for subsistence use

1 just recently, too, so I believe that they will go
2 ahead and support their proposal, and that is why --
3 there is no conservation concerns either. Thank you.

4

5 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Any other comments?
6 I'll make my comments at the end.

7

8 (No comments)

9

10 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I've been on the
11 Kobuk River in the Gates of the Arctic Park/Preserve,
12 witnessed local residents shooting beavers with guns
13 for meat over there while they're up there bear hunting
14 and stuff, and so this is a very customary and
15 traditional practice to shoot muskrats. Everybody
16 hunts rats in springtime.

17

18 Park Service got crossways when they
19 made the regulations. Without any Council or committee
20 input the Park Service implemented regulations in 1981
21 that precluded harvest of free-ranging furbearers with
22 a firearm. So at the Gates of the Arctic we've had to
23 extend our bag limits on wolves and wolverines and so
24 forth so that people can be able to harvest more
25 customary and traditionally.

26

27 And so at that point, is there any
28 further comments? Do you have comments, Ray?

29

30 (No comments)

31

32 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. No further
33 discussion. Those in favor of the proposal as modified
34 by Staff for 52 and -- oh, 51 and 54, signify by saying
35 aye.

36

37 IN UNISON: Aye.

38

39 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Those opposed.

40

41 (No opposing votes)

42

43 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: It carries
44 unanimously.

45

46 On to Proposals 52 and 53. Go ahead,
47 Don.

48

49 MR. RIVARD: Pete.

50

1 MR. DEMATTEO: Mr. Chair, Pete DeMatteo
2 again.

3
4 The Proposal 52 and Proposal 53 were
5 submitted by the Native Village of Kotzebue Council,
6 and the Council requests a shortened season and removal
7 of the two fox limit for Arctic and red fox hunting in
8 Unit 23.

9
10 The proponent states that the harvest
11 limits for Arctic fox and red fox are arbitrary and too
12 small to adequately accommodate subsistence hunters.
13 This change would allow users greater opportunity for
14 subsistence harvest while they are pursuing other
15 activities such as attending fish traps, camping, or
16 observing marine mammal carcasses.

17
18 Again, Mr. Chair, a customary and
19 traditional use determination has not been made for
20 Arctic or red fox in Unit 23, therefore all rural
21 residents are eligible to hunt these species.

22
23 Both Arctic and red fox populations are
24 abundant in Unit 23. There's no biological reason to
25 limit the harvest of either Arctic or red fox.

26
27 Currently only a few subsistence,
28 recreational and professional trappers pursue
29 furbearers in Unit 23; therefore trapping is no longer
30 practiced at former high levels. Most of the harvest
31 is taken opportunistically by locals while engaged in
32 other activities.

33
34 Very little effect on either fox
35 species by removing the harvest limit. It would allow
36 increased opportunities to take both fox species if
37 this proposal -- or if these proposals were adopted.

38
39 Adoption of these proposals would
40 create three different State and Federal
41 hunting/trapping seasons, season opening dates.
42 Currently there are two.

43
44 Adoption of these proposals would also
45 change the hunting season opening dates and would
46 likely create some confusion for users.

47
48 Mr. Chair. With that, the preliminary
49 conclusions for the two proposals would be to support
50 both proposals with modification to keep the September

1 1 season opening date for both Arctic and red fox and
2 change the hunting harvest to no limit for both
3 species.

4

5 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

6

7 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Does the
8 State have comments on these, Terry.

9

10 MR. HAYNES: Our comments are on Page
11 281, and again the policy position of the Department is
12 to not create duplicate regulations.

13

14 In practice what we -- we do support
15 the preliminary conclusion with the modified -- or as
16 modified by Federal Staff to keep the season dates the
17 same in State and Federal regulation. The practical
18 effect of adopting the original proposals would be to
19 have different opening dates in the State and Federal
20 hunting regulations, and a different date than the
21 other two in the trapping regulations, so we think
22 there would be a fair amount of confusion to adopt the
23 original proposals.

24

25 So even though the State regulations
26 have a harvest limit for Arctic fox and red fox, it's
27 my understanding from talking to our Staff in Kotzebue
28 that we're not -- if there's a no limit harvest limit
29 set in Federal regulations, that we don't anticipate
30 that to create any biological problems. So we would
31 support the proposals as modified in the preliminary
32 conclusion.

33

34 Thank you.

35

36 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: All right. Thanks,
37 Terry.

38

39 Do we have any advisory committee or
40 Regional Council positions on these.

41

42 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, Mr. Chairman. The
43 Seward Pen unanimously supported the proposal as
44 modified by Staff. They feel the populations are high
45 and few subsistence users are taking these species, so
46 there's no biological concern. Maintaining the same
47 September 1 opening date simplifies regulations, thus
48 creates less confusion. So Seward Pen unanimously
49 supported as modified by Staff.

50

1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Any written
2 comments otherwise.
3
4 (No comments)
5
6 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. We are up to
7 Regional Council recommendation and motion.
8
9 MR. COLLINS: Move adoption as modified
10 by Staff.
11
12 MR. SAM: Second.
13
14 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Discussion on the
15 proposal. It's basically the same type of proposal as
16 the beaver and muskrat hunting season that allows
17 subsistence to harvest free-ranging furbearers with a
18 firearm on the Park lands. And the reason why I can
19 see the proponent is wanting October 1, the foxes
20 aren't any good the 1st of September. It's basically a
21 sport harvest date, but subsistence users aren't going
22 to harvest fox when they're not prime or anything. So
23 that's aligning with the Federal Staff recommendation
24 is basically moot.
25
26 So any further discussion. Ron.
27
28 MR. SAM: Yeah. I'd just like to go on
29 record that we are not trying to put words in the
30 Northwest Arctic's mouth, or trying to do away with
31 their intents. It's just that to provide that earlier
32 date, just to reiterate what Jack said, as long as that
33 opportunity is there, it doesn't mean that they will
34 overkill or anything else. And we are not putting
35 words in their mouth doing that.
36
37 MR. STICKMAN: Call for the question.
38
39 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Those in favor of
40 adoption of Proposals 52 and 53 as modified signify by
41 saying aye.
42
43 IN UNISON: Aye.
44
45 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Opposed.
46
47 (No opposing votes)
48
49 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Unanimous approval
50 of those proposals.

1 We're to Proposal 59. Don.

2

3 MR. RIVARD: Thank you, Mr. Chair. The
4 analysis for Proposal WP07-59 begins on Page 283 in
5 your book.

6

7 This proposal, submitted by the Eastern
8 Interior Alaska Subsistence Regional Advisory Council
9 requests that the closing dates of the wolf hunting
10 season in Units 12, 20, and 25 be changed from April
11 30th to May 31st. The proposed regulatory change would
12 provide an additional 31 days for Federally-qualified
13 subsistence users to harvest wolves.

14

15 This is before you because residents of
16 Units 19, 21 and 24 among other units have customary
17 and traditional use determination for at least portions
18 of these three units that are in the -- that are being
19 affected.

20

21 The proponent wants to provide
22 additional opportunity for subsistence hunters to
23 harvest wolves in the Eastern Interior region
24 incidental to spring bear hunts and to align with State
25 regulations, which already have the requested extended
26 season.

27

28 This is a resubmittal of Proposal WP06-
29 64 from last year by the same proponent. WP06-64 was
30 rejected by the Federal Subsistence Board in May 2006,
31 stating that extending the hunting season for wolves
32 into the time when wolves have pups in the den is,
33 quote, contrary to sound wildlife management
34 principles, unquote.

35

36 However, the proponent submitted this
37 proposal, No. 59, because of the belief that the effect
38 of an extended season would be expected to be minimal
39 on pups as the increase in wolf harvest would likely be
40 small. The harvest would likely be of animals other
41 than the alpha female, as those other animals range out
42 farther and would be moving about more and more exposed
43 to hunters than the alpha female. And that's coming
44 from the proponent.

45

46 You see the existing Federal
47 regulations and the proposed Federal Regulations on
48 Page 283 and the existing State regulation on Page 284.

49

50 And there's been a long history here

1 we've got documented on -- you can see on Pages 284 --
2 or 285 and 286. So you can see how it's been changed
3 over the years.

4
5 In the fall of 2005, the proponent
6 submitted parallel proposals to the Federal Subsistence
7 Board and the Alaska Board of Game to allow wolf
8 hunting in Units 12, 20 and 25 during the proposed 31-
9 day season extension. The Alaska Board of Game adopted
10 this 31-day extension during it's March 2006 meeting,
11 explicitly for the purpose of providing opportunity to
12 reduce wolf populations for the benefit of ungulates.

13
14 The Alaska Department of Fish and Game
15 recommendation to the Board of Game at that time, which
16 was Proposal 120, was do not adopt because of the poor
17 quality of hides in May, the negative effects of
18 hunting wolves when pups are in a den, and because the
19 extended season would not result in a significant
20 reduction in the number of wolves, and would have
21 little effect on moose survival and recruitment.

22
23 Despite these comments by the ADF&G,
24 the Alaska Board of Game approved the extended season
25 after several Board members expressed their intent to
26 facilitate the reduction of wolf populations to benefit
27 moose and caribou populations. In other words,
28 predator control

29
30 The Federal Subsistence Board, aware of
31 the State's actions last year, went ahead and rejected
32 Proposal 64 during its May 2006 meeting, and I already
33 said why they did that, because they thought it was
34 contrary to sound wildlife management principles.

35
36 Wolves throughout the Eastern Interior
37 region, these three units in question, and their
38 populations are generally considered to be healthy.
39 However, it should be noted that the wolf population is
40 now at an all-time low in the Yukon-Charley Rivers
41 National Preserve. And you can see that from Table 1
42 on Page 288, how the trend is downward.

43
44 Wolves are an important subsistence
45 resource for rural Alaskans. Hunters and trappers
46 continue the tradition of harvesting the economically
47 and culturally significant wolf resource.

48
49 Most of the annual wolf harvest occurs
50 between November and March when all harvest methods are

1 allowed, and is usually incidental to moose, caribou
2 and Dall sheep hunting activities.

3

4 Over the years there have been a number
5 of intensive wolf management programs in parts of the
6 Eastern Interior regions, and these programs have
7 contributed to the overall wolf harvest levels in the
8 unit.

9

10 Effects of the proposal, as we said,
11 some of the wolf populations in Units 12, 20, and 25
12 have a harvestable surplus, and likely can support
13 additional harvest that may occur during the proposed
14 season extension, the exception being the Yukon-Charley
15 Rivers National Preserve population.

16

17 This proposal seeks to extend the
18 hunting season to May 31st when wolves shed their fur
19 and the hides are in sub prime condition. Any person
20 taking a wolf for subsistence uses must salvage the
21 hide. At its winter 2005 meetings, both the Eastern
22 and Western Interior Regional Advisory Councils
23 observed that the fur from wolves taken in late summer
24 and fall is sought after for subsistence use.

25

26 Currently rural residents may harvest
27 wolves during May on the affected Federal lands,
28 including National Park Service preserve land under
29 State regulations. This proposal, if adopted, would
30 provide for this extended opportunity on National Park
31 Service managed lands in Units 12 and 20.

32

33 the preliminary conclusion is to oppose
34 the proposal. Again it's for the same reasons as last
35 year. It's contrary to sound wildlife management
36 principles. And it should be noted that again that if
37 Federally-qualified subsistence users wish to take
38 wolves during the month of May, they can still do it
39 under State regulations, except on National Park
40 Service park lands.

41

42 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

43

44 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: And the State has
45 comments on that, Terry?

46

47 MR. HAYNES: Yes, Mr. Chairman, on Page
48 292 of your meeting book.

49

50 And Don mentioned when this proposal

1 was before the Federal Board last year, the Department
2 did not support it, because of the concern about the
3 quality of wolf pelts of wolves taken in the month of
4 May. And the Eastern Interior Regional Council's
5 response was that uses can be made of those hides, you
6 know, for sewing and other home uses, so that if wolves
7 were taken during the month of May, they would not be
8 wasted.

9

10 We don't believe it's necessary to
11 establish a longer season in Federal regulation,
12 because for the most part the State season extending
13 through the end of May is available to Federally-
14 qualified subsistence users except on National Park
15 lands in Units 12 and 20, which are apparently a small
16 part of Unit 12, and in Unit 20 it would take in
17 portions of Denali National Park. But we don't think
18 it's necessary to establish this Federal season, but
19 that is in part because we have a State season that
20 would be available to most rural residents.

21

22 Thank you.

23

24 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: All right. Thanks,
25 Terry.

26

27 Do you have any -- go ahead, Robert.

28

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

30

31 Terry, this is Robert Walker. In your
32 ADF&G comments here, there's nothing about predation
33 here. You're talking about conservation, not
34 predation, and one of the things that we've been trying
35 to work with all through our area is how we could
36 sustain the yield of wolves here to maintain a balance
37 between us, them and the moose. And you don't mention
38 this in here. Do you have a reason why you didn't
39 mention this?

40

41 MR. HAYNES: Robert, we recognize that
42 the Federal regulations need to accommodate subsistence
43 uses, and Federal Staff there can speak to you about
44 the Federal Board's position on predator management.
45 When we look at Federal proposals, we're looking to see
46 if the proposals are providing opportunities for
47 subsistence uses.

48

49 The State regulations as you know are
50 not limited in their scope. We don't have to look at

1 whether or not a regulation is providing only
2 subsistence uses. The Board of Game has the ability
3 to, as it did in this case, extend wolf seasons into
4 the month of May in order to provide more harvest
5 opportunity that isn't necessarily a subsistence use.

6
7 So in looking at the Federal proposals,
8 we have to evaluate whether or not they are providing a
9 subsistence opportunity, and that was why we raised
10 questions about the quality of pelts of wolves that are
11 taken during the month of May, and whether or not that
12 would be providing opportunity for subsistence use or
13 not.

14
15 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, Robert.

16
17 MR. WALKER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
18 Yes, you just convinced me I'm going to have to vote in
19 favor of this here, because it is subsistence, and it
20 is predation also, so this is going to work. I
21 appreciated your comment there, Terry. Thank you.

22
23 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So do we have any --
24 Eastern hasn't met yet on this proposal. Did the
25 advisory committees take this up over there?

26
27 MR. MATHEWS: No. Southcentral would
28 be the other one that would be taking this up, and they
29 have not met yet. We do have written comments though
30 other than that. And as far as I know, none of the
31 advisory committees have taken this up, the State
32 advisory committees.

33
34 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. I guess
35 InterAgency Staff or Committee?

36
37 MR. KESSLER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
38 Steve Kessler with the InterAgency Staff Committee.

39
40 And I'd like just to point you to Page
41 290 under the preliminary conclusion, second paragraph
42 from the end. The Federal Subsistence Board policy is
43 to not promulgate regulations specifically for predator
44 control. Although this proposal does not state
45 predator control as an objective, parallel action by
46 the Alaska Board of Game was recently requested by the
47 proponent and was adopted specifically to reduce
48 predator populations.

49
50 So I would anticipate the Federal

1 Subsistence Board would see this as a predator
2 management proposal and would not be included to adopt
3 it.

4
5 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: All right. Thanks,
6 Steve.

7
8 So you have written -- go ahead, Ron.

9
10 MR. SAM: Yes. Who moved all those
11 wolves from Yukon-Charley to Allakaket and Alatna and
12 Bettles? Is that a cause for major concern for the
13 decline in population over there? Or who did that
14 anyway?

15
16 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Do you want to
17 answer that, Steve?

18
19 MR. KESSLER: I have no answer for
20 that.

21
22 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: My understanding of
23 that, Ron is that Tim or Craig Gardner was the area
24 biologist up there in Tok, and he came into Wiseman and
25 wondered about dumping off wolves around there, and
26 they dumped some out at Coldfoot. A pack of wolves like
27 appeared in the middle in the middle of -- inside of
28 where I trap, and I found out they'd let them go at
29 Coldfoot. They took off going southeast. They let
30 some go at Atqasuk, and I caught some of those coming
31 -- they go straight home, and they brought diseases
32 down from the Arctic. They caught rabies and distemper
33 and stuff up there. some of them died down there. And
34 I told them, you know -- and they sent them right
35 through the Yukon Flats, a low density moose
36 population, and I said, you guys have got to quit
37 lining these wolves up on these moose populations that
38 are on the rocks, you know, and so -- they're looking
39 to get rid of them. That was several years ago now,
40 and they haven't done that any more. But I did get one
41 really nice black one out of those.

42
43 Go ahead there, Robert.

44
45 MR. WALKER: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

46
47 Steve, this is directed at you. Back
48 in the 40s and 30s here the Federal Government had a
49 predator control at one time when they were offering a
50 bounty of \$50. And also it was legal to use bait with

1 arsenic to poison them, and this went on for quite a
2 while. And now the Federal Government's saying that
3 we're not allowing anything with predator control when
4 they did have a policy back in the 40s? Because I
5 remember my uncles. In fact, there was a U.S. Fish and
6 Wildlife officer, his name was Ray Trembly, and when we
7 talked to him back in the '60s after he retired, he
8 would tell us these stories about up the Innoko River
9 where they'd drop off hundreds of moose tallow or beef
10 tallow with arsenic in there just to poison the wolves.
11 And actually what happened, my uncles went through the
12 area, they found like dead foxes, dead wolverine that
13 would pick these up here. And this is something that
14 I'm just kind of astounded here that what they did, and
15 now they say that we can't do this. You know, to align
16 ourselves here, what happened to our forefathers, you
17 know, not to do what our forefathers have done. You
18 know, I'm -- and this is kind of taking me aback here,
19 because -- you know, maybe you could say something to
20 this here, or just let it lay as it is, but this is
21 what happened in the 40s.

22

23 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

24

25 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Steve.

26

27 MR. KESSLER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
28 Mr. Walker. The policy is specifically for the Federal
29 Subsistence Board as regards Title VIII of ANILCA.
30 That's not the policy -- that does not mean that
31 individual agencies can't allow predator control on the
32 Federal lands. And each of the different agencies has
33 their own policies. But it's not -- this is something
34 that it's not through the Federal Subsistence Board.
35 So we would need to talk to each of the individual
36 agencies for the lands that you're concerned with. And
37 by those discussions with those agencies, predator
38 control may be quite acceptable.

39

40 I don't have the Board's predator
41 control policy in front of me. I do have it in my
42 computer if desired. But essentially what it says, the
43 Federal Subsistence Board cannot take -- will not take
44 predator control on. That's left to the individual
45 agencies.

46

47 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Ron.

48

49 MR. SAM: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I
50 intend to support this proposal, because this has the

1 same ramifications as Proposal 52 and 53. It does
2 provide for more opportunities to Federally-qualified
3 subsistence users, but then again I do not see any
4 abuse coming from these people. They will not
5 overharvest, they will not hunt and trap wolves that
6 early just because the opportunity is there. It will
7 be more -- it will be so far and few between wolves
8 being harvested in this extended period.

9

10 Thank you.

11

12 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Vince.

13

14 MR. MATHEWS: Well, Mr. Chairman, I'm
15 just bringing this up as factual, because this proposal
16 was up before you the last round, Proposal 64, and you
17 opposed the proposal, this exact same proposal. You
18 opposed it, because felt that extending the wolf season
19 in the month of May may be considered a wasteful
20 practice. And that the hides were of poor quality, and
21 there was concern that taking wolves during that time
22 period, there may be concern about wolf pup survival.
23 Just so you know that the Board already knows of your
24 previous position. It doesn't mean you can't change
25 it, but whoever goes to the Board obviously is going to
26 be asked by some what changed from the last time you
27 had this to this time.

28

29 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right. Carl.

30

31 MR. MORGAN: Yeah. I kind of feel
32 frustrated here. If we vote for this, and vote in
33 favor of this, it is a moot vote, because the Federal
34 Board don't have the power to implement predator
35 control I heard it's up to the individual agencies and
36 the individual agencies are controlled by D.C. And I
37 think we'll never see predator control in Federal land.
38 So I think the Federal Board is powerless in this
39 issue, and they've got their hands tied.

40

41 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Robert.

42

43 MR. WALKER: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
44 Just for clarification, I brought this up, because this
45 was a policy at one time, because Alaska was a
46 territory. It was under Federal management. So it's
47 just a reminder here as to, you know, when we do what
48 our forefathers have done, it could reflect back on us
49 later. But I am in favor of it.

50

1 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

2

3 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: One point of concern
4 is this Yukon-Charley wolf population has declined. I
5 mean, they're down quite a bit. It's not like they've
6 got an over-abundance at Yukon-Charley, and that's the
7 primary conservation unit that this would benefit the
8 users of, around Eagle.

9

10 I've heard from people in Eagle that
11 they were not -- you know, they were just shooting the
12 tar out of their wolves up there, and they're not
13 really into that, because basically when the guys are
14 trapping, their wolves are getting killed off. So
15 there is.....

16

17 This is so far out. The primary
18 benefit of this is so far away from our region that
19 we're talking about somebody else's country really, and
20 so I'm a little bit concerned about -- that the
21 wildlife -- Yukon Flats and Arctic National Wildlife
22 Refuge, they didn't have comment to the Council. They
23 don't even have a position on this. The agencies would
24 be then the ones who would basically be the controlling
25 factor to implement wolf control, and so I would have
26 liked to have had an agency comment from -- Wenona.

27

28 MS. BROWN: Yeah. Thank you, Mr.
29 Chair. For the record, Wenona Brown from Yukon Flats
30 and Arctic National Wildlife Refuges.

31

32 As pointed out in the Staff
33 justification, it's moot on refuge lands, because
34 they're not closed, and you could hunt there under
35 State regulations. So the refuge Staff, you know, just
36 -- it's basically moot as far as needing to be codified
37 into Federal regulations.

38

39 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right. So the
40 primary beneficiary would be the subsistence users
41 basically up there at Eagle that would hunt in the
42 Yukon-Charley. That would be the primary conservation
43 unit, and maybe down towards -- in Unit 12. But that's
44 far, far away from our region, and I feel kind of
45 uncomfortable myself about muddying up the waters for
46 them. I would be more inclined to take no action on
47 this proposal and let -- or, you know, because we're
48 basically swapping positions from what we did last
49 year. So we're not going to look too -- that's going
50 to look kind of bad for our Council, you know, to be

1 waffling around like that. I feel that we took a
2 position last year. Let Eastern take their position,
3 and no action this year would be probably the best
4 course for this Council. But that's my opinion.

5
6 And you had some written comment there,
7 Vince.

8
9 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, Mr. Chairman.

10
11 The AHTNA 'Tene Nene' Subsistence
12 Commission took this up, and it's on Page 292, and they
13 support the proposal for a long season in Unit 12.
14 That's the Wrangell Tetlin Refuge area from August 10th
15 through May 31st. And it's printed wrong in your book.
16 It should be May 31st, not May 3rd. To allow
17 Federally-qualified subsistence users to have a longer
18 season for wolves. We have too many wolves in Unit 12,
19 and the population of wolves needs to be reduced so
20 they will not take too many calves of moose and
21 caribou. So that's what the Ahtna Tene Committee had.

22
23 I don't know of any others. I believe
24 I have Upper Tanana Fortymile Advisory Committee
25 minutes, and they didn't take up this proposal to my
26 knowledge.

27
28 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So the beneficiaries
29 would be the people down around the Wrangell-St. Elias
30 and the Yukon-Charley, and that's so far inside of
31 Eastern -- I mean, that's eastern Eastern Interior. I
32 feel very uncomfortable taking a position on this
33 proposal myself. You know, if we were on a blank
34 sheet, we took a position last year, and so somebody's
35 going to have to go defend why we're changing that
36 position, and that would probably be either me or
37 somebody up here in the front. So I don't like being
38 stuck in that position at the Federal Board.

39
40 All right. We're coming to a point of
41 a motion on the proposal. Go ahead, Ron.

42
43 MR. SAM: Before we come to a motion,
44 I'd just like to go on record that while the Feds do
45 not instigate predator control, I'd just like to go on
46 record that where the State does have predator control,
47 an active airborne predator control system in place,
48 I'm just sick and tired of hearing every night in the
49 news, nightly news, that these poor residents out there
50 have a predator control system in place, I'd just like

1 to go on record that I think that I honestly believe
2 that these predator control systems or areas that are
3 in place are to protect mostly for the outside
4 sporthunters than the rural residents. And I think
5 that I just wanted to go on record as stating that.

6

7 Thank you.

8

9 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks, Ron. I
10 appreciate that clarity.

11

12 Is there any other discussion. I have
13 one more. Don, go ahead.

14

15 MR. RIVARD: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Don
16 Rivard.

17

18 I just wanted to remind the Council
19 that the proponent never stated that this was for
20 predator control. You've been debating this, and then
21 we brought it up, but it's not a predator control
22 proposal per se. Thank you.

23

24 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right. Any other
25 discussion on the proposal? I have one more comment on
26 it. Carl.

27

28 MR. MORGAN: Yeah. I'm a little -- you
29 know, I feel for these people, but, you know, it is so
30 far away. I am in favor of predator control. We have
31 deferred action on one, two, three, four, five, six,
32 seven, eight proposals, because it was so far away. It
33 was, and their respective Councils did not meet yet.
34 And I'm, you know, torn. I am in favor of predator
35 control. but we've already taken no action on these
36 other items that, you know, I'm in favor, but I just
37 want to say I'm in favor again, but we've already took
38 no action, so I may have to vote no on this until the
39 other RACs meet.

40

41 MR. COLLINS: I have a motion, and then
42 we.....

43

44 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: We have a -- you
45 want to make a motion on the proposal.

46

47 MR. COLLINS: Mr. Chairman, I would
48 move no action to be consistent with our previous
49 action, because this is further away than the ones we
50 already deferred, some of those were closer to us. So

1 I move no action.
2
3 MR. STICKMAN: I second.
4
5 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Moved and seconded.
6
7
8 Discussion on that.
9
10 (No comments)
11
12 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I feel that pushing
13 on an issue that we've taken a position on is counter-
14 productive to this Council, that when we really want
15 credibility, if we really do need predator control,
16 like around Allakaket or some place, it's better to
17 have -- maintain a credibility for this Council. And
18 so I feel that the Eastern Interior can deal with this
19 with the Federal Board, but no action is appropriate
20 for this Council.
21
22 And so those in favor of the motion
23 signify by saying aye.
24
25 IN UNISON: Aye.
26
27 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Those opposed.
28
29 MR. WALKER: Aye. For the record, I'm
30 Robert Walker, I oppose.
31
32 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So one opposed. And
33 so we're probably to a break now. It's 10:20 Come
34 back for 10 minutes.
35
36 (Off record)
37
38 (On record)
39
40 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: We probably should
41 start again. It's 10:45, 10:40. Something.
42
43 So we went through these Mulchatna
44 Caribou Herd things yesterday.
45
46 And we were to get an update from the
47 Board of Game, and what happened with our caribou
48 recommendation. Just kind of a briefing on what -- if
49 that was all transmitted and all that.
50

1 MR. MATHEWS: Well, Pete is connected
2 with our liaison. And our liaison's going to call Pete
3 up if the Board of Game takes up the proposals while
4 you're in session.

5
6 As far as this other item down here,
7 wildlife planning efforts, Terry may be able to update
8 on it, but it's obvious Randy Roger's not going to make
9 this meeting. So he may want to speak on planning or
10 not. It's just available there for Terry to speak or
11 if Randy is there.

12
13 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So did you have any
14 comments on these updates, Terry?

15
16 MR. HAYNES: Mr. Chairman, let me go
17 down and see if Randy is available. He's been tied up,
18 but I can see if he could come down and give you a
19 short update if you'd like. It will take me just a
20 minute. And if you want to go on to some other
21 business, I'll chime in when I find out if Randy's
22 available.

23
24 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yeah, we have this
25 Council composition thing next on the agenda here, so
26 we might move on to that. So go ahead, Don.

27
28 MR. RIVARD: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Don
29 Rivard with the Office of Subsistence Management.

30
31 This topic is covered in your book on
32 Page 293. And there's subsequent to that, on Pages 294
33 through 296 there's all the summary of written public
34 comments that we got on Council composition.

35
36 In 2003 the Secretary of the Interior
37 amended the Council charters to stipulate that Council
38 members would represent either subsistence or
39 commercial-slash-sport users. It also set a goal of 30
40 percent representation of commercial and sport users on
41 each Council. And again this was a goal, not an
42 absolute number.

43
44 The Secretary also set Council
45 membership numbers at either 10 or 13. The Southeast
46 Council, the Southcentral Council and the Yukon-
47 Kuskokwim Delta Council all have 13 members. The rest
48 have 10.

49
50 And it allowed three years to

1 completely implement this new system.

2

3 In August 2006 the court ordered the
4 Board to stop using the 70/30 system at the end of that
5 calendar year, and to promptly begin developing a plan
6 for balanced membership that will meet both ANILCA and
7 FACA requirements. The judge said that the Board had
8 not provided enough justification for choosing the
9 70/30 measure of balancing Council representation.

10

11 So in response to that, the Office of
12 Subsistence Management promptly published a request for
13 public comment, a copy of that which is included in
14 your book. It sent out news releases requesting public
15 comment. And again the summary of these comments are
16 in your book on Pages 294 through 296.

17

18 The Board now seeks the Council's
19 official recommendations regarding Council membership.
20 As you develop your Council recommendations, please
21 consider the following. FACA says that the points of
22 view represented on the Council must be balanced with
23 the functions to be performed by the Council. And a
24 list of the Council functions is also included in your
25 book.

26

27 The court said that a fairly balanced
28 Regional Council. excuse me, must include consumptive
29 users of fish and wildlife on public lands other than
30 subsistence users, because those users are directly
31 affected by the subsistence priority, and that not
32 every user group needs to be represented on the
33 Councils to provide a balanced membership. The court
34 also said that while 70/30 is one way of meeting FACA
35 requirements, the Board should consider other ways of
36 achieving balanced membership on the Councils. The
37 judge said, quote, if ever there was a situation that
38 called for thinking outside the box, this is it,
39 unquote.

40

41 In summary, the Board and Secretaries
42 must be able to show that they have considered points
43 of view represented by other consumptive users of fish
44 and wildlife as well as subsistence users when
45 recommending and appointing Council members. And we're
46 asking you to help us to figure out how that can best
47 be done.

48

49 So that's my presentation, and we're
50 open to hearing what your Council has to say. The

1 Federal Board is seeking your recommendations. You
2 don't necessarily have to focus on the 70/30 number.
3 You can -- you're open to whatever.

4
5 So thank you.

6
7 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Thanks for
8 that overview.

9
10 Does the State have comments on this
11 composition, Terry? Or I guess he took off.

12
13 MR. HAYNES: Mr. Chairman. The
14 Department has commented on this proposal. Our written
15 comments are on Page -- summarized on Page 294 and part
16 of 295. And I'll not say anything beyond the fact that
17 we've offered some ideas that that we don't know that
18 Councils need to have the same type of representation
19 in each region, because you have differences in users
20 and uses in each region.

21
22 One idea was to consider modelling the
23 Councils after the National Park Service Subsistence
24 Resource Commissions and have appointments made by
25 different bodies. If there could be a way of having
26 State advisory committees be a part of that process of
27 deciding who should be on the Councils.

28
29 And beyond that, you know, we're just
30 interested in Councils fairly reflecting the uses and
31 the activities that occur in their region, and to do as
32 you do, and that is to, you know, carefully evaluate
33 proposals and issues, and make the best recommendations
34 you can.

35
36 So with that, I'll not say any more,
37 Mr. Chairman, unless you have questions.

38
39 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay, Terry. Any
40 Council members have questions of the State.

41
42 (No comments)

43
44 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Seeing none. Do you
45 have these written comments from tribal -- the tribal
46 groups? Go ahead, Vince.

47
48 MR. MATHEWS: Now, the written comments
49 on 294, 295 and 296, I'm not prepared to summarize
50 them. They're actually there. Real quickly there

1 seems to be, you know, some that are in support of some
2 percentage and others that are against. You have them
3 all in front of you on that.

4

5 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right.

6

7 MR. MATHEWS: And then I think Steve
8 Kessler has, when you want it, I'm not saying this is
9 the time for it, what other Regional Councils have done
10 on this topic.

11

12 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Is there any native
13 organizations here that would like to comment on the
14 70/30 split.

15

16 (No comments)

17

18 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So Council
19 positions.

20

21 MR. KESSLER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
22 I've got a few things, and part of it responds actually
23 to the discussion we had just before this meeting.

24

25 One of the things that I do want to
26 point out to you is what the actual language is
27 currently in regulation. And because actually I don't
28 see it in the Federal Register notice, which is on Page
29 298. And the actual language, and I'm reading from the
30 Codified Regulations right now, is as follows.

31

32 To ensure that each Council represents
33 a diversity of interests, the Board will strive to
34 ensure, strive to ensure, that 70 percent of the
35 members represent subsistence interests within a
36 region, and 30 percent of the members represent
37 commercial and sport interests within a region. The
38 point being is that it is a strive to ensure, it's not
39 an absolute 70/30.

40

41 Now, with that, let me to ahead and
42 give you what the Councils that have met so far, the
43 positions that they've taken.

44

45 The Southeast Council met and they
46 continue to support their letter that they sent to the
47 Federal Subsistence Board. You will see that
48 summarized on Page 296, near the top of the page. They
49 did not modify that recommendation at all.

50

1 Bristol Bay Regional Advisory Council
2 said that 70/30 as is currently in regulation seems to
3 work, and they can't think of anything better.

4
5 The Seward Peninsula Regional Advisory
6 Council made no recommendation.

7
8 And the Kodiak/Aleutians Regional
9 Advisory Council also made no recommendation, but they
10 also said that they felt the system in place works for
11 the Council. They don't want to get locked into hard
12 numbers. They felt there should be a diverse makeup of
13 Council members along with geographic diversity. The
14 Council would like to see the suggestions from other
15 regions. So they made no recommendations, but it does
16 appear that they're also not interested in having hard
17 numbers.

18
19 So those are the four Regional Advisory
20 Councils that have met before you.

21
22 And I'm sitting also -- I'll just stay
23 up here at the table. I've been pretty heavily
24 involved in this, I'm quite familiar with the Federal
25 Register notice. As a matter of fact, you'll see my
26 signature on the end of it on the one that's on 298
27 through 301. So if I can be helpful to you in any way,
28 I'd like to do that.

29
30 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. The various
31 Council members have expressed interest in this issue.
32 And this Council's been fairly vocal on this issue
33 since its inception by the Assistant Secretary of
34 Interior, and so we'll have Council discussion on this
35 issue.

36
37 I would like this Council to make as
38 many comments as possible about our feelings on this
39 issue so we're open for that. Anybody have comments.
40 Mickey.

41
42 MR. STICKMAN: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
43 You know, we did have a commercial user on the Board
44 here, and he resigned. So, I mean, I think as far as
45 following the Code of Federal Regulations, we've been
46 trying, but it's not our fault that they choose to
47 resign or they choose not to apply. I mean, as far as
48 far as following the Code of Federal Regulations, I
49 think we've been doing all we can as a group to follow
50 the letter of the law, or as it's called anyway. But

1 we can't force people to -- I mean, we've always had
2 the understanding out there that the word welcome, but,
3 I mean, what else can we do.

4
5 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right. Any other
6 comments.

7
8 MR. KESSLER: Mr. Chairman.

9
10 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead.

11
12 MR. KESSLER: Mr. Chairman. Just sort
13 of maybe in response to Mr. Stickman, the Board has
14 been operating under this 70/30 representation, let's
15 just call it a goal, but recognizes that there are
16 times that there's just not enough of one or the other
17 category. What the Board has been doing is if there's
18 not enough sport or commercial applicants, generally
19 the Board has just been filling those seats with
20 subsistence applicants. They're not doing the -- they
21 have not been doing the opposite though. So if, for
22 instance, if there are not enough subsistence
23 applicants, and there would be too many
24 commercial/sport, so there would be too many
25 commercial/sport people over the 70/30, generally they
26 have just left those seats vacant, because the feeling
27 is that you've got to have a preponderance of people
28 with that subsistence representation on the Councils,
29 or it's better not to have a full Council. So mostly I
30 think that that's been a problem in Southcentral, and I
31 think we've had the problem also in Bristol Bay, but I
32 really don't remember very well.

33
34 So, you know, we do what we can to
35 encourage applicants from both types of sets, but we
36 will always strive to have a preponderance of
37 subsistence users. That's under the current
38 regulation. Of course, we now don't actually -- can't
39 implement that regulation until we go through this
40 process as the courts have required of us.

41
42 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Ron.

43
44 MR. SAM: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I've
45 been trying to recollect throughout our operations, and
46 when this Council composition came up. I can't
47 remember if we deliberated on this formally or not, or
48 on the floor or not, but at one time I can remember
49 concerns of this council to go with 80/20, 80 percent
50 subsistence and 20 percent commercial interests. At

1 one time we did have 10 members and we had 2 commercial
2 people on board. And it seemed to me that that was the
3 only statement that we ever made, or formal statement
4 that we made, that we were going to keep it 80/20, 80
5 percent subsistence and 20 percent commercial
6 interests.

7

8 And I cannot recollect anything else,
9 because I'm trying to put this into perspective,
10 because at that time the composition of the Council --
11 when the composition of the Council came up we were
12 looking at the composition all residents in our area
13 and Western Interior is all rural and pretty much all
14 Federally-qualified subsistence users. And I think
15 that's why we came up with that 80 percent subsistence
16 and 20 percent subsistence.

17

18 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

19

20 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks, Ron.

21

22 Do we have any other Council comments.
23 Ray.

24

25 MR. COLLINS: Yeah. I think it's
26 useful like when we did have the one fellow on here to
27 have that kind of input when they're available. But
28 our challenge has also been to keep -- we're a big area
29 and it's really valuable to have representatives from
30 throughout our area on both the Kuskokwim and so on.
31 So we need to maintain that. And I'm glad that the
32 Board -- or the Secretary of Interior not leaving seats
33 open. I think when there are applicants that meet the
34 criteria, we should seek to have someone sit on here.
35 But I don't think there should be an 80/20. In other
36 words, I wouldn't want to see them leave seats open
37 just because there are no commercial applicants. I'm
38 glad that they're filling those with regional.

39

40 And I think because of the heavy
41 subsistence in our area, probably an 80/20 would be the
42 -- if you had to come to that, no more than 80/20 would
43 provide some balance, because of the heavy subsistence
44 users. But I'm glad they're not leaving seats open
45 when they're not available. Yeah.

46

47 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Mickey, did you have
48 another comment?

49

50 MR. STICKMAN: Yeah. My last comment

1 is, isn't there a lawsuit challenging that 70/30
2 composition, too, with the Native American Rights Fund?

3

4 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, Steve.

5

6 MR. KESSLER: Yes, there is a lawsuit
7 challenging, and that's what we're responding to right
8 now. We're under a District Court order to provide the
9 reasons why 70/30 should be in place, some other way to
10 ensure that we're meeting that diversity of interests
11 that FACA requires.

12

13 I also would like to maybe correct
14 something. I may have misspoken earlier. The Federal
15 Subsistence Board is the one, is the entity that goes
16 through and evaluates all the applications and then the
17 Federal Subsistence Board makes recommendations to the
18 Secretaries of the Interior and Agriculture. So the
19 Federal Subsistence Board does not make the selections.
20 It's the Secretaries that do. And I may have misspoken,
21 but something Ray said made me remember that I need to
22 remind you of that.

23

24 So this direction actually from the
25 courts is to the Secretaries, but, of course, the
26 Secretaries have tasked the Federal Subsistence Board
27 to make a recommendation on any changed regulations for
28 them to take on.

29

30 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Thanks.
31 You've got something there, Vince?

32

33 MR. MATHEWS: Yes. For Jenny, since
34 she's just new to the Council, these members that
35 declare themselves to be commercial, they weren't bound
36 to just vote commercial. They could cover all the
37 issues, and they had to have a grounding and knowledge
38 of subsistence. So it wasn't like -- I can't think of
39 an example, where the person can only vote in light of
40 that interest or only on those issues that directly
41 relate to it.

42

43 The other question I have is for Steve,
44 because I've been kind of out of the picture on this,
45 is did the work on this discuss anything on what is
46 considered the qualifications for commercial? Could a
47 person who just buys a sport fishing license then be
48 considered commercial?

