

1 WESTERN INTERIOR FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE  
2 REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING

3  
4 PUBLIC MEETING

5  
6 VOLUME II

7  
8 Koyukuk, Alaska  
9 March 8, 2006  
10 8:45 o'clock a.m.

11  
12  
13 COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

14  
15 Ronald Sam, Chair  
16 Ray Collins  
17 Benedict Jones  
18 Carl Morgan  
19 Jack Reakoff  
20 Mickey Stickman  
21 Winchell Ticknor  
22 Robert Walker  
23  
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26  
27 Regional Council Coordinator, Vince Mathews

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P R O C E E D I N G S

(Koyukuk, Alaska - 3/8/2006)

(On record)

CHAIRMAN SAM: If we could find our seats we would like to begin.

(Pause)

CHAIRMAN SAM: I'd like to call the meeting back to order, there's been some changes to the agenda. I understand that in lieu of our evening meeting with the local people, the Council requested an informal meeting during lunch, you're more than welcome so we'll accommodate them and they can take as long as they want since we didn't have an evening session, so the First Chief is here, they'll be gathering and we'll be breaking about noon and so we'll be having an informal session with the local council.

And for my update or Vince's update, I would like to know who all is leaving early and about what time. I see Judy, Judy what time are you leaving.

MS. GOTTLIEB: Sometime this morning.

CHAIRMAN SAM: Sometime this morning. Would you care to address the Council, I know you traveled a long ways and you have our deepest respect since you sit on the Federal Subsistence Board. At this time I'll just turn it over to Judy since she's leaving early.

MS. GOTTLIEB: Good morning. Thank you, Mr. Chair and Council members. It's been a pleasure to be here. My name is Judy Gottlieb from the National Park Service and I sit on the Federal Subsistence Board.

And as you know, we pay, not only a great deal of attention to the results of your meetings and your recommendations, but, by law, we give deference to your recommendations. So for me it's really helpful for me to be here and understand from the beginning your thinking behind your recommendations and your reasons for making your comments and suggestions.

1                   We really appreciate your works and  
2 efforts. As our Chair, Mitch Demientieff, always says,  
3 the RACs are the backbone and the strength of our  
4 programs, that's absolutely true. We know you're  
5 volunteering your time here and time is really precious  
6 and we very much thank you for your efforts and look  
7 forward to seeing you again.

8  
9                   CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you very much. As  
10 Jack knows and I know that when we attend the Chairs  
11 meeting with the Federal Subsistence Board we have a  
12 friend in Judy and I appreciate you.

13  
14                   Jack.

15  
16                   MR. REAKOFF: Mr. Chairman. I'm on the  
17 Gates of the Arctic Subsistence Resource Commission,  
18 and Judy is always traveling in rural Alaska and  
19 familiarizing herself with what's going on in rural  
20 Alaska. She's probably one of our most, best  
21 subsistence advocates on the Federal Subsistence Board  
22 so I really appreciate seeing Judy here. And I want  
23 people to know that she is probably one of our -- one  
24 of the key figures in the Federal Subsistence Program  
25 for decision-making.

26  
27                   So, thank you.

28  
29                   CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you for being here  
30 and thank you for being here.

31  
32                   MR. MORGAN: Ron.

33  
34                   CHAIRMAN SAM: Carl.

35  
36                   MR. MORGAN: And thank her for bringing  
37 the donuts.

38  
39                   CHAIRMAN SAM: Yeah, they came all the  
40 way from Anchorage. Vince, where are we.

41  
42                   MR. MATHEWS: Well, I'm trying to  
43 connect with Staff in Anchorage and we're having phone  
44 difficulties. But we were on the agenda, the next  
45 topic was dealing just in general with wildlife topics  
46 and housekeeping. Two. I have two housekeeping  
47 issues. That's why we have a court recorder, there's  
48 more than just recording that goes on over here in  
49 helping us.

50

1                   But anyways, we do need to -- the way  
2 the breakfast is run is different than all the other  
3 meals. The breakfast is they actually hired a cook and  
4 bought the food and all that, so that's \$10 per  
5 breakfast and we need to collect that so the cook who's  
6 come very early can be paid. So please see Tina or  
7 myself and we'll get that straightened out.

8  
9                   The other housekeeping issue is the  
10 sign up sheet is over on the table, yes, it is, I  
11 looked at it this morning and I just wanted to make  
12 sure I put it back. That sign up sheet is valuable to  
13 have for record keeping, it's not just to report to  
14 your boss or your wife that you were here, it's to make  
15 sure we have accurate who's here and also correct  
16 spellings for the names. It is difficult and we want  
17 to get the best in spellings that we can.

18  
19                   So those are the two housekeeping  
20 issues.

21  
22                   I may have to work the phone to get  
23 Mickey because Benedict would like Mickey on line for  
24 some of this discussion so I'm going to be busy with  
25 this, but that's my understanding.

26  
27                   On the agenda you would be at wildlife  
28 issues and the first one is overview of Board of Game  
29 pending Interior Region proposals, but the request from  
30 the tribal council here is to wait on that until after  
31 lunch. The village council is going to have a special  
32 meeting to talk about -- okay, I'll take it.

33  
34                   (Phone ringing)

35  
36                   MR. RIVARD: Hey, Vince, this is Don.

37  
38                   MR. MATHEWS: Hey, Don, we're in the  
39 meeting right now.

40  
41                   MR. RIVARD: Did you want to get Mickey  
42 on?

43  
44                   MR. MATHEWS: Yes. And when you get  
45 Mickey on, find out how long he's available.

46  
47                   MR. RIVARD: That's something you can  
48 ask when I get him on, hold on.

49  
50                   MR. MATHEWS: Yes, okay. All right.

1 And then so I think we're going to put that off until  
2 after lunch because the village council wants to meet  
3 on Board of Game proposals, and I know Randy Rogers  
4 wanted to be here but I think planes blew that away.  
5 So I do have the Board of Game proposals here, we can  
6 do our best as we can on those proposals.

7  
8 And then we put in there also agency  
9 reports that wanted to talk about certain wildlife  
10 issues instead of waiting for the agency reports. And  
11 I believe BLM, Tim Craig wants to take advantage of  
12 that. And so that's where we're at right now. So  
13 basically we would be at presentations from agencies  
14 that want to do it now instead of -- for wildlife  
15 issues instead of waiting until the agency reports.

16  
17 So, Mr. Chairman, that's where we're  
18 at.

19  
20 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Vince. As  
21 most of you know or all of you by now that we try to  
22 accommodate everyone. Everyone has conflicting  
23 traveling schedules or early traveling schedules we'd  
24 like to put them on first, so with the consent of the  
25 Council I would like to go ahead and bring Tim Craig up  
26 here.

27  
28 (Council nods affirmatively)

29  
30 CHAIRMAN SAM: Before you begin, do we  
31 have this stuff in our book or just.....

32  
33 MR. MATHEWS: No, I got to hand it out.

34  
35 MR. RIVARD: Vince, just to let you  
36 know that Mickey Stickman is now on line and he's  
37 available until approximately 3:00 o'clock today.

38  
39 MR. MATHEWS: Okay. Mickey, while  
40 we're handing out something here -- Mickey, are you  
41 there first off?

42  
43 MR. STICKMAN: Yes, Vince.

44  
45 MR. MATHEWS: The Koyukuk Tribal  
46 Council wants to meet during lunch to talk about a  
47 couple of Board of Game proposals and Benedict wanted  
48 to have you on line so that would be after lunch so  
49 that would be around 1:00, 1:15.

50

1 MR. STICKMAN: Like I told Don, I'll be  
2 here until probably around 3:00 and then I'll have to  
3 get ready to leave.

4  
5 MR. MATHEWS: Okay, that will work well  
6 and if you have your Board of Game book with you, and  
7 if not we can cover it over the phone but it will be a  
8 proposal with the Board of Game.

9  
10 Okay.

11  
12 MR. STICKMAN: Is this Federal  
13 subsistence?

14  
15 MR. MATHEWS: No, this would be a State  
16 proposal dealing with -- maybe Benedict can explain it  
17 to you right now.

18  
19 MR. JONES: Good morning Mick. The  
20 Board of Game Proposal 144 about aircraft use on the  
21 Koyukuk River Controlled Use Area. If possible I'd  
22 like to have Royce Parington (ph) with you, we have  
23 some questions on that.

24  
25 MR. STICKMAN: Okay. I'll try to get a  
26 hold of him during lunch and we'll just go from there.

27  
28 MR. MATHEWS: Okay, thank you, Mickey.  
29 And Mickey and Don and the rest. Right now we're under  
30 Wildlife Issues No. B, which is a chance for  
31 organizations and agencies to give a briefing on  
32 wildlife issues. And Tim Craig is at the mic.

33  
34 CHAIRMAN SAM: Go ahead, Tim.

35  
36 MR. CRAIG: Mr. Chairman. Council  
37 members. For those of you who don't know me, my name  
38 is Tim Craig. I work for the BLM in the Fairbanks  
39 District Office. I'm the Central Yukon -- one of the  
40 two Central Yukon wildlife biologists now. My boss  
41 Shelly Jacobson intended to come here and we had a  
42 plane malfunction yesterday on the runway and as a  
43 result she couldn't make it, it was going to be too  
44 tight for her to get her.

45  
46 One thing I don't have on the hand out  
47 sheet here that I mention, you may all know, probably  
48 do know, that Taylor Brelsford, who was our program  
49 lead for subsistence has resigned. So the BLM has not  
50 filled that position, we don't have a program lead in

1 the State office.

2

3 And then following through these  
4 bulleted points here, in the no. 1, in conjunction with  
5 the Alaska State Trooper at Coldfoot I conducted the  
6 Middle Fork trend count again this year, for, I think  
7 the fifth year in a row. And in the table you see  
8 there in the middle of the page, under Middle Fork  
9 trend count, December 2005, if you look at the bottom  
10 row, the bold letters are the data that we collected.  
11 A couple of things about that, if you look to the  
12 right, under the column it says moose counted, we  
13 counted 86 moose, kind of the magical number on these  
14 trend counts is 100 moose before you can get really  
15 reliable data.

16

17 So what that really means is that we  
18 may not have -- that the information that we have there  
19 may not be as accurate as we would like but if you will  
20 look, you will see that the trend is kind of maintained  
21 over the last few years and that is the number of calfs  
22 per 100 cows and yearling bulls is still pretty low in  
23 that area.

24

25 Bulleted point two, I've briefed you in  
26 the past about this challenge cost share that you  
27 helped get for us in the BLM, that we actually give  
28 money to the Alaska Department of Fish and Game and  
29 then I participate as much as I can or as much as they  
30 would like in any kind of the surveying that they do.  
31 The money is to be used to survey ungulates in and  
32 around BLM land in the eastern part of the Western  
33 Interior. And this year we used it for several  
34 different things. One of which was a herd composition  
35 count on the Ray Mountains Caribou Herd. And, again,  
36 in that chart there, the table, under Ray Mountains  
37 Caribou Herd composition count October 2005, the bolded  
38 figures or the data that we obtained and, again, you  
39 can see that the number of calfs per 100 is pretty low.  
40 It's hard to make a good judgment on where that  
41 population is going on a couple of years of data. But  
42 it looks to me like, and I think to Fish and Game, that  
43 that population is at least stagnant and may be  
44 declining now.

45

46 In addition to that we plan to use  
47 funds, these challenge cost share funds to do sheep  
48 surveys in the utility corridor in GMU 24 and 25 this  
49 summer in June and July. And this spring the BLM and  
50 the Fish and Game plan to radiotag seven more caribou

1 in the Ray Mountains. We have nine functioning radios  
2 there now but they're four years old and so it's time  
3 to replace them so we plan to do that probably next  
4 month.

5  
6                   Bulleted point No. 4. BLM has not  
7 issued any new recreational guiding permits in the  
8 Central Yukon Unit since your last meeting. There are  
9 still about 39 hunting guides and eight tour operators  
10 that are permitted through our district office that  
11 overlay any part of the western regional boundary.

12  
13                   Bulleted point No. 5. So far in 2006,  
14 BLM has received 11 Alaska Placer Mining Applications,  
15 APMA's is the phrase that we use to describe those, in  
16 the Koyukuk Mining District along the Dalton Highway.  
17 Seven are notice level and are small mining operations.  
18 The remaining four are plans of operations that involve  
19 mining activity with concurrent reclamation, and they  
20 expect another 20 in the next -- before summer.

21  
22                   As we talked about at the last meeting,  
23 Mr. Ralph Hamm has a state easement to construct a road  
24 to his Federal mining claims along Marion Creek, that  
25 road's about two-thirds of the way in and come break  
26 up, he'll be working on that again. And the surface  
27 protection specialists are going to pay particular  
28 attention to that road, I think, to make sure that it  
29 gets put in properly.

30  
31                   And then the last table on that sheet  
32 of paper are the applications that we've received so  
33 far from placer mining in the Koyukuk mining district.

34  
35                   And with that, that's the conclusion of  
36 my agency report. I'll be glad to take questions.

37  
38                   CHAIRMAN SAM: Questions for Tim. Go  
39 ahead, Robert.

40  
41                   MR. WALKER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.  
42 You're talking about activity there or reclamation  
43 there, setting up their mines and putting that back  
44 into place as to where nature was?

45  
46                   MR. CRAIG: Yeah. That's a function of  
47 the 3809 specialists. That's a section of our  
48 regulations that deals with surface protection and  
49 reclamation of the mine is to bring it back, bring back  
50 the soil and to get it back to a natural state.

1 MR. WALKER: That's with taking out all  
2 the stuff that's not going to be used anymore, correct  
3 me there?

4  
5 MR. CRAIG: I didn't understand.  
6

7 MR. WALKER: That's with taking out all  
8 the old equipment, fuel, everything?

9  
10 MR. CRAIG: That's right.  
11

12 CHAIRMAN SAM: I have another question.  
13 How long is that Marion Road supposed to be because I  
14 know there's work with BLM in that area, how long is it  
15 going to be?

16  
17 MR. CRAIG: How long is it going to be  
18 in distance or how long is it going to be there in  
19 time?

20  
21 CHAIRMAN SAM: How long is it going to  
22 be in distance because I know part of it's already in  
23 there.

24  
25 MR. CRAIG: I think it's four miles in  
26 there from the existing road that goes into the  
27 administration site.

28  
29 CHAIRMAN SAM: Jack.  
30

31 MR. REAKOFF: Mr. Chairman. My comment  
32 on that Marion Road, you know, local people weren't  
33 real excited to see that road being built back there  
34 but the BLM decided to -- my main concern is that there  
35 would be people utilizing that to go outside the  
36 corridor for hunting and impacting that area. There's  
37 very low density sheep populations back there in those  
38 block of hills and I would be concerned about the  
39 access that that road would bring.

40  
41 I notice that Nolin Creek isn't on your  
42 mining list here, are they under a -- oh, I see that's  
43 Silverado, oh, I see.

44  
45 And another question I had is are you  
46 referring to these collars on these caribou as east of  
47 the Dalton Highway as Ray Mountain caribou or are they  
48 designated them as a different herd now or what?

49  
50 MR. CRAIG: Mr. Chairman. Mr. Reakoff.

1 This is just the Ray Mountain proper, yeah, we have  
2 now, if you'll remember, last time I checked them we  
3 had eight functioning collars to the east of the  
4 highway. I checked those radios, let's see on the 27th  
5 -- 28th of February and six of the eight were, I could  
6 receive from the road but they were all east of the  
7 road. That's in the Hogdzana Hills area that we're  
8 talking about, and nobody's designated that as a  
9 separate herd other than we al are informally referring  
10 to them as by their own name, the Hogdzana Hills Herd.

11

12 CHAIRMAN SAM: Is this the same herd  
13 that we thought was Caribou Mountain Herd? Is this  
14 the same one you're thinking about?

15

16 MR. CRAIG: Yeah, Mr. Chairman. Yeah,  
17 I think it probably is. Because I have received from  
18 signals on the west side of the road there, but I'm  
19 beginning to think that they spend, at least, most of  
20 the winter on the east side of the road and then I  
21 think in the spring green up they kind of disperse out  
22 and they can be way over on the Hogdzana River or they  
23 can be on Caribou Mountain.

24

25 Again, as I've mentioned before, this  
26 is kind of a shirt-tail operation. I don't really have  
27 money dedicated to go there and so whenever I'm on my  
28 way somewhere else I kind of divert and go and try and  
29 find them. So I haven't systematically, you know,  
30 season by season gone out and had the time or the money  
31 to follow them. But I'm trying to get Yukon Flats  
32 interested and I think I may have them interested in  
33 helping out on that because those animals are on Yukon  
34 Flats part of the year. So that may help some.

35

36 Thank you.

37

38 CHAIRMAN SAM: So the total is 795 or  
39 close to it?

40

41 MR. CRAIG: Mr. Chairman. On the Ray  
42 Mountains that was the number that were comped, and,  
43 again, that's just the number that, you know, when they  
44 do these comp counts they fly out, find breeding groups  
45 and count the number of small bulls, medium bulls,  
46 large bulls and calves but it's not a total count. The  
47 last time we got what we thought was a pretty good  
48 count on the herd it was more like 1,700 in the Ray  
49 Mountains. And then last year in the Hogdzana Hills we  
50 actually comped 1,100 animals there, so that's quite an

1 increase in the Hogdzana Hills area.

2

3 CHAIRMAN SAM: And the reason I'm  
4 interested in this herd is that I'm positive that they  
5 even migrated into the Kanuti Flats area because we  
6 have people that have camps out there and I would  
7 really stress that you find some more funding, not only  
8 from the Gwichen Nation or Eastern Interior but also  
9 from us to keep an eye on this, it could be an  
10 important asset.

11

12 Any more questions for Tim.

13

14 MR. REAKOFF: Mr. Chairman.

15

16 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yes, go ahead, Jack.

17

18 MR. REAKOFF: I'm very happy that Tim  
19 has taken this project and to understand this, the  
20 Hogdzana portion of those caribou and the Ray Mountain  
21 portion. When this ATV bill, if it were to pass, all  
22 of that data is going to be instrumental in controlling  
23 the number of hunting -- level of hunting pressure on  
24 those very limited reproductive and so it's a very  
25 important project that Tim is doing.

26

27 Looking at the dall sheep in the  
28 corridor, the BLM's doing a great job in the last few  
29 years coming up with money to monitor these animals in  
30 the utility corridor. They're going to build a gas  
31 line pretty soon, all of this is very -- extremely  
32 important information, and I really appreciate that.

33

34 CHAIRMAN SAM: Any other questions for  
35 Tim.

36

37 (No comments)

38

39 CHAIRMAN SAM: If not, thank you very  
40 much.

41

42 MR. CRAIG: Thank you.

43

44 CHAIRMAN SAM: Vince, while we're under  
45 this topic, Robert has something else he wanted to  
46 bring up. I told him to put it under this wildlife  
47 issues overview, so would it be all right to.....

48

49 MR. WALKER: Now?

50

1 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yes, go ahead if you  
2 want to, let's take care of it.  
3  
4 MR. WALKER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.  
5 I'd like to -- Randy Rogers can't make it to the  
6 meeting here, he was our coordinator for this Yukon  
7 Innoko Moose Management Working Group and others here,  
8 if we want to bring it up now as part of our agenda.  
9  
10 Is everybody else done here, Ron?  
11  
12 CHAIRMAN SAM: Wildlife Refuge,  
13 wildlife issues. I know that overview is for Koyukuk  
14 Council at noon.  
15  
16 MR. WALKER: So we do this at noon?  
17  
18 CHAIRMAN SAM: No.  
19  
20 MR. MATHEWS: No. No.  
21  
22 CHAIRMAN SAM: No.  
23  
24 MR. MATHEWS: What Ron is mentioning is  
25 that the Koyukuk River -- the Koyukuk Village Council  
26 is going to meet on several proposals and then report  
27 back to this Council at 1:00, 1:30, whatever that  
28 happens to be, so Ron, I think is indicting your topic  
29 on the Yukon Innoko Plan may be good to bring up now.  
30  
31 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yes.  
32  
33 MR. MATHEWS: And in your packet I  
34 believe I put copies of the plan, if that's helpful.  
35  
36 MR. WALKER: Mr. Chairman. Yes, I do  
37 have copies of our plan here, I plan to give it to  
38 everybody on the Board also. I brought this down  
39 yesterday.  
40  
41 There's some right here, too. Thank  
42 you, Tina.  
43  
44 MR. MATHEWS: Okay, for the Council  
45 members, do use the one that Robert handed out, the one  
46 I provided in your packet is dated January 2006, so the  
47 one that Robert is handing out is March 2006, so we  
48 need to go by the March 2006. I don't know what the  
49 changes are, there may not be any, but it'd be best  
50 just to work off the one that Robert had.

1 CHAIRMAN SAM: Go ahead, Robert.

2

3 MR. WALKER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.  
4 We started in the year 2004 working on this moose  
5 management plan here. 2006 here, we got it finally  
6 finalized. We had six meetings in our area, in the  
7 area of Anvik, Grayling, Shageluk and Holy Cross. We  
8 had some meetings twice in each village so a lot more  
9 people could understand what we were talking about,  
10 what we're trying to bring forth and what we're trying  
11 to accomplish.

12

13 And Mr. Rogers, ADF&G wanted me to  
14 speak to you and give this to you so we could support  
15 this work on the Yukon Innoko Moose Management Plan  
16 here to be presented at the Board of Game next week.  
17 And if you have any questions, I can go over some  
18 things here. One of the things is that I'll just  
19 present it to you.

20

21 What we wanted to do in our plan, was  
22 the working group has wanted to manage harvest  
23 conservation to prevent a more serious decline in the  
24 moose population in Unit 21(E). Beth Leonard who was  
25 acting McGrath worked with ADF&G research biologists to  
26 conduct the modeling to the moose population. Based on  
27 the modeling she recommended using a four percent  
28 harvest rate in this plan also. And I also believe  
29 that we had discussed that in the last meeting that we  
30 had here in October.

31

32 Using the four percent harvest rate  
33 from the harvest surplus is about 325 to 360 moose a  
34 year, so this is a substantial yield that we could live  
35 with. Established total harvest about 357 moose so we  
36 could maybe -- near the upper end of the harvest stable  
37 surplus. You can jump in and ask questions while I'm  
38 going along, otherwise you want me to read the whole  
39 thing and you can ask questions later, okay.

40

41 (Council nods affirmatively)

42

43 MR. WALKER: Jack.

44

45 MR. REAKOFF: I was wondering when we  
46 planned on the Koyukuk, they planned at between like  
47 lower Koyukuk around seven percent harvest and in the  
48 upper part three to five percent, so how did you come  
49 up with four percent and that was the consensus that  
50 people wanted to hold harvest down and maintain?

1 MR. WALKER: Right, Jack, here, and  
2 I'll bring a little more information further as I go  
3 along, okay.  
4  
5 MR. REAKOFF: Okay.  
6  
7 MR. WALKER: When the working group  
8 had discussed.....  
9  
10 REPORTER: Robert. Robert.  
11  
12 MR. WALKER: Thank you, Tina.  
13  
14 REPORTER: Thank you.  
15  
16 (Laughter)  
17  
18 MR. WALKER: When the working group had  
19 discussed this situation, decided to recommend to  
20 reduce the non-resident season by five days. What we  
21 want to do to the regular season of ADF&G, from  
22 September 5th, the regular season runs until the 25th,  
23 but non-residents we're going to recommend that we take  
24 off five days of the hunt for non-residents due to what  
25 we talked about yesterday, interfering with the  
26 breeding of the bulls, that they are more vulnerable to  
27 hunters at that time. And implement a non-resident  
28 drawing permit system to increase the current level of  
29 non-resident hunting.  
30  
31 This recommendation is incorporated in  
32 the Board of Game Proposal No. 90. So when you do get  
33 to that it will be an issue in there too.  
34  
35 The working group and GASH AC reviewed  
36 the Western Interior Regional area Council proposal to  
37 extend the resident season in Unit 21(E) to October 1  
38 and both groups voted against it. We took the issue  
39 there and it came back to the same issue of interfering  
40 with the breeding bulls at that time also.  
41  
42 Several people expressed concern about  
43 quality of meat when bulls may be getting into the rut,  
44 and that was another issue, too, so hunting until  
45 October 1st was kind of like really thrown out.  
46  
47 The working group and GASH AC also were  
48 opposed to the proposal to add a bull early season  
49 December/January and antlerless season in February, we  
50 didn't think that the State would -- should have one

1 because it would go against our plan here, our plan is  
2 the four percent with a resident/non-resident hunting  
3 and a limit of top end and high end of a harvest for  
4 us.

5  
6 This concern that bull moose harvest  
7 already near the maximum sustainable harvests so a  
8 proposal that would increase harvest could not be  
9 supported and that's the issue we just brought forth  
10 earlier, when I said this earlier.

11  
12 There are no changes to resident moose  
13 hunting regulations being proposed. If the moose  
14 population were to decline in Unit 21(E) there may be a  
15 need to reduce residential harvest. Currently non-  
16 resident take only about 30 moose per year, that's what  
17 the green tags state, but, you know, the question was  
18 brought up by some of the people was, have people taken  
19 bulls in 21(E) and tagged them in another unit. That  
20 was a question that nobody could answer, but that was  
21 brought up, too, also.

22  
23 It will be much more difficult to  
24 reduce residential harvest and may require registration  
25 permits, Tier II was talked about here, you know, the  
26 only thing was just talked about, not really brought up  
27 to a consensus where we'd agree to it just talk.

28  
29 When the working group realized how  
30 close we were to a maximum sustained yield and the  
31 potential for resident harvest restrictions, if the  
32 moose population declined they felt it necessary to  
33 recommend intensive management and a wolf predator  
34 control plan. Alaska Department of Fish and Game is  
35 not prepared to submit an IM plan to the Board of Game  
36 at this meeting, the Board will hear the working groups  
37 recommendations for IM and may request the Department  
38 come back with an IM plan or wolf predation control  
39 proposal at future meetings. So this was also dealt  
40 with here and very severely discussed.

41  
42 Proposals that may have been submitted  
43 to the Board of Game for this meeting were:

44  
45 Proposal 31 wive residential grizzly  
46 bear tag fee in Unit 21(E);

47  
48 Proposal 90 non-residential moose  
49 hunting in Unit 21(D);

50

1 Proposal 114 increase the bag limit for  
2 wolves during hunting season to 10 per  
3 day, I think it was hunting was -- the  
4 State said and the Federal said was 10  
5 per opening season until trapping  
6 season;

7  
8 Proposal 123 allow use of snowmachines  
9 to take wolves in Unit 21(E)

10  
11 There are no proposals from the working  
12 group involving Unit 21(A). We discussed. this quite  
13 intensively since McGrath also deals with 21(A), we  
14 mainly deal with the lower portion of 21(A). And I see  
15 in looking at our agenda yesterday that the Nowitna  
16 works in the upper portion and took up a portion of  
17 21(A) so this is kind of interesting here to see here.

18  
19 The working group did not make a  
20 recommendation to the Federal C&T determinations for  
21 Unit 21. We thought maybe we just best leave that  
22 alone. And I advised that subsistence is such an issue  
23 that C&T should not even brought up in this proposal at  
24 any time unless we went to a different, Tier II, then  
25 we'd probably discuss the C&T.

26  
27 Instead the group recommended keeping  
28 cow harvest at no more than 40 cows a year and that's  
29 with the Federal subsistence harvest from February 1 to  
30 February 10. If the Federal C&T were changed to make a  
31 lot more people eligible for the Federal winter hunt it  
32 may be necessary to consider closing the Federal  
33 season. Again, we talked with Randy, we told him this  
34 is not a problem here because it was an issue that was  
35 taken care of by the Western Interior area Council and  
36 also Polly Wheeler was at the meeting too and she  
37 brought this up also.

38  
39 The plan recommended that the proposal  
40 to submit to the Game Board -- the plan recommends that  
41 if a proposal is submitted to the FSB to expand the  
42 Federal C&T for moose in Unit 21(E) a proposal to close  
43 the Federal winter season should also be submitted.  
44 Again, you know, I oppose anything that had to do with  
45 this but I was kind of like outvoted by the rest of the  
46 members.

47  
48 We'd appreciate Western Interior  
49 Regional Council support for this Yukon Innoko Moose  
50 Management Plan and regulatory proposals.

1                   When we sat down and did this it took  
2 us over a thousand man hours to put this whole plan  
3 together here, that's not counting air fare and other  
4 expenses, and there was a lot of volunteer people that  
5 did come in and give their time to testify to us, to  
6 the board, to let them know, you know, what they would  
7 like. So this is a lot of time and effort that went  
8 into it. And the Yukon Innoko Moose Management Group  
9 is asking for your support at the Board of Game when it  
10 does come up next week, and we are having people come  
11 up to testify from the GASH Board and from the tribal  
12 councils in our four villages. Also in the way of  
13 support from the corporation boards writing letters or  
14 sending faxes to Randy to bring to this.

15

16                   Questions.

17

18                   CHAIRMAN SAM: Benedict.

19

20                   MR. JONES: Yeah, on your Proposal 124  
21 we had a teleconference a couple of weeks ago, we  
22 introduced a similar resolution which on moving  
23 snowmachine but what we identify if you're going to  
24 trapline and see a wolf you can go ahead and shoot a  
25 moose on a moving machine but we put that in there as  
26 trapping because if you're hunting it's a different  
27 issue so we put that as a trapping on shooting moose  
28 with moving machine because the Wildlife Alliance will  
29 look at that and say you can't hunt wolf with  
30 snowmachine. So we put that as trapping.

31

32                   MR. WALKER: Mr. Benedict [sic]. This  
33 was brought up and it was really kicked around a lot  
34 here by also the ADF&G, Randy Rogers, and there is -- I  
35 believe there are other units in the state of State  
36 that does have this provision written allow use of  
37 snowmachine to take wolves. It's almost like an  
38 airplane, because what we're doing is more intensive  
39 management control or predator control for our area.

40

41                   Does that answer your question, Ben.

42

43                   MR. JONES: (Nods affirmatively)

44

45                   CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you. What Robert  
46 is, is looking for support for this Innoko Moose  
47 Management Plan. Quite a few years ago we submitted  
48 one under the Koyukuk River Moose Management Working  
49 Group and then I believe what this group has done and  
50 agreed upon is over and done with.

1                   At this time all I'm looking for is a  
2 letter of -- a resolution in support of this plan to go  
3 before the State Board of Game and Federal Subsistence  
4 Board. I believe that these people have worked long  
5 and hard enough that they finally agreed on a plan that  
6 we support them as they supported us under the Koyukuk  
7 River Moose Management Working Group.

8  
9                   So at this time the Chair will  
10 entertain a motion to draft a resolution in support of  
11 Yukon Innoko Moose Management Plan to be submitted to  
12 the State Board and to the Federal Subsistence Board.

13  
14                   MR. COLLINS: Mr. Chairman, I so move.

15  
16                   CHAIRMAN SAM: Is there a second.

17  
18                   MR. TICKNOR: I'll second.

19  
20                   MR. STICKMAN: Second, Mr. Chair.

21  
22                   CHAIRMAN SAM: Moved by Ray Collins,  
23 seconded by Winchell Ticknor that we draft a resolution  
24 in support of the Yukon Innoko Moose Management Plan  
25 and that we submit this resolution to both the State  
26 Board of Game and the Federal Subsistence Board.

27  
28                   All those in favor of the motion  
29 signify by saying aye.

30  
31                   IN UNISON: Aye.

32  
33                   CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Mickey.  
34 Opposed, same sign.

35  
36                   (No opposing votes)

37  
38                   CHAIRMAN SAM: Motion carried.

39  
40                   MR. WALKER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

41  
42                   CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you. Thank you,  
43 we spent quite a bit of time on that Koyukuk River  
44 Moose Management Plan and thank you for working on  
45 this.

46  
47                   Did you have anything, Jack, while  
48 we're on wildlife issues, go ahead.

49  
50                   MR. REAKOFF: Yeah, Mr. Chairman. At

1 the end of our meeting yesterday I was talking to Glenn  
2 Stout and he seemed very upset by the inclusion of Unit  
3 21(B) in the five day extension from the 25th of  
4 September to the 1st of October, the six day extension.

5  
6 He said that the Ruby Advisory  
7 Committee had conceded to tacking on additional time in  
8 August and that our proposal was then going to diverge  
9 dramatically from what the State system, the Advisory  
10 Committee had agreed to.

