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WESTERN INTERIOR FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE  
REGIONAL COUNCIL MEETING

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10

VOLUME I

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12

Huslia, Alaska

13

March 9, 2004

14

3:00 o'clock p.m.

15

16

17 COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

18

19 Ronald Sam, Chair

20 Ray Collins

21 Benedict Jones

22 Tom Kriska

23 Carl Morgan

24 Jack Reakoff

25 George Siavelis

26 Michael Stickman

27 Robert Walker

28

29 Regional Council Coordinator; Vince Mathews

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

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3 (Huslia, Alaska - 3/9/2004)

4

5 (On record)

6

7 CHAIRMAN SAM: I'd like to call the  
8 meeting to order, it is now 3:00 o'clock. We have some  
9 housekeeping. I see a box back here, \$5 for lunch, daily  
10 lunch and take care of that when you can, either now or  
11 later. And, Vince, if I understand correctly, we have  
12 dinner at the school at 5:30.

13

14 MR. MATHEWS: Yeah, the dinner will be at  
15 5:30 at the school. We need to bring plates from here  
16 and cups if we have some. And that's -- I don't know  
17 which school program it's going to benefit but it's a  
18 fundraiser for the school, so the teachers and students  
19 are cooking dinner. So at 5:30 and then it's a donation,  
20 so, I don't know \$10 or something, I don't know what it  
21 will be. And then at 7:30 we have a public session where  
22 we're trying to get people locally to bring up their  
23 concerns, either something that's on the agenda or in  
24 general. And I don't see the Koyukuk Staff here,  
25 hopefully they'll be arriving because some of the issues  
26 will be for the Refuge, but if they're not here we'll  
27 convey those concerns to the Refuge so that they know.

28

29 MR. WALKER: Mr. Chairman, is Vince  
30 buying tonight?

31

32 (Laughter)

33

34 MR. MATHEWS: What?

35

36 MR. WALKER: Are you buying?

37

38 MR. MATHEWS: No comment.

39

40 (Laughter)

41

42 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay. First of all I'd  
43 like to welcome both George Siavelis and Tommy Kriska,  
44 two of our newest members and from all the comments I've  
45 heard from quite a few of our Council members, that  
46 training was well worth it this morning. I think it was  
47 the most in-depth and intensive training that we've had  
48 for quite some time.

49

50 At this time, Vince, will you take roll

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1 call.

2

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

5

6 MR. WALKER: Yes.

7

8 CHAIRMAN SAM: Emmitt Peters called and  
9 has an illness in the family and called for an excused  
10 absence. Tom Kriska.

11

12 MR. KRISKA: Yes.

13

14 CHAIRMAN SAM: Mickey Stickman.

15

16 MR. STICKMAN: Yes.

17

18 MR. MATHEWS: Ron Sam.

19

20 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yes.

21

22 MR. MATHEWS: Ray Collins.

23

24 MR. COLLINS: Here.

25

26 CHAIRMAN SAM: Jack Reakoff.

27

28 MR. REAKOFF: Here.

29

30 CHAIRMAN SAM: Benedict Jones.

31

32 MR. JONES: Here.

33

34 CHAIRMAN SAM: Carl Morgan's supposed to  
35 be on this afternoon flight but I haven't monitored my  
36 phones. Obviously the Legislature's in session. He did  
37 get permission to leave but he did mention that there was  
38 some bill that he had to be there yesterday so maybe his  
39 plans have changed, I don't know, but that flight would  
40 come in around 4:00 so he might be here.

41

42 George Siavelis.

43

44 MR. SIAVELIS: Here.

45

46 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, you have  
47 eight of the nine members, you have a quorum -- eight of  
48 the 10 members, excuse me.

49

50 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay. Thank you, Vince.

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1 I don't see an elder here for invocation so I'll ask  
2 Benedict Jones to give us an invocation.

3

4 MR. JONES:

5

6 Bless us Oh Lord for welcoming us here  
7 for our Regional meeting here in Huslia.  
8 Watch over the people of Huslia and all  
9 the Council members, especially guard  
10 over Emmitt Peters for his absence due to  
11 the family illness, and we hope that his  
12 family recovers.

13

14 And Bless us Oh Lord for the next two  
15 days of meeting and guide us through our  
16 subsistence way of life and our culture.  
17 That we all return home safely from the  
18 meeting when it's adjourned.

19

20 So Bless us Oh Lord, thank you.

21

22 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Benedict. We  
23 have quite a few Staff, again, these are the only Staff  
24 that we have so I would like to again treat them with  
25 respect and I'd like to have them all bear with us  
26 through our next two days.

27

28 So Vince could you introduce, if you  
29 could, introduce Staff.

30

31 MR. MATHEWS: Sure. I'll start at the  
32 far corner over there and I really appreciate them being  
33 here because I know that they have an extremely busy  
34 schedule, and that's Randy Rogers and Glenn Stout from  
35 Alaska Department of Fish and Game. The Board of Game, I  
36 believe, is still in session, and they're here so I think  
37 you guys should really show appreciation to that because  
38 that's really stepping out there to make it here.

39

40 I can't see the person -- oh, it's not a  
41 person, it looks like a person. Bob Shultz, Refuge  
42 manager for Kanuti. And I don't know the pilot's name, I  
43 think.....

44

45 MR. LADEGARD: My name is Paul LaDegard,  
46 Pilot for Innoko.

47

48 MR. MATHEWS: Okay. And then following  
49 along the back, you already met Sandy Rabinowitch,  
50 National Park Service out of Anchorage.

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1                   And then Wennona Brown, who's the  
2 subsistence coordinator for Kanuti, Yukon Flats and  
3 Arctic. Next to her is Taylor Brelsford, Inter-Agency  
4 Staff for Bureau of Land Management. And then I haven't  
5 said hi to Clara, so, Hi, Clara. Clara Demientieff is  
6 the Refuge Information Technician for Innoko out of Holy  
7 Cross. Next to her is Warren Eastland, Inter-Agency  
8 Staff Committee for BIA.

9

10                   I can't remember Salena's last name.

11

12                   REPORTER: Hile.

13

14                   MR. MATHEWS: Hile. Salena Hile is the  
15 court recorder here.

16

17                   And then to the front is Polly Wheeler,  
18 anthropologist for Office of Subsistence Management.  
19 Next to her is Rich Uberuaga, who's the fisheries  
20 biologist for the Kuskokwim. And then next to him is Tom  
21 Kron, who is the Division Chief for statewide support for  
22 Office of Subsistence Management. And then Jeff Denton,  
23 the area biologist, if that's the right term, but he's  
24 the biologist for most of your area in Western Interior  
25 for Bureau of Land Management. Jerry Berg is the  
26 fisheries biologist on your team. And then Pete DeMatteo  
27 is on by teleconference. And then there's some other  
28 Staff that will show up that I don't see right now but  
29 we'll try to introduce them as they come in. And if you  
30 don't know their name when they come up to the mike,  
31 please ask them, not only for your own, but for the  
32 record when they transcribe this they need a name  
33 associated.

34

35                   And unless I missed somebody else that's  
36 the full introduction.

37

38                   CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay, thank you, Vince.  
39 The next item on the agenda is Chair's report. Again, I  
40 delegated to Jack to sit in for me at the Federal  
41 Subsistence Board for their deliberations for the last  
42 meeting. I, at that time I had to get recertified for my  
43 job as the water plant operator and I had that training  
44 at the same time so it was conflicting. I'd like to  
45 thank Jack for attending the meeting.

46

47                   And, again, we, as the Western Interior  
48 Subsistence Council have been sending him to quite a few  
49 meetings. He went to the Board of Game meeting in  
50 Fairbanks under the Koyukuk River Advisory Committee.

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1                   Okay, go ahead Jack.

2

3

4                   MR. REAKOFF: Mr. Chairman, I attended  
5 the Federal Subsistence Board for the Council and the  
6 Board of Fish meeting, State Board of Fish for the  
7 Council, and then I attended the Game Board meeting for  
8 the Koyukuk River Advisory Committee which I'm on that  
9 also.

9

10                  CHAIRMAN SAM: I'd like to thank Jack for  
11 filling into us and other than all those phone calls that  
12 I personally made to most of you, everything else is on  
13 the agenda and that's about all I had for Chair's report.  
14 I've been delegating quite a bit of my travel.

15

16                  Again, this will probably be -- if I  
17 remain as Chair, this will probably continue throughout  
18 this coming summer which will be kind of busy. I will be  
19 busy, I'll be working six days a week, nine hours a day,  
20 so I'll just be catching what little teleconferences I  
21 can.

22

23                  As far as the YRDFA teleconferences go,  
24 we have the tribal office take care of that so we're  
25 covered not only for myself but they're covered for the  
26 villages, Alatna village. And, again, under Chair's  
27 report, I did attend the YRDFA meeting, which was held at  
28 Allakaket and both the Eastern Interior and Western  
29 Interior and Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta Subsistence Councils  
30 were well represented at the meetings, and we found that  
31 we had common ground as you will see just by the  
32 introduction of Proposal 61, Unit 19 moose.

33

34                  While we did -- it seems like we wasted a  
35 day down at Wasilla and we finally had the proponent  
36 withdraw the proposal and now it's being introduced under  
37 the heading of AVCP. That has begun to bother me but  
38 we've worked with both Tanana Chiefs and AVCP and it  
39 seems that they've got their own agenda and about all we  
40 can do is -- all I've been doing now lately is just  
41 telling them that if they go against us on any proposals  
42 that all I can do is it's your prerogative, I cannot  
43 control you. And I think that all three regions  
44 recognize that for a few proposals we will be dealing  
45 with both AVCP and Tanana Chiefs are local Regional  
46 Councils, non-profit. So I did speak with Mike Smith of  
47 Tanana Chiefs and I believe that he will be here either  
48 late today or tomorrow to attend this meeting and make a  
49 few comments, he said, on a couple of these issues and  
50 some of their concerns. And at this time I have no idea

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1 of anyone coming from AVCP.

2

3 Do you, do you have any idea?

4

5 MR. REAKOFF: (Shakes head negatively)

6

7 MR. MATHEWS: (Shakes head negatively)

8

9 CHAIRMAN SAM: But I did talk with both

10 Gerald Nicholia from Eastern Interior and Lester Wilde

11 from Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta, who I put up at my house

12 during the YRDFA meeting.

13

14 So with that, I have the greatest faith

15 in this Council, everyone speaks up and they do it with

16 respect and out of respect to our Staff. Again, all

17 these people in the back, you're the only Staff that

18 we've got and I'd like to thank you again for bearing

19 with us and working with us. And that about concludes

20 the Chair's report.

21

22 So we'll introduce the Regional Council

23 member concerns. Do you care to start, Jack.

24

25 MR. REAKOFF: Okay, thank you, Mr.

26 Chairman. I did attend the Federal Subsistence Board and

27 fought hard for the driftnet proposal that we had before

28 the Board. So like I said earlier in our training

29 session that, I think there's a way that certain Board

30 members indicated to me or on the record that if the

31 fishing time was reduced they would have been probably

32 more likely to adopt that proposal, so I think that we

33 should resubmit that driftnet proposal and reduce the

34 amount of time.

35

36 The concern seemed to be that the

37 competition with the traditional set nets would conflict

38 with the driftnet, so I think if we allow driftnet

39 fishing towards the end of that windowed opening or

40 during a fishing period, I think that would address the

41 concerns of a majority of the people. The Federal Board

42 process is a little bit different than the State Board

43 process because the Council members actually can interact

44 with the Board and I appreciated that aspect.

45

46 The Board of Fish meeting, I, again,

47 fought for that driftnet proposal. Our Council felt that

48 that was the number 1 priority, was that driftnet

49 proposal in the fisheries realm, and I fought hard for

50 that at the Committee B regarding that driftnet proposal.

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1 We lost there, too.

2

3 I still feel there's opposition from up  
4 in Eastern Interior. I think that they seem to feel  
5 disenfranchised by allowing driftnetting below them. I  
6 would be inclined to having a proposal for the whole  
7 drainage and make all subsistence users equal and have  
8 the same nets, depth of gear, and the same amount of  
9 access to the fishery. I took exception to somehow the  
10 Subsistence Division for the State was given the job of  
11 giving the State's position and I took exception to the  
12 State's position that it was a fully allocated fishery  
13 when they have commercial harvest. And I feel that it's  
14 not a fully allocated fishery, there's a subsistence  
15 priority and that subsistence needs aren't being met.

16

17 So that's a nutshell of what -- there was  
18 multiple other proposals that we addressed, and some we  
19 win and some we lose.

20

21 Some of my personal concerns are there's  
22 a Senate Bill to take away the ORV, off road vehicle use  
23 restrictions on the Dalton Highway. Right now since  
24 they've built the road there's been restrictions on the  
25 Dalton Highway to not allow hunters to go just wherever  
26 they want to. If they take those ORV restrictions off  
27 there'll be ATV's driving all over the place. We'll have  
28 to have huge -- it'll have huge impacts on the Northern  
29 Unit 24 in the Western Interior, those hunters will be  
30 coming down towards Allakaket hunting, winter seasons  
31 would be affected on moose. There would be all kinds of  
32 additional access that's not in place right now.

33

34 I've commented to the Transportation  
35 Committee that right now we're at sustained yield. We  
36 have air taxi's flying people in, we have air boats and  
37 motorboats going off from the road and we have bow  
38 hunters on the road, so we have literally thousands of  
39 hunters coming up already. Additional access would be  
40 catastrophic.