49

50 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, Steve.

1 MR. KESSLER: Mr. Chairman. How this
2 works is sort of interesting, and how it has worked is
3 probably as probably all of you know, because you've
4 put your applications in, and on the application you
5 have to just check off are you applying or a
6 subsistence seat, or for a commercial-slash-sports
7 seat. And it's really for you to decide which type of
8 seat that you're applying for. And the Federal Board
9 or Staff, we don't go through and say, okay, now this
10 person really should have applied as something else.
11 We may think that, but you applied for what you did.
12 So, you know, you picked the way you want to apply.

13
14 There was another part of your question
15 though I think, Vince.

16
17 MR. MATHEWS: Well, what I'm toying
18 with here is, is that basically people self-declare if
19 they're commercial or subsistence. So just for
20 conversation here, if any of you buy a sport fishing
21 license, you could declare you're commercial, is what
22 I'm trying to get at. And then I don't know if they've
23 discussed this, because in your region and mainly in
24 your region that I deal with, I know people are
25 commercial, but they don't want to say that they're
26 commercial, because they -- their core value is they're
27 subsistence users. So we don't get many applicants
28 saying they're commercial, because they don't want
29 others to see on our list here, commercial, because to
30 their families, to their communities, they're
31 subsistence. So that's another reason why we don't get
32 many people declaring commercial.

33
34 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Steve.

35
36 MR. KESSLER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
37 Yeah, Vince is absolutely correct. One piece of the
38 regulation, the current regulation I did not read to
39 you, but let me read it now, which is another little
40 piece of this. It says that the portion of membership
41 that represents the commercial and sports interests
42 shall include where possible at least one
43 representative from the sport community and one
44 representative from the commercial community. So
45 that's just another little piece of what's in the
46 current regulation.

47
48 Now, again that current regulation is
49 not -- the court has says that's not in place. We
50 can't use that for this next series of appointments.

1 But here we're working on what we will be able to use.

2

3 One other thing I would like to
4 mention, and I don't know if you read the Federal
5 Register notice, but if you look in your books on Page
6 300, on the very right-hand column, starting fairly
7 close -- well, to the top, it has the rationale for why
8 the Federal Subsistence Board and the Secretaries
9 identified the 70/30. It said, well, here's why we
10 didn't do 60/40 or 80/20 or 90/10. And you can just
11 read down in there the logic. It continues up to the
12 top of Page 301.

13

14 This logic though was not published
15 previously to what you see here. So the courts did not
16 have this logic in front of them. It could be that if
17 the court had had this logic when they considered the
18 court case, they may have said the Federal Subsistence
19 Board has done what they need to do. But they didn't
20 have this, and so now we are -- we did state for the
21 public and for the Councils what is the rationale for
22 the 70/30, and it might be valuable to look at that and
23 see if, yeah, that makes some sense, or if something
24 else makes sense. I know you've been talking about
25 80/20 as maybe being more desirable. And you can see
26 why in here that the Federal Board thought that the
27 80/30 was not as good as a 70/30.

28

29 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. You had a
30 comment, Robert.

31

32 MR. WALKER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
33 Yes, believe we went over this in 2004 when we were in
34 Fairbanks, we had a meeting there. We discussed this
35 70/30, 60/40, 80/20, and it wasn't really a -- we
36 didn't come to a consensus, but it was pretty much a
37 discussion. Vince was the one that brought it up if I
38 remember right. And it was up to the Council to
39 determine if they wanted 80/20, 20 percent commercial,
40 80 percent subsistence. Ten board members, 9 board
41 members, up to as many as 12 board members if I am
42 correct here. But we kind of like stuck on a number
43 like what Ron said, 80/20, because of our high
44 subsistence in Region 6 here, that we have so many
45 community that are depending on subsistence all the way
46 from Holy Cross all the way up to the Yukon, up the
47 Koyukuk River, up the Innoko River. And we don't have
48 that many guides in the lower portion, if any, in the
49 lower portion of Region 6. The high density of guides
50 is up in the upper portion of the Koyukuk, in some

1 parts of the upper part of the Yukon. So the lower
2 region, we're really pretty much subsistence way of
3 life, other than we have this interference with
4 transporters, FAA Part 135 that flies and drops off
5 into our area. And, you know, these people don't step
6 forward and put their applications into the Federal
7 Subsistence Board as commercial, et cetera. And they
8 kind of like, well, somebody else will take care of us.
9 Well, you know, we can't take care of FAA Part 135
10 transporters and guides, but we can recommend that they
11 do come in or whatever the Board recommends. I never
12 heard of the Board ever at any meetings was very
13 opposing to these outfitters, guides, et cetera.

14
15 But, you know, we're really -- when you
16 look at our Board, we're really fair and honest with
17 all the entities that do come into our area, Region 6.
18 There are some, sure, you know, we have diverse
19 feelings about a lot of things, but you know, again
20 here that we want to try to share and try be fair and
21 make things work, where it don't happen like -- well,
22 what happened in our area in 19A and 19B. The State
23 kind of like let that go too far and the subsistence
24 users now are suffering here, because of the
25 mismanagement the State did. You know, we can't help
26 that, but we can try to work with them, try to rebuild
27 this. And that's where you get these moose managements
28 from, through our subsistence, through local people and
29 the State working together.

30
31 But I'll say here, I'd like to see
32 80/20, because we were really a working group here, and
33 other interest groups, if they do want to apply, that
34 is fine. But again, if we have seats that are open,
35 they should be filled until a time here where we can
36 have this commercial/sport person here.

37
38 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

39
40 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks, Robert.

41
42 Ron, you had a comment.

43
44 MR. SAM: Yeah. Just one more. Just
45 going through this -- I can't recall him and the
46 reasoning they give for this split. At one time he
47 said we could deal with 70/30, but then because of the
48 composition of our people, we more or less settled on
49 the 80/20. But then this column also speaks out the
50 intimidating factor. It doesn't matter if you are one

1 against nine, you can be intimidating and still get
2 what you want. It doesn't matter if you're 70/30.
3 This Council composition, that not only depends on the
4 70/30 or 80/20, it depends on the composition of the
5 Council member himself, okay, let's put it that way.
6 You can dominate even though you're in the minority as
7 far as numbers go. And I would just like to point that
8 out as a fact and go on record as stating that.

9

10 Thank you.

11

12 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Carl.

13

14 MR. MORGAN: Yeah. Thank you. I do
15 favor 80/20. I think that it's a good make up. It is
16 -- I feel that it wasn't the subsistence users that
17 depleted the resources, and we're not dependent on the
18 cash it provides. But we are dependent on what kind of
19 life it gives us. I think by no means, by no means, by
20 no means should we ever go under 70/30. That should be
21 the deadline. I don't see us going under. I really
22 fear if we go under 70/30, then we're in a downhill
23 slide.

24

25 I'd just like to read the background on
26 299. Title VIII of Alaska National Interest Lands Act,
27 ANILCA, requires that the Secretary of the Interior and
28 Agriculture implement a program to grant a preference,
29 preference, for subsistence use of fish and wildlife
30 resources on Federal lands and waters. I think even
31 then with Title VIII of ANILCA says it requires a
32 preference for subsistence user. And I think, I really
33 feel 80/20 is a good split and gives a preference for
34 subsistence use on Federal public lands.

35

36 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks, Carl. Ray.

37

38 MR. COLLINS: Yeah, I've got a couple
39 more comments. My only experience, other than this
40 Board, working with one that had a split is on the
41 Kuskokwim River Working Group. And on that we've got
42 commercial fishermen, some into sports as well as
43 people representing the subsistence side of it. And
44 it's useful to have them on there, but the ones that
45 are effective are the ones that actually live in the
46 communities. So I would encourage us to think about
47 our areas and if we have people that have a commercial
48 fishing license, that they at least show that on their
49 application, and that if people are working as guides
50 or assistant guides, because what we want from them is

1 comments from that industry of how these regulations
2 affect them. And so it's helpful when we've got
3 somebody that actually lives in the area, with their
4 roots there, that is working in some of those. So
5 maybe we should do more effort ourselves community-wide
6 to think about encouraging people to run that have some
7 of those backgrounds and put them down there.

8

9 That's my comment.

10

11 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks, Ray.

12

13 Have you got something there, Don.

14

15 MR. HONEA: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

16 Yeah, I had, going back to, you know, whether it's a
17 70/30, 80/20, I would welcome a commercial side use.
18 In fact I was mentioning to some of you guys that
19 before I came down here, that there was a commercial
20 user, a commercial guide or whatever who lives in my
21 village who is interested in this very position that
22 we're sitting on, and I welcomed him to sign up for it,
23 but he didn't put his paper in on time. But, you know,
24 if it was mandated that you have to fill it to a
25 certain degree, then I would welcome their positions.
26 I mean, you're exactly right, you'd bring a different
27 view, and I could also see that, you know, in some
28 places where isn't any of these interests on there,
29 that you might in some areas not be able to fill those
30 -- that need or demand or whatever, but what I'm saying
31 is that each of us right probably within the Koyukuk
32 Refuge area, too, and Galena, that you'd be able to
33 come up with local users who are under these headings.

34

35

36 Thank you.

37

38 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks, Don.

39

40 Mickey.

41

42 MR. STICKMAN: Thanks, Mr. Chair. You
43 know, we can go back and forth and we can talk about
44 this all day, but, you know, I think the Council, we
45 should go back to the commercial users that we had on
46 the Council previously and seek their opinions. I
47 mean, like George, and like Tommy Kriska from Koyukuk.
48 You know, those were the commercial interest users on
49 the Council, and I'm sure -- well, it seemed like
50 that's the kind of -- I mean, of course, we're

1 answering the questions, but it seemed like that's the
2 opinion that they're looking for is the actual opinion
3 of the commercial users.

4

5 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right. My personal
6 feelings are that there should be publications sent out
7 with clarification of commercial limited entry permits
8 as being a commercial interest, that guiding --
9 enumeration of what the commercial and sport user
10 groups are that live within the region. There's lots
11 of permit holders that have a commercial fishery
12 permit. They're shooting moose, they're growing
13 gardens, they're subsistence fishing. They've got a
14 commercial permit. They could fill the commercial
15 seat. And they just have to live in the region.

16

17 My understanding of ANILCA is that
18 under Title VIII 801(5) of ANILCA, there's supposed to
19 be a structure enabling rural residents to have a
20 meaningful role in this fish and game management. And
21 so I feel that I see some of these numbers, 50/50 by
22 the State, 60/40 commercial, and no way, that's not
23 what Congress said, and there's no way that can be
24 interpreted as in any way weighting a Council towards a
25 commercial body. They're supposed to be rural
26 residents as having a meaningful role. It should never
27 ever be under be under a 70/30 split. The Council
28 representation to meet FACA should be demographically
29 set. In our region, this Council has stated several
30 times this morning that 80/20 is about all we can
31 really accommodate. There's very few commercial users
32 in the region, and so the demographics should be made
33 up regionally, but never under a 70/30 split, 70 for
34 subsistence, 30 for commercial/sport.

35

36 Those are the primary points. I would
37 say that this Council has stood fairly firm on the
38 80/20 representation.

39

40 Having the residents of the region, a
41 publication sent to all the post offices, publishing
42 the need for a commercial seat on the Council, and so
43 people don't understand that you have to be a hunting
44 guide, no, you could have a commercial fish permit, or
45 you might work as a sport fishing guide, or you might
46 have some other commercial interest. Lay out what
47 those commercial interests are, does not have to
48 conflict with your subsistence use. But we do need a
49 commercial seat, publish that there's commercial seats
50 open, and that it's beneficial to have the

1 understanding of the commercial uses on the council. I
2 am in no way opposed to having any commercial people
3 that have statements. When George Siavelis was on this
4 council, he made lots of comments from his perspective
5 on commercial hunting and so forth, and those were --
6 you know, it's just like when we have these planning
7 groups. Most planning groups, moose planning groups,
8 caribou planning groups, you get all those interests
9 together, it gives you a little understanding of how
10 other people think, and that's fine. Knowledge is
11 empowering.

12

13 And so that would be my comments on
14 this, on the Council composition makeups.

15

16 And any further comments. Vince.

17

18 MR. MATHEWS: This is more a question
19 for Steve, but this will be a topic at a future Board
20 meeting, not the May one, correct?

21

22 MR. KESSLER: (Nods affirmatively)

23

24 MR. MATHEWS: And he's signalling at a
25 future Board meeting. To empower your person that's
26 going to that meeting, I'm not saying you have to go
27 with a position, but if you want to empower your
28 representative, it may be better through a motion to
29 get what you would like down there and your
30 justifications. You don't have to, but when your
31 person goes there, the Board probably will ask, what
32 did your Council say? Well, we have personal opinions.

33

34 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yes, I would like to
35 entertain a motion that it would state the composition
36 of the Councils would never fall below 30/70, weighted
37 towards subsistence, that the demographics of the
38 region should be considered, and that our particular
39 region has a strong feeling for an 80/20 split.

40

41 Any other insertions by the Council
42 into that motion. Mickey.

43

44 MR. STICKMAN: I'll second the motion.

45

46 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Do want to make the
47 motion?

48

49 MR. STICKMAN: Okay. I'll make that
50 motion.

1 MR. SAM: Second.
2
3 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Any further
4 discussion on that motion. Those in favor of the
5 motion signify -- oh, go ahead, Robert.
6
7 MR. WALKER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
8 Just for clarification, you mentioned commercial
9 fishing permits, that would put you in a category from
10 subsistence to commercial? Correct me here.
11
12 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: It's my
13 understanding if you hold a commercial fishery permit,
14 you could file under commercial. YRDFA's got comment
15 here, and they're talking about commercial fishermen.
16
17 MR. WALKER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
18 But going back here, like I've got a commercial
19 fishing, would I be counted as part of this 80/20, this
20 part as 20 percent or would I still be the part of the
21 80 percent.
22
23 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: You could file, you
24 could check off commercial, because you've got a
25 commercial limited entry commercial permit. You could
26 check off commercial, and you could be our commercial
27 seat as far as I know.
28
29 Steve.
30
31 MR. KESSLER: Mr. Chairman. Yes, it's
32 really your choice on how you want to apply. You could
33 apply subsistence or you can apply commercial-slash-
34 sport. And I know that you've been talking primarily
35 about commercial. We sort of characterize these at
36 this point as commercial or sport, but remember I did
37 read what's in the regulation now is that the current
38 regulation, which may change says we're trying to have
39 maybe one commercial and one sport. So that recognize
40 commercial and sport. A lot of people with those have
41 very different perspectives if they're commercial or
42 sort. And so there's different perspectives of what
43 need to be represented as compared to subsistence.
44
45 I do also want to mention that the
46 Board is scheduled to take this up at their meeting
47 April 30th to May 2nd, the same time that these
48 wildlife proposals are taken up, so it's coming soon.
49
50 And just as another aside, I think that

1 it's really good to have a motion as Vince said, and
2 that you've now made, a vote and the rationale for that
3 would be very beneficial for providing that to the
4 Federal Board.

5

6 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Carl.

7

8 MR. MORGAN: Yeah. Steve, you know,
9 for me to fish down here with a rod and reel, I've got
10 to get a sport fishing license from the State. So I
11 can claim myself as a sports fisherman?

12

13 MR. KESSLER: Yes, Mr. Morgan, you can
14 if you decide to. I think that as it was discussed
15 earlier though, that a lot of people don't see
16 themselves as subsistence users. You know, you
17 probably see yourself as a subsistence user even though
18 you're doing subsistence with a sports fishing license.
19 But you probably see yourself as a sport user. But
20 under the way that we've been operating, it's your
21 choice. You can put whichever way you want to do that.
22 And we're not telling you you need to -- oh, you're
23 more sport or you're more commercial. We're not doing
24 that.

25

26 We do have evaluation criteria that we
27 use to try to rate you on a number of different things
28 and probably Vince is much more familiar with that than
29 I am. But knowledge of subsistence uses, knowledge of
30 other uses, leadership roles, communication skills.
31 All of those sort of go into those ratings that the
32 Federal Subsistence Board uses to make recommendations
33 to the Secretaries. So, you know, if you apply for a
34 -- you say I'm commercial/sport, and you have almost no
35 knowledge of that, but you have lots of knowledge of
36 subsistence, well, we would note that, and the
37 Secretaries would probably learn that. But my guess is
38 somebody like you probably has such a wide variety of
39 experience it really doesn't really matter.

40

41 What you're talking about really, when
42 you take a look at the Southeast Council comments,
43 that's what the Southeast Council says. The Southeast
44 Council says, we've got people with such a variety of
45 backgrounds of commercial and sport and subsistence,
46 they're all subsistence users, why should we sort of,
47 you know, pick one of these things. But, you know, we
48 are where we are.

49

50 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Ron.

1 MR. SAM: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Yes,
2 it's just that you are what you apply for. You just
3 check off commercial or subsistence. And that question
4 and answer session with the Office of the Secretary of
5 Interior pretty much has you -- I mean, with your
6 checkmark, you already tell the Secretary of Interior
7 who you are appointed as, commercial or subsistence.

8
9 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I'm in favor of the
10 evaluation process. The ax is double edged. We could
11 have somebody that's declaring subsistence that's
12 strictly sport and not have any knowledge of
13 subsistence, so an evaluation is imperative in the
14 system.

15
16 Any further comment. Ray.

17
18 MR. COLLINS: Yeah, and this kind of
19 gets to what Robert was saying, should he put
20 commercial on there. What we're looking for is
21 information. So if we're dealing with king salmon
22 fishery on the Yukon over there, and we talk about mesh
23 size or commercial catch and so on, we need somebody
24 with information from that. And it's best if it comes
25 from somebody that lives in the area and is experienced
26 in that. That's what we're looking for. And the same
27 if some of these hunting regulations, in fact, guiding
28 or the other one, we want somebody to be able to talk
29 about that, of how this is going to affect you. So I
30 would hope that that would be on there, and say I've
31 commercial fished for X number of years or whatever.
32 This has partly to do with evaluation. So they can
33 speak from that perspective and we know that they can
34 speak from the subsistence, but we need people like
35 that on here.

36
37 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Any further
38 discussion on the motion.

39
40 (No comments)

41
42 MR. STICKMAN: I call for the question.

43
44 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: The question's been
45 called. Those in favor of the motion signify by saying
46 aye.

47
48 IN UNISON: Aye.

49
50 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Opposed.

1 (No opposing votes)

2

3 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Unanimous consent of
4 the motion.

5

6 And let's see we're at -- did you find
7 Randy Rogers then, Terry?

8

9 MR. HAYNES: Mr. Chairman, this is
10 Terry Haynes. Yes, Randy's here to give you a very
11 brief planning report.

12

13 Before he does that, and since I'll be
14 having to sign off before noon, I've got to hopefully
15 get to Kotzebue for a meeting out there tomorrow. I
16 apologize for no Department of Fish and Game Staff
17 being able to attend your meeting. As you know in the
18 past we've usually had one or more Staff there to
19 provide information and present reports. This year
20 Staff are busy doing field research projects and we
21 just weren't able to get anyone out there.

22

23 So we appreciate the opportunity to
24 take part by teleconference. I appreciate Vince
25 setting this up at the 11th hour.

26

27 And with that, I'll be happy to try to
28 answer any questions that the Council might have for
29 the Department generally, so that if you have
30 information needs that we can respond to after the
31 meeting, we'll try to do that. And if you'd like to do
32 that now, fine. Otherwise I'll turn it over to Randy
33 to present you a short report.

34

35 Thank you.

36

37 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Any Council members
38 have anything for Terry.

39

40 My comment is that you've always
41 attended our meetings at the Gates of the Arctic
42 Subsistence Resource Commission early in my career as a
43 subsistence representative. And I appreciate the
44 State's input. We may not align eye-to-eye on issues,
45 but I always appreciate the State's input, and I
46 encourage the State's attendance to the Regional
47 Council meetings for information and supplementary
48 information. And so sometimes things don't work out,
49 but I do appreciate the State's participation in our
50 deliberations. And so thank you, Terry.

1 And go ahead, Randy.

2

3 MR. ROGERS: Hello, Chairman Reakoff
4 and members of the Council. Ca you hear me okay?

5

6 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: You're loud and
7 clear.

8

9 MR. ROGERS: Okay. Thank you. Yes, my
10 name is Randy Rogers. I'm the wildlife planner for the
11 Department of Fish and Game in Interior region.

12

13 I'm sorry I can't be there today. I
14 had intended to come to Aniak. But I do appreciate the
15 opportunity to give a few comments by teleconference.

16

17 Roy Nowlin and myself were just in
18 Aniak to attend a Kuskokwim Native Association meeting
19 just about a month ago to provide an update on the
20 moose population and the wolf predation control program
21 out there. So that was part of the reason I didn't
22 feel it was quite as urgent for me to get to Aniak,
23 although I always do enjoy attending the Western
24 Council meeting.

25

26 And I also appreciate the support of
27 the Council for Proposal 35 to make the moose hunting
28 regulations in Unit 19A permanent from the special
29 action that took place last year. I think we all hope
30 that the moose population will pick up and we can get
31 out of such a restrictive harvest program in the not
32 too distant future.

33

34 One of the other things I'm working on
35 right now, and another reason why I'm not present is
36 I'm trying to complete another issue of the Yukon-
37 Innoko Moose Planning News. I hope to get that to the
38 printer this afternoon.

39

40 One thing that I'm including in there
41 is just a little bit of an update on the fall 2006
42 harvest. And from the data we have now, it looks like
43 we stayed within the intent of the plan. And one of
44 the key issues there was to prevent a growth in the
45 non-resident hunting component in Unit 21E. So we had a
46 cap of essentially trying to keep non-resident harvest
47 no more than 30. Last fall it was only 16. Last fall
48 there was a reduction in the non-resident season of
49 five days at the end of the season, and a non-resident
50 drawing permit system is being staged in for next fall.

1 And there's a winter drawing similar to the Koyukuk
2 one. so that's already taken place. We're issuing 60
3 permits for that. We're authorized to issue up to 100,
4 but we're going to keep it at 60, you know, thinking
5 that a 50 percent harvest rate, that we'll keep it at
6 30 or less moose being harvested.

7
8 The last few days I've been calling
9 some members of the work group and GASH Fish and Game
10 Advisory Committee. Unfortunately I couldn't get ahold
11 of Robert, because I know he's in Aniak, but trying to
12 get an estimate of what the Federal winter hunt was for
13 the February 1 to 10 season, you know, what level of
14 harvest took place. Again, that's a key point in the
15 plan is to keep the harvest of cows at no more than 40.
16 Based on this, you know, rough estimate of talking with
17 folks, it looks to me like there was on the order of 20
18 to maybe 35 of moose taken, some of those which were
19 bulls. So we stayed well within the guidelines of the
20 plan there.

21
22 And I appreciate the help of all the
23 folks who worked with that estimate. And it came out,
24 you know, very similar to the winter harvest level that
25 Caroline Brown reported in the subsistence household
26 survey work that she did out there a few years ago.

27
28 So that's a good part of the plan, that
29 we keep the cow moose harvest in the winter down low,
30 but it does give an opportunity for some folks in the
31 villages that didn't get a moose in the fall to be able
32 to get some meat in the wintertime.

33
34 Just briefly on the wood bison project,
35 I want to let you know that the environmental review --
36 we're in the final internal review of that. It will be
37 out soon for public review and comment. I'll be
38 planning to travel to as many villages as possible out
39 in the areas proposed for the wood bison restoration to
40 talk further about that project, let people, you know,
41 have a better understanding of it, and have input into
42 whether they believe that having wood bison in their
43 particular area is a good idea or not.

44
45 It looks like there may be a GASH
46 Advisory Committee meeting in Holy Cross yet this
47 spring, and so that would be another opportunity to
48 talk about wood bison.

49
50 One optimistic development there is the

1 U.S. Department of Agriculture now has regulations
2 proposed that would open up the border to importing
3 bovines into the United States from Canada. So this
4 may allow us to import wood bison stock from Canada
5 next winter. And we're talking with the folks at Elk
6 Island National Park in Canada about possibly trying to
7 get 40 or 50 calves by this time next winter.

8
9 We're developing a temporary holding
10 facility in cooperation with the Alaska Wildlife
11 Conservation Center in Portage just down to the
12 southeast of Anchorage.

13
14 And as part of that, too, we've also
15 been working with the U.S. Forest Service, Chugach
16 National Forest, to get use of some Forest Service
17 lands for wood bison pasture. The Forest Service has
18 an environmental assessment out right now for public
19 review and comment on that. They're getting several
20 favorable comments, and we really appreciate the
21 support of the Forest Service for the wood bison
22 project.

23
24 You know, I guess I'll keep it at that
25 for right now. Usually I probably go on a little too
26 long on my comments, so I do thank you for giving me
27 just a couple minutes here, and I'd be happy to answer
28 any questions folks on the Council might have.

29
30 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: All right. Thanks,
31 Randy, for those updates.

32
33 Does any Council members have questions
34 for Randy. Ray Collins, go ahead.

35
36 MR. COLLINS: Randy, where is the
37 geographic area in western Alaska that you're
38 considering? Is there one out here in the Innoko or
39 somewhere that you're considering as a possible
40 introduction site?

41
42 MR. ROGERS: Yes, Ray. We're looking
43 at -- this environmental review looks at three sites.
44 The Yukon Flats you're familiar with, Minto Flats. The
45 third site is the lower Innoko and Yukon River area,
46 focusing primarily down in the area between Shageluk
47 and Holy Cross. So that is within the western region.

48
49 As it looks like right now, we're
50 probably going to be proposing to go forward with the

1 wood bison project and initially prioritize Yukon Flats
2 and Minto Flats for site specific planning and
3 implementation, but also wanting to consult further
4 with folks down in the GASH area about the prospect of
5 this. And depending on how permitting, regulatory
6 issues go, even though we'll probably propose that, you
7 know, circumstances could change, and we may end up
8 focusing down in the Innoko area sooner.

9

10 But that is an area in the Western
11 Council region which is why I, you know, try to give
12 updates on the project to the Council.

13

14 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: All right, thanks,
15 Randy.

16

17 Any other questions or comments to
18 Randy Rogers. Don.

19

20 MR. HONEA: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

21

22 Randy, I'd just like to kind of follow
23 up on what we discussed about a year ago, that our
24 Community of Ruby is still open for the wood bison
25 project, and that we had somebody in the community who
26 was really interested in the transferring of wood bison
27 to our area, be it whatever the area. And we'd like to
28 either look at that as a tribe or on a local scenario.
29 So we are still open to that, and maybe you could so
30 much as send out an invitation, too, that you guys are
31 still interested in doing the projects like Steven's
32 Village initiated in their area, and we're still open.
33 And I'd send you an invitation to come out any time.

34

35 Thank you.

36

37 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks, Don. Go
38 ahead, Ron.

39

40 MR. ROGERS: Well, thank you very much,
41 too. I appreciate the interest of Ruby. And, you
42 know, that immediate area wasn't one of the spots that
43 we identified with the best potential habitat when we
44 did our habitat inventory, but that doesn't mean that
45 it isn't, you know, potentially suitable area, too,
46 and, you know, can be kept in consideration. And we'll
47 just have to see if we get wood bison in the state and
48 in the wild somewhere, you know, and how it might
49 progress. But we'll keep Ruby in mind.

50

1 Thank you.

2

3 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, Ron.

4

5 MR. SAM: Yeah. This is Ron Sam,
6 Randy. I just wanted to, if you are still all on line,
7 I would just like to thank Randy, Terry and Pete
8 DeMatteo for participating in this -- in our Council
9 deliberations.

10

11 Thank you.

12

13 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So any other
14 comment. Go ahead there, Robert.

15

16 MR. WALKER: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

17

18 Good morning, Randy. I don't know if
19 you talked to Rita St. Louis about the GASH meeting in
20 Shageluk. It was recessed until a later date. I
21 believe it's going to be reconvened back in May like
22 you said. And on the agenda we didn't get to the wood
23 bison on the agenda there. So I believe it's going to
24 be brought up in May there to discuss the issue there.

25

26 And other than that, for the moose
27 management deal here with the February hunt here, I
28 believe it went okay here. I never had a chance to
29 check with anybody here, Randy, but I talked to Gabe
30 Nicolai and they were kind of frustrated about -- it
31 had to do with the weather, it had to do with the
32 temperature, it had to do with not enough snow. As you
33 know, that a lot of moose didn't move out of the
34 mountains because of the snow. And a lot of them
35 didn't come down close to the river here. They're
36 still back in the woods yet, so a lot of people didn't
37 get some moose. But I guess there was some people that
38 did get some here.

39

40 That's all I had, Randy. Thank you
41 much.

42

43 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: All right.

44

45 MR. ROGERS: Thank you, Robert. I do
46 hope we get to talk about wood bison in Holy Cross
47 which is tentatively where the next GASH AC meeting
48 will be. When we met in Shageluk, even though we
49 didn't have a quorum, we did have some good discussion.
50 So with any luck, maybe you can make it to Holy Cross.

1 With regard to the winter moose
2 harvest, from what I got, I spoke with in Anvik Ken
3 Chase and Carl Jerue, and they both indicated that not
4 many folks in Anvik went out, or there was very few
5 moose taken this winter there.

6
7 Gabe said that more folks got out up in
8 Grayling and he was pretty confident that about 8 or 10
9 moose were taken there.

10
11 Arnold reported several moose being
12 taken in Shageluk. It sounded like very few in Holy
13 Cross, too.

14
15 I also talked with Andrew Stepenof from
16 Russian Mission, keeping in mind that they're also a
17 community that's included in the Federal customary and
18 traditional determination. And Andrew said that he
19 thought that four or five moose got taken in 21E from
20 Russian Mission.

21
22 So that, you know, came up with a
23 ballpark estimate of 20 to 35, which, you know, isn't a
24 whole lot, but hopefully a few folks that really needed
25 some meat got some, and at least there's some
26 opportunity there. And, you know, according to the
27 modeling that Beth Leonard did when we were preparing
28 the plan, if we keep that harvest at the present
29 population level under 40 cows, it won't have a
30 significant impact on the population. So we're right
31 in there anyhow.

32
33 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Jenny.

34
35 MS. PELKOLA: Randy, this is Jenny
36 Pelkola from Galena. I haven't met you at all. I've
37 met Pete before. But I'm a new member on the Board,
38 and I feel like I'm in kindergarten right now, just
39 learning the ropes, and I look forward to meeting you
40 some day. And I just want to thank you and your people
41 there for also sitting in on this meeting.

42
43 Thank you.

44
45 MR. ROGERS: Well, thank you, Jenny.
46 I'm sorry I'm not there to be able to meet you. I
47 appreciate your support there, and I'm glad to see
48 someone from Galena on the Council. I couldn't hear
49 you really good and clearly, but I appreciate your
50 comments.

1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: All right. Thank
2 you for the comment there, Jenny.

3
4 And the State of Alaska is always
5 welcome to comment and participate in our meetings.

6
7 Any further comments from the Council.

8
9 (No comments)

10
11 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: My comments would be
12 that I'm happy to see that the planning effort in the
13 Innoko Unit 22E is inclusive of some cow harvest,
14 winter harvest, traditional harvest, and that there is
15 sort of an acceptance of that for recognized
16 subsistence use.

17
18 If the GASH and the people of this
19 lower portion of the Western Interior region accept the
20 introduction of wood bison into the area, I would
21 encourage the subsistence, an allocation once harvest
22 are initiated, that subsistence harvests are a
23 component or a primary component of those harvest.
24 This lower portion of the Western Interior region is
25 excellent bison habitat. There's lots of grasses here.
26 You can have a whole herd of bison right out along the
27 airfield. There's grass all over the place.

28
29 And so this -- I have understood from
30 reading about what bison and the planning efforts on
31 the Yukon Flats, that they're a compatible species.
32 They're non-competitive with moose, and they're
33 excellent eating. And they have a lower predation
34 factor. So I encourage the people of this lower
35 portion of the Western Interior to really look at,
36 seriously look at the re-introduction of those wood
37 bison as an alternate meat source.

38
39 And so that would be my comments.

40
41 And so thanks for all your input here,
42 Randy, and too bad you didn't make it. So we'll look
43 forward to your next attendance.

44
45 MR. ROGERS: Thank you, Chairman
46 Reakoff. Sorry I wasn't there to visit with all you
47 folks, but thanks a lot for letting me make a few
48 comments.

49
50 What you just said about the wood bison

1 were all, you know, correct points. And, you know, the
2 whole question of future harvest management will be a
3 big one. And so I encourage you to take a look at
4 that. And maybe I can make sure that you get a copy of
5 this full environmental review. I know you'll look at
6 it very closely. You know, there's a little bit of
7 uncertainty as far as how State and/or Federal
8 customary and traditional determinations might work out
9 with wood bison, but based on experience with musk ox,
10 Athabascan oral history involving wood bison, et
11 cetera, we've said that in this environmental review
12 that we think that it is likely that there would be
13 some State or Federal customary and traditional
14 determinations. So we are looking at the probability
15 of subsistence harvest, and need to keep in mind that
16 as we go forward with this, we really need to
17 demonstrate that we will come up with cooperative
18 strategies to provide for subsistence and non-
19 subsistence so that all users will see benefit in this.

20

21

22 Of course, this include non-consumptive
23 users, too. And that's probably going to be necessary
24 for us to have political support to keep expending the
25 resources to make it happen.

26

27 So anyhow, with that, thanks a lot. I
28 wish you well in concluding your meeting.

29

30 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: All right. Thanks a
31 lot, Randy. And I'd appreciate it if you sent me a
32 copy of that environmental review.

33

34 Okay. Vince, where are we at on our
35 agenda? We're coming up towards lunch.

36

37 MR. MATHEWS: I think it would be best,
38 since lunch is coming, the next topic, the major topic
39 is fisheries, so it would be good to give them a break.
40 I do realize that Tim Craig has time requirement.

41

42 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right. I've got Tim
43 Craig that would like to make presentation. He has a
44 fairly early flight out of here. So if Tim would like
45 to step up, give us a brief overview of the Dalton
46 Highway and BLM management, I would appreciate that.
47 And so that will be just about right for getting lunch
48 set up. So go ahead, Tim.

49

50 MR. CRAIG: Mr. Chairman, Council

1 members. My name is Tim Craig. I'm a wildlife
2 biologist for the Fairbanks District Office in
3 Fairbanks.

4

5 And the administrative units that
6 overlap the Western Interior region for those of you
7 who don't know, are the Central Yukon Field Office and
8 the Anchorage Field Office. And if you take this map
9 and kind of fold it in half, anything on the uphill
10 side, the north side, is the Central Yukon Field
11 Office, anything on the south side is the Anchorage
12 Field Office, just as a point of reference.

13

14 I'm representing both of these units
15 today, because as many of you, Jeff Denton, the
16 Anchorage Field Office subsistence biologist, has
17 accepted employment in the Minerals Management Service
18 and no longer works for BLM. And he's asked me to read
19 a portion of his last report to the Council if you
20 wouldn't mind.

21

22 Quoting Jeff, "I would like to convey
23 that it has been a distinct honor and privilege to work
24 with the RAC Councils and the Federal subsistence
25 program the last 16 years. Although BLM is not a
26 predominant land owner in the portion of the Western
27 RAC region within the Anchorage Field Office, I was
28 involved in the Western Arctic Caribou Herd, Seward
29 Peninsula musk ox, 22A moose and bear management, in
30 recent years the 22B and 22D moose management
31 population monitoring and permit allocation processes,
32 as well as numerous fisheries issues. It was my
33 pleasure to serve the people of the Norton Sound
34 communities in the small ways that I could to maintain
35 the resources that maintain your way of life.

36

37 I would like to express my gratitude
38 for having the opportunity to interact with and work
39 with some of the finest professionals Jack Whitman,
40 Roger Seavoy, Toby Boudreau, Randy Rogers, Bill Schaff,
41 Steve Kovak, and Ed Merritt and many project-specific
42 pilots and support personnel in my career in this
43 Region. It has been rewarding to meet and work with
44 many of the real subsistence users and RAC members in
45 the region. I greatly respect the knowledge,
46 dedication, and commitment of all these people in
47 furthering conservation of healthy resources for now
48 and the future. I thank you. This region and my time
49 spent here has been one of the most rewarding of my
50 career."

1 To continue with my report, we've
2 undergone quite a bit of change in personnel and
3 administration in BLM. We've got a new State Director,
4 Tom Lonnie. We also have a new subsistence program
5 lead, Chuck Ardizzone. We have a new field office
6 manager in the Anchorage Field Office, Gary Reimer.
7 And his lieutenant who is -- actually his formal title
8 is Resources Group Manager, is Kierson Crume, and he's
9 going to oversee subsistence. And then, of course, now
10 they'll be replacing Jeff over the next year sometime.

11
12 In the report, I've given you hard
13 copies there, under the heading wildlife, the Anchorage
14 Field Office has participated in the moose planning
15 efforts and implementation of the Central Kuskokwim
16 Moose Management Plan and Federal permit management
17 with the Fish and Wildlife Service this last fall. And
18 AFO conducted fall composition surveys on BLM lands in
19 September.

20
21 I gave you a report, passed that out,
22 Vince just did, on 21E. The highlights there really is
23 that there were very few moose and distribution was
24 limited, and calf numbers were low.

25
26 Also I think in that report Jeff talks
27 about Lime Village harvest report that's not been
28 submitted for the past year. And he attributes that to
29 the fact that they're a new tribal organization there
30 and personality changes. They just haven't gotten
31 their reports yet.

32
33 In my part of the woods, in fall 2006
34 we were unable to conduct moose surveys, because of
35 lack of snow. That's kind of the same thing that's
36 happened over most of the Interior, and so we've
37 dropped back, and it's -- I kind of see it as a
38 blessing in disguise, because we were able to
39 coordinate with Kanuti and Gates of the Arctic National
40 Park, and Fish and Game, throw all of our money
41 together, and now we're planning to put radio
42 transmitters, including GPS transmitters on moose in
43 the Middle fork Koyukuk and out on Kanuti, and we'll
44 get some of that information about moose migration
45 which a lot of us have been very interested in over the
46 years. We've never been quite sure what our trend
47 counts were actually measuring, because we didn't know
48 whether those are the same moose that people are
49 hunting, you know, earlier in the year.

50

1 So that's our plan. We're starting to
2 procure equipment right now and plan to perhaps put
3 those on in the fall, this coming fall.

4
5 We also have taken some of that moose
6 money, or at least survey money, and translated that
7 into radio collars, and we plan to put new radio
8 collars in the Wolf Mountain Herd along with Fish and
9 Game, which is another kind of void in our information
10 of what's going on with them right now, as well as to
11 increase the number of collars out in the Hodzana
12 Hills. So that's how we're going to be using that
13 money this year.

14
15 Under vegetation, I mentioned to you
16 before that people are really concerned about the
17 spread of white clover as well as other weeds up the
18 Dalton Highway. It's kind of a vector into the
19 interior where weeds have never been before, and that
20 we did a weed pull last year where we actually hand-
21 pulled 1500 pounds of white sweetclover. It was just
22 mountains of this stuff that we pulled up. It's --
23 we're concerned that it's just going to get away from
24 us. I don't know that we can continue to do that and
25 have much of an effect. We've been trying to keep it
26 out of the Koyukuk drainage, so that anything north of
27 98 mile, we're trying to control it.

28
29 So this year we're planning to start an
30 Integrated Cooperative Weed Management Plan, some kind
31 of a plan for how we're going to deal with these weeds
32 in the future, and also probably do some mechanical
33 control. And what form that takes, I'm not sure, but
34 actually something that's mechanized rather than trying
35 to pull them by hand.

36
37 Under fish, the Tozitna weir is going to be
38 operated through 2009. OSM funded that. And so BLM --
39 that's actually in the Eastern Interior, but it's real
40 close to your boundary. I thought you might be
41 interested in knowing that's going to continue.

42
43 We've gotten one more guide and
44 outfitting permit than last year, which brings us up to
45 38 hunting guides and 8 tour operators in the Central
46 Yukon, the portion of the Central Yukon that Western
47 Interior has to do with. And that was in the Ray
48 Mountains. Again it's in the Eastern Interior, but
49 it's real close to some of your homes there.