11  
12 I'm still concerned -- my main concern  
13 is providing for subsistence needs in our region. And  
14 I feel that the August hunts that we have, there's very  
15 little participation, it's hot and so the number of  
16 users is low. I feel that giving that additional time  
17 at the end of September to the first of October is a  
18 back up season so people that don't get their moose can  
19 keep going and try and find a two year old bull or  
20 something that's moving around if the conditions are  
21 good.

22  
23 But I also don't really like to go  
24 against local advisory committees. I feel that, you  
25 know, they weigh in on an issue and contemplate how  
26 they're willing to address it. And so I would like to  
27 have a reconsideration that if the, if the Board of  
28 Game does provide this August season for that Unit  
29 21(B) then our recommendation would be to eliminate the  
30 21(B) component from Proposal 34.

31  
32 If the Board of Game does not provide  
33 that additional August hunting time that our Unit 21(B)  
34 proposal would continue. And so I would like to bring  
35 that up as a motion for reconsideration on Proposal 34.

36  
37 CHAIRMAN SAM: Is there a second.

38  
39 MR. WALKER: Second.

40  
41 CHAIRMAN SAM: Seconded by Robert  
42 Walker. I feel that this is a valid point. We were  
43 just overrun by so many proposals that it looked too  
44 long and like one of those that we just finally put  
45 down on one page that we rather overlooked the request  
46 of the Ruby Advisory Council. I think this is a valid  
47 point.

48  
49 Now, how would we do that, Vince.

50

1 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman. With a  
2 reconsideration, basically it's on the floor, you vote  
3 it up or down, there's no discussions. That brings  
4 that proposal back up before you and if everyone agrees  
5 to bring it back up then it's back up and then Jack or  
6 someone would come up with a motion with this modified  
7 language.  
8  
9 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay. Amendment to  
10 Proposal 34, I think that we should address this need  
11 because like Jack said we shouldn't go against a local  
12 Advisory Council. So is there quick language that we  
13 can do that.  
14  
15 MR. MATHEWS: Well, right now we just  
16 need a concurrence that everyone agrees to bring it  
17 back to the table and then we'll go to the language.  
18  
19 CHAIRMAN SAM: Didn't we already do  
20 that?  
21  
22 MR. REAKOFF: No.  
23  
24 CHAIRMAN SAM: Tina.  
25  
26 REPORTER: (Shakes head negatively)  
27  
28 MR. COLLINS: To clarify what was that  
29 vote then, well, I guess it wasn't worded properly, it  
30 should have been just a move to reconsider, I guess.  
31  
32 MR. MATHEWS: Right. It's just a vote  
33 to reconsider and there's usually no discussion. So if  
34 there's consensus to reconsider it then we go forward.  
35  
36 CHAIRMAN SAM: There was consensus,  
37 wasn't there?  
38  
39 (Council nods affirmatively)  
40  
41 MR. MATHEWS: The record reflects that  
42 heads are nodding in the positive motion, yeah, it's  
43 reconsidered then.  
44  
45 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yes, the Chair directs  
46 that.  
47  
48 (Laughter)  
49  
50 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay, Jack.

1 MR. REAKOFF: Mr. Chairman. I make a  
2 motion to on Proposal 34 that if the Board of Game  
3 provides an additional hunting time in August for Unit  
4 21(B) that we will not go to the Federal Board with the  
5 portion of extension of the season from September 25th  
6 to October 1st; if the Board of Game does not provide  
7 Unit 21(B) with additional hunting time to provide for  
8 subsistence needs, that our proposal will stand, it  
9 will go forward with a season extension on the Federal  
10 public lands from September 25th to October 1.

11  
12 CHAIRMAN SAM: Is there a second.

13  
14 MR. COLLINS: I'll second it. That was  
15 a move to amend by adding that wording, correct.....

16  
17 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yes.

18  
19 MR. COLLINS: .....because the main  
20 motion is before us now, okay, I'll second.

21  
22 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay, so we're moving on  
23 the amendment right now.

24  
25 Any other questions.

26  
27 (No comments)

28  
29 CHAIRMAN SAM: If not all in favor of  
30 the amendment signify by saying aye.

31  
32 IN UNISON: Aye.

33  
34 CHAIRMAN SAM: Opposed, same sign.

35  
36 (No opposing votes)

37  
38 CHAIRMAN SAM: Amendment has passed.  
39 Now, before us, the Chair will entertain a motion to  
40 adopt Proposal 34 as amended, is there a motion.

41  
42 MR. REAKOFF: So moved.

43  
44 CHAIRMAN SAM: Moved by Jack Reakoff.  
45 Is there a second.

46  
47 MR. JONES: Second.

48  
49 CHAIRMAN SAM: Seconded by Benedict  
50 Jones. Any further discussion.

1 (No comments)  
2  
3 MR. WALKER: Question.  
4  
5 MR. STICKMAN: Question.  
6  
7 CHAIRMAN SAM: Question's been called.  
8 All those in favor of the motion signify by saying aye.  
9  
10 IN UNISON: Aye.  
11  
12 CHAIRMAN SAM: All those opposed.  
13  
14 (No opposing votes)  
15  
16 CHAIRMAN SAM: Motion carried.  
17 Proposal 34 as amended has passed.  
18  
19 Thank you.  
20  
21 Where does that put us Vince.  
22  
23 MR. STICKMAN: Hey, Ron, I have one  
24 issue before you move off of wildlife issues.  
25  
26 CHAIRMAN SAM: Go ahead.  
27  
28 REPORTER: Go ahead, Mickey.  
29  
30 MR. STICKMAN: Well, I don't know how  
31 you would word this, but I guess I would just want  
32 support from the Regional Advisory Council, you know,  
33 they're trying to do away with hunting by proxy and  
34 that's how a lot of our elders get their subsistence  
35 food is from people hunting by proxy for them. And so  
36 I just want a letter from the Western Interior  
37 proposing any kind of proposals to do away with hunting  
38 by proxy.  
39  
40 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yes, Mickey, I briefly  
41 glanced at the State Board of Game proposals, there are  
42 about three or four different proposals they are trying  
43 to do away, some kind of add, some kind of redefine it.  
44 The one I probably would agree most is that one hunter  
45 could be authorized as a proxy hunter for at least two  
46 elders and I'm not sure what you're asking right now,  
47 just -- you just want a letter stating that Western  
48 Interior strongly stands behind proxy hunting?  
49  
50 MR. STICKMAN: Yes.

1 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay. With the consent  
2 of the Board to go ahead and draft this letter.  
3  
4 MR. REAKOFF: Yes.  
5  
6 CHAIRMAN SAM: All the way down.  
7  
8 (Council nods affirmatively)  
9  
10 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay. Consensus from  
11 the Board, is that satisfactory Mickey?  
12  
13 MR. STICKMAN: Yes, Ron, thanks.  
14  
15 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay, thanks for that.  
16 I'm glad we are addressing it a little bit too. Where  
17 does that put us Vince.  
18  
19 MR. MATHEWS: Well, Mr. Chairman, just  
20 to make it clear on these resolutions and letters, I  
21 know you're going to be in travel status so I'll need  
22 to get this reviewed, either by yourself or your Vice  
23 Chair on Friday because the Board of Game starts on the  
24 10th, which is Friday. So I would like to get it to  
25 them late on Friday or early Saturday morning. I don't  
26 remember when they cut off on allowing items to get  
27 before the Board. So I can put them together but I  
28 need someone to review them on Friday.  
29  
30 CHAIRMAN SAM: I'll be at the Golden  
31 Nugget until noon, Fairbanks, until noon, is that close  
32 enough, or if you want a little later, if not, you can  
33 fax it to me, I'll be at home.  
34  
35 MR. MATHEWS: Okay, we can work it out,  
36 then there's someone available.  
37  
38 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yes, we'll work it out.  
39  
40 MR. MATHEWS: Thank you.  
41  
42 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you for that  
43 concern. Where does that put us now.  
44  
45 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman. That  
46 places us into fishery topics and that is going to be  
47 pretty much handled by Karen Hyer and she has a  
48 PowerPoint presentation so it might be appropriate to  
49 take a three minute break and then let her set up.  
50

1 CHAIRMAN SAM: Five.  
2  
3 (Laughter)  
4  
5 CHAIRMAN SAM: Break.  
6  
7 (Off record)  
8  
9 (On record)  
10  
11 CHAIRMAN SAM: While we're finding our  
12 seats would you state your name and your program.  
13  
14 MS. HYER: Mr. Chairman. Council  
15 members. I'm Karen Hyer, I work for the Office of  
16 Subsistence Management, Division of Fisheries  
17 Information Services. And the first thing is a handout  
18 on the Kuskokwim and the Yukon, our Fisheries Resource  
19 Monitoring Program Performance report, and this is just  
20 for your information. And you should have received two  
21 handouts, so it's just an update. And I've come here  
22 today to present some work I did with a colleague of  
23 mine, Cliff Schleusner on an analysis of chinook  
24 salmon, age, sex and length.  
25  
26 So if we could have the lights, there,  
27 that's great, that's good.  
28  
29 Both Cliff and I work for the Office of  
30 Subsistence Management. Okay, Vince.  
31  
32 Fishermen on the Yukon reported that  
33 the length of chinook salmon harvested and the  
34 proportion of female in the escapement has been  
35 decreasing over time. This information raised the  
36 concerns of the National Park Service subsistence  
37 biologists and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Yukon  
38 subsistence fishery manager and together they  
39 approached FIS and they asked FIS to explore the  
40 possibilities that these trends are real in the Yukon  
41 chinook salmon population.  
42  
43 Okay, Vince.  
44  
45 So we approached Alaska Department of  
46 Fish and Game and the Canadian Department of Fisheries  
47 and Oceans and asked them for long-time series of age,  
48 sex and length data, and we received seven escapement  
49 data sets, and those seven escapement data sets we  
50 examined for four objectives.

1                   The first objective was to look at  
2 trends in the proportion of female chinook salmon  
3 harvested.

4  
5                   The second objective was to look for  
6 trends in the proportion of large, greater than 36 inch  
7 chinook salmon.

8  
9                   The fourth objective [sic] was to look  
10 for changes in the proportion of six and seven year old  
11 chinook salmon.

12  
13                   And the fifth objective [sic] was to  
14 look for changes and length at age of six and seven  
15 year old salmon -- excuse me that's the fourth  
16 objective. And the fourth objective built on work done  
17 in 1998 by Larry Buklis for the U.S./Canada Joint  
18 Technical Committee and they had actually looked at  
19 these trends at that time. And we requested the  
20 longest time series we could get from both agencies.

21  
22                   Next Vince.

23  
24                   So we used statistical methods to  
25 explore trends over time in these data sets.

26  
27                   Next.

28  
29                   The data sets were from Yukon River  
30 tributaries, two lower, the Andraefsky and the Anvik,  
31 three upper, the Gisasa, the Chena and the Salcha, and  
32 one Canadian River, the Big Salmon River.

33  
34                   Next.

35  
36                   The data sets contained two weir. Data  
37 sets and those are the white bars, those were the  
38 Andraefsky and the Gisasa and it contained five carcass  
39 survey data sets. These data sets span between nine  
40 and 28 years. The Big Salmon data set only has nine  
41 years in it but we felt like it was important to  
42 include that data set because it is our only Canadian  
43 tributary. It's important to notice in this graph that  
44 there are many gaps in these data sets and they don't  
45 overlap. As you can see the weir are more recent and  
46 Big Salmon is an older data set.

47  
48                   When we did the analysis we only  
49 included fish that had one fresh year, there were a  
50 handful of fish that had two years in fresh water but

1 the number was so small that we didn't include them in  
2 the analysis and we didn't include any eight year old  
3 salmon in the analysis also for the same reason that  
4 the numbers were so small that you couldn't really do  
5 anything statistical with them.

6  
7                   Next Vince. Using our four objectives  
8 we looked at the results from our analysis and we  
9 analyzed the results using a basin-wide result because  
10 we felt if something dramatic was happening in the  
11 river it would be evident in more than one tributary.

12  
13                   Next Vince. So objective one. In four  
14 of seven escapement data sets, the proportion of female  
15 chinook salmon changed over time, and as you can see  
16 there was no change in the Andreafsky or the Gisasa,  
17 there was a decrease in the Anvik, and the Chena and  
18 the Big Salmon and there was an increase in the Salcha.

19  
20                   Next -- oh, can you back up -- thank  
21 you. It was curious that there was a decrease in  
22 the Chena and there was an increase in the Salcha  
23 because these rivers are in close proximity to each  
24 other and we would have expected them to behave  
25 similarly. So that was a point of interest.

26  
27                   Next Vince. Objection two. In four of  
28 seven escapement data sets, the proportion of large  
29 chinook salmon greater than 36 inches significantly  
30 decreased over time and these decreases occurred in the  
31 Anvik, in the Chena and the Salcha and the Big Salmon.  
32 And here 36 inches represents between 10 and 12 percent  
33 of the population. We were trying to get at the really  
34 large fish so that is a somewhat arbitrary point that  
35 was picked, that we were shooting for that 10 percent,  
36 sometimes it's more than that depending on the  
37 escapement.

38  
39                   Next Vince. In the four of seven  
40 rivers we saw a decrease. In the Anvik we saw a four  
41 percent decrease in the proportion of large females  
42 over time. In the Chena we saw a two percent decrease  
43 in the proportion of large females over time. Next in  
44 the Salcha we saw a two percent decrease in the  
45 proportion of females over time. And in the Big Salmon  
46 we saw a seven percent decrease in the proportion of  
47 females over time.

48  
49                   Next Vince. Objective three. In three  
50 of seven escapement data sets the proportion of six

1 year old salmon significantly changed over time and we  
2 saw a decrease in the Anvik and the Big Salmon and we  
3 saw an increase in the Salcha.

4  
5                   Next. Objection three, again. In two  
6 of seven escapement data sets the proportion of seven  
7 year old chinook salmon significantly changed over time  
8 and we saw a decrease in the Chena and we saw an  
9 increase in the Big Salmon.

10  
11                   Next. Objective four. 10 of the 27  
12 escapement data sets showed significant changes in the  
13 length at age of six year old and seven year old male  
14 and female salmon, and this is the part of the analysis  
15 that most closely represents the work that the JTC had  
16 done previously and here we see nine decreases and one  
17 increase and we thought it was important to break these  
18 fish down by age because a change in age, if you look  
19 at just length, a change in age might affect an overall  
20 length, because the younger the fish they're usually  
21 smaller.

22  
23                   So anyway, next. And from this we  
24 concluded -- next -- our first objective, has the  
25 proportion of female chinook salmon declined over time.  
26 And we concluded, given that there were four of seven  
27 significant changes, but three were decreasing and one  
28 was increasing we concluded that, no, no results showed  
29 there is no discernible riverwide trend in the  
30 proportion of females in the spawning escapement.

31  
32                   Objective two. Again, we had four of  
33 seven significant changes and these were all decreases  
34 and we asked the question, has the proportion of large,  
35 greater than 36 inch chinook salmon declined over time  
36 in the Yukon River drainage, and to this we concluded,  
37 yes, results show a decrease in the proportion of large  
38 chinook salmon in the Anvik, Chena, Salcha and Big  
39 Salmon, and that was over half of the tributaries that  
40 we looked at.

41  
42                   Next -- oh, no we're good here.  
43 Objective three. Has the proportion of six and seven  
44 year old spawning chinook salmon declined over time in  
45 the river, and again we had three of seven significant  
46 trends in six year old and two of seven significant  
47 trends in seven year olds and from this we concluded,  
48 no, results showed no discernible river wide trend in  
49 the proportion of six year old and seven year old  
50 chinook salmon in the spawning escapements.

1                   And four. As the length at age of six  
2 and seven year old male and female chinook salmon  
3 declined over time in the Yukon River drainage, and  
4 from our results we decided that it was hard to  
5 conclude that the length of age of older spawning  
6 chinook salmon has consistently declined riverwide  
7 because fewer than half of the results show a  
8 significant decline and nine of 27, again were the  
9 decline and then we had one increase, one significant  
10 increase.

11  
12                   So, next Vince. So it's important to  
13 remember the scope of our analysis and the ASL data is  
14 thought to represent chinook salmon populations from  
15 which they were collected but the data set are a small  
16 proportion of the total spawning population in the  
17 Yukon, it's only the escapements that we monitor.

18  
19                   We have no pre-fishery data and so  
20 without pre-fishery data we have no knowledge of the  
21 Yukon chinook salmon before the commercial fishery so a  
22 before and after comparison of the data is impossible  
23 in regards to the gillnet fishery. And finally, all  
24 the information we have was collected over a long  
25 period of time and it is all confounded with changing  
26 ocean conditions and weather conditions and river  
27 conditions so it's impossible to separate out the  
28 environmental effects from the fishery.

29  
30                   Next. And from our work we came up  
31 with several recommendations, and our three top  
32 recommendations are as follows:

33  
34                   Our first recommendation is to  
35 reinstate collection of spawning  
36 escapement data from main Yukon River  
37 spawning tributaries located in Canada,  
38 because this is where we lack data and  
39 it's where we saw the most significant  
40 changes. And these also are fish that  
41 have passed through all the river and  
42 all the gillnet fisheries and so if  
43 anything was to affect them, you would  
44 think you'd see it in this population  
45 first.

46  
47                   Second. Was to continue long-term  
48 monitoring of age, sex and length  
49 comparison for chinook salmon. Because  
50 if a change is happening it's going to

1                   probably be gradual and it will take a  
2                   long period of time to detect it.

3  
4                   And finally, our third recommendation  
5                   was to document the age, sex and length  
6                   of chinook salmon caught in the  
7                   subsistence harvest and the gear types  
8                   used because this is where our biggest  
9                   data gaps are, we have very little  
10                  information about subsistence harvest.

11  
12                  Next Vince.

13  
14                  Mr. Chairman. That concludes my  
15 presentation and I'll accept any questions.

16  
17                  MR. COLLINS: I have a question.

18  
19                  CHAIRMAN SAM: Questions. Benedict.

20  
21                  MR. JONES: Yeah, Karen, over the last  
22 50 years we notice -- 50 years ago we catch a big  
23 chinook salmon but now there's -- we had a meeting in  
24 Ruby a couple weeks ago, we discussed this issue  
25 throughout the Yukon drainage, the commercial fishermen  
26 notice that the age has decreased in the lower Yukon,  
27 the commercial fishing and ever since the State put up  
28 the hatcheries in Southeast Alaska and Japan and all  
29 the hatchery fish is feeding off the same wild stock  
30 salmon stock of Alaska and they concluded that 60  
31 percent of the hatchery fish was in the Pacific and  
32 only 40 percent of the fish is wild stock of Alaska,  
33 and they're feeding off the same food in the Pacific as  
34 our wild stock.

35  
36                  So what I thought about with the Ruby  
37 meeting that since the hatchery was in effect, fish,  
38 our salmon are starving out, maybe that's what the  
39 causing the length of the fish, the smaller fish that  
40 we're getting throughout the Yukon drainage.

41  
42                  Another issue that we brought up in  
43 Ruby was that marketing agent was there and they want  
44 to market certain day in Colorado and California and  
45 lower Yukon commercial fishermen in District Y1 was  
46 opposing it. We debated for three hours on the same  
47 issue but opening dates on the 15th of June, but that  
48 was the first quarter of the run and they were opposing  
49 it.....

50

1 MS. HYER: Uh-huh.

2

3 MR. JONES: .....because it's too early  
4 in the season and the ice might still be on the Yukon  
5 or adrift and they wanted a six hour opening on the  
6 15th and they want to advertise the fish in Colorado a  
7 couple days after that because the whole wide world  
8 news media would be there televising the Yukon wild  
9 fish chinook salmon.

10

11 MS. HYER: Yeah, it is true, we don't  
12 have any ocean information as you stated last night.  
13 So in this analysis that is one of the things that we  
14 can't separate out. And in addition our longest data  
15 set is only 28 years and that is on the Salcha and so  
16 we have a very short time series when you think about  
17 trends over time, and that is another limiting factor  
18 in this analysis.

19

20 MR. COLLINS: Mr. Chairman.

21

22 CHAIRMAN SAM: Ray, then Jack.

23

24 MR. COLLINS: Yeah, it wasn't  
25 considered significant then that the Andreafsky was the  
26 only one that seemed to be consistently high and that's  
27 the first river down there where less fishing has gone  
28 on on that population than on all the others. It seems  
29 like that was significant to me the fact that that one  
30 came out first as least changes.

31

32 The other one was the fourth  
33 conclusion, where you said that no significant change  
34 over time but there was only one that was larger and I  
35 thought all the others were smaller on that fourth one,  
36 so I was wondering about that summary.

37

38 MS. HYER: Right. And the way we  
39 looked at this and the way we write up our conclusions  
40 was from a basin wide perspective. And the reason why  
41 that one conclusion was worded a little bit differently  
42 than the rest were because we did get nine decreases  
43 and one increase but it was still out of 27 different  
44 combinations, it was still less than half of those  
45 combinations.

46

47 So that's why we concluded that way,  
48 and why -- the reason we concluded the proportion of  
49 large chinook was significant because that was over  
50 half of the data sets we looked at. And so that's just

1 why it's worded that way but it was, in deed, of all  
2 the data sets that were significant and an objective  
3 for nine of them showed a decrease and that did cause  
4 us to look at that. But we were looking for basin-wide  
5 trends because we felt if something dramatic was  
6 happening it would be happening in one more than one  
7 place and so that was just kind of our perspective of  
8 the way we reported things.

9

10 And then can you state your first  
11 question again?

12

13 MR. COLLINS: Well, the first one was  
14 the location of the Andreafsky River which is closest  
15 to the mouth, and I don't know what the timing of that  
16 run is, if it's different than the others, but that was  
17 the one that consistently showed no change or large  
18 fish and it has had the least fishing on it, all the  
19 others have had to go by all of the other fishing all  
20 the way up the river.

21

22 MS. HYER: Yeah, no, that's true, and  
23 again that's why more data on Canada would be so  
24 fabulous because those are the fish that swim through  
25 everything. But in addition to, it is lower in the  
26 river, it is also a split data set because they did a  
27 carcass survey there initially and then they put the  
28 weir in and so that could also be related to simply  
29 that the data sets are short because you can't combine  
30 weir and carcass surveys, they're two different methods  
31 of sampling but unfortunately this is a shorter data  
32 set.

33

34 MR. REAKOFF: My questions revolve  
35 around the lack of data in the Canadian area.

36

37 MS. HYER: Uh-huh.

38

39 MR. REAKOFF: And those large declines  
40 up there, there's significant declines in size. Those  
41 are the most highly sought after component of the Yukon  
42 run and have the most exposure to harvest.

43

44 MS. HYER: Uh-huh.

45

46 MR. REAKOFF: I'm concerned about that  
47 aspect of this study, is that there's not enough data  
48 inclusion from the Canadian portion and showing that  
49 kind of decline. One thing that -- for future aspects  
50 of this is the correlation of the commercial harvest

1 targets at certain points in the run.

2

3 MS. HYER: Uh-huh.

4

5 MR. REAKOFF: They have certain quarter  
6 points and half points where they're going to  
7 commercially harvest and those correlations of where  
8 those primarily destination of those pulses and where  
9 they're harvested and so I think that's a very  
10 significant aspect is where those fish are going to and  
11 when they're going to be commercially harvested, and  
12 have the most impact on their -- in this gear type  
13 harvest.

14

15 One of the recommendations is for  
16 further age, sex, length correlation to the gear type,  
17 I do feel strongly that girth measurements are  
18 extremely important in this gear selectivity question.

19

20 MS. HYER: Uh-huh.

21

22 MR. REAKOFF: As girth declines, the  
23 fish that have morphologically narrower girth go  
24 through large mesh gear, and so a girth correlation,  
25 measurement is imperative to this question. I heard  
26 that that issue came up at YRDFA also.

27

28 MS. HYER: Yeah.

29

30 MR. REAKOFF: And so I've been trying  
31 to get YRDFA and various State -- I've talked to  
32 various State people about doing a selectivity study  
33 for maximum biomass harvest with a gear type. That's  
34 imperative to this question because the harvest, at  
35 maximum for the gear size, so that large mesh gear lets  
36 small fish go through and breed.

37

38 MS. HYER: Uh-huh. Uh-huh.

39

40 MR. REAKOFF: Too small a gear you have  
41 drop loss. There's an optimum size of gear that  
42 catches the most amount of fish for what's present.  
43 And so that we don't sift out the large ones and let  
44 all the small ones, so this girth measurement is  
45 imperative to further studies.

46

47 MS. HYER: Uh-huh.

48

49 MR. REAKOFF: And so those would be my  
50 comments.

1 MS. HYER: Yeah, I have two comments in  
2 return. We did the analysis on age, sex and length  
3 because that is what was available and there's very  
4 little weight and girth data, but your point has been  
5 brought in many meetings and so I think that people are  
6 looking at including those measurements in their annual  
7 -- when they collect samples.

8  
9 The other thing to remember about Big  
10 Salmon is it's our shortest set and we have our fewest  
11 data points in there, and so when you look at that more  
12 information would be extremely valuable because when  
13 you look at that, we saw our largest increase in the  
14 older fish in that population also, although we saw --  
15 we saw our largest decrease in the biggest fish -- our  
16 largest decrease in the biggest fish, we saw our  
17 largest increase in the proportion of the older fish.  
18 And it's hard to tell if that's real or that's an  
19 artifact of so few data points, that's why we feel it's  
20 so important to get more important to get more data  
21 from Canada. Because the truth is if those trends were  
22 real, the real dramatic ones were real, they'd be  
23 screaming up there now and they're not. But again  
24 we're modeling data that reflects a population and we  
25 have very little of it in that river, so it would be  
26 very important to get more data up there. And the  
27 Canadians actually have started escapement sampling  
28 again up there and they have two years of it, but  
29 unfortunately no ASL data has been collected yet, but  
30 we have brought that concern up to them and I think  
31 they're going to reinstate collecting it.

32  
33 Yes, it's very important.

34  
35 Any other questions.

36  
37 CHAIRMAN SAM: Any further questions.  
38 Robert.

39  
40 MR. WALKER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.  
41 Karen, when we talk about Andreafsky River, moving off  
42 the river, commercial fishing has impacted a lot of the  
43 spawning areas. Anvik River, when they opened the  
44 commercial fishing down at Y1, the Anvik River kings do  
45 hit in the first part of July.

46  
47 MS. HYER: Uh-huh.

48  
49 MR. WALKER: And the commercial season  
50 in Y1 and Y2, I believe a lot of our king salmon are

1 targeted at that time. 30 years ago when the weir  
2 first went in there was like 1,200 kings spawning, now  
3 there's like 60 to 80.

4  
5 MS. HYER: Uh-huh.

6  
7 MR. WALKER: So there is a huge decline  
8 in the Anvik River, and you can look back in the  
9 records there, go back far, maybe 20 or 25 years maybe  
10 versus today.

11  
12 MS. HYER: Uh-huh.

13  
14 MR. WALKER: So an impact -- a  
15 commercial season does have impact on the Anvik River.

16  
17 MS. HYER: Yeah, I don't think anybody  
18 would argue that commercial -- or gillnets are  
19 selective and Alaska Department of Fish and Game has  
20 done a tremendous amount of work addressing that so we  
21 know that large gillnets harvest large fish, nobody  
22 would argue that. But unfortunately in this particular  
23 analysis there's a lot that confounds that effect, so  
24 it might be part the fishery, part the environment,  
25 part the ocean, and we can't separate that out in this  
26 particular analysis.

27  
28 So I don't think anybody would argue  
29 that there are large fish taken in that commercial  
30 fishery and it would have an effect, it's just how big  
31 an effect we can't get at from this analysis.

32  
33 MR. WALKER: So do you think the  
34 windows would make a difference here, to keep them on,  
35 to take the windows out?

36  
37 MS. HYER: You know, as a statistician,  
38 I've not looked at any data for that and we have  
39 thought about how we could look at that, but I'm afraid  
40 if I answered that now, it would be off the top of my  
41 head, I don't really know. But that is something we've  
42 considered, how we could look at the data that exists  
43 to try to evaluate how effective those windows are.

44  
45 MR. WALKER: Would you have it handy  
46 for the next meeting in October?

47  
48 MS. HYER: I don't think so. Because  
49 we have yet to try to figure out how we can look at  
50 that so I can't see that we'd have an analysis by

1 October at this point.

2

3 MR. WALKER: Thank you, Karen.

4

5 CHAIRMAN SAM: Any further questions.

6

7 (No comments)

8

9 CHAIRMAN SAM: If not, you have

10 Kuskokwim, too, it's the handout.

11

12 MS. HYER: Thank you.

13

14 CHAIRMAN SAM: Vince.

15

16 MR. MATHEWS: Okay, Mr. Chairman, that

17 brings us up to Partners Fisheries Monitoring Program.

18 As I mentioned earlier, Kim Elkin could not make this

19 meeting, but David's here and Heather and David does

20 have a PowerPoint presentation. So we'll just get that

21 set up and then we'll go into that.

22

23 Thank you.

24

25 MR. STICKMAN: Hey, Ron, I have one

26 while they're setting up.

27

28 CHAIRMAN SAM: Go ahead, Mickey.

29

30 MR. STICKMAN: Maybe it would be a good

31 idea for the Western Interior Regional Advisory Council

32 to write a letter in support of hatchery production

33 reductions. Those reductions were passed at the last

34 Fish Board meeting but they never, ever -- the State

35 never ever did any action on them but at the YRDFA

36 meeting a couple weeks ago in Ruby they passed a

37 proposal for the Fish Board to honor those reductions

38 that they said they were going to do at the last Fish

39 Board meeting so maybe the Western Interior Regional

40 Advisory Council can write a letter to support hatchery

41 production reductions.

42

43 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay. Do you have any

44 letter in mind, specific letter in mind or action that

45 YRDFA took on this, was it a resolution or proposal or

46 what?

47

48 MR. STICKMAN: I think it was a

49 proposal.

50

1 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay, so if we can find  
2 that proposal, with the consent of the Council, honor  
3 Mickey's request to ask for the reduction in hatchery  
4 production.  
5  
6 Consensus.  
7  
8 (Council nods affirmatively)  
9  
10 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay. You got that.  
11 You find that proposal and then we'll adopt a letter in  
12 support of it.  
13  
14 MR. STICKMAN: Okay. And then I guess  
15 Vince can get a hold of those guys over at YRDFA and  
16 get that proposal number.  
17  
18 MR. MATHEWS: Yeah, I can talk with  
19 YRDFA on that if it is was part of the records, I can  
20 work on that, yes.  
21  
22 MR. STICKMAN: All right, thanks,  
23 Vince.  
24  
25 CHAIRMAN SAM: Is that satisfactory.  
26  
27 MR. STICKMAN: Thanks Ron.  
28  
29 CHAIRMAN SAM: Mickey, is that what you  
30 were looking for?  
31  
32 MR. STICKMAN: Yeah, thank you.  
33  
34 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay, David.  
35  
36 MR. ORABUTT: Mr. Chairman. Members.  
37 Thank you for having me today. My name is David  
38 Orabutt. I'm the fisheries director at the Kuskokwim  
39 Native Association, and you might have heard me last  
40 time, I spoke last spring. I was the former Fisheries  
41 Partner Biologist and we recently have hired a new  
42 Fisheries Partner Biologist and she's sitting behind me  
43 here so I'll let her introduce herself real quick.  
44  
45 MS. HILDEBRAND: Hi. My name is  
46 Heather Hildebrand, the new Fisheries Partners  
47 Biologist at KNA.  
48  
49 Do I have to come up?  
50

1 REPORTER: Yeah, come on up.  
2  
3 CHAIRMAN SAM: Come up to the mic. For  
4 the record.  
5  
6 (Laughter)  
7  
8 MS. HILDEBRAND: Hello, sorry about  
9 that. My name is Heather Hildebrand, the new Fisheries  
10 Partners Biologist at KNA, and I just appreciate being  
11 allowed to come here and be part of this and kind of  
12 take notes and meet everybody.  
13  
14 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you both for being  
15 here.  
16  
17 MR. ORABUTT: Okay, here's an outline  
18 of my presentation. I'm just going to give you a quick  
19 overview of our Fisheries Program and then a quick  
20 synopsis of our fisheries projects and then talk about  
21 a couple of projects that we would like to have in  
22 2006, and then talk about our internship programs and  
23 then leave a little time for questions.  
24  
25 So at the FIS here's what we do, first  
26 we partner on fisheries research projects with Fish  
27 and Game, with Fish and Wildlife Service, whoever would  
28 like to partner with us on these projects, we're up for  
29 these partnerships.  
30  
31 The second is we serve as a liaison  
32 between members and agencies. This is a picture of the  
33 Kuskokwim Salmon Working Group meeting and we  
34 participate in that process.  
35  
36 And then next we teach learn and  
37 communicate with our members and we do this through  
38 meetings such as the RAC meetings, but also through  
39 individual village meetings and our annual tribal  
40 gathering and just a lot of informal interactions that  
41 we have throughout our communities.  
42  
43 And then the last thing we do is we  
44 mentor local youth and encourage them to pursue higher  
45 education, and we mostly do this through our internship  
46 programs and by recruiting local villagers to work on  
47 these projects.  
48  
49 So this is a list of our projects that  
50 we have going. The George River weir, the Tatlawiksuk

1 River weir, the Chinook Radio Telemetry project, the  
2 Fish Wheel salmon tagging project, the whitefish  
3 radiotelemetry project and then the subsistence fish  
4 harvest monitoring. And then our internship program  
5 list is the high school internship program, the  
6 partners college internship program and then the  
7 chinook genetics internship program.