41

42 That's a big concern of mine. I think  
43 the BLM should be working -- have a little bit more  
44 planning in place. The BLM's statement in the paper was  
45 that they were going to have corridors going out, but the  
46 corridors just gives access basically into the country  
47 that's never seen those kinds of access.

48

49 And when I was at the Board of Game  
50 meeting there was a -- like I said earlier off the

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1 record, there was a statement by the OSM on certain Board  
2 proposals that the Board of Game and alluding to certain  
3 positions on those proposals, yet, this Council hadn't  
4 met and it didn't seem that the OSM had looked to the  
5 guidance of the local Advisory Committees that had  
6 deliberated those proposals and were on record. And so I  
7 feel that the OSM should look to the Advisory Committees  
8 if the Councils have not met in regard to taking a  
9 position on proposals that are going to come before the  
10 Board of Game or the Board of Fish. I was a little bit  
11 frustrated in that I was kind of speaking against the  
12 OSM's sort of position.

13

14 So that's kind of what I have right now.  
15 I'm very happy to see the State Staff here and all of the  
16 OSM and other agencies that are here to lend support. I  
17 think that this program has a very high level of funding  
18 support and very qualified Staff and am very happy to see  
19 the quality of our Staff that we have. We have multiple  
20 years of experience in Alaskan game management here and  
21 I'm very happy to see that.

22

23 Thank you.

24

25 CHAIRMAN SAM: Go ahead, George.

26

27 MR. SIAVELIS: I'm the squeaky new guy  
28 here. I don't have any -- you know, I'm going to wait  
29 and reserve my comments. I don't have any specific  
30 concerns because I haven't participated, you know, in the  
31 past up to this point, at this time.

32

33 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

34

35 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, George. I'm  
36 glad you're here.

37

38 Ray.

39

40 MR. COLLINS: Thank you, Mr. Chair. And  
41 I want to first of all thank you for the notes and cards  
42 and prayers that were offered on my behalf last fall. I  
43 was just out of the hospital on the way to recovery when  
44 you had your meeting but I was wheelchair-bound at the  
45 time, and I'm thankful to be up and walking around again.  
46 But I thank you for your part in that.

47

48 In terms of my concern, I guess one of  
49 the long range concerns that I have and I see growing is  
50 the management of wildlife populations on the Federal

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1 lands on which we oversee. Because of the intensity of  
2 use on some of those Federal lands for subsistence we  
3 may, at some point, have to get into some kind of  
4 intensive management. We're certainly seeing it in the  
5 McGrath area on State lands, we now are seeing it in the  
6 Middle Kuskokwim down there with the Moose Management  
7 Plan, and that's going to have to deal with control -- or  
8 management of predators at some point.

9  
10 And so I think we ought to be gearing up  
11 for that and not wait until populations crash but maybe  
12 there should be some trigger points that would cause us  
13 to start looking at population balances. One of them,  
14 I'd say, that is key would be, at least was in the  
15 McGrath area, would be the calf counts that you see  
16 coming up. If we start reaching a point, no matter what  
17 the population is of the majority of those calves being  
18 taken out by predators so that they're not entering the  
19 population, that should start raising hackles of concern  
20 because that's going to be a declining population. But I  
21 don't think we have a good handle on that, and I don't --  
22 I know in some cases the Federal managers may have limits  
23 on what they can do but I think we ought to keep that in  
24 mind and be thinking about that, of when we enter into  
25 more intensive management on the Federal lands. All  
26 we're doing right now is managing people, basically,  
27 seasons and bag limits, we're not really managing game  
28 populations in a whole, and I think you're going to have  
29 to manage both at some point.

30  
31 The other concern I have is what happened  
32 in the Area M. The reason I say that is my history goes  
33 back a long ways. I was on first the State Regional  
34 Advisory Council when we worked to implement quotas down  
35 there and caps on those fisheries because we saw that it  
36 was a growing problem, it was more and more intercept  
37 catch or incidental catch as they talked about, so when  
38 you start talking about a million chums being incidental  
39 catch, that's a little bit of concern. And the way it is  
40 right now, many of those incidental catches are going to  
41 be dumped because there isn't a market for them. So not  
42 only are they going to be intercepting more salmon from  
43 Western Alaska streams where we're just starting to see a  
44 recovery, but in many cases those fish are not even going  
45 to be fully utilized, some of them will just be dumped,  
46 and they may be dumping as many as we are taking by  
47 subsistence out here.

48  
49 So we may have to be asking for action at  
50 some point on those fisheries.

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1                   There was a gentleman in Fairbanks, while  
2 we were waiting for the plane up here, showing that there  
3 is also incidental catch in the bottom fisheries and  
4 they're catching immature salmon down there, a couple  
5 hundred thousand chums or so and those are just dumped  
6 because they're coming up in the bottom fisheries.

7  
8                   So we've got to look at those whole  
9 things at what's happening out there because it's going  
10 to impact us on the river, and we're just starting to see  
11 recovery, I know, in the Kuskokwim of meeting some  
12 escapement goals. And the people there have been able to  
13 have a limited silver harvest commercially but partly  
14 that was because there were caps on the silvers that  
15 could be taken in Area M. If that cap is off and most of  
16 those that have been there, there will be no commercial  
17 fishing of any kind on the Kuskokwim, because our king  
18 salmon are down already and the chums are down.

19  
20                   So that's an area of concern, I think,  
21 that we have to think about, we have to be watching  
22 what's going on.

23  
24                   Thank you.

25  
26                   CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Ray.

27  
28                   Mickey.

29  
30                   MR. STICKMAN: I have some concerns, too,  
31 the increase, the amount in Area M. But I also have some  
32 concerns about the moose hunting. But I would like to,  
33 you know, just go on record to show that I fully support  
34 Ray Collins' concerns as far as fishing is concerned.

35  
36                   Because, well, last summer was probably  
37 the best year for fishing in probably 10 years but then,  
38 you know, what happens in Area M is going to probably --  
39 you know, we'll probably see an impact this summer, I  
40 mean, you know, I think we'll see an impact that  
41 immediate because those fish are the fish that are going  
42 to be that primarily go by up on the Yukon and then, not  
43 only up the Yukon, but up the Koyukuk and the Tanana  
44 Rivers.

45  
46                   Another one that I have is I have a  
47 petition from the Nulato residents here that I wanted to  
48 go on record because, well, they kind of ordered me to go  
49 on record with this petition to preserve the Kaiyuh  
50 Flats. And so I wouldn't read the petition though, I can

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1 give it to Vince and Vince can have copies made but I  
2 just wanted to go on record with the petition here. You  
3 know, the petition is because the change -- the  
4 regulation changes on the Koyukuk River. You know, you  
5 could see last fall, you know, all those hunters that got  
6 squeezed out of the Koyukuk River by regulation, they're  
7 going further down below Kaltag and they're also going  
8 into Kaiyuh Flats. You know, traditionally they never  
9 ever been there, but last fall with -- you know, that's  
10 one of the things that I told Glenn, you know, as the  
11 area biologist that -- and Glenn, he knows that, too,  
12 that people they, well, they like to follow the  
13 regulations even though there's no enforcement. You  
14 know, they don't see any enforcement out there but they  
15 still like to stick as close to the regulations as they  
16 possibly can even though it means that they have to buy  
17 extra gas to go out until they actually get a moose.

18  
19 But that's one of the concerns that I  
20 have is the non-resident hunters that are going back into  
21 the Kaiyuh Flats area.

22  
23 Last fall during the moose hunting season  
24 I went all the way through the Kaiyuh Flats, you know,  
25 you can go in like 12 miles below Nulato and come out 40  
26 miles below Kaltag and so you can cover quite a bit of  
27 the flat country of -- but I went through there, you  
28 know, and I didn't see any bulls, I didn't shoot any  
29 moose while I was in the Kaiyuh Flats, but I also went up  
30 the Koyukuk River twice, I checked in both times. On my  
31 second hunt up the Koyukuk River I finally got a moose so  
32 I kind of, you know, I know what the moose population's  
33 like out there and I know what the -- you know, I do a  
34 lot of riding on the river so I see what's happening out  
35 there and so I know the people's concerns are valid.

36  
37 That's all I have.

38  
39 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Mickey.

40  
41 Just under my Chair's report, I just  
42 forgot totally the Koyukuk River Moose Working Group, the  
43 last meeting, which I attended. And one thing that  
44 became quite clear and it just backs up what Mickey says,  
45 if you displace hunters and all they do is show up  
46 someplace else. And one thing we found out about that  
47 Koyukuk River Moose Working Group, we cut down so much  
48 that -- or we managed people to the point where we cannot  
49 manage them anymore. We just cut down to 50 permits for  
50 non-local residents and the moose population is still

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1 going down so we've got to look at some other avenues to  
2 manage our game and we've been calling for more predator  
3 control, and some of our proposals will address this  
4 issue.

5  
6 And I am also concerned, quite concerned  
7 about Area M. Bristol Bay is already taking action on  
8 trying to block Governor Murkowski's move on opening --  
9 or lifting some of those restrictions that we have on  
10 Area M. I believe AVCP is also going to join in this  
11 effort to keep it closed and somewhere down the line I  
12 expect Tanana Chiefs to get involved too, so I really  
13 wish all these Native organizations the best of luck in  
14 trying to keep those restrictions in place.

15  
16 That's about all I have.

17  
18 Benedict.

19  
20 MR. JONES: Thank you. My real concerns  
21 is moose population in whole Koyukuk River Drainage. It  
22 has been declining and the bulls -- or the ratio, the cow  
23 ratio is going down so rapidly that the moose that the  
24 60-inch and over, the population is going, those are the  
25 reproductive of the calving area in our area.

26  
27 On the caribou management, what we did is  
28 we put Koyukuk area, if the caribou goes down to 100,000,  
29 the subsistence will be open but guiding and sports  
30 hunters will be eliminated and annual caribou harvest  
31 will be cut in half. So I'd like to see that as a moose  
32 management tool. We don't want to go to Tier I because  
33 subsistence is a really top priority for our people for  
34 moose management. It's not only the moose management,  
35 the furbearing animal has been depleted, like for mink.  
36 I only saw one mink track in the Koyukuk area last fall.  
37 Where the black fish, that's the main source of food and  
38 the minks don't have no fish to survive on so they're  
39 depleting and also the non-salmon species are depleting  
40 slowly.

41  
42 Where 60 years ago I remember that, you  
43 know, you catch a tub of whitefish and you'll have about  
44 a gallon of oil out of 10 fish, now you just barely see a  
45 skim dot of oil in the spring time. So the climate  
46 change due to the instant, you know, mosquitos and bugs,  
47 there's less bugs in the water when you're cutting beaver  
48 hole open there used to be black bugs would pop out but  
49 you don't see that anymore in the lakes. So the climate  
50 change -- so the land otters have to go to the Yukon

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1 River now to survive on the non-salmon species because  
2 all summer long when I have a fish net in and they would  
3 steel a couple of fish out of my fish net every day, the  
4 otters did, they come out at night, probably eat about  
5 five salmons a night just to survive.

6

7 So those are my concerns. So, you know,  
8 we -- I'd like to see more enforcement protection on the  
9 two rivers, major hunting river is the Huslia River and  
10 the Kateel River because the sportshunters go out of  
11 their area, they go into the Controlled Use Area. The  
12 harvest of moose at night time and then they go back in  
13 up to their camp so there's no way to prove that they  
14 caught the moose outside of the Controlled Use Area, even  
15 though we know that they caught the moose within inside  
16 the Controlled Use Area and they go back at night, late  
17 at night where nobody can see them. There's several  
18 instances that there's been witnesses, that's been the  
19 subsistence hunters, the hunters been sneaking out, they  
20 spend the whole day and they go back at night.

21

22 That's all I have, thank you.

23

24 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Benedict.

25

26 Robert.

27

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

29 Thank you, Ray, for bringing up Area M, I was going to do  
30 that, but I'm glad you did.

31

32 How many of you read the Anchorage paper  
33 on March 8th?

34

35 Nobody?

36

37 REPORTER: (Raises Hand)

38

39 MR. UBERUAGA: We were in the air.

40

41 MR. WALKER: Uh?

42

43 MR. UBERUAGA: We were just coming out  
44 here, we didn't get the.....

45

46 MR. WALKER: Tina did. Well, I picked it  
47 up here, and there was a couple under the Daily News  
48 letter here that I thought were really interesting. One  
49 of the titles were illegal stripping over 25 years to  
50 blame for chum and then at the bottom it says right here,

00015

1 the State was wrong to allow commercial fisheries to  
2 exist on the Yukon River. In the first place there was  
3 always enough room for subsistence, but is not after they  
4 allowed the fisheries to take place. You know, that's  
5 one of the things that really caught my eye.

6  
7 And the second one was here the State  
8 Board, what in the world is going on, the State Board  
9 actions are hard to comprehend. What in the world is  
10 going on with the State Game Board. First they want to  
11 control the predators by shooting the wolves and bears in  
12 order to increase moose population and then whamo, now,  
13 they want to start killing off the moose calves in order  
14 to control the moose populations, moose calves endorsed  
15 March 5th, what gives here, who hired these so called  
16 experts to run the Game Board here, State of Alaska.

17  
18 I mean here we are in the Yukon River and  
19 the Koyukuk talking about preserving moose and you go to  
20 a urban area and they want to kill the moose calves, I  
21 mean, hey, there's something wrong here.

22  
23 And it even goes further over to the last  
24 column; Final Frontier Days Are Over, Wildlife is Valued  
25 for it's Own Sake. It doesn't say Governor Murkowski, it  
26 just says Murkowski's hand-picked Board of Game is  
27 reviewing numerous proposals this week that will  
28 devastate long-term effects on wolves and bear  
29 populations. And if you go down to the bottom it says,  
30 the administrative long-term for viability of Alaska's  
31 ecosystem and economy where many more to make that  
32 decision process being brought back into wildlife and  
33 resource managers practice in Alaska and subsistence.

