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WESTERN INTERIOR FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE
REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING

PUBLIC MEETING

VOLUME I

Allakaket, Alaska
March 8, 2005
11:00 o'clock a.m.

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

- Ronald Sam, Chair
- Ray Collins
- Donald Honea
- Benedict Jones
- Tom Kriska
- Carl Morgan
- Jack Reakoff
- Mickey Stickman
- Robert Walker
- Regional Council Coordinator; Vince Mathews

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P R O C E E D I N G S

(Allakaket, Alaska - 3/8/2005)

(On record)

CHAIRMAN SAM: I would like to get started. At this time, on behalf of Alatna and Allakaket, I would like to welcome the Western Interior Subsistence Regional Council. I hope everybody found a good place to stay and feel that you're welcome. The Staff included. I'd like to thank again our recorder.

At this time, I would like to call Uncle Johnson Moses to give the invocation.

MR. MOSES: (Invocation)

CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you. Vince, roll call, please.

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

MR. WALKER: Here.

MR. MATHEWS: Donald Honea, Jr.

MR. HONEA: Here.

MR. MATHEWS: Tom Kriska.

MR. KRISKA: Here.

MR. MATHEWS: Mickey Stickman.

MR. STICKMAN: Here.

MR. MATHEWS: Ron Sam.

CHAIRMAN SAM: Here.

MR. MATHEWS: Ray Collins.

MR. COLLINS: Here.

MR. MATHEWS: Jack Reakoff.

MR. REAKOFF: Here.

1 MR. MATHEWS: Benedict Jones.

2

3 MR. JONES: Here.

4

5 MR. MATHEWS: Carl Morgan.

6

7 MR. MORGAN: Here.

8

9 MR. MATHEWS: George Siavelis resigned
10 from the Council. Mr. Chairman, he basically resigned
11 because his business wasn't able to be profitable, so he
12 is moving to the road system as we speak and then from
13 there possibly elsewhere. In light of that, I had the
14 Refuge Staff create a little poster that I'll pass around
15 that you can sign and then we can send it to George. The
16 short period of time that he was on the Council he was
17 very valuable to the Staff and I believe to the Council.
18 So, Mr. Chairman, in light of that, you only have nine
19 seats that are filled, so you have a full quorum here of
20 nine representatives. So you have a quorum.

21

22 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Vince. On
23 behalf of the Council, I really felt that George Siavelis
24 contributed to this Council with all his efforts. I
25 would gladly sign that poster and the picture. For the
26 RAC's information, George Siavelis declared commercial,
27 he's a commercial guide, yet he contributed heavily
28 towards our subsistence activities and our subsistence
29 opportunities. He let his commercial license go, yet he
30 stuck up for our side. So I feel a deep sense of loss
31 for George Siavelis.

32

33 We'll go into ethics disclosure.

34

35 MR. MATHEWS: Tina will pass around the
36 blue sheet. There's suggested language for ethics
37 disclosure. Most of you apply to the first one. If
38 there is any difference where you might have a commercial
39 permit, there's other options down below. With that, Mr.
40 Chairman, you can decide what order people will submit
41 their ethics disclosure.

42

43 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Vince. For the
44 public's information, about three years ago we were
45 mandated by the Department of the Interior to declare
46 whether we're subsistence or commercial interest and we
47 were mandated at that time to set 70 percent subsistence
48 and 30 percent commercial interest. This is what this
49 ethics declaration is all about.

50

1 My name is Ron Sam. I live in Alatna. I
2 subsistence hunt, fish and trap in the areas under
3 consideration at this meeting. I do not hold any
4 commercial permits or conduct any business activities
5 directly affected by any agenda items before the Council.
6

7 MR. STICKMAN: My name is Michael
8 Stickman. I live in Nulato. I subsistence hunt, fish, I
9 used to trap, in the areas under consideration at this
10 meeting. I do not hold any commercial permits or conduct
11 any business activities directly affected by any agenda
12 items before the Council.
13

14 MR. COLLINS: My name is Ray Collins.
15 I live in McGrath. I subsistence hunt and fish in the
16 areas under consideration at this meeting. I do not hold
17 any commercial permits or conduct any business activities
18 directly affected by any agenda items before the Council.
19

20 MR. JONES: My name is Benedict Jones. I
21 live in Koyukuk. I subsistence hunt, fish and trap in
22 the areas under consideration at this meeting. I do not
23 hold any commercial permits or conduct any business
24 activities directly affected by any agenda items before
25 the Council.
26

27 MR. KRISKA: My name is Tom Kriska. I
28 live in Koyukuk. I subsistence hunt, fish and trap in
29 the areas under consideration at this meeting. I also
30 hold a commercial permit, limited entry permit, operate a
31 guiding, transporting, outfitting, but not in any of the
32 areas under consideration at this meeting.
33

34 MR. MORGAN: Good morning. My name is
35 Carl Morgan. I live in Aniak. I subsistence hunt and
36 fish in the areas under consideration at this meeting. I
37 do not hold any commercial permits or conduct any
38 business activities directly affected by any agenda items
39 before the Council.
40

41 MR. WALKER: My name is Robert Walker. I
42 live in Anvik, Alaska. I subsistence hunt, fish and trap
43 in the areas under consideration at this meeting. I also
44 hold a commercial limited entry permit, but not in any
45 of the areas under consideration at this meeting.
46

47 MR. HONEA: Good morning. My name is Don
48 Honea, Jr. I live in Ruby, Alaska. I subsistence hunt
49 and fish in the areas under consideration at this
50 meeting. I do not hold any commercial permits or conduct

1 any business activities directly affected by any agenda
2 items before the Council.

3

4 MR. REAKOFF: My name is Jack Reakoff. I
5 live in Wiseman, Alaska. I subsistence hunt, fish and
6 trap in the areas under consideration at this meeting. I
7 also hold a commercial fisheries entry permit, but not in
8 any of the areas under consideration at this meeting.

9

10 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman. All the
11 members that have just given their ethics disclosures do
12 not have a significant financial interest directly
13 related to the matters before the Council at this meeting
14 and may fully participate.

15

16 Thank you.

17

18 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Vince. Again,
19 for the public's information, we were mandated by
20 Secretary of Interior to disclose this because of their
21 mandate of 70 percent subsistence and 30 percent
22 commercial interest.

23

24 At this time I'll go to Item 5 on our
25 agenda, Chair's report.

26

27 Number one, I would really like to thank
28 Jack Reakoff, Mickey Stickman, Robert Walker, Carl Morgan
29 and Ray Collins. We have Carl Morgan and Ray Collins
30 under the Kuskokwim Fisheries Committee. On the Yukon
31 side we have Robert Walker, Mickey Stickman and Benedict
32 Jones.

33

34 At our last meeting, we had the fisheries
35 meeting in October and we passed a proposal that Jack
36 professionally handled and got passed by the Federal
37 Subsistence Board for driftnet fisheries from Koyukuk or
38 below Galena on down to Nulato. So I'd really like to
39 thank Jack Reakoff for doing all the homework and
40 presenting it professionally.

41

42 I guess you know by now, as Chair, I
43 depend heavily on Jack because he's the only one from the
44 Upper Koyukuk River, so he knows everything I talk about,
45 everything that I want to present, and I call on Jack
46 heavily and he handles everything professionally.
47 Sometimes I call him at 2:00 in the morning, Jackie,
48 handle this, I've got to go to work in four more hours
49 and he handles it. With that, I'd like to really thank
50 Jack Reakoff for handling himself professionally and

1 getting our driftnet fisheries proposal passed.

2

3 Again, while he serves as our secretary,
4 he goes up before the Federal Subsistence Board,
5 sometimes they don't look at him because he's not the
6 chair or vice-chair, but he handles that professionally
7 as well, his position and his standing within the Western
8 Interior Council.

9

10 While we discuss some issues, he'll be
11 drafting up a resolution if we ask him. Ninety-nine
12 percent of the time we'll pass it as he presents it. One
13 percent of the time we'll change two or three words.
14 Again, thank you, Jack.

15

16 One more report. I did not want to
17 disclose it personally, but I have no choice. There is a
18 suit somewhere along the line. I've been on the phone
19 with Vince Mathews. There is a suit filed by Heather
20 Miller to get hunting, fishing, subsistence activities on
21 Native allotments, tribal lands and corporation lands.
22 She filed a suit somewhere along the line to get Federal
23 jurisdiction under subsistence activities on Native
24 allotments and corporation lands.

25

26 At some time in this meeting I expect a
27 resolution or will push for some action along the way to
28 get this issue in front of the Federal Subsistence Board
29 because we have too many criminal cases where our Native
30 people got a moose on their allotment and just outside of
31 the Federal reservation, Gates of the Arctic, just
32 outside of the boundary. None of the lands are marked.
33 If they are Native lands allotment, they're prosecuted
34 under State jurisdiction, State rule of law. I want that
35 changed somewhere along the line just to get a resolution
36 if nothing else passed by this Council.

37

38 With that, on my left is Mickey Stickman.
39 He's our vice-chair. He is heavily involved as
40 chairman/president of Gana-A'Yoo, so he knows what I'm
41 talking about when I talk about Native corporation lands.
42 Those are my main concerns at this time, to thank Jack
43 Reakoff and try to get some of our Native corporation
44 lands under Federal jurisdiction as far as fish and game
45 are concerned.

46

47 Mickey, do you have any concerns?

48

49 MR. STICKMAN: I have a few concerns, but
50 I guess one of the main concerns that I have right now is

1 the amount of snow we have this winter compared to
2 winters in the past. The regulations that we try to make
3 a difference on have always been for subsistence use and
4 one thing we always struggled with and we never really
5 made a difference was in the area of predator control.
6 With the amount of snow this winter, if you go out there
7 and you fly around in the different areas where there's a
8 good moose population with a good wolf population, the
9 wolves are having field day out there on the moose
10 because of the deep snow. In the past, they used to have
11 a field day on the calves, but because of the deep snow
12 they're also having a direct effect on the adult moose.
13 Because of the deep snow they can't fight off a wolf
14 pack. So that's one of my main concerns.

15
16 The other concern I have for my own area,
17 the Nulato area, there's been an increase in commercial
18 guiding. I don't have anything against the commercial
19 guides, but the thing that I have is the guys that come
20 from Nulato that are guiding outside the law. And it's
21 really hard to catch these guys. One of the things you
22 have to do if you're going to get these guys busted is
23 you have to see them. One of the things that's required
24 as evidence is money crossing or passing from the person
25 doing the hunting to the person doing the illegal
26 guiding. It's really hard because these guys are all
27 local people and it's not hard to say you oppose what
28 they're doing, but in a sense you're turning in your own
29 people. I've done it in the past, but then they have
30 these guys coming from outside and they're hunting with
31 them and saying these guys are my friends, you know. But
32 that's one of the things that I disagree with.

33
34 One of the things that happened in the
35 Kaiyuh Flats was we had one of our local guys who's lived
36 in Nulato for nine years, he was bringing his family
37 members in from North Dakota, Montana and hunting up in
38 the Kaiyuh Flats and that was kind of a big concern for
39 the guys back home.

40
41 One of the new concerns that I have is I
42 think this coming fall we're going to see an increase in
43 the legal commercial guides bringing in outside hunters
44 and I see it as my responsibility to make those changes
45 in the regulations as far as writing proposals because,
46 you know, I think we're going to see this fall where we
47 have our legal commercial guides taking out more people
48 not only in the Nulato area, but probably down below
49 Kaltag, in between Kaltag and Grayling, Anvik and those
50 areas.

1 Those are the only concerns that I have
2 as far as game, you know. When it comes to fishing, I'm
3 glad to see that the proposal for extending the driftnet
4 area passed. I was not there in Anvik, so I have to
5 apologize to the rest of the Council, but I had other
6 business to take care of, but I definitely wanted to
7 thank the Council for paying attention to that. That's
8 all I have.

9
10 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Mickey. For
11 the public's information, this proposal for extending the
12 driftnet fishery area was introduced by Benedict Jones
13 which covered Ruby, Galena, Nulato, Kaltag. When Mickey
14 said he was sorry he didn't make the Anvik meeting, it
15 was because he was down in Washington, D.C. Man, he's
16 busy sometimes. Ray.

17
18 MR. COLLINS: As you know, I was
19 appointed by this Council to the Kuskokwim Management
20 Group that's working on fish and the first issue that
21 came up last spring is because of the Area M opening up
22 that fishery down there. The lower villages were very
23 concerned and they did not want to implement the windows
24 fishing on king salmon. They were going to fish seven
25 days a week in protest down there. I argued to that
26 group that king salmon were no those involved in it and
27 it's very important for the people at the head of the
28 river to have those window closures to allow fish to get
29 by. If they continued all the way up the river seven
30 days unlimited commercial fishing, very few fish make it
31 up to the head of the river. I think you probably face
32 the same thing here in the Koyukuk. I guess historically
33 they were not drifting with large nets out in the main
34 river. They were fishing closer to the bank and so on,
35 so the means of subsistence fishing has changed too.

36
37 Anyhow, my argument prevailed and they
38 went along with the windows down there, which I was very
39 happy to see because it is a subsistence issue for
40 getting fish up the river. They were saying, oh, there's
41 good runs, there's good runs, but when the kings finally
42 ran in the headwater streams, it was not a good year up
43 there. It was an average year. We didn't see the large
44 returns that they were seeing down in the lower river. I
45 don't know if you've got the same issue on the Kuskokwim
46 here or the Yukon with the windows too.

47
48 So that was one of things I was able to
49 do. The members that were on that were able to go back
50 and talk to the community down there and get them to go

1 along with the closure, which I felt good about.

2

3 The other thing that came up that Mickey
4 mentioned was the deep snow. I was also concerned about
5 that and asked for that and I've been getting information
6 about snow depths from the refuge, but what I wanted them
7 to do was to pay attention of how the deep snow was
8 affecting the wildlife populations on the refuge. Such
9 things as predation, survival of calves and so on. I
10 think we need that kind of information in the future for
11 making decisions on proposals and things, so I hope
12 they're paying attention to that. I do appreciate the
13 information that I got on snow depths from them.

14

15 The other concern I had, I guess I
16 brought it up here, I think long-term it's important that
17 we document the customary and traditional use of
18 activities such as trapping and that it be documented in
19 the record. If you look what's happening outside,
20 trapping is being eliminated across the United States in
21 many areas out there. Up here it was written in ANILCA
22 that customary and traditional uses would be allowed on
23 there. So I think we ought to document what they are,
24 especially with trapping declining, because there may be
25 a time in the future when children, grandchildren will
26 want to go back and do some of those traditional things
27 and a new manager is going to say no unless we document
28 what those uses are right now and how extensive they are
29 while they're still being practiced.

30

31 Thank you.

32

33 MR. JONES: My name is Benedict Jones of
34 Koyukuk. I don't have that much concern, but the Council
35 sent me to Anchorage last fall after the Anvik meeting to
36 attend a Ichthyophonus meeting in Anchorage. It was a
37 very informative meeting. The ichthyophonus was not only
38 showing up in Alaska in Yukon River and Kuskokwim River,
39 but it's also showing up in California, Oregon,
40 Washington and British Columbia. They gave us a report
41 that ichthyophonus starts in California waters and it
42 just showed a little bit of it, but as the salmon was
43 progressing up through British Columbia, the
44 ichthyophonus effect was more -- they noticed more of it
45 coming up through the Pacific Coast.

46

47 The scientists still don't know what's
48 causing the ichthyophonus, whether it's from their
49 feeding in the ocean or when they come from the spawning
50 stream, whether they're effected from the spawning stream

1 or not. But we did a lot of studies on the water
2 temperature. As the Native people are well aware,
3 there's no more glaciers on the Koyukuk and Yukon River
4 area. That has a lot of effect with the salmon. A few
5 degrees water temperature change warmer because there's
6 no permafrost, no glacier, so this may affect the
7 ichthyophonous increasing as the fish go up the Yukon.

8
9 This year we didn't have much
10 ichthyophonous on the Lower Yukon, but it showed up more
11 on the Tanana. Not too much on the Tanana River, but up
12 to the Canadian border there was more of it. We had a
13 three-day meeting in Anchorage on that and they're doing
14 a lot of studies and they're asking for Federal funds to
15 study all this. YRDFA has asked for programs to study
16 ichthyophonous.

17
18 And we discussed the by-catch on Area M
19 and the Bering Sea by-catch, too, but they haven't acted
20 on the by-catch.

21
22 Another concern with our local area, the
23 winter hunt, I thought my understanding was just for
24 local subsistence hunters, but this past December season
25 there was a guide in Galena taking non-residents out
26 moose hunting on the Federal and State land, mostly on
27 Federal land, and he was doing commercial activity
28 guiding and I thought the winter moose hunt was only for
29 subsistence use to local residents in that area. That's
30 what I'm concerned about.

31
32 Another thing, the winter hunt season,
33 like they had an opening in December when they still have
34 their moose horns, it should be implemented the same as
35 the fall hunt to cut the horns off. That way, when the
36 non-resident come for trophy hunting, he wouldn't have
37 the trophy value. That's what I want one of our
38 proposals to be acted on. That's all I have.

39
40 Thank you.

41
42 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Benedict. For
43 the public's information, probably Benedict and Jack,
44 probably Robert, are the most informed people about
45 ichthyophonous. Ichthyophonous is a disease in fish that
46 come up here. Why Western Interior was involved and
47 concerned is because 25 percent or 35 percent of these
48 salmon that have ichthyophonous, the sores on the sides,
49 25 percent of them never made it to the spawning ground
50 and I'd like to thank Jack, Benedict, Robert and Mickey

1 for pushing this issue for the Yukon River and its
2 tributaries. Mickey and then Tom.

3

4 MR. STICKMAN: I just had one. Benedict
5 made me think of something with his comments. One of the
6 things that I saw last fall, I didn't like it. I was
7 going back to Huslia but we were flying along the Yukon
8 River to Koyukuk and then from there we were going back
9 to Huslia. What I saw across from Last Chance, what used
10 to be kind of like a traditional hunting area for the
11 people from Koyukuk and Nulato, was back in the lake from
12 the Yukon River I saw some hunters back there and they
13 were dropped off by a transporter. They could argue and
14 say they were like five or six miles from the Yukon River
15 and we'd never walk back there, but traditionally people
16 used to walk even further than that to kill a moose.

17

18 But that's one of the things I didn't
19 like that I saw last fall, I saw where a transporter
20 drops some hunters off on the Yukon River below Koyukuk.
21 Benedict just made me think of that when he talked about
22 people impacting subsistence. That's one of the things I
23 was talking about, how moose migrate from the lakes to
24 the river. If we have transporters dropping off hunters
25 back there, the moose that are back there aren't going to
26 migrate to the river.

27

28 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you. Tom.

29

30 MR. KRISKA: This is Tom Kriska. Like
31 these guys are talking about, the winter hunt in
32 December, there are a lot of moose who still have antlers
33 on and the guides that Benedict's talking about were not
34 really -- well, they're assistant guides. I guess, but
35 what we should watch out for as a Council or any guys
36 writing up proposals or Advisory Committees when you open
37 up a moose hunt you have to have it regulated.

38

39 I don't know who did this, but they said
40 no, we're not going to go after anybody, we're not going
41 to check anybody for the moose antlers. We're just going
42 to let them do their December hunt, send in the reports
43 and to keep the antlers as is, fully as is. But me, I
44 went to Glenn Stout at the time the moose hunt was on and
45 went and told him there are some people out there right
46 now. I wanted them to go out and check, but I guess it
47 didn't happen.

48

49 We're out there with guys from out of
50 state or around Anchorage area. They were out there

1 knowing they could drive up to every single bull out
2 there, checking the width of their horns and doing all of
3 this. This was happening last fall. I strongly
4 recommend that we should regulate that and have the horns
5 cut on any moose hunt anywhere in the state of Alaska. I
6 don't know if you can do that much, but in our area
7 anyway, to have the moose horns cut off in both hunting
8 seasons.

9
10 I'm kind of happy with the new driftnet
11 proposal going through so that we wouldn't have so much
12 competition in fishing in one area.

13
14 Thank you.

15
16 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Tom. Jack.
17 Just for your information for that driftnet expansion
18 area. Again, it's personal. My brother-in-law was
19 drowned because there's so many boats out there. I can
20 try my best to keep it not personal, but it is so
21 personal that I cannot help but address these issues.
22 With that, I'll let Jack.

23
24 MR. REAKOFF: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
25 One of my concerns is the driftnet was passed by the
26 Federal Board and there was a concession made to make a
27 permit to participate in the fishery. My concern is that
28 it's going to be very cumbersome, the permitting and all
29 the reporting and so forth, so one of my concerns is that
30 these permits are just going to be unwieldy and
31 burdensome. The ANILCA law says in the House Record that
32 it's supposed to have the least adverse impact upon the
33 subsistence users. So lots of compliance, of writing
34 down fish while fishing and so forth, I don't want to see
35 this thing get out of control. When the Board passed
36 that regulation, the permit concession was to account for
37 who was rural and the harvest. Not getting into making
38 this so burdensome that it's unwieldy for the users. So
39 I'm concerned about that issue.

40
41 My other concerns revolve around the ATV
42 bill that Ralph Seekins has put back in for opening the
43 Dalton Highway Corridor to all types of ATV's. I was on
44 the teleconference with the Transportation Committee a
45 couple weeks ago. One senator tried to define what an
46 ATV was. That could be a D9 Cat is what passed out of
47 the Transportation Committee, Hummers, anything goes. No
48 weight limitations. They let these ATV's go off the
49 Dalton Highway, they're going to shoot the tar out of the
50 caribou on the North Slope. A four-wheeler can go across

1 the North Slope with no problem. The people in
2 Anaktuvuk, whom I'm representing on this Council, are
3 very concerned. People in Allakaket and the South Slope
4 that get those caribou migrations that come down these
5 drainages, the Alatna and John River, are very concerned
6 about these hundreds of people accessing these caribou
7 populations and overharvest. So the ATV bill is a big
8 concern of mine.

9
10 The winter bull moose hunt, that thing
11 was jammed through the State regulatory process. The
12 Koyukuk River did not agree with the winter bull moose
13 hunt. The bull moose is not good in December and we
14 didn't want to see that, but now it's turning into a
15 trophy hunt. Any time you've got winter trophy hunting
16 that thing is going to escalate big time. We're going to
17 have a lot of problems with that. That's because the
18 State jumped out of the plan and went their own little
19 direction on this deal and we're going to have a lot of
20 problems with this issue. It was instrumental in trying
21 to cut off the traditional winter hunt in February and
22 March for true subsistence users. I'm concerned about
23 that trophy antler hunt for bull moose.

24
25 I'm also concerned about -- it came out
26 when we were fighting. I was on teleconference with the
27 refuge manager trying to get the refuge manager to allow
28 the hunt on the Koyukuk Refuge. Ron and I were on that
29 teleconference with the refuge manager. The problems are
30 the State of Alaska has closed the corporation lands
31 close to the villages. People are having to travel 20
32 miles. The State biologist said it was burdensome for
33 the people. One of the reasons he didn't want to see the
34 hunt is it's burdensome for people to go 20 miles onto
35 the refuge to even hunt. It is burdensome.

36
37 My concern is with these Native
38 corporation lands and the State has diverged, gone away
39 from subsistence priority. They put a December bull
40 season on -- made a bull season for people and that's a
41 hardship. The moose is not worth anything at that time.

42
43
44 My concern is the State's divergence from
45 true subsistence uses. Not providing regulations for
46 true subsistence uses on corporation lands has now become
47 burdensome for the people that actually own the land. I
48 don't think that was part of ANCSA. I think Congress's
49 intent was to allow Native people to utilize their lands.
50

1 The State's management is not providing
2 subsistence, so I think it's an issue that the Federal
3 Board is going to have to come to and I would like to see
4 that put on our annual report as an issue to the Federal
5 Board that this State divergence of corporation lands is
6 an issue and needs to be addressed.

7
8 Those are the issues I would like to
9 bring forward at this time. Thank you.

10
11 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Jack. I think
12 that's one of my biggest concerns. I think the State is
13 scared that if we go Federal jurisdiction or we just go
14 private land ownership, we could do like the Outdoor
15 Channel. You could sell the rights to commercial hunt
16 and anybody that wants to hunt on your land you could
17 sell them the damn moose on your personal land. I see
18 that everyday on the Outdoor Channel. With that, I would
19 again like to address this issue sometime during this
20 meeting. Don.

21
22 MR. HONEA: Thank you, Mr. Chair. In a
23 way, I replaced Emmitt Peters. I'm not a commercial
24 fisherman. I'm more of a subsistence user. We, as a
25 family, go out to camp every year and put up as much
26 salmon as we can in the time that we're allowed or the
27 time we have for fishing. I would personally like, and
28 I'm speaking for the Ruby Advisory Fish and Game, to
29 thank Benedict or the powers that be or whoever supported
30 our proposal for the driftnet fishery. We have been
31 trying for the last three, four or five years to submit
32 proposals to the State or Feds or whatever for the
33 proposal for driftnetting and I was kind of surprised
34 this fall that we had indeed been granted that
35 opportunity. And I find out it was submitted by the
36 Western Interior. So, in that respect, in that regard,
37 I'd like to thank them for their support.

38
39 Now I'm more into hunting. Like I said,
40 I don't know a whole lot about commercial fishing, but in
41 the capacity I'm in I'll try. In the hunting area, my
42 main goal is listening to the other concerns here as to
43 deep snow and the wolf impact, predation you might say,
44 on our moose population. I know we've been finding a
45 number of kills above Ruby, between Ruby and the Nowitna,
46 and the local guides who have been flying around have
47 spotted some back further from the river, so there's a
48 lot that we don't see. Just the other day they spotted a
49 moose back there that had been hamstrung, so obviously
50 the wolves were waiting to get back to it.

1 As for fishing, in my opinion, we don't
2 really have a whole lot to say about the amount of fish
3 coming up the river, but if we can do something about our
4 game population. We, as a tribe, have a proposal right
5 now to present to TCC at the annual meeting to possibly
6 empower our VPSO to have the power to check the boats
7 that are coming by Ruby. I guess they're getting by
8 Galena and they say they do all the mandatory stuff
9 there, but yet I think Emmitt reported at the Anvik
10 meeting that some local person found five heads or ribs
11 and a bunch of stuff right below Ruby, so we want to be
12 able to have that opportunity. If we can't have a check
13 station and the State or the Federal government says that
14 they don't have the funding for a check station there,
15 then we want some other means to control this.

16
17 I don't want to take up too much time
18 here, but now on the Koyukuk, they had like a drawing.
19 We implemented the same thing in trying to get as many --
20 because the drawing they had up there drew a lot more
21 Fairbanks, whatever, or wherever these guys are coming
22 down the river, it drew much more of them because they
23 couldn't go on the Koyukuk. It drew them to the Ruby
24 areas. Like I said, I'm at a fish camp 20 miles above
25 Ruby, right smack in between the Nowitna Wildlife and the
26 village of Ruby and I see these guys every day. They
27 couldn't get up to Novi because of low water this fall.
28 They're right in our back yard, literally.

29
30 Hey, if there is something we can do
31 because you guys all heard about the 60-inch club. You
32 see it in the newspaper. Now I know some of these guys
33 personally and I know this guy has a plane. You can
34 figure out what happens there. We have a cabin right at
35 the mouth of the Novi River, we have a Native allotment,
36 so we know pretty much all these guys over the years. We
37 can only do so much, but whatever I can do and what we
38 can do as a village to maintain our livelihood, that's
39 exactly what I would do. Like I said, if we have control
40 over that, then that is my main goal in the next few
41 years, to try to maintain a healthy level of moose.

42
43 With that, I thank you again.

44
45 CHAIRMAN SAM: Robert.

46
47 MR. WALKER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
48 One of the primary issues that I see for subsistence is
49 the gas prices that we have here in Region 6. Not only
50 Region 6, it goes into Eastern, probably into the Western

1 and Yukon-Kuskokwim too. It runs from four to six
2 dollars a gallon, with a quart of oil running from \$4 to
3 \$6 for a quart of oil. This really has an impact on our
4 subsistence life for fishing, harvesting moose, bear,
5 trapping and so forth.

6
7 I talked to our tribal chief and the
8 tribal chief in Grayling and their question on this tri-
9 meeting here, why do we have tri-meetings when the
10 Eastern and the Lower Yukon contest our proposals all the
11 time, vote them down for Region 6. Some of the proposals
12 have mandates for years and years and years that people
13 have utilized this animal or this fish. But we have
14 other agencies or other RAC's here that take -- for
15 instance, a good example, what happened was Anvik tribe
16 put in a bear proposal to harvest a bear per year to sell
17 the hide or bear parts and also they wanted to shut down
18 on all Federal lands any kind of commercial hunting or
19 sport hunting. The Eastern Interior voted it down. So
20 did the Lower Yukon vote it down. The Western Interior
21 voted it down too. The tribal chiefs asked why did they
22 not refer this back to the tribal government to rewrite
23 it and present it back to the Western Interior Board.

24
25 This is a question I have for our own
26 Board, why are we doing this? These people ask for
27 subsistence things and we're voting down our own people?
28 I mean this doesn't justify anything to me. After I took
29 a good hard look at it and read between the lines, this
30 should have been dealt with right here with this board
31 and sent back to the tribe to rewrite it.

32
33 The State doesn't like it because it
34 takes a bear away from their sale to a big-time guide.
35 This goes back to what I said, it reverts back to gas
36 prices. If you can have a sale of a bear skin, black
37 bear, brown bear for whoever wants to buy it, this
38 reverts right back into the subsistence system.

39
40 But, again, this tri-meeting, I don't
41 think we should have a tri-meeting again because this
42 last meeting we had in Wasilla didn't prove anything. It
43 caused a lot of hard feelings. Some of the things we
44 deferred back to the home base rather than us vote on it
45 because it didn't pertain to us. This is almost a
46 discriminatory act. According to the chiefs back in our
47 area, why are we doing this? It says right here in the
48 bylaws that the Federal government has mandated that we
49 do subsistence. Are we? That's a question that's being
50 asked here.

1 I think this whole system should be re-
2 evaluated, taken back by the Staff and take a hard look
3 at where we're going to go and how long it's going to
4 take us to get there. Every community has a different
5 subsistence priority. Maybe downriver doesn't like the
6 way we do things. Well, that's not our fault. We've
7 been doing this for years. We try not to be involved
8 down in their area because they've been doing that for
9 years. We share fish on the Yukon whether we like it or
10 not. Whether we're further upriver or from the mouth, we
11 still have to share this fish.

12
13 But the moose here, the bears, I mean
14 they are ours and the State says they belong to them.
15 When the Federal government bought the state of Alaska in
16 1862 for \$6 million, we were part of this package whether
17 anybody liked it or not. I'm not making fun of it, but
18 this is true. We were part of the package.

19
20 The Federal government should have done a
21 little more mandating back before they turned it over to
22 the State. the State does not recognize the rural people
23 in preference for subsistence. I think somebody has to
24 go back and do their homework on this and re-evaluate
25 this whole issue.

26
27 We had a moose management meeting in
28 Grayling in January. Polly was there. This was the
29 first meeting we had. We asked the Federal government do
30 a moose survey for 21(E) before we do the final
31 presentation here. Our subsistence hunt in 21(E). I
32 can't answer for the rest of the Region 6 here, but we
33 have a February subsistence hunt here on Federal lands,
34 cow only, no bulls. At one time it used to be in
35 November and December, but the bulls still had their
36 horns on and they were considered non-edible by the local
37 GASH Board, so they moved the hunt to February for cow
38 season only. So now we don't have any more trophy
39 hunters out there. Besides, they couldn't hunt out there
40 anyway because it's residents only from Russian Mission,
41 all the way up to Grayling, Shageluk, Anvik and Holy
42 Cross.

43
44 Our four villages do hold audio
45 conferences once or twice a month here to determine
46 whether they're going to support or not support. Again,
47 I tell them how are you going to say not support because
48 maybe you disagree with these people downriver. You have
49 to support everything with subsistence. That's what I
50 informed them.

1 We can't be pitting each other against
2 each other. That's one of the things where things don't
3 work. OSM, the State, pit us against Eastern Interior or
4 Lower Yukon. I had a State guy tell me you guys are
5 really doing great here. It took me a little while to
6 figure that out. We're doing great because we're not
7 agreeing on a lot of issues that are presented to us as
8 them to agree on to make this whole program work.
9

10 The last thing that I had is in the moose
11 count that we're having here in 21(E), the Piper Cubs. I
12 went down and watched them. They are doing a real good
13 job. They're flying two, three and four times over an
14 island, making sure, or two miles, three miles back,
15 making sure they get the right count. I talked to them
16 and they said, yeah, we're just flying boxes every day.
17 I said you have to remember too that in each box that you
18 fly a moose will walk five, six miles and walk one box to
19 the next, so you have to make your boxes a lot bigger
20 than five miles. You have to make up to 10-mile boxes.
21 So some of the moose that they are counting in 21(E) as
22 of know they're counting maybe twice.
23

24 I've never said so much here in a long
25 time. I want to thank the people of Allakaket and Alatna
26 for inviting us here and I'm going to enjoy my stay here.
27 I haven't been here since 1972. This community has
28 changed a lot since then.
29

30 Thank you very much.

31
32 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Robert. Carl.
33

34 MR. MORGAN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
35 I'll try to keep my comments and concerns kind of brief
36 and short and try not to be repetitive because like all
37 your concerns, we've got about the same concerns down in
38 my country. I'd like to say Ray gave a real good fish
39 report, so I'm not going to go there.
40

41 Like everybody else, we're very concerned
42 about predator control, moose population. Last year a
43 lot of people got together all the way from Bethel to
44 Mat-Su, all user groups that do hunt in 19(A), and they
45 wanted to come up with a solution. Not only predator
46 control, but you've got to start implementing other
47 users, which is the two-legged kind.
48

49 They implemented a permit system. It
50 wasn't a restricted permit. Anybody can qualify to get

1 one, but you had to go to one of the communities in 19(A)
2 to get a permit. You couldn't be in Bethel and write a
3 letter and say I request a permit. You had to physically
4 come to 19(A) to get a permit. But that didn't stop
5 nobody from coming in to hunt. If you did come in to
6 hunt, you can only hunt two spike and then you're
7 restricted. You can't shoot anything there but 50-inch
8 or three brow tines. That was the restriction if you
9 didn't have a permit.