8

9                   And with that I'll just go ahead --  
10 well, I guess I should mention the next slide here, we  
11 have a grant from the Partners for Fisheries Monitoring  
12 Program which funds a large portion of our base program  
13 so with that I'll go ahead and go into the individual  
14 projects.

15

16                   Okay, the George and the Tatlawiksuk  
17 River weirs. The George and the Tatlawiksuk Rivers are  
18 tributaries to the middle Kuskokwim River. And these  
19 weirs are salmon enumeration weirs and they're run by  
20 the Department of Fish and Game, Commercial Fisheries  
21 and KNA and they're funded by the Fisheries Resource  
22 Monitoring Program and the Bering Sea Fisherman's  
23 Association and the State of Alaska.

24

25                   So with that I'll go through what we do  
26 at those projects. We monitor escapement, we  
27 characterize the run by age sex and length sampling.  
28 We collect T-tag data from the fish that enter the  
29 streams that were tagged down river. We collect  
30 radiotagged data again from the fish that were tagged  
31 down river, and then we also collect genetic samples at  
32 these weirs.

33

34                   Okay, so I'll move on to the next  
35 project. And I'm going to go pretty quick on these  
36 projects and not get into too much detail, and if you  
37 have any questions, please, ask me either after my  
38 presentation or sometime later during the meeting.

39

40                   So the fishwheel salmon tagging project  
41 is, again, run by Alaska Department of Fish and Game,  
42 Commercial Fisheries and KNA and it takes place just up  
43 stream of Upper Kalskag and funded by the Fisheries  
44 Resource Monitoring Program and the State of Alaska.  
45 And we T-tag salmon. This year it was to estimate  
46 specific stock run timing, and by specific stock run  
47 timing, I mean individual tributaries, those fish that  
48 are going in there, when are they entering the river or  
49 more appropriately when are they passing Kalskag and  
50 how fast are they traveling.

1                   And then the second part is to estimate  
2 abundance using mark/recapture. And this year we only  
3 estimated coho abundance but in previous years we've  
4 tried to estimate chum salmon abundance and sockeye  
5 abundance as well. And then the third is to estimate  
6 the run speed of the individual, and that's specific  
7 stock run speed, again, just the run speed of the  
8 individual tributaries, the stocks that they contain.  
9 And then the last is we catch salmon and whitefish to  
10 provide fish for radiotagging studies.

11  
12                   And so that brings us to the chinook  
13 salmon radiotelemetry study and this is Alaska  
14 Department of Fish and Game, Sportfish and KNA, and  
15 then it takes place at the upper -- up stream of upper  
16 Kalskag at the fishwheels and, again it's funded by the  
17 Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program and the State of  
18 Alaska. Or that study, we radiotagged chinook salmon  
19 to estimate in river abundance from chinook salmon up  
20 river of the Aniak River and then we also estimate the  
21 spawning distribution of chinook salmon, what  
22 tributaries they're going into and the specific  
23 locations.

24  
25                   The next project is the subsistence  
26 fish harvest monitoring and this is a project done in  
27 conjunction with ADF&G Subsistence Division, KNA and  
28 ONC. And a majority of the Kuskokwim villages are  
29 involved in this study. And we go and just basically  
30 ask subsistence fishermen what they caught and how many  
31 they caught, this way we can record that data for  
32 future us.

33  
34                   And then the whitefish radiotelemetry  
35 study, this is a study by the Fish and Wildlife Service  
36 and KNA, and it's pretty much a Kuskokwim River  
37 drainage study as we have found with the traveling  
38 whitefish, and it is funded by the Fisheries Resource  
39 Monitoring Program and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife  
40 Service, and I'll tell you a little bit about this  
41 study in the next slide.

42  
43                   Well, there's Calvin, and I probably  
44 should mention him. he's our executive director and he  
45 really likes this study because we get to snowmachine  
46 to the radio receiver sites and he likes to get out  
47 into the field.

48  
49                   The first objective is to determine the  
50 spawning locations and migration patterns of whitefish

1 in the Kuskokwim River. The second objective is to  
2 determine if Whitefish Lake fish are from different  
3 spawning populations or if they're from the same  
4 population. And then the third is just to kind of  
5 explore the basic life history of these whitefish  
6 because little is known from the scientific standpoint  
7 of what these fish are doing.

8  
9                   So here's some 2004 data, we have not  
10 yet compiled all the 2005 but I just wanted to show you  
11 briefly kind of what we're discovering here. The  
12 humpback whitefish, again, they're tagged in Whitefish  
13 Lake which is all the way down to the left there by  
14 Aniak and these are the locations that we found  
15 humpback whitefish. The arrows point to the major  
16 concentrations. In the fall of 2004 during or near  
17 their spawning time period. So it looks like in a  
18 majority or a lot of the fish are heading up river to  
19 the various tributaries to spawn and you can see all  
20 the way up towards McGrath. This year in 2005, we've  
21 found some past McGrath and even up towards Medfra.

22  
23                   So the next one shows Broad whitefish,  
24 same pattern.

25  
26                   The next one shows Least cisco, not  
27 quite as significant in their migrations but we do not  
28 have very many data points for this, Least cisco.

29  
30                   So with that I'll just talk about two  
31 new fisheries projects that we're proposing in  
32 conjunction with Fish and Game, AVCP, National Park  
33 Service and some others. It's the Kuskokwim chinook  
34 salmon run reconstruction, and this study, if it's  
35 funded, will continue the chinook radiotelemetry and  
36 the fishwheel studies that I just spoke to you about,  
37 but also take that data and combine it with much of our  
38 escapement data from the weirs and try to reconstruct  
39 salmon runs to estimate river wide abundance for the  
40 past, however many years we can go back and try to  
41 estimate how many fish are entering the river, and from  
42 that data hopefully we can look at both escapement and  
43 harvest rates on those fish.

44  
45                   And the second study there, this is the  
46 high school internship program. As I mentioned before  
47 it's with KNA, and Fish and Game, Commercial Fisheries  
48 Division that takes place at the weirs and it's funded  
49 by FRMP. And the next slide. It's a couple week  
50 internship, the interns, they go to the weirs and work

1 at the weirs and they complete a written curriculum and  
2 work with the weir data and then after this experience  
3 they get to receive high school credit and \$250 for  
4 their week, so we're pretty proud of that program.  
5

6                   So the next one I'll talk about our  
7 college internship programs, and this takes place at  
8 the various KNA fisheries projects. And the Partners  
9 Interns Program which is on the next slide, we have two  
10 partners interns this year, Dana Diehl from Aniak was  
11 our education intern, and you can see her working at  
12 the weirs, she worked with the high school internship  
13 program and put together an excellent curriculum for  
14 the students.  
15

16                   And then Samantha Epchook was our  
17 second, the next slide, she's from Kwethluk, she was  
18 our second Partners Fisheries intern and she worked for  
19 three months this summer and she worked at a variety of  
20 our projects, and then she also, on the next slide, was  
21 the recipient of our genetics internship this, over the  
22 winter period, and she worked at the Alaska Department  
23 of Fish and Game Gene Conservation Lab and worked on  
24 the chinook genetics project.  
25

26                   And so with that there's many people  
27 that have helped us out, I'm not going to go through  
28 all of those but it's up there so you can see that we  
29 don't do this alone. And then I'll take any questions.  
30

31                   Thank you.

32  
33                   CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Dave. Any  
34 questions for Dave.  
35

36                   MR. JONES: Yes.  
37

38                   CHAIRMAN SAM: Benedict.  
39

40                   MR. JONES: Yeah, Dave, when you're  
41 doing your whitefish study on Kuskokwim River, have you  
42 found any disease like you do on the Yukon River.  
43 We've been monitoring whitefish up and down the Yukon  
44 and especially the Koyukuk River this year. The  
45 whitefish, both species, three species are all  
46 declining in the last two years and in Tanana they have  
47 been studying the whitefish, they cut the stomach open  
48 and study the heart and they found white spots in their  
49 hearts and they studied it under a microscope and they  
50 could see the white spots moving in their hearts, have

1 you studied that in the Kuskokwim River?

2

3 MR. ORABUTT: No, we have not.

4

5 CHAIRMAN SAM: Any further questions  
6 for Dave.

7

8 Winchell.

9

10 MR. TICKNOR: Yeah, Dave, you remember  
11 I talked to yesterday about that project they had in  
12 Nikolai, Sara Gilk, I was wondering if you know the  
13 results of that study, when they had the fishwheel?

14

15 MR. ORABUTT: Mr. Chairman. The report  
16 just came out this winter and I have a copy of the  
17 report and I can send you a copy or I can talk to Sara  
18 Gilk and I'm sure she would be more than willing and  
19 talk to you about that.

20

21 MR. TICKNOR: Yeah, I noticed there was  
22 some less, what they call the whitefish Least cisco, up  
23 there, we've been catching them in the fishery up there  
24 in Nikolai so they go up that far, too.

25

26 MR. ORABUTT: Mr. Chairman. I'm not  
27 sure how much he touches on the whitefish results of  
28 the Nikolai fishwheel, but I know that fishwheel is of  
29 great interest to the whitefish project, to Ken Harper  
30 and myself because you guys were catching so many  
31 whitefish up there and it would be an excellent  
32 opportunity to radiotag whitefish and find out what's  
33 going on with those up river fish.

34

35 MR. TICKNOR: Thank you.

36

37 MR. ORABUTT: Thank you.

38

39 CHAIRMAN SAM: Any further questions.

40

41 (No comments)

42

43 CHAIRMAN SAM: If not, thank you.

44

45 MR. ORABUTT: Okay, thank you.

46

47 CHAIRMAN SAM: Just for the public's  
48 information, our Partnership membership and the closest  
49 is Kuskokwim has gotten even bigger. This is the first  
50 time I can remember we have three members sitting on

1 the Western Interior from the Kuskokwim River, it makes  
2 me pretty proud.

3

4 Thank you.

5

6 Next, Vince.

7

8 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, Mr. Chairman, the  
9 next item would be what we do at every meeting is  
10 what's called the .805(c) letter, the report back from  
11 the Board. That is in your folder, your vanilla  
12 folder, Item No. 2, it wasn't able to make the  
13 production schedule for the book. I assume you already  
14 got this in the mail but you could look it over, if  
15 there's any questions on the letter we have Staff here  
16 to answer them.

17

18 For Winchell, this is where we talked  
19 about in training where the Board, and Judy mentioned  
20 it, also the deference to the Regional Councils. This  
21 is required in ANILCA that the Board respond to you in  
22 writing why they did not adopt a Council  
23 recommendation. Since day one we've put in all that the  
24 Board has done, even if they have adopted your  
25 recommendation.

26

27 So with that I'll just let you guys  
28 look it over and if there's any questions I'm sure we  
29 have Staff here to answer those questions.

30

31 But this is your report card back from  
32 the Board on fishery proposals that were taken up in  
33 January.

34

35 (Pause)

36

37 CHAIRMAN SAM: Any questions for Vince.

38

39 (No comments)

40

41 (Pause)

42

43 CHAIRMAN SAM: Any questions for Vince.

44

45 MR. WALKER: No.

46

47 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay, if not we'll go

48 on.

49

50 MR. MATHEWS: Okay, the next item, and,

1 again, I don't know if there is somebody here from the  
2 State here to speak on it. I know Gerald is here from  
3 the Federal side. This is kind of giving you initial  
4 discussions concerning the 2006 outlook and preseason  
5 management plan. This has been very beneficial for you  
6 guys to look at the seasons that are coming up. So  
7 Gerald will be covering that, I don't know if the  
8 State's got any representatives here to do that, they  
9 generally do send somebody but we're hearing that  
10 there's been plane problems and that so it might have  
11 been that they got bounced back.

12

13 CHAIRMAN SAM: Go ahead, Gerald. State  
14 your name and who you work for for the record.

15

16 MR. MASCHMANN: Good morning Council  
17 members and attendees. My name is Gerald Maschmann and  
18 I work for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in  
19 Fairbanks and I assist Russ Holder, who is the Federal  
20 in-season subsistence fisheries manager. The handout  
21 which has been passed out provides additional salmon  
22 outlook information for your reference beyond the  
23 summarized comments that I am providing.

24

25 Similar to the last five years a joint  
26 information sheet reviewing the 2005 fishery and  
27 discussing the 2006 outlook will be published and  
28 distributed this coming May. The 2006 salmon outlook  
29 has been summarized from information authored by the  
30 Alaska Department of Fish and Game managers. The  
31 Department is anticipating a below average to average  
32 return of chinook salmon, an average to above average  
33 return of summer chum and fall chum salmon, and an  
34 average to above average return of coho salmon to the  
35 Yukon River in 2006.

36

37 Both Federal and State Yukon River  
38 fishery managers are planning to start the fishing  
39 season using the Board of Fish windowed subsistence  
40 salmon fishing schedule beginning in late May or early  
41 June. The returns for all four salmon runs should  
42 provide for escapements, normal subsistence harvests  
43 and some commercial fishing opportunities. The Alaska  
44 Department of Fish and Game Commercial management  
45 decisions will be based on in-season assessment  
46 information and harvest amounts will be dependant on  
47 markets.

48

49 Anticipated commercial harvest ranges  
50 for each salmon run are 30,000 to 60,000 chinook

1 salmon, 500,000 to 900,000 summer chum salmon, 100,000  
2 to 400,000 fall chum salmon, and between 50,000 and  
3 70,000 coho salmon.

4

5 Thank you for this opportunity to  
6 provide you a brief outlook for this coming fishing  
7 season and I'll try to answer any questions you may  
8 have.

9

10 CHAIRMAN SAM: Questions for Gerald.  
11 Go ahead, Jack.

12

13 MR. REAKOFF: In these run outlooks, is  
14 the by-catch in the Bering Sea elevated this year or is  
15 that at normal levels or do you take that into account?

16

17 MR. MASCHMANN: If I recall from the  
18 YRDFA meeting, they did discuss the by-catch issue and  
19 if I remember correctly it appeared that there was some  
20 increase in the by-catch in the Bering Sea, however,  
21 the Department, considering the by-catch they assess  
22 the overall run is that they're still anticipating, for  
23 chinook, a below average to average return to the Yukon  
24 River.

25

26 I don't know if that answers your  
27 question, but they do consider as much as they can and  
28 as Karen stated what's going on in the Bering Sea is  
29 pretty complicated.

30

31 MR. REAKOFF: Mr. Chairman.

32

33 CHAIRMAN SAM: Jack.

34

35 MR. REAKOFF: This projection on  
36 chinook run, that's coming off the escapements that  
37 occurred five and six years before and those -- because  
38 those are low or this recent up swing in productivity,  
39 is that still -- they're still driving a conservative  
40 estimate because they're still not sure that the marine  
41 system is -- or the indicators in the marine system,  
42 that there's higher productivity of the atrophic level  
43 currently but they're still projecting conservatively,  
44 or would you consider these conservative numbers?

45

46 MR. MASCHMANN: Yeah, I would consider  
47 that the Alaska Department of Fish and Game is still  
48 being somewhat conservative on their estimate, you  
49 know, based on these poor runs, however, they're still  
50 optimistic that there's going to be a large enough

1 return for escapements and a normal subsistence harvest  
2 with, again, it appears that they're optimistic that  
3 there's going to be some commercial opportunity.

4  
5                   And, again, the decision to go  
6 commercial is based on the in-season numbers, so if the  
7 numbers are coming in and they feel they can -- they  
8 feel that there's going to be an opportunity they will  
9 go commercial fishing, however, if the numbers are not  
10 there or they are not confident with the test net and  
11 Pilot Station numbers then they'll possibly hold back  
12 or decrease the commercial opportunity if it's  
13 warranted.

14  
15                   So it's based on the in-season numbers.

16  
17                   MR. REAKOFF: There was problems with  
18 the ultrasound monitoring last year, do you feel  
19 confident that those problems have been addressed as  
20 managers?

21  
22                   MR. MASCHMANN: The Pilot Station sonar  
23 has had some issues with one of the banks has changed  
24 and they feel that the sonar wasn't giving them good  
25 counts along that bank, that they were missing some  
26 areas. Last year they have used the DIDSON to attempt  
27 to count that missing area. They feel pretty confident  
28 that they have been able to improve their counts. They  
29 do know there's issues with the apportionment aspect.  
30 They have said they are starting to address that with  
31 changing their net size and net selection to try and  
32 get a better apportionment. They are also looking to  
33 move down stream a little bit on that left bank to try  
34 and improve their sonar aim and they are continuing to  
35 use the -- going to continue to use the DIDSON to try  
36 and fill in those missing areas that the other sonar  
37 equipment that can't get to.

38  
39                   And I discussed with Steve Hayes, who's  
40 the summer season manager and he stated at the YRDFA  
41 conference that they think the numbers are comparable  
42 to previous year and they thing they're getting an  
43 improved count on that left side using the DIDSON.

44  
45                   MR. REAKOFF: I wasn't at the YRDFA  
46 conference so that's why I'm asking these questions.  
47 It may be redundant for some people but not for me.

48  
49                   CHAIRMAN SAM: Benedict.

50

1 MR. JONES: Yeah, Gerald, at that Ruby  
2 conference, YR DFA conference, two weeks ago, we  
3 discussed the by-catch and they estimated 70,000 by-  
4 catch in the Bering Sea and the total harvest on the  
5 Alaska portion subsistence use of 50,000, and if I  
6 remember correctly the commercial harvest was somewhere  
7 around 25,000, so it equals the number, the by-catch  
8 and not very much for escapement so we got to look at  
9 that by-catch closer.

10  
11 CHAIRMAN SAM: Any further questions.

12  
13 (No comments)

14  
15 CHAIRMAN SAM: Quite a few years ago I  
16 attended a meeting with the North Pacific Fisheries and  
17 they are a self-patrolled system, they work on the  
18 honor system, but they're the first to admit that they  
19 can't control all of their members so no matter what  
20 they try they say they'll get by-catch and they were  
21 honest enough to admit that.

22  
23 Thank you.

24  
25 Vince -- you had more?

26  
27 MR. MASCHMANN: No, thank you.

28  
29 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay.

30  
31 MR. MASCHMANN: That's all. And I  
32 would like to say that the Alaska Department of Fish  
33 and Game did not plan on attending these winter RACs,  
34 so it wasn't a plane issue, they did not attend the YK-  
35 Delta nor this one and I don't believe they're  
36 attending the Eastern either.

37  
38 CHAIRMAN SAM: Oh, no, I was wondering  
39 the same thing myself. It's not that I was wondering  
40 why they didn't attend, it was just that we totally  
41 dedicate our October meeting for fisheries and we just  
42 got very few items, so it's not their fault because  
43 they totally address us at our October meeting, so  
44 don't feel too badly. We're not feeling too sad, the  
45 faster we go, the better off we are.

46  
47 Thank you, Gerald.

48  
49 Ray.

50

1 MR. COLLINS: Mr. Chairman. Is there  
2 Kuskokwim predictions, does anyone know, are they in  
3 the works?  
4

5 CHAIRMAN SAM: I may have received them  
6 but I can't remember if it was short or not, but I took  
7 it for granted that all of our Council members did so  
8 can we look into that Vince.  
9

10 MR. HILSINGER: Mr. Chairman.  
11

12 CHAIRMAN SAM: Go ahead, we have a  
13 person back there.  
14

15 MR. HILSINGER: My name is John  
16 Hilsinger, and I'm the fisheries member of the  
17 subsistence liaison team, but I do have the Kuskokwim  
18 numbers that were published in the statewide outlook.  
19 And I can read them to you, provide a copy or whatever  
20 your please is.  
21

22 MR. COLLINS: I was just wondering. A  
23 summary, just a simple summary, are they looking about  
24 the same as the Yukon?  
25

26 MR. HILSINGER: Mr. Chairman. Mr.  
27 Collins. Yeah, they're looking very similar to what we  
28 saw for last year on the Kuskokwim. We're predicting  
29 in the river, a commercial harvest of 5,000 to 25,000,  
30 last year's commercial harvest was about 4,000 and we  
31 did have far above our escapement goals in many  
32 systems, so about a similar type of run for chinook.  
33

34 Sockeye a harvest of 25 to 50,000 which  
35 are very similar to last years harvest. And that  
36 fishery is under a 50,000 fish cap, so the harvest  
37 would not exceed 50,000 in any case.  
38

39 On coho harvest of 150,000 to 300,000  
40 which is similar to recent years, last year's catch was  
41 closer to the 150,000 and it was a relatively poor coho  
42 run on the Kuskokwim last year.  
43

44 And chum 100,000 to 500,000 which would  
45 be the harvestable surplus. As you know, there's no  
46 real market for chum salmon on the Kuskokwim and so  
47 usually the abundance of chum salmon ends up kind of  
48 being the control on the early fisheries that harvest  
49 some chinook and then sockeye. So I wouldn't expect to  
50 see 100,000 to 500,000 chum salmon actually harvested

1 but we expect a run that would produce that kind of  
2 harvest. So I think we would expect to be able to make  
3 escapement goals and have good, a full subsistence  
4 harvest.

5  
6 Thank you.

7  
8 CHAIRMAN SAM: Any other questions  
9 about the Kuskokwim.

10  
11 MR. RIVARD: Mr. Chair, this is Don  
12 Rivard.

13  
14 CHAIRMAN SAM: Was that someone  
15 who.....

16  
17 MR. RIVARD: Mr. Chair.

18  
19 CHAIRMAN SAM: Go ahead.

20  
21 MR. RIVARD: I just wanted to inform  
22 the Council that there's going to be another  
23 interagency Kuskokwim fisheries meeting in Anchorage,  
24 it's scheduled for April 4th and 5th, and the Office of  
25 Subsistence Management will fund one member from both  
26 the YK Council and your Council to attend that.

27  
28 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

29  
30 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you. That's very  
31 kind of you, I appreciate your information.

32  
33 Any further questions about the  
34 Kuskokwim outlook right now.

35  
36 (No comments)

37  
38 CHAIRMAN SAM: If not, thank both of  
39 you. Vince.

40  
41 MR. MATHEWS: Okay, Mr. Chairman, that  
42 brings us up to the section if the Council was thinking  
43 of writing any fisheries proposals, this is the time,  
44 the window for submitting Federal subsistence  
45 proposals, I think it's March 26th, so if there were  
46 any proposals this would be a time to bring them up to  
47 the Council to see if they want to endorse them or  
48 author them so that's where we're at at this time. I  
49 don't know of any proposals that -- no one has  
50 contacted me from any of the villages, or elsewhere

1 about proposals they would like you to review at this  
2 time.

3

4 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Vince. With  
5 that, we'll call 10 minute break.

6

7 (Off record)

8

9 (On record)

10

11 CHAIRMAN SAM: Let's find our way back  
12 to our seats and begin.

13

14 (Pause)

15

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

18

19 I got a few announcements. The first  
20 one is that we are meeting the -- the Council is  
21 meeting with the local village council over at the  
22 council office, it's right across the street. We'll  
23 break for lunch at quarter to 12:00, pick up our  
24 lunches and head on over to meet with them. I kind of  
25 like this idea, it just saves us an evening session and  
26 we'll do it and meeting over there with the local  
27 village council. I don't know how long it will take,  
28 but it shouldn't take more than an hour during lunch,  
29 so it shouldn't take more than our lunch hour and then  
30 with that in mind, I would like to call the meeting  
31 back to order at least a quarter after 1:00 and then  
32 begin. That is for now and that's pertaining to how  
33 long we meet over with the local council.

34

35 Then with that out of the way, Vince.

36

37 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, Mr. Chairman, and  
38 basically you're just going to be meeting with them to  
39 hear their concerns, it's not going to be any real  
40 Council actions, it's just to seize upon the  
41 opportunity to hear the village council talk about  
42 issues. And then if there are issues that come from  
43 that we'll get it back on the record.

44

45 CHAIRMAN SAM: (Nods affirmatively)

46

47 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, okay, thank you.  
48 That brings us up to the annual report, and that's No.  
49 3 in your vanilla notebook.

50

1 Ron and I and Jack have worked on this  
2 annual report, we didn't -- I didn't have time to mail  
3 it to all of you because of other duties and that.

4  
5 So for Winchell, I didn't cover the  
6 annual report totally in our training session, but the  
7 way they go is the schedule is in fall, the Council  
8 develops a list of topics, those topics then are  
9 written up in draft form and presented at this meeting,  
10 this winter meeting. And then the Council reviews the  
11 draft annual report, we can make revisions and that to  
12 it and then that's signed off by the Chair and  
13 submitted to the Federal Subsistence Board which  
14 generally takes them up in July -- June or July, and  
15 then they give you a written response to that annual  
16 report at your fall meeting.

17  
18 So right now is the 2005 annual report  
19 because it started last fall. And very quickly the  
20 topics are in bold.

21  
22 The first topic is flexible management  
23 and global warming.

24  
25 Second topic is Tier II and .804, and I  
26 will come back to that one.

27  
28 Third one is Office of Subsistence  
29 Management future funding.

30  
31 Fourth is recognition of Kanuti  
32 National Wildlife Refuge wildlife  
33 studies.

34  
35 Five is subunit map of Unit 24.

36  
37 The reason I said to come back to Tier  
38 II which is No. 2 and .804 hunts, that can remain as  
39 part of the annual report or it could be an agenda  
40 topic for your fall meeting. So that's something to  
41 give me directions on, you can keep it in the annual  
42 report or we can put it on the fall agenda.

43  
44 So with that I'll stop and you guys can  
45 look at the annual report and then we'll go from there.

46  
47 Thank you.

48  
49 CHAIRMAN SAM: Vince, can we -- is it  
50 okay if we just keep it on both the annual report and

1 bring it back up at the fall meeting?

2

3 MR. MATHEWS: Yes. I mean you'll get a  
4 report back from the Board on your question. The Board  
5 might assign Staff to make a presentation at the fall  
6 meeting, I mean that's one option. So, yes, you have  
7 the option to keep it in the annual report, I just said  
8 it's possible it could be off the annual report and  
9 just a topic.

10

11 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay, thank you.

12

13 (Pause)

14

15 MR. REAKOFF: Mr. Chairman.

16

17 CHAIRMAN SAM: Jack.

18

19 MR. REAKOFF: Mr. Chairman. Under this  
20 report, Point 4, we're applauding Kanuti's studies that  
21 they're doing and so forth and recognizing that these  
22 types of studies be done on other wildlife refuges, I  
23 was wondering if we should have an inclusion for the --  
24 not just the other Refuges, but also the BLM, you know,  
25 the work that Tim's doing up there in the Dalton  
26 Highway area, a highly impacted area. I would like to  
27 see these fundings be also provided by the BLM for  
28 those innovative studies, and Tim's doing great work up  
29 there on the Dalton Highway area.

30

31 I was wondering what the Council  
32 thought about that inclusion.

33

34 CHAIRMAN SAM: I really like the idea  
35 because as I brought up before that those caribou  
36 migrate towards the Kanuti Flats where our people hunt  
37 and trap we'll have to find a way to handle this issue  
38 one way or the other. So, I too, like the idea of  
39 getting more funding just for that specific project in  
40 that specific area, Caribou Mountain and Kanuti Flats  
41 area. Because whether it grows or declines we'll have  
42 to keep an eye on that herd.

43

44 Anything else. Vince.

45

46 MR. MATHEWS: Well, Mr. Chairman,  
47 there's two components of that request, one is  
48 recognition of BLM's work. The second one we mentioned  
49 was funding, well, the Board doesn't fund research  
50 projects, so we can work on the wording that you would

1 encourage BLM to fund those but the Board does not fund  
2 it. Because the Board's not into -- on the wildlife  
3 side, is not involved with research studies on  
4 wildlife.

5  
6 MR. REAKOFF: Mr. Chairman.

7  
8 CHAIRMAN SAM: Jack.

9  
10 MR. REAKOFF: Mr. Chairman. I realize  
11 the Board doesn't fund the agency projects, but the BLM  
12 has a sitting Board member on the Board and I would  
13 like the BLM to be aware that these wildlife projects  
14 need funding, and these are very important -- that area  
15 is being slated for a gas line, there's all kinds of  
16 hunting interest up there, and so I think that it  
17 behooves our Council to highlight the funding need by  
18 the BLM for wildlife projects.

19  
20 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay.

21  
22 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, Mr. Chairman, that's  
23 kind of what I was getting at and then we can copy it  
24 to the State director for Bureau of Land Management.  
25 I just wanted the Council and public here to know that  
26 the Board does not fund research projects for wildlife.

27  
28 CHAIRMAN SAM: Getting back to the  
29 other issue that Jack brought up. I, too, would like  
30 to include Innoko, Koyukuk and Nowitna, along with the  
31 Kanuti.

32  
33 MR. MATHEWS: For the recognition part?

34  
35 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yes.

36  
37 MR. MATHEWS: Yeah, I wish Judy were  
38 here because the Board, I think, appreciates when  
39 Councils recognize agencies efforts because a lot of  
40 times the annual reports are topics that are negative  
41 and so it would be nice if she was hear to hear this.  
42 So anyways, yes, Innoko could be added to this topic as  
43 recognition for their studies.

44  
45 CHAIRMAN SAM: And the Koyukuk/Nowitna.

46  
47 MR. MATHEWS: Right.

48  
49 CHAIRMAN SAM: Uh-huh.

50

1 MR. MATHEWS: So basically all the  
2 Refuges. The only question I have to ask then would be  
3 you do have the Yukon-Delta Refuge, has some portions  
4 of its lands within the region. I'm not saying they  
5 should not or should get recognition, but do you want  
6 to include them also.

7  
8 CHAIRMAN SAM: I believe that we should  
9 because it's one of those crossover things.

10  
11 MR. MATHEWS: Okay.

12  
13 MR. REAKOFF: Mr. Chairman.

14  
15 CHAIRMAN SAM: Go ahead, Jack.

16  
17 MR. REAKOFF: I don't want to really  
18 leave out the Park Service, the Park Service put out a  
19 whole bunch of funding for a moose study up in the  
20 Gates of the Arctic Park in response to population  
21 status and so I kind of think maybe we should add the  
22 Park Service to that list also, at least for the Gates  
23 of the Arctic, I don't know about Denali.

24  
25 MR. COLLINS: They did the fishery  
26 study in the upper Kuskokwim to get historical  
27 information from Nikolai and Telida while elders were  
28 around on what they knew about fishery use up in that  
29 area, so that was significant too and important, I  
30 think, for background data.

31  
32 MR. REAKOFF: Right.

33  
34 MR. MATHEWS: Okay. We can add that in  
35 there and my turnaround time is April so I'll need to  
36 track a few of you guys and make sure I get the right  
37 wording and references on these but, yes, I don't see  
38 any problem with adding it.

39  
40 CHAIRMAN SAM: Any other  
41 recommendations on the annual report.

42  
43 MR. STICKMAN: Ron, this is Mickey in  
44 Nulato.

45  
46 CHAIRMAN SAM: Go ahead.

47  
48 MR. STICKMAN: Yeah, I just wanted to  
49 make sure, you know, when you do the Koyukuk National  
50 Wildlife Refuge that you also include the Northern

1 Innoko, that they also manage Northern Innoko across  
2 from Kaltag and Nulato.

3

4 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay, thanks for  
5 recognizing that because Robert did cover that a little  
6 bit earlier and we did talk about it briefly, it might  
7 have been between us but it, too, should be included.

8

9 MR. STICKMAN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

10

11 CHAIRMAN SAM: Vince.

12

13 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman. Just to  
14 make it clear on the record, he's talking about the  
15 Kaiyuh Flats area, he's not talking about the area that  
16 Robert was mainly talking about and I make the same  
17 mistake of not recognizing that as the northern portion  
18 of the Innoko Refuge, so we'll make sure that that's  
19 referenced in here and that is managed out of Galena.