34  
35 So this is what is in the newspaper here.  
36 I don't get to read the newspaper every day because where  
37 we are we don't get the paper, it cost so much to get it.

38  
39 But there's so much information here that  
40 where's all the State and Federal biologists and  
41 administration taking a look at what's being written  
42 about this issue here. It doesn't reach the rural area,  
43 but it sure as heck reached the urban area.

44  
45 One of the other things I'd like to say,  
46 too, is that Polly was there at that November meeting,  
47 when we had the Bering Sea.....

48  
49 MS. WHEELER: (Nods affirmatively)

50

00016

1 MR. WALKER: .....Bering Sea Fisherman's  
2 Association meeting in Anchorage. One of the things that  
3 really struck me, too, is that one of the professors  
4 brought up in 1918 there was a crash in the chum and king  
5 salmon, it went from -- it took a nose dive for five  
6 years, and one of the things that -- digging back in my  
7 grandfather's files here I see 1912, 1913, 1914, the  
8 government was buying up all this fish here for the dog  
9 teams that were hauling mail for the military at that  
10 time, before they had airplanes. Was that one of the  
11 reasons why it crashed, or was it one of the reasons why  
12 it might have been a global warming.

13

14 You know, and at this time I brought up  
15 that the Federal government has created a commercial  
16 fisheries up and down the Yukon and Kuskokwim, mind you,  
17 that when they bought all this fish from the local  
18 people, it was commercial fish being bought it was not a  
19 fish being bought outside for anything other than feeding  
20 dogs. And this is just for your information here, Polly  
21 could probably describe a little bit more for that on me,  
22 too.

23

24 I don't want to be dragging on because  
25 I'll let Tom do the last half hour on this.

26

27 Thank you.

28

29 (Laughter)

30

31 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Robert.

32

33 Tommy.

34

35 MR. KRISKA: Yeah, this is Tom Kriska. I  
36 always run into a lot of people all over. I travel quite  
37 a bit through the whole interior of Alaska, up and down  
38 the river, pretty much everywhere, a lot of people are  
39 always talking to me about things, you know, fishing,  
40 moose, wolves, you know, all these concerns. And I just  
41 never drank or anything for 18 years now and so I just  
42 thought, well, I better figure out something or try to  
43 get something done, you know, with my concerns and  
44 everybody else's concerns seem like they always riding me  
45 for trying to do something about it so I did, just  
46 recently, got on the Middle Yukon Advisory Board and was  
47 on the YRDFA Board for 10 years too.

48

49 I note all these things that Ray Collins  
50 says, I really support him for the things he said, and

00017

1 Mickey, the things he said in Kaiyuh Flats. I hear a lot  
2 about the moose population going up and down, and every  
3 year, I mean I ride through this interior Alaska like you  
4 guys ride your roads every day and I see a lot of moose  
5 out there and a lot of wolves out there and then I see  
6 Fish and Game, the regulations cutting back on hunters  
7 and all this other stuff and, you know, moving everybody  
8 out of the Koyukuk River and this moose count is still  
9 going down.

10

11                   There's nobody out there to kill these  
12 moose. And the only thing I see out there is probably  
13 two or 300 wolves, bears, moose, but everybody else is  
14 back there doing all their paperwork and whatever and  
15 there's nobody out there doing anything physically about  
16 these predators. So as we keep on talking about all this  
17 stuff and meetings and stuff all those wolves are out  
18 there right now, I mean, that's why I wanted to drive  
19 here just to check and check again and again and see  
20 what's going on down, those wolves, they kill a lot of  
21 moose -- you know, two or 300 wolves, you don't think  
22 they're there but they're there and they're really  
23 killing a lot of moose.

24

25                   And right now that I see where they hang  
26 out, they hang out with the big bunches of moose. Where  
27 there are big bunches of moose, there's this certain  
28 places like behind Butch's Camp, around the Three-Day  
29 Slough area, back around those mountains there, there's  
30 just big bunches of moose [sic] like hundreds of moose in  
31 those little places, those wolves stay there and nobody  
32 -- they don't see them, they can't go after them, they  
33 don't go out there so I was just kind of wondering where  
34 everybody get all their information from.

35

36                   And I mean, you know, the only time I see  
37 them out there is during the fishing season and hunting  
38 season, no other time from after the moose season to the  
39 start of fishing season the next summer. And that whole  
40 year, things are happening out there and kind of -- I do  
41 a lot of -- try and get some of these wolves, but for one  
42 guy it's a lot of work.

43

(Laughter)

44

45                   MR. KRISKA: And I wouldn't mind seeing  
46 something done through Fish and Game or anybody out there  
47 that could probably help us for fuel and controlling  
48 these animals that's out there. It's not only the  
49 wolves, I mean there's a lot of bears, black bears,  
50

00018

1 everything out there that's doing all this.

2

3 And like I said, everybody's back in  
4 their offices talking about it and doing all of this  
5 stuff but there's -- I mean you can't do nothing like  
6 that.

7

8 And another thing about this paper that  
9 Robert had about this moose, calf killing, I'm really  
10 against that. I mean who in the world would allow calf  
11 killing because there's too many to have moose control,  
12 why don't you go get those darn calves or whatever, fly  
13 them out this way or something, you know, and put them  
14 where they're needed instead of killing them.

15

16 I don't know, I could talk forever, like  
17 Robert said, but I best allow this meeting to go on and  
18 have my comments when they're needed to be put in there,  
19 I guess.

20

21 Thank you.

22

23 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Tommy.

24

25 With that, we'll go into the review and  
26 adoption of agenda. At this time the Chair will  
27 entertain a motion to adopt the agenda. It looks nice  
28 and short after Wasilla.

29

30 MR. STICKMAN: I make a motion to adopt  
31 the agenda. I guess the petition don't have to be part  
32 of the agenda since it's already on record or.....

33

34 CHAIRMAN SAM: How would we handle that?

35

36 MR. MATHEWS: Could you repeat that a  
37 second because I was looking at an addition that you have  
38 to add to the agenda.

39

40 MR. STICKMAN: I was talking about the  
41 petition that I brought from Nulato, I was wondering if  
42 it would be proper for me to put it on the agenda.

43

44 MR. MATHEWS: Sure it would be proper for  
45 it to be on the agenda, we need to get copies of it. And  
46 your petition was to preserve the Kaiyuh Flats area and I  
47 think that would come up under -- let me take a look at  
48 it here.

49

50 MR. STICKMAN: I'm sure you got a copy of

00019

1 that petition.

2

3 MR. MATHEWS: What was that?

4

5 MR. STICKMAN: I'm sure the tribe sent  
6 you a copy of the petition.

7

8 MR. MATHEWS: Okay. We can get copies  
9 either from the tribal council or.....

10

11 MR. STICKMAN: I got a copy here.

12

13 MR. MATHEWS: Right. I'm just trying to  
14 find a place to put it. I don't think we have any  
15 proposals that are dealing directly with that area so I  
16 think we would probably have to put it under agency  
17 reports, under the first one, number A, under Tribal  
18 Councils would be a place for it.

19

20 And I don't know exactly what the  
21 petition is dealing with but at that time we could  
22 discuss it.

23

24 CHAIRMAN SAM: Is that understood by the  
25 Council, on Page 5, Native Corporations, Regional  
26 Villages, Tribal Councils this petition will be briefly  
27 discussed and put on the record?

28

29 (Council nods affirmatively)

30

31 CHAIRMAN SAM: Vince.

32

33 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, Mr. Chairman. We  
34 talked about in the training that if you look under the  
35 Proposal review procedure, it looks like a cookbook but  
36 it helps for note taking. One is introduction for  
37 proposals, two is the analysis, three is agency comments,  
38 four is open public comments, and then I think a new  
39 number 5 would be that the Inter-Agency Staff Committee  
40 may want to share their talking points and then number 6  
41 would be summary of written public comments and then  
42 seven would be Council deliberations. It just allows you  
43 to get the insight from the Staff Committee when they met  
44 to review the draft analysis.

45

46 CHAIRMAN SAM: That's fine with me, is it  
47 okay with the Council?

48

49 (Council nods affirmatively)

50

00020

1 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay. Is there a second  
2 on the motion.

3

4 MR. WALKER: Yes, Mr. Chairman, I second.  
5 If Mickey could give us a copy of this also.

6

7 MR. MATHEWS: We'll get copies of the  
8 petition. The other thing, Mr. Chairman, we're carrying  
9 a lot of information from other Regional Council meetings  
10 so just know when we bring up fish issues we're going to  
11 be sharing with you actions that were taken by Eastern  
12 Interior, Jerry will be sharing actions that have been  
13 taken by Yukon Kuskokwim Delta and then I'll be sharing  
14 from Seward Penn. So just realize that when we get into  
15 some of the fish topics, what's written down there is  
16 going to be a bit more discussion than what you see  
17 there. And we do have copies of the actions of Eastern  
18 Interior and we have a summary of what Yukon Kuskokwim  
19 did, and that's in relationship to the actions of Board  
20 of Fisheries on Area M.

21

22 It doesn't require any change on the  
23 agenda, just realize when we get to that fish thing it's  
24 going to be a bit more lengthy than what's on the page.

25

26 CHAIRMAN SAM: Any further additions

27

28 MR. STICKMAN: Mr. Chair, I was wondering  
29 if the proposal that failed, if we should put that back  
30 on the agenda because Jack was going to give us an update  
31 and give us a new way of writing the proposal.

32

33 CHAIRMAN SAM: And this would be under  
34 the fisheries.

35

36 MR. STICKMAN: Driftnet fisheries, yes.

37

38 CHAIRMAN SAM: You got a place for it  
39 Vince.

40

41 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, Mr. Chair. I think  
42 what you want to do and, Jack, give me concurrence on  
43 this, you just want to submit a new proposal, so that  
44 would come under the call of 2005 fishery proposals  
45 instead of bringing up the last proposal.

46

47 MR. REAKOFF: (Nods affirmatively)

48

49 MR. MATHEWS: We can discuss the last  
50 proposal, no doubt, but it would be easier just to bring

00021

1 it up as a new proposal. And I see a lot of writing over  
2 in Jack's area so I think he's got this pretty scoped  
3 out.

4

5 CHAIRMAN SAM: That's fine with you,  
6 Jack.

7

8 MR. REAKOFF: Yeah, that's under call for  
9 proposal under fisheries and we can resubmit that  
10 driftnet proposal and change it a little bit and talk it  
11 over and try and get this one through and make it a  
12 little bit more palatable to the Federal Board, at least.  
13 The Board of Fish won't meet for three years, so we're  
14 kind of cut off from State waters for awhile.

15

16 I also want a letter -- I'll try and  
17 draft a letter to Tom Boyd regarding the position the OSM  
18 takes on certain State proposals without really knowing  
19 what the Council's position is on that may affect  
20 subsistence.

21

22 So I think I can get that in  
23 correspondence, received and sent, but I would also like  
24 to transmit that under that agenda item so that's all  
25 I've got.

26

27 Thank you.

28

29 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay, thank you, Jack. I  
30 think at that time, too, I would then introduce under  
31 that call for 2005 proposals one that is also submitted  
32 by Middle Yukon which is to go ahead and introduce that  
33 driftnet fisheries for chum salmon, too. I think they've  
34 got a proposal, too, for that same area.

35

36 Vince.

37

38 MR. MATHEWS: I think Jack's topic would  
39 fit better under Office of Subsistence Management  
40 reports. When we get to correspondence sent and  
41 received, it's going to be close to the end of the  
42 meeting. I know there's not a topic under there, we  
43 would just have to add it -- I don't want to put words in  
44 your mouth, but as a policy concern on OSM's positions  
45 before the State Board prior to Regional Council action.

46

47 CHAIRMAN SAM: But the resubmission of  
48 these proposals would come under the call for 2005  
49 proposals, right?

50

00022

1 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, it would.

2

3 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay, that's clear. Any  
4 further comments.

5

6 (No comments)

7

8 CHAIRMAN SAM: Questions on the agenda.

9

10 (No comments)

11

12 CHAIRMAN SAM: If not -- you had  
13 something, go ahead.

14

15 MR. KRISKA: I just had a.....

16

17 CHAIRMAN SAM: Your mike.

18

19 MR. KRISKA: I forget what it is on the  
20 Board, but it can help me about all these things going on  
21 with the people of Huslia and other places with their  
22 fines and stuff like that that they have.

23

24 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yes, thank you. The Chair  
25 will recognize Orville Huntington.

26

27 MR. HUNTINGTON: Orville Hunting, Fish  
28 and Wildlife Service Refuge, RIT here in Huslia. I guess  
29 it could just be under comments. I know what he's  
30 talking about. A lot of people are unhappy up and down  
31 the river and it would probably be under comments.  
32 Public comments.

33

34 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay. Could you talk with  
35 Tribal Council and tell them that we've got a place on  
36 the agenda to submit their concerns, plus we're asking  
37 them to bring a lot of it up tonight and they're aware of  
38 it, some of the people are aware of it.

39

40 Vince, could we just go ahead and put  
41 Huslia Tribal Council under Native Corporations.

42

43 MR. MATHEWS: Right. You want that for  
44 tonight?

45

46 CHAIRMAN SAM: I just want that as an  
47 agenda item just in case we miss it all tonight, I just  
48 want to pick it all up while we're here. Is that what  
49 you wanted Tommy?