10

11 But we were very concerned about
12 enforcement. How are we going to do it. We can't make
13 these checkpoints voluntary. You've got to make them
14 mandatory stops. Most of our area is State land, so we
15 have a lot of game wardens flying around. It worked. Of
16 course, we got the guides from like around Kenai and Mat-
17 Su. It was supposed to stop this year, but they went to
18 the Board of Game again and tried to reimplement the same
19 program because the cow/bull ratio was too big. There
20 was a whole lot of cows but not too many bulls. We
21 wanted to limit the intake. There was a lot of disgusted
22 people, but any time you do something different and kind
23 of limit somebody, yes, you'll have a lot of confusion,
24 but a lot of discussion.

25

26 Last year's moose hunt was very hard
27 because we didn't have any water. A lot of our sloughs
28 were dried up. The majority of population was on the
29 main river and all the sloughs we could have gone in were
30 dry. Heck, people were going with four-wheelers in them
31 sloughs.

32

33 So, with that in mind, we're still
34 waiting for our caribou, but we're not afraid they're not
35 going to come, it's just a matter of time when they
36 decide to come and migrate in our part of the country.

37

38 Thank you very much.

39

40 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Carl. I just
41 wanted to mention that many of you know that Carl Morgan
42 was our past representative down in Juneau and he's one
43 of the few people that could stop a lot of the concerns
44 that Jack and I raised about ATV use on the Dalton
45 Highway. He stopped it. He was on the committee. So
46 I'd like to thank Carl for that. He also was in the
47 committee and stopped a mandatory borough. I'd like to
48 thank Carl for that again.

49

50 I'd like to just let you know that we

1 come from Wiseman down to Aniak and I'm glad that Alatna
2 and Allakaket is hosting this meeting because I've been
3 talking with the two chiefs since last summer and they
4 finally said, yes, they'll host it. So I really thank
5 the people from Alatna and Allakaket for hosting this
6 meeting.

7
8 At this time I'd like to go into approval
9 of the October 2004 Anvik meeting minutes.

10
11 MR. JONES: Mr. Chairman.

12
13 CHAIRMAN SAM: Benedict.

14
15 MR. JONES: I forgot to report about the
16 Western Arctic Caribou Herd Planning Committee. We just
17 had a meeting in Anchorage in January. I just wanted to
18 report the majority of the caribou herds are in the Upper
19 Kobuk River area. They migrated more westerly this year
20 to the Nome area. They used to come within 50 miles from
21 Nome, but this time they crossed and they're in the
22 Seward Peninsula area this year, in the Selawik area.
23 The caribou this year has increased to 490,000 caribou.

24
25 There's a lot of topics about
26 transportation corridor developments on the Kobuk River
27 area because there's a lot of potential copper and coal
28 industry, fossil fuel in that area. Red Dog Mine has
29 contaminant when they had the trucks hauling the copper
30 within 20 miles off the road. The wind would blow it
31 into the vegetation and the caribou would not go into
32 that area because of that contaminant.

33
34 There's also the report on the ocean area
35 bottom floor. This one guy from Kotzebue has been
36 studying the ocean floor and there was even a copper
37 contaminant on the ocean bottom for the bottom fish in
38 the ocean.

39
40 We've got to be well aware and try to
41 protect that no roads be built in the caribou migration
42 area, especially on the Kobuk, because we depend heavily
43 sometime to harvest the caribou when they come into our
44 area. I know this year just a few of them came to
45 Allakaket that hasn't been around for the last 10 years.
46 I just want to report that.

47
48 So we're really concerned about the
49 transportation, especially on the Kuskokwim River, that
50 the Doyon and the gold mine wrote that they're going to

1 build from Bethel, I think, to Aniak area. So we've got
2 to be concerned about that dust contaminate too. It's
3 not only for the animals, but it's also for the
4 vegetation, for the berries that we live off of. That's
5 all I want to report.

6
7 Thank you.

8
9 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Benedict. I'd
10 like to back up, as Mickey pointed out, I'd entertain a
11 motion to adopt the agenda.

12
13 MR. STICKMAN: So moved.

14
15 CHAIRMAN SAM: Is there a second.

16
17 MR. REAKOFF: Second.

18
19 CHAIRMAN SAM: Seconded by Jack. Any
20 questions, discussion.

21
22 MR. WALKER: Question.

23
24 CHAIRMAN SAM: The question has been
25 called. All those in favor signify by saying aye.

26
27 IN UNISON: Aye.

28
29 CHAIRMAN SAM: Opposed same sign.

30
31 (No opposing votes)

32
33 CHAIRMAN SAM: Motion carried. Agenda
34 Item 7, approval of October 2004 Anvik meeting. The
35 Chair will entertain a motion to adopt the minutes as
36 presented.

37
38 MR. REAKOFF: I'll so move.

39
40 CHAIRMAN SAM: Is there a second.

41
42 MR. MORGAN: Second.

43
44 CHAIRMAN SAM: Seconded by Carl. I'll
45 give you three or four minutes to review the minutes. If
46 you have any questions or corrections, please bring them
47 up. For your information, Anvik is one of our smallest
48 villages that we represent on the Western Interior and it
49 is also one of our most pleasurable meetings that we've
50 had in a long time. It was on fisheries. Again, like we

1 did down in Anvik, any kind of issues that you have on
2 fish, game, wolf, we'll have a meeting tonight to take
3 all your comments tonight. The whole town of Anvik came
4 out that one night, the hosting village, to comment on
5 any issues they want. It will be wide open for your
6 pleasure. You can introduce anything you want. It will
7 be tonight sometime after dinner.

8
9 As you go through these minutes at the
10 Anvik meeting, you'll notice one concern that came out
11 from every board member that was present, low water, and
12 then Representative Don Young and President Bush still
13 say there's no global warming. This fall we never got
14 freeze-over until December or January. There's something
15 wrong someplace.

16
17 Any corrections, additions. Mickey.

18
19 MR. STICKMAN: I didn't have any
20 corrections but Ron's comment about the low water for
21 hunters in Nulato and Kaltag, that's the area that I'm
22 from. One of the things from last fall was more people
23 from Nulato went up the Koyukuk River last fall because
24 where we normally hunt over in the Kaiyuh Flats, we
25 couldn't get in. We usually go in at 12 miles below
26 Nulato and the Kaiyuh Slough comes out 22 miles below
27 Kaltag and then the second fork comes out 40 miles below
28 Kaltag and that's primarily the hunting area for a
29 majority of the people from Nulato and Kaltag. When you
30 couldn't get in at the 12-mile point below Nulato,
31 sometimes you could get in at the 22-mile point and work
32 your way up, but this fall the water was so low you
33 couldn't even get in at lower end also.

34
35 There was only one guy who made it
36 through and the only reason he made it through is because
37 he was using a canoe. So it's fairly easy to canoe if
38 that's your ambition. But last fall that whole area the
39 water was too low. Even though that's our primary
40 hunting area, we never made it back there. So the
41 majority of the people from Nulato either hunted -- well,
42 we always hunt on the Koyukuk River anyway. Another area
43 we always hunt in is the Pilot Mountain area. So last
44 fall, because of the low water, no one hunted in the
45 Kaiyuh Flats except for that one guy who went through
46 with a canoe.

47
48 MR. MORGAN: Mr. Chairman, hearing no
49 changes or additions to the minutes, I call for the
50 question.

1 CHAIRMAN SAM: The question has been
2 called. All those in favor of approving the Anvik
3 minutes signify by saying aye.
4
5 IN UNISON: Aye.
6
7 CHAIRMAN SAM: Opposed same sign.
8
9 (No opposing votes)
10
11 CHAIRMAN SAM: Motion carried. I see
12 lunch is coming in. Before we break I'd like to say a
13 few word about the Western Interior. If you go through
14 our minutes and we have established a mandate with Vince
15 that every action we take goes to every traditional
16 village council and it's summarized and everybody knows
17 what we do, what kind of actions we take or what we're
18 trying to do. I know it takes a lot of time and a lot of
19 work, a lot of reading. Again, I'd like to tell you that
20 Western Interior is probably one of the strongest
21 Regional Councils that try to provide for subsistence
22 opportunities. We'll do our best to provide you people
23 with a subsistence opportunity to feed yourselves. We
24 sure appreciate you hosting our meeting here at
25 Allakaket. With that, the Chair will call a one-hour
26 break for lunch.
27
28 (Off record)
29
30 (On record)
31
32 CHAIRMAN SAM: Right now I would ask
33 Vince to introduce all the newcomers.
34
35 MR. MATHEWS: Okay. There's quite a few
36 newcomers. Wennona Brown I missed earlier when she came
37 in. She's with Kanuti National Wildlife Refuge. Next to
38 her, I haven't met them, so they'll have to speak up real
39 loud.
40
41 MR. CHRISTIAN: I'm Pete Christian with
42 the National Park Service out of Coldfoot.
43
44 MR. YOUNGBLOOD: I'm Gary Youngblood.
45 I'm with the Gates of the Arctic National Park. I'm out
46 of Bettles.
47
48 MR. BOS: Greg Bos, Fish and Wildlife
49 Service, member of the Staff Committee.
50

1 MR. EASTLAND: Warren Eastland, Bureau of
2 Indian Affairs, member of the Staff Committee.
3
4 MR. UBERUAGA: Richard Uberuaga, Office
5 of Subsistence in Anchorage, fisheries biologist, Yukon-
6 Kuskokwim River.
7
8 MR. LAMBRECHT: Bob Lambrecht. I'm the
9 fire management officer for the Koyukuk Refuge.
10
11 MR. BEYERSDORF: Geoff Beyersdorf. I'm
12 with the subsistence in Galena, Koyukuk Wildlife Refuge.
13
14 MS. GREFFENIUS: Laura Greffenius,
15 wildlife biologist in the Office of Subsistence
16 Management in Anchorage.
17
18 MR. CRAIG: Tim Craig. I'm with BLM in
19 Fairbanks.
20
21 MS. CLARK: Maureen Clark with Office of
22 Subsistence Management.
23
24 MR. ORABUTT: David Orabutt, Fisheries
25 Partners biologist for Kuskokwim Native Association.
26
27 MS. WATSON: Annette Watson, university
28 researcher in Fairbanks.
29
30 MR. STOUT: Glenn Stout, area biologist
31 for Alaska Department of Fish and Game.
32
33 MR. RIVARD: Don Rivard with the Office
34 of Subsistence Management.
35
36 MR. SPINDLER: Mike Spindler, refuge
37 manager of Kanuti National Wildlife Refuge as of Sunday.
38 I've been refuge manager of Koyukuk Refuge for a long
39 time.
40
41 MS. McSWEENEY: I'm Ingrid McSweeney,
42 Bureau of Land Management.
43
44 MR. MASCHMANN: I'm Gerald Maschmann with
45 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in Fairbanks. I work for
46 Russ Holder, the Federal manager on the Yukon River.
47
48 CHAIRMAN SAM: Vince.
49
50 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, I just have one

1 housekeeping. We are running a roster or list on meals.
2 What we're trying to do when people have a meal they'll
3 be checked off and by the end of the meeting if you could
4 pay for your meals that would be great because the Tribal
5 Council is really putting out a lot of effort on this.
6 The rate is \$8.00 for breakfast, \$10.00 for lunch and
7 \$12.00 for dinner. Tina is going to be the one that's
8 collecting it with me.

9
10 The other thing is I just have a quick
11 comment before you get to Proposal 01. I don't know if
12 that's appropriate now or not.

13
14 CHAIRMAN SAM: Again, I would like to
15 thank the people of Allakaket and Alatna for hosting this
16 meeting. I see a lot of residents here. Again, Uncle
17 Johnson, local resident elder, respected elder of
18 Allakaket, asked for a microphone. I would like to bring
19 him up here, but before I do I would like to introduce
20 also Polly Wheeler. The reason I keep introducing her is
21 her and Dave Andersen did a heck of a lot of work for us
22 in that door-to-door survey.

23
24 We finally got somebody from the State,
25 Glenn Stout. We've got all of us against you on our
26 proposals again. Will you be presenting the State's
27 views?

28
29 MR. STOUT: At least for Proposals 12 and
30 13.

31
32 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay. I sure appreciate
33 you being here, Glenn. At this time I would like to turn
34 the mike over to Uncle Johnson.

35
36 MR. MOSES: I'd like to tell you a little
37 bit about migration animals. About four years ago I
38 think I went to a meeting in Arctic Village. At that
39 time I told them we don't have caribou in Allakaket
40 anymore for four or five years. I told them I know
41 what's going on. There was Fish and Wildlife there.
42 There was lots of other people. I guess they put down
43 something. So the next year we had caribou migrate
44 through here. This year only about 20 went through down
45 here, about 25 miles below Allakaket. So there's
46 something going on. I told them at that time in Arctic
47 Village that the trophy hunters go out there on the North
48 Slope where the caribou are year round and you know those
49 caribou are really, really touchy animals.

50

1 While I was growing up, you know, I
2 listened to old people that had caribou migration through
3 their area, in this Allakaket area every year. When they
4 started the trophy hunters, something happened. No more
5 caribou, sometime just a few. The next year there will
6 be thousands again. So I told them it's the trophy
7 hunters. They send the trophy hunters up there. They
8 opened it for them so they get their trophy. That really
9 messed up the migration animals.

10
11 So this year I told you about 20 caribou
12 came through about 25 miles towards Big Lake. After
13 that, when I went to the meeting in Arctic Village, the
14 next year when they came through there was caribou all
15 over down here around the Big Lake. That's where their
16 home is for spending the winter. All in that area
17 between Tanana and here.

18
19 So this year we're having a hard time
20 again. So I'd like to give it to everybody so that maybe
21 somebody will work on it that we don't send the trophy
22 hunters up there. If they want their trophy real bad,
23 they can go down there by Big Lake some place and get
24 their trophy after the caribou get down there.

25
26 I see it myself, too, when the first
27 caribou comes through. It was 20 miles up there, the
28 first caribou that was migrating through I saw four or
29 five caribou and they turned right around, went back
30 north. No caribou down there. So those migration
31 animals are really touchy ones. So, again, I'm trying to
32 put down something so we can get caribou every year
33 because that's their home area down there.

34
35 Let's try something again. The trophy
36 hunters, hold them back for some time, some place. I
37 know that's the only way they make their money, but for
38 all the hunters down here around this area we have a hard
39 time without caribou every year because caribou has been
40 used for a lot of things. The meat and the hide. The
41 hide, after they clean it, they make snowshoe filling out
42 of that to fill the snowshoes. So it's been used a lot
43 of ways, so we need our migration animals again.

44
45 If I missed anything, you can ask Ronnie
46 Sam. He can tell you what it's all about. That's all I
47 have. I will give it back to him.

48
49 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Uncle Johnson.
50 What he said is the truth. You could go up to Anaktuvuk.

1 They say they let the first ones go through because they
2 know they'll be coming toward Koyukuk River to us. They
3 never get the first ones. It's the same thing that Kobuk
4 area people say. What Johnson just said is pretty much
5 the truth. You never get the first ones because they'll
6 turn right around and go back or you won't see them a
7 while. Again, I'd like to thank Johnson for addressing
8 us and talking to us.

9

10 Go ahead, Benedict.

11

12 MR. JONES: Yeah, on the Western Arctic
13 Caribou Herd, we're kind of concerned about that. The
14 thing I didn't like about satellite radio collaring on
15 the caribou is that through the internet any sports
16 hunter could go through the internet and know where the
17 main caribou herd are so the State Fish and Game could
18 track where they're migrating in the winter and in the
19 summer time. What we recommend on the Western Arctic
20 Caribou Herd is that we delay the satellite information
21 by 10 days to two weeks so the caribou will migrate
22 beyond Onion Portage and come over to this area. We
23 don't want the sports hunters to interfere with the
24 migration path. That's why we want to delay the
25 information for 10 days.

26

27 Thank you.

28

29 CHAIRMAN SAM: Any questions for Johnson.

30

31 (No comments)

32

33 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Uncle. You can
34 address us any time you want to. Any residents. If not,
35 we'll go into Proposal 01.

36

37 Tom Kron.

38

39 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman. Before Tom
40 starts, I need to apologize for the agenda. It was my
41 oversight on that. I develop these agendas months in
42 advance and I knew of your cultural situations here and I
43 just overlooked it, your cultural ways of dealing with
44 bears and that. So what I would like from you is some
45 direction in the future that Staff realizes on certain
46 issues, this happens to be bears, that we need to be more
47 sensitive to your cultural situations. So if the Council
48 can provide direction for that, I think it will help us
49 all down the road so we won't be at this point again.
50 With that, see if you can provide some direction.

1 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Vince, and
2 thank you for addressing the issue. I talked personally
3 with Polly Wheeler and I will make a phone call to Tom
4 Boyd, who is the director of the Office of Subsistence
5 Management, that whenever we address bear issues, wolf
6 issues, that we have men address these issues because
7 culture along the Koyukuk River is so strong that we
8 recognize Koyukuk River people's feelings and their
9 wishes. With that, we will recognize Tom Kron to address
10 this issue.

11
12 I'd like to go on record as Chair because
13 of the wishes of one of our elders here that we go ahead
14 and call Tom Boyd and let him know about our further
15 wishes, further discretion and further requests along
16 these issues. Go ahead, Tom.

17
18 MR. KRON: Mr. Chair. At your request
19 I'll be presenting the analysis for WP05-01. This
20 analysis is found starting on Pages 28 and 29 of your
21 books. Wildlife Proposal 01 was submitted by the U.S.
22 Fish and Wildlife Service Regional Office to address the
23 need for clearer definitions and regulatory language
24 regarding the sale of handicrafts made from bear fur.

25
26 The proposed changes to the definitions
27 and the proposed new regulatory language are on Pages 28
28 and 29 of your book. This is not a new issue. It is a
29 housekeeping proposal. These changes are not intended to
30 result in any new harvest opportunities or to provide any
31 additional opportunities to sell handicrafts. They just
32 provide language that clarifies our current understanding
33 of the Federal Subsistence Board's previous decisions.

34
35 In 2002, the Federal Subsistence Board
36 approved the sale of handicrafts made from black bear
37 fur. In 2004, they approved the sale of handicraft made
38 from brown bear fur in Southeast Alaska, Bristol Bay and
39 the Eastern Interior Regions. In 2004, the Federal
40 Subsistence Board also clarified that the Federal
41 regulations includes claws. Claws can be used in
42 handicrafts for sale.

43
44 This is different from State regulations.
45 The State does not allow the sale of handicrafts that
46 contain claws. The State appealed the Federal
47 Subsistence Board's decision last spring to include claws
48 and they submitted a Request for Reconsideration last
49 summer. However, the Federal Subsistence Board rejected
50 the Request for Reconsideration and maintained its

1 regulation to allow the sale of handicrafts that includes
2 bear claws. This applies to black bears statewide and
3 brown bears in Southeast, Bristol Bay and Eastern
4 Interior Regions.

5
6 Several questions were brought up by law
7 enforcement, the State and others during the discussion.
8 There were questions about what qualified as handicraft.
9 Does a single claw on a string qualify as a handicraft.
10 Can the handicraft be sold in urban gift shops or just by
11 rural residents. Can the handicraft be manufactured
12 outside of Alaska. Can the handicrafts be made from skin
13 or just the hair. And what's the difference between
14 skin, hide, pelt and fur. These were a number of the
15 questions that came up.

16
17 The Office of Subsistence Management
18 addressed these questions with a question and answer
19 sheet, which the Federal Subsistence Board approved last
20 summer. I think this was sent out to all the Council
21 members, but there is a copy of it on Pages 62 and 63 of
22 your books.

23
24 This proposal intends to address these
25 questions with regulatory language. It provides a more
26 complete definition of handicrafts. It fixes the
27 definition of skin, hide, pelt and fur. It states the
28 regulatory language 25(j)(6) and (7) that claws can be
29 used in handicrafts for sale. It clarifies that
30 handicrafts must be made in Alaska by rural Alaskans.
31 And it states clearly that sales are not allowed by
32 anyone operating as a business; for example, commercial
33 sales.

34
35 This proposal does not change any
36 subsistence opportunity. It basically take the
37 information that was provided in the question/answer
38 sheet and puts it into regulatory language. The Office
39 of Subsistence Management believes that it facilitates
40 the understanding of the existing regulations and
41 supports the proposal with modification.

42
43 The modification incorporates some
44 additional language in the handicraft definition in
45 Paragraph (8), which addresses sales by businesses. I
46 think Tina has passed around a sheet that says errata at
47 the top. That means it's a correction sheet for the
48 Staff recommendation on this proposal.

49
50 That concludes my presentation. Mr.

1 Chair. Thank you.

2

3 CHAIRMAN SAM: Agency comments. Glenn,
4 do you have anything to add.

5

6 MR. STOUT: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I'll
7 just read into the record here our written comments. The
8 Department of Fish and Game's recommendation is do not
9 support. This proposal does not address concerns raised
10 by the Department in a Request for Reconsideration
11 submitted to the Federal Subsistence Board in 2004
12 regarding the Federal regulation authorizing the sale of
13 handicraft items made from the skin and claws of brown
14 and black bears.

15

16 It is unclear how the proposed changes
17 would address conservation concerns associated with the
18 sale of handicrafts made from bear fur and claws, in the
19 absence of a tracking system that documents how many
20 bears are being harvested for the purpose of making
21 handicraft items for sale.

22

23 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Glenn. Federal
24 agencies.

25

26 (No comments)

27

28 CHAIRMAN SAM: Anybody from the Native
29 corporation. Any comments.

30

31 (No comments)

32

33 CHAIRMAN SAM: Interagency Staff
34 Committee.

35

36 (No comments)

37

38 CHAIRMAN SAM: Advisory groups. Vince.

39

40 MR. MATHEWS: Benedict.

41

42 CHAIRMAN SAM: Go ahead, Benedict.

43

44 MR. JONES: Yeah, we did not support this
45 proposal when it came up about 10 years ago in Fairbanks.
46 The State Fish and Game Board called me to Fairbanks to
47 discuss this handicraft of bear claws. It's not our
48 traditional culture to sell handicraft of bear claws or
49 teeth or the skull, so I oppose this proposal.

50

1 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Benedict.
2 Neighboring Regional Councils. Vince.

3
4 MR. MATHEWS: Stanley may have a comment.

5
6 CHAIRMAN SAM: At this time, the Chair
7 will recognize Stanley Ned.

8
9 MR. NED: I'll have Tom Kron speak for
10 me.

11
12 (Laughter)

13
14 MR. NED: I'd like to thank the Western
15 Interior for holding their meeting in Allakaket and I'd
16 like to thank Johnson Moses for expressing his concerns
17 on our traditional ways. One of the things that first
18 came to me when the agenda came down was that they have a
19 woman talking about bear and that kind of started a
20 little fire under everybody. It finally got to Johnson.
21 Johnson helped change that part there. In our
22 traditional ways, we don't have women speaking to us on
23 bear and it's the same way with the wolf.

24
25 But my other concern is with the sale of
26 bear parts. I don't care what they do in their neck of
27 the woods in the other regions, but in our ways, in our
28 traditional ways, like Benedict Jones spoke earlier, we
29 don't sell the parts, we don't play with the parts, we
30 don't talk bad ways about the animals. When we start
31 doing that, then we start losing our traditional ways.
32 Sure we're giving up certain parts of our tradition, but
33 there are some that will never change and this is one
34 that will never change.

35
36 The other concerns I had in listening to
37 you guys this morning, Jack mentioned the new bill that's
38 coming down from Juneau to us introduced by somebody in
39 Fairbanks.

40
41 MR. KRON: Ralph Seekins.

42
43 MR. NED: Yeah, somebody mentioned that
44 to me. Anyway, the people around here should base their
45 comments on that specific bill because that's going to
46 hurt us later. As Jack alluded to earlier, there's going
47 to be more people coming to our neck of the woods. We
48 already have enough right now with the existing Dalton
49 Highway. Them coming down the tributaries and during our
50 hunting seasons, you know. They're now beginning to

1 change all our regulations to more fit their hunting
2 seasons instead of ours.

3
4 Johnson talked about the migration of
5 caribou, you know. When I was working for Tanana Chiefs,
6 they told us that they don't really hunt on the caribou
7 migration routes. I think it was two years later a guide
8 crashed and hit Alatna and that's one of the places they
9 said they didn't have any guides operating. So we know
10 they're hunting on all the migration routes. If there is
11 some way to change the proposals to put a gray on the
12 migration routes of the caribou to make them either hunt
13 later or not at all or just shorten those periods, you
14 know, it would really help.

15
16 The other concern I had is one that
17 Robert Walker spoke on, the other regions voting on our
18 proposals. Like I said earlier, I don't care what they
19 do in their region, but they have no business telling us
20 what we can and can't do as far as hunting in our neck of
21 the woods.

22
23 I'm hoping that the people in Alatna and
24 Allakaket come up here and speak their mind on some of
25 the things that are bothering them as far as hunting and
26 whatever they want to speak on. We're going to have more
27 people coming down the Alatna, more people coming down
28 the Koyukuk, more people that are now beginning to go to
29 the eco-tourism business. You know, Bettles has pretty
30 much gone in that direction. We know Wiseman is heading
31 there. Maybe Jack can speak a little bit on that because
32 I know he's tied to it.

33
34 If we don't do anything, they're just
35 going to run over us here, so we need to start expressing
36 our concerns and what we think and how we're going to
37 handle these kind of situations. The mike here is pretty
38 much open, as Ron mentioned, so you guys can talk any
39 time you want. That's all I have.

40
41 Thank you.

42
43 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Stanley. I'm
44 glad that Stanley mentioned the fact that we brought
45 Johnson to the table and to the microphone. Again, this
46 very issue has been before us quite some time. It seems
47 like every year we come to our game proposals it comes up
48 and it will keep coming up until somebody makes a change,
49 until they shove it down our throats or just make us
50 accept it or accept it in fact or pass the fact because

1 other regions accept it already. But our region is
2 strongly against this. We have always been that way.

3
4 Thank you, Stanley. Any questions for
5 Stanley.

6
7 (No comments)

8
9 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Stan. National
10 Park Service. Vince.

11
12 MR. MATHEWS: Did you want the other
13 Regional Council recommendations? Several have met and
14 passed recommendations.

15
16 CHAIRMAN SAM: Go ahead.

17
18 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman. Yukon-
19 Kuskokwim Delta took up this proposal and they support
20 with modification that's in the errata sheet. Seward
21 Peninsula, which is not too far from here, they deferred
22 to the home regions because they were not affected by
23 this proposal. Eastern Interior debated this proposal at
24 a fair amount of length and they modified the section
25 dealing with 8(a) which deals with licensed businesses.
26 I do have their modifications here. I don't know if you
27 want me to read them into the record.

28
29 CHAIRMAN SAM: No. Robert.

30
31 MR. WALKER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It
32 says this proposal is put in by the U.S. Fish and
33 Wildlife Service. Correct me here. Who is this that's
34 putting WP05-01?

35
36 CHAIRMAN SAM: Go ahead, Tom.

37
38 MR. KRON: Mr. Chairman. It was
39 submitted by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Regional
40 Office. Again, it was just intended to clarify the
41 Federal Subsistence Board wording that's already in
42 place. It doesn't change hunting opportunity or plans
43 for handicraft. It was just intended to clarify what the
44 Federal Subsistence Board's intent was. It was a
45 statewide proposal, so all 10 regions are seeing it.

46
47 CHAIRMAN SAM: Ray.

48
49 MR. COLLINS: Mr. Chairman. It's already
50 on the books that this is allowed, right, and this is a

1 motion to clarify. I guess I find myself in a hard
2 position that we might agree with some of the
3 clarification but we don't want that practice carried on
4 in our area, but they're two different things because
5 they're already allowed. For instance, the clarification
6 that these items will not go for sale in a commercial
7 way, I don't think that should be allowed anywhere. If
8 they are sold in some other areas, they shouldn't be
9 selling them in gift shops in town because that turns it
10 into a commercial activity. Do you see what I mean?

11
12 There's things I support in
13 clarification, but I also hear from our area that we
14 don't want that done in similar areas, so I'm not quite
15 sure how to deal with that. Because this proposal is
16 just for clarification of something that's already in the
17 books and allowed in other areas.

18
19 CHAIRMAN SAM: I think one of the ways we
20 can deal with this is take no action because it is
21 already acted upon by different Regional Advisory
22 Councils. One of the things we talked about earlier is
23 we won't tell people what to do in their own homeland.

24 At this time the Chair will entertain a
25 motion to take no action on Proposal 01.

26
27 MR. WALKER: Mr. Chairman, I'll make a
28 motion to defer it back.

29
30 CHAIRMAN SAM: Is there a second.

31
32 MR. STICKMAN: Second.

33
34 CHAIRMAN SAM: There's a motion to take
35 no action on Proposal 01. We highly discussed this and
36 it was discussed by one of our locals, don't tell us what
37 to do in our back yards. We won't tell you what to do in
38 your back yard. With no action, I think that will take
39 care of this Proposal 01. All those in favor of the
40 motion signify by saying aye.

41
42 IN UNISON: Aye.

43
44 CHAIRMAN SAM: Opposed same sign.

45
46 (No opposing votes)

47
48 CHAIRMAN SAM: Motion carried. No
49 action.

50

1 MR. COLLINS: Mr. Chairman. We should go
2 on the record of why we took that action so it's clear to
3 the Board. We took that, as I understand, because we do
4 not support that kind of activity in our area. Do you
5 see what I mean?
6

7 MR. WALKER: Just for the record, Region
8 6 consists of Western Interior. First, what Stanley Ned
9 said and part of our belief and Benedict Jones, that we
10 do not have or talk about or let women go in the source
11 and that is our understanding for the respect of the
12 animal.
13

14 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Robert. Do you
15 think we have to take any other action to clarify Ray's
16 stance or just go on record as.....
17

18 MR. JONES: I think Robert's comments are
19 good.
20

21 CHAIRMAN SAM: Is that recorded, the
22 consensus of Council?
23

24 MR. MATHEWS: Yes.
25

26 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Robert.
27 Proposal 02. Don.
28

29 MR. RIVARD: Thank you, Mr. Chair. My
30 name is Don Rivard. I'm with the Office of Subsistence
31 Management. I'll be presenting the next three proposal
32 analyses to the Council. WP05-02 is found starting on
33 Page 66 of your book.
34

35 This proposal was submitted by Ms. Karen
36 Deatherage of the Defenders of Wildlife in Anchorage. It
37 requests that the starting date for wolf hunting seasons
38 be changed to September 15th for Units 1, 3, 4, 5A, 6, 7,
39 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14C, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 24,
40 25 and 26. Wolf hunting seasons would still end on April
41 30.
42

43 The proposed regulation can be seen on
44 Page 67 in your book at the top there. Just crossing out
45 the starting dates and making them all September 15th.
46

47 The proponent claims that wolf pelts hold
48 no value during August. Section 802(2) of ANILCA
49 mandates that non-wasteful subsistence uses of fish and
50 wildlife resources be the priority consumptive use on

1 Federal public lands. Any alignment with the State regs
2 are not justification for liberalized wolf seasons. The
3 August wolf hunting on Federal public lands conflicts
4 with non-consumptive users of Federal public lands in
5 August.

6
7 Almost all Federal seasons start on
8 August 10th, as to most all State seasons and most
9 seasons end on April 30th. The proponent wants all
10 Federal seasons in the subject units to start on
11 September 15th. This proposal does not affect Units 2,
12 8, 22 and 23.

13
14 Regarding the regulatory history, Federal
15 seasons were first adopted from the State regulations in
16 1990 at the beginning of the Federal subsistence program.
17 Since 1990 the State has made several changes for season
18 and harvest limits. In 1994, the Federal Subsistence
19 Board adopted changes to align Federal seasons and
20 harvest limits with State regulations. Since then the
21 Federal Subsistence Board has made minor season and
22 harvest limit changes.

23
24 The wolf range covers about 85 percent of
25 the state. Densities range as high as one wolf per 25
26 square miles in favorable habitat to as low as one wolf
27 per 150 square miles in marginal habitat. The densities
28 and abundance is primarily dependent on prey species
29 availability, disease and impacts from harvest and
30 control programs. The current population in the state is
31 considered healthy and the numbers range from 7,000 to
32 10,000 animals.

33
34 Regarding harvest, most wolves are
35 harvested during the winter months when pelts are prime
36 and travel conditions are suitable. Wolves are also
37 harvested traditionally during the early fall on an
38 opportunistic basis before the pelts are prime. This fur
39 is usually not utilized for sale but used on a personal
40 basis for hats, gloves, parkas and other fur handicrafts
41 as this fur is considered less than prime but still
42 functional. Very little of any wolf meat is used for
43 human consumption.

44
45 Table 1 shows statewide hunting harvest
46 records, but it does not consider the unreported harvest.
47 You'll find that on Page 70. Table 2 on Page 71 shows
48 statewide hunting harvest on a monthly basis.

49
50 The effects of this proposal. If this

1 proposal were adopted, it would shorten wolf hunting
2 seasons on Federal public lands by 45 days in four units
3 and 36 days in 17 units. All seasons in subject units
4 would start on September 15th. If adopted, the State and
5 Federal regulations would be out of alignment, causing
6 confusion and possibly some law enforcement problems.

7
8 This would also, if the proposal were
9 adopted, eliminate the opportunity for subsistence users
10 to harvest wolves during the early fall while hunting for
11 moose, deer and caribou. It would also eliminate the
12 opportunity for subsistence users to harvest wolves
13 during early fall when fur is usually primarily for
14 personal use. Most wolves are harvested during winter
15 when pelts are prime.

16
17 The proposal does not address any
18 specific biological problems regarding wolves in the
19 State as the current population is considered to be
20 healthy. Hunters would still be able to hunt wolves on
21 Federal public lands during August and early September
22 under current State regulations unless the Federal
23 Subsistence Board specifically closes Federal public
24 lands to wolf hunting during August and early September
25 to non-Federally qualified users.

26
27 Mr. Chair, the preliminary conclusion is
28 to oppose this proposal. The current Federal regulations
29 are designed to allow an opportunistic take of wolves
30 while hunting for other ungulates, including the early
31 fall seasons, and take wolves for personal use before
32 pelts are prime. Moving the season to September 15th
33 would eliminate this subsistence opportunity.

34
35 Current Federal seasons provide
36 regulatory consistency between State and Federal seasons.
37 Consistency with State regulations is important in areas
38 throughout the state with mixed land ownership patterns.

39
40 Reducing seasons by 45 days in four units
41 and 36 days in 18 units would create confusion for all
42 users. In addition, hunters could still hunt under State
43 regulations during August and September and there is no
44 evidence that there's a conservation issue with this
45 proposal.

46
47 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

48
49 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Don. Glenn.