50

1 Under mining, in the Hughes Mining
2 District, the Taiga Mine has recently submitted
3 application to the Corps of Engineers to relocate 4,400
4 feet of Aloha Creek and put it in a bypass channel in
5 order to mine that area. And I've got a web site down
6 there. They are requesting, the Corps of Engineers is
7 soliciting public comments on the proposal through
8 March 8th. So time is short on that if you want to
9 comment on it.

10
11 And then they are also planning to
12 build 1.7 miles of road to access some of their private
13 patented ground on Clear Creek. And that will have to
14 do with BLM, and we're going to start the actual
15 analysis in March. And as with this proposal on Aloha
16 Creek, this Clear Creek proposal has the potential to
17 impact chum salmon habitat within the drainage. And
18 there's a contact number there. That's actually my
19 boss, Shelly Jacobson, if you're interested in more
20 information on that.

21
22 I mentioned last meeting that we were
23 going to try and gate the Chapman Creek Road at the
24 highway, and some issues have come up. And so that is
25 not going to be possible. What we're going to do
26 instead is try and upgrade the existing gate, which is
27 at the back of a gravel pit, and make it less easy for
28 people to travel back in there illegally off the Dalton
29 Highway.

30
31 The same thing on the Gobbler's Road
32 into Prospect Creek. There have been some changes in
33 the DOT gravel pit there, and people can drive right
34 around the gate. We're going to try and -- the guy had
35 the engineers out just last month looking at it, trying
36 to figure out ways to secure that gate a little better.

37
38 Under realty actions, the pickup trucks
39 are still stuck in the tundra up on the north side
40 there at 291. They've made three attempts so far and
41 the have the rear wheels out of one pickup so far out
42 of the tundra, and they're going to try again in the
43 spring, so stay tuned.

44
45 Other issues. A citizen has expressed
46 strong interest in buying private land in the very head
47 of the Ray River. Again that's in the Eastern
48 Interior, but the boundary's right there, and I thought
49 you might be interested in it. His expressed interest
50 is to build a lodge and an airstrip back there, and

1 operate a hunting camp, which would probably, you know,
2 the -- just to give you an idea of the areas there,
3 that's the Ray River would be probably involved, the
4 Big Salt River, the Ray Mountains and then the
5 Kilolitna River down towards Sithy Lake. That's kind
6 of the general area. And he's expressed an interest in
7 walking a Cat in from the Dalton Highway to facilitate
8 that construction. But it hasn't happened yet. We
9 don't have an official request for that yet.

10

11 Okay. And then there's another
12 individual that has expressed an interest in mining on
13 Mascot Creek off the Nolan Road. And to access that,
14 he would have to cross BLM and Park Service lands. And
15 that was -- there was some new activity in that the day
16 I left, and I don't really know where that proposal is
17 right now. Nothing's come to me for analysis yet, so
18 it may not be official, but I know that that's on the
19 burner.

20

21 And then this last paragraph on the
22 hard copy there that you have before you is Jeff
23 Denton's final notes, and it's our sentiment as well,
24 that on a final note, budgets are shrinking and that
25 trend is expected to continue in the future. However,
26 BLM will continue to work closely with the refuges and
27 Fish and Game, Alaska Department of Fish and Game that
28 is, to the degree possible in order to manage
29 subsistence resources and habitats within our
30 jurisdiction. We're committed to meeting the intent of
31 ANILCA and to maintaining healthy resources and the
32 human lifestyles unique to the region.

33

34 And that concludes my presentation.
35 I'll be glad to answer any questions -- well, try to
36 answer any questions.

37

38 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Thanks, Tim.

39

40

41 Have you got comments, Robert?

42

43 MR. WALKER: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

44

45 Thank you, Tim. Jeff Denton, if you're
46 not going to replace him, then who is? Is it going to
47 be somebody from your department or somebody from out
48 of state?

49

50 MR. CRAIG: Mr. Chairman. Through the

1 Chair, Robert, they will replace him. I talked to
2 Kierson Crume, his boss now, and they're definitely
3 going to replace him in the next year. And that
4 person's sole responsibility will be subsistence, just
5 like Jeff's was. So there will be a new Jeff Denton
6 sometime in the future.

7

8 MR. WALKER: Thank you, Tim.

9

10 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Any other questions
11 and comments.

12

13 (No comments)

14

15 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: My comments are Jeff
16 Denton has been attending these meetings since I've
17 been on the Council, and I was at the first Council
18 meeting down in McGrath, and always gave us lots of
19 good information and head's up on various things. And
20 he was a great resource for this Council, and we highly
21 appreciate his involvement with us.

22

23 I would be a little bit concerned about
24 a guiding operation in the head of the Ray River. The
25 productivity of that Ray Mountain Caribou Herd is
26 fairly limited, and I would be -- that is a good head's
27 up. You know, people within our region down in Alatna
28 and Allakaket utilize those caribou to certain degrees,
29 and I would be concerned about a guiding operation, a
30 lodge, to hunt specifically. There's practically
31 nothing in that country but caribou. A few caribou in
32 the Hodzana and Ray Mountains. I would be fairly
33 concerned about that, and especially about allowing
34 bulldozer access to get ATVs back in that country, and
35 then running that country all over with ATVs. You can
36 go anywheres among those blown off (ph) hills up there.
37 That's a little disconcerting about what could happen
38 to that fairly limited production, low productivity of
39 that herd.

40

41 And I would encourage the BLM to
42 upgrade that gate at the Chapman Creek Road, because
43 that's a primary -- would be a -- if they were to
44 access that Chapman Creek Road, they could launch boats
45 into the deep channel of the Middle Fork of the Koyukuk
46 right above the Tramway Canyon, which would highly
47 affect the amount of number of hunters going downriver
48 towards Allakaket, and we already have hunting success
49 problems down there anyways.

50

1 And I am concerned about this rerouting
2 of the Aloha Creek. That's a major spawning drainage
3 of the -- for chum salmon. So I would like this
4 Council to transmit a letter of displeasure for that
5 permitting, and that letter has to be transmitted by --
6 the comments are March 8th, so we've got two days or
7 one day. I forget what day it is now. And so we need
8 to get a letter.

9
10 This Council has been concerned about
11 chum salmon recovery and so major mining operations
12 within a salmon spawning area like that is concerning
13 to the subsistence users of the lower Koyukuk drainage
14 and the Yukon.

15
16 And so those would be my comments to
17 this point.

18
19 How would the Council feel about making
20 a motion to transmit that letter to -- who is this?
21 This would be Minerals Management?

22
23 Go ahead, Tim.

24
25 MR. CRAIG: Yeah, Mr. Chairman, if you
26 will notice there, this was more -- this was just
27 informational. The BLM doesn't really have anything to
28 do with this first paragraph under Hughes Mining
29 District. It's the Army Corps of Engineers, and
30 there's a web site right there that will tell you about
31 the proposal and their solicitation for public
32 comments. And considering the -- well, however you
33 want to do it, but March 8th is just right here, and so
34 you -- I'm not sure if there's a way to do that on
35 line, you know, I haven't looked at it.

36
37 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right. Okay. I
38 think the Corps of Engineers should be aware of our
39 concerns about these chum salmon in this portion of the
40 Western Interior Region.

41
42 And you've got a comment, Ron?

43
44 MR. SAM: Yes. I would like to
45 reiterate -- I mean, express my concerns about the same
46 area that Jack expressed his concerns about, especially
47 the head of Ray River hunting lodge permit and the
48 impact that it could have on the caribou herd of that
49 area. And at one time we were looking at the growing
50 number of caribou hanging around Caribou Mountain. I

1 don't know what happened to that, that is right in the
2 same vicinity.

3

4 And I will go ahead and make that
5 motion to express our concerns or get this piece of
6 paperwork out, if you can rephrase that in the form of
7 a motion.

8

9 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: The Chair would like
10 to entertain a motion to transmit a letter to Corp of
11 Engineers on displeasure with rerouting of 4,400 feet
12 of Aloha Creek, a major chum salmon spawning area, and
13 our concerns for the rebuilding of that stock in
14 general. And so that could be transmitted before March
15 8th.

16

17 MR. STICKMAN: Mr. Chair.

18

19 MR. SAM: So move.

20

21 MR. STICKMAN: I'll second the motion,
22 but also I would like request that a copy be made
23 available to the Yukon River Drainage Fishermen's
24 Association.

25 '

26 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. We can cc
27 that. So any further discussion on that letter.

28

29 (No comments)

30

31 MR. SAM: Question.

32

33 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: The question's been
34 called. Those in favor of the motion signify by saying
35 aye.

36

37 IN UNISON: Aye.

38

39 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Those opposed.

40

41 (No opposing votes)

42

43 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: That's unanimous
44 transmittal.

45

46 So I do -- on another issue on the BLM
47 lands is these Ray Mountain areas, these BLM lands, and
48 I'm concerned about, you know, the proponent of SB-85
49 has lost his seat in the legislature. I'm concerned
50 about giving permits to people to people to utilize

1 bulldozers to access lands away from the Dalton Highway
2 Corridor that can transport all terrain vehicles, and
3 especially for a guiding operation. 10, 15 20 ATVs
4 driving all over the Ray Mountains on the BLM land and
5 hunting those limited productivity caribou down would
6 be probably one of my more disfavored things that I
7 would like to see happen. That's all tundra, caribou
8 lichen, blown off hills, and that would look terrible.
9 I would think that -- I would feel that the BLM should
10 look at this ATV issue associated to the Dalton Highway
11 Corridor and seriously consider what the impacts to the
12 BLM lands and to the resources would be in the
13 permitting process. And so that would be my concerns
14 with a hunting lodge in the head of the Ray River.
15 Those may be private lands, but the BLM should be very
16 concerned about the impacts to their lands and to the
17 subsistence resources associated to that type of
18 activity.

19

20 Any further comments to the BLM on
21 this. You've got a comment there, Tim. Go ahead.

22

23 MR. CRAIG: Yeah. I just wanted to --
24 a point of clarification, that it is private land and
25 that land in the Ray Mountains is managed under what --
26 you know, we have these resource management plans.
27 It's an old one, 1991 I think, and I don't think there
28 are any restrictions on vehicles under 1,500 pounds.
29 So the only restrictions are the ORV restrictions
30 within five miles of the Dalton Highway. So once
31 you're beyond that, then there really aren't any
32 restrictions on Central Yukon lands.

33

34 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Well, that basically
35 is wilderness, pristine country. There's no ATV trails
36 to a large degree there. I would encourage the BLM to
37 reassess that 1991 plan and go to no ground contact ORV
38 use outside of the Dalton Highway Corridor, which would
39 be snowmachine only ATV use. And discourage ground
40 contact ORV degradation of those BLM lands, which will
41 lead -- this type of an operation could easily suppress
42 this caribou population, because this a very -- you're
43 well aware of the low productivity of that Ray Mountain
44 herd.

45

46 Go ahead, Tim.

47

48 MR. CRAIG: Just one more thing on that
49 is that the action of allowing the bulldozer in would
50 be a realty action. The guiding operation would be

1 under recreation, so that would be what we call a
2 special recreation permit. Both of them will be
3 subject to NEPA review and public input. And so I
4 think the Western Interior Council probably now I've
5 kind of got you on the radar screen there, I think
6 you're getting a lot of the requests about NEPA
7 comments and stuff. So the time to comment about those
8 things would be when those NEPA reviews come up, and
9 they send you a letters and say, you know -- what we
10 call scoping letters, do you have any comments.

11
12 And then the other thing I was going to
13 mention, I'm not sure that I mentioned it before is
14 that these RMPs, you know, last a long time, 10 plus
15 years. And they're the things that we use to manage
16 the land. And they are the things that are permissible
17 within a big land mass. And it's scheduled right now
18 to rewrite the Central Yukon plan, and the utility
19 corridor plan in 2010. So it's not very far off, and
20 there's some discussion of combining the two. We don't
21 know whether that's going to happen or not yet, but
22 anyway just bear in mind that those plans are coming up
23 to be rewritten in a short period of time.

24
25 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Appreciate
26 that. So any further discussion with BLM? I think
27 everybody's smelling that spaghetti back there.

28
29 Vince, have you got.....

30
31 MR. MATHEWS: Yes. On the spaghetti,
32 everybody needs to remember this is -- the suggested
33 donation was \$10. I don't know if that's been set up
34 to put money somewhere, but if not, I think Tina or I
35 will do that. And that's to benefit the Aniak
36 Traditional Youth Council. And so that's it. And then
37 whenever the Chair calls us back from lunch.

38
39 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. And so I
40 highly appreciate Tim Craig coming, attending our
41 meeting and sitting through our deliberations on
42 various things. He always brings lots of good
43 information. And because this is my home area, I'm
44 very impassioned and may talk a little bit long about
45 various things. But the impacts away from the Dalton
46 Highway can have huge impacts on the rest of the
47 region, and way into the -- things that can happen in
48 the Dalton Highway Corridor can go all the way down to
49 Galena, and so it's not just my home area, it's the
50 whole northern portion of the region can be affected

1 from this road system, the only road that's north of
2 the Yukon River, year round road.

3

4 And so I appreciate all the work that
5 BLM is doing, and I would encourage continuance of
6 funding for fish and wildlife monitoring in the Dalton
7 Highway Corridor by the BLM, because our Governor is
8 pushing and the Legislature's pushing on construction
9 of a gas line and further impacts to that area, and so
10 the BLM should be highly aware that there's a need for
11 continuance of funding in that area. And so, thanks,
12 Tim.

13

14 Okay. We'll break for lunch. We'll
15 probably be gone for about an hour off the record here.

16

17 (Off record)

18

19 (On record)

20

21 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. We're coming
22 back to order here after lunch. It's about 1:17.

23

24 Pete DeMatteo is on the phone there, on
25 teleconference, and so he's got a report on Board of
26 Game actions. So go ahead, Pete.

27

28 MR. DEMATTEO: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
29 Members of the Council. I spoke with Dan LaPlant, he's
30 our wildlife liaison to the Alaska Board of Game
31 representing the Federal management program. And I
32 spoke with him at the lunch break of the Board of Game
33 meeting. He said that the Alaska Board of Game has
34 been deliberating on State Proposal 209 for several
35 hours before the lunch break. They did not conclude
36 anything, but before the lunch break they were
37 considering possibly changing the harvest limit for the
38 Mulchatna Caribou Herd to two caribou. But they are
39 also considering that they might have to shut down the
40 non-resident season altogether. And that's what they
41 left it at. He said they're supposed to reconvene
42 after lunch, and he would pass along any information
43 that he learned as it became available.

44

45 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

46

47 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: All right. Thanks a
48 lot, Pete. That's timely information. And I'm glad to
49 hear that the Board is deliberating for sustainability
50 and also for the subsistence priority at least under

1 State regs, State subsistence law, which will benefit
2 the residents of our region.

3

4 And so we're coming up in our agenda
5 here -- I lost my agenda. Where are we at, Vince?

6

7 MR. MATHEWS: Jack, we're going into
8 fisheries section, and it would be an update of the
9 upcoming season, but I do have an update on Aloha
10 Creek. I'll just give you an update on the Aloha
11 Creek.

12

13 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Go ahead.

14

15 MR. MATHEWS: Okay. With that, I was
16 able to connect with our permitting office with Fish
17 and Wildlife Service which led me to connect with the
18 Corps of Engineers in Anchorage, and they've granted us
19 a two-week extension on public comment. I'm going to
20 try to get still within their thing, their comments.
21 So I did talk to their person reviewing that permit,
22 and I'll share with you. I didn't make copies of all
23 of it.

24

25 When this first permit was put out
26 there for the mine, this is what the Fish and Wildlife
27 Service position was on that mine. So you may want to
28 look at it and then decide to incorporate any or none
29 of that into your transmittal. So we do have a two-
30 week extension on that project.

31

32 I did share with Mr. Skinner with the
33 Corps of Engineers your basic concerns on salmon
34 impact, but I did also inform him that it's not a final
35 letter, and so there may be additional comments.

36

37 So that's all I have.

38

39 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Can you synopsis the
40 U.S. Fish and Wildlife position just very briefly?

41

42 MR. MATHEWS: No, Mr. Chairman. It's
43 seven pages long. I started to look at it, and it
44 wouldn't be fair to the amount, but it was basically
45 the spawning, importance to the spawning of chum, which
46 Russ may know more about, too, or others may know
47 about, the clear creek, and I also notice there's no
48 endangered species involved, but there was real concern
49 by the Fish and Wildlife Service -- how, this is going
50 backwards, we can't go back to that, that was the

1 original mining permit, but they had high concerns
2 about this operation on that, and requested that the,
3 if it's the right term, patents be purchased. And that
4 did not happen. And so now we're at a subsequent step
5 down the road.

6

7 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. All right.
8 Thank you for that update, Vince.

9

10 And so we're on the fisheries issues,
11 and Russ Holder is here for us. Do you have a
12 presentation on the Yukon, Russ?

13

14 MR. HOLDER: Yes, Mr. Chairman, I do.
15 Chairman and Council members. My name is Russ Holder.
16 I'm the Federal subsistence fisheries manager for the
17 Yukon River at the Fish and Wildlife Service. And we
18 have our regular office in Fairbanks and we have a
19 seasonal office down at the mouth of the Yukon in
20 Emmonak. And I'm going to be providing the 2007 Yukon
21 River salmon season outlook. I have provided a handout
22 to you which should be in front of you, and I also have
23 extra copies in the back if any of you would like to
24 take extra copies, or if the audience needs to pick up
25 any copies, there are some on the back table.

26

27 Both Federal and State Yukon River
28 fishery managers are planning to start the season using
29 the Alaska Board of Fisheries windowed subsistence
30 salmon fishing schedule beginning in late May in the
31 lower river. Similar to the last six years, a joint
32 information sheet discussing the 2007 outlook will be
33 published and distributed to Yukon River fishermen in
34 May. The following 2007 Yukon River salmon outlook
35 information was summarized from draft U.S./Canada Joint
36 Technical Committee report sections authored by Alaska
37 Department of Fish and Game managers and researchers.

38

39 The chinook salmon outlook. The 2007
40 run is expected to be average and similar in abundance
41 to the 2006 run, assuming a near normal return of five-
42 year-old fish and six-year-old fish. The two previous
43 return years of 2005 and 2006 were greater than
44 expected, indicating good production from the poor
45 return years of 2000 and 2001. A strong age five
46 return in 2006 suggests the potential for a good return
47 of six-year-old chinook salmon in 2007. It is
48 anticipated that the 2007 run will provide for
49 escapements, support a normal subsistence harvest, and
50 a below average commercial harvest. Fishery management

1 will be based upon in-season assessment of the run.
2 Similar to 2006, if in-season indicators of run
3 strength suggest sufficient abundance for a commercial
4 fishery, the commercial harvest in Alaska could range
5 from 30,000 to 60,000 chinook salmon.

6
7 Shifting to summer chum salmon outlook.
8 If ocean conditions remain favorable, it is anticipated
9 that the 2007 run will be near average and provide for
10 escapements, support a normal subsistence and
11 commercial harvest. The 2007 summer chum salmon run is
12 dependent on the escapements occurring in 2003, which
13 were age four fish, and 2002, which were age five fish.
14 Although 2001 was one of the poorest escapement years
15 on record, summer chum salmon returns during 2002 to
16 2006 have exhibited productivity improvements with
17 harvestable surpluses the last five years. If in-
18 season indicators of run strength suggest sufficient
19 abundance to have a commercial fishery, the commercial
20 harvest in Alaska could range from 500,000 to 900,000
21 summer chum salmon, depending primarily upon market
22 conditions.

23
24 The fall chum salmon outlook. The 2007
25 fall chum salmon run size is expected to be near
26 average with a preliminary projection range of 700,000
27 to one million fish. The Yukon River 2007 fall chum
28 salmon run will largely be based on the parent years of
29 2002 to 2003. The projection is based on return-per-
30 spawner brood year calculations, improvements in
31 production observed since 2003 and an expectation that
32 parent year productivity will be near normal. The 2007
33 projected run size should provide for escapement,
34 support normal subsistence fishing activities and
35 provide for commercial opportunities where markets
36 exist. The run will be monitored in-season to
37 determine the strength in relation to the projected
38 range. The amount of harvest that can be provided will
39 be determined by the levels stipulated in the Alaska
40 Yukon River Drainage Fall Chum Salmon Management Plan.

41
42 The coho salmon outlook. The 2007 coho
43 salmon run is anticipated to be average to above
44 average based on record parent year escapement in 2003,
45 since coho salmon return primarily as age four fish.
46 The revised, which happened at this last Board meeting,
47 Yukon River Coho Salmon Management Plan allows directed
48 commercial coho salmon fishery when there is a
49 harvestable surplus of coho salmon and the fall chum
50 salmon run -- return is greater than 550,000 fish.

1 This completes the outlook presentation
2 on your agenda. In-season or if any time you have
3 questions regarding the Yukon River salmon management,
4 contact information is included on your handout for the
5 ADF&G summer season manager who is Steve Hayes, the
6 ADF&G fall season manager who is Fred Bue, and the Fish
7 and Wildlife Service manager, who is myself, Russ
8 Holder.

9

10 And if you have questions regarding the
11 outlook, I'd be happy to take them at this time.

12

13 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Has anybody got
14 questions for Russ on the salmon projected run outlook.
15 Robert.

16

17 MR. WALKER: Thank you, Mr. Chair. The
18 coho salmon at age-four fish versus the summer chum,
19 which is age four, are they still about the same, about
20 six pounds average weight on both fish here? Correct
21 me here.

22

23 MR. HOLDER: Yes, between six and seven
24 pounds, just depending upon the productivity return
25 from the Bering Sea.

26

27 MR. WALKER: Okay, thanks.

28

29 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Any other questions
30 on the projected run strength. Robert.

31

32 MR. WALKER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
33 You know, I just had it in my mind here and when you
34 called my name, it kind of like flew out of my head
35 here.

36

37 I was going to ask you about in Y4 we
38 don't have a commercial season and with this new
39 subsistence law here to trim the back tail both sides,
40 we don't have to do this in Y4 if we don't have a
41 commercial season? Correct me here.

42

43 MR. HOLDER: I'll be covering that in
44 the next section, which includes the Board of Fish
45 update.

46

47 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Any other questions.
48 Don.

49

50 MR. HONEA: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I

1 don't really have a -- I guess my question would be,
2 how many years has your study been going on and what's
3 the -- you know, what's the -- how accurate are you in
4 these guesstimates, if you.....

5
6 MR. HOLDER: Mr. Chairman. Mr. Honea.
7 When I came to the Yukon as an assistant manager in
8 1989, I know that these preseason outlooks were being
9 done before that when Fred Anderson was the manager,
10 they were being done then. They've been done for a
11 long time. How accurate they are, I think we're
12 getting better than we were, because of the history of
13 time that they've been going on. And as you can see,
14 the reason they're called outlooks is because they're
15 -- and not a forecast, is because they are a very
16 general assessment of what we think is going to be
17 returning. So you are right in characterizing them more
18 as a guesstimate, because the drainage is so large, the
19 environmental conditions that are experienced by the
20 fish out in the Bering Sea, there's just -- we do not
21 have a good forecast mechanism that accurately
22 predicts. What we are trying to do is give fishermen a
23 general expectation of the return and characterizing
24 them as, you know, below average, average or above
25 average is about as close as we can come at this point
26 in time with the information we have to look at.

27
28 MR. HONEA: Thank you. I just
29 appreciate that answer, because, I mean, you know, some
30 years we're pretty surprised, like last summer at the
31 numbers of the kings, of runs that we had, and I was
32 just -- you know, these are kind of good numbers to
33 see, and I was just wondering how accurate, you know,
34 they are for this coming season. That's all.

35
36 Thank you.

37
38 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Any other questions
39 for Russ on the outlook.

40
41 MR. COLLINS: Yeah, Russ, this is
42 incidental, but on the Kuskokwim the sockeye salmon are
43 expanding and coming into new -- they're even showing
44 up in the Takotna, in the stream head and spawning. I
45 heard that there were some coming into the Yukon. Do
46 you know where they're going and whether they're being
47 successful in spawning anywhere?

48
49 MR. HOLDER: Mr. Chairman. Mr.
50 Collins. We have been seeing some increase on the

1 Yukon, primarily at the escapement project on the
2 Andreafsky, but it's still very low numbers, less than
3 500. And they do seem to be picked up incidently in
4 other projects up river. I believe we may have one,
5 two, three maybe I identified in the Gisasa River weir
6 project, but it has been low numbers upstream. I
7 wouldn't anticipate there'd be a significant increase,
8 because of the lack of lack systems for them to rear
9 in, which we don't have in the Alaska portion of the
10 Yukon River drainage.

11
12 MR. COLLINS: We found out that that's
13 not the case, because over half of the spawners going
14 into the Kuskokwim are spawning in the Holitna with no
15 lakes. They've successfully learned to spawn and rear
16 in the sloughs and lakes. They don't need a lake
17 system in the Yukon, because over half the production
18 -- we thought it was all going up the Stoney River into
19 lakes, and it's not. So you may be getting some over
20 there that will learn to reproduce in the rivers, too.

21
22 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yeah, large clear
23 water sloughs would seem to be able to support sockeye
24 interestingly.

25
26 Any other questions for Russ on the
27 outlook. Mickey.

28
29 MR. STICKMAN: No questions but, you
30 know, I just think the Board here should know that I
31 was at the Yukon River Drainage Fishermen's Association
32 meeting last week, and there was a guy from Canada in
33 attendance at the meeting, and they were -- well, he
34 was upset with the amount of fish going up into Canada.
35 So he was lobbying the YRDFA Board for a Canadian voice
36 on their board.

37
38 And then the other one was for Y3, they
39 were going to add an additional board member for Y3,
40 because they were going to add an additional board
41 member upriver to it, because the guys from Ft. Yukon
42 were -- didn't get along with the representative from
43 Eagle, so they wanted to have a board member of their
44 own on the YRDFA Board. So to make it even upriver and
45 lower river board membership, they had to add one more
46 person, and were going to add a person from -- well,
47 they discussed, talked about adding a person from the
48 Village of Russian Mission.

49
50 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: All right. Thanks

1 for that information, Mickey.

2

3 And my question to Russ is was the
4 border passage adequate for the salmon agreement with
5 Canada.

6

7 MR. HOLDER: Yes, it was. The
8 mark/recapture estimate was I believe 40,000 plus.

9

10 And I wanted to just reply to Mr.
11 Stickman in that the -- I am the acting Federal panel
12 representative on the U.S./Canada panel, and they're
13 meeting twice a year in the spring meeting basically to
14 address the border issues does occur in that venue, and
15 the development of the Eagle sonar by the Alaska
16 Department of Fish and Game, the number of fish that is
17 actually passing into Canada appears much greater than
18 what the mark/recapture estimates that the agreement
19 was based on. And so -- but the numbers of fish that
20 have been getting into Canada for the past several
21 years have met or exceeded what the panel set as an
22 objective to pass into Canada.

23

24 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Mickey.

25

26 MR. STICKMAN: I know the one last one
27 that I have is for the Kaltag fish plant, YRDFA is
28 helping them get some equipment there so they can --
29 but they still need to find a market for their -- but
30 they're trying to revitalize the Y4A commercial fishing
31 that they had that they never had for 10 years.
32 They're trying to revitalize that, and primarily using
33 the Kaltag fish plant that they have.

34

35 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: That will be for
36 processing chinook and chum, or just chinook?

37

38 MR. STICKMAN: No, Mr. Chair, it's
39 summer chum.

40

41 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Thank you.

42

43 One of my questions for Russ is when
44 you're making your forecast outlook is, do you take
45 into account the rate of incidence of bycatch in the
46 Bering Sea and have a subtraction component for the
47 Yukon River drainage? We're hearing about some
48 excessive bycatch in the Bering Sea right now.

49

50 MR. HOLDER: Mr. Chairman. The simple

1 answer is no, that we do not take that bycatch into a
2 numerical account with the overall return that's coming
3 back. Subjectively, right now we don't have a good
4 handle on whether the high bycatch numbers are
5 indicating increased numbers of fish that are out there
6 that will be returning potentially, or if, in fact,
7 they are just -- they are getting into say, you know, a
8 set number of fish and it's actually going to decrease
9 the number of fish that are coming back to the Yukon.
10 My personal concern is that the bycatch numbers -- I
11 mean, they are catching Yukon fish and it is going to
12 decrease the number that are coming back to the Yukon,
13 and we would have a better run if the bycatch wasn't as
14 high as it currently is.

15

16 And I would like to make the Council
17 aware that a letter was sent by the U.S./Canada Panel
18 co-chairs expressing concern for the high bycatch
19 numbers that have been occurring the last several
20 years.

21

22 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: It would stand to
23 reason that the high bycatch numbers should be
24 calculated. If you have an apportionment, a percentage
25 of Yukon fish that are typically harvested, a rough
26 numerical subtraction to your outlook would be a method
27 -- if the Commercial Fish Division of Alaska Department
28 of Fish and Game is calculating on harvesting so many
29 commercial fish of 30 to 60,000 chinook harvest, and we
30 have several thousand chinook that are apportioned to
31 the Yukon drainage, that would be -- I would consider
32 those as commercially harvested. And I'm uncomfortable
33 with not taking into account the bycatch in the
34 forecast projection.

35

36 MR. HOLDER: Mr. Chairman, I'll be
37 happy to express your concern and discuss it with the
38 ADF&G managers developing the outlook.

39

40 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Any further --
41 Mickey.

42

43 MR. STICKMAN: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
44 At the YRDFA Board meeting last week, they did talk
45 about having a bycatch cap. I don't think they ever
46 had a bycatch cap, but that was one of the resolutions
47 that they passed was actually having a bycatch cap.

48

49 And one of the other resolutions that
50 they passed was for the fish farms, to -- you know, the

1 Fish Board, not this last go around, but the go around
2 before, they had adopted some resolutions to lower
3 their release, and actually in reality they've been
4 increasing the release out into the ocean, you know.
5 But that's another resolution that passed at the YRDFA
6 Board was that they go back to that resolution and they
7 stick to it.

8

9 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I'm personally in
10 favor of that bycatch cap. They put to a floating
11 system and basically self-policing in the trawl fleet,
12 and that's not working.

13

14 And go ahead, Russ.

15

16 MR. HOLDER: Mr. Chairman, I did want
17 to make you aware that I am going to be attending the
18 bycatch workshop session that is going to be coming up
19 I believe the end of March here with the North Pacific
20 Fisheries Management Council that is the entity making
21 the decisions on the bycatch and caps and the rolling
22 hot spot portions. So I just wanted to make you aware
23 of that.

24

25 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thank you. Any
26 other questions on the outlook.

27

28 (No comments)

29

30 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: The one question I
31 had was on the commercial fish harvest on the Yukon for
32 chinook. The Quarter Point harvest target, is it still
33 set at 1,000 chinook for the first Quarter Point
34 opening that Comm Fish has been talking about?

35

36 MR. HOLDER: Mr. Chairman. If a Fish
37 and Game management representative was here, I would
38 defer to them. But having discussed this with Steve
39 Hayes, the summer season manager, the intent is for a
40 -- at this point in time, looking at an earlier opening
41 that would be a very low harvest. Now, the 1,000 fish
42 that has been discussed is not a cap, but the intent
43 would be to have a very low harvest if there is an
44 early opening at that Quarter Point time. But as I've
45 indicated in the handout, that the in-season decision
46 are going to be based on the fish that are returning at
47 that point in time. So the management approach may be
48 slightly or very different than what we're discussing
49 here at this time.

50

1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right. I'm aware of
2 -- well, I'm concerned about the way the directed
3 fishery was implemented last year with the perception
4 that when they were at Quarter Point and that they were
5 going to have a three-hour opening and catch
6 approximately 1,000 fish, but the run timing was
7 running behind schedule, and they still caught 900
8 fish. That's my concern, is that they were shooting
9 for 1,000, the run was behind schedule, and the still
10 caught 900. Three hours I think that the run could
11 have sustained a fairly significant harvest if it was
12 not running behind scheduled. And so I'm concerned
13 about the length of the fishing time. I would be more
14 comfortable with one-hour openings, or very extremely
15 short. I have commercial fished before. You can be on
16 top of those fish and you can get them all soaked up in
17 20 minutes. And so I'm concerned about, you know, the
18 specifics of getting into that first component of the
19 fish to that degree when we have hungry subsistence
20 users upriver that are anticipating that first pulse
21 and wanting some of those fish also.

22

23 Go ahead.

24

25 MR. HOLDER: Mr. Chairman. I share
26 similar concerns in that the early portion of the run
27 is also the portion of the run typically that upriver
28 subsistence users are also focused on taking their
29 harvest from. This past year the opening in District 2
30 was about four days earlier than the established
31 Quarter Point. At that point in time -- I mean, we
32 knew we were in front of the Quarter Point. The idea
33 was to have those fish get to the commercial market.
34 This year, we're unsure what the timing, you know, of
35 the -- every year it's usually different. And I share
36 your concern with having a large harvest on an early
37 opening even near the Quarter Point, and we'll be --
38 what I did want to mention with you, that I believe
39 Fish and Game has done a good job in decreasing the
40 exploitation rate down around 50 percent -- of your
41 overall returning run size, that the fish harvested has
42 been down around 50 percent the last four years or so
43 whereas in the late 90s it was 70 or 80 percent
44 exploitation rate. And they have said that they
45 acknowledge that that 70, 80 percent was too high, and
46 they have indicated that it is their intent to remain
47 around the 50 percent exploitation rate for the overall
48 health of the Yukon River salmon.

49

50 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Thank you.

1 I'm happy to hear that you are concerned about that
2 excessive harvest at that early portion of the run.

3

4 Any further questions on the outlook.

5

6 (No comments)

7

8 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: You can continue
9 with the rest of your overview.

10

11 MR. HOLDER: Mr. Chairman and Council
12 members. Identified on your agenda was an update of
13 the Alaska Board of Fisheries meeting that occurred in
14 Anchorage from 31st of January to the 5th of February.
15 And on the back side of the sheet that I handed out,
16 I've provided a summary of the different proposals that
17 were addressed by the Board of Fisheries.

18

19 And the first one that Robert Walker
20 had questioned was regarding the now that the Board has
21 required that the tail fin of salmon, subsistence-
22 caught salmon, and I'm going to read the text that I've
23 provided here, in Districts 1 through 3, from June 1 to
24 July 15th, a person may not possess king salmon taken
25 for subsistence uses unless both lobes or tips of the
26 tail fin have been removed before the person conceals
27 the salmon from plain view or transfers the salmon from
28 the fishing site. A person may not sell or purchase
29 salmon from which both lobes of the tail fin have been
30 removed. And I have a text in italics that this is
31 just summary text, and not the official regulation at
32 this point, because Fish and Game is currently working
33 on getting the regulation wording finalized.

34

35 So in answer to Mr. Walker's question,
36 no, this would not apply to District 4 during -- at any
37 time. This applies to Districts 1 through 3.

38

39 The next item, the Board did not make
40 any changes to the current subsistence window fishing
41 schedule. As I indicated, both the Department and Fish
42 and Wildlife Service is planning to start on the
43 windows fishing schedule similar to what has been
44 implemented the last several years.

45

46 Next, the Board did not make any
47 changes to subsistence or commercial set or drift
48 gillnet mesh sizes or mesh depths.

49

50 The Board did not make any changes

1 relating to the start date of commercial fishing
2 activity in the Lower Yukon.

3
4 The Board did not alter the commercial
5 harvest allocation for District 1 based on CDQ bycatch.

6
7 The Board did not change the District 1
8 boundaries for Y1, Y2 or Y3.

9
10 The Board amended the Yukon River Coho
11 Salmon Management Plan to allow commercial fishing if
12 the return is projected to provide for a harvestable
13 surplus and the fall chum salmon return is assessed to
14 be more than 550,000.

15
16 And the Board opened the lower 25 miles
17 of the Goodpaster River, which is up near Fairbanks, to
18 catch-and-release king salmon fishing.

19
20 And if I may, I wanted to comment that
21 the proposals which were in front of the Board of Fish
22 to address mesh size and mesh depths and were primarily
23 I believe concerns for the changing size of chinook
24 salmon. And I participated in all three or four
25 meetings that the Yukon River Drainage Fishermen's
26 Association was working to try to obtain a consensus on
27 an approach for either mesh depth or mesh size to try
28 to provide better opportunity for larger king salmon to
29 get to the spawning grounds. And that's where I put
30 considerable effort in trying to make progress to get
31 to consensus. Mr. Walker also participated in that
32 process. And unfortunately from the four meetings or
33 so that were held, we were unable to reach a consensus
34 point of view during that process, and my comment to
35 the Council would be that this was an extremely
36 difficult issue, and that it, from my point of view,
37 needed a much longer time period for discussion for
38 both upper Yukon and lower Yukon fishermen to really
39 get additional information and come to an understanding
40 of the best way to potentially approach getting larger
41 sized chinook salmon to the spawning grounds.

42
43 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

44
45 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Has people got
46 questions on the Board of Fish actions. Go ahead,
47 Robert.

48
49 MR. WALKER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
50 Also I wanted to add, I forgot to add five and six.

1 When they do have a commercial opening further upriver,
2 would they have to follow the guidelines here on this
3 also? Cut the lobes off?

4

5 MR. HOLDER: Mr. Chairman. Mr. Walker.
6 At this point in time the regulation for cutting the
7 lobes off the fish would not apply to District 5 or
8 District 6. It was just applying to Districts 1
9 through 3.

10

11 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Any other questions
12 on the Board of Fish actions. Vince.

13

14 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman. Since I
15 coordinate for the Eastern Interior Council, they're
16 going to be meeting in two weeks, and there is some
17 movement within the Eastern Interior Council to look at
18 ways of working more cooperatively on the river. I
19 don't know if it's going to result in anything, but I
20 think it may be an outcome of the YRDFA process here.
21 And so as an agency representative, we're hopeful that
22 the atmosphere on the river between upper and lower
23 will look at common ground and then build from there.
24 But I make no promises, but that's what we're hoping
25 that Eastern Interior, since they did lay out some
26 controversial proposals that resulted in this process.
27 So we'll keep you informed of that. It may end up, you
28 know, attendance of some of your members in this
29 process down the road if that does develop. But right
30 know, you know, the tension between upriver and lower
31 river is way up there.

32

33 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Robert.

34

35 MR. WALKER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
36 You know, Vince is right here, Mr. Chairman, here with
37 the meetings here, because Russ was at the meeting that
38 I was also there. It was almost -- Interior was kind
39 of like a mediator between both upper Yukon and lower
40 Yukon. It was kind of ironic in a sense, the way that
41 we were kind of like stuck in the middle, because
42 Western interior, we have to follow pretty much what
43 down Y1, 2, 3 does goes, because whatever happens there
44 happens to us in the middle.

45

46 And I talked to them, and we did talk a
47 little about having some kind of a fish management
48 meeting here with Western Interior and the lower Yukon
49 to come to some kind of consensus here, because all we
50 do is battle. We disagree with everything that's

1 thrown on the table. So, Mr. Chairman, I'm asking you
2 to -- if maybe to direct Russ and Vince to talk with
3 the Western Interior, see if we can sit down and have
4 some kind of a fish management meeting with the lower
5 Yukon included, and also the AC's would have to be
6 included into this, and some of the special interest
7 groups that did put these proposals in. I think it's
8 time to work now before the next three years come up
9 here, we're going to be sitting right in the same
10 position that we were three years ago, discussing the
11 same issues. And, I think, Mr. Chairman, that we are
12 kind of like a mediator, and I think that we should
13 work on this. This would be something for the whole
14 river, not only for us. Am I correct, Russ? You can
15 correct me here, too.

16

17 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

18

19 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thank you. Go

20 ahead, Russ.

21

22 MR. HOLDER: Mr. Chairman. Mr. Walker,
23 I agree with your assessment that this is an issue that
24 is going to take time, and we need to get all parties
25 together to continue to work on it. To ignore it, we
26 aren't going to make any progress. And from my
27 perspective, we need to continue to work on trying to
28 get larger chinook salmon up river to the spawning
29 grounds.

30

31 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: All right. I would
32 like to see the Yukon get together and come to a
33 consensus on looking out for the health of the
34 resource, and not just the economic viability of the
35 fishery.

