

WESTERN INTERIOR SUBSISTENCE REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL  
PUBLIC MEETING  
October 8, 1997  
9:00 a.m.  
Chamai Center  
McGrath, Alaska

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

Raymond Collins, Chair  
Ronald Sam, Member  
Jack L. Reakoff, Member  
Henry Deacon, Member  
William Derendoff, Member  
Angela O. Demientieff, Member  
Benedict Jones, Member  
Carl Morgan, Member

Vince Mathews, Coordinator

002

P R O C E E D I N G S

1  
2

(On record - 9:10 a.m.)

3  
4  
5

CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Call to order, 9:10. And ask for roll call?

6  
7  
8

MR. MATHEWS: Sure. Let me grab my book. For everybody here, we're not going to have a sound system, so we're going to have to kind of speak up. We'll have -- you'll be recorded, but people won't hear you if you speak softly.

9  
10  
11

Let me get my list here. Okay. Ray Collins?

12  
13  
14

CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Here.

15  
16  
17

MR. MATHEWS: Benedict Jones?

18  
19  
20

MR. JONES: Here.

21  
22  
23

MR. MATHEWS: Henry Deacon?

24  
25  
26

MR. DEACON: Here.

27  
28  
29

MR. MATHEWS: Jack Reakoff?

30  
31  
32

MR. REAKOFF: Here.

33  
34  
35

MR. MATHEWS: Carl Morgan?

36  
37  
38

MR. MORGAN: Yes.

39  
40  
41

MR. MATHEWS: Gail Vanderpool is not present. William Derendoff?

42  
43  
44

MR. DERENDOFF: Here.

45  
46  
47

MR. MATHEWS: Angela Demientieff?

48  
49  
50

MS. A. DEMIENTIEFF: Here.

51  
52  
53

MR. MATHEWS: Ronald Sam?

54  
55  
56

MR. SAM: Here.

57  
58  
59

MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, we have eight out of the nine, so we definitely have a quorum.

60  
61  
62

CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Okay. Would you go ahead and

63  
64  
65

50 introduce -- well, I'll let the Council members introduce

003

1 themselves I think, although we're mostly known here. Let's  
2 start with Jack?

3

4 MR. REAKOFF: I'm Jack Reakoff, I live at Wiseman in  
5 the Upper Koyukuk River.

6

7 MR. SAM: I'm Ronald Sam, I'm from the Village of  
8 Alatna and also a current member of the Koyukuk River Advisory  
9 Committee, so it's a pleasure to be here.

10

11 MR. JONES: Benedict Jones, Koyukuk, and just recently  
12 appointed to the board.

13

14 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: I'm Ray Collins. My home is here in  
15 McGrath, the current chair.

16

17 MR. DEACON: Henry Deacon, Grayling.

18

19 MR. MORGAN: Carl Morgan from Aniak, and I'm just  
20 recently appointed.

21

22 MR. DERENDOFF: William Derendoff, Huslia.

23

24 MS. A. DEMIENTIEFF: Angela Demientieff, Holy Cross.

25

26 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Yeah, go ahead.....

27

28 MR. MATHEWS: I'm Vince.....

29

30 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: and proceed with staff.

31

32 MR. MATHEWS: Okay. I'm Vince Mathews, Regional  
33 Coordinator for Western and Eastern Interior with Fish &  
34 Wildlife Service.

35

36 MR. SHERROD: I'm George Sherrod, the anthropologist  
37 with Fish & Wildlife.

38

39 MS. DOWNING: Meredith Downing, R & R Court Reporters,  
40 recording the meeting.

41

42 MR. YOKEL: Dave Yokel with the BLM, Northern District  
43 in Fairbanks.

44

45 MR. DENTON: I'm Jeff Denton with BLM out of the  
46 Anchorage District out of Anchorage.

47

48 MR. WILLIAMS: Gene Williams, U.S. Fish & Wildlife  
49 Service, Galena, a recent transfer employee to the area, coming

50 from the Lower 48.

1 MR. EARLY: I'm Tom Early, Manager of Kanuti National  
2 Wildlife Refuge.

3  
4 MS. MORGAN: Angela Morgan, Natural Resources for the  
5 Kuskokwim Native Association in Aniak.

6  
7 MS. C. DEMIENTIEFF: Clara Demientieff, Acting  
8 Subregional Director for the Tanana Chiefs Conference.

9  
10 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Thank you. We at this point,  
11 normally we ask an elder to give some comments, and we hadn't  
12 chosen anyone from the community. Normally we would -- the  
13 subregional director of Tanana Chiefs, Ernest Holmberg would be  
14 here, but unfortunately he passed away this fall, and I'd like  
15 to add his name down for a moment of silence that will be  
16 coming up shortly, too, for Ernest Holmberg. He's been quite a  
17 loss to the community, and he's been very active in all aspects  
18 of subsistence and native affairs.

19  
20 I want to welcome you to McGrath then. Henry reminded  
21 me that I'm approaching elder status, so I guess I can.....

22  
23 MR. SAM: Approaching.

24  
25 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: And I guess I am getting a little  
26 grayer on the roof up here. But we want to welcome you to  
27 McGrath. We hope you enjoy your stay here. I'm sure you'll  
28 enjoy the hospitality and the food at the Takusko House. It's  
29 pretty hard to beat. And we're just glad that you're all here.  
30 I hope that during the process of our meeting, you'll have  
31 members of the community that will stop in. There will be a  
32 class from school tomorrow that will be over here to listen to  
33 part of our deliberations. I will recognize them when they  
34 come in. So welcome to McGrath.

35  
36 Let's just pause then for a moment of silence. I don't  
37 know Edgar. Does anyone have comments on Edgar?

38  
39 MR. MATHEWS: Yes. In your book there's a little bit  
40 of his background. Very little. But maybe someone else knows  
41 Edgar.

42  
43 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Anyone here familiar with.....

44  
45 MR. SAM: No. I'd just like to say a few words for  
46 Ernest Holmberg when.....

47  
48 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Sure.

49



1 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Right now would be fine. Is there  
2 -- first, is there any other -- any comments on Edgar?

3  
4 MR. MATHEWS: Edgar.....

5  
6 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Very active. Go ahead.

7  
8 MR. MATHEWS: Yeah, there's a little piece of  
9 information about him in your booklets. It's just before you  
10 get to tab B, but basically we have in the past when a member  
11 of a fellow regional advisory council past away, we usually  
12 acknowledge it to all the ten councils. So I'm not going to be  
13 able to pronounce his name, but hopefully someone can help me  
14 with that, but Edgar was from Shishmaref, Alaska. He passed  
15 away last summer. He was appointed in 1996, and he served on  
16 the Seward Peninsula Regional Advisory Council. He worked well  
17 protecting subsistence interests in his areas, and in here is  
18 just a little testimony that he gave to the Alaska Native  
19 Review Commission when it was in Shishmaref, and I'll just kind  
20 of grab a few sentences out of there, but this his account when  
21 that went through there, that's Berger's book, Village Journey:

22  
23 Edgar went on to say we are the only ones who can save  
24 ourselves. We are looking to the outside world for someone to  
25 come and do it, and it's not going to happen. We are expecting  
26 someone out there to save us, and in fact there is nothing in  
27 the outside world that is really that important. I think our  
28 people ought to understand that it's possible to maintain their  
29 identity and their spirit and their language and their  
30 traditions and their history and their values and still  
31 function in the 21st Century. We know what we need to know,  
32 how to make decisions, how to analyze situations, how to speak  
33 many languages, and understand the technology.

34  
35 So with that, Edgar is missed by all, but especially on  
36 the Seward Peninsula and his home town, home village of  
37 Shishmaref.

38  
39 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Thank you. Yeah, Ron, go ahead.  
40 Did you have a comment on.....

41  
42 MR. SAM: Yeah. Back in the late 60s I had the  
43 opportunity to meet Ernie Holmberg, and at that time we were  
44 both elected to the Tanana Chiefs executive board. Within a  
45 year or two, we transferred over to the Doyon Board of  
46 Directors without having an election, because that's what we  
47 were elected there for. And because of his profound testimony  
48 and his fighting words for his native people, he was -- Ernest  
49 Holmberg was quickly -- quickly became known as the professor

50 of our group about our local group. And we went everywhere

1 together. We ate, met at night, and started solving the Doyon  
2 issue, which we did fairly well. And I'm proud of serving with  
3 Ernest Holmberg.

4  
5 The one thing that always bothered us is the oversight  
6 on the ANCSA lands claim bill, the subsistence issue that we're  
7 fighting here today. Because of our profound inner commitment  
8 to the subsistence way of life, Ernie and I kept meeting and  
9 meeting, whether at Anchorage or Fairbanks, and every time we  
10 met, it seems like that we rededicated ourselves to the  
11 subsistence issue. But we feel it's that profound, and I'd  
12 just like to pass that on. He was a good close, personal  
13 friend, and every effort that he made I know of that was for  
14 the betterment of his people.

15  
16 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Anyone else care to comment? Clara,  
17 did you want to say something?

18  
19 MS. C. DEMIENTIEFF: My name is Clara Demientieff,  
20 Acting Subregional Director with Tanana Chiefs here in this  
21 office. I worked with Ernest Holmberg for the past 16 years.  
22 I'm originally from Holy Cross, and I'd worked also at the  
23 Tanana Chiefs office there. But working with Ernest Holmberg  
24 has given me a lot of knowledge all these years. And one of  
25 the issues during his running for State House, he passed on  
26 issues, bills (Indiscernible, away from microphone) so there  
27 are certain issues. So this one's one of his main issues, you  
28 know. (Indiscernible, away from microphone) and technology  
29 (ph) to the people. And hopefully that I will -- we don't know  
30 yet, but we have a meeting next week. But hopefully that we  
31 will continue to have a subregional office. We don't know what  
32 the employees', staffs' (Indiscernible, away from microphone).  
33 But hopefully I'll be employed from then.

34  
35 This is just a short little story. A few years ago we  
36 ran a fish wheel for the elders, and it was built by tribal  
37 experience of the people. And one fall there was so much  
38 whitefish in the river here, and the fishwheel was turning, and  
39 that (ph). He told the people, you know, to go ahead and run  
40 down there and pick up your fish, whatever you want. So he  
41 called me at home, and he said, Clara, I think you need at  
42 least two whitefish. I said I only want the eggs and all. He  
43 said, okay. He'll go out and look in the bags and gunnysacks  
44 and find the two biggest whitefish. So he called me and he  
45 said, I found two. He said, you can have one of your boys come  
46 over. And I said, okay. I started cleaning the fish, and  
47 while I gutting it, there was this hard thing that I kept  
48 hitting at the bottom there. And when I looked, he had put two  
49 chicken eggs in the whitefish.



007

1 (Laughter)

2

3 MS. C. DEMIENTIEFF: I called him and I said, Ernie,  
4 what did you do? He said, well, you wanted eggs in your  
5 whitefish. He was really a character, too, and a really nice  
6 person to work with. I learned a lot from him.

7

8 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Thank you, Clara. Anybody else have  
9 comments that -- let's just.....

10

11 MR. DEACON: I'd like to say something.

12

13 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Well, go ahead, Henry, yes.

14

15 MR. DEACON: I'd known Ernie for a long time, too, and  
16 yesterday as I was coming to McGrath here, I kind of thought of  
17 him. He was such a friendly man that he looked for a guy like  
18 people that understand -- don't understand the system or his  
19 office helping people that are behind in anything. He always  
20 -- it takes that kind of person. And that's how he's going to  
21 be really missed, Ernie is. You know, I kind of think that he  
22 kind of set an example for us to be like he was, things that  
23 he's done here in this area, keep going.

24

25 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Let's just pause then for a moment  
26 of silence in remembrance of these two individuals, Edgar and  
27 Ernest.

28

29 (Pause)

30

31 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Thank you. At this time it's open  
32 for council members to express concerns or topics that they  
33 want to bring before us, and which end do we want to start  
34 with? Angela, do you want to start? Yes, Vince?

35

36 MR. MATHEWS: Ray, I think what -- for the new members,  
37 this is a moment in the agenda where you can bring up any  
38 topics, and then we see, the Chair and other members see if we  
39 can fit it in the agenda, or if it's an annual report issue, or  
40 something like that. So this is the time to hear concerns in  
41 your area, and then we see how we can address them. So for the  
42 new members, I just want to let you know that this is really a  
43 golden opportunity to get direction from your fellow council  
44 members, and to get issues forwarded.

45

46 MS. A. DEMIENTIEFF: Want me to start?

47

48 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Yes.

49



1 We're still having the same problems as we talked about last  
2 year. We still have too many hunters coming during the fall  
3 season.

4  
5 And we still have the freshwater fishermen coming in.  
6 And we see our pike floating down the river after they got  
7 through playing with them. They kill them. They say they're  
8 releasing them, but they're not. They turn them back into the  
9 river, and they're floating upside down between Holy Cross and  
10 Shageluk.

11  
12 We still have the same concerns as we had last year.

13  
14 MR. DERENDOFF: Bill Derendoff, Huslia. I don't have  
15 anything right now, but for the members of this regional  
16 subsistence, I am working toward making some kind of  
17 communication with my village council, and so far developing a  
18 communication between in the village, it's a very hard thing.  
19 It take time. It's just not an overnight thing, but right now  
20 I don't have -- I can't tell you that I develop that  
21 communication between myself and my village council. I want to  
22 do this for only one reason. I want to hear my people speak on  
23 subsistence, and I became member of this board so I feel it was  
24 sort of my responsibility to give to this board, and then  
25 toward my people. But unfortunately it hasn't happened yet,  
26 but like I said, it's not going to take over night, but I'm  
27 still working on it. And I appreciate everyone here. Thank  
28 you.

29  
30 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Carl, we welcome you to the board.

31  
32 MR. MORGAN: Hi.

33  
34 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: And do you have any issues you want  
35 to bring forward or.....

36  
37 MR. MORGAN: Yeah. My name's Carl Morgan. I'm from  
38 Aniak. And there's -- I think I've got three issues that I  
39 hear very loud and very clearly from the Aniak area I come  
40 from.

41  
42 One of the biggest ones I think I hear now is the  
43 increased pressure of big game from the outside area. We get  
44 -- this year it started earlier, and it hasn't quit yet.  
45 There's still a lot of big game hunting going on. And one --  
46 It's a big concerns from our area, because they're seeing it  
47 more and more in the airports. They're seeing more horns  
48 leave, and more meat -- it's rancid. It's there in the airport  
49 and it's supposedly getting saved, but we know as well as

50 anybody else that meat's spoiled and it's going from here

1 Anchorage and probably to a dumpster. And that's in my, in our  
2 eyes, that's wanton waste. That's complete disrespect for the  
3 land and the people and its culture. It's a slap in my face  
4 when I see that, because we don't do that. And we're getting  
5 it more, not only from the native community, we're also getting  
6 it from the nonsubsistence people that don't even hunt.  
7 They're seeing it, and saying something's got to be done. This  
8 land, it's getting to a point to where it's getting sick. It's  
9 not right.

10  
11 Another concern we've got is who determines or define  
12 customary and traditional use area? I haven't -- and I looked  
13 around and I try to find my people, I say, well, did somebody  
14 ask you your definition, how you feel -- what you feel about  
15 your customary and traditional use area? And it's usually  
16 quote/unquote somebody else out of the district, out of the  
17 area that's defining our customary and traditional use area.  
18 We want to be directly involved if you're going to make these  
19 decisions for me. Or for us. We want to be consulted. We  
20 want to be informed who's making these decisions for us where  
21 we can or cannot go, which is not our customary and traditional  
22 use area. That's.....

23  
24 And it brings me to the fact that, you know, we've got  
25 Unit 18 trying to push a lot of their customary and traditional  
26 use area in 19. We realize in these borderline areas, like  
27 Lower and Upper Kalskag, that's the cutting line. Those people  
28 have got both. Cannot deny that fact. They've got both  
29 traditional and customary use area in 18 and 19. But we from  
30 Aniak through our village up above say we do not have customary  
31 and traditional use area in Unit 18, because there's no -- why  
32 go some place where there's no moose? Or not no moose, but  
33 less moose. Where it's going to cost us more to go downriver  
34 than upriver. Makes a lot of sense. When you're going  
35 hunting, you go upriver, because you want to come down with a  
36 big load. You're going to burn less gas, because gas is a  
37 subsistence commodity. It is our subsistence, gas and fuel oil  
38 is a subsistence need.

39  
40 And that's all I've got to say, and thank you.

41  
42 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Thank you, Carl. Henry?

43  
44 MR. DEACON: Well, the same thing I guess, impact of  
45 hunters in the area. But it seemed like it's kind of -- it's  
46 pretty well managed there this summer. I wasn't up Innoko  
47 River too much, but what I see, it's -- what I can see, some of  
48 those hunters are just taking any kind of young calves and  
49 young bulls and whatever they see on the beach. That's the

50 local hunters, and of course I know about the sport hunters

0010

1 those areas, how they do. It's not the way we hunt in that  
2 area in the past. That we don't shoot calves in all that area.  
3

4 And I'd like to say something about the game  
5 management. I think from last year maybe by listening to us,  
6 meeting down there, that was -- the federal and the state has  
7 kind of done a little better in managing those areas from what  
8 I notice. It could be more, you know, managements, you know,  
9 but that's been nice. A lot of the impact that I see now, that  
10 something's got to be done about wolf hunting those state and  
11 federal land. It's got to. They can't listen to outside  
12 people. Serious. You know, it's the villages, you know, local  
13 areas, we understand. Somebody do something about those wolves  
14 in that area. They're going to clean out the animals, not only  
15 moose, but anything that come about. I was just up there a  
16 couple of weeks ago. Those woods in that area, it sounded like  
17 a bunch of dogs. There was just three, four bunches, and  
18 anybody, and these biologists, telling me today how many -- of  
19 ten-pack wolves, how many moose that a month they kill each  
20 time, you know. I'd like to see an expert come up with that  
21 answer, and versus -- because those wolves have got to be  
22 controlled.

23  
24 And I've always talked about that in the past that we  
25 should change that hunting season from August 20 to September  
26 10. And the reason for that is because the moose, they start  
27 rutting, and they run all over, and that's when the sport  
28 hunters get those moose. For me, I can hunt even, you know,  
29 and I know where the moose are. Used to. But that's what I --  
30 I'd like to see that change.

31  
32 And last winter we passed that resolution at the wish  
33 of those four villages that we passed a resolution with  
34 comanagement. But we'll get that resolution more in details  
35 this afternoon. I'd like to resubmit that. It was refused by  
36 the higher councils in there.

37  
38 So -- but I'm -- you know, I'm happy to be on this  
39 board in a way, even though I understand it's very hard to be  
40 on this board, because you have to do a lot of reading, stuff  
41 like that, but I'm glad I'm on here to present my point of view  
42 for the people of that area. That's all I have to say.

43  
44 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: If I understand, you're saying you  
45 want the season shortened, the sport season shortened so that  
46 it closes earlier in September, is what you're saying, to  
47 protect the rutting moose, is that?

48  
49 MR. DERENDOFF: I've been saying that ever since.....



0011

1 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Yeah.

2

3 MR. DERENDOFF: .....I got on the board.

4

5 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: You do have that August 20 to  
6 September 10 subsistence season those. It's in the regs  
7 already?

8

9 MR. DERENDOFF: I think so.

10

11 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Yeah.

12

13 MR. DERENDOFF: It's closed the 25th.

14

15 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Yeah. I have no pressing issues to  
16 bring forward at this point. Most of the immediate land right  
17 around McGrath is under state management, but we are concerned,  
18 you know, that all the area be well managed, whatever federal  
19 land there is here. But I'm not aware of any pressing issues  
20 right here that I can think of.

21

22 So I'll defer to Benedict. Do you have.....

23

24 MR. JONES: Yeah, I'm Benedict Jones from Koyukuk. I  
25 just recently got appointed to the board about two weeks ago,  
26 so this is the first time that I'm meeting. But although I am  
27 presently on the state board, advisory board, and I'm the  
28 co-chair of that. And in the past I have been to quite a few  
29 subsistence issues, about subsistence, native subsistence  
30 issues. I've been to Anchorage and Fairbanks a few times, and  
31 just the last couple of weeks ago I was in the hearing on the  
32 State Fish & Game Board, subsistence issue. And so this --  
33 with the Federal Subsistence Board, it will some kind of  
34 educational for me. So I don't have any issue with me right  
35 now.

36

37 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Okay. Thank you, Benedict. Ronald?

38

39 MR. SAM: Yeah, we just had Koyukuk River Advisory  
40 Committee meeting last week, and at that time we couldn't do  
41 too much, because all of our paperwork was stuck on Galena,  
42 because they couldn't make it out because of weather. So we  
43 did meet and expressed our concerns. One of our main concerns  
44 is the proposals to the Board of Game, that we try to submit  
45 some proposals to annually, but at this time with their -- we  
46 got all the paperwork a little bit late, so we know that our  
47 next appearance before the Board of Game is March of this  
48 coming year at Fairbanks. And again we expressed our concerns about any  
changes

49  
50

0012

1 to Title VIII of ANILCA, because we knew that they were meeting  
2 behind closed doors down at Washington, D.C., and we're scared  
3 of any amendments or changes or proposals to change Title VIII.  
4 We expressed our concerns over that.

5  
6 And whether this is the time to mention it or not, we  
7 expressed our concerns about the corporate subsidy. Here we're  
8 fighting -- we've been fighting all our life for our  
9 subsistence rights, and if we don't get -- fill up our freezers  
10 by fall, we just tough it out and have a tough winter. And  
11 then you go -- then you look at the Governor's Disaster Bill,  
12 which funds Bristol Bay area native -- I mean, commercial  
13 fisheries, and if you can pass money around like that, why  
14 can't you give us some right to -- more right to subsist off  
15 the land that we own and live near. But we see that we're  
16 being kept down as much as possible, yet all these commercial  
17 fishermen are getting subsidized by the State, and I think some  
18 federal management, that this is tantamount to the mining  
19 that's going on, and the free grazing that's going on in the  
20 Lower 48 that's being subsidized by the Federal Government.  
21 And we're afraid of any further movements in building up of  
22 funds to continue fighting us and our subsistence way of life.  
23 Those concerns came out loud and clear in our meeting.

24  
25 And a few local ones that we pretty much can bring  
26 before the Board, which is our controlled use areas. We've  
27 been pretty successful so far, but with all the changes that's  
28 been coming and going on, we're concerned, a little bit  
29 concerned about our controlled use areas, too.

30  
31 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Jack?

32  
33 MR. REAKOFF: Up in our area, we -- the Haul Road goes  
34 through our area there, and several years ago I thought that it  
35 would be a good idea that they put a check station in at the  
36 Yukon Bridge or on the Haul Road to -- for an enforcement  
37 reason, because they had one or two game wardens, and there's  
38 all these thousands of people driving around and killing all  
39 this game, and there's wanton waste like all these areas. The  
40 main concern of the local people is this wanton waste. Well,  
41 they put in the check station, but they have no enforcement  
42 policy there. If they see a violation, they don't write a  
43 ticket, because they claim that they don't want to scare these  
44 people from checking through. They want to know how many  
45 caribou they're killing illegally and wasting all the meat.  
46 They just -- but they don't care about writing tickets. I  
47 think that's a real major conflict of interest.

48  
49 There's people who are -- the people that go through

50 the check -- there's people that don't go through the check

0013

1 station. They go through there at night. They've got illegal  
2 game, or they don't have enough meat. They're smart enough,  
3 they go through there at night and miss the -- the check  
4 station doesn't see them at all.

5  
6 The people who inadvertently go in there with  
7 violations, they don't have enough meat or whatever, they still  
8 won't write them a ticket. So I have a -- my opinion is that  
9 they should start enforcing the regulations. All up and down  
10 and through the whole country there, everybody wants more  
11 enforcement on the Haul Road. When they go across the Yukon  
12 River Bridge, it necks everybody all down to that one point,  
13 and they have to go through there, and that's a good place to  
14 check them. Just like all these -- like the mouth of the  
15 Koyukuk. There are a lot of these check stations. I feel that  
16 the enforcement should begin at the check stations. But I --  
17 there's people that are going by there anyways, they're not  
18 going to scare anybody away. There's people sneaking by them  
19 anyway. They have to get 24 hours of enforcement there at the  
20 Haul Road Bridge and write tickets.

21  
22 It was documented last year they had multiple  
23 violations, 1920-some violations there. They didn't write a  
24 ticket at all. That's just baloney. Why even do it?

25  
26 Up in our area, we're also on registration hunt for the  
27 corridor for moose and sheep. And after a few years of doing  
28 this registration hunt, I would like to propose, but this would  
29 be administrative change in how they administer these hunts.  
30 Basically they want to know who's the rural resident there, and  
31 who's eligible to use firearms in the corridor. We use the  
32 registration hunt for moose and sheep to find out who's who,  
33 and those are the people who are allowed to use firearms in the  
34 corridor.

35  
36 I would like to see a change in now that's administered  
37 to an affidavit that the user would fill out stating that they  
38 are a rural resident. There's people -- I found out lately  
39 that there's people who get a hunting license that says they  
40 live in a rural area, and they would be technically eligible as  
41 far as enforcement to hunt. That's not right. People can  
42 write anything down on their hunting license, and down -- they  
43 might live in downtown Fairbanks, write down that they live in  
44 Aniak, and that makes them a rural subsistence user. That's  
45 not what the federal regulations has a criteria for rural  
46 residency. Under these limited rural resident hunts, there  
47 should be an affidavit that the person is a rural resident and  
48 signs under a penalty that they are a rural resident. And I  
49 feel that there should be an affidavit and then a sticker that

50 you would put on the back of your license that would be -- so

0014

1 when you're checked, you don't have to have all these tags and  
2 different tags. We've got state tags and federal tags. Just  
3 put a sticker on the back of your license and on your vehicle,  
4 or whatever you're using for transportation.

5  
6 But I'm not sure how that would be proposed. Is that a  
7 -- that's to the federal staff, ADF- -- or U.S. Fish & Wildlife  
8 staff as far as administration on that. And that's kind of a  
9 question I have. It's not actually a proposal, it's a proposed  
10 administrative change.

11  
12 The reason I'm saying that we need this -- a different  
13 type of -- like I was out on the north side hunting caribou.  
14 The BLM ranger seen me way over there carrying a rifle and  
15 dragging a caribou, and he sat there for 45 minutes waiting for  
16 me to get to the road, and then he says, well, I thought it was  
17 somebody from Wiseman, but I didn't know. If I had a sticker  
18 on my car or -- they could tell who's who, you know, it would  
19 be a designation that that vehicle is a rural resident hunter.  
20 That would make it a lot easier for the enforcement, and it  
21 would make it a lot easier for the users, so they wouldn't have  
22 to have all these other tags and stuff. I think that it would  
23 be cheaper in the long run on time wasted and so forth. But  
24 I'm not sure who is -- who would address that, or who's --  
25 whether I would make a proposal to change that or how I would  
26 go about doing that.

27  
28 Another thing I would like to see discussed is that  
29 muskox have been, you know, building on the North Slope, and  
30 that some muskox are starting to get into the Ray Mountains  
31 just to the north of the Yukon River, the Ray and Hodzana  
32 Mountains. And there's lots of muskox on the North Slope, and  
33 the people on the North Slope don't really like muskox, and  
34 they would like to see more muskox killed or -- they don't like  
35 them. They deter caribou migrations. That's the local opinion  
36 that they deter caribou migrations. I would like to see some  
37 of the muskox that are inside of the -- on the federal lands on  
38 the North Slope be transported and released into the Ray and  
39 Hodzana Mountains, because muskox -- it's beautiful muskox  
40 country. Some muskox are getting there. But I think that the  
41 population could grow a lot faster if they brought a few down  
42 there from the North Slope. And I wanted to bring that up with  
43 the BLM or whoever is in charge of -- those are mostly BLM and  
44 U. S. Fish & Wildlife refuge lands. That's just something I  
45 wanted to point out or bring out.

46  
47 MR. MERRITT: I just want to make a comment. We had  
48 two confirmed sightings of muskox way down on the Innoko  
49 Refuge.



0015

1 MR. REAKOFF: Oh, is that right?

2

3 MR. MERRITT: Yeah, this summer.

4

5 MR. WILLIAMS: In the Galena area as well, along the,  
6 you know, the south side of the Yukon River and then on the  
7 west side of Koyukuk River.

8

9 MR. REAKOFF: Uh-hum.

10

11 MR. WILLIAMS: Several animals were spotted.

12

13 MR. REAKOFF: Well, they're moving out, and they --  
14 their whole strategy is bulls go out, locate a good range and  
15 go back and get cows and come back there. This area here, this  
16 Ray and Hodzana Mountains is way to the interior, and the  
17 cultivation of that as a muskox population would be a very slow  
18 process, because it's a lot of flats country in between. I  
19 think this would accelerate the muskox. Muskox used to be in  
20 that country. There's people that found muskox horns, and  
21 there's muskox things around. They were either died off or  
22 excapated (ph) or somehow they -- I think that this -- they're  
23 a real nice animal, they're good eating. They're a good  
24 subsistence animal. Good eating. They've got a lot of  
25 different values as far as -- they're really good eating. And  
26 I would like to see those -- you know, that looked into by BLM.

27

28 That's all my comments so far.

29

30 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Anybody have comments on any of  
31 those issues? I guess I don't -- I'm not sure, Vince, you're  
32 saying that.....

33

34 MR. MATHEWS: Well,.....

35

36 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: .....we should bring these up, but  
37 where do we go from here with them now?

38

39 MR. MATHEWS: It might be easier to put them into the  
40 agenda, because of the possibility that the staff may need time  
41 to consult with each other on some of these, you know, the ones  
42 that Jack brought up, and then the ones that Henry brought up.  
43 The one that Henry brought up would be when we talk about  
44 proposals I think.....

45

46 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Uh-hum.

47

48 MR. MATHEWS: .....at that moment, and then the  
49 resolution one is in the annual report, and at that time we'll

50 have the response from the Board. I'm assuming, Henry, that

0016

1 was the resolution to have an inter-agency committee?

2

3 MR. DEACON: (Nods affirmative)

4

5 MR. MATHEWS: Okay. So those are already plugged into  
6 the agenda. I'll try to note them on the agenda to make sure  
7 we don't oversee them. I don't think Ron had any issues that  
8 needed addressing. Okay. Jack had several there, and I don't  
9 know how we want to deal with those at this moment, either plug  
10 them into the agenda or open it up now would be the options  
11 before you. He had the check station, sticker option, and then  
12 the muskox relocation issue.

13

14 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: The check station one, is that  
15 manned by state or federal? That's a state?

16

17 MR. REAKOFF: It's state and federal.

18

19 MR. EARLY: Both.

20

21 MR. REAKOFF: Both.

22

23 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Both, huh? Yeah.

24

25 MR. EARLY: State controls it right now.

26

27 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Okay. Ron?

28

29 MR. SAM: Yeah, as far as that -- Jack's proposal to --  
30 as far as the stickers go, I think that we have time to work on  
31 this, because the Board of Game meets in Fairbanks March 21st,  
32 I think, this coming March 21st. Maybe we could draft a  
33 proposal, draft some proposals, and bring it before our Koyukuk  
34 River committee before then.

35

36 MR. REAKOFF: This is a federal registration hunt.

37

38 MR. SAM: Oh.

39

40 MR. REAKOFF: And this -- the whole sticker thing would  
41 be a federal administration change. You know, they -- when  
42 they opened the corridor for resident firearm use, they put on  
43 the registration, federal registration hunt for moose and  
44 sheep. And it's become sort of a burdensome thing.

45

46 There is a glitch, there's -- with this license thing.  
47 People filling out a license that states they're a rural  
48 resident, and becoming eligible as a rural resident to take  
49 advantage. I think that could be a Western Interior Region-

50 wide, or even statewide problem. I feel that when there's a

0017

1 limitation in the -- to a rural resident, that there should be  
2 an affidavit like you do if you get a \$5 license. You have to  
3 sign an affidavit stating that you really did get this -- have  
4 this economic level and so forth. There's people -- I'm  
5 finding out that there's -- that there's possibilities of lots  
6 of people could put any kind of a rural residency on a hunting  
7 license, and that's what the federal enforcement goes by. They  
8 get a hunting license that says Aniak. Well, they're a rural  
9 resident. Wait a minute. That isn't what the criteria is as  
10 far as rural resident in the federal subsistence regulation.  
11 It has to voter registration, where your belongings are, where  
12 your spouse lives, and all these other criteria. That should  
13 all be on this affidavit, and you sign it under penalty. Right  
14 now there's a real glitch in this rural residency thing.

15

16 MR. BOYD: I.....

17

18 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Yes.

19

20 MR. BOYD: Mr. Chair, I have a question. Are you  
21 personally aware of violations of this nature in your area?

22

23 MR. REAKOFF: Well, I've heard that there was some  
24 people that were applying for these federal permits, with these  
25 licenses that stated that they were a rural resident, even  
26 though they weren't even -- weren't qualified. If an  
27 enforcement officer -- they're not in the business of issuing  
28 these.....

29

30 MR. BOYD: Right.

31

32 MR. REAKOFF: .....these permits and so forth. If they  
33 encounter somebody in the field that -- like in Unit 26B we  
34 hunt with a caribou tag that's a state tag. If a rural -- if a  
35 BLM, federal enforcement comes there and somebody's shooting a  
36 caribou, say Unit 24, since we're in the Western Interior, if  
37 they see somebody shooting a caribou in Unit 24, they have a  
38 state tag and their license says that they live in Bettles.  
39 They might live in Fairbanks. That's a problem. That's an  
40 enforcement problem. But that could be applied all over the  
41 Western Interior and the State of Alaska. I see it as a -- it  
42 could possibly be becoming more and more of a problem. This  
43 proposal, or this administrative change that I'm thinking about  
44 addresses two issues. It addresses the issues of all these  
45 tags for the people who really are the rural residents up  
46 there, and makes the enforcement a lot easier. It also  
47 addresses this residency, false residency. Just by stating  
48 that -- I mean, there's all kinds of truckers that have  
49 mailboxes in Cold Foot to miss their IM tests for vehicle

50 admissions in Fairbanks and stuff. They could be being is

0018

1 rural residency preference strictly on how they -- what they  
2 put on their hunting license? I think that there's an  
3 administrative problem.

4  
5 MR. MATHEWS: Ray, we kind of consulted while Jack was  
6 talking. The options that the Council would have would -- at  
7 this point would be to probably draft letters -- a letter  
8 probably to the Federal Subsistence Board and then we would cc  
9 BLM, Bureau of Land Management, Fish & Wildlife Service, and  
10 the State on these concerns, to start the issue off. And then  
11 from there maybe the Council -- I'm not saying to do this, but  
12 the options would be that at a further meeting, make sure that  
13 the agencies are fully up to what this issue and what their  
14 feelings are. Right now it's -- they're administrative, but  
15 they're preliminary, so that might be a way to get people to  
16 the table and flesh this out, short of submitting a proposal,  
17 that pulls everybody up from Ketchikan to.....

18  
19 MR. REAKOFF: Uh-hum.

20  
21 MR. MATHEWS: .....Barrow in on this. So that would be  
22 your option for the check station one. And I assume check  
23 station -- sticker.

24  
25 The second one on the muskox, a lot of yellow flags  
26 went off in my head on that one. I think that would also be  
27 better to deal with a letter to -- would that? Well, really  
28 the land make up is BLM and Fish & Wildlife Service, but do it  
29 to the Board saying what is the possibilities of relocation?  
30 But there's a long process in doing that. There's a lot of  
31 things that I do not have background on how you do that that  
32 we'd have to get that clearly laid out. It's not as simple as  
33 -- I know Jack knows this, but as others in the room, it's not  
34 as simple as just saying yes and a plane goes up there and  
35 moves them.

36  
37 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: I think the place to do it would be  
38 under subsistence issues review and proposal generation or  
39 review?

40  
41 MR. MATHEWS: Right.

42  
43 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: So if we add those at the end of  
44 that, it would be items three and four, something like that.  
45 At least we could discuss them there and see where we went with  
46 them.

47  
48 MR. MATHEWS: And I'd encourage Jack, he's done this  
49 all the time that he's ever been on this Council, to get some

50 of his comments on paper, too, 'cause his writing has been

0019

1 extremely helpful in carrying these things through, because  
2 sometimes the meeting accelerates in a different direction, and  
3 until I get the transcript back, I'm not caught up.

4  
5 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Okay. Is there any other items here  
6 that came up that ought to be put on the agenda I guess would  
7 be the question? I think probably most of them, under proposal  
8 generation or somewhere they'll come in, I think most of the  
9 other ones. Okay. Thank you.

10  
11 I'd like to pause at this point and go back, there's  
12 some new individuals have joined us. Do you want to continue  
13 that introduction, Vince? There were some more staff that came  
14 in?

15  
16 MR. MATHEWS: Sure. There's quite a few of them that  
17 have come in on that 9:00 o'clock flight, and I'll start with  
18 the gentleman next to me, and then you could out the other ones  
19 that are either behind us, and then I see some people in from  
20 Bethel may want to speak also.

21  
22 MR. BOYD: Okay. Well, I'm Tom Boyd. I'm with the  
23 Office of Subsistence Management with the Fish & Wildlife  
24 Service in Anchorage.

25  
26 This is my first time to meet with the Western Interior  
27 Regional Council. It's taken me a few years to get here. I  
28 know several of the people. I worked with BLM in the program  
29 prior to going with Fish & Wildlife Service in November of '95.  
30 So it's good to see familiar faces here on the Council and look  
31 forward to meeting with you.

32  
33 My position is that I oversee the Office of Subsistence  
34 Management, which when people say what is that, I say that's  
35 the administrative arm of the program. So I report to a whole  
36 lot of people, including the Federal Subsistence Board and the  
37 Fish & Wildlife Service, and the various agencies that  
38 participate in the program, as well as to the Regional Council.

39  
40 And I think it might be more appropriate if the  
41 individuals introduce themselves, because I'll probably mess up  
42 on a name or two, but I'll start with Rosa back here.

43  
44 MS. MEEHAN: Rosa Meehan, I'm in the Office of  
45 Subsistence Management. I work for Tom.