50

1 MR. STOUT: Thank you, Mr. Chair. The
2 Department's recommendation is do not support. Adoption
3 of this proposal would reduce opportunity for Federally-
4 qualified subsistence users and eliminate their
5 opportunity to harvest wolves opportunistically during
6 moose and caribou seasons that begin before September 15
7 in many areas of the state. Consistency with State
8 regulations also is important in areas with mixed land
9 ownership patterns. Finally, adoption of this proposal
10 would not have the effect sought by the proponent unless
11 Federal public lands also were closed to wolf hunting by
12 non-Federally qualified subsistence users. No evidence
13 of a conservation issue is indicated that would support
14 implementation of such closures.

15

16 Thanks.

17

18 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Glenn. Federal
19 agencies.

20

21 (No comments)

22

23 CHAIRMAN SAM: Native, village, tribes.

24

25 (No comments)

26

27 CHAIRMAN SAM: Interagency Staff.

28

29 (No comments)

30

31 CHAIRMAN SAM: Advisory groups. Vince.

32

33 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, Mr. Chairman. Eastern
34 Interior took up this proposal at their meeting last week
35 and they opposed the proposal because it would reduce
36 subsistence harvest opportunity and would eliminate any
37 wolf harvest primarily for personal use of the shorter
38 fur. One of their Council members mentioned that they do
39 make hats out of the shorter fur that would be harvested
40 in the early season. The Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta Regional
41 Council opposed the proposal. They were talking at their
42 Council meeting about wolves are preying upon caribou and
43 moose calves in Unit 18 and reduction of wolf hunting
44 opportunities within the Delta and other parts of the
45 state would further jeopardize caribou and moose calving.
46 I don't know what Northwest did.

47

48 I reviewed the minutes of the local
49 Advisory Committees for your area. I didn't note any
50 actions by the Advisory Committee, but if they did and

1 State or others know, then I encourage them to come up
2 and share that.

3

4 The Subsistence Resource Commission for
5 Wrangell-St. Elias, I realize it's out of your area, but
6 it is a statewide proposal. They took up this proposal
7 and they unanimously opposed the proposal as written. I
8 see no reason for the proposed change in wolf seasons.
9 Mr. Chairman, that's all the advisory groups. I was
10 just informed that Southeast opposed the proposal also.

11

12 If you want, I can go into the summary of
13 written public comments.

14

CHAIRMAN SAM: Go ahead.

15

16
17 MR. MATHEWS: They're on Page 74 of your
18 book. There are three in opposition. Don Quarberg from
19 Delta Junction says he doesn't see any biological reason
20 for this proposal. Value is in the eyes of the beholder.
21 Robert Jahnke of Ward Cove, please do not pass this
22 proposal.

23

24 The AHTNA Subsistence Committee opposes
25 the proposal because they do not support reducing wolf
26 hunting seasons and do not support aligning State of
27 Alaska and Federal seasons for hunting wolves just for
28 the sake of aligning hunting seasons under the two
29 management systems. We support the more liberal hunting
30 season so that more wolves can be taken to reduce the
31 wolf population. Mr. Chairman, that's all the written
32 comments I'm aware of.

33

Thank you.

34

CHAIRMAN SAM: Go ahead, Ray.

35

36
37
38 MR. COLLINS: Denali Park also addressed
39 this at their meeting and they opposed it, too. That
40 should be in the record. For the same reasons stated.
41 They actually had data there were very few wolves
42 harvested during that early period from their records,
43 but they did not want to deny the opportunities of
44 subsistence hunters that might want to take one because
45 there was no biological reason.

46

47 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Ray. At this
48 time, the Chair will entertain a motion to adopt Proposal
49 WP05-02.

50

1 MR. REAKOFF: I make a motion to adopt
2 this proposal.
3
4 MR. STICKMAN: I second.
5
6 CHAIRMAN SAM: Any further discussion.
7
8 MR. WALKER: Question.
9 MR. REAKOFF: Mr. Chairman.
10
11 CHAIRMAN SAM: Go ahead, Jack.
12
13 MR. REAKOFF: I made a calculation on
14 what the harvest would be just from this data here and
15 it's less than one percent of the wolf population in
16 Alaska. The minimum threshold for wolf harvest is about
17 30 percent. Those rates throughout most of Western
18 Interior are far below 30 percent. I feel that there's
19 no need for this proposal. Subsistence users should have
20 the opportunity to harvest wolves. I don't feel there's
21 a resource concern, so I'm opposed to this proposal.
22
23 CHAIRMAN SAM: Any further comments,
24 deliberation.
25
26 (No comments)
27
28 CHAIRMAN SAM: The question has been
29 called. All those in favor of passing Proposal WP05-02
30 signify by saying aye.
31
32 (No aye votes)
33
34 CHAIRMAN SAM: Those opposed same sign.
35
36 IN UNISON: Aye.
37
38 CHAIRMAN SAM: WP05-02 failed. Next item
39 on the agenda. Vince, where are we?
40
41 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, that's
42 Proposal 12 on Page 75.
43
44 CHAIRMAN SAM: What's the feeling of the
45 Council? Do you want to go into these proposals? I
46 think we do have a lot of local concerns and most of the
47 people want to testify on these winter moose seasons and
48 I think a lot of the local people may want to testify
49 tonight. Do you want to wait until tonight on Proposal
50 12 and 13 to give more local people time to comment?

1 Mickey.

2

3 MR. STICKMAN: Ron, I agree that we
4 should wait until we can have more testimony from the
5 public. I thought that was one of the main ideas for
6 having the meeting here, to have that public
7 participation.

8

9 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you. Ray.

10

11 MR. COLLINS: Mr. Chairman. I'm
12 wondering if we couldn't go through though and have the
13 explanation on the record and then just table action on
14 it and then bring it up for voting on it after we hear
15 their comment. Normally the public comment comes in
16 right at the end of this anyhow, so we would have it out
17 of the way and have that information.

18

19 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Ray. I think
20 that makes sense. That way we can get it on the floor
21 and get this information out to the public that we are
22 deliberating on the winter moose season in Unit 24. I
23 think that makes a lot of sense. Don, go ahead.

24

25 MR. RIVARD: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Don
26 Rivard with the Office of Subsistence Management. The
27 analysis for Proposal WP05-12 and 13 starts on Page 78.
28 I will say that Pete DeMatteo was the lead author on this
29 and I spoke with him on the lunch break. He gave me a
30 couple last-minute tips on how to present this, but he
31 also wanted to express a little bit of disappointment
32 that he wasn't able to be part of this meeting today. He
33 was looking forward to it. This issue he's been tracking
34 very carefully the last few years, as you know, and
35 presented it to you last year.

36

37 WP05-12 and 13 was submitted by the Gates
38 of the Arctic Subsistence Resource Commission and the
39 Kanuti National Wildlife Refuge. They request the Board
40 to make several adjustments to the Unit 24 moose seasons,
41 harvest limits and hunt area descriptions.

42

43 Proposal 12 would change the August 25th
44 to December 31st and March 1 through 10 seasons for the
45 Alatna River drainage within the Gates of the Arctic
46 National Park to August 25th to December 25th and March 1
47 to 5. The proposal would reduce the 129-day fall/winter
48 season to a 32-day fall season and would reduce the 10-
49 day March season to a five-day to be announced
50 season.

1 The proposed change to the affected area
2 would include the following language after the September
3 21 through 25 and March 1 through 5th antlerless moose
4 seasons: if authorized by the appropriate Federal land
5 manager. Harvest of cow moose accompanied by calves is
6 prohibited. Authorization for the March season and
7 September cow moose season will be made after
8 consultation with the ADF&G area biologist and the Chair
9 of the Eastern Interior Regional Advisory Council.

10
11 The proponent states that the current
12 regulations are complex and rely on hard to find
13 political boundaries for hunt area descriptions. The
14 proponent's request would simplify the affected
15 regulations by changing to drainage descriptions that are
16 labeled on maps and identifiable in the field. The
17 proposed regulatory changes would facilitate more uniform
18 regulations for the affected and adjacent areas. The
19 changes are also intended to be responsive to the
20 declining health of the herd by reducing seasons and
21 limiting cow harvests to protect this component of the
22 population until such time as the herd recovers.

23
24 For Proposal 13, this requests similar
25 regulatory changes to all drainages north of the Koyukuk
26 River drainage upstream and including the Alatna River to
27 and including the North Fork of the Koyukuk River except
28 those portions of the John River and the Alatna River
29 drainages within the Gates of the Arctic National Park.

30
31 The proposed change to the affected area
32 would shorten the March 1 through 10 season to March 1
33 through 5 and would include the following language after
34 the September 21 through 25 and March 1 through 5
35 seasons: if these seasons are authorized by the
36 appropriate Federal land manager. Harvest of cow moose
37 accompanied by calves is prohibited. Authorization for
38 the March season and September cow moose season will be
39 made after consultation with the ADF&G area biologist and
40 the Chairs of the Western Interior Regional Advisory
41 Council and Koyukuk River Fish and Game Advisory
42 Committee.

43
44 The proposed Federal regulations are on
45 Page 79 and you can see Map 1 regarding Section D on Page
46 80, that first part there that's crossed out. Map 1 on
47 Page 80 also shows Section E that shows some of that area
48 that's going to be changed.

49
50 The customary and traditional use

1 determination, residents of Unit 24 and residents of
2 Koyukuk and Galena have a customary and traditional use
3 determination for moose in Unit 24. It should be noted
4 that the current public regulations book also lists
5 Anaktuvuk Pass as having eligibility to hunt moose in the
6 remainder of Unit 24. This, however, is redundant
7 because Anaktuvuk Pass is in Unit 24.

8
9 Due to the decline in moose abundance in
10 this area, conservative management is required. These
11 proposed regulation changes are consistent with Action
12 1.3.1 of the Koyukuk River Moose Management Plan, which
13 outlined the approach for reducing antlerless moose
14 hunting opportunities. Reduction of the fall antlerless
15 moose season is necessary to conserve cow moose, the
16 productive component of the population. Also,
17 stabilization of the productive component of the
18 population would ultimately enhance recruitment.

19
20 At their March 2004 meeting, the Alaska
21 Board of Game made changes to State regulations similar
22 to what was proposed by the National Park Service in
23 their proposal last year WP04-67. The proposed action,
24 along with the recent action taken in response to Special
25 Action 03-11 and 03-13 are consistent with the management
26 plan which calls for additional regulatory restrictions
27 on antlerless moose harvest in response to the ongoing
28 population declines. Because these additional
29 restrictions were viewed to be consistent with the
30 Management Plan, Special Action 03-11 and 03-13 and this
31 proposal were not channeled through the Working Group.

32
33 It is important to note that the highly
34 successful Koyukuk River Moose Hunters Working Group and
35 the Management Plan will continue through June 30th of
36 this year and then will sunset.

37
38 Declines in moose populations will be
39 documented within the proposal area and adjacent areas.
40 These conservation concerns align with Action 1.3.1 of
41 the Moose Management Plan, which outlined the approach
42 for reducing antlerless moose hunting opportunities and
43 antlerless moose seasons in order to conserve cow moose.

44
45 Based on harvest data collected by the
46 ADF&G, Division of Subsistence, there is support for the
47 conclusion that moose harvests in Unit 24 have remained
48 consistent for local residents. However, based on
49 comparison of the 1999-2000 and 2001-2002 survey of
50 hunter effort between communities, and this is Table 2 on

1 Page 85 we're looking at here, local residents are
2 meeting their subsistence needs through increases in
3 hunter effort.

4
5 Analysis of results from household
6 surveys conducted in the upper Koyukuk River communities
7 during 2002-2003, which is Table 3 on Page 85, reflects
8 that total effort by successful hunters per moose
9 harvested significantly is greater than the number of
10 days hunted for Alatna and Allakaket hunters that
11 harvested moose.

12
13 If Proposal 12 were adopted by the
14 Federal Board, it would reduce the moose season in the
15 Alatna River drainage, within the Park, from the current
16 129-day fall/winter season and 10-day March season, to a
17 32-day fall season and a 5-day March season. This
18 proposed action returns the fall/winter regulation in
19 this area to what it was prior to 1996. This action not
20 only addresses the need for a reduction in cow harvest,
21 but it will significantly reduce the bull harvest
22 opportunity.

23
24 Although these long season dates have
25 been important to allow hunters to choose when windows of
26 weather allow for travel, elimination of the extended
27 Alatna River area season would not impact many hunters
28 because not much hunting activity takes place during late
29 September through December period that would be
30 eliminated. However, it may periodically be critically
31 depended upon by a few people.

32
33 Generally, local hunters do not harvest
34 bull moose during the post-rut period; therefore, the 97-
35 day season reduction would not eliminate a significant
36 amount of real opportunity. The long season has allowed
37 for flexibility to ensure that subsistence hunters can
38 harvest a moose in case of harsh weather or poor
39 availability of caribou in the area, two events that are
40 unpredictable and occur irregularly.

41
42 Some local residents, however, favor more
43 uniform regulations to avoid tainted meat that may be
44 harvested during the late September through December
45 season, a period that does not consistently allow for
46 boat or snowmachine travel. Local residents also favor
47 more uniform regulations to avoid confusion that
48 political boundaries can cause.

49
50 Both Proposal 12 and Proposal 13 would

1 reduce the March 10-day season by five days in the
2 portion north of the Koyukuk River drainage. The
3 proposals also request that the antlerless moose seasons
4 be opened by announcement. The five-day reduction and
5 the "to be announced" season restriction would help to
6 reduce antlerless moose harvests and would allow managers
7 to open the antlerless moose seasons when the population
8 can provide for a surplus of cow moose.

9

10 The proposed reductions in seasons and
11 antlerless harvest opportunities would provide greater
12 long-term subsistence opportunity in Unit 24. Based on
13 an analysis of results from trend surveys conducted in
14 adjacent areas in Unit 24, ongoing population declines
15 are somewhat uniform throughout the northern Koyukuk
16 River drainage.

17

18 Also based on results from trend surveys
19 conducted in portions of Unit 24 between 1985 and 1999,
20 there have been significant declines in productivity and
21 yearling bull recruitment. These declines continue and
22 have been documented through results from surveys
23 conducted from 2000 through 2004. These regulatory
24 changes should decrease the total cow harvest somewhat
25 and help maintain productivity and recruitment consistent
26 with the current management objectives, which call for
27 more conservative yields under these conditions than are
28 currently allowed.

29

30 Some additional points worth mentioning,
31 adoption of Proposal 12 with modification would address
32 the concerns stated by the proponents of both Proposals
33 12 and 13. Both proponents have expressed conservation
34 concerns that require a reduction in antlerless moose
35 harvests within the affected areas. The proponent of
36 Proposal 12 has also expressed the need for more uniform
37 regulations that would allow for less public confusion in
38 the affected areas.

39

40 The proponent also stated that Alatna and
41 Allakaket residents generally do not hunt moose after the
42 rut within the Alatna and Koyukuk River drainages.
43 Adoption of Proposal 12 with the modifications would
44 more uniformly address both proponents' concerns. The
45 expanded consultation respect the jurisdictions of other
46 advisory groups that have a direct tie or an extensive
47 working relationship with their respective resource
48 managers.

49

50 With that, Mr. Chair, the preliminary

1 conclusion is to support with modification Proposal 12 to
2 simplify the language that describes the John River area
3 and includes the appropriate Federal agencies; and
4 include "after consultation with...the Chairs of the
5 Gates of the Arctic Subsistence Resource Commission and
6 the Koyukuk River Fish and Game Advisory Committee."
7

8 The other thing would be to take no
9 action on Proposal 13. You'll see the proposed
10 regulation with modification on Page 86 and 87. That is
11 my presentation. I believe there's been some information
12 that's been passed out to you from the Gates of the
13 Arctic National Park and Preserve, some recent surveys
14 they did this past fall. That's for your consideration
15 as well.

16
17 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

18
19 CHAIRMAN SAM: Don, explain to me that
20 129-day season. I still don't get that one.

21
22 MR. RIVARD: Well, I believe it's a
23 reduction of 129 days that's being proposed with that
24 August 25th through December 31st. That would be
25 reduced. That would be taken away.

26
27 CHAIRMAN SAM: Glenn.

28
29 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, I didn't get
30 a chance to pass out that data that Don referenced. It's
31 survey data. I believe it's preliminary data. We do
32 have Park Staff here if I get it wrong, but I believe
33 it's preliminary data from their survey, so you're
34 getting a map of the survey area and you're getting a
35 summary of the survey data and then there was another
36 version that was earlier that Fred Andersen gave me that
37 I'm not handing out to you because the one that Tina just
38 passed out came from the superintendent of the Park, so I
39 assume it's the most current. I apologize for
40 interrupting Glenn.

41
42 MR. REAKOFF: Mr. Chairman. In all this
43 data there's no data showing what the harvest is inside
44 of the Park. Fred Andersen researched that harvest
45 within the Park and it was like about four moose in a 10-
46 year period, so some very low number of moose being
47 killed inside the Park. If you even doubled that, it's
48 eight moose in a 10-year period. It comes out to .175
49 moose per year, which is a very low number of moose. I
50 would have liked to have seen that harvest data for the

1 unit presented, so I feel I should present what I was
2 told at our SRC meeting about that harvest. Allakaket's
3 harvest is part of that, but it would be a very small
4 proportion of the Allakaket harvest within the Park.

5
6 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Jack. Glenn.

7
8 MR. STOUT: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I'd
9 just confirm what Jack says. I looked into that one time
10 and what I'd find is there would be two or three moose
11 harvested one year and then it would go several years
12 with no harvest at all and that's exactly what you're
13 saying there that that harvest was.

14
15 One quick change there as far as comments
16 for Fish and Game. The proposal, the way it's written,
17 says Proposal WP05-13. It should be 12. The Department
18 supports Proposal 12. The proposed changes are
19 consistent with the Department's intent to manage moose
20 more conservatively in Unit 24 and to reduce the level of
21 cow moose harvest. Consultation with the Department's
22 area biologist before authorizing cow harvest is
23 essential for ensuring that all the relevant data and
24 concerns are fully evaluated. We agree that the
25 rationale presented in the "Reason for changing the
26 regulation" for proposals WP05-12 and WP05-13 provides
27 sufficient justification for adopting the changes sought
28 in this proposal.

29
30 With respect to Proposal WP05-13, the
31 Department's recommendation is to take no action. This
32 proposal is similar to Proposal WP05-12, except that it
33 would not reduce the season in the Alatna River drainage
34 within Gates of the Arctic National Park portion of Unit
35 24. The proponents of Proposal WP05-12, members of the
36 Gates of the Arctic Subsistence Resource Commission,
37 represent the eligible subsistence users of lands within
38 the park; consequently, the Department supports their
39 intent to address the needs for conservative moose
40 management as specified in Proposal WP05-12.

41
42 Thank you.

43
44 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Glenn. Federal
45 agencies.

46
47 (No comments)

48
49 CHAIRMAN SAM: Native, tribal.

50

1 (No comments)

2

3 CHAIRMAN SAM: Interagency Staff. Your
4 name and agency.

5

6 MR. EASTLAND: Mr. Chairman. My name is
7 Warren Eastland. I'm representing the Interagency Staff
8 Committee. Our job is to advise the board members when
9 they have questions. In order for us to answer their
10 questions, we would like to mention a few questions that
11 we have that you might discuss in your later
12 deliberations that would help us out. On Page 85 of the
13 analysis, under effects of the proposals, it states that
14 elimination of the extended Alatna River area season
15 would not impact many hunters because not much hunting
16 activity takes place. It follows immediately by saying
17 that it may periodically be critically depended upon by a
18 few people.

19

20 How critical is critical? How few is
21 few? These sound like silly questions, but we have real
22 hesitation about moving, removing an opportunity that
23 some people may absolutely require for their subsistence
24 lifestyle and our question with that is, if few people
25 use this season, then will closing it really materially
26 affect any conservation concern particularly since this
27 is extended season as a bulls only season. That is all I
28 have to say.

29

30 Thank you, sir.

31

32 CHAIRMAN SAM: Jack.

33

34 MR. REAKOFF: Mr. Chairman. I'm vice-
35 chair of the Subsistence Resource Commission for Gates of
36 the Arctic Park. That season was lengthened quite a few
37 years back by a proponent who lived in the upper Alatna
38 drainage during the wintertime and at that time there was
39 no problem with the moose population. That person
40 doesn't live there anymore and the Park Service is
41 actually retracting their cabin permit, so nobody is up
42 there to utilize that.

43

44 The Park Service came to the Subsistence
45 Resource Commission, was concerned about having such a
46 long spring hunt. Wanted to go to the bull hunt in
47 December and we didn't want to go there. So we cut this
48 deal of reducing the spring hunt down, trying to retain
49 the season in spring for March 1 to March 5.

50

1 The other thing, every drainage had a
2 different moose season. The Alatna was different from
3 the John River and everything was all different, so we
4 tried to make the seasons more uniform. The final
5 product went to what would be more usable by the users
6 and still provide for subsistence opportunity in the
7 Park. We didn't want to get into the John River
8 drainage. It will be a slightly different season in the
9 upper John River, but many people don't harvest moose in
10 winter very much, they hunt bull moose in the fall time,
11 if they don't have caribou, so they would prefer to get
12 caribou if they can. So that's where this proposal came
13 from.

14
15 As far as the upper drainage in November
16 and December, there's not a lot of use going on that I
17 know of from Allakaket. That September season people go
18 up with boats and that can be a critical part, but that's
19 not affected by this proposal.

20
21 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Jack. Just for
22 your information, I think because of that low water, poor
23 freeze-up, I think this is the first time in history that
24 I saw one or two moose harvested in that December 1 to
25 December 10 season this fall. That is because nobody
26 could get anywhere last fall. That was the only reason
27 we harvested one or two. Nobody harvested any moose in
28 the fall time because of low water. I don't think we'll
29 ever see that December 1 to December 10 season utilized
30 unless we hit another poor season, fall season, and that
31 was the only reason that they were harvested, because
32 there were no caribou. There was only four caribou that
33 was harvested earlier.

34
35 As Johnson Moses stated, there was about
36 20 out through the Kanuti River drainage. Andy Simon
37 figured out there was 20 caribou harvested by wolves. He
38 was chasing those wolves for a good three weeks. He had
39 the opportunity to see a cow moose with three calves.
40 Within a week all those calves were gone and I think he
41 chased those wolves out.

42
43 With this proposal, what are we trying to
44 do, Jack, just for my information?

45
46 MR. REAKOFF: Mr. Chairman, this proposal
47 deals strictly with the Gates of the Arctic Park
48 primarily. There's a tiny little piece of the Kanuti
49 Refuge that would fall in the Alatna drainage, but it's
50 just a tiny little spot. So this is basically dealing

1 with the Park, trying to maintain a five-day March season
2 for the antlerless moose in the Park. The primary thrust
3 of this proposal is to hold onto that. The Park Service
4 wanted to cut the antlerless season period and go to a
5 December bull season, but no one wanted that.

6
7 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you. I believe that
8 tonight we'll hear some comments because the only March
9 season we have is up the Alatna and up the John River
10 drainage, north of Middle Fork Koyukuk River, right? Is
11 that where we stand? Is that the only winter season hunt
12 we have?

13
14 MR. MATHEWS: That I know of.

15
16 CHAIRMAN SAM: I think tonight we'll get
17 some comments because people want to be able to hunt
18 March 1 to 5 out in the Kanuti Wildlife Refuge too. I'm
19 pretty sure you'll hear that comment tonight. At this
20 time, I do not know how to address this issue if it comes
21 up. Do we add on to this Proposal 12 or do we just
22 introduce a new proposal? Vince, Don.

23
24 MR. MATHEWS: Are you saying there may be
25 another way of addressing this for the area around here,
26 the concern about the March season?

27
28 CHAIRMAN SAM: We know a person was cited
29 for hunting outside the Koyukuk Wildlife Refuge. The
30 only place that Alatna/Allakaket residents can hunt March
31 1 to 5 is Alatna River drainage and John River and I
32 believe that our people tonight will clearly state that
33 they want to be able to hunt within the Kanuti Wildlife
34 Refuge too. I'm just wondering at this time how do we
35 address that issue, how do we address their concerns, how
36 do we address their requests? Do we add on a new
37 proposal or do we just tack onto Proposal 12? That's
38 what I'm wondering. We do not have a motion or anything
39 on the floor, but it will come up. If they are cited for
40 harvesting a cow moose between March 1 and March 5 out in
41 Kanuti, then we are not providing for a subsistence
42 harvest out in our area. I want to see that addressed
43 one way or the other.

44
45 MR. REAKOFF: Mr. Chairman.

46
47 CHAIRMAN SAM: Jack.

48
49 MR. REAKOFF: I think this proposal has
50 been gone through the Staff Committee process and has its

1 own rundown. I think we're going to have to make another
2 proposal. We can incorporate that extending the season
3 for bull harvest to the end of September and also attach
4 that March 1 to 5, but it would have to be another
5 proposal, I think.

6
7 CHAIRMAN SAM: If it takes another
8 proposal, what will it take, another year to address this
9 issue? Don.

10
11 MR. RIVARD: Mr. Chair. Don Rivard with
12 the Office of Subsistence Management. You do have the
13 option of putting in a special action request for this
14 upcoming season as well that might take into some of the
15 considerations you hear tonight.

16
17 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yes, I think that would
18 address this issue, a special action request. Thank you,
19 Don.

20
21 Do we need to take any other action or
22 any testimony at this time?

23
24 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman. No, there
25 was no written public comments on this proposal. You've
26 covered everything up to public testimony, so you'll just
27 wait for this evening's public testimony.

28
29 CHAIRMAN SAM: Unless we have public
30 testimony at this time. I think people feel more
31 comfortable if we just turn the floor over to
32 Alatna/Allakaket residents tonight and then we'll
33 probably take action and submit a special action request
34 at that time. I am still concerned because at this time
35 we still have March 1 through March 10 antlerless season,
36 Alatna River drainage, John River drainage, Henshaw
37 drainage and north Middle Fork.

38
39 If our people harvest antlerless moose in
40 the Kanuti Wildlife Refuge, they will be cited. They
41 will be cited if they harvest moose on Native corporation
42 land. They will be cited if they harvest cow moose on
43 Native allotments and that's my main concern. That's why
44 I'm putting it on the floor and putting it on record that
45 I am totally concerned about this. That's an oversight,
46 I guess, that we didn't extend that March 1 to March 10
47 antlerless moose season to include the Kanuti Wildlife
48 Refuge. But I expect to gather a lot of comments and
49 requests tonight.

50

1 Recognize Kitty David.

2

3 MS. DAVID: My name is Kitty David and
4 all this time our Native people hunt in our allotment and
5 you know each person has their own allotment. We have a
6 right to hunt in our part of our land, our allotment, and
7 I think that would be good because in the future the
8 children need to know where to hunt. They don't read,
9 they don't go to meetings. They might kill a moose out
10 of season or out of boundary. How many years now it's
11 been open only in Alatna, Henshaw? How come not the
12 other places? Seems like every year they say you can
13 hunt up Alatna. What if they run out of moose in that
14 area?

15

16 I think if they can hunt in their
17 allotment, you know each person got a lot all over the
18 country. All over Kanuti they have their own lot. We've
19 been living with subsistence all our life and trapping.
20 We're still trapping, snaring beaver right now, me and my
21 husband. Raise up our children with subsistence
22 lifestyle.

23

24 Also for the fishing, it seems like not
25 many people goes out fishing anymore, goes to camp.
26 We're the only ones stay down river and people come down
27 to fish by us, which is good. Now we need more help.
28 We're getting older. If the younger generation start to
29 go fishing like long ago, everyone used to stay in fish
30 camp.

31

32 About the fish, 1970s there was not many
33 fish. You can just barely feed your dogs, even what you
34 catch each day. Seems like we're catching more fish
35 right now since they start shut down the fish wheel. I'm
36 not talking about you guys. Up Alatna River, where we go
37 out seining for little whitefish that was different than
38 fishing for salmon. So I would like to see if in the
39 future they can start hunting moose in their own
40 allotments.

41

42 Thank you.

43

44 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Aunt Kitty.
45 Again, she brought to our attention that lawsuit I
46 mentioned at the outset of this meeting. Sometime during
47 this meeting we have to address that issue of harvesting
48 fish on our own Native corporation lands and our own
49 Native allotments. Right now we're under State
50 jurisdiction. Even though everything else around that

1 land is open, we will be cited under State jurisdiction
2 by breaking the law.

3

4 Again, maybe it could wait until tonight.
5 Vince, where does that lawsuit stand under Heather
6 Kendall Miller and who is it directed to or for?

7

8 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, I have copies
9 of the suit, as you call it. That's been filed in Alaska
10 District Court, Federal court. I don't know where it's
11 at. I don't know their process to know. To get it
12 correct, that's the one from Gerald Nicholai, Katie John
13 and Tribal Council of Tanana that's being put together by
14 the Native American Rights Fund. So I don't know.

15

16 I talked to their attorney and encouraged
17 her to give you a call. I don't know if she's been able
18 to connect with you because it puts me in an odd position
19 to address concerns about a Federal suit. Hopefully
20 she'll be able to get a hold of you to explain the status
21 of that suit as well as the others. I would caution you
22 and she cautioned me when I talked to her, what you're
23 asking for is going back to the development of ANILCA
24 and, of course, it has its ties back to ANCSA, but it's
25 not going to happen overnight, any change, I suppose is
26 the bottom line. But she would be best to brief the
27 Chair on that.

28

29 I do have copies of it though. So I
30 don't know where that's at and I don't think any of the
31 leadership here has any update on that suit. And it's
32 actually not a suit, it's a response to another suit. I
33 can hand that out, but I don't know if any other
34 leadership team or Don has an update on that. I think
35 it's just working its way through the court system.

36

37 CHAIRMAN SAM: Tom, do you have anything?

38

39 MR. KRON: Mr. Chairman. I think Mr.
40 Mathews has addressed many of the issues here. The State
41 of Alaska filed a lawsuit on January 5, 2005 against the
42 Departments of Interior and Agriculture over the 1999
43 regulations that extended Federal subsistence
44 jurisdiction in navigable waters. The State is
45 challenging the method used to establish which waters are
46 Federal waters. The lawsuit also alleges that the
47 Federal subsistence jurisdiction has been extended beyond
48 Federal waters to waters on State and private land.

49

50 The lawsuit that Mr. Mathews has talked

1 about from the Native American Rights Fund is against the
2 Departments of Interior and Agriculture and seeks to have
3 Federal subsistence jurisdiction extended to waters
4 upstream and downstream from Federal reserves. The State
5 lawsuit was filed in U.S. District Court in Washington,
6 D.C. The Native American Rights Fund lawsuit was filed
7 in the U.S. District Court in Anchorage. The Federal
8 government is seeking to have the State of Alaska case
9 transferred to the U.S. District Court in Anchorage.

10

11 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

12

13 CHAIRMAN SAM: Mickey.

14

15 MR. STICKMAN: I didn't follow it real
16 close, but from what I can understand of the two
17 lawsuits, the one from the State is saying that the
18 Department of Interior gave us too much and then the one
19 from the Native American Rights Fund is saying that the
20 Department of Interior didn't give us enough. One suit
21 is a counter-suit of the other or that's the way I
22 understand it.

23

24 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Mickey. Any
25 further comments from the Council. Public testimony.
26 Tom.

27

28 MR. KRON: Mr. Chairman. Mr. Mathews
29 made this comment, but I just wanted to reiterate that
30 these suits are against the Federal government, so
31 Federal Staff can't say a lot and for that reason to have
32 you talk to the proponents of those suits is a good way
33 to go. Again, they're against us, so we can't say a lot.

34

35 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

36

37 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Tom. I think
38 that helps. Not that I understand or know what to do
39 about it. Any further comments. Public testimony.

40

41 MR. REAKOFF: The only thing we can do
42 about it is express to the Federal Board that the
43 similarities of the State moose seasons, for example, do
44 not reflect what subsistence users would like to harvest
45 on their own corporation lands and that's a problem and I
46 feel the Federal Subsistence Board should be aware that
47 the Council is very concerned about these dissimilarities
48 in seasons of providing a bull moose in December, which
49 no one will take unless they're under duress. Those
50 don't reflect what people want to harvest. The people

1 want to harvest a higher quality meat on their own lands,
2 so I feel the Federal Board should be aware that we agree
3 with those local people about that issue.

4
5 Traditional subsistence harvests are
6 better reflected in the Federal regulations at this time,
7 so I feel we should have that stated with a letter to the
8 Federal Subsistence Board and I make a motion to state
9 that in a letter and have it incorporated into our annual
10 report.

11
12 CHAIRMAN SAM: Is that a motion?

13
14 MR. REAKOFF: That's a motion.

15
16 CHAIRMAN SAM: Is there a second that we
17 pursue this through the annual report?

18
19 MR. STICKMAN: Ron, I'll second the
20 motion, but I'm kind of stuck here too because I'm
21 sitting on the Council here and I was just looking at the
22 lawsuit here and Alaska Intertribal Council is one of the
23 plaintiffs in this lawsuit. I wonder if my participation
24 here would be a conflict of interest because I sit on the
25 executive council.

26
27 CHAIRMAN SAM: Vince. I wouldn't think
28 so, but then I am prejudiced too.

29
30 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman. If I
31 understand the motion, the motion is the fact that the
32 corporation lands that were selected by the villages and
33 most likely for subsistence uses, there seems to be a
34 hardship when there's a different season there that may
35 not match their pattern. That's not relating to the
36 lawsuit. The lawsuit is addressing that, but the motion
37 is not to the lawsuit, so I don't see how if you are on
38 the executive board of Alaska Intertribal Council this
39 would be a conflict of interest.

40
41 You're flagging something that I think
42 we, as Staff, have been flagging as informational, not as
43 a concern, over years, saying if you -- 21(E) comes to
44 mind. If you have this, it's only going to apply to
45 these lands, not ones right next to your village. We
46 always advised you all along. Now it's come to a point
47 that you guys see that difference as a real problem. So
48 I don't see it as a conflict of interest. I'm not an
49 attorney on conflict of interest with lawsuits, but I
50 don't see a thread that's connecting it other than it

1 followed the discussion of the lawsuit.

2

3 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Vince.
4 Everybody clear on this motion or do you want more
5 clarification from Jack? Jack.

6

7 MR. REAKOFF: I think my intent is fairly
8 clear in that this is an issue that the Board should be
9 aware of and should respond to the Council on that issue.