50

00023

1 MR. KRISKA: Yes. Thank you.

2

3 CHAIRMAN SAM: All right. Any further  
4 additions.

5

6 (No comments)

7

8 CHAIRMAN SAM: Corrections.

9

10 (No comments)

11

12 CHAIRMAN SAM: If not, all those in favor  
13 of the motion to adopt the agenda as amended signify by  
14 saying aye.

15

16 IN UNISON: Aye.

17

18 CHAIRMAN SAM: Those opposed, same sign.

19

20 (No opposing votes)

21

22 CHAIRMAN SAM: Motion carried. Next item  
23 on the agenda, I kind of dreaded it, that 10 day meeting  
24 down at Wasilla, and I dread reading the minutes even  
25 worse. What's happening Vince.

26

27 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, it's under  
28 Tab A and in your book you just have the meeting minutes  
29 for the Tri-Council portion. I wasn't able to meet the  
30 deadlines to get in the book -- well, maybe I did get  
31 them in there. But anyways, you have the Tri-Council and  
32 when you met separately on the 16th. But you don't have  
33 the Bi-Council meeting and that's when you met with  
34 Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta to deal with moose in Unit 21(E) as  
35 well as Kuskokwim River. So I'm going to pass those out,  
36 those are the minutes. I realize that's quite extensive  
37 but you did have quite an extensive meeting or series of  
38 meeting in Wasilla. So you do not have in your book the  
39 Bi-Council meeting on the 12th and the 13th and I'll be  
40 passing those out.

41

42 CHAIRMAN SAM: We'll be lucky if we get  
43 into proposals.

44

45 (Laughter)

46

47 CHAIRMAN SAM: You just want to read it  
48 privately, plus this new handout.

49

50 (Council nods affirmatively)

00024

1 CHAIRMAN SAM: These are pretty lengthy  
2 Vince.

3  
4 MR. MATHEWS: I know.

5  
6 MR. WALKER: Mr. Chairman.

7  
8 CHAIRMAN SAM: Robert.

9  
10 MR. WALKER: Yes, I pretty much read this  
11 and it follows pretty much what we said here, there was  
12 some questions I had but I'm not going to bring those  
13 questions up because it's so lengthy here, it goes almost  
14 eight pages.

15  
16 But I want to make one comment here, Mr.  
17 Chairman, that on the first line under B2, absent, Ray  
18 Collins, I believe that should be absent, excused, am I  
19 correct here, Vince, on the first page?

20  
21 MR. MATHEWS: Yeah, it would mean  
22 excused. I've not gotten that technical on excused or  
23 unexcused because your Council has been so faithful with  
24 coming. But his would be an excused absence obviously.

25  
26 MR. WALKER: Right.

27  
28 CHAIRMAN SAM: Right, an excused absence,  
29 yes.

30  
31 MR. WALKER: All right, I got a new  
32 comment here. If everybody's read it there I'm ready to  
33 make a motion about the regular meeting in Wasilla.

34  
35 MR. STICKMAN: I second.

36  
37 CHAIRMAN SAM: Is this for the Tri-  
38 Council meeting?

39  
40 MR. WALKER: Yes.

41  
42 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay. Give me just a few  
43 more minutes to go over it and look for any corrections.

44  
45 (Pause)

46  
47 CHAIRMAN SAM: I got a question, Vince,  
48 on Page 17, Tri-Council recommendation. Is that the  
49 correct way to get it on record?

50

00025

1 MR. REAKOFF: Mr. Chairman.

2

3 CHAIRMAN SAM: Jack.

4

5 MR. REAKOFF: I see I'm down here as an  
6 excused absence. I was there for the whole entire  
7 meeting so I'm not sure how I was excused.

8

9 CHAIRMAN SAM: You got that correction.

10

11 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, Mr. Chairman.

12

13 CHAIRMAN SAM: I think that might have  
14 been just that informal work session that we had prior to  
15 the meeting, is that the one Vince -- yeah, that pre-  
16 meeting was just a work session.

17

18 MR. MATHEWS: No, this was the actual  
19 meeting.

20

21 CHAIRMAN SAM: All right. All right.

22

23 MR. MATHEWS: And the difficulty we're  
24 having here, again, we mentioned in the training, the  
25 Board of Fish meeting, the Board of Game meeting on top  
26 of different other meetings, these minutes were parceled  
27 out as to who to do them, and, so they did a good job on  
28 them et cetera, but I didn't get a chance to review the  
29 Bi-Council meeting minutes, so just to give you an idea.  
30 So that's a good catch there on that one.

31

32 And you fully realize you have full  
33 written transcripts of all the meetings as the back up  
34 so.....

35

36 (Carl Morgan Arrives)

37

38 CHAIRMAN SAM: For the record, the Chair  
39 will recognize Carl Morgan as being present. I did go  
40 over this and I thought I went over it pretty well and  
41 like I said it was pretty long.

42

43 (Pause)

44

45 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay, we're just dealing  
46 with the minutes of the Tri-Council, right, there was a  
47 motion to adopt, was there a second?

48

49 MR. STICKMAN: I seconded.

50

00026

1 CHAIRMAN SAM: Seconded by Mickey  
2 Stickman. You want a few more minutes.

3  
4 (Council nods affirmatively)

5  
6 (Pause)

7  
8 CHAIRMAN SAM: Any corrections.

9  
10 (No comments)

11  
12 MR. STICKMAN: Call for the question.

13  
14 CHAIRMAN SAM: Question's been called.  
15 All those in favor of adopting the Tri-Council meeting  
16 held October 14th and 15th in Wasilla signify by saying  
17 aye.

18  
19 IN UNISON: Aye.

20  
21 CHAIRMAN SAM: Those opposed, same sign.

22  
23 (No opposing votes)

24  
25 CHAIRMAN SAM: Motion carried. The Chair  
26 will entertain a motion to adopt the Western Interior  
27 Regional Subsistence Council meeting on October 16th.

28  
29 MR. STICKMAN: Move to adopt.

30  
31 CHAIRMAN SAM: Is there a second.

32  
33 MR. REAKOFF: Second.

34  
35 CHAIRMAN SAM: Seconded by Jack Reakoff.

36  
37 Again, a few minutes to review the  
38 Western Interior meeting minutes.

39  
40 (Pause)

41  
42 CHAIRMAN SAM: Same thing under two,  
43 excused absence.

44  
45 (Pause)

46  
47 CHAIRMAN SAM: Vince, did you catch that  
48 under 2A2, excused absence for both Ray and Carl?

49  
50 MR. MATHEWS: Right.

00027

1 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay.

2

3 MR. MATHEWS: I'll try in the future then  
4 to list them as excused absences instead of just  
5 absences.

6

7 CHAIRMAN SAM: All right.

8

9 (Pause)

10

11 MR. REAKOFF: Mr. Chairman.

12

13 CHAIRMAN SAM: Jack.

14

15 MR. REAKOFF: In the minutes we had  
16 discussed that Predator Management Policy. I would like  
17 this record to note that we were endorsing the concept of  
18 predator management but not the policy itself. And that  
19 when we discussed this Predator Management Policy at this  
20 meeting we have to clarify what our intents are, so I  
21 would bring that out.

22

23 CHAIRMAN SAM: What page is that?

24

25 MR. REAKOFF: It'd be on page,  
26 discussion, primarily overlapping Page 25 and 26 under  
27 Council discussion.

28

29 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay, what did you want on  
30 this one again, Jack?

31

32 MR. REAKOFF: I just wanted this record  
33 to.....

34

35 REPORTER: Jack.

36

37 CHAIRMAN SAM: Your microphone.

38

39 MR. REAKOFF: Oh, excuse me. I just  
40 wanted us to note that we were basically approving the  
41 concept, seconded by Walker to approve the concept of  
42 this Draft Predator Management Policy. Greg Roczicka  
43 contacted me and they were under the impression that we  
44 had approved the Predator Management Policy, we were  
45 approving the concept of predator management.

46

47 CHAIRMAN SAM: So you want.....

48

49 REPORTER: Ron.

50

00028

1 CHAIRMAN SAM: .....us to put in we  
2 accept the concept.....

3  
4 REPORTER: Ron. Ron.

5  
6 MR. WALKER: Mr. Chair, your mike.

7  
8 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yes. On the third  
9 sentence down on Page 26 it says to approve the concept.

10  
11 MR. REAKOFF: Right.

12  
13 CHAIRMAN SAM: That's all we did then,  
14 just clarification, right?

15  
16 MR. REAKOFF: Right.

17  
18 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay. Do you have  
19 anything else on Western Interior Council meeting  
20 minutes.

21  
22 MR. STICKMAN: Mr. Chair.

23  
24 CHAIRMAN SAM: Mickey.

25  
26 MR. STICKMAN: If you look at the top of  
27 Page 27, you know, we talked about the State of Alaska  
28 having a seat on the Federal Subsistence Board. I was  
29 just wondering, did that pass or do they have a seat on  
30 the Federal Subsistence Board?

31  
32 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yeah, for clarification  
33 purposes, does anyone know? Tom. Tom.

34  
35 MR. KRON: Yes, Mr. Chairman.....

36  
37 CHAIRMAN SAM: Would you use the mike,  
38 please.

39  
40 MR. KRON: Mr. Chairman. Members of the  
41 Council. We'll provide an update on that. There's a  
42 letter from Secretary Norton to the Governor that we'll  
43 pass out later on in the agenda so we can speak to that  
44 later on.

45  
46 CHAIRMAN SAM: Satisfactory.

47  
48 MR. STICKMAN: Yes, thank you.

49  
50 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay, thank you, Tom.

00029

1 (Pause)

2

3 CHAIRMAN SAM: Anything further on the  
4 minutes.

5

6 (No comments)

7

8 CHAIRMAN SAM: Anything further on the  
9 Western Interior minutes.

10

11 MR. STICKMAN: I call for the question.

12

13 CHAIRMAN SAM: Question has been called  
14 on the motion to adopt the Western Interior meeting  
15 minutes of October 16th. All those in favor of the  
16 motion signify by saying aye.

17

18 IN UNISON: Aye.

19

20 CHAIRMAN SAM: Those opposed, same sign.

21

22 (No opposing votes)

23

24 CHAIRMAN SAM: Motion carried. Draft  
25 minutes of the YK-Delta, Western Interior Council meeting  
26 October 12th and 13th, Wasilla.

27

28 MR. STICKMAN: I make a motion to adopt  
29 the minutes for the YK.....

30

31 CHAIRMAN SAM: Is there a second.

32

33 MR. STICKMAN: The Yukon-Kuskokwim and  
34 the YK-Delta and the Western Interior Bi-Council meeting.

35

36 CHAIRMAN SAM: Is there a second.

37

38 MR. JONES: I second the motion.

39

40 CHAIRMAN SAM: Seconded by Benedict Jones  
41 for the record.

42

43 A few minutes to go over it.

44

45 (Pause)

46

47 CHAIRMAN SAM: Any corrections.

48

49 (No comments)

50

00030

1 CHAIRMAN SAM: Any corrections.

2

3 (No comments)

4

5 CHAIRMAN SAM: Comments.

6

7 (No comments)

8

9 CHAIRMAN SAM: Any further corrections or  
10 comments.

11

12 (No comments)

13

14 CHAIRMAN SAM: I know we got two new  
15 guys, three, four so it was kind of tough on them.

16

17 MR. WALKER: Question.

18

19 CHAIRMAN SAM: Question's been called.

20 All those in favor of adopting the YK-Delta, Western  
21 Interior meeting minutes of October 12th and 13th signify  
22 by saying aye.

23

24 IN UNISON: Aye.

25

26 CHAIRMAN SAM: Those opposed, same sign.

27

28 (No opposing votes)

29

30 CHAIRMAN SAM: Motion carried. At this  
31 time I would again acknowledge the presence of Carl  
32 Morgan, Aniak. And Carl if you have any concerns at this  
33 time I would like to have you introduce them.

34

35 MR. MORGAN: Not at this time, Mr.  
36 Chairman.

37

38 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay, thank you. Wildlife  
39 regulatory proposal review. Do you want to take a break  
40 or anything, it's 4:15.

41

42 You had something, Vince.

43

44 MR. MATHEWS: No, we just need to, before  
45 we get into the proposals, do your ethic's disclosure so  
46 I was just going to remind you of that.

47

48 CHAIRMAN SAM: And what's that?

49

50 (Laughter)

00031

1 MR. MATHEWS: That's the lavender sheet  
2 that I provided you during training where you have to  
3 provide, you know, on the record your financial interests  
4 on matters that will be before the Council at this  
5 meeting.

6  
7 Most of you are going to be under number  
8 1. Carl's coming in not knowing this, but basically now  
9 they need to do a disclosures on any financial interests  
10 that might relate to the issues that are before the  
11 Council at this time. And there's examples on the back  
12 page of six different ways of doing it, but, most of the  
13 people on here will be under number 1, which says they do  
14 not have any commercial permits or businesses. But those  
15 that do will have to take one of these and modify it.  
16 And then once that's given on the record, then the  
17 designated Federal officer, which is myself, would say  
18 they qualify to participate or not.

19  
20 CHAIRMAN SAM: So in essence you're  
21 qualifying all of us, blanket qualifying, right?

22  
23 (Laughter)

24  
25 MR. MATHEWS: Well, I can't do the  
26 blanket yet. I'm hoping down the road we can do a  
27 blanket but for this meeting it would be best to at least  
28 get on the record your ethic's disclosures. It's the  
29 same thing they do at Board of Game and Board of Fish and  
30 everything else.

31  
32 CHAIRMAN SAM: So you want all of us here  
33 to state our.....