36

37 And so I would like the OSM to look at
38 bringing together the possibilities or the viability
39 for a planning group for this. We've tried various
40 avenues. I would like to see the Western Interior
41 work with the lower Yukon on this issue, coming to some
42 kind of understanding. We've tried tri-Council
43 meetings. That's not been working. The advisory
44 committees along the river might help. But this issue
45 is kind of high centered and we need to break it off of
46 the pinnacle.

47

48 And my question is, did the Board of
49 Fish -- this Council requested the Board of Fish to
50 address this fish size decline. Did the Board of Fish

1 bring up the issue at all? Did they discuss what their
2 plans of addressing this 20 something percent size
3 decline on the Yukon River chinook? Did they address
4 that at all? They just blanked out all the proposals
5 and they were not going to worry about it. What is the
6 Board of Fish's position?

7

8 MR. HOLDER: Mr. Chairman. My
9 understanding is that they dealt with the proposals
10 that were in front of them. The proposal that was a
11 placeholder submitted by YRDFA to develop a consensus
12 position to try to address fish size, I believe they
13 took no action on because there wasn't a consensus.
14 And my understanding is that the Board of Fish did not
15 make a directed approach to address the decline of
16 chinook salmon.

17

18 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thank you. That's
19 exactly what I thought they had done. They just put
20 their head in the sand. And I'm not happy with the
21 Board of Fish's position there. If they're the lead
22 agency, managing agency right now for the commercial
23 fish in the Yukon River fishery, and so the Board of
24 Fish, it's in their purview under sustained yield
25 management, and they're watching a decline, a
26 concerning decline of the Yukon River chinook, put
27 their head in the sand and hope that somebody else is
28 going to fix the issue. The Western Interior's going
29 to fix it, and YRDFA going to fix it. Somebody else is
30 going to fix it. And I'm fairly annoyed with the Board
31 of Fish on that, taking that position, giving no
32 direction to the Department for the Department to come
33 up with an analysis of why that is happening. The
34 Department's saying, oh, it's marine decline, or some
35 other -- it's always somebody else's issue.

36

37 What I would like to see from our
38 fisheries biologist, Russ, here at our fall meeting
39 when we deal with fisheries is that the -- it is a
40 portrayal of how the chinook salmon has declined over
41 the 25, 30 years. I want an overlie of how the chum
42 salmon which inhabit the same marine system as the
43 chinook salmon, how the chum size in relation over the
44 same 20 to 30 year period. I don't want the last six
45 or eight years, I want the whole overlie of the chum
46 salmon, which will show that the chum salmon are not
47 declining in size. They swim in the waters. They have
48 the same trophic level in that ocean.

49

50 The selectivity is the issue. You

1 don't have to be a rocket scientist to figure out that
2 fishing eight and three-quarter inch net, you're
3 straining the water, and you're targeting a 30 to 60
4 pound king chinook salmon. The chum salmon is the
5 proof in the pudding. The chum salmon will show that
6 they haven't declined. There's no selection problem
7 with chum salmon.

8

9 And so we need a -- it's my opinion
10 that if I was on the Board of Fish, that I would direct
11 the Department to do a selectivity study for optimum
12 harvest. I feel that it's very important to harvest at
13 optimum especially during the commercial fishery or
14 intensive fishery at the lower end of the river. The
15 gear type, about seven and a half inch gear should
16 harvest the majority of the fish with the criteria that
17 they do not drop out of the net, that you have full
18 majority retention. And so the Department should be
19 doing a selection study towards optimum harvest so that
20 we don't strain the water and we catch the fish and
21 we'll have optimum retention.

22

23 And so I would like to see the Federal
24 Subsistence Board aware of this issue, that these
25 points that I brought be considered at the Federal
26 Subsistence Board, that needs to be -- there's a
27 disparity between the chinook salmon size decline and
28 the flat line basically of the chum salmon. They swim
29 in the same waters, it makes no sense that there's a
30 marine influence on size of one species to the next.
31 It's the trophic level of the food chain goes from
32 krill and planktons all the way up to smaller fish that
33 chinooks eat. So the bottom line is somebody's got to
34 start doing something, and so I guess the Federal
35 system is going to have to take the lead on this. The
36 State is not as -- is letting it all just fall by the
37 wayside. And so.....

38

39 Go ahead, Ron.

40

41 MR. WALKER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
42 Mr. Chairman, I would be careful on how I did it,
43 because I don't want to pit ourselves against the lower
44 Yukon RAC here. I think that we should correspond with
45 them and let their Board know what we're going to do
46 rather than jump into it like the Eastern Interior,
47 they didn't let anybody know what was going on. And,
48 you know, I want be careful like I said, because we
49 have to let them know and let the Eastern Interior know
50

1 And one other is to add to your --
2 Russ, what is the high seas interception on our chinook
3 salmon? You know, I mean, you see on the news where
4 the Chinese trawler's throwing the king salmon
5 overboard when they were caught. You know, how many
6 incidental catches are having, how many -- I mean,
7 nobody will probably ever know how many illegal catches
8 that they had done on our chinook salmon.

9

10 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

11

12 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thank you, Robert.
13 Yeah, I'm not wanting to do these things in the dark.
14 I would like the lower YK RAC and the Eastern Interior
15 to know exactly our line of tack on this issue. We
16 seem to be in the mediator position here. And the line
17 of thinking that the marine system is the cause of the
18 decline in the chinook salmon doesn't hold water. And
19 so I feel that there needs to be some progressive
20 thinking here, looking at what the trophic levels are,
21 and production rates of the Yukon, run strengths
22 correlated to size declines and overly that multiple
23 species and let's get on the road to some real
24 information here.

25

26 The Board of Fish is derelict in not
27 directing the Department of Fish and Game into doing
28 these types of -- addressing this issue.

29

30 You've got a comment, Russ.

31

32 MR. HOLDER: Yes, Mr. Chairman.
33 Council members. Fred Anderson and I made the request
34 to the Office of Subsistence Management, you know,
35 several years ago, and the result of that request and
36 concern for chinook salmon size decline on the Yukon
37 was the Hyer and Schluesner report. Unfortunately, the
38 escapement projects that were compared didn't have
39 long-term data basis that could be reviewed and
40 compared to be able to show what fishermen are saying
41 is happening with the fish on the river.

42

43 Dani Evanson and the Joint Technical
44 Committee for the U.S./Canada process have done an
45 initial review and report regarding what potential
46 things may be impacting Yukon River chinook salmon, and
47 I believe the kind of things that you're talking about
48 and would like compared is going to be part of their
49 next step of analysis and trying to look at more
50 specifically some of the information that is available,

1 including some of the commercial information, and I
2 will commit to this group to, number 1, be working with
3 the joint technical committee to make them aware of
4 your concerns and the kind of information that you
5 would like to see compared, and if they are able to
6 include some of that, I'll do my best to see what I can
7 get pulled together for you, although part of the
8 problem is that Fish and Wildlife Service isn't the
9 primary holder of that data, and we definitely will be
10 needing to work with Fish and Game and, as Mr. Walker
11 has indicated, this is the kind of thing that needs to
12 be coordinated throughout the river, so everybody is
13 seeing the same information and can review and make
14 comments. And I think folks need to understand that
15 the information, like commercial information, some of
16 it isn't directly comparable. You have to take it with
17 a grain of salt such that, you know, lower information,
18 either set gillnets or drift gillnets, comparing with
19 upper river stationary gear, fishwheels, you know, set
20 gillnets. There's difficulty in trying to pull some of
21 the kind of comparisons that you would like to see.

22

23 But no less I believe those comparisons
24 should be done, and we'll try to get that pulled
25 together for you to be able to review.

26

27 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I'm very encouraged
28 to hear that this is the next step but I would
29 encourage this as an expedited process and I'm wanting
30 the whole river to work together on this issue and I
31 want both managing bodies, the State and the Federal
32 government to work together to address this issue. I'm
33 distraught with the Board of Fish not directing the
34 Department to do exactly this. They should be
35 directing the Department to address this decline and
36 this body, every Council is talking about this decline
37 on the Yukon River and size and we need to address this
38 issue and I'm not happy with the Board of Fish.

39

40 And so Vince has got a comment there.

41

42 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman. I'm just
43 thinning out loud here and Don may need to jump in on
44 this. If I understand what Western Interior may want
45 to do with this, and I know Robert is going to have an
46 answer to this or rebuttal to it, if Western Interior
47 wants to be kind of the mediator on this or start a
48 process to get this off the dime or off high-center,
49 I'm assuming we have teleconference in the Yukon-Delta
50 meeting next week that we could possibly plug in one of

1 your representatives. I would not suggest talking
2 about net selectively and drop out rates, that
3 immediately jumps a couple of steps ahead in this
4 process, but would be to express what Robert's
5 expressed, that Western Interior is real concerned that
6 they have to mediate between these two groups, that the
7 tensions are so high and people are fighting over their
8 fish and get that across to the Yukon-Kuskokwim next
9 week, and then the Eastern Interior is following the
10 following week and maybe the three Councils can then
11 come to an agreement that this process that you're kind
12 of laying out, Russ can help me out on this, I don't
13 know how big it will be, of getting these different
14 entities together to find out what they have in common.
15 We already know what they disagree on. But what do we
16 have in common. And then from there see how there can
17 be an understanding to move in these other directions.

18

19 My little understanding of this, if you
20 immediately go into net selectivity it's not going to
21 go. If you're going to immediately go with some of
22 these other issues, it's not going to go. There has to
23 be an education of understanding of that, and I know
24 YRDFA tried, I'm not saying they didn't. But that's
25 just a suggestion and then that way you could start the
26 process, which Robert already did in the YRDFA meeting,
27 but reemphasize it with the YK Council and then we'd
28 have to plug in maybe the Eastern and get this moving,
29 that's not promise that there'll be any group formed.
30 But then it's you guys saying to the body, as all three
31 Councils this is what you'd like done. Instead of
32 Western saying we want this, Eastern saying -- I got a
33 faint feeling I'm going to be writing a lot of
34 proposals in Eastern Interior, I hate to say that, but
35 there's a good chance, and so anyways enough said,
36 that's just an idea.

37

38 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Ron.

39

40 MR. SAM: Thank you, Mr. Chair. When
41 we had that tri-council meeting at Wasilla it was quite
42 obvious that a good percentage of all our disagreements
43 had to do with cultural differences and traditions
44 also, not only disagreements on proposals. The
45 composition of the then YK-Delta Council and, yes, the
46 Eastern Interior Regional Council has changed. A lot
47 of our non-speaking YK-Delta Council members are now
48 off the Board. The Council down in that area is
49 getting younger and younger, and the leadership in that
50 area is also getting younger. We also have a Council

1 member on YK-Delta that was a former Board of Game
2 member, and I think that if we do meet again with them
3 and with Eastern Interior, our outlook will come out
4 different than what we did at that time because at that
5 time it was just strictly old ways, old ways, we used
6 to do this, we want to do that, and keep doing that and
7 it was mostly cultural differences.

8

9 We will have regardless of what we do
10 or what we don't do, and that has a lot to do on
11 bearing and while I do not want to serve as a mediator,
12 maybe our biggest problem is Eastern Interior and the
13 proponent of most of these controversial proposals that
14 do come out before us. A lot of them are just designed
15 to stir up a hornet's nest within the Western Interior
16 and the YK-Delta and hope that one or two of their
17 proposals will go through. So there's a lot to be
18 considered, but I do think the new composition of these
19 other Councils we may be able to meet and see eye to
20 eye more than we did at that Wasilla meeting. That's
21 what I'm hoping for, I guess, like I said the
22 leadership has changed down in that area, too.

23

24 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Vince.

25

26 MR. MATHEWS: Not to disagree with Ron
27 or that, I'm not putting forth a tri-Council meeting,
28 that was not my intent. It may end up there. I'm just
29 saying what I was interpreting what you were saying is
30 there's several steps to get before you get to that
31 decisional stage and, Jack, in my opinion is totally
32 correct, something needs to be started, and right now
33 who's going to start it. And I think that's the
34 question before you.

35

36 Eastern may start it, but I can't
37 predict that. I didn't have any phone messages on the
38 draft annual report I wrote so that might be a plus.
39 But, again, their feeling of frustration is extremely
40 high. They're totally tired of no action to their
41 responses. So I'm anticipating some of them are going
42 to try to move back because they got nothing out of
43 both Boards, but I can't say for sure that's what
44 they're going to do.

45

46 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I have equal
47 frustration. I am very frustrated with the process,
48 it's like, well, let's just wait and see what's going
49 to happen. I'm equally as frustrated as the Eastern
50 Interior personally. I am extremely frustrated when

1 this Council transmitted to the State Board of Fish
2 that we were very concerned about the decline of
3 chinook salmon in the Yukon River and they did nothing,
4 they made no direction to the Department. I am
5 extremely frustrated with that.

6

7

Robert.

8

9

MR. WALKER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
10 Mr. Chairman, you know, it is frustrating, sure. You
11 know, a lot of people in our area, Y4 or District 6,
12 you know, down river do have a lot of nets and to have
13 something come to an abrupt stop and go to a six inch
14 mesh, stretch mesh, go to a 30 mesh deep net, I mean
15 there's people here who have two or \$3,000 nets here
16 and to take those and throw them out and start over,
17 that's a little bit too quick for a lot of the people
18 in Holy Cross, Anvik, Grayling, Koyukuk, Kaltag and
19 Nulato, Y1, Y2 and Y3, it was a little bit too quick
20 here, that's one of the things that struck us was that
21 you can't just take this to these people and say, okay,
22 this is it, you know, regardless of what you say this
23 is it. You can't do that to people.

24

25 You know that's dictatorship when you
26 start doing this to people. That's where I drew the
27 line and I said we're going to go with the lower Yukon.

28

29 And one of the things that -- you know,
30 I talked to Tim Andrew, Francis Thompson, I talked to
31 the young boys down there, they're all my age, I call
32 them young, I talked to our chiefs in our area, I
33 didn't have a chance to talk to Kaltag, Nulato or
34 Koyukuk Chief, but, you know, the State's going to
35 clamp down here on us pretty soon, I don't know when.
36 You know, one of the guys we were talking to in
37 Anchorage says, you know, that maybe the State's going
38 to have to step in and say this is what we're going to
39 do, we're going to go to six inch mesh whether you like
40 it or not, correct me, because this has been going on
41 twice now, these proposals have been up to the Board of
42 Fish twice, and they've been rejected twice by the
43 Board of Fish. And now we're going to have to be a
44 little more serious, you know, it could be us that
45 could start this ball rolling, it could be the lower
46 Yukon, it could be the Eastern, but again it could from
47 OSM, saying that you guys are going to have to do
48 something here before the State just shuts you guys
49 down, down to whatever we think is possible to sustain
50 our seven year fish. Correct me here, am I -- Russ,

1 correct me here.

2

3

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Russ.

4

5

MR. HOLDER: Mr. Chairman. Mr. Walker.

6 You've raised --in my mind you've raised several legal
7 issues about precedent and preemption and priority that
8 are not absolutely clear at this point in time
9 regarding, you know, who should be or has the legal
10 ability to take some kind of actions that you're
11 talking about.

12

13

I have not heard the State indicating
14 that there would be -- that they are even considering
15 going to a six inch mesh regulation. And I sincerely
16 doubt that that would be an approach that they would be
17 thinking of.

18

19

Even though the Board did not direct
20 the Department to take specific measures, the
21 Department, at least, the biologists that I'm working
22 with are concerned about the chinook salmon fish size
23 issue. One thing I have heard them discussing is
24 trying to implement a -- and I think this may even be
25 in conjunction with a YR DFA project, doing a test
26 fishery in the lower Yukon using seven and a half inch
27 mesh, the Department did discuss potentially
28 implementing some quality assessment on their spawning
29 ground escapement objectives, I'm not sure where that's
30 at.

31

32

What I'm trying to convey to the
33 Council members is that the Department has been seeing
34 the same information, they are participating in the
35 Joint Technical Committee reporting that I made you
36 aware of. And I believe the Department is trying to
37 gather additional information to help make a decision
38 for into the future for regulatory purposes that will
39 be based, hopefully, on good information.

40

41

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Well, I'm slightly,
42 slightly more heartened by that, but I do feel that the
43 Board, it's their imperative duty to direct the
44 Department to do those investigation, not the
45 Department to initiate them. So I feel that the Board
46 of Fish is not doing what is necessary under their
47 Constitutional mandate for sustained yield, and I would
48 like to transmit a letter to them but I don't feel that
49 that would be productive at all. But I'm not happy
50 with them.

1 Go ahead, Mickey.

2

3 MR. STICKMAN: Thanks, Mr. Chair. We
4 could spend the rest of the afternoon on this subject,
5 but the bottom line is the Board of Fish didn't take
6 any kind of action on it and the fish size committee
7 that YRDFA and the rest of the agencies had put
8 together couldn't come to a consensus on the fish size
9 issue and the recent YRDFA Board of Directors, the full
10 Board of Director's meeting, since the fish size
11 committee didn't have any resolutions to put before
12 them, nothing came up about that, so in reality we
13 could spend the rest of today talking about it, but the
14 bottom line is nothing happened.

15

16 But the main thing is I did tell them
17 that the issue is not going away, so, that they should
18 at least put it on their agenda for their next YRDFA
19 Board meeting and at least we have that on the table.
20 At least -- I mean I didn't want them just to -- I mean
21 like right now being at an impasse, and that's the
22 bottom line. I mean we could sit here all day and
23 argue back and forth but, you know, actually we're not
24 really going to accomplish anything.

25

26 MR. WALKER: Jack.

27

28 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, Robert.

29

30 MR. WALKER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
31 You know, I think it's time to move on because this is
32 already done, cut and dried, and we have to go on and
33 move on to another plan here. We have to think of
34 something here because what's done is done. And I
35 don't want to hear you or anybody else dragging this up
36 again because we have to look forward, not backwards.
37 If we're looking backwards then we're not doing our
38 job, if we're looking forward we're trying to resolve
39 an issue and that's what I would like to see done.

40

41 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

42

43 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Well, that's what my
44 questions revolved around, directing the issue towards
45 another line of thought. The line of thought I had
46 was, overlying the chinook salmon with the chum salmon,
47 that shows that there's not a decline in the chum and
48 there is in the chinook. That addresses a whole line
49 of -- a whole position that it's a marine decline.
50 This is moving forward but I have additional questions

1 for information. And nobody's trying to jam a six inch
2 -- that was completely voted down on the Middle Yukon
3 Advisory Committee, nobody wants six inch gear, that's
4 something the Eastern Interior's come up with. Nobody
5 wanting six inch gear, that's not -- but there does
6 need to be a maximum harvest.

7
8 I have a question, what is the maximum
9 harvest gear size on the Yukon River, that's my
10 question. I would like to have that answered in our
11 next meeting. That would be seven and a half inch
12 gear, seven and three-quarter inch gear, what size gear
13 catches the optimum number of fish, that's the
14 question. I'm not directing a proposal or anything, I
15 just want to know what that number is.

16
17 So these are moving forward, I am
18 frustrated with the Board of Fish, but we do need a
19 planning process, we do need people to come back around
20 and come on the same page that we do have a decline in
21 the chinook salmon and that needs to be addressed.

22
23 And so we have spent too much time on
24 this issue at this time, we're not on our fisheries
25 portion right now to the main degree, this is a game
26 meeting. So does anybody have any additional questions
27 of Russ, then I would like to move on to Heather
28 Hildebrand here.

29
30 (No comments)

31
32 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, Russ.

33
34 MR. HOLDER: Mr. Chairman. Eastern
35 Interior has proposals that are to the Federal Board
36 that have been deferred that I believe they will be
37 reviewing at their upcoming meeting. And one
38 suggestion that this Council may want to consider
39 making is to continue to have the YRDFA organization,
40 say, coordinate, along with participation by the three
41 Yukon River Councils to try to address and bring
42 forward some of the concerns that have been aired
43 today.

44
45 Thank you.

46
47 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay, thank you.
48 Carl.

49
50 MR. MORGAN: Yeah, I'm glad you brought

1 that up. It's, you know, I was looking at that map, I
2 walked up to look at the map and who's got jurisdiction
3 of that lower Yukon River, is it State land or Federal
4 land?

5

6 MR. WALKER: State.

7

8 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Russ.

9

10 MR. MORGAN: State.

11

12 MR. HOLDER: Mr. Chairman. Mr. Morgan,
13 it is Federal waters but the State is the primary lead
14 entity and the responsibility for the Federal
15 management is to provide for healthy stocks and the up
16 river Federally-qualified subsistence users, to make
17 sure that their needs are also provided for. And the
18 Federal government does have the authority to preempt
19 the State regulations if the priority needs are not
20 being provided for for the up river users, but that is
21 a very high standard because most of the decisions are
22 subjective.

23

24 Mr. Chairman.

25

26 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay, thank you,
27 Russ. Any other -- okay, Don, go ahead.

28

29 MR. RIVARD: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Don
30 Rivard with the Office of Subsistence Management. The
31 Federal Subsistence Board met on Monday, March 5th and
32 part of that meeting was they got an update on this
33 very issue about where it's all at. Jill Klein was
34 there from YRDFA and she gave a report. Dani Evanson,
35 is that her name, from ADF&G gave a PowerPoint
36 presentation to the Board. And I think that -- I know
37 that Jill said this, I'm paraphrasing her, she may have
38 said it in front of the Board, but if she didn't she
39 did kind of after her presentation, is that, right now
40 YRDFA doesn't see the benefit of continuing to meet
41 with the group that they've had unless there's new
42 information that the group can consider, because, this
43 is my words, not hers, the people have kind of dug into
44 their positions now and unless there's some new
45 information that they can all consider that would
46 indicate one way or another to go, they're probably not
47 going to go anywhere with this group, they're at an
48 impasse.

49

50 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right. That's what
2 I understood. We do need additional information on
3 this fishery. I've stated those, we'll move on with
4 this.

5
6 You've got something additional to say,
7 Vince.

8
9 MR. MATHEWS: Well, maybe not, I don't
10 know. Don brought up, which I failed, those four
11 proposals that the Board of Fish took no action on,
12 were deferred by the Federal Subsistence Board, they
13 will come back up next cycle. We're hoping that
14 Eastern Interior may consider requesting the Board to
15 withdraw them or modifying them. I don't know if you
16 want to politely suggest to Eastern Interior, since the
17 Board of Fish meets, when, next, three years, three
18 years, to take a break and look at some other method
19 than these proposals. I mean I'm prejudging our Board,
20 so I apologize for that, but if the Board of Fish
21 didn't pass them, what's the chance of the Federal
22 Subsistence Board passing these with the same data,
23 same situation, so maybe you want to ask that Eastern
24 Interior look seriously at withdrawing those proposals
25 and look at some other kind of process to deal with
26 this.

27
28 Now, the caution you need to know on
29 this, they can request anything with those proposals.
30 The proposals now are the ownership of the Board, the
31 Board could say, no, we're not going to withdraw them
32 or allow you to modify them.

33
34 Anyway it's just another thought. It
35 drags this on further but that's it.

36
37 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. You got
38 something there, Don.

39
40 MR. RIVARD: Yeah, Vince, pointed out
41 what I was going to say, they are the property of the
42 Federal Subsistence Board, these deferred proposals.
43 And one option that the Board also has is to continue
44 to defer them. They may or may not be brought up in
45 the
46 next cycle. The Eastern Interior Council can ask that
47 they indeed be brought up again this year or as Vince
48 indicated, they may submit new proposals, they may
49 modify them but they're the property of the Board,
50 those four that they submitted -- Eastern Interior

1 submitted this past cycle and so it's up to the Board
2 to determine what they'll do with them.

3

4 Thank you.

5

6 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right, I understand
7 that. I would like the Eastern Interior and the YK-
8 Delta Councils to be aware that my particular questions
9 are that I question the size decline of the chinook
10 overlying with the chum salmon and I question what the
11 optimum size for harvest on chinook salmon is on gear
12 size. Those are my questions. I feel that those are
13 very important questions and those have not been
14 addressed.

15

16 Go ahead Russ.

17

18 MR. HOLDER: Mr. Chairman. The size
19 selectivity research that Jeff Bromigan has published
20 has indicated that the seven and a half inch mesh is
21 the most effective gear mesh size for chinook salmon on
22 the Yukon.

23

24 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Well, I'm glad to
25 hear that. Moving forward. That's exactly what
26 Benedict Jones has been saying for year. And so
27 without belaboring this issue anymore, I think that the
28 Council is tired of this one and so we need to have
29 Heather Hildebrand step up and give us an update on
30 Kuskokwim Native Association Fisheries Project.

31

32 MR. WALKER: Can we take a break.

33

34 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Oh, we need a break.

35

36 MR. MATHEWS: I think you need a break,
37 Heather took some people to the airport and for some
38 reason she's not back yet.

39

40 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Oh, okay. All
41 right, we'll do a 10 minute break.

42

43 (Off record)

44

45 (On record)

46

47 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Maybe we ought to
48 try and come back to order again. And we're going to
49 need Heather Hildebrand next.

50

1 (Pause)

2

3 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Pete's on line there
4 and he's got additional update on that Mulchatna
5 proposals that the Board's been going through, so is
6 the Council ready to take that information.

7

8 Go ahead, Pete.

9

10 MR. DEMATTEO: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I
11 spoke with our liaison to the Alaska Board of Game, and
12 the Alaska Board of Game concerning State Proposals 76
13 through 80, the Board of Game took no action on those
14 proposals.

15

16 On State Proposal 209, the Alaska Board
17 of Game took action. They adopted Proposal 209 with
18 the modification to change the harvest limit to two
19 caribou, but no more than one caribou may be taken
20 during August 1st through January 31st and no more than
21 one can be taken -- no more than one of the two that is
22 taken can be a bull. Now, they also eliminated the
23 same day airborne provision. And as far as the non-
24 resident season, that is one bull for non-residents in
25 the fall.

26

27 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

28

29 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thank you, Pete.
30 I'm not real happy with that word on that they're
31 maintaining the non-resident harvest of bulls when we
32 have such a tremendously low bull/cow ratio, but that's
33 my opinion about that.

34

35 Any Council discussion.

36

37 (No comments)

38

39 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: We'll continue on
40 with Heather Hildebrand here. Go ahead, Heather.

41

42 MS. HILDEBRAND: Thank you, Mr.
43 Chairman, members of the Council for giving me the
44 opportunity to come speak to you today. I 'm going to
45 just give a brief summary of KNA's 2006 fisheries
46 projects.

47

48 As you know KNA is a Native non-profit
49 association dedicated to furthering local involvement
50 and understanding of fisheries projects within the

1 region. In order to do this we partner on fisheries
2 research projects. We act as a liaison between our
3 member villages and agencies. Teach, learn and
4 communicate with our members. And also mentor local
5 youth and encourage them to pursue higher education.

6
7 I'm just going to give you a brief
8 overview. These are the projects that we were involved
9 with this past year. They span the course of the
10 entire year, not all of them were happening at once and
11 I'm just going to briefly go through them.

12
13 First our tagging projects occurred at
14 the fishwheel at Kalskag. This was an FRMP project
15 also cooperatively conducted with ADF&G Commercial
16 Fisheries and Sportfisheries. We had two tagging
17 projects running concurrently, a chinook radio tagging
18 project that had double tags, both the soft radio tags
19 and spaghetti tags, or T-tags there on the dorsal fins
20 and also a sockeye tagging project with the same sort
21 of tagging.

22
23 And just to give you an idea of where
24 our projects are all located. As you can see, there's
25 the little fishwheel there in pink, and I don't know
26 how well you can see our weir projects, they're the
27 little green fences across all the different
28 tributaries. And then we also have our tracking
29 stations where our radio tagged fish are tracked to the
30 different spawning locations. And our weir sites acts
31 as recapture locations for our tagged fish.

32
33 One of our new projects we had this
34 year was a chinook run reconstruction project which we
35 put up a new weir on the Salmon River which is a
36 tributary of the Aniak and, again, this was an AYKSSI
37 funded project cooperatively conducted with ADF&G Comm
38 Fish. One of the objectives was to extend the radio
39 telemetry to include the Aniak River. In the past,
40 this is 2005 data, about 51 percent of the tagged fish
41 had gone up the -- I'm looking over there, yeah, my
42 screen's funny looking, oh, okay, you can't see that,
43 about 16 percent were the second highest concentration
44 of fish had actually gone up the Aniak so in order to
45 determine the proportion of the chinook run up the
46 Aniak we had this additional weir put up on the Salmon.
47 And also in addition to that we also did some beach
48 seining up the Aniak River to deploy and add some more
49 tags into the Aniak River to get a better estimate of
50 what was up there and these are some of our interns

1 assisting with the project.

2

3

4 So the second was to compare the
5 abundance estimate of the weir data and aerial survey
6 data that's been conducted in the past with the new
7 information gathered from the Salmon River weir. And
8 this was to estimate historical abundance and hopefully
9 use the tool for future management in building a model
10 to kind of assess the weir and aerial survey data in
11 order to get population estimates from past years to
12 see basically how well management has been at
13 predicting chinook runs and what to do about them.

14

15 Another new project we had this year,
16 as I mentioned, was the sockeye salmon radio tagging
17 project, which was conducted with ADF&G Comm Fish, also
18 the NRC, AVCP and National Park Service and our funding
19 was AYKSSI, Coastal Village Regional Fund, National
20 Park Service and ADF&G Comm Fish. And basically radio
21 tracking was done on our sockeye. And as you can see,
22 this is just preliminary data, this was the first year
23 of the project, but over 65 percent of our tagged
24 sockeye went up the Holitna as Mr. Collins had
25 mentioned earlier, and this was very interesting
26 because we had done some pilot tests in the past to
27 find that these sockeye were river rearing as opposed
28 to lake rearing and we were trying to get to the
29 juvenile rearing habitat. So in addition to having the
30 adults radio tagged, we were doing some juvenile
31 sampling, we did some seining up the Holitna in order
32 to assess which habitats the smolts were rearing in,
33 and it was back water sloughs, nice calm areas that
34 they were found most abundant in. And, again, this
35 AYKSSI and ADF&G and National Park Service and the
36 Coastal Villages Regional Fund were our cooperators.

37

38 Some of our continuing projects were
39 the George River Weir and at this project, of course,
40 we were recapturing tagged fish that went up the
41 George, we also had our high school internship program
42 that was being conducted there. And I don't know if
43 you can see the picture very well, the girl in the back
44 of the boat was one of our college interns, so she was
45 working there as well. And this was, again, one of our
46 FRMP projects.

47

48 The Tatlawiksuk River weir was one of
49 our continuing FRMP projects that we had this year.
50 And again it was a recapture site for our tagged fish,
51 it was estimating escapement and we also had our high

1 school and college internship programs occurring at
2 this location as well.

3

4 We also did some whitefish
5 radiotelemetry, our project continued this year. This
6 is a U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service FRMP project.
7 Tagging was done on -- I'm going to possibly
8 mispronounce this, the Kialik, also at the Kalskag
9 fishwheels at the end of the chinook and sockeye runs,
10 and also at Discovery Creek near Kalskag. These fish
11 were then tracked with radio tracking stations and
12 aerial surveys were conducted in order to track them as
13 well. And past information, I don't have 2006 data as
14 of yet, it's still being analyzed, the past data had
15 showed that for concentrations of humpback whitefish,
16 were mainly around Swift River and Big River and the
17 Holitna River. And hopefully this year we'll get more
18 information as to whether or not these were the same
19 locations found this year or something different.

20

21 Broad whitefish, I'm not really quite
22 sure, they were sort of milling around these main stem
23 areas around McGrath and Medfra and so we're not really
24 sure if they were just traveling, spawning, hanging
25 out, maybe they were lost, we're not really sure. So
26 we're hoping to find out more information with this
27 year's data as well to add to that.

28

29 And as I mentioned, we have our college
30 and high school internship programs that occurred both
31 at the George and the Tatlawiksuk River weirs. This
32 year we had three college interns, we had Shauna
33 Hamilton, which is our Fisheries Partners research
34 intern, Rainy Diehl was our Fisheries Partners
35 education intern, and we had a new intern this year our
36 expeditor was Alex Dattilo.

37

38 And this is the basic duties and
39 projects that our fisheries education intern and our
40 fisheries research intern participated in and just for
41 sake of time I've kind of put them all up here on the
42 same thing, but basically it was the George and the
43 Tatlawiksuk. And in addition Shauna was able to go to
44 Kalskag fishwheels, get experience with radio tagging,
45 see basically that side of that aspect of the projects.
46 She also assisted with the Aniak River beach seining.
47 And Rainy's main priority, her main duty was working
48 with the high school internship program and she also
49 assisted with the sockeye salmon sampling, and she also
50 conducted an Aniak clean up day and also put together a

1 mine education meeting in Sleetmute with David and some
2 members of ONC. And basically the duties were centered
3 around weir installation, ASL sampling, daily passage,
4 aspects of that as well as tag deployment, data
5 collections and mentoring the high school students and
6 curriculum development for our high school internship
7 program.

8
9 Just to give you an idea, we had 19
10 high school interns this past summer that participated
11 in our program. This is actually one of the highest
12 numbers that we've had of returning students. We've
13 had five returning students this past year, which was
14 really good. Because we had so many returning
15 students, we didn't want to give them the same
16 curriculum that they'd received the previous year
17 because we didn't want them to get bored, so we
18 developed a new curriculum for them, which was more of
19 daily science projects in addition to working at the
20 weirs, or these guys are actually at the Kalskag
21 fishwheels with me. And we had students all the way
22 from Kalskag to Sleetmute and we're hoping to get more
23 students this coming year as well as some from villages
24 that haven't participated yet, like maybe Lime Village,
25 Russian Mission, stuff like that.

26
27 As an additional high school internship
28 position we offered this year, was our High School
29 Internship II, sort of, we had two students that
30 participated in that, Charles John from Aniak and
31 Amanda Goods from Takotna, we offered this to these
32 students because they had more of an aptitude and an
33 interest in fisheries science possibly for future
34 careers so we were hoping to really give them more
35 involvement in the projects, more responsibility.
36 Charles helped with the Aniak River beach seining for
37 about seven weeks as a part-time technician and Amanda
38 Goods worked at the fishwheels for two weeks as a
39 fisheries technician doing tag deployment of the
40 sockeye and we're hoping to have them both back next
41 year -- or this coming year for this position.

42
43 As I mentioned one of our new
44 internship positions was our fisheries expeditor, which
45 actually has been changed, name-wise, to our office
46 intern so in case you see that in the future that's
47 what the name's going to be. Basic duties were
48 providing logistical support from Aniak to our various
49 projects which included ordering supplies, organizing
50 the resupplies to camp, the intern rotation and also

1 filling in for weir crews when needed. Alex was able
2 to go both to the Tatlawiksuk and the Salmon River weir
3 and assist when there was a hole in the employee
4 schedule.

5
6 This is our -- oh, you can't see it too
7 well. This is basically our list of employees that we
8 had this summer. In addition we had 19 one week high
9 school interns that participated and all of our
10 projects went off very smoothly and it's because of the
11 hard work and dedication of all of our employees that
12 that was made possible.

13
14 At the end of the field season we had
15 our other project, which was our subsistence fish
16 harvest monitoring, our salmon harvest surveys which
17 were conducted by myself and several members from
18 ADF&G. This is one of our FRMP projects and it
19 occurred both during September and October. Basically
20 just tried to get an updated household list of Aniak,
21 we went around and bothered everybody that we could
22 think of. We got them at their homes, at their office,
23 we called them on the phone, we just tried to make sure
24 that we at least we were able to touch each household
25 at least once to get an idea of what fish they were
26 harvesting and what they thought of the runs, whether
27 or not they found enough fish when they were fishing
28 and if they had any concerns about, you know, windowed
29 schedules or any sort of regulations, stuff like that.
30 We will be conducting that again this fall.

31
32 We actually just had also one of our
33 other internship positions, was our chinook genetics
34 position, which just happened this past January in
35 Anchorage at the ADF&G gene lab, Lisa Kangas from Ruby,
36 she spoke to you guys last fall, she was our intern and
37 did a great job. She got to go to the lab and
38 basically spend a week learning the process of
39 extracting DNA from the genetic samples that we take
40 from the chinook and the various other fish, too, but
41 mainly the chinook and how to process it, where that
42 information's used, how that helps managers for
43 identifying populations and relationships and we're
44 hoping to have her back, actually, this summer for a
45 sort of an exchange program with our interns. We're
46 hopefully going to send some of ours over there to the
47 Yukon and maybe have her come over and learn different
48 projects.

49
50 And with that I would like to

1 acknowledge all of our personnel and technicians that
2 helped and our interns as well as our member villages
3 and our cooperators ADF&G Commercial, Sportfish and
4 subsistence personnel, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service,
5 the Office of Subsistence Management, Bering Sea
6 Fishermen's Association, Coastal Villages Regional
7 Fund, National Park Service and AYKSSI.

8

9 And with that I can take any questions.

10

11 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thank you, very
12 much, Heather. If people have questions or comments.

13

14 Ray.

15

16 MR. COLLINS: Well, I'd just like to
17 thank you, Heather, for really a good job in reporting
18 and really a good job in working with these interns
19 because I think this is the future that we're talking
20 about. We're involving people from the area and
21 getting them started and hopefully we'll see a lot of
22 them in these careers out here and thank you for your
23 part in that, it's very good. Well done.

24

25 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Any other questions.

26

27 (No comments)

28

29 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I -- Don.

30

31 MR. HONEA: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I
32 have no questions. I think that's a fine presentation
33 and appreciate that.

34

35 Thank you.

36

37 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yeah, I think KNA is
38 doing a great job with the partnership projects and so
39 I did have one question there, how many of those radio
40 tags were deployed in the chinook and sockeye, about
41 how many.

42

43 MS. HILDEBRAND: Yes, Mr. Chairman. I
44 had this information just in case you did ask it.

45

46 We had a total for chinook that were
47 tagged at the Kalskag fishwheel is 507 and T-tagged
48 were 767, and sockeye was 498 radio tags and 3,384 T-
49 tags.

50

1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. That's pretty
2 good deployment. So any other questions.

3
4 (No comments)

5
6 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay, thank you very
7 much. And Brandy wanted to be up next. She's going to
8 give a presentation, so come on up Brandy.

9
10 MS. BERKBIGLER: Thank you, Mr. Chair
11 and Council. My name is Brandy Berkbigler and I'm a
12 Partners Fisheries biologist for Tanana Chiefs
13 Conference in Fairbanks.

14
15 Today I'd like to just give you a
16 summary -- I know that Jenny is new so I'll kind of
17 review a little bit about the FRMP Fisheries Monitoring
18 Partners Program and then I'll go into what TCC has
19 been doing and what they currently are going to be
20 doing for the 2007 year.

21
22 So the Fisheries Resource Monitoring
23 Program, FRMP, it provides funding for fisheries
24 projects, addressing Federal subsistence management
25 issues. The projects are supposed to gather
26 information on fish stock, status and trends and
27 subsistence harvest patterns and traditional ecological
28 knowledge are kind of the categories in which you apply
29 for funding.

30
31 This is to help Alaska Native and rural
32 Alaska Native organizations participate in fisheries
33 research. They develop the Partners for Fisheries
34 Resource Monitoring Program in 2002. So the Partners
35 for Fisheries Monitoring Program places fisheries
36 biologists and social scientists within the different
37 Alaska Native and rural organizations. And the
38 partners are in a sense tasked to help identify
39 subsistence fishery issues by attending community
40 meetings, listening to local concerns, and with that
41 they develop research projects in collaboration with
42 Federal, State, university and private professionals.
43 And this also provides educational opportunities
44 through fisheries technician training science camps and
45 internships. So the goals of the Partners Program are
46 to promote cooperation between the Alaska Native and
47 rural organizations and State and Federal agencies,
48 facilitate participation in Fisheries Resource
49 Monitoring Program by developing projects, and then
50 support community outreach and education. And also

1 encourage future scientists through the mentoring of
2 college students, that's where a lot of our intern
3 programs come in handy.

4
5 So at TCC the position is funded
6 through the Office of Subsistence Management and in
7 2002, AVCP and CATG and TCC all submitted a proposal to
8 have partners biologists within those organizations.
9 TCC advertised and hired a fisheries biologist and she
10 came on in about September 2003. So we're employed
11 through TCC and we're supposed to work with the 42
12 villages within TCC's region, which is a pretty big
13 region for one person to deal with all the different
14 projects. Promote an understanding and knowledge of
15 fisheries through outreach and local hire internships
16 and cooperatively work on research projects with
17 various entities and organizations in that region.