10

11 CHAIRMAN SAM: So this motion just pushes
12 a letter to Federal Subsistence Board addressing this
13 issue.

14

15 MR. REAKOFF: Right.

16

17 CHAIRMAN SAM: Any further questions on
18 the motion.

19

20 MR. STICKMAN: We just want to make sure
21 it's in the annual report, too.

22

23 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yes. That's one of the
24 ways that we do address our concerns to the Federal
25 Subsistence Board, is the annual report. Any further
26 questions on the motion.

27

28 MR. WALKER: Question.

29

30 CHAIRMAN SAM: Question has been called
31 for. All those in favor of the motion signify by saying
32 aye.

33

34 IN UNISON: Aye.

35

36 CHAIRMAN SAM: Opposed same sign.

37

38 (No opposing votes)

39

40 CHAIRMAN SAM: Motion carried. At this
41 time I would like to again thank the Office of
42 Subsistence Management Staff for granting my request for
43 a seven-day extension of the moose season last fall. That
44 was granted under the Office of Subsistence Management
45 under the Federal system. The State did not grant us
46 that, but we did have the opportunity to hunt within the
47 Kanuti Wildlife Refuge. Again, that didn't get us
48 nowhere. There was no way in heck we could get up the
49 Kanuti River, Henshaw River or any other land that is
50 encompassed by the Kanuti Wildlife Refuge. So request

1 granted. Moose harvested, probably none. That's how bad
2 last fall was.

3
4 So, at this time, coffee break? Oh, one
5 more. Robert.

6
7 MR. WALKER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
8 Down on Page 84 on predation, is this the latest update
9 that we have, is 1991, or do we have any new updates on
10 this?

11
12 MR. RIVARD: Mr. Chair. I want to see if
13 maybe the State biologist or the refuge has more
14 information on that.

15
16 CHAIRMAN SAM: Glenn.

17
18 MR. STOUT: I was just talking with Mike
19 Spindler and the answer is no. That's the most recent
20 information we have on calf mortality for this area.

21
22 MR. WALKER: Ron.

23
24 CHAIRMAN SAM: Go ahead, Robert.

25
26 MR. WALKER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
27 When are you going to plan to update this to 2004, 2005?
28 Do you have any time schedule or are you looking to do
29 this or are you interested in doing this or you're not
30 going to do this?

31
32 MR. STOUT: Mr. Chair, Member Walker. I
33 would love to do it. I would love to have the money to
34 do another calf mortality study, but funding is a real
35 issue. It's a pretty extensive project to get off the
36 ground. Maybe with representative pressure we can get
37 the State or the Federal government to come up with the
38 money to support a research project like that. I think
39 it would be real valuable.

40
41 I should kind of modify what I said
42 earlier about in this area. That area that that was done
43 for was not even in Unit 24, which the proposal is
44 dealing about. That was down by Three Day Slough in
45 21(D). We just don't have that kind of information up
46 here and we don't have funding for it at this time.

47
48 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Glenn. Robert,
49 you had more.

50

1 MR. WALKER: Yes. In order to do
2 proposals and updates and have the hunting periods and
3 everything, it's always nice to know the updates as soon
4 as you can for other various reasons, people who come in
5 here and want to do surveys. We had a survey done on
6 Unit 21. All the agencies got together and did a survey
7 and also a mortality rate with our biologist in McGrath.

8
9 Thank you.

10
11 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Robert. How
12 can we address this issue? By asking for more funding or
13 a motion to ask for more funding to conduct a newer calf
14 mortality study?

15
16 MR. MATHEWS: The mechanism used before
17 and I don't want to burden the annual report, but the way
18 you've done that before is through the annual report.
19 You're flagging to the Board, who you respond to, that
20 there needs to be appropriate biological studies for the
21 area in order for you and the various boards to do their
22 work. Beyond that there's no WIS, like there's FIS.
23 There is no mechanism and that's come up several times
24 today. There is no centralized research funding for
25 wildlife. It's per agency and pressure that you place on
26 those agencies through your actions here and to the
27 Federal Subsistence Board that does that. We've already
28 talked about the 809 agreements, but that's a whole
29 different mechanism that has its own requirements. The
30 best thing would be to add it to your annual report.

31
32 CHAIRMAN SAM: I think I totally agree
33 with Vince because when we do submit our annual report we
34 get an answer in detail. They break down every action
35 they take and they tell us why they take such actions, so
36 I would like to see this addressed to the annual report.
37 Jack.

38
39
40 MR. REAKOFF: Mr. Chairman. I would like
41 to see the Koyukuk, Nowitna Refuges and the Kanuti Refuge
42 address this issue. This is within the Koyukuk drainage
43 and those are the appropriate agency and conservation
44 units to address this predator/calf mortality question
45 that we have. So I would like to see that be addressed
46 in our annual report, but primarily under the directive
47 to those agencies to produce that data.

48
49 CHAIRMAN SAM: Consensus of the Council.
50

1 (Council nods affirmatively)
2
3 CHAIRMAN SAM: Everybody is nodding their
4 head. Did you get that, Vince?
5
6 MR. MATHEWS: Yes.
7
8 CHAIRMAN SAM: We have one more proposal
9 or do you want to take a break?
10
11 MR. REAKOFF: Let's take a break.
12
13 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay, a 10-minute break.
14
15 (Off record)
16
17 (On record)
18
19 CHAIRMAN SAM: At this time I'd like to
20 call the meeting back to order. The next order of
21 business is Proposal 17. Don Rivard.
22
23 MR. RIVARD: Thank you, Mr. Chair. The
24 analysis for Proposal 17 starts on Page 92 in your
25 Council book. This proposal was submitted by the
26 Northwest Arctic Regional Subsistence Advisory Council
27 and because your region also has some customary and
28 traditional use determination for Unit 23, it's coming
29 before your Council as well.
30
31 This requests that the Federal season for
32 brown bear in Unit 23 be lengthened and that the permit
33 requirement be removed. The proponent requests that the
34 harvest season for brown bear be changed because numerous
35 reports from the public, commercial operators and ADF&G
36 Staff suggest brown bears are currently abundant
37 throughout Unit 23. The proposed change would provide
38 subsistence users additional opportunity to harvest brown
39 bears and make State and Federal brown bear regulations
40 consistent in Unit 23, thus reducing regulatory
41 complexity.
42
43 The proposed Federal regulation is found
44 on Page 92 as well in your book there, right in the
45 middle of the page. You can see it basically combines
46 Unit 23. There's no longer a remainder under this
47 proposed regulation and all the seasons for brown bear
48 would be the same, August 1 through May 31.
49
50 Customary and traditional use

1 determinations. All rural residents of Units 21 and 23
2 have a customary and traditional use determination for
3 brown bear in Unit 23.

4
5 This proposal is similar to WP04-77 that
6 was before you last year that liberalized brown bear
7 harvest for many of the interior Units 19-21, 24 and 25
8 in 2004.

9
10 In Unit 23, the only brown bear
11 population census was completed in 1987. There have been
12 no recent censuses and there is no quantitative data to
13 indicate population trend. However, residents of Unit 23
14 point out that brown bear numbers have increased since at
15 least the 1940s and 1950s. Several developments have
16 most likely contributed to this trend. Moose, caribou
17 and muskox numbers in Unit 23 have, in general, increased
18 since the 1950s, providing a stable prey base for large
19 predators. In addition, the presence of these ungulates
20 substantially reduced the subsistence harvest of brown
21 bears.

22
23 The reported harvest of 73 bears from
24 Unit 23 in 2000-2001 year was the highest reported
25 harvest since the ADF&G began collecting harvest
26 information in 1961 and '62. This can be seen on Table 1
27 on Page 95. In the 2001-2002, the reported harvest was
28 50. The reported brown bear harvest taken under the
29 subsistence registration permit hunt has been relatively
30 low as can be seen also on Table 1.

31
32 On Page 96 on Table 2, you'll see that
33 community harvest estimates suggest villages within Unit
34 23 take relatively few brown bears for subsistence. More
35 brown bears are reported taken in the Noatak drainage
36 than in any other drainages. This is partly because
37 guides and residents of Kotzebue have historically
38 focused their efforts in the Noatak River drainage where
39 brown bears are abundant and easier to hunt than in the
40 more densely forested Kobuk and Selawik River drainages.

41
42
43 Since 1998 brown bear harvests have
44 increased in the Kobuk drainage and during 2000-2001 were
45 higher in the Selawik drainage than previously recorded.
46 The high harvest of 2000-2001 resulted from peak harvests
47 simultaneously coming from the Noatak, Kobuk and Selawik
48 drainages.

49
50 The effects of the proposal. The

1 adoption of the proposed season dates would meet the
2 proponent's intent to align State and Federal brown bear
3 regulations. If adopted, additional harvest of bears is
4 not likely in most of Unit 23, since currently under
5 State regulations individuals may already harvest one
6 bear between August 1 and May 31 by registration permit
7 every regulatory year.

8
9 This regulatory change would have the
10 greatest impact in Gates of the Arctic National Park,
11 Kobuk Valley National Park and Cape Krusenstern National
12 Monument, where State hunting regulations do not apply.
13 This additional opportunity in the National Park Service
14 lands may slightly increase bear harvests within their
15 boundaries, but it is not likely to have much, if any,
16 impact on the overall bear population for Unit 23, with
17 the current subsistence harvest being low.

18
19 Currently, the bear population is
20 considered to be stable to increasing and this proposal
21 should have little effect on the overall population. The
22 number of hunters eligible to hunt within the affected
23 National Park Service lands is also limited by existing
24 National Park Service eligibility regulations, which you
25 can see on Page 97, Table 3, which should also limit any
26 increase in harvest.

27
28 The proposed regulation does not provide
29 for a harvest reporting mechanism. Maintaining the
30 current reporting requirement would be prudent.
31 Currently, there is no sealing requirement for bear hides
32 and skulls that stay within the unit. Therefore, if the
33 permit requirement were dropped, there would be no way to
34 track Federal subsistence brown bear harvest. Without
35 these data, there would be no way to determine the
36 subsistence users' needs or the number of bears
37 harvested, which could lead to future conservation
38 concerns.

39
40 With that, the preliminary conclusion is
41 to support with modification to maintain the reporting
42 requirement. The modified proposed regulation is there
43 on Page 97.

44
45 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

46
47 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Don. Just for
48 clarification, this overlapping proposal, I was wondering
49 what that meant when it only dealt with Unit 23. Go
50 ahead, Don.

1 MR. RIVARD: It's because all rural
2 residents of Unit 21 also have a positive C&T use
3 determination for brown bear in Unit 23, so it does
4 affect some users in your region.

5
6 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thanks for that
7 clarification. Glenn Stout, did you have anything to
8 add, ADF&G.

9
10 MR. STOUT: Thank you, Mr. Chair. The
11 Department's recommendation is to support as modified in
12 the preliminary conclusion. The Department Staff worked
13 with the Northwest Arctic Regional Advisory Council in
14 drafting this proposal, which would provide additional
15 opportunity for Federally-qualified subsistence users and
16 more closely align the State and Federal brown bear
17 hunting season dates in Unit 23. Retaining the State
18 registration permit requirement is important for ensuring
19 that harvests continue to be monitored and for
20 maintaining consistency in State and Federal reporting
21 requirements.

22
23 Thank you.

24
25 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Glenn. Federal
26 agencies. Vince, did you have something.

27
28 MR. MATHEWS: When it comes up to
29 Regional Councils, the Northwest has taken action on it
30 when it comes up.

31
32 CHAIRMAN SAM: Go ahead, Don.

33
34 MR. HONEA: I just had a question. What
35 was the State's position? Did they oppose that or were
36 they for it?

37
38 CHAIRMAN SAM: Go ahead, Glenn. I think
39 it's on Page 98.

40
41 MR. STOUT: Once again, the State's
42 recommendation was to support as modified in the
43 preliminary.

44
45 MR. HONEA: Thank you.

46
47 CHAIRMAN SAM: Native, tribal, villages.

48
49 (No comments)

50

1 CHAIRMAN SAM: Interagency.
2
3 (No comments)
4
5 CHAIRMAN SAM: Advisory groups. Go
6 ahead.
7
8 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman. During break
9 I received a call from Anchorage that the Northwest
10 Arctic Regional Advisory Council took up Proposal 17 and
11 they supported the proposal as modified in the
12 preliminary conclusion. Now, they're still in session,
13 but I highly doubt they would reverse their decision.
14
15 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thanks for that update.
16 Local fish and game advisory committees.
17
18 (No comments)
19
20 CHAIRMAN SAM: National Parks.
21
22 (No comments)
23
24 CHAIRMAN SAM: Written comments.
25
26 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, there were no
27 written comments submitted on this.
28
29 CHAIRMAN SAM: Public testimony. I see
30 Stanley Ned.
31
32 MR. NED: I'm not going to speak on that
33 proposal itself, but is there a way you can get out this
34 information to the people before the meeting starts?
35 Because the things that you're talking about right now
36 are all new to these people, you know, and they don't
37 really have time to look at it and decipher it. You
38 might give them more time if you send it in.
39
40 CHAIRMAN SAM: We've given months and
41 months of notice and every tribal office gets every
42 action we take. They get a summary of every action we
43 take.
44
45 MR. NED: The minutes and all?
46
47 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yes. I have a standing
48 order with Vince that he send out a written summary of
49 every meeting, every action, everything we do to all the
50 village councils.

1 MR. NED: Okay. Thank you.

2

3 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you for that
4 concern. I know that some of our councils don't try to
5 decipher either because a lot of that stuff that they
6 sent out to Alatna Tribal Council just goes right back in
7 my box. Any further public testimony. Vince.

8

9 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman. To Stan, we
10 do provide a copy of the proposal book. If the group
11 you're working with or others want a copy of the
12 analysis, I think that's what he's talking about, this
13 book here, we don't send this book out to everybody in
14 the area. We send out the proposals, but not the
15 analysis. If your entity wants to get the proposal book,
16 we can work on that, the analysis, the meeting book. I
17 think that's what Stan was getting at.

18

19 CHAIRMAN SAM: Go ahead, Stan. Do you
20 have further questions?

21

22 MR. NED: Maybe it would be better if you
23 send that information to the host village ahead of time
24 with the analysis on there so we can have a look at it
25 before the meeting so we can be more informed of what's
26 going on in there.

27

28 MR. MATHEWS: If that's the wishes of the
29 Council, that's direction that I need and the Office
30 needs. We do not send these books to every tribal
31 council.

32

33 CHAIRMAN SAM: Jack.

34

35 MR. REAKOFF: I think Stanley is right,
36 sending it to the host village so the people who are
37 there can make comments and stay on the same sheet of
38 music with us, so I would like the host village to get
39 multiple copies to pass around.

40

41 CHAIRMAN SAM: I think that makes total
42 sense. Is that more satisfactory, Stanley, that the host
43 village get these things?

44

45 MR. NED: Yes.

46

47 CHAIRMAN SAM: Is that understood, Vince?

48

49 MR. MATHEWS: That will help
50 tremendously. It is a policy question and we now have

1 direction from you on providing the meeting books to the
2 tribal councils. I will consult with Tom Kron on the
3 possibilities of doing that, but we'll work on that and
4 get back to you probably saying, yes, we can do that.

5
6 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thanks, Vince. Regional
7 Council, their motions.

8
9 (No comments)

10
11 CHAIRMAN SAM: Jack.

12
13 MR. REAKOFF: Mr. Chairman, I make a
14 motion to adopt this proposal WP05-17 as modified by
15 Staff.

16
17 CHAIRMAN SAM: Is there a second.

18
19 MR. MORGAN: Second.

20
21 CHAIRMAN SAM: Second by Carl Morgan.
22 Further Council deliberations. Jack.

23
24 MR. REAKOFF: Mr. Chairman. I favor this
25 proposal. I feel that giving people additional
26 opportunity to harvest bears in Unit 23 is reasonable and
27 I'll vote in favor of this proposal.

28
29 MR. WALKER: Mr. Chairman.

30
31 CHAIRMAN SAM: Robert.

32
33 MR. WALKER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
34 I'm looking at Page 95 here on how many bears were taken
35 over the last eight years and it doesn't show the year
36 2003-2004, but it shows that 291 bears have been killed
37 in eight years. Going back here, what I was reading
38 here, this unit can't withstand more hunting pressure. I
39 mean 291 bears in eight years and that's not counting the
40 last two years. I'd say that's close to 300 bears in the
41 last 10 years. That's an average of 30 bears a year.
42 That's a lot of bears.

43
44 That's my question here. Thank you, Mr.
45 Chairman.

46
47 MR. COLLINS: Mr. Chairman.

48
49 CHAIRMAN SAM: Ray.
50

1 MR. COLLINS: I think it's important to
2 note though that this proposal is aimed at subsistence
3 and subsistence hasn't taken a very large percentage of
4 that and I think they should be given an equal
5 opportunity. The other thing I like about it is most of
6 the subsistence hunting for bears is opportunistic when
7 they're out hunting moose or something else. So to have
8 an opportunity to do it during that time I think is
9 critical.

10
11 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Ray. Any
12 further deliberation.

13
14 MR. REAKOFF: Mr. Chairman.

15
16 CHAIRMAN SAM: Jack.

17
18 MR. REAKOFF: I'm on the Gates of the
19 Arctic Subsistence Resource Commission and people from
20 the Kobuk drainage have been telling us that there's a
21 lot more brown bears and they have been voicing that
22 concern about the number of bears, so this goes along
23 with additional harvest opportunity.

24
25 CHAIRMAN SAM: Any further deliberation,
26 Council. If not, all those in favor of Proposal WP05-17
27 as modified signify by saying aye.

28
29 IN UNISON: Aye.

30
31 CHAIRMAN SAM: Opposed same sign.

32
33 (No opposing votes)

34
35 CHAIRMAN SAM: Motion carried. I have a
36 couple announcements to make. I went over to the tribal
37 office. The cooks said they will be serving dinner at
38 5:30, so we'll have to break at 5:00 to break down our
39 recording procedures.

40
41 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, that brings
42 us up to the wildlife issues. We're going to need a
43 minute or two to focus the projector over there. The
44 Bureau of Land Management is going to give you an update
45 on 2004 wildfires and potential impacts and then you're
46 going to move into fishery topics.

47
48 CHAIRMAN SAM: Who is presenting this?

49
50 MR. MATHEWS: That will be Tim Craig with

1 BLM.

2

3 CHAIRMAN SAM: While we're waiting, I
4 just wanted to tell you we'll start about 6:30 so you can
5 pass the word around to local people that we will come
6 back to Proposal 12 and 13, antlerless moose season
7 around Alatna, northern tributaries of the Koyukuk and
8 then we'll go into special action for moose season.

9

10 (Pause)

11

12 MR. CRAIG: Mr. Chairman, Council
13 members, thanks a lot for your patience there. I haven't
14 had great experience with PowerPoint either. First of
15 all, I want to say that this is an edited presentation
16 that was given at the Eastern Interior RAC and it's
17 probably not going to produce a whole lot new about fire
18 effects on wildlife. With your experience, you probably
19 know most of the things I'm going to talk about. It's
20 more to alert you to the fact that there's an Interagency
21 team that came to Alaska to evaluate the fires in 2004
22 and they'll be back in 2005.

23

24 Just to begin with, I thought I would
25 show a fire history map of the entire state of Alaska and
26 I think it's pretty interesting to note that as soon as
27 you pass north of the Alaska Range but before you get
28 into the Brooks Range the fire history of Alaska you can
29 see how active it's been in the last 50 years. You can
30 kind of see in the handout probably better than even the
31 slide the colors that indicate the years when the fires
32 occurred and the message here really is that this habitat
33 type kind of known collectively at least in the interior
34 portion of Alaska, the boreal forest is a fire-dependant
35 ecosystem.

36

37 Notice in particular, however, all the
38 red lines here are the fires that occurred last year.
39 It's no mystery that it was an unusual fire year, both in
40 intensity and the number of fires.

41

42 I thought this was an interesting slide
43 just to give you an idea to put it in perspective. The
44 red dots are the actual fire size in proportion to states
45 in the Lower 48. These are the fires that just occurred
46 in Interior Alaska in 2004. If you kind of pushed them
47 all together here essentially the state of Ohio would
48 have burned up in 2004 if they had the same fire activity
49 that we had.

50

1 I took out the Eastern Interior fires
2 that were in the other presentation and put in fires that
3 were closer to home here. I missed one, the Lake Tote
4 fire, still another one, the Lake Todatonten fire. These
5 are the estimated fire sizes. You can see almost a
6 million acres have burned right here in the Western
7 Interior region and you can see some of the bigger fires
8 are right here in kind of your back yard.

9
10 I thought you might also be interested to
11 see some fire perimeter maps. Again, these are
12 preliminary. They're not the final maps. If you can see
13 there in your handout we've color coded them by the fire
14 severity. That is how hot did they burn. Red being
15 high, down to green would be very low or unburned. So
16 most of the fires that we've seen biologist kind of like
17 to see in fires. They produce a mosaic pattern of burned
18 and unburned, lightly burned. This one in particular,
19 this is the Fort Hamlin Hills fire down at the Yukon
20 crossing. Here's the Yukon River. And here's the Dall
21 City fire that burned right along the Dalton Highway.
22 Allakaket's over in here. The Brooks Range is up here to
23 the north. There's very little high burn severity in
24 this fire.

25
26 This is a picture of the Evansville fire
27 just north of where we are now and to the east of
28 Evansville/Bettles. You'll see there's a little more
29 severely burned country in here, but again it's mainly
30 moderate to light burn severity, lots of inclusions of
31 unburned habitat, probably a pretty good mosaic for
32 wildlife.

33
34 The main thing that I wanted to alert you
35 to is this interagency BAER Team. It stands for Burned
36 Area Emergency Response Team. It's a team that was
37 formulated in the Lower 48 in response to these real
38 extreme fire years you've been hearing about for the last
39 almost decade now. They kind of swoop into an area when
40 there's a big fire area and they try to evaluate the
41 needs of the local area in response to those fires. It's
42 changed in composition somewhat because when you come to
43 Alaska everything is a little different.

44
45 The objectives of this BAER Team
46 immediately are emergency stabilization and they evaluate
47 these fires for threats to human life, safety and
48 property, threats to critical cultural and natural
49 resources, look for things that need to be stabilized
50 promptly to prevent further degradation and to mitigate

1 fire suppression damages.

2

3

4 That's the first part of their mission.
5 The second part is to evaluate if any resources need to
6 be rehabilitated. That is, to repair lands that are
7 unlikely to recover naturally and to restore or establish
8 healthy and stable ecosystems. So those are the two
9 objectives. First, emergency stabilization and then
10 later rehabilitation.

11

12

13 So where are we in this process. This
14 past fall the BAER Team went to these villages in
15 Interior and Eastern Alaska and canvassed folks for
16 opinions and issues that they saw associated with the
17 fires. They've come out with a preliminary report and
18 then this next June they'll be back and will reconstitute
19 this team and they'll revisit some of these villages and
20 they are open to invitations from other villages who
21 might be interested in having them come there and have
22 meetings.

23

24

25 Of course, the ones that will be closer
26 to the Western Interior will be Bettles, here and Venetie
27 is in the Eastern Interior but it's close by here. If
28 there is any interest in having these people come to
29 other villages, I'll have an address, a name, a telephone
30 number at the end of this presentation where you can
31 reach the people and request their presence.

32

33

34 I do have a few slides here of some
35 things they came up with from their evaluation. Again, I
36 don't think it's going to be anything new to you living
37 in the boreal forest, but things they found out from
38 their local canvassing of local hunters from these
39 villages was the feeling that moose population abundance
40 or distribution was unlikely to be disturbed for more
41 than a short period by these fires. Browse quality for
42 moose will probably improve over the decades following
43 the fire. Winter movements, however, of caribou and
44 their distribution could change depending on the extent
45 of lichen browse affected by fires. Then one of the
46 concerns they had was historic trails would be difficult
47 to navigate because of the increased downfall from the
48 fires.

49

50

51 Taken with the local knowledge and their
52 discussions with specialists in Alaska, the BAER Team
53 decided the effects on wildlife are some things we
54 already know, like the boreal forest is a fire-dependent
55 ecosystem. Severely burned areas with exposed soil do

1 have the potential for substantial changes in vegetation
2 types. Places where there was low or moderate burn
3 severities typically come back in the same vegetation
4 type that they had prior to the fire. They expect that
5 the abundance of moose has been found to be positively
6 related to fires that were 11 to 30 years old. In other
7 words, moose sought out those areas in their habitat
8 selection. And they generally were benefiting not from
9 an increase in quality of forage but in the quantity of
10 forage produced in the herbaceous growth and shrubs.

11
12 There was some feeling that predators may
13 be hampered by downfall debris in some of those burned
14 areas. There was the acknowledgement that the winter
15 distribution and movement of caribou may change following
16 any fires where lichen was burned, such as in the Dall
17 City fire. However, the habitat quality in summer range
18 or alternate winter forage may compensate for the reduced
19 lichen availability. One concern was that small relic
20 caribou herds, the Wolf Creek for example, could be
21 adversely affected by any fires that burned over their
22 habitat where their habitat is more limited than these
23 larger migrating herds. Nonetheless, it was acknowledged
24 that period burning of lichen is necessary to maintain
25 healthy lichen for forage for caribou.

26
27 The first finding mentioned was that you
28 can have essentially almost habitat-type changes where
29 you had severely burned area. But if you'll remember the
30 first few maps, very little of the area of these fires of
31 the interior were severely burned. Less than about five
32 percent. So we don't expect there to be a big change in
33 habitats available to wildlife as a result of the fires
34 in the long term.

35
36 Again, Interior Alaska is made up of
37 fire-adapted habitats. These fires kill the standing
38 vegetation, obviously, and set those habitats back to an
39 earlier serial stage. The result is that the herbaceous
40 and tussock tundra habitats may come back within a year
41 or two and I think probably you've seen that. I know
42 that I personally saw that by September there were
43 tussocks coming back through the black and were sprouting
44 green already.

45
46 The shrub habitats return back to the
47 places burned off within just a few years. The deciduous
48 forests, that's the leafy trees, should return within a
49 few decades. Of course, the slowest to respond are
50 lichens, up to decades and some people have even said

1 almost up to 50 years before lichens can completely
2 revegetate sites.

3
4 Some of the other findings that may be
5 more important, we have yet to see it, are changes in the
6 soil thermal chemistry of any of these burned area. You
7 know, the active layer is that area that thaws and
8 freezes annually above the permafrost and there's a
9 chance that as these severely burned areas no longer have
10 insulating vegetation over them that that active layer
11 may increase in thickness or it may actually eliminate
12 the permafrost. If that happens, then there could be
13 permanent changes in soil drainage.

14
15 Hydrologic response would be different.
16 There would be these thermokarst pits, you know, where
17 the ground actually recedes, and mudslides in drainages
18 slumping. All of these could result in permanent changes
19 in some of the plant communities. Again, these are
20 things we're going to have to watch out for over time.

21
22 The 2004 findings. When they flew these
23 fires, they found no need to do any emergency
24 stabilization in any of the watersheds and these are the
25 fires that they actually flew and looked, including ones
26 that are close to home here, the North Dag fire and the
27 Fort Hamlin Hills fire.

28
29 Recommendations they did come up with was
30 they suggested clearing sections of the Tanana-Allakaket
31 trail. I noticed tripods out here. I think that's going
32 to be undergoing pretty quick with some funding from DOT.
33 Then also clearing some of these other winter trails that
34 the trees have kind of tipped over on the trails and made
35 them hard to be passable.

36
37 Closing comments. The BAER Team worked
38 in fall 2004 on initial field assessment and village
39 meetings focused on emergency stabilization. The
40 implementation Team will reconvene in a couple months, in
41 June 2005, for additional field assessment and village
42 meetings focused on ongoing rehabilitation for the next
43 two years. During that time they'll complete assessment
44 of North Dag fire, which hasn't been done yet.

45
46 If you're interested in having a
47 presentation or having an opportunity to talk to these
48 people on the BAER Team, I've passed around a preliminary
49 scoping assessment sheet. You can fill it in. Down at
50 the bottom is Jeanne Standley's telephone number in

1 Anchorage in the BLM office and along with her address.
2 Just feel free to make comments and notify her of your
3 interest of the goings on of this BAER Team.

4
5 That's really all I have. I would
6 attempt to answer any questions that you might have.

7
8 MR. REAKOFF: Mr. Chairman.

9
10 CHAIRMAN SAM: Jack.

11
12 MR. REAKOFF: Why was the recommendation
13 to clear these trails? What does that have to do with
14 fires?

15
16 MR. CRAIG: The only place that those
17 funds can be used are repair, replace, construct physical
18 improvements necessary to prevent degradation of land or
19 resources and I think it's under that heading that
20 they're able to go into those historic trails where the
21 fires have burned the roots out of the trees and the
22 trees have tipped over and made them impassable. So,
23 anywhere those fires have gone through historic trails
24 and there have been requests, there has been an okay to
25 go ahead and clear some of those trails out.

26
27 CHAIRMAN SAM: Any further questions.
28 Robert.

29
30 MR. WALKER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
31 Between Shageluk and Anvik there was a fire in 1969. It
32 really burned hot and severe. Now a lot of the lakes are
33 filling in, they're grown over, they have grass on them,
34 that used to be lakes where people trapped beaver and
35 these are kind of like disappearing. Is there some kind
36 of explanation for that?

37
38 MR. CRAIG: Mr. Chairman, Mr. Walker.
39 I'm not a hydrologist. I probably can't answer that very
40 well. I think one of the big concerns here is that as
41 the climate appears to be warming and where these fires
42 have severely burned, there is no longer that insulating
43 property of the vegetation and the permafrost can be
44 completely melted out and we would end up with
45 thermokarsting, this slumping of the land in drainages,
46 which increase erosion. I think that's the main thing
47 they were concerned about. Does that answer your
48 question?

49
50 MR. WALKER: Yes, I think it did because

1 it's all grown over and you can walk on top of it. It's
2 pretty solid.

3
4 CHAIRMAN SAM: Any further questions for
5 Tim.

6
7 (No comments)

8
9 CHAIRMAN SAM: If not, thank you.

10
11 MR. CRAIG: Thank you.

12
13 CHAIRMAN SAM: This brings us up to our
14 Wednesday agenda. Polly.

15
16 DR. WHEELER: Thank you, Mr. Chair. For
17 the record, my name is Polly Wheeler. I'm with the
18 Office of Subsistence Management. I'm going to talk with
19 you about a few items this afternoon. The first is a
20 short update on the information needs and strategic
21 planning efforts that Fisheries Information Services is
22 involved in. Then I will give you a very brief status
23 update on the Yukon River Monitoring Program and then on
24 the Kuskokwim River Monitoring Program. Then Randy Brown
25 is here to give you a PowerPoint on the Radio Telemetry
26 Whitefish Project that he's been working on with some
27 other folks. So I will try to keep my part as brief as
28 possible so that Randy can provide you with stuff that is
29 probably in some ways more interesting to you as well as
30 the general audience.

31
32 Mr. Chair, before I go into the Yukon and
33 the Kuskokwim specifically, and I remind you that I talk
34 about the Kuskokwim Monitoring Program because this
35 Council does deal with both the Yukon River issues but
36 also the area in the middle and upper Kuskokwim.

37
38 About a year ago the Fisheries
39 Information Services began a strategic planning effort to
40 make sure that the money collected at fisheries research
41 are directed at the highest priority issues around the
42 state. As you know, up until now we've had this list
43 that the Councils have come up with and we encourage you
44 at the fall meetings to revisit this list of issues.
45 There's been a concern on the part of some people that
46 maybe the projects being funded maybe aren't the highest
47 priority projects.

48
49 So we started this strategic planning
50 effort about a year ago in Southcentral and Bristol Bay

1 regions. We're about wrapping up those two regions right
2 now. We're figuring out now what other regions we're
3 going to look at. We're probably not going to be looking
4 immediately at either the Yukon or the Kuskokwim in part
5 because there's a couple of other efforts out there that
6 we're waiting on, having them wrap up before we start
7 getting into those.

8
9 One is the AYK Sustainable Salmon
10 Initiative, which is looking at salmon issue in the
11 Yukon, Kuskokwim and Arctic area. There's also the Yukon
12 River Joint Technical Committee that's coming up with a
13 planning effort. So we're kind of waiting until those
14 are settled or at least finalized before we engage in a
15 planning effort dealing with the Yukon and/or the
16 Kuskokwim. I will say that both of those efforts are
17 looking specifically at salmon and an important part of
18 the planning effort will be looking at non-salmon as
19 well.

20
21 Any questions on that? All right, Ron is
22 giving me the signal to move forward.

23
24 I will give one handout here to Don and
25 you can bring it home and call us if you have any
26 questions. It's an update on the Yukon River Fisheries
27 Monitoring Program. It gives you an overview of all the
28 projects that have been funded in the region since the
29 start of the program. Just to remind you of a couple
30 things we touched on this morning, the mission of the
31 monitoring program is to identify and provide information
32 needed to sustain subsistence fisheries for rural
33 Alaskans on Federal public lands. In short, the point of
34 the program is to do research that provides information
35 for Federal subsistence fisheries management. We're
36 entering the sixth year of the program right now.

37
38 Technical oversight and administration of
39 the monitoring program is provided by the FIS Staff. I'm
40 the anthropologist that works on fisheries issues,
41 research rather for your region. Cliff Schleusner is my
42 counterpart in the biological realm. To date, 67
43 projects have been funded in the Yukon region since we
44 started the program in 2000. The projects are a mixture
45 of stock status and trends projects and also harvest
46 monitoring and traditional ecological knowledge.

47
48 Just to give you an idea of the extent of
49 our program, we fund about 25 percent of the research
50 that's going on in the Yukon. Your effort, our effort is

1 funding some of the critical projects on non-salmon
2 species on the Yukon. We're funding about 60 percent of
3 the research on the Kuskokwim. So that gives you an
4 idea. This project is really critical in terms of
5 identifying and doing research on salmon and non-salmon
6 species on the Yukon. We're funding about 60 percent of
7 the research on the Kuskokwim.

8

9 In the handout you'll see that more than
10 half of the projects are completed. In most cases we
11 have reports. If you're interested in getting copies of
12 any of the reports that are completed, contact me and I
13 can get them to you. We've been involved to get the
14 final reports on the Web, but it's taking a little bit.

15

16 We have five new projects for the Yukon
17 that are going to be starting this summer. Yukon River
18 coho genetics, Anvik River sonar, Tanana fall chum salmon
19 mark recapture study, Henshaw Creek weir, and the Yukon
20 River in-season salmon harvest assessment. We just in
21 the past two months received proposals that are beginning
22 the process that will be before you a year from now.