46  
47 MR. DEMATEO: Pete Demateo, I'm a biologist with the  
48 Office of Subsistence Management. I work in a team capacity  
49 with Vince and also with George. We work in conjunction with

50 you all from the Western Interior Council, and Eastern Interio

0020

1 Council.

2

3 MR. HUNTER: Paul Hunter, I represent National Park  
4 Service out of the Anchorage office. We have three park units  
5 in the Western Interior area: Gates of the Arctic National  
6 Park, our manager there is -- subsistence manager is Steve  
7 Ulvi. Denali National Park, and our subsistence manager there  
8 is Hollis Twitchell. And Lake Clark National Park, and the  
9 subsistence manager there is Lee Fink. And I'm here  
10 representing those areas.

11

12 MR. ELEY: I'm Tom Eley, I used to be the manager at  
13 Nowitna Refuge, but now I'm the Fish & Wildlife Service  
14 representative to the interagency staff committee.

15

16 MR. BURR: I'm John Burr, I work for the State of  
17 Alaska, Department of Fish & Game.

18

19 MR. ANDERSEN: I'm Dave Andersen, I'm with the  
20 Department of Fish & Game out of Fairbanks, the Subsistence  
21 Division. Terry Haynes you may be more familiar with. He  
22 usually attends these meetings. I'm kind of filling in for  
23 him. He's in the Lower 48 right now.

24

25 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Thank you, Dave. Ed?

26

27 MR. MERRITT: I'm Ed Merritt, manager of the Innoko  
28 Refuge, headquartered here in McGrath.

29

30 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Jack, do you want to introduce  
31 yourself?

32

33 MR. WHITMAN: Oh, I'm Jack Whitman with the Alaska  
34 Department of Fish & Game, stationed here McGrath, Wildlife  
35 Conservation Division.

36

37 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Thank you. Okay. I think that.....

38

39 MR. MATHEWS: I think there's Debbie and there's.....

40

41 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Oh.

42

43 MR. MATHEWS: Do you want to say hi?

44

45 MS. LEE: Sure, I guess. I'm Debbie Lee, I'm with  
46 Orutsarermuit Native Council, Natural Resource Director, in  
47 Bethel.

48

49 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Welcome, Debbie. Okay. Thank you.

50 Moving on down then on the agenda, the next item would be any

0021

1 additions or corrections to the agenda, and we've added those  
2 two items under subsistence issues that Jack raised. Are there  
3 any other changes to the agenda?

4  
5 MR. MATHEWS: The only ones that we have noted is the  
6 letter in response which -- Jack's issues, which we'll put  
7 underneath subsistence issue review, and then further  
8 discussion about Henry's proposal for moose season in 21E, and  
9 the interagency committee, is the only ones that I know of that  
10 would be further clarifications on the agenda.

11  
12 And for the public that comes in and out, there's a  
13 copy of the agenda on that table back there.

14  
15 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Where would we put the interagency?  
16 That's.....

17  
18 MR. MATHEWS: Well, that would fall underneath -- it  
19 comes up in several ways, because you had it as part of the  
20 annual report, and the Board did respond to that, so we'll  
21 address it then. Henry's indicating he would like to resubmit  
22 it, so I think we're going to have to find out what -- where we  
23 want to go from there, and I think that will come out during  
24 the annual report, because we're closing the '96 report and  
25 starting the '97 report. So I think you're going to want  
26 something in the '97 report about the interagency committee,  
27 but we'll see when we get to that discussion.

28  
29 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Okay. Yes, Ron?

30  
31 MR. SAM: Yeah, we found that you can find a place  
32 toward the end of the meeting to have an open agenda for any  
33 discussion or any additions, that this would cover all the  
34 agenda, because things have a way of popping up at the last  
35 minute, too, so I would like to see a place for open agenda on  
36 the.....

37  
38 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Okay.

39  
40 MR. SAM: Maybe E under 11.

41  
42 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Yeah, I see what you mean.

43  
44 MR. SAM: Uh-hum. We use this pretty effectively in  
45 our tribal meetings and stuff.

46  
47 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: We can run through the Council, like  
48 Council member concerns, we can do another Council member  
49 concern at the end, you mean, to bring up issues that are.....



0022

1 MR. SAM: Either that or residents of the.....

2  
3 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Okay.

4  
5 MR. SAM: .....community or anything, you know.

6  
7 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Okay.

8  
9 MR. MORGAN: It would be a question and answer?

10  
11 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Yeah. Could be. Okay. We'll just  
12 say open comment period.

13  
14 MR. SAM: We've got all the staff here.

15  
16 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Yeah. That helps us in building  
17 agenda for future meetings, too. We've got topics and issues  
18 down that are under future meeting plans, but this would be  
19 broader than that. Yeah.

20  
21 MR. SAM: I think, yeah, that topics and issues and  
22 subject, I see that as to our next meeting. That's the way I  
23 read it.

24  
25 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Okay. Duly noted. Any other  
26 changes? If not, a motion would be in order to adopt the  
27 agenda as amended then.

28  
29 MR. SAM: Move to adopt.

30  
31 MR. DEACON: Second.

32  
33 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Moved by Ron, seconded by Henry.  
34 Any discussion of that? All those in favor signify by raising  
35 your hand? Okay. Yes votes for all members present. Motion  
36 carried.

37  
38 Reading and approval of the minutes of February 19 and  
39 20, Holy Cross, if you can remember back that far. They're in  
40 your packet under tab.....

41  
42 MR. MATHEWS: They're under tab B as in boy.

43  
44 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Okay. Under tab B.

45  
46 MR. MATHEWS: Yeah. You should have received these in  
47 the mail. I go through this every meeting, but I always ask  
48 you if this format is functioning well for you. Are the  
49 meetings meeting -- minutes of the meeting meeting your needs?

50 And let me know of any improvements. I look at these as a kind

0023

1 of historical document. As you know, the full meeting is  
2 transcribed so there is a full transcription of it, but that's  
3 a little bit cumbersome, so for the new members, we already  
4 point out, except for Carl, these are the minutes. They're  
5 sent to you some reasonable time after this meeting for you to  
6 look at. There's usually a time line on there to get back to  
7 me with corrections and comments. I usually get a few, mainly  
8 from agencies that see something in there. Those then are  
9 usually highlighted when they come back to you in the fall  
10 meeting, and then I point them out for your approval, so it  
11 doesn't mean if someone calls in and -- from an agency and say,  
12 well, you got it 180 degrees wrong that it automatically is  
13 changed. No, that's brought back before you. And that's it.  
14 And in the past you've kind of just looked at them, and then  
15 commented instead of me reviewing in detail.

16  
17 For the public, there should be copies of the minutes  
18 back on the table.

19  
20 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Anybody noted any corrections?  
21 Hearing no comments, is there a motion to approve and adopt?

22  
23 MR. REAKOFF: Motion to approve.

24  
25 MR. SAM: Second.

26  
27 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Okay. Moved by Jack, seconded by  
28 Ron to adopt the minutes of February 19th and 20. Any  
29 comments?

30  
31 MR. DEACON: Question.

32  
33 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: All those in favor signify by  
34 raising your right hand? Okay. Yes votes for all members  
35 present. Motion carried. And they stand adopted.

36  
37 Next item. We're down to elections and appointments.

38  
39 MR. MATHEWS: Okay. I think on that, Ray, I need to  
40 make sure the new members know that the terms of office are a  
41 year term. There's three offices: the chair, vice chair and  
42 secretary. This Council, unless it's changes, it's up to them,  
43 generally it's the chair that's the main carrier forth of what  
44 you do. The vice chair usually is a back up, and also for  
45 subcommittees if you so desire.

46  
47 The secretary, we've never really utilized that  
48 position. It's kind of a third back up. Other councils use  
49 the secretary actually as the minute taker and et cetera, but

50 basically the support staff has been performing those

0024

1 functions.

2

3           So that gives you an idea. The chair usually attends  
4 the Board meetings, is usually involved in teleconferences.  
5 Ray's been involved in a few teleconferences as issues evolve  
6 through the process, either with the Board of Game or with the  
7 Federal Subsistence Board. Let's see, what other duties.  
8 Well, I did forget one, a very important duty that the chair  
9 does. The chair meets as your representative with all the  
10 other chairs and the Board.

11

12           CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Right.

13

14           MR. MATHEWS: Yeah, that's an executive session. Yes,  
15 it's executive session. To discuss issues statewide. So they  
16 carry forth and share with the representatives of Seward Pen,  
17 as well as Southeast, North Slope, et cetera. So they do play  
18 a very important role beyond just carrying forth your  
19 recommendations or actions. They are actually in dialogue.

20

21           Ray's been involved with -- boy, I don't know if I can  
22 remember them all, but Ray's been involved with the -- we had  
23 them in for a program on moose management and wolf management.  
24 Other chairs have been involved in new member training,  
25 materials which will be before you.

26

27           So there's various duties the chair does. We try to  
28 make it as convenient to their schedules as possible, but  
29 sometimes the issues, as Ray knows well, that evolved dealing  
30 with the Board of Game and Federal Subsistence Board on a  
31 closure, Ray had to react fairly rapidly to be available for  
32 teleconference and et cetera, so not to scare you off for those  
33 that may want to be chair, but to warn you of what the duties  
34 do entail. You'll get a lot of calls from me, and others, and  
35 somewhat additional mail, but not much more than the members  
36 get now.

37

38           CHAIRMAN COLLINS: There's usually been at least one,  
39 sometimes two meetings in between that you have to go to, and  
40 we have -- if I'm not able to do it then, then it's been passed  
41 on to someone else to represent us at those. But probably the  
42 most important one that Vince mentioned is with the Federal  
43 Board. You come in and the chairs meet alone, just the chairs  
44 before, to share common concerns to bring things forward. And  
45 then we meet in an executive session with the Board, and then  
46 sit in as they're dealing with proposals. We sit in and are  
47 able to comment on the proposals. That's probably the most  
48 important role you have.

49



0025

1 MR. SAM: Mr. Chairman?

2  
3 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Yes, Ron?

4  
5 MR. SAM: Could I call just about a five-minute break?

6  
7 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Okay. Sure. Then you can be  
8 thinking about elections if you.....

9  
10 MR. SAM: Yeah, come back to elections.

11  
12 (Off record - 10:15 a.m.)

13  
14 (On record - 10:26 a.m.)

15  
16 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Come back into session now if  
17 everybody's had a chance to take a break and get some coffee  
18 and whatever? We're still under election and appointments, and  
19 I believe Ron has a motion he wanted to make?

20  
21 MR. SAM: Yeah. Mr. Chairman, I would like to amend  
22 the agenda to move the elections and appointments from item 9  
23 to item 11, so at the end of the second day. And my reasoning  
24 behind this is that we do have new members, plus we just got  
25 this packet about three or four days ago, so we haven't really  
26 had time to go through everything on the agenda or in the  
27 packet, plus I guess I'm not really in the meeting mode yet at  
28 this time. I'm not ready to move on the elections or  
29 appointments, so I'd like to just move it to towards the end of  
30 the meeting. That way the whole board will be comfortable and  
31 aware of everything that's going on. And that's my reasoning  
32 behind it,.....

33  
34 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Okay.

35  
36 MR. DEACON: Second the motion.

37  
38 MR. SAM: .....and I'm asking for a second.

39  
40 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: There's a second by Henry. Any  
41 discussion of the motion to move?

42  
43 MR. REAKOFF: A good idea.

44  
45 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Okay. I concur. I think it would.  
46 It gives a chance for people to get acquainted and then they  
47 can deal with the elections. Okay. Are you ready for the  
48 question? All those in favor signify by raising your right  
49 hand? Okay. Yes votes for all members present. Motion

50 carried. We'll move it down. We'll deal with it just be

0026

1 item 12 then at the end of item 11. Down there. Which means  
2 we have to keep that in mind tomorrow.....

3  
4 MR. DERENDOFF: Uh-hum. Yeah.

5  
6 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: .....so that we don't run out of  
7 time there. And we can move a little faster today maybe.

8  
9 MR. DERENDOFF: Yeah.

10  
11 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Okay. The next item then is the  
12 informational items. Item ten. Chair's report.

13  
14 As was mentioned, there was a meeting of the regional  
15 chairs on 4/6/97. We met a day early. We came up with some of  
16 the items I notice in looking at our minutes that were on there  
17 last year. And they're kind of highlighted below. One was the  
18 status on compensation. I believe that's gone forward again,  
19 but it has to get into the budgetary process. And again  
20 members were just expressing concerns that they hoped that  
21 would go forward. And so we met -- we discussed it in our  
22 meeting, and then it was also discussed in the joint meeting  
23 with the Federal Board. Anybody have any questions about that  
24 or what the issue or -- yes, Vince?

25  
26 MR. MATHEWS: There are staff here that can also give  
27 you more information about each of those items,.....

28  
29 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Okay.

30  
31 MR. MATHEWS: .....compensation, restructuring, MOA,  
32 and you also have materials under tab C, D, and E.

33  
34 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Okay.

35  
36 MR. MATHEWS: Because you did cover the overview of the  
37 compensation, I think Tom has got more on that, and the other  
38 items of alternate structuring is also yours, right?

39  
40 MR. BOYD: Uh-hum.

41  
42 MR. MATHEWS: And then MOA or -- I promised Benedict I  
43 would not use an acronym so I'm going to try to stop doing  
44 that. Memorandum of understanding with the Alaska Department  
45 of Fish & Game, Rosa Meehan was going to give you a little bit  
46 more information on.

47  
48 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Okay. So those are the issues that  
49 came up, and maybe you probably would rather have more current

50 information. So what I'll do, I'll just point them out.

0027

1 They're A, B, and C down there, and then let's go ahead rather  
2 than me try to summarize what was said there, maybe they can  
3 bring us up to date on where those are at. And you said on the  
4 compensation, Tom could speak to that?

5  
6 MR. MATHEWS: Uh-hum.

7  
8 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Yeah. Okay. Basically I'll say in  
9 the beginning, the reason for the concern for the chair is that  
10 members give up a lot to come to these meetings, and we don't  
11 want to see them turning down appointments or not being  
12 available because of work and other things. And all the  
13 professional people that are involved in this, they're all on  
14 salaries, and many of us with just travel and per diem, and  
15 some people having to decide, well, do I stay and work, or do I  
16 go to the meeting, so that was why they felt that it was an  
17 issue of equity and to make sure we get good participation  
18 while you're a member.

19  
20 MR. BOYD: I don't need to say anything else,  
21 Mr. Chair.

22  
23 (Laughter)

24  
25 MR. BOYD: And that's good. But just to I guess  
26 briefly touch on some of the points you've already made,  
27 Mr. Collins, the -- under tab C in your book you will see a  
28 letter, a recent letter from the latter part of August, August  
29 27th, that was prepared by the chair of the Federal Subsistence  
30 Board, Mitch Demientieff. And then if you turn the page,  
31 you'll see a letter that went out in March of '97, also on the  
32 same subject of compensation of federal regional subsistence  
33 advisory council members.

34  
35 When the chairs met with the Board last April, the  
36 chairs expressed concern that the letter written in March was  
37 rather negative, and really didn't try to sell the idea of  
38 compensation for regional advisory councils. It was more of a  
39 briefing paper that sort of outlined the pros and cons, and it  
40 was very fairly neutral, but it didn't come forth as a selling  
41 point as to why this was necessary and many of the reasons that  
42 Mr. Collins mentioned. So that the chair of the Board, Mitch  
43 Demientieff, said that he would follow up with an additional  
44 letter to the Secretary of Interior, and that's what you see  
45 under Tab C. I think it's clearly stating the need and trying  
46 to justify more clearly why compensation is needed.

47  
48 And if I could just summarize very briefly, touching on  
49 some of the high points of the letter, council members -- that

50 compensation just for the travel itself and the meals and the

0028

1 lodging wasn't adequate to offset the cost of stepping away  
2 from jobs or other income producing activities, the need -- you  
3 know, the need for maintaining leaders from the various parts  
4 of your region, and felt it was justified, and if you were  
5 going to get quality membership on the councils, a need for  
6 compensation was there.

7  
8 Also pointed out the disparity between compensation  
9 afforded to council members and that provided to staff who  
10 administer the Federal Subsistence Program, creating the  
11 perception of inequity that undermines the cooperative  
12 atmosphere necessary to maintain productive working  
13 relationships.

14  
15 And the loss of income being, you know, especially  
16 significant to those who live in rural areas because of the  
17 high cost of goods and services in rural Alaska.

18  
19 Those are some of the high points of letter, and I  
20 think if you read it, you'll find that -- I hope you find that  
21 Mr. Demientieff stressed the importance of following through  
22 with this item.

23  
24 That's really all I have to say. I won't take up any  
25 more of your time unless you have questions.

26  
27 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Are there any questions on that?

28  
29 MR. BOYD: We've heard -- we've gotten no response, nor  
30 have we followed up beyond this letter that was recently sent.

31  
32 MR. REAKOFF: Mr. Chairman?

33  
34 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Yeah, Jack?

35  
36 MR. REAKOFF: We've -- I've heard this same complaint  
37 on the SRCs, subsistence resource commissions and the advisory  
38 councils and even in the state advisory committees, that people  
39 -- it's sort of a misunderstanding that people in rural areas  
40 just don't have anything to do but go to a meeting, you know,  
41 like they just can take as much time as they would like. And  
42 -- but people work for themselves in a subsistence economy,  
43 whether they're cutting wood -- they might have to cut wood  
44 when it's 60 below because they went to a meeting when it was  
45 warm. Or they may have missed part of a moose season that has  
46 a limited time factor. We don't -- people don't realize how  
47 much sacrifice that -- or like in the winter, I'm trapping, and  
48 a lot of times I can't go and check my traps when the weather  
49 is good. I have to come back from a meeting, I have to go when

50 there's lots of overflow and I have a hard time travelling and

0029

1 stuff. People don't understand that part.

2

3 And I think that this letter addresses some of those  
4 issues, and that I feel that the Secretary of Interior should  
5 respond to this in writing in a timely fashion. This issues  
6 been brought up in many different meetings that I've been at,  
7 and I've never seen any real response from the Secretary of  
8 Interior on this yet.

9

10 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: I think what happens when it gets to  
11 the federal level is they've got a lot of other commissions and  
12 advisory groups, and I know when we discussed that aspect of it  
13 there, this is unique in the fact that this was federal  
14 legislation that created ANILCA and created the need for these  
15 boards. In order to manage these resources, these boards need  
16 to meet. They're not just an advisory thing.

17

18 MR. REAKOFF: Uh-hum.

19

20 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: And so there is that commitment, and  
21 certainly look at all the staff that's been created by this.  
22 We've created all of these federal jobs, and they're putting  
23 money into that, but they're not paying the people that are  
24 giving -- that are actually setting the seasons and making the  
25 system work.

26

27 And so it is kind of unique. It isn't like the other  
28 -- some of the other federal advisory groups where people  
29 volunteer to advise parks and other kinds of things. But I  
30 don't know if that issue's going to make it. I don't know what  
31 the reception's going to be on the other end, because it's  
32 setting precedent with all of the others. And I don't know if  
33 that's come up. Has anybody tried to deal with that aspect of  
34 the argument, that this is unique?

35

36 MR. BOYD: Well, except for what you see in the letter  
37 from Mr. Demientieff. As the Chair, he speaks for the Board  
38 and aired the concerns expressed by the chairs at the April  
39 meeting.

40

41 MR. REAKOFF: Mr. Chair?

42

43 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Yes.

44

45 MR. REAKOFF: I have one question for Tom. Has there  
46 ever been a -- at the Subsistence Board level, a request for a  
47 more timely response by the Secretary to letters and  
48 recommendations that the Board makes? It seemed like the  
49 Secretary of.....



0030

1 MR. BOYD: Well, it's sort of like asking your boss to  
2 hurry up, and I'm not.....

3  
4 (Laughter)

5  
6 MR. BOYD: Well, I'm not aware of any along those  
7 lines. I guess if there are pressing issues, we do make  
8 contact, and there's a variety of those issues that come up.  
9 We do make contact with the staff of the Office of the  
10 Secretary about moving things along. I think a good example of  
11 that is the nomination of council members. It seems like every  
12 year we get into a foot race just before the fall meeting, and  
13 we don't have the Secretary's sign off on council member  
14 designations, new council member designations, and we're coming  
15 right down to the wire, and so we start getting frantic and we  
16 start making phone calls. And it's sort of like having a  
17 deadline pushes us. So that's one example where we do kind of  
18 run things back up the flagpole to say hurry along.

19  
20 But I think something like this, you know, I'm not sure  
21 exactly, you know, how we might pursue it, but I guess I've  
22 made note of the fact that you want a timely response, and  
23 we'll try to seek those avenues. I guess that's all I can say  
24 at this point.

25  
26 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Okay. Thank you, Tom.

27  
28 The next item on there was this working group that's  
29 looking at restructuring the Federal Board. The issue there  
30 was the composition of the Board currently is the heads of  
31 agencies or their designees, and then Mitch Demientieff who was  
32 appointed to chair that. And we have direct input and advice.  
33 They seem to be listening to us closely, but we're not actually  
34 on the Board making the decision, and so they were talking  
35 about should some members, some of the chairs sit on that  
36 Board, or is there some other way that would give them more  
37 direct authority, and I think again there are letters in here.

38  
39 Are you going to speak to that, Tom, too?

40  
41 MR. BOYD: Yes, sir.

42  
43 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Okay. Is that under tab.....

44  
45 MR. BOYD: D.

46  
47 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: D. Yeah. There are some different  
48 proposals, but you might speak about where it's at or summarize  
49 where it's at.



0031

1 MR. BOYD: Under tab D I think you'll find a briefing  
2 paper that kind of outlines the issue, some of the background  
3 concerning restructuring the Federal Subsistence Board, and  
4 I'll try to highlight a few points. And I think what we're  
5 seeking from the Council is your comments on this process, if  
6 you have a preference for one of the alternatives that's before  
7 you, or if you have another alternative that you see as  
8 different from these presented in this paper. We're looking  
9 for the Council's input on this action.

10  
11 Just to touch on the background, I think I'll just kind  
12 of skip through this, but this was raised more recently in the  
13 annual reports in 1995 from two of the regional advisory  
14 councils, the Seward Peninsula and the Northwest Arctic  
15 Regional Council. And their specific recommendation was that  
16 the Board be restructured to be composed of the ten council  
17 chairs, justifying that the existing Board being primarily  
18 administrators with the federal agencies had little or no  
19 direct subsistence experience, did not understand the issues in  
20 each of the regions, and therefore were not as qualified to  
21 make the decisions regarding subsistence regulations.

22  
23 This came up again in April -- or at the work session  
24 or the executive session of the regional advisory council  
25 chairs and the Board in November of '96. And I think it was  
26 sent back to the councils at that time to get more input from  
27 the councils as to what the collective thinking, since it only  
28 came from two councils, but to go back and get some additional  
29 thinking about it from more of the councils.

30  
31 The council chairs met again with the Board at a  
32 regularly scheduled Board meeting in April of '97, and was the  
33 first chance for all the chairs to come back together and talk  
34 directly to the Board. And they request -- and the --  
35 essentially after that meeting and getting input from the  
36 various councils, that request was modified to include at least  
37 one seat on the existing Board.

38  
39 That sort of created some discussion in that meeting  
40 with the Board, and I think some of the Board members I think  
41 saw some value in exploring this a bit further, and they  
42 established a subcommittee if you will. We call it a task  
43 force here, but a subcommittee of the Board and one of the  
44 Council chairs, and you'll see at the bottom of that first page  
45 the task force was composed of the Board chair, Mitch  
46 Demientieff, Bill Thomas, who's the chair of the Southeast  
47 Regional Council, Jim Caplan of the Forest Service, and David  
48 Allen of the Fish & Wildlife Service.

49



0032

1 various options for restructuring the Board, and they  
2 identified some options, three alternatives, as well as they  
3 identified some important constraints. I'll call them legal  
4 issues surrounding this, and I know Mitch Demientieff, the  
5 chair, wanted as we briefed each one of the councils this fall,  
6 he wanted to make clear what some of those legal concerns are  
7 about trying to do something different than what exists. But  
8 he also said he wanted your honest input, so that's what this  
9 is all about. So let me just point out those two important  
10 constraints that limit our options for restructuring the Board.

11  
12 One is under the delegation of authority. Federal law  
13 prohibits the delegation of regulatory authority to individuals  
14 who are not federal employees. So, for example, if you made a  
15 council -- or a board of existing council chairs, then you  
16 would limit the authority that that board has to actually make  
17 decisions on regulations. It would become essentially another  
18 sort of super advisory council, and then the decisions would  
19 have to be made at a higher level, perhaps by the Secretary or  
20 by some other decision making authority.

21  
22 Currently the Secretary is designated by law. The  
23 Secretaries of Interior and Agriculture are designated by law  
24 to be able to implement Title VIII of ANILCA. They've  
25 delegated the authority for making regulations regarding  
26 seasons, bag limits, customary and traditional uses and other  
27 of the annual regulations to this Federal Subsistence Board.

28  
29 So the federal law would prohibit the Secretary from  
30 delegating this authority to a group of non federal employees  
31 like the chairs.

32  
33 A second important constraints is in the establishment  
34 of new advisory committees. So if you made up this board made  
35 up of chairs, it would essentially become an additional  
36 advisory committee, and there are certain guidelines that I  
37 mentioned in this briefing paper, Executive Order 12838  
38 prohibits agencies from creating new advisory committees unless  
39 they are required by statute or a compelling national interest.  
40 So one outgrowth of this is the Board as an advisory committee  
41 might be perceived as duplicating the function of existing  
42 councils. Moreover, there's a limited number of councils that  
43 can be created, and then the Secretary would be faced with the  
44 challenge of deciding what other advisory council he has that  
45 he would want to eliminate in creating that council.

46  
47 Now I'm getting a little technical with you here, but  
48 I'm trying to simplify this a bit. If I get much more  
49 technical, I'll probably run the limit of my own personal

50 knowledge, and I don't want to do that.

0033

1 But at any rate, those are two important concerns that  
2 this subcommittee faced.

3  
4 They put forth three alternatives for you to consider,  
5 and you may want to suggest additional options. One is the  
6 existing Board. Two is the existing Board and at least one  
7 council chair nominated by the regional council chairs and  
8 appointed by the Secretary of Interior with concurrence of the  
9 Secretary of Agriculture. This is the same as that recommended  
10 by the council chairs last April. And then the third option is  
11 the existing Board, one subsistence user, and one State  
12 representative nominated by the Governor and appointed by the  
13 Secretary of Interior.

14  
15 That's essentially the briefing, Mr. Chair. I guess  
16 I'll put it in your hands to review this and make any comments,  
17 recommendations that you feel need to do. Or I'll answer any  
18 questions you might have.

19  
20 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Yeah. First, any questions on this?  
21 Yes, Ron?

22  
23 MR. SAM: Mr. Chairman, how deeply did they get into  
24 that option two at the regional council chairs meeting? That  
25 alternative two, plus one regional?

26  
27 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: We didn't carry it all the way  
28 through. We just put it forward as one of the options. If  
29 they weren't going to reconstitute for the other ones, of  
30 putting at least one on.

31  
32 Some of the issues that were raised, would that mean  
33 that individual have to take off their hat for representing  
34 Western Interior now, and be neutral and be listening to all of  
35 these, so you'd be putting one chair in a different position,  
36 because then you have your own proposals coming up as well as  
37 the others, and sometimes there's conflicts. So how would you  
38 go about choosing this one, and how would that person function  
39 in two hats, you know, being chair here, and then all of a  
40 sudden chair on the Federal Board. And so that was some.

41  
42 But at least that gave us more participation, because  
43 there's a chair, which as Vince said, is Alaskan subsistence  
44 background, and there would be one more member that would help  
45 balance the existing Board there.

46  
47 But we didn't discuss it much beyond that, as putting  
48 it forward as one of the proposals that they might consider.  
49 Yeah. Ron?



0034

1 MR. SAM: Yeah, Mr. Chair. Did you discuss option  
2 three at all?

3  
4 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: No, I think option three came up by  
5 this committee that was appointed. It came up after that time.  
6 So there was this committee appointed by the Board to look at  
7 all the options, so that one wasn't -- hadn't been developed or  
8 proposed at that time. Yes?

9  
10 MR. SAM: Yeah, I think my concern is -- was pretty  
11 much covered by what Mr. Boyd stated, that what we want to stay  
12 away from is another advisory committee board with no power, no  
13 actions, you know. That's -- I hate that word advisory,  
14 because you're nowhere. And I think that if we've created --  
15 if we use our council members, or council chairs, I think that  
16 would take some away from our existing purpose, too.

17  
18 I sat in for Ray down at Anchorage, and to tell the  
19 truth, I was pretty comfortable testifying before, and working  
20 with the existing Board, but then this is only the second  
21 meeting of this council since they secured me on the job. At  
22 this time. Amazing. So I'm kind of at a loss here, that I  
23 would listen to whatever the regional council chairs came up  
24 with. I would be more interested in what else they have to  
25 say.

26  
27 MR. REAKOFF: Mr. Chairman?

28  
29 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Yes, Jack?

30  
31 MR. REAKOFF: Is there a yearly meeting of the chairs  
32 of the regional councils?

33  
34 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: There have been in connection with  
35 when the Board meets. They bring us in for the Board, and  
36 they've allowed us a day ahead of time.....

37  
38 MR. REAKOFF: Uh-hum.

39  
40 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: .....to meet, or an evening ahead of  
41 time to meet. And then they've set up an executive session  
42 with us. That's the pattern they've fallen into. So there is  
43 a chance to really talk things through.

44  
45 MR. REAKOFF: There's one aspect of the current Federal  
46 Board, and that's a six-member board without a tie-breaking  
47 capability. And the way I look at it, if the chairs met and  
48 designated the seventh member to represent the chairs' point of  
49 view, they would be -- there would be the tie-breaking effect.

50 That person would -- as far as legally, it would seem that they

0035

1 would have to be hired by the Federal Government at that point  
2 for.....

3  
4 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: I think that's the status Mitch has  
5 right now. Well, what -- yeah, he is compensated and chosen.  
6 And I guess he's considered an employee for that time that  
7 he.....

8  
9 MR. BOYD: That's correct.

10  
11 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Yeah.

12  
13 MR. BOYD: He's an appointee of the Secretary of  
14 Interior, and during the time that he is performing his duties,  
15 he's a federal employee. This gets a bit kind of in an awkward  
16 point of discussion, but I know that Mitch signalled to me very  
17 clearly he wanted you to understand that there are -- you know,  
18 in the discussion about appointing non federal members and then  
19 paying them, which is what we do with Mitch. And he's  
20 considered a federal employee.

21  
22 The attorneys were very concerned that this would give  
23 the appearance of creating a board made up of private citizens,  
24 and give the appearance of doing this for the purpose of  
25 circumventing the law, and whether or not that's a real concern  
26 remains to be seen I guess. But some of the attorneys when  
27 Mitch was appointed felt very concerned even about that, so if  
28 you add an additional member like Mitch,.....

29  
30 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Uh-hum.

31  
32 MR. BOYD: .....is sort of raises the ante a bit, if I  
33 -- if you're understanding what I'm saying. I'm not saying  
34 it's legal or illegal. I have no idea. I know some of our  
35 attorneys in Interior are concerned about whether or not this  
36 is -- would be challenged or would be legal, and I only pass it  
37 on to you as a caution.

38  
39 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Yeah. In regard to that tie-  
40 breaking, I've not seen them get into that bind, but even if it  
41 did happen, and let's say it was a six-member, and suppose  
42 that member had to make the vote then, it might make the  
43 decision open to challenge for some of the reasons stated in  
44 here. That's one thing that comes to mind, because it's a  
45 decision being made by not a federal agency who has the  
46 authority to do that, but the deciding vote was by somebody  
47 with the -- a citizen. So it could make more of a legal issue,  
48 yeah.

49



0036

1 the Board seems to be very receptive as it's constituted now.  
2 They're really listening to people, and if there's a conflict  
3 between like the Western and the -- Western Interior and the  
4 western one there, they defer it back and have those committees  
5 work on it further on some of these customary and traditional  
6 and other issues there. So they've been pretty responsive to  
7 the group, and trying to listen and having the chairs sit in on  
8 it, so I think it's working right now. That's my impression.  
9 And if it continues, maybe I'll let Ron speak further there,  
10 that probably the existing one may be best to continue with for  
11 a while. That's my thoughts from having participated, but I  
12 don't know, Ron, do you.....

13  
14 MR. SAM: Just by attending that one meeting, filling  
15 in for Ray, I stated that I was very comfortable, because it  
16 seems like they are making every effort to meet our needs and  
17 their own criteria, because we have -- not only have the State  
18 represented, we had some other agencies represented that we  
19 don't usually deal with. It seems like we have everyone  
20 involved right now, and I think one of my main concerns is I  
21 just don't want to see another advisory title, plus if it's  
22 working, why fix it? And it seems to be working, because our  
23 experts come out with their testimony or anything like that, we  
24 get the State to come out with their side, and everyone seems  
25 to concur on so many issues. I mean, it seems to be working, I  
26 guess that's what I'm trying to say.

27  
28 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Other comments on that?

29  
30 MR. SAM: We may be only in existence for another,  
31 what, 14 months?

32  
33 (Laughter)

34  
35 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: I don't have any recommen- -- well,  
36 I guess on the three, I would say go with the existing one for  
37 a little while longer.

38  
39 MR. SAM: Is there any action needed on this?

40  
41 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Is there which?

42  
43 MR. SAM: Is there any action needed, or do we know?

44  
45 MR. BOYD: We're soliciting your comments and input.

46  
47 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Yeah.

48  
49 MR. BOYD: I think that's the purpose of this briefing,

50 to hear back from councils, and then we would -- we will take

0037

1 this back to the subcommittee to further consider, and then  
2 they will decide whether or not to forward a recommendation to  
3 the Board.

4  
5 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: And you would be informing the  
6 chair, whoever is our chair at that time, as -- when the chairs  
7 meet as to what they should say, you know, what our feeling is  
8 on it.

9  
10 MR. SAM: Mr. Chairman, I'd like to go on record then  
11 that I support the existing Board structure as it is right now.  
12 In what brief dealings I've had with them, I've been satisfied  
13 as far as they're trying to do their job. For the time being.

14  
15 MR. REAKOFF: I second that motion.

16  
17 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Okay. Discussion of that motion  
18 then? Does anybody have any problems with going on?

19  
20 MR. SAM: One.....

21  
22 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Yes, Ron?

23  
24 MR. SAM: This one further discussion. I think you  
25 covered it very well when you stated that if you sat on that  
26 board, you would have to take your hat off and forget about  
27 Western Interior,.....

28  
29 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Uh-hum.

30  
31 MR. SAM: .....and sort of throw away the votes --  
32 throw our votes away. I think you covered that very well.  
33 Thank you for that.

34  
35 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Okay. All those in favor of the  
36 motion then, that that would be our recommendation,.....

37  
38 MR. SAM: For the time being.

39  
40 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: .....signify by raising your right  
41 hand.

42  
43 MR. SAM: For the time being, yes.

44  
45 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Yeah. Okay. For the time being.  
46 So duly noted then that we'd recommend that they stay with the  
47 existing, yeah.

48  
49 Okay. The next item, item C, under there was an update

50 on the memorandum of agreement with the Alaska Department of

0038

1 Fish & Game, and that's going forward. I did receive a letter  
2 from Southeast Regional Subsistence Advisory. This is from --  
3 it's to Harry Wilde and it's from Bill Thomas, who is the chair  
4 of the Southeast. He resides I believe in Ketchikan down  
5 there. And he talks about this working group been established  
6 to consider the following actions: closer alignment of state  
7 and federal proposal cycle, closer coordination of subsistence  
8 research, surveys and so on, Fish & Game advisory committees  
9 attending regional council meetings, joint production of  
10 regulation booklets and others.

11  
12 But then to get down to the meat of it, he says, this  
13 is a very ambitious list. I see it as premature. Please  
14 explain to me how this cooperation will enhance our ability to  
15 manage subsistence in Alaska as defined by ANILCA. The state  
16 -- of which -- The State of which constitution your department  
17 serves and the Federal Constitution which ANILCA serves are  
18 very different. How can you consider managing a rural priority  
19 when the State Constitution forbids that. I ask these  
20 questions due to the continued hostility from State of Alaska  
21 towards subsistence community. Perhaps the State arrives at a  
22 point of commitment to the satisfaction of the Department of  
23 Interior a formal approach to joint management would be  
24 appropriate.

25  
26 I certainly hope that the working group takes these  
27 difference and impossibilities under consideration. As you  
28 know, I see no way by which to accelerate State participation  
29 of enhancing a federal approach that is effective, efficient  
30 and in compliance already. I only see confusion in a program  
31 which -- in which very much like the State has in place now and  
32 has been managed for the last 30 years. I would very much  
33 appreciate an elaborate response.

34  
35 So he's questioning going forward. I just wanted to  
36 bring that to your attention. That's his feeling there.

37  
38 Do you have an update on the MOA? Okay. Good.  
39 That's.....

40  
41 MR. ELEY: Mr. Chair, Tom Eley from Fish & Wildlife  
42 Service. I don't know if most members realize it, but all the  
43 federal land management agencies have memorandums of agreement  
44 or understanding with the State of Alaska, Department of Fish &  
45 Game. Basically these say that we'll cooperate, do surveys  
46 together, share data with each other and so forth. And most of  
47 these were done back in the early 80s before the federal  
48 assumption of subsistence management. And so there's nothing  
49 really addressed specifically about our subsistence management

50 program, our federal program, sharing or working with the

0039

1 State.

2

3 So in 1969 the State Department of Fish & Game sent a  
4 letter to the Federal Subsistence Board asking for a memorandum  
5 of agreement that would enhance cooperation between the two  
6 programs, the state and the federal program. And, granted,  
7 there are philosophical differences between the program, but on  
8 the ground basis, and not at the political levels, the State  
9 has information that we need to manage resources, that you need  
10 as council, and vice versa, we have information that the State  
11 needs through their program. So they wanted to try to find a  
12 way of enhancing.....

13

14 MR. BOYD: Excuse us, Mr. Chair.

15

16 MR. ELEY: .....enhancing this sharing of information  
17 and so forth. Do you want to put those on top?

18

19 MR. BOYD: Yep.

20

21 MR. ELEY: Well, the Board reviewed this, and while  
22 they didn't approve any specific ideas or concepts, they liked  
23 the idea of the State and the Federal Government, Office of  
24 Subsistence Management, and all the different agencies,  
25 exploring this a little more, and seeing what the State was  
26 interested in, and what other issues would come that maybe  
27 could be resolved by this. So they supported the idea, or  
28 endorsed the idea as it says here, of this concept of  
29 coordination. Or of improved coordination.