18
19 So just to give you a little map of the
20 whole area that we are involved in, the department that
21 the TCC partner's biologist works under is the
22 Department of Cultural and Natural Resources. And
23 within that you have the forestry, archeology, realty
24 and wildlife and fisheries and in my department I have
25 one subsistence resource director, which is Mike Smith,
26 who is my direct supervisor and then there's myself,
27 the partner's fisheries biologist and then funding for
28 two temporary interns, which last year we only had one
29 intern just because of the projects that we had.

30
31 So since 2003 to 2006 TCC's involvement
32 in fisheries projects, the OSM funded projects were
33 Kanuti whitefish where TCC helped in radio tagging
34 whitefish in the Kanuti lakes and then flying on the
35 radio telemetry surveys to find out where their
36 possible spawning and migrating routes are for the
37 whitefish on the Kanuti Refuge. They also were a
38 principal investigator in the TEK and Western Science
39 Camp in Fort Yukon where we blended traditional
40 ecological knowledge from elders with Western science
41 from the managers and the different researchers with
42 the different students in the Yukon Flats area to try
43 and give them a broad perspective of what their elders
44 knew with what the terminology of what Western science
45 was so everybody could try and understand what's going
46 on. And then we also were a co-investigator with the
47 Henshaw Creek weir on the upper part of the Koyukuk
48 River in the Kanuti National Wildlife Refuge; this was
49 a three year cooperative agreement with the Fish and
50 Wildlife Service Fairbanks Field Office, in which we

1 monitor the abundance and run timing of chinook and
2 summer chum returning to Henshaw Creek. Then there's a
3 project that I had to -- I was not particularly
4 involved in because I became the partner's biologist in
5 June of last year, but previously TCC worked on a TEK
6 and contemporary subsistence harvest of non-salmon fish
7 in the Koyukuk River drainage in Alaska where they
8 helped with ADF&G Subsistence Division in performing
9 some of the interviews and also developed a poster.
10 Another project that they worked on was the
11 contemporary subsistence uses and population
12 distribution of non-salmon fish in the Grayling, Anvik,
13 Shageluk, Holy Cross and that was also with the ADF&G
14 Subsistence Division, where they helped with some of
15 the interviews and looking at some of the past
16 recordings and then developed maps for the report.

17
18 And then other projects that were not
19 funded through OSM that TCC was involved in was the
20 Tech Pogo Mine, it's a privately funded contract
21 through BSFA and TCC runs the Goodpaster River counting
22 tower to monitor the abundance and run timing of the
23 chinook and summer chum salmon returning for the mine's
24 EIS. And there was a youth opportunity grant that was
25 applied for and received which hired local technicians
26 in the different villages to collect biological data
27 from subsistence catches. And then in 2004 there was
28 an AYKSSI proposal that also hired local students for
29 educational -- to do educational outreach through the
30 collection of biological data and they collected age,
31 sex and length samples from subsistence caught chinook
32 salmon and tender from villages starting in Holy Cross
33 and moving their way up river. Also they collected
34 heart samples and tissue samples for ichthyophonus.

35
36 So the 2006/2007, this last year I've
37 been working on some different project proposals.

38
39 The first was submitted in December was
40 a Challenge Cost Share Grant with Kanuti National
41 Wildlife Refuge to do a week long science camp at
42 Henshaw Creek weir where we'd invite approximately two
43 students, would be the minimum, but we'd like to have
44 more, we don't want too big of a camp, up at Henshaw
45 Creek so they can get experience on the weir and also
46 learning some different stream ecology and aquatic
47 invertebrate lessons.

48
49 And then we also participated and
50 submitted a Challenge Cost Share Grant with the Yukon

1 Flats National Wildlife Refuge and CATG and ADF&G
2 Subsistence to do a traditional knowledge and Western
3 science camp in Fort Yukon. The reason we did it
4 through the Challenge Cost Share Grant is because OSM
5 does not fund science camps anymore and we had such
6 great success in 2006 with the last year of our TEK
7 science camp in Fort Yukon, the elders and the students
8 were asking if we'd have it again next year and we told
9 them that we would look at securing funding and this
10 was one way that we could host that camp again.

11
12 We also submitted a proposal with the
13 ADF&G Comm -- or I think -- I don't remember if it's
14 Comm Fish, I think so, or -- and it's fall chum salmon
15 in the upper main stem spawning in the Tanana River and
16 this is with Tanana Chiefs Conference, ADF&G and USGS.
17 And what we're going to do is it would start in May
18 1st, 2007 and this project is not necessarily funded
19 yet, it's made it through the first call and then we
20 have some issues to address and then we'll find out if
21 we received full funding or not and it would go through
22 May 31st of 2009. And we want to confirm that fall
23 chum are using the main stem Tanana River for spawning
24 because there's a -- the fall chum originating in the
25 Tanana River represent about an average of 30 percent
26 of the total run abundance within the Yukon River
27 drainage. So the relationship between known tributary
28 escapements and drainage abundance estimates suggest
29 that there's a significant contribution of fall chum
30 spawning in the main stem area.

31
32 Another one that we were involved in,
33 not as a co-investigator, but as a cooperator, is with
34 the University of Alaska-Fairbanks, and it's another
35 AYKSSI proposal for the ecology of chinook salmon and
36 this would be performed in the Chena and Salcha Rivers.
37 And it's mainly because stock recruitment models don't
38 take into account essential environmental conditions
39 and processes that affect chinook rearing and
40 overwintering and therefore lack rigor and reliability
41 and so the goal of this work is to improve our
42 understanding of the way ecological processes regulate
43 population size and generate annual variability in
44 abundance of adult chinook salmon.

45
46 And then in January I submitted an FRMP
47 proposal to run the Henshaw Creek weir solely by TCC
48 not with any of the cooperation of the Fish and
49 Wildlife Service, so we would hire locally with
50 Allakaket, Alatna and Hughes for our technicians on the

1 weir. And then currently for 2007, and this last three
2 year cooperative agreement, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife
3 Service has provided a crew leader. We did secure
4 funding for the science camp and it's annual so we will
5 put in every year for it. And then the proposal
6 submitted to OSM was for the years of 2008 through
7 2011.

8
9 So this year, this summer we will be
10 running the Henshaw Creek weir with the Fish and
11 Wildlife Service for the last year. We'll be operating
12 the Goodpaster River counting tower. We'll be doing
13 the Challenge Cost Share Grants with Yukon Flats and
14 Kanuti Refuges and Fort Yukon, Henshaw Creek. And then
15 pending the approval of AYKSSI funding we'll be
16 participating in the chinook ecology project and the
17 Tanana fall chum that will start in the fall.

18
19 So here's Henshaw Creek weir. It was
20 first installed in 2000 by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife
21 Service Fairbanks Field Office, and this is our third
22 year with them. And so it's funded through 2007. And
23 the objectives of this study were to determine daily
24 escapement and run timing of adult salmon, gather age,
25 sex, and size composition of adult salmon and monitor
26 non-salmon species presence and migration.

27
28 And then the Goodpaster counting tower
29 which was established in 2004, it's funded through the
30 Tech Pogo and operated with Bering Sea Fishermen's
31 Association. And the counting tower enumerates chinook
32 salmon population and monitors population changes.

33
34 The traditional ecological knowledge
35 camp that was held in Fort Yukon will be a cooperative
36 project with TCC, CATG and ADF&G Subsistence through
37 the Challenge Cost Share Grant for this summer. And
38 the objectives were to provide a forum for youth,
39 elders, fisheries biologists and managers to interact,
40 provide training in fisheries science by incorporating
41 Western and traditional science and collect biological
42 and anthropological data that could be used in future
43 fisheries management.

44
45 So the future of the Partners Program
46 at TCC, it's currently funded through July 14th of
47 2007, so even though that's right in the middle of the
48 season we have been told that we will be funded through
49 November so that we can finish out our projects and
50 finish the reports.

1 We submitted a proposal to OSM two
2 weeks ago so we won't find out the final call for
3 awhile, and so one thing is we've been requesting
4 letters of support from the supporting tribes and
5 communities if they support the partner's biologist
6 position at TCC. And the position would be tied to OSM
7 projects so one of the main priorities would be the
8 Henshaw Creek weir since it's an FRMP project, if
9 funded.

10
11 And there are two intern positions
12 funded. So this helps -- my intern from last year was
13 Lisa Kangas from Ruby and she did a presentation at the
14 Western RAC meeting in the fall, some of you probably
15 remember her, and she also was able to secure a
16 scholarship to participate at the AFS meeting at
17 Fairbanks, the Alaska Chapter, and so she was able to
18 hear different presentations on the new research being
19 done on salmon and other fish. Then she applied for
20 the genetics scholarship with KNA and received that and
21 participated in that just before school started up in
22 the summer semester so -- or the spring semester.

23
24 So with that, I'd like to thank you for
25 listening and if there's any questions I can entertain.

26
27 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks a lot Brandy,
28 that was very informative.

29
30 Any Council members have questions,
31 comments.

32
33 Vince, you got something.

34
35 MR. MATHEWS: Well, Mr. Chairman, I
36 don't want to put Brandy on the spot you were
37 indicating in that one slide there that you're funded
38 through a certain time period and then after that
39 through November. Has there been any direction given
40 beyond November on the funding of the Partner's
41 Program.

42
43 MS. BERKBIGLER: Vince. Council
44 members. As far as I know the actual funding will
45 start January of 2008 for all the new partner's
46 biologist since some of them have been on two separate
47 calls that have gone out, and so our starting and
48 ending dates are at different times. So what I have
49 been told is because mine is July 14th, and that's
50 right in the middle of the season, that they would have

1 enough to keep me funded until like the first of
2 November to finish out any of my duties.

3

4 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, Vince.

5

6 MR. MATHEWS: Well, the reason I bring
7 this up, you may want to put this little note in your
8 brain when we talk about the topic on budgets, all
9 budgets are subject to reduction, et cetera, I'm not
10 indicating that partners are going away or whatever,
11 but I'm just saying that budgets are getting tighter
12 and this is a program, that's why the slide hit me, I
13 was wondering if that was a signal of some sort that
14 this Council wants to say that they want this continued
15 to be funded or not, and you're not indicating that.

16

17 MS. BERKBIGLER: I guess when we put in
18 the proposal, the biggest support, that if you want the
19 partner's positions funded again, even though there is
20 going to be a cut in funds and some of us might have to
21 go away, just depending on how much we ask for in our
22 budgets for the next four or five years, and being tied
23 to OSM projects as well, letters of support are the
24 biggest way that I know of.

25

26 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay, you got a
27 question there Ron.

28

29 MR. SAM: Yes. I know we've had some
30 high water, especially around the Henshaw River weir,
31 were you able to get a good count last summer?

32

33 MS. BERKBIGLER: Mr. Chair. Ron. We
34 didn't get any counts last summer. We put the weir in
35 June 30th as fish tight, which meant no fish can move
36 up river unless we were on the trap counting them going
37 through and a day later it started raining, it flooded
38 the weir and the bank was flooded pretty much the
39 entire season so no counts for last summer.

40

41 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: All right, thank
42 you.

43

44 MR. HONEA: Can I.

45

46 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Don.

47

48 MR. HONEA: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
49 Brandy I like your presentation also and Heather's and
50 I'm just kind of glad that with declining revenues that

1 positions are being opened up, especially for young
2 people and in the fisheries area. You mentioned 10
3 positions that were funded this past summer, are they
4 anticipated to be funded again this summer, I mean I
5 believe that they were cutting off fins and stuff like
6 that, taking certain parts off of -- and I know there
7 was a local person working there in Ruby, is that going
8 to be funded again?

9

10 Thank you.

11

12 MS. BERKBIGLER: Mr. Chair. Mr. Honea.
13 I believe the project you're possibly talking about
14 would be an ASL sampling project that the ADF&G is
15 running and that would be the person that was funded in
16 Ruby. We had put in a proposal for that but it was
17 pulled since the State has money to do those sample
18 collections. So I believe that they will be in Ruby
19 and in the different communities along the Yukon
20 collecting ASL samples again from subsistence caught
21 chinook.

22

23 So if that answers your question. But
24 that's a different funding source than the program that
25 I'm working with.

26

27 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Any other
28 questions.

29

30 MS. PELKOLA: I would just like to make
31 a comment.

32

33 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay.

34

35 MS. PELKOLA: I just wanted you to know
36 that Lisa Kangas got her start at our camp, fish camp,
37 working on fish and she was a very great help. She's
38 my niece so I'm glad to see her continuing.

39

40 MS. BERKBIGLER: Yeah, I enjoy working
41 with Lisa.

42

43 MR. COLLINS: Yeah, Mr. Chairman, I had
44 a comment.

45

46 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, Ray.

47

48 MR. COLLINS: Let's see it was on Russ'
49 report there I noticed at the bottom that the Board has
50 opened up the lower 25 miles of the Goodpaster River to

1 catch and release king salmon fishing. Did you say
2 there was a weir on the Goodpaster?

3

4 MS. BERKBIGLER: Mr. Chair. Ray
5 Collins. There's actually just a counting tower, it's
6 not a weir and it's below the -- 50 miles below the
7 mine but above the fork cut off.

8

9 MR. COLLINS: Yeah, okay. I'm
10 wondering about messing with those salmon, what kind of
11 escapement you're getting after the catch and release
12 and I was wondering if they had to turn in a report of
13 what they released and clip a fin or something but you
14 wouldn't be able to see them with a counting tower. If
15 they were going through a weir you could see how many
16 are making through the weir to see if you're losing any
17 of those big kings after they've been stressed. They
18 make it that far up the Yukon and then you're playing
19 with them and wearing them out and turning them loose,
20 yeah, but I don't see how you could follow up on that.

21

22 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yeah, this Council's
23 been concerned about catch and release and incidental
24 mortalities to that but I don't think that that can be
25 apportioned. Is there toxins that are possibly going
26 to be released from the Pogo Mine that they're tracking
27 there, they're leeching and so forth.

28

29 MS. BERKBIGLER: Mr. Chair. I believe
30 there's water quality being done by the mine but -- and
31 TCC has been doing some water quality monitoring but
32 due to my late arrival onto the position and the other
33 projects I was tied into, I didn't have any real tie in
34 experience with the counting tower last year. Mike
35 Smith pretty much ran that project. So I know one
36 thing is we want to be doing water quality up there and
37 that's one thing I'm putting together some stuff for
38 this summer, but as far as I know just the other -- the
39 mine itself is doing water quality and that's one of
40 the reasons why they are supposed to have the counting
41 tower there so it can monitor the chinook salmon
42 returning and hopefully tying it in to making sure that
43 the mine isn't causing the decline in the run.

44

45 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right. Yeah, they
46 use cyanide when they recover that gold from those
47 plates and so that's a toxin that could -- I would be
48 concerned about, so water quality is -- you're
49 monitoring, so I'm happy to hear that you're doing
50 that.

1 Any other questions, comments.

2

3 (No comments)

4

5 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. I just wanted
6 to state that I appreciate all of your projects there
7 and that I would hope that our budgets wouldn't fall to
8 the point where we lose our local partnership with TCC.
9 And I appreciate the hiring of local kids from our
10 villages within the region to maintain the hopeful
11 future work force for our regional perspective.

12

13 So, okay, I think that's probably it.

14 Brandy, thanks a lot.

15

16 And so here, call for fisheries
17 proposals, Vince.

18

19 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman. Back to
20 Jenny, when I gave the explanation on your Council
21 member concerns, I take extensive notes and during that
22 time I heard of one potential proposal, that's just me
23 hearing it, doesn't mean you have to go forward with
24 it. Geoff is here to explain what the Galena city
25 council put forward, and that was on the driftnet
26 fishery, and I always get the letters wrong but it's in
27 4B and C, I believe, about that 18 hours at the end.

28

29 Now, I caution you, the Council always
30 usually waits for proposals to come in and comment on
31 it but you've also submitted proposals, that was your
32 start -- you started that and got that approved. So
33 that's one I heard of as a potential proposal and I
34 have not talked to each one of you if there were any
35 other fishery proposals. But the call for proposals on
36 the Federal side, just the Federal side is open until
37 the end of next -- two weeks, end of two weeks.

38

39 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: You want to come
40 forward, Geoff, and give us a little, sort of an
41 overview of what Loudon had submitted and sort of a
42 description so possibly some of the members understand
43 where this is going to occur.

44

45 Go ahead.

46

47 MR. BYERSDORF: Mr. Chair. Members of
48 the Council. The Galena City Council actually
49 approached us in regards to a fisheries proposal for
50 2007. And I ended up going to the council and

1 explaining to them that it was too late for a proposal
2 for that year but a special action could be submitted.
3 They were interested in submitting the special action,
4 however, at a subsequent city council meeting they felt
5 that the better venue for this was the Louden Tribal
6 Council, the Louden Tribal Council, because it wasn't
7 an open fisheries proposal ended up submitting a
8 proposal for the 2008 to try and -- instead of having
9 that last 18 hours of drift gillnetting in 4B and 4C,
10 it's expanded whenever the windowed schedule is open
11 that you would be allowed to drift gillnet in 4B -- the
12 Federal waters of 4B and 4C.

13

14 And that's -- so the proposal is in the
15 hopper, so to speak, at this point, and it will go
16 through the analysis process and then come before you
17 later.

18

19 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Yeah, that's
20 a good overview of that. That's what the Western
21 Interior Council tried to have. Concessions were made
22 to initialize the fishery, the Board was -- the Federal
23 Subsistence Board was concerned about having too long
24 of fishing time with drift gear in 4B and 4C, we made
25 concessions, we had net depth restrictions and length
26 of time for fishery just to get -- sort of the
27 perception was that there were going to be hundreds of
28 fishers that were going to participate and there was
29 going to be this huge driftnet fishery going on. This
30 Council contended that this fishery would be just the
31 local people that traditionally drift fish down in 4A,
32 and on the Koyukuk would be the participants. And so
33 the harvest has been nominal, there's not a big problem
34 with this. I feel that this proposal is a timely
35 proposal and so I'm happy to see that this proposal has
36 come forward from the local people there.

37

38 So any comment on that proposal from
39 the Council.

40

41 (No comments)

42

43 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: We'll see this
44 proposal this next fall when it comes before the
45 Council's review, and so it will be in analysis form
46 and so we'll -- you have something to say about that
47 Jenny.

48

49 MS. PELKOLA: Yeah, I would just like
50 to add that I do sit on the city council also but the

1 person that brought it up spoke at length about it and
2 he said there's a place across Koyukuk somewhere where
3 the people from Nulato, Koyukuk and Galena, they all
4 fish in that one little spot and it's becoming to be a
5 war zone, they usually call it, because too many fisher
6 -- you know, people in that area, and he just thought
7 that if it was open longer in that other area from Cone
8 Point to Galena, that it would ease some of the
9 problems there. And I also -- I haven't been down
10 where they fish but I mean boats pass my fish camp in
11 droves, I mean there are a lot of people going down,
12 back and forth all night, so it must be a problem down
13 there. And so I would agree to have it open, you know,
14 to coincide with whatever they ask for.

15

16 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. We take to
17 heart your comments on that as you're one of the local
18 fishers there and Mickey fishes down there.

19

20 Go ahead, Mickey.

21

22 MR. STICKMAN: Yeah, actually I do fish
23 across Koyukuk but for the last three or four years I
24 actually haven't drifted across Koyukuk because of the
25 amount of fishermen that are congregating in that one
26 spot because of -- you know, where that slough come out
27 across Koyukuk, the one that comes out -- you go in at
28 Last Chance and it comes out right straight across from
29 Koyukuk, well, it's from that point to the point where
30 the -- for the Yukon -- and it's not very far, it's
31 like maybe a mile and a half, two miles at the most of
32 an area and sometimes you have up to -- well, I went up
33 there this last summer, there was nine boats drifting
34 in that two mile space and -- and it does -- I mean it
35 does cause some hardship because, well, I mean not
36 hardship, but hard feelings among fishermen because --
37 well, the majority of the fishermen that used to fish
38 there before were actually only from Nulato and Koyukuk
39 and then all of a sudden the residents of Galena found
40 out that it was a good spot and it was okay for -- I
41 mean they moved into the area and, you know, we're not
42 going to say, hey, go fish in your own spot and, you
43 know, for years Ben pushed for that 4B and 4C area in
44 the Federal waters and ended up finally getting it but,
45 yeah, it is kind of crazy there in the summer
46 especially on the weekends, you know, that's when
47 everybody usually have the time to actually go fishing
48 because, well, everybody gets off work so it's just a
49 congregation of boats.

50

1 I'm sure Geoff's seen it. Geoff's been
2 in the area for a number of years but from the first
3 year he moved into the area he was fishing there and so
4 he probably saw the problem there also.

5
6 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: All right, thanks,
7 Mickey. Any other fisheries proposals that the Council
8 would like to -- oh, go ahead, Geoff.

9
10 MR. BYERSDORF: Before I finish up
11 here, in regards to this drift gillnetting in 4B and
12 4C, I wanted to touch on one thing that Jenny has
13 brought up, it reminded me of something, you know,
14 right now it's the last 18 hours and what the proponent
15 from the city council was stating is that that's not
16 enough time to be able to adequately find sites. And
17 what I want to point out to the Council is that at this
18 point none of the fishers -- we had 70 people apply for
19 permits in the first year and I believe 18 applied this
20 last year and at this point none of the fishers have
21 found an adequate site for getting fish.

22
23 And one thing that I would like to
24 bring to the Council's attention, this is down the
25 road, but in three years the Board of Fish will be
26 meeting again and I have mentioned this to a couple of
27 different councils in the area, that what we've been
28 hearing is that the more productive areas are in the
29 State waters between Galena and Ruby, and that the --
30 they have an opportunity when the Board of Fish meets,
31 and there's a call for proposals for that, that
32 proposals be submitted to see if those waters could be
33 opened.

34
35 And I just wanted to bring that to your
36 attention because I won't be here at that point.

37
38 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right. And that's a
39 good -- I think that that would be probably warranted
40 at that time because we'll have this test -- basically
41 test fishery and shows that there's limited places to
42 fish and that there's really a need because of the
43 competition for that, so the Board of Fish would
44 probably be more receptive now because of the
45 farsightedness of the Federal Subsistence Board.

46
47 And so I would like to know if the
48 Council has any other fisheries proposals that they
49 would like to discuss, any problems on the Kuskokwim or
50 Yukon River drainages, salmon and non-salmon species,

1 need for proposals.

2

3 Mickey.

4

5 MR. STICKMAN: Not a fishery proposal
6 but, I mean during the earlier presentations, can we
7 write a letter in support of the fisheries projects,
8 the monitoring projects that they're doing as far as
9 KNA and TCC. I know their funding is up this year, but
10 because it's going to be over in like the middle of the
11 season, they have a little extension there but they
12 also have to put in for the -- you know, once the money
13 runs out the program's over, but they are putting in
14 proposals for more money so I was wondering if we
15 should have a letter from this Council to support them.

16

17 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I would be
18 supportive of that. Would you like to make that in the
19 form of a motion.

20

21 MR. STICKMAN: Yes, Mr. Chair.

22

23 MR. SAM: Second.

24

25 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Motion's been made
26 and seconded. The motion -- the letter to the OSM is
27 that the Western Interior Regional Advisory Council is
28 pleased with the KNA and TCC's partnership programs and
29 would like to see those partnerships continued so we
30 have high appreciation for the work that's being done
31 for the benefit of the resource and for the users of
32 the region and for our young educational process for
33 future regional employment.

34

35 And so is that the synopsis of the
36 Council's letter.

37

38 MR. COLLINS: Did you specifically list
39 the weirs in there, I think it said count, and I.....

40

41 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I didn't enumerate
42 their projects.

43

44 MR. COLLINS: Oh.

45

46 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF:just that we're
47 pleased with the projects that they've been.....

48

49 MR. COLLINS: Well, the whole thing is
50 good but what is critical if we lose some of those weir

1 projects in there we're going to lose data. We're
2 getting good information now about what escapement is.
3 And, I don't know.....

4

5 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, Ron.

6

7 MR. SAM: Yeah, and one of those
8 projects, they counted quite a few sockeyes. I'm not
9 quite familiar with all that but if that's a
10 possibility of a new line of subsistence opportunity
11 I'd be more than willing to ask for more funding for
12 that then.

13

14 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yeah, they're
15 monitoring these -- the sockeye run seems -- or salmon
16 seems to be exploring the Kuskokwim and Yukon River
17 drainage. And as climatic change occurs the sockeyes
18 will probably locate river systems within the -- I
19 would anticipate they'll locate those systems in the
20 Kobuk, there's some large lake systems in the Kobuk
21 River and eventually those lake systems could support
22 sockeye.

23

24 And so I think that's just a naturally
25 occurring crossover, and so those would be incidentally
26 monitored through their other projects though.

27

28 I do appreciate these weir projects but
29 those are funded through different sources.

30

31 MR. SAM: Yes.

32

33 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: But the primary
34 focus that I am concerned about with this letter is the
35 partnership program and the mentoring our younger
36 individuals of our region and monitoring our --
37 learning to monitor these resources. And so is that --
38 any insertions into that letter of transmittal.

39

40 (No comments)

41

42 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Seeing none. No
43 further discussion.

44

45 (No comments)

46

47 MR. STICKMAN: Question.

48

49 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Those in favor of
50 the motion signify by saying aye.

1 IN UNISON: Aye.
2
3 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Opposed.
4
5 (No opposing votes)
6
7 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Unanimous
8 endorsement of transmittal to OSM regarding KNA and
9 TCC's partnership funding.
10
11 Okay, Vince, we're at -- we basically
12 reviewed that one proposal that's been submitted.
13 We've found no other proposals at this time.
14
15 Annual report. We can do that or we
16 can do the agency reports. I would like to compress
17 our business towards the end, sort of our housekeeping
18 stuff.
19
20 MR. SAM: Yes.
21
22 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So I would actually
23 prefer to see the agency reports moved up a little bit
24 here. So I think the Alaska Department of Fish and
25 Game basically gave overviews of what the Board of Game
26 was doing.
27
28 Bureau of Land Management gave us a
29 report.
30
31 So now we're down to U.S. Fish and
32 Wildlife Service, Kanuti and Innoko.
33
34 So if Innoko would like to step up to
35 the plate -- whoever would like to step up to the plate
36 -- okay, Wennona's got her computer on back there,
37 don't want the battery to go dead or anything, so
38 Innoko is coming up.
39
40 MR. SCHAFF: Yes, I'll start off Mr.
41 Chairman. Bill Schaff with the Innoko National
42 Wildlife Refuge. I apologize for my voice. I've been
43 coughing for the last two days, as everybody knows.
44 I'll try to get through this.
45
46 What's being handed out to you
47 currently is two items. One is a synopsis of the moose
48 population estimates on the Innoko National Wildlife
49 Refuge, which also includes some information on some
50 guide use, both air transporters, boat transporters and

1 guide use on the Refuge and a short synopsis what the
2 take has been from those commercial transporters and
3 guides for the last couple of years. And the other
4 item is the sealed envelope, a mail envelope, is an
5 update for our planning process that we're undergoing.

6
7 I will start off with the moose
8 estimate. I won't read the whole thing verbatim.
9 Basically Innoko has been searching for ways to monitor
10 moose populations and habitats. Since its inception
11 we've conducted various methods of conducting moose
12 surveys from helicopter to count methods, trend counts
13 using Super Cubs. One of the reasons, there's several
14 reasons we've been doing this. One is for safety of
15 surveyors. Another one is competition for equipment
16 and personnel during a really restricted time period,
17 and this includes both State aircraft and count
18 personnel as well as Federal Refuge aircraft and
19 counter survey individuals. It's really restricted to
20 a couple of weeks in the fall and a couple of weeks in
21 the spring, very weather dependent as you realize. If
22 snow conditions are right everything's go and there's a
23 really high competition for limited resources with
24 capability doing these count. That's one of the
25 reasons we've attempted to use helicopters as an
26 alternate means of conducting the surveys.

27
28 Trend counts have been attempted,
29 however, we have not been very successful in conducting
30 trend counts during the November time period mainly due
31 to lack of snow on the Refuge, consistent snow and also
32 getting to our field camp headquarters where we usually
33 base out of on the Innoko Refuge. If the ice is not
34 solid enough to land aircraft, including the 185's we
35 use for logistics, that kind of squashes us out, too.
36 So sometimes a lot of it is weather dependent, either
37 lack of snow conditions or lack of enough cold weather
38 yet to freeze the ice for our landing for the trend
39 counts. These are things we'd like to be able to
40 conduct more of.

41
42 In general on the surveys that we have
43 conducted, we found that moose densities are two times
44 higher along the Yukon River than other parts of the
45 Refuge. And along that Yukon River moose densities
46 increase as you move from the north to the south and
47 that tends to increase until you get down to around
48 Holy Cross and Railroad Slough areas off the Refuge.
49 And then also the moose along the Innoko River also
50 increases as you go down river north to south.

1 Approximately 97 percent of the moose
2 on the Refuge are found along the river systems,
3 predominately the Innoko and the Yukon. The northern
4 half of the Refuge appears to be declining, however,
5 that is -- we can only say that tentatively and that is
6 due to the confidence intervals in the population
7 surveys that we've conducted. The hard numbers, the
8 actual, if you were to pick one central number on
9 what's seen goes down but the confidence intervals
10 within a close enough area, we can't say anything for
11 sure.

12
13 Our plans right now are to conduct the
14 next survey in February or early March of '08. We have
15 also put in for some additional funding and we have not
16 heard yet whether that funding has been approved. If
17 it is approved what we're proposing to do is increase
18 trend counts and moose survey counts to yearly and also
19 to hang some collars -- to actually place some collars
20 on moose for tracking movement of moose both on and off
21 the Refuge, and that would be a cooperative project
22 with Fish and Game. We've made some initial contacts
23 with them, they're interested and Bureau of Land
24 Management.

25
26 The next page, you could see some of
27 the density estimate -- population estimate numbers for
28 both the north and south portions of the Refuge. The
29 next page includes switching from population estimates
30 and densities to take over the last few years.

31
32 I know one of the issues on Innoko
33 Refuge revolves around take. I generally group hunter
34 take on the Refuge into three subsets. There's the
35 commercial access, be it boat transportation, air
36 transportation or guided hunts, that's one group. The
37 other group is the individuals who have their own
38 aircraft or have their own means to get to the Refuge
39 to hunt. And the third subset would be the subsistence
40 hunters, mostly the local folks from the GASH villages.
41 There has always been an issue about transporters and
42 the number of transporters. I've gone back in this one
43 about six or eight years, eight or nine years, and
44 we've had one boat transporter that has transported
45 people to the Innoko Refuge, pretty much yearly since
46 '98. This does not include fisheries. We do have an
47 additional fish guide that works the Refuge in the
48 summer but he does not transport hunters in the fall.
49 Air transporters, you can see the number of permits
50 that was actually issued. And for the last few years

1 I've included the number of permits is the parenthesis,
2 the top number, in which case it's been consistent for
3 five for the last few years, but the number of
4 transporters that actually have been active and use
5 their permits, as you can tell in 2004 there was three,
6 2005 there was three, 2006 there was only two active.
7 What that reflects is that some of the transporters
8 will put in at two or three different Refuges and then
9 depending on where their clients want to go they'll
10 take them to appropriate areas.

11
12 Guides. The numbers is the same for
13 the guides, there's the top number, which is the number
14 of guides that are permitted on the Refuge and the
15 bottom number which is actually the number of active
16 guides for that year. You'll notice for the last few
17 years there was three guide units on the Refuge for
18 quite a few years, and then in 2004 we dropped back to
19 two guide units. For the first couple of years when we
20 did that 2004, 2005 both guides were active. Last year
21 in 2006, we had two guide units on the Refuge but
22 neither of the guides actively guided hunters on the
23 Refuge. Both were for medical reasons. Both the
24 people that held the permit, actually one of them had
25 shoulder surgery, and without going into too much
26 detail, couldn't guide, and the other one actually had
27 more serious medical problems.

28
29 The next page is a short synopsis over
30 the last three years, 2004, 2005, 2006 on the number of
31 hunters -- I apologize for my throat and coughing --
32 the number of hunters in all three of the categories,
33 the guides on the top then the air taxis and boat taxi,
34 and then about three-quarters of the way down the page
35 you'll notice the total number of hunters that were
36 brought in and it's significantly reduced. Total
37 hunters in 2004 was 122; 2005 was 84; and 2006 was only
38 46. And the next column over, the next several columns
39 over include the species and number of animals that
40 were taken by those guides and outfitters -- or guides
41 and air taxis. As you can see the bottom numbers were
42 36 moose in 2004; 20 moose in 2005; and nine moose last
43 year in 2006. Along with miscellaneous wolves, black
44 bears, wolverines and grizzly bears -- black bears, one
45 each.

46
47 So that covers the real brief synopsis
48 of the moose population -- the survey work that we've
49 been doing on the Refuge and the take that's been
50 occurring over the last few years.

1 I guess I can either answer any
2 questions on that or go on to other things that are
3 occurring on the Refuge.

4
5 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Well, let's stop at
6 that point and take some questions, so we got any
7 questions from the Council on this portion of the
8 report.

9
10 (No comments)

11
12 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I had a question as
13 to why are these air taxi's declining, is that an
14 artifact of the high cost of the charters going up and
15 the people don't want to pay that much money?

16
17 MR. SCHAFF: Mr. Chairman. I think
18 it's a combination of things. Talking to the clients
19 as they come -- as I see them out on the Refuge and
20 also as they come out of McGrath, and the air charter,
21 the owners or the pilots that work for the air
22 charters, I personally believe it's a combination of
23 things. One is the cost of flying out to the Refuge.
24 Two, is there has been -- due to the weather conditions
25 and the changes that have been indicated throughout
26 this meeting, moose have not been moving around so the
27 season has been pushed lower and lower -- you know,
28 further and further back. The first week of the
29 season, for the last two year I've patrolled the Refuge
30 and see very few hunters at all on the Refuge.
31 Sometimes there's one or two boats, sometimes, you
32 know, it's hard to find a group hunting in that early
33 work of hunting on the Refuge. And then probably the
34 other reason on last year would be the shortening of
35 the season. So I believe it's a number of factors that
36 are influencing that -- those numbers going down.

37
38 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Thank you for
39 your perspective on that. Any other questions on that
40 portion of the presentation.

41
42 (No comments)

43
44 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay, go ahead.

45
46 MR. SCHAFF: Okay. The second issue
47 that I'd like to bring up is the Innoko National
48 Wildlife Refuge is starting the process of a
49 comprehensive planning, which is mandated by Congress
50 that all Refuges in the United States do over the next

1 few years. It is very similar to when BLM was speaking
2 earlier, they call it something slightly different. I
3 forget the term that Tim used, but they have a
4 conservation planning effort also. Innoko is in the
5 early phases of ours. We have been conducting scoping
6 meetings in several of the villages. So far we've hit
7 Anvik, Grayling, Holy Cross, McGrath, and Takotna.
8 We'll be doing Shageluk Friday of this week and we'd
9 like to also get Kaltag in. What we're looking at is
10 feedback from local users of the Refuge. We're trying
11 to hit all the villages that are close to the Refuge to
12 get their input for the conservation planning process.

13
14 I have additional copies of these if
15 anyone would like to take them back and make comments,
16 that's the main thing we're asking for at this point in
17 time is comments about the planning process. What
18 individuals would like to see on the Refuge and how we
19 can manage the Refuge for the local people as well as
20 the benefit of wildlife and future generations.

21
22 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. You got any
23 comments on the CCP, Robert, you got comments.

24
25 MR. WALKER: (Nods affirmatively)

26
27 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Robert, go ahead.

28
29 MR. WALKER: Thank you. Mr. Chair.
30 Bill getting back to Innoko National Wildlife Refuge
31 moose population estimate information. I'm just
32 curious here what is the population of wolves there in
33 the Refuge. Did you have a count last year or are you
34 still using the estimate of what you had four years
35 ago.

36
37 MR. SCHAFF: We have not been able to
38 conduct a specific wolf count. What we've done is we
39 fly into -- any time we're out flying around the
40 Refuge, specifically a pilot is flying snow surveys so
41 he's flying numerous areas of the Refuge, transect
42 lines -- not really transect lines, but points around
43 the Refuge, we usually record any sightings of wolf
44 numbers and packs. And they seem to be also going down
45 slightly, whether that's, you know, for whatever reason
46 the number is not going down significantly. We have
47 estimated over the last few years probably 160 animals
48 on the Refuge. You know this last year, also it may
49 have been due to snow conditions on the Refuge, we have
50 not had a lot of deep snow and we've gone through

1 various periods of time where we didn't have very much
2 new snow, which makes it really hard for tracking, as
3 you know, as we haven't seen as many animals this year.
4 Whether that is a condition of snow conditions and
5 field observation conditions or animal response, we're
6 not sure yet.

7

8 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Robert.

9

10 MR. WALKER: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
11 Thank you, Bill, for your report here. Also just
12 curiosity, how is the caribou herd that goes onto the
13 Refuge, is there any estimate how many caribou use the
14 Refuge that travel off Crater Mountain and also that
15 lives in that area.

16

17 MR. SCHAFF: The caribou herd that we
18 have on the Refuge is also a -- how could I put it,
19 they're kind of an incidental user of the Refuge. On
20 certain years they come down on the flats from the
21 Beaver Mountains and hit that area in the southeast
22 corner of the Refuge. On severe snow years we see
23 fairly large numbers -- fairly large meaning several
24 hundred animals, other years, you know, if there's no
25 snow driving them down, they may not even get onto the
26 Refuge so we're not -- the Innoko Refuge is not a
27 Refuge that would be considered valuable for that
28 population other than in the really bad snow years when
29 they're forced onto the Refuge. But there is use,
30 there is caribou use on the Refuge, especially in the
31 southeast corner.

32

33 MR. WALKER: Yes, I know because when I
34 trapped up there there was -- I ran into probably about
35 3,000 down by, I can't remember the creek, Grouchtop
36 Creek (ph), right in that area, we ran into about three
37 or 4,000 right out on the flats there when we were
38 traveling so I was kind of curious there, you know,
39 they do move into the Refuge for probably a month or
40 two or longer when the snow is deep up there. So it is
41 -- you know, I would -- you know, next time you make a
42 report on the Refuge, you know, if there is caribou on
43 there I would appreciate if you would give us
44 information on this because, you know, this is part of
45 our area, too.

46

47 Thank you, Bill. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

48

49 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks, Robert.
50 That's very interesting. I would probably want to

1 incorporate that into your CCP, that that caribou herd
2 uses the Refuge as a critical winter habitat.

3
4 Something that I would like to see
5 presented, when I reviewed the Yukon Flats Land
6 Exchange, that I found out that there was significant
7 amount of the Refuge, 90-something percent was
8 available for oil and gas exploration and I would like
9 to know what the Innoko oil and gas exploration
10 percentage is at our next meeting. I'm concerned about
11 the wildlife Refuges and the utilization for
12 hydrocarbon extraction.

13
14 Any other comments on Innoko. Go
15 ahead, Ray.

16
17 MR. COLLINS: Well, the Innoko is very
18 critical for subsistence use, especially for those
19 Yukon villages and I would ask that they would review
20 that carefully and make sure that their interests are
21 reflected in the plan. That that's part of it,
22 monitoring their use or whatever, because one of the
23 reasons for preserving it is that that's kind of their
24 bread basket. So I noticed there's some references in
25 here but I think those communities should be encouraged
26 to really look closely at that and make sure that that
27 gets into the plan.

28
29 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: You're having
30 meetings about your CCP in the affected communities,
31 the GASH communities?

32
33 MR. SCHAFF: Yes, Chairman, we've had
34 several already and we still have a few to go. I hope
35 to complete them this month, the series of meetings.
36 And I've made note in every village that we've been in
37 that I'd be glad to come back to give additional
38 presentations, whether it be for a specific group or a
39 school group in the villages. We're trying to get the
40 word out and let people know exactly what is happening
41 on the Refuge and get as much input from the people as
42 possible.