23

24 That's sort of it, in a nutshell, Mr.
25 Chair and Council members, for the Yukon River. I can
26 certainly answer some questions specifically on any
27 projects if you have any or I can move into the
28 Kuskokwim.

29

30 CHAIRMAN SAM: When do we prioritize
31 these projects?

32

33 DR. WHEELER: Mr. Chair. At the fall
34 meeting is when we present the investigation plans to
35 you. That's at the fall meeting for your approval. I
36 will say that this year or the year that we're just
37 starting right now, that is for 2006, is a very low
38 funding year. We have the smallest amount of money
39 available since the start of the program in part because
40 of funding obligations to existing projects, so there's
41 about \$1.3 million available statewide. So there will be
42 a pretty small number of investigation plans likely that
43 will be before you at your fall meeting. Mr. Chair.

44

45 CHAIRMAN SAM: So even though you might
46 have low funding, we do have some ongoing ones that are
47 really important that they are continuing to fund?

48

49 DR. WHEELER: Oh, absolutely, Mr. Chair.
50 I'm sorry if I didn't make that clear. The monitoring

1 program funds projects for up to three years, so a lot of
2 these projects you'll notice that a lot of the projects
3 are maybe in their second year of funding or their third
4 year of funding. So we have a low amount of funding for
5 new projects this year, but there's a lot of ongoing
6 projects that are still in the water and we'll be
7 providing reports over time.

8

9 CHAIRMAN SAM: Any further questions for
10 Polly on the Yukon. Mickey.

11

12 MR. STICKMAN: On No. 5, the Yukon River
13 in-season salmon harvest assessment, is that going to be
14 like kings, summer chum, fall chum?

15

16 DR. WHEELER: We have one of the PI's in
17 the room, Geoff Beyersdorf. The point of that project is
18 that it's an in-season monitoring project, it's getting
19 subsistence harvest assessment in seven villages and I
20 believe it's through the duration of the season, is it
21 not?

22

23 MR. BEYERSDORF: Yes.

24

25 DR. WHEELER: Yes. I just read the
26 revised investigation plan a couple weeks ago. And part
27 of that program is to involve the resource information
28 technicians and to get them involved in the YRDFA
29 teleconferences. It's not a harvest assessment project,
30 it's a harvest monitoring project, so they're getting a
31 thumbnail sketch of what's going on with the subsistence
32 fishery in the community and they'll be reporting on the
33 YRDFA teleconferences.

34

35 CHAIRMAN SAM: Any further questions for
36 Polly.

37

38 MR. HONEA: Mr. Chair.

39

40 CHAIRMAN SAM: Go ahead, Don.

41

42 MR. HONEA: Yeah, Mr. Chair, I just had a
43 question for Polly. On these projects, who actually
44 comes up with the projects? Are they competitive or are
45 they just Federal grants? Say we in my particular village
46 wanted a project initiated around there for, say, some
47 kind of fish population, how do we -- I mean these aren't
48 put out to the public for competitive bid or are they?

49

50 DR. WHEELER: Mr. Chair, Member Honea.

1 Yes, actually, they are. In our training program this
2 morning I probably didn't spend maybe as much time as I
3 should have in talking about the whole process, but it is
4 a competitive bid process. The call for proposals is put
5 out in November and then people respond this year by
6 January 28. Then the proposals are evaluated both by
7 Staff and by a technical review committee that are
8 representatives from each of the five Federal agencies as
9 well as Fish and Game.

10

11 But to get back to your issue, and that's
12 where the Council really comes in in terms of the issues
13 that are identified that people are responding to,
14 because the call for proposals has a list of ideas that
15 go along with it. When we get to the strategic planning
16 process, that would be again where the Council comes in
17 in terms of identifying those high-priority issues.

18

19 Anybody can put in a project. Typically
20 it's been some of the agencies, but we have had some
21 private investigators and we really encourage
22 partnerships, so it's not just the agencies working by
23 themselves. It's the agencies working with the community
24 or a community organization, a regional organization,
25 that kind of thing.

26

27 One of the criteria that the projects are
28 evaluated on are their partnership and their capacity-
29 building components so that they have to have a strong
30 partnership component, a strong capacity-building
31 component in order to be considered for funding under the
32 program. Did that answer your question?

33

34 MR. HONEA: Yeah, thank you.

35

36 DR. WHEELER: Again, I encourage you, if
37 you have any questions and you're getting up to speed, by
38 all means contact us. That's what we're here for.

39

40 CHAIRMAN SAM: Any further questions on
41 the Yukon.

42

43 (No comments)

44

45 CHAIRMAN SAM: Kuskokwim.

46

47 DR. WHEELER: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I
48 have another handout for you just in case you don't have
49 enough paper to take home with you. This is the
50 Kuskokwim Region Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program.

1 Again, as I mentioned, I'm not going to
2 get into a project-by-project overview, but I would
3 encourage you to go through that handout when you get
4 home or whatever and if you are curious about a project,
5 if you want to find a report on something or you have a
6 question on something, by all means give us a call.

7
8 For the Kuskokwim, as I mentioned, the
9 project is funding about 60 percent of the fisheries
10 research going on right now in the Kuskokwim. Since the
11 start of the program we funded about 61 projects. Again,
12 they've been a mix of the stock status and trends
13 projects and the harvest monitoring and traditional
14 ecological knowledge projects. A number of them have
15 been completed, about half. There's a number that are
16 ongoing and there's eight that will be starting this
17 spring. We've received a number that are sort of
18 starting the process for 2006.

19
20 The take-home message here is that this
21 program is doing what it's intended to do, which is
22 address data gaps. The program is not intended to
23 duplicate existing efforts. It's intended to fund new
24 projects.

25
26 Just to give a little plug for the
27 traditional knowledge projects, Mr. Chair, because I know
28 that is something that this Council is interested in, I'd
29 say since the start of the program we've had mixed
30 successes in the TEK realm. We've had some really good
31 ideas, but, unfortunately, good ideas aren't always
32 enough to make a project successful. But I'm really
33 happy to report that in the last year we've been starting
34 to see some really great successes. A lot of them are
35 actually in this region.

36
37 We've been hearing for years that
38 traditional knowledge needs to be used in management.
39 It's an important source of information. It needs to be
40 used in management. How to get there has been tricky.
41 We've had some investigators that have wanted to just
42 kind of collect the information and that's that. I'm
43 trying to encourage investigators to not only collect it,
44 but to figure out ways that it can be presented so that
45 it can really be used in management so that it's another
46 tool that managers have in their toolbox. I'm really
47 happy with how efforts have been moving forward. We've
48 still got a ways to go, but we've really seen some
49 successes and I think it's in part because of the support
50 of the Councils that we're seeing these successes.

1 With that, Mr. Chair, I'd like to turn it
2 over to Randy Brown, who is one of our star
3 investigators. He's worked on a number of projects for
4 the Fisheries Monitoring Program. Randy always gets his
5 reports in on time and they're always incredibly
6 valuable. If any of you know me, I don't give out
7 compliments like that. And Randy is working on a unique
8 project in our program, which is sort of combining
9 Western science with traditional knowledge. Dave
10 Andersen and Stanley Ned are working on the traditional
11 knowledge component of this project and Randy is working
12 on the radio telemetry component, so I know he has a
13 PowerPoint presentation he wants to give you.

14

15 Mr. Chair.

16

17 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Polly. If I
18 remember right, we would really have to ask for these
19 projects on the Kuskokwim because the Yukon being the
20 Yukon, we have vast amount of partnering projects, is
21 that correct?

22

23 DR. WHEELER: Actually we've had some
24 good successes on the Kuskokwim. The projects have been
25 different in nature. We've had more emphasis on harvest
26 monitoring than on TEK and certainly we've got our fair
27 share of weirs on the Kuskokwim. Our program funds the
28 post-season survey work on the Kuskokwim, which is one of
29 the largest subsistence fisheries in the state, so we
30 really have an obligation to fund the harvest assessment
31 component and we've got a couple of unique projects
32 coming up starting up now.

33

34 One is on Nunivak Island, a TEK project
35 out there, and then we've got a project that we just
36 actually got for 2006 looking at non-salmon TEK and
37 harvest assessment on the Lower Kuskokwim. So the
38 projects are kind of different, but I wouldn't say we've
39 had a shortage of projects. Mr. Chair.

40

41 CHAIRMAN SAM: Further questions for
42 Polly on the Kuskokwim. Go ahead, Vince.

43

44 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman. While Randy
45 is getting up to the laptop and we try to get that to
46 work correctly again, we kind of jumped over one topic or
47 maybe Polly was going to handle it afterwards. We were
48 supposed to give you a presentation on the chinook salmon
49 age-sex-length report. I think Polly has a very short
50 update on it. That way it will be taken care of.

1 CHAIRMAN SAM: Go ahead.

2

3 DR. WHEELER: Mr. Chair, I'll do that
4 while Randy is getting the PowerPoint to work. I was
5 probably secretly trying to avoid this because it's
6 really an area that's outside of my expertise, but I will
7 give you as best I can an update on the ASL study.

8

9 The Eastern Interior Council, among
10 others, had asked for a study to look at age, sex and
11 length analysis on six escapement data sets consisting of
12 data collected from the Andraefsky, Anvik, Gisasa, Chena,
13 Salcha and Big Salmon Rivers. A draft report was
14 completed and was sent out for review in late January.
15 There were extensive comments received by way of review
16 and so rather than having a final report for you to
17 present to this meeting today, you have just an update.

18

19 A number of changes were suggested for
20 the final report and I'll run through them real quick.
21 The first change was the authors needed to clarify the
22 extent of the analysis completed on the proportion of
23 female chinook salmon.

24

25 They also need to further explore the use
26 of 900 millimeter length and above to define the largest
27 chinook salmon. That is, the gauge they were using for
28 large chinook salmon they need to explore further whether
29 that's valid.

30

31 They need to further clarify the
32 proportion of age, 1.4 and 1.5 chinook salmon. They
33 needed to look at the Andraefsky River and to partition
34 it into weir and carcass samples and then reanalyze the
35 data.

36

37 They needed to look at the use of
38 abundance estimates for the Andraefsky, Gisasa, Chena and
39 Salcha to expand ASL samples and trends.

40

41 They need to add a further discussion
42 about data quality. They need to add discussions of run
43 timing and varying harvest pressures as they relate to
44 specific stocks.

45

46 They need to include a greater discussion
47 of the literature relating to the analysis and they also
48 need to include a recommendations section.

49

50 So they have a little bit of work ahead

1 of them, but they do fully intend to give you a full
2 report at the fall meetings and they apologize, but the
3 nature of the data was a lot more questionable than they
4 had expected and it required more organization and
5 analysis than they expected. So they're not stalling,
6 they're just trying to do a good job.

7
8 Mr. Chair.

9
10 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Polly. Go
11 ahead, Randy.

12
13 MR. BROWN: Mr. Chairman, Members of the
14 Council. My name is Randy Brown and I'm a fish biologist
15 with the Fish and Wildlife Service. I appreciate the
16 compliments, Polly.

17
18 I've been working on a fisheries project
19 in the Upper Koyukuk River for a couple years now and the
20 Fisheries Information Service funded the radiotelemetry
21 part of the project and the Kanuti Refuge funded some
22 earlier work that we did and I'm going to tell you about
23 the whole business.

24
25 There's actually seven different kinds of
26 whitefish in the Yukon drainage. There's another one
27 related to the round whitefish that doesn't occur in this
28 area. It's kind of rare in some of the big lakes, called
29 a pygmy whitefish. Most of you are probably familiar
30 with the humpback whitefish and the broad whitefish, the
31 sheefish and the least cisco. Those are all real common
32 up here. The Bering cisco I'll talk about in a little
33 bit. The round whitefish are more in grayling habitat
34 and we really didn't focus on them at all in this
35 project.

36
37 I'd first like to acknowledge the
38 Fisheries Information Service and you folks at the
39 Western Interior Regional Advisory Council who reviewed
40 this project and gave your support to it to receive
41 funding and the Kanuti National Wildlife Refuge, Tanana
42 Chiefs Conference dedicated some personnel to the project
43 last year. Then there were a number of fishermen from
44 Allakaket who worked with Dave Andersen doing beach
45 seining up the Alatna River and also some others here,
46 Steve Bergman traded dog food for some fish samples last
47 winter. Anyway, I want to thank everybody very much for
48 helping out.

49
50 Usually with whitefish when we go into a

1 new place we don't even really know what kind of species
2 are there because local names are not the same as we may
3 know them by, so it's really important to get out and
4 actually understand what we're dealing with. It was
5 really funny, a fish biologist friend of mine was doing
6 some work on the Kuskokwim on this one lake where there
7 was a problem. He said, well, we're thinking of going in
8 and doing a population estimate. I said what kind of
9 fish are there. He says, well, I don't really know. I
10 said that would be a good thing to find out first.

11
12 So we came in to figure out what species
13 we had here and we sampled in a variety of places looking
14 for species composition and we took lengths and we got
15 ages from these, then we looked at the otoliths, the ear
16 bones, little stones in their brains and we can take
17 those and do chemical analysis and find out whether
18 they've been to sea, whether they're anadromous or not.
19 They get real different chemistry when they do go to sea
20 and that tells us a lot about their migrations. And then
21 we did some radiotelemetry work with fish this last year.
22 So I'll go through the whole business here.

23
24 You probably recognize the map of the
25 Upper Koyukuk with Bettles and Allakaket, the Alatna
26 River, the South Fork, the Kanuti River and the Kanuti
27 Refuge is in this red area right here. These red circles
28 are where we sampled in 2003 in a lot of the connected
29 lake systems. That was in the spring. In the fall time,
30 we sampled in the Koyukuk River down stream of Allakaket
31 and then Dave Andersen went with a couple beach seine
32 parties up into the Upper Alatna River to fish. So we
33 got samples of whitefish from all these places.

34
35 Essentially what we found were humpback
36 whitefish in reasonably large numbers everywhere. Broad
37 whitefish in the Alatna and in the Kanuti River.
38 Sheefish in the Koyukuk and Alatna. Least cisco
39 everywhere that we sampled. We didn't find a single
40 Bering cisco anywhere.

41
42 CHAIRMAN SAM: What's the difference
43 between Bering and least cisco?

44
45 MR. BROWN: I'll get to that in a minute,
46 Mr. Chairman.

47
48 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay.

49
50 MR. BROWN: In the TEK paper that David

1 Andersen and Caroline Brown put out recently on the non-
2 salmon fish in the Upper Koyukuk, they actually had some
3 Bering cisco listed. If there are Bering ciscos up here,
4 it would be neat to see because I haven't ever seen one
5 and no biologist I know has ever seen one up here.
6 They're not too easy to tell apart from the least cisco.
7 The biggest feature is that every fin down on the bottom
8 of the least cisco is dark and every fin in the lower jaw
9 on the Bering cisco are light and once you recognize
10 that, it should just jump out at you that these are
11 different fish.

12

13 Bering ciscos are entirely anadromous.
14 They go out to sea and they don't come back into
15 freshwater until they spawn and then they go away again
16 and they're not there at any other time. Least ciscos
17 have freshwater populations and don't go to sea
18 necessarily.

19

20 MR. WALKER: What part of the year do
21 they migrate out and migrate back?

22

23 MR. BROWN: The Bering ciscos leave the
24 freshwater when they're little tiny guys right at break-
25 up, so you never see them. We don't ever sample them in
26 freshwater until they're coming back to spawn. They're
27 present all the way along the Bering Sea coast from
28 Bristol Bay all the way up to Kotzebue Sound and north of
29 there and they're all coming back to the Yukon drainage
30 or the Kuskokwim drainage. Those are the only two
31 drainages that the adults come back to spawn in. As far
32 as we know in the Yukon, they only go up the mainstem,
33 they're not in the Tanana. We haven't ever found them in
34 the Koyukuk, although they have people reporting them.
35 If somebody finds one, stick it in the freezer and send
36 it to me. I'd love to see it.

37

38 MR. WALKER: We catch a lot of them in
39 the fall fishery.

40

41 MR. BROWN: Where?

42

43 MR. WALKER: In Anvik.

44

45 MR. BROWN: In Anvik, yes. They come up
46 the Yukon by the thousands and they go all the way up
47 past Fort Yukon in the Yukon.

48

49 So then we take lengths of these guys and
50 part of the length data is to let us know whether we're

1 dealing with adults or juveniles because you can tell a
2 spawning mature fish by their length and you see the
3 broad whitefish. We had 22 fish we had lengths on. We
4 have to measure things in centimeters as fish biologists,
5 but I put in the one-foot and the two-foot mark just so
6 those who aren't fluent in metric can see what's going
7 on. The broad whitefish are reasonably large and these
8 are all what you'd call spawning-size fish. They're
9 mature fish. The humpback whitefish are a little bit
10 smaller. We have 96 of those we have lengths on.
11 Really, about 35 centimeters, a little more than a foot,
12 is when they become spawning mature, so we have four
13 different fish that we would judge to be immatures out of
14 the humpback whitefish, even though our nets catch things
15 down to about 18 centimeters. There's no broad whitefish
16 down there. Just a few humpback whitefish. Most ciscos
17 get mature around 25 centimeters. So most of the fish we
18 caught were mature individuals and we'll get back to that
19 later.

20

21 So this is an otolith and they're right
22 underneath the brain in the head and they're calcium
23 carbonate, almost like a stone, and they start as like a
24 grain of sand in the middle and then each year they grow
25 a little more. We take a little slice out of the middle
26 of them and mount them on a slide and look at them under
27 a microscope and they have growth rings just like a tree
28 and they put on one every year. This is an otolith from
29 a really old sheefish, about 32 years old. So this is
30 how we get the ages of these fish.

31

32 This is four different graphs for the
33 four species that we looked at. The age is across the
34 horizontal axis here and like a 12-year-old would go all
35 the way up.

36

37 The frequency is the number of fish we
38 caught that were that age, so for least ciscos down here
39 we had about eight fish that were age two, maybe seven
40 fish age three, eight fish age four and so forth. Our
41 oldest least cisco was out at 17. This is pretty typical
42 ages for least cisco and they get mature somewhere around
43 two or three.

44

45 Humpback whitefish get mature somewhere
46 around five or six. I believe the six-year-olds were our
47 first major group of humpback whitefish. There were a
48 couple younger ones than that that were immatures. Broad
49 whitefish, we don't find them until six and our oldest
50 one is about 14. Sheefish also, they don't reach

1 spawning age until seven or eight and that's about the
2 youngest sheefish we had. The oldest sheefish was about
3 25 and the same with humpback whitefish.

4
5 Notice I've got these arrows over here.
6 What it's showing is we don't have any fish down in that
7 age range for these guys. Even though our nets would have
8 caught them, they're not here. This has always puzzled
9 people, biologists anyway, looking at them, where's the
10 juveniles, because they always figured these guys just
11 live here. We'll show you some data that indicates that
12 the juveniles aren't here, in fact.

13
14 When we looked at least cisco, we took
15 the whole group of least cisco that we had and we took 12
16 out of that group and we looked at the strontium
17 concentration. Strontium is a dissolved salt in the
18 ocean, extremely low concentration of freshwater, really
19 high concentration of marine water. When a fish goes
20 into marine water, they get these big spikes of strontium
21 in their otolith. So we've done testing with fish that
22 we know were in freshwater their whole lives, that lived
23 in lakes, and ones we know were in the sea because we
24 caught them there, to see where we put this line that
25 says below this they're freshwater fish and above that
26 they're saltwater fish. With the 12 least cisco we
27 looked at, two of them had been to the sea and 10 of them
28 had not.

29
30 We looked at 10 otoliths from sheefish
31 because they weren't around in the spring. They only
32 came in the fall. We had 10 fish we looked at and of
33 those 10, 9 of them had been to the sea. Only one had
34 stayed in freshwater. It doesn't mean it stayed in the
35 Upper Koyukuk, it means it just didn't go all the way out
36 to saltwater.

37
38 We looked at humpback whitefish and broad
39 whitefish next and essentially we found 11 had been to
40 sea and one that had not with each of those species. The
41 broad whitefish have tremendous concentrations of
42 strontium in their otoliths, which means they went
43 farther out in the saltwater. When we get back to our
44 age distribution, well, we don't find these young fish up
45 here and the reason for it is they're going to the ocean.
46 Once we know that, it makes sense that we don't see them
47 in this upper drainage. We're not going to search for
48 them up here anymore. They're out in the ocean.

49
50 Then we got to thinking what happens to

1 the adults. Obviously the adults come up, they spawn and
2 then where do they go? Back to the ocean? We don't
3 think so because we catch them under the ice and we catch
4 them early the next spring and in the fall time in their
5 not-spawning condition. It looks like they come back,
6 spawn, and then they just feed and live in the upper
7 drainage or a lot of them do anyway.

8
9 So we wanted to see where they migrate to
10 when they're up here. We went into the upper Kanuti
11 River and tagged them. This is a broad whitefish and you
12 can see this is the antenna from a transmitter that we
13 surgically implanted into the body cavity of this fish.
14 The fish, it's been our experience they heal up really
15 fast and they migrate all over. We don't have any that
16 die as far as we know as a result of surgery. We have
17 some that have ended up in eagle's nests, others on shore
18 one or two months later from a bear or an otter grabbing
19 it. It's a really effective way to look at their
20 migrations.

21
22 So we went into the Upper Kanuti River.
23 Our plan was the funding from FIS was that we were going
24 to go one year into the Upper Kanuti River and one year
25 into the South Fork. We went into the Upper Kanuti and
26 tagged 32 fish of humpback whitefish and least cisco and
27 we didn't catch enough broad whitefish, about 17 up
28 there. We're monitoring their seasonal movements. We
29 want to see where they go to spawn. My theory was they
30 were going to head over into the Alatna River. What they
31 did was spawn in two places. Some in the Upper Kanuti
32 River and a bunch went across starting in late August,
33 early September, they went out the Kanuti, up the Koyukuk
34 and in the Alatna and they went all the way up into this
35 area that folks around here know as a congregation area
36 in the fall.

37
38 This is a map I thought the local folks
39 would appreciate. These yellow diamonds are the places
40 where the radio-tagged fish were tracked to for fall
41 time. These were tagged in the Kanuti River, migrated
42 across the Koyukuk into the Alatna. These two red flags
43 are the places that Dave Andersen went with folks here to
44 go beach seining. It's a pretty specific place in the
45 Upper Alatna River that these fish go to. There was a
46 biologist a number of years ago, Ken Altu, had identified
47 this place I think through local contacts as a sheefish
48 spawning area. There was also humpback whitefish, least
49 cisco and broad whitefish there as the folks who beach
50 seine there know.

1 Humpback whitefish get these breeding
2 tubercles or pearl tubercles all over and they get real
3 bumpy and they lose their slime layer right during
4 spawning season, which is a good way to identify
5 spawning-condition fish versus other fish. I don't
6 really know about broad whitefish because they spawn in
7 November or December and I haven't ever handled one in
8 spawning condition. That's why we know so little about
9 where they actually go to spawn. Of course the females
10 get really large with eggs and they pretty much stop
11 eating as they approach spawning time. So those are just
12 some of the clues we use to tell if we have
13 spawning-condition fish or not.
14

15 Overwintering locations. These radio
16 transmitters, we're able to turn them off for certain
17 periods of time in our initial programming, so that if
18 there's a period we're not going to fly they don't waste
19 energy. So we turned them off in mid-November and as of
20 mid-November there were a few fish up in the lake systems
21 and the Upper Kanuti River and there were a larger number
22 of fish in the Koyukuk River and they appeared that they
23 were going to spend the winter there. There was still
24 some fish up the Alatna River and my guess is the
25 transmitters are supposed to turn on this week, so I'll
26 probably be flying in a week for further winter
27 locations. I'm guessing we'll find most of them down in
28 the Koyukuk River downstream of the Kanuti.
29

30 What will interest me a great deal is if
31 they come right back up the Kanuti in the same lake
32 systems where we tagged them. In the Upper Tanana when
33 we did this, the fish went back to the exact same lakes
34 that we had tagged them in the following spring. That's
35 what I think will happen and we'll keep you posted.
36

37 In 2005, we're planning to continue radio
38 tracking the fish that already have tags on them and to
39 deploy radio tags on humpback whitefish and least cisco
40 in the South Fork. We didn't find any broad whitefish in
41 the South Fork. Initially our plans were to tag them
42 there as well. It would really be nice to visit the
43 spawning sites in the Alatna and up the Kanuti.
44

45 One of the things with whitefish that's
46 really different from salmon is that they don't die when
47 they spawn, so they come back multiple times. We don't
48 really have to know how many fish are there, that's a
49 hard thing to do anyway, to understand whether there's
50 excessive fishing on a particular stock because if they

1 do have really heavy fishing on them, all your older age
2 classes will leave. They'll get weeded out of the
3 population and all you'll have is a group that's right
4 there around the age that they first become spawning
5 mature. The only real way to sample that is to go to the
6 spawning areas because otherwise we don't know how many
7 fish go to spawn up the Alatna River go back to the ocean
8 or into the Lower Koyukuk or other places. I would like
9 to look in the Alatna particularly on that spawning area
10 and see what the age distribution of the fish there is.

11

12 So that's my presentation and if
13 anybody's got questions, I can answer them.

14

15 MR. JONES: Yeah, are you aware of the
16 disease development in the Tanana River area this year.
17 We had our YRDFA meeting in Anchorage in October and one
18 of the local fishermen in Tanana said there was a lot of
19 diseased whitefish and sheefish, white spots on their
20 heart. Are you aware of that?

21

22 MR. BROWN: Yes, I am. Actually, the
23 white spots, there was some concern that might be the
24 ichthyophonus disease that they're discovering in the
25 king salmon and tracking pretty closely. When that issue
26 was brought before the biologist who is actually studying
27 the ichthyophonus, he said this is not ichthyophonus.
28 There's a lot of things that cause the spots. It may be
29 some other parasite, but it was not ichthyophonus. So I
30 don't know what it is. I don't think it's an issue, a
31 new disease spreading, but there was some concern among
32 some fishermen that that's what it was. But the
33 ichthyophonus specialist say it's not ichthyophonus.

34

35 CHAIRMAN SAM: Go ahead, Benedict.

36

37 MR. JONES: Yeah, I noticed a lot of
38 change in the fish, the fat content in the spring time.
39 There's no fat nowadays. Fifty years ago you could get
40 an inch of oil out of about 10 fish. Now you boil them
41 and you don't even see a sprinkle of oil on the surface
42 of the water when you boil it. So if it's vegetation
43 change in the lakes or streams or in the ocean, I don't
44 know what it is. Also, we have sheefish migration
45 probably about middle of the month or this month or a
46 week before April that a lot of sheefish migration. We
47 get big spawners, sheefish, you know, about three feet
48 long that we catch under the ice fishnet.

49

50 Also, we had on our Winter Arctic Caribou

1 Herd discussion we discussed about Colville River
2 whitefish, what that population is in that area, and we
3 had a representative from that area ask him what the
4 whitefish population was in the Colville River before the
5 oil discovery and he reported back that since the oil
6 exploration truck traffic going over the Colville River
7 in the wintertime, the population went down.

8
9 I noticed we had an airport project in
10 Koyukuk in 1991 and I put a fishnet above our winter
11 crossing haul road and during that operation I did not
12 catch any whitefish, maybe one or two a week, but as soon
13 as the gravel haul system quit, I started catching a lot
14 of whitefish and pikes after it stopped. Stay away from
15 this traffic area. They would not go above the haul road
16 system.

17
18 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Benedict.
19 Polly, you were right, that was a well put together
20 report. I enjoyed it. Any further questions for Randy.
21 It was a local issue, but still enjoyed the information.

22
23 Jack.

24
25 MR. REAKOFF: The species that goes up
26 with the grayling, what was that other one that goes way
27 up there?

28
29 MR. BROWN: You're speaking of the round
30 whitefish?

31
32 MR. REAKOFF: Yeah.

33
34 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yeah.

35
36 MR. REAKOFF: They would be in the upper
37 drainage, that would be in the headwaters then?

38
39 MR. BROWN: Yes. They tend to be up in
40 the exact habitats as the grayling. You won't catch them
41 with hook and line but if you fish like two or two and a
42 half inch mesh net, usually anywhere you catch grayling
43 you'll catch just as many roundwhite fish or real close.

44
45 MR. REAKOFF: Uh-huh.

46
47 MR. BROWN: And they tend to stay up
48 there. There are places where they go into the sea but
49 we haven't had any evidence that they do at this kind of
50 distance from the ocean.

1 MR. REAKOFF: Okay.
2
3 MR. BROWN: Nor, do we catch them running
4 up the Yukon, for example, in the fishwheels where we
5 would if they did make big runs like that.
6
7 MR. REAKOFF: Uh-huh.
8
9 MR. BROWN: I mean unless they ran under
10 the ice, which they could.
11
12 MR. REAKOFF: Well, I really appreciated
13 your presentation, I think it's a very worthwhile
14 project. Thank you.
15
16 MR. BROWN: Thank you.
17
18 MR. COLLINS: Have you ever seen.....
19
20 CHAIRMAN SAM: Use your mike -- use your
21 mike.
22
23 MR. COLLINS: Yeah, have you done any
24 comparison between the Kuskokwim and the Yukon? We have
25 the same ones over there, we have the broad, round, the
26 cisco and the others, and I'm wondering, is there any
27 intermixing between rivers? I know within river some of
28 those they disperse over a large -- what about between
29 the rivers?
30
31 MR. BROWN: Well, the only data we have
32 about fish mixing between was some tagging data done back
33 in the '70s by this guy Ken Alt, who worked on both
34 rivers. And there was a humpback whitefish that he
35 tagged up near, it was up near McGrath that he had tagged
36 it and it got caught the next year in Ruby on the Yukon
37 and so it made the switch, and certainly they can. And
38 all along the Delta, you know.....
39
40 MR. COLLINS: You got our fish.
41
42 (Laughter)
43
44 CHAIRMAN SAM: When you talk about the
45 round whitefish, they're more square and Auntie Kitty
46 knows that when we seine up around Savanaga, that's where
47 we get those roundfish.
48
49 MR. COLLINS: They're at the headwaters
50 up in our area.

1 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yeah, not really at the
2 headwaters but quite a ways up there we get quite a few
3 when we seine, right above Savanaga, so we're aware.
4
5 Again, thank you. Anything else, Polly.
6
7 DR. WHEELER: Thank you, Randy. Actually
8 I inadvertently left out, we have David Orabutt here who
9 is one of the partners biologist, he's with Kuskokwim
10 Native Association, I think you remember him from Anvik,
11 and I think he'd like to come up and say a few words.
12 We're still within our timeframe, Mr. Chair, so if you
13 wanted to have David come up and talk to you a little bit
14 and tell you what he's been up to, that'd be great.
15
16 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay, I think that will be
17 appropriate. I noticed David, I introduced myself and he
18 start walking around when we mentioned Kuskokwim so I
19 think it would be appropriate for Dave to come up at this
20 time.
21
22 DR. WHEELER: And Mr. Chair, you might
23 remember, Dave Cannon was the partner's biologist at KNA
24 and he went on to do other things and so I think it's in
25 the front there, if I'm not mistaken, so we've been lucky
26 to have David. He's been here since falltime, summer?
27
28 MR. ORABUTT: Yes, a half a year.
29
30 DR. WHEELER: Half a year. And he's
31 gung-ho. He comes to all these Western Interior Council
32 meetings although it's not always easy for him to do so I
33 think he was glad to hear that the next Western Interior
34 Council meeting's in McGrath, it's a little easier to get
35 to from Aniak.
36
37 MR. WALKER: He went last winter, if you
38 guys remember with Frontier to the meeting, that was his
39 first one.....
40
41 REPORTER: Robert.
42
43 DR. WHEELER: Robert, you need to use
44 your microphone.
45
46 MR. WALKER: Tina got it.
47
48 MR. ORABUTT: Hello, Mr. Chairman.
49 Council. My name is David Orabutt from Kuskokwim Native
50 Association and the Fisheries Partners biologist and I'm

1 part of the Fisheries Partners Program with the OSM. My
2 funding comes through them but I work for the Kuskokwim
3 Native Association. And I'd just like to tell you a
4 little bit about some of the projects we will be doing
5 this summer.

6
7 We're involved with a number of projects
8 in the Kuskokwim River region. And also I'd like to, you
9 see up there, Dwayne Hoffman, he's our natural resource
10 director. So it's me and Dwayne there running this
11 program.

12
13 Here are some of the programs we're
14 involved with this summer. We'll be involved with the
15 George River weir, the Tatlawiksuk River weir, the
16 Kuskokwim River salmon mark/capture project, the Aniak
17 River seining project which is just an off shoot of the
18 salmon mark/recapture project, then the chinook radio
19 telemetry project, the whitefish radio telemetry project,
20 and then we have a high school internship program and a
21 college internship program.

22
23 So this is the George and Tatlawiksuk
24 River weirs. These are projects run in cooperation with
25 the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Commercial
26 Fisheries, and they're funded partly by OSM and partly by
27 Bering Sea Fishermen's Association. And our plans for
28 2005 are to pretty much remain the same as in 2004. And
29 we will run these weirs from mid-June through mid-
30 September, and these weirs are just salmon escapement
31 monitoring projects that monitor all five species of
32 salmon but mainly coho, chum salmon and chinook.

33
34 This is the Kuskokwim salmon
35 mark/recapture. This is also done in conjunction with
36 the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Commercial
37 Fisheries Division. And the 2005 plans, we're only going
38 to have one field camp just up river of Kalskag and we'll
39 only have three fishwheels this year. And instead of
40 focusing on the population estimates, they'll be focusing
41 on stock run timing only, this is due to lower funding
42 this year and then also we'll catch kings for the
43 telemetry project.

44
45 And then also this year we'll be -- KNA
46 will be taking on this project to recover tagged salmon
47 from the fishwheel up to Aniak River later in the summer,
48 and that's basically what we'll be doing, we'll be
49 seining fish up there.

50

1 And then the chinook radio telemetry
2 project, this is a project run in conjunction with the
3 Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Sportfisheries
4 Division. And 2005 plans are pretty much to remain the
5 same as 2004, and they'll tag about 500 chinook salmon in
6 the Kuskokwim River. And, again, these fish are tagged
7 at our fishwheel sites just by Kalskag.

8
9 And then the whitefish telemetry project,
10 this is a project run in conjunction with the U.S. Fish
11 and Wildlife Service, the Kenai office. And the 2005
12 plan is to tag about 100 more whitefish. It looks like
13 we'll probably tag about 30 of each broads, humpbacks and
14 least cisco. And then also this year we're going to be
15 trying out a new tagging system, they're called PIT tags.
16 It's kind of an experimental study this year just to see
17 if we can get them to work. You know a PIT tag is a
18 little tag that's inserted into the belly of the fish, so
19 they're cheaper than radio tags and hopefully we can
20 monitor more fish that way.