20

21 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yes, I think that was  
22 our concern.

23

24 Anything further on the annual report  
25 at this time.

26

27 MR. WALKER: Ron.

28

29 CHAIRMAN SAM: Robert.

30

31 MR. WALKER: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Are  
32 we on No. 6 yet?

33

34 MR. MORGAN: Not yet.

35

36 CHAIRMAN SAM: No. 6, where?

37

38 MR. WALKER: Okay, we're not on there  
39 yet, continue please.

40

41 CHAIRMAN SAM: I'm not quite clear on  
42 your question.

43

44 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman. He's  
45 referring to in the vanilla folder I gave you I  
46 numbered pages, and in there is a No. 6, he's not  
47 referencing the annual report, which has got five  
48 topics. So he's jumping ahead.

49

50 So is it fair to say that by consensus

1 the Council has adopted the annual report with the  
2 noted additions.

3

4 CHAIRMAN SAM: Consensus.

5

6 (Council nods affirmatively)

7

8 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yes.

9

10 MR. MATHEWS: Okay, thank you.

11

12 CHAIRMAN SAM: Where are we at now,

13 Vince.

14

15 MR. MATHEWS: Okay, Mr. Chairman, that  
16 brings us up to Office of Subsistence Management  
17 reports. The first one, I'm drawing a little bit of a  
18 blank on here but I believe that is basically just a  
19 handout that's on Page 209 which covers rural  
20 determination briefing. Your Council, you, in  
21 particular as Chair, have been requested to be informed  
22 as that process moves forward, so that's found on Page  
23 209 of your booklet. And if you have any questions on  
24 that we can answer questions, but it's pretty much not  
25 in your region at this point, the Board will be taking  
26 this up later, so that's there.

27

28 So if there's no questions then we  
29 would move to the next topic.

30

31 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay, just briefly on  
32 that rural determination, at that last Chairs meeting  
33 in Anchorage, one of the few areas that is aggressively  
34 seeking rural status is the village of Ninilchik, so  
35 just for your information, I just kind of stood up for  
36 them because they're the only ones in that area that  
37 are really seeking this. And they have history from  
38 quite a ways back and I just wanted you to be aware  
39 that I did stick my head out and ask that they be given  
40 special recognition, that's just for your information.  
41 That was just my personal opinion, personal  
42 presentation at that time, just for your knowledge.

43

44 MR. MATHEWS: The next topic is draft  
45 closure review briefing. Dan LaPlant will cover that  
46 and that's on Page 211 to give you an idea of that.

47

48 Thank you.

49

50 CHAIRMAN SAM: Go ahead, Dan.

1 MR. LAPLANT: Mr. Chairman. Members of  
2 the Council. Good morning. Again, this is Dan LaPlant  
3 with the Office of Subsistence Management. As Vince  
4 said on Page 211 is the briefing on this issue, it's  
5 the draft closure review policy and the draft policy is  
6 starting on the pages following that.

7  
8 But last year January 10th, the  
9 Governor wrote a letter to the Secretary of Interior  
10 and he identified several issues concerning the Federal  
11 Subsistence Program and one of those issues was the  
12 standards that the Federal Program uses when closing  
13 areas to non-Federally-qualified users. And as a  
14 result of that Under-Secretary of Interior Lynn  
15 Scarlett wrote a letter to the Board and instructed the  
16 Board that they needed to have a policy in place that  
17 described this current practices, or the practices that  
18 are used, and the guidelines that are used in making  
19 these closure decisions. So in the past the Board has  
20 been making decisions based on language that's in  
21 ANILCA of primarily Section .815, paragraph 3 of ANILCA  
22 has some language that describes when these closures  
23 can take place. But the Under-Secretary felt that the  
24 Board needed a clearer policy in order to implement  
25 that.

26  
27 So they've developed this policy and  
28 the Under-Secretary has asked that this policy be  
29 provided to her following this series of Regional  
30 Council meetings, so we're asking that you review the  
31 draft policy that the Board is considering adopting and  
32 provide them comments, and then following this series  
33 of Council meetings the Board will adopt or make any  
34 adjustments that are appropriate based on Council input  
35 and provide this to the Under-Secretary probably in May  
36 or in early June.

37  
38 So I can take a few minutes to go  
39 through what the policy includes. Again, it starts on  
40 Page 212, and it gives you an introduction and  
41 describes the purpose of the policy, is to provide  
42 guidance to the Board for decisions regarding future  
43 closures for Federal public lands and waters so that  
44 the closures to trapping and hunting and fishing  
45 opportunities are consistent with ANILCA and other  
46 Federal laws.

47  
48 There are a couple of different types  
49 of closures that I want to bring to your attention.  
50

1                   We have closures to non-Federally-  
2 qualified users, and we have closures that apply to  
3 everyone, subsistence users as well as non-Federally-  
4 qualified users. And so we've tried to capture all of  
5 these types of closures in this policy and describe  
6 when they will be applied and what criteria the Board  
7 will consider when they make these decisions.

8  
9                   As you can see on Page 213, there's  
10 some bullets there that identify some different types  
11 of closures.

12  
13                   There's season closures that we have in  
14 the regulations that were carried over from State  
15 regulations when the Federal regulations were adopted  
16 in 1990.

17  
18                   An example of that would be in brown  
19 bear in many areas of the state. Under the State  
20 regulations at that time, in 1990, the State didn't  
21 have C&T determinations for brown bear, so when we  
22 adopted those regulations in the Federal program, we  
23 didn't have brown bear regulations. And since that,  
24 several regions or several units we have established  
25 brown bear regulations, but in others they still don't  
26 exist. In those areas where they don't exist, of  
27 course, it can be viewed as a closure and the source of  
28 that is it came from State regulations. Nobody's asked  
29 for, we haven't had any proposals asking for those  
30 areas to be open for brown bear subsistence hunting  
31 under Federal regulations so they remain in effect.

32  
33                   We also have closures to subsistence  
34 users for conservation purposes. An example of that  
35 would be the lower Kuskokwim, we have the moose  
36 moratorium so that the moose hunting in the lower  
37 Kuskokwim is closed to all hunters, subsistence users  
38 as well as non-Federally-qualified.

39  
40                   We also have closures for public  
41 safety, for campgrounds, administration such as during  
42 military activities and so on. An example of that  
43 would be in Unit 13, we have closures along the  
44 pipeline, so that's sort of an administrative or public  
45 safety type of closure.

46  
47                   And then we have the closures to non-  
48 Federally-qualified users, that fourth bullet there  
49 that says there's two different types of closures that  
50 exist, one is for conservation purposes and one is to

1 continue subsistence uses. If you look through our  
2 Federal regulations, there are 31 of these in Federal  
3 regulations, where an area is closed to non-Federally-  
4 qualified users because of conservation issues or  
5 because of the need to close it to non-Federal users  
6 because it would create situations where subsistence  
7 users weren't able to meet their needs. So there's 31  
8 of those and those are actually listed on Table A  
9 following the policy on Page 216.

10

11 At the bottom of Page 213 there's the  
12 criteria for establishing closures. I won't go through  
13 those, you can read through those.

14

15 Then following that there's factors  
16 that the Board will consider when deciding on future  
17 closures. A key point here in the schedule of reviews,  
18 we say there that all closures to non-Federally-  
19 qualified subsistence users and closures to Federally-  
20 qualified subsistence users that are implemented for  
21 conservation reasons or to continue subsistence users  
22 shall be reviewed by the Federal Subsistence Board  
23 three years from the establishment of the closure and  
24 every three years thereafter. So these 31 closures  
25 that we have on the books now that are for non-  
26 Federally-qualified users, we're going to look at those  
27 every three years and see if the reasons for the  
28 closure still apply.

29

30 Now, you might remember last fall we  
31 had several closure reviews before the Council, and OSM  
32 did a brief review of those, we came to you with a  
33 recommendation and said that we feel that some of these  
34 are still valid, others we said need to be looked at  
35 closer and we recommend that a proposal be submitted to  
36 provide a more detailed review.

37

38 Well, as a result of those reviews that  
39 we did last fall you saw two of them yesterday in  
40 proposals. They were both in Unit 26(A) one was moose  
41 and one was caribou. The result of that was the  
42 recommendation that those closures be removed because  
43 the criteria or information that we have indicates that  
44 they're no longer be needed. They don't match the  
45 criteria for a closure any longer.

46

47 There's actually five of those  
48 statewide in our proposal book this year. One is goats  
49 in Unit 6 and one is sheep in 25(A).

50

1                   Anyway, what I'm getting to is the  
2 process that we started last fall in reviewing these  
3 closures is now part of this policy so this policy is  
4 consistent with you already experiences in that review.  
5

6                   So that's what we have -- all other  
7 closures -- I guess the other part of it here, all  
8 other closures that are on the books will remain on the  
9 books until someone requests through the proposal  
10 process to make an adjustment. So for example, the  
11 brown bear situation where there is no brown bear  
12 season, for example, in Unit 15, it will stay that way  
13 until somebody submits a proposal, either subsistence  
14 users, the Council, an agency or whatever submits a  
15 proposal to the Board to make adjustments in the  
16 regulation.  
17

18                   So those will not be systematically  
19 looked at, it will be the 31 closures that are on Page  
20 216 in Table A, we'll be looking at those every three  
21 years.  
22

23                   So, Mr. Chairman, that's the draft  
24 policy and as I said if you have any comments on this,  
25 well, of course you can ask questions at this time or  
26 specific comments that you want to submit to the Board,  
27 please do that, either as a Board or individuals can  
28 submit them themselves. We're asking for comments by  
29 the 1st of April.  
30

31                   Thank you, Mr. Chairman.  
32

33                   CHAIRMAN SAM: Is there a specific  
34 deadline for comments on this closure issue?  
35

36                   MR. LAPLANT: Mr. Chairman. We're  
37 asking for comments by the 1st of April so we can get  
38 these before the Federal Subsistence Board. Get it in  
39 their Board book and then the Board will make a  
40 decision at their May meeting and submit this policy to  
41 the Secretary.  
42

43                   CHAIRMAN SAM: Any further questions  
44 for Dan.  
45

46                   MR. REAKOFF: Mr. Chairman.  
47

48                   CHAIRMAN SAM: Go ahead.  
49

50                   MR. REAKOFF: Mr. Chairman. I don't

1 have a specific question. I have briefly reviewed this  
2 and feel that this policy looks fair to me, the review  
3 process and the concerns that were brought up and why  
4 this policy was requested by the Under-Secretary. So  
5 to me this policy seems fair to addressing subsistence  
6 needs and so forth and so I don't -- I feel that this  
7 -- to address what the concerns were, I think that this  
8 policy goes towards a few process so regulations don't  
9 get put into the book and just stay there and float  
10 forever, there's a review process to it.

11

12 It addresses, it gives good clear  
13 direction as to what is coming out of the ANILCA law  
14 and so I feel that this policy has merit, and that'd be  
15 my personal comment.

16

17 CHAIRMAN SAM: I got one question, it  
18 always makes me wonder. Is this a result of the white  
19 paper, whatever they call it, that tries to cover dual  
20 management and all that, that white paper?

21

22 MR. LAPLANT: Mr. Chairman. I believe  
23 there's probably a connection there, yes. But more  
24 specifically the letter that the Governor wrote to the  
25 Secretary, that was probably a product of the white  
26 paper, but, yes, I think it's all connected.

27

28 MR. WALKER: Ron.

29

30 CHAIRMAN SAM: Robert.

31

32 MR. WALKER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.  
33 Dan, when you say all Federal lands, you say BLM, Park  
34 Service, BIA, et cetera, et cetera?

35

36 MR. LAPLANT: Well, we're referring to  
37 the Federal land that falls under the Federal  
38 Subsistence Program. So under wildlife, yes, it's BLM  
39 land and Park lands, of course there's some parks that  
40 aren't open to subsistence uses, Fish and Wildlife  
41 Service lands.

42

43 Now, under the fishery regulations,  
44 though, and I'm certainly not the expert in the fishery  
45 program because I work primarily with wildlife, but  
46 there's -- the BLM lands, some of the BLM lands that  
47 are not part of conservation units are not subject to  
48 the Federal Subsistence Program. So it's -- what we're  
49 referring to is the lands that are subject to the  
50 Federal Subsistence Program, either for wildlife or

1 fisheries, depending on how the regulations currently  
2 exist.

3

4 MR. WALKER: Thank you, Dan.

5

6 CHAIRMAN SAM: Any further questions.

7

8 (No comments)

9

10 CHAIRMAN SAM: If not, I, too, think  
11 it's fair. It seems -- it's got to be because we've  
12 been living with a lot of this for quite some time so  
13 it's more -- it should be a good work in progress to  
14 review and go forward with this issue. I think that's  
15 more than fair.

16

17 MR. WALKER: Ron.

18

19 CHAIRMAN SAM: Robert, go ahead.

20

21 MR. WALKER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.  
22 With all due respect to you, Dan, you know, April  
23 Fool's Day is April 1st, this is not another dirty  
24 White man trick is it?

25

26 (Laughter)

27

28 MR. LAPLANT: Well, I think April 2nd  
29 would be just as appropriate if you want an extra day  
30 there that's fine with me.

31

32 But as Jack said, there's a lot of  
33 proposals that have been on the books for a long time  
34 that we haven't looked at and I think this policy will  
35 provide that systematic review process. And there's  
36 been some legitimate complaints from non-subsistence  
37 users for having some of these closures that are  
38 sometimes hard to justify, you know, looking at current  
39 conditions, current resource abundance, so there's  
40 reason to make these changes, and I think a three year  
41 review is appropriate.

42

43 But, again, I encourage you to look  
44 through the table that we have, both tables, Table B is  
45 quite large and that's the closure to all subsistence  
46 users, and if there are closures in there that you  
47 don't feel are appropriate and it's depriving  
48 subsistence users of an opportunity to meet their  
49 needs, those can be adjusted through the proposal  
50 process. So I'd encourage you to look at those tables

1 and see which ones apply to your region and make your  
2 decisions about whether to submit a proposal or not.

3

4 Thank you.

5

6 CHAIRMAN SAM: April Fool's Day.  
7 That's not very far away. Were you looking for some  
8 kind of endorsement at this time or anything else?

9

10 MR. LAPLANT: Not necessarily, Mr.  
11 Chairman, that's totally your choice. It was just  
12 providing you the opportunity to comment, and I think  
13 Jack's made a statement on the record for his personal  
14 view and if other Council members want to do it or if  
15 you want to pass a motion in support of it, that would  
16 be very much welcome, but it's not necessary.

17

18 CHAIRMAN SAM: With the Council's  
19 consent I would personally and on behalf of Western  
20 Interior recognize all of Jack Reakoff's work on the  
21 research and everything else and he has gone through  
22 this quite extensively as he always does so he is  
23 prepared to make a motion to endorse it; is that true?

24

25 MR. REAKOFF: Yes, Mr. Chairman. I  
26 would like to endorse this policy of review. The  
27 Federal Board is wanting the Council's position so I  
28 make a motion to endorse this draft closure review  
29 policy and -- I guess that's about it.

30

31 CHAIRMAN SAM: Is there a second.

32

33 MR. WALKER: Second.

34

35 CHAIRMAN SAM: Seconded by Robert  
36 Walker. Again, I'd like to thank all of Jack's  
37 efforts. When it comes down to paperwork my automatic  
38 response is call Jack. So with that in mind, all those  
39 in favor of this endorsement signify by saying aye.

40

41 IN UNISON: Aye.

42

43 CHAIRMAN SAM: Opposed, same sign.

44

45 (No opposing votes)

46

47 CHAIRMAN SAM: Anything that's under  
48 review is under review until it's final stage is  
49 passed, and thanks for your time.

50

1 MR. LAPLANT: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.  
2  
3 CHAIRMAN SAM: Vince.  
4  
5 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman. I think  
6 due to the fact that lunch is approaching us pretty  
7 quickly here, the next topic, which is subsistence use  
8 amounts protocol might be best after lunch.  
9  
10 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yes, that will take some  
11 time.  
12  
13 MR. MATHEWS: But we can cover one  
14 other topic before we go to lunch, if that's okay.  
15  
16 CHAIRMAN SAM: We've got 21 minutes  
17 until 12:00, we'll break at a quarter to anyway.  
18  
19 MR. MATHEWS: Okay. The only other  
20 topic is one that it's just informational but I think  
21 you're going to -- I hope you're not going to get a lot  
22 of phone calls on it but you might, and that's the  
23 Avian Flu update, and that's on Page 242. I'm not  
24 going to cover it, I'm not an expert in it or nothing.  
25 But I think based on your earlier comments about  
26 getting a lot of phone calls, what we need to do as  
27 agencies is get those people connected that are calling  
28 you about questions about this Avian Flu with the best  
29 person to talk to. So what I would recommend is that  
30 if you get calls on this, to refer them, there's some  
31 phone numbers in that Page 242 or contact somebody  
32 within Fish and Wildlife Service or Fish and Game, we  
33 won't have the answer but we'll know who to get you to.  
34  
35 I've got a faint feeling this is going  
36 to be a fairly major media event this coming spring and  
37 summer. I hope I'm wrong.  
38  
39 So with that, we got to get people to  
40 the right people, otherwise a lot of misinformation is  
41 going to go flying around.  
42  
43 Maybe Wenona or others have some other  
44 information to talk about this. Again, it's just to  
45 make sure we get communication lines established is all  
46 I'm trying to do here, not cover the topic.  
47  
48 Thank you.  
49  
50 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yeah, duck hunting

1 season is fast approaching and if I understand right we  
2 did invite Kanuti Wildlife Refuge down to Allakaket to  
3 cover this issue in its entirety or whatever we can  
4 find out about this and it's quite apparent that  
5 Koyukuk/Nowitna is looking at it, too.

6

7                   So go ahead, Wennona.

8

9                   MS. BROWN: Thank you, Mr. Chair. For  
10 the record, Wennona Brown. I just wanted to quickly  
11 comment that the Fish and Wildlife Service in the  
12 Regional Office has appointed an Avian Flu Coordinator,  
13 her name is Deborah Rocque. She is at the present time  
14 frantically working on fact sheets and question and  
15 answer sheets to get out to the villages. I heard the  
16 question and answer sheet hopefully is going to be out  
17 by the end of this week, and I will get copies and make  
18 sure I get them out to, at least, all the villages that  
19 I deal with so that you have the most current  
20 information.

21

22                   If you have any questions I can give  
23 you her number directly or you can call me and I can  
24 get a hold of her and have her get in touch with you.  
25 I know she's also working with CATG to get some  
26 information in their newsletter as well.

27

28                   I am trying to get as much information  
29 as I can out to the villages as soon as I can.

30

31                   Thank you.

32

33                   CHAIRMAN SAM: You weren't there, but  
34 Mike and Lisa Saperstein were there and this issue kept  
35 coming up so this is through their efforts and the  
36 Kanuti Wildlife efforts to work with local  
37 communities. They get down to deal with any questions  
38 that local people ask and I assume that Geoff  
39 Beyersdorf is in the same boat.

40

41                   MR. BEYERSDORF: Yes, Mr. Chair.  
42 Members of the Council. I guess what I would add to  
43 what Wennona has said is I know Boomer is going to be  
44 giving a brief Refuge report and she's included a very  
45 brief synopsis of the Avian Flu. And I also know that  
46 Patrick Madros, Jr., the RIT for our station, has been  
47 in touch with Deborah as far as they're planning on  
48 doing a mailout to all the rural residents and Patrick  
49 has been offered to help to craft that message so that  
50 it is appropriate for Native people so they understand

1 what's going on. Because we've also been getting calls  
2 in our office and people have been very concerned about  
3 what impacts this might have on spring waterfowl  
4 hunting.

5  
6 But the gist of it, and I think  
7 Boomer's going to cover some of this is that they have  
8 been sampling wild bird populations since 1998 here in  
9 the state and they haven't found any cases of it.  
10 They're going to continue sampling this year. They've  
11 also asked for subsistence hunters to participate in  
12 that sampling process. There has not -- the H5N1 has  
13 not been found in any wild birds in Alaska and they've  
14 also not found any cases of transference from wild  
15 birds to humans.

16  
17 And I didn't know if there's any other  
18 questions.

19  
20 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yes, I think that's what  
21 opened up everyone's mind about this Avian Flu from  
22 Asia, you know, it sounds so far away and so futuristic  
23 in thinking but what opened up everyone's mind is that  
24 one of our ancestors from the Northwest Arctic was DNA  
25 tested and they found that the big flu in that area  
26 came from the Avian Flu, so that just opened up  
27 everyone's mind, that's why they're asking all these  
28 questions and I'm glad we're addressing it.

29  
30 Robert.

31  
32 MR. WALKER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.  
33 Yes, that was the question I was going to ask Geoff and  
34 Wennona, that when they did find out they had to go up  
35 north to the frozen part of the Arctic here, around  
36 Nome somewhere to find that, it was H51 or H1 was it?

37  
38 MR. BEYERSDORF: The H5N1, is that what  
39 you're talking about?

40  
41 MR. WALKER: Yes.

42  
43 MR. BEYERSDORF: Currently there's been  
44 112 cases documented of transference to humans and  
45 there's been, I believe 52 or 54 deaths, all of those  
46 have been from domestic stock to humans, none of them  
47 from wild birds.

48  
49 MR. WALKER: Mr. Chairman.

50

1 CHAIRMAN SAM: Robert.

2

3 MR. WALKER: Well, I believe during the  
4 turn of the century there was influenza that hit our  
5 part of the area, in western and probably eastern  
6 Alaska, too, which wiped out a lot of Native people.  
7 And one of the concerns I have from Holy Cross, being  
8 called up from them is that Holy Cross is one of the  
9 Flyways, now how many birds migrate out of China,  
10 Southeast Asia that come up through there and come to  
11 Alaska and migrate? Do we have a map showing that we  
12 have a migration route this way?

13

14 MR. BEYERSDORF: One of the things, and  
15 Wennona can clarify if I miss anything on here, but  
16 when Deborah gave her presentation in Bethel, one of  
17 the concerns of their sampling method is they're  
18 looking at what species in Asia are going to be flying  
19 through Alaska, and those are the species that they  
20 intend on concentrating their sampling efforts on. So  
21 they do have a list of those species that will be going  
22 from Asia through Alaska and concentrating on sampling  
23 those species in particular, and I know -- I believe  
24 eiders is one of the species that's at the top of the  
25 list for the sampling.

26

27 And as far as your question, there has  
28 been cases of influenza in Alaska with the people here  
29 but what we're talking about specifically is Avian  
30 Influenza, a transference of that to local people.

31

32 CHAIRMAN SAM: Vince.

33

34 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman. I just  
35 read the Natural History Magazine and I think the  
36 National Geographic has the response to Robert on the  
37 Flyways, so I could make copies of that and ship it out  
38 to you, but those are very large pictorial pictures of  
39 the Flyways. I'm sure there's more detailed than that  
40 but that would answer your question on what Flyways  
41 pass through Alaska and how they relate to other  
42 Flyways further east and west of Alaska. So if you'd  
43 like I can make copies of that, the whole article and  
44 you can look through it.

45

46 MR. WALKER: Thank you, Vince.

47

48 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yes, go ahead and fax it  
49 to the whole Council.

50

1 MR. WALKER: Yes, thanks, Vince.  
2  
3 CHAIRMAN SAM: Wennona.  
4  
5 MS. BROWN: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr.  
6 Walker. Just to follow up a little bit on the -- I  
7 think where Mr. Walker's question was going, you're  
8 talking about the flu back in the 1900 and they went  
9 out to Northwest Arctic.....  
10  
11 MR. MATHEWS: Brevig Mission.  
12  
13 MR. WALKER: Brevig Mission.  
14  
15 MS. BROWN: Brevig Mission. And were  
16 given permission there to exhume some of the bodies of  
17 people that had died of the flu at that time and they  
18 did find that it was a bird flu. But I don't remember  
19 if it was this specific strain but I just do remember  
20 that it was a bird flu.  
21  
22 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yeah, what people are  
23 afraid of that it's a new strain that's even more  
24 impossible to deal with no matter high tech we think we  
25 are.  
26  
27 One last question before we break for  
28 lunch. Benedict, you had a question.  
29  
30 MR. JONES: Yeah, it was in the news  
31 media last week that the Avian Flu, it said some of the  
32 birds that come into Alaska was white swans.  
33  
34 MR. BEYERSDORF: I'd have to go back to  
35 my notes, Benedict, and look and see, I believe swans  
36 is on the list as far as the sampling, what they're  
37 looking at. And I guess going back to, Member Walker,  
38 your question, when Deborah Rocque gave her  
39 presentation, I can try and get copies of that  
40 presentation and it does include your question as far  
41 as the Flyways and what species are going through which  
42 areas. That's' just kind of a back up to what Vince  
43 was talking about. But I can get that presentation and  
44 make it available to the Regional Advisory Council if  
45 you guys are interested in that.  
46  
47 CHAIRMAN SAM: Last, last question. Go  
48 ahead.  
49  
50 MR. WALKER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

1 Also, Geoff, if you could send it to the tribal  
2 governments in our area, too, that would be a lot more  
3 convenient like what Vince is going to do so they can  
4 post it and people could read it and be more informed  
5 about what's going on.

6

7 CHAIRMAN SAM: Wennona.

8

9 MS. BROWN: Mr. Chairman. I do have a  
10 copy of Deborah Rocque's presentation with me, but  
11 looking through it, I mean it's something -- a lot of  
12 the slides it does take some explanation, you know, to  
13 get the meaning of what she was getting at with some of  
14 the various slides. But I would be glad to look  
15 through it with anybody if you're interested.

16

17 MR. WALKER: Wennona, thank you. If  
18 you could just do an analysis and get it up like in a  
19 format, like what we're looking at here, something like  
20 this, so we can just hang it on the bulletin board so  
21 people can get a really good idea because we depend on  
22 a lot of birds in the springtime and now this is  
23 scaring everybody half to death, you know, do you have  
24 to shoot a bird and have to die to eat it, I mean the  
25 question is if they can do an analysis early.

26

27 MR. BEYERSDORF: Member Walker. I think  
28 that handout that Wennona was talking about, that it's  
29 supposed to go over some of those details that you're  
30 discussing but when Deborah gave her presentation, one  
31 of the main points that she had is that people  
32 shouldn't overreact to this, that if they take some  
33 basic common sense as far as cooking the meat and such,  
34 there shouldn't be any concerns. The only concern that  
35 she saw that was in the Yukon Flats area there was  
36 discussion that some of the people like to eat the  
37 intestinal tract and that would increase their risk of  
38 exposure if it were there.

39

40 MR. WALKER: Mr. Chairman. Geoff, a  
41 lot of the things that we heard when we were growing up  
42 was how many people died from this influenza and it  
43 still affects a lot of people of my age and younger yet  
44 because all of a sudden there's a scare with all this  
45 modern technology and when they stated on the news,  
46 what Ben was saying, that there is no -- they don't  
47 have no anecdote for it yet so this is really kind of  
48 scary.

49

50 MR. COLLINS: Mr. Chairman.

1 CHAIRMAN SAM: Ray.

2

3 MR. COLLINS: Yeah, Robert, if you want  
4 to put that in historical perspective on that, there's  
5 an interesting book out, 1491, that was written about  
6 what we know about the populations in the Americas and  
7 how disease affected them, but the reason that diseases  
8 affected them so bad is that they did not have domestic  
9 animals and birds in the Americas and all the Europeans  
10 picked up those diseases because they did live with and  
11 in very proximity to a lot of animals and that's where  
12 the diseases make the transitions, they don't come from  
13 wild to people. So they developed in Asia and it was  
14 humans that brought it to Alaska after they'd acquired  
15 it, you know, after the disease made the jump from a  
16 wild population to human in Asia, then people -- people  
17 brought it to Alaska and it affected the people here  
18 because those diseases were never present before. But  
19 1491 is an interesting read. It's a book that's out on  
20 how dramatic that disease was in North and South  
21 American and what was happening to the population  
22 before.

23

24 But I think that that concurs with  
25 that, that there's no known wild bird/human transition,  
26 it's usually from domestic bird to human, isn't it,  
27 that's where it makes it -- the virus has to change to  
28 make the jump, I guess, and it usually doesn't occur in  
29 wild, it occurs in domestic stocks.

30

31 CHAIRMAN SAM: But in this day and age  
32 things mutate so fast that it's impossible to stop.  
33 All our antibiotics are outdated and everything else.

34

35 MR. COLLINS: Yeah.

36

37 CHAIRMAN SAM: Go ahead, Robert.

38

39 MR. WALKER: Just another quick  
40 question here for -- thank you Ray for bringing that  
41 up, you know, that was brought up in our discussion  
42 here in our tribal government, is that we, the people  
43 out here, in rural Alaska, don't have antibodies that  
44 the Europeans had. So when diseases did come out here  
45 and did hit our communities, it was impacted so hard  
46 and it took us, you know, it took Europeans thousands  
47 of years to get it to be immune to all the diseases and  
48 rural Alaska here there was none here so nobody was  
49 immune and even to this day here, there's a lot of  
50 people in rural Alaska who are not immune to a lot of

1 these diseases that are coming around.

2

3 MR. BEYERSDORF: Member Walker. I  
4 guess what I'm hearing you say is that there's a lot of  
5 misinformation, there's a lot of fear of the potential  
6 for this Avian Influenza and that the people in the  
7 villages really want to make sure that they have the  
8 information that they need there, and I guess Wennona  
9 and I were talking and we're aware of this and I guess  
10 we want to make sure that the message gets out to the  
11 Native communities on exactly what is going on with the  
12 Avian Influenza and Wennona said she's willing to go  
13 back and talk to Deborah and see if they can help  
14 develop some Native fliers, or some fliers to go to the  
15 Native villages to the tribal councils and such and put  
16 up at the post offices and such so that people have the  
17 information that they need.

18

19 CHAIRMAN SAM: Wennona.

20

21 MS. BROWN: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Just  
22 one follow up comment, you know, Mr. Walker I am very  
23 aware of your concern and I will do whatever I can to  
24 help get the information out. I also just remembered  
25 in a discussion with Deborah last week, I'm almost  
26 positive she said that she is planning to do a  
27 presentation at the TCC convention next week.

28

29 Thank you.

30

31 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you. Any more  
32 questions.

33

34 MR. WALKER: Yes, Ron.

35

36 CHAIRMAN SAM: Go ahead, Robert.

37

38 MR. WALKER: Thank you, Geoff. Thank  
39 you, Wennona. I mean I didn't want to put you on kind  
40 of like that direct, but I wanted to have some answers,  
41 that's what I want and I'd like to have more answers,  
42 not that I'm demanding or pushing you to do it but  
43 thank you very much.

44

45 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, both. Again,  
46 now, you see why we recognize them. Thank you, both,  
47 Kanuti and Koyukuk/Nowitna.

48

49 Lunch time. Come back at 1:15. Now,  
50 for the Council members we go upstairs and pick up our

1 lunches and we go meet with the Koyukuk Village Council  
2 over at the office right across the street. Benedict  
3 said the lunch is coming down so we'll just pick up  
4 some here and head over.

5  
6 (Off record)

7  
8 (On record)

9  
10 CHAIRMAN SAM: If we can find our way  
11 back to our seats we'll get started.

12  
13 (Pause)

14  
15 CHAIRMAN SAM: At this time we'll call  
16 the meeting back to order. The first order of business  
17 is as a result of our lunch with the Koyukuk Village  
18 Council. And at that time we said that we will  
19 introduce a resolution in opposition of Proposal 144  
20 which is coming before the State Board of Game.

21  
22 The Chair will entertain a motion to  
23 that effect.

24  
25 MR. TICKNOR: I move.

26  
27 MR. REAKOFF: Second.

28  
29 CHAIRMAN SAM: Moved by Winchell  
30 Ticknor, seconded by Jack Reakoff that we draft a  
31 resolution under the heading of Western Regional  
32 Advisory Council that we are in total opposition of  
33 Proposal 144.

34  
35 Any further.....

36  
37 MR. REAKOFF: Mr. Chairman.

38  
39 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay, go ahead.