30

31 A State and Federal work group was established. The  
32 State group is headed by Elizabeth Andrews. Terry Haynes from  
33 the Division of Subsistence is on it. There's also a  
34 representative from the Division of Wildlife Conservation, the  
35 Division of Sport Fish, and the Division of Commercial Fish.  
36 On the Federal side, we have Greg Bos from the Office of  
37 Subsistence Management, Peggy Fox from Bureau of Land  
38 Management, Ken Thompson from the Forest Service, and Sandy  
39 Rabinowitch from the Park Service. And they have met several  
40 times.

41

42 And one of the things that they've come up with is some  
43 of the benefits of increased coordination would be to reduce  
44 confusion and conflicts between state and federal programs. We  
45 know we've got two sets of regulations, we've got private land  
46 which are under state regulations, we've got federal public  
47 lands which are under our federal regulations. It's confusing  
48 to the user on the ground. They don't know whether they're on  
49 state lands, therefore state regulations, federal lands,

50 federal regulations. So anything that we can do, and I k

0040

1 this Council's been in the forefront of that, trying to make  
2 the state and the federal regulations as close as possible so  
3 that the users on the ground don't run afoul of the law and  
4 have a problem.

5  
6 In addition, the work group is concerned with improved  
7 wildlife information presented to the councils, particularly  
8 having someone from the Wildlife Conservation Division here to  
9 answer questions about surveys that they may be conducting,  
10 just as we have refuge managers or park managers, park  
11 superintendents here to answer questions about their particular  
12 areas.

13  
14 In other regions, recently with regional councils, we  
15 had differences between two different surveys. One was a state  
16 survey, and one was a federal survey, and the council was  
17 interested in what was done differently between these two  
18 surveys, but the area biologist wasn't there, so that couldn't  
19 be answered. Perhaps with this agreement we can assure that  
20 area biologists are there, and then the council ask them the  
21 differences, or ask particular questions, get a broader view  
22 and then make the wisest decision possible. And, of course,  
23 the upshot would be improving the analysis on proposals so that  
24 you get the best regulations possible.

25  
26 Thus far some of the ideas that have come up, and these  
27 are just ideas, and what we're going to ask for today from you,  
28 before I start this, is just any ideas that you might have for  
29 improved coordination. I don't think we can change the  
30 philosophy of the State, that's not probably going to be a  
31 possibility right now, and it's not the appropriate place to do  
32 it. But any sort of deficiencies that you see in coordination,  
33 information that might be helpful to you all, we're going to  
34 solicit it.

35  
36 Some of the ideas that the working group has come up  
37 with is a closer alignment of state and federal proposal  
38 cycles. That has some good possibilities. There's also some  
39 definite problems there.

40  
41 Closer coordination of subsistence resource surveys and  
42 studies, so that we do things the same way that the State does,  
43 and we have comparable information.

44  
45 Fish & Game advisory committee representation at  
46 regional council meetings. Certainly some regional council  
47 members are members of advisory councils, but some council --  
48 some advisory councils don't have that representation, and  
49 there's concern about having those advisory councils

50 represented some way or another at the regional council

0041

1 meetings, particularly when you're addressing proposals. You  
2 know, would the federal program buy them a ticket or what would  
3 go on here, the exact mechanism is unknown, but that is  
4 something they're interested in.

5  
6 The joint production of a regulation book or other  
7 public information materials. Maybe just have one book that  
8 has the subsistence regulations and the state regulations in  
9 it. One of the regional councils got a little bogged down on  
10 that one, on what it would look like, and what not. No, we  
11 can't tell you what it will look like. It would undoubtedly be  
12 confusing initially, but I think it could be a certain  
13 enhancement to all of us to have this sort of thing.

14  
15 ADF&G assistance in preparation or review of proposals.  
16 They sometimes have information, analyses or data that we might  
17 have, or points of view for the area biologist or fish  
18 biologist that we don't have particularly the expertise on, and  
19 it would be good to have those in the proposal analysis  
20 process. We already solicit information from the State when  
21 the Office of Subsistence Management analyzes proposals, but  
22 enhancing this would be good.

23  
24 ADF&G is interested in representation on the staff  
25 committee, or in the meetings, or at least sit in on the  
26 meetings.

27  
28 A coordination plan for joint subsistence management  
29 planning efforts. The more we can do similar, is what they're  
30 striving at there I think.

31  
32 What else do you have, Tom?

33  
34 MR. BOYD: Your ideas.

35  
36 MR. ELEY: That brings us to your ideas. And what we'd  
37 really like is if anybody has any particular ideas that they  
38 can provide, ways to improve the coordination, how to bring the  
39 two programs closer together. You know, is there anything that  
40 you would like to recommend to this task force or this working  
41 group to see if they can get it put forward.

42  
43 MR. BOYD: Next steps.

44  
45 MR. ELEY: Oh, then the next step would be that once  
46 this task group has pulled everything together, they'll bring  
47 these ideas back to the regional council, talk to the regional  
48 councils in depth. In addition, the task group would consider  
49 any of the regional council's ideas in developing this strategy

50 or memorandum of agreement or memorandum of understanding, or

0042

1 whatever comes out of this. No one's exactly sure what --  
2 whether there will be actually a written document or just a  
3 handshake and on with that. Ideas, Mr. Chair?

4  
5 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Okay. Well, I'll open it for  
6 comments. I have some comments, but do members have comments  
7 on -- Ron?

8  
9 MR. SAM: A question really. Who makes up this work  
10 group?

11  
12 MR. ELEY: Oh, it's the representatives of the State,  
13 like I said, Elizabeth Andrews, Terry Haynes and someone from  
14 Wildlife Conservation, Sport Fish and Comm Fish, Commercial  
15 Fish, as well as Peggy Fox from the staff committee, BLM  
16 representative, Ken Thompson from Forest Service, he's the  
17 staff committee representative, Sandy Rabinowitch from National  
18 Park Service, and then Greg Bos from Office of Subsistence  
19 Management.

20  
21 MR. SAM: I guess I'm scared of that joint effort in  
22 producing these booklets. I come here with about six pounds,  
23 leave here with about 15 pounds.

24  
25 (Laughter)

26  
27 MR. ELEY: That's possible.

28  
29 MR. SAM: I think Vince has something?

30  
31 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Yeah, go ahead.

32  
33 MR. MATHEWS: You know, I just need a clarification  
34 from Tom. Did the task -- is the task force saying that  
35 they're in agreement with these items, or that they're going to  
36 look closer at them and want input, meaning joint production of  
37 regulation book, et cetera? Did the task force come in with  
38 support for those items, or they're just asking for additional  
39 input?

40  
41 MR. ELEY: No, those -- there's not support. I mean,  
42 those are just ideas that have come up and they're not cut in  
43 stone. They're just ideas that need to be worked on more, and  
44 just sort of a first list for people to review and maybe it  
45 will jog something in people's minds that -- and so forth.

46  
47 MR. MORGAN: Is Mary Pete from the Division of  
48 Subsistence from the State of Alaska in their.....  
49



0043

1 MR. BOYD: No.

2  
3 MR. MORGAN: .....committee?  
4

5 MR. BOYD: There are -- these people from the State are  
6 representatives from each one of the divisions within ADF&G.  
7 And so there is a representative from the Subsistence Division.

8  
9 MR. MORGAN: Subsistence? Okay.

10  
11 MR. ELEY: Terry Haynes.

12  
13 MR. BOYD: Terry Haynes, who works for Mary.

14  
15 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Well, certainly there are issues  
16 that we bring -- have brought up that can't be solved without  
17 some kind of agreement. One of them is we've talked about maps  
18 of the areas that would be adequate, in the Holy Cross area and  
19 up in the Yukon/Koyukuk area there, that those have to be  
20 jointly prepared, because where is state land, where is federal  
21 land, and so on. And when we brought that up, nobody said,  
22 well, that's not in our bailiwick, you know. I mean, there some  
23 -- somebody's going to have to agree to turn out a joint map  
24 that would have that kind of information on it.

25  
26 The other area was because the proposal cycles were out  
27 of balance, we passed a proposal on Yukon/Koyukuk up there that  
28 we thought would fix a solution. Then the State came in with  
29 what they thought was a fix, and we had to have a  
30 teleconference and back off on ours, you'll remember, because  
31 they were out of synch. We didn't have their input, they  
32 didn't -- they had ours, because we'd acted earlier, but we had  
33 to end up reversing, and holding off on a proposal we went  
34 forward with. And in the Holy Cross area again, be it's a mix  
35 of joint federal land, we might set a season on the federal  
36 lands, but that doesn't really fix the problem. They need to  
37 look at the broader issue of how to do that. And hopefully  
38 this could lead to that.

39  
40 I guess the thing we would say in addition to what  
41 they're saying, there needs to be a mechanism for pointing to  
42 address the specific geographic problem like that over there to  
43 put together -- I don't know if we'd call it another task force  
44 or whatever, but some way of sitting down with the different  
45 people involved and coming up with a common solution.

46  
47 MR. ELEY: That's an excellent point.

48  
49 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Yeah. And -- 'Cause we could

50 identify some of those issues, and we can say we can't fi

0044

1 we need all these people to get together, and yet there's no  
2 mechanism right now for them to get together I guess. So --  
3 yes, Ron?

4  
5 MR. SAM: Yeah, the only other comment that I could  
6 make is pretty much reiterate what you said, because I just got  
7 off of Western Interior proposals and then I'd have to hit the  
8 State Board of Game proposals, and we have two different  
9 agencies to work with. I just -- I just guess I would like to  
10 commend whoever came up with this task force to start working  
11 together. I think that's a step in the right direction, where  
12 we wouldn't be fighting our own selves like I sit on these two  
13 boards, and try to solve one issue. I'm glad you're working on  
14 it.

15  
16 MR. ELEY: Well, I'll be around for the full meeting,  
17 and if someone comes up with an idea that, you know, some brain  
18 storm when they're eating dinner or something, please come over  
19 and just let me know, and I'll be certainly glad to add it to  
20 the list, and appreciate your time and interest.

21  
22 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Henry?

23  
24 MR. DEACON: Well, I'm kind of glad to hear that you're  
25 trying to work together, state and federal. What about the  
26 village point of view? Those you should be listening to. For  
27 three years I'm trying to change these dates of moose hunting  
28 from August, you know, 10th and those stuff. And you tell us,  
29 no, you can't change that. We've got to go by the State. In  
30 my point of view, the State never did really care for rural  
31 village people. You know, they never -- and that's on record.  
32 I need to say that. And those I'd like to see a change in some  
33 of those corporation land. You know, they got no trespassing  
34 sign on those, but we have to manage it ourselves. Well,  
35 somebody's got to look out for those land, that corporation  
36 land. Anybody have any question or answer for those? Just why  
37 do you have to manage your own self. It's very hard for us to  
38 see that, anyone hunting there, when there's no trespassing.  
39 They don't really understand that word, game (indiscernible,  
40 coughing) or fishing.

41  
42 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: A question of who is committed to  
43 enforce regs on the native lands are you saying? I mean,  
44 they've come up with closures or something, and then say we  
45 have nothing to do with fielding that, and the state has kind  
46 of been hands-off, too, yeah, so.....

47  
48 MR. ELEY: As long as corporation lands are private  
49 lands, it would fall under the state, except for certain

50 jurisdictions like your waterfowl that the Federal Govern

0045

1 have. Otherwise, we're just jurisdiction within federal public  
2 lands.

3  
4 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: I guess there's the issue of  
5 enforcement like Jack brought up down there, that sometimes  
6 there -- with that checkpoint and so on, that there needs to be  
7 agreement between the two enforcement of who's going to do  
8 what, so that would be an area they need to talk about on that,  
9 some of them, so that when recommendation (ph) -- somebody's  
10 looking after the store, and not just saying, well, that's not  
11 in our baliwick.

12  
13 MR. ELEY: I agree.

14  
15 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Yeah, Benedict?

16  
17 MR. JONES: Yeah, Mr. Chairman, on AFN proposals that  
18 comanagement is working with the federal and the state, and  
19 just comanagement, we work on that, maybe the tribal office or  
20 TCC would work with the memorandum, so that way the -- would be  
21 native input on subsistence issues.

22  
23 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Uh-hum.

24  
25 MR. JONES: So it would be working together, all three,  
26 you know, with the federal and state and the tribal councils.

27  
28 MR. ELEY: I think that's a real good point, and I know  
29 that the chair has pushed this for years and years that I've  
30 worked with him, and -- I mean, it's a very wise thing to do,  
31 and we still are lax in doing it, and sitting all the people  
32 down that are involved and come up with a very straight forward  
33 solution that everybody can agree on. I think that on the  
34 ground, we probably have more agreement than we do  
35 disagreement, but a lot of times we don't communicate well  
36 amongst agencies and groups, and I think if we could find more  
37 opportunities to get everybody together that's involved with a  
38 particular issue, whether it's the Koyukuk River or 21E or  
39 whatever, that we could come to some solutions that don't make  
40 everybody angry at everybody else, and can have everybody  
41 working together and looking at things like enforcement  
42 strategies and so forth that can work things out better for  
43 everybody involved.

44  
45 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Yeah, okay. Carl?

46  
47 MR. MORGAN: Yeah, I was just wondering, do you get  
48 with the nonprofits and the regions in the different regions?  
49 Like I know there's some that do do a lot of -- they do gather

50 information on fish biology and setting up weirs, and they get

0046

1 federal and state money and coordinate these two people and  
2 work together to benefit the whole -- I mean, benefit  
3 everybody. Do you coordinate with the nonprofits, too, as to  
4 what kind of information they may have gotten?

5  
6 MR. ELEY: I can only speak for the Fish & Wildlife  
7 Service, and certainly the refuges when they have projects  
8 going on and so forth do try to cooperate with their neighbors,  
9 their partners in a lot of these projects, be it the fish weir  
10 on the Kasasa (ph) or on the South Fork or other things.  
11 Certainly we at the Fish & Wildlife Service feel that that's an  
12 important line of communication and coordination certainly.

13  
14 MR. MORGAN: And another question I've got, you know,  
15 we've got two different sets of regulations. I'd like --  
16 instead of looking at two different books, if I can see --  
17 maybe it's just a dream, see one book and say here's a new  
18 regulation, and here's the difference, and key sentences or say  
19 this is the difference between the state reg and the federal,  
20 in one -- you open it and there's Unit 19 and 21E, moose,  
21 that's federal. Here's the difference between the federal and  
22 the state reg, you know. Instead of trying to carry two, like  
23 he says, 15 pounds of baggage and paper when you're going  
24 hunting.

25  
26 MR. ELEY: So you just have to figure out what sort of  
27 land you're on,.....

28  
29 MR. MORGAN: Uh-hum.

30  
31 MR. ELEY: .....so you know which set of your  
32 regulations apply.

33  
34 MR. MORGAN: Uh-hum.

35  
36 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Yeah. Yeah, you have to have a map,  
37 too,.....

38  
39 MR. ELEY: Yeah.

40  
41 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: .....beside the regs.

42  
43 MR. MORGAN: But you look at these maps,.....

44  
45 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Yeah.

46  
47 MR. MORGAN: .....and I can challenge it in court if I  
48 caught a moose in what's -- because that red line is bait. If  
49 it would say the mouth of this river to straight line to over

50 to whatever. I've see that lost in the state side where they

0047

1 challenged the boundary, because that red line doesn't  
2 represent the matter. It don't -- not that much.

3

4 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: So, Carl, you would agree that their  
5 discussion on having one proposal book.....

6

7 MR. MORGAN: Uh-hum.

8

9 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: .....is probably a good one, the  
10 thing that they were talking about working on. Yeah.

11

12 MR. MORGAN: And see what the differences. Here's the  
13 differences between the state and.....

14

15 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Yeah, and highlight the differences  
16 somehow in the book. Yeah.

17

18 MR. ELEY: Yeah, I agree.

19

20 MR. MORGAN: Pointing out the.....

21

22 MR. DERENDOFF: I have a question. Ben Jones brought  
23 up this comanagement. Do you have any kind of a suggestion or  
24 any kind of question for comanagement?

25

26 MR. ELEY: Yeah, I'd refer you to the particular land  
27 manager of the area you're interested in developing  
28 comanagement, working with him. If it's, you know, Koyukuk  
29 Refuge let's say, you know, talk with Gene Williams. And that  
30 certainly can be done. There's -- certainly the Fish &  
31 Wildlife Service is working on cooperative management  
32 agreements in many areas. But you need to get, just like the  
33 Chair suggested, we just need to get people to sit down and  
34 talk about it some and see what the issues and how to best  
35 approach those, whether it's a comanagement agreement, or just  
36 judicious law enforcement or what the particular issue, but I  
37 would encourage you to encourage the land managers to sit down  
38 with the people of Huslia perhaps, the area you're interested  
39 in, and discuss some of the issues that are involved.

40

41 MR. DERENDOFF: Well, the reason I brought this up is  
42 because I've heard the input from Huslia, and there's state,  
43 there's federal, and a lot of the people thought the  
44 comanagement would be the way the local people could have their  
45 input, and right now there's -- right now there's state and  
46 federal, but, you know, comanagement, I really believe  
47 strongly.

48

49 MR. ELEY: There are plenty of opportunities.



0048

1 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Is this task force discussing that  
2 issue or in identifying, let's say, areas where comanagement  
3 would be appropriate or something? Have they taken that into  
4 consideration?

5  
6 MR. ELEY: I don't think it's specifically. In  
7 general, as a concept probably, but I don't think specifically  
8 that they.....

9  
10 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Yeah.

11  
12 MR. BOYD: I think primarily it is focused on ways that  
13 the two entities, the Federal Subsistence Program, and the  
14 state program can better interact with one another and  
15 coordinate for the benefit of the user.

16  
17 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Yeah.

18  
19 MR. BOYD: But we haven't gotten into the realm of  
20 comanagement with tribes and how we might do that jointly,.....

21  
22 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Uh-hum.

23  
24 MR. BOYD: .....but it's certainly an area that you can  
25 comment on. That's -- these are the kinds of things that we're  
26 hearing in other places, so.....

27  
28 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: I think they might add that so that  
29 if there is comanagement issues come up, they could be  
30 resolved, put to the group. What the local entities get into  
31 is this mixed jurisdiction kind of thing, and if there was a  
32 group that was coordinating some of that that they could refer  
33 it to, then maybe they could say what -- yeah, this is -- is  
34 this idea sound and would this make sense in managing this  
35 resource if there was some kind of comanagement, because if we  
36 don't, I think people are going to be sent, well, go talk to  
37 them, or go talk to them, and like Henry says, you know, nobody  
38 seems to be acting on it sometimes.

39  
40 MR. BOYD: Well, you can see from this it's just a very  
41 preliminary list of fairly I'll call them large items, because  
42 they -- you know, you could run another list under each one of  
43 them.

44  
45 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Right.

46  
47 MR. BOYD: That it's a fairly complex area that we're  
48 dealing in, and, you know, for the eight or nine years that the  
49 Federal Subsistence Program's been in place, there has been on-

50 going interaction and coordination with the State on a variety

0049

1 of fronts, for cooperating on wildlife surveys, to interacting  
2 with their involvement with the Federal Subsistence Board even,  
3 and a whole variety of issues. And occasionally we kind of  
4 stumble over one another and create friction and that sort of  
5 thing. We're trying to come up with a formal mechanism that  
6 eliminates some of that, but also serves the user.

7  
8 And I know sometimes this issue of interacting with the  
9 State sort of gets clouded with the bigger issue of the  
10 politics of federal versus state, you know, and that sort of  
11 thing. We're kind of operating beneath that, you know, on the  
12 local level, and trying to make it work for the user. And I  
13 know that's the sentiment of the State, at least at the working  
14 level for the most part I'll say. I mean, you have evidence of  
15 it here in this room today with several members of the Fish &  
16 Game, and the various divisions represented here, and I know  
17 they're making a concerted effort to get out to all of the  
18 council meetings now, and to interact directly with you to  
19 resolve some of the issues that you bring up that they can  
20 react to that we can't, for example. And so I think we're  
21 looking for a way to formalized this working relationship a  
22 little bit better than it is, to be able to interact a little  
23 bit better, not to try to solve some of the bigger political  
24 issues, but to deal with the day-to-day things that come up  
25 that we have to deal with.

26  
27 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Okay. Yes, Vince?

28  
29 MR. MATHEWS: Ray, just because I have to do the  
30 minutes and that, I need to capture what the Council seems to  
31 be saying here, so that list on the back page of this document  
32 on coman- -- on memorandum of understanding, I kind of  
33 hear.....

34  
35 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Tab E.

36  
37 MR. MATHEWS: .....the Council saying that they agree  
38 closer alignment in federal proposal cycles, they support that.  
39 Number two, closer coordination of survey studies and improved  
40 information exchange you seem to support that. Fish & Game  
41 representation at Regional Council meetings, support?

42  
43 MR. SAM: Yes.

44  
45 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Yeah.

46  
47 MR. MATHEWS: Joint production of regulation booklets,  
48 I think Carl covered that.

49



0050

1 here what you have already spoke on and what you have not spoke  
2 on, so it's clear.

3  
4 Increased participation by the State in preparation and  
5 review of proposal analysis. I'm not saying you have to cover  
6 each one of those. I have not heard any talk on that, so you  
7 would be no position on that at this point?

8  
9 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Well, I think we've been using their  
10 information, like in Galena when we were dealing with the issue  
11 there, we had the state biologist in giving us updates on what  
12 the counts were from the station. We were hoping to have the  
13 information here, so we've relied on that information  
14 ourselves, so I guess we'd say yes then.

15  
16 MR. MATHEWS: Okay. But I'm jumping into details so I  
17 can back off real quick, but this would mean that they would be  
18 involved in the write-up of the proposal analysis, and the  
19 review of that analysis before it comes before you.

20  
21 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Oh, I see, at the federal level then  
22 you mean. Yeah.

23  
24 MR. MATHEWS: And I -- that's how I understand it.  
25 There's others here that can clarify that. That's kind of why  
26 I'm going through the list. I'm not trying to sway you any  
27 which way, I'm just trying to make it clear on the record where  
28 your position is. The reason I'm doing that is the state and  
29 federal -- Tom laid it out well, but sometimes we jump up into  
30 that bigger cloud up there, and I want to make sure this  
31 Council is.....

32  
33 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Right.

34  
35 MR. MATHEWS: .....clear on where it stands.

36  
37 From my note taking, there was no discussion on it, so  
38 I would say there's -- it's still open for the Council to take  
39 positions.

40  
41 Involvement of Fish & Game representatives on the staff  
42 committee. To review that real quickly for the new members and  
43 others, as you know, you have the Board made up of the  
44 agencies, and then you have five staffers that staff those  
45 Board members. They meet. That's when George, Pete and I  
46 present the proposal analysis, present the Regional Council  
47 recommendation, any comments. They work out a recommendation  
48 that tracks right up to the Board. This would ask that there  
49 would be a state representative involved in that meeting, and I

50 haven't heard any discussion on that, so just so you know, on

0051

1 the record I'm making it clear that you guys have not spoken on  
2 those.

3  
4 And then the third one is development of Federal/State  
5 coordination plan that will guide joint management. I think  
6 you guys are in agreement with that, based on a discussion of  
7 comanagement and that. Okay.

8  
9 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Uh-hum.

10  
11 MR. MATHEWS: That's -- I just wanted to make sure I  
12 got it clear.

13  
14 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: I don't know if we could comment on  
15 that one, because it's kind of up -- do you need that kind of  
16 input? I can't tell from here whether you need that kind of  
17 input as you're preparing it, on whether you need input or not.

18  
19 MR. MATHEWS: Well, I just bring it up because  
20 it's.....

21  
22 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Right.

23  
24 MR. MATHEWS: .....evolving and it wasn't clear to me,  
25 and I'm -- as your coordinator, I need to track where your  
26 position is, so when we go back and meet with all the other  
27 regional staff, so I know where this Council stands, and it's  
28 very preliminary now, I understand that, but at this point what  
29 you've said needs to go forward so it's clear to your adjoining  
30 regions that you support closer alignment, coordination, et  
31 cetera, et cetera.

32  
33 MR. SAM: I've got a question.

34  
35 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Yes, Ron?

36  
37 MR. SAM: Well, do you have a time frame to come up  
38 with anything on this MOA?

39  
40 MR. BOYD: I'm not sure that I can answer it clearly.  
41 There is no clear time frame that we're operating under.  
42 Obviously we -- we're trying to move this along as we go, and I  
43 think -- I don't know when the next meeting is scheduled. It  
44 was scheduled -- actually they had a meeting scheduled in  
45 September that was canceled, waiting for input from the  
46 councils. There will be a meeting of this task group scheduled  
47 after the councils meet to consider all the input and to try to  
48 work toward agreement on all these things. How long that  
49 process will take, I'm not sure right now. It depends on the

50 level of disagreement between the two entities. It's kind of

0052

1 like negotiating, you know, and we're trying to work together  
2 off what we can live with with each other, and there's a lot of  
3 good ideas in here and a lot of common ground I think that we  
4 can work on, but I can't really tell you what kind of obstacles  
5 we're going to face as we get into further discussions on this.  
6 We clearly want your input though right now, your concerns  
7 about what's going on here, and that's something that will come  
8 into the -- you know, into the -- onto the table as we carry  
9 this forward.

10

11 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Ron?

12

13 MR. SAM: Yeah. After listening for these last few  
14 minutes, I hate to put myself into a reactive position, but I  
15 can't help but say to keep on doing what you're doing in trying  
16 to come up with the best solution, and if we have to react,  
17 we'll react. That's all there is to it. I mean, some -- at  
18 some times we're just not prepared to come out with full  
19 recommendations at these meetings.

20

21 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Well, I think I heard you say that  
22 the plans when they do come together would probably be out for  
23 review before the.....

24

25 MR. BOYD: Yes.

26

27 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: There wouldn't be an agreement  
28 signed and sealed between them without us being able to review  
29 it.

30

31 MR. BOYD: Yeah.

32

33 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: So that's.....

34

35 MR. ELEY: Yeah, absolutely.

36

37 MR. BOYD: That's correct.

38

39 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Yeah.

40

41 MR. SAM: Okay.

42

43 MR. REAKOFF: Mr. Chair?

44

45 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Yes, Jack?

46

47 MR. REAKOFF: I have always been in favor of -- the  
48 State after the federal take-over, diverged off and stayed  
49 aloof from the federal program, and I was glad to hear last

50 year that they were going to come back towards working in a

0053

1 comanagement position with the Federal Government.

2

3 As a user, I'm very much in favor of one book,  
4 regulation booklet, and that could be color coded, kind of like  
5 this map here, as far as what the federal regulations are in a  
6 certain color code. Where the regulations are the same,  
7 sometimes you have to look at both books to find out if it's  
8 exactly the same caribou season. I think color-coded, one  
9 book, would make it a lot easier, clear up a lot of confusion  
10 between the two books, you know, in the same format. I see the  
11 State has adopted this -- the Federal Government was the one  
12 who came out by unit regulation portrayal, and the State  
13 adopted that, so two heads are better than one, and there's  
14 sometimes good ideas come out of both systems.

15

16 I think that the combination of funding for surveys is  
17 very useful with funding cuts and so forth, and where  
18 identifying with populations are they should all -- state and  
19 federal money should be combined for those surveys.

20

21 I'm real happy to see that this is occurring.

22

23 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Enough said I guess on the MOA,  
24 yeah, or the memorandum of agreement.

25

26 All right. The other item that was down there that  
27 came up was a briefing on using the consent agenda at the  
28 annual spring meeting. Someone will have to refresh me here.  
29 They were just talking about how they were going to use that  
30 procedure to pass something instead of spending a lot of debate  
31 on it, but how do things get placed on there?

32

33 MR. MATHEWS: Yeah, that was -- I jumped the gun on it.  
34 It's basically the Board is looking at using a consent agenda  
35 where if the -- all parties to the proposal are in agreement,  
36 that they would group those all together and adopt them in one  
37 action. That hasn't been further defined, so I thought it  
38 would be at this meeting. I was wrong on the schedule. It  
39 will be more at the next meeting. But it would more be for the  
40 representative or chair that goes to the meeting, that they  
41 would have to realize if this goes forward, that they would  
42 look at this consent agenda, and if they saw something on it  
43 that they did not want on the consent agenda, they would have  
44 to flag the Chair of the Federal Subsistence Board to say that  
45 needs to be taken off, because I need to talk more about it.  
46 But that will all be worked out and further defined at your  
47 next meeting. So I kind of jumped the gun, but it's prepping  
48 you for those that go to the meetings that there may be what's  
49 called a consent agenda.



0054

1 MR. BOYD: If I might answer your question?

2  
3 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Yes.

4  
5 MR. BOYD: With regard to who sets the agenda, that  
6 would be done in the meeting by the participants of the  
7 meeting.

8  
9 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Right.

10  
11 MR. BOYD: So just to reassure you that it wouldn't be  
12 set beforehand, so you would have input to that.

13  
14 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Yeah. But they are looking at  
15 coming out with that forward, so when the agenda comes out,  
16 there will be some things that are under a consent agenda, and  
17 we need to realize that if that happens, we'd have to be ready  
18 to pull something off if we want to discuss it further,.....

19  
20 MR. BOYD: If you want to -- exactly.

21  
22 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: .....if we've got amendments or  
23 something like that.

24  
25 MR. BOYD: Yeah. And there would have to be a  
26 consensus or general agreement on that before it went on the  
27 consent agenda.

28  
29 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Right.

30  
31 MR. BOYD: If there was not agreement, then it would  
32 come off for further discussion.

33  
34 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: And I imagine if they continue to  
35 have the chairs meet before, that the chairs would by that time  
36 have the agenda and they could look at that, too, if they saw  
37 something going through that they thought they weren't in  
38 agreement with, yeah. Yes, Ron?

39  
40 MR. SAM: Yeah, my question, maybe I don't understand  
41 it, but I'd like to finalize it. Okay. When we attend the  
42 Tanana Chiefs Conference and start going through the  
43 resolution, we make a blanket motion to adopt all of them,  
44 unless we strike one or two because of a few questions or  
45 disagreement. Is that what you're -- basically what you're  
46 trying to do?

47  
48 MR. BOYD: Yes.

49



0055

1 MR. BOYD: Streamline the meeting.

2

3 MR. ASHBY: .....sort of my understanding.

4

5 MR. BOYD: Yeah, where there's agreement all the way  
6 around, then there's no reason to belabor it with a lot of  
7 lengthy discussion. Where there's need for discussion, focus  
8 there.

9

10 MR. SAM: Yeah, I think most of us are used to that to  
11 some extent then.

12

13 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, the next item there is  
14 basically put in there that would allow you or Ron to share, as  
15 you've already done, your impressions, comments, whatever,  
16 about the Federal Subsistence Board meeting. We will go in  
17 another part of the agenda in detail what the Board did with  
18 your recommendations. We can do that now or later, but that's  
19 in there for you or Ron, or whoever the representative, to  
20 share what they've learned, their concerns, what they would  
21 like to have addressed by the Council of what the Board did.  
22 So that's why that spot's in there.

23

24 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Yeah. I think I've shared with my  
25 own, there was that meeting I said of the chairs of the other  
26 committees there. That was an evening before where we  
27 discussed things, and then there was the executive session the  
28 next day. And then, Ron, I think you came in when they were  
29 discussing proposals.

30

31 MR. SAM: Oh, yes. Right.

32

33 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: I think I had to leave, and so he  
34 was there to represent us when they were dealing with  
35 proposals.

36

37 And my over-all impression is that that process is  
38 working quite well. I know some of the chairs are more  
39 interested -- they'd like to see things go further, they'd like  
40 to see more comanagement. But some of those areas don't have  
41 the problems we do. Some of them are less land mix and other  
42 kinds of things, or like Northwest Arctic, there's basically  
43 one tribal group that's in the whole area. We don't have that  
44 here. We have several kind of tribal groups that are in the  
45 area there, so there isn't just one to look to, so they're  
46 interested in moving forward on comanagement and so on. Here  
47 we'd have to decide if there was comanagement, who the  
48 agreement would be with, would it be with villages, would it be  
49 with Tanana Chiefs, would it be -- and we've got a mix between

50 Tanana Chiefs and the village council and so on. So it's more

0056

1 complex in our area I guess.

2

3 But what I'm saying is that some of those chairs what  
4 us -- want to go further with that, and they're not interested  
5 in state involvement, many of them. They don't want to go back  
6 under state management, but again they don't have this mix  
7 situations that we have where there's more need for cooperation  
8 in our area there. We've got more of a mix over there. And  
9 for instance in the immediate area here, with the State not in  
10 subsistence at all, a lot of this land is completely off  
11 limits. We can't do -- if there's a subsistence season, it's  
12 for every resident of the state.

13

14 So you have a chance to talk about things like that at  
15 the meeting when the chairs come in, and I think the process is  
16 working, and I'll let it go with that, and I'd like -- Ron, do  
17 you want to comment further?

18

19 MR. SAM: Yeah, as I stated before, I sat in for Ray  
20 under the proposals, not only encompasses our area, but all the  
21 areas around us. And like I said, I was pretty impressed by  
22 the way things work. And everyone goes in there with an open  
23 mind, and every regional chair that was seated pretty worked  
24 together. We didn't have any conflicts, but at the proposal  
25 time, you cannot have any, you know. It either goes or it goes  
26 down. So like I said, we got a lot of backing from quite a few  
27 other regional chairs on our proposals, and we backed their  
28 proposals simply because they were right in line with a lot of  
29 our proposals. And I think that's why I was impressed with  
30 that meeting, is that if it ain't broke, you know, why fix it.  
31 And I would like to see that kind of working relationships  
32 continue. And that's about all I have.

33

34 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Okay. Vince, you were saying that  
35 the results of that meeting, they're found somewhere else? You  
36 can either bring them now or.....

37

38 MR. MATHEWS: Yeah, when we discussed the response, I  
39 call it the 805(c) letter, then we'll be -- we can go proposal  
40 by proposal, what you did and what the Board did. I briefly  
41 did that yesterday, and there was only one proposal where they  
42 took a slightly different action than you requested, and so we  
43 can talk further about that. So.....

44

45 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Where is that on the agenda?

46

47 MR. MATHEWS: Well, that's -- you're catching me short  
48 here. It would be under probably -- well, it's under 11(B),  
49 background information, report of.....



0057

1 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Okay.

2

3 MR. MATHEWS: .....Federal Subsistence Board action  
4 since last meeting.

5

6 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Right.

7

8 MR. MATHEWS: And you got that letter in the mail  
9 anyway, so we'll go over it in detail, all the members did, of  
10 the Board actions.

11

12 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Right.

13

14 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, we do have some time  
15 constraints here by the fact that we still have to distribute  
16 the travel advances and get to the store to cash. Some of them  
17 are in checks. So that still needs to be done, plus get  
18 everybody that wants to eat at the Takusko Inn over to the  
19 Takusko Inn, and.....

20

21 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Okay.

22

23 MR. MATHEWS: .....I think -- I don't know where the  
24 negotiations have gone with meeting with the Board of Game  
25 member Fleagle, but I believe there's some movement to meet  
26 with him during lunch, council members in private. So.....

27

28 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: So do you want to move to that right  
29 now rather than continue with the agenda, is that what you're  
30 saying? Maybe we could.....

31

32 MR. MATHEWS: No, I'm saying maybe we ought to break  
33 now so we can get the paperwork out of the way, get people in  
34 vans,.....

35

36 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Right. Okay.

37

38 MR. MATHEWS: .....and move it along.

39

40 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Yes. Any problem with that? Okay?

41

42 MR. SAM: No.

43

44 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: I think people want to eat, and they  
45 don't mind getting a check, so -- all right.

46

47 (Off record - 11:45 a.m.)

48

49 (On record - 1:15 p.m.)



0058

1 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: .....1:15, and we're done to new  
2 member welcome and introduction, so we'll take this time to  
3 formally welcome Carl and Benedict. Do you want to introduce  
4 yourself any further, Carl?

5  
6 MR. MORGAN: Not at this time.

7  
8 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Okay. Okay. But we want to  
9 formally welcome you, and same to you, Benedict. Do you have  
10 anything further to add to what you said this morning?

11  
12 MR. JONES: Not at the present time.

13  
14 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Okay. Thank you.

15  
16 MR. MATHEWS: Ray?

17  
18 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Yes?

19  
20 MR. MATHEWS: We missed one item before that, and sorry  
21 about backing you up, but.....

22  
23 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Oh, the new members training group?  
24 Okay.

25  
26 MR. MATHEWS: Right. This is -- all of you received  
27 one of these grey books. And let me get this off here. And  
28 one of these yellow books in the mail I believe? If not, I put  
29 some in front of you.

30  
31 MR. BOYD: Less than a quarter of a pound.

32  
33 MR. MATHEWS: Yeah. There's a whole bunch of stuff in  
34 front of you there, I apologize for that. We were trying to  
35 get everything in the book, and then once the book is made,  
36 then all this other stuff just shows up, but this is kind of  
37 important for you. Benedict and I spent most of a morning  
38 going through a lot of this material as a new member training.  
39 Henry, this would be in front of you, in front of your pile  
40 there. I know I set one out there.

41  
42 I don't know how to best proceed with this, but I  
43 suppose the best way to proceed with it would be this is the  
44 manual that's in draft form, that we consulted with a couple of  
45 the chairs and others in putting together. This is a draft  
46 one. That's true, I don't know how we really want to present  
47 this. It may be -- maybe you just want to look through it when  
48 you get time in the next day or so, and see if there's any  
49 comments or additions you want to use.



0059

1           The format is question type format, so if you would  
2 bear with me and turn to like section one, which is on page --  
3 let's do page two. If you look at that and you see that big  
4 number two up there, it says, what federal laws and regulations  
5 deal with subsistence? It will give you a paragraph or two and  
6 tell you which laws do. When the manual is completed, it will  
7 actually tell you where to find those in the manual. Okay.  
8 It's set up as what this group, focus group thought would be  
9 the best way, and it's done in a question format.