21
22 And this is our high school internship
23 program. And what this is, is a program for local high
24 school students to come out to our fisheries project and
25 experience what fisheries biologists do. And this is a
26 program run by KNA and the Alaska Department of Fish and
27 Game, Commercial Fisheries Division. And the 2005 plan
28 is to get about 20 interns this year and these will be
29 one week internships. And also this year, the interns
30 will get high school credit for their participation in
31 our program so we hope to attract more students that way.

32
33 This program is for the KNA region, but
34 if there is extra positions available, interns will be
35 considered from -- or applicants will be considered from
36 outside the region so if you're interested in this
37 program just talk to me.

38
39 And this is the college internship
40 program that we have. And this is run through the
41 Fisheries Partners Program. And this year we hope to
42 have two college interns, and it's just a program to
43 encourage local college students to pursue fisheries. We
44 still have two openings so if you know any college
45 students that are interested in fisheries or want to
46 experience what fisheries might be about, let me know,
47 and let them know.

48
49 Okay, with that I'll just take any
50 questions if anybody has any.

1 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Dave. Any
2 questions. Go ahead, Benedict.

3
4 MR. JONES: Yeah, on your radio telemetry
5 program, are you doing the same study as they did on the
6 Yukon in 2004 about water temperature up the river to the
7 spawning grounds? I'd like to know, especially on the
8 Yukon River what the water temperature change from
9 Russian Mission all the way up to Canada because we have
10 lots of Ichthyophonus development as they progress up the
11 river.

12
13 MR. ORABUTT: I'm not sure exactly what's
14 going on on the Yukon. But I know on the Kuskokwim, the
15 Ichthyophonus wasn't as big of an issue but that's
16 something that probably needs to be looked into.

17
18 MR. JONES: So you don't study the water
19 temperature up the Kuskokwim River; is that right?

20
21 MR. ORABUTT: Not with our projects, no.

22
23 CHAIRMAN SAM: Jack.

24
25 MR. REAKOFF: I have two questions. One
26 is where are you tagging the kings and then the other one
27 is, is how do you read those PIT tags on whitefish or
28 your proposed reading of those PIT tags?

29
30 MR. ORABUTT: Well, we tag the kings at
31 the fishwheel and this time it will just up river of
32 Kalskag, and previously they were both -- we had two
33 fishwheel sites that we tagged the kings from, and those
34 were right at Kalskag and a little closer to Aniak.

35
36 And so to get to your second question,
37 with the PIT tags, there's actual readers that are
38 portable and you just take them and you catch the fish
39 in-hand and you read it across, and that's one way to do
40 it. But the other way that we're hoping that's going to
41 work for us is remote readers that you lay, I guess, it's
42 an antenna across the stream and you have a station there
43 and from what I understand it can read a two foot range
44 so whitefish supposedly, typically travel near the bottom
45 in these small streams so we're hoping that we have these
46 remote readers and we have all these tagged fish and we
47 can set them up in spawning locations or in other
48 locations and have the whitefish be picked up and
49 identified as individuals so cross our fingers and hope I
50 guess.

1 MR. REAKOFF: That's cool.
2
3 CHAIRMAN SAM: Ray.
4
5 MR. COLLINS: Yeah, right. Yeah, Jack,
6 on the kings they've got one station clear above McGrath
7 there and it reads -- if they go by in the river it picks
8 them up, they can tell -- if they were tagged down there
9 and one goes by on the way up towards Medfra and the
10 upper river.
11
12 MR. REAKOFF: Uh-huh. Right.
13
14 MR. COLLINS: So it's giving them some
15 idea of how fast they go. I guess they can identify
16 individual fish, can't they, with that?
17
18 MR. ORABUTT: (Nods affirmatively)
19
20 MR. COLLINS: Yeah. They can identify
21 that and they were looking at the proportion, too, the
22 ratio, I think, of the number of tagged ones as to where
23 they were going?
24
25 MR. ORABUTT: That's correct.
26
27 MR. COLLINS: That was one of the things
28 they were interested in, yeah.
29
30 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thanks, Ray. Any more
31 questions.
32
33 (No comments)
34
35 CHAIRMAN SAM: If not, thank you -- okay,
36 Robert.
37
38 MR. WALKER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
39 This is for Polly, I don't know, maybe you would have to
40 consult with the other biologist, has there been, at any
41 time, been any kind of a planning for having a fish
42 counting weir on the Yukon or Kuskokwim under the ice for
43 fish moving up and down the river? Is there any long
44 range plan that you know of or thought of or is in action
45 now?
46
47 DR. WHEELER: Mr. Chair. Not that I know
48 of, but there's people that probably know a lot more
49 about stuff like that sitting behind me so if anybody
50 does, by all means, jump up. But I know under our

1 program, that's not been identified as a priority issue.
2 And I don't know that we have any short-term plans for
3 that, something may come up in the strategic planning, I
4 suppose, but nothing I've heard of to date.

5
6 Mr. Chair.

7
8 CHAIRMAN SAM: Any further questions.

9
10 (No comments)

11
12 DR. WHEELER: Go ahead, Polly. Mr.
13 Chair, I'd just like to put a plug in for something that
14 David said. KNA has both a high school internship
15 program and a college internship program. And I think,
16 you know, as I said earlier the goal of this whole
17 Fisheries Partners Program is to really get expertise in
18 these organizations and to build expertise and to get
19 people involved in the research process but also in the
20 management process. And that's how it's going to happen
21 really through these internship programs. KNA's done a
22 really good job with their internship program. And,
23 again, like Dave said, there's some slots available, so
24 within the region and maybe even possibly outside the
25 region, you know, if you know people that are interested
26 then by all means talk to him or KNA because it's a
27 really valuable -- or a really neat opportunity for young
28 people.

29
30 Mr. Chair.

31
32 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Polly. Any
33 further questions.

34
35 (No comments)

36
37 CHAIRMAN SAM: If not, dinner's coming in
38 at 5:30 and we'll have to break down and set up these
39 tables so we'll take a break until 6:30.

40
41 On our agenda we say evening session for
42 7:00, if you could pass the word around that we would
43 like to start around 6:30 if possible.

44
45 Thank you.

46
47 (Off record)

48
49 (On record)

50

1 CHAIRMAN SAM: At this time I'd like to
2 call the meeting back to order. We have some unfinished
3 business. You know that we have Proposals 12 and 13
4 before us and we called this evening session for local
5 residents to go ahead and testify. We covered quite a
6 bit of it earlier. We did get one public testimony and
7 we'll be asking for more.

8

9 But before we start I would like to call
10 Glenn Stout back out here and he's got a brief
11 announcement, I believe.

12

13 MR. WALKER: It better be good.

14

15 (Laughter)

16

17 MR. STOUT: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
18 Actually, those two there if you could kind of hold them
19 up, and that one there.

20

21 MR. MATHEWS: Is this the new PowerPoint?

22

23 MR. STOUT: Yeah, this is really

24 technical.

25

26 (Laughter)

27

28 MR. STOUT: There's kind of a method to
29 my madness here, part of it is I just wanted to kind of
30 give a real quick update on the moose surveys that we got
31 done this year. And kind of the reason I got these
32 helpers here is I just wanted to demonstrate the
33 cooperative nature of the studies that we got
34 accomplished up here this last fall.

35

36 Wennona's with Kanuti National Wildlife
37 Refuge, Pete's with Gates of the Arctic National Park,
38 Geoff's with Koyukuk/Nowitna National Refuge and Craig's
39 with BLM, and then myself with Fish and Game. All five
40 agencies threw money in the pot and we just had a
41 tremendous year on getting moose surveys done. We had
42 conditions for it, for one. But basically looking at the
43 survey areas that we have right here, we were able to
44 survey of a total of about 17,000 square miles in the
45 Galena Management Area, which includes this portion of
46 21(D) which starts south of Kaltag all the way up above
47 Huslia and then over here on Geoff and Tim's map, we did
48 this block here, this darker section, that's the block we
49 did in '99, we were able to repeat that and then on the
50 Kanuti Refuge. And then for the first time, the Gates of

1 the Arctic came up with a whole bunch of money and they
2 did a large portion of the Gates of the Arctic National
3 Park on the south side there, on Unit 24.

4
5 So that, more than anything, was what I
6 kind of wanted to point out on the surveys that we got
7 done and how successful we were and able to pull those
8 surveys together.

9
10 You guys can sit down but I just wanted
11 to thank those guys and the cooperative effort, I think,
12 we were able to put together was real meaningful.

13
14 Just as far as a few updates, and I'll
15 give more of a formal presentation later but maybe for
16 the benefit of the people that were here this evening and
17 wanted to make comments, I just wanted to give you a few
18 basic numbers as far as the surveys.

19
20 Particularly up in this country where
21 people are familiar with, we did a survey on the Kanuti
22 block there in '99 and our estimate at that time was
23 about 1,052 moose, this year for that same block it was
24 about 842. So we've seen a decline, pretty substantial,
25 20-some percent just since '99. But that compares even
26 further back, we had a survey done in '93 where we
27 counted -- we estimated over 2,000 moose so that
28 essentially, just on the Kanuti block, is just over a 50
29 percent decline in the moose population. That's
30 something that I know we hear about by people familiar
31 with the area of what they've been observing and we're
32 seeing it in the data.

33
34 For the larger block area, we also saw a
35 decline. We were able to get that estimate up on Gates
36 of the Arctic National Park. And the biggest thing that
37 we took away from there was we had been under estimating
38 how many moose were in there. In fact, my working
39 estimate in my management reports I've been looking at an
40 estimate of about three to 500 moose up in Gates of the
41 Arctic Park. It looks like right now, this year, our
42 estimate is just over a thousand moose, and that's what
43 we saw as a regionwide decline. I don't think this means
44 that we increased the number of moose in there. I think
45 for a long time we have under estimated how many moose
46 were there. And that has a real significant impact on
47 some of our population estimates. And we talked about,
48 at the Koyukuk River Advisory Committee, how this impacts
49 things like our intensive management law, the State laws
50 for implementing predator control.

1 And when we went into that when they
2 first established those intensive management objectives
3 in 2000, I think we probably under estimated how many
4 moose were out in this huge area here because we hadn't
5 surveyed so much of the country for so long. And so I
6 think that's going to have real important impact on some
7 of the things that we want to talk about coming up to
8 this Board of Game cycle in 2006.

9
10 One thing that I talked about at the
11 Advisory Committee meeting is the possibility of
12 subdividing Unit 24, and that way we can get kind of a
13 fresher look at Unit 24, this low density area north of
14 Hughes. You can go a little bit south, you know, where
15 we draw that line I don't think is real important right
16 now, but that country is really a different situation.
17 The moose population has been declining drastically up in
18 this country but we haven't had the regulatory authority
19 to really do anything with it like an intensive
20 management plan because our objectives were being
21 influenced by so many moose down in the lower portion of
22 it. And I think if we could subdivide it and get a
23 fresher look at that and get the Board of Game to look at
24 it in a different perspective, then maybe we can start
25 thinking about a way to get our intensive management
26 numbers in line with our new information on how many
27 moose we really could support. That will give us the
28 thing, and I think it's just a lot of information -- it's
29 starting to come together to where I think we can start
30 developing a strategy to do something about the predation
31 affect up here in this portion of the country.

32
33 Real briefly, as far as the 21(D) stuff,
34 what we're seeing is -- oh, and I will say another thing,
35 too, up here as far as 24, we did see throughout the area
36 much higher calf production this year. We had been
37 running 25 to 30 calves per 100 cows and this year we saw
38 about 46 calves per 100 cows. And up until about two
39 months ago I thought that was great until we got all this
40 snow. Now, I'm real worried.

41
42 Another just kind of general observation
43 that I made during the surveys up in this country is that
44 wolf pack size was a lot larger than what I was used to
45 seeing. Typically when I would fly surveys up here, if
46 we saw a pack of wolves it would be on the order of six
47 or seven or eight wolves. When we were flying surveys
48 this year we saw four different packs that were 12, 13
49 and 15. So it just seemed to me that probably what
50 happened with all those caribou that we had last winter,

1 probably pup survival was a little bit higher than usual.
2 So we carried this, you know, higher than normal, I would
3 think, number of wolves into this winter and then, of
4 course, no caribou showed up. And so I think I'm really
5 worried about the moose population, even more worried
6 than usual because we had these severe winter conditions
7 and deep snow conditions and then we had this
8 extraordinary high number of wolves. So I'm pretty
9 worried up here and I think we need to start talking
10 about maybe this intensive management change and
11 subdivision and hopefully we can get things going in a
12 different direction. We're just kind of stuck right now
13 on that intensive management model.

14
15 The other thing is, as far as 21(D),
16 further south, it looks like the area right around Huslia
17 and Hughes, that decline that we have been experienced,
18 is starting to stabilize, we're starting to bottom out.
19 We had good calf production in that country as well, all
20 of 21(D) in that survey area it looked like we were
21 having another good year of calf production. Our twinning
22 surveys showed that we had a lot of calves hitting the
23 ground early in the spring and so I think that's a good
24 sign that we're starting to kind of turn that corner.

25
26 As you get further south into 21(D), that
27 portion of the survey area around Three-Day Slough, we're
28 still real low on bulls. We're still seeing declines in
29 our cow numbers. As you get down into the Kaiyuh,
30 declining cows is still kind of the rule down there. And
31 so we're still worried about the number of cows that we
32 need to produce in that country.

33
34 But I think I'm going to just cut it real
35 short. That's just to give people an overview of what we
36 saw this fall.

37
38 MR. COLLINS: What about snow, is there a
39 concern down there?

40
41 REPORTER: Ray. Ray.

42
43 MR. COLLINS: Is there.....

44
45 CHAIRMAN SAM: Ray, use your mike.

46
47 MR. COLLINS: Sorry. What about the snow
48 conditions down there, are you seeing the same kind of
49 winter kill with the snow down there on calves?

50

1 MR. STOUT: Member Collins. We haven't
2 had a chance to go out and do a lot of surveying. We
3 don't have collars on moose to really get a good handle
4 on that. We are starting to see a few calves dying. I
5 don't think we have the snow depth like what they have up
6 here. They have a lot deeper snow.

7
8 Certainly, I was talking with Mike
9 Spindler, the Refuge manager, and I think the density of
10 the snow, there's a lot more water content and I think
11 that makes it more difficult for calves to travel.
12 They're pushing deep snow and then it's really dense. I
13 think the combination of the facts is pretty lethal.

14
15 I was talking with Toby Boudreaux down
16 there in McGrath and the early indications are, is that
17 some calves are starting to die down there, and it's not
18 due to predation it's just from the heavy winter effect.

19
20 MR. COLLINS: They're dying right in
21 town.

22
23 CHAIRMAN SAM: Before we go any further,
24 I see a lot of new faces out in the crowd from the local
25 people. So I think it would be quite appropriate at this
26 time to bring Don Rivard or who made that presentation,
27 Tom -- who made the presentation or the introduction --
28 okay.

29
30 I see a lot of new faces so Tommy -- Tom
31 Kriska's suggested that we briefly cover proposals 12 and
32 13 so the other people catch up.

33
34 Thank you, Glenn.

35
36 MR. STICKMAN: I want to say something.

37
38 CHAIRMAN SAM: Go ahead, Mickey.

39
40 MR. STICKMAN: Okay, thanks, Ron. Before
41 we get into the discussion, you know, I just wanted to go
42 on record, you know, Mike Spindler in the back there,
43 Mike. Mike was the Refuge manager in my area, he's going
44 to be the new Refuge manager for the Kanuti. I just
45 wanted to go on record thanking Mike for his work down in
46 my area, you know, he was actually the first Refuge
47 manager to come to our four villages and work with our
48 elders and incorporate the traditional and ecological
49 knowledge that those elders have into his work at the
50 Refuge there in our area.

1 And he's going to be the Refuge manager
2 for Kanuti, so I'm just hoping that, you know, the elders
3 here are willing to sit down and talk with him. PJ knows
4 Mike. He's a really good guy to get to know, he's going
5 to be your Refuge manager up here n the Kanuti, so, you
6 know, if you get the opportunity introduce yourself to
7 Mike and he'll always make time to listen to your
8 concerns and incorporate your ideas into his work.

9
10 So thank you, Mike.

11
12 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Mickey. Brief
13 update from Don Rivard. Are two Chiefs weren't here
14 today and a few other people in the back so just briefly
15 cover -- do we want to take 12 and 13 or just 12?

16
17 MR. REAKOFF: 12.

18
19 CHAIRMAN SAM: Just 12, okay.

20
21 MR. RIVARD: Thank you, Mr. Chair. My
22 name is Don Rivard. I'm with the Office of Subsistence
23 Management. It's my understanding you want kind of a
24 quick summary of what we talked about earlier today.

25
26 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yes.

27
28 MR. RIVARD: Okay, thank you. If you
29 look in your Council book on Page 78 is the draft Staff
30 analysis for the combined Proposals 12 and 13.

31
32 Proposal 12 was submitted by the Gates of
33 the Arctic National Park, and it would change the August
34 25th through December 1st -- December 31st season and the
35 March 1st through the 10th season for the Alatna River
36 Drainage within the Gates of the Arctic National Park to
37 August 25th through September 25th, and then the March
38 season would be March 1 through 5.

39
40 This proposal would reduce the 129 day
41 fall/winter season to a 32 day fall season and would
42 reduce the 10 March season to a five day to be announced
43 season.

44
45 You'll see the proposed regulations on
46 Page 79 in the Council book.

47
48 The proponent states that the current
49 regulations are complex and rely on hard to find
50 political boundaries for hunt area descriptions. It is

1 the proponent's request, would simplify the affected
2 regulations by changing to drainage descriptions that are
3 labeled on maps and identifiable in the field. The
4 proposed regulatory changes would facilitate more uniform
5 regulations for the affected and adjacent areas. The
6 changes are intended to be responsive to the declining
7 health of the herd by reducing seasons and limiting cow
8 harvests to protect this component of the population
9 until such time as the herd recovers.

10

11 So the proposed regulation is on Page 79
12 showing seasons being reduced and as Glenn pointed out
13 that there's been declines in the moose populations have
14 been documented within the proposal area and adjacent
15 areas. These conservation concerns align with Action
16 1.31 of the moose management plan which outlines the
17 approach for reducing antlerless moose hunting
18 opportunities and antlerless moose seasons in order to
19 conserve cow moose.

20

21 So the preliminary conclusion is to
22 support Proposal 12 with modification to simplify the
23 language that describes the John River area and include
24 the appropriate Federal agencies and include, after
25 consultation with the Chairs of the Gates of the Arctic
26 Subsistence Resource Commission and the Koyukuk River
27 Fish and Game Advisory Committee.

28

29 So the proposed regulation with
30 modification is on Page 86, and it's showing -- there's
31 two maps, one on Page 81 and the other on Page 80, and
32 the proposed regulation kind of goes back and forth
33 between these two maps to show the differences.

34

35 For the Section C on Page 81, that's the
36 John River drainage, there would be one
37 moose limit from August 1st to December
38 31st. Then you see the Map 1, Section D
39 on Map 1, that upper Alatna River, that
40 would -- the seasons would go away there.

41

42 And then for Map 2, on Page 81, it says
43 in Unit 24, all drainages to the north of
44 the Koyukuk River upstream from and
45 including the Alatna River to and
46 including the North Fork of the Koyukuk
47 River, except the John River, one moose,
48 however, antlerless moose may be taken
49 only from September 21st to September
50 25th and March 1st through March 5th if

1 authorized jointly by the Kanuti National
2 Wildlife Refuge manager, the BLM, Bureau
3 of Land Management Northern Field Office
4 manager, and the Gates of the Arctic
5 National Park superintendent. Harvest of
6 cows accompanied by calves is prohibited.

7
8 The announcement will be made after
9 consultation with the Alaska Department
10 of Fish and Game area biologist and the
11 Chairs of the Western Interior Regional
12 Advisors, the Gates of the Arctic
13 Subsistence Resource Commission and the
14 Koyukuk River Fish and Game Advisory
15 Committee.

16
17 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

18
19 CHAIRMAN SAM: Questions for Don Rivard.

20
21 (No comments)

22
23 CHAIRMAN SAM: So where do we stand on
24 this? I know we went through this whole proposal earlier
25 today, and so where do we stand on this now? Do we have
26 to cover the whole thing again?

27
28 MR. MATHEWS: No, we don't need to. No,
29 we were going to mainly get testimony here and then if
30 you were alluding to other actions on another area then
31 we can cover that after you get the testimony, I believe.

32
33 I mean I suppose the testimony will tell
34 us what direction we need to go is what I'm trying to
35 say.

36
37 CHAIRMAN SAM: Gates of the Arctic
38 Subsistence Resource Council covered this, so brief -- I
39 would like a brief synopsis, explanation from Jack.

40
41 MR. REAKOFF: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
42 I'm vice-Chair of the Gates of the Arctic Subsistence
43 Resource Commission. Polluck Simon is Chair of that
44 Commission. The Park Service wanted to put in the
45 December 1 to December 10th bull season into the Gates of
46 the Arctic Park last year. The Commission disagreed
47 with that, we wanted a step down reduction in season but
48 still retain the spring antlerless moose season for at
49 least five days in the Park. And so we come up with this
50 proposal, it's basically this proposal is addressing thee

1 Federal lands in the Alatna and North Fork of the Koyukuk
2 drainage, that is the Park and so this addresses the Park
3 area.

4
5 When we initiated this proposal, we put
6 in language that it would be under consultation with the
7 superintendent, the Chair of the RAC and thee Department
8 and so forth. That's when we didn't have data that
9 showed what the harvests are in the Park. And we found
10 out at our SRC meeting that the harvests are actually
11 very low, about one or two moose a year in the whole
12 Park. And so I don't actually feel that we need to go
13 through all of that time consuming thing, we should just
14 be able to have the season. There's very few people that
15 participate in that hunt in the Park and so that's where
16 this proposal comes from. That's what this proposal is
17 talking about, strictly the Park area, which is way up
18 the river.

19
20 CHAIRMAN SAM: Any questions for Jack. I
21 think that he really clarified this and I think that we
22 may have read a little too much into these two proposals.
23 And at this time I think Jack wanted to only address
24 the Resource Committee's proposal, which is 12, right?

25
26 MR. REAKOFF: Right.

27
28 CHAIRMAN SAM: And at this time I would
29 like more public testimony if anyone feels like you want
30 to ask questions or comment on this Proposal 12. Again,
31 Harding Sam.

32
33 *MR. H. SAM: Thank you, Ron. I have a
34 question regarding openings and closings of this moose,
35 you know, I think there's a big confusion when we go out
36 and, you know, as hunters we go out and we see a moose
37 and then a moose is a moose, and I would like more
38 clarifications on the boundaries and stuff before the
39 seasons open, which I support the winter moose hunt.

40
41 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you. Jack.

42
43 MR. REAKOFF: The Park boundaries would
44 be -- if this hunt is to continue the Gates of the Arctic
45 Park would -- you could get a map from Gates of the
46 Arctic Park but this is strictly in the Park area and the
47 Park Service can provide maps of where those Park
48 boundaries are. The North Fork drainage, the Park is
49 from the mouth all the way up, and in the Alatna drainage
50 there's a certain line there but I couldn't give you that

1 description where that Park boundary line is. The Park
2 Service would have to delineate or describe that
3 boundary. And there is a little tiny piece of the
4 Refuge in the Alatna drainage but it's up on the hills
5 over here.

6
7 The State lands don't fall under this
8 proposal. And so I think we have these maps on the wall
9 back here and before us, and so these large State land
10 areas don't have that March season, and so we just have
11 the -- we're trying to retain some kind of a March
12 season, at least, in the Park on the Federal lands, but
13 you'd have to get those land boundaries from the Park
14 Service. That's where you're going to have to get that
15 from.

16
17 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Jack. I think,
18 again, we read a little too much into this proposal, and
19 if it deals strictly with the lands within the Gates of
20 the Arctic National Park, I don't think that it really
21 concerns us that much then. So any further questions.
22 Go ahead, Harding.

23
24 MR. H. SAM: Yeah, I have another concern
25 there, is our deep snow of this winter and, you know, it
26 makes so easy on the predators. And last fall when we
27 went to the State Advisory Board Committee meeting they
28 had a high number of moose numbers and, you know, I was
29 wondering if there was a spring survey or where do we ask
30 that question, to see what the predator and survival
31 rates this spring?

32
33 CHAIRMAN SAM: Is this the land under
34 consideration at this time?

35
36 MR. H. SAM: Both, the Gates of the
37 Arctic and the one for the March hunt.

38
39 CHAIRMAN SAM: Again, this proposal right
40 now, it just seems like it just addresses lands within
41 the Gates of the Arctic, right, Don, if you could address
42 that.

43
44 MR. RIVARD: Yes, Mr. Chair, if you look
45 on your map on Page 81.

46
47 The proposed regulation with modification
48 on Pages 86 and 87 it shows that it's talking about that
49 portion, in Section C on Page 81, the upper John River,
50 it includes the entire John River drainage but it's

1 really talking about the Federal lands in that, so that's
2 the Gates of the Arctic National Park. So it is, it's
3 just all that. And I believe parts of it may also be --
4 somebody may be able to help me out, Vince, on the other
5 portion is the upper -- the North Fork of the Koyukuk
6 River which is part of the Dalton Highway Corridor
7 Management Area in there, too -- no, that's not correct.
8 It's just the Gates.

9

10 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman.

11

12 CHAIRMAN SAM: Go ahead.

13

14 MR. MATHEWS: I think Harding's question
15 is was there spring surveys done in the area that this
16 proposal addresses.

17

18 MR. H. SAM: Yes.

19

20 MR. MATHEWS: I apologize to Glenn Stout,
21 I was doing other activities when he presented. Did your
22 survey recently cover the areas within Gates of the
23 Arctic that address this proposal, I think that's what
24 you're asking Harding.

25

26 MR. H. SAM: (Nods affirmatively)

27

28 MR. MATHEWS: So, Glenn, I don't know if
29 your survey did or didn't, but I think you can provide
30 the information on that. And then from there, if you
31 need information, Harding, or the Council on the November
32 or whenever the Park Service flew that, we have very
33 willing Staff in the back of the room that are willing to
34 come up and talk about that survey in November.

35

36 CHAIRMAN SAM: Go ahead, Glenn.

37

38 MR. STOUT: Thank you, Mr. Chair. The
39 surveys that we did were fall surveys, this fall. And I
40 think probably what, Harding, if I remember that
41 conversation at the Advisory Committee meetings last
42 year, we were talking about high moose numbers and it's
43 that problem I was talking about earlier, where we do
44 have high moose numbers in the southern portion of 24,
45 and it makes it look like when we go to the Board of Game
46 and we give them a population estimate, it makes it look
47 like all of 24 has high moose numbers and that's a
48 problem that we need to deal with in regulation because
49 we know, in fact, from those fall surveys that we did
50 this fall, that the moose numbers are very low up here

1 and they're declining.

2

3 Does that answer the question?

4

5 MR. H. SAM: Okay, thank you, Glenn.

6

7 CHAIRMAN SAM: Any further public
8 testimony.

9

10 (No comments)

11

12 CHAIRMAN SAM: Questions. Polluck Simon,
13 Jr.

14

15 MR. SIMON: I been here about a week and
16 we've been all over around the rivers, up Alatna back
17 through Kanuti, Chulatna over to Portage, Kanuti to
18 Chulatna, through the whole Kanuti River, up South Fork
19 and noticed there's quite a bit of wolves and there's
20 deep snow and there's big packs of wolves and it looks
21 like they're really hammering the moose. And looking at
22 the tracks there's a lot of big wolves and the packs that
23 are really big they've got a lot of pups and a lot of
24 adults but they're really -- they're having an easy time
25 on the moose right now. and I think it's going to be a
26 bad year for moose calves and the young, in general, and
27 that could probably affect some models in the future,
28 especially this winter.

29

30 I've grown up here, I've never seen that
31 much wolf tracks. I remember traveling all over when I
32 was younger. And then last week, in two days I've been
33 all over and there's quite a bit of wolves. There's some
34 good moose numbers here and there but I don't think it's
35 going to be there, you know, at the end of the winter
36 because there's too many packs. I could see where there
37 was just a few bones and moose hair that's all they leave
38 just about.

39

40 So I just wanted to put it on record to
41 you guys, the Board, and recognize the overabundance of
42 wolves and really deep snow. I tried to jump off the
43 sno-go and get up to my chest and that's pretty deep. So
44 I think it's probably deeper for some places.

45

46 But that's the moose, that's our food, we
47 find sustenance for our spirit, our culture and, you
48 know, it's an important food source and not only that
49 there's caribou and then dall sheep because I know
50 wolves, they prey on a lot of ungulates. But, you know,

1 I just want to go on record saying that there's an
2 overabundance.

3

4 Thank you, Ron.

5

6 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Polluck. I
7 believe that what you just said is I testified to that,
8 almost the same exact words before the Koyukuk River
9 Moose Working Group. I told them that in a normal year
10 we have deep snow from Allakaket down to about 22 miles,
11 we have deep snow that far and heavy timber, and we have
12 deep snow from Allakaket up past our ridges on the other
13 side of Henshaw. From there they used to get wind. And
14 I think that we explained it as best we could, Jack and
15 I, to the Koyukuk River Moose Working Group, that we do
16 have predators, deep snow and heavy timber so that makes
17 it tough on us to harvest any good numbers of wolves.

18

19 But back to Proposal 12. Any further
20 public testimony. Wennona. Wennona Brown, she works for
21 the Kanuti Wildlife Refuge.

22

23 MS. BROWN: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
24 Wennona Brown, Kanuti National Wildlife Refuge. I did
25 just want to point out in Proposal 12 the Map 2, Section
26 E [ph], which is what the proposed regulation is
27 referring to, if you look at the map, that does include a
28 corner of the Kanuti National Wildlife Refuge so is it
29 not totally Park land that this proposal is addressing.

30

31 CHAIRMAN SAM: Any further questions for
32 Wennona.

33

34 (No comments)

35

36 CHAIRMAN SAM: Anything else to add.

37

38 MR. COLLINS: Mr. Chairman.

39

40 CHAIRMAN SAM: Ray. Microphone.

41

42 MR. COLLINS: Yeah, I guess the question
43 would be what do you see the status of the moose in that
44 area, could it sustain the five day winter hunt that
45 would be allowed in that proposal?

46

47 MS. BROWN: Well, the moose population,
48 if you look in the report which is farther back in the --
49 you can see that it's on Page 109 in the book, that the
50 moose population in the Kanuti Refuge has been declining.

1 And I think we would prefer to see that it would be a
2 season to be announced by the Refuge manager based upon
3 the survey data.

4
5 MR. COLLINS: I think that was part of
6 the amended proposal, that there would be consultation
7 before the opening of the winter season; isn't that
8 right, as that proposal was amended; isn't that the final
9 version?

10
11 CHAIRMAN SAM: I think Jack wanted to
12 change that. Did you have another amendment or
13 something, Jack?

14
15 MR. REAKOFF: Well, I didn't amend that.
16 We haven't discussed it at the Council.

17
18 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay.

19
20 MR. REAKOFF: I was giving my overview
21 and I felt that there was such a low harvest and,
22 primarily in the Park, you actually need a relief map
23 actually to delineate what drains into the Alatna River
24 out of the Kanuti Refuge, which is a small little place,
25 I mean it's a tiny little dot really, probably one creek,
26 a tiny one. And so in reality there's so little harvest
27 of moose in the Park, there was really not these
28 sideboards or these safeguards aren't really that
29 necessary as far as I'm concerned. But I just wanted to
30 bring that -- I was going to bring that out to the
31 Council later on, I was just giving an overview of all
32 that.

33
34 And do you have a relief map of the
35 drainages, like a topo type map like you'd have to have
36 an inch to the square mile or something to actually show
37 that, which way those drainages are going, because it has
38 to drain into the Alatna River.

39
40 MS. BROWN: I'd have to pull that out and
41 I don't have it with me.

42
43 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you. Jack, do you
44 think we are reading too much into this?

45
46 MR. REAKOFF: I think we are.

47
48 CHAIRMAN SAM: Uh-huh. If it's mostly
49 land within the Gates of the Arctic National Park, I
50 think that we should go ahead and move forward.

1 MR. REAKOFF: Mr. Chairman.
2
3 CHAIRMAN SAM: Jack.
4
5 MR. REAKOFF: I'll make a motion to adopt
6 this Proposal FP05-12 [sic], and with the harvest levels
7 for the Gates of the Arctic Park being at such low
8 levels, I would like to amend this proposal to just set
9 the season at March 1 to March 5 without the consultation
10 aspect since it's not necessary because it's just such a
11 low harvest. Statistically it would be way less than one
12 percent and our harvest guidelines are five percent for
13 this upper unit.
14
15 So I make that as a motion.
16
17 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Jack. Jack
18 made a motion to amend -- I mean to adopt Proposal 12
19 amended to strike season to be announced and announcement
20 will be made after consultation, that that whole sentence
21 to be stricken; is that right?
22
23 MR. REAKOFF: Right.
24
25 CHAIRMAN SAM: Is that clearly understood
26 by the Council?
27
28 MR. STICKMAN: Ron.
29
30 CHAIRMAN SAM: Mickey.
31
32 MR. STICKMAN: Okay, Mr. Chair, I'll
33 second the motion. But just to make sure I really
34 understand it clearly, you know, you're going to go ahead
35 with the antlerless moose season from March 1st to the
36 5th, you're going to strike out that whole section there
37 where it says season, if authorized by appropriate land
38 management agencies; that's the part you're striking out?
39
40 CHAIRMAN SAM: Go ahead, Jack.
41
42 MR. REAKOFF: Right. Yeah, we put that
43 language on there back in April at the SRC meeting, we
44 didn't have data as to the harvest level in the Park.
45 After finding out what the harvest level in the Park is,
46 that's an unnecessary sideboard. Park use of moose is
47 very limited. You have to live in a resident zone
48 community, that'd be Bettles, Wiseman, Allakaket, Alatna
49 and you have to hunt in the Park and so there's limited
50 numbers of hunters utilizing that Park resource, so we

1 don't need -- I don't feel we need those sideboards.

2

3 CHAIRMAN SAM: Correct me if I'm wrong,
4 Jack, but we strike season to be announced, just leave it
5 at March 1 through March 5, and then down on the bottom
6 of this, do we strike all this dark, heavy from season,
7 do we strike if authorized?