40  
41 MR. REAKOFF: When we had our little  
42 discussion over there with the Koyukuk Village Council  
43 there were points that this resolution should  
44 highlight, and those points should be highlighted is  
45 that;

46  
47 The Western Interior Regional Council  
48 was involved in the Koyukuk River Moose  
49 Plan which was adopted by the Board of  
50 Game and the Federal Subsistence Board;

1 The current bull/cow ratio in the  
2 Koyukuk River Controlled Use Area is  
3 below the management objective of 30  
4 bulls per 100 cows;

5  
6 The proposal would eliminate the  
7 controlled use area;

8  
9 The controlled use area was  
10 instrumental in the planning process in  
11 maintaining that population, having  
12 another, meaning a highly mobile access  
13 means of aircraft access into the  
14 previous controlled use area would be  
15 catastrophic because there's no control  
16 on the number of subsistence permits  
17 given;

18  
19 The Middle Yukon Advisory Committee  
20 endorsed this but I feel that they were  
21 fooled into believing that the Board  
22 was going to eliminate the controlled  
23 use area and I don't feel that the  
24 Board can eliminate the controlled use  
25 area when they have a biological  
26 management concern and they have to  
27 stay within sustained yield, and so the  
28 Board cannot violate the Constitution  
29 of Alaska's sustained yield clause; and  
30 so the Middle Yukon Advisory Committee  
31 was fooled into believing something  
32 that's untrue;

33  
34 The Refuge Staff recommends a  
35 conservative management and because  
36 we're below this management objective  
37 and so I feel that the Western Interior  
38 Regional Council should endorse the  
39 Koyukuk River Advisory Committee's  
40 position that we are opposed to  
41 Proposal 144 because it would be  
42 detrimental to the moose population;

43  
44 And so I feel that the Western Interior  
45 should endorse the Koyukuk River  
46 Advisory Committee's position.

47  
48 Those are the points that I brought  
49 over there.

50

1 CHAIRMAN SAM: Jack, so do you want to  
2 amend this resolution stating that we're opposing 144  
3 in support of the Koyukuk River Advisory Committee's  
4 proposal -- I mean stand?

5  
6 MR. REAKOFF: Right.

7  
8 CHAIRMAN SAM: Vince.

9  
10 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman. Let me  
11 make it clear on the record what we're all talking  
12 about so it's clear that the Advisory Council members,  
13 when they went over to the tribal council meeting, went  
14 as individuals, they represented their local advisory  
15 committees and their local expertise, they did not play  
16 any role in the meeting over there other than to  
17 provide advice as individuals, there was no Council  
18 action taken over at the tribal council.

19  
20 And the proposal that they're  
21 discussing is Proposal 144 before the Board of Game  
22 concerning controlled use areas and it's found on Page  
23 155 through 157 in the Board of Game book submitted by  
24 Mr. Collin Brown which is basically requesting to lift  
25 the Koyukuk controlled use area.

26  
27 So the record reflects that the agenda  
28 item -- there's an agenda item on the Western Interior  
29 Council that allows them to look at Board of Game  
30 proposals and they've decided to take advantage of that  
31 agenda item and look at this proposal.

32  
33 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

34  
35 CHAIRMAN SAM: That was read into the  
36 record as a non-conflict issue or what?

37  
38 MR. MATHEWS: It was just to make it  
39 clear, because we told people on line and then the  
40 public that was present here that you were going to  
41 this meeting and if there was any report back, a lot of  
42 them don't know what 144 is and then it could be  
43 interpreted that maybe the Council met over there off  
44 record, the Council did not meet, you did not perform  
45 as a Chair, non of the other officers did anything  
46 there other than to listen to the tribal council as  
47 they were working through Proposal 144.

48  
49 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yes, and we offered  
50 advice but it was purely personal and then I think with

1 that read into the record, I think that we meet all  
2 FACA standards and rules and regulations. Is that what  
3 we're doing right now, right, just meeting FACA  
4 regulations.

5  
6 MR. MATHEWS: Right. And making it  
7 fair to everyone else that listened in or participated  
8 in this meeting, and that they were invited to the  
9 Council meeting, but it was just an invitation to help  
10 that council as individuals, not as the Council itself.

11  
12 But now that Jack has brought that up  
13 on under the agenda it is before you and I just wanted  
14 the record to clearly tell what 144 is so that someone  
15 reading this down the road won't think that, you know,  
16 there was no 144 Federal proposal.

17  
18 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Vince. We do  
19 have a motion on the floor and if I recollect  
20 correctly, the motion went that Western Interior  
21 opposes State Proposal 144 in full support of the  
22 Koyukuk River Council's recommendation.

23  
24 Okay, it was moved and seconded. All  
25 those in favor of the motion, 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. And the  
34 next item, we had asked for funding to send one person  
35 to attend the State Board of Game meeting at Fairbanks,  
36 and at that time we had Robert Walker, primary, Jack as  
37 alternate and, myself, Ron Sam, as alternate to the  
38 alternate. At this time, Robert, at this time are you  
39 still able to attend.

40  
41 MR. WALKER: Mr. Chairman. Members of  
42 the Board. No, at this time I could not make it to  
43 testify as part of the Western Interior -- excuse me, I  
44 mean Yukon Innoko Moose Management meeting due to my  
45 family is having feast on the 11th of March at 3:00  
46 o'clock, so my time could not be utilized to go there  
47 but to be home to my family. So the alternate would  
48 have to be the primary now.

49  
50 CHAIRMAN SAM: Jack Reakoff.

1 MR. REAKOFF: Mr. Chairman. I can't --  
2 the Koyukuk River Advisory Committee wanted me to  
3 represent them to the Board of Game and I can't have  
4 consecutive meetings back to back right now and so I  
5 have to decline on that.

6  
7 CHAIRMAN SAM: With the consent of the  
8 Board I am willing to go another three or four days.

9  
10 MR. WALKER: You got a partner now.

11  
12 (Laughter)

13  
14 CHAIRMAN SAM: Consensus.

15  
16 MR. REAKOFF: Yes.

17  
18 MR. WALKER: Yes.

19  
20 MR. STICKMAN: So moved Mr. Chair.

21  
22 (Laughter)

23  
24 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Mickey.  
25 General consensus.

26  
27 (Council nods affirmatively)

28  
29 CHAIRMAN SAM: Vince you'll straighten  
30 out the paperwork. I honestly feel that this is  
31 important enough and Robert and Jack can't make it so  
32 I'll go ahead and spend another three or four days.

33  
34 That puts us under No. 3. At that time  
35 I intended to meet with Mike Fleagle and help  
36 coordinate his run for Doyon membership, just for that  
37 clarification.

38  
39 So does that put us at No. 3.

40  
41 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, Mr. Chairman. That's  
42 the subsistence use amounts protocol briefing and  
43 that's going to be a joint presentation by Greg Bos and  
44 John Hilsinger and it starts on Page 234.

45  
46 CHAIRMAN SAM: Go ahead, Greg.

47  
48 MR. BOS: Thank you, Mr. Chair. My  
49 name is Greg Bos, Fish and Wildlife Service, Staff  
50 Committee member from Anchorage and with me is John

1 Hilsinger from the Department of Fish and Game.  
2 Together we're going to update the Council on the  
3 development of the protocol on subsistence use amounts.  
4

5  
6 I'll start out the briefing providing a  
7 summary overview and John can fill in if I miss  
8 something as well as providing the State's perspective,  
9 perhaps explain how amounts necessary for subsistence  
10 are established by the State and how they're used.  
11

12 The briefing materials in the book are  
13 found on Pages 234 through 241. It consists of a  
14 briefing synopsis and a couple of pages of questions  
15 and answers and then the draft protocol itself. In  
16 addition we're passing around a handout that has some  
17 of the items listed as appendices to the protocol  
18 listed on Page 241 but they were not included in your  
19 Council book.  
20

21 Hopefully you folks have had a chance  
22 to read the draft protocol and the associated materials  
23 so I'll just do a brief overview highlighting some of  
24 the important points and then John can speak to the ANS  
25 process and we'll respond to your questions or  
26 comments.  
27

28 Most of you are familiar with the MOA,  
29 the Interim Memorandum of Agreement that was signed by  
30 the Federal Subsistence Board, the Alaska Department of  
31 Fish and Game and the State Board of Fisheries and  
32 Game. That was several years ago. The MOA was  
33 intended to improve the communication and coordination  
34 and cooperation between the State and Federal  
35 subsistence programs. It called for the development of  
36 a number of protocols, these protocols being signed  
37 agreements on specific topic areas, some of them have  
38 been completed and implemented, such as the Yukon River  
39 Salmon Management Protocol and one for information  
40 sharing between the State and Federal programs.  
41

42 The protocol that's before you today  
43 has been in development for a number of years and it's  
44 now ready for consideration by the Federal Board and  
45 the Board is interested in the views of the Council,  
46 this Council and the other Councils before it decides  
47 whether to approve the draft protocol.  
48

49 Both the State and Federal Boards are  
50 obligated to provide a priority for subsistence uses of

1 fish and wildlife as mandated in Title VIII of ANILCA  
2 and in the State laws, and they're both to provide for  
3 other uses when harvestable surpluses are sufficient.

4  
5                   So the purpose of this SUA protocol,  
6 the subsistence use amounts protocol is to establish a  
7 process for considering what portion of the harvestable  
8 surplus is necessary for subsistence uses of fish and  
9 wildlife in the Federal Subsistence Program. Having a  
10 quantifiable amount will enable the Federal managers to  
11 know whether they're providing enough opportunity for  
12 subsistence uses.

13  
14                   So the subsistence use amounts protocol  
15 will be useful in determining when closures to non-  
16 subsistence uses or limitations on the number of  
17 subsistence uses are necessary and also for use in in-  
18 season management, particularly on salmon.

19  
20                   Some terms used in the protocol, I've  
21 been using the subsistence use amounts, that's SUA, and  
22 the amounts necessary for subsistence, ANS. SUA is a  
23 term that would be used in the Federal program, and  
24 ANS, the amounts necessary for subsistence is  
25 terminology used in the State subsistence regulatory  
26 program. These terms are similar in meaning but they  
27 differ primarily in regards to whom they apply and  
28 where they apply.

29  
30                   The amounts necessary for subsistence  
31 or ANS refers to the level of harvest of fish stocks  
32 and wildlife populations that are customarily and  
33 traditionally used by subsistence users under State  
34 law. ANS applies to all State and Federal subsistence  
35 users on most lands in the state. The State has  
36 established a large number of ANS for fish stocks and  
37 wildlife populations around the state. And the  
38 handout, the last several pages of the handout shows  
39 the ANS for some of the fish stocks and wildlife  
40 populations for the northern and western parts of the  
41 state, including those affecting this region.

42  
43                   Subsistence use amounts on the other  
44 hand refers to the amount of fish stock or wildlife  
45 population that Federally-qualified users harvest for  
46 all of the ANILCA defined subsistence uses. SUA refers  
47 only to harvest by Federally-eligible subsistence users  
48 and only on Federal public lands, so it differs from  
49 the State in that respect; it's an important  
50 difference.

1 To date the Federal Program has not  
2 established any subsistence use amounts.

3  
4 Subsistence use amounts and amounts  
5 necessary for subsistence, those findings are tools  
6 that will be useful in implementing the subsistence  
7 priority under both State and Federal programs. They  
8 do not limit the amount that can be harvested by  
9 subsistence users, nor do these findings guarantee that  
10 any particular level of harvest can be achieved.

11  
12 I'll go through a few key points of the  
13 protocol. First the protocol outlines a process or  
14 specific steps that the Federal program will use to  
15 recognize and use State ANS findings in the  
16 development.....

17  
18 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yeah, what page are you  
19 on?

20  
21 MR. WALKER: 234.

22  
23 CHAIRMAN SAM: 234?

24  
25 MR. BOS: Well, I'm not reading from  
26 the material, but I've extracted this from that, I  
27 think at the bottom of Page 234 and on Page 235 are  
28 some of these key points.

29  
30 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay, go ahead.

31  
32 MR. BOS: First, as I said the Federal  
33 program will recognize and use State ANS findings in  
34 the development and implementation of subsistence  
35 harvest regulations. ANS findings will be presented  
36 and evaluated in the Federal proposal analysis as  
37 appropriate.

38  
39 The next two points that I'll make are,  
40 what I think are the heart of this protocol, the really  
41 core and it's aspects of the protocol that this Council  
42 and the other Councils will have a very important role  
43 in the implementation of this protocol.

44  
45 First, through discussions at meetings  
46 and with input from the Staff, from the Regional  
47 Councils and the public, the Federal Board will  
48 discuss, consider, and exercise independent judgment on  
49 the technical validity of the ANS finding in relation  
50 to specific proposals. The ANS will be considered as a

1 factor in the Board's decision on a proposal.

2

3                   Next, if the Federal program makes an  
4 assessment that an ANS finding is not an accurate  
5 representation of contemporary subsistence harvest of  
6 fish stocks or wildlife populations used by Federally-  
7 eligible subsistence users, it will develop SUA  
8 findings. When developing SUAs the Federal program  
9 will consider not only the ANS findings, but the  
10 recommendations of the Regional Advisory Councils, the  
11 public and Staff evaluations.

12

13                   Finally, the protocol urges that both  
14 the Federal and State programs support harvest  
15 assessment research through funding and Staff work to  
16 assist the Federal and State Boards in evaluating the  
17 ANS and developing SUA findings.

18

19                   And maybe I'll turn to John and he can  
20 give you some insights to the State development and use  
21 of ANS.

22

23                   MR. HILSINGER: Thank you, Mr.  
24 Chairman. I'll walk through this handout and explain  
25 to you first what's in it and then how some of this  
26 information gets used and then what the process is for  
27 making changes to the ANS amounts.

28

29                   The first page of it is entitled how  
30 Federal customary and traditional use fits into the  
31 regulatory process. This is the Federal process and  
32 how the C&T determinations are used in that Federal  
33 process.

34

35                   The next page shows the similar State  
36 process and how the amounts necessary for subsistence  
37 determinations get used in the State process. And I'll  
38 come back to this.

39

40                   And then the last two sections, what we  
41 did was from the statewide, all the amounts necessary  
42 for subsistence in the state, we excerpted those that  
43 would be of interest to the three Regional Advisory  
44 Councils that deal with the Yukon and Kuskokwim Rivers,  
45 so you'll find ANS amounts in here that would be of  
46 interest to any of the YK-Delta RAC, the Western  
47 Interior RAC or the Eastern Interior RAC. And if  
48 anyone would like to have a copy of all the ANS amounts  
49 for the state I have extra copies, which I'd be happy  
50 to provide you.

1                   These are just the ones that we thought  
2 would be of primary interest to these three Regional  
3 Advisory Councils. And so you'll see all the salmon  
4 numbers and then the next section behind that shows the  
5 ANS amounts for wildlife.

6  
7                   And let me talk a little bit about how  
8 those are created and determined. In the State system,  
9 the amounts necessary for subsistence, the Boards of  
10 Fish and Game are required to identify those under the  
11 State subsistence law and they put those amounts in  
12 regulation. So there is actually a regulation for each  
13 amount necessary for subsistence and the Board develops  
14 that through their normal regulatory process so they  
15 may get a proposal from the public or they may run into  
16 a situation where they feel that they need to review  
17 the amounts necessary for subsistence to see whether  
18 they're up to date and still representative for the  
19 amount needed for subsistence. And since I'm the  
20 fisheries person on the liaison team I'm most familiar  
21 with some of the fisheries data and I'll remind you of  
22 how, at the 2001 Board meeting with the poor salmon  
23 runs that we had in the late 1990s they did their  
24 stocks of concern designations for salmon and at that  
25 time then as part of that stocks of concerns  
26 designation, the Board of Fisheries went through and  
27 reanalyzed the amounts necessary for subsistence for  
28 salmon and made changes to those ANS findings.

29  
30                   One of the major changes that they made  
31 at that time then was to take it from all salmon to the  
32 amounts necessary by individual species. So if you  
33 look prior to 2001 it would be so many of all salmon  
34 and after 2001 you'll see for chinook, summer chum,  
35 fall chum, coho, they each have their individual amount  
36 necessary. The salmon numbers and the wildlife numbers  
37 are laid out a little bit differently, the salmon and  
38 fin fish numbers are laid out by area so you'll see  
39 Yukon northern area and then by species within that.  
40 In the wildlife listing they're actually laid out first  
41 by species and then by area, and then in that case by  
42 game management unit, and then whether it's a positive  
43 or negative C&T finding, and then what the finding was  
44 and how many animals are designated by the Board as the  
45 amount necessary for subsistence.

46  
47                   And the protocol recognizes in a couple  
48 ways that these numbers may be a little bit out of date  
49 or they may not be representative of what's used there.  
50 I think the Boards do the best job they can of using

1 the information from the Department of Subsistence and  
2 from the harvest tickets and those kinds of things to  
3 get good accurate data but like most things in fish and  
4 wildlife management we keep collecting data year by  
5 year but we don't necessarily go back and change the  
6 regulations every year, so things do have a tendency to  
7 get out of date at times, and so the protocol  
8 recognizes that some of these ANS amounts may be in  
9 need of revision or at least review and speaks to that,  
10 and it also recognizes that there may be a need to  
11 prioritize funding for research and so that last  
12 portion of the protocol deals with prioritizing  
13 research into the ANS or SUA amounts, and I think  
14 that's real important.

15  
16 So that, I think, concludes what I had  
17 to say, we'd be happy to try to answer any questions.

18  
19 I'm sorry, go ahead Greg.

20  
21 MR. BOS: Yes, I would just like to add  
22 a few more comments, Mr. Chair. And this morning you  
23 heard from Dan LaPlant on the policy regarding Federal  
24 closures. And there's a strong connection between that  
25 policy and this protocol because information on amounts  
26 needed for subsistence will directly affect how  
27 proposed closures will be reviewed by the Federal Board  
28 as well as reviewing existing closures as they come  
29 around for a periodic review by the Councils and the  
30 Board.

31  
32 The first page of the handout sort of  
33 lays a flow chart of how -- of the considerations used  
34 in developing subsistence hunting of fishing  
35 regulations.

36  
37 First there's a determination of  
38 whether there's customary and traditional use. And  
39 then whether the population can support the harvest.  
40 And from there it becomes increasingly more liberal in  
41 the way the Board can adopt regulations. For example,  
42 at the most restrictive phase, if the population cannot  
43 support a harvest there would be no subsistence  
44 opportunity and no opportunity for any users.

45  
46 So if you look in the center of that  
47 flow chart there's a question that asks, what are the  
48 subsistence harvest practices for those communities,  
49 and then can sufficient animals be allocated to provide  
50 the subsistence harvest opportunity for all the

1 communities with customary and traditional uses. Well,  
2 to answer that question it's going to be very helpful  
3 to have an idea of what the amounts needed for  
4 subsistence are, and that's where the ANS or the SUAs  
5 come into play.

6  
7                   And then you move to the next level, if  
8 you've determined that, yes, there are enough animals  
9 to provide for the subsistence use opportunity then  
10 there's a question are there sufficient animals to  
11 allow allocation for non-subsistence users. And here  
12 again the ANS, SUA protocol process will be helpful in  
13 answering that question to decide whether closures to  
14 non-subsistence users would be adopted by the Board.

15  
16                   Thank you.

17  
18                   CHAIRMAN SAM: Are you open for  
19 questions.

20  
21                   MR. BOS: (Nods affirmatively)

22  
23                   MR. HILSINGER: (Nods affirmatively)

24  
25                   CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay. Jack.

26  
27                   MR. REAKOFF: Mr. Chairman. I think  
28 this is a fairly needed endeavor. I do, reviewing some  
29 of these game amounts necessary for units that I'm  
30 familiar with. In the Koyukuk, I see some flaws. And  
31 I sit on the Koyukuk River Advisory Committee to the  
32 State Boards of Game and Fish and we've never reviewed  
33 these amounts necessary. These aren't really even  
34 bumped off of the AC's since I've been on there, for  
35 like 12, 14 years or something.

36  
37                   For example, caribou, in Unit 24 they  
38 have the amounts necessary and they designate the use  
39 as the Galena Mountain Herd, Wolf Mountain and Ray  
40 Mountain Herds, well, the Western Arctic Herd, north of  
41 a certain line is recognized as inhabiting Unit 24, and  
42 so the amount necessary is 150/200 animals. Anaktuvuk  
43 Pass is in Unit 24 and there's subsistence  
44 documentation shows a harvest between 500 and 750  
45 animals with just that one village.

46  
47                   I feel that taking these as a blanket  
48 from recognized State amounts is there's some flaws in  
49 some of these numbers and I think that they should go  
50 through a review process and possibly the State should

1 approach the Advisory Committees and look a little bit  
2 deeper into some of these numbers but I mean these are  
3 -- you know, these fish numbers, they look good to me  
4 off hand. But I do see some flaws in the numbers. The  
5 moose has probably been a little more looked at but --  
6 and some of these numbers are fairly old and not  
7 applicable so I would make that comment.

8

9 CHAIRMAN SAM: Greg.

10

11 MR. BOS: I think an important aspect  
12 of this protocol is that it's going to emphasize --  
13 invite careful scrutiny, reviews of existing ANS and  
14 comment, suggestions from the Councils, and subsistence  
15 users, the public at large. Unit 24 has just been  
16 subdivided into four subunits and it may be appropriate  
17 to approach the Board with a proposal to establish ANS  
18 for each of those subunits because there's quite a  
19 difference between those subunits and the numbers of  
20 moose and the harvests that they can support and the  
21 level of use that occurs in those subunits. So the ANS  
22 that's in here now for Unit 24 for moose may no longer  
23 serve very well and could be updated with more recent  
24 information.

25

26 That's a good example of how this  
27 process will serve to improve the ANS that are on the  
28 books on the State side, and if needed we can develop  
29 SUAs for the Federal lands.

30

31 MR. REAKOFF: Right.

32

33 MR. BOS: This is a good example.

34

35 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Greg. I,  
36 too, question those numbers especially when I look at  
37 the moose numbers.

38

39 I believe that the Koyukuk River Moose  
40 Management Working Group numbers a few years went from  
41 490 and, you know, stable about 490, up and down 10,  
42 and it's at 490, you know, that's just the Koyukuk  
43 River, I think, so these numbers are really truly  
44 outdated. So that ANS is totally wrong.

45

46 But there's review and update, right, I  
47 think that if you can go back to the Koyukuk River  
48 Moose Working Group, we need something like 490. I  
49 don't think we've been harvesting that amount right now  
50 but it's still needed so I wanted to clarify.

1 Any other questions for Greg and John.

2

3

Robert.

4

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

6 Yes, Greg, in looking at 21 under moose management, we

7 only have six to 800 there and three other units there,

8 I think this is a little understatement here for 600 to

9 800, we should have a little more than that. I think

10 the green cards with the new harvest would help you

11 determine on how many are being used. Would that be

12 right?

13

14 MR. BOS: Yes, I think the -- when we

15 look at these ANS, when the Board will look at these

16 and the Staff will be not just looking at the number,

17 but what those numbers were based on, the data that was

18 used to establish them, and to looking at more recent

19 information and not just from the harvest ticket

20 reports, but from Kanuti harvest surveys and from

21 testimony from people, from planning efforts such as

22 the one you've been involved in to determine a more

23 accurate representation of the number of moose needed

24 for subsistence in that unit.

25

26 MR. WALKER: Yes, but also you have to

27 understand that subsistence does have to use the green

28 card anyway.

29

30 MR. COLLINS: Mr. Chairman.

31

32 CHAIRMAN SAM: Go ahead, Ray.

33

34 MR. COLLINS: Yeah, is the State still

35 working on identifying animals that are used for

36 subsistence and setting numbers? Do they review any of

37 these at all?

38

39 MR. HILSINGER: Mr. Chairman. Yeah, I

40 think they do. They're continuing with their household

41 survey program and I think they just set some ANS

42 amounts, I heard in Prince William Sound, maybe at the

43 recent meeting, and so I think that's an ongoing

44 process. And as I said with the salmon numbers in 2001

45 they reviewed all those and changed the ANS amounts,

46 and so that's an ongoing process.

47

48 And I think like a lot of things in the

49 regulatory system, the squeaky wheel gets the grease,

50 and if no one puts a proposal in or, you know, then it

1 may not get looked at but I think the data is being  
2 collected and all it would take was a proposal to kind  
3 of spur or even a discussion with the Staff to spur the  
4 -- getting that data together and taking another look  
5 at it. I know we had this discussion in Emmonak a week  
6 or two ago about their moose ANS number and so  
7 following that I talked to Subsistence Division and  
8 they said, yeah, that it was a fairly old determination  
9 and they had talked to some of the people and they  
10 would speak with Wildlife Division and get going on  
11 trying to look at that, to review it and potentially  
12 revise it and so, yeah, I think that's an ongoing  
13 process.

14

15 MR. COLLINS: One more question. I  
16 guess the reason I ask that question is because of the  
17 State finding that every person in the state is a  
18 subsistence hunter and they can't make findings based  
19 on the community but yet the subsistence is by  
20 communities. And so how are they using that in the  
21 process, you know, when you determined what it was,  
22 yeah, this community harvested this many but now how do  
23 you extrapolate that when everybody in the state is a  
24 subsistence user?

25

26 MR. HILSINGER: Mr. Chairman. Of  
27 course they do the best job they can to get an estimate  
28 of what those other people harvest and I know there's  
29 mail out surveys. There's the harvest ticket reports.  
30 But that probably is a more difficult task, you know,  
31 if somebody comes from Anchorage and harvests in an  
32 area. But I think in a lot of these areas, the number  
33 of people who actually do that are fairly small and in  
34 a lot of cases they go through a checkstation or they  
35 try their best to try and get a handle on that  
36 information.

37

38 CHAIRMAN SAM: Go ahead, Greg.

39

40 MR. BOS: Yes, Mr. Chair. Mr. Collins.  
41 I think the State Board also emphasizes -- or tends to  
42 look more at local use, use -- hunters and fishers in  
43 the proximity to the resource.

44

45 MR. COLLINS: Yeah.

46

47 MR. BOS: There's an example on the  
48 Seward Peninsula regarding muskoxen. As you know the  
49 muskoxen population has increased dramatically in those  
50 units, Unit 22, and the Department Staff will now be

1 working with the local muskox cooperator's group there,  
2 it's a planning group that involves all of the local  
3 villages and the agencies in developing recommendations  
4 for management of muskoxen, and they'll be working with  
5 them now to update the amounts necessary for  
6 subsistence finding because it's way out of date. But  
7 you don't have to wait for the Department to initiate a  
8 review of an ANS if you feel that in Unit 24 or in any  
9 other part of your region you think an ANS no longer  
10 represents current subsistence practices that you can  
11 put a proposal in to make that change so whenever the  
12 region is open for proposals by either the Board of  
13 Game or the Board of Fisheries.

14  
15 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you. What Ray and  
16 Jack alluded to is those -- we cannot limit -- under  
17 the Koyukuk Moose Management Working Group plan we  
18 could not prohibit any outside subsistence users  
19 either, you know, we couldn't cut that number down, but  
20 then, you know, it still counts against our local use  
21 and that should be considered, too.

22  
23 And what's the other one, do you think  
24 that the State will ever fund the door to door survey  
25 again because those numbers were solid and that's where  
26 we found out how steadily and why we're stuck at that  
27 number in our yearly harvest. Do you think they'll  
28 ever fund that door to door survey again?

29  
30 MR. BOS: Well, these are austere times  
31 in Federal and State budgets, I think it's -- you know,  
32 these kind of surveys are expensive and they can't be  
33 done in all of the villages every year. One thing that  
34 this protocol urges is that in those situations that  
35 come before the Federal Board where there's a problem  
36 identified with the ANS, that the agencies be  
37 encouraged to funds additional harvest assessment  
38 research in those areas and I think if it's clear that  
39 an ANS is no longer appropriate and there's strong  
40 management concerns, it's going to become a high  
41 priority, at least, from the Federal Board's  
42 perspective in trying to get improved harvest  
43 assessments in that area to just get a better number  
44 there for ANS.

45  
46 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yeah, the reason I ask  
47 that is because it's my belief that the old door to  
48 door survey is the only way that you can answer this  
49 SUA versus ANS, and I would like to see that reinstated  
50 before we go any further on this subsistence use

1 amounts and/or amounts necessary for subsistence. It  
2 may take time and money but that's the only way you'll  
3 get a true representation and that's why I brought that  
4 up.

5  
6 Any further questions.

7  
8 MR. REAKOFF: Mr. Chairman.

9  
10 CHAIRMAN SAM: Jack.

11  
12 MR. REAKOFF: Well, Mr. Chairman, with  
13 the State, I feel this protocol is a necessary  
14 implement in -- or tool in implementing the subsistence  
15 priority and maintaining subsistence needs, which this  
16 Council is charged with under .805, but I do feel that  
17 it would probably behoove the OSM too, to approach the  
18 Councils in the next cycle with those amounts for  
19 review from the State and review those -- take out a  
20 section of time as to review those so that we have time  
21 to review and have input, review some of the data, you  
22 know, the anthropological Staff should look at some of  
23 the data, there are subsistence studies done, like  
24 Anaktuvuk and various areas where they could really  
25 define and bring these numbers to the Councils, and I  
26 feel that that would be appropriate.

27  
28 CHAIRMAN SAM: Greg.

29  
30 MR. BOS: Yes, Mr. Chair. I think the  
31 review or evaluation of the ANS will be most critical  
32 regarding proposals for closures, either closures to  
33 non-subsistence users or to perhaps to some of the  
34 subsistence users as well. And those -- the Board will  
35 be considering the ANS for the proposals that come  
36 before this Council and then to the Board. So for any  
37 proposal that comes forward, particularly those that  
38 are proposing to close Federal lands, there will be a  
39 very close look at the ANS to see whether it's an  
40 appropriate number to use in evaluating the necessity  
41 for a closure, and you'll have full opportunity to  
42 provide input in addition to the Staff's review of  
43 available information.

44  
45 CHAIRMAN SAM: Any further questions.

46  
47 (No comments)

48  
49 CHAIRMAN SAM: At this time were you  
50 looking for.....

1 MR. STICKMAN: This is Mickey in  
2 Nulato.  
3  
4 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay, hang on, Mickey.  
5  
6 MR. STICKMAN: I don't have no question  
7 but, you know, you were talking about the door to door  
8 survey and I remember a few years back where they did  
9 -- they were doing a door to door survey from month to  
10 month and they were trying to get a true picture of  
11 what people were actually harvesting and it was all  
12 anonymously, of course, because you didn't want to be  
13 saying you shot a moose in a closed period, so that was  
14 -- I think that was probably a survey that could have  
15 probably came the closest to our actual subsistence use  
16 amounts that we had here in Nulato. But I'm trying to  
17 remember who did that survey, I'm not too sure, I'm  
18 pretty sure it was the Fish and Wildlife folks out of  
19 Galena, though.  
20  
21 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Mickey. Any  
22 further questions.  
23  
24 (No comments)  
25  
26 CHAIRMAN SAM: Were you looking for  
27 endorsement or anything at this time or whatever?  
28  
29 MR. BOS: Mr. Chair, endorsement would  
30 be nice. But I think the Board is looking for any  
31 comments, concerns that the Council may have with  
32 what's in the protocol. If you haven't had a chance to  
33 look at it in detail, I'd suggest that in the coming  
34 days that you take a look and if something comes to  
35 mind that you haven't thought of at this time, that you  
36 provide that information to the Office of Subsistence  
37 Management through your Regional Council coordinator.  
38  
39 CHAIRMAN SAM: Right off the bat, Greg,  
40 I would have to say that I couldn't -- while I could  
41 probably endorse the studies being done, I couldn't  
42 endorse the numbers that you come out with right away.  
43 If I endorse anything I would endorse this draft  
44 subsistence use amounts protocol as a work ongoing;  
45 that's about all I could endorse right now.  
46  
47 MR. REAKOFF: Mr. Chairman.  
48  
49 CHAIRMAN SAM: Jack.  
50

1 MR. REAKOFF: Mr. Chairman. I also  
2 endorse the concept of this protocol and feel  
3 comfortable with the direction that it looks like it's  
4 going. I don't feel comfortable with endorsing the  
5 amounts necessary that the State is providing on some  
6 of these game populations, and so that's where my  
7 reluctance enters in.

8  
9 And I also feel that if those numbers  
10 are taken, they should be updated and reviewed maybe  
11 every -- biannually, or, you know, these populations  
12 float, and that's what all this regulatory process  
13 revolves around, is these up and down populations and  
14 human populations are also dynamic, and so these should  
15 be taken into account.

16  
17 I do feel that the concept is very  
18 worthwhile and it would be a very good tool in our  
19 Federal Subsistence process.

20  
21 MR. BOS: Mr. Chair. The Federal Board  
22 and the Federal Subsistence Program Staff are not  
23 suggesting that you endorse or accept all of the ANS  
24 that the State has on the books. Those will come  
25 before you for review at the time the proposals come  
26 before you to see whether or not they should be  
27 applied, whether they do truly represent the  
28 subsistence users in the area for that species.