43
44 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yeah, I think that
45 would be warranted and encouraged. Thanks a lot.

46
47 Don.

48
49 MR. HONEA: Yeah, Bill, I just kind of
50 had a question on here. The numbers on here, I don't

1 see the actual number of moose on the Refuge or
2 something but the take of 36 moose down to nine in two
3 years, what do you attribute that to, to wolf density
4 or -- well, I was just looking at the last page here
5 and I was just looking at the moose take on those and I
6 was just wondering, you know, whether your population
7 was stable.

8

9 MR. SCHAFF: Yes, sir, the population
10 appears to be somewhat stable. I'm a little concerned
11 for a slight decline, mainly because we're not seeing
12 the animals. We see them when we're flying around,
13 that's why it appears that the animals are on the
14 Refuge during hunting season when we're flying around
15 checking hunters. A lot of the animals that I see,
16 they're miles off the river or well over what the
17 normal hunter would be, you know, where they'd want to
18 see them or definitely where they'd want to be shooting
19 them. And that number also only includes the take of
20 the air taxis and the guides that utilize the Refuge,
21 not the fly-in individual hunters or the subsistence
22 hunters.

23

24 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: When you have your
25 collaring effort for these moose, you're going to
26 collar moose throughout the whole different portions of
27 the Refuge and are you going to have a significant bull
28 component to collar or are you going to just try
29 primarily cows, I prefer to see quite a few bulls
30 collared because that's the hunted component and see
31 where these bulls are actually going. And so I would
32 like to know how you're going to issue those.

33

34 MR. SCHAFF: Well, the first thing we
35 have to do is get the funding for the project and if we
36 do, yes, we would be probably -- our intent would be to
37 collar, you know, some cows, definitely just to see --
38 so we could track their movement also, but the majority
39 would be bulls, both younger animals and, you know,
40 middle age animals to see if there's a differential
41 movement of younger animals. There has been thought in
42 the past that Innoko has been a dispersing location for
43 bulls moving out of the Refuge both east over into the
44 Takotna/McGrath area and south down into the GASH
45 village area. The last time we did any collaring was
46 in the early '90s prior to my being at the Refuge and
47 there was very little movement. There was some
48 movement in those directions but it really wasn't
49 indicative of anything.

50

1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Any other
2 questions.

3
4 Ray.

5
6 MR. COLLINS: Well, just a comment on
7 that, Bill, because you do have that earlier report,
8 you could do a comparison thing then, it gives you some
9 data of what the movement was then. And some of them
10 really move. I mean there was a cow that they thought
11 they lost and it ended up clear beyond Anvik over on
12 the Adreafsky River down there from the Refuge over
13 there, so there's a few of them that really get the
14 wanderlust. And I think was it that one or one of them
15 ended up showing back the next year, coming back onto
16 the Refuge.

17
18 MR. SCHAFF: Yes, sir, Mr. Collins.
19 There was quite a bit of movement. There was a limited
20 number, like two or three animals that moved
21 significantly and that one cow that you mentioned did
22 end up back onto the Refuge so who knows what was going
23 through her mind but she was a wanderlust personality.

24
25 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. All right,
26 well, thanks a lot Bill. Have a throat lozenge and
27 thanks for your good work.

28
29 (Laughter)

30
31 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So we'll have
32 Wennona come up -- oh, go ahead.

33
34 MR. SCHAFF: I would like to mention a
35 couple more things that have happened this last year,
36 if my throat will hold out and you'll excuse my
37 raspiness for a couple more things.

38
39 We were involved in the Avian
40 Influenza. We banded over 300 pintails on the Refuge,
41 no Avian -- took samples from all those birds, no Avian
42 Influenza was found on the Refuge nor throughout the
43 state. We also banded and took samples from -- we
44 banded over a thousand white-fronted geese, on a white-
45 fronted goose project that's been ongoing for seven or
46 eight years now. They were also sampled for Avian
47 Influenza and all negative.

48
49 We also conducted in a line of habitat
50 monitoring, we also conducted a wild fire monitoring

1 project with the intent of looking at the effects of
2 wild fire, specifically on moose habitat.

3

4 And with that, sir, I would pretty much
5 wrap up my presentation.

6

7 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: All right, thank
8 you. So it'd be really nice to get some population
9 composition for those moose, hopefully we'll get some
10 snow in the future here and we'd like to know a little
11 more definitive of bull/cow ratios and so forth.

12

13 So thank you very much.

14

15 MR. SCHAFF: Thank you.

16

17 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Vince.

18

19 MR. MATHEWS: While Wennona's getting
20 up to the microphone you remember that Koyukuk/Nowitna
21 split their presentation half towards the proposals so
22 they're still on the list.

23

24 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. All right.

25

26 MR. MATHEWS: Just so you know.

27

28 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: All right. Wennona.

29

30 MS. BROWN: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
31 Again, for the record, Wennona Brown from Kanuti
32 National Wildlife Refuge. And like Vince said, we had
33 kind of split comments. I just had a few, a couple
34 additional things I wanted to bring up.

35

36 We did submit a written report that's
37 in your book on Page 307. It kind of highlights,
38 again, the place's name project that we've been
39 conducting with Allakaket and Alatna in getting maps
40 prepared.

41

42 And on the moose surveys, as Tim Craig
43 noted earlier, we did not have snow conditions last
44 fall to conduct a moose survey on the Kanuti Refuge and
45 so we're working cooperatively with BLM, Park Service
46 and Fish and Game to put the monies that we would have
47 spent on that survey into doing the collaring projects
48 for the moose movements.

49

50 And also kind of in conjunction with

1 that Lisa will be working on some habitat work doing
2 some cooperative work with the State on trying to get a
3 good handle on the moose habitat. And in discussions
4 with Mike, he mentioned that sort of a side note of
5 being out on the patrols this year, the spring, for the
6 moose hunts, was being out on the ground, you know, in
7 the habitat and said, you know, in the areas of
8 approximately 30 year old burns, give or take a little,
9 you know, there are good areas of -- a lot of areas of
10 good moose habitat but then on the flip side of what he
11 was a little surprised to see is how much area in
12 Kanuti that is not good moose habitat. So looking at
13 Lisa's study he thinks, you know, that they'll be
14 undertaking, that it will be interesting to see how
15 that habitat works out and, you know, how much limiting
16 factors is maybe habitat versus predators. So that
17 will be something that will be coming up.

18
19 They do plan to do -- or have
20 contracted to do wolf surveys again this spring if we
21 get good snow conditions in the next couple weeks.
22 Right now he said they do need to get some new snow
23 cover in order to be able to do some good tracking.

24
25 Just on the last fall harvest, I don't
26 remember if we reported it, but in the regular season
27 in Allakaket and Alatna last fall there was nine moose
28 harvested, and then in the extension of the September
29 26 to October 1 there were an additional three moose
30 harvested during that last week extension.

31
32 And then just a note on the progress of
33 the Kanuti CCP, we are in the process of reviewing the
34 draft document trying to get it ready to go to the
35 printer for release for public review. So we expect it
36 to be out for public review sometime later this spring.

37
38 And that's really all I had to add. If
39 anybody has any questions or comments, Mr. Chair.

40
41 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Any comments, Ron.

42
43 MR. SAM: Yeah. I would like to thank
44 Kanuti Wildlife Refuge for being here, not only being
45 here, but for all the work that you don't see in the
46 report. You already heard about that special March 1
47 through March 5 hunt. I would like to go on record as
48 saying that they are doing quite a bit of work, meeting
49 with people, it just takes about one phone call and
50 then they'll gather a crowd at the Allakaket Tribal

1 Office and it's the meeting facility. I'd like to
2 commend Kanuti Wildlife Refuge for all their work
3 within the area and more or less keeping us informed on
4 what their future work or future projects will be. So
5 we try to work as close as we could with Kanuti as we
6 can because we are more or less protecting the same
7 resources.

8

9 Thank you very much.

10

11 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Any other comments
12 or questions for Kanuti.

13

14 (No comments)

15

16 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I wanted to say --
17 or Vince.

18

19 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman. It has
20 nothing to do with Kanuti, but for me, not knowing what
21 to do with the CCPs, I'd like direction from the
22 Council if you guys want to be actively involved in
23 these CCP developments or if you want to allow the
24 local villages to do that, do you want to continue to
25 have them on your agenda. I've been lost for years on
26 this of what to do because it is their planning
27 document, how they go forward with and there is a
28 component in there that's subsistence but I don't know
29 what direction the Council would like on CCPs. And I'm
30 not saying the Refuges are not going to include you, I
31 just think the Refuges, as well as myself, need to know
32 what do you want to do.

33

34 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I personally want to
35 receive copies of the CCP for review to see if there's
36 conflicting interests that may -- their planning
37 process for -- it'd be -- how long are those in effect,
38 for 10 or 15 years, approximately.

39

40 MS. BROWN: Approximately.

41

42 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: And so there may be
43 issues like hydrocarbon exploration that may conflict
44 with subsistence use or biotic resources that
45 subsistence users rely on. So I would like to be able
46 to review the CCPs, receive copies for view, and maybe
47 at our Council meetings bring those forward to the
48 Refuges. So personally I would like to receive copies
49 of the CCPs as they're developed.

50

1 MS. BROWN: Yes, Mr. Chair, one comment
2 there, too, did you want the entire CCP or the
3 executive summary or both or -- what I guess.....

4
5 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Probably the
6 executive summary and then if I see something that I'm
7 more interested in I could probably get the entire
8 document, and I can get that on DVD so that wouldn't be
9 a problem for me now.

10
11 MS. BROWN: Okay. Just you or to other
12 members of the Council as well or.....

13
14 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Would other Council
15 members like to receive -- I know probably members who
16 are in their home region or home area of our region
17 would be very interested in those. But there may be
18 other members who are also interested, so probably you
19 could poll the Council as to who would like to receive
20 copies of them.

21
22 MS. BROWN: Okay. I'll catch folks on
23 break. Just one other quick comment that I sort of
24 skipped over in my notes, was I did, you know, speak
25 again with Mike Spindler today, and he said he is
26 looking at lining up additional law enforcement so that
27 if this special action is approved he would have
28 resources available. He said, you know, it may be
29 limited. And he also did say that he was sensitive to
30 the issue that was discussed yesterday about the over
31 enforcement, but then sort of the trade-off is, you
32 know, we do need to -- you know, if there is a kill
33 they do need to be able to investigate it and identify
34 who was there. But he is sensitive to that and will be
35 keeping that in mind for future hunts.

36
37 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: There's ways of
38 using DNA for analysis with various kills. And so I
39 feel that there's enforcement methods that would be not
40 so intrusive into the subsistence hunt. And my comment
41 on Kanuti's management is the Kanuti has gone way out
42 to accommodate the subsistence needs for this spring
43 hunt and so I wanted to highly commend Mike Spindler's
44 commitment to the local people in response to concerns
45 about wolf numbers and the lack of harvest and
46 accommodating subsistence uses and the various projects
47 of understanding -- the environmental projects of
48 understanding the ecosystems ecology of the Kanuti
49 Wildlife Refuge. And all the Refuges do a great job,
50 but Mike's gone way out on a limb with this March moose

1 hunt and I wanted to highly commend him for that in
2 response to the Council.

3

4 So any further comments.

5

6 MR. SAM: Yes.

7

8 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, Ron.

9

10 MR. SAM: Yeah, just that I'd like to,
11 again, echo Jack's expression of gratitude to Mike
12 Spindler for what he's trying to do. I don't know how
13 you could make this hunt any better than what we've
14 tried to do. I know that law enforcement has to be
15 there, just that it does hinder the harvest of some
16 moose, but, again, I'm not calling Mike down or out or
17 anything, it's just that -- we just don't know how to
18 really handle this hunt but, again, I'd like to thank
19 the Kanuti Wildlife Refuge for going out on a limb and
20 providing for these subsistence opportunities.

21

22 Thank you.

23

24 MR. COLLINS: Mr. Chairman.

25

26 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, Ray.

27

28 MR. COLLINS: Wenona, I had a question
29 about the process. When they're doing these planning
30 documents, have they in the past, or in the future,
31 looked at documenting the history of subsistence use
32 there, like there was traplines in use and so on, I
33 think that's part of the historical record that they
34 should be gathering about that Refuge that would be in
35 there. Is there any discussion of that in the planning
36 process of who used it and how it was used and so on,
37 because I'd be interested in knowing over the years
38 what's happening, like traplines I know is fading out.
39 Are those traplines inactive now, are -- and some of
40 the people that used it are -- they're not around. It
41 would be nice to have a capture of that while they're
42 still around, of where they went and how they use it,
43 so is any of that involved in any of the planning the
44 process?

45

46 MS. BROWN: Mr. Chair. Mr. Collins.
47 It is to the point that we could get information. We
48 did go out to the communities a number of times, you
49 know, Mary Maxwell and I spent several days out there,
50 you know, walking all around, talking to people, trying

1 to get their comments on what they would like to see in
2 use areas. We spent a couple days out there last
3 summer with the traditional place name's map and
4 talking with people and trying to get that down on the
5 map so that we could -- and what areas that they wanted
6 to see named on a map that would be in the CCP. And
7 like you said there's a lot of information that's not
8 written down someplace and I know there's stuff that we
9 missed that would be nice to have. And I think the
10 Refuge would still be open to, during the public
11 comment period, if people know that information, if
12 they bring it to us, I mean we'll do our best, you
13 know, at least from my part, to the extent that I can
14 to get it incorporated into the subsistence sections
15 because I kind of do the oversight on those in
16 particular. But as far as I know there was not any,
17 you know, real hard and fast documentation of where the
18 traplines were.

19

20 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Ray.

21

22 MR. COLLINS: Yeah, Mr. Chairman, the
23 reason I bring that up is that when the State, under
24 their Subsistence Division, they did some extensive
25 work in the villages with mapping traplines and other
26 things but the Office of Subsistence Management now has
27 been monitoring the program and planning but they're
28 not doing any of that research in the village anymore
29 and we're losing -- they're relying on the older State
30 data for some of that background and I think that
31 should be part of the whole process of bringing that
32 stuff up to date.

33

34 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right. Ron.

35

36 MR. SAM: Yeah, thanks for bringing
37 that up there, Ray. Robert and I were visiting with
38 you last night and talked about the influence and the
39 speed and everything else that the snowmachine brought
40 about. And I can see where we used to have two or
41 three outgoing trails to trap within the Kanuti
42 Wildlife Refuge, now, we have one so they can go 80, 90
43 miles and then be back the same evening. So I can see
44 where there is quite a bit of difference and I'm glad
45 that Ray pointed it out.

46

47 MS. BROWN: Mr. Chair.

48

49 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay, go ahead,

50 Wennona.

1 MS. BROWN: Just one further comment.
2 In pulling together information for both the Kanuti CCP
3 and dealing with the Yukon Flats land exchange
4 document, that is a very big area that I noted that
5 there's not recent information. You know, back in the
6 '80s and into the early '90s is about the latest
7 reports that I could find that ADF&G was funded to do,
8 and that's one of the things I have kept bringing up
9 that we need to do those studies, you know, but they
10 are expensive and getting the money to do those types
11 of studies has been drying up and that's the one thing
12 that I have been flagging that it is definitely a need
13 that we should be looking at.

14
15 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: These trapline usage
16 oscillates with the fur price and so the economics of
17 trapping is the driving force behind, and so when the
18 fur prices were high in the '70s and '80s, there was
19 trapline extensions all over. That retracts during the
20 low prices. That happened when I was a little kid.
21 There was the '20s and '30s there was trappers all over
22 the place. The mid-40s the fur price crashed, economics
23 of trapping went down and hardly anybody was trapping.
24 There's going to be these flux and flows, people say,
25 oh, the environmental has stopped the fur market, no,
26 there's a -- it's a fashion industry, primary, it's
27 like bell-bottom pants and so the fur industry will
28 flux and flow. In the future we'll have another high
29 again and people will be out trapping. So those
30 historical data, it's not short-term, it's there's
31 long-term cycles to these trapping efforts.

32
33 The beaver trapping is a different
34 thing, that's a meat source and so that's a little bit
35 different issue. And wolf harvest, and so wolf harvest
36 people range further for those.

37
38 And so any further comments about
39 Kanuti's presentation.

40
41 (No comments)

42
43 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Comments.

44
45 (No comments)

46
47 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks a lot,
48 Wennona. We always highly appreciate your presence at
49 our meetings and I receive advisory committee minutes
50 from Wennona, she's always Johnny on the Spot, and has

1 very good minutes from various meetings, so we highly
2 appreciate your involvement with our Council.

3

4 Thank you.

5

6 We should go to a break now, I'm
7 getting a nicotine -- going into a nicotine fit here so
8 we'll break for a little bit.

9

10 (Laughter)

11

12 (Off record)

13

14 (On record)

15

16 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So we're going to --
17 hey, Vince, yeah, we're over here and we're going to
18 try and get this meeting back together again.

19

20 (Pause)

21

22 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Say, Ray. Oh,
23 there's Mickey.

24

25 (Pause)

26

27 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So we're back on
28 line here and we got Koyukuk/Nowitna Refuge going to
29 give the rest of their presentation, so go ahead,
30 Geoff.

31

32 MR. BYERSDORF: Good afternoon, Mr.
33 Chair, Members of the Council. For the record, again,
34 Geoff Byersdorf with Koyukuk/Nowitna Refuge. I'm a
35 pilot and biologist over there. And with me is Ryan
36 Mollnow, he's the acting Refuge manager at the
37 Koyukuk/Nowitna at this point. I'm just going to
38 continue with what I had started to present yesterday
39 and this will just go over all the rest of the
40 biological projects that the Refuge has been doing.

41

42 First off I wanted to finish up with
43 some of the moose stuff that we had. And the Refuge
44 has been working with a Ph.D student at UAF starting in
45 October 2005 looking at moose calf performance on
46 winter range in Game Management Unit 21D. In October
47 of '05 they collared 30 female calfs, 15 on the Koyukuk
48 and 15 in the Kaiyuh Flats area. The average weight of
49 the calfs on the Koyukuk was 436, on the Kaiyuh it was
50 414 pounds. And what they're doing is they're looking

1 at winter browse. And I wanted to point out that this
2 is part of a statewide project, it goes all the way
3 from just north of the Alaska Range all the way down to
4 the Lake Clark area. And here what they do is they end
5 up putting it into a big net and they put a tripod over
6 it and use a come-along to weigh them. I just wanted
7 to point that out.

8
9 In winter '05/06 we found -- we do
10 monthly -- they've got the collars on them and every
11 month we go out and fly and see where they are. Winter
12 '05/06 five of them had died, two of them from wolves,
13 one was a winter kill, one unknown, and one was
14 poached. We did recaptures in 2006, what we found from
15 the recapture's is that most of them lost weight which
16 we expect is pretty normal. The Kaiyuh Flats calfs
17 lost a little more weight than the Koyukuk but that
18 could simply be due to habitat differences. We did
19 some additional captures in October of 2006 and
20 collared 29 more calfs, again, breaking it up 16 on the
21 Koyukuk and 13 on the Kaiyuh.

22
23 You did ask yesterday in regards to
24 wolf surveys, I just wanted to remind you that if we
25 get good conditions in the next few weeks we are
26 planning on doing wolf surveys in the Koyukuk area and
27 we will be working in conjunction with the Huslia
28 Tribal Council to conduct those surveys there.

29
30 And this is just some information from
31 the last time that we were able to do wolf surveys on
32 the Novi, obviously in '96 68 wolves, and in 2004 62
33 and what we found, those yellow areas up there are the
34 high density areas and the clear areas are the low
35 density. And it pretty much matches up with what was
36 done in 1996. And the other thing that we have found
37 is that it pretty much matches up with where we're
38 finding the moose, which you'd expect. And what we're
39 seeing is that we have a relatively stable moose
40 population over there in the Nowitna and we've got a
41 relatively stable wolf population also.

42
43 And this is just an example I wanted to
44 show you. I think we discussed this when we were up in
45 Huslia in '04, just showing -- incidently, Brad and
46 Boomer try and get out and record where they're seeing
47 wolf packs and how many that they're seeing. In
48 2003/2004 there weren't as many pups produced and
49 Brad's hoping to, with the wolf surveys this year, kind
50 of complete the picture here on the Koyukuk drainage.

1 This is just some information on the
2 Galena Mountain Caribou Herd. You heard some of this
3 yesterday, there's been a decline from '99/2000 of 300
4 animals down to one to 200 animals in 2006. As I said
5 yesterday we had about 140 caribou observed two months
6 ago, or three months ago now in December. The collars
7 were originally hung in the spring of 2002. What we
8 were trying to determine was if there was any mixing --
9 with the decline, was there any mixing between the
10 Galena Mountain Herd and the Wolf Mountain Herd. And
11 we haven't seen -- we didn't see any mixing until
12 spring of this last year, where one female was found
13 with the Wolf Mountain Herd. And as we talked about
14 before I wanted to point out that they're summering in
15 the Cochrans at the headwaters of the Dulbi River and
16 in the winters they're between the Galena and the
17 Koyukuk River just south of Huslia there.

18
19 We have started conducting beaver cache
20 surveys. And I think what we're seeing in many of the
21 areas that you guys live in that beavers are -- the
22 population numbers are coming up.

23
24 In 2004, in conjunction with some of
25 the moose work that we've been doing, as far as
26 survival and recruitment, we started installing snow
27 markers to tell us what the depths are and then every
28 month, what we do is, is we go out and we see where the
29 snow is in relation to those bars and that information
30 is also turned over to the State and used in
31 determining what the severity conditions are as far as
32 break up on the Yukon River.

33
34 We also are conducting goose surveys,
35 which we do every year. They're aerial surveys and we
36 also have float surveys. What we've been finding is
37 that the white-fronts, which declined from '94 to 2001
38 have been gradually increasing from 2004 to their 1990
39 levels. The Canadian geese numbers are remaining
40 stable at low numbers. In this last, 2006, in late
41 spring we had really good production, we also had high
42 water. And this is just a chart from the aerial
43 surveys showing where the population levels are and
44 what the productivity is. And as you can see the
45 productivity has definitely been increasing from 2001
46 and we're also seeing a corresponding increase in the
47 population size.

48
49 The Refuge also, every five years, we
50 participate in a statewide census and we also conduct

1 an annual aerial trend survey for swans. What we're
2 finding is that we're having more trumpeter swans than
3 in the past and both the aerial surveys that we conduct
4 and the five year statewide census has shown a steadily
5 increasing swan population on all three of the Refuges.

6
7 Boomer's been working with an
8 individual, Dr. Sladen, who lives in Virginia, to do a
9 nesting swan identification project. What we've been
10 finding is that on the Koyukuk we've got about 50
11 percent trumpeters, 50 percent tundra swans; on the
12 Kaiyuh 80 percent trumpeters and 20 percent tundras;
13 and on the Nowitna it's exclusively trumpeters out
14 there.

15
16 Excuse me, I think Bill is catching
17 here.

18
19 (Laughter)

20
21 MR. BYERSDORF: We've also been doing
22 duck spring breeding pair surveys. And what we found
23 in 2006 is 68,000 to 124,000 on the Koyukuk. This is
24 an increase from the dip that we saw in 2003 to 2004,
25 and it's above the '97 estimates that we had of 62 to
26 117,000 ducks.

27
28 One of the things that I wanted to
29 touch on, there's been considerable talk about this and
30 I know Member Walker, last spring, made a specific
31 request that we get out to some of the villages to talk
32 to people what was going on in regards to Avian
33 Influenza. So Boomer and I put together a village
34 presentation and we were able to get out to Anvik,
35 Kaltag, Koyukuk, Huslia and Hughes and give a
36 presentation in each of these villages on what we knew.
37 I have that separate presentation. I realize it's been
38 a long day, if you guys want to see that just let me
39 know, at some point I can show it to you. What I
40 wanted to give here is just simply a synopsis of what
41 happened in 2006.

42
43 So in regards to the overall state
44 intensive efforts for Avian Influenza, they were able
45 to sample about 17,000 birds, 4,500 from the spring
46 subsistence harvest, mainly in the YK-Delta and the
47 Seward Penn area. 300 of those samples were positive
48 for the low path Avian Influenza. And the Avian
49 Influenza that's been in the news that everybody's
50 concerned about is a high path Avian Influenza and

1 there were no samples of H5N1 detected.

2

3 Specifically some of the sampling
4 efforts that we did on the Refuge, we sampled 475 birds
5 during our annual duck banding camp near Willow Lake
6 and Kaiyuh Flats. At Willow Lake we sampled 242 birds,
7 mostly pintails, teals, and mallards. In Kaiyuh Flats
8 area we sampled a little bit over 200 birds, again,
9 mostly pintails and teal there. And then on the
10 Koyukuk Refuge we sampled 20 swans.

11

12 What they've been finding is at the
13 statewide level is that as of January 2007 the H5N1 has
14 not been found in North America. There are no known
15 cases of human infection from wild birds. And as I
16 pointed out in our village presentation in Anvik there,
17 these viruses don't move very easily from birds to
18 humans. All 121 reported cases of H -- of human cases
19 of H5N1 have come from countries in Southeast Asia and
20 those, they've been infected through domestic poultry.
21 The message that we were trying to get out is that
22 hunters should not be overly concerned about the H5N1
23 at this time and just to use some common sense
24 precautions when they're preparing their waterfowl,
25 like keeping your hands, tools and your work areas
26 clean and using disinfectant. And simply thoroughly
27 killing the bird. One of the things that we discussed
28 was if you cook the bird to a temperature between 155
29 and 165 it kills the virus. And surveillance in Alaska
30 -- oh, one of the things that I wanted to talk about
31 was we didn't just start doing this in 2006, there has
32 been ongoing surveillance in Alaska since 1998. They
33 have sampled over 12,000 birds and have not detected
34 the bird flu.

35

36 This is an example of one of the slides
37 that we had in the village presentation that we were
38 telling the hunters, you know, don't talk waterfowl
39 that's obviously sick or already dead. If you can,
40 wear rubber gloves and washable clothing, use soap and
41 water, alcohol wipes that kills the virus, you know,
42 wash all your equipment, don't eat and smoke. One of
43 the things that we discussed is that this is an oral
44 feces virus, so if you come in contact with any feces
45 when you're cleaning your waterfowl and you go to take
46 a drink or eat something and it's on your hands, then
47 that is one way that a human could possibly get it.
48 And, again, as I stated before, simply cooking your
49 meat.

50

1 This is one of the last things that I'm
2 going to get to before I hand this presentation over to
3 Ryan. But what I wanted to discuss was there were two
4 special actions in our area for 21D on the Kaiyuh Flats
5 and for 21B which the Western Interior Regional
6 Advisory Council had put forth.

7
8 In a January teleconference it was
9 discussed that those special actions didn't meet the
10 threshold analysis. What I ended up doing was I went
11 to Ruby and I went to Nulato and talked with people in
12 Kaltag and discussed what we had been told was the
13 justification for that action and I also talked to each
14 of the tribal councils. We had flown -- Brad ended up,
15 when he was doing the radio collaring for the moose
16 calfs, ended flying -- we wanted to get a picture of
17 where some of these animals were -- where some of the
18 moose were. You know, this special action request was
19 to have an opening on the Federal lands and Brad took
20 GPS locations of the animals that were out there. And
21 as you've heard Bill discuss, you know, they had 97
22 percent of the moose that they found on the river and
23 each of these dots represents three moose, so out of
24 the 82 moose that Brad saw, I believe 75 of them were
25 on State and corporate land. So this is one of the
26 difficulties that we talked about yesterday in regards
27 to there's a difference in jurisdiction between the
28 Federal and the State. Even if we were to have had an
29 opening you see that there's five dots there in the
30 center, someone would have had to have traveled that
31 distance to be able to get them and there are no
32 guarantees that those are even bulls. And this is just
33 something that we discussed at the tribal councils as
34 far as some of the difficulties of this mixed
35 jurisdiction lands.

36
37 We did conduct outreach with the March
38 1st to 5th hunts that were in Unit 24D with Huslia and
39 Hughes. I was able to get up to each of the villages
40 and talk to an established permit vendor. We went
41 through some of the permit requirements. We also
42 issued proxy permits for elders in the village. And we
43 gave out maps for where the hunting could occur and
44 also a cow/bull ID sheet, guide sheet. And what we
45 talked about with the Huslia Tribal Council and the
46 Hughes Tribal Council, they went over each of these
47 conditions with the hunters, I think, very similar to
48 what Mike has been doing with hunters up there in the
49 Allakaket/Bettles area, we were doing the same type of
50 thing in Huslia and Hughes. The results of the hunt, I

1 think I have discussed this with Chairman Reakoff, but
2 for the rest of you, there were no permits issued in
3 Hughes and obviously no moose were taken there and as
4 of yesterday there were 17 permits issued in Huslia,
5 three moose have been taken, two of them were bulls,
6 one of them was a cow and of the three animals that
7 were taken one of them was a proxy hunt for an elder.
8 There are still four more hunters out there and I'll
9 follow up when I get back. I'm going to be going to
10 Huslia and Hughes on Friday to wrap up things in
11 regards to that hunt.

12

13 And I guess two last things that I
14 wanted to touch on, I have mentioned this starting
15 yesterday in regards to the Huslia Tribal Wildlife
16 Grant, they were successfully awarded that grant in
17 November of 2005 and this last November we were able to
18 do moose surveys with them and obviously this year
19 we're looking to do wolf surveys with them and then
20 we're also looking to working with the tribal council
21 in regards to some sort of a predator monitoring
22 program and possibly looking into doing some sort of
23 bear survey in the area. There's several different
24 aspects to that grant and we're actively working with
25 the Huslia Tribal Council to try and meet the
26 objectives in that grant. And I guess that's all that
27 I wanted to say on that.

28

29 I have worked with a couple -- well,
30 the Loudon Tribal Council ended up also applying for
31 the Tribal Wildlife Grant and we will see if that ends
32 -- if they end up successfully obtaining the funds from
33 that grant. Specifically what they wanted to do was
34 look at water quality on the Refuge. And also one of
35 the things that has been discussed is that in the
36 proposals like 36 and 37 there has been a question as
37 to whether people are meeting their subsistence needs
38 for moose in the villages, and they -- part of their
39 request for that grant was they put in to do door-to-
40 door surveys in several of the villages to get a more
41 accurate reflection on whether people are able to meet
42 their subsistence needs.

43

44 The last thing I wanted to discuss is
45 the in-season salmon harvest project that's being
46 conducted in the villages. This will be the final year
47 for that and my understanding is that one of the
48 principal investigators has applied through the
49 Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program to see if that
50 funding for that project can continue.

1 And that's all I had.

2

3 Ryan.

4

5 MR. MOLLNOW: Mr. Chairman. Members of
6 the Council. Where I'm going to head to next with this
7 is just a little bit on our air taxis and guides and
8 things, but I guess if you guys have any questions of
9 this part of Geoff's, this would probably be a good
10 break.

11

12 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Does anybody have
13 questions for Geoff's portion of the presentation.

14

15 MR. WALKER: Yes.

16

17 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, Robert.

18

19 MR. WALKER: Thank you. Mr. Chair.
20 Thank you, Geoff, for your presentation here. There's
21 just one question on H5N1, somebody mentioned yesterday
22 that this flu is going parallel, not up toward the
23 Northern Hemisphere, it's going like parallel around
24 the world and I just thought about when you were
25 talking, is there some kind of a trend here, what it's
26 doing or is it just kind of like staying in the Asian
27 countries and moving -- now that I find that they have
28 a swan or something in Europe here, maybe you can
29 enlighten us on this.

30

31 Thank you.

32

33 MR. BYERSDORF: Through the Chair.
34 Member Walker. I think what we've seen since we gave
35 that presentation there in Anvik is that the Avian
36 Influenza has moved from the Asian countries over
37 towards Europe and there has been some expansion into
38 the northern part of Africa. And it's my understanding
39 that all of the associations of that have been with
40 domestic poultry at this point.

41

42 MR. COLLINS: Mr. Chairman.

43

44 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Ray.

45

46 MR. COLLINS: Yeah, I was making a
47 comment to Robert, they had a presentation at the
48 meeting of the SRCs from the Parks last fall. What
49 they pointed out was that the movement was east/west or
50 in that flow through domestic. There's no evidence of

1 it moving north/south, which all the flyways are.

2

3 MR. BYERSDORF: Okay.

4

5 MR. COLLINS: So that's good news for
6 Alaska because it doesn't seem to be moving on the
7 flyways. And if it does come into the States, it's
8 more likely to come with chicken or poultry imported
9 from Southeast Asia and that's somehow where it got
10 from Southeast Asia to Europe, was more likely to be
11 with poultry or something that -- because of the way it
12 went, it didn't come on any migration path.

13

14 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Any other questions
15 or comments on that portion of the presentation.

16

17 (No comments)

18

19 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, Ryan.
20 State your full name so we can get familiar with you
21 again.

22

23 MR. MOLLNOW: For the record my name is
24 Ryan Mollnow. I'm the assistant manager at
25 Koyukuk/Nowitna Refuge, which currently I'm acting
26 manager since how Kenton Moss (ph), the manager, was
27 unable to make it here.

28

29 And my portion of this is going to be
30 just to kind of give you just a real brief overview of
31 some of the other things we've been working with there
32 at the Refuge.

33

34 Obviously one of the big changes, as
35 many of you have noticed is the staffing changes for
36 the Refuge. Kenton Moss (ph) is currently the Refuge
37 manager there and has been there for about a year now.
38 Myself, I just came in a year ago and am relatively new
39 to all this so I'm -- Jenny and I were laughing about
40 both being kind of in the same boat and learning all
41 the process.

42

43 Some other staff changes, we've just
44 recently hired Jerry Floyd, as a new law enforcement
45 officer for the Refuge and he will also be a pilot, law
46 enforcement position and will be helping out covering
47 law enforcement issues on Innoko Refuge, Selawik and
48 then also Koyukuk/Nowitna Refuges. So he's going to
49 have quite an area, we're going to try and move him
50 around as much as possible.

1 One of the other things that will be
2 coming up, just like Innoko and Kanuti, we're going to
3 be going into the CCP process, planning process for the
4 Refuge here coming up, we'll start on that this summer,
5 so we're kind of behind the ball of Innoko and places
6 but we'll be working on that process and we'll
7 hopefully be able to just get as much knowledge as we
8 can from the local villages and as much input as
9 possible and hopefully get Mr. Honea and Ms. Pelkola
10 and Mr. Stickman involved in all this process.

11
12 I guess I only have two more slides to
13 really show you, three more. There's been some
14 questions about, you know, air taxi use and guide use
15 and Geoff and I were able to get those numbers put
16 together and I was going to go ahead and present them
17 to you here, it's kind of an update of where we're at
18 to-date on the guide use.

19
20 All right, one of the things on this
21 slide, this is the big game guides for just the Koyukuk
22 Refuge and that's up to through this past moose season.
23 And one of the things you want to pay attention to is
24 the left-hand side, the number of individuals. Your
25 total number of guides for the Refuge has stayed
26 relatively the same, that's mainly because we only have
27 five guide use areas for the Koyukuk Refuge, and those
28 have fluctuated with vacancies over the past several
29 years. Along those lines we do have a new guide that
30 has taken up Koyukuk, which is kind of the southwest
31 portion of the Koyukuk Refuge, and that's Sean Stone,
32 but we just recently accepted his placement there and
33 we'll be working with him this next year.

34
35 Total number of clients, as you can
36 tell, is showing a decline. Geoff and I were
37 discussing some of that, back in 200, I believe, is
38 when they implemented drawing permits so that reduced,
39 you know, the availability for people just to go out
40 there and hunt.

41
42 But the other thing would be, you know,
43 number of moose taken this last year in 2006, the
44 numbers dropped once again, we had total clients were
45 down and then also total number of moose harvested were
46 down and I think that number was around six total moose
47 harvested by guides. The bulk of those were from
48 Virgil Umphenour.

49
50 The next slide is our transporters by

1 air and boat. This last year, as far as boat
2 transportation, we didn't have really anybody
3 transporting by boat, so all these were by air. As you
4 can tell the total number of operators was the same as
5 it was in 2005, we didn't have any new air taxis come
6 in. Total number of clients increased slightly for
7 '06. And total number of moose that were harvested
8 increased. The main thing you want to look at here
9 versus the other slide are the number of individuals on
10 your left-hand side. You're still only looking at six
11 people being transported and five animals being
12 harvested. And that's it on the guide use stuff for
13 Koyukuk Refuge.

14
15 One other thing I had heard through the
16 past day or so here at the meetings, just kind of
17 concerns with climate change. We do have one
18 individual in our Refuge, Karen Lemcool, that has been
19 trying to basically take about the past 50 years worth
20 of weather data and put that into some slides and
21 graphs and things. And she presented a poster, they
22 had a big climate forum meeting in Anchorage here a
23 week or so ago, and she presented a poster there that
24 kind of showed some changes of the climate and also
25 moisture levels and then had some graphs in there kind
26 of showing the harvest at the Nowitna Refuge as far as
27 moose goes. So the Refuge is looking into the climate
28 change and how that impacts things and trying to figure
29 out how that works into our management. But I just
30 wanted to let you know that we are working on that
31 information but I don't have any here to present to
32 you.

33
34 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: All right,
35 appreciate that. Anybody have questions on the
36 presentation, Vince, you got something.

37
38 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, Mr. Chairman, you
39 and I talked maybe a week ago, or week and a half ago
40 and I didn't pursue it, to find out on the hunt on the --
41 the March hunt on the Koyukuk, on the consultation
42 issue. I don't want to put him on the carpet, but
43 since we're all here, to find out, to clear that up,
44 was there consultation done on that hunt.

45
46 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I was not consulted,
47 I was wondering if you were consulted on that Huslia
48 moose hunt, Ron.

49
50 MR. SAM: We did talk. We did talk and

1 then Glenn -- I mean Geoff notified me that we -- what
2 Mike Spindler was doing on the Kanuti Wildlife Refuge,
3 that he was doing the same thing at Hughes and Huslia.
4 Yes, and that's -- I know the numbers were limited and
5 I knew the weather was cold all over, and he did
6 mention that he did not know at that time whether
7 they'd issue any permits at Hughes or anything of that
8 nature.

9

10 Just to add on to that, your hand out,
11 your present hand out is very good, it's easily
12 understood. I commend you for that, thank you.

13

14 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Mickey.

15

16 MR. STICKMAN: Yeah, I brought up this
17 at our last Council meeting, and this past fall there
18 was some guiding activity in the northern Innoko and
19 the Kaiyuh Flats region of the northern Innoko, and
20 it's not a guide area for anybody.

21

22 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay, Geoff.

23

24 MR. BYERSDORF: Mickey. First of all I
25 wanted to thank you for bringing that to my attention
26 last year, I appreciated your help in that. I was able
27 to talk with one of our officers in Anchorage and try
28 and get a couple of people detailed out to follow up on
29 that. They were sneaky characters because they end up
30 getting into an area where you cannot land a plane, but
31 they are on the radar for next year and we've got some
32 thoughts about how to get in there before they get in
33 there. So we haven't -- I apologize for not letting
34 you know that, we haven't dropped the ball on that and
35 we are still going to try and pursue that.

36

37 MR. STICKMAN: Okay, thanks Geoff.

38 Because I was up there this fall and this time -- well,
39 I was -- you know, people always tell me about that and
40 so I report it at the meetings but this fall I was up
41 there so -- and I was driving through the shortcut,
42 it's a shortcut from the Kaiyuh Slough up to the Kaiyuh
43 Lakes and that -- I actually saw both of them up there
44 in the shortcut.

45

46 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Go ahead,
47 Ryan.

48

49 MR. MOLLNOW: Mr. Chairman, thank you.
50 One last thing I wanted to mention, I didn't leave

1 Geoff out intentionally on the staffing changes, but I
2 wanted to mention this last here before we got away,
3 that, as many of you know, Geoff, this is his last
4 meeting here at the WRAC, and that from a Refuge
5 standpoint, we appreciate all Geoff's work and
6 everything he's done and your guy's compliments and his
7 efforts in tying us together. We appreciate that. We
8 will be backfilling behind Geoff's position, that
9 individual is Kevin Wentworth, he is from McGrath
10 originally and he'll be coming from Kotzebue Selawik
11 Refuge down to Galena about mid-April. So Kevin went
12 to, I believe, UAF, and got his wildlife biology degree
13 and has been with Fish and Wildlife Service now for a
14 little bit so we'll be getting Kevin Wentworth down
15 mid-April.