10  
11           I've been really impressed with it. It's worked real  
12 well to use it as a training material. It's a vast improvement  
13 over our past manual.

14  
15           The yellow one is kind of an executive summary of the  
16 program, but is in a similar format of question and answer. So  
17 as an example, someone might ask you how did this program come  
18 to be? And on page four it has that question and then explains  
19 in short paragraphs how this program came to be. So it's kind  
20 of a format for you to use on your own.

21  
22           I realize that it's mainly going to be a reference  
23 manual that you'll keep probably at home. You may want to take  
24 it to the meeting periodically. I'll have a copy always with  
25 me like I have the old one. But it's kind of one that you  
26 would use if you're back home and a question comes up, you may  
27 want to look in the manual first, or if someone comes by,  
28 you're at a village council meeting or a local fish and game  
29 advisory committee meeting, and they go, well, what is this  
30 federal program all about, you may want to share a copy of this  
31 with them. And if you need an additional copy, then let us  
32 know, but that's where this is coming from.

33  
34           This was a direct request -- back to what's the power  
35 of the joint chairs meeting. This came out of the joint chairs  
36 meeting, that we needed to improve our orientation and training  
37 materials.

38  
39           We're also look at a training video. I'm not sure  
40 where we're at on that schedule. I know we're at on that  
41 schedule. I know we're working to develop an outline and a  
42 script for that, but I'm not -- we're not ready enough to show  
43 you that script and outline yet. But I think soon -- well, at  
44 the next meeting we probably will have the script and that.  
45 And then that video would have multi-purposes. It would be  
46 like when -- with Carl we weren't able to do this with, but for  
47 Benedict and any other new members, we may have used a video.  
48 But also the video would be, is if you know of a person, or we  
49 know of a person that would be an excellent council member, but

50 they're not sure they want to apply. This video might help

0060

1 them, because they -- we could send them a copy, loan them a  
2 copy, and then at home they could look at it, see on their own.  
3 There would be footage in there, if it goes well, from other  
4 council meetings, so they may see familiar faces instead of  
5 just my face.

6  
7 And so that's the package that's being developed,  
8 because of the chairs saying we need to do something more to  
9 understand how this program works.

10  
11 I don't know, Tom, I think I'd leave it at that,  
12 because it's editing by council or committee is difficult. But  
13 I would encourage you to look at this on your own as an  
14 individual, get back to us if you have concerns. If, when  
15 we're in session here, if there's something that comes up that  
16 you'd say, well, why don't we add this or what about this in  
17 there that doesn't seem to be clear, then we'll do it as a  
18 council. If it's afterwards, give me a call, and then I'll  
19 refer that to the group that's putting this together. And then  
20 you'll get a final draft -- final copy, excuse me, at the next  
21 meeting is the projected outline of it. And it's unbelievable  
22 how helpful it was with Benedict, and then when I trained  
23 Eastern Interior members, now easy it was to pull this up and  
24 find the material in there. And it's kind of one-stop  
25 shopping. So I'll leave that with you guys on that item.

26  
27 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Okay. Thank you, Vince, and I'm  
28 sorry I missed that item.

29  
30 MR. MATHEWS: Okay.

31  
32 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Okay. We've.....

33  
34 MR. BOYD: Mr. Collins?

35  
36 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Yes, Tom?

37  
38 MR. BOYD: I might just add that, you know, Vince is  
39 correct, we're targeting next meeting to have the script of the  
40 video ready, but we've got some personnel turn-over in our  
41 office that we're going to have consider people that are  
42 directly related to this publication and the script, so while  
43 we're targeting that, I may get -- we may get pushed back until  
44 we can get the right people on board to help us with that.

45  
46 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Okay. Thank you. Item number C.  
47 Do any other members have any reports that you've been at other  
48 meetings related to this that you want to bring to our  
49 attention? I think the only one -- some of you may have taken

50 place in that subsistence summit in there, but I think there's

0061

1 some handouts on that. Is that in the agenda here?

2

3 MR. MATHEWS: Right.

4

5 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Yeah.

6

7 MR. MATHEWS: I put in front of you the fairly large  
8 copy, that's some materials taken from the Alaska Federation of  
9 Natives Subsistence Summit in August. That's there for you to  
10 become aware of the -- what's going on dealing with the  
11 Governor's Task Force report, and the State initiative, and et  
12 cetera.

13

14 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Well, I think Ron has already  
15 mentioned his participation in the one federal one there, so  
16 I'm unaware of anybody else being assigned any meetings.

17

18 Okay. We'll move on down then to correspondence  
19 received and sent. The only correspondence I've received  
20 directly that isn't in your packets is probably that one letter  
21 that I mentioned already that I read from Bill Thompson -- or  
22 Thomas. Not Thompson, Thomas?

23

24 MR. MATHEWS: Thomas.

25

26 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Thomas, from Ketchikan.

27

28 MR. MATHEWS: You do have .....

29

30 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: And, Vince, have you got.....

31

32 MR. MATHEWS: Yeah, you have in your.....

33

34 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: .....a tab in here with.....

35

36 MR. MATHEWS: .....book under tab G as in Galena. I  
37 think just for the record I'll just, so it gets on the record,  
38 that what's in here. I won't summarize it, I think most of  
39 these you already received in the mail, because you took a  
40 fairly long stance on the trapping issue on wildlife refuges.  
41 You did get a letter back from Representative Don Young of  
42 April 1st, and that's in front of you in your booklet. You  
43 also received a letter from Senator Ted Stevens on that same  
44 issue, and it appears to be kind of a combined letter with  
45 Senator Murkowski is one way of interpreting that. So those  
46 letters are there for you to look at. And I'll pause a second  
47 or so to see if you have any questions on those before I move  
48 on to the next one. And there will be a further report a  
49 little bit on that trapping under agency reports, so we can

50 address any clarification needed for the senators, but the

0062

1 issue itself will -- Tom Eley will be dealing with later.

2

3 MR. DERENDOFF: I have a question. Is there who were  
4 they addressed to also? CC'd?

5

6 MR. MATHEWS: The -- okay.

7

8 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: They're in response to a letter that  
9 I sent, the one I wrote on trapping, our concerns about  
10 trapping went to Murkowski and Stevens, and this is their reply  
11 back. That's why it has my name on it, Dear Mr. Collins.

12

13 MR. MATHEWS: And I sent these letters and your letter,  
14 which was a combination of Jack Reakoff's personal letter,  
15 Collins' letter, and a couple of other ones, and I sent that  
16 back in March I think it was. So in answer to your question,  
17 what happens is the letters come in to me or to Ray, and then  
18 in the past what we've done is if it's an urgent issue, then I  
19 distribute copies to all the members. If it's not, this is  
20 when you see the letters.

21

22 Now, the letter like this that's directly written to  
23 Ray, I fax it to Ray so he has a copy, because it's -- well,  
24 because of its importance, but also because he may get a call  
25 from one of these senators or some staffer or some other  
26 organization in another letter, so he's not blind-sided, he  
27 would have a copy of the letter. But that's it. We can change  
28 that if you want to, and any letter that comes in, then I would  
29 make, you know, nine copies and mail it out. So far this has  
30 worked so far that you would have it at this meeting. But that  
31 doesn't mean we have to continue that way.

32

33 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: The next one there on the May 2nd is  
34 one again that's directed to me as chair, but it's bringing up  
35 the issue that you brought up, Carl. It's from Leo Morgan from  
36 -- about the customary and traditional. Is there any comments  
37 on that letter or.....

38

39 MR. MATHEWS: Okay. The next letter -- I'll try to --  
40 if you can't hear me over the dishes, just let me know. Okay?  
41 I guess this is just like at home. All I need is three little  
42 kids running around, and it would be just like at home.

43

44 The next letter is a letter I wrote, but this is a  
45 process that needs to be aware to everybody. We've now taken  
46 the proposal process and made it a complete loop of  
47 information. Okay. Let's take an example. Let's say Ron Sam  
48 sits down this week and writes a proposal to change the moose  
49 season in his area. He would submit it, send it to the

50 Anchorage office. Soon after that, he'd get a letter sa

0063

1 thank you, Mr. Sam, for your letter addressing moose season in  
2 Unit 24, et cetera. Your request is now Proposal 42. The  
3 Western Interior Regional Council will take it up sometime in  
4 February. The Federal Subsistence Board will take action on it  
5 in April. If you have any questions, call this number. So  
6 he's got an got an acknowledgement that his proposal has been  
7 received and it's been assigned a number. He'll know how to  
8 track it if he so desires.

9  
10 When it goes through and the Board takes action, soon  
11 after that a letter is written to Mr. Sam like this here to the  
12 Council, because these were your proposals, saying, thank you,  
13 Mr. Sam, for your letter on moose in Unit 24. The Federal  
14 Subsistence Board took it up at their meeting in April of '97,  
15 and -- or '98, and they did X with it. And so the loop is  
16 closed, so every -- the person who submits it knows what  
17 happens to their proposal.

18  
19 You wrote three proposals, Proposal 53, 57 and 59.  
20 This is your letter of response in that information loop  
21 process. So 53, quickly, was requesting a positive customary  
22 and traditional use determination for moose in portion of Unit  
23 18 for villages of Lower Kalskag, Aniak, Napaimiut and Taylor's  
24 been working on this for years to get me to pronounce it right,  
25 but Chuathbaluk? No? Well,.....

26  
27 MR. MORGAN: Chuathbaluk.

28  
29 MR. MATHEWS: Okay. The Board supported the proposal  
30 as modified by Western Interior. The Y-K, or Yukon-Kuskokwim  
31 Regional Council supported the proposal as written, and so the  
32 Napaimiut area was deleted because it's seasonally occupied,  
33 and its seasonal residents reside in other communities covered  
34 by the proposal, so the Board adopted Proposal 53 as you  
35 modified it to pull out that one area.

36  
37 I'll just go through the other two proposals, unless  
38 there's questions on 53?

39  
40 Okay. 57 was a request for a positive customary and  
41 traditional use determination for caribou in Unit 21 for the  
42 Western Arctic Herd only. It was submitted. That one,  
43 technical analysis was not completed for this proposal, and it  
44 will be resubmitted for decision next year. So that's a  
45 proposal you'll have in front of you this coming round, but the  
46 information process fed back to you that you had a record of  
47 what happened.

48  
49 Proposal 59 is a customary and traditional use

50 determination of caribou in 24 for residents of 24, Koy

0064

1 Galena, Tanana and Stevens Village. The Board adopted that  
2 proposal as recommended by both Eastern and Western Interior  
3 Councils, and it gives you, you know, a synopsis of what that  
4 ended up doing, and it acknowledged that the North Slope  
5 Regional Council had input on that.

6  
7 And so that closes out the proposals that you dealt  
8 with on that. Okay. And then we'll talk later on the 805  
9 letter which is the official response to your recommendations.  
10 This was the response to your proposals.

11  
12 And that's it, Mr. Chairman, on correspondence. Oh,  
13 there's one -- a couple of more. That's correspondence  
14 received.

15  
16 I've put in a copy of the newsletter, that was the  
17 first draft, first -- I shouldn't say first draft. The first  
18 edition. I would appreciate in private or as a council any  
19 comments on that. Was it helpful? Was it not? Should it be  
20 changed? Should it continue to go on? That's up to you, if  
21 you want to do it individually, whatever. If I hear nothing,  
22 then I'll probably go ahead and do another newsletter probably  
23 after this meeting, but most likely for sure after your next  
24 meeting, so the region would know what actions you took, so  
25 they could respond to the Board if they so desire in support or  
26 in opposition to your actions, just so they would be informed.

27  
28 So that closes out what we've received, and then we can  
29 go through what we sent out under your letterhead.

30  
31 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Okay. Did anyone else receive any  
32 correspondence that should come to our attention? I don't  
33 know, sometimes people get a letter from somebody to deliver or  
34 such thing. Okay.

35  
36 Okay. Then moving on, the next is item E, update on  
37 the expansion of the Federal Subsistence Fisheries.

38  
39 MR. MATHEWS: Okay. Not to slow you down, Ray, but if  
40 they -- if you want to look at what letters were sent out under  
41 your letterhead, that's under H.

42  
43 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Oh, okay.

44  
45 MR. MATHEWS: I don't need to go through those, but  
46 that's -- all the letterhead ones that are sent out, I consult  
47 with the chair, and what we've done is I get a phone permission  
48 to sign his name and then I initial it. So he is in the loop  
49 of anything that's sent out under your signature. So I'll

50 leave it at that. So that's how the rest of the members ar

0065

1 informed, unless it was an issue where you made a fairly  
2 substantial stand on, which was like the trapping, then you get  
3 a copy right off the bat. Sorry.

4  
5 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Okay. We can proceed with the  
6 fisheries report.

7  
8 MS. MEEHAN: Good afternoon. I'm Rosa Meehan from the  
9 Office of Subsistence Management, and I just want to share with  
10 you where we are with the fisheries issue, and as I'm sure  
11 you're well aware, the -- as a result of a court case, the  
12 primary plaintiff was Katie John. The finding in the Circuit  
13 Court was that the federal program should expand to include  
14 fisheries on navigable waters. And we talked -- I talked with  
15 you all last winter in Holy Cross about the preparation of the  
16 proposed rule, and the environmental assessment. And since  
17 that time we have finished a proposed rule, and the  
18 environmental assessment.

19  
20 And to sort of catch you up on what's included in that,  
21 the key provisions in that proposed rule were -- are basically  
22 a delineation of the waters that would be included within the  
23 program, and we should have a map here that shows those  
24 drainages. Vince? That's -- but that's not a Katie John map.  
25 Basically, on the maps the areas that are colored in pink or in  
26 light purple are -- the waters on those lands would be included  
27 under federal jurisdiction. There's -- along the Kuskokwim  
28 drainage -- or along the Yukon drainages, there's big pieces of  
29 the Yukon that are included. Any of the areas where the river  
30 goes right adjacent to a refuge, for example, are included. If  
31 anybody has specific questions on jurisdiction, I'd be glad to  
32 spend time at a map and point it out. But any rate, that's --  
33 the proposed rule did specifically identify what waters would  
34 be included.

35  
36 It extended jurisdiction to lands within conservation  
37 system unit that have been selected but not conveyed, and so  
38 that would be for both the wildlife program and for fisheries.

39  
40 MR. SAM: What tab are you under?

41  
42 MS. MEEHAN: Hum?

43  
44 MR. SAM: What tab?

45  
46 MS. MEEHAN: Oh, I'm sorry. This is under tab I in  
47 your book. Thanks, Ron. I meant to say that.

48  
49 And the proposed rule also contains an acknowledgement

50 of the Secretary's authority to extend jurisdiction off federal

0066

1 land. And basically what that means is if there is an activity  
2 that's occurring on an adjacent piece of nonfederal land that  
3 is affecting resources on federal land, that the Secretary has  
4 the authority to stop that activity. So, for instance, if  
5 there's a river that's downstream of a piece of federal land,  
6 and somebody puts a weir in the river and stops all the fish  
7 from going up to -- within federal waters, the Secretary has  
8 the authority to have that weir removed so that the fish can  
9 get up onto federal waters.

10  
11 There's -- the proposed rule also acknowledges  
12 customary trade as a legitimate subsistence use.

13  
14 And this is -- an important part of it is that by and  
15 large, the proposed rule adopts state regulations, and so the  
16 idea is that should we get into fisheries management, the  
17 program would start with the state regulations as a basis, and  
18 then this same program structure would be in place for  
19 proposals to be submitted to change those regulations, review  
20 by the Council, the same as we do with wildlife. So it's  
21 essentially the same system, and it's starting out the same way  
22 as this wildlife program started.

23  
24 The -- in terms of actually implementing the fisheries  
25 program, for the past couple of years the federal program has  
26 been under a moratorium that was included in our budget bill  
27 that prevented the federal program from actually implementing a  
28 program. We have recently learned that moratorium language was  
29 included in the Interior bill by Senator Stevens. It was also  
30 included the House portion of bill. It's right now in  
31 conference committee, but since it came up, since the  
32 moratorium language came up in both the House and the Senate,  
33 it is likely to be included in the final budget bill. We don't  
34 know that for sure. It's still in conference right now.

35  
36 The proposed moratorium is -- would be in place until  
37 December 1998. So that's a year from this December. And it's  
38 specifically timed to allow the State to complete the actions  
39 that are outlined in the Governor's proposal to resolve the  
40 subsistence dilemma. So that's on the table right now, and we  
41 don't know whether that's going to go through or not, but  
42 that's where it is in the process.

43  
44 One thing I want to stress is that should the program  
45 be implemented, the regional councils will play a prominent  
46 role in carrying out a fisheries program, just as the regional  
47 councils are involved in the wildlife program. It may involve  
48 extra meetings, or time added to the existing meetings to cover  
49 fisheries issues. It will depend on the councils, and on the

50 number of issues that come in.

0067

1           And I guess at this point I'll go ahead and take  
2 questions. And my primary purpose here, of course, is to just  
3 give you an update of where we stand on this. And as I  
4 mentioned, this stuff is still in -- working it's way through  
5 the legislative process. The moratorium will not be final  
6 until the President signs the Interior appropriations bill.  
7 So.....

8  
9           CHAIRMAN COLLINS: If he signs it, what's the length on  
10 that?

11  
12          MS. MEEHAN: The length on the bill?

13  
14          CHAIRMAN COLLINS: The moratorium.

15  
16          MS. MEEHAN: The mora- -- the proposed moratorium right  
17 now, that's in the bill right now, would extend until December  
18 1998, so it's for 18 months.

19  
20          CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Okay.

21  
22          MR. DEACON: Mr. Chairman?

23  
24          CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Yes, Henry?

25  
26          MR. DEACON: Yeah, I've got a question on that. You're  
27 talking the river like Shageluk and up the river in the unit  
28 from us, since I'm in Grayling. So does that effect Shageluk  
29 since it's not federal land?

30  
31          MS. MEEHAN: I'm not familiar with the situation, but  
32 the principle is that if there's an action being taken that,  
33 you know, would be down river on the Shageluk that affects  
34 upper reaches that are on federal land, there is the authority  
35 to stop that ac- -- to stop whatever is doing the blocking.

36  
37          MR. DEACON: Similar to that authority (indiscernible).

38  
39          MS. MEEHAN: The authority is in place now. The  
40 principle is. But what's missing in this particular situation,  
41 if I understand it correctly, is that right now our program  
42 doesn't have the authority over fisheries. That's the proposed  
43 expansion, and that's what -- but that proposed expansion is  
44 being held up by this moratorium.

45  
46          MR. DEACON: That's going to be a sticky issue for the  
47 Shageluk, because that's traditional usage for us.

48  
49          MS. MEEHAN: Uh-hum.



0068

1 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Well, that's a subsistence fishery,  
2 but there are no villages above them, so you probably wouldn't  
3 be stopped. I mean, if there's nobody above that's protesting  
4 that they're interfering with their subsistence fishery, then  
5 it probably wouldn't even come up as a subsistence issue,  
6 unless it's raised in some other context.

7  
8 MR. DEACON: Yes. It should be notified (ph).

9  
10 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Yeah. Yeah.

11  
12 MR. DEACON: 'Cause that is what I'm -- if an order  
13 starts where it says you can't do this.

14  
15 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: I don't know.

16  
17 MR. DEACON: I know the State is trying to close them  
18 down for many years. (Indiscernible) the State, they've been  
19 trying to close them down, but that's their way, people are  
20 doing that, for instance. That's an issue there.

21  
22 MS. MEEHAN: Uh-hum.

23  
24 MR. DEACON: I don't have any other questions.

25  
26 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Jack?

27  
28 MR. REAKOFF: I have a question on the State's  
29 definition of customary trade. What was -- what's their  
30 definition of customary trade at this time?

31  
32 MS. MEEHAN: Who's got a state book? I don't know it  
33 off the top of my head.

34  
35 MR. BOYD: We have some state folks in the room that  
36 might be able to amplify on this. My understanding is  
37 currently state regulations prohibit the sale of subsistence  
38 taken salmon, and I don't know -- I'd have to specific -- they  
39 may want to correct me. I'm not sure about the definition of  
40 customary trade though.

41  
42 MR. ANDERSEN: I can look. It may take me a while. I  
43 can try to get you that.

44  
45 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Okay.

46  
47 MS. MEEHAN: Oh, this is -- yeah. Sorry I don't have  
48 the specific answer to that, but they're better on the state  
49 part. The part that's important within the federal regulations

50 is that customary trade is recognized as a traditional

0069

1 practice, and sale is permitted, providing it is not a  
2 significant commercial enterprise. And it's -- that language  
3 is used very carefully to -- the concern being the development  
4 of markets based on subsistence-caught fish. And as you know,  
5 that's a sensitive issue all along the Yukon.

6  
7 MR. REAKOFF: I was wondering that in regards to you  
8 said that you would basically adopt the state subsistence  
9 regulations, and it's -- I mean, if -- their definition, and  
10 what their definition of customary trade was.

11  
12 MS. MEEHAN: Yeah. There are a few specific  
13 differences. That's one. Another one is that the federal  
14 regulations recognize the use of rod and reel for -- within a  
15 subsistence context. But the general provisions within the  
16 state regulations, the -- it's what we call seasons and bags in  
17 wildlife, but at any rate the fishing seasons and the limits  
18 are by and large adopted straight across. So that part's -- so  
19 it's the bulk of the regulations are the same.

20  
21 MR. MATHEWS: Ray?

22  
23 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Yes?

24  
25 MR. MATHEWS: The State Governor's Task Force, of which  
26 you have the most current copy, is in your grey folder in front  
27 of you. Jack may want to look at that, because they are  
28 suggesting to change that definition of customary trade, and I  
29 don't know if there's someone here for the State when we bring  
30 up the Governor's Task Force here to speak, but that does bring  
31 that up there, so it's on page -- it's the second to the last  
32 page, but again we're not going to talk about that, but that's  
33 a reference that you may want to look at. But that's not  
34 passed. It's a proposal, et cetera, et cetera.

35  
36 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: But basically this item on the  
37 agenda is really under hold now until we see whether the  
38 Governor -- whether the President signs the bill or not. If he  
39 signs it, then there's a moratorium until December, so it would  
40 be.....

41  
42 MR. BOYD: Right.

43  
44 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: .....no action. So we wouldn't have  
45 anything to advise on or anything that we would be taking there  
46 until that's resolved. Okay. Thank you. I think -- any other  
47 questions related to the fisheries or where it's at?

48  
49 MS. MEEHAN: If anybody has questions later, I will be

50 here throughout the meeting, and I'll be glad to discuss this,

0070

1 and share what I know.

2

3 MR. MATHEWS: Ray, in reference to your question, if  
4 things change in that, I'll be on the phone with you to go  
5 through a whole series of stuff on fisheries. So you're not  
6 going to be out of the dark. If things look different two  
7 weeks from now, each one of you will be getting a nice phone  
8 call from a lot of people or whatever, so -- right now as she  
9 laid it out, it's just informational. If there's something  
10 that's going to need your action, we're going to be on the  
11 phone real quick with you.

12

13 MR. BOYD: I might add a little bit, that I think it's  
14 a pretty safe bet that this moratorium is going to hold through  
15 Congress, and the President. That's what I'm hearing. And so  
16 I think what Rosa's presented to you will be the final outcome.  
17 And that's again a guess on our part, but I think it's a pretty  
18 safe bet.

19

20 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Okay. The next item on the agenda  
21 is an update and status reports on the Unit 21E, Gasher (ph),  
22 Lower Koyukuk River moose situation. What do we have on that,  
23 Vince?

24

25 MR. MATHEWS: Well, Ray, we kept it on the agenda  
26 because of the stand that this Council has taken in 21A, the  
27 Gash (ph), Grayling, Anvik, Shageluk area, the Holy Cross area,  
28 and the Koyukuk River. I don't know which one you want to go  
29 with first.

30

31 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Well, it's -- if that's on the  
32 Koyukuk, that's kind of been going longer there. Was the  
33 checkpoint in place this fall? What happened? Did that  
34 continue to expand, or is there any information on what's going  
35 on there? And then maybe members would have comments on how it  
36 worked or how -- do you have something, Jack? Good.

37

38 MR. WHITMAN: Yeah, Jim.....

39

40 MS. DOWNING: Could you come up to the microphone,  
41 please, and state your name?

42

43 MR. WHITMAN: I'm Jack Whitman.

44

45 MS. DOWNING: Up to the microphone? I do need to get  
46 you on tape.

47

48 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: She needs to get it recorded, yeah.

49



0071

1 (Laughter)

2

3 MR. MATHEWS: And, Ray, we also have the refuge manager  
4 for that area, Gene Williams, here, so it -- maybe at some  
5 point want everybody up to the table on this one.

6

7 MR. WHITMAN: My name is Jack Whitman, I'm with the  
8 Department of Fish & Game. I'm the area biologist in McGrath  
9 for 21E and 19, 21A.

10

11 Jim Wellington, the area biologist in Galena sent me  
12 some information on, very preliminary information, on the  
13 results of the Koyukuk and the Nowitna check stations. He said  
14 there -- at this point, the results are extremely early. In  
15 fact, I think he said the 6th was the -- they didn't have to  
16 send things in until about the 6th, so he's still expecting a  
17 lot more information coming in. So anything that I could give  
18 you now would be very preliminary. I don't know also how to  
19 compare that with earlier things on the Koyukuk. I can talk a  
20 little bit about 21E when you're ready to start on that, but at  
21 this point, I don't have much from the Koyukuk or Nowitna check  
22 stations.

23

24 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: So he didn't have any impressions of  
25 whether it was the same in this last year or heavier or.....

26

27 MR. WHITMAN: I didn't discuss that with him.

28

29 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Okay. Because that had been the  
30 issue before. It seemed to have been growing every year, even  
31 though there were some restrictions put in and -- I mean,  
32 that's -- yeah, Vince?

33

34 MR. MATHEWS: Yeah, Ray, I think maybe if it's okay  
35 with you, either you can do it, or some of the members that  
36 have been here longer, kind of give a little brief history,  
37 because we have new members and others that may not remember  
38 the whole ten yards of the Koyu- -- we don't need to go through  
39 every inch of the ten yards, but we need the high points of why  
40 we're talking a lot about the Lower Koyukuk. I can do it real  
41 quickly here,.....

42

43 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Well, let's.....

44

45 MR. MATHEWS: .....or you were in the hot seat on that  
46 one.

47

48 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Yeah, I'll start, because I've been  
49 involved in it some, and then people can add if I'm -- and

50 there's members though from the area over there that can ad

0072

1 more.

2

3 Basically there's been over the years an increased  
4 interest in the area, because there's a fairly high moose  
5 numbers on what do they call that, Four-Mile Slough or  
6 something like that?

7

8 MR. MATHEWS: Three-Day Slough.

9

10 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Three-Day Slough. Okay. Well, I  
11 know there was a number in there somewhere. Three-Day Slough,  
12 okay. Which is up above Huslia, right?

13

14 MR. JONES: No, below it.

15

16 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Below Huslia, okay.

17

18 MR. JONES: Yeah.

19

20 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Above Koyukuk, below Huslia. Okay.  
21 Isn't there -- oh, they go by Hughes though, don't they?

22

23 MR. JONES: No. Unh-unh.

24

25 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Oh, they don't go by either?

26

27 MR. JONES: That area you're talking about, it's  
28 between Kaseel (ph) and Alders (ph), right there,  
29 geographically.

30

31 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Okay. Well, that's attracted a lot  
32 of interest, and the number of boats coming from Fairbanks and  
33 elsewhere outside the area has grown. The local pressure has  
34 stayed about the same from the villages along there, but with  
35 this increase, then, people going up the river, some of the  
36 local people were having trouble getting smaller moose, there  
37 were so many boats going up there. They were concerned with  
38 them catching moose on the way to that area, that they would  
39 hang them, and the meat would be wasted, because they would be  
40 coming back a week later, so there was issues over wanton waste  
41 and so on. And the fact that locally, when they go out to  
42 hunt, any moose that's shown up in the river, usually there's  
43 so many boats going by that somebody gets a chance to take it  
44 before the local, even though that's not their primary hunting  
45 area. They were heading for the Slough to hunt up there.

46

47 So what they did is people had to declare at a  
48 checkpoint, first was to give information on what it was, and  
49 it's shown that it's increased almost every year, both the

50 number of hunters and the take over the years.

0073

1           The state proposal to fix it was that they had to  
2 declare when they went by the checkpoint whether they were  
3 subsistence hunting or sport hunting. If they were  
4 subsistence, then they could take any moose, but when they come  
5 back to the checkpoint, the antlers would be sawed off. What  
6 they were trying to get them is the ones who were really after  
7 trophy or larger bulls would pass up those smaller ones on the  
8 river and go to the area where the primary hunting was. That's  
9 what they wanted to achieve with that.

10  
11           And last year was the first time that was in place, and  
12 then this would be the second year. There was still an  
13 increase in take year, or increase in number of people from  
14 outside, so it didn't.....

15  
16           MR. MATHEWS: Yeah, there was an increase in the number  
17 of -- well, the same number of hunting pressure went on, I  
18 believe the same number of moose were harvested. There was a  
19 slight increase of cow moose harvested, but that was because of  
20 the dry river conditions elsewhere that forced -- moved the  
21 hunting pressure of I think it was Nulato up into this area.

22  
23           CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Right.

24  
25           MR. MATHEWS: The other part of this issue is this  
26 Council and the Federal Board took action on a proposal to  
27 close within a half mile a section of the Koyukuk River.

28  
29           CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Right.

30  
31           MR. MATHEWS: That was when Ray got on a lot of  
32 teleconferences, because it caused a lot of problems in the  
33 area. That was reversed to allow the state action of having  
34 this registration hunt to go forward. This Council has been on  
35 record saying we want to see results from this registration  
36 hunt. Is it reducing the pressure, number of hunters, and is  
37 it addressing the harvest levels? Because there was concern on  
38 the lower part of the Koyukuk about some changes in the  
39 population there. That's based on several meetings with them,  
40 and I'm not a biologist to understand what those numbers meant,  
41 but maybe Benedict or others can talk about that, so that's why  
42 it's on the agenda.

43  
44           CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Right. And the reason that our fix  
45 would have caused problems, why they kind of deferred to the  
46 State is even if there was that half-mile limit, up to the high  
47 water mark along that river is state property, so they could  
48 still get any moose that come out to the beach. And so they  
49 were hoping that some of them would -- if they were going after

50 sport hunting, after trophy moose, they would pass up those

0074

1 little moose down there and make it easier for the local  
2 hunters to get their moose.

3  
4 Yeah, go ahead, Benedict.

5  
6 MR. JONES: Mr. Chairman, right off hand, the hunt- --  
7 part of the hunting pressure under that registration permit, it  
8 -- there was a lot less hunters this year than the previous  
9 years. And there were -- and my grandson worked for the check  
10 station, and he said right off hand there was less moose taken  
11 than the previous years. So it kind of discouraged the sports  
12 hunters to come in, because of the limit of 250 hunters can  
13 only come in at one time. So it kind of discouraged them, so  
14 there was less pressure this year from.....

15  
16 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Okay. So that was another fix the  
17 State put in place. They put a limit on the number that could  
18 be hunting at one time in there, 250?

19  
20 MR. JONES: Yeah.

21  
22 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Okay.

23  
24 MR. MATHEWS: And I don't know if Jack was informed,  
25 there's other proposals out there to do something further with  
26 these registration hunts. We did -- I met with -- I was part  
27 of a panel that met in Huslia. William couldn't make it that  
28 day, but we discussed this. There wasn't a lot of people from  
29 the community, but it appears to be that the State was looking  
30 at a moose management plan for the area. I don't know where  
31 that's proceeded, to address this concern. There's a concern  
32 that the increasing pressure, that there may be a collapse or  
33 -- I'm using terms that I'm not familiar with, as I'm not a  
34 trained biologist, but that's what I took out of the meeting is  
35 that they wanted to start looking at population goals and  
36 things like that. So I don't know where that is in the process.  
37 So I'll leave it at that.

38  
39 MR. REAKOFF: Mr. Chairman?

40  
41 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Yes, Jack?

42  
43 MR. REAKOFF: There was -- the main biological concern  
44 on the Koyukuk River was that the moose, bull/cow ratio was  
45 dropping below 30 bulls per 100 cows. They were down to 23  
46 bulls per 100 cows on their last year's survey. And that's  
47 below the objective to maintain a healthy moose population, and  
48 that's -- plus the conflict between the subsistence users and  
49 all these Fairbanks boat hunters. And that's why it's been

50 such a concern to the -- to me as a council member to mainta

0075

1 the health of that moose population. It's a very viable  
2 population, and it's -- it would be a shame to see it start to  
3 degrade because of over-hunting.

4

5 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Jack, did you have additional  
6 comments on that?

7

8 MR. WHITMAN: Yeah, I'd just like to mention that David  
9 James, the management coordinating, is planning -- he's in  
10 another meeting right now. He is planning on being here on  
11 tonight's airplane, so he will be at the meeting tomorrow. He  
12 may be able to lend a little more insight.

13

14 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Thank you. Yeah. Ron?

15

16 MR. SAM: Yeah. I'd just like to add onto what Jack  
17 said. Our concern over the moose population in that area, and  
18 the hunters, they draw -- at our last meeting the Advisory  
19 Council -- Koyukuk River Advisory Council meeting, they  
20 requested another moose count. Whether or not we'll get it in  
21 time to make any other proposals or not is up in the air at  
22 this time. So we are concerned about that moose population.

23

24 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Okay. The 21E area there, it's  
25 again healthy moose population in that area. There's been  
26 concern about increased pressure. It's mostly during the state  
27 season, because the only ones -- there is a subsistence season  
28 there that opens the 20th of August is it, Henry? But the  
29 communities there -- under federal regs, they can name the  
30 communities, and the only -- there's only some communities just  
31 adjacent to that area that are named that can take part in that  
32 subsistence. The rest of the hunting takes place during the  
33 state hunt, which takes place from September 5 I think to  
34 the.....

35

36 MR. DEACON: 25th.

37

38 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: .....September 25th I think. And  
39 it's boats from the mouth of the Yukon, it's flying in hunting  
40 from here, and so it's from a number of sources. And there  
41 have been an increase in that every year, too, and the local  
42 people were concerned how do we manage that to keep healthy  
43 populations there? Plus there was conflict with land  
44 ownership, trespass on corporation lands and so on in the area.  
45 And we were suggesting that it be monitored, and there be some  
46 kind of group look at it jointly. And I don't know of any  
47 efforts to look at that any closer. Has any.....

48

49 MR. MATHEWS: Well, there is some effort that's been

50 done, but the direct reference to that interagency committee,

0076

1 no, other than that the Board responded -- the Federal  
2 Subsistence Board responded to it in the annual report saying  
3 they support cooperative ventures between users and managers,  
4 and that they would fund travel for council members to go to  
5 that. So that's the only response on the interagency  
6 initiative.

7  
8 And for the new members, basically this Council  
9 supported a resolution that was drafted -- was that a joint  
10 meeting, Henry, with the four villages, or what that.....

11  
12 MR. DEACON: (Nods affirmative)

13  
14 MR. MATHEWS: Okay. With the four villages of  
15 Grayling, Anvik, Shageluk and Holy Cross, passed a resolution  
16 asking for an interagency committee. This Council adopted that  
17 resolution and forwarded it in their annual report, and now the  
18 Board has responded to that. Nothing has been done as far as  
19 someone saying, okay, let's form that group and decide who  
20 should or -- who should we contact to be potential members? So  
21 there's nothing been done on that.

22  
23 The other component of the issue was land status  
24 mapping and that's coming up. Jeff Denton will be talking  
25 about that, so I don't know, it may be wise just to open this  
26 wide open now and go this way with it, instead of waiting for  
27 an agency report, and close out 21E, or -- it's up to you guys.  
28 It might be wise to pull Jeff up on the status of the request  
29 that you guys had for some kind of.....

30  
31 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Well, let's put this way, Jeff, do  
32 you have other things to report than that, or is that.....

33  
34 MR. DENTON: Well, there's other things, too, but I  
35 think there's several issues that are going on in 21E you folks  
36 need to be aware of. In fact, those agencies may need some  
37 assistance from you, the Council, because we've kind of hit  
38 some dead end spots, and I think has some biological  
39 information in terms of hunter numbers, statistics in terms of  
40 population, you know, the biological data the folks really need  
41 to know about, too, to -- and hunter numbers and so on I think,  
42 which we don't -- which I don't have. I think both of these  
43 things needs to be -- you guys need to be aware of. But I can  
44 cover some of the things that BLM's been doing, and at least to  
45 try to address some of these issues, so.....

46  
47 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Well, what's the wish of the board?  
48 Do you want to go into it now or wait until we get to the  
49 proposal part? We're kind of under the reports.



0077

1 MS. A. DEMIENTIEFF: I'd like to hear what he's been  
2 doing in 21E.

3  
4 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: You'd like to hear it now?

5  
6 MS. A. DEMIENTIEFF: Yeah.

7  
8 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Yeah. Okay. Okay. We'll go ahead  
9 and open it. Jeff, do you want to start? And, Jack, if you  
10 have anything to add, too, that you should -- I don't know if  
11 you want to come up and both be talking, or how you want to do  
12 that.

13  
14 MR. WHITMAN: We'll each talk one at a time.

15  
16 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Yeah, right. Yeah, pardon me, and  
17 state your.....

18  
19 MR. WHITMAN: I've got some statistics here, various  
20 graphs and charts if people on the board want those, I made ten  
21 copies.

22  
23 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Okay. Okay.

24  
25 MR. DENTON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My name is Jeff  
26 Denton, I'm with the Anchorage District, BLM, and there are  
27 several things that are kind of going on, or were at least  
28 initiated by the Bureau in the last year to help alleviate,  
29 one, the trespass situation. If you'll recall the meeting last  
30 winter, there was a great deal of concern about trespass on  
31 native lands. I went to the representative there from TCC and  
32 offered -- the Bureau always on a cooperative basis is willing  
33 to sit down, to mark with the cooperation, with the assistance  
34 of the corporation folks, those easements, the 17B easements  
35 which provide the legal access across the native lands that  
36 were set up by law originally when those lands were conveyed,  
37 which they're not marked to this day.