29  
30 So what we're really looking for is  
31 support for the concept, as you put it, the protocol on  
32 how we will approach the issue of subsistence, of  
33 satisfying subsistence needs.

34  
35 MR. COLLINS: Mr. Chairman.

36  
37 CHAIRMAN SAM: Ray.

38  
39 MR. COLLINS: I think it's important  
40 that if they do a study, though, to look at what the  
41 use is right now, that they also seek a historical  
42 perspective because of limited hunting opportunities  
43 now in season and so on, people aren't harvesting what  
44 they did, even 10, 15, 200 years ago, you know, so if  
45 you look at the real subsistence need, I think you have  
46 to ask, is the current harvest meeting your need and  
47 how has it changed over some period of time to get some  
48 of that historical data while it's there because  
49 there's still people there that lived a more  
50 traditional life and were harvesting but now they're

1 prevented by seasons and bag limits and other things  
2 from harvesting those animals. So you need both,  
3 what's current and what was.

4  
5 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Ray. Any  
6 further comments.

7  
8 Jack.

9  
10 MR. REAKOFF: Mr. Chairman. But it's  
11 my perception that, you know, the OSM is going to adopt  
12 these State numbers and that they'll sit there on  
13 record unless a proposal comes up and I don't feel that  
14 those should be -- you know, they should be updated,  
15 you know, taken initially but then updated as real  
16 numbers.

17  
18 And so I do feel that there needs to be  
19 a little bit of work on -- you know, the State was  
20 working on that up until State lost subsistence  
21 management on Federal lands, it sort of languished, a  
22 lot of these numbers are fairly old and were fairly  
23 kind of preliminary, a work in progress. And so I do  
24 feel that -- on some of these species, I do feel that  
25 if they're taken that these numbers should be updated  
26 even before a proposal would come forward.

27  
28 MR. BOS: We'll take that comment to  
29 heart and carry it back to the program.

30  
31 Thanks.

32  
33 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you. When I first  
34 looked at this, I was totally against it because it  
35 will come back to where we started using the word,  
36 subsistence, it will come back to -- well, it already  
37 has, come back to rural against urban. Because the  
38 only thing you're counting is the rural use and it may,  
39 again, lead to the then argument of subsistence depends  
40 on how much money you have in the bank or how much a  
41 year you make, I don't know whether it might be a good  
42 thing because most of us are at or around the poverty  
43 level. You know, one thing leads to another. So it  
44 may or may not be a good thing, but at least I  
45 recognize it as a work in progress.

46  
47 I think that's what bothers me about  
48 this more than anything else. It will just keep going,  
49 going, deeper and deeper maybe. That's about all I  
50 have to add on that. That's the only thing that

1 bothers me about this, subsistence use amounts versus  
2 amounts necessary for subsistence, we still don't have  
3 any moose, we still don't have any caribou around  
4 Allakaket/Alatna area and that's what bothers me a lot,  
5 so that would be my final comment on this issue at this  
6 time.

7

8 Anything further.

9

10 (No comments)

11

12 CHAIRMAN SAM: If not, thank you.

13 Where does that put us Vince.

14

15 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman. That  
16 completes the Office of Subsistence Management reports.  
17 Then that opens us up to organization reports and I  
18 don't know who's here for those. I know a couple of  
19 Refuges have some reports so you would just go down the  
20 list there and see if there's some to make some  
21 reports.

22

23 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yeah, before we go any  
24 further, it was clarified that I will also be attending  
25 the State Board of Game, so I'd like to have Jack read  
26 this into the record. We've been working on what  
27 should be stated in our opposition to Proposal 144.

28

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

30

31 I drafted a brief resolution, I wanted  
32 the Council to review this language and endorse the  
33 language or make corrections, and so I'll just read  
34 this.

35

36 Whereas, the Western Interior Regional  
37 Council was involved in the Koyukuk  
38 Moose Management plan;

39

40 Whereas, the moose population is  
41 currently below the management  
42 objective of 30 bulls per 100 cows in  
43 the plan;

44

45 Whereas, the Koyukuk/Nowitna Staff  
46 feels conservative management is  
47 warranted; and

48

49 Whereas there is no cap on the number  
50 of subsistence permits issued and only

1 the drawing portion is controlled;  
2  
3 Whereas, the State Proposal 144 was  
4 opposed by the Koyukuk River AC,  
5 Advisory Committee, because of concerns  
6 for the moose population and that the  
7 controlled use area is integral to  
8 maintaining sustainability;  
9  
10 Whereas, the middle Yukon AC was fooled  
11 into believing the controlled use area  
12 was going to be eliminated so endorsed  
13 an amendment to the Proposal 144 with  
14 concessions;  
15  
16 Whereas, the local users who are  
17 generally economically stressed and  
18 paying high fuel costs, increase the  
19 amount of time hunting to meet  
20 subsistence needs when the bull-cow  
21 ratios are low, this is to be  
22 considered in the time, effort and  
23 expense aspects;  
24  
25 Therefore, the Western Interior  
26 Regional Advisory Council endorses the  
27 Koyukuk AC position of opposition to  
28 Proposal 144, elimination of the  
29 Koyukuk Controlled Use Area will  
30 further suppress the moose population  
31 below management and sustainability.  
32  
33 CHAIRMAN SAM: Just a general consensus  
34 or should we pass it as a resolution right now, are you  
35 satisfied with the language?  
36  
37 MR. COLLINS: Why don't we just adopt  
38 it officially.  
39  
40 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yes, that would -- we'll  
41 have to before we present it to the State Board anyway.  
42  
43 The Chair will entertain a motion to  
44 adopt Resolution stating our stand in opposition to  
45 State's Proposal 144.  
46  
47 MR. REAKOFF: So moved.  
48  
49 CHAIRMAN SAM: Is there a second.  
50

1 MR. WALKER: Second.  
2  
3 CHAIRMAN SAM: Seconded by Robert  
4 Walker. All those in favor of the motion signify by  
5 saying aye.  
6  
7 IN UNISON: Aye.  
8  
9 MR. WALKER: Mr. Chairman.  
10  
11 CHAIRMAN SAM: Opposed.  
12  
13 (No opposing votes)  
14  
15 CHAIRMAN SAM: Motion carried.  
16  
17 MR. WALKER: Mr. Chairman.  
18  
19 CHAIRMAN SAM: Robert.  
20  
21 MR. WALKER: For the record, Carl  
22 Morgan would have to abstain.  
23  
24 MR. MORGAN: Yes, Mr. Chairman, I was  
25 just going to indicate that I'm going to abstain  
26 because I'm going to have to take action on the State  
27 Board level so abstaining, I just go with the majority,  
28 okay, thank you.  
29  
30 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, very much for  
31 that clarification Robert and Carl.  
32  
33 Where does that put us now Vince.  
34  
35 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman. We're up  
36 to agency reports so there may be some from Native  
37 corporations, tribal councils, village councils, et  
38 cetera.  
39  
40 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yes, when we came here I  
41 promised to hear any locals that wanted to speak before  
42 us, too, so under this part of our program, I will now  
43 recognize Lori Lonitz.  
44  
45 MS. LONITZ: Who is on line?  
46  
47 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yea, we have Mickey and  
48 who? Is Mickey still on?  
49  
50 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, Mickey's on line and

1 Don Rivard and, I believe Pete DeMatteo, which are in  
2 the Office of Subsistence Management in Anchorage.

3

4 CHAIRMAN SAM: Go ahead, push the  
5 button, one of those, yes, you're on.

6

7 MS. LONITZ: Okay, good afternoon. My  
8 name is Lori Lonitz. I'm a lifelong resident of  
9 Alaska, I'm also -- I was born and raised in Koyukuk,  
10 lived here all my life. To give you some background  
11 information on why I'm going to say what I say next, I  
12 was the tribal administrator for a few years here in  
13 Koyukuk and that took me into concerns for moose  
14 management on the first 210 miles of the Koyukuk River  
15 between here and Huslia. I'm very familiar with that  
16 area, having trapped up there, walked from some places  
17 there and traveled through there and camped there. I'm  
18 also a past tribal council member of Koyukuk, past city  
19 mayor of Koyukuk, I served on the Tanana Chiefs  
20 Conference Executive Board as the Secretary/Treasurer  
21 and member for seven years. I served on a Governor's  
22 board and a rural sanitation board. And so I have some  
23 knowledge of what I talk about when I talk.

24

25 And I'm not boasting about it, it's  
26 just that I have concerns related to the Middle Yukon  
27 Advisory Board's Proposal No. 144. I would like to  
28 express my disappointment in the Middle Yukon Advisory  
29 Board's unanimous decision that they supported this.

30

31 And I see, Mickey, that you also sit on  
32 that board and you were not in attendance, and although  
33 I feel that you do delegate a healthy type of  
34 leadership, I feel that you really missed out this time  
35 and I'm not -- I don't have a confident level in your  
36 leadership anymore at this point.

37

38 Anyway to the proposal itself, I  
39 recently walked around and talked to different people  
40 about the concern of the needs for moose meat. We had  
41 our winter hunt shifted from February to December and  
42 we have a subsistence and general hunt at the end of  
43 August into the third week of September, and so we have  
44 moose meat when the December hunt comes around,  
45 however, by the time what we're used to having as a  
46 need to get moose in February we no longer have that,  
47 so there are freezers empty and people have told me  
48 this, people have told me this, this is just immediate  
49 needs, this is nothing to use with controlled use  
50 areas, opening, closing, flying in and out, whatever.

1 So my comment on that proposal, just based on those  
2 needs right now, I just can't see where that proposal  
3 is going to take the local people other than further  
4 away from moose meat on the table.

5  
6 So I've done some research and I've  
7 talked to different people on this Western Interior  
8 Regional Council and other places, however, I haven't  
9 seen anyone from Tanana Chiefs Conference at this  
10 meeting, and I understand this meeting here is only two  
11 times a year, so there's a real lack of information on  
12 this proposal going out to the different villages,  
13 going to Tanana Chiefs, yet a decision was made on our  
14 behalf to put this with the full support of the Middle  
15 Yukon Advisory Board to put it before the State Board  
16 of Game, Mickey.

17  
18 Now, you sit on other boards that have  
19 some powers and I would like to share that I'm aware of  
20 this and I'm really hoping that you can become a little  
21 more involved in these next two weeks with Koyukuk and  
22 other villages and other people who have concerns on  
23 this. I'm getting a little angry so I think I better  
24 shut up but, however, I really oppose Proposal No. 144  
25 that's going to the Alaska State Board of Game meeting  
26 sometime between the 10th of March to the 20th.

27  
28 Thank you.

29  
30 CHAIRMAN SAM: At this time I believe  
31 Dale Kriska wanted to speak before us.

32  
33 MR. KRISKA: My name is Dale Kriska and  
34 I'm a local resident, raised and born here and so I lot  
35 of my traditional ways of my lifestyle relies on us and  
36 our villages right there and I'm hearing a lot of  
37 solution on different committees right there on their  
38 ideas and involvements with passing the resolutions,  
39 you know, and there's people that's serving on our  
40 board out of our village right there that's not even  
41 going, getting paid a lot of money and serving and  
42 there are these committees right there and passing  
43 these resolutions and not even going out and having any  
44 discussions, with only certain local peoples on these  
45 concerns of this issue about subsistence hunting right  
46 there on the Koyukuk controlled area. And I think the  
47 Tanana Chiefs should be here that really supports the  
48 subsistence for the Native people in the villages and  
49 to get involved and telling these board meetings out  
50 there, we got people that's getting paid a lot of money

1 for that and being able to protect the Native people's  
2 rights of subsistence use right there.

3

4                                   And another thing right there that I'm  
5 realizing that the Fish and Game board, you guys  
6 committees right there working with the State and  
7 Federal policies right there on hunting and a  
8 subsistence region of the Koyukuk controlled area, that  
9 a lot of the hunters are required to follow only these  
10 regulations, but not getting their information and  
11 checking in with the checkstation at fifteen mile, are  
12 not allowed to trespass on private allotments and  
13 hunting. I seen a lot of local peoples in different  
14 villages that are hunting on my dad's allotment and not  
15 even asking permission, and they poach a moose off of  
16 that allotment and illegally trespassing and not even  
17 giving one piece of meat out of respect to my dad, and  
18 that's really getting me mad right there under this  
19 subsistence hunting in our rural area right there that  
20 the hunters that the State Fish and Game puts out the  
21 rules of non-legal trespassing on allotments and I  
22 think the boards here have to realize that respect for  
23 the Native allotments, that all Natives use of  
24 subsistence users follow these regulations once they're  
25 giving the information and checking in at fifteenmile,  
26 because it's, you know, really affecting a lot of the  
27 policies that we're hunting on this subsistence right  
28 there and it's really important to our culture right  
29 there in the village right there but, you know, it's  
30 very important to us, it's the subsistence hunters  
31 right there, you know, a lot more people on that tribal  
32 that is supporting these resolutions, only the tribal  
33 council here and this boards here are not even going  
34 out and visiting and visiting the people, their own  
35 people, they're keeping it to their own families which  
36 I think is unfair because in meeting with the elders  
37 and the young people and meeting with the young kids  
38 and understanding what's really affecting their culture  
39 right there of their subsistence use in their villages,  
40 you know, and we're seeing other hunters from different  
41 villages are going on hunting the controlled area of  
42 the Koyukuk River and illegally trespassing on these  
43 allotments because they know law enforcements that's  
44 going out there and checking on these subsistence  
45 hunters out there in the Koyukuk use controlled area to  
46 see if they're illegally trespassing -- legal  
47 trespassing on the properties right there and restating  
48 those policies right there and what you guys, board  
49 members bring to the State and pass right there and  
50 it's really making us really mad that use these

1 policies that are leading up to the standards right  
2 there because they -- peoples law enforcements that's  
3 going out there and checking on these policies on no  
4 trespassing on Native allotments right there.

5  
6 That's all I have to state to the board  
7 right there.

8  
9 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you. I'm just  
10 glad that you're aware that it is illegal to hunt on  
11 private lands so thank you for your statements.

12  
13 MR. KRISKA: Yeah, but a lot of people  
14 don't realize that, they're giving their information at  
15 the checkpoint station and are really -- are not really  
16 paying attention if they get some game -- but the  
17 families have a right to protect their -- their Native  
18 allotment of their use of -- that that land for their  
19 subsistence use, you know, and we got to protect that  
20 allotment right there for the future of our kids that  
21 we have in our family that's going to be relying on  
22 that land later on in the lifetime.

23  
24 Thank you very much right there, really  
25 appreciate that.

26  
27 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Dale. Percy.

28  
29 MR. STICKMAN: Ron, can I say something  
30 to Lori and to Dale.

31  
32 CHAIRMAN SAM: You have the floor,  
33 Mickey.

34  
35 MR. STICKMAN: Okay, Lori, this is  
36 Mickey in Nulato. Yeah, I'm sorry to hear that you  
37 have that opinion of me but if you look at the overall  
38 moose management plan for the Koyukuk River, the  
39 numbers of hunters that would be allowed up there would  
40 remain the same and the reason I supported the Middle  
41 Yukon's proposal is because it would take those people  
42 that normally are on the river from outside of the area  
43 off the river, it would give them that opportunity and  
44 it would probably give the local people from Koyukuk  
45 and Nulato and Galena a better chance of success  
46 because it would move, theoretically it would move all  
47 the other people who normally hunt up there off the  
48 river.

49  
50 But the actual harvest, actual drawing

1 permits and -- would remain the same throughout the  
2 Koyukuk River Moose Hunters Working Group Plan.

3

4 MS. LONITZ: Comment.

5

6 CHAIRMAN SAM: Briefly because I just  
7 didn't want to.....

8

9 MS. LONITZ: Okay, my name is Lori  
10 Lonitz. I'm from Koyukuk. I don't like that word,  
11 probably. Probably is just like assuming. Facts and  
12 data is what I prefer. And one of the facts of this,  
13 it would open up aircraft flying in and there would be  
14 no accountability that -- it would not be able to show  
15 that any of these aircraft that takes moose out would  
16 land at Ella's Cabin, for one thing, that's just one  
17 thing.

18

19 The other thing is that the people,  
20 local to the area who use and take moose from there are  
21 from Koyukuk, Huslia, Nulato, Kaltag and Galena. Those  
22 are local people and they go up there during the  
23 general hunt besides the subsistence hunt. Those  
24 people go every year. It doesn't matter. That number  
25 of people are local.

26

27 However, it would bring in aircraft  
28 that includes transporters with hunters that would not  
29 be accounted for because you don't have a plan for a  
30 checkpoint for them at all. The Alaska Department of  
31 Fish and Game doesn't either. So I don't know where  
32 you're getting your information from.

33

34 And that's all I have to say, I'm done.

35

36 Thanks.

37

38 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Lori. This  
39 portion is dedicated to tribal councils, so if Percy  
40 has anything to add under Koyukuk River Tribal Council,  
41 I would recognize you under the Native corporation,  
42 Native villages and tribal councils.

43

44 MR. LONITZ: Okay, thank you. Thank  
45 you, board members for listening in and also I want to  
46 thank you guys for having to endure some feedback on  
47 our luncheon meeting we held today.

48

49 And all due respect, I do, you know,  
50 have respect for people that involve themselves in

1 different positions. Mickey you are one of them, I  
2 have good opinions of you. I'm not the type of person  
3 to be judgmental over anybody's -- you know, whether  
4 they're doing a good position or a bad position or  
5 anyway, I sort of stay away from that.

6  
7                   Anyway, to give you a little background  
8 about myself. I'm a 50 year resident of Koyukuk in  
9 Alaska, and I've been involved in the local government  
10 for quite some time. Been a chief for three or four  
11 terms. I went to the Koyukuk River, I believe it was  
12 co-management meetings up there in Allakaket and  
13 Huslia. I served on the executive board for TCC for  
14 two terms and also served two terms for the health  
15 board region out of that TCC region. I've been a mayor  
16 and a past mayor, also vice mayor, city council member.  
17 I'm not an office type of person so I kind of refuse to  
18 sit in the office and work.

19  
20                   I'd just like to state my opinion in  
21 opposition of Proposal 144 due to the fact that I am a  
22 member of this tribe here in Koyukuk, you know, we're  
23 all different people, we're actually from different  
24 walks of life so whether it's your opinion over mine  
25 or, you know, however you conduct yourself it's real  
26 important. I always believe in is -- you know, where I  
27 come from is, you know, where I think we should go, you  
28 know, we all have our own destiny but I don't believe  
29 in playing political games. I learned a lot throughout  
30 my representation for representing our local area and  
31 TCC area, that political power it's no fun at all  
32 unless, you know, what you're doing and there's a lot  
33 of reason behind that.

34  
35                   But I just want to speak on that  
36 proposal. You know, I just caught whiff of it just  
37 yesterday and I understand they had a Middle Yukon  
38 Advisory Conference and being not a member or I never  
39 really paid much attention until our representative  
40 from Koyukuk, Ben Jones came home and he gave me some  
41 update on what actually took place and, of course, I  
42 kind of let it stew for awhile until this meeting.

43  
44                   I want to thank you guys today for  
45 actually being there at our luncheon. We gathered some  
46 information and our intentions are just to go forth  
47 and, you know, if we step on any toes or we offend  
48 anybody it's not intentional, it's just part of the  
49 political power I stated earlier.

50

1                               So anyway, I think that proposal is  
2 kind of opening a can of worms, so to speak, it's --  
3 the way I look at it, anyway, when I first heard about  
4 it through Jack Reakoff is it was the -- the bottom  
5 line to me was money and, you know, you get the big  
6 picture, of course, it's all politics and we're just  
7 kind of pushing for -- kind of like a position to be  
8 sitting at the table and hoping that we can be a part  
9 of the decision-making process. Whether it passes the  
10 Board or not it's -- you know, they have my blessings,  
11 of course, it's always by the Grace of God that we  
12 stand here today and try to work as one, although  
13 there's always pro's and con's about a lot of different  
14 issues that we're involved with, and we always have to  
15 remind ourself who we are, where we come from and be  
16 careful of what we say and how we present ourselves in  
17 public.

18  
19                               You know, I can talk about this  
20 proposal and say that I don't like it, it's going to  
21 involve me and my family and my children and a lot of  
22 things, you know, goes through a person's mind when  
23 there's something like this of most high importance.  
24 We have to think of -- you know, get the picture and  
25 draw that picture out and tell yourself who are you  
26 involving, well, first of all you involve yourself and  
27 your family and your village and you have to remind  
28 yourself constantly that, are you obligated to be a  
29 part of this plan or do you want to push somebody else  
30 in there and have them advocate for you. And  
31 personally I think advocacy plays a big part of it  
32 because you have to have that person up there in front  
33 to say what you think is right. And as far as I'm  
34 concerned when this takes place in Fairbanks in a few  
35 days, like I stated earlier, I'm not too familiar with  
36 the protocol that the Board of Game has, you know, how  
37 they go about their, but I guess that, you know, during  
38 that public testimony on Saturday and Sunday they may  
39 let it go and they may have another thing before they  
40 get out of session, you know, it might linger on for  
41 awhile. So we're looking at probably introducing  
42 resolutions pertaining to this very delicate matter  
43 coming from our tribe anyway and introducing it as we  
44 move along.

45  
46                               So, you know, I just -- you know, we  
47 need to work this one out and to me it's a big deal, as  
48 far as I'm involved with the political part of it, it  
49 kind of lays it on me because I'm a tribal leader, I  
50 was officially elected and they keep kind of relying on

1 me year after year after year to do the right thing and  
2 they're the ones I listen to, I don't take this on my  
3 own side and saying I'm for this or for that, I think  
4 the peoples play a more important role than I do and  
5 I'm just more like the messenger up front and hoping  
6 that we come to a good consensus on this.

7  
8                   Anyway, I just want to thank you guys  
9 for listening and I really think you guys have your  
10 work cut out and you're doing a good job. I had a  
11 little bit of time here yesterday and also this morning  
12 reviewing some of your paperwork and, you know, my  
13 hat's off to all you guys and also all the other people  
14 that's involved here and the pilots of these planes and  
15 State Troopers, you know, everybody.

16  
17                   So at any rate I'll just conclude from  
18 there and I hope that this proposal opens a lot of eyes  
19 and it will give us, we have a little bit of  
20 opportunity, just a little bit, you know, it's only a  
21 few days this week, as a matter of fact, would be our  
22 only chance to kind of gear up and, well, you know,  
23 convincing time you guys will get together and you guys  
24 will talk it over and hoping you guys would have your  
25 -- what they call that, I think it's where you guys  
26 regroup anyway, I think it's subregional, you know,  
27 type of thing.

28  
29                   So anyway, I want to thank you guys for  
30 listening and I hope you guys have a safe trip home.

31  
32                   CHAIRMAN SAM: Wait up Percy, just stay  
33 right there.

34  
35                   Number 1, I'd like to thank both  
36 Benedict Jones and the tribal council of Koyukuk for  
37 inviting us here and putting us up, we've been having a  
38 good time, good food and all that. And number 2, you  
39 know that your concerned about something and I'd really  
40 like to thank you for inviting us over to have lunch  
41 with you at your tribal office, and I think that's  
42 where we got together a little bit more, but we're not  
43 here to tell you what to do, what you asked us for was  
44 a little advice, and I'd like to thank you for all that  
45 advice and invite that you gave to us, so it works both  
46 ways.

47  
48                   Thank you.

49  
50                   MR. LONITZ: All right, thank you, Ron.

1 And I just hope you guys have a prosperous year in all  
2 your endeavors, good luck.  
3  
4 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Percy. We'll  
5 take a 10 minute break and next on the agenda will be  
6 Alaska Department of Fish and Game.  
7  
8 (Off record)  
9  
10 (On record)  
11  
12 CHAIRMAN SAM: Let's drift back to our  
13 chairs I'd like to begin.  
14  
15 (Pause)  
16  
17 CHAIRMAN SAM: Leo Lonitz.  
18  
19 MR. STICKMAN: Ron, this is Mickey, I'm  
20 going to get.....  
21  
22 REPORTER: Hold on, hold on Mickey.  
23  
24 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yes, Mickey.  
25  
26 REPORTER: Wait Mickey, say that again.  
27  
28 MR. MATHEWS: Please repeat Mickey.  
29  
30 CHAIRMAN SAM: Go ahead, Mickey.  
31  
32 MR. STICKMAN: I wanted to get Ron to  
33 excuse me because I was going to get ready to go.  
34  
35 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay, Mickey, thank you  
36 for all your participation. I really wished that you  
37 were here in person but as usual you contributed to our  
38 meeting. So you are officially excused.  
39  
40 Thank you, again.  
41  
42 MR. STICKMAN: All right, thank you.  
43  
44 REPORTER: Bye Mickey.  
45  
46 CHAIRMAN SAM: Leo Lonitz.  
47  
48 MR. LONITZ: Yeah, good afternoon. My  
49 name is Leo Lonitz. I'm from Koyukuk, like long  
50 resident for 60 years. And I previously held the

1 mayor's seat and the first chief seat, at the present  
2 I'm the second chief, Koyukuk tribal council. I've  
3 also been on the E board for Tanana Chiefs and the  
4 corporation boards, a few other boards, but I don't  
5 really want to get into that.

6  
7 'm just mainly here to pertain on this  
8 business on the issue of 144 that I greatly oppose,  
9 just from hearing and from what I have read and what I  
10 have gathered throughout the day. It just came on to  
11 me as a surprise, I didn't know what was in the  
12 proposal or that the proposal was even in the making.  
13 So that, and from what I've gathered I strongly oppose  
14 that and our council at the present, is drawing up a  
15 resolution to oppose the proposal to hand on to  
16 different agencies.

17  
18 And they're also having a testimony  
19 period through Saturday and Sunday of this coming week  
20 and I don't know if I'll be able to make that or not  
21 but whoever's there from our region who's the  
22 Koyukuk/Nulato, all in our western interior region  
23 anyway, if you could on our behalf that you would also  
24 oppose this proposal.

25  
26 I was kind of surprised to see the  
27 numbers, how it passed 9-0 and that was not too good,  
28 especially not hearing from the actual residents that  
29 it is pertaining to, and who will be affected in this  
30 area.

31  
32 Anyway, that's the main reason why I'm  
33 here in front of this and I'm really -- I'd like to  
34 welcome you all here although you've already been here  
35 for a couple days I should have did that the first  
36 night, but anyway you're welcome throughout the extent  
37 of your meeting here and hope you had a wonderful stay  
38 and that you had a prosperous meeting and I hope you  
39 have a meeting out here sometime in the future.

40  
41 Thank you.

42  
43 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, very much for  
44 that warm welcome. I know you hauled all of us up here  
45 from the airport anyway, so thank you for all that.

46  
47 MR. WALKER: And Tina's stuff.

48  
49 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you for all that.

50

1 (Laughter)

2

3 CHAIRMAN SAM: Alaska Department of  
4 Fish and Game.

5

6 MR. HILSINGER: Thank you, Mr.  
7 Chairman. Again, for the record my name is John  
8 Hilsinger, and I just had one more thing I wanted to  
9 update you on.

10

11 The Department of Fish and Game is  
12 involved again this year in its salmon escapement goal  
13 review, this is something we do every three years and  
14 we've changed the process a little bit this year. We  
15 started in 2004 by opening up the review process to  
16 people from outside the Department and this year we've  
17 continued that and expanded it, and so in the review of  
18 our escapement goals we have invited Association of  
19 Village Council Presidents, Tanana Chiefs, Bering Sea  
20 Fishermen's Association, Kawarek, the North Sound  
21 Economic Development Association, Fish and Wildlife  
22 Service and some outside scientists to help us with  
23 that review.

24

25 And this is in preparation for the  
26 Board meeting that's in January of next year, so it's  
27 10 or 11 months from now.

28

29 We committed to getting the reports out  
30 very early to give the public time to review them and  
31 so we've got draft reports out now and our draft  
32 recommendations will be coming out at the end of this  
33 week, so people will have two things, one, a month  
34 before the deadline for Board of Fisheries proposals,  
35 so people will know what our escapement goal  
36 recommendations are, at least, a month before they  
37 would have to put in a proposal to give them a chance,  
38 if they want to put in a proposal in response to our  
39 escapement goal recommendations, they can. And, two,  
40 that will give people almost 10 months to continue the  
41 review and discussion of the escapement goals.

42

43 So this has been a real big time  
44 commitment on our part to try to involve the public  
45 more, get more scientific review, and so I just wanted  
46 to let everyone know that that's going on. I know it  
47 will probably get discussed again at the Kuskokwim  
48 meeting in early April.

49

50 So, thank you, that's all I had.

1 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you. Any  
2 questions for John, if not, thank you. Bureau of Land  
3 Management, Tim Craig, already gave his presentation so  
4 we're covered there.

5  
6 Fish and Wildlife Service, Kanuti,  
7 National Wildlife Refuge.

8  
9 MR. SPINDLER: Mr. Chair. Council  
10 members. For the record my name is Mike Spindler,  
11 Refuge manager of Kanuti. I'll try and make this brief  
12 because we're getting towards the end. If you'd turn  
13 to Pages 244 to 248, our written report to the Council.  
14 I'll just highlight a few things in there for your  
15 information.

16  
17 We had a very active fire year last  
18 summer, as you all know, and a large portion of Kanuti  
19 Refuge burned, 191,000 acres roughly and we put the map  
20 up over there on the wall. In response to that burn,  
21 we have a burned area, we have a rehabilitation project  
22 going on, we're in partnership with the Allakaket tribe  
23 to rehab the Allakaket to Kanuti trail and that work's  
24 ongoing right now. This summer we'll be doing fire  
25 severity mapping to see how severe the fire burned in  
26 different places, which will give us an idea,  
27 potentially how much moose habitat might have been  
28 generated by these burns. We'll be evaluated cultural  
29 resource damage potential in the burn areas.

30  
31 And also for the second year in a row,  
32 looking at the potential movement of invasive plant  
33 species into the burned areas, and the concern there is  
34 firefighters potentially bringing them in or coming in  
35 on boats, or floating down the rivers from the Dalton  
36 Highway.

37  
38 We will be doing a waterfowl harvest  
39 survey, that is an alternating year thing, that's an  
40 expensive project statewide. And the Kanuti will be  
41 surveyed this summer. We will be contracting with a  
42 local person to survey Alatna, Allakaket, Bettles, and  
43 Evansville for waterfowl harvest. There will be three  
44 surveys, spring, summer and fall survey.

45  
46 The 2006 subsistence waterfowl  
47 regulations are available now, so along with the  
48 interest in pursuing waterfowl there will be the  
49 regulations that guide that pursuit.

50

1                   We conducted a steelshot seminar in  
2 Allakaket, had great participation, and we're pretty  
3 much done with that unless it's funded through a  
4 separate wildlife grant which is ongoing.  
5

6                   The Kanuti Refuge has been revising  
7 their comprehensive land management plan, we're about a  
8 year and a half into it. We expect a draft to be  
9 released to the public this fall or winter for review,  
10 and that plan will guide the management of the Kanuti  
11 for the next 15 years, so if the Council has concerns  
12 we certainly will be bringing that plan to you at the  
13 fall meeting for your review, and there will probably  
14 be a two month review period on that.  
15

16                   I would also like to thank Eliza Jones  
17 for her suggestion that we include traditional names in  
18 our maps in the plan. We had asked about that and had  
19 that desire but ran into a snag but we're working  
20 through that snag and I think we'll overcome that. It  
21 had to do with priority information of the traditional  
22 names, we can overcome that.  
23

24                   In terms of law enforcement efforts on  
25 Kanuti, last year we did some moose, mainly aimed at  
26 looking at airboat use on the Refuge, there's been  
27 reports of airboats coming down the Southfork. We also  
28 did a lot of outreach to make sure people had the right  
29 harvest tickets because there was a grey harvest ticket  
30 area and a green harvest ticket area both within  
31 Kanuti. And I'm happy to report that everybody we  
32 encountered had the right harvest ticket so that was  
33 really good news to me.  
34

35                   This spring there will be some  
36 waterfowl enforcement and some enforcement for the use  
37 of steelshot and not lead shot, and, again next fall  
38 moose season enforcement.  
39

40                   I put some brochures over on the table  
41 there for what's called the Earthwork Quest Program.  
42 It's an internship program between the agencies and  
43 Tanana Chiefs. If in your home villages you know of  
44 any people who would be interested in a summer job,  
45 it's from 8th grade through college, and if it's  
46 someone interested in working in resources, whether  
47 it's fisheries, land, fire, water resources or  
48 wildlife, there's about 20 positions, it'll be fairly  
49 competitive, but if there's someone from your village  
50 interested, there's applications over there and we'll

1 be circulating that to the tribal councils as well.