16

17 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay.

18

19 MR. HONEA: Mr. Chair.

20

21 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, Don.

22

23 MR. HONEA: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I
24 don't have a question on your presentation because I
25 saw it just a few weeks back when you guys came up to
26 Ruby. And just on a more personal note, I thank you,
27 Geoff, for seeing you on the Refuge. For those of you
28 that don't know, my father has a Native allotment right
29 at the mouth of the Novi, the Nowitna, and their
30 checkstation is just, I don't know maybe 100 feet from
31 us, 100 yards or something, not very far, so it was
32 good to see him every other year. It's kind of sad to
33 see different people come and go and we really
34 appreciated stopping in and having a cup of coffee and,
35 you know, coming up from Ruby in an open boat sometimes
36 it gets pretty cold, so thank you for that. Thank you
37 for the presentation, and, welcome, Ryan, we'll see you
38 on the Refuge or in the villages.

39

40 Thank you.

41

42 MR. WALKER: Jack.

43

44 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, Robert.

45

46 MR. WALKER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
47 Ryan. Geoff. Looking at your transporters, there are
48 pretty high bars there, you know, but not a minimum
49 taken of game, is that boats there that's going up the
50 river or is that airplanes coming in.

1 MR. MOLLNOW: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
2 Councilman Walker. I believe the total number there of
3 operators -- transporters, correct?

4
5 MR. WALKER: Yes.

6
7 MR. MOLLNOW: Okay. The total number
8 for actual transporters is two, that was the active
9 number of individuals that were transporting on the
10 Koyukuk Refuge. As far as the clients go, the total
11 number was six clients. I guess I'm unsure as to how
12 to answer your question or if you would like to ask it
13 again to give me a little better background, please.

14
15 MR. BYERSDORF: Member Walker. In
16 regards to your question, with the two individuals that
17 are there, there's one air transporter and there's one
18 boat transporter for the last two years.

19
20 MR. WALKER: Okay. Well, my other
21 question would be is that does your office handle these
22 transporters, do they have to get permits from you and
23 what are they, FAA, Part 135, that's going in there
24 with the aircraft or is that just a person that's just
25 transporting with aircraft?

26
27 MR. MOLLNOW: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
28 Councilman Walker. I believe -- well, in 2006 both of
29 these individuals, the operators, the two operators
30 there's Collin Browning and Joe Shuster (ph) are the
31 two guys that operate on the Koyukuk Refuge's air
32 taxis. Both of them are required to gain permits from
33 the Refuge in order to transport anyone, in which, we
34 have a process that we go through in making sure that
35 they have all the proper insurance and are actually in
36 line with the State in the process of basically being
37 able to transport anyone.

38
39 MR. WALKER: Thank you, Ryan. Well,
40 Geoff, isn't this your last meeting here, the last time
41 you'll be sitting in front of us.

42
43 MR. BYERSDORF: (Nods affirmatively)

44
45 MR. WALKER: I wish you all the best
46 here and I hope we can see you down the trail
47 somewhere. And welcome to you Ryan for sitting in now,
48 you're going to be on the hot seat, I just gave you a
49 little example of what's going to happen in the future
50 here.

1 (Laughter)
2
3 MR. WALKER: So, Geoff, he knows that
4 he's out of here, and I wish you all the best Geoff.
5 Thank you for all the time that you've been here.
6
7 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: You have a comment
8 Vince.
9
10 MR. MATHEWS: No, I'll talk to Robert
11 afterwards on what the data represents.
12
13 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Any other
14 comment. Mickey.
15
16 MR. STICKMAN: Yeah, me, too, I would
17 like to personally thank Geoff for his work in the
18 northern Innoko, especially in the villages out there.
19 You know it's always tough to see somebody that you
20 become familiar with leave, it's just like when Mike
21 Spindler moved to Fairbanks for Kanuti, you know, he
22 was probably the best Refuge manager that we had in the
23 Galena area for all the years that we've had Refuge
24 managers there. And, you know, Geoff, you know, took
25 over visiting the villages when Mike left and he did a
26 really good job of keeping the tribal councils up to
27 date on issues as far as the Kaiyuh Flats and I just
28 definitely want to wish him good luck in his new job in
29 Kenai and thank him for the work that he did in the
30 area.
31
32 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thank you, Mickey.
33 Jenny.
34
35 MS. PELKOLA: Yeah, Mr. Chair, I also
36 would like to thank Geoff for being in Galena. We
37 became friends, we started playing cards and we became
38 good friends. But he is very visible in the community
39 and that makes a lot of difference because sometimes
40 you have people that do come to our village and, you
41 know, you don't see them but he's been visible and he's
42 worked hard. So I just want to thank you, personally,
43 Geoff.
44
45 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I also would like to
46 reiterate all that. But it shows the necessity for the
47 Refuge Staff to be involved within the community so the
48 community can become familiar with the individuals and
49 build a comfort level. So I think that, both Mike and
50 Geoff's template should be how the Refuges should

1 interact with the local people so that the people
2 become familiar and have confidence and be able to
3 speak and have sort of a trusting relationship.

4
5 Any other comments for the Koyukuk and
6 Nowitna.

7
8 Geoff, go ahead.

9
10 MR. BYERSDORF: First of all, I
11 appreciate all the members comments in regards to the
12 work that I've done. I have really looked to Mike
13 Spindler as far as a mentor, he was not only a mentor
14 pilot for me when I was learning how to fly, he was a
15 mentor in regards to management and relations with
16 people in the villages.

17
18 And what I would like to say Ryan has
19 only been here, he's been my supervisor for the last
20 year and I have been really impressed how well he is
21 able to integrate with people in the villages to date.
22 He's got a bit of a steep learning curve ahead of him
23 but what I've seen in the last year he's got all the
24 capabilities to be able to handle it and I really
25 appreciate some of the work that he's been doing in the
26 village and becoming involved within our community in
27 Galena.

28
29 And to follow up, I guess, I want to
30 thank the Western Interior Regional Advisory Council
31 for the opportunity to work with you for these past six
32 years. The knowledge that you bring to that table that
33 you're sitting at now and your representation and
34 dedication to the subsistence users has been very
35 rewarding to me personally. I have worked with several
36 State and Federal AC's over the past few years and I
37 have to say, and I mentioned this to Member Walker at a
38 break, this has been the most engaged Council that I
39 have ever worked with and I really appreciate that.
40 You guys really go above and beyond I think for the
41 subsistence users out there and that sometimes goes
42 unrecognized.

43
44 Lastly, I want to express my
45 appreciation for the communication and the support that
46 you have shown for agency personnel and the programs
47 over the last few years while I've been here.

48
49 Thank you, and I will miss you guys.
50

1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thank you.
2
3 (Applause)
4
5 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: And you're welcome
6 back any time if you get tired of Kenai.
7
8 (Laughter)
9
10 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So moving on in our
11 agenda, where are we at here, Vince, I think we covered
12 the Refuges.
13
14 MR. MATHEWS: I believe you've covered
15 all the agencies that I'm aware of unless the Forest
16 Service.....
17
18 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: The Park Service
19 said they had no comments. BLM is finished. What
20 would the Council like to do, you got something to say
21 there, Ron.
22
23 MR. SAM: (Shakes head negatively)
24
25 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: We're back up here
26 to this annual report, sort of the Council business
27 now. And so that's a fairly important component of our
28 agenda so Vince, go ahead.
29
30 MR. MATHEWS: Yeah, I think before we
31 hit the annual report we got to clear up if you want to
32 do anything with the Mulchatna Herd, you asked AVCP to
33 provide you an overview or abstract paper on their
34 project that they're putting together or process
35 they're putting together. That's been provided to you,
36 I can read it into the record, you can decide to
37 endorse it, I think you were indicating you were going
38 to endorse the process.
39
40 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead and read
41 that into the record.
42
43 MR. MATHEWS: Okay. I'll try to be as
44 clear on this as I can.
45
46 It just says the:
47
48 The problem is the Mulchatna Herd has
49 dramatically declined. This calls for
50 action by all stakeholders to meet

1 collectively to collaboratively and
2 deliberately identify ways to conserve
3 and protect the Mulchatna Caribou Herd.
4
5 Project goal is to increase the
6 Mulchatna Caribou Herd to sustainable
7 population for all consumptive and non-
8 consumptive uses across the migratory
9 route of the Mulchatna Caribou Herd.
10
11 Project objectives, six.
12
13 Establish effective and open
14 communication links between all
15 stakeholders.
16
17 Develop a mission statement with a
18 short-term and long-term goals for the
19 group facilitated by a professional
20 facilitator.
21
22 Develop a collaborative and
23 deliberative working group that
24 consists of all user groups including
25 subsistence, sport, State of Alaska,
26 Fish and Wildlife Service and other
27 agencies and include regional non-
28 profit organizations like AVCP, Bristol
29 Bay Native Association, and include
30 subregional groups like the Kuskokwim
31 Native Association and others that may
32 exist in other regions.
33
34 Develop budget and budget narrative to
35 be shared by various Alaska Native non-
36 profit organizations that fulfill their
37 respective contribution to the
38 Mulchatna Caribou Herd Working Group
39
40 Complete a final product that outlines
41 and defines minimum population
42 objectives, bull/cow ratios, calf to
43 cow ratios, subsistence harvest
44 guidelines, sport harvest, predator
45 management objectives, regular
46 population surveys and research.
47
48 And, finally, submit proposals for
49 funding to the Alaska State
50 Legislature, Office of Subsistence

1 Management and other private funding
2 sources to protect and conserve the
3 herd.

4
5 And this is from Tim Andrew of the
6 Association of Village Council Presidents.

7
8 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: That transmittal
9 sounds pretty good. There's one objective that I would
10 like to see inserted and that's the percentage of
11 harvest of the herd, that's a very important aspect of
12 harvest. So bull/cow ratios and the percentage of
13 harvest of the herd are very instrumental.

14
15 Any further comments on the AVCP
16 letter. Ron.

17
18 MR. SAM: Did you want to add that or
19 what did you want to do?

20
21 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I wanted to insert
22 that percent of harvest into the objectives.

23
24 MR. SAM: Do you think we can do that
25 to this letter or just add an addendum letter?

26
27 MR. MATHEWS: Well, I think we can do
28 it -- if you're endorse this, we can endorse it with
29 that addition.

30
31 MR. SAM: Okay.

32
33 MR. MATHEWS: What I need direction
34 from you, and it wasn't clear to me when AVCP presented
35 it, so I'll apologize for that, I don't know where this
36 is directed to. He talked about the Legislature and
37 that lost me on the Legislature's role in this.

38
39 But anyways I don't know where to
40 address this to, maybe you guys know.

41
42 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I would like this
43 letter to be directed to the Office of Subsistence
44 Management, the Federal Subsistence Board to be aware
45 that there's a need for a planning process, it's
46 identified that this herd is in a critical state and
47 this is the first prong of an action that I would like
48 to be taken, this letter.

49
50 I would also like to see an action --

1 since the Board of Game has now allowed non-resident
2 use, our displeasure with that ruling, the Federal
3 Subsistence Board should be aware that sport harvest
4 has been placed with a reduction of subsistence and so
5 I would like the Federal Subsistence Board to be aware
6 of that also.

7

8 Go ahead, Ron.

9

10 MR. SAM: I move to support the letter
11 submitted by Tim Andrew -- well, by AVCP concerning the
12 Mulchatna Herd and that we address addendums and
13 concerns that were stated by Jack Reakoff.

14

15 Mr. Chairman.

16

17 MR. WALKER: Second.

18

19 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: It's been moved and
20 seconded to transmit the letter to Federal Subsistence
21 Board and OSM.

22

23 Any further discussion.

24

25 (No comments)

26

27 MR. STICKMAN: Call for the question.

28

29 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Question's been
30 called. All those in favor signify by saying aye.

31

32 IN UNISON: Aye.

33

34 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Opposed.

35

36 (No opposing votes)

37

38 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: None. Adopted with
39 a unanimous vote. And so we're on to -- go ahead,
40 Vince.

41

42 MR. MATHEWS: Well, we're still on the
43 Mulchatna. As I talked to you on break, the Board of
44 Game did certain regulatory actions, your
45 recommendation is different than that. And your
46 recommendation on Proposal 23 was to assist to align
47 existing State regulations, well, now the State
48 regulations don't align with what you did. So you
49 don't have to change what you did but obviously the
50 next step in this process is the State's going to try

1 to get alignment further down this process at the Staff
2 Committee level and the Board level to what action they
3 just took. And it may be wise, if you so desire, to
4 let the Staff Committee and the Board know where you
5 stand on what the Board of Game did. And that's it,
6 you don't have to do anything.

7
8 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I don't know how the
9 Council feels, but I have displeasure with the Board of
10 Game's action. I feel that they reduced the harvest
11 for subsistence down and still allowed non-resident,
12 basically commercial harvest to continue. And so I
13 feel that when we passed that proposal there was
14 allowance for caribou harvest of three, not two, I
15 would like to let that stand for subsistence harvest on
16 Federal lands out of synchronization with the State of
17 Alaska. And further Council discussion on that.

18
19 Carl.

20
21 MR. MORGAN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
22 I do agree with you that we should do -- what we took
23 action before, we should stand with that. They further
24 eliminated the subsistence hunt but kept the non-
25 resident hunt to one bull, which already says -- you
26 know, bull/cow ratio and bull ratios is very depleted,
27 especially the big bulls, and where these people are
28 going, where these non-resident people are being,
29 they're being flown right up to where the caribou
30 migration is, I mean put on -- and that's -- and
31 they're not taking the small bulls, one bull, they're
32 going to take the biggest bull they got. They've got
33 that one opportunity to get a caribou, they're going to
34 shoot a big caribou, that's just the way it is.

35
36 Thank you.

37
38 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So appreciate that
39 comment, Carl, any further discussion on that Mulchatna
40 Caribou problem.

41
42 I'd like to have a motion to transmit a
43 letter to the Federal Subsistence Board to that effect,
44 that our proposal that we reviewed allowed a three
45 caribou subsistence harvest and we'll stand with that
46 and displeasure regarding this bull/cow ratio and the
47 allowance of non-resident harvest and the imperative
48 need -- reiterating this imperative need for a planning
49 group and maintaining this population.

50

1 So, Don, you got a comment.

2

3 MR. RIVARD: Yes, Mr. Chair, Don Rivard
4 with OSM. One way you could handle it without having
5 the need for a separate letter, but it could be part of
6 your comments for your recommendation on your Proposal
7 No. 23, that you heard the results of the Board of Game
8 and that you weren't happy with that, or however you
9 want to phrase that, so it doesn't have to be a sperate
10 letter because it's all going to go before the Federal
11 Subsistence Board at their meeting in the near future.

12

13 Thank you.

14

15 MR. SAM: Yes.

16

17 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yeah, that's a good
18 idea Don, we'll just make it an attachment to our
19 comments on Proposal 23. Those comments sound good to
20 the Council? Ron.

21

22 MR. SAM: Yes, do we need to take
23 action on that because I'm ready.

24

25 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: No, they're just --
26 I guess we can just attach.....

27

28 MR. SAM: They'll be an extension of
29 comments.

30

31 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: An extension of
32 comments, we'll take an affirmative nod from the
33 Council, does that sound good.....

34

35 MR. SAM: Yes.

36

37 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF:those comments.

38

39 (Council nods affirmatively)

40

41 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: The Council is in
42 agreement with those comments, they'll be attached to
43 the comments of Proposal 23.

44

45 And so where are we at now, Vince.

46

47 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, that then brings up
48 the annual report. The annual report is found on Page
49 302.

50

1 Now, Jenny, real quickly what this is,
2 is, in Title VIII of ANILCA the Council has the option
3 to submit an annual report addressing subsistence needs
4 and uses as well as other issues. This Council has,
5 since the beginning of this program submitted an annual
6 report, to the Federal Subsistence Board. These are
7 usually issues beyond the proposals. There's something
8 that just can't, you know, be attached to changing a
9 September 5th opening season, it's usually more global
10 topics. And the Board looks at those, we develop over
11 summer a response and that response is given to you in
12 fall. So it's kind of a wake up call to the Board and
13 to the process of issues and it allows the Board to
14 know where concerns are that are beyond proposals to
15 the Board.

16
17 It is on Page 302. It's based, for
18 Jenny's purposes and other's memories, you submit
19 topics at your fall meeting and then from that I draft
20 up a draft which is in front of you. Due to different
21 work loads and that I didn't really get a chance to get
22 comments back from Jack on this, so that's why it says
23 a Chair's draft, so it's clear, but anyways that's your
24 draft report there. It can be modified at this time.
25 Rare cases we can add topics but it would be best if we
26 didn't, but if there is something that really needs to
27 be added at this point they can be added. The reason I
28 say it's rare to do that, the timing of this with all
29 the other schedules that go on make it difficult but it
30 can be done. We would prefer that fall the topics come
31 up, drafts are done and then you approve at this point,
32 either, you know, it's fine the way it is, editing or
33 even deletion of topics if that's so desired, additions
34 we'll have to see on the magnitude of them.

35
36 Anyways I'll stop there. I hope it's
37 self-explanatory, the actions and et cetera.

38
39 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Mickey, comments on
40 our annual report.

41
42 MR. STICKMAN: I think I'll make a
43 motion to adopt the annual report.

44
45 MR. WALKER: Second.

46
47 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: It's been moved and
48 seconded to adopt the annual report.

49
50 Discussion on the annual report.

1 Has the Council reviewed the report and
2 is there anything pressing that would need to be
3 inserted.

4
5 MR. SAM: Just one.

6
7 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, Ron.

8
9 MR. SAM: Just one question, would it
10 be too late to express our concern over the Mulchatna
11 Herd into this annual report? Would it be too late or
12 do you think we have enough actions on it?

13
14 MR. MATHEWS: Well, Mr. Chairman, on
15 that and, Don, can add into it. The Board will already
16 have taken action on Proposal 23 and other actions on
17 this. The Board takes these up in June or July, so if
18 it's an expanding thing, maybe, but the Board will be
19 addressing this in -- the actual Mulchatna Herd harvest
20 levels in April/May.

21
22 MR. SAM: Okay.

23
24 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, Don.

25
26 MR. RIVARD: Yeah, just to kind of
27 expand on what Vince already said. Your annual report
28 topics are usually things that cannot be handled
29 through the regulatory process.

30
31 MR. SAM: Right.

32
33 MR. RIVARD: The Mulchatna Herd issues
34 can be and are being addressed through your regulatory
35 process. So you really don't need to include this in
36 an annual report.

37
38 Thank you.

39
40 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks for that
41 clarification, Don.

42
43 Ron.

44
45 MR. SAM: Yes, I withdraw my request
46 and with that I call for the question.

47
48 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Ray.

49
50 MR. COLLINS: Yeah, I'm wondering if it

1 would be worth inserting in the report the fact that no
2 new subsistence studies have been undertaken since the
3 Office of Subsistence Management took over the program.
4 They're relying on studies made by the State and those
5 studies have not been updated. The only thing they've
6 done is monitoring harvest, you know, for the C&T
7 findings and some of those, but I think it's a real gap
8 in there and now there are comprehensive plans being
9 developed for the Refuges but they don't really include
10 that component of studying the subsistence use on those
11 Refuges.

12
13 So I don't know, I'd just like to hear
14 comments from others, if they think that's a problem or
15 not.

16
17 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Any comments on the
18 need for.....

19
20 MR. COLLINS: Kind of baseline studies
21 of subsistence use.

22
23 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Baseline studies.

24
25 MR. COLLINS: Yeah.

26
27 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: The only thing I --
28 what I've had a little bit of a problem with is the
29 amounts that basically each village -- some villages
30 are far underneath what their subsistence needs are for
31 moose and it'd be nice to know what those each specific
32 village and specific -- in certain regions, identified
33 regions within our -- subregions of the Western
34 Interior where communities are not meeting their
35 subsistence needs.

36
37 MR. COLLINS: Uh-huh.

38
39 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Should we have an
40 insertion for amounts necessary and what's actually
41 being taken for communities for large game animals.
42 How does the Council feel about that.

43
44 Ron.

45
46 MR. SAM: It would only seem fair
47 because we have two different stipulations when we
48 discuss the fisheries issues, amounts needed and what
49 we the other one -- there was two different items
50 identified and specified under the fisheries uses. Do

1 you remember those?

2

3 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right. Well,
4 there's amounts necessary for the whole unit, but
5 there's communities that are lacking -- you got a
6 comment Vince.

7

8 MR. MATHEWS: Yes. I may have to draw
9 Mr. Kessler up here because you remember that we had
10 the protocol dealing with subsistence use amounts.

11

12 MR. SAM: Yes.

13

14 MR. MATHEWS: I don't know the status
15 of subsistence use amounts so are you saying that the
16 subsistence use amounts protocol should be moving
17 forward to develop what the individual species needs
18 for communities or not, but it -- what I'm trying to do
19 is amounts necessary for subsistence is a State term.
20 You can continue to use it but the record needs to
21 reflect that that is the State's assessment.

22

23 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: The subsistence use
24 amounts that -- the focus that we're on right now is
25 the amounts of moose that are not being harvested by
26 communities. They're falling short of their community
27 amounts and what Ray is kind of alluding to is we need
28 studies done on communities and the CCP's should also
29 focus to a limited degree on those amounts that would
30 be of need that the communities would -- or have been
31 demonstrating that they're lacking in.

32

33 And so I'm -- you got a comment, Steve.

34

35 MR. KESSLER: Mr. Chairman. Steve
36 Kessler with the InterAgency Staff Committee. And I
37 was only half listening as I was in the back there, so
38 if there's a specific question for me I will try and
39 give you an answer.

40

41 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. We'll give
42 you a synopsis of what the Council's discussion is
43 revolving around.

44

45 Ray brought up that there's not been
46 any real subsistence studies been done on subsistence
47 harvest needs and there was some work that was done by
48 the State Subsistence Division. We're recognizing that
49 there's communities that are lacking of harvest on
50 moose and they're falling short of their harvest needs.

1 We would like to, in specific communities,
2 subregionally, we would like to know how far below
3 their subsistence needs that the communities are
4 falling short. Those communities would be on the
5 Kuskokwim River in this area here and in certain
6 communities on the Yukon River and on the Koyukuk. And
7 the Council could go through the map and identify those
8 communities but I feel that the Board should be aware
9 that there are communities that aren't meeting their
10 subsistence needs, especially for large game animals
11 like caribou and moose.

12

13 So do you have a comment on that
14 reflection.

15

16 MR. KESSLER: Well, Mr. Chairman, I
17 heard some discussions of subsistence use amounts and
18 amounts necessary for subsistence. And as I'm sure you
19 know and the Council is aware the Federal and State
20 Staffs were working together to try and come up with a
21 protocol to address this situation. And those attempts
22 -- well, let's put it this way I think in about the
23 last six months to a year nothing has happened.

24

25 It was a very high priority of the
26 State's and there was a draft that was put out and it
27 met with a lot of concern and questions and then so as
28 all of that was happening, as I think that many of you
29 are aware of, is that there's been sort of the whole
30 State/Federal relationships have not been particularly
31 good and the State has been questioning all sorts of
32 things that the Federal Program has been doing and so
33 with all of that happening, this whole development of
34 the protocol has been sort of shoved to the side and we
35 actually haven't talked about movement on that.

36

37 So that's sort of the subsistence use
38 amounts, amounts necessary for subsistence.

39

40 The other side of it, you know, how do
41 you get this type of work done. Well, we have -- and
42 I'm just going to talk, just because I'm a Forest
43 Service person, in the Forest Service we developed a
44 program similar to FIS, which we call WIS, Wildlife
45 Information Services, only for the National Forest and
46 we put out a call for proposals and one of those calls
47 with a high priority needs was subsistence uses and
48 needs, in particular for deer and black bear in the
49 case of Prince William Sound and we received a number
50 of proposals and we have funded one, we may be funding

1 another one of those to actually get at some of those
2 types of questions that you've asked. So from the
3 Forest Service standpoint we're trying to deal with
4 some of those things. But the program, as a whole,
5 doesn't really have a way to deal with the wildlife
6 questions sort of similar to TEK questions of fish and
7 other things.

8

9 So I'm not quite sure how to get that
10 type of work done except that it seems appropriate that
11 you could say that this is the type of work that's
12 needed and then I think the agencies will have to start
13 figuring out if there's a way that that work could be
14 undertaken.

15

16 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: We're.....

17

18 MR. SAM: We're on the annual report.

19

20 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: We're on the annual
21 report. We don't want to get too far off track here.
22 The primary -- what we would like as an assertion into
23 the annual report is that a letter should be sent to
24 the communities within our region and ask if they're
25 meeting their subsistence needs for caribou and moose,
26 it'd be short and sweet. The Council could then review
27 the various communities and so there needs to be work
28 on whether communities are meeting their subsistence
29 needs. This Council can't meet in every last village
30 within the region so we have to have an outreach to the
31 various communities and so we'll just insert that as a
32 short and sweet little subparagraph in our annual
33 report.

34

35 We have to be moving along in this
36 agenda and so that insertion, if it's agreeable with
37 the Council.

38

39 MR. SAM: Yes.

40

41 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Ray.

42

43 MR. COLLINS: Yes, I think we should do
44 that. I guess.....

45

46 REPORTER: Ray. Ray.

47

48 MR. COLLINS:case in point is
49 what happened in.....

50

1 REPORTER: Ray.

2

3 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Your mic's off Ray.

4

5 MR. COLLINS: Case in point is what
6 happened in Allakaket and Ruby, we got over there last
7 fall and they said we didn't meet our subsistence
8 needs. We don't have anything on paper that says what
9 their subsistence needs are. If we had some baseline
10 data on the community you could look and they would be
11 able to justify their need for a special action or
12 winter season or something. Same as Allakaket, if we
13 knew on the average of what they needed up there and
14 looked at the fall harvest you could see how far short
15 they're falling. But we can't do that right now.

16

17 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right. So it'll
18 just basically be a letter sent out to the communities
19 so that if they're falling far short, we could then
20 direct investigation towards looking at what their
21 actual anthropological -- investigation.

22

23 Don, you got a comment.

24

25 MR. RIVARD: Yes, Mr. Chair. Don
26 Rivard. Steve just pointed this out to me, in your
27 operations manual on Page 82, the 2006 version. One of
28 the things that the annual report does ask for, is it's
29 an evaluation of current and anticipated subsistence
30 needs for fish and wildlife populations within the
31 region.

32

33 So I think with that interpretation
34 that's one of the things that your Council does, that
35 such a letter could come directly from you, as the
36 Council, and we could distribute that out to your
37 communities in your name asking that they would
38 respond.

39

40 And I guess I would like some guidance
41 on, I think we have a sense of who this should go to,
42 but are you talking about to various organizations in
43 each village, or is it certain ones, like a tribal
44 organization. I mean there's all sorts of
45 possibilities here as well.

46

47 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: We want to basically
48 contact the tribal councils and find out from community
49 to community what subsistence needs are lacking, if our
50 Council can transmit that letter directly without going

1 through the Federal Board, of this letter review
2 process and all that -- Ron, go ahead.

3
4 MR. SAM: Yeah, we have a trend up
5 there on the Koyukuk River that we -- it has been
6 proven for the last, what, 10, 15 years with those door
7 to door surveys that the whole Koyukuk River just
8 fluctuated between five to 10 moose throughout the last
9 10 year period yearly. This year it was just drastic,
10 13 harvests, that's just -- where 37 to 40 were
11 harvested before so you know something's wrong
12 someplace.

13
14 But trying to get back on the agenda, I
15 would support that letters being sent out separately to
16 each of our villages within the Western Interior and
17 then go ahead and approve the annual report right now.

18
19 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: That sounds good to
20 me. And so the annual report is -- oh, go ahead,
21 Vince.

22
23 MR. MATHEWS: I'll try to make this
24 real quick. Maybe the solution out of this is to put
25 in your annual report that you see a need for baseline
26 studies and that you would like the anthropological
27 Staff in OSM to develop -- because this letter could
28 cause some confusions and you may get data that is not
29 useful. That -- I'll just put Polly on the spot and
30 she'll kill me later, but, anyways, that Polly would
31 assist in how to conduct a survey to look at these
32 needs based on your letterhead and then we can report
33 back on that, otherwise we may get -- you'll get stuff
34 that we won't be able to do anything with.

35
36 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right. How would
37 the Council like to proceed on this.

38
39 Ron.

40
41 MR. SAM: Just do that.

42
43 MR. MATHEWS: Okay.

44
45 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So any.....

46
47 MR. SAM: Question.

48
49 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Question's been
50 called. Those in favor of the motion for adoption of

1 the annual report with the insertion signify by saying
2 aye.

3

4 IN UNISON: Aye.

5

6 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Opposed.

7

8 (No opposing votes)

9

10 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Unanimous approval.

11 So we're through the annual report. Office of

12 Subsistence Budget update.

13

14 Don, go ahead.

15

16 MR. RIVARD: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

17 Where we're at now in your Council book is on Page 305.

18 And this, I believe, Vince, distributed to you early in

19 this meeting the letter from the Alaska Federation of

20 Natives to Dirk Kempthorne, of the Secretary of the

21 Department of the Interior; is that right, you gave

22 that.....

23

24 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, that's in your blue
25 packet, it kind of looks like a fax.

26

27 MR. RIVARD: Okay. So this letter here
28 in your Council book on Page 305 is a response to that
29 letter from the Alaska Federation of Natives. And in
30 it it's showing about what's going on with the budget.
31 And the Office of Subsistence Management is subject to
32 budget cuts. We had a reduction in 2007 and there's an
33 even bigger proposed cut in 2008. I think I'd point
34 out to you a couple of things.

35

36 The third paragraph states that the
37 Service wants to assure you that the Regional Advisory
38 Council system remains the foundation of the Federal
39 Subsistence Management Program, and that each Council
40 will continue to meet at least twice a year. There's
41 also where we're discussing to going to two year
42 regulatory cycles where one year it would be a wildlife
43 cycle, the following year it'd be fisheries and then
44 back and forth and back and forth. Part of that would
45 be because of Staff reduction. We've had people leave
46 for retirement or move on to other positions, and we've
47 either delayed, sometimes significantly delayed hiring
48 behind them or not filling those positions to help us
49 with our budget situation. And so we're doing, at
50 least the same, with less Staff. So this would allow

1 the same Staff members to work on both cycles as well.

2

3 And then if you look on that fourth
4 paragraph, it talks about reduced funds available to
5 the program by at least \$300,000 annually and then with
6 these shortfalls and increased costs we expect
7 continued reductions in staffing and services,
8 including funding the Alaska Native organizations
9 through the Fisheries Monitoring Program and Partners
10 for Fisheries Monitoring Program. So I know that's
11 where -- for 2008, we're looking at maybe a significant
12 amount of money coming -- that was going to those
13 programs that will no longer go there, as well as
14 possibly reducing the amount of support that our
15 program, that the Office of Subsistence Management
16 provides to the State. It's around a half a million
17 dollars a year so that people like Terry Haynes can
18 participate, and, that, and some of his salary comes
19 out of that. And so that's just the reality of where
20 this is all going. So there may be a reduced Fisheries
21 Monitoring Program, there may be a reduced Partner
22 Program in the real near future. So that's kind of a
23 head's up on where things are going.

24

25 Again, the idea would be, if we do go
26 to a two year regulatory cycle the Councils would still
27 meet twice a year and we'd have to kind of identify
28 what you would be taking up during those two meetings.
29 It would be a regulatory cycle and then the other
30 meeting, there's still other issues to be discussing
31 and making some recommendations to the Board.

32

33 Thank you.

34

35 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay, thank you,
36 Don. Any comments on the budgetary constraints.

37

38 (No comments)

39

40 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: You know there's
41 some regulatory processes that the two year cycle would
42 be fairly burdensome for the subsistence users if the
43 Federal Board couldn't respond to certain issues in a
44 two year cycle. That's been the beauty of the Federal
45 system that we could address issues unlike the Board of
46 Fish or the Board of Game, in a more timely manner. If
47 there was a mechanism to bring forward to pressing
48 issues I would be more amicable to that.

49

50 MR. RIVARD: Well, Mr. Chair, there

1 still will always be that option of a special action
2 request. Sometimes it's not as convenient for
3 everybody involved, but you would still have that, a
4 special action request, if it's granted, it's only good
5 for 60 days, a temporary regulation.

6

7 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Special action
8 requests have not had very good success with addressing
9 some of these issues that have come forward on moose
10 harvest and so forth and so I'm -- there should be a
11 highlighting system where a pressing issue, a Council
12 should be able to drive forward a game or a fish issue
13 out of cycle.

14

15 MR. KESSLER: Mr. Chairman. Just a
16 quick comment. If this goes through we anticipate the
17 special action language in the regulations will be
18 rewritten and it will probably be rewritten in any case
19 because as a result of some of the Kenai issues we've
20 had, it's become very clear that the special action
21 regulatory language is unclear and we have actually
22 agreed with Ninilchik attorneys that we will be
23 reworking that. So we'll see how those changes might
24 affect what happens with the two year cycle, too.

25

26 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: That would address
27 some of my concerns. Any further comment about this
28 budgetary.

29

30 (No comments)

31

32 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: None. So thank you
33 for bringing that forward, Don. So we're down here to
34 Council issues, subsistence program procedure policy on
35 regional assignment of regulatory proposals. You got
36 something on that Don.

37

38 MR. RIVARD: Yes. Don Rivard, again.
39 This stemmed from the fact that two proposals in this
40 cycle for wildlife, No's 55 and 58, were listed as
41 Eastern Interior proposals when really the primary
42 region was your region, Western Interior. And we do do
43 an internal review of these proposals before they're
44 put out in that lime green proposal book you got this
45 year, and we're supposed to catch those things. Well,
46 we caught them and Vince is -- I have to say Vince is
47 the one that really caught this, is after it was
48 published and put out to the public and he was very
49 adamant that we get these switched over to Western.
50 And the way we handled it internally was we made a

1 special mailing out to Western Interior folks that get
2 the proposal books and said these two, 55 and 58,
3 really are Western Interior, make sure that you look at
4 them and then we put that on our web site as well. We
5 didn't do a statewide thing, we just wanted to make
6 sure that the people that were to most likely be
7 affected in the Western Interior region would know that
8 they really need to look at those two.

9

10 And so hopefully that won't happen
11 again. But we do do an internal review and we should
12 have caught that and we didn't.

13

14 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I appreciate that.
15 I brought that to Vince's attention. I was concerned
16 that proponents from other portions of the state and
17 other regions were submitting proposals and the
18 proposal that would affect the Western Interior region
19 would be heard in another region and we wouldn't have
20 the likelihood of not having the proper input. And so
21 I'm glad that OSM now has a head's up to be more
22 diligent as far as looking at the proposals and where
23 if the proposal -- it's my understanding if a proposal
24 affects a region, that proposal is heard by that
25 Regional Council and that's the way it should be
26 maintained.

27

28 So thanks for your clarification on
29 that, Don.

30

31 And timely Council correspondence
32 review process, Don.

33

34 MR. RIVARD: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Our
35 policy on correspondence, when it's coming from a
36 Council, there's criteria but, in general, what happens
37 is there is an internal review as well. Vince will
38 submit something first to me as his supervisor and
39 we'll have discussions and maybe there's some rewriting
40 that needs to be done, Vince usually drafts a letter
41 that you guys may request that be drafted in your name
42 and then it will come to me and we'll go back and forth
43 on some of this. I'm a pretty good editor, and we try
44 to -- there's a fine line, I'll put it this way, we
45 want to make sure that it's coming out in your voice
46 because you have a certain way as a Council that you
47 want to express things, on the other hand we want to
48 make sure that the people that are going to receive
49 your letter understand exactly what you're asking them,
50 what the issue is and what you're asking.

1 So that's what I see as my job, is to
2 make sure, initially, that it's clear what you're
3 asking for or -- or what the issue is and what you want
4 the action to be from whoever you're sending this to.
5 And so that's why Vince and I will go back and forth
6 and try to clear things up and he'll probably contact
7 the Chair and ask more questions and make sure that
8 he's got it down exactly the way you want it. Because
9 initially what he's working on is his notes that he's
10 taking at the meeting and also the transcripts when
11 they come out.

12
13 The timeliness factor is that it also
14 then goes -- it also -- if it's -- it also will end up
15 being reviewed by Pete Probasco, the head of our
16 office, especially if there's any kind of controversial
17 issue that might be involved because, at a minimum, he
18 needs to know and we're not trying to suppress anything
19 or sensor things, we just want to make sure we're aware
20 of the issues and it's stated as clearly as it can be.

21
22 In this past cycle -- Vince has two
23 Councils that he deals with, as you know, both your
24 Council and Eastern Interior, and there's several tasks
25 that come about as a result of your Council meetings.
26 And so he got to the correspondence to it, there's a
27 lot of things that need to be done real quickly right
28 after these Council meetings, and some of them are kind
29 of time consuming, your Council's correspondence, I
30 think there were three letters in particular, we got
31 them in our office from Vince the first week of
32 December, and then we started to do this back and forth
33 process and some questions I had and then the holidays
34 were upon us. I'm not making excuses, I'm just saying
35 kind of what happened here, and Vince was on leave
36 around Christmas, I think, between Christmas and New
37 Year's, I was on leave the first week of January, and
38 then Pete Probasco was gone from the office like the
39 second week of January, so there were about six weeks
40 between the time we first received Vince's first draft
41 until it actually got sent out, which is a long time
42 and shouldn't take that long. And we will do better in
43 the future.

44
45 But that's kind of how it happened this
46 time around. I think -- one of them was a Mulchatna
47 letter that you sent to both Boards, so even though it
48 got sent out in January, it was still timely enough,
49 and then the other two, I think, were okay as far as
50 timing goes, but we should be able to get these things

1 out much quicker and we will strive to do much better
2 next time.

3

4 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

5

6 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Well, I appreciate
7 your commitment. I enjoyed working with Vince and
8 yourself on writing these letters and I want to make
9 sure that the Council is fully understood and that the
10 letters are correct for spelling and all that, but this
11 is just something that happens, you know, in the off
12 season you're dealing with all these letters and trying
13 to make sure that they get transmitted and things,
14 because of certain issues, things weren't going and I
15 was wondering why -- I asked why those letters weren't
16 being transmitted in a more timely manner, and so
17 that's the explanation, and I accept that explanation.

18

19 So that's what that issue was about.

20

21 So where are we at here now, Vince.

22

23 MR. MATHEWS: Well, that brings us up
24 to Regional Council business unless I missed something.
25 Basically that would be election of officers,
26 appointments, et cetera. You can see the list there
27 and then before we close, my notes aren't real clear
28 and I apologize if I didn't capture it, there was
29 discussion about a letter to AFN, and I don't know if
30 you concluded on that letter to AFN, and I don't know
31 if that is an issue that's even alive anymore but I
32 don't want to find out later that it was and I missed
33 it.

34

35 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: How did you want to
36 proceed with that transmittal.

37

38 The Council feels -- various
39 individuals here at the Council feel that the U.S.
40 Supreme's Court failure, ignorance of the State's claim
41 that ANILCA non-viable law, it show that the Supreme
42 Court agrees with ANILCA, that ANILCA rural preference
43 is a standing law and the State and Federal agencies
44 are going to have to be aware that as far as the
45 Supreme Court not hearing that, that the Federal
46 program is here to stay, it's the feeling of the
47 Council that there's corporation lands, these
48 checkerboards all around every village that we have,
49 these corporation lands actually are under State
50 control and are controlled and excluding subsistence

1 use on Native corporation and allotment lands, this
2 council feels that AFN should spearfront the entering
3 ANCSA and to extract those from State control and put
4 those under Federal management and a letter to be sent
5 to that effect.

6

7 I was wondering how the Council felt
8 about transmitting a letter to AFN.

9

10 Ron, go ahead.

11

12 MR. SAM: We've been dealing with this
13 issue for quite some time. We haven't gotten anywhere
14 and I think that we still got to keep trying and I
15 wouldn't mind seeing a letter to that effect to AFN.