38  
39 BLM -- I went back, had our lands people work with the  
40 TCC representatives. We had helicopters, we had the fire crews  
41 in the villages set up with the fire service so we could pay  
42 those folks to assist putting those up. We had survey people  
43 available to document exactly where those things are marked so  
44 they could be put on maps. At the last minute when we called  
45 TCC to set up the dates to do it, they said we're not  
46 interested in doing it.

47  
48 So this is our experience. We are not very willing to  
49 go through these kind of efforts to that end and contract

50 helicopters, this sort of thing, there's a tremendous amou

0078

1 work to set these things up, to be said we're not interested at  
2 the last minute with no rationale. And this is our experience  
3 so far, and we're not -- I mean, we're not really willing to  
4 jump into that again. We have a lot of people that that have a  
5 lot of other work to do. This was set up as a priority project  
6 for those folks to do, and at the last minute it was dumped.  
7 And we had a helicopter sitting there, we had fire crews that  
8 were committed to do it. We were going to pay the people in  
9 the local villages on those fire crews, a specific number of  
10 folks, to do that work with our folks so it's all documented  
11 and so on. And that kind of experience, you know, my bosses  
12 aren't willing to jump into that stuff again unless there's a  
13 little better commitment to completing a project. And that was  
14 kind of a not so good experience, okay.

15  
16 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Let me pause for a minute. Angela,  
17 do you, or Henry, do you have any -- did you have any knowledge  
18 of that? Do you know why they wouldn't? Locally they weren't  
19 opposed to marking boundaries, were they?

20  
21 MR. DEACON: This is the first time I heard about it.

22  
23 MS. A. DEMIENTIEFF: Uh-hum.

24  
25 MR. DEACON: The first time.

26  
27 MR. DENTON: This was all coordinated through TCC, and  
28 it was a corporation decision not to do it.

29  
30 MS. A. DEMIENTIEFF: Subregional office?

31  
32 MR. DENTON: Well, it Phil up there in Holy Cross. He  
33 was the one that was the contact, was the final word that said  
34 it was decided not to be done. So -- and he was the appointed  
35 contact all the way through it. So.....

36  
37 MR. DERENDOFF: Who was this?

38  
39 MR. DENTON: Philip Demientieff.

40  
41 MR. DERENDOFF: I didn't year you?

42  
43 MS. A. DEMIENTIEFF: Philip.

44  
45 MR. DENTON: Philip Demientieff, the TCC rep in Holy  
46 Cross. And we still to this day, I mean, we don't know why or  
47 what, but we were kind of -- we had all the materials bought,  
48 purchased, were ready to go.

49



0079

1 those are things that we -- it was kind of requested for those  
2 needs.

3  
4 MR. DENTON: Well, that's exactly why. We were trying  
5 to respond to what was going on in the meetings coming from  
6 this body right here.

7  
8 MR. DEACON: Let me finish first. Let me finish first.  
9 Those are the things like I think TCC, you know, they don't own  
10 those lands. The corporations, the regional corporations,  
11 their duties. They should have -- TCC should have coordinated  
12 with Doyon and the villages. I wonder if that's been done.

13  
14 MR. DENTON: I was showing that that's what the TCC  
15 representative, that was -- he was coordinating that, and then  
16 he was our point of contact. I'm assuming that's his job, was  
17 to do that coordination at that level between the villages and  
18 the rest of the corporation infrastructure. I mean, we need to  
19 work with the region, that whole area, not one easement at a  
20 time, you know, when we commence that sort of thing.

21  
22 MR. DEACON: No, that's not -- it's not what we wanted  
23 that time, meeting we had in Holy Cross back in February. So  
24 you was there that time?

25  
26 MR. DENTON: I wasn't in Anvik. I was at the Holy  
27 Cross meeting where the results of that meeting came out, and I  
28 was told basically to work with Philip and get that organized  
29 and do it. We did that, and it was all going very well until  
30 the very last minute, and then there was some sort of a  
31 decision at the last minute that said we're interested.

32  
33 MR. DEACON: Well, those --are those things in writing?  
34 In documents?

35  
36 MR. DENTON: No, basically this was all basically  
37 telephone coordination sorts of things.

38  
39 MR. DEACON: Is there a copy of those telephone  
40 business? 'Cause I want to make a follow up.

41  
42 MR. DENTON: I'd have to talk to our lands people. I  
43 turned that over to our lands division, because that's what  
44 they do is coordinate that stuff, but I'm sure there's some  
45 stuff. I've made several calls, too. In fact I was the one  
46 that called to find out the status of what was going on when  
47 they told me they're no longer interested in doing it, so.....

48  
49 MR. DEACON: Well, I really care about this, will make

50 a phone call now to see why that was done.

0080

1 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Did you need more than a verbal?  
2 Did you need a written authorization to proceed or something?  
3 What I'm wondering, maybe.....

4  
5 MR. DENTON: Well, what we need is a commitment when we  
6 start these things that we're not going to be stopped in the  
7 middle. There's a great deal of time and expense and people's  
8 time involved in setting up the logistics of doing a project  
9 like that, because it all has to be helicopter assisted.  
10 That's an expensive venture. To coordinate with the fire folks  
11 to actually be able to use the village crew personnel and  
12 actually pay them to do that.

13  
14 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: I understand. I'm not thinking of  
15 from your point. I know what you have to do there. I mean  
16 from the village point to help Henry and the others, if there's  
17 written authorization or something, they could probably assist  
18 in getting that, or have the people talk up, so you have that  
19 in hand before you do the other. You see what I mean?

20  
21 MR. DENTON: Yeah, I think.....

22  
23 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: So that that wouldn't happen at the  
24 last minute.

25  
26 MR. DENTON: Yeah, front end, written request basically  
27 to show there's a commitment to having that done,.....

28  
29 CHAIRMAN COLLINS:

30  
31 MR. DENTON: .....other than just a verbal thing coming  
32 out of meetings. I think -- any more I think that's the only  
33 way we're going to go about it, because some of our folks, we  
34 were burned pretty badly, and, you know, cost and expense-  
35 wise,.....

36  
37 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: So if you could do a draft of what  
38 you need or something like that, that they could circulate and  
39 take back to the communities, they could probably get the sign-  
40 offs from the corporations or whatever if they understood it,  
41 and they could help explain what they were looking for there,  
42 too, so that.....

43  
44 MR. DENTON: Well, I guess we need a point of contact.  
45 You know, I don't want to be dealing with four people for one  
46 project. I'd rather have a point of contact and somebody do  
47 that basic coordination with all the different entities in the  
48 area so we can put it together as a single project. I  
49 mean.....



0081

1 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Yeah, 'cause you've got four  
2 corporations over there, each of them have lands involved,  
3 they'd each have to authorize marking of their lands.

4  
5 MR. DEACON: Sure, each one.

6  
7 MR. DENTON: I mean, the basic request was from you  
8 folks to do. We were trying to facilitate that, set it up so  
9 it could be done, and everything was going fine until the very  
10 last second, you know. We had, you know, stacks of the signs  
11 and posts and so on to mark it, and GPS and survey people  
12 committed to do it.

13  
14 MR. DEACON: Could there have been some  
15 misunderstanding or something? 'Cause that's -- I don't know,  
16 that's.....

17  
18 MR. DENTON: I don't -- there was, you know,  
19 communication all the way through the process, and then at the  
20 last minute, it was we've decided not to do it. And we just  
21 sat there, oh, you know, and so.....

22  
23 MR. DEACON: No part of it then, just.....

24  
25 MR. DENTON: Right.

26  
27 MR. DEACON: Probably I'd say it fall.....

28  
29 MR. DENTON: So just as a follow up thing, also, last  
30 year at our meeting there was some, not concern, but it was  
31 communicated to us that the Gash communities would be willing  
32 to do harvest reporting. In fact, they said they would do it  
33 voluntarily. I offered to pay them for it, if they'd have --  
34 we could set up a system, and individuals in each village to  
35 actually coordinate and record and map and so on the harvest  
36 reporting. We have basically folks in each village to do that.  
37 It's been set up. To date, however, since the first of July,  
38 only Grayling has responded, and they've been right on,  
39 excellent reporting. I have to date no reports from Shageluk,  
40 Holy Cross or Anvik. We do have people and we do have monies  
41 committed for those folks. I guess I'm expecting, you know,  
42 when they have enough data to turn in, you know, that's a  
43 significant amount of data, we'll get it. I'm hoping that to  
44 be the case. So that's the status on that. And that's  
45 basically also at your request.

46  
47 We felt we would kind of give some incentive by actually paying  
48 those individuals, because there's a little bit of -- they've  
49 got to do a little bit of work, and they've got to talk to a

50 lot of people, and they've got to be out and about on that

0082

1 stuff. So -- but the folks in Grayling have been real good,  
2 you know. We've gotten all the reports right up to date. From  
3 the other communities we have nothing other than the folks that  
4 were willing to do it in agreement through our procurement  
5 folks to have them paid when we get the reports, so.....

6  
7 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Is that going through a traditional  
8 council or village.....

9  
10 MR. DENTON: Yes.

11  
12 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: .....council or.....

13  
14 MR. DENTON: They're going through the IR- -- mostly  
15 we're going through the village, we're going through IRA  
16 councils, or the traditional council. In Holy Cross I think  
17 Angela's husband basically volunteered to do it. I didn't get  
18 enough of a response out of the council there to tell me to go  
19 one way or the other. There was nobody willing to make an  
20 assignment for somebody to do it or.....

21  
22 MS. A. DEMIENTIEFF: They couldn't find the papers.  
23 They couldn't find the package. because they.....

24  
25 MR. DENTON: Because we sent two packages out there.

26  
27 MS. A. DEMIENTIEFF: Yeah, I got the one you sent my  
28 husband, but the one for the village council, I came back, I'd  
29 been gone for other a month.

30  
31 MR. DENTON: Yeah. And I.....

32  
33 MS. A. DEMIENTIEFF: And they couldn't find it.

34  
35 MR. DENTON: .....had called somebody once and they  
36 said they had gotten it, and.....

37  
38 MS. A. DEMIENTIEFF: Well, she resigned and then no one  
39 could find it, that's.....

40  
41 MR. DENTON: Okay. So we've got it set up, and I think  
42 your husband knows what the process is, and.....

43  
44 MS. A. DEMIENTIEFF: He knows he's supposed to be doing  
45 it, so he'll get to it.

46  
47 MR. DENTON: Yeah. It's just a matter of time, and I  
48 know how those things work. It's -- a lot of times, even the  
49 Lime Village ones, we may get them every four or five months

50 rather than -- you know, monthly is almost, you know, too oft

0083

1 anyway. A lot of months there's hardly anything going on, and  
2 then the fall season and certain months of the years there's a  
3 lot of harvest activities, so -- and I understand that. I just  
4 -- those will come in I hope.

5  
6 MR. DEACON: Mr. Chairman?

7  
8 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Yes?

9  
10 MR. DEACON: That subsistence count is very important  
11 to me as far as some village. Because those are the things  
12 that we -- they're going to base our subsistence use on in the  
13 future, for my grandchildren.

14  
15 MR. DENTON: Certainly.

16  
17 MR. DEACON: So I would urge from the department to  
18 really stress this. I try to stress in the village, too, you  
19 know. There's -- I don't know. I've been going to meetings so  
20 much, I.....

21  
22 MR. DENTON: I think there's just a lot of difference  
23 between villages and their response to a lot of this stuff.  
24 You know, there's individuals like you that are -- everybody in  
25 the village is probably aware of things, and actually doing  
26 some things. Other villages it's -- the communication may not  
27 be quite as good. Shageluk was the last one to -- they didn't  
28 really show a lot of interest. I kept calling and writing, and  
29 calling and writing, and finally we got some folks to do  
30 something.

31  
32 MR. DEACON: Well, we just take for granted that's all  
33 right, that it is all right, to do what we've been doing all  
34 these years. Subsistence, that's as simple as that. And now  
35 you've got to record it. That's something new.

36  
37 MR. DENTON: Right. Right. And I've tried -- That's  
38 why I've tried to have somebody paid to do it, because it is an  
39 inconvenience to do that. And I'll be the first to agree to  
40 that, it's an inconvenience. And we have this is several other  
41 villages going on, and I pay all those folks, too. I don't  
42 think we should require folks to do that without some  
43 compensation. It's important information for a great multitude  
44 of folks, and so.....

45  
46 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Well, it makes it hard for us to  
47 act, like if we're talking about any restrictions over there,  
48 or change in seasons or something, if we can't demonstrate that  
49 people are or are not getting their subsistence needs met, I

50 mean, we can't just go on a verbal concern. There should be

0084

1 some actual data to show that harvest is falling off, they're  
2 having trouble getting moose. That would support then taking  
3 some action to restrict outside hunting and everything, so,  
4 yeah. I guess I urge the members to go back to their  
5 communities and do whatever they can to try to get those  
6 reports in. It really would be important. Yeah.

7  
8 MR. DENTON: Enforcement was also an issue brought up  
9 last year. BLM, the Anchorage District, their ranger, so-  
10 called enforcement individual, transferred to Arizona, and  
11 we're supposedly going to have a new one come on board here  
12 pretty soon. However, that individual covers everything from  
13 timber trespasses to, you know, land trespasses to -- from  
14 Ketchikan to Unalakleet and beyond. So his time, you know, --  
15 I've tried for several years and several of your requests to  
16 have at least, and I've told him about the things, but they've  
17 never really been able to get those priorities for subsistence  
18 enforcement up to a point where they really work in this  
19 country out here. And it's kind of not within my control.

20  
21 We've mentioned the ownership map. And it's come up  
22 several times already. We looked at the request, our state  
23 director said it will be done. But unfortunately, it went to  
24 Peggy Fox, then it came down to me, and I'm supposed to  
25 coordinate that, but I have no supervisory authority over the  
26 people that really make maps, and so I've got to go back up the  
27 line, and perhaps you folks can help me by helping our state  
28 director and our subsistence staff committee to make sure  
29 there's the commitment of the skilled people and the time to  
30 actually do the work that needs to go into these kinds of maps.

31  
32 These kinds of maps are very expensive ventures. And  
33 there's a lot of quality control things. USGS will be  
34 contracted to print it, but BLM's got to get all the land  
35 status and all the other layers of that map together, and it's  
36 a pretty high tech operation with -- we have mapping staff in  
37 our state office and so on that have to be involved. This has  
38 to be raised to a priority enough level that our state director  
39 or somebody will commit people's time to a schedule to get it  
40 done.

41  
42 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: So a resolution from us to the right  
43 individual then asking for something to be done,.....

44  
45 MR. DENTON: Right.

46  
47 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: .....on that might do it, yeah.

48  
49 MR. DENTON: You know, I can go and ask the

50 individuals, and they say I've got NPRA as a priorit

0085

1 know, I don't have the authority other than to nicely ask  
2 people to help me out with it,.....

3  
4 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Okay. We'll get the names.....

5  
6 MR. DENTON: .....and that doesn't have enough power.

7  
8 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: .....from you, and if the Council so  
9 wants, we can see that a letter's drafted. Yeah. Because we  
10 have requested it be done.

11  
12 MR. DENTON: And what we envision in a map is a very  
13 good map that people can use in their boat out in the rain, a  
14 fold-up map, a north half and a south half of the BLM portions  
15 south of the refuge that has the ownership, the access routes,  
16 the land marks, the topography, basically the USGS topo maps  
17 with all the ownership and the legal access identified. So  
18 anybody that's a user out there, whether they be a geologist or  
19 a subsistence user, or somebody running the Iditarod in the  
20 middle of winter will have a map they can use. It's not a --  
21 it's a multi-user type map that has a great deal of information  
22 on it. We feel the expense involved in these kind of maps with  
23 taxpayers money, we need to serve all the users, not a very  
24 narrow user group. So -- and there's -- I have the USGS maps  
25 tied together over here of the area that will be covered. We  
26 anticipate a half inch to the mile scale. We anticipate having  
27 all the native allotments on it, so people will know where they  
28 are, so to help alleviate some of the trespass problems.  
29 Hopefully we'll have the approximate locations of 17B easements  
30 as they're identified now on it, the ownership will be on it.  
31 It will be set up to update probably every five years, because  
32 the land conveyance process continues, so nothing's ever right  
33 up to date, because there's always land conveyances going on.  
34 It's still a very dynamic thing. But -- so that's kind of  
35 where we're at.

36  
37 It's not a big -- it is a big project, it involves a  
38 lot of people, and it will probably run 25 to \$30,000 in  
39 manpower time and printing costs and so on. So it's not --  
40 when you folks ask for these things, there's a lot behind what  
41 you're asking for that we have to run through and try to get  
42 done. So we have a schedule on it for about eight months to  
43 try to get it all done. And I can't speak for what the refuge  
44 plans to do, if indeed they, do for a mapping of that portion  
45 of the area.

46  
47 MR. MERRITT: Jeff, I was just wondering if it would be  
48 sort of the economy of scale, is we went ahead and funded doing  
49 the rest of the refuge at the same time. Would there be any

50 advantage to you guys doing that?

0086

1 MR. DENTON: There might be a disadvantage, because we  
2 don't have the personnel or the land records. If we've got to  
3 piece all that together, it takes a lot of time to digitize and  
4 do all that stuff. That's the time warp we're in, is personnel  
5 and that high tech type work that needs to be done. If you  
6 have all that, we don't have all that for the refuges.

7  
8 MR. MERRITT: But right now you're the vicinity  
9 (Indiscernible, away from microphone).

10  
11 MR. DENTON: It goes from about a mile south of there  
12 to include basically all the drainage that flows to the  
13 Napaimiut stream.

14  
15 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Ed, maybe you could catch him at a  
16 break, either talk about doing that outside there. It would be  
17 a good idea I think probably.

18  
19 Let's -- I'm trying to focus back on what, you know,  
20 the Council has to do here. Did you have any other issues  
21 related to that you wanted to speak to over there?

22  
23 MR. DENTON: The only other thing is that there is that  
24 there's -- in that particular region that BLM has a mixed  
25 ownership. A very large portion of that ownership is village  
26 corporation lands, and they're a big, big player, because when  
27 you come down to it, all the -- basically all the major  
28 transportation corridor, waterways and so on are lined by  
29 corporation lands. BLM public lands are usually some distance  
30 away from most of the travel routes. They're mostly the spruce  
31 bog -- they're what's left over after everybody took what they  
32 wanted, and so they're really not the high productivity lands  
33 in terms of a lot of the subsistence resources that we're  
34 dealing with here.

35  
36 And so there's a great deal of responsibility of the  
37 private land owner, which in this case is the corporations to  
38 very specifically manage their lands. You know, we can't  
39 manage your lands for you, that's -- we can't do it. We don't  
40 have any authority to do so. So there is probably a need for a  
41 lot more aggressive land management of the corporation lands in  
42 this area in terms of trespass and what have you. We -- I  
43 mean, we have no authority to really help you out there.

44  
45 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Okay. Thank you.

46  
47 MR. DENTON: That's all I have. Thanks.

48  
49 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: We'll shift to Jack, and do you want

50 to share your data here? I think everybody's got a copy of

0087

1 this now.

2

3 MR. WHITMAN: Sure. Thank you, Ray. This -- these  
4 data, and I think there's nine sheets there, the first six I  
5 believe are in reference to trend surveys that are done. It's  
6 about an 80 square mile trend area that I do on pretty much  
7 every other year basis. It goes from Horse Island up into --  
8 it pretty much follows the Yukon from the mouth of the Innoko  
9 up to Deer Hunting Slough, in that country. And you can see  
10 from the graph on top that it's been done about every two years  
11 fairly recently.

12

13 I think probably the thing to do in terms of if you're  
14 interested in biological information from 21E, is go through  
15 each one of these. We can just start on the top sheet and I  
16 can add comments to it or answer questions or whatever.

17

18 I guess the first one, first page, '92 looks like an  
19 extremely low calf per 100 cow year. Actually as I keep trying  
20 to remind everybody, things are all relative. Twenty calves  
21 per 100 cows, if we were in 19D East, I'd be real happy with  
22 that every year. Well, it -- where it's a little bit different  
23 situation over in 21E, and that really sticks out as a low  
24 year. Twenty calves per 100 cows in November generally isn't  
25 too bad. That is a tremendous calving area over there,  
26 cow/calf aggregation area.

27

28 No real trends in that first data. Things look  
29 relatively good to me in that first chart.

30

31 The second page depicts bulls per 100 cows. Again, you  
32 guys were talking earlier about the Koyukuk where the numbers  
33 were going down below 25 bulls per 100 cows, and that was.....

34

35 MR. REAKOFF: Thirty.

36

37 MR. WHITMAN: Below 30 bulls per 100 cows, and that was  
38 cause for some concern? Over in 21E like 19D over here, I've  
39 never seen a 30 cow year in 19- -- or 30 bulls per 100 cow year  
40 in 19D East. Also, this first -- the 1987 year, bulls per 100  
41 cows, that one was done in the end of November and the first of  
42 December, and I had to fly down and look real close at every  
43 bull, because we did have antler drop that year. If I don't  
44 get them done before Thanksgiving, there is significant antler  
45 drop, and unless I fly down on every bull, it's pretty tough.  
46 So the 1987 is probably unrealistically low where it did drop  
47 below 20. The rest of them, again no real trends. From 1989  
48 to 1996, it's stayed pretty much between 25 and 30 bulls per  
49 100.



0088

1 The next graph,.....

2

3 MR. REAKOFF: That was in reference to Tim Osborne's  
4 concern to the bull/cow ratio. That wasn't something that the  
5 Council had decided. That was in.....

6

7 MR. WHITMAN: Yeah, and I.....

8

9 MR. REAKOFF: .....response to Tim Osborne's concern  
10 that that was a biological problem in that population up there.  
11 He -- it had maintained previously above 30 bulls.

12

13 MR. WHITMAN: Yeah, I remember discussing the same  
14 thing with Tim at length at various times, and my question to  
15 Tim, and I'm not -- certainly not second-guessing him, he knows  
16 more about Three-Day Slough than I ever will, but my question  
17 to him was why the tremendous concern? Is he seeing reduced  
18 twinning rates in the spring? Is he seeing reduced cow/calf  
19 drops in the fall? And I don't know if I ever got a good  
20 answer. If you're trying to produce -- I guess I could get off  
21 on tangents and talk about philosophy of management for big  
22 bulls or management for a lot of bulls.

23

24 I guess the only point I would make is these areas need  
25 to be managed differently. If he thought that the Three-Day  
26 Slough area, or basically the lower half of the Koyukuk was  
27 better, or the local people wanted -- the hunters wanted high  
28 bull/cow ratios, that's probably the way to manage it. I  
29 wouldn't try to second guess another manager's intentions in an  
30 area like that that I know nothing about.

31

32 In 21E, maintaining between 25 and 30 bulls per 100  
33 cows in November, I'm very comfortable with in 21E.

34

35 MR. REAKOFF: Mr. Chairman, well, then another question  
36 I have is what's the minimum bull per 100 cow ratio that most  
37 game managers feel comfortable with? We've been led under a  
38 misimpression of bull/cow ratios I think.

39

40 MR. WHITMAN: I think that's a pretty tough question  
41 for me to answer also. I'll give it my best shot. In areas  
42 where -- to use an example over here, and I don't know if any  
43 of you are familiar with it, or very many of you are familiar  
44 with it, we have certain areas, generally next to the Alaska  
45 Range, that are -- they're tremendous bull -- or moose  
46 aggregation areas. Pre-rut, rut, post-rut aggregation areas.  
47 The animals that move to those rut aggregation areas are  
48 generally cows without calves, as well as almost all the bulls  
49 making those rut, post-rut areas. The -- oftentimes bulls that

50 don't move, there are a certain segment of the population that

0089

1 don't move to those rut, post-rut aggregation areas, and they  
2 generally service the cows that don't participate in those rut,  
3 post-rut aggregation areas also.

4  
5 In 19D East, down in the lowlands here along the  
6 Kuskokwim, if we have 20 bulls per 100 cows, even 15 bulls per  
7 100 cows, I think 15 -- if it went below 15, I'd really start  
8 getting concerned. On the other hand, if I look at those rut  
9 and post-rut areas next to the Alaska Range where the moose are  
10 really aggregating, if we fell below 40 bulls per 100 cows, I  
11 would be very concerned. Because a lot of the cows that retain  
12 calves, haven't lost their calves, aren't participating in  
13 those aggregation, those big rut groups, and so you would  
14 expect a much higher proportion of bulls. In the lowland  
15 areas, if we go below 15, I suspect that we will start seeing  
16 declines in twinning percentages, and cow/calf ratios in the  
17 fall. I don't know if we'd see those declines in those rut,  
18 post-rut aggregation areas if it went below 40. I doubt that  
19 we'd be seeing the declines very quickly, but we're counting  
20 very few calves in those areas anyway. The cows that still  
21 retain calves don't go to these big rut groups usually.

22  
23 So does that kind of explain? You know, I think it's  
24 tough to say, okay, we need a minimum of 25, or we need a  
25 minimum of 40, or we need a minimum of ten bulls per 100 cows.  
26 Each area, each system operates a little differently.

27  
28 At less than 20 calves per -- or, excuse me, 20 bulls  
29 per 100 cows in 19D, I'm seeing almost no second estrus calves  
30 being born. So even at 15 bulls per 100 cows, the calves are  
31 getting serviced on the first estrus. It doesn't seem to be a  
32 problem impregnating cows even at 15. I assume in those -- the  
33 other areas where they're aggregating, you might see a  
34 tremendous problem if you got that low.

35  
36 MR. REAKOFF: Okay.

37  
38 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Okay. What else did you want to  
39 point out in the data here? You were saying no trends  
40 were.....

41  
42 MR. WHITMAN: Let's see. The third one shows very  
43 little trends, which -- moose per hour. Once you get up into  
44 about 150 or more moose per hour that I'm counting, it's just  
45 physically -- I can't count and classify any more than that and  
46 fly the plane and those numbers just become so high that it's  
47 fairly meaningless. Again, in relative terms, any time I can  
48 count more than 60 moose per hour in most of Western Interior  
49 Alaska, that's really good. One moose -- if I can count and

50 classify a moose a minute, that's relatively good. Once I ge

0090

1 past this, you can see one year here, 1990, was at 250 moose  
2 per hour. It's getting into the point where it's probably  
3 meaningless, those data.

4  
5 The next chart is 20 percent in 21E. Percent twins  
6 observed. That also counts a few triplets. Generally again  
7 above about seven percent twinning rate is considered fairly  
8 good. You can see '94 there was 25 percent of the cows that  
9 had calves had twins. So production is phenomenal and survival  
10 to November is very good.

11  
12 MR. MERRITT: Hey, Jack, at the same time of year?

13  
14 MR. WHITMAN: Yes. Yeah, these -- I have explained a  
15 little better maybe. What I try to do is conduct these surveys  
16 either in -- usually in this Holy Cross survey area, I do those  
17 in November. I try to do it under similar survey conditions as  
18 I've done it in previous years. In other words, I wait until  
19 the snow is about right, the light is -- I try to do everything  
20 the same. For years I used the same pilot, we flew the same  
21 areas at the same amount of area. They are not complete  
22 counts. They're trend areas where I try to spend the same  
23 amount of time, do it the same system, under the same  
24 conditions every year, to try to look at trends. I think part  
25 of it, Ed, is because the density of moose, the wintering  
26 density is so high, we don't see clear trends in most of these  
27 graphs.

28  
29 Total cows per hour. Again, relatively high. It's  
30 stayed 100 or more total cows per hour. Adult cows per hour,  
31 about the same thing.

32  
33 The next three in your stack there are hunt statistics  
34 based on harvest ticket returns. The first one is percent  
35 nonresidents. I know that's always been a concern. From about  
36 1989/90 through 95/96, you can see it's extremely low. It's  
37 averaged about 5 percent nonresidents. I think the main reason  
38 for that is the Paradise Controlled Use Area restricts access.

39  
40 I probably should have spent a little more time and  
41 provided a chart to show where the people are from. About --  
42 currently about 60 percent of the reported harvest in 21E is  
43 from Unit 18 hunters, Unit 18 residents. About 40 percent is  
44 from -- excuse me, about 20 percent is from Unit 21, and the  
45 rest is from other locations in Alaska. Unit 19, there's one  
46 or two people. That has changed somewhat. Ten years ago the  
47 percent of hunters from Unit 18 was about 40 percent. It's  
48 gone to about 60 percent now.

49



0091

1 Extremely high. I don't know what the reported success rates  
2 are statewide. Generally in the rest of Unit 19 we're running  
3 about between 35 and 40 percent in 19 and 21A. 21E is between  
4 -- it's been running 65 to 85 percent reported hunter success  
5 rate.

6  
7 The last one is the report of harvest. And that's one  
8 of the few things that I have here that does show I think  
9 relatively good trends from 86/87 through '90 or '91. It  
10 looked like a general increase in the harvest in 21E and then  
11 dropped down again, and it looks like it's inching back up.

12  
13 So overall, at least in relative terms, when I look at  
14 the rest of the management area that I have, I wish everything  
15 looked like 21E.

16  
17 MR. JONES: I've got a question for you. When you do  
18 your trend surveys, do you mean the same area or different  
19 areas here?

20  
21 MR. WHITMAN: The same area.

22  
23 MR. JONES: The same area?

24  
25 MR. WHITMAN: The same area.

26  
27 MR. JONES: Because I know from talking with Tim  
28 Osborne they try to do different area, say like Conyu (ph) area  
29 one year, and the Koyukuk -- or in the Conoyu (ph) land area.

30  
31 MR. WHITMAN: Uh-hum.

32  
33 MR. JONES: And then he's go up Chugange (ph) Hills  
34 area.

35  
36 MR. WHITMAN: Yeah, I think a lot of what -- in talking  
37 with Tim in years past, a lot of what he's doing is he's trying  
38 to get a population estimation, population estimate for an  
39 area. Those are expensive, very time consuming, and he's doing  
40 a fairly big area, so he has to spread those out from year to  
41 year.

42  
43 What I've elected to do in the Holy Cross area, because  
44 of time and money is I want to look at the same area every  
45 year. I don't pretend to know how many moose are in there. I  
46 just compare trends, trying to keep things the same every year.  
47 Compare what the trends are in bull/cow ratios, calf/cow  
48 ratios, moose per hour figures.

49



0092

1 a population estimate over there, and we didn't get it  
2 completed. Does that answer your question?

3  
4 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Yeah. Ron?

5  
6 MR. WHITMAN: Kind of a different system.

7  
8 MR. SAM: Yeah, I think I really agree with using that  
9 same area every year. I can see the viewpoint behind that, but  
10 I think what Tim Osborne was doing, too, was he had so much  
11 area to cover from, you know, all the way -- Galena all the way  
12 up to Haul Road and all that. So what he -- I think what he  
13 was doing, too, was using the moose habitat area type, same  
14 type of area, but, you know, it's a different area, but the  
15 same type of habitat. And I think he was basing some of his  
16 projections on those things. So I think.....

17  
18 MR. WHITMAN: Yeah, and I think.....

19  
20 MR. SAM: .....I think that -- I know that he was doing  
21 the counts at the same, about the same time every year, 'cause  
22 you've got to have snow to spot them, you know. And he was  
23 using that principle also. One in the fall, and one in the  
24 spring or something. If you can get the funding.

25  
26 MR. JONES: I've got another question for you, do you  
27 radio collar some moose in this area?

28  
29 MR. WHITMAN: Not in this area, no.

30  
31 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: So in general, it -- the harvest  
32 levels have been fairly high, fairly consistent the last few  
33 years, and the moose -- but the moose population also seems to  
34 be pretty consistent then basically?

35  
36 MR. WHITMAN: Yes.

37  
38 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Okay. Since we're not working on  
39 proposals now, we were kind of getting background information,  
40 I don't know, is that enough for now? Can we go on to the  
41 other reports, or is there questions?

42  
43 MR. SAM: Mr. Chairman?

44  
45 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Yes?

46  
47 MR. SAM: I think that's enough for now. I'd like to  
48 call a five minutes for break.

49



0093

1 (Off record -2:40 p.m.)

2

3 (On record - 2:59 p.m.)

4

5 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: .....get through the rest of the  
6 agency reports today. We're down to the next item on the  
7 agenda is the briefing on the State's -- where did you want to  
8 go with that, Vince?

9

10 MR. MATHEWS: Okay. Mr. Chairman, on that, that was  
11 added to the agenda -- I mean, was put in the agenda, it wasn't  
12 added to it. In your book is the one copy from early summer.  
13 In your grey folder is the most recent copy, and I don't know  
14 if anybody.....

15

16 MS. DOWNING: Excuse me, folks, when someone's  
17 reporting, I do -- it would be nice if others weren't holding  
18 conversations. Thank you.

19

20 MR. MATHEWS: I don't know, is there anyone here from  
21 the Governor's Office or does anybody from the State want to  
22 talk about -- the Alaska Department of Fish & Game want to  
23 brief the Council on the Governor's task force? Or, I don't  
24 think they want to, but.....

25

26 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: You know, I think the summit  
27 somewhat kind of dealt with that, and there have been hearings  
28 going on around the state, but I don't.....

29

30 MR. MATHEWS: Correct. And it was the feeling within  
31 our program just to keep you informed of it, and it's evolving  
32 as you know, and that's why you have another copy in your grey  
33 one. All we can say on it is if you've got comments on it,  
34 direct them to the Governor's Office, talk to others on that.  
35 So that's -- we just felt that we needed as your support  
36 program to let you know of this activity, and that -- of this  
37 -- activity, yeah. And so I don't know if there's anybody here  
38 for the State or the Governor's Office that wants to speak on  
39 it.

40

41 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: I don't see that. No. Are there  
42 any questions any members have of the latest that's in here?  
43 Okay. I think we're all kind of just watching to see how it's  
44 going to unfold.

45

46 Then we're beginning with agency reports. And  
47 concerns. And we'll go first to National Park Service I guess.  
48 Paul? It's Paul, isn't it?

49



0094

1 Hunter from the Anchorage office of the National Park Service.  
2 The Anchorage support office, and in that respect, I'm here  
3 specifically support Steve Ulvi from Gates of the Arctic  
4 National Park who asked me to sit in for him, and then  
5 secondarily Denali National Park, which has a small -- some  
6 small areas in the Western Interior, as well as Lake Clark  
7 National Park, which has a small part of the park and preserve  
8 also in Western Interior.

9  
10 Let me alert you first to tab K in your books. That's  
11 almost the entire tab K, everything except the last page, is  
12 the National Park Service, the draft National Park Service  
13 Subsistence Management Program materials that you've seen.  
14 You've been looking at it for about the last year I guess. And  
15 there's not too much to update you on. There's some comments  
16 that have come in attached to each section that you might be  
17 interested in taking a look at. This draft program statement  
18 is still open for comments, still open for suggestions.

19  
20 And the biggest point I probably should make at this  
21 time is with the potential ANILCA amendments that were just  
22 passed that may or may not become final, depending on whether  
23 or not the State adopts the constitutional amendment, if those  
24 changes to ANILCA actually go into effect, they will have some  
25 impact on the Park Service -- on this program statement.  
26 Probably the best example on that is the -- because the ANILCA  
27 amendments include some new definitions, for example, customary  
28 trade will have a specific definition in ANILCA if those are  
29 adopted, that will impact the Park Service definition of  
30 customary trade which we currently have in our regulations.  
31 And our regulation definition will have to be conformed to the  
32 ANILCA definition if it's adopted.

33  
34 As things stand right now, because there isn't a  
35 specific definition in ANILCA for customary trade, it's up to  
36 each agency to interpret what it means, and we've done that,  
37 and we have in our regulations a definition that's limited just  
38 to the sale of furs for cash, and a couple of other specific  
39 items, primarily in the Kobuk Valley area that are in the Gates  
40 of the Arctic specific regulations.

41  
42 So I guess what I'm saying is that depending on whether  
43 or not those amendments are adopted, it could change  
44 significantly what we've been working on now for 15 years I  
45 guess, trying to figure out what ANILCA means. And we were  
46 finally getting close to closure and now it maybe is a toss-up  
47 again on what it will be, and then maybe we'll spend another 15  
48 years to figure it out, what it means.

49



0095

1 Gates of the Arctic, on the subsistence resource commission  
2 update, their next meeting is going to be on November 4th and  
3 5th tentatively in Allakaket. And Steve Ulvi will be there,  
4 and will be coordinating that meeting. And we also had Pollack  
5 Simon, Senior was appointed by Western Interior to our  
6 subsistence resource commission, and his appointment runs  
7 through November of '99, and we're real pleased by that  
8 appointment to the SRC. And you all, I assume, are aware that  
9 Jack Reakoff is also on Gates of the Arctic Subsistence  
10 Resource Commission, which provides real good coordination  
11 between the Council and our park subsistence program, so we --  
12 that's really an excellent arrangement I think.

13  
14 We don't have any biological studies that are on-going  
15 at present at Gates of the Arctic to report on. We may have  
16 some information at the end of the year and into early next  
17 year on sheep harvest on the northern parts of Western Interior  
18 area at Gates, because of the Anaktuvuk Pass permit hunt for  
19 sheep that's going on right now, and that has reporting  
20 provisions to the park through the community there. But so far  
21 there's been minimal harvest that we're aware of on that  
22 special sheep season, primarily because caribou were available,  
23 and really diminished the need for the special sheep season  
24 this year to the extent that it might have otherwise occurred.

25  
26 At the November meeting Steve very likely will have a  
27 draft park subsistence management plan to present to the  
28 subsistence resource commission, and you'll probably be hearing  
29 back somewhat on that perhaps at your winter meeting, so that's  
30 coming up.

31  
32 Beyond that, the Lake Clark Subsistence Resource  
33 Commission is meeting at Pedro Bay on October 23rd of this  
34 month. We don't anticipate there being any specific Western  
35 Interior issues that will be coming up there, but you never  
36 know, and if there are, we'll be reporting those back to you at  
37 the winter meetings.

38  
39 And then the Denali Subsistence Resource Commission has  
40 not yet scheduled its next meeting, but we anticipate that  
41 they'll probably be sometime in November or early December that  
42 the Denali Subsistence Resource Commission will be meeting.

43  
44 And other than that, that's about it. If you have any  
45 questions, I'll be glad to follow up.

46  
47 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Yes, Jack?