34  
35 MR. MATHEWS: I'm afraid so at this time.

36  
37 CHAIRMAN SAM: .....listing. Okay.  
38 Number 1. Is anybody else ready to declare, Robert.

39  
40 MR. WALKER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.  
41 Vince, I hold a commercial fishing license for Y4, is  
42 that considered -- I don't own a lodge or air taxi or I'm  
43 not a transporter or guide. So would that still put me  
44 under number 1 or would that put me under number 5?

45  
46 MR. MATHEWS: You should note it on there  
47 but we don't have any issues at this time that's going to  
48 deal with commercial fishing in that area.

49  
50 MR. WALKER: Right.

00032

1 MR. MATHEWS: So I'm trying to find one  
2 here that would say that. But you would just say I also  
3 hold, did you say a limited entry permit?

4  
5 MR. WALKER: Yeah.

6  
7 MR. MATHEWS: Yeah, you would hold a  
8 limited entry permit for District, I don't remember, Y4,  
9 I think you said.

10  
11 MR. STICKMAN: Y4A.

12  
13 MR. MATHEWS: Okay. You would just note  
14 that so it's on the record that everyone knows that you  
15 -- that you're letting them know that you have a permit  
16 for that area.

17  
18 MR. WALKER: Okay.

19  
20 MR. MATHEWS: It would come into play if  
21 we  
22 were going to close fisheries on the river, we would need  
23 to know that information.

24  
25 MR. WALKER: Okay. So would that be  
26 under five or.....

27  
28 MR. SIAVELIS: Number 2 is what he's  
29 asking, he's got a commercial permit but not for that  
30 area.

31  
32 MR. MATHEWS: It would be number 2, I  
33 just couldn't find where it said limited entry permit so  
34 it would be under number 2.

35  
36 MR. WALKER: Okay.

37  
38 MR. MATHEWS: That you hold a commercial  
39 permit or that you hold a limited entry permit for the  
40 area. It's just to get it on the record. See this goes  
41 back to what we talked about in training, the importance  
42 of this Council is rising up so people want to know where  
43 you guys are coming from, what's your background, so  
44 there's no conflict of interest, and it works to your  
45 advantage because it will be clear on the record that you  
46 acknowledged what your financial interests would be.

47  
48 And I know it's kind of difficult to do  
49 because it's the first time we've done it but it makes it  
50 clear on the record.

00033

1 CHAIRMAN SAM: Robert.

2

3 MR. WALKER: All right, thank you, Mr.  
4 Chairman. Vince, maybe this should be rewritten here to  
5 show a limited entry commission for Y4 or Y5 or Y6,  
6 whichever, because I am kind of like skeptical with this  
7 whole thing here that my name is John Doe and I live in  
8 such and such a place and I do subsist and I do  
9 commercial fish whenever there is a commercial season.

10

11 So getting back to this, the next time  
12 that we suggest language for this ethic's disclosure,  
13 there should be a category seven for this.

14

15 CHAIRMAN SAM: Couldn't we just go on  
16 record as recognizing that as a fact?

17

18 MR. MATHEWS: Yes.

19

20 CHAIRMAN SAM: I would like it to go on  
21 record.

22

23

24 MR. STICKMAN: Mr. Chairman.

25

26 CHAIRMAN SAM: Mickey.

27

28 MR. STICKMAN: I agree with Robert, too,  
29 because the designation is important because, you know,  
30 his license is in Y4A where they haven't had a commercial  
31 fishing opening for 10 years, so, you know, it's  
32 important to have that designation because, well, you  
33 know, it does make a difference.

34

35 CHAIRMAN SAM: Vince.

36

37 MR. MATHEWS: The key point is it's not  
38 going to have a significant and financial interest, you  
39 don't have a significant and financial interest because  
40 the fisheries hasn't been prosecuted but it should just  
41 be on the record. If you guys go into this Special  
42 Action on Area M, everything we say will be pretty  
43 closely looked at. So it would be clear on the record  
44 that you have a commercial background, but at this point  
45 I don't see it as a significant financial interest so I  
46 would grant you ability to participate in all the  
47 activities.

48

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

50 I'll take your word on this Vince and since it's

00034

1 recorded, that you stated, that we or I could, thank you  
2 very much Vince.

3

4 MR. SIAVELIS: Mr. Chairman.

5

6 CHAIRMAN SAM: George.

7

8 MR. KRISKA: Mr. Chairman.

9

10 CHAIRMAN SAM: Tommy.

11

12 MR. KRISKA: I'm a Class A assistant  
13 guide, too, and I'm kind of stumped about where you're  
14 going on all of these things here. I mean if you  
15 wouldn't just mind.....

16

17 MR. MATHEWS: Well, I think it would end  
18 up being -- you would be under number 2, you also are a  
19 Class A guide in such and such area. It's just making it  
20 clear on the record your background on the area so that  
21 if an action is taken -- they've given an example down  
22 here, where it's going to directly benefit your industry  
23 people need to -- that you benefit from, it has to be  
24 known that ahead of time so people understand that.

25

26 CHAIRMAN SAM: George, you had something.

27

28 MR. SIAVELIS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.  
29 I, George Siavelis, I'm a hunting guide. I presently own  
30 a commercial permit on State land in Unit 19 and I have a  
31 guide concession permit in the Yukon Delta National  
32 Wildlife Refuge for brown bears only. But I don't  
33 believe I have any direct financial interest in any  
34 proposals before us today, if I'm not mistaken, I don't  
35 believe I do.

36

37 Thank you.

38

39 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, George. Is  
40 that all you needed out of George?

41

42 MR. MATHEWS: Yeah, and then I would  
43 respond, just to get it on the record that member George  
44 Siavelis does not have any significant financial interest  
45 directly related to the matters before the Council at  
46 this meeting and may fully participate. And then we  
47 would just go with each member that way.

48

49 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay. Jack.

50

00035

1 MR. REAKOFF: Mr. Chairman. My name is  
2 Jack Reakoff. I live in Wiseman in the Western Interior  
3 region. I hold a limited entry permit for Southwest  
4 Alaska but not in this region. And I have no conflict  
5 with any proposals that we would be addressing.

6  
7 Thank you.

8  
9 MR. MATHEWS: Okay. Mr. Chairman, Member  
10 Jack Reakoff does not have any significant financial  
11 interest directly related to the matters before this  
12 Council at this meeting and may fully participate.

13  
14 CHAIRMAN SAM: Go ahead, Ray.

15  
16 MR. COLLINS: My name is Ray Collins. I  
17 live In McGrath. I subsistence -- or I may subsistence  
18 hunt and fish in areas under consideration at this  
19 meeting. I do not hold any commercial permits or conduct  
20 any business activities directly affected by any agenda  
21 items before the Council. And I say, may, because I may  
22 be hunting on State lands and not in Federal.

23  
24 MR. MATHEWS: Thank you. Mr. Chairman,  
25 Member Ray Collins does not have any significant  
26 financial interest directly related to the matters at  
27 this Council at this meeting and may fully participate.

28  
29 CHAIRMAN SAM: Mickey.

30  
31 MR. STICKMAN: Okay. My name is Mickey  
32 Stickman. I live in Nulato. I subsistence hunt and fish  
33 in the areas under consideration at this meeting. I do  
34 not hold any commercial permits or conduct any business  
35 activities directly affected by any agenda items before  
36 the Council.

37  
38 MR. MATHEWS: Thank you. Mr. Chairman,  
39 Member Mickey Stickman does not have any significant  
40 financial interest directly related to the matters before  
41 this Council at this meeting and may fully participate.

42  
43 CHAIRMAN SAM: Was I already cleared?

44  
45 (Laughter)

46  
47 CHAIRMAN SAM: Was I already cleared,  
48 adopted?

49  
50 (Laughter)

00036

1 MR. MATHEWS: Well, for the record it'd  
2 make it easier if.....

3

4 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay. My name is Ron Sam  
5 and I live in Alatna. I subsistence hunt and fish in the  
6 areas -- no -- okay, this covers the whole meeting,  
7 right, I subsistence hunt and fish in the areas under  
8 consideration at this meeting. I do not hold any  
9 commercial permits or conduct any business activities  
10 directly affected by any agenda items before the Council.

11

12 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, you,  
13 yourself, I don't see any significant financial interest  
14 directly related to the matters before this Council at  
15 this meeting and may fully participate.

16

17 MR. JONES: Mr. Chairman, my name is  
18 Benedict Jones. I subsistence fishing and hunting,  
19 trapping, and I don't hold any commercial interests.

20

21 MR. MATHEWS: Thank you. Mr. Chairman,  
22 Mr. Benedict Jones does not have any significant  
23 financial interest directly related to the matters before  
24 this Council at this meeting and may fully participate.

25

26 CHAIRMAN SAM: Robert is cleared.

27

28 MR. MATHEWS: I think earlier on in the  
29 record Robert indicated that he does have a limited entry  
30 permit in Y4 and that he does subsistence hunt and fish  
31 in the areas under consideration. I do not see that he  
32 has any significant financial interest directly related  
33 to the matters before this meeting and may fully  
34 participate.

35

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

42

43 MR. MATHEWS: Thank you. Mr. Chairman,  
44 Member Carl Morgan does not have any significant  
45 financial interest directly related to the matters before  
46 the Council at this meeting and may fully participate.

47

48 CHAIRMAN SAM: Tommy was cleared already,  
49 too?

50

00037

1 MR. MATHEWS: What?

2

3 CHAIRMAN SAM: Is Tommy cleared?

4

5 MR. MATHEWS: Oh, yeah, earlier in the  
6 discussion Tom Kriska mentioned that he was an assistant  
7 guide and that he subsistence hunts and fished in the  
8 areas under consideration at this meeting.

9

10 Therefore, I do not see any significant  
11 financial interest directly related to the matters before  
12 this Council at this meeting and may fully participate.

13

14 Thank you, Mr. Chair. That gets us  
15 through the ethic's disclosures. We'll be faster down  
16 the road but this just kind of gets it rolling.  
17 Remember, since Carl came in, under proposal review  
18 procedures we added in the additional step under open  
19 floor, public comments, that the Inter-Agency Staff  
20 Committee would be sharing their talking points, if they  
21 do have talking points on a particular proposal.

22

23 So with that, Mr. Chairman, that brings  
24 us up to Proposal 77, which is under -- well, I have a  
25 little bit of a problem with my book here, but it's under  
26 Tab B as in Boy, it's at Page 39.

27

28 And I apologize for the book being out of  
29 order, Tom, number 1 is in the book, so we'll just sort  
30 through this as much as we can, but anyway's, Proposal 77  
31 was submitted by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game.  
32 It basically simplifies the regulations.....

33

34 CHAIRMAN SAM: Vince, does the Council  
35 want to go on a quick five minute break or not? I see we  
36 have new Staff coming in too, would you introduce them --  
37 yeah, Vince, introduce the new Staff?

38

39 MR. MATHEWS: Oh, I'm sorry, I didn't --  
40 I don't know some of them, I know Geoff Beyersdorf is  
41 right below the map there, he's covering up Yukon-Delta  
42 Refuge there on the map. I don't know the person next to  
43 him so they'll have to introduce themselves. And then I  
44 did see -- I thought I saw Mike Spindler -- there's Mike,  
45 and then there's another face I don't know. So maybe  
46 Mike would like to introduce his Staff because I have not  
47 met them before.

48

49 MR. SPINDLER: (Not speaking into  
50 microphone)

00038

1 I'm the Refuge manager of the Koyukuk  
2 Nowitna Refuges. I'm Mike Spindler. Geoff Beyersdorf  
3 there under the map, he's the subsistence coordinator on  
4 the Staff. Jenny Bryant is a wildlife biologist, born  
5 and raised in Galena, she's been working with us for over  
6 some years now. And Bob Lambrick (ph) there he is right  
7 there, he's our fire management officer.

8

9 CHAIRMAN SAM: We also have Orville and a  
10 couple other residents of Huslia. Could you introduce  
11 everyone.

12

13 MR HUNTINGTON: Let's see Jack  
14 Wholecheese was here, but he left. Grandma Edith Bifelt  
15 was here. I think everyone else has stepped out. Wilson  
16 Sam. People will be coming in and out.

17

18 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay, thank you, Orville.  
19 Do you want a five minutes break or do you just want to  
20 go, we have dinner coming up at 5:30 at the school. And  
21 it's a fundraiser so it will probably cost us about 10  
22 bucks, I think.

23

24 Robert, you have something.

25

26 MR. WALKER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We  
27 could send Jerry to get some water.

28

29 (Laughter)

30

31 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay, Jerry.

32

33 (Laughter)

34

35 MR. MATHEWS: So are we going to go with  
36 proposals.

37

38 CHAIRMAN SAM: Do you want a break?

39

40 MR. STICKMAN: I don't know.

41

42 CHAIRMAN SAM: What's the Council's  
43 wishes.

44

45 MR. MATHEWS: So do you want to go  
46 forward with Proposal 77 then?

46

47 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yes.

48

49 MR. MATHEWS: Okay. Proposal 77 was  
50 submitted by Alaska Department of Fish and Game. It

00039

1 basically simplifies the regulations, extends the seasons  
2 and revises the harvest limits for brown bears in Units  
3 19 through 21, 24, 25, 26(A) and 26(B), and I think there  
4 were some changes on that, but this is one that you were  
5 briefed on in Wasilla by Roy Nowlin, and the full  
6 analysis is on Page 39, and I believe Pete's on line to  
7 present the analysis.