2

3 Kanuti has a guide area open now. We  
4 informed the Council and discussed that about a year  
5 ago and as you may recall your recommendations to us  
6 was that you wanted to emphasize a guide that was  
7 interested in harvesting predators. It turns out  
8 there's an individual interested in that kind of a  
9 program, and to my knowledge the application met  
10 minimum requirements and we'll be making the decision  
11 whether to issue the permit within the next two months,  
12 so there will probably be a guide working on the Kanuti  
13 emphasizing harvest of predators and he's looking at a  
14 spring and a fall bear hunt is what he's looking at.

15

16 We've had some staff changes, Joanna  
17 Fox, who Ron may recall from the Galena staff years ago  
18 was involved in the Koyukuk River Moose Hunter's  
19 Working Group as a technical advisor with Gene  
20 Williams, she worked at Selawik and then at Arctic  
21 Refuge, she's been selected as our deputy refuge  
22 manager to replace Mary Maxwell who departed for  
23 Nevada.

24

25 And you may have met Jody DeMier (ph)  
26 who is our Park Ranger who is doing the interpretation  
27 work at the Visitor's Center at Coldfoot, she's  
28 resigned and that position will be open for recruitment  
29 as a summer seasonal.

30

31 And with that I'll entertain any  
32 questions. I have Wennona Brown here also who has been  
33 intimately involved with some of the other subsistence  
34 aspects of Kanuti and the other two Fairbanks based  
35 Refuges.

36

37 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

38

39 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Mike. Any  
40 questions.

41

42 MR. REAKOFF: Mr. Chairman.

43

44 CHAIRMAN SAM: Jack.

45

46 MR. REAKOFF: I have a couple  
47 questions. One, are there invasive plants starting to  
48 get into the Refuge or are you just starting to look at  
49 that? And the other question is -- it slipped my mind  
50 right now. Could you answer the invasive species

1 question.

2

3 MR. SPINDLER: Mr. Reakoff. Mr. Chair.

4 Yes, we did the survey last summer, there was nothing  
5 found on the Kanuti Refuge proper. There were  
6 invasives found all around the airport at Bettles. On  
7 the Yukon Flats Refuge there were invasives found on  
8 the Refuge and they were generally at trail crossings  
9 and it's thought that the invasives are being brought  
10 in from straw with the dog teams. So that's something  
11 to watch for. The straw does contain a lot of nasty  
12 weeds and when it's spread out on the Refuge it can  
13 take over and so we are concerned about that,  
14 especially in the burned areas because the ground's  
15 been exposed and there's no competition and those guys  
16 can get started pretty easily.

17

18 MR. REAKOFF: And the other question I  
19 had was there's a new Friend's of the Wildlife Refuge  
20 Group that's been formed in the last couple of months  
21 and I was wondering if you've been contacted by the  
22 Friend's Group.

23

24 MR. SPINDLER: Jody on our staff was in  
25 attendance by teleconference with their first few  
26 meetings and we welcome the Friends Group as being a  
27 member of the public that follows closely what wildlife  
28 refuges are doing statewide. We recognize that you  
29 can't have a Friend's Group for most individual remote  
30 bush refuges in Alaska but we think the idea of a  
31 unified Friend's Group for Alaska Refuges is a really  
32 good one. Friend's Groups have been really important  
33 in the Lower 48 states and I'll give you an example.

34

35 Black Water Refuge down on the eastern  
36 shore of the Atlantic Coast has a lot of extremely  
37 valuable wetlands there and one of the inlets to the  
38 Bay there has the river, the Black Water River that  
39 comes in there and there's a big huge golf and housing  
40 development planning to go in there and the Friend's  
41 Group was pretty instrumental in working with the  
42 developer to make that thing less impacting to the  
43 Refuge. So we see there's a lot of good potential to  
44 the Friend's Group and we welcome that.

45

46 MR. REAKOFF: I was on teleconference  
47 asked by U.S. Fish and Wildlife to kind of help start  
48 this Friend's Group because they're an advocacy group  
49 for the wildlife refuges and Alaska doesn't have any  
50 advocacy group, the only advocates would be sort of

1 loose associations of local users and the staff  
2 themselves and so I felt that that was a worthwhile  
3 group to help promote wildlife refuges, a sort of  
4 benevolent organization.

5  
6 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Jack. Any  
7 other questions. Robert.

8  
9 MR. WALKER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.  
10 Mike, you know, when you talk about these species  
11 brought in by firefighters, these outside species for  
12 the plants, you know for years and years and years  
13 people have been coming from Missoula and McCall winter  
14 up to Alaska and jumping fires up here and this has  
15 been going on a long time, when did you start realizing  
16 that this could be a potential danger?

17  
18 MR. SPINDLER: The emphasis in Alaska  
19 has increased in the last five years, I guess, and  
20 probably the reason being is it was recognized within  
21 the last 10 years some severe problems in the Lower 48  
22 states on some of the western areas there's a species  
23 of grass called cheat (ph) grass, which out competes  
24 just about any other Native grass there. It really  
25 devastates the range lands and some of the wildlife  
26 habitats and it's just literally taken over. And once  
27 a fire comes through it just really comes in there  
28 quickly and really reduces the chance of the native  
29 vegetation to reestablish itself.

30  
31 There's another species called purple  
32 loosestrife which grows in wetlands and it gets really  
33 thick and it has no food value for waterfowl at all and  
34 it just crowds out the native food plants, it's been a  
35 problem for 50 years in the eastern refuges. It's  
36 actually been found in Alaska now. And just with the  
37 increased amount of commerce, people traveling, some  
38 people even haul their boats up from the Lower 48 for  
39 recreation, you know, some of the tourists, there's a  
40 lot of things these can get established.

41  
42 The concern with the firefighters was  
43 mainly in their boots, in some of their equipment,  
44 tools, some of their hand tools, the airplanes that  
45 drop water, there's a potential that they could come up  
46 with some water weeds, some aquatic weeds that might  
47 actually grow in Alaska so we were really concerned  
48 about that.

49  
50 So it's kind of become routine now that

1 after a fire we spend some time just looking to see if  
2 anything's established itself or getting started, it's  
3 fairly easy to stop it them, you just pull them and  
4 kill them, you don't have to use chemicals or anything,  
5 if you can find them. So the trick is getting to them  
6 as soon as they have a chance of getting started and  
7 that's usually after a fire.

8

9 Thank you, Mr. Walker.

10

11 MR. WALKER: Thank you, Mike.

12

13 CHAIRMAN SAM: I don't have any  
14 questions. I think we'll be meeting up in Allakaket  
15 soon anyway and I'd just like to thank you for your  
16 work and thank you for meeting with the two local  
17 councils up there.

18

19 And Wennona.

20

21 MS. BROWN: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I  
22 just had a couple comments about the migratory bird  
23 regulations. I did put a color copy of the brochure in  
24 your packets but I also brought full copies of the  
25 Federal regulations, the official publication just  
26 published in the Federal Register last week over there  
27 on the table. And then also over lunch break, I think  
28 I put on each person's place a copy of my business card  
29 with my 800 number, and I'll just say if you have any  
30 questions or if I can facilitate getting information to  
31 you particularly about the bird flu or whatever, you  
32 know, don't hesitate to call me.

33

34 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Kanuti.

35

36 MR. SPINDLER: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
37 And I also would like to extend my thanks to the  
38 village of Koyukuk for hosting a great meeting, thank  
39 you much.

40

41 CHAIRMAN SAM: I appreciate that.  
42 Again, two minutes if you could.

43

44 (Laughter)

45

46 MR. CRAIG: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I'm  
47 hesitant to even bring this up but you were interested  
48 in weeds, we are right at the beginning stages of  
49 trying to initiate what we're calling a weed pull on  
50 the Dalton Highway, we've tentatively set the date for

1 July 10th, that week, and it's going to -- if it all  
2 comes together, you know, it's so early I'm not sure  
3 it's going to happen but if it all comes together I  
4 think it will be National Park Service, Fish and  
5 Wildlife Service and BLM, I've reserved cabins at our  
6 administrative sights and vehicles in anticipation that  
7 it would occur and I think Friend's of the Refuge,  
8 we're trying to get that all kind of put together now.

9  
10 So anyway I just wanted to let you know  
11 that we've got something afoot there in relation to  
12 weeds.

13  
14 Thank you.

15  
16 CHAIRMAN SAM: Briefly, I was just  
17 wondering, what kind of weeds if you've got that many  
18 people interested.

19  
20 Jack.

21  
22 MR. REAKOFF: There's some kind of a  
23 clover, a big tall white clover that's just going up  
24 the Dalton Highway, every year it goes further north,  
25 it's amazing how fast that -- and it's a big tall weed  
26 and it really takes over the side of the road, so it  
27 looks like it's getting -- it's at Pump 5 already and  
28 so it's going to be getting up into the other areas  
29 pretty soon.

30  
31 MR. CRAIG: If I could ask your  
32 indulgence, one more thing, yeah, the white sweet  
33 clover, is one of the weeds that I'm really interested  
34 in trying to keep it from getting it into those  
35 drainages that flow out on the Kanuti and Koyukuk  
36 drainage. It's kind of a lost cause south of about 88  
37 Mile, and I was really disturbed to see that it was up  
38 at Pump Station 5 this past year. But that was one of  
39 the things we were going to concentrate on is river  
40 crossings, north of 98 Mile.

41  
42 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Tim.  
43 Koyukuk/Nowitna.

44  
45 MR. MOOS: Mr. Chairman. Members of  
46 the Council. I appreciate the opportunity to come.  
47 Again, my name is Kenton Moos. I am the new Refuge  
48 manager at Koyukuk/Nowitna. Just quickly I want to  
49 introduce some of my staff that's here, you know most  
50 of them but there is one individual who is new as well.

1                   Boomer is one of our biologist and she  
2 is preparing some -- she's got some information  
3 regarding some of the populations that you guys might  
4 find interesting.

5  
6                   Joey Hundorf is our Refuge pilot over  
7 there.

8  
9                   Geoff Beyersdorf, subsistence  
10 biologist.

11  
12                   And then our newest member of the Staff  
13 is Ryan Molnok (ph), he's my new assistant, he just  
14 arrived yesterday to Galena so we're excited to have  
15 him here. But, again, thanks for having us here.

16  
17                   I just want to quickly go over a few  
18 things before Boomer gives her presentation. Real  
19 quick, as far as moose, due to concerns of hunter  
20 availability during the ongoing Huslia search and  
21 rescue, the March 1 through 5 moose hunt in southern  
22 Unit 24 has postponed to March 15th through the 19th.  
23 Refuge Staff has met with local vendors to distribute  
24 permits, maps, hunts, conditions and outreach material.  
25 The March 1 through 5 hunt has not been opened in  
26 southern 21(D) or in 21(D) due to management concerns  
27 about this population so there again we consulted with  
28 both Huslia and Hughes regarding postponing this hunt  
29 due to the search efforts and they agreed and we just  
30 wanted to make sure we did that out of respect to the  
31 family.

32  
33                   Some fisheries issues coming up, in  
34 conjunction with the Fairbanks Fisheries office and the  
35 YRDFA, a survey project to garner local input to in-  
36 season salmon management will be conducted in Nulato,  
37 Galena and Huslia. This information will be used along  
38 with other joint projects to help fisheries managers  
39 develop season management strategies. Information will  
40 be summarized on a weekly Yukon River Drainage  
41 Fisheries Association teleconference and also with  
42 current subsistence fishing regulations will be  
43 presented weekly on the local radio station KIYU.

44  
45                   There is again going to be a weir  
46 project in cooperation with YRDFA and Department of  
47 Fish and Game and the Fairbanks Fisheries Office, and  
48 it will be conducted for chinook and summer chum on the  
49 Gisasa Rivers, the same place I believe where it was  
50 the last year.

1                   The Fairbanks Fisheries Office has an  
2 ongoing study to determine sheefish and pike spawning  
3 areas and distribution the Nowitna River drainage.  
4 Also drift gillnet Galena Office will be doing outreach  
5 and permits as well this year again.

6  
7                   Quickly, with waterfowl, our Refuge  
8 Staff will be conducting some outreach and sampling for  
9 Avian Influenza this summer. We will be heavily  
10 involved in this. Boomer and another one of our  
11 biologist is going to be going into some training and  
12 hopefully we're going to get some information during  
13 our spring waterfowl harvest surveys as well at the  
14 same time. And, then, again, our waterfowl surveys  
15 will be conducted in the villages within and adjacent  
16 to the Refuge in the spring of 2006, waterfowl surveys  
17 in Galena and Ruby will be conducted through the Louden  
18 Tribal Council.

19  
20                   Aerial swan trend surveys will be flown  
21 again this year in the Koyukuk/Nowitna complex. The  
22 Refuge will be establishing steelshot clinics as well,  
23 we're going to try to do this on a rotating basis as  
24 funding is available.

25  
26                   Float surveys to monitor productivity  
27 trends in the greater white fronts and Canada geese  
28 will be completed again this year.

29  
30                   As far as law enforcement is concerned,  
31 again, we will be active for both spring waterfowl  
32 season, primarily with the compliance with steelshot,  
33 we will be doing some subsistence chinook salmon season  
34 work as well and then also fall, obviously moose and  
35 waterfowl enforcement as well.

36  
37                   And that's basically all I've got. I  
38 apologize, being so new here I didn't get a report into  
39 you all on time, I apologize for that, I just arrived  
40 in December and I'm a little bit new to this and I  
41 apologize for not getting you a report earlier, but if  
42 there's any questions I will entertain them now  
43 otherwise Boomer has a presentation for you.

44  
45                   CHAIRMAN SAM: Just one comment.  
46 Apparently you're not that new, I really appreciate  
47 what you did for the residents of Huslia and Hughes on  
48 postponing and granting that later hunt. That means a  
49 lot to our people, and I appreciate that.

50

1                   Go ahead.

2

3                   MR. MOOS: And just for a little  
4 background information, I should have mentioned this  
5 earlier, I did come up from Bethel. I lived in Bethel  
6 for quite a number of years and worked with Mike  
7 Rearden there and he's been a great mentor for me and  
8 so I appreciate those comments.

9

10                  Thanks.

11

12                  CHAIRMAN SAM: Boomer.

13

14                  BOOMER: Okay, I'm not quite sure how  
15 this is going to work, I'm kind of backwards here, but  
16 that doesn't show up very good at all, did it show up  
17 better.

18

19                  CHAIRMAN SAM: No, it's fine, yes,  
20 Vince, the lights.

21

22                  BOOMER: Kind of better. Brad called  
23 me last night and said that he filled you all in on  
24 moose and wolves which are the hard ones, which, to me  
25 they are anyway, it's where most of the politics roll  
26 around and stuff.

27

28                  But anyway I'll finish up the  
29 presentation and I'll try and do this quickly. We  
30 also, in addition to moose and wolf work we also do  
31 caribou surveys. There's a resident herd on the  
32 Refuge, the Galena Mountain Herd, and it was on the  
33 subsistence list which is interesting because the  
34 harvest on Galena Mountain Herd has been closed, I  
35 believe, is it two years, Mike, the last two years,  
36 because we've detected declines in the population.  
37 Prior to 1999 and 2000 it was over 300 animals and  
38 since then we estimate there's somewhere between 100  
39 and 200. In November of this last year, 2005, while we  
40 were tracking them we only saw 97 and seven of those  
41 were bulls and 10 were calfs.

42

43                  When we started noticing this decline  
44 we decided that this population, the Galena Mountain  
45 Herd winters mainly from Hour Glass Lake which is north  
46 of Galena, up to about Dulbi River and over to the  
47 Koyukuk River longstretch, there's some flats back in  
48 there, black spruce and a lot of really good habitat  
49 lichen. And the caribou winter there and then they go  
50 up in the Cochran Hills and they summer and calve up in

1 there. And there's a Wolf Mountain Herd which is just  
2 north of the Cochrans in the Mulosi drainage and they  
3 number probably around 800 or so, maybe a little less,  
4 maybe about 700. And we were wondering if maybe the  
5 Galena Mountain Herd when we started seeing the  
6 declines, if maybe they were mixing with the Wolf  
7 Mountain Herd and we were losing numbers that way, and  
8 so we put 20 collars out in 2002, 10 on the Wolf  
9 Mountain and 10 on Galena Mountain, and we didn't see  
10 any mixing and then in 2004 we put 10 more collars on  
11 the Galena Mountain Herd, the reason we like to have  
12 collars out is because they're really hard to find,  
13 especially during calving when they're up in the hills.  
14 Like you can see here, when they're out no the rocks,  
15 you know, and the grass, you know, and they're up there  
16 calving they're hard to find and especially in such a  
17 small herd. When we want to look at calving rates and  
18 things like that we need to be able to find them fairly  
19 easily, so we put 10 more collars out. There are nine  
20 collars right now that are active and two of those,  
21 only two of those are leftover from 2002.

22

23 Let's see here, okay, we also do beaver  
24 cache surveys, and it's an indicator of abundance.  
25 What we do basically count caches, what we call a live  
26 house, it will have a feed cache in front of it. And  
27 the surveys rotate annually between the Koyukuk, Kaiyuh  
28 and the Novi -- the Nowitna, that's the abbreviation.  
29 But this year we managed to do most of the Koyukuk and  
30 all of the Kaiyuh, of our trend units, and on the  
31 Koyukuk abundance has steadily increased and we've only  
32 done this trend survey in three years, '91, 2000 and  
33 2005 and it's steadily increased between those years.  
34 And on the Kaiyuh there was a dip in '99 when we did  
35 the survey, between '91 and '99 but it jumped up big  
36 time this year in 2005 and I've talked to some people  
37 -- well, just people around town kind of everywhere  
38 that I've talked to and people in Nulato, Kaltag, they  
39 both say the same thing the Kaiyuh is full of beaver.

40

41 And the Nowitna, the last time we've  
42 flown it was in 2001 and that's next on our scheduled  
43 trend flight next year and between '93 and 2001 we saw  
44 actually a little bit of a dip and I'm not sure what's  
45 happened since then but people that I've talked to in  
46 Ruby are saying the same thing that people in the  
47 Koyukuk and Kaiyuh are saying, is that, there's a lot  
48 of beaver out there and not very many people trapping  
49 anymore.

50

1                   Birds. Okay, we also do goose surveys  
2 in the summer time, we do them both aerially up on the  
3 Koyukuk and we also do float surveys on rivers. We do  
4 float surveys on the Nowitna, Dulbi River and the  
5 Kaiyuh Slough and we saw big declines in the white  
6 fronts, what people call speckle bellies from '94 to  
7 2001 and that's why we kind of started doing aerial  
8 surveys about that time. But then we started seeing a  
9 gradual increase through 2004 and it's kind of back up  
10 to where it was in the mid-1990 levels. This year we  
11 saw a little bit of a dip in both adults and young, but  
12 one thing we noticed when we were flying the surveys,  
13 we fly these surveys when they're -- so that we can  
14 look at the breeding flocks, so we fly them in late  
15 June, early July, and if you remember on the Koyukuk  
16 the water came back up after break up and it was high  
17 all through the lower Koyukuk, a lot of the grass lakes  
18 and stuff were flooded and one of our main breeding  
19 areas, Dulbi Slough, there was water up in the bushes  
20 and Willow Lake, which is right up by Huslia was just  
21 one big gigantic lake, there were really no -- there  
22 was no shoreline. And the Nowitna River was also high,  
23 it wasn't flooded but the water was high enough that it  
24 was up into the edges of the brush. And what happens  
25 when we try to do surveys during that time is that the  
26 geese and the broods have so much cover that they're  
27 really hard to detect, and not just that but then the  
28 flooding goes up to lakes and grass lakes and things  
29 and so they have much more area that they can go into  
30 and the stuff that they really like to eat is when the  
31 water comes down and the mud is exposed and that new  
32 growth, that's what they're eating, and so we figured  
33 the broods were displaced and there was a lower  
34 sightability and the reason we think that and the  
35 reason we don't think there was a complete failure in  
36 production was that later in the summer, the end of  
37 July when the water started dropping, flying over --  
38 incidental flights, flying over Dulbi Slough and Dulbi  
39 River we saw in places where we normally see big flocks  
40 that we didn't during the normal survey we were seeing  
41 these big brood stocks, so that was encouraging.

42  
43                   We don't have numbers on those because  
44 it wasn't an actual survey but we're pretty confident  
45 that they were breeding and they were doing okay they  
46 just weren't where we could see them.

47  
48                   I forgot Canada geese, they're at what  
49 we call stable at low numbers, they show up on the  
50 surveys but the numbers aren't as high as the white

1 fronts.

2

3 We also do swan surveys. On our Refuge  
4 we do annual aerial trend surveys where we just sample  
5 our trend areas but every five years there's a  
6 statewide census of all swan habitat, trumpeter swan  
7 habitat and we flew it this year, in 2005 with the  
8 Division of Migratory Birds who came out and helped us  
9 fly a whole bunch of the Refuge and both of these  
10 surveys show steadily increasing swan population on the  
11 Koyukuk, Kaiyuh and Novi since 1990.

12

13 We've also started in the summer of  
14 2004 and we did it again in the summer of 2005, swan  
15 species ID project where we were going out and randomly  
16 selecting points and flying to those points and  
17 locating the closest swan nest and finding out what  
18 species of swan that was because we knew there was an  
19 overlap of tundra and trumpeter swans, we have both  
20 nesting on the Refuge. The tundra swan is the one on  
21 the lower right and it shows up okay enough, I think  
22 you can see it, there's a yellow spot on the bill just  
23 below the eye and the trumpeter swan doesn't have that,  
24 it just has a solid black bill and the trumpeter swans  
25 are also actually a little bit bigger and they have a  
26 different call. Of course the trumpeter swan sounds  
27 kind of like a bugle and the tundra swan is, to me it  
28 sounds a little bit like a crane, you can tell the  
29 difference but it's kind of crane like to me. But  
30 anyway they both breed on the Refuge and on the Koyukuk  
31 when we did the random, we went to 30 random nests and  
32 50 percent of them were trumpeters and 50 were tundras,  
33 it was a 50/50 split. And we went down on the Kaiyuh  
34 this summer in '05 and we found an 80/20 split, it was  
35 80 percent trumpeters and 20 percent tundras. Now,  
36 they did this study back in the late '80s and they  
37 found pretty much the same thing except on the Koyukuk  
38 it shifted by year and I think it had to do with sample  
39 size, I think they were sampling a little more south on  
40 the Koyukuk than we did and they were seeing some years  
41 where it was 90 percent tundras and so we wanted to go  
42 back and check it again and see what's going on because  
43 it is an area of overlap. Up on the Selawik, north,  
44 you hop over the divide and up there it's mostly tundra  
45 swans. There are a few down on the Tag River,  
46 trumpeter swans down on the Tag but the bulk of them  
47 are tundra swans. And so it's an area of interest  
48 especially since they opened the spring waterfowl  
49 hunting and made it legal, and trumpeter swans are  
50 legal harvest and tundra swans aren't -- I'm sorry I'm

1 backwards -- tundra swans are legal harvest and  
2 trumpeter swans aren't. But you can't tell them apart  
3 on the wing, that's the interesting thing. So we  
4 wanted to see what our split was.

5  
6                   And it's a great study, I really like  
7 doing it, it's a lot of fun.

8  
9                   We also do duck breeding pair surveys,  
10 actually we don't do them, the Department of Migratory  
11 Birds comes through and they have their breeding pair  
12 surveys and they have these big giant transects that  
13 they fly over the state and they have part of it that  
14 includes the Koyukuk Refuge. And so from that we get  
15 an estimate of the number of ducks that are on the  
16 Refuge and the estimate that we got last year was  
17 between 65,000 and 118,000 ducks breeding on the  
18 Koyukuk Refuge. And this is a decrease, a slight  
19 decrease from what we've seen in '03 and '04 which were  
20 really high and it's comparable to the '97 estimate  
21 which was 62,000 to 117,000.

22  
23                   And because I'm talking about waterfowl  
24 I thought I'd just give a quick synopsis of the Avian  
25 Influenza stuff, and I got this from the Alaska  
26 Department of Fish and Game, it's on the bottom there,  
27 Health and Social Services and there's a phone number  
28 there for additional information and this is what they  
29 released in August of '05, and it's the newest stuff.  
30 And Geoff kind of touched on it a little bit but I'll  
31 just go over it again.

32  
33                   The H5N1 Influenza hasn't been found in  
34 North America yet. There are no known cases of human  
35 infection from wild birds, and this is world wide,  
36 there are no known human cases of human infection from  
37 wild birds, all of the infections came from domestic  
38 poultry. The viruses don't move easily to humans.  
39 There were 112 reported human cases of H5N1 from four  
40 countries in Southeast Asia and I think there's only  
41 been -- the reported -- official report is 57 deaths.

42  
43                   What Fish and Game is saying right now  
44 is that hunters should not be overly concerned about  
45 H5N1 right now. Just to use common sense, precautions  
46 when you're preparing wild game. They recommend  
47 keeping your hands, tools, work surfaces clean with  
48 disinfectants, thorough cooking will kill disease  
49 organisms and parasites. Viruses are neutralized by  
50 heat and drying so they don't last long outside of the

1 host. But if you have -- it's mostly contracted  
2 through their feces so if you have something on your  
3 hands and you touch your mouth or you're eating  
4 something after you're cleaning birds then you can get  
5 it that way.

6  
7                   There's been surveillance in Alaska,  
8 they've tested over 12,000 birds between '98 and '05  
9 with no bird flu detected. This summer there's a  
10 massive huge surveillance going on all over and the  
11 Refuges, especially the YK-Delta especially because  
12 they have so many birds that go back and forth. On our  
13 Refuge, the Koyukuk the key species that they want us  
14 to really look at, the ones that have the greatest  
15 potential of mingling with birds in Russia and, I guess  
16 it's Kazakhstan and Siberia where bird flu has been  
17 detected in wild birds over there, and the two species  
18 that they want us to really look at on the Koyukuk are  
19 the tundra swans and pintails. And I know on the Delta  
20 they're looking at shorebirds, they're looking at  
21 eiders, they've got a huge list of birds that they're  
22 looking at down there.

23  
24                   This is the precautions that they're  
25 telling waterfowl hunters to use, don't handle butcher  
26 or eat game that are obviously sick or found dead.  
27 Wear rubber gloves and washable clothing when handling  
28 or cleaning game. Wash your hands with soap and water  
29 or alcohol wipes right after cleaning game. Keep all  
30 your equipment, knives, surfaces clean with soap and  
31 water and use a 10 percent solution of bleach to clean  
32 it. Don't eat, drink or smoke when you're handling  
33 game. And make sure to cook all your game meat  
34 thoroughly. Waterfowl should reach an internal  
35 temperature between 155 and 165 degrees.

36  
37                   Most of that, the people that I know  
38 usually follow these rules anyway. The only thing that  
39 caught my attention and the thing that kind of gives me  
40 trouble is plucking geese with rubber gloves is not  
41 easy but that's what they recommend you do.

42  
43                   And let's see, I think I'm done, yep,  
44 that's it.

45  
46                   MR. WALKER: Lights.

47  
48                   CHAIRMAN SAM: Camera.

49  
50                   (Laughter)

1 CHAIRMAN SAM: Vince.  
2  
3 MR. MATHEWS: I got it, lights, camera.  
4  
5 (Laughter)  
6  
7 BOOMER: So I guess if nobody has any  
8 questions. Does anybody have any.  
9  
10 CHAIRMAN SAM: Jack.  
11  
12 MR. REAKOFF: One question, Mr. Chair.  
13  
14 CHAIRMAN SAM: Go ahead, Jack.  
15  
16 MR. REAKOFF: Those caribou that were  
17 collared, you're down to nine collars.  
18  
19 BOOMER: Right.  
20  
21 MR. REAKOFF: Did you determine what,  
22 they lost the collars or died from mortalities from  
23 predation or what was it?  
24  
25 BOOMER: Yeah, well, most of them --  
26 let's see we had an interesting thing in 2002, if you  
27 remember back then, we collar our caribou in October --  
28 or wait, no, we did ours in spring of '02, and we had  
29 statewide -- it wasn't -- all agencies that were  
30 calling Fish and Game agencies and Fish and Wildlife  
31 agencies that were collaring caribou were -- there was  
32 like huge mortality and we couldn't figure out what was  
33 going on and we kind of traced it back to drugs, the  
34 batch of drugs that we had gotten for collaring caribou  
35 were -- well, we can't say they were bad, they  
36 supposedly tested them and they couldn't find anything  
37 wrong with them but what it looked like, all the cases  
38 of the dead caribou was what they called  
39 recardinization (ph) is where we reverse the drugs,  
40 when we knock them down to collar them and, you know,  
41 the caribou gets up and goes away and, you know, we  
42 check it, fly it, make sure the collar's on and then we  
43 leave and, you know, five, six, 10 hours later the  
44 caribou drops again and dies of hypothermia. And so we  
45 lost -- let's see we did 20 and I think we lost 11 of  
46 them, it was really bad, yeah, it was awful, and so  
47 that's why we had such a low sample size and that's why  
48 we put more collars out in '04.  
49  
50 And the other ones that died, died from

1 natural causes, predation, old age, we had one that  
2 died out in the middle of the lake and there was no --  
3 the only thing that was getting to like the carcass  
4 were ravens, she was just old.

5  
6 MR. REAKOFF: Okay, thank you.

7  
8 CHAIRMAN SAM: I do have one question,  
9 all these precautions I'd like to address Kanuti  
10 wildlife too, all these precautions on the do's and  
11 don'ts and the precautions that you take, are you  
12 delivering this program or at least a video to local  
13 villages?

14  
15 BOOMER: Have we thought about that or  
16 is that your question?

17  
18 CHAIRMAN SAM: I wanted you to do -- is  
19 it in progress or is it going to be done.

20  
21 BOOMER: I think that Geoff mentioned  
22 that it is in progress, they're working on the best way  
23 to present this information in the villages. And we  
24 have RITs, which are rural information technicians that  
25 work out in the villages and they're helping develop  
26 these ways of getting the message out to people.  
27 Clearly. The sheet that I got all this information on  
28 was like this three page deal and it was -- it was  
29 pretty unfriendly to pick this stuff out of and I know  
30 that there's a lot of information that needs to get out  
31 and what they did was tried to cram it all into a  
32 couple of pages and it just made it so busy it was kind  
33 of hard to read. So I know they're trying to work on  
34 that right now.

35  
36 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you. Benedict.

37  
38 MR. JONES: Yeah, on the caribou  
39 collaring, is that just a radio collar or some  
40 satellite collar?

41  
42 BOOMER: No, it's just a radio collar  
43 and we go out about once a month, sometimes every two  
44 months and track them with a Supercub.

45  
46 CHAIRMAN SAM: Any other questions.

47  
48 (No comments)

49  
50 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you. Appreciate

1 it.

2

3 BOOMER: Thank you for your time.

4

5 CHAIRMAN SAM: We're at National Park  
6 Service.

7

8 MR. MATHEWS: I don't think there's  
9 anybody here from National Park Service.

10

11 (No comments)

12

13 CHAIRMAN SAM: Other agencies and  
14 groups. I see Warren Eastland, did you have anything?

15

16 MR. EASTLAND: No, sir.

17

18 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay, thank you. Any  
19 other agencies or groups.

20

21 (No comments)

22

23 CHAIRMAN SAM: If not, we'll take a  
24 five minute break and then go into Council business.

25

26 (Off record)

27

28 (On record)

29

30 CHAIRMAN SAM: Before all the Staff  
31 leaves I'd like to give you a heartfelt thanks, thank  
32 you for being here and making your presentations.

33

34 (Pause)

35

36 Call the meeting back to order.

37

38 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman. We've got  
39 a couple of housekeeping things. Those that really  
40 haven't paid for breakfast, either to the cook or  
41 haven't paid at all need to get that money to Tina, or  
42 Salena, here next to me because the cook is paid out of  
43 that. So we need to make sure that the food's paid for  
44 for breakfast. Everything else is settled out.

45

46 For your lodging, that's being done  
47 through the tribal council so do not worry about that,  
48 you don't need to do anything with lodging. And if you  
49 have any questions on travel, do get a hold of me, but  
50 Ray and Winchell are going to catch their plane tonight

1 at 6:00 o'clock, so just so you know.