48  
49 MR. REAKOFF: Mr. Chairman? Under this tab K I read

50 this is sort of an evolving document here, and it kind of

0096

1 changes every time I read it, slightly. And there's -- on page  
2 14, there's a response to whether the Park Service in intending  
3 to make resident zone communities for -- under 8 on page 14,  
4 whether they're going to make resident zone communities for the  
5 preserves, and I was wondering what Paul had on that aspect?

6  
7 MR. HUNTER: I think the short answer to your question  
8 is no, but it's a subject that is -- that comes up, and is  
9 probably going to continue to come up, and, yeah, there's some  
10 interest in that, and I think the answer is that we'll probably  
11 just keep talking about it, but that there isn't any specific  
12 plan to do that at present. The -- I guess we're up to our  
13 necks in managing and dealing with the resident zone status for  
14 the parks and monuments, and perhaps once we get that all  
15 nailed down on such issues as adding and deleting resident zone  
16 communities and whether or not our proposed roster regulations  
17 for the resident zone communities ever gets through the  
18 Department, and dealt with, once all that's done, perhaps we --  
19 it would be time to take on that issue of preserve resident  
20 zone -- resident zones for preserves in conjunction with the  
21 SRC and the Council. But at -- there is no immediate plan to  
22 do that.

23  
24 MR. REAKOFF: Mr. Chairman, another point is on page 25  
25 under the trapping, section seven. The Park Service is -- will  
26 work with subsistence resource commission, regional councils  
27 and others to evaluate further define the practice of using  
28 firearms as a method of trapping and then consider regulatory  
29 changes as appropriate. This is in regards to shooting fur  
30 bearers with a firearm under the trapping regulations. They  
31 seem to be asking for the Council's input, yet this Council  
32 submitted a lengthy comment on that and it's been -- we've  
33 asked and asked every year what's going on with the Park  
34 Service? Are they going to change this regulation, and the  
35 federal regulation books are stating right currently that it's  
36 not legal to shoot a fur animal, a free-ranging fur bearer, and  
37 I was under the impression that there was somewhat of a stay on  
38 that interpretation.

39  
40 MR. HUNTER: Well, I think there is somewhat of a stay  
41 on it in the sense that the way that we're managing that  
42 regulation and have managed it is the way we're going to  
43 continue to manage it. And that -- and the candid answer to,  
44 well, what way is that is that each Park is responding to local  
45 use patterns, and conforming their management under this  
46 regulation consistent with those local use patterns. And our  
47 local managers, our park superintendents generally and Gates of  
48 the Arctic in particular, are committed to dealing with that  
49 regulation, and trying to conform it more closely to local

50 patterns of use.

1           And the reality is that the National Park Service has a  
2 definition for traps in the Lower 48 that includes firearms,  
3 and a definition for traps in Alaska that doesn't include  
4 firearms, and the reality is that it probably should be  
5 reversed. And there's some interest in the Lower 48 to do  
6 that. And I'm expressing my opinion I guess on what we're  
7 doing as an agency at this point, but -- and the Department of  
8 Interior, because there are folks at the Secretary's level in  
9 the Department that are interested in this issue as well. I  
10 think they would like to wait until they figure out a way to  
11 make that switch for the Lower 48, restrict more closely  
12 firearms for trapping in the Lower 48, and eliminating that  
13 regulation in Alaska I think is perceived as reducing the  
14 chances that they'll be able to do that for the Lower 48.  
15 That's all. So until they figure out a way to work that  
16 political kind of dynamic,.....

17  
18           CHAIRMAN COLLINS: But how did it come about that the  
19 more restrictive came in in Alaska when it's -- they were drawn  
20 up -- were they in place before ANILCA in Alaska? Is that why?  
21

22           MR. HUNTER: No, it was adopted in 1983 as part of the  
23 mass adoption of subsistence regulations for the Park Service  
24 that resulted from ANILCA. And it went -- I think it went  
25 through without public awareness. I've.....

26  
27           CHAIRMAN COLLINS: That seems strange that up here  
28 where it has been the practice of trappers taking fur that way  
29 that it would be restricted. It's like a lot of these  
30 subsistence practices, they're not documented and the  
31 regulations came in and now we're having to respond to the regs  
32 and so on, and they should have been documenting what was done  
33 and made the regs conform to what the normal practice is in the  
34 area. And.....

35  
36           MR. HUNTER: Well, you know, I think it was kind of a  
37 fluke that it happened. I haven't -- I've looked at this issue  
38 carefully in terms of I've gone back and looked at the history  
39 of it, and I can't find any indication either anecdotally from  
40 folks who were involved at the time or from the actual written  
41 record on why the definition in our -- in the Park Service  
42 Subsistence Regulations for Alaska excluded firearms.

43  
44           Well, let me back up. I think it was just an accident,  
45 to tell you the truth, because the definition for trapping in  
46 the Lower 48 wasn't adopted until after the definition for  
47 trapping was adopted in Alaska for the subsistence regulations.  
48 So it's -- you know, it's like which came first, or was anybody  
49 paying attention. I don't think the Park Service realized that

50 we were coming up with conflicting definitions for trapping.

0098

1 But now that they're there, it's like a light went on, and for  
2 the Lower 48 areas, the thinking is -- you know, again I'm  
3 expressing my opinion, it appears that the thinking is, oh,  
4 this seems to be consistent with the way we operate down here,  
5 which indeed is the fact.

6  
7 I mean, the way they manage firearms for trapping in  
8 the Lower 48 in Park Service is it's a stipulation on the  
9 permit. And so they in effect by stipulating that you can't  
10 use a firearm on the permit have restricted the use of firearms  
11 for trapping in the Lower 48. But the idea of it just being  
12 part of the regulations rather than having to be every time you  
13 do a permit, part of the permit I think has caught some folks  
14 attention in the Lower 48, so they kind of like that result,  
15 and so they're unwilling to change the definition in Alaska  
16 until we're able to make the switch for the Lower 48. All the  
17 while we're managing locally to recognize local practices and  
18 conform our management of trapping in Alaska to local  
19 practices, that's the reality.

20  
21 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Well, if we can't change it now, I  
22 see it as being less likely to be able to change it in the  
23 future. That's my concern, and somebody might overlook them  
24 now and manage different locally, but somebody's going to call  
25 attention to it at some point and hold them to it. Jack, you  
26 have.....

27  
28 MR. REAKOFF: That's always been my contention that  
29 these CFR 36 regulations were adopted to the SRCs  
30 implementation, and the regional council system under this  
31 Federal Board. They're asking for advisory council  
32 recommendation. We've made recommendation. We've given them  
33 two years to take our recommendation. The Park Service is too  
34 long on this. They're not acting fast enough as far as a  
35 council member and an SRC member as far as I'm concerned. The  
36 longer this goes on, and the longer it's published in the  
37 federal regulations, the more precedence that is set. I make a  
38 motion to send a letter to the Regional Director of the Park  
39 Service to submit a proposal to the Federal Subsistence Board  
40 to alleviate this conflict with customary and traditional use  
41 in regards to Gates of the Arctic, Denali, and Lake Clark.

42  
43 MR. SAM: Is that a motion?

44  
45 MR. REAKOFF: That's a motion.

46  
47 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Is there a second to that?

48  
49 MR. DEACON: Second.



0099

1 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Okay. Seconded by Henry. Okay.  
2 Any discussion of that motion? I think that would be in order.  
3 Maybe by actually having something written, we can get a  
4 specific response rather than just waiting.

5  
6 MR. REAKOFF: Uh-hum.

7  
8 MR. HUNTER: I think that would be helpful. I do.

9  
10 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Yeah. Yeah.

11  
12 MR. SAM: I should start trapping probably.

13  
14 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: All those in favor signify by  
15 raising your right hand? Yeah, I concur. Okay. Yes votes for  
16 all members present. Motion carried. Thank you.

17  
18 Are there any other issues you can think of that.....

19  
20 MR. REAKOFF: Mr. Chairman, under -- on page 27,  
21 customary trade, I also -- they're also asking for Federal  
22 Subsistence Board direction under this customary trade, and  
23 their definition is the sale of furs for cash. But under the  
24 ANILCA law, I don't have the exact ANILCA law here, so I can't  
25 cite it, under ANILCA law it says that the sale of -- customary  
26 sale of nonedible by-product. You know, handcrafts make them  
27 nonedible by-products, is to be allowed. That's in the ANILCA  
28 law. That's not reflected in this Park Service definition of  
29 furs for cash. I'm not sure how in the world they missed that,  
30 the sale of handcrafts by nonedible by-products, but I feel  
31 that as in our comment letter that that -- the sale of  
32 nonedible -- handcrafts made from nonedible by-products should  
33 be allowed by Park Service regulation from the Regional Council  
34 position.

35  
36 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: And the reason being it doesn't  
37 conform to ANILCA, so that we would go back to.....

38  
39 MR. REAKOFF: That's it's not -- it doesn't conform to  
40 ANILCA.

41  
42 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Okay.

43  
44 MR. SAM: Is that motion?

45  
46 MR. REAKOFF: That's an amendment to the motion that --  
47 the previous letter. That could be on the same letter as.....

48  
49 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Oh, okay.



0100

1 MR. REAKOFF: .....as another -- you know, they're  
2 asking for comments, this is comment.

3  
4 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: So you would move to add to the  
5 previous letter,.....

6  
7 MR. REAKOFF: Yeah. Yeah.

8  
9 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: .....comments on customary trade.  
10 Is there a second to that motion?

11  
12 MR. SAM: Second.

13  
14 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Seconded by Ron. Okay. Yeah, this  
15 came up in the Denali one, too, because even -- it's not even  
16 clear on things like using birch bark or something else if  
17 they're harvested from there, whether you can be making things  
18 and selling them.

19  
20 MR. REAKOFF: Uh-hum.

21  
22 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Under -- on this actually it would  
23 be prohibited.

24  
25 MR. DEACON: Question.

26  
27 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Okay. All those in favor signify by  
28 raising your right hand? Again yes votes for all members  
29 present. Motion carries.

30  
31 Okay. Now, those are the only two that I'm aware of,  
32 too, in there from being on another SRC, that we had some  
33 concerns about.

34  
35 MR. REAKOFF: Uh-hum.

36  
37 MR. SAM: When's that meeting up at Allakaket?

38  
39 MR. HUNTER: It's going to be on the 4th and 5th. It's  
40 tentatively scheduled for the 4th and 5th.

41  
42 MR. SAM: November?

43  
44 MR. HUNTER: Of November.

45  
46 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Thank you, Paul. Yeah. Okay. Next  
47 item up, BLM.

48  
49 MR. YOKEL: Thank you, Mr. Chair, I'm Dave Yokel with

50 the Bureau of Land Management's Northern District Office in

0101

1 Fairbanks. Here again it refers to BLM Statewide and Anchorage  
2 District, and I do not represent either. But.....

3  
4 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Oh, okay.

5  
6 MR. YOKEL: .....thanks for recognizing me just the  
7 same. The Northern District Office manages all BLM lands in  
8 the northern half of the state which is about the north half of  
9 your subsistence region.

10  
11 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Okay. I'll make note of that in the  
12 minutes, yeah.

13  
14 MR. YOKEL: We have very little in the way of issues  
15 from Northern District for this Council at this meeting. I did  
16 submit a very short report to you. It's in -- it's the very  
17 last page of -- under tab K right before the L divider, and I  
18 have nothing in addition to that to state to you today. I just  
19 -- part of it's a follow up to last spring in Holy Cross.

20  
21 I just mentioned the fact that a special management  
22 area is being created just southwest of Lake Todatonden that  
23 there will be a Regional Advisory Council to assist the BLM in  
24 managing that area, but we're on hold now while litigation over  
25 the land swap down on the Kenai Peninsula takes place, so that  
26 whole thing's still on tap, but we can't move forward on it  
27 right now.

28  
29 Other than that, if there are any questions that you  
30 have for me, I'd be glad to try to answer them.

31  
32 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Okay. Any member? I guess not.  
33 Thank you, Dave.

34  
35 MR. YOKEL: Thank you very much.

36  
37 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Jeff, do you have some.....

38  
39 MR. DENTON: Thank you. My name is Jeff Denton, with  
40 the Anchorage District BLM. We've covered some subjects  
41 before. There are some other -- they're not issues, they're  
42 just things you folks need to be aware of I think.

43  
44 I think most of you are well aware that at least in the  
45 Anchorage District portion and Fish & Wildlife Service, this  
46 was a rather remarkable fire year, were probably within the  
47 federal public lands alone within your region close to 2  
48 million acres burned this year. Some of those may or may not  
49 be fairly significant lands used for subsistence activities.

50 So you can expect some short-term displacement things, like

0102

1 moose. There will be some areas where some of these moose,  
2 that their habitats were burned, would show up in other areas,  
3 and end up being -- having the appearance of more  
4 concentrations of moose in those areas for a short period of  
5 time. This would be like two, three, four years. The BLM  
6 lands that burned that were basically habitat type areas, in  
7 three to five years, we expect moose response in those to be  
8 very positive.

9  
10 The Secretary of Interior has basically told agencies  
11 like BLM that you will put more emphasis on the natural role of  
12 fire on Interior-administered lands, so we're going to have --  
13 and it's probably the major factor on a landscape basis in  
14 Alaska that really changes the landscape is fire. It's a very  
15 natural process in most of your -- of the Western Interior  
16 Region. It's a very important part of the ecosystem up here  
17 for a fire to function the way it does, and it has a very  
18 significant impact on distribution and abundance of subsistence  
19 resources through time.

20  
21 A lot of the fire planning in the State of Alaska  
22 involves the protection of native corporation lands that are  
23 adjacent to many of the federal lands. Most of those lands  
24 according to those plans, the fire management plans and  
25 suppression plans, are full suppression of fires on all  
26 corporation native-owned lands. In the long run that's  
27 probably going to be -- impact your subsistence resources on  
28 your own lands. Without fire functioning there, you're going  
29 to have fuel build-ups, you may actually have very much  
30 declining quality habitats for certain species. I would  
31 encourage probably this Council to at least interface with the  
32 corporations, the land owners and the folks that make the  
33 comments to these statewide fire plans to incorporate  
34 subsistence resource habitat management on the corporate lands,  
35 because they -- the Federal Government and the State have the  
36 responsibility of fire suppression on native lands and so on.  
37 So -- but right now basically their hands are tied to  
38 suppressing all fires no matter what on most all the corporate  
39 lands.

40  
41 When they get away, of course, some of those lands  
42 burn, but -- and most of the adjacent lands are under -- for  
43 BLM anyway, habitat and the natural role of fire is a very  
44 important part of our fire plannings. That's why we have some  
45 of these large fires. We actually make a conscious decision to  
46 have them burn.

47  
48 And so this is a subsistence issue on a long-term  
49 situation not only on federal lands, but on your corporation

50 landholdings as well. It's been a major influence on the

0103

1 production of subsistence resources over time. So that's just  
2 -- you people are well aware of the fires, but you may not be  
3 well aware of why certain fires are let burn while others are  
4 not, why some of them are suppressed and so on, but it's the --  
5 again, the corporations and landowners have a very important  
6 role to play. All these things are related. It's just not  
7 going out and catching your animal. Unfortunately they have to  
8 have the proper habitats to survive, to produce, and to be  
9 distributed where you can get them, so nothing's --  
10 everything's connected I guess.

11  
12 The Lime Village harvest reporting system, I kind of  
13 report on that every year. I just got the final April, May and  
14 June harvest months reported here last week, so I don't have  
15 the annual report to give you folks right now. As soon as I  
16 get that written up and summarized, it will summarize the three  
17 years that that work has been on-going, and I'll provide you  
18 with a copy of it as well as all the different agencies when  
19 that's done. We intend to have that work go at least for  
20 another two years, but it's -- the reporting system's required  
21 by federal regulation, so my thought is that that will continue  
22 as long as the federal subsistence program is in existence, so  
23 -- and it's been a very successful thing so far.

24  
25 So that's really all I have right now, unless you have  
26 some questions or.....

27  
28 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Okay. Any further -- Ron?

29  
30 MR. SAM: How long do you expect the furbearing species  
31 to return after a fire, especially one of those bit 30, 40,000,  
32 60,000-acre fires that we have in the Interior that are let  
33 burn?

34  
35 MR. DENTON: I assume you're probably referring mostly  
36 to martin?

37  
38 MR. SAM: Yes.

39  
40 MR. DENTON: Most of the research has shown us here in  
41 recent years that those areas actually don't deplete martin  
42 populations, but provide actually an area where many of the  
43 young of the year disperse into. The work that's been done on  
44 the Galena has borne this out. We did work on the Fairwell  
45 burn, and those are big burns. Those are hundreds of thousands  
46 of acres. And in actuality what it's done is provided a  
47 dispersal area for a lot of young animals that are very  
48 vulnerable to trapping, and very successful trapping, wherein  
49 the forests that they were in, the territorial more adult

50 animals, you know, don't disperse. They just hold their

0104

1 territories.

2

3           So in the long run now the research is indicating that  
4 the large fires are not detrimental to those species. In fact  
5 in some cases, very beneficial to both abundance and  
6 accessibility. It's not longer really considered a serious --  
7 fires are not a serious impact to martin populations at all.  
8 And part of that is also there's an abundance of voles that  
9 come in right during those fires, depending on the intensity of  
10 fires, that those young martin are highly dependent upon, and  
11 you can actually concentrate your trapping effort in very small  
12 areas and do extremely well.

13

14           But there's been some pretty hard long-term research on  
15 that. I think some of the folks from Fish & Wildlife Service  
16 at Galena can probably -- that's where the center of some of  
17 this research has been done, and it's been pretty exhaustive  
18 research.

19

20           CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Jack, do you have a question?

21

22           MR. REAKOFF: I was wondering if you had come up with  
23 some consensus on this mapping coordination with Innoko on  
24 whether you wanted to do a joint mapping effort there during  
25 the spring?

26

27           MR. DENTON: I haven't talked to him yet.

28

29           MR. REAKOFF: Oh. Are you still looking for a letter  
30 of urgency with this mapping program?

31

32           MR. DENTON: Well, from the BLM standpoint, there's got  
33 to be I guess some kind of an initiation that creates that  
34 mapping effort at a high enough priority that they can actually  
35 take people from other priority work to actually help complete  
36 it. And that's where I'm at now. I don't have any problem  
37 coordinating it, but I have to be able to have a guaranteed  
38 people's time and equipment and so on to complete the job.

39

40           CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Yes, Ed?

41

42           MR. MERRITT: Yeah, there's -- Jack's aware of this,  
43 there's a lot going on in that arena right now. Currently  
44 Ducks Unlimited is being playered, the National (Indiscernible,  
45 away from microphone) mapping office is interested, and we're  
46 kind of going through this process of sorting everything out  
47 and figuring out what everybody's needs are, and how we can  
48 best, you know, work together on a broad scale. Ducks  
49 Unlimited is looking at it statewide, covering everything, so I

50 think you're going to see some action probably at the beginning

0105

1 of next summer. In fact there was supposed to be some activity  
2 relative to Ducks Unlimited by this summer, but it got kiboshed  
3 because of all the fire activity, smoke interference with the  
4 operations. So -- but, yeah, Jeff and I -- you know, Jeff's  
5 talking to Jerry Mennick in our regional office, and with us  
6 over the years about this, and we're definitely going to get  
7 moving on it. It's high priority for Innoko.

8  
9 MR. DENTON: Are we mixing apples and oranges here?  
10 You were talking about the land status map? Okay. Yeah.

11  
12 MR. MERRITT: Yeah,

13  
14 MR. DENTON: Okay. What Ed was talking about was this  
15 land cover mapping project thing, which is a different.....

16  
17 MR. MERRITT: Oh, you're talking about (Indiscernible  
18 -- simultaneous speech)

19  
20 MR. DENTON: .....mapping project.

21  
22 MR. MERRITT: You're talking about ownership?

23  
24 MR. REAKOFF: Yeah, I'm talking about -- he was.....

25  
26 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Yeah.

27  
28 MR. MERRITT: Oh. Well, I got a plug in anyway.

29  
30 (Laughter)

31  
32 MR. DENTON: Right now we're looking at the BLM  
33 portions, the BLM will, you know, and at least my thought is to  
34 now to meet at least a time table for at least the area that  
35 we've been dictated to make a map for to stay within the BLM  
36 responsibility and carry it through. What happens when you do  
37 an interagency thing that requires a lot of technical  
38 digitization, maps and computer systems and mapping systems, it  
39 ends up in big delays. You may end up with products, but we're  
40 going to end up with two maps anyway, simply the size of the  
41 country we're looking at. We're looking at a 36 by 24 fold-up  
42 map just for the BLM portion, and that's on both sides, a north  
43 half and a south half, so we're going to have probably another  
44 map for the refuge system anyway I would assume. It can't be  
45 on the same map anyway. It just physically wouldn't work.

46  
47 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Did you want to make a motion  
48 directing that they give it some priority? That was mentioned,  
49 that might help in terms of them getting authorization.



0106

1 MR. REAKOFF: As a pilot program for this mapping  
2 thing, I feel that, you know, it would -- this area has many  
3 different land status and so forth in that area, and it's  
4 become quite a problem as to whose allotment and the trespass  
5 problems. I feel that a letter of a higher urgency with the  
6 BLM District -- or what do they call that, District?

7  
8 MR. DENTON: Well, it's going to be through our state  
9 offices, through -- actually through the Subsistence Board.  
10 Our State Director's the one who can actually make those calls.  
11 I can't, our district manager can't, because we're involving  
12 state office staff and those sorts of things, so it may be --  
13 maybe that's not the right approach, but to me he's the one who  
14 made that decision, the State Director's the one that says do  
15 it, but he's also the one who needs to basically say this is a  
16 high enough priority enough that specific people are assigned  
17 to complete it, otherwise it won't get done. I don't have the  
18 authority to grab somebody and change their priority.

19  
20 MR. REAKOFF: But just a letter of recommendation.....

21  
22 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Right.

23  
24 MR. REAKOFF: .....to reprioritize this into a higher  
25 status so that the local.....

26  
27 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Right. I guess it would be to the  
28 State Director BLM asking him to give priority to the BLM  
29 mapping project in the.....

30  
31 MR. REAKOFF: Uh-hum.

32  
33 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: I don't know, is it -- we're calling  
34 it Game Man- -- Unit 21E or the Holy Cross?

35  
36 MR. DENTON: They define the area basically the bottom  
37 lands in the Innoko and Yukon bottoms there. For us it's the  
38 south of the Innoko Refuge, including Paimiut Slough, so it's  
39 basically the Innoko/Yukon bottom lands.

40  
41 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Okay.

42  
43 MR. REAKOFF: Does that include the area around the  
44 Kuskokwim and the Aniak area also?

45  
46 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: No.

47  
48 MR. DENTON: No, that would end up being a separate  
49 project.



0107

1 MR. REAKOFF: So the line would go straight across from  
2 Paimiut?

3  
4 MR. DENTON: I would -- it would cover the head end of  
5 that -- it would go almost to the pass of the drainage between  
6 the Kuskokwim and Yukon Drainage there. So it would cover all  
7 that wetland country that drains into the Paimiut Slough.  
8 Basically it's kind of almost drainage oriented.

9  
10 MR. REAKOFF: So I'd make -- I make a motion to include  
11 that in the letter of recommendation to the BLM Alaska  
12 Director.

13  
14 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Okay. Is there a second to that?

15  
16 MS. A. DEMIENTIEFF: Second.

17  
18 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Angela seconds. Moved by Jack. Any  
19 discussion?

20  
21 MR. DEACON: Question.

22  
23 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: All those in favor signify by  
24 raising your right hands? Yes votes for members present.  
25 Motion carried. Okay. We'll see that that gets out. Okay.  
26 Thank you.

27  
28 MR. DENTON: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

29  
30 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Moving on down, who's next? Fish &  
31 Wildlife Service. Statewide, Interior Region. Kanute,  
32 Koyukuk, Nowenta, Innoko.

33  
34 MR. MATHEWS: Yeah, this is just a time that the refuge  
35 staff wants to talk about an update on their refuge, and then  
36 Mr. Early wants to -- will be covering the follow-up on the  
37 animal trapping on refuges.

38  
39 MR. EARLY: Eley.

40  
41 MR. MATHEWS: Eley.

42  
43 MR. EARLY: Eley's last.

44  
45 MR. MATHEWS: I'm sorry. Eley's doing the trapping.  
46 I'm just never going to work with Fish & Wildlife ever again.

47  
48 (Laughter)

49



0108

1 -- everything else. Mr. Eley will cover the trapping. Sorry.

2  
3

4 MR. EARLY: Understanding you there. Thank you. I'm  
5 Tom Early, the refuge manager of Kanute Refuge, which is just  
6 south of Bettles. And I don't really have any issues to bring  
7 up. I just discussed -- I will just discuss a few things that  
8 we're doing and then maybe update you on some of inventory  
9 surveys, et cetera, for wildlife.

10  
11 First of all, with moose we completed a census in '89  
12 and another one in '93, for especially the new members, and the  
13 population increased slightly, but get somewhat significantly,  
14 and we are covered -- about two-thirds of the refuge is covered  
15 by the Kanute Controlled Use Area, which excludes in this  
16 particular one all hunters for moose outside of Game Management  
17 Unit 24. We're in Game Management Unit 24, so all outside  
18 residents are excluded from hunting within that area. And that  
19 also includes Anaktuvuk Pass, the Village of Koyukuk, and  
20 there's another village there, too, that's an exception to  
21 that. But basically it's pretty much off limits for outside  
22 hunters on Kanute for moose.

23  
24 We plan another census in 1998, the fall of '98, about  
25 a year from now. We'll be working with ADF&G and doing that  
26 census.

27  
28 We worked with the State and BLM on the hunter check  
29 station at the Koyukuk -- or at the Yukon River crossing this  
30 fall, and I felt like the data we got from that was very  
31 helpful. We really haven't summar- -- or haven't received a  
32 summary of that from ADF&G as yet, but from all indications, an  
33 the people we had working, there was a lot of data coming from  
34 people that floated down onto our refuge or at least the  
35 portion of the refuge that was open to hunting, and users up  
36 north and on the Yukon River also for both the Flats and Kanute  
37 area. And we'll continue I think probably to work with that  
38 check station, and also make some recommendations possibly for  
39 some enforcement on that if we can do that. I think that was  
40 discussed earlier.

41  
42 As far as furbearers go, we're trying to assess  
43 furbearer populations on the refuge, mainly using three  
44 programs. We're collecting carcasses from trappers, local  
45 trappers on the refuge and analyzing moose carcasses, getting  
46 data from those, and from all indications it seems like the  
47 populations are doing quite well. No abnormalities that we can  
48 see over-all in any of the populations. We're also  
49 contemplating doing aerial surveys for track counts. We're

50 hoping -- hopefully we'll set that up this fall and -- later

0109

1 this fall.

2

3 And we're also conducting small mammal monitoring,  
4 basically like the Koyukuk/Nowitna Refuge is doing, trapping  
5 voles, mice, et cetera, and determining the food source  
6 available for martins and other furbearers that feed on the  
7 lower food web. And I think maybe Gene from Koyukuk might  
8 expound a little bit on that. We're doing very similar work  
9 that they're doing there. They're doing a lot more or it, but  
10 it seems like following a fire we've had all indications that  
11 the small mammal populations does increase significantly  
12 following that, just within a couple years. It's pretty  
13 impressive.

14

15 Wolves. We collared ten wolves two years ago. A year  
16 and a half ago. It was in the spring. And we have four wolves  
17 left with radio collars on them that are at least accessible to  
18 us, that we know where they are. We trapped several smaller --  
19 several young animals, and they disbursed. Several were  
20 trapped and taken, and as I said, there -- and four are  
21 missing, and we have four remaining collars. We have a  
22 memorandum of understanding with the State for next spring,  
23 probably late February/March, we'll be capturing wolves and  
24 recollaring or collaring more animals in an effort long term to  
25 assess the wolf population on the refuge. We feel like that's  
26 about the best way, maybe about the only way that we can really  
27 get a good handle on the wolf population long term on the  
28 refuge. Not necessarily the exact number of animals, but the  
29 health of the populations of the wolves.

30

31 And simultaneously working with the moose populations  
32 to see what's happening there.

33

34 Right now it looks like the wolf population is not  
35 increasing on the refuge, although we have had a pretty high  
36 population I believe, and may be slightly decreasing. These  
37 packs are very dynamic and, boy, it's really hard to follow  
38 them specifically like we would hope to.

39

40 We also have been working in the past with the Bureau  
41 of Land Management on the Lake Todatonden Special Management  
42 area, and I was interested to hear what Dave had to say about  
43 that, and that pending legislation, and I think we'll continue  
44 to work with them on that. That's just adjacent to the Kanute  
45 Refuge also. A very productive area.

46

47 And the last thing I'd like to bring up is the Earth  
48 Quest Science Camp. We are working with the Park Service and  
49 TCC and I think BLM.....



0110

1 MR. YOKEL: That's right.

2

3 MR. EARLY: .....is involved in that, too. A lot of  
4 agencies. There's a lot of native organizations, agencies all  
5 across the Interior, and this is for high school students,  
6 maybe -- mainly high school students, and it's been run for  
7 about three to four years I believe, and my assistant is pretty  
8 much running that for our shop anyway. And I think next year  
9 he's going to be one of the major players and the camp  
10 director. And a lot of students in the past have been involved  
11 with this camp and think it's a real good one. This next year  
12 we're going to try to limit more the number of students, higher  
13 quality and do it on the road system and really try to work  
14 with a very -- even a higher quality camp if we can, but that's  
15 been a real productive camp also, and trying to teach students  
16 more about wildlife, natural sciences, et cetera.

17

18 That's about all I have right now. If there's any  
19 questions, I'd be glad to answer.

20

21 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Questions? Yes, Benedict?

22

23 MR. JONES: You said you did some moose collaring. A  
24 few years back you did some on the Koyukuk Refuge area. Do you  
25 know off hand how much moose has been collared and how much has  
26 been harvested?

27

28 MR. EARLY: Well, we haven't collared moose. We  
29 collared wolves. Moose we just did census work on, we did not  
30 collar them to do that. We counted moose pretty intensely in  
31 1989 and 993, but we did not collar them. So we don't know  
32 their movements necessarily.

33

34 MR. JONES: Well, this was back in the 80s if I  
35 remember, somewhere around '87, there was some. I don't know  
36 whether it was the feds or the Fish & Game.....

37

38 MR. EARLY: Yeah.

39

40 MR. JONES: .....collared those moose.

41

42 MR. EARLY: It was in the Koyu- -- in which area?

43

44 MR. JONES: Three-Day Slough area.

45

46 MR. EARLY: In the Three-Day Slough. Do you know,  
47 Gene? Or John.....

48

49 MR. WILLIAMS: Not first off.



0111

1 MR. EARLY: Yeah. I'm not sure. That's out of our  
2 area, but I am not sure. It may have been the State that did  
3 that, too.

4  
5 MR. JONES: Just one question. My question is how many  
6 of them are surviving now, you know, but you don't have that.

7  
8 MR. EARLY: I don't know, Benedict. Sorry about that.  
9 I don't know.

10  
11 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Tom, do you have any information on  
12 that?

13  
14 MR. ELEY: I couldn't tell you how many are surviving  
15 now. Certainly some of them are. That was done in late 80s  
16 and early 90s.....

17  
18 MR. JONES: Yeah.

19  
20 MR. ELEY: .....I believe. Yes. There's a report out  
21 on that that was done by Mike Stendorf, (Indiscernible, away  
22 from microphone) Refuge and Gene can find a copy of it and  
23 (Indiscernible, away from microphone).

24  
25 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Jack?

26  
27 MR. REAKOFF: Mr. Chairman. Did you do the salmon  
28 survey on the South Fork this year or.....

29  
30 MR. EARLY: Yes. Well it was the Fisheries Division,  
31 they did a weir on the South Fork. I would report more on  
32 that, but they had a lot of high water and, boy, they just  
33 weren't able to count. They were able to do counting most of  
34 August, but not all of August, and they got a lot of the summer  
35 run of chum salmon. That's mainly what they were after, and  
36 they also counted king salmon coming in. The numbers were  
37 down. King salmon were up slightly. The number of chum were  
38 down, which is typical of the chum runs this year. September  
39 they did not count a day in September I don't believe. If it  
40 was, it might have been about two days early in the season, but  
41 the water just -- it came up in August, as you know, and just  
42 seemed to stay there.

43  
44 And they're trying to reassess that weir. We really  
45 like that information, just from a refuge standpoint, but the  
46 problems with that weir, it's -- and that location is that it's  
47 fairly deep water in the center, and the water level fluctuates  
48 quite a bit from the South Fork. There's quite a drainage with  
49 that, and it's just real tough to keep the weir operational and

50 functional, because of the water changes there.

0112

1 But the numbers were down for chum, up slightly for  
2 king salmon, chinooks.

3  
4 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Thank you.

5  
6 MR. EARLY: Uh-hum. Thank you.

7  
8 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Who's next?

9  
10 MR. WILLIAMS: Good afternoon, Mr. Chairman, my name is  
11 Gene Williams. I'm the relatively new refuge manager for the  
12 Koyukuk/Nowitna complex at Galena. I've been on board roughly  
13 four months. I have some points I wish to address with the  
14 Council to indicate where we are headed in the near future on  
15 some surveys that will be of interest to you folks.

16  
17 This upcoming November we are planning on doing an  
18 intensive moose census in the Koyu (ph) Flats and some portions  
19 of the Koyukuk Refuge. We are working through Lime -- or  
20 working with Lime Village Council and TCC to acquire some able-  
21 bodied people to serve as observers.

22  
23 In addition, this fall we're proposing to work with  
24 Alaska Department of Fish & Game to do a trend survey in the  
25 Hughes area on the Koyukuk River. Apparently, based on what I'm  
26 told, there has been very little survey work accomplished in  
27 that area.

28  
29 This upcoming spring, the spring of '98, we're  
30 considering a wolf survey in conjunction with Alaska Department  
31 of Fish & Game in the upper reaches of the Nowitna Refuge and  
32 the Nowitna River drainage.

33  
34 We are also proposing a partnership with the Lime  
35 Village Council to conduct a spring waterfowl harvest survey.  
36 We have some interest in the impacts of waterfowl harvest on  
37 the Interior white fronted goose population.

38  
39 This fall we will be doing some survey work in  
40 conjunction with Alaska Department of Fish & Game to determine  
41 the rate of infusion of the local Galena Mountain Caribou Herd  
42 by the Western Arctic Herd. In the past that information's  
43 been the basis for a late winter season in the area. So that's  
44 something we'll be working on here in the short term.

45  
46 And we hope to receive funding here in the near future  
47 to follow up in our area with a study to determine the level of  
48 contaminants in water fowl, because of -- well, of special  
49 interest to us is lead. There's some indication that there is

50 a problem in that arena based on what's been done on the Kanute

0113

1 National Wildlife Refuge.

2

3 The Innoko Refuge, as I'm sure most are aware, has  
4 experienced some fairly large fires this past year. I've been  
5 asked to defer any comments on fire and furbearers and relative  
6 abundance of rodents in those burns to Mr. Merritt who will  
7 follow me in this presentation.

8

9 I guess that pretty well summarizes the comments I'd  
10 care to make.

11

12 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Okay. Questions? Benedict?

13

14 MR. JONES: On you waterfowl area, I notice that this  
15 past two years it has been decreasing in our area. Like this  
16 past fall, I haven't seen any young ducks or geese that's in  
17 the sloughs or lakes. There's a tremendous decrease this year  
18 from last year.

19

20 MR. WILLIAMS: Water conditions I believe this past  
21 spring were not what they have been in recent years. The  
22 Three-Day Slough area was essentially dry early in the summer.  
23 It wasn't until late season rains in the watershed brought the  
24 water levels up. I'm sure that had an impact this year. We  
25 did a brood survey with interest specifically in what we might  
26 find in terms of white fronted goose broods in the Koyute (ph)  
27 Flats area, and numbers were up from last year's survey. I  
28 cannot address ducks in general.

29

30 MR. JONES: Yeah, because I notice just flying around  
31 Koyukuk area, in the lakes and you usually see ducks or geese.  
32 I haven't seen any this year.

33

34 MR. WILLIAMS: Uh-hum.

35

36 MR. JONES: And I walk in the lakes, and nothing.

37

38 MR. WILLIAMS: I've heard comments from many of the  
39 locals regarding late season concentrations, and the feeling  
40 was in the Galena area that the numbers were up considerably in  
41 terms of congregations of migrating birds. So.....

42

43 MR. JONES: That's not true. Have you guys done some  
44 radio tagging for geese?

45

46 MR. WILLIAMS: We are not actively tagging white  
47 fronted geese at this time. We are trapping and banding white  
48 fronted geese in an effort to continue to monitor what's  
49 happening with the Interior population. We still have birds

50 out there that are radio tagged that we do follow.

0114

1 MR. JONES: Yeah, because I heard rumors that there was  
2 radio tagging in our area, and tracked by satellite went over  
3 to Kotzebue area before they migrated south.

4  
5 MR. WILLIAMS: There's enough data to suggest that our  
6 Interior birds do move out to the coast and stage in the  
7 Kotzebue area before they do migrate south, yeah.

8  
9 MR. JONES: Thank you.

10  
11 MR. WILLIAMS: One follow-up comment to the Three-Day  
12 Slough area. We did fairly intensive law enforcement effort in  
13 the area. Fish & Wildlife Service, State Troopers and Alaska  
14 Department of Fish & Game were up there basically for the  
15 entire season. We were pleased with what we saw in terms of  
16 hunters leaving clean camps. Only two cases that I'm aware of  
17 where the State was able to make wanton waste cases, so in  
18 light of the whole picture, the number of hunters that utilize  
19 the area, problems were very small.

20  
21 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Good. Thank you. Jack?

22  
23 MR. REAKOFF: I was wondering if you had any of the  
24 preliminary numbers for how many hunters have been up in that  
25 Three-Day Slough area?

26  
27 MR. WILLIAMS: No, I've heard the numbers, but it's  
28 third-hand information. We've been told that Mr. James will be  
29 here tomorrow to present that data and interpret it for us, so  
30 I just wish not to comment.

31  
32 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Thank you. Next, Ed?

33  
34 MR. MERRITT: For the record, I'm Ed Merritt, manager,  
35 Innoko Wildlife Refuge, and it's been a long day. It's 4:00  
36 o'clock. I'm going to try to be brief. There were a couple of  
37 items of interest relative to subsistence that I wanted to  
38 comment on, though.