8

9 CHAIRMAN SAM: At this time the Chair  
10 will entertain a motion to adopt Proposal 77.

11

12 MR. STICKMAN: So moved.

13

14 CHAIRMAN SAM: Is there a second.

15

16 MR. WALKER: Second.

17

18 MR. REAKOFF: Second.

19

20 CHAIRMAN SAM: Go ahead. Pete, are you  
21 on line?

22

23 MR. BERG: Pete, are you there, we're  
24 ready for Proposal 77. We haven't talked to Pete since  
25 the start of the meeting at 3:00 so I don't know if our  
26 line has died. We better take a break for five minutes.

27

28 (No Answer - Phone Disconnect)

29

30 CHAIRMAN SAM: Five minute break. Thank  
31 you, Pete.

32

33 (Off record)

34

35 (On record)

36

37 CHAIRMAN SAM: We've got Pete on line,  
38 we've got our recorder here and let's find our ways back  
39 to our seats I'd like to get going.

40

41 (Pause)

42

43 CHAIRMAN SAM: Can we find our way back  
44 to our seats so we can get going.

45

46 (Pause)

47

48 CHAIRMAN SAM: We do have Pete DeMatteo  
49 on line and we'd like to get going.

50

00040

1 (Dialing - Telephone Problems)

2

3 CHAIRMAN SAM: Well, we had him on line.

4

5 MR. BERG: We had him.

6

7 MR. MATHEWS: Sorry to put Randy on the  
8 spot here, I didn't get a chance to talk to him on break  
9 but are you going to be presenting the State's positions  
10 on the proposals or do we just use the ones that are in  
11 the books?

12

13 MR. ROGERS: (Nods affirmatively)

14

15 MR. MATHEWS: Okay, Randy's going to be  
16 doing that. Mr. Chairman, on other proposals, while he's  
17 working to get Pete on there, your policy in the past has  
18 been to less formal, when people have positions or  
19 comments or whatever on the proposals that they come up  
20 to the table. So when we get into 62, I think it is,  
21 whatever the one on the Nowitna is, and the other ones  
22 that the Refuge would like to bring Staff up here and  
23 your policy has been to get as many up to the table and  
24 keep the dialogue rolling. So I just want to make that  
25 clear to everybody, that we can get more tables up here  
26 and more chairs and get to that.

27

28 Thank you.

29

30 (Dialing - Telephone Problems)

31

32 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay, we keep losing Pete,  
33 and we don't have anyone that can run these proposals,  
34 right?

35

36 MR. BERG: Well, not at this time. Yeah,  
37 Mr. Chairman, this is Jerry Berg with OSM. Yeah, I keep  
38 losing Pete here and I don't think we have anybody  
39 prepared in the room right now to present these analysis,  
40 so I can just keep trying to get Pete back on line here,  
41 we had him for a little bit. But I think -- I'm not sure  
42 why we keep losing him but we'll try it one more time.

43

44 (Dialing - Telephone Problems)

45

46 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay, go ahead.

47

48 (Dialing - Telephone Problems)

49

50 CHAIRMAN SAM: If we can't get Pete on

00041

1 line can we go into other business?

2

3

MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, I think what we could do and that's what I'm trying to search here -- we could divvy up some of the proposals. Pete had provided talking points for a back up of this to do in case of this, for Beaver, but I don't know if I packed those in my bag here.

9

10

And Polly is willing to step up to the plate since she is the expert on customary and traditional use determinations, that we would take those proposals out of sequence, so that might be a good thing to do, for her to take up proposals, and then Staff, we're just going to have to huddle up to see how we divvy up these proposals. It's not that difficult to present, it's just that we're not ready to present so we don't want to say we can't do it, it's just we need a few minutes on those other ones that Pete would cover.

20

21

So maybe it would be good to have Polly come up on -- I've got too many books opened up here, but there's the one C&T ones from Andy Bratstrud, if I pronounced it right, and that would allow us to continue to see why we can't get a hold of Pete, and those would be Proposals 56, 82 and 83, and possibly Proposal 55.

27

28

You're out of sequence but we were out of sequence with the training, too, and we were able to pull you through that. So it might be a good use of time to have Polly come up and deal with the proposals that come out of the North Slope region.

33

34

CHAIRMAN SAM: And what proposal would that be?

36

37

MR. MATHEWS: It'd be 56, 82, 83 and I haven't had time to find out the page numbers, Page 81. The analysis starts on Page 81 in your book under Tab B.

40

41

CHAIRMAN SAM: What was that proposal number?

43

44

MR. STICKMAN: 52.

45

46

MS. WHEELER: Mr. Chair, Polly Wheeler with the Office of Subsistence Management. It's three proposal numbers, it's a little bit confusing but the proposals all basically ask for the same thing so they're analyzed as a group, and it's Proposal No. 56, 82, and

50

00042

1 83, and the analysis in the book starts on Page 81 and  
2 goes to Page 96.

3

4 CHAIRMAN SAM: All right. For the record  
5 we do have a motion and a second on the floor so I would  
6 like the makers of the motion and the second to withdraw  
7 their motion.

8

9 Who moved Tina?

10

11 REPORTER: Mickey.

12

13 MR. STICKMAN: Okay, I withdraw my  
14 motion.

15

16 CHAIRMAN SAM: To adopt Proposal 77.

17

18 MR. STICKMAN: To adopt Proposal 77.

19

20 CHAIRMAN SAM: Who seconded Tina?

21

22 REPORTER: Jack or Robert, both of them  
23 seconded.

24

25 CHAIRMAN SAM: Does the second withdraw?

26

27 MR. REAKOFF: (Nods affirmatively)

28

29 MR. WALKER: (Nods affirmatively)

30

31 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay, our motion on the  
32 floor has been withdrawn.

33

34 MR. REAKOFF: Mr. Chairman.

35

36 CHAIRMAN SAM: Go ahead.

37

38 MR. REAKOFF: I make a motion to adopt  
39 Proposals 56, 82 and 83 for analysis.

40

41 CHAIRMAN SAM: Second.

42

43 MR. STICKMAN: I second.

44

45 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay, introduction of  
46 proposal. There's a motion to adopt 56, 82 and 83.  
47 Introduction, please. Who is this now, the introduction  
48 -- okay, Polly, go ahead.

49

50 MS. WHEELER: Thank you. Mr. Chair.

00043

1 Again, for the record, it's Polly Wheeler with the Office  
2 of Subsistence Management and as I indicated to you  
3 earlier this morning, currently we only have three  
4 anthropologists at the Office of Subsistence Management  
5 so we're all covering each of the regions to the extent  
6 possible so that's why you have me before you talking  
7 about this proposal analysis.

8

9                   This analysis, as I said earlier was --  
10 there were three proposals that were combined into one  
11 because they are all asking for the same thing. They  
12 were submitted by Andy Brattrud and I'm not sure if I've  
13 pronounced his name right, but together the three  
14 proposals request that the existing customary and  
15 traditional use determinations for caribou in Units 24  
16 and 26(B) be expanded to include all residents of the  
17 Dalton Highway Corridor north of the Yukon River.

18

19                   And again, for the sake of the record, I  
20 would refer to the analysis that is in your Board book,  
21 again, on Pages 81 to 96. Given that the analysis is in  
22 there and it speaks to the eight factors as we discussed  
23 this morning that are how the C&T determinations are  
24 made, basically it speaks to the eight factors.

25

26                   And the recommendation of the analysis is  
27 that the proposal be supported, and the reason why the  
28 proposal is supported by Staff, is that, while limited  
29 information is available regarding the hunting and  
30 fishing practices of residents along the Dalton Highway  
31 Corridor, in camps, Coldfoot and isolated houses, it is  
32 known that many of those residents have long-term ties to  
33 the area and its natural resources.

34

35                   The Koyukon and the Nunimuit indigenous  
36 inhabitants of that area, their uses of caribou fulfill  
37 the eight factors. While no data are available on the  
38 uses of the people living in the corridor, except for  
39 Wiseman, and there is limited data available for Wiseman,  
40 it's assumed that the long-term permanent residents would  
41 adopt many of the uses similar to those of the people in  
42 the region.

43

44                   There is a concern regarding residents in  
45 Coldfoot and along the corridor about their participation  
46 in subsistence hunting and that has been that many people  
47 feel that transient individuals working in pump stations,  
48 road maintenance facilities and construction camps should  
49 not be allowed to take subsistence resources. However,  
50 most of the transient or seasonal workers in or visitors

00044

1 to the corridor have been precluded from hunting caribou  
2 under the rural residency requirements, again, as we  
3 talked about this morning in the training session  
4 including the customary and traditional use  
5 determinations.

6  
7 A 1999 change in Federal Subsistence  
8 regulations required an individual to be able to obtain  
9 an Alaska resident hunting license to qualify as a  
10 Federally-recognized subsistence user. As a result of  
11 the change any recent immigrant to Alaska employed and  
12 living at Coldfoot or a work camp within the corridor is  
13 prohibited from harvesting Unit 24 caribou, and  
14 individuals must maintain their primary residence in the  
15 corridor. The 1999 change addressed many of the concerns  
16 voiced at Council meetings regarding potential abuses of  
17 the Federal Subsistence Program by transient corridor  
18 residents.

19  
20 So, again, Mr. Chair and Council members,  
21 the recommendation is to support the proposal and Vince  
22 will probably speak to actions that were taken by other  
23 Councils on this proposal.

24  
25 So with that I would say thank you.

26  
27 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, Mr. Chairman, I'm  
28 sorry I'm trying to find those other notes for you, but  
29 the next step would any agency comments on this proposal.

30  
31 I don't have any. I don't know if Park  
32 Service -- this is a chance for agency reps that are  
33 here, if they had any comments on these to come forward,  
34 that would include tribal, State, Federal and I don't  
35 know of any.

36  
37 (No comments)

38  
39 MR. MATHEWS: Okay, then the next step  
40 would be open floor comments, I know this sounds mundane  
41 here but we've noticed at other meetings if we don't do  
42 that then people don't come up to the mike. So if  
43 there's anybody here for public comments on these  
44 proposals they're more than welcome to come up to any of  
45 the microphones here.

46  
47 (No comments)

48  
49 MR. MATHEWS: Okay, I don't see any. And  
50 then that leads us up to the new step for the Inter-

00045

1 Agency Staff Committee, if they have any talking points.  
2 And then by then I'll be able to find out -- I'm trying  
3 to search the recommendations for the other Councils, but  
4 that will only take a second. So I don't know if the  
5 Staff-Committee has any.

6

7 MR. BRELSFORD: Not on this one.

8

9 MR. MATHEWS: Okay, they don't. They  
10 don't on this one, okay. All right, then it falls back  
11 to me -- well, actually I apologize we're just bouncing  
12 too much here. At some point the State comments come up.

13

14 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yes.

15

16 MR. MATHEWS: And so we need to get the  
17 State comments, so that would have been under Agency  
18 comments. And Randy said he was going to cover those so,  
19 again, we're a little out of step, so we'll just take a  
20 deep breath and get the State comments on Proposal 56,  
21 82, and 83, if they're willing to cover them. If not, I  
22 can summarize them from their comments, but sometimes  
23 they change.

24

25 MR. ROGERS: Go ahead, Vince.

26

27 MR. MATHEWS: Oh, he's willing to give it  
28 to me. Well, basically the State is neutral on it.  
29 Well, you can see it on Page 97 so I don't want to read  
30 it to you. They wanted without such input it does not  
31 seem to appear to be enough sufficient information  
32 available to fully evaluate the proposal. They were  
33 waiting for outcome from this meeting on it for this  
34 discussion on this customary and traditional use  
35 determination.

36

37 Okay, then that leads me into the -- I'm  
38 going fast here so slow me down if I get too fast.

39

40 Then we go into public comments. Now,  
41 the main public comment that we received and, again, you  
42 know, out of deference to the public I'm covering their  
43 comments and summarizing as best I can.

44

45 This was submitted by Susan Henderson of  
46 Coldfoot. This is my summary of her fairly lengthy  
47 letter on these three proposals. So I'll try to  
48 summarize that. It's on the bottom of Pages 97 through  
49 98. And she feels that there's a feeling of prejudice  
50 and discrimination within many of the peoples of the area

00046

1 north of the Yukon River. She does not see that ANILCA  
2 discriminates in regard to whether a person lives in a  
3 town or whether they live in a trapping cabin outside of  
4 town. It simply states that a pattern of traditional  
5 pattern of use exists for subsistence users. The  
6 residents in the area north of the Yukon River, whether  
7 in town or outside of town have since the early 1800s  
8 gone to the woods to find their sustenance for their  
9 families and themselves.

10

11 She references several literally  
12 references. I requested that she do that so that's  
13 partially why that's there.

14

15 The current regulations addressed in  
16 Proposals 55, 56, 82 and 83 show a need for change  
17 because hunger and the lack of equality that exists,  
18 equal opportunity for all rural residents in the unit are  
19 not being met. Many of the unit residents feel a need to  
20 remedy their feeling of discrimination. Special  
21 attention is being paid to Wiseman with exclusionary  
22 wording for all other residents of the Dalton Highway  
23 Corridor.

24

25 She does not agree there would be no  
26 change at all in the wildlife populations. If one life  
27 is taken there is change.

28

29 She also does not believe the change in  
30 numbers will endanger the wildlife populations.

31

32 The proposals are just asking for a  
33 sustainable amount for the deserving and future eligible  
34 residents. Passage of these proposals would provide  
35 relief to subsistence users due to lifting of the feeling  
36 of being overlooked and discriminated against as well as  
37 a greater chance or success to harvest a supply of meat  
38 and of clothing would be offered. All communities within  
39 the area have used game to sustain themselves and assure  
40 their survival.