2

3 CHAIRMAN SAM: Benedict.

4

5 MR. JONES: Yeah, I just wanted to  
6 demonstrate to the Koyukuk School Project, you'll see a  
7 pair of gloves back there, the beadwork, my wife do the  
8 sewing class each Wednesday, so this little boy made  
9 these gloves.

10

11 Thank you.

12

13 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you.

14

15 (Applause)

16

17 CHAIRMAN SAM: Vince, with the charter  
18 going out tonight and everything else, there's a change  
19 in Robert's travel and Carl's, I believe, is there an  
20 earlier flight for me, I think I have a 3:50 or  
21 something?

22

23 MR. MATHEWS: No, there's no earlier  
24 flights. Carl's travel hasn't changed. Robert's was  
25 to go to Board of Game and he's not. And then Winchell  
26 and Ray has a charter and that's the only thing. All  
27 the planes today, commercially are not available. So  
28 your regular scheduled flights for tomorrow remain.

29

30 CHAIRMAN SAM: Is that at 3:50, do you  
31 remember?

32

33 MR. MATHEWS: Yeah, for you it's 3:50  
34 and I haven't memorized -- everyone else I think is --  
35 by memory is 7:55 -- check with me because if you're on  
36 the 7:55 and you think you're on the 10:20 well you  
37 missed it, but I do have all your records here. But  
38 whatever I sent you earlier is in effect.

39

40 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay, thank you. I'll  
41 check with you a little later then.

42

43 Okay, the last item on the agenda 13,  
44 Lucky 13, Regional Council business.

45

46 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman. The first  
47 one there is just the charter update, you know, that's  
48 your organic document, this is just a copy of the one  
49 that was signed off in October of 2005, there's no  
50 action item. We put it in all of the books, each of

1 the Council's charters so you know your charter's been  
2 approved.

3  
4 That's all that's there.

5  
6 So that brings you up to election of  
7 officers.

8  
9 CHAIRMAN SAM: Mr. Chairman.

10  
11 MR. WALKER: You're a Chairman now.

12  
13 (Laughter)

14  
15 MR. MATHEWS: I'm the Chairman.

16  
17 MR. WALKER: He said, Mr. Chairman.

18  
19 (Laughter)

20  
21 CHAIRMAN SAM: Interim.

22  
23 MR. MATHEWS: Oh, yeah, I can be  
24 interim if you so desire.

25  
26 CHAIRMAN SAM: Go ahead.

27  
28 MR. MATHEWS: Whoa. Okay.

29  
30 (Laughter)

31  
32 MR. MATHEWS: That opens up the

33 nominations from the floor, and generally you guys

34 start with the office of Chair for the Council. So is

35 there any nominations from the floor for Chair.

36  
37 MR. WALKER: Thank you, Vince. I'd  
38 like to nominate Ron Sam for Chair person.

39  
40 MR. REAKOFF: Second.

41  
42 MR. MATHEWS: Is there any other  
43 nominations from the floor.

44  
45 (No comments)

46  
47 MR. MATHEWS: Then hearing no

48 nominations I don't remember the flowing words on it,

49 but then you're now appointed to be Chair because there  
50 was no other nominations from the floor.

1 CHAIRMAN SAM: I don't know whether  
2 to.....  
3  
4 MR. WALKER: You have to accept it.  
5  
6 MR. JONES: Too late.  
7  
8 (Laughter)  
9  
10 CHAIRMAN SAM: I don't know whether I  
11 like this procedure or not.  
12  
13 (Laughter)  
14  
15 CHAIRMAN SAM: But before we came up to  
16 this business I spoke with Robert and Carl and Jack  
17 extensively and there was no way that I was going to  
18 say no to them, they wanted me to represent the Western  
19 Interior since I was elected to serve at the State  
20 Board of Game. They both can't make it so I agreed to  
21 serve as Chair at least until the Ruby meeting, which  
22 is our fall meeting. So with that I would like to  
23 express my heartfelt thanks and thank you for all your  
24 trust and respect for reappointing me.  
25  
26 Thank you.  
27  
28 Go ahead, keep going Vince.  
29  
30 MR. MATHEWS: Okay, the next position  
31 would be as Vice Chair, are there any nominations from  
32 the floor for Vice Chair.  
33  
34 CHAIRMAN SAM: I nominate Jack Reakoff.  
35  
36 MR. MORGAN: I make a motion to close  
37 nominations.  
38  
39 CHAIRMAN SAM: Is there a second.  
40  
41 MR. WALKER: Second.  
42  
43 MR. TICKNOR: I'll second.  
44  
45 CHAIRMAN SAM: All those in favor,  
46 signify by saying aye.  
47  
48 IN UNISON: Aye.  
49  
50 CHAIRMAN SAM: Opposed, same sign.

1 (No opposing votes)  
2  
3 CHAIRMAN SAM: Congratulations, Jack,  
4 any words.  
5  
6 MR. REAKOFF: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.  
7 Thanks for your vote of confidence and for Vice Chair,  
8 I work with Ron to lighten his load as much as I can.  
9 I told Ron I'd try and lighten that a little more.  
10 There's a lot of phone calls, and Ray Collins used to  
11 be Chair, and there's a lot of stuff that goes on with  
12 this Chairmanship and I know the stresses that he would  
13 have. So I'm willing to pull a little harder on  
14 working with Vince and the Staff on some of these Staff  
15 Committee meetings and stuff on the phone, so thank  
16 you.  
17  
18 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Jack.  
19 Because you saw us in the corner, I told him if I  
20 accepted this Chairmanship again that he would have to  
21 pull a bigger work load, he accepted that, I really  
22 appreciate that because these teleconferences, I expect  
23 to be working all summer again and I'll be unavailable  
24 for teleconferences, travel. But Vince knows me pretty  
25 well, I go to work at 7:00 or 8:00, he calls me about a  
26 half an hour before I go to work or a half an hour  
27 after I get off work, so we have a line of  
28 communication, and Jack and I call each other at all  
29 times, it doesn't matter if it's night or early  
30 mornings, we know each other's schedule pretty good.  
31 So I really appreciate Jack's acceptance of more work  
32 load and his acceptance again as Vice Chair.  
33  
34 With that, Vince.  
35  
36 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman. The next  
37 position is secretary, which is basically a back up as  
38 you work through availability. So is there nominations  
39 from the floor for secretary.  
40  
41 MR. REAKOFF: I nominate Ray Collins.  
42  
43 MR. WALKER: Do you accept Ray?  
44  
45 MR. COLLINS: Yes.  
46  
47 MR. WALKER: I make a motion  
48 nominations be closed.  
49  
50 CHAIRMAN SAM: Is there a second.

1 MR. MORGAN: Second.  
2  
3 CHAIRMAN SAM: Seconded by Carl Morgan.  
4 All those in favor of the motion, signify by saying  
5 aye.  
6  
7 IN UNISON: Aye.  
8  
9 CHAIRMAN SAM: Opposed, same sign.  
10  
11 (No opposing votes)  
12  
13 CHAIRMAN SAM: Motion carried.  
14  
15 MR. COLLINS: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
16 And I was just going to congratulate you for taking it  
17 again and saying I'll help wherever I can if I'm  
18 needed, so thanks.  
19  
20 CHAIRMAN SAM: I'm floating already.  
21  
22 (Laughter)  
23  
24 CHAIRMAN SAM: You know where the work  
25 load's coming from -- going to.  
26  
27 (Laughter)  
28  
29 CHAIRMAN SAM: So just a letter of  
30 gratitude to Mickey Stickman and let him know that we  
31 also didn't do this just because he's not here, it's  
32 just that we're lightening the work load and we know  
33 that Mickey's already overloaded as Gana-A-Yoo  
34 President and all the other committees and everything  
35 else that he's on. I believe that he is also running  
36 for Vice Chair of Tanana Chiefs, which will deeply  
37 affect his work load, it will probably take all his  
38 time and with Jack and Ray on board I think they will  
39 really lighten the work load as we foresee.  
40  
41 Thank you, Ray. I sure appreciate your  
42 acceptance.  
43  
44 MR. COLLINS: You're welcome, Mr.  
45 Chair.  
46  
47 CHAIRMAN SAM: We now have the  
48 appointments of the Subsistence Resource Commissions,  
49 who do we have on line, anybody?  
50

1 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman. I always  
2 put that down there, there are none that are up. Your  
3 appointment is to Gates of the Arctic and that's  
4 Polluck Simon and I believe you did that the last  
5 round. So there's none there.

6  
7 The Yukon Coordinating Fishery  
8 Committee you could take up now or wait. Right now  
9 your present members are Mr. Walker and Mr. Jones. And  
10 Mr. Jones will be serving one more meeting, so you  
11 could wait until then to look at the Coordinating  
12 Fishery Committee.

13  
14 CHAIRMAN SAM: The Chair will entertain  
15 a motion to accept Robert Walker and Benedict Jones.

16  
17 MR. REAKOFF: So moved.

18  
19 CHAIRMAN SAM: Is there a second.

20  
21 MR. TICKNOR: I'll second.

22  
23 CHAIRMAN SAM: All those in favor of  
24 the motion signify by saying aye.

25  
26 IN UNISON: Aye.

27  
28 CHAIRMAN SAM: Opposed, same sign.

29  
30 (No opposing votes)

31  
32 CHAIRMAN SAM: Motion carried. Vince.

33  
34 MR. MATHEWS: Okay, Mr. Chairman, the  
35 only other ones I know and I haven't had a chance to  
36 talk to Benedict about this so I apologize for that.  
37 Western Arctic Caribou Herd, you serve on that, I  
38 believe, as an appointment from this Council; is that  
39 -- no one's contacted me from the State but I don't  
40 know if there needs to be any action done on that.

41  
42 CHAIRMAN SAM: If my memory serves me  
43 correctly -- this meeting's got to be over pretty soon  
44 -- he was appointed by the Council, and I would like to  
45 know his stand at this time, whether he would like to  
46 continue for the present.

47  
48 Benedict.

49  
50 MR. JONES: Yeah, I asked my Middle

1 Yukon Advisory, they appointed me too, so they  
2 recommend my appointment, and the last meeting we had  
3 and they said I was appointed for lifetime.

4  
5 (Laughter)

6  
7 CHAIRMAN SAM: Congratulations.

8  
9 (Laughter)

10  
11 CHAIRMAN SAM: So it doesn't appear we  
12 have any actions that need to be taken.

13  
14 MR. MATHEWS: No.

15  
16 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay, great. Vince.

17  
18 MR. MATHEWS: Okay, that brings us up  
19 to and it's in your folder if you want to look at it, I  
20 usually give you a summary of all the correspondence,  
21 so it's in there if you want copies of the letters I  
22 have most of them present here and I have the rest in  
23 the office. So they're in your packet if there's any  
24 questions, it's No. 5 in your packet.

25  
26 MR. COLLINS: Mr. Chair, I had a  
27 question, though, do we continue on the fisheries,  
28 because I'm on the Kuskokwim, I'm wondering if those  
29 are annual or what?

30  
31 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, Ray, I'm sorry about  
32 that. There is the Kuskokwim. The Kuskokwim runs a  
33 little bit differently. The Kuskokwim has a working  
34 group which Ray has been a keystone member of, in that  
35 we really haven't used the Coordinating Fishery  
36 Committee that much. But in light of Ray's position on  
37 there, I don't know if the Council wants to reappoint  
38 him or reaffirm his position on the working group, so  
39 the State understands that he continues to represent  
40 the Western Council as well as -- I can't remember who  
41 is YK, but anyways, is it Bob Aloysius, I don't know.

42  
43 MR. COLLINS: I think so, yes.

44  
45 MR. MATHEWS: Yeah. There's two  
46 members -- two seats were assigned on the Kuskokwim  
47 Working Group for the Regional Council. Your seat is  
48 Ray Collins because it was Ray and Carl who were on the  
49 Coordinating Committee.

50

1 MR. COLLINS: Carl was my back up,  
2 yeah.  
3  
4 MR. MORGAN: Yeah, I don't mind, I'll  
5 be Ray Collins' back up.  
6  
7 (Laughter)  
8  
9 CHAIRMAN SAM: The Chair will entertain  
10 a motion to accept Ray Collins and Carl Morgan as the  
11 Kuskokwim Fisheries Coordinating Group.  
12  
13 MR. WALKER: I'll move.  
14  
15 MR. TICKNOR: I second.  
16  
17 MR. WALKER: Question.  
18  
19 CHAIRMAN SAM: Who moved, Tina?  
20 Robert?  
21  
22 REPORTER: (Nods affirmatively)  
23  
24 MR. WALKER: Yes.  
25  
26 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay, Robert. All those  
27 in favor of the motion, 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. Thank  
36 you, Ray.  
37  
38 MR. MATHEWS: Gee, I already by  
39 accident covered the next topic which is your  
40 correspondence so if there's any questions on that, you  
41 can let me know at this time.  
42  
43 (No comments)  
44  
45 MR. MATHEWS: So that would move us up  
46 to something that's not on the agenda but I want to use  
47 this moment, with your indulgence, we did three  
48 different things this meeting and I just want to get  
49 your feedbacks on it so I can prepare the next agenda.  
50

1                   One was having agency reports prior to  
2 your deliberations on proposals only if they related to  
3 issues within those proposals, did that work, do you  
4 want us to continue that?

5  
6                   CHAIRMAN SAM: By all means, because  
7 they were efficient in their presentation, they  
8 enlightened us before our deliberations and I  
9 appreciate that.

10  
11                   Because one of our concerns before was  
12 that we have Staff sitting out there in our audience  
13 and not utilizing them until the very end so I think  
14 that approach has really beared its fruit. I would  
15 like to see that continued with the consensus of the  
16 Council.

17  
18                   IN UNISON: Yes.

19  
20                   CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay.

21  
22                   MR. MATHEWS: Okay. The next item is,  
23 this time we used quite a bit, the PowerPoint  
24 presentations, I realize they were to your back, but  
25 has that been effective for you and should we continue  
26 to allow PowerPoints and maybe even encourage them. So  
27 I'd like some input on that.

28  
29                   For those on line, they couldn't see  
30 them.

31  
32                   CHAIRMAN SAM: I think they are very  
33 effective and we could pick and choose what we want to  
34 be presented at the village. I have already met with  
35 Wennona Brown and Boomer on how to approach that Avian  
36 Flu stuff, they will be along with both Refuges, will  
37 be working on delivering the message out to the local  
38 villages. I sure appreciated that PowerPoint. It's  
39 just that the bleachers were there, we could have put  
40 it on that wall, but we'll overlook it for this  
41 meeting.

42  
43                   MR. MATHEWS: Okay. The last item is  
44 just any comments about teleconferencing Staff in or  
45 teleconferencing in general so we can program that into  
46 our next agenda. Any thoughts on teleconferencing.

47  
48                   CHAIRMAN SAM: I looked automatically  
49 at Jack because I can't recall where this.....

50

1 MR. MATHEWS: No, I meant for your  
2 meeting, that you regularly have teleconferencing. We  
3 will have these small teleconferences with the Council  
4 leadership as issues develop, I mean on the agenda as  
5 we run a meeting.

6  
7 CHAIRMAN SAM: I think this is the  
8 first time it has worked effectively, and to be honest  
9 we feel -- kind of enjoyed talking with Pete DeMatteo  
10 along with Mickey Stickman and Don Rivard so if they  
11 can't be here, I personally would like to see that  
12 continued.

13  
14 Does everybody concur.

15  
16 (Council nods affirmatively)

17  
18 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay.

19  
20 MR. MATHEWS: And then finally the  
21 fourth one would be generally you have a policy to  
22 write a letter of thank you to the village council and  
23 the school  
24 here. I assume you would still want that to go forward  
25 this round because they really bent over backwards for  
26 this meeting.

27  
28 CHAIRMAN SAM: I think that it has been  
29 effective. I know a lot of people, like the people of  
30 Allakaket, they keep asking me, when are you coming  
31 back, bring that group back and stuff like that. I  
32 think that we should do that, continue that.

33  
34 Consensus.

35  
36 MR. REAKOFF: Yes.

37  
38 (Council nods affirmatively)

39  
40 MR. MATHEWS: Those were all the topics  
41 that I have that I wanted just your input on.

42  
43 Then gets into the topic that hasn't  
44 always worked well, is that if you have any topics that  
45 you would like your Chair or his designee to take to  
46 the Board meeting, this would be a time to share them  
47 or up until the time they go to the Board meeting. So  
48 if you know if any topics. The Chairs meet with the  
49 Board at the end of the Board meeting and they can  
50 bring up issues. So this would be a time to share as

1 well as you can call your Chair up until the Board  
2 meeting

3

4 CHAIRMAN SAM: If you are talking about  
5 the Federal Subsistence Board, they haven't been doing  
6 that lately so I think the point is moot at this time.  
7 We did not meet before and we did not meet after, so I  
8 think the point is moot at this time.

9

10 MR. MATHEWS: Well, that opportunity  
11 still remains there so if anybody has a topic that  
12 comes up that you would like the representative to  
13 present, because I'm looking at the Staff Committee  
14 people, I believe that's still in the agenda at the  
15 meetings, right -- yeah. So if there is some that's  
16 at the end of the -- towards the end of the meeting.

17

18 (No comments)

19

20 MR. MATHEWS: The next one is you need  
21 to look at Page 251, to help out, that is the calendar  
22 and hopefully I filled it out for -- okay, if we look  
23 at the upcoming fall meeting, basically we need  
24 confirmation that you still want to meet in Ruby on  
25 October 11th and 12th.

26

27 Again, Donald's not here, Donald Honea,  
28 Jr., but he was present when you assigned this location  
29 and dates, and so I assume it's still valid.

30

31 CHAIRMAN SAM: It's not only valid it  
32 is imperative that we meet there. Because we cannot  
33 meet there in March because of the Iditarod so it is  
34 imperative that we meet there this fall. We've been  
35 trying to meet there for what, a good last three years,  
36 so I would like to keep that as a positive.

37

38 MR. REAKOFF: Mr. Chairman.

39

40 MR. MATHEWS: Okay, and it still would  
41 be October 11th and 12th.

42

43 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yes. Jack.

44

45 MR. REAKOFF: Mr. Chairman. Yes, I  
46 agree that we need to have a meeting in Ruby. You  
47 know, there's special action requests for moose, this  
48 21(B) moose question, I think we need to have a meeting  
49 up there and really meet with these people and find out  
50 what their concerns are. It will be after this Board

1 of Game of game decision and so it will be an  
2 opportunity to get good public comment.

3

4 CHAIRMAN SAM: Vince.

5

6 MR. MATHEWS: Okay, then that brings us  
7 up, because you plan a year in advance, so a year from  
8 now, when would you like to meet and where would you  
9 like to meet. Right now all the knowledge I have is  
10 that Bristol Bay is meeting February 20th, 21st. North  
11 Slope is meeting March 1 and 2. And maybe Don, I  
12 didn't capture when Yukon-Kuskokwim is meeting a year  
13 from now so maybe Don has that information.

14

15 So why do we do that, it's so if you  
16 select the same dates as Yukon-Kuskokwim, the Staff  
17 that serves Yukon-Kuskokwim serves this Council so they  
18 can't be in two places at once. So I don't have those  
19 dates, so maybe Don has those dates for YK.

20

21 MR. RIVARD: Yes, I do, Vince. They  
22 have picked March 15th and 16th in Hooper Bay.

23

24 MR. MATHEWS: Okay, thank you. So  
25 those are the dates that I know of for now. So when  
26 would be a good time for you guys to meet a year from  
27 now and then where?

28

29 MR. COLLINS: Mr. Chair.

30

31 CHAIRMAN SAM: Ray.

32

33 MR. COLLINS: I'd like to look sometime  
34 in March again because, just an example, flying over  
35 here the fact that the days are a little longer now and  
36 the weather's a little better. February's kind of bad,  
37 sometimes it's cold or snowing. So I don't know if  
38 there's an opportunity between the two March meetings,  
39 the first one was March 1 or 2 or something like that,  
40 maybe between that and the 15/16th somewhere.

41

42 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Ray. I would  
43 like to meet in March, too, but it would have to be  
44 March 6th and 7th or in that area because our meeting  
45 here was too darn close to the State Board of Game and  
46 too darn close to the Tanana Chiefs Conference meeting,  
47 Doyon Meeting. So I'd like to at least a week between  
48 the Western Interior meeting and Tanana Chiefs  
49 Conference meeting. Because we have a lot of delegates  
50 that usually go there, Robert was one of them that was

1 going, so I'd like it a little further ahead of time  
2 than.....

3  
4 MR. MATHEWS: So it sounds like it  
5 would be March 6, 7, the week of.

6  
7 CHAIRMAN SAM: Or somewhere in that  
8 area, it's up to the Council.

9  
10 MR. MATHEWS: Okay, any ideas on  
11 location.

12  
13 CHAIRMAN SAM: McGrath, Ruby.

14  
15 MR. WALKER: Can't go to Ruby twice.

16  
17 CHAIRMAN SAM: I mean, no, McGrath,  
18 Ruby, Nulato automatically out because they're hosting  
19 so many people because of the Iditarod so we'll have to  
20 choose some other place.

21  
22 MR. MATHEWS: The only suggestions I've  
23 heard coming here, Galena or possibly Nikolai. So  
24 those are options. Galena, there is no Council member  
25 there but it's a larger community and it's an option.

26  
27 MR. REAKOFF: Mr. Chairman.

28  
29 CHAIRMAN SAM: Jack.

30  
31 MR. REAKOFF: Mr. Chairman. I would  
32 prefer to have a meeting down in the lower part of  
33 region, down around Aniak. I think that, you know, we  
34 haven't been done in that area for awhile. And so  
35 we've been having meetings in this middle Yukon area  
36 consecutively and so I feel that having a meeting down  
37 at, not Aniak per se, but down in that lower area, part  
38 of the region would be a good idea.

39  
40 CHAIRMAN SAM: I concur.

41  
42 MR. MATHEWS: Well, is there any  
43 suggestions because when we've done this before, we're  
44 kind of inviting ourselves to a community, it kind of  
45 helps me if I have a name, you know.

46  
47 MR. MORGAN: A formal invitation.

48  
49 MR. MATHEWS: Well, it doesn't have to  
50 be a formal invitation, no, it just -- usually we try

1 to go where Council members are and then we have to ask  
2 the community if they want to host the meeting.

3

4 MR. MORGAN: I'll talk to my wife.  
5 She's the tribal administrator so I think she'll send  
6 you a letter of invitation, okay.

7

8 MR. MATHEWS: So that would be Aniak  
9 then?

10

11 MR. MORGAN: Yes. Okay, how's that.

12

13 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yeah, we got one year to  
14 work on that, Carl. Aniak March 6th and 7th, somewhere  
15 around that area.

16

17 MR. WALKER: Aniak would be okay for  
18 me.

19

20 CHAIRMAN SAM: Consensus.

21

22 MR. JONES: That will do.

23

24 CHAIRMAN SAM: Ray.

25

26 MR. COLLINS: Yeah.

27

28 (Council nods affirmatively)

29

30 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay.

31

32 MR. MATHEWS: Okay, that just brings us  
33 up to and we already did that, this agenda is made so  
34 far in advance, and, well, I don't know if we did it,  
35 but the recognition of Benedict Jones' service was done  
36 the other night so that's the next agenda item.

37

38 So I'll leave that up to you, Mr.  
39 Chair, and then closing comments.

40

41 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yes, we still have one  
42 more meeting to recognize Benedict so I'd like to do it  
43 then, again. I really wanted to recognize him and thank  
44 him while we were at his home community so that's when  
45 I asked Vince to go ahead and get that plaque so we  
46 could present it to Benedict while he's here at home.

47

48 So at this time before I go any  
49 further, I would like to ask Eliza Jones, if she would  
50 like to say a few words to us or do you want to testify

1 or anything before us.  
2  
3 DR. JONES: Right there.  
4  
5 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yeah, Tim, turn it on  
6 for her please.  
7  
8 CINDY: Dr. Eliza Jones.  
9  
10 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yes.  
11  
12 DR. JONES: I wasn't planning to say  
13 anything, I came in here as audience. But thank you  
14 for inviting me and thank you very much for coming to  
15 Koyukuk. I think the village really appreciated it.  
16 And I'd like to thank the community for going all out  
17 and welcoming you and hope you have a safe trip home  
18 and always keep up the good work and thank you, again.  
19  
20 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Eliza. Give  
21 her special recognition, she is Dr. Eliza Jones.  
22  
23 (Applause)  
24  
25 CHAIRMAN SAM: I believe this brings us  
26 up to closing comments. This time I'll start on the  
27 right, are you ready Ray.  
28  
29 MR. COLLINS: Yeah, thank you, Mr.  
30 Chairman. I'd like to thank the community, it's been a  
31 good meeting. I thank Eliza and Ben for hosting me, I  
32 enjoyed our visit there.  
33  
34 And I think it was a good meeting all  
35 the way around, so thank you.  
36  
37 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Ray.  
38 Winchell.  
39  
40 MR. TICKNOR: Yeah, this is my first  
41 meeting and I really learned a lot. I really enjoyed  
42 my visit to Koyukuk, this is my first time. And I'd  
43 really like to thank the place I stayed with Bob Albert  
44 and his family, thank you to them for putting me up,  
45 and thank you to all village council members for  
46 getting us -- having lunch with them today and enjoyed  
47 listening to them. And I thank everybody for this  
48 meeting. thank you.  
49  
50 CHAIRMAN SAM: Jack.

1 MR. REAKOFF: I want to thank Koyukuk  
2 for hosting this meeting. I think that we had a good  
3 meeting here and it was good to hear comments from the  
4 public on issues in this part of our region, and I hope  
5 that some of our resolutions and so forth can help  
6 address some of the concerns that we heard expressed  
7 here.

8  
9 I want to thank Ben and Eliza for  
10 letting us stay over at their grandson's little cabin  
11 and all the good food that we had here and all the good  
12 turnout here, and so I really appreciate that.

13  
14 Thank you.

15  
16 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Jack.  
17 Benedict.

18  
19 MR. JONES: Yeah, I want to thank the  
20 Staff and the Council members for coming here. I'm  
21 really pleased to host the meeting here. It's the  
22 first time that the Western Interior Council and Staff  
23 members come to Koyukuk and it gave us the  
24 encouragement to carry on a meeting in the future  
25 again. We didn't think that we would handle you  
26 peoples with all the accommodation and housing and  
27 stuff like that but we pulled through. This gives us  
28 kind of preparation for our Denakkanaaga meeting this  
29 spring, so I think we can handle that. And I want to  
30 thank the Staff and the Council members for coming  
31 here.

32  
33 Thank you.

34  
35 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Benedict.  
36 That's just what I was going to say, give you some  
37 practice before the bigger meeting comes down here.

38  
39 Robert.

40  
41 MR. WALKER: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I'd  
42 like to thank the Staff for being here. Vince. Tina.  
43 And Doctor, sitting over there to the far, to the left,  
44 and Benedict. It's always nice to come back to  
45 Koyukuk, I haven't been here in 30 years, so it was  
46 nice to be here. And I'm thankful for all this good  
47 food that we've had for the last two and a half days.  
48 I thank the tribal council for inviting us over there  
49 to their meeting.

50

1 I'd like to thank Mr. Bob Nicholas for  
2 sitting here for two days, he's from Kaltag here, too,  
3 he wants to learn a little bit about how this Western  
4 Interior functions.

5  
6 I want to thank Ron, again, for taking  
7 the Chairman and to Vince and Ray. I know Ron is going  
8 to have a job on his hands when he gets up to Fairbanks  
9 for testifying here. He's already familiar, him and  
10 Jack and Ray are already familiar with testifying on  
11 the proposals, to support, not to support and so forth.  
12 And Ben's got one more meeting to go so I'm not going  
13 to tell him goodbye just yet.

14  
15 (Laughter)

16  
17 MR. WALKER: So I'm looking forward to  
18 going to Ruby. Thanks, again, Staff, guests. And one  
19 last thing, William and Cindy for putting me up at  
20 their house.

21  
22 Thank you.

23  
24 CHAIRMAN SAM: Go ahead, Carl.

25  
26 MR. MORGAN: I'd like to reiterate what  
27 everybody say. I'm not going to repeat because I'll be  
28 saying the same thing they did. I'm glad I came here,  
29 you guys -- this village has given me a real good  
30 reception and a real good insight on where they stand  
31 on Proposal 144, that's a big plus to you because I  
32 hear a lot of testimony from you that I wouldn't be  
33 able to hear if I went up to Fairbanks, so I'm just  
34 glad I was here to hear all that. And then, you know,  
35 it just gives me that much more ammunition or get me  
36 that much more informed.

37  
38 And so with that, I'd like to say thank  
39 you to Ben, and his wife, Doctor, for putting us up,  
40 and cutting wood.

41  
42 MR. WALKER: Cutting wood.

43  
44 MR. MORGAN: And cutting wood. Could  
45 you imagine he's cutting wood for us.

46  
47 (Laughter)

48  
49 MR. MORGAN: Just thank you very much.

50

1 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Carl.

2

3 First of all I would like to thank  
4 Percy and Lori, they're sitting up at the top row for  
5 putting me up, it was really good, I had the whole  
6 front of the house to myself, except for a cat maybe  
7 that slept by my foot. And, again, I would like to  
8 thank the village of Koyukuk for hosting us.

9

10 One format you noticed today that I  
11 would like to see either pursued or asked about,  
12 because we usually hold evening sessions to hear the  
13 local people and their concerns. Today I think we went  
14 one step further, we actually met with the village  
15 council of the village of Koyukuk and we still had time  
16 to finish our business. So if the local councils that  
17 want to meet with us, such as we did with Koyukuk  
18 Tribal Council today, I would be more than willing to  
19 sit down with them if and when they want us to because  
20 I think that we develop new ties, new friendships and  
21 everything with the Koyukuk Tribal Council, we met them  
22 all individually and I think our meeting was successful  
23 on identifying where we're trying to go on some  
24 proposals.

25

26 Another thing I would like to mention  
27 is that have been talking with Bobby Nicholas. I was  
28 glad that he's been sitting here throughout the  
29 meeting, in Kaltag he wasn't chosen by the council to  
30 come up here and sit in, he did it on his own. I'm  
31 trying to get him interested enough to sign up for  
32 Benedict's seat or something like that so I'm glad that  
33 he's still here. I hope you hear me. Because when we  
34 try to fill these seats it's kind of different but all  
35 you do is fill out a sheet and turn it in to Vince and  
36 then it goes forward from there. It gave me great  
37 pleasure to see a young person like that spend all two  
38 days, two full days sitting there in the audience and  
39 taking it all in.

40

41 Again, I would like to thank the Staff.  
42 I think that the new format of the Staff making their  
43 presentations on proposal-related issues beforehand  
44 gave us more insight and I would like to see that  
45 continued.

46

47 Again, thank you all, thank Western  
48 Interior Council members for reappointing me as Chair.  
49 It makes me happy inside, I know it's work but I have  
50 two right-hand men that are both sitting on the right

1 side, Jack and Ray, they'll take a big load off my  
2 shoulders, so thank you all. And I hope all the Staff  
3 will have a safe trip home, too.

4  
5 Thank you all.

6  
7 MR. COLLINS: Mr. Chair.

8  
9 CHAIRMAN SAM: Ray.

10  
11 MR. COLLINS: What's going to happen  
12 with the empty seat with Tom Kriska because he would  
13 have three more meetings, is somebody going to be  
14 appointed to that?

15  
16 CHAIRMAN SAM: Vince.

17  
18 MR. MATHEWS: Yeah, that's going to be  
19 taken up in this year's nomination process.

20  
21 MR. COLLINS: Okay, thank you.

22  
23 CHAIRMAN SAM: Any other questions.

24  
25 (No comments)

26  
27 CHAIRMAN SAM: The Chair will entertain  
28 a motion to adjourn.

29  
30 MR. REAKOFF: So moved.

31  
32 CHAIRMAN SAM: Jack.

33  
34 MR. WALKER: Second.

35  
36 CHAIRMAN SAM: Jack and Robert. All  
37 those in favor, signify by saying aye.

38  
39 IN UNISON: Aye.

40  
41 CHAIRMAN SAM: Opposed, same sign.

42  
43 (No opposing votes)

44  
45 CHAIRMAN SAM: Motion carried. We are  
46 adjourned. Thank you all for bearing with us.

47  
48 (Applause)

49  
50 (Off record) (END OF PROCEEDINGS)

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C E R T I F I C A T E

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA )  
 )ss.  
STATE OF ALASKA )

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DATED at Anchorage, Alaska, this 28th day of March 2006.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Joseph P. Kolasinski  
Notary Public in and for Alaska  
My Commission Expires: 03/12/08