39  
40 And the first is wildfire activity. I think everyone's  
41 aware that we had a pretty significant wildfire year out in our  
42 neck of the woods. We had a number of fires, but we had two  
43 really significant fires which in total burned about three-  
44 quarters of a million acres, and those were the Magitchlie  
45 Creek and Simos (ph) fires, and the Simo fire burned about --  
46 excuse me, the Magitchlie Creek Fire burned about 350,000 acres  
47 up in the north part of the refuge, and the other fire burned  
48 about 400,000 acres, including 150,000 acres on state land, off  
49 our boundary. And we may have to adjust these figures as time

50 goes on. They're attempting to get some more accurate

0115

1 perimeter mapping at this time, but that's a pretty good  
2 ballpark figure.

3  
4 Both fires were in the limited zone there so -- or let  
5 burn category, so they were not actively fought. We did,  
6 however, take action in order to protect a number of native  
7 allotments along the Innoko River, including several with  
8 cabins. Both of the Walkers' cabins were threatened by  
9 wildfire, as was our -- the Innoko Refuge field headquarters  
10 and fuel cache, and those actions were taken by Alaska Fire  
11 Service out of Galena. We used helicopt (ph) crews and smoke  
12 jump crews in addition to our own staff. And we were -- we  
13 managed to ignite backfires and do pre-suppression work and  
14 fortunately we didn't loose any of our assets out there, and  
15 there was no private property, native allotments or cabins that  
16 were lost to wildfires, so we had a pretty successful year in  
17 that way.

18  
19 Looking at these burned areas after the fire season, we  
20 think that both of these fires are going to contribute  
21 positively to subsistence activities over the long run, and  
22 some of this has been touched on by Jeff and others here  
23 already today, but in the case of these two larger fires, we  
24 think that the subsistence activities that are going to benefit  
25 most are moose hunting and tracking activity. Moose are going  
26 to benefit from increased food availability across refuge  
27 uplands where these fired burned hot enough to remove all the  
28 vegetation and expose bare soil, which accommodates willows and  
29 other important moose winter food that reproduce primarily by  
30 seed, and we think that -- well, we know from fire studies  
31 conducted elsewhere in similar habitat, and Jeff mentioned  
32 those, and especially from some studies that were done up on  
33 the Koyukuk Refuge by Buddy Johnson, we know that after a  
34 couple of years you get real big increases in yellow cheek  
35 voles in these areas which are a preferred species for martin  
36 to prey upon during the winter. They're real important  
37 because, A, they're big, they can be four or five times the  
38 size of a red backed vole, and, B, they live in colonies so  
39 they tend to be concentrated in groups so martin don't have to  
40 move around and expend as much energy to get their bellies  
41 full. And it also has a positive effect on snowshoe hare  
42 habitat, which improves trapping for lynx, although I don't  
43 think lynx are necessarily as important to subsistence trapping  
44 as martin, but it's another species that benefits.

45  
46 A couple of things we plan to do next year. We're  
47 going to do some follow-up vegetation and range studies in  
48 these areas, and I think we also have a project funded through  
49 fire funds to take a look at the effects of wildfire on water

50 quality in those big burned areas.

0116

1 Another item of interest I know at least to the  
2 villages in our area, especially to Shageluk, because Shageluk  
3 is in the affected drainage, is the operation of the new  
4 Illinois Creek Mine. The mines been -- the mine began  
5 processing ore this year, and it's essentially fully  
6 operational at this time. They've been mining all summer.  
7 They plan to mine another half million tons of ore before they  
8 quit digging for the winter. The cyanide leaching of the ore  
9 is likely to continue through the winter. They're currently  
10 processing cyanide solution for gold extraction at a rate of  
11 about 900 gallons a minute, which is real close to optimal for  
12 the plant. I think 1,000 gallons a minute is optimal.

13  
14 The Alaska Department of Fish & Game Habitat Division  
15 has been closely monitoring fish populations and fish habitat  
16 up there in that area. They're also doing water quality tests  
17 quarterly from test wells around the immediate area of the  
18 mining, and also in those -- the headwaters up close to the  
19 site.

20  
21 In addition to that, the Innoko Refuge in cooperation  
22 with our Ecological Services Office in Fairbanks just completed  
23 a refuge-wide contaminants survey, including water quality,  
24 substrate and fish tissue samples in order to provide a bank of  
25 information so that we'll be able to compare before and after  
26 if there's some sort of a spill or other environmental problem  
27 up there.

28  
29 So there's been a number of different agencies involved  
30 in the two-year permit process leading up to the operation of  
31 the mine, and now continuing in the monitoring, environmental  
32 monitoring, and so far I guess I'd have to say it seems like  
33 things are going about as well as can be expected. We're not  
34 aware of any environmental problems, significant ones anyway,  
35 thus far. And I think the fact that this was the first mine of  
36 that type in Alaska was kind of a good thing, because it's been  
37 under real close scrutiny. Everybody wants to do it right the  
38 first time, including the mining company involved.

39  
40 And just for everyone's information, U.S.M.X., the  
41 company that developed the mine, did get bought out by Dakota  
42 Mining. We're dealing with a different company now. Of  
43 course, they're still subject to all the permit requirements.

44  
45 Henry, do you or Angela have any questions about that  
46 mine, since that's kind of an impact in our area?

47  
48 MR. DEACON: There was a question, you know, about the  
49 fish dying in the river.



0117

1 MR. MERRITT: Yeah, we did.....

2

3 MR. DERENDOFF: It kind of came up, but I don't --  
4 later, after talking to you now about it.

5

6 MR. MERRITT: Yeah, we did have a couple of reports of  
7 fish dying out in the lower Innoko. It was a long way from the  
8 mine site. We did go out and take a look, and we did see some  
9 dead fish. We think that it was probably attributable to those  
10 extremely low water levels. You know, this is the lowest that  
11 we've ever seen, and I was talking to Arnold and -- Arnold  
12 Hamilton there in Shageluk, and, of course, he's lived there  
13 all his life, and he said he could never remember water levels  
14 that low. And we were doing water quality sampling up in the  
15 mud river, and the middle Innoko corridor all summer long. We  
16 didn't see anything that looked like a problem from the mine,  
17 so we think it was -- we think there was some fish die-off  
18 there, but we think it was due to natural causes probably  
19 related to those low water levels.

20

21 I'll talk just real briefly here about moose. We  
22 didn't survey our moose population last winter, but as Jack was  
23 pointing out, we have every reason to believe that the moose  
24 population in the Innoko area, particularly the lower Innoko,  
25 is in real good shape, and I think continues to expand right  
26 now. And we attribute that to a couple of mild winters in a  
27 row. We're seeing real good calf production. We're seeing a  
28 lot of twins surviving through into the fall. We continue to  
29 see very high use of willows and other important winter food  
30 for moose down in the critical winter range in the river  
31 corridors. And when you put all that together in conjunction  
32 with the hunter success, we feel like we have about as many  
33 moose as the land can support over the long haul. There may be  
34 -- the land may be able to support more moose during mild  
35 winters, but we think over the long term we're about where we  
36 need to be.

37

38 Although the season got off to a slow start, because we  
39 had unseasonably hot weather, hunter success remains high, and  
40 it is in fact about what Jack reported in those tables that he  
41 handed out to you. We had between 60 and 70 percent for  
42 nonresident hunters, which is really pretty remarkable when you  
43 consider they have to shoot a 50-inch bull, and we're running  
44 well over 80 percent hunter success rate for residents. And so  
45 all totalled it's 85 or 90 percent, about what Jack was saying  
46 based on what he's seen from harvest tag reports and so forth.

47

48 We're going to conduct a refuge-wide moose survey late  
49 this winter, and we should have information on the population

50 level for the next Council meeting. We also should have some

0118

1 good information regarding how much of the food available to  
2 moose in the winter is being consumed.

3  
4 As one would expect with mild winters favoring moose,  
5 and as we're seeing elsewhere around the Interior right now,  
6 including over here in the McGrath area, the number of wolves  
7 has been declining. We were unsuccessful in conducting our  
8 wolf survey last fall. We had an arrangement with Alaska Fish  
9 & Game to conduct it for us, but unfortunately we didn't get  
10 the snow conditions that we needed in order to conduct the  
11 survey, so we're going to give it a try again next March. So  
12 if everything goes right, and we're able to gather all the  
13 information we plan to gather, we should have a pretty complete  
14 set of information about both the moose and the wolf  
15 populations, and also about the moose winter habitat use.

16  
17 It's ten after four and that's all I have. Are there  
18 any questions? Yes, sir?

19  
20 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Thank you. Yes, Angela? Oh, excuse  
21 me.

22  
23 MS. A. DEMIENTIEFF: Back to your water report on fish.  
24 This summer there was signs posted all over in our communities  
25 that our local health corporation is going to be studying our  
26 fish, the mercury content in them?

27  
28 MR. MERRITT: That's the Indian Health Services out of  
29 Bethel I believe. Uh-hum.

30  
31 MS. A. DEMIENTIEFF: Uh-hum. And I gave them a call  
32 and I asked them not to conduct their survey in the Innoko  
33 until November when the Innoko River would be closed off by the  
34 people in Shageluk. Then they could take samples of the fish.  
35 Because I talked to an elder lady, and she said during the  
36 summer their fish are living in the lakes and the side sloughs,  
37 that's where they're feeding. They're not feeding on the main  
38 Innoko. They come out in the falltime into the Innoko.

39  
40 MR. MERRITT: Uh-hum.

41  
42 MS. A. DEMIENTIEFF: She said if you look at the fish  
43 in November, you'll have a better understanding of what they've  
44 been eating all summer by studying them then rather than trying  
45 to study the few little stragglers that live in the Innoko  
46 during the summer months.

47  
48 MR. MERRITT: And how did they respond to that  
49 suggestion?



0119

1 MS. A. DEMIENTIEFF: They said they would contact the  
2 Shageluk people and see if Shageluk will invite them to come in  
3 November. Otherwise they can't just go up there in November  
4 and say we're going to study your fish without an invitation  
5 from the village first, because it's a village subsistence  
6 activity, and they're supposed to contact the village. So we  
7 should be able to know if the village invites them, and what  
8 their studies show on the fish.

9  
10 MR. MERRITT: Well, they seem to be pretty sensitive to  
11 local concerns, so I would think that that's probably the way  
12 it will happen.

13  
14 MS. A. DEMIENTIEFF: So maybe you can write them a  
15 letter and ask them to share the results with you on this  
16 study.

17  
18 MR. MERRITT: Uh-hum.

19  
20 MS. A. DEMIENTIEFF: Thank you.

21  
22 MR. MERRITT: We'll do that. We should get a report.  
23 We'll make sure that you get it either directly from them or  
24 from us, from our office. Okay.

25  
26 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Thank you, Ed, were there other  
27 questions?

28  
29 MR. MERRITT: Did you have a question, Ron?

30  
31 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Ron?

32  
33 MR. SAM: Okay. Just -- first of all, I haven't been  
34 down that way for quite some time, so I'm just wondering if you  
35 could pinpoint Illinois Creek for my information?

36  
37 MR. MERRITT: Pinpoint which creek?

38  
39 MR. SAM: Illinois Creek mine.

40  
41 MR. MERRITT: Oh, okay. I can do that.

42  
43 MR. SAM: Okay. I would ask for that.

44  
45 MR. MERRITT: Sure. Sure. It's in the headwaters of  
46 the -- well, you know that, it's in the headwaters of the  
47 (indiscernible, coughing) river, up on our northern boundary.  
48 I'll show you. Okay.

49



0120

1 of meat coming out through here this year with -- in the air  
2 taxis or anything from that area or.....

3

4 MR. MERRITT: Yeah, we did. All of our guides and air  
5 taxis report to us what they pack out. We also check over at  
6 Whitmire's Meat Processing, and we also check at the airport,  
7 and the State Troopers were involved in that as well.

8

9 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Sure. Was there pretty good  
10 salvage? Was it coming out in pretty good shape or.....

11

12 MR. MERRITT: I saw some meat come out of there about  
13 mid season that was in pretty tough shape. You know, it was  
14 just so hot. And -- but later on, I'd say the last couple  
15 weeks of the season, it was pretty good, when things started  
16 cooling off a little.

17

18 That's one thing that concerns me about moving that  
19 moose season up -- or back into August. I think we're going to  
20 see more spoilage of meat, you know, if that's a sport hunt, if  
21 that's a state big game hunt. I guess I'm convinced that's not  
22 a problem for local people. You can figure out how to deal  
23 with that, but these guys that get dropped off out there by air  
24 taxi operators, and the weather goes down, and they don't get  
25 picked up for a week or ten days. That meat's hanging out  
26 there in that 65, 70 degree weather. I think we're going to  
27 see a lot of problem that way.

28

29 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Okay. Other?

30

31 MR. DEACON: You know, I noticed at Innoko River, I  
32 don't see much geese or ducks on the -- up in that area during  
33 the summer. There's hardly any.

34

35 And also I've got a question on the hunter guidings,  
36 you know, and for the future I'd like to see local people get  
37 into this some how, go fishing, sport fishing and guide  
38 business. Because I feel that -- I'm from that area. I see  
39 it, have a concern forcing (ph) this sport in this area, people  
40 from there.

41

42 MR. MERRITT: Yeah, that is unfortunate. Every time we  
43 do issue a permit, we try to encourage the guide or air taxi  
44 operator, whoever it is, to make some employment available to  
45 local people, and we haven't had much luck.

46

47 MR. DEACON: But for the future, I'd like to see that  
48 in writing, that this -- it's going to be more local areas.

49



0121

1 people though pass the test and get their guide license and so  
2 on. I mean, to through that process of getting it.

3  
4 MR. DEACON: Well, that offer -- it was offered to the  
5 village.

6  
7 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Yeah.

8  
9 MR. DERENDOFF: If I see it, I would go for it.

10  
11 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Right.

12  
13 MR. MERRITT: Well, there are some entry level jobs in  
14 the industry that could go to locals, and it would give them an  
15 opportunity to build up some experience, and then move into  
16 assistant guide positions, and then on up. You know, it's a  
17 process that everybody has to go through, but it is there, you  
18 know. We haven't had much luck. You know, we don't -- we  
19 don't have the authority to dictate who a private company  
20 hires, you know, but we.....

21  
22 MR. DEACON: Well, we can recommend that as this group  
23 here. If they don't, then we've got to change some kind of law  
24 here. We've been going by state regulations here.

25  
26 MR. MERRITT: Yeah, I'm not sure what to suggest on  
27 that in terms of an action by this committee. Do you have any  
28 ideas, Ray?

29  
30 MR. SAM: No.

31  
32 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Yeah, unless -- well, I guess it's  
33 an activity that is natural for some subsistence people,  
34 because they have the experience and that to get into that kind  
35 of thing, but I don't know what process.

36  
37 A number of years ago I worked with the State to get  
38 some people in Nicolai to get their license. What they did is  
39 arrange to give oral exams and things. They set up a special  
40 exam. I helped some of them study and so on, and they did. We  
41 got some people passed to get their license at Nicolai that are  
42 still working in that.

43  
44 But if there's local interest, that's one thing they  
45 could do is have some people study that. They need to get CPR  
46 exams and things like that. So there would be -- to create a  
47 pool that could be hired by these people. But I don't know  
48 exactly what, you know, what comes first.

49



0122

1 noticed a decline. We haven't noticed a decline in previous  
2 years up until this year. We did notice a decline this year,  
3 and we are out there radio tracking. We're radio tracking the  
4 Toolie (ph) subspecies of white fronted geese down in our area.  
5 They're a race of white fronted geese that live -- that nest  
6 primarily in Redoubt Bay, but there's also a small population  
7 up in the Innoko area. And I think some of them get up in the  
8 Koyukuk area, too. So we're out flying around and we're  
9 looking, and, you know, we think again because of these low  
10 water levels -- you know, a lot of our wetlands in that  
11 Iditarod floodplain never filled up this year, and so I think  
12 the ducks redistributed themselves accordingly, and we didn't  
13 see that. But we did see pretty much the same number of white  
14 fronted geese during the molt midsummer that we have been  
15 seeing on the big draw down lakes. So I guess we need to take  
16 a look at it next spring to see what the water conditions are  
17 like, and see what the duck populations look like then.

18  
19 MR. DEACON: One of things that, too, that wolf, you  
20 know, and early this morning I wanted to know was how much  
21 those pack wolves get away with moose? How many moose a month  
22 the wolves get through the winter. I think we should know  
23 those kind of stuff.

24  
25 MR. MERRITT: Yeah, I think that may vary quite a bit  
26 depending on the area, and I think you might need a area  
27 specific study. You might have to do something on the Innoko  
28 to know what's going on that way on the Innoko.

29  
30 MR. DEACON: I know (indiscernible) trap them during  
31 last winter. He said (indiscernible) around Koyukuk area,  
32 because there's two or three packs of wolves there.

33  
34 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Uh-hum.

35  
36 MR. MERRITT: Yeah. We're going to make effort to get  
37 a good moose survey this winter, probably in March, and then  
38 we'll know. We'll know how many we've got.

39  
40 MR. DEACON: Also I heard a lot of that stuff, that the  
41 State is against snaring wolves, all that's stuff that's  
42 currently is in the newspaper. And, you know, I think that  
43 program that's demonstrated in that 40-mile country, you know,  
44 that's something to look into for our area. That the people  
45 from the Lower 48 is thinking about wolves, they don't think  
46 about the moose themself.

47  
48 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Well, it's actually some Alaskans  
49 who are thinking about it. They're trying to get an initiative

50 up that would ban snaring, and there's discussion of.....

0123

1 MR. DEACON: In our area?

2

3 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: For anybody. They want to ban the  
4 snaring of wolves, and they're talking about raising the  
5 signatures to get it on the ballot, and have it on the state  
6 ballot to have people vote on it. So.....

7

8 MR. DEACON: That's.....

9

10 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Yeah.

11

12 MR. DEACON: They're not thinking right, because you  
13 want to look out for the moose population. That's one thing.

14

15 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Yeah.

16

17 MR. MERRITT: I think what I'd like to suggest is that  
18 we get -- try to gather all the pieces of the puzzle this  
19 winter, and we look at -- we figure out how many moose we have,  
20 how many wolves we have, and we do a good analysis of how much  
21 of that winter food for moose was eaten, to give us an idea of,  
22 you know, how well utilized the habitat is. Put all those  
23 pieces together and then, you know, revisit this whole issue.

24

25 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Yeah, Benedict?

26

27 MR. JONES: Yeah. My question is have they done any  
28 survey about the bald eagle increase in our area, I know, but I  
29 think that's affecting our waterfowl, too. The bald eagles.

30

31 MR. MERRITT: Yeah. No, we have not, and just in terms  
32 of flying around on the Innoko and, you know, the nests are  
33 pretty easy to spot and all that, we haven't seen -- we don't  
34 have very many bald eagles on the Innoko River. We don't seem  
35 to have much good nesting habitat for bald eagles. There's a  
36 few, but we haven't seen an increase. In the eight years I've  
37 been here, we haven't seen an increase, but we have not done a  
38 statistically valid, you know, survey, so -- but I really don't  
39 think there are enough bald eagles in our area. Your area may  
40 be different, but.....

41

42 MR. JONES: Yeah.

43

44 MR. MERRITT: .....in our area, I don't think there are  
45 enough bald eagles to impact the waterfowl population.

46

47 MR. JONES: Yeah, that's in our area.

48

49 MR. MERRITT: We don't have those extensive cottonwood

50 stands that they like to nest in like I think you have up in

0124

1 your area? I'm not real familiar with your area.

2

3 MR. JONES: Well, in our area they don't nest in  
4 cottonwood tree. They do nest on spruce trees.

5

6 MR. MERRITT: Only in spruce?

7

8 MR. JONES: Yeah.

9

10 MR. MERRITT: Okay. Well, we don't see that. We have  
11 a lot osprey, but not eagles.

12

13 MR. JONES: That's all the question.

14

15 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Okay. Thank you. Anything else for  
16 Ed? Thank you, Ed.

17

18 MR. MERRITT: Okay. Thank you.

19

20 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Now we've still got a few more to  
21 get through here. I'm hoping -- I'm going to have to break at  
22 5:00 for myself. If we run over, I'll turn the chair over to  
23 Angela. I've got to be on an audio conference at 5:10. I have  
24 a class I teach. Okay.

25

26 Go ahead, yes. Thank you.

27

28 MR. ELEY: Yeah, Tom Eley from Fish & Wildlife Service.  
29 Vince asked me to talk a little bit about the animal trapping  
30 report that we all were involved in last spring in a big  
31 flurry. It was tucked onto the appropriations bill that the  
32 Fish & Wildlife Service had to conduct a study of trapping on  
33 wildlife refuges throughout the United States, Alaska as well  
34 as the Lower 48. We also ended up soliciting public comment  
35 and so forth.

36

37 Vince, do you have the copies of it, or is that.....

38

39 MR. MATHEWS: Not.

40

41 MR. ELEY: There are copies of it, and we'll get each  
42 one of you a copy of the executive summary, which is really  
43 pretty interesting. Although it's nothing earth shattering,  
44 there is trapping going on in our national wildlife refuges.  
45 And that was no great surprise. It's there.

46

47 As to what's happened to it, it went to Congress along  
48 with the public comments. There were not a lot of public  
49 comments from around the U.S. The bulk of the public comments

50 were from Alaska. I think there were under 100 public comments

0125

1 from Alaska. The bulk of them were strongly supporting  
2 trapping on national wildlife refuges, subsistence trapping,  
3 commercial trapping, recreational trapping. Certainly the  
4 anti-trapping movement wrote a few letters, and they sort of  
5 blasted the Fish & Wildlife Service a little bit I guess, me  
6 specifically, because they felt that we spent too much time  
7 contacting trappers and subsistence users and not enough time  
8 contacting anti-trappers. But, you know, shit happens.

9  
10 So it went off to Congress. It's disappeared in  
11 Congress somewhere. I don't know what's happened to it. We  
12 haven't heard anything. There's no rumors of it being tacked  
13 on again, or any sort of changes coming down the pike related  
14 to it. Evidently the staff member of one of the senators, not  
15 one of our senators, but another senator who had this tacked  
16 onto the bill initially no longer works for that senator, so it  
17 may be a dead issue. Although as people have pointed out, the  
18 anti-trapping movement is strong throughout the U.S., it's  
19 strong in Alaska. It's very strong in Alaska, and there are  
20 going to be continual attacks on trapping, and I think we all  
21 have to be very vigilant about what's going on. But right now  
22 we don't see any major issues coming down the pike as concerned  
23 with trapping.

24  
25 MR. MATHEWS: Ray, I just.....

26  
27 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Vince?

28  
29 MR. MATHEWS: .....I brought two copies, and it's kind  
30 of lengthy. If there are other members who want the full  
31 copies, I can get them.

32  
33 MR. ELEY: The executive summary's about the best.

34  
35 MR. MATHEWS: Yeah, it's about 12 pages in the front  
36 part, so if some want to look at it, I have copies, I've got  
37 two, and the other ones I can mail out. There's no problem  
38 with that.

39  
40 MR. ELEY: Yeah, I think it -- I personally would  
41 think, and I'll make -- Vince doesn't have the time, but I  
42 think each of the Regional Council members should at least have  
43 the executive summary, so if they have some other concern.....

44  
45 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: I would like that sent to the board  
46 members.

47  
48 MR. MATHEWS: Okay. Well, I'll just take that as a  
49 directive. When I get back, I'll get you the 12.



0126

1 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Yeah.

2

3 MR. MATHEWS: And we'll just go from there, and then if  
4 you have questions, -- did I get it right, Mr. Eley?

5

6 MR. ELEY: Yes.

7

8 MR. MATHEWS: Will look at.....

9

10 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: I think your comment was right on  
11 what we're going to see is more activity by anti-trappers, and  
12 the way they seem to be going now is not by regulation with the  
13 agencies, they're trying to go to initiatives like the one that  
14 they're proposing in Alaska that would ban wolf snaring,  
15 because what they do is take controversial pictures like that  
16 one that was snared up by McKinley Park, and they show that all  
17 over the TV. They get people excited about it, and try to get  
18 them to vote to ban that activity.

19

20 And kind of the irony of it, I guess that hit TV all  
21 over the states there, because there was a wolf from the  
22 McKinley Park that was trapped just outside the park and was  
23 found in the snare. You probably heard about that. Well, I'm  
24 on the SRC for the Denali Park, and the Denali Park got deluged  
25 with information, and they responded that it had virtually no  
26 impact on wolf numbers in Denali Park. Biologically it was  
27 insignificant, because the numbers are high and healthy.  
28 They've got numbers throughout and so on. But nobody wants to  
29 hear that, or they don't respond to that, you know.

30

31 MR. ELEY: Well, we had the fortune in doing this  
32 report to be visited by the group of women that stripped down  
33 at the fur conference, Fur Rendezvous. They came to the  
34 regional office, clothed, of course, but talked with them  
35 about.....

36

37 (Laughter)

38

39 MR. ELEY: .....that, and it was very interesting  
40 discussion, because they know very little about trapping,  
41 they're very dedicated, and they don't want to hear too much in  
42 the way of facts. Their minds are made up, and that's the way  
43 it is. Trapping is bad. It's the end of an argument. They're  
44 not concerned with populations, where you say the populations  
45 are doing fine. Yeah, we trap one animal, but the population.  
46 They're not concerned with populations, they're concerned with  
47 individuals. So any individual that you trap or hurt or kill  
48 or whatever term that one must use, is what concerns them. I  
49 mean, we look at the population, and say, well, you know, we

50 can take ten percent or five percent, and the population is

0127

1 fine. They don't buy into that argument at all, and they won't  
2 deal with that argument. They're generally vegetarians, they  
3 don't -- I mean, they don't buy into hunting at all. They  
4 don't buy into any subsistence trapping. And it's -- they're  
5 very dedicated about it. It's almost a fanatical view of it.

6  
7 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: It's almost a religious view or an  
8 ethical view.

9  
10 MR. ELEY: Yeah.

11  
12 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Yeah, something like that. Thank  
13 you.

14  
15 MR. ELEY: One other thing I just wanted to address if  
16 I might, Mr. Chair, was Jack brought up the muskoxen  
17 transplants.

18  
19 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Uh-hum.

20  
21 MR. ELEY: And speaking for Fish & Wildlife Service  
22 lands, there is a policy for transplants. If in fact -- well,  
23 what we do is we go and conduct what's called a compatibility  
24 determination, and that would be to see if a transplant or a  
25 re-establishment of a species would be compatible with the  
26 purposes of a refuge. For example, Yukon Flats to the Hodzana  
27 Highlands. There would be some studies conducted.

28  
29 The idea of introducing an exotic species, that is, one  
30 that's never been there would probably be incompatible with the  
31 purposes of a refuge. If the species had been there, then an  
32 re-introduction might be compatible. Certainly the wood bison  
33 is being looked at in that very light.

34  
35 Of course, the question would be, if it was once there  
36 and it's not there now, why is it not there? Was it vegetation  
37 change? Was it killed off? What, you know, disease? You  
38 know, why is it not there now? And if we re-introduce it, what  
39 would be the impacts? Would it result in an increase in  
40 predators than might already hit the moose population? Within  
41 that area it's already depressed, 25B West. And those sorts of  
42 things. So it would be a long, drawn out process to see if a  
43 species like musk oxen could be reintroduced.

44  
45 There's a musk ox management plan that's being worked  
46 at on the North Slope, and one of the issues that they're  
47 dealing with is stragglers from the North Slope herds. And  
48 there is a proposal now before the Game Board and I think one  
49 before the Federal Subsistence Board to allow taking of those

50 stragglers, because they don't want to see additional

0128

1 populations established of musk oxen, because of the contention  
2 that it's detrimental to caribou populations, and that's  
3 questionable, but certainly looking at the ecological impact of  
4 a transplant would be a very important process.

5  
6 And then it would -- you know, then you deal with the  
7 money situation. How much is it going to cost? Do you want to  
8 spend money doing that or, you know, enhancing moose  
9 populations or whatever? So it becomes -- it's possible, but  
10 you'd have to look at it.

11  
12 I know that there were -- prehistorically there were  
13 certainly musk oxen in that area, and then musk ox down in the  
14 Nowitna Refuge as well. But how far back, or how far into the  
15 recent were they there, I don't know. I can't tell you. And  
16 how far back do we go as far as a transplant before we're  
17 actually bringing in exotics. You know, if it's 300 years ago  
18 or 200 years ago, I think we'd all buy into it maybe. If it  
19 was a thousand years ago, would that be a re-introduction or  
20 would that be an exotic? It's one of those sort of really deep  
21 ecological questions.

22  
23 But it is possible certainly to more or less  
24 (indiscernible, banging).

25  
26 MR. REAKOFF: I just brought that issue up in that I'd  
27 read where they were -- the people on the North Slope wanted to  
28 curtail the musk ox population, and I felt that some of the  
29 excess animals could be easily and economically be transported  
30 down into that relatively good musk ox country. But if it  
31 takes an act of Congress or something, it might be too much  
32 trouble to do it.

33  
34 MR. ELEY: Yeah.

35  
36 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Okay. Thank you. We've still got  
37 time here. Maybe we'll get through. Any other Fish & Wildlife  
38 then? All right. We're down to Alaska Department of Fish &  
39 Game. Do they have a report for us? Yeah.

40  
41 MR. BURR: I'm John Burr from the Sport Fish Division.  
42 I'm stationed out of Fairbanks. I really don't have much of a  
43 report, but since I travel down here, I thought I dropped in  
44 and listen anyway. I tried to make a list of what's -- what  
45 kind of issues you might have that relate to sport fishing.

46  
47 We did conduct one major project within the area this  
48 summer down on the Nowitna River. We were looking at northern  
49 pike in the lower portion of that river. The goal of that

50 study was to get some base line information on those pike i

0129

1 anticipation of changes in that population with increased  
2 angling effort primarily brought on by increased guiding  
3 activity, sport fish guiding.

4  
5 One of the main things I'd really like to get out of  
6 this trip down here is any information anyone would care to  
7 share about guiding operations within the area. I know that  
8 there's been some concerns expressed about the Lower Innoko,  
9 and then also the Holitna/Hoholitna over there by Sleetmute.  
10 And anybody that would like to share any specific information,  
11 particularly I'm interested in which guides are operating in  
12 the area. We are having a little trouble getting the  
13 information we hoped to get out of this new guide, sport fish  
14 guiding registration process. So far it's not working very  
15 well. It's only one year into the program and hopefully we'll  
16 get the bugs worked out of that.

17  
18 We are planning to work in the Holitna River next  
19 summer, so you'll be seeing more of us down that way.

20  
21 And I'm just going to stop there, because it's already  
22 the end of the day, and if anybody wants to talk to me about  
23 any of these issues either now or this afternoon or tomorrow.

24  
25 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: You'd like to catch them during  
26 breaks and things like that if you need to get (Indiscernible  
27 -- simultaneous speech).

28  
29 MR. BURR: That would be fine, yeah, rather than take  
30 up the time in your meeting. So anybody that's got any  
31 specific information, I'd really like phone numbers, names,  
32 that sort of thing. I'd really appreciate it.

33  
34 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: There was one issue that came up for  
35 subsistence along the Yukon, and I'm just wondering if anything  
36 more has been done on that. The practice of catching grayling  
37 in fall where they're caught in numbers larger than hooking of  
38 grayling. Have you ever heard that come up? Maybe it's not an  
39 issue now. I thought it was for a while. It came up at  
40 another meeting. When the grayling are moving out of the creek  
41 and down in the fall sometimes some of the villages there had  
42 the practice of taking quite a few grayling. Well, they exceed  
43 the sport limit,.....

44  
45 MR. BURR: Right.

46  
47 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: .....but it never was a sport  
48 fishery, and maybe it's not an issue, I shouldn't saying  
49 anything, but I.....



0130

1 MR. BURR: Yeah, it's not something that's made it onto  
2 the headlines thus far.

3  
4 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Okay. Okay. I can't remember, I  
5 thought it came up when we were over at Galena or somewhere.

6  
7 MR. BURR: The biggest issue that relates to that is  
8 just this notion of hook and line subsistence fishing, you  
9 know, under this -- under the state regulations. Subsistence  
10 fishing with a rod and reel is not allowed, whereas hooking  
11 through the ice like for sheefish out in Selawik, that is  
12 allowed, so they're.....

13  
14 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Yeah.

15  
16 MR. BURR: .....kind of different things. And I  
17 believe under the new subsistence proposed rule they would  
18 permit hook and line for subsistence fishing.

19  
20 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: We got caught by that with the king  
21 salmon fishery up here, because they used to put in a fence in  
22 the Salmon River. Well, they stopped that, so the people  
23 locally there, they would go over there and catch them with  
24 hook and line, but they would be catching them to make strips  
25 out of, you know, and they wouldn't -- and I think all of a  
26 sudden they came down with like a two a day bag limit or  
27 something like that, which didn't make any sense for catching a  
28 number of kings. So at some point, if we get into fisheries,  
29 we probably need to define what subsistence fisheries is, and  
30 document what those historical practices are, because they  
31 don't always comply with the state sport season.

32  
33 MR. SAM: Yeah, if you can find the documents, or the  
34 -- or the issue that was brought up on grayling, I'd like to  
35 know about it, because every year about this time, we -- as  
36 soon as we get some shore ice, we go grayling fishing through  
37 the ice, and there are times when I've caught over 400 a day  
38 for subsistence, you know, and that's why I wanted to know more  
39 about this.

40  
41 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Right.

42  
43 MR. SAM: And we have done this every year, both Alatna  
44 and Allakaket, from both sides of the river since I can  
45 remember, though we may not have been that lucky to get that  
46 many at all times, but, you know, we've done that, you know.

47  
48 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Well, there was kind of a gap, and I  
49 think it's not covered by -- I mean, by the regs now don't

50 allow that kind of activity, but it's been a subsistence

0131

1 activity, you know.

2

3 MR. SAM: Yeah. 'Cause we just chop a hole in the ice  
4 and drop some hooks on there, and stay out there most of the  
5 day. And if you do hear anything about it, I'd like to know.

6

7 MR. BURR: Thank you.

8

9 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Okay. Thank you. It looks like  
10 maybe we will make it through by five here. We're doing well.  
11 Anything else from --? Okay.

12

13 MR. ANDERSEN: I've gone one.

14

15 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Fish & Game.

16

17 MR. ANDERSEN: Yep. And in the spirit of State and  
18 Federal cooperation, I'll be very brief, too.

19

20 (Laughter)

21

22 MR. ANDERSEN: One of my main projects -- I'm Dave  
23 Andersen, I'm with the Division of Subsistence out of  
24 Fairbanks.

25

26 And one of my main projects this last year was to run a  
27 harvest survey project on the Middle Yukon Region, and the  
28 sheet I passed out is a little summary that we mailed out to  
29 all the households in the study communities to summarize the  
30 findings of that. I'm still writing up the final, big report,  
31 but we went into Galena, Kaltag, Nulato, Ruby and Tanana last  
32 spring, and we worked with the village councils to get  
33 permission to do a study in those villages. We hired a local  
34 person in each community. Basically it was about a month's  
35 work. They helped us put together complete household lists for  
36 their community, and we either did 100 percent survey or did a  
37 random sample in the communities. And we were after moose,  
38 caribou, and bear harvest information, so it was a fairly  
39 limited subsistence survey. It wasn't a full sweep of  
40 resources. But the survey was very successful. We feel like  
41 we got very good information. The -- we got good cooperation  
42 from everyone, and the communities liked it, because we were  
43 providing some employment in the villages. And the upshot was  
44 we got what we felt were very good numbers for moose, caribou,  
45 brown bear and black bear.

46

47 It was successful enough that we've got funds to do it  
48 again in those five communities, and are considering expanding  
49 it, doubling the number to ten. We're currently trying to

50 decide which communities we're going to expand it to, but w

0132

1 thinking the Koyukuk River communities.

2

3 And in the discussions that you've had today, there's  
4 been a lot said about Three-Day Slough and some of the issues  
5 along the Koyukuk for moose. The first thing the State Board  
6 of Game is going to do when they look at those kind of  
7 proposals is turn to us and say, well, how much do the local  
8 communities need to support their subsistence? And it's this  
9 kind of information that we need to be able to answer those  
10 questions.

11

12 So the harvest ticket reporting system seems to work  
13 real well to capture the harvest of the boaters coming out of  
14 Fairbanks. What we don't get from the harvest ticket system is  
15 very real numbers from the village hunters, and we found that  
16 this is a better way to get those numbers.

17

18 So I guess I'm more convinced than ever, having  
19 listened to the discussion about your concerns on the Koyukuk,  
20 that maybe we ought to go ahead this year and try and get  
21 Koyukuk, Hughes, Huslia, Alatna and Allakaket in on our survey  
22 for this spring, and start getting some numbers at least for  
23 the moose that -- where we can look at what the subsistence  
24 needs are there.

25

26 So that was one project I thought this board might be  
27 interested in.

28

29 Another one on the trapping, one of my projects last  
30 year, my main project was to try and come up with a video  
31 product that would help describe to people the role that  
32 trapping plays in the subsistence economy, and so I went out to  
33 Bethel and Huslia and Circle and Fort Yukon, and we shot a  
34 bunch of footage, basically villagers talking about the  
35 importance of trapping to them and their way of life and their  
36 lifestyle. And we put together a half hour video. I don't  
37 think it will do anything to sway nontrappers -- or  
38 anti-trappers, but we made 1,000 copies of this, and we thought  
39 initially we would distribute 500 the first year and keep 500  
40 in reserve, but we've already gone through over 800 copies by  
41 request. So I have about 150 copies left. If anyone needs  
42 copies or is interested in getting them, they can contact me.

43

44 I think those are the only two things I wanted to talk  
45 about that are recent projects I've been involved with that are  
46 for this area. If you have any questions, I'd be glad to  
47 answer them.

48

49 MR. SAM: How much are those tapes?



0133

1 MR. ANDERSEN: They're free. Free of charge.

2  
3 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Okay. Thank you.

4  
5 MR. SAM: If I could get ahold of a few.

6  
7 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Yeah. I think you'll have some  
8 requests for the tapes.

9  
10 MR. REAKOFF: Mr. Chairman, I'd like to say that I  
11 think it's a very good idea to gather harvest information on  
12 the Koyukuk villages, since.....