41

42 So that was Susan Henderson.

43

44 Eastern Interior took up this proposal in  
45 Beaver February 27th, and they voted to support -- oh,  
46 no, I'm sorry, wrong proposal. Wrong proposal, sorry,  
47 yeah, definitely wrong proposal. This one took a lot of  
48 time in the meeting in Beaver. I'm sorry to bounce  
49 around here, but on 56, 82 and 83, they recommended to  
50 defer to the home region, but they -- well, I lost the

00047

1 page, it's gone, that's interesting.

2

3

4 There was a lot of discussion on these  
5 proposals and they just deferred to the home region, and  
6 I had other paragraphs in here but they're gone. But  
7 basically -- I don't know why that happened but it did.  
8 They wanted me to make it clear that they were concerned  
9 about the potential conflicts within the corridor. That  
10 was one position. And the other position was that  
11 passage of these proposals would be a hand stretched out  
12 of friendship to other people in the area.

12

13

14 And I apologize that my notes are not  
15 clear here but I had it all written up. But they wanted  
16 it clearly brought forward that they spent a lot of time  
17 on these proposals. Yeah, it's under 55, I just didn't  
18 carry it underneath. But basically they discussed that  
19 the human populations fluctuate within the area of  
20 concern over the past 100 years and the negative impact  
21 of mining that had on the indigenous people of the area  
22 -- there was lengthy discussion about that. The  
23 discussion centered on the passage of the proposal as a  
24 way to address the tension between the residents of the  
25 corridor versus the proposed additions.

25

26

27 So they finally concluded after heated  
28 discussion that they would defer to the home region, just  
29 so you know that. So Eastern Interior's deferring to you  
30 but they wanted to convey their discussions on it.

30

31

32 No other -- well, wait a minute, North  
33 Slope would have taken these up and Wennona was at that  
34 meeting and Sandy Rabinowitch, and Jack was there, so  
35 we'll want to get input from them on what North Slope did  
36 on these proposals, 56, 82 and 83.

36

37

38 CHAIRMAN SAM: About the only one we can  
39 deal with is 56, right?

39

40

41 MR. MATHEWS: We're dealing with them as  
42 a group because he was asking.....

42

43

44 CHAIRMAN SAM: The only one that's in our  
45 home region is 56, right?

45

46

47 MR. REAKOFF: Mr. Chairman.

47

48

49 CHAIRMAN SAM: Go ahead, Jack.

49

50

50 MR. REAKOFF: This reason this 82 is

00048

1 included for caribou is because it would give C&T to our  
2 regions residents to have a C&T in 26(B). That's why  
3 we're looking at this 82, and this 83 is kind of  
4 redundant.

5  
6 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay, where are we at now,  
7 we need a reprint of this proposal review procedure. Get  
8 one for tomorrow. Where are we at now?

9  
10 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, we were  
11 finishing up with summary of public comments and we were  
12 incorporating -- since two Regional Councils met before  
13 you we were incorporating their actions on the proposal.  
14 So I'm pretty sure we're pretty close, once we get North  
15 Slope's what they did. Then we're done with the summary  
16 of written public comments and then you go into your  
17 deliberations and discussions.

18  
19 But the reason 82 and 83 are before you  
20 is because you have a positive C&T determination for the  
21 area.

22  
23 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay. I understand that  
24 now.

25  
26 MR. COLLINS: Mr. Chairman.

27  
28 CHAIRMAN SAM: Ray.

29  
30 MR. COLLINS: Yeah, I have a question,  
31 Vince, from your comment. They ended up deferring to us  
32 for a final determination but it sounded like at the end  
33 of their conversation they were in favor, is that right,  
34 they were talking about reconciliation and so on or were  
35 they still up in the air? I wasn't sure.

36  
37 MR. MATHEWS: They were still up in the  
38 air.

39  
40 MR. COLLINS: Okay.

41  
42 MR. MATHEWS: Well, they were still up in  
43 the air on the issue so they decided just to defer on it  
44 because of the fact that a lot of it's not in their area  
45 and it was one of the most intense debates that I've  
46 experienced in a few years so I think it was wise on  
47 their part to defer action on that proposal because of  
48 the intensity of the discussion. And then they didn't  
49 have that much area in there.

50

00049

1                   It was just a revisiting of the past that  
2 was very difficult for some of the Council members, the  
3 impacts of mining on the communities in the area came  
4 back up strongly where C&T also was looked at is if  
5 there's -- if people are following their traditional use  
6 patterns, then why can't they be in there, so the Council  
7 was debating that back and forth, and then finally just  
8 decided to defer, which was, I think, the wisest decision  
9 at that point because they were getting pretty polarized  
10 on the issue.

11

12                   CHAIRMAN SAM: So we're up to Council  
13 deliberations?

14

15                   MR. MATHEWS: Unless we heard from North  
16 Slope. Sandy Rabinowitch has what North Slope did, which  
17 may -- and Jack was there, too, Jack was on  
18 teleconference. We're not overriding them but you need  
19 to get an idea of the debate that North Slope, if they  
20 did have one on these.

21

22                   CHAIRMAN SAM: Go ahead, Sandy.

23

24                   MR. RABINOWITCH: Thank you, Mr.  
25 Chairman. Again, Sandy Rabinowitch for the National Park  
26 Service. I was at that meeting last week and Jack  
27 Reakoff was on teleconference and he might speak to this  
28 also.

29

30                   (Telephone ringing)

31

32                   MR. RABINOWITCH: But the North Slope  
33 Council supported the proposals with a modification. And  
34 the modification was that they did not include the area  
35 in 20(F). So if you'll look at the map here right down  
36 at the bottom of the corridor there's a portion that's  
37 north of the river but south of Unit 24 and that's in  
38 Unit 20(F), and they did not include that part of 20(F).  
39 They did support the proposal for Unit 24.

40

41                   Thank you.

42

43                   CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you. Jack.

44

45                   MR. REAKOFF: I was on that  
46 teleconference and I was asked by that Council my  
47 position. I couldn't represent this Council's position,  
48 but my position, and so I had to explain to the Council  
49 some of the demographic aspects of this proposal.

50

00050

1 My opposition to 20(F) being included is  
2 there's no one that lives there. The proponent does not  
3 live in 20(F). This proponent that made this proposal to  
4 include 20(F) doesn't live there. He's living south of  
5 the river right now. Currently throughout the -- he was  
6 staying in a truck stop at the Yukon River Bridge which  
7 has been closed for multiple years in a row all winter  
8 long and so his residency is not in 20(F). He was there  
9 last summer. He went to Coldfoot the summer before but  
10 he doesn't have -- I don't see a consistent pattern of  
11 customary use.

12  
13 And so currently there's a DOT camp,  
14 which has an R&R system, at Sevenmile Camp, there's no  
15 one living in 20(F) inside the Dalton Highway Corridor  
16 and I don't feel that we should be giving C&T's to an  
17 area that has nobody in it on a year-round basis.

18  
19 I talked for the aspect of allowing the  
20 other residents of Unit 24 and so this person that wrote  
21 this scathing letter regarding the dissention between  
22 Wiseman and Coldfoot, Coldfoot is a truck stop and there  
23 has been people that have come and gone. In fact one  
24 year when Dick Mackie was running the truck stop, there  
25 were up to 209 people and tried working there and left,  
26 and so I was always skeptical about allowing a  
27 subsistence use out of a place that was highly transient.  
28 There's kind of been a demographic change in Coldfoot in  
29 the last few years and people are starting to live there  
30 that got dog teams. They're starting to actually get  
31 caribou to eat and so forth. And so I've worked towards  
32 accommodating the subsistence uses for Coldfoot. I  
33 worked towards changing the C&T to include Unit 24,  
34 Dalton Highway Corridor residents. They have C&T for  
35 moose as other Unit 24 residents, and also have a C&T for  
36 dall sheep.

37  
38 Proposal 56 would primarily ask for 20(F)  
39 to be included into Unit 24 C&T for caribou, I'm opposed  
40 to that. So I'm opposed to this Proposal 56. The people  
41 in Coldfoot have C&T for caribou, they have no  
42 complaints.

43  
44 I support Proposal 82, which would give  
45 for residents of the Corridor in Unit 24, or all  
46 residents of Unit 24, especially -- well, within the  
47 Dalton Highway Corridor for 26(B), and I do support that.  
48 Sometimes the caribou aren't available and there's  
49 caribou on the North Slope, people from Coldfoot as  
50 Wiseman may want to access caribou in Unit 26(B). And

00051

1 there's some people that are living in Coldfoot -- one  
2 person who's living in Coldfoot right now that used to  
3 live in Wiseman, there's another person that lives down  
4 south of Coldfoot about 80 miles, down by Old Man that  
5 used to live in Wiseman and also used to hunt in 26(B),  
6 and so I don't have a real problem with those few real  
7 people who are living there having a C&T for caribou in  
8 Unit 24 or caribou in 26(B). I do have a problem with  
9 giving a C&T to 20(F) where there's no one living on a  
10 year-round basis there.

11

12 And so I stated that to the Region 10,  
13 North Slope, and I guess they took my recommendation and  
14 they've adopted those as stated, that there will be no --  
15 Unit 24 caribou stays the same and 26(B) within the  
16 Dalton Highway Corridor, residents 24 can have a C&T for  
17 26(B) and as far as I understand that's the way the North  
18 Slope adopted.

19

20 Is that correct, Polly?

21

22 MS. WHEELER: That is my understanding  
23 based on your explanation just now and what Mr.  
24 Rabinowitch said earlier.

25

26 CHAIRMAN SAM: So why was the motion made  
27 to adopt all three if we oppose one?

28

29 MR. REAKOFF: Because that's the way  
30 we.....

31

32 REPORTER: Jack.

33

34 MR. REAKOFF: Oh, why did I do that, I  
35 don't know why I did that, because they were looked at in  
36 a block and I didn't realize they were going to break out  
37 like that and so I.....

38

39 CHAIRMAN SAM: Withdraw the motion.

40

41 MR. REAKOFF: I withdraw.....

42

43 CHAIRMAN SAM: Withdraw the motion and  
44 then.....

45

46 MR. REAKOFF: .....the motion and we  
47 should look at.....

48

49 CHAIRMAN SAM: .....just Proposal 56.

50

00052

1 MR. REAKOFF: .....Proposal 56 and 82  
2 separately, 83 is just a redundant proposal. And I make  
3 a motion to adopt them separately.

4  
5 CHAIRMAN SAM: Consent from the second.

6  
7 MR. STICKMAN: Yeah, I withdraw my  
8 second.

9  
10 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay. Proposal 56 is  
11 before us, there's a motion to adopt. And, again, just  
12 for my clarification you are in opposition to this  
13 proposal, right?

14  
15 MR. REAKOFF: Correction. I'm in  
16 opposition to this proposal because it would include  
17 20(F) and 24 residents of the Dalton Highway already have  
18 C&T so I'm opposed to this 56.

19  
20 CHAIRMAN SAM: Any further questions.

21  
22 (No comments)

23  
24 CHAIRMAN SAM: Any further Council  
25 deliberations.

26  
27 MR. STICKMAN: Well, you need a second?

28  
29 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay, there is a motion.

30  
31 MR. STICKMAN: You made a new motion?

32  
33 CHAIRMAN SAM: Tina.

34  
35 REPORTER: Yes.

36  
37 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yeah, he made a motion to  
38 adopt 56.

39  
40 MR. STICKMAN: Okay, I second.

41  
42 CHAIRMAN SAM: There's a motion to adopt  
43 Proposal 56 but there's also clarification that we should  
44 vote in opposition of this proposal; is this right?

45  
46 MR. REAKOFF: (Nods affirmatively)

47  
48 CHAIRMAN SAM: Any further deliberations.

49  
50 (No comments)

00053

1 MR. WALKER: Question.

2

3 CHAIRMAN SAM: Question's been called.

4 All those in favor of the motion signify by saying aye.

5

6 (No aye votes)

7

8 CHAIRMAN SAM: Opposed, same sign.

9

10 IN UNISON: Aye.

11

12 CHAIRMAN SAM: Motion fails. Proposal

13 82. The Chair will entertain a motion to adopt.

14

15 MR. REAKOFF: I make a motion to adopt

16 Proposal 82.

17

18 MR. STICKMAN: I second.

19

20 CHAIRMAN SAM: There's a motion to adopt

21 Proposal 82, seconded by Mickey Stickman. Again.....

22

23 MR. WALKER: Question.

24

25 CHAIRMAN SAM: Question's been called.

26 Again this is -- just quickly.

27

28 MR. REAKOFF: I'll correct my motion to

29 adopt. I make a motion to adopt Proposal 82 with an

30 amendment that it's only for Unit 24, not including

31 20(F).

32

33 CHAIRMAN SAM: Consent of the second.

34

35 MR. STICKMAN: Yes.

36

37 CHAIRMAN SAM: Question's been called.

38 All those in favor of the motion of adopting Proposal 82

39 signify by saying aye.

40

41 IN UNISON: Aye.

42

43 CHAIRMAN SAM: Opposed, same sign.

44

45 (No opposing votes)

46

47 CHAIRMAN SAM: Motion carried. Proposal

48 82 is passed as amended. It's now 5:15, what's the

49 pleasure of the Board, dinner at 5:30 at the school.