8

9 MR. REAKOFF: Right.

10

11 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay. Is this understood
12 more clearly by the Council? Again, I think we read a
13 little too much into this and it's still mostly within
14 Gates of the Arctic and we hardly hunt up that far. We
15 may trail out to Harding's beaver cabin twice and -- once
16 and we never went back up there because of deep snow and
17 overflow. So again we may be reading too much into this
18 proposal.

19

20 Vince.

21

22 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman. I understand
23 the mover of the motion is basically the text on 87 would
24 be the same land description and you would just delete
25 everything beyond where it says March 10th which is
26 crossed out; is that correct, and it would not be a
27 season to announce?

28

29 MR. REAKOFF: (Nods affirmatively)

30

31 MR. MATHEWS: Is that correct?

32

33 CHAIRMAN SAM: Correct.

34

35 MR. MATHEWS: Okay. In light of that I
36 encourage the Council to revisit the fact that this will
37 affect Kanuti National Wildlife Refuge lands and data
38 that I've seen during breaks is that -- again, I'm over
39 generalizing, but the moose population for the Refuge is
40 not as healthy as everyone would like. So I understand
41 Jack's movement, there was just so much negotiations to
42 get this consultation in there, I think the Council will
43 have to give good justification. The Gates I understand.
44 The Refuge still will be impacted by this and the State
45 still, it's comment or recommendation on this is -- and
46 Glenn, can correct me if I'm wrong, is we wanted this
47 consultation because of the concern of cow take. So the
48 action that's on the table here will, if it were to be
49 passed, would eliminate that consultation.

50

1 I suppose I'm saying you've got to raise
2 the bar to give some reasons to eliminate that
3 consultation part because this was a very difficult
4 proposal. Unless you take out the Kanuti Refuge part,
5 I'm not speaking for the Refuge but I think we'll have to
6 determine where those lands are. Because -- well, I
7 don't know, maybe they'll want to speak on it more, but
8 I'll leave it at that.

9
10 CHAIRMAN SAM: Jack.

11
12 MR. REAKOFF: This little piece of the
13 Kanuti Refuge is a very small place, it's not like
14 there's going to be a tremendous amount of harvest out of
15 this tiny little dot of this, it has to drainage into the
16 Alatna drainage and it's a small little corner. It's not
17 going into the Henshaw, we're not saying the Henshaw
18 drainage, that little square has to drain into the Alatna
19 drainage.

20
21 MS. BROWN: Anything north of the
22 Koyukuk.

23
24 MR. BOS: Mr. Chair.

25
26 CHAIRMAN SAM: Greg.

27
28 MR. BOS: It's all of the drainages north
29 of the Koyukuk, so it's everything between and including
30 the Alatna drainage on up to the North Fork. So if you
31 look on the map on Page 81, it's all of the Kanuti Refuge
32 north of the Koyukuk River, so there's a pretty good
33 chunk of Refuge in there.

34
35 MR. REAKOFF: Mr. Chairman.

36
37 CHAIRMAN SAM: Jack.

38
39 MR. REAKOFF: Mr. Chairman. If this is a
40 matter of killing the proposal or not killing the
41 proposal I want to withdraw my motion to amend, let's
42 just have the consultation. I can see we're not going to
43 go anywhere so I would like to amend my motion to retain
44 the consultation.

45
46 CHAIRMAN SAM: At this time with the
47 consent of the second, you withdraw your motion, period,
48 yes?

49
50 MR. REAKOFF: Well, the amended language.

1 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay.
2
3 MR. REAKOFF: I maintain my motion to
4 adopt the proposal but the amended language.
5
6 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay. So if I understand
7 this, you would leave that all.....
8
9 MR. REAKOFF: Yeah.
10
11 CHAIRMAN SAM:if authorized?
12
13 MR. REAKOFF: Yeah.
14
15 CHAIRMAN SAM: And do you want that
16 season to be announced in there?
17
18 MR. REAKOFF: I'm concerned with it being
19 announced in the Park that's why I'm very -- I'm still
20 very concerned about that, but I can see we're going to
21 get a lot of battle about this Henshaw part of it.
22
23 CHAIRMAN SAM: Mickey.
24
25 MR. STICKMAN: Okay. So now going back
26 to the motion, the motion's going to include everything
27 where it begins with seasons, if authorized by the
28 appropriate.....
29
30 MR. REAKOFF: Correct.
31
32 MR. STICKMAN:and I second the
33 motion when he amended it and I'll second the motion
34 again, because I really believe that portion of the -- I
35 mean, you know, even though I seconded the motion the
36 first time to delete that language, I really believe that
37 that language should be -- is an important part of the
38 proposal because, you know, it's -- you know, even though
39 we're a subsistence Council, the proposal itself is going
40 to delete -- or could possibly delete the taking of cow
41 moose but, you know, in our area we passed proposals like
42 this because if you continue to kill cows and, you know,
43 like PJ said earlier, the moose are getting hammered
44 right now so there's going to be really a low calf
45 survival rate but also a lot of adult moose are going to
46 get taken out this winter so, you know, I think it's
47 important that the land -- the managers have that
48 language in there to, you know, to be able to save what
49 we have right now for the future, you know.
50

1 You'll always have your -- your
2 subsistence opportunity will just be shorter and maybe
3 even -- cow moose may not even be allowed but at least
4 you'll still have the opportunity to get your moose.

5
6 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Mickey. Vince.

7
8 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, Mr. Chairman. Two
9 things. One, to make it clear for everybody, basically
10 now the motion is the bottom of Page 86 going into 87?

11
12 MR. REAKOFF: Right.

13
14 MR. MATHEWS: Okay. It took us a long
15 time to get to these pages, Jack knows the history of
16 this thing.

17
18 The other thing is, is I believe the
19 biologist from BLM wanted to -- Tim Craig wanted to speak
20 on this, not to cloud up the issue, just that BLM has
21 lands in this issue and I apologize for not pointing that
22 out.

23
24 MR. CRAIG: Yeah, Tim Craig, BLM,
25 Fairbanks. And I just wanted to point out that there was
26 BLM land involved in this proposal, in the southwest
27 corner of that Section E.

28
29 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you. So now we're
30 looking at the proposal as presented on Page 87; am I
31 correct?

32
33 MR. MATHEWS: It'd be 86 and 87 because
34 of the -- 86 deals with removing the language within the
35 Gates of the Arctic and maintains that season and then it
36 goes over into Page 87; is that correct, Jack?

37
38 MR. REAKOFF: Yes.

39
40 MR. MATHEWS: All right. So the record
41 should reflect that the motion on the floor is -- I can
42 read it but it's on the bottom of Page 86 dealing with:

43
44 Unit 24, that portion within the John
45 River, striking out within the Gates of
46 the Arctic National Park;

47
48 And then the motion continues on Page 87,
49 Unit 24 all drainages north of the
50 Koyukuk River upstream from and including

1 the Alatna River to and including the
2 North Fork of the Koyukuk River except
3 the John River, one moose, however,
4 antlerless moose may be taken only from
5 September 21 through 25th and March 1
6 through 5, if authorized.
7
8 And then you can see the list of who has
9 to be consulted and authorized by.
10
11 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay.
12
13 MR. MATHEWS: And the season would be
14 announced.
15
16 CHAIRMAN SAM: We have a motion on the
17 floor, it's been seconded. I think all the language has
18 been clarified. And we retracted some of our wishes and
19 we will -- the motion as it stands we'll adopt and
20 support the Staff recommendation; is this clear?
21
22 (Council nods affirmatively)
23
24 MR. WALKER: Question.
25
26 CHAIRMAN SAM: Question's been called
27 for. All those in favor of adopting Proposal WP05-12
28 signify by saying aye.
29
30 IN UNISON: Aye.
31
32 CHAIRMAN SAM: Opposed, same sign.
33
34 (No opposing votes)
35
36 CHAIRMAN SAM: Motion carried. Vince.
37
38 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman. Would it be
39 fair to say that the justification on Page 87 as well as
40 the effects of this proposal is the reasoning behind your
41 action so that you can carry that forth to the Board
42 meeting or did Council members want to kind of give
43 justification for their action.
44
45 CHAIRMAN SAM: Wishes of the Council.
46
47 MR. REAKOFF: Mr. Chairman.
48
49 CHAIRMAN SAM: Jack.
50

1 MR. REAKOFF: Well, Mr. Chairman, this
2 proposal has been very trying. The reason it is trying
3 is because the Gates of the Arctic Park did not want
4 reference in the regulation book to state Gates of the
5 Arctic and that's what's caused a lot of problems. And
6 I've endured a lot of hardships because of this proposal,
7 trying to eliminate this Gates of the Arctic language.
8 I'll never sign on to do this again.

9
10 I'm trying to hold on to a subsistence
11 hunt in the Park and that's the primary thrust of this
12 proposal.

13
14 So I am concerned that the Park Service
15 will implement our March season and they better implement
16 that season in the Park. I can see Kanuti's concerns for
17 the Henshaw drainage. But I'm hoping this goes forward
18 through the Board process, this proposal is a necessary
19 proposal to maintain subsistence priority for those
20 resident zone communities that have access to the Park.

21
22 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Jack. Was that
23 what you were looking for, Vince?

24
25 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, Mr. Chairman. And
26 then for the parts within the Kanuti Refuge and Bureau of
27 Land Management it would apply also to provide that
28 opportunity.

29
30 Thank you.

31
32 CHAIRMAN SAM: And for the record I'd
33 like to go on record.....

34
35 REPORTER: Ron. Ron.

36
37 CHAIRMAN SAM: I would like to go on
38 record.....

39
40 REPORTER: Ron.

41
42 CHAIRMAN SAM: For the record, I want to
43 state that what Jack said providing for subsistence
44 opportunities is our number 1 priority of the Western
45 Interior Subsistence Council. And I want all of you
46 people to know that. We had this clarified when we had
47 our Tri-Council meeting, we went all against each other
48 but even the Office of Subsistence Management couldn't
49 tell us no when we said we have to provide for
50 subsistence opportunities for our region and we think we

1 are doing this with this -- going with this proposal.

2

3

Vince.

4

5 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, due to the
6 length of this proposal and over time it -- I would kind
7 of advise that if Jack's available and you are available
8 to listen in on the Staff Committee meeting. I'm not
9 sure of the protocol on that but I think the amount of
10 time that the agencies have spent on this proposal, I'm
11 fairly certain they're sympathetic to having you
12 participate during that Staff Committee.

13

14 I think Jack is flagging some concerns
15 there that are new to me. So it might be wise to advise
16 the Staff Committee of those concerns also within the
17 Park as well as wherever else this proposal applies.

18

19 So we will work with you to get you guys
20 on by teleconference assuming thee Staff Committee
21 agrees.

22

23 CHAIRMAN SAM: Agreement with you Jack?

24

25 MR. REAKOFF: I'll try and be on that
26 teleconference but I can't make any promises.

27

28 CHAIRMAN SAM: Same here.

29

30 MR. MATHEWS: All right.

31

32 MR. REAKOFF: I might go through the ice
33 tomorrow or something.

34

35 (Laughter)

36

37 CHAIRMAN SAM: I might be working.

38

39 (Laughter)

40

41 MR. COLLINS: Mr. Chairman.

42

43 CHAIRMAN SAM: Go ahead, Ray.

44

45 MR. COLLINS: Yeah, I'm wondering if we
46 ought to make the statement, Jack, that you made before,
47 that the Council recognizes that at this time the
48 subsistence harvest is very low -- the winter subsistence
49 harvest is very low in the Park.

50

1 MR. REAKOFF: Right.
2
3 MR. COLLINS: And that we do not feel
4 that any closure is justified in that area at this time.
5
6 MR. REAKOFF: Right.
7
8 CHAIRMAN SAM: Did you get that Vince?
9
10 MR. MATHEWS: No, I didn't.
11
12 CHAIRMAN SAM: Go ahead, Ray, reiterate.
13
14 MR. COLLINS: I said that the Council
15 recognizes that the subsistence harvest during that
16 winter season in the Park has been extremely low and we
17 do not feel that there is any justification, biological
18 justification for a closure at this time. That's part of
19 our deliberation even though there would be consultation.
20
21 CHAIRMAN SAM: That's for the record. Do
22 we have it Vince?
23
24 MR. MATHEWS: Yes.
25
26 MR. REAKOFF: That's a real good idea.
27
28 CHAIRMAN SAM: I think that helps a lot
29 Ray, quite a bit, thank you. So we are done now with
30 Proposal WP05-12, which we totally knocked out Proposal
31 WP04-13, it did away with it completely?
32
33 MR. REAKOFF: Right.
34
35 CHAIRMAN SAM: Any further questions.
36
37 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman.
38
39 CHAIRMAN SAM: Vince.
40
41 MR. MATHEWS: So for the record then,
42 based on your actions with Proposal 12 you're taking no
43 action with Proposal 13, that's the wishes of the
44 Council?
45
46 (Council nods affirmatively)
47
48 CHAIRMAN SAM: That is what I am saying.
49 Everybody's also nodding their head for the record in
50 consensus.

1 MR. MATHEWS: Thank you.

2

3 CHAIRMAN SAM: The other item we had was
4 to protect our people of Alatna and Allakaket, we are
5 looking at any kind of avenue to open some kind of season
6 within the Kanuti Wildlife Refuge south of us, we're
7 right pretty much in the middle. And after our brief
8 discussion on this, everybody keeps telling us that we
9 may be opening up a can of worms and at this time we do
10 not know whether we want to go into that. However, to
11 protect our people from being cited I think we should
12 have some kind of discussion on opening up a winter moose
13 hunt within the Kanuti Wildlife Refuge.

14

15 Two of the avenues that we looked at. I
16 talked with Wennona Brown, we talked about the permit
17 system that they have at Kaktovik where only Kaktovik
18 would be allowed to hunt within that -- what is it,
19 Arctic National Wildlife Refuge?

20

21 MS. BROWN: (Nods affirmatively)

22

23 CHAIRMAN SAM: That only residents of
24 Kaktovik would utilize that area for muskox and caribou.
25 So that's one avenue that we are looking to maybe
26 establish a permit system for the Kanuti Wildlife Refuge
27 winter hunt, March hunt, if possible. That's one
28 possibility.

29

30 Go ahead, Vince.

31

32 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, we talked
33 about this on break. I think we need to openly talk
34 about various options for the Kanuti Refuge but we also
35 need to give you cautionary statements, not to deter any
36 action, but there's a lot associated with the Refuge
37 there. So I don't know if you'd want to wait until your
38 fall meeting to do that, where we could develop with
39 Staff some options to address your concerns or if you
40 want to try at this point to just kind of lay out the
41 situation.

42

43 The Kanuti Refuge area has some unique
44 requirements and so we can lay it out tonight and go
45 through it that way and then help you draft some options
46 for your fall meeting or we can wait until the fall
47 meeting and we draft some options with you and then bring
48 them up at that time.

49

50 The concern with bringing it out tonight

1 and I want the public to understand this is that we're
2 just trying to advise you at this point on this issue,
3 not to deter, not to strike any actions or anything like
4 that, but we also don't want to give the perception that
5 it will happen. So that's the only cautions but we can
6 openly do that and then action time on that, probably
7 more would be at your fall meeting for a proposal.

8
9 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Vince. I think
10 that your point is well made and point is well taken that
11 if we do take action at this time it would be moot,
12 meaning less because it would still have to go before the
13 Federal Subsistence Board to make use of any kind of
14 proposal or action that we could take tonight. I think
15 that that is a point well taken, that we should heed that
16 and have OSM and InterAgency Staff develop some proposals
17 where we may be able to utilize a winter moose hunt
18 within the Kanuti Wildlife Refuge.

19
20 However, at this time, Jack just nudged
21 me and gave me another good point, that at this time I
22 think that it would be more than appropriate to have
23 local people testify on whether or not they want to have
24 a winter hunt within the Kanuti Wildlife Refuge.

25
26 Is that what you were looking at, Jack?

27
28 MR. REAKOFF: Well, Mr. Chairman, with
29 the community here I would like to hear how people are --
30 if people are meeting their subsistence needs for moose
31 and, you know, we should kick around some ideas for our
32 fall meeting about how to address those needs while we
33 have the community here. That's what I was getting at,
34 yeah.

35
36 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yes, I see a lot of
37 community members nodding their heads. I think that is
38 more than appropriate. Again, I see one hand up in the
39 air to begin our discussion or taking comments from our
40 local people.

41
42 Stanley Ned.

43
44 MR. NED: My name is Stanley Ned,
45 originally from Allakaket but living in Fairbanks for the
46 time being.

47
48 I think one of the problems we're having
49 now is the predation rate is so high for the moose
50 population and we're having a lot of local and non-local

1 hunters now coming into our neck of the woods because of
2 the Dalton Highway, you know, people can flow down the
3 different tributaries and are beginning to -- we're
4 having a big influx of hunters.

5
6 And the moose population is being really
7 hammered like Polluck Jr., mentioned earlier by the
8 wolves and the bears. And we need to try to -- I think
9 one thing we need to try to do is find some ways of
10 implementing some kind of predation control on Federal
11 land. I don't know if they have any kind of policies in
12 their books stating that we could work something in
13 there. But I know they can do that on the State. But I
14 was talking to one of the people there, I can't remember
15 who it was, they said there might be something in the
16 Federal regulations where we could implement something
17 like that.

18
19 But going back to your idea of trying to
20 do a March hunt on the Kanuti Refuge, I, for one will go
21 for that because in the fall time -- I came here in the
22 fall last fall to go moose hunting and take a boat trip
23 with a friend of mine and I went out for a week, I didn't
24 see one bull, one bull moose, nothing. One cow is all we
25 seen. So I think most of the people here know exactly
26 what I'm talking about, you know.

27
28 For those of you that have a hard time
29 hunting here in Allakaket, you know, now is the time to
30 come up here and let these guys know how hard it was for
31 you guys to go moose hunting. Because going out for that
32 one week we burned, I think, \$700 in gas, you know, just
33 traveling around and not getting anything. And that's
34 quite a bit. And I was working at the time and I know
35 most of the people here have a hard time buying all that
36 gas, you know, and they have to go two or three guys to a
37 boat. So I think that idea is pretty damn good. And if
38 they need some help in suggesting that I'll be available
39 to help on it.

40
41 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Stanley. Any
42 further public testimony. Harding Sam. We'd like to
43 listen to all the local people if we could find out where
44 we stand and where we want to go on trying to establish a
45 winter moose hunt within the Kanuti Wildlife Refuge.

46
47 Harding Sam, Chief of Alatna.

48
49 MR. H. SAM: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I
50 really support this winter moose hunt but I think we

1 should really state clearly it would be open to residents
2 only.

3

4 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you. I think that's
5 what we discussed under the -- when we talked about the
6 Arctic National Wildlife Refuge up around Kaktovik, it
7 was for Kaktovik residents only. So if we do establish
8 anything, we're throwing any kind of option out, we would
9 have to state that it was for the residents of Alatna and
10 Allakaket only. That's clearly understood, Federally-
11 qualified subsistence users, too, uh-huh, that would have
12 to be on there.

13

14 Again, thank you. Thank you for that
15 comment Harding. It makes a lot of sense.

16

17

Vince.

18

19

MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman. I always
20 earn my pay and I hate doing this but for the public to
21 understand the Refuge boundary is a boundary. Within the
22 Refuge there are Native Corporation lands, so lands right
23 outside the door out here would not fall underneath this
24 proposed March hunt. I say that now so we don't end up
25 with confusion later. So the checkerboard that is on
26 your place map, if you look at Kanuti will have an effect
27 if this goes into action.

28

29

I'm not quick enough to know the
30 distances, but I'm sure it's quite a few miles from
31 Allakaket depending on which way you go to get to the
32 colored lands, which is where this would hunt. I don't
33 want you to be discouraged from your action, but I know
34 when you guys talk, or I believe when you guys talk about
35 the Kanuti Refuge you're talking about all the
36 boundaries, and this would not apply for those white
37 checkerboards within there.

38

39

And we'll explain that again in October.
40 The difficulty is, is most likely you will not be meeting
41 in Allakaket so out of respect for the community of
42 Allakaket they'll need to look at this map closer and get
43 a good map of the Refuge and I'm sure Refuge Staff will
44 be pointing that out in various meetings, where the
45 boundaries are.

46

47

CHAIRMAN SAM: Thanks for that
48 clarification. And looking at the boundaries of Kanuti
49 Wildlife Refuge, to get in that area you have to go quite
50 a ways up the Kanuti River. But if we went to the Kanuti

1 Controlled Use Area we would be opening a bigger can of
2 worms wouldn't we?

3

4 MR. MATHEWS: Well -- well.....

5

6 CHAIRMAN SAM: If we went to a Kanuti
7 Controlled Use Area instead of the Kanuti Wildlife
8 Refuge?

9

10 MR. MATHEWS: Wow. The Controlled Use
11 Area is an action that's done by the Board of Game that
12 controls access to the area. The Federal Subsistence
13 Program honors that controlled use area. I don't know if
14 there would be any advantage of limiting your proposed
15 action for a winter hunt to the controlled use area, it
16 would not add any additional lands. It would just -- for
17 a person who doesn't hunt there, I think it would cause
18 more confusion.

19

20 No, that -- no, I -- it doesn't change
21 the make up of the land that falls underneath that
22 controlled use area, that remains the same, unless
23 there's something with these court cases but that's going
24 to take many, many years, if ever, to come to conclusion.

25

26 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay. Again, I was
27 reading too much into our suggested proposal. If we're
28 talking about March we would have no problems getting out
29 to this boundary, within this boundary. Again, trying to
30 read too much into it but we can go any place out there
31 within the Kanuti Wildlife Refuge in March.

32

33 At this time I would like to introduce
34 Steven Bergman, request for some more public testimony.

35

36 MR. BERGMAN: Thank you, Ron. Thank you,
37 Board. I just want to speak in favor of that proposal to
38 use a permit to hunt moose in March. Right now it's open
39 up this way north of Koyukuk River, but last fall we
40 couldn't go back Kanuti River and during moose season
41 water was really low, just really tough going back there.

42

43 And I trap over Kanuti Flats all my life
44 and I trap on my dad's trap line back there and there's
45 moose back there, you know, but right now the way it is
46 we have to hunt up this way from the mouth of Alatna
47 north of Koyukuk River up that way, so that's first time
48 I heard about that permit system they have there
49 someplace, but I think it would be really good for us
50 right here. We could use that for our own subsistence

1 people here in Allakaket because lots of people here had
2 a hard time getting moose last fall and I think it would
3 really help us to push that proposal.

4

5 That's all I wanted to say.

6

7 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Steve. Any
8 questions for Steve.

9

10 (No comments)

11

12 CHAIRMAN SAM: If not, for the record --
13 somebody get that mike -- for the record the Chair will
14 go on record that we did have earlier testimony by Auntie
15 Kitty David. She said about the same thing that Steven
16 said. You got allotments over there, trap line and she
17 really wants to hunt within her own country, her own
18 allotment, but then when we go into allotments it would
19 be another can of worms, it's under State jurisdiction,
20 Native lands.

21

22 But when we are addressing this issue
23 we're just addressing the Kanuti Wildlife Refuge, and I
24 think I'd like to make that clear for the record.

25

26 MR. COLLINS: Mr. Chairman.

27

28 CHAIRMAN SAM: Ray.

29

30 MR. COLLINS: Yeah. There is one
31 mechanism that you could possibly use on the land if you
32 wanted to go that way. If you wanted a winter
33 subsistence hunt on State land it has to be open to all
34 residents of the state but in McGrath, where the
35 population is down now, what we have instituted is a
36 controlled hunt where people have to register in McGrath
37 two weeks prior to that hunt. They can't get the permits
38 anywhere else. If you had something like that in the
39 winter with the registration opened and being able to
40 only do it in Allakaket and Alatna, prior to whenever
41 that hunt would go, like in January and February, the
42 only ones that could hunt out there would be ones who
43 would come in and pick up a permit to hunt here on the
44 State land. It might work. There probably would not be
45 too many people that would fly up here to go for a winter
46 hunt out there.

47

48 But that's the only way you can work a
49 hunt like that on State land where you would limit the
50 number of people coming in. Then you can also see how

1 many permits there are and that would determine how many
2 days hunting you're going to give, too, I mean if they're
3 going to open it for -- or they could close it if there's
4 going too many, after so many moose are killed they'd
5 close it or something like that to protect the
6 population.

7
8 But that's something you might think
9 about at some point, but it would be for the Fish and
10 Game Advisory Committee up here, I guess, to get into
11 that, not the Federal.

12
13 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Ray. Just for
14 the record, again, I'd like to clarify that we are
15 addressing lands within the Kanuti Wildlife Refuge only.

16
17 MR. COLLINS: Yeah.

18
19 CHAIRMAN SAM: And we're talking
20 residents of Alatna and Allakaket only.

21
22 MR. COLLINS: Right.

23
24 CHAIRMAN SAM: And that's what we're
25 trying to pursue in the best possible way.

26
27 Mickey.

28
29 MR. STICKMAN: Thanks, Mr. Chair. You
30 know, that was the reason why I thanked Mike for his work
31 in my area, you know, he's going to be the Refuge manager
32 for Kanuti. And, you know, it's going to be him working
33 with you, the local people here, and like I said he's a,
34 you know, he's a reasonable person and he'll sit down and
35 listen to your concerns.

36
37 But, you know, it's very important that
38 you get to know the Refuge manager. And Mike did some
39 really great work down in the Galena, Nulato, Kaltag,
40 Koyukuk area by producing Raven's Stories, talking about
41 the history, the past, the present, you know, he
42 incorporated all that knowledge into his management. So
43 I can't stress how important it is for you as a community
44 and especially for the elders here in the community to
45 get to know Mike.

46
47 Thank you.

48
49 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Mickey
50 Stickman. Any further public testimony. It is getting

1 close to 8:00 o'clock, any further public testimony.

2

3

Herbie, Chief of Allakaket.

4

5 CHIEF HERBIE: Thank you, Ron. Like the
6 other persons mentioned before that they have allotments
7 back, their trap lines in Kanuti Wildlife Refuge. I kind
8 of would say that I'd support that in mind to try to get
9 the winter moose hunt like on March on the Kanuti
10 Wildlife Refuge.

11

12 Our elders, one elder spoke before me but
13 I was out seeing -- I was checking beaver -- but I'd say
14 I'd support it and I wonder if you guys could kind of
15 have a little bit something, wording saying that it could
16 possibly happen in March if you guys bring it up by
17 August or fall meeting. I think I'd really support it
18 and I'd like to see something out in writing just trying
19 to make it happen in March because I inherited two
20 allotments area around that Kanuti Wildlife Refuge so I
21 would support it.

22

23

Thank you.

24

25

26 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Herbie.
27 Further public testimony. Vincent Bergman, second chief
28 of Allakaket. Use the mike for Tina.

29

30 MR. BERGMAN: Thank you, Board. I don't
31 know how to get started on how to control the wolves
32 around here, there's lots of wolves all over.

33

34 Last fall me and my wife went hunting,
35 went down river as far as Koga (ph) Mountain, we see wolf
36 tracks all over. Went up river as far as Henshaw and saw
37 a lot of wolf tracks up there. Went up Alatna saw a lot
38 of wolf tracks, too.

39

40 During the '60s when I was a kid there
41 was a wolf hunter here, he had airplane, he killed a lot
42 of wolves, his name was Bill Hutcheson, these elders
43 know, you know, it seemed like the wolves just come back
44 one time, there's wolves all over.

45

46

I'm really nervous.

47

48 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, then. Again, I
49 think that just for public's information, we do have a
50 draft, how would you say, predator's management, we do
have a draft policy coming out from the Federal

1 Subsistence Board. Vince, could you elaborate on it a
2 little bit or somebody from OSM?

3

4 MR. MATHEWS: Sure. I will ask other
5 people in the room, but it's no longer draft, it is now a
6 predator policy that's in effect.

7

8 And there's probably another person that
9 can handle it better at this time that might -- Greg, I'm
10 not sure. I don't want to corner anybody else, I'm
11 trying to -- there's confusion over some of the language
12 with Proposal 12 and 13, that's why I'm walking around,
13 I'm trying to work that out so I'm a little more focused
14 on that. But I apologize for pulling Greg up here but
15 I'm pretty sure he can handle the predator policy better
16 than I can.

17

18 Thank you.

19

20 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Vince. Greg.

21

22 MR. BOS: Thank you, Mr. Chair. The
23 Federal Subsistence Board did adopt in final form a
24 policy on how it would deal with predator management
25 proposals. And that is to say that it doesn't have the
26 authority to establish regulations to control predators.

27

28 That predator control or predator
29 management is the responsibility of the land managing
30 agencies of the -- the Federal land managing agencies
31 and the State of Alaska so that if there are proposals
32 for predator control, that they needed to be directed to
33 the State, in this case, or to the Federal land manager.

34

35 The Federal agencies -- I can speak for
36 the Fish and Wildlife Service, have a fairly stringent
37 threshold for approving Federal -- approving predator
38 control on Refuge lands because it has to manage on the
39 basis of a national policy to maintain natural diversity
40 of wildlife populations on the Refuge. So it would
41 involve having to do a number of studies to establish the
42 role of predators on the Refuge to what extent they are
43 depressing prey populations, and whether or not the
44 ratios of predators and prey are below historical numbers
45 in terms of variability, predators and prey population
46 cycle, and different levels of abundance. And so you
47 have historical times, you know, periods when moose and
48 caribou or other prey have been held at low numbers and
49 the Fish and Wildlife Service would need to look at those
50 historical population levels of predators and prey to

1 determine if a situation exists that the natural
2 diversity of those populations is jeopardized.

3
4 So it'd be a fairly difficult proposition
5 to get predator controlled approved on a Refuge without
6 substantial studies to establish that it's, in fact,
7 something that the Service has to conduct.

8
9 I know that's not what you wanted to
10 hear.

11
12 But, you know, I think in this area you
13 have a fairly large area that's under State jurisdiction
14 and I think Glenn Stout laid out an approach to
15 establishing a basis under the State's intensive
16 management law that would allow the State to establish
17 population objectives for moose and for predators that
18 could lead to a predator control implementation program
19 here on State -- on lands under State jurisdiction.

20
21 CHAIRMAN SAM: Just on Native corporation
22 lands and allotments out on the Kanuti Wildlife Refuge,
23 you have quite a bit under State jurisdictions, that
24 alone with -- along with Doyon Limited land holdings.

25
26 MR. BOS: That's right.

27
28 CHAIRMAN SAM: So we may have to go ahead
29 through that route through Glenn under the State program.

30
31 MR. HONEA: Can I ask him a question?

32
33 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yes. Greg Bos, Don Honea
34 has a question for you.

35
36 MR. HONEA: Yeah, Greg, I forgot your
37 title.

38
39 MR. BOS: I'm a regional subsistence
40 coordinator for the Fish and Wildlife Service for
41 wildlife issues. I'm based in Anchorage.

42
43 MR. HONEA: Okay, how would this scenario
44 work. Say we all have the same problems with a lot of
45 wolves out there killing off a lot of moose and it's
46 going on in and around Ruby also, what is the scenario
47 here? I mean say I think we're kind of beyond asking the
48 State for predator control with what's going on with just
49 about an Act of God that they had to do the one in
50 McGrath, and so I don't know how many years or whatever

1 that we have to wait to see how that plays out, but what
2 is the scenario now if we do -- do we, as an individual,
3 as a tribe, as somebody, as an advisory group, submit a
4 proposal to the Game Board, they consider it, and then
5 it's at the wishes of the Governor, is that how it
6 ultimately goes?

7
8 MR. BOS: Mr. Chair. I'm probably not
9 the best person to ask about the State's policies. But I
10 think you'll find that since -- with the Murkowski
11 Administration that the policies towards predator control
12 have become much more liberal. There are presently seven
13 control areas in the state, not just McGrath, but there
14 are seven that have been approved by the Board of Game.
15 And there are more being considered right now at the
16 Board of Game meeting in Anchorage.

17
18 So I think the chances have never been
19 better for folks in rural areas to get predator control
20 programs approved if the information, you know, on the
21 predation problem indicates that that's required. But it
22 has to be in the context of the intensive management law
23 and the harvest objectives and population objectives that
24 have been set under that law, and I think Glenn Stout
25 could probably speak more accurately to that aspect.

26
27 MR. COLLINS: Mr. Chairman.

28
29 CHAIRMAN SAM: Carl.

30
31 MR. MORGAN: Yeah, thank you, Mr.
32 Chairman. But that would only apply to State lands and
33 State controlled areas, right?

34
35 MR. BOS: Yes, that's right.

36
37 MR. MORGAN: Let me continue.

38
39 CHAIRMAN SAM: Go ahead, Carl.

40
41 MR. MORGAN: So basically it's almost
42 near impossible to implement, if it took an Act of God
43 almost in State land, I see even an Act of -- I don't
44 think we'll ever get predator control on Federal land
45 because somebody else is pulling your strings, or the
46 Federal managers that are directly working in Washington,
47 D.C.

48
49 MR. BOS: Well, I wouldn't say never, but
50 I think it's a fairly accurate assessment under the

1 present policies of the Fish and Wildlife Service.

2

3 The Service has, you know, taken the
4 official position that predator management is one of the
5 -- is a valid -- a legitimate management tool that can be
6 used on National Wildlife Refuges if the conditions
7 warrant it, if the information justifies control.

8

9 MR. COLLINS: Mr. Chairman.

10

11 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Greg. To get
12 back to that March hunt within the Kanuti Wildlife
13 Refuge, it would be only fair to say that we'd only be
14 competing against the wolves, right? That's about all we
15 could do because -- and human consumption takes priority
16 over predator consumption, could that be understood all
17 the way to Washington, D.C.

18

19 MR. BOS: I think, you know, I can say
20 that it's the policy of the Service to not manage any
21 single species strictly for the benefit of hunters,
22 unfortunately that creates a real hardship, I think, for
23 subsistence -- people who depend on subsistence in rural
24 areas of Alaska.

25

26 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you.

27

28 MR. COLLINS: Mr. Chairman.

29

30 CHAIRMAN SAM: Ray.

31

32 MR. COLLINS: Yeah, I've been involved in
33 this moose issue for a long time and there was two years
34 that the State met to kind of come up with a plan and
35 then they weren't able to implement it, and then in the
36 McGrath case we had to go through a study for two years
37 to find out what was causing calf mortality. It was a
38 long process. But it would seem to me as Federal managers
39 on the Refuge, you're to keep healthy viable populations,
40 but isn't there a term, healthy populations in there,
41 too?