13  
14 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Right.

15  
16 MR. REAKOFF: .....there's somewhat of a conflict  
17 that's still there. Subsistence need, well, use/needs and so  
18 forth. I think it's a real good idea to include those  
19 villages.

20  
21 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Well, that, and if we could get a  
22 report from the Holy Cross and Jag area, too. Something like  
23 this that would show it by community, maybe showing this to  
24 them at home maybe would encourage them to get those numbers in  
25 and so that they can see how their community is doing. Yeah.  
26 And you -- this will be continued now? This isn't a one-time  
27 thing, is it? Are you planning to continue this, or.....

28  
29 MR. ANDERSEN: Well, we got money to do the study  
30 again, and expand.....

31  
32 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Okay.

33  
34 MR. ANDERSEN: .....and double the number of  
35 communities, but it was a one-shot deal. I mean, we don't have  
36 money to keep doing it forever.

37  
38 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Right. But what I'm thinking of is  
39 if you had two or three years, then you could see what maybe  
40 what an average is or.....

41  
42 MR. ANDERSEN: Right. That's the rationale behind.....

43  
44 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: .....that doesn't (Indiscernible --  
45 simultaneous speech).

46  
47 MR. ANDERSEN: .....doing a second year of those five  
48 communities. It will give us another look at how it compares  
49 year to year, and then we'll do five more new ones.



0134

1 MR. SAM: Have you contacted Koyukuk River villages  
2 yet?

3  
4 MR. ANDERSEN: Not yet.

5  
6 MR. SAM: Okay.

7  
8 MR. ANDERSEN: We were going to -- I mean, I have just  
9 sort of cemented in my mind listening to you guys that it would  
10 be a good idea. The other area we were thinking about was the  
11 Yukon Flats, but after the first of the year, we'll start  
12 contacting communities and get a letter of introduction about  
13 the project and see if they want to do it.

14  
15 MR. SAM: Yes, I'd like to see one on the Koyukuk.

16  
17 MR. ANDERSEN: Okay.

18  
19 MR. SAM: We're running out of arguments. We need some  
20 more studies.

21  
22 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Thank you. I don't think there's  
23 anyone else from the State, is there? Is there any regional  
24 corporations or anyone else that wanted to report anything?  
25 Yes?

26  
27 MS. MORGAN: My name is Angela Morgan, I'm the Natural  
28 Resource and Subsistence Director for the Kuskokwim Native  
29 Association in Aniak. And I have some concerns and probably  
30 some needs and concerns both in hunting and fishing on Unit 19  
31 area.

32  
33 The first thing I'd like to do is I'd like to talk  
34 about the needs and concerns for hunting in the area. The  
35 whole time that I sat here listening to the reports both from  
36 the federal and state people here, not once did I hear any  
37 reports on Unit 19. Our people have a lot of concern about the  
38 increased hunting, the hunting guides, the number of outside  
39 hunters. About the only time that I saw any report on Unit 19  
40 is when Georgiana passed by a couple weeks ago and gave us just  
41 the numbers that she had gotten from Fish & Game of the hunters  
42 in Unit 19, and it showed that in 1995/96 there was a total of  
43 1,212 hunters in the area. And out of that, there was 87 local  
44 residents that were successful moose hunting, 155 local  
45 residents were unsuccessful, which shows that there was pretty  
46 close to 1,000 outside hunters in the area. And this showed --  
47 this is of great concern for the people in the area, but they  
48 were especially concerned even before they saw that report.

49



0135

1 and the federal people to come over to the area and start  
2 looking into our needs and our concerns. I think we have a  
3 valid concern to the area. We've had local people that are not  
4 even native people that have been talking to both Carla and I  
5 this summer, concerned about the local guides, the number of  
6 outside hunters in the area. We even have -- I even had a  
7 local priest saying that when he was coming in from Anchorage,  
8 -- we had six flights a day this summer from Anchorage, three  
9 with Yute Air, three with Pen Air, and every time that plane is  
10 coming in from Anchorage, it's full with hunters from outside.  
11 And our local priest mentioned that he had talked with -- on  
12 his way back from Anchorage, had talked with some of the  
13 hunters there, and was asking what kind of game that they were  
14 coming to the region to hunt, and the guys were saying, telling  
15 him any big game that they can catch, be it moose, be it brown  
16 bear, be it black bear, caribou, that they were there to get  
17 whatever big game they can get, they can catch. That's just  
18 one example of one of the local people giving a report on that.  
19

20 I think it's time for somebody to look into maybe  
21 having Unit 19 people only, Unit 19 residents, maybe having an  
22 open season just for them only. Either that, or start  
23 restricting the number of hunters coming into the area. Our  
24 local people have to go further away from their home area to go  
25 moose hunting. They've been doing that since even before 1980.  
26 Now they're as far away as they're going, they're not --  
27 unsuccessful in catching their moose because of all the number  
28 of people coming around. And I think they should be given the  
29 opportunity to hunt and catch their subsistence needs.  
30

31 And I'd like to see maybe these people -- I don't know,  
32 the Federal Subsistence Advisory Council helping our asking or  
33 our cry for help to do something for us.  
34

35 I have one complaint that I said that I would bring up  
36 here at this meeting from people in Kalskag. This summer  
37 they've had quite a few number of deaths in the area down there  
38 and they've had a lot of people during moose hunting season,  
39 especially with the caribou, they have a bag limit of five  
40 caribou. They're complaining, the people in both Upper and  
41 Lower Kalskag were complaining that people from Unit 18 have  
42 been approaching them, asking them if they want meat or  
43 caribou, because they caught more than they needed. And I told  
44 them that I would bring this up, and I told them that maybe  
45 what they need to do is look into limiting the bag limits.  
46 Maybe not five, but lesser than five.  
47

48 The other concern that I have and maybe I need more  
49 clarification on is c&t usage. I know that Unit 18 had their

50 meeting must recently, October 2nd and 3rd up in Hooper Bay,

0136

1 and they had on their agenda they wanted to have proposed  
2 changes on regulations, rules and regulations for Unit 19. I  
3 don't think it happened, because they didn't have anybody at  
4 that time to represent those -- I don't know, to make those  
5 changes. I don't think it's happened, but I think that's  
6 something that they're going to be looking at in the future.  
7 How does this c&t plays into, you know, for claiming we have  
8 Unit 19 customary and traditional use, how is it that Unit 18  
9 can come over and make changes in Unit 19. Can we do that vice  
10 versa and make changes in their unit, since Unit 19 is now -- I  
11 mean, some parts of Unit 19 is now considered part of 18?

12  
13 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Those are changed by proposal, and  
14 it would be a proposal can be made to the Federal Board, but  
15 usually if it involves another area, the Federal Board defers  
16 to those, and they have to be agreeable to both areas before  
17 the change is made at the federal level.

18  
19 MS. MORGAN: Uh-hum. Well, that's good.

20  
21 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: So if you wanted c&t found in some  
22 of the areas around you, and it hasn't been done yet, or you  
23 want it changed, then you would do a proposal through us. The  
24 same way if you're opposed to a proposal in an area, you would  
25 direct information to us so that when we go to the meeting and  
26 it came up, we would -- we could take a stand that would help  
27 protect that.

28  
29 MS. MORGAN: Okay.

30  
31 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: If you had information.

32  
33 MS. MORGAN: Okay. Yeah, I'm still trying to get  
34 myself.....

35  
36 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: But the biggest problem we're going  
37 to have in your area, the same as up here, is you're mostly  
38 state land around there, so there's very little land down in  
39 your area that there's federal jurisdiction on that we can  
40 change regs on.

41  
42 MS. MORGAN: Right. But isn't there a way that we can  
43 ask for support from this group to support what we're proposing  
44 to the State?

45  
46 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: You could do that, but I don't know  
47 -- we don't send representatives to the State meetings. It's  
48 going to have to be through your local advisory committees down  
49 there. They're going to have to take the strongest role in

50 that I think, because, see, we're only advising the federal

0137

1 agencies on the management of their lands.

2

3 MS. MORGAN: Okay. 'Cause, see, this is where I always  
4 get so confused, because.....

5

6 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Yeah.

7

8 MS. MORGAN: .....when it comes to subsistence, it  
9 seems to me like both the federal and the state are for --  
10 saying that they're for subsistence, and yet where do you --  
11 where does -- where do the two combine, come together and say,  
12 okay, we'll help the people here to what they want? I mean,  
13 that's where I always get so confused, you know, because when I  
14 feel -- I come here to the meeting and ask them for support,  
15 and at times I'm told, well, no, you can't do it here, you've  
16 got to go to the state meetings, like CKC meetings, and so this  
17 is where I always get so confused as to where -- whether is  
18 this where comanagement or this co-working together thing is  
19 going to combine, or where the -- you know. That's one of the  
20 things that I wanted to ask, was if we can please start getting  
21 both the state and the federal people to come over and start  
22 helping us with our needs and our concerns that we have in the  
23 area. And that's in hunting.

24

25 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Excuse me, Angela, can I ask you to  
26 finish the meeting?

27

28 MS. A. DEMIENTIEFF: Okay.

29

30 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: I've got to duck out. I mentioned  
31 -- I'm sorry, I had another -- I have another commitment that I  
32 have to be at, but.....

33

34 MS. MORGAN: Okay. The needs and concerns that we have  
35 in our fishing area, you all know that the chum salmon was  
36 considered a disaster again this summer. And the number of  
37 chums were a lot lower than '93 when '93 considered a chum  
38 disaster. And then again during commercial openings, they had  
39 lower numbers in the coho season. The subsistence people in  
40 July were asked by Fish & Game to please be conservative with  
41 the chums that they catch and try not to catch any chums, so  
42 the people there abided by that rule, and they hardly catch any  
43 silvers in August.

44

45 What our great concern and our worries are is that we  
46 hear, we know that there's a proposal to the Board of Fish to  
47 have early king salmon opening, commercial opening next summer.  
48 Our subsistence people are worried about it. They think that  
49 if they have early king salmon opening, they're not going to be

50 able to have any -- much of a subsistence fishing next summer.

0138

1 We're asking for support from the Federal Advisory Committee to  
2 ask not to have a commercial -- early commercial opening, king  
3 salmon opening next summer.

4  
5 And the other concern that we have is they're also  
6 proposing to have roe openings. A lot of our people in the  
7 area feel that if they're going to have roe openings, that  
8 subsistence people should be able to sell their roes. They're  
9 the ones that catch fish. They can make money out of the roe  
10 that they have from the fish. A lot of them, just like some of  
11 the commercial fishermen, people don't have year round jobs,  
12 and they can use that little extra money that they get from roe  
13 openings. Either that or not -- you know, don't have any roe  
14 openings, because if that's -- if they're just going to have  
15 roe openings, and if they have another fish disaster, does that  
16 mean that those commercial fishermen are also going to get  
17 another disaster called for them -- on them? That's another  
18 concern that they had on fishing.

19  
20 One thing that I wanted to report on, it's not really a  
21 concern or a need or something, but I just wanted to report  
22 that KNA got some grant monies from Bering Sea Fishermen's  
23 Association to do a project on the George River. And KNA has  
24 been working with Department of Fish & Game, the commercial  
25 people down -- the commercial portion of Fish & Game, in  
26 working with that weir project. And this year it opened in  
27 early July -- early June, and was open until september 15th.  
28 This is year is going to be the first time ever that they have  
29 any numbers on cohos, on silvers. They've never had any  
30 before, they've never had any kind of escapement figures for  
31 cohos.

32  
33 Last year we had the weir going, and it was -- it  
34 operated only until July 27th, because of the high water, and  
35 the weir was washed away. And we have numbers on this -- on  
36 the chums to compare to the chums this year, which is really  
37 amazing. The number of chums going past through the George  
38 River last year was like in the hundreds of thousands. This  
39 year it was like 20,000. A big difference compared to the  
40 other years before -- I mean, compared to 1995/96 numbers.

41  
42 We're looking forward to working with them again next  
43 summer. Hopefully the project will get funded.

44  
45 I just got some monies from BIA this summer. We're  
46 going to hopefully be working again with Fish & Game at the  
47 Padalofsic (ph) River, up around Stoney River area. And then  
48 hopefully we'll have another project going on, and then we'll  
49 be able to get more numbers for the fish on the Kuskokwim.



0139

1 So that's my request and my report. Thank you.

2  
3 MS. A. DEMIENTIEFF: Vince?

4  
5 MR. MATHEWS: Yeah, I didn't want you to leave on that  
6 linkage between the state process and the federal process. As  
7 a group, not on any different standing than any other group in  
8 Alaska, the schedule for Board of Game would match somewhat  
9 this schedule. So if there was an issue that the Kuskokwim  
10 Native area thought was important and wanted support for this  
11 -- support from this Council, like a written response or  
12 something like that, as I understand it, and maybe the State  
13 people can correct me, the comments are due three weeks prior  
14 to their March 21st meeting in Fairbanks. We may be meeting  
15 during that time, so if there is an issue that KNA or Aniak  
16 area would like support of this Council, it can be brought up  
17 to the Council via me or through one of the members, Carl, or  
18 whatever. So there is a linkage there.

19  
20 Just to make it clear to the Council, and Tom can fill  
21 in on this, too, the Board of Game meets before the Federal  
22 Subsistence Board. There is a linkage as to what the Board of  
23 Game does. Or did I get that reversed? No, I got that right.  
24 So we know what they've taken action on, so there is some  
25 linkage there.

26  
27 This problem we have is that there's a three-year cycle  
28 on the State side with wildlife issues, and we're on an annual  
29 cycle. This year we're in synch. So -- but I do want to  
30 caution you that, you know, it would be just like any other  
31 comment that goes in, your comments as they go to the Federal  
32 Board get a different review than they would be at the Board of  
33 Game, but there is that linkage there, so I didn't want you to  
34 leave that there is no linkage there. And I work closely with  
35 the state coordinator, Jim Markoff, somewhat tracking some of  
36 these issues. So the Council -- what I recommended to the new  
37 members and to you veteran members is if it's an issue, bring  
38 it up. We as the staff can sort it out with the State or with  
39 whoever it has to be to sort it out. And we've done that on  
40 issues, and other councils have written state proposals, so  
41 that is an option. I'm not recommending it at this time, but  
42 there is that. So that's one thing.

43  
44 MR. BOYD: Yeah, and that may be a little late, your  
45 meeting.

46  
47 MR. MATHEWS: Yeah, it might.

48  
49 MR. BOYD: I think it's prior. Yeah.



0140

1 MR. MATHEWS: It might -- what he's pointing out, it  
2 might be late to get written comments in if we go to a changed  
3 schedule, but it may be within that, also, so there is that  
4 option.

5  
6 MR. ANDERSEN: February 28  
7

8 MR. MATHEWS: February 28th? Oh, wow, that does maybe  
9 change things. But on that -- unless, Jim -- unless Dave has a  
10 different -- you can still comment, and we can send it to the  
11 Board, and I believe they add it to the board members packets  
12 at the meeting. This is the Board of Game. It's best to get  
13 it in by the due date, because it -- they don't get a chance to  
14 review it. So the 28th is a fast target, but if it's an issue  
15 that's strong enough that the Council wants to do, then we work  
16 it. We did that with Eastern Interior on several proposals  
17 dealing with beaver and some other stuff.

18  
19 MR. ANDERSEN: February 28th will get it into the Board  
20 books so that the Board members have a chance to review it  
21 before the meeting, but as they point out in here, you can give  
22 written comments the day of the board meeting and at the public  
23 testimony, so.....

24  
25 MR. MATHEWS: But just so that that's clear, and both  
26 Jim and I work well, so if it comes up, and you call me and it  
27 appears to be state or a combination, then I'll refer you to  
28 Jim, and Jim's been referring people to me, so we try to sort  
29 these things out, because a lot of steps and a lot of time with  
30 some stuff that really doesn't fit in that arena, so we're  
31 trying to economize somewhat.

32  
33 MS. MORGAN: So then where would the early king salmon  
34 opening fall into?

35  
36 MR. MATHEWS: Well, fisheries.....

37  
38 MS. MORGAN: What is.....

39  
40 MR. MATHEWS: Fisheries I've walked away from on that  
41 one. Maybe John Burr can talk about that.

42  
43 MR. BURR: There's a AYK fin fish meeting for the Board  
44 of Fish. That's going to occur in December in Fairbanks.  
45 Really the very best way to get issues in front of those  
46 people, if you -- it's too late now to do a proposal for that,  
47 but on an advisory committee, the State Fish & Game Advisory  
48 Committee process is really the best way to get the maximum  
49 amount of voice in front of that group, because the chairmen

50 from the advisory committees get a lot more air time than

0141

1 anybody else. So that's really the best way to get your issues  
2 in front of that group.

3  
4 MS. MORGAN: Okay. Yeah, that's one I've tried to.....

5  
6 MR. BURR: So, you know, if -- Chairman Morgan or  
7 somebody from that group talk about that, because it's already  
8 a state proposal, that's probably the best way to get the most  
9 amount of voice.

10  
11 MR. MATHEWS: And maybe the next round, if there was  
12 one, for Eastern Interior, we're looking at -- what is that  
13 proposal? Proposal 193, we're looking at, in Dot Lake, they've  
14 been told they don't have jurisdiction, they know all the  
15 parameters, but they still want to look at it and see if they  
16 want to comment, so if there was a proposal, it's too late  
17 now,.....

18  
19 MS. MORGAN: Uh-hum.

20  
21 MR. MATHEWS: .....unless you have one for tomorrow for  
22 this council to look at, but we're going to look at a state  
23 proposal, even though the Regional Council has no jurisdiction,  
24 it is a subsistence issue of importance to them, and they can  
25 go forward. The only thing I would do is if it took up too  
26 much time in balancing to their requirements to me as a Federal  
27 Council, then I would caution them to, you know, watch their  
28 time and direct it to the federal. It's a bag of worms  
29 basically is what it goes down to, but work through myself and  
30 Jim Markoff on these issues, and then bring up a wildlife one,  
31 possibly at the next meeting this Council could comment on it  
32 in support or whatever direction they want to go.

33  
34 MR. BOYD: With regard to the Board of Fish meeting for  
35 AYK in December, Angie spoke to an existing proposal that she's  
36 heard about, so she -- and what you were saying I think is she  
37 could comment on that proposal, or even this council could.

38  
39 MR. BURR: And in addition to that, she could make sure  
40 that the Fish & Game Advisory Council.....

41  
42 MR. BOYD: Committee.

43  
44 MR. BURR: .....Committee for that area.....

45  
46 MR. BOYD: Also speaks to it.

47  
48 MR. BURR: .....makes a formal comment on that -- on  
49 that issue. I expect they will anyway. The meeting is the

50 first -- I believe it's around the first part of November is

0142

1 when that meeting is scheduled.

2

3 MS. A. DEMIENTIEFF: Ron?

4

5 MR. SAM: I was just going to -- the same thing, of  
6 that conflicting schedules. I was just going to let Angela  
7 know that there was a Board of Fisheries meeting at Fairbanks.  
8 What days were those? The first week in December?

9

10 MR. BURR: I believe it's the 7th through the 9th of  
11 December. I think.

12

13 MS. A. DEMIENTIEFF: Jack?

14

15 MR. REAKOFF: I would like to address some of the  
16 issues that you're bringing out here. You had several  
17 different kinds of issues. One was that there's not very much  
18 recording being done about Unit 19 and study being done on Unit  
19 19 subsistence needs. You pointed out that moose harvest by  
20 Unit 19 residence is very low. I think one way to address that  
21 with this Regional Council is to -- if Carl or you could make a  
22 -- submit a recommendation tomorrow to this Council stating  
23 that you want a study made in regards, real similar to what the  
24 Alaska Department of Fish & Game Subsistence Division has been  
25 doing as far as harvest that the people have been having in  
26 that area, and if those harvest numbers reflect real low  
27 harvest, then this Council can entertain a proposal to limit  
28 the number of hunters in that area, but we've got to have the  
29 preliminary numbers to start with. So you could make a letter  
30 of recommendation for that tomorrow for a study to be done  
31 either by the Federal Government or the Alaska Department of  
32 Fish & Game, maybe be contracted. I'm not sure how to do that.

33

34 You also said that there is Unit 18 hunters were taking  
35 too many caribou and didn't know what to do with them all and  
36 that you should reduce the bag limit. But there's been lots of  
37 units where they had a restriction on the number of caribou  
38 that can be exported from the unit, and one way to -- if you  
39 feel that too many caribou are going -- have got too many  
40 caribou, they're spoiling before they can take them home, that  
41 can be addressed in a restriction on the number of caribou that  
42 -- and make a proposal for the restriction. You have to make a  
43 joint proposal to the State Game Board and the Federal  
44 Subsistence Board on the number of caribou and give the  
45 justification as the -- there's too many caribou being taken  
46 and they can't -- they're trying to give them away and they're  
47 spoiling and stuff. And that's -- those issues have been  
48 addressed by both, but especially by the State Game Board.

49



0143

1 -- left on the quarters, but I feel the Legislature has no  
2 business delving into what is Alaska Board of Games' expertise,  
3 and the Federal Board's expertise. The State Legislature,  
4 that's out of their realm. I think they were meddling in  
5 somebody else's affairs.

6  
7 But that's one -- that's ways to address those. Like  
8 in your area where you've got multiple lands, you have to -- a  
9 lot of times have to make two proposals, almost -- well,  
10 exactly the same, one to the Federal and one to the State  
11 Board. Then you get the comanagement thing going, you know.  
12 So.....

13  
14 MS. MORGAN: Yeah. If there's a lot of wanton waste  
15 that was going on, we're probably still seeing hunters and game  
16 guides (indiscernible, background noise).

17  
18 MR. SAM: Yeah, the more we hear about it, the more we  
19 seem to be successful in the Lower Koyukuk River by enforcing  
20 this registration hunt, and then having a subsistence pref- --  
21 some preference, you know, as far as the take, size of the horn  
22 and all that, and if we could look into the success or the use  
23 of the Lower Koyukuk River registration hunts, you know,  
24 there's some by permit, and then you could start copying that  
25 by putting some regulations into use in your area as far as  
26 moose go to, moose and caribou maybe.

27  
28 And I'd like to follow up with you people on this,  
29 because from what I hear, Lower Koyukuk River, however, now  
30 these checkpoints seem to be working as far as cutting down the  
31 hunters and the take.

32  
33 MR. REAKOFF: But like I say, the study, the  
34 documentation before the Board is -- they're going to ask for  
35 the numbers on how many moose are being killed and what the  
36 need is, and you have to meet that. That's one of the main  
37 tests of trying to make a restriction on the hunting. If.....

38  
39 MR. SAM: Justification.

40  
41 MR. REAKOFF: Justification. If you've got that study,  
42 and could show that the subsistence users needs aren't being  
43 met, then you can -- Ron's right there, that's a real good  
44 idea, to come up with a subsistence hunt and a general hunt,  
45 and put a limitation on the general hunt. Like if you've got  
46 too many general hunters hunting, then you can -- that's what  
47 the Koyukuk basically does, is it restricts the numbers of  
48 hunters at one time. Or puts them all -- you could put them  
49 all into another time when the subsistence hunters aren't

50 hunting.

0144

1 Another way to do it is to have, like they have over on  
2 the -- over there, what's that unit? 20A or 20E where they  
3 have a differential on season and have a preference for an  
4 earlier season. But I don't know if people there would want to  
5 hunt earlier than -- or later.

6  
7 MS. MORGAN: Probably later. But you were just telling  
8 me about, is there -- do I have to request from the federal and  
9 the state biologists to come and help me do this study so that  
10 we can present to the Board of Game or Board of Fish or state  
11 people or.....

12  
13 MR. REAKOFF: Well, this -- you could submit to this  
14 Council that your requesting an informational subsistence needs  
15 met, and we'll pass that tomorrow. Then they -- that -- this  
16 Council submits to Tom over there. He'll free up some money to  
17 make it.

18  
19 (Laughter)

20  
21 MR. REAKOFF: Theoretically.

22  
23 MR. ANDERSEN: When the wolf/moose controversy really  
24 got heated up out here a couple years ago, and I guess it's  
25 still on-going, we actually did -- Subsistence Division came  
26 out and I worked with Jack Whitman, we did a similar study to  
27 this yellow sheet out here in Tokatna and McGrath, Nicolai, and  
28 we asked people about their harvest of moose, whether they'd  
29 gotten enough. Now, that data is a couple years old now, but I  
30 think the ground work for showing that there's a shortage, and  
31 that people aren't getting what they need, that's already been  
32 done. We have those data. It would cost money to redo it, and  
33 I think all somebody needs to say, a group like this that knows  
34 the situation locally needs to say, this study was done in I  
35 think it was '95 we did it, not -- it's gotten -- it's the same  
36 or it's even gotten worse, and we need to do something.

37  
38 The problem I see you're going to run into in this  
39 region is what Ray say, there's not a subsistence hunt -- you  
40 could say that there's a subsistence hunt in this area, but  
41 it's all State land, so subsistence out here means all Alaskan  
42 residents. And that's the problem. You don't have -- because  
43 you don't have any federal land in Unit 19, or very little,  
44 you're going to have a hard time coming up with a subsistence  
45 hunt that means a local hunt out here. That's the problem.

46  
47 MS. MORGAN: But the study that you did, isn't that for  
48 Unit 19D? Or.....

49



0145

1 communities in 19D and asked how many moose you got last year,  
2 and if you -- and how -- we also gathered input on how they  
3 felt about wolf control, how they thought wolf control should  
4 be implemented. It was a fairly extensive survey, but it did  
5 ask the question, did you get the moose you need to meet your  
6 family needs, and then there was a lot of comments written in  
7 the margins about how people had to travel further for moose  
8 now, and they simply weren't getting the meat they needed. I  
9 think the information is there. It's what do you do with that  
10 information to try and solve the problem. I can see what --  
11 how you might make use of that if there was a lot of federal  
12 land in this area, and you could craft a local-only hunt. But  
13 you don't have -- you're going to have trouble doing that in  
14 this area. That's the dilemma 19D is in.

15

16 MS. A. DEMIENTIEFF: Ray?

17

18 MR. JONES: Your question about this, since it's being  
19 on the State land, do you have a local advisory board to the  
20 State Fish & Game? And you can work through them in your  
21 concern, and then they bring it up, the chairperson bring it up  
22 to the Fish & Game Board.

23

24 And also since you're what, a native corporation, like  
25 for instance Koyukuk on the Koyukuk River Moose Control Area,  
26 we work closely with the Fish & Game adopting this permit hunt.  
27 The village tribal council there. So that's how we got this  
28 permit hunt, registration. So then the local advisory, Middle  
29 Yukon Advisory brought it up, that issue up to Fish & Game, and  
30 Fish & Game Board reviewed it and accepted our proposal.  
31 That's all.

32

33 MS. A. DEMIENTIEFF: Vince?

34

35 MR. MATHEWS: Just finally on all this data, I have to,  
36 because of my past work, have to say that we need to also look  
37 at how this plugs into existing data sources, and how it will  
38 be handled in confidence and et cetera. So I caution, there  
39 have been several different harvest collecting projects brought  
40 up today, and it deeply concerns me that they plug into  
41 existing systems so that everyone can have access to them. So  
42 that's just one thing you'll hear as we -- which is obviously  
43 we're moving in that direction to do this, we're going to have  
44 to get those people that know how to plug these things  
45 together. Otherwise you're going to have people talking from  
46 different sheets of music that are going to make advisory  
47 groups just not be able to understand things. So that's one  
48 thing.

49



0146

1 doing this, the land make up in 19A is -- you're mainly talking  
2 about 19A, correct?

3  
4 MS. MORGAN: A and B, yeah.

5  
6 MR. MATHEWS: Yeah, mainly talk about 19A, is the same  
7 similar makeup as 19B. Get the issue before the  
8 decisionmakers, let them decide what to do with it. You know,  
9 you flagged something on one side of the fence, just as a fence  
10 on the state and federal, I gather that fence is disappearing,  
11 but anyway the other side looks at it, so there's all this  
12 going on, so like Jack says, it's wise to get it before and let  
13 it be worked out, if that's what you desire to do.

14  
15 MS. MORGAN: Could I.....

16  
17 MR. MATHEWS: And I just want to caution you on data,  
18 because it turns into a nightmare on analysis if it's not  
19 compatible to each other, both computerwise, but also other  
20 factors. And I caution everybody, because I feel it's my moral  
21 duty, the confidentiality of that data is extremely important,  
22 and that has to be geared into how it's selected. Otherwise,  
23 you can have fun.

24  
25 MS. MORGAN: I just was going to ask.....

26  
27 MR. MATHEWS: And then Dave and George and many other  
28 people know what I'm talking about. I'll stop there. If you  
29 need more expertise on this, talk to them on breaks, but  
30 there's some real concerns on data.

31  
32 MS. MORGAN: Okay. I'm going to be like those people,  
33 those animal activists that don't want to see anything, only  
34 their -- the basing (ph) ones.

35  
36 I just wanted to ask you one more thing. You know a  
37 lot of our people are, in our region, in our area have native  
38 allotments. They're restricted property. Can you somehow get  
39 the federal people to come and talk to these people about the  
40 moose census stuff?

41  
42 MR. MATHEWS: Well, I'm going to refer that -- you're  
43 directing it to me, I'm going refer to BLM, but it's probably  
44 more a BIA to deal with if you're meaning talk to them what  
45 they can do with.....

46  
47 MR. DENTON: Yeah, I'm not sure what your question is?

48  
49 MS. MORGAN: My question is me sitting here asking for

50 help from the federal subsistence people, the Federal Advisory

0147

1 Committee, you know, like I said, I'm always told to go to the  
2 state advisory committee, because it's all state land.

3  
4 MR. MATHEWS: Uh-hum.

5  
6 MS. MORGAN: Being that a lot of our people have native  
7 allotments, and right around the river area,.....

8  
9 MR. DENTON: Yes.

10  
11 MS. MORGAN: .....being that it's BIA, BIA is federal  
12 monies, isn't it?

13  
14 MR. DENTON: BIA is federal; however, the native  
15 allotments, once they are certificated, are basically private  
16 lands under the jurisdiction of state management. The feds are  
17 out of it at that conveyance.

18  
19 MR. BOYD: Yeah.

20  
21 MS. MORGAN: Even though it is restricted property?

22  
23 MR. MATHEWS: They manage.....

24  
25 MR. DENTON: Certificated, essentially becomes -- the  
26 trust responsibility is BIA, but the ownership certificate is  
27 to the individual. It is a de facto piece of private land.

28  
29 MS. MORGAN: Uh-hum.

30  
31 MR. DENTON: And we have no authority over it  
32 whatsoever. Capstones (ph). At least BLM and -- as a  
33 management agency, we have no management jurisdiction  
34 whatsoever on those lands.

35  
36 MR. YOKEL: The owner posting it to no trespassing  
37 makes it illegal for hunters flying in from Anchorage to hunt  
38 there. It's private land.

39  
40 MS. MORGAN: But we already have that. The Kuskokwim  
41 Corporation has a permit program for in there.

42  
43 MR. DENTON: The other thing is the BIA responsibility  
44 for management of most of the allotments along those rivers in  
45 Alaska has now been compacted to the corporation. The BIA has  
46 compacted that responsibility out as well. That is strictly in  
47 your park now, and the corporations -- I know KNA has compacted  
48 to manage for the allottees the trust responsibility the BIA  
49 had. BIA has given that to you.



0148

1 MS. MORGAN: Uh-hum.

2

3 MR. DENTON: So, I mean, it's all in your court now.  
4 The feds are really essentially completely out of it.

5

6 MS. MORGAN: Yeah, this is why I keep bringing this up,  
7 even though you guys are all federal advisory council, but a  
8 lot of our people feel they're stuck in the mud, nobody can  
9 come out and help us, you know.

10

11 I know I've been working for KNA in the Natural  
12 Resources for these last three years and I still feel like I'm  
13 at the beginning of when I started working. I don't know who  
14 to turn to for help when these people ask, when the people, you  
15 know, ask if I can do something, to see what I can find to help  
16 or who to help us with our concerns, I'm always referred to  
17 here or to there. It's frustration, you know.

18

19 MS. A. DEMIENTIEFF: Ron?

20

21 MR. SAM: Angela, yeah, I see that we're addressing  
22 some proposals tomorrow, right, Vince?

23

24 MR. MATHEWS: Uh-hum.

25

26 MR. SAM: Okay. Are you going to be here for all day  
27 tomorrow?

28

29 MS. MORGAN: Depending on weather I guess.

30

31 MR. SAM: But you should be here tomorrow morning?

32

33 MS. MORGAN: Uh-hum. Yeah.

34

35 MR. SAM: Okay. I would ask that you stay here for our  
36 proposal discussion, because what we're going to do is rip them  
37 apart or recommend that they pass, you know, and then these  
38 proposals will go before both the Federal Subsistence Board and  
39 probably the Game Board in one or form, so you can see how we  
40 deal with it then. Then you can start drafting something to  
41 that effect and work closely with Vince here, you know,.....

42

43 MS. MORGAN: Uh-hum.

44

45 MR. SAM: .....to get some help. And this committee,  
46 this council should help you.

47

48 And another way to approach it is to go ahead and get  
49 it solidly in your mind on what you want to do, and then you

50 start getting with Greg Roczicka out of Bethel, plus we have

0149

1 our Board of Game member here, present, who I'd like to  
2 recognize at this time, Mike Fleagle, State Board of Game. Do  
3 you have anything to say?

4  
5 MR. FLEAGLE: Well, if you've issues that -- if I may?  
6 If you have issues.....

7  
8 MS. DOWNING: Would you come up to the microphone, sir,  
9 so I can get you on tape, please?

10  
11 MR. FLEAGLE: Thank you, Ronald, members of the Board.  
12 If you have issues that are State in nature, on state  
13 resources, on state management lands, which it sounds like you  
14 do, the process that I would recommend is working with your  
15 advisory council, which would be the Middle Kuskokwim?

16  
17 MS. MORGAN: CKC, yeah.

18  
19 MR. FLEAGLE: And if you don't find any satisfaction  
20 there, then work with Ida Alexie. She can coordinate. She is  
21 the State Board of Game -- I forget her official title, but  
22 she's in Bethel. And generally any member of the public, it  
23 doesn't have to come from an advisory council, any member of  
24 the public can submit proposals, much like what happened here  
25 in 19D. We saw the same problem that you're addressing with  
26 too many moose being taken out, and you needed to somehow  
27 restrict the harvest, but not to the local population. And  
28 there's ways to do that, and it has been done. But it has to  
29 go through the process. It has to be submitted as a proposal.  
30 And here we've restricted this, all of 19D, to nonresidents.  
31 There's a portion of 19D above the mouth of Big River that is a  
32 controlled use area. There's no aircraft access. Several  
33 things like that, that would help restrict the harvest that  
34 would still stay within the State's mandate to where anybody  
35 could, if they wanted to, come and hunt in that area. That's  
36 the -- that's what the State is required to provide, equal  
37 access. I don't know if that helps.

38  
39 But thank you, Ron. I appreciate the opportunity. I  
40 was going to talk to you after you got done.

41  
42 MS. MORGAN: Okay.

43  
44 MR. SAM: Thank you, Mike.

45  
46 MS. A. DEMIENTIEFF: Ben?

47  
48 MR. JONES: I was just going to bring up about -- I  
49 don't know about the Fish & Game in this area, but in the

50 Koyukuk Controlled Use Area, and up the Koyukuk River, on

0150

1 native allotment, the Fish & Game do watch the native  
2 allotment. If there's a trespasser, they'll land and warn them  
3 that they're on a native allotment. Like I say, I don't know  
4 what the Fish & Game do in this area.

5  
6 MS. MORGAN: Yes, they do.

7  
8 MR. SAM: Yeah, we keep them posted on that.

9  
10 MS. MORGAN: Uh-hum.

11  
12 MS. A. DEMIENTIEFF: Thank you. We'll go down to.....

13  
14 MR. MATHEWS: Yes. Right. Well, just.....

15  
16 MS. A. DEMIENTIEFF: All right. Discussion and review  
17 of wildlife notebook?

18  
19 MR. MATHEWS: Pete will talk very briefly. He's been  
20 directed now to. The number I was put together in the agenda  
21 before that had developed its full amount, so Pete will give  
22 you a very brief update on this wildlife notebook. You saw an  
23 earlier version last meeting. For the new members, it's  
24 basically a background on each species, their biology, their  
25 make up and things of that like. He'll give you where that is  
26 at this time.

27  
28 MR. DEMATEO: Members of the Council, my name is Pete  
29 Demateo, I'm a biologist with the Office of Subsistence  
30 Management in Anchorage.

31  
32 As Vince just mentioned, the staff is in the process of  
33 developing what we call a wildlife management handbook. And  
34 this handbook will be divided into chapters, and each chapter  
35 will be devoted to one particular species of big game.  
36 Basically for moose, for instance, it will start off by giving  
37 you a brief history, or a brief life history, a description of  
38 the moose, their life habits, and where they eat and how they  
39 eat and where they die and where they reproduce and all that  
40 sort of thing. It will also mention how biologists conduct  
41 surveys and inventories for moose. As you mentioned here -- or  
42 as you hear at all these meetings, biologists are always  
43 flooding you with all sort of terms, but unfortunately you have  
44 time constraints, there's never enough time to give a thorough  
45 explanation. It's always some sort of a brief summary.

46  
47 So what this book will attempt to do is just provide a  
48 reference for you all to use in your convenience. It is by no  
49 means meant to replace traditional knowledge. I don't want to

50 leave anybody with that impression. It's just mainly for your

0151

1 own reference material.

2

3 We're in the process of writing it, and I think by the  
4 winter meeting we should have a draft, correct?

5

6 MS. MEEHAN: Yes.

7

8 MR. DEMATEO: Yeah, so stay tuned, the next meeting we  
9 should have something to present for your review.

10

11 MS. A. DEMIENTIEFF: Thank you.

12

13 MR. DEMATEO: Uh-hum. Thanks.

14

15 MS. A. DEMIENTIEFF: Ready for a recess now? We'll  
16 take a recess until 8:30 tomorrow morning.

17

18 (Off record - 5:30 p.m.)

19

20 \*\*\*\*\*

21 (END OF DAY'S PROCEEDINGS)

22 \*\*\*\*\*

23

24