16

17 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: The wishes of the
18 Council, a transmittal letter, this -- how this affects
19 the subsistence users in our region is that it's a
20 nightmare trying to facilitate subsistence needs with
21 State management at close proximity to the village.
22 And so Huslia people are going 20 miles away to go hunt
23 moose right this minute, or yesterday when they could
24 have been hunting closer to home if it was Federal
25 lands or Federal jurisdiction of their tribal lands.
26 And so the problem is that ANCSA was to be an agreement
27 with the Alaska Natives to give them tribal lands.
28 Well, they didn't mean to take their subsistence away
29 from them. The State of Alaska is managing towards the
30 Board of Game management to allow non-resident hunting
31 and so forth on State controlled lands, that's
32 exemplary of how the management is going. And AFN
33 should be aware of the issue that they have to move
34 forward, they have to be the spearfronting movement to
35 move these lands, these 44 million acres to Federal
36 management for the terrestrial and fisheries management
37 so that the subsistence users can benefit from their
38 own lands near their villages, especially within our
39 region.

40

41 So that's the crux of this direction.

42

43 Is the Council agreeable to
44 transmitting that letter to the AFN to that effect.

45

46 (Council nods affirmatively)

47

48 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I see full
49 agreement. Is somebody willing to make a motion to
50 that.

1 MR. STICKMAN: I make a motion.
2
3 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Mickey.
4
5 MR. WALKER: I second it.
6
7 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Robert seconds it.
8 Any further discussion on the motion of a letter
9 transmittal.
10
11 (No comments)
12
13 MR. STICKMAN: Question.
14
15 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Question's been
16 called. All those in favor of the motion signify by
17 saying aye.
18
19 IN UNISON: Aye.
20
21 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Opposed.
22
23 (No opposing votes)
24
25 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Unanimous consent of
26 the letter of transmittal to the Alaska Federation of
27 Natives regarding tribal and lands and allotment lands
28 for Federal management.
29
30 So where are we at again here, Vince.
31
32 MR. SAM: Elections.
33
34 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Oh, election of
35 officers.
36
37 MR. STICKMAN: Mr. Chair. I'd like to
38 nominate Jack for Chair and Ron for vice Chair and Ray
39 for secretary.
40
41 MR. WALKER: Second.
42
43 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: All right, a
44 motion.....
45
46 MR. SAM: Decline the nomination, thank
47 you. I would be remiss by not stating that I sure
48 appreciate Jack's work for all this time. Before we
49 came down, I should have put it on record earlier that
50 we more or less agreed that for consistency and

1 continuity of the carryover from last meeting that he
2 would take over the Chair for this meeting, too, and
3 that's again for continuity and consistency with our
4 dealings of all the issues in front of us. I'd like to
5 thank you, Jack.

6

7 MR. STICKMAN: Mr. Chair. Ron, I was
8 kind of hoping that you would kind of cover as vice
9 Chair since your past experience has given you the most
10 experience at the Federal Subsistence Board, I was just
11 kind of hoping you would kind of cover Jack's back as
12 vice Chair.

13

14 MR. SAM: I would have no problem on
15 that but I was also thinking about resigning from the
16 whole Western Interior at some point in time. But I
17 wanted to get it clear, how long does it take for
18 somebody to get reappointed to this Western Interior
19 Council. How would that go if I resigned.

20

21 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Vince.

22

23 MR. MATHEWS: Well, if you resigned
24 today it would go in the next cycle that we'd have
25 another vacant seat. So we would open that up -- Don,
26 can you help me with this, we'd open up with the
27 nominations in October/November of 2007 and then the
28 appointment would be the following fall in 2008. So we
29 have done quicker appointments but to be honest with
30 you the pool of candidates this round, I don't think we
31 have enough to do it.

32

33 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Don.

34

35 MR. RIVARD: Well, I think that could
36 be offered up and if Ron has been -- as said if Ron
37 were to resign today, your fall meeting you'd have two
38 vacancies. Possibly by next year at this time, during
39 this cycle of nominating people, they could -- the
40 Board could recommend to the Secretaries that there's
41 one vacancy which would -- I guess have one more year
42 left, they could fill that vacancy for one year, or
43 have a one year and keep the -- because we've got,
44 three and four, is that how it works for the -- for
45 rotating the number, the years, so I think.....

46

47 MR. STICKMAN: Mr. Chair.

48

49 MR. RIVARD:you would have one --
50 you could possibly have a full Council by -- in a year

1 from now.

2

3 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay, go ahead,
4 Mickey.

5

6 MR. STICKMAN: Yeah, Ron, I was kind of
7 hoping that you would just finish out your term instead
8 of resigning and then when your -- once the year is up
9 it would be your own personal prerogative not to
10 reapply for the Western Interior.

11

12 MR. MORGAN: Mr. Chairman.

13

14 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Carl.

15

16 MR. MORGAN: Yeah, I would like to
17 emphasize to Ron, believe me I kind of wish you don't
18 resign, but I'd say why don't you just be a member, you
19 know, I think that would be the best course to take and
20 I respect your decision to decline the vice Chair and
21 the Chairmanship. I respect that. But I would like to
22 encourage you to still stay on as a member.

23

24 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Ron.

25

26 MR. SAM: Yes, I more or less agreed to
27 this -- I guess it's quite obvious now that we've been
28 trying to deal with this issue and I thought to
29 expedite this issue. I have already agreed to stay on
30 for the next fall meeting, which I think it's going to
31 be imperative that I make because of the issues that we
32 will be dealing with, especially the proposals dealing
33 with the Yukon River fisheries, which deals with our
34 whole region. And I think that I would more accept
35 Carl's recommendation that -- I just wish that you
36 could honor my request to decline for vice Chair.

37

38 MR. STICKMAN: Okay, I take my
39 motion.....

40

41 MR. SAM: I feel that we have capable
42 people on here, we have past Chairmans and past vice
43 Chairmans and past Secretaries.

44

45 MR. STICKMAN: Okay, I'll take my
46 motion back and I'll make a new motion to just go one
47 seat at a time and I'll nominate Jack for Chair.

48

49 MR. SAM: Second.

50

1 MR. MORGAN: And I close nominations.
2
3 (Laughter)
4
5 MR. WALKER: I second.
6
7 (Laughter)
8
9 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay, I've been
10 nominated -- yeah, there's no -- nominations are
11 closed.
12
13 MR. SAM: Let's vote on it, on the
14 nomination to close nominations.
15
16 MR. WALKER: What?
17
18 MR. SAM: Vote on the.....
19
20 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Vote on the
21 nomination?
22
23 MR. SAM:motion to close the
24 nominations.
25
26 MR. WALKER: I already did that -- Carl
27 did and I seconded it. It's done.
28
29 (Laughter)
30
31 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: All right. Vote on
32 the motion to close the nomination. Those in.....
33
34 IN UNISON: Aye.
35
36 (Laughter)
37
38 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF:favor of the
39 motion signify by saying aye.
40
41 IN UNISON: Aye.
42
43 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Opposed.
44
45 (No opposing votes)
46
47 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: No opposition.
48 Thank you for your vote of confidence and I'll try and
49 continue to work for this Council to the best of my
50 ability.

1 MR. MORGAN: Mr. Chairman.
2
3 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, Carl.
4
5 MR. MORGAN: I nominate Ray Collins and
6 I move to close nominations.
7
8 MR. RIVARD: For what?
9
10 MR. MORGAN: For vice Chair.
11
12 MS. PELKOLA: Second.
13
14 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So any further
15 discussion.
16
17 MR. STICKMAN: Question.
18
19 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: And it's moved to
20 close.
21
22 MR. WALKER: Yep.
23
24 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So those in favor of
25 the motion signify by saying aye.
26
27 IN UNISON: Aye.
28
29 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Opposed.
30
31 (No opposing votes)
32
33 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Welcome back to --
34 you were Chair at one time, Ray, and so Ray's been on
35 this Council as long as anybody.
36
37 MR. STICKMAN: Mr. Chair, I nominate
38 Don Honea for secretary.
39
40 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: All right. Got a
41 second.
42
43 MR. WALKER: I second.
44
45 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: All right.
46 Nomination for Don Honea for secretary, any further
47 nominations.
48
49 MR. STICKMAN: I move to close the
50 nominations.

1 MS. PELKOLA: Second.
2
3 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Nominations closed,
4 those in favor of the motion signify by saying aye.
5
6 IN UNISON: Aye.
7
8 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Opposed.
9
10 (No opposing votes)
11
12 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So thanks a lot,
13 Don, for -- you're third, you're swing, you're swing,
14 Don.
15
16 MR. COLLINS: You're standing in line.
17
18 (Laughter)
19
20 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So where are we at
21 now, we've moved through that.
22
23 MR. MATHEWS: Well, you don't have any
24 Subsistence Resource Commission appointments. For
25 Jenny, this Council appoints one of the nine members to
26 the Gates of the Arctic National Park Subsistence
27 Resource Commission. You appointed Pollock Simon in
28 2005, his seat will come up in 2008, and at that time
29 you would have to address it.
30
31 Your next appointment is -- there is
32 these coordinating fishery committees, we didn't talk
33 about them much but for Jenny, it's two representatives
34 from each of the three Councils on the Yukon, two from
35 each of the two Councils on the Kuskokwim. I believe
36 the Kuskokwim appointments would be okay. The one
37 that's open is that it was Benedict Jones and Robert
38 Walker were for the Yukon River. Benedict is obviously
39 no longer on the Council, so you may want to decide.
40 Those committees have not functioned but if there's
41 movement towards some kind of consensus building, those
42 committees may be your basis, or may not be, but.....
43
44 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead Ron.
45
46 MR. SAM: Didn't we have an alternate
47 for the Yukon.
48
49 MR. STICKMAN: I was.
50

1 MR. SAM: Okay.
2
3 MR. MORGAN: Mr. Chairman.
4
5 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, Carl.
6
7 MR. MORGAN: Could we make a nomination
8 at this time.
9
10 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I think we can, go
11 ahead.
12
13 MR. MORGAN: I'd like to nominate
14 Mickey.
15
16 MS. PELKOLA: Second.
17
18 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: It's been moved and
19 seconded. Any further nominations.
20
21 MR. COLLINS: Move that nominations
22 close and unanimous ballot be cast.
23
24 MR. SAM: Second.
25
26 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Those in
27 favor of the motion signify by saying aye.
28
29 IN UNISON: Aye.
30
31 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Opposed.
32
33 (No opposing vote)
34
35 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Unanimous. Mickey
36 will be on the coordinated fisheries committee for the
37 Yukon River if we move forward with another planning
38 process with that. And so we have.....
39
40 MR. MATHEWS: I don't know of any other
41 appointments. I don't want to muddy the water, they're
42 not here from the State, Benedict was on the Western
43 Arctic Caribou Herd Group, I believe he was going to
44 remain on that. So I don't think we have to worry
45 about that, but I don't know -- I just wanted to --
46 that's your only other appointment that I can remember
47 that was out there. We don't have any other planning
48 groups, those, obviously Randy would call us up if we
49 needed to revisit those.
50

1 MR. SAM: Jack.
2
3 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, Ron.
4
5 MR. SAM: Yeah, did we -- do we appoint
6 Jack and Ray to the respective SRC committee's, too, or
7 how does that happen?
8
9 MR. MATHEWS: No.
10
11 MR. SAM: They are appointed.....
12
13 MR. MATHEWS: No. No.
14
15 MR. SAM:separately. Okay, thank
16 you.
17
18 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I'm appointed by the
19 Secretary of Interior directly.
20
21 MR. SAM: Okay.
22
23 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: There's three
24 appointing entities, the Governor, the Secretary of
25 Interior, and the Regional Councils for the SRC, so I'm
26 a Secretarial appointment, and Ray.
27
28 MR. COLLINS: Same.
29
30 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. And the
31 caribou planning group for the Western Arctic is
32 basically inactive right now as the plan is in place
33 and in the future if there's need for a representative
34 from the Western Interior we'll appoint at that time.
35
36 And so I have no other appointments
37 that I know of.
38
39 Correspondence received and sent,
40 Vince.
41
42 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman. It's on
43 Page 308. It's a summary of what's been sent and
44 received. The policy has been that I provide you
45 copies directly on all that so that's just a summary
46 statement that's there, you know, for your information.
47 If there's any questions on correspondence, please, let
48 me know.
49
50 With the correspondence, though, for

1 the three officers, if you have any inkling -- let me
2 put it another way, if you receive anything please call
3 me because sometimes you receive things that I don't
4 receive and that's fine, other than if you're not
5 present the other officer may not have it, then we're
6 all blind on it so it might be if the officers receive
7 anything, either give me a call or drop a line saying I
8 received this, did you get a copy of it.

9

10 Sometimes there's that they've directly
11 mailed it to your home address, which is fine, we just
12 need to make sure that your files and your records are
13 complete in case you're not present.

14

15 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. And so the
16 correspondence is in our packet on three different
17 letters that we sent. So we're down to Council
18 topics.....

19

20 MR. MATHEWS: You're basically at --
21 and this has not worked well with either of the two
22 Councils I work with but it is an option, that if you
23 have topics that you want your representative at the
24 Board, the Federal Subsistence Board in April/May to
25 bring up when all the Chairs talk towards the end of
26 the meeting, that would be something that you would
27 bring up, that it's a global topic, not to the muddy
28 the waters, your baseline study issue that you would
29 like to talk with the other Chairs and the Board openly
30 on that. You don't have to come forward with topics
31 but if you do then Staff and others can be more
32 prepared to help the Board out.

33

34 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay, Ron.

35

36 MR. SAM: Yes, ever since we asked for
37 full per diem and stuff like that they pretty much
38 threw us out the window. We used to meet a day and a
39 half before the full Board meeting and they threw that
40 out under FACA rules that we were colluding with the
41 Federal Subsistence Board in some way, shape, or form,
42 which we may have done, but these topics that we
43 brought up were pretty much all agenda items so just
44 the topics that we -- I mean the day and a half meeting
45 that we had -- or extra half a day meeting that we had
46 with the Federal Subsistence Board was more or less
47 moot, it wasn't going to be recognized one way or
48 another under the FACA rules.

49

50 Thank you.

1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay, thanks for
2 that Ron. So does anybody have any pressing Council
3 topics that they would like presented to the Federal
4 Subsistence Board meeting which will be held April 30th
5 through the 2nd, I think it is.

6
7 (No comments)

8
9 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So seeing none from
10 the Council other than our Council business that we've
11 already addressed.

12
13 Future meeting plans and dates and
14 locations for the fall 2007 fisheries meeting, where
15 would the Council like to meet for that. I found out
16 that I don't like to have meetings in villages that are
17 with runways on top of hills, so it can't be one of
18 those.

19
20 (Laughter)

21
22 MR. WALKER: That's good exercise.

23
24 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: We'll get socked in
25 and stuck because it's freeze up on our fall meeting.

26
27 MR. COLLINS: 309 on the calendar
28 there.....

29
30 MR. SAM: 309.

31
32 MR. STICKMAN: I thought.....

33
34 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, you have a calendar
35 on Page 309. And originally you projected to meet in
36 Galena on October 10th and 11th so we need confirmation
37 of those dates and locations or other ones.

38
39 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: All right, I see.

40
41 MR. MATHEWS: For, Jenny, we have to
42 avoid when the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta meets because the
43 same Staff goes to the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta except for
44 me so we can't put those on the same dates unless it's
45 absolutely necessary and that'd almost be impossible.
46 Can't meet on the same dates that Eastern Interior
47 meets because it's the same Staff. Other than that we
48 try to meet the needs of the Staff Committee that has
49 requested that no more than three Councils meet per
50 week. And so this is what fell out at this point for

1 the next coming meeting in fall.

2

3 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So how does that --
4 that still looks good to me, I prefer to have the
5 meeting in Galena because we're going to be dealing
6 with these Yukon River fishery issues.

7

8 Ron.

9

10 MR. SAM: I, too, would like to meet in
11 Galena but I just have some trepidation and some
12 apprehension about meeting before Eastern Interior
13 because we will be surrounded by a lot of these fishery
14 proposals that they already have been introduced and we
15 will have nowhere to go with them again, the same thing
16 as we did -- but if we're already scheduled for this
17 time and date, I don't know what else we can do with
18 it.

19

20 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: That's kind of the
21 way the chips fall. They select their dates and so we
22 have to go with what our convictions are on the
23 proposals. They'll be in the book, I mean we'll know
24 what the proposals are.

25

26 So Vince you have a comment on that.

27

28 MR. MATHEWS: No. You guys just have
29 met always a week earlier than they have. You guys
30 usually are the first ones to meet of the two.....

31

32 MR. WALKER: We want to be first.

33

34 MR. MATHEWS:regions I have to
35 deal with.

36

37 MR. WALKER: We want to be first.

38

39 (Laughter)

40

41 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay.

42

43 MR. COLLINS: Mr. Chairman.

44

45 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, Ray.

46

47 MR. COLLINS: Is there any possibility
48 of inviting the Chair over to our meeting so they could
49 listen to the dialogue and so on before he goes for his
50 meeting, is something like that possible.

1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Vince.
2
3 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, Mr. Chairman, that's
4 possible, we'd have to look at funding, but, yes, we've
5 encouraged that in the past. But realize that person
6 is just going to listen because their Council hasn't
7 met, so you can't really drill him or her too much.
8
9 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Who is their Yukon
10 Coordinating Fisheries Committee members for the
11 Eastern Interior, one of those could do that.
12
13 MR. MATHEWS: Yeah, that's Virgil and
14 Gerald, and Gerald is the.....
15
16 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Oh, my gosh.
17
18 MR. MATHEWS:present Chair.
19
20 (Laughter)
21
22 MR. COLLINS: Oh, no.
23
24 MR. STICKMAN: Oh, no.
25
26 (Laughter)
27
28 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: You want to do that
29 Ray.
30
31 MR. COLLINS: You want me to withdraw
32 my suggestion.
33
34 (Laughter)
35
36 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I wouldn't mind if
37 those guys, one of them comes over there as long as
38 they, you know, as a fact-finding mission and listening
39 to how our Council deliberates proposals.
40
41 So any further discussion on that
42 issue.
43
44 (No comments)
45
46 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay.
47
48 MR. MATHEWS: Now you need to project a
49 year from now, and I have the latest dates for the
50 other regions but the three regions on the Yukon,

1 you're the first one to meet again.

2

3 So if you look at Page 310 you have
4 from February 18th through March 21st to select dates.
5 For Jenny, I try to encourage the Council to pick a
6 Tuesday, Wednesday or Wednesday, Thursday meeting dates
7 so you don't end up traveling on a weekend, which is
8 less flights. This time we still had to do it. But
9 those are things that you need to consider. So you're
10 the first one again to meet out of the three on the
11 Yukon and then we'll see how it falls out on these
12 other four regions that have come forth.

13

14 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: My personal feeling
15 is that I don't particularly -- the later it is in the
16 cycle the easier it is travel, it's warmer in the
17 daytime and don't get -- it's not nearly as cold, and
18 so I always prefer to have the March portion of the
19 cycle like we are right now. Two weeks ago at home it
20 was really cold, it was like 45, 50 below zero and
21 staying that way all day, and whereas we get a warm up
22 and so it's just easier to travel. And it's just
23 better, longer days for flying and I feel more
24 comfortable with that myself for the Western Interior
25 region.

26

27 Any Council discussion on when they
28 would prefer to meet next year.

29

30 MR. COLLINS: How about March 11 and 12
31 and I would invite you to McGrath again if you're
32 interested, if you want to go back.

33

34 MR. WALKER: How about February 28th
35 and 29th because TCC.....

36

37 REPORTER: Robert. Robert.

38

39 MR. WALKER: Excuse me, Ray, here, you
40 recommend the 11th and 12th.

41

42 MR. COLLINS: I just suggested it.

43

44 MR. WALKER: Okay, well, I'm going to
45 just suggest February 28th and 29th because the TCC
46 Convention comes up and I believe that Don, Mickey and
47 Ron usually attend this and I may attend it too and I
48 don't want to be traveling such close -- close dates if
49 I possibly could or the other Board members possibly
50 could.

1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. So how would
2 it overlap with this Council meeting, you would -- when
3 is this TCC meeting, what particular days is it?
4
5 MR. SAM: The subregional meeting
6 starts on the 10th and you get Sunday off and then you
7 go -- you have -- let's see, Sunday off would be the
8 11th, so you go 12th, 13th, 14th TCC, 15th for
9 Doyon.....
10
11 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Oh, I see.
12
13 MR. SAM:and that's what I'm
14 trying to get away from.
15
16 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right.
17
18 MR. SAM: Is be gone for two weeks away
19 from home.
20
21 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right. Okay, that
22 sounds.....
23
24 MR. SAM: And that's one of my reasons
25 for wanting to resign a little while ago. If I
26 accepted the other invitations I would have been gone
27 three full weeks and that was just getting to be too
28 much.
29
30 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Uh-huh.
31
32 MR. SAM: And that's what Robert was
33 alluding to when he.....
34
35 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right.
36
37 MR. SAM:he said gone for two
38 weeks.
39
40 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Well, I
41 understand that, that's a very necessary reason for not
42 having a meeting. But the 28th and 29th is stacking us
43 into traveling on the weekend, how about the 27th and
44 the 28th.
45
46 MR. WALKER: Well, what about the
47 single Staff on the 29th, I mean there's a chance there
48 that they can meet -- you know, we're not cupid but
49 it's leap year.
50

1 (Laughter)
2
3 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Any Council members
4 have other comments on that Mickey.
5
6 MR. STICKMAN: No, no comments. I
7 would just like to stick with the dates that Robert had
8 chosen.
9
10 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Ray.
11
12 MR. COLLINS: There's a morning flight
13 out March 1st so they could get out of there Saturday
14 morning and be in Anchorage by 11:00 -- 10:30 or 11:00
15 or something like that, I mean they wouldn't miss a
16 whole.....
17
18 MR. WALKER: Where are we meeting?
19
20 MR. SAM: We haven't done that yet.
21
22 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay, so that seems
23 to be the consensus of the Council that February 28th
24 and 29th is conducive to other meeting conflicts and
25 then we haven't selected the location of the meeting.
26
27 MR. SAM: Location.
28
29 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Ray has selected
30 McGrath. Does anybody else have a suggested meeting
31 place.
32
33 MR. WALKER: Mr. Chairman.
34
35 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead.
36
37 MR. WALKER: Since the Iditarod is
38 going to be going through and we're not going to be
39 there so, you know, we could be in the upper portion of
40 the Yukon somewhere but, again, maybe we could be down
41 here or -- it was suggested Bettles here, I remember
42 two years ago, we never did go because the building
43 burned down.
44
45 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right. Well.....
46
47 MR. WALKER: Weren't we talking about
48 that. And one suggestion is, my suggestion between all
49 the other Board members is everybody got a right to
50 speak that I would say Fairbanks just out of curiosity

1 here.

2

3 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

4

5 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Ron.

6

7 MR. SAM: Just like Robert stated, I
8 don't think they rebuilt that National Park building at
9 Bettles and Evansville, I think it would be too small
10 because we would probably have more Council members
11 than residents of Evansville.

12

13 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right.

14

15 MR. SAM: And they haven't been very
16 active -- they have never been active in our Western
17 Interior deliberations or proposals or anything to that
18 effect. They're pretty independent. I don't know if
19 we should even hold it there anymore.

20

21 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I'm opposed to
22 having a meeting in Bettles because the Koyukuk River
23 Advisory Committee can hardly get a person to sit on
24 the committee from Bettles and there's hardly really
25 any interest in -- the only real interest has been in
26 picking up meat off the ramp, they call it ramp meat
27 there from the air taxis, and so I -- the number of
28 people in Bettles is about between 15 and 20 people all
29 winter and so there's very few people there and we'd
30 hardly get any comment. When we've had Koyukuk River
31 Advisory Committee meetings there it's been hardly any
32 turnout.

33

34 And so any comment -- Carl, you had
35 something to say there.

36

37 MR. MORGAN: Yeah, I was just going to
38 say that, you know, the big thing is the
39 accommodations. I've been to one place, man, it was
40 pretty tough to be in there, you know, and I don't mind
41 going but I think Robert's suggestion Fairbanks. I
42 know at one time -- we had it twice there, Vince, and I
43 think it's a good place because that's the heart of TCC
44 and Doyon.

45

46 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Vince.

47

48 MR. MATHEWS: Well, Mr. Chairman, we
49 try to have the Councils meet within region, Fairbanks
50 is outside of region. We have met in Fairbanks when

1 we've had to either because of staffing, weather or
2 other concerns that have forced us that we couldn't.
3 We actually met in Anchorage once because we couldn't
4 get into Holy Cross three times I think it was, three
5 attempts, so you would be meeting out of region, and
6 that's where that situation is.

7
8 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Mickey, go ahead.

9
10 MR. STICKMAN: Is there a law that says
11 we can't.....

12
13 REPORTER: Mickey. Mickey.

14
15 MR. STICKMAN:meet outside of our
16 region.

17
18 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Mickey's comment was
19 is there a rule about meeting out of region.

20
21 Vince, you got a comment on that.

22
23 MR. MATHEWS: Yeah, I don't know of any
24 hard and fast rule on it, it's just that you are a
25 regional Council.....

26
27 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right.

28
29 MR. MATHEWS:and you'd be meeting
30 out of region.

31
32 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Any comments -- Ray,
33 you got a comment.

34
35 MR. COLLINS: Well, you'd be before the
36 Iditarod, the Iditarod doesn't come into the following
37 week, they'll leave Anchorage on the 1st of March, I
38 guess, on that -- or, no, on Sunday they leave, it'd be
39 in the middle of the next week just like this year, I
40 don't think they leave the 1st of March. But also my
41 wife has a birthday on February 28th, I wouldn't mind
42 being home.

43
44 (Laughter)

45
46 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I personally prefer
47 to meet in region. Meeting in Fairbanks, they got
48 nicer accommodations but is the Takusko House open now
49 and is there good accommodation there in McGrath.

50

1 MR. COLLINS: Yeah, there is the B&B
2 and the Takusko House, both. They should be open
3 before Iditarod, that week before. But you could have
4 it, like we did this time, we could have a back up if,
5 you know, if it didn't prove out, they had McGrath for
6 the back up. But another reason would be getting in
7 and out, they have a plane in there that you can get in
8 on regardless of weather, you know, from Anchorage,
9 generally you can get in. I'm a little leery about
10 going to a small community at that time of year when
11 the days are short and it could be pretty cold.

12
13 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right.

14
15 MR. COLLINS: Unless we get into one of
16 the larger communities, it's.....

17
18 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay, let's just
19 have a show of hands here, we've got various places for
20 meeting location.

21
22 Those in favor of meeting in McGrath
23 hold your hands up.

24
25 (Council members hands raised)

26
27 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Those in favor of
28 meeting in Fairbanks.

29
30 (Council members hands raised - 3)

31
32 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: We have three for
33 Fairbanks and the rest of the Council seems to want to
34 meet in McGrath.

35
36 Oh, I think Don wants to meet in
37 Fairbanks also.

38
39 (Laughter)

40
41 MR. RIVARD: Well, I'm your humble
42 servant, I'll go wherever you guys want me to go.

43
44 (Laughter)

45
46 MR. RIVARD: But if this -- the
47 Iditarod is going to go through McGrath again next
48 year, it goes through there every year.

49
50 MR. SAM: It goes through every year.

1 MR. RIVARD: Okay. Well, I'm just
2 assuming that people arrive in these places a couple
3 three days before, at least, right, before the folks
4 come through to set everything up, so would there be a
5 lot of Iditarod workers in McGrath that week before
6 they.....

7
8 MR. COLLINS: It's mostly local at that
9 time. The pilots may be doing some work out of there
10 flying, but everybody stays in Anchorage for the
11 banquet on Saturday -- or the Friday night the banquet,
12 and then the start and so on and then they fly out
13 sometime the weekend after we meet to be there waiting
14 for them to come in.

15
16 MR. RIVARD: Okay.

17
18 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So Ron's
19 reconsidered his position on McGrath.

20
21 (Laughter)

22
23 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Those guys want to
24 go to Fairbanks. So what do we got there.

25
26 MR. STICKMAN: One, two, three, four.

27
28 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Four want to go to
29 Fairbanks, four want to go to McGrath, and.....

30
31 MR. WALKER: Well, we could do
32 teleconference, we'll go to Fairbanks, you guys go to
33 McGrath, Tina can be in charge of the phone.

34
35 (Laughter)

36
37 MR. COLLINS: You want to allow me to
38 bring my wife along.

39
40 MR. WALKER: Ray can be home for his
41 wife's birthday.

42
43 (Laughter)

44
45 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So.....

46
47 MR. COLLINS: It doesn't matter.

48
49 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF:there's strong
50 leaning towards McGrath, is the rest of the Council

1 amicable going to -- or correction, to Fairbanks, so I
2 guess half the Council wants to go to Fairbanks, I
3 guess the rest of us are going to go along with that.
4 And so we'll meet in Fairbanks February 28th and 29th
5 but I would like this Council not to get in the habit
6 of meeting in an urban center. I feel that Title VIII
7 states in .805, is that we're supposed to meet with the
8 subsistence users, the outreach letter asking
9 communities if they're meeting their subsistence needs,
10 the short questionnaire that we plan to transmit will
11 help to keep an outreach with the communities but I
12 feel meeting in the affected communities, but at this
13 time I don't think that this is a real huge problem
14 because we have sort of a Yukon wide issue, we may
15 actually get participation from the Eastern Interior
16 members coming to our meeting in Fairbanks, so this
17 actually may be a beneficial move, and so that would be
18 my feelings on that.

19

20 MR. MATHEWS: It'll be Virgil.

21

22 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So any further
23 discussion on -- you mean Virgil.....

24

(Laughter)

25

26 MR. MATHEWS: Yes.

27

28 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay, I mean Virgil.
29 You got comment there, Don.

30

31 MR. RIVARD: Yes, Mr. Chair. This is a
32 preliminary location that you're doing and you'll
33 revisit it in the fall.

34

35 MR. SAM: Yes.

36

37 MR. RIVARD: And there may be some
38 compelling reason by that time, maybe there's a
39 wildlife issue that pops up.....

40

41 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right.

42

43 MR. RIVARD:that would direct you
44 to where you might want to go instead of Fairbanks or
45 maybe confirm that Fairbanks might be the best place to
46 go.

47

48 Thank you.

49

50

1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. So our first
2 pick is Fairbanks, our second pick is the same dates in
3 McGrath.

4
5 MR. SAM: Okay.

6
7 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So winter '08
8 wildlife meeting, that's that one. Topics and issues
9 for that meeting, you know.....

10
11 MR. WALKER: To be announced.

12
13 MR. SAM: TBA.

14
15 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Council members
16 closing comments and adjournment.

17
18 MR. WALKER: I make a motion to
19 adjourn.

20
21 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Any closing comments
22 from any Council members.

23
24 MR. WALKER: I second.

25
26 (Laughter)

27
28 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Jenny.

29
30 MS. PELKOLA: Mr. Chairman, I'd like to
31 say a few things.

32
33 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Jenny.

34
35 MS. PELKOLA: First of all I would like
36 to thank the Board for helping me on my first meeting.
37 And I would also like Geoff for encouraging me to apply
38 for the Council. It took awhile and finally I got on.
39 And I just guess I'm going to be learning the ropes
40 from many of you and I just want to thank you for all
41 your, you know, advice and whatever you have to say to
42 me and I just take it politely. And I know you're
43 making very important decisions and it affects many
44 people just like one life, if we were to lose a person
45 in a village, that person would be missed by many
46 people. And I just want you to know that I'm happy to
47 be on this Board and I'll try to meet whatever you can.

48
49 I did have a lot of questions but
50 because I didn't want to hold up everybody I'll

1 probably be asking each of you different things at
2 different times, you know, so you can help me.

3

4 Thank you, much.

5

6 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I appreciate those
7 comments, Jenny. I can tell you're a very intelligent
8 lady and everybody, once they get on this Council, it
9 takes them one or two meetings to really get up to
10 speed. And I anticipate your full involvement,
11 especially with our fisheries meeting next cycle here.

12

13 Ron.

14

15 MR. SAM: Yes, again, I would like to
16 thank Jack for doing all the extra work. I asked him
17 last year, and I asked him to fill in for me, I guess
18 it's quite obvious to the whole Council that I may have
19 spread myself out too thin and I'm sitting on too many
20 other Councils that I have to dedicate some time to it.
21 Again, I would like to thank Jack and the whole Western
22 Interior Council. And the Staff for bearing with me.
23 I know how much I changed, all the travel plans and
24 everything else just by a couple of phone calls maybe a
25 week or two before the Federal Subsistence Board meets
26 or something else comes up. I'd just like to thank,
27 again, the whole Council and the OSM Staff for putting
28 up with me and, again, I'd like to thank our Chairman,
29 and wish you all the best of luck.

30

31 Thank you.

32

33 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks a lot Ron.
34 Ron's worked long and hard and has went to many battles
35 to the Federal Subsistence Board for this Council and
36 this Council's had some very great successes under his
37 leadership, and I can't convey my appreciation to Ron
38 Sam's diligence in fighting for the subsistence users
39 of the Western Interior Region.

40

41 Any further closing comments from the
42 -- Mickey.

43

44 MR. STICKMAN: Just like you Jack I
45 want to thank Ron for all the work he's done as past
46 Chair. You know it's always a pleasure to sit here and
47 try to make changes to help the people in our region.
48 And I wanted to just thank the community of Aniak for
49 letting us have our meeting here in their village. I
50 wanted to thank Nick for the fish.

1 That's about all I have.

2

3 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: All right, thank
4 you, Mickey. Any further comments.

5

6 (No comments)

7

8 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: My comments would
9 revolve around my appreciation to the Staff for the
10 support and the community of Aniak and people bringing
11 by various -- there was moose soup this afternoon, it
12 looked like pretty nice meat, but I only eat once a
13 day.

14

15 But I really appreciate all the support
16 our court recorder here, Salena, she's really
17 instrumental in helping this Council and assisting
18 Vince, and I appreciate that. Vince does a great job,
19 he works really hard throughout the whole year for this
20 Council and the other Councils and he has to divide his
21 time. But he's very equitable with our Council.

22

23 I really appreciate this Council, this
24 is really a strong Council and has high credibility
25 with the Federal Subsistence Board, so I highly
26 appreciate that.

27

28 That would be my comments, and, so
29 Robert's got a comment there, go ahead, Robert.

30

31 MR. WALKER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
32 First of all congratulations on the new Chairmanship,
33 vice Chair and new Secretary. Welcome aboard Jenny to
34 our Board here, I know you're going to find it
35 fascinating because we are very intriguing people here.

36

37 (Laughter)

38

39 MR. WALKER: And, Geoff, for the years
40 that he gave us, I thank you for that. Don for being
41 here, you know, and correcting us, you know, usually
42 Polly's doing our acronyms and correcting us here, but
43 she's not here.

44

45 My wife, I talked to her last night,
46 she said be sure to give Vince a big hand because he
47 does so much work here and nobody hardly ever
48 recognizes him for all the things that he does for us,
49 especially the Board, he puts up with us, he stays with
50 us.

1 (Laughter)

2

3 MR. WALKER: And all the Staff members
4 that are here. The young man here who brought the
5 fish, Nick, right, right, thank you Nick. Thank you
6 for partaking and also giving us information on what
7 you had here and congratulations being on the AC, too,
8 even though you didn't plan on it.

9

10 Steve, Wennona, anybody I missed, Bill,
11 the young ladies back there, Heather and Brandy.

12

13 And last, but not least, Russ, get my
14 old grey-haired biologist to drive my limousine.

15

16 Tina.

17

18 And we had a productive meeting. It
19 was a little confusing there for a while, I still got
20 my own note, I'm really getting confused I put here,
21 because of Proposal 35, it got to a point here where
22 we're micro-managing it now. It's not the State or the
23 Federal but it's the Boards are micro-managing
24 something that could have been taken a long time ago by
25 Randy Rogers and Roy Nowlin. Let it go too far and
26 that's what's happening to 21A right now, it's going
27 too far right now. And 21E is going to be next but we
28 got a moose management plan there now.

29

30 So, again, thank you. I'm not going to
31 say God bless you.

32

33 (Laughter)

34

35 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: All right, thanks
36 for your comments. I did appreciate all the KNA and
37 TCC's comments also, didn't want to leave them out. So
38 any further comments.

39

40 Ray.

41

42 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I just wanted to add
43 my thanks, especially to the Staff that's willing to
44 sit here to the very end. Some of these people had to
45 wait for two days and then finally they got their
46 presentation right at the end and that takes a lot of
47 patience. I appreciate that they're listening and
48 taking in that. I thank the community for their
49 hospitality and I enjoyed this choice of lodging for us
50 because we got to stay and eat together over there

1 which is kind of a unique experience, that was kind of
2 nice, so thank you all.

3

4 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yeah, Ray, made a
5 heck of a liguini last night, so, it was great.

6

7 (Laughter)

8

9 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Don.

10

11 MR. RIVARD: Well, I don't want to have
12 the last word but I just want to thank each and every
13 one of you for serving on the Western Interior Council.
14 You are volunteers and you do have busy lives and you
15 have other things that you do but you take time out and
16 you do this for the people of your region and I just
17 want to, on behalf of the Office of Subsistence
18 Management, want to thank you, because I don't think we
19 do that enough, so thank you very much for serving.

20

21 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks for that Don.

22

23 (Applause)

24

25 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So any further
26 comments from the Council.

27

28 MR. WALKER: Thank Angela.

29

30 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yes, Angela, Carl's
31 wife there, she was very instrumental in bringing a lot
32 of things together for our lunches and so forth so we
33 really appreciate that. And we're very happy to see
34 Angela up and about and back to her old self.

35

36 Don, go ahead.

37

38 MR. HONEA: Yeah, thank you, Mr. Chair.
39 I'd like to also thank the community. I enjoyed the
40 hospitality shown here and the food that was submitted
41 by Carl's wife and the tribal council. And I thank the
42 gentleman in the back there for the fish, bringing over
43 the fish for us. And for the people who put on these
44 things, whether it's Vince, I don't know, the logistics
45 of getting everybody here in every village that we've
46 been too, but it's a lot of work, somebody behind the
47 scenes is putting it together and I'm thankful for
48 Ron's leadership over the years. I mean -- and as a
49 friend, as a personal friend, he's been a personal
50 friend for a long time and, you know, I always look up

1 to him for leadership abilities in this area. And I'm
2 glad that Jack accepted this position, I'm comfortable
3 with it, I'm comfortable with Ray accepting the
4 position of vice Chair, so I -- even though it seems
5 like I've only been on here a year or something, you
6 learn something new all the time, so I don't want this
7 to be disheartening for Jenny being the first meeting
8 and all. I mean, you know, we gladly welcome her
9 aboard and anybody else, if we can help them.

10

I just, again, thank the community.

12

13 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thank you, Don. Any
14 further comments.

15

16 Carl.

17

18 MR. MORGAN: Yeah, I just want to thank
19 you guys for coming and thank you for accepting the
20 invitation to come here. I'd like to say also -- echo
21 also what Don said, I feel comfortable with all of you.

22

23 Thank you for coming.

24

25 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks for that
26 Carl. I always like to come down here to Aniak because
27 this is the lower end of our region and we get a
28 different perspective from down here. This is a
29 different kind of country than from where I come from,
30 I live up in the mountains up in the Arctic and we
31 don't have fish or anything but I've been around
32 fishing my whole life, and I always appreciate coming
33 down to this country and getting some good fish.

34

35 And I encourage Nick to apply to the
36 Federal Subsistence Board process, this whole Regional
37 Council process. You sat through a meeting here the
38 whole time, you should think about putting in your
39 application. We're looking for more members, so I
40 always encourage local people who show that kind of
41 interest to apply.

42

43 Any further comments.

44

45 Mickey.

46

47 MR. STICKMAN: Move to adjourn.

48

49 (Laughter)

50

1 MR. SAM: Second.
2
3 MR. HONEA: Second.
4
5 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Moved and seconded
6 to adjourn. Those in favor of adjournment, signify by
7 saying aye.
8
9 IN UNISON: Aye.
10
11 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: We're adjourned.
12
13 (Off record)
14
15 (END OF PROCEEDINGS)