42

43 I would think that the situation this
44 winter is the set up for a study because we've already
45 heard testimony that because the caribou were around last
46 year, it looks like the wolves came out of the winter
47 with large wolf packs, they're larger, they're 12 to 15,
48 normally they were six to 12. I think that should be
49 documented, studied right now. Also that a study be
50 implemented on calf mortality in the spring so that you

1 look at the population and see. Unfortunately what we
2 tried to get on the State level and here is when we need
3 the action is right now because they're going to hammer
4 them this winter. The packs are 12 to 15, the snow
5 conditions are deep, the moose are trapped, and they're
6 going to knock the population down this winter. If you
7 could go in there and knock those wolf packs down to the
8 normal or more natural level of six to whatever this
9 winter, you see what I mean, and get some relief you'd
10 probably get the situation turned around quickly.

11

12 But the only way you're going to do that
13 is if the studies are done to show what affects
14 populations, and whether they're good or bad. So I think
15 we could, at least be asking that a study be done on this
16 to see what this situation is. And perhaps in the
17 management objectives there would be objective, maybe not
18 population, but a maintaining healthy population because
19 it's not healthy for the wolf either. If the moose
20 population gets knocked way down and the caribou don't
21 show up, that wolf population's going to drop too, but
22 they've already reduced -- or they'll keep the wolf --
23 the moose populations low through predation, and they
24 won't be able to grow back to a healthy level unless
25 there's some intervention there.

26

27 So is there anything in the scenario to
28 really study that to see what would trigger it so that
29 you've got the data and would know when it's appropriate
30 to act or not or do you have to wait until -- we're
31 always acting after the fact and then the damage is
32 already done; do you see what I mean?

33

34 MR. BOS: It's a real Catch-22. And I
35 don't know if Mike Spindler might come up and speak to
36 this, you know, I don't want to speak for him but in
37 general, I think any of our Refuge managers would very
38 much like to just to have more studies of the wildlife
39 populations on the Refuges and particularly predator/prey
40 because it is such an important issue. It's a question
41 of funding. And right now the Fish and Wildlife Service
42 is undergoing significant budget reductions under the
43 Bush Administration. And it's a matter of even trying to
44 keep existing operations going at an effective level. So
45 there isn't money out there to implement new studies.

46

47 But I think, you know, Mike can speak to
48 whether he has an interest in doing the kind of work that
49 you're suggesting.

50

1 CHAIRMAN SAM: It is now 10 after 8:00
2 and we're accepting public testimony as to where we want
3 to go with our moose hunt within the Kanuti Wildlife
4 Refuge. It's quite obvious that we cannot solve the
5 Western Interior's problems tonight, and I won't even
6 try. After Huslia, I made up my mind that I will never
7 again meet until 10:30, 11:00 night on the Federal
8 Subsistence Program.

9
10 Briefly, I think we already called for a
11 study through the Kanuti Wildlife Refuge management
12 system. And so briefly we'll listen to Mike Spindler.

13
14 MR. SPINDLER: For the record, Mr. Chair,
15 I'm Mike Spindler. I've been manager of Kanuti Refuge
16 for two days.

17
18 (Laughter)

19
20 MR. SPINDLER: I was manager of Koyukuk
21 Refuge for four years and supervisory biologist at
22 Koyukuk Refuge for 11 years. During the time I was on
23 Koyukuk Refuge I was involved in a wolf predator study on
24 the Koyukuk and the Nowitna and I was involved in a
25 moose/calf mortality study on the Koyukuk and the
26 Nowitna.

27
28 I'm also aware that Kanuti Refuge
29 conducted a wolf telemetry study back in the mid-1990s
30 and just to give the Advisory Council an idea of how much
31 these studies cost, you're looking at about \$30,000 a
32 year for three years, and no Refuge right now can even
33 dream of getting that kind of money added to their
34 budget, we're cutting that much per year.

35
36 So I think what I'd like to, at least,
37 end the evening with as far as the Kanuti Refuge is
38 concerned is that I'm well aware from my work down in the
39 Koyukuk, I produced this CD of elder's interviews down
40 that way, I'm well aware of what the main concerns are
41 and I'm well aware of how we can put science together
42 with traditional knowledge to use what information we do
43 have. We can build on a lot of studies that have already
44 been done and we can build on the traditional knowledge
45 that's already been gathered and we can continue to try
46 and gather more as budgets permit.

47
48 But more than that, I think, what I want
49 to leave you the message of and the people of Allakaket
50 with a message of is that it's only working together with

1 the villagers, the Federal agencies and the State of
2 Alaska that we can find solutions that work. Just having
3 come from the decision on the March 1 through 5 season
4 down on the Koyukuk, I tried to design that as a
5 collaborative process where we involved all the
6 stakeholders and I wrote a record of decision based on
7 what the stakeholders recommended and balanced that with
8 the biology of the resource.

9
10 I'll pledge to you that I'll do the same
11 thing on the Kanuti. And I'll listen to all the parties
12 concerned and certainly examine the data that are
13 available right now. And if we do get lucky and can
14 scrape together enough funds to do some kind of a study
15 I'll pledge that we'll try and do that. I can't promise
16 that we will because like I said they're cutting our
17 budget as much as what those studies cost each year.

18
19 But I am here mainly to listen and so
20 I've been, during the breaks, visiting with various folks
21 and hopefully the next time I can report to you, I will
22 have more than two days experience managing the Refuge.

23
24 Thank you.

25
26 (Laughter)

27
28 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Mike. 30,000 a
29 year for three years should be just a drop in the bucket
30 for our Uncle Sam since we're spending 12 billion every
31 six months at Iraq, so we should ask for some of that
32 billions of dollars from Iraq maybe to do a study. That
33 90,000 doesn't seem like much to ask for, so I would ask
34 you to pursue it for all your worth and I'm glad that you
35 made your statement and welcome to the Kanuti.

36
37 Thank you, Mike.

38
39 Any further public testimony.

40
41 (No comments)

42
43 CHAIRMAN SAM: If not I would like to
44 close tonight by recognizing Polly Wheeler. I understand
45 she's catching a plane at 9:30 and we don't know what
46 time we'll get started so if she wants to address the
47 driftnet fisheries.....

48
49 (Laughter)

50

1 CHAIRMAN SAM: I would ask her to
2 come up to the microphone. Polly Wheeler.
3
4 DR. WHEELER: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I
5 think that Geoff Beyersdorf also would have something to
6 say, this would be on the 4B and C driftnet fishery, is
7 that what you're talking about, Mr. Chair?
8
9 CHAIRMAN SAM: Is that what you wanted to
10 address before you leave?
11
12 DR. WHEELER: Yeah, or we could do it
13 first thing in the morning, too.
14
15 MR. MATHEWS: In the morning. The
16 morning would be great.
17
18 MR. STICKMAN: What time does the plane
19 get here?
20
21 MR. MORGAN: Will you have enough time in
22 the morning?
23
24 DR. WHEELER: If we start at 6:30 I'll
25 have enough.....
26
27 (Laughter)
28
29 DR. WHEELER: no, I'm kidding.
30
31 (Laughter)
32
33 DR. WHEELER: If you started at 12 hours
34 from now or 12 hours and 15 minutes from now we -- I
35 think it would take maybe 15, 20 minutes.
36
37 MR. BEYERSDORF: Yeah, I think so.
38
39 DR. WHEELER: I don't think it would take
40 a long time, Mr. Chair.
41
42 CHAIRMAN SAM: Do it?
43
44 (Council nods affirmatively)
45
46 CHAIRMAN SAM: Go ahead and do it right
47 now.
48
49 (Laughter)
50

1 DR. WHEELER: Oh, okay, well,
2 alternatively we could do it now.

3
4 (Laughter)

5
6 DR. WHEELER: Okay. I didn't know if --
7 Rich, do you want to come up, too?

8
9 MR. UBERUAGA: I can.

10
11 DR. WHEELER: Mr. Chair, as you know the
12 Federal Board passed this regulation at their January
13 meeting to allow driftnet fishing in 4B and C, and we
14 have -- we, being the Office of Subsistence Management,
15 Geoff Beyersdorf's shop and also Russ Holder's shop in
16 Fairbanks, have been working on a collaborative plan to
17 kind of get the word out.....

18
19 MR. UBERUAGA: We'll get all of us up
20 here.

21
22 DR. WHEELER: Oh, okay. We'll all hold
23 hands up here.

24
25 We have Gerald Maschmann with Russ
26 Holder's shop, and myself with OSM and Rich Uberuaga from
27 OSM and Geoff Beyersdorf from Refuges in general.

28
29 A couple -- well, a month or so ago, I
30 guess, we were charged with kind of starting to meet and
31 come with a plan for how we were going to deal with this
32 regulation and I would draw everybody in this room's
33 attention to the poster that was back there -- oh, it is
34 back there, it's on the door back there by the wildfire
35 pictures, and that poster is an informational poster that
36 will be sent out to all the communities that are affected
37 by this new regulation to give them information about
38 where it's occurring and other pertinent information. So
39 we're sort of attacking this from different fronts.

40
41 There's a public outreach front that is
42 going through Refuges as well as -- really through
43 Refuges and then there's a permit which Richard has a
44 copy -- does Richard have a copy of the permit, draft
45 permit?

46
47 MR. UBERUAGA: No.

48
49 DR. WHEELER: Okay. Well, that's being
50 developed, too. And then we're also working on

1 potentially doing a post-season project where we'd be
2 interviewing some of the key players that actually
3 participated in this fishery to kind of get a sense of,
4 you know, where they fished last year, where they fished
5 this year, what their sense was, was it less congested,
6 more congested, did it work for them; that kind of thing.

7
8 So I guess I would hand the mike over to
9 whomever else.

10
11 But I think the key here is that this was
12 a regulation that was passed by the Board but we are
13 working on it collaboratively. I know you all see the
14 Federal program and you just, that's it, but there are
15 these different offices that are making an effort to work
16 together and try and get the word out but also have a
17 coordinated program internally so that it works best for
18 the people on the river that are trying to avail
19 themselves of this new opportunity.

20
21 I guess I'd hand it over to Geoff since
22 he's going to be the person on the ground dealing with a
23 lot of these issues.

24
25 CHAIRMAN SAM: Go ahead, Geoff.

26
27 MR. BEYERSDORF: Chairman Sam. Members
28 of the Regional Advisory Council. Especially, Don, later
29 on I'd like to get together with you and go over this map
30 and just see what your feelings are, and Benedict also
31 and Tommy, as far as what that map represents, how easy
32 it is to understand and everything.

33
34 But the basic approach that, I guess, I
35 wanted to go over here is that we've just gone through
36 this March 1st through 5th moose hunting season and there
37 were a lot of the same issues for that that are going to
38 come up with this drift gillnet fishery. And basically
39 what we found out, what really worked well was we did the
40 permits through the local people. We had them talk about
41 what the permit conditions were at the time. We also had
42 them sit down and clarify with people on a map, everybody
43 was issued a map of where the boundaries were, where they
44 could and could not hunt, and we'll do the same thing,
45 where they can and cannot fish. And I think what we saw
46 that was really successful, especially in Huslia, is
47 Orville did a lot of the on the ground face-to-face
48 meeting and that worked really well and I think that that
49 is kind of what you're going to see with the
50 implementation, a lot of this is going to be in Galena,

1 so I will be there and possibly somebody from either OSM
2 or Gerald's shop in Fairbanks to help conduct this. Our
3 intent is to do some village visits, so we'll be in
4 Galena and we'll be going to Ruby and probably Koyukuk,
5 and then Huslia. We'll be doing those posters and we
6 intend on doing a mail out to everyone in the area.

7
8 It's going to be a low key, I just get in
9 the boat and go up to Ruby or to Koyukuk, and just meet
10 with people and talk to them about what exactly this
11 regulation means and then also we can issue permits there
12 or we're still -- that's kind of up in the air, Maureen
13 and I were talking about that, whether we're just going
14 to be able to issue permits at that time or if we're
15 going to have somebody in the village issuing the permit.
16 I think what we saw, like in Huslia and Hughes, having
17 somebody actually in the village to issue the permit
18 worked really well.

19
20 And I guess the last thing I was going to
21 say is that the other thing that's worked really well
22 with us in the past is doing announcements on the radio
23 and letting people know what the current regulations are.

24
25 And with that I'll take any comments.

26
27 I do have one.....

28
29 MR. UBERUAGA: Can I say something first.

30
31 MR. BEYERSDORF: Okay, one thing, before
32 I forget, Benedict you asked about water temperatures
33 earlier. I do have that information and I'll get that to
34 you when we get back.

35
36 MR. UBERUAGA: Yeah, Mr. Chair, Rich
37 Uberuaga. As people have mentioned, we're working on the
38 permit development together, but the lead responsibility,
39 I wanted to make it clear to you all where that lead
40 responsibility for the permit lies, and it lies with the
41 in-season manager in Fairbanks, who's Russ Holder. So we
42 hope to have the permit developed and available by the
43 middle of April, and that's what we're shooting for right
44 now, and we're still working on this and we've got a lot
45 more stuff to do in terms of making this a nice, easy to
46 understand and clear permit. And we're very aware of not
47 making it a difficult, onerous permit to abide by.

48
49 So, thank you.

50

1 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you. I commend you
2 already because I think what Geoff stated is to meet
3 people face-to-face individually and follow up, follow
4 through and just keep on giving out the information even
5 if it's repetitive because that's the only way that you
6 can get people to follow it, I think. And I think with
7 that approach, I think that we won't have too much
8 problem implementing this driftnet fisheries.

9
10 Vince.

11
12 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman. One of my
13 duties as coordinator is to make sure that all comments
14 get before the Council. I received this afternoon a fax
15 from Alaska Department of Fish and Game which I've been
16 instructed to read into the record.

17
18 Alaska Department of Fish and Game
19 statement to the Yukon Regional Advisory Councils
20 regarding the new Federal subsistence drift gillnet
21 fishery for chinook salmon in Yukon River Districts 4B,
22 4C and it's dated February 2005.

23
24 In January 2005 the Federal Subsistence
25 Board adopted a new regulation which
26 expanded the subsistence drift gillnet
27 king salmon fishery. The fishery was
28 expanded into waters claim subject to
29 Federal reserve water right within the
30 Yukon River Subdistricts 4B and 4C for
31 Federally-qualified rural subsistence
32 users.

33
34 The Alaska Department of Fish and Game
35 was very disappointed in this decision
36 because the Department opposed the
37 change, two Yukon River Regional Advisory
38 Councils opposed the change and the Yukon
39 River Drainage Fisheries Association
40 opposed the change.

41
42 The Department expressed its concerns
43 regarding potential biological impacts
44 caused by changes in the stock
45 composition of harvest taken by a new
46 gear type in that area. Concerns for
47 potential impacts to other users,
48 Canadian chinook stocks and fisheries
49 management appears to be the reasons that
50 the YK-Delta and Eastern Interior

1 Regional Advisory Council as well as
2 YRDFA opposed this proposal.
3

4 One of the Department's main concerns was
5 that the three Regional Advisory Councils
6 involved with the Yukon River were not
7 provided the opportunity to meet together
8 to discuss and vote on this proposal as a
9 group.

10
11 Then there's a series of bulleted items
12 under that.
13

14 The first one being, the Yukon River
15 fishery is very complex. Each proposal
16 affecting migratory fish will likely have
17 the same affect on all fishers.
18

19 Each individual Regional Advisory Council
20 was provided different information or
21 recommendations pertaining to this
22 proposal. As a result, communication was
23 lacking when the Regional Council's met
24 separately and conflicts between users
25 were unnecessarily increased. Fishers in
26 and Department have worked hard over the
27 past 15 years to bring users together
28 while the newly imposed Federal
29 management system tends to break them
30 apart.
31

32 The Department continues to urge OSM to
33 consider combining the three Regional
34 Councils for the Yukon River to allow
35 joint discussions and actions on fishery
36 proposals. Combined Regional Advisory
37 Councils would ensure that information
38 provided is the same for all Regional
39 Council members. A single recommendation
40 on proposals would provide much clarity
41 to the Federal Subsistence Board. This
42 suggested approach would bring users
43 together and would be more efficient.
44

45 Further the three Advisory Councils
46 should meet together to discuss and vote
47 on submitting fishery regulatory
48 proposals. In January the Federal
49 Subsistence Board and OSM agreed to look
50 at ways to help the three Yukon River

1 Regional Councils work together on
2 proposals which hopefully will begin next
3 fall.

4
5 The Department has collected subsistence
6 harvest data in the Yukon River drainage
7 since statehood, the new Federal
8 permitted subsistence fishery may
9 adversely impact and complicate the
10 Department's estimate of subsistence
11 harvest in the area. The opening of
12 waters in the Nowitna Refuge to drift
13 gillnets is effectively a new subsistence
14 fishery because currently there is very
15 little subsistence harvest in this
16 portion of the river.

17
18 The Alaska Board of Fisheries and the
19 Department strive to provide sustainable
20 salmon populations, reasonable
21 opportunity for subsistence uses and
22 fishing opportunity to benefit all
23 Alaskans. We will continue to work on
24 bringing together the users of the entire
25 drainage so that all users are involved
26 in finding solutions to the fisheries
27 management challenge.

28
29 We agree with those who say that it's
30 important for those who depend on the
31 fisheries to work together for the health
32 of the entire Yukon River drainage. Even
33 when there are differences of opinion,
34 the Department will continue to work with
35 all users to provide the subsistence
36 priority in State law.

37
38 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

39
40 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Vince. I'd
41 like to go on record stating that this new gear use is
42 not new. The only gear that will be used is what was
43 utilized under the commercial fisheries of years ago.

44
45 We tried to restrict the driftnet sizes
46 by length and by depth but that was thrown out, I
47 believe, because people wanted to use the gear that they
48 already have, which they already used under the
49 commercial fisheries of years past.

50

1 And I'd like to go on record for thanking
2 Benedict for introducing this proposal to provide for
3 more subsistence opportunities and for Jack for fighting
4 for this proposal, fisheries, before the Federal
5 Subsistence Board, which passed it. It is passed, let us
6 make the best of it and let us not go back and start
7 tearing it apart because a few other people not agreeing
8 with Western Interior's stand on this driftnet fisheries.
9

10 Mickey and then Benedict.
11

12 MR. STICKMAN: Yeah, I agree with Ron.
13 The primary purpose of our Council here is to provide or
14 manage or take care of the subsistence opportunities for
15 the people that we represent. And, you know, I disagree
16 with the letter that you went on record reading because,
17 you know, there's some mistakes in there, you know,
18 there's not going to be no new gear type or anything like
19 that. I mean people in Ruby and in Galena are not going
20 to go our and buy all new gear just because they have the
21 opportunity to driftnet.
22

23 I mean I believe it's going to be the
24 same people out there fishing that have been fishing down
25 across from Koyukuk and down below Koyukuk at Nine Mile
26 but I think they're just going to be fishing closer to
27 home, and I believe the subsistence amount that they take
28 is going to go down because they're going to have to --
29 they're going to be closer to home so it's not like
30 they're going to have to fill up their boat with as much
31 as they can get in the time that's allowed because
32 they'll be allowed to go fishing closer to home, I think
33 that the actual subsistence amount is going to go down.
34

35 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Mickey.
36 Benedict, I think you had your hand up.
37

38 MR. JONES: Yeah, the only reason why we
39 put that amendment on the mesh depth was for the larger
40 spawners to reach Canada and we're only targeting the
41 fish on the Tanana River, the two drainage, Chena, Salcha
42 and the other one below Fairbanks that's where that king
43 salmon return is pretty healthy for the last 10 years.
44

45 And further more, when I first brought up
46 this proposal to the State Fish and Game Fishery Board in
47 Fairbanks we discussed this for a length of time and the
48 Board of Fisheries almost adopted it at that time except
49 for one individual, he was a commercial permit holder
50 spoke up against it. What we did at the Fairbanks Board

1 of Fisheries meeting is each individual Board member
2 selected so many people in the room and they discussed
3 this driftnetting proposals and they all came -- agreed
4 to accept my proposal at that time, 10 years ago, but it
5 was just the one individual shot it down when he came up
6 to the floor.

7
8 And just furthermore for the people's of
9 Galena and Ruby, because sometimes they be fishing down
10 there and a storm would move in, within 15 minutes and
11 the time to go home, to harvest their fish they'd be
12 stuck there for a couple hours because it's hazardous on
13 the Yukon when the storm comes up and you get five foot
14 swells and you can't go home with the fish. And so
15 that's what -- for the safety of the people of Galena
16 that's why we adopted this driftnet proposal.

17
18 Thank you.

19
20 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Benedict. And,
21 again, I'd like to thank Mickey for pointing out that
22 this did not expand the fisheries. The same people that
23 are utilizing gillnet fisheries -- the same people will
24 be utilizing it, the only expansion there is the land or
25 I mean the waters that we fish out of. That's for the
26 record.

27
28 Robert.

29
30 MR. WALKER: Thank you, Mickey -- I mean
31 thank you, Mr. Chairman.

32
33 (Laughter)

34
35 MR. WALKER: My mind was on Mickey for
36 some reason, he said something that I was going to say.

37
38 Thank you, Jack, for going down to
39 Anchorage and testifying to the Board here because this
40 is really something that the State should have done years
41 ago. They never should have left out that proportion of
42 Y4. We didn't have a driftnet season until 1994 down in
43 the lower portion of the Yukon, middle portion Y4.

44
45 It was really funny, I told this story to
46 some people, but in Grayling we had no driftnetting, only
47 down in Y3 until we got it in Y4. There was 20 boats out
48 drifting in June and a Fish and Wildlife protection
49 officer came by and there was these 20 boats drifting
50 illegally and he proceeded to land and they pulled out

1 the nets and then they went down river so he taxied down,
2 half of the boats went back up river so he turned around
3 in his float plane, taxied up after them and these other
4 boats went and landed and went up the bank and these
5 other boats turned around and he took off, by the time he
6 took off all the boats were in town landed, and he landed
7 and there was nobody there. And somebody should have had
8 a video camera to really show why we need subsistence and
9 who is trying to stop it.

10

11 You know, again, like Vince says the who.
12 But I really think is a really good job done by Jack and
13 done by this Board and I am really glad to see that this
14 is finally done.

15

16 Thank you.

17

18 (Applause)

19

20 CHAIRMAN SAM: Polly, did you have any

21 more?

22

23 DR. WHEELER: (Shakes head negatively)

24

25 CHAIRMAN SAM: Carl.

26

27 MR. MORGAN: Yeah, with that brief
28 explanation of Robert's I'd like to ask you to dictate to
29 Vince to write a very polite letter thank you, but no
30 thank you.

31

32 (Applause)

33

34 CHAIRMAN SAM: Do you have any more

35 Polly?

36

37 DR. WHEELER: No, Mr. Chair, we didn't
38 include that letter in our 15 minutes so we apologize for
39 going over that allotted time.

40

41 (Laughter)

42

43 DR. WHEELER: We weren't thinking about
44 that but -- I think the point is that we're working on it
45 collaboratively, we'll keep you posted on things, you can
46 expect to see some, if not all of us this summer around,
47 hopefully not all of us because there'll be too many Feds
48 down there, but hopefully, you know, we'll keep you
49 posted and in-season and post-season and whatever else.
50 So we appreciate your efforts and we'll work with you.

1 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you.

2

3 MR. REAKOFF: Mr. Chair.

4

5 CHAIRMAN SAM: Jack Reakoff.

6

7 MR. REAKOFF: I want to thank the Staff
8 for working on this issue, getting these permits and so
9 forth. This was a very hard won battle for our region
10 and I have confidence that the Staff is going to
11 implement this permitting system in an orderly manner. I
12 did want to express my concern about it being too
13 burdensome. But I have full confidence in our very abled
14 Staff.

15

16 And my comment to the State's letter is,
17 all of those issues risen about the biological concern
18 should be applied to their commercial fishery in the
19 lower Yukon.

20

21 CHAIRMAN SAM: Way to go Jack.

22

23 (Applause)

24

25 CHAIRMAN SAM: Any further comments on
26 the driftnet fisheries. Don Honea.

27

28 MR. HONEA: Yeah, I just wanted to thank
29 -- reiterate what I said yesterday and thanking the Board
30 here, the Western Interior for the work that they did for
31 presenting this for the safety -- I mean for us to -- we,
32 the Ruby Advisory had submitted this for three or four
33 years prior to them and it's always been -- it was always
34 rejected, and so I thank them for -- and it was kind of a
35 surprise for myself and other members to see that, hey,
36 it did indeed pass and it was because of this Board here
37 and I am appreciative of them.

38

39 And I just wanted to -- like they
40 mentioned here, I don't anything is going to change,
41 actually I think that if anybody take advantage of the
42 opportunity to driftnet above Ruby and if they came up in
43 Galena I actually think it's going to be less. I mean
44 you can only catch so much, you're only going to use so
45 much. And the problem that we had in going to Galena
46 like Benedict said, a storm could come up or your fish
47 would dry up if you went down there and it took so many
48 hours to get back up to Ruby, you're going all night with
49 a full load of fish and it's getting dry and stuff like
50 that in the sun.

1 So actually for safety reasons, for those
2 reasons and I just wanted to -- if Eastern Interior was
3 here I would like to kind of allay their fears of saying
4 that we are going to harvest, that it would deplete any
5 of their -- any fish going their way. Because a lot of
6 times, like in the past summer, they would catch a heck
7 of a lot more fish in Tanana than we did in passing Ruby,
8 so there's no statistics that says that we are catching
9 more than -- or any lower down the river or any higher up
10 the river is depleting their stock. I mean whatever we
11 take.

12
13 So actually I think, you know, it's a
14 first stage for us and it's -- I think the fears of the
15 State is uncalled for. I mean I think it's -- you know,
16 I mean it's not like thousands of fish. So, again, I
17 want to reiterate in thanking these guys and Benedict or
18 Jack or whoever has worked on it and I appreciate it.

19
20 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Don. Benedict,
21 and then time to go.

22
23 MR. JONES: Yeah, I just wanted to make
24 one comment on the commercial fishery opening up in the
25 Rampart area. 80 percent of that commercial fishery that
26 buyer in Fairbanks rejects that fish, throw it in the
27 dumpsters because of the Ichthyophonous. So he said -- he
28 just stated at the meeting in Anchorage in October that
29 he's not going to buy any more commercial fish from the
30 Rampart area, so, there'll be more fish escaping to the
31 Canadian border.

32
33 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Benedict. Any
34 further questions -- okay, Geoff.

35
36 MR. BEYERSDORF: I don't have a
37 question, Mr. Chair, members of the Regional Advisory
38 Council, but I do have one comment. When we were at the
39 Federal Subsistence Board meeting, Jack and I did have a
40 discussion and he expressed the willingness of many of
41 the members there to help out where they could.

42
43 And I guess one thing I would like to
44 reiterate and also thank him for is that, those of you
45 that are involved in the middle Yukon, who I will be
46 meeting with, I would appreciate your help and support in
47 getting this message out into the community so that
48 people understand exactly what this opportunity is.

49
50 Thank you.

1 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you for that
2 statement. Again, I think you're on the right track when
3 you stated that you will be out there meeting people one-
4 on-one and explaining the whole system. Thanks a lot for
5 that promise there, Geoff.

6
7 Polly, you got anything else?

8
9 DR. WHEELER: (Shaking head negatively)

10
11 MR. WALKER: She's shaking her head.

12
13 CHAIRMAN SAM: Mickey.

14
15 MR. STICKMAN: Yeah, I just wanted to
16 thank the Staff again. Geoff, Polly and Ron, I wanted to
17 thank you for not ever letting the Council, you know,
18 drop this issue all through the years, you know, it's
19 been -- like Ben said it's been awhile and it was -- you
20 know, it took a lot of years for us to get to this point.
21 So you know any kind of letters like the one that Vince
22 read to us, you know, it doesn't do anything to make me
23 feel any better but, you know, I'm just glad that we, as
24 a Council and Ron as the Chair never did, you know, never
25 did let us give up the fight on this issue and, well, I
26 can just gladly say and thank the Board here that, you
27 know, and the Staff that we prevailed and we won.

28
29 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Mickey. Again,
30 when I talk with other Regional Councils, I am prejudice,
31 I keep stating that this Council will pretty much vote
32 unanimously on any issue and everybody will comment from
33 one end of the table to the other as you all see and we
34 like to work together and I think that's what makes this
35 Council strong.

36
37 Thank you, Polly.

38
39 I see our Taxi driver here and our bus
40 driver, and with that I'd like to recognize Stanley
41 again, Stanley Ned.

42
43 Thank you, Polly.

44
45 DR. WHEELER: Sure.

46
47 MR. STICKMAN: Thanks Ron. Thank you,
48 Jack.

49
50 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yes, good job Jack.

1 Stanley.

2

3 MR. NED: I just wanted to let the Board
4 know that maybe some of the people didn't understand what
5 you guys are going to do as far as predation control goes
6 and what you're going to do next, you know, is it going
7 to stop with the private land or Federal land or where is
8 it going and what kind of process to do we need to follow
9 as far as trying to get something done on Federal land.

10

11 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, for that
12 concern. But I think Mike Spindler stated so ably that
13 he will be pursuing all avenues to find funding for this
14 study, from there we'll work on it for three years, he
15 made that a promise and I think that we all will be
16 backing Mike up on his pursuit of funding for the
17 studies.

18

19 MR. NED: Okay, thanks. But another
20 thing I want to do is, for the Council members to
21 recognize Polluck Simon that came in, he might want to
22 give testimony on his concerns.

23

24 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yes. Polluck, do you have
25 any concerns to be brought before the Council because we
26 called this evening session for the local people to
27 testify before us on any issue. Do you have any
28 concerns?

29

30 MR. SIMON: What? What'd you say?

31

32 CHAIRMAN SAM: Do you have any concerns
33 that you want to bring before the Council?

34

35 MR. SIMON: No.

36

37 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay. At this time I
38 would like to let the Western Interior know -- I mean to
39 recognize Polluck Simon as a past member of the Western
40 Interior Council and 32 year Chairman of the Koyukuk
41 River Advisory Committee, Polluck Simon would you stand
42 up, please.

43

44 (Applause)

45

46 CHAIRMAN SAM: In '72, I think we got
47 that thing started, our proposals were so good that the
48 whole State wanted to copy us, we lost a good many
49 proposals because some of our proposals -- the whole
50 State wanted to copy us and just get on the band wagon

1 and we lost a few good proposals because of that.

2

3 With that -- yes, Polluck Simon, I'll go
4 ahead and recognize you.

5

6 MR. SIMON: Yeah, maybe I'll say a few
7 words afterall. I've been on the Board the first three
8 years that it was formed, it goes from Wiseman all the
9 way down to Aniak, and all of you on the Board, you're
10 picked out to be on this Board, an excellent Board.

11

12 You know, we're kind of spread out quite
13 a bit, but our daily chores are a little bit different,
14 but primarily our way of life is pretty much the same, we
15 live off the land, you know.

16

17 Around this area there's always been not
18 much moose because a lot of wolves. This winter we had a
19 lot of wolves because last year there was lot of caribou
20 around here and for that reason the wolves -- wolf pups
21 survived pretty good last winter so now there's no more
22 caribou and they're eating moose every day.

23

24 Little bit about moose, you know, our
25 people have been eating moose all our lives and mid-
26 winter the bull is not very fat so we shoot cow meat,
27 which is better softer meat and more fat and we took as
28 needed and that worked fine before Fish and Game, Fish
29 and Wildlife, we took as needed. Now, Fish and Wildlife
30 and Fish and Game has rules and regulations that we have
31 to abide by, so there's a lot of wolves, so I might let
32 that -- I didn't have the heart to shoot that cow that
33 morning, I let it go, but it probably wouldn't be around
34 for long, and maybe that very same day that wolves will
35 eat that cow, that's the way it is.

36

37 I'm old man now so I don't have to go out
38 and shoot a moose and anyway I don't have very many teeth
39 to chew the meat, it's easier for me to go to the store
40 and buy chicken, but there are some big families that
41 depend on the meat. Some families have got four or five
42 boys, and some girls, teenagers, they got to eat meat to
43 be raised up tough, and that's the Athabascan way. We're
44 Athabascan people, we should be proud of it. If we get
45 hungry and we go get what we need, but sometimes the Fish
46 and Wildlife and Fish and Game regulations kind of
47 restrict us.

48

49 But if we all work together then I
50 probably think that we can iron this out.

1 You know, in closing I'll say there's an
2 old saying that when we fight together maybe we'll win,
3 but if we fight individually we will lose. So I think a
4 lot of people here tonight, you had a good turn out and I
5 think with your Board and our input I think it could make
6 our life a little bit easier.

7
8 But like I said before, we have too many
9 wolves around here, but there couldn't be any wolf
10 control done around here because -- I don't know what the
11 reason is, but they wouldn't do it, so some of us have to
12 go out and try to get that wolf, but the snow is deep,
13 lots of hills and that's kind of tough.

14
15 Thank you for your time, food for
16 thought.

17
18 (Applause)

19
20 CHAIRMAN SAM: Again, I would like to
21 thank the villagers of Alatna, and the villagers of
22 Allakaket for hosting this Western Interior meeting.
23 This is the best turnout I've ever had. Because every
24 time something comes up before us that hits close to home
25 we all come out of the woodwork and make our statements
26 and we make them known pretty well. This Board does
27 follow up and does the best they can to make you
28 satisfied and keep you culturally rich.

29
30 With that I'll call a recess until 8:30
31 in the morning. Any further comments, closing comments
32 for tonight, we'll be back into session tomorrow, 8:30,
33 breakfast at 8:00.

34
35 (PROCEEDINGS TO BE CONTINUED)

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C E R T I F I C A T E

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA)
)ss.
STATE OF ALASKA)

I, Joseph P. Kolasinski, Notary Public in and for the state of Alaska and reporter for Computer Matrix Court Reporters, LLC do hereby certify:

THAT the foregoing pages numbered 02 through 151 contain a full, true and correct Transcript of the WESTERN INTERIOR FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING, VOLUME I taken electronically by Salena Hile on the 8th day of March 2005, beginning at the hour of 11:00 o'clock a.m. at Allakaket, Alaska;

THAT the transcript is a true and correct transcript requested to be transcribed and thereafter transcribed by under my direction and reduced to print to the best of our knowledge and ability;

THAT I am not an employee, attorney, or party interested in any way in this action.

DATED at Anchorage, Alaska, this 20th day of March 2005.

Joseph P. Kolasinski
Notary Public in and for Alaska
My Commission Expires: 03/12/08