50

00054

1 MR. WALKER: What about 83?

2

3 CHAIRMAN SAM: Jack, for clarification,  
4 83, just maybe a motion would be in order to take no  
5 action.

6

7 MR. MATHEWS: Yeah, based on the action  
8 on 82.

9

10 MR. REAKOFF: Right. We've taken action  
11 on 82 so 83 we'll take no action on it will be my  
12 suggestion.

13

14 CHAIRMAN SAM: Do we need a motion to  
15 that effect, Vince?

16

17 MR. MATHEWS: Well, I think the record  
18 reflects that you're taking no action on Proposal 83  
19 based on the action you took on Proposal 82. 83 was a  
20 mistake proposal. So anyways, it's clear on the record  
21 that you support 82 with the modification and that you  
22 don't need to take up 83 then based on your action on 82.

23

24 CHAIRMAN SAM: Is this clear to all the  
25 Council members?

26

27 (Council nods affirmatively)

28

29 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay. Again, it's 5:18,  
30 dinner at 5:30. Do you think we should go ahead and --  
31 do you think that there's any possible way to get  
32 somebody up here to take Pete DeMatteo's place?

33

34 MR. MATHEWS: Well, we're going to  
35 strategize tonight so that's why I was trying to find  
36 out, we'll piece it together. There's no problem with  
37 that because tonight you're just having your public  
38 session back here at 7:30, so Staff can strategize how to  
39 present the remaining proposals. So I don't see it as  
40 inconceivable and then tomorrow we'll see if the phones  
41 work.

42

43 MR. WALKER: We'll have to operate.

44

45 (Laughter)

46

47 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay. How do we want to  
48 address the local proposals or do we want to at all  
49 tonight, or do we just introduce it and take no action  
50 until tomorrow until we get Pete DeMatteo, or do we have

00055

1 any directed toward local issues?

2

3

4 MR. MATHEWS: Well, there are local issue  
5 proposals. We would have to shift gears if we're going  
6 to actually present those proposals. I thought maybe  
7 tonight you would just open up the floor for comments and  
8 suggestions and I don't want to prejudge this but I got a  
9 faint feeling a lot of the people in Huslia want to know  
10 what happened at the Board of Game. So I think that will  
11 touch off the discussions, and then from there we'll just  
12 defer to tomorrow to take up any of the proposals.

12

13

14 So tonight would be a discussion. The  
15 Refuge may have some topics it wants to bring up if  
16 there's quite a bit of public that come out for the  
17 Koyukuk Refuge. That's how I would see it going. If you  
18 want us to take up proposals tonight, we can still do  
19 that, too, but I don't know how that's going to be taken  
20 by the public since we're going to be kind of bouncing  
21 issues.

21

22

23 CHAIRMAN SAM: What I was looking at is  
24 just introducing it and make them aware that we will be  
25 deliberating on these proposals sometime tomorrow and  
26 they're more than welcome to participate by public  
27 comment. Would that work?

27

28

MR. MATHEWS: Sure we can do that.

29

30

CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay.

31

32

33 MR. MATHEWS: And we'll get together on  
34 which proposals those are. I know one is Proposal 67.  
35 So we'll introduce those proposals so the public knows  
36 what's before you guys tomorrow.

36

37

38 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yes. I just want to make  
39 them aware that we will be deliberating on these  
40 proposals and that's as far as I want to go tonight and  
41 then invite them all to attend and testify. Is that fine  
42 with everyone?

42

43

(Council nods affirmatively)

44

45

46 CHAIRMAN SAM: All right, it's 5:20,  
47 we've got 10 minutes to go eat dinner. What's the wishes  
48 of the Council?

48

49

MR. STICKMAN: Recess I guess.

50

00056

1 MR. WALKER: Mr. Chairman, I say we  
2 recess until 7:30.

3  
4 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay, no objections.

5  
6 (No objections)

7  
8 CHAIRMAN SAM: We are now recessed until  
9 7:30 tonight.

10  
11 Thank you.

12  
13 (Off record)

14  
15 (On record)

16  
17 CHAIRMAN SAM: If everyone could find  
18 their seats I would like to get started. This is an open  
19 forum. We have a little form that you can fill out if  
20 you want to testify. It's for the benefit of the local  
21 residents, and I'll turn the floor over to them and let  
22 them speak about any issue, any proposal, or any local  
23 concerns that they have here. And if you want to testify  
24 we have two mikes out there on the white table in front  
25 of us so about all you have to do is state your name and  
26 you can bring with your concerns.

27  
28 Vince.

29  
30 MR. MATHEWS: Okay, Mr. Chairman, and we  
31 don't have to be this formal for those that are from  
32 Huslia but it is nice that they fill these out but it  
33 doesn't have to be that formal, but we have two people  
34 here so Wilson Sam, if you'd like to come up and talk.  
35 The reason we're using the microphones, so you understand  
36 it, so we can all hear, but also to transcribe. So just  
37 press the button and the red light goes on and then you  
38 can speak.

39  
40 Thank you.

41  
42 MR. W. SAM: Okay, my name is Wilson Sam.  
43 I was born and raised in this area and I'm 64 years old  
44 now. I have six children, some adopted children. I  
45 adopted two, we had six of our own and I adopted two.  
46 They're all grown up except my grand one's I'm still  
47 raising.

48  
49 You know years ago when they first come  
50 up with this harvest ticket, I told this guy, White guys,

00057

1 they come showing us white harvest tickets and I said,  
2 you know, what, what if they start using that against us  
3 and he said, no, no way, he said this is for our own use,  
4 this is just for keeping track of how many moose we get.  
5 And I look at that and I see that guy spoke with fork-  
6 tongue, you know.

7

8 I reported I caught a moose this fall, I  
9 caught moose with two spikes. We run out of meat so we  
10 borrowed meat from my sister-in-law until moose season  
11 opened. So first day it opened, and I was going down  
12 river to check my net early anyway early in the morning  
13 and I saw this moose, little bull, and it's legal, so  
14 it's a little bull, you know, for subsistence so I shot  
15 that one, and I put it in that report, just two spikes,  
16 you know, who's going to sell that, would you buy that  
17 for \$300 for two little spikes, no way. So I put that in  
18 my report. And now the Fish and Wildlife came back and  
19 wanted to know what I did with the horns. You know, I  
20 never think, I must of cut those things off, you know,  
21 you always clean the heads and cut up the head for  
22 moosehead soup and stuff, and that's what I did but I  
23 don't know where I put them. If I look around hard  
24 enough down around my smokehouse I might find it.

25

26 And just a couple not too long ago, Fish  
27 and Wildlife Trooper came in the house, two of them, one  
28 evening we were sitting down, me and my wife watching TV  
29 and relaxing and he said I want to ask you questions and  
30 he started writing down complaint. He never advised us  
31 of our rights or anything, see if we need a lawyer  
32 present or anything, he just come in and started writing  
33 down complaints. And then he told us to sign it so we  
34 signed it. He wanted to know what we did with the horns  
35 and then I told him, like I said in my report, I said it  
36 had only two spikes and I don't know where I put it out  
37 there. So anyway, he wrote it down and we had to go to  
38 court on the phone. So when we were in court they didn't  
39 ask us if we wanted a lawyer present or if we wanted a  
40 lawyer first before we go through with it. And we didn't  
41 understand too much what the judge was saying, it sounds  
42 like he was just really kind of putting down the law and  
43 really scaring us, you know, so -- well, after he was  
44 done and I told him that it's in my report that that  
45 thing had only two spikes and I don't know where I put  
46 them.

47

48 And then the Trooper lied. He said Mr.  
49 Sam told me that somebody stole those horns from me.  
50 Nobody ain't going to steal those two spikes. I never

00058

1 told him that either. I never told him that somebody  
2 sole it.

3

4 So anyway, it went on and on and on and  
5 then he said, Mr. Sam's got a prior record. I kept quiet  
6 for awhile, got to think back, where did I do wrong, you  
7 know. So I said I never had no prior record as far as I  
8 know, he said, oh, that's pending and nobody told me if I  
9 had a record or somebody's investigating me. I don't  
10 know what I -- I didn't do nothing wrong when I was  
11 guiding, I was an assistant guide before, so anyway so he  
12 just slandered my name right there lying to the judge to  
13 make it more rougher for me, I guess.

14

15 So anyway, when we were done he said,  
16 well, he sentenced me to two years in prison and \$500  
17 fine but the \$500 was 200 -- 250 suspended and then \$50  
18 court costs and so now I got to pay \$300 out of my little  
19 Social Security that I get, I just barely get 1,300. But  
20 they told me to wait until they're checking into it. So  
21 anyway, that was it.

22

23 But I just didn't like the way the  
24 Trooper lied about the things that he said. He slandered  
25 my name, you know, and I'd really like to do something  
26 about that, that's not very nice what he said.

27

28 And when he started -- before he came to  
29 our house he should have called that he was coming and  
30 then we would be ready for him, you know, but he just  
31 came in unexpected and all of a sudden there was two  
32 Troopers armed with firearms standing right in our door  
33 and we're old people, we don't -- you know, we just can't  
34 take things like that very easy. We're on medication and  
35 stuff, too, so we were kind of -- my wife got kind of  
36 nervous about it, what was going on.

37

38 So it was my wife's turn and my wife  
39 didn't really understand the law very good so -- she's a  
40 smart woman but she don't understand those things about  
41 law and stuff so she just followed everybody else, do  
42 what everybody said to do so we just all pleaded no  
43 contest and now she has to pay, too, and that's \$600  
44 right out of our house right there.

45

46 And those guys, I guess they don't care,  
47 they'll probably be happy for the government.

48

49 You know, Jimmy Huntington told us, a  
50 bunch of us boys, he said, I want to tell you boys

00059

1 something, you know, my dad is a White man, he said, he  
2 said you guys watch, you guys always watch those White  
3 people, he said, they're going to feed you on the table  
4 -- on these tables, but at the same time he's feeding you  
5 he's thinking about how he's going to get that \$2 back.  
6 He said that's what his dad told him. He said his dad's  
7 a White man, Jim Huntington, old man Jim Huntington told  
8 him that, you got to watch them, he said they're feeding  
9 you but he said at the same time they're thinking about  
10 how they're going to get that \$2 back. So I guess that's  
11 what the Fish and Wildlife is doing, how they going to  
12 get the money back, however they're going to get the  
13 money they're going to get it.

14

15                   Anyway, that's what I'd like you to know  
16 what's going on around here, they use that harvest ticket  
17 against us and you know after this I probably wouldn't --  
18 I'll be afraid to report something I get, you know, I  
19 don't think I'll even want to report if I get a moose  
20 after that because if they're going to use it against me  
21 then I'm just going to have to try to get it and keep it  
22 quiet, like the old days, you know.

23

24                   And we never throw nothing away, you  
25 know, when I was being brought up as a kid, we brought  
26 home the legs, the hoofs, everything, and my mom cooked  
27 the hoofs, you know that thing you -- off of that hoofs,  
28 that makes really good soup, all that hoofs and  
29 everything they cooked, they didn't throw nothing away.  
30 Nothing. And then they scraped the meat off the skins  
31 and that's what they used for soup, too. And then they  
32 used the skins for sewing. And then my mom make mattress  
33 out of the fur, out of the hair, she put it in gunny sac  
34 and that's our mattress, it makes a real nice warm  
35 mattress.

36

37                   Anyway, thank you for listening.

38

39                   CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Wilson.

40

41                   MR. COLLINS: Mr. Chairman, could I ask a  
42 question?

43

44                   CHAIRMAN SAM: Yes, Wilson, could  
45 you.....

46

47                   MR. COLLINS: Wilson.

48

49                   CHAIRMAN SAM: Wilson could you answer a  
50 few questions, go ahead, Ray.

00060

1 MR. COLLINS: Yeah, what actually did  
2 they charge you with, were they charging you with  
3 shooting a cow moose because you didn't have those little  
4 horns there? What was the actual charge?

5  
6 MR. W. SAM: No, they charged me because  
7 I didn't turn that portion of the horns in. And when  
8 they charged us it said right on that -- it said on that  
9 paper anyway, criminal charge, you know. I told him I  
10 didn't like that word criminal but that's what they put  
11 down.

12  
13 So anyway, they just charged me for not  
14 turning in that little two spikes that that little moose  
15 had.

16  
17 CHAIRMAN SAM: Any further questions.

18  
19 MR. REAKOFF: Yes.

20  
21 CHAIRMAN SAM: Jack.

22  
23 MR. REAKOFF: Did anybody around here  
24 check -- did your license vendor or anybody around here,  
25 Fish and Wildlife say that you had to cut those antlers  
26 off and have to turn that in?

27  
28 MR. W. SAM: Well, it said on that  
29 ticket, you know, that harvest ticket, so we know it.  
30 But my moose had only those two spikes, like I said, you  
31 know, so I don't know where I put them, you know, if they  
32 were bigger horns I would probably find it easier.

33  
34 And you know the thing is like I called  
35 Fairbanks in the fall during the hunting season and I  
36 tell them, hey, there's airplanes up there spotting game  
37 for the guide hunters up there. Fish and Wildlife in  
38 Galena is not doing anything about it. We call them and  
39 then Fairbanks say, well, just call Galena and the  
40 Troopers will go up there and do something about it, but  
41 they never come around, they never do something about it.

42  
43 But they'd rather catch us poor Indians  
44 with no money, I guess.

45  
46 CHAIRMAN SAM: Robert.

47  
48 MR. WALKER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.  
49 Mr. Sam has this been going on for a while or is this the  
50 only one that you know of because it's what happened to

00061

1 you?

2

3

MR. W. SAM: It just started a couple weeks ago. We just found out that they start doing that a couple weeks ago, they want to enforce the law they said Huslia made. So I just told that guy, I said, I'm not part of making that law, I told him it was a stupid law, I told him.

9

10

MR. WALKER: I believe you, Mr. Sam. We have incidents that happen down in our area, down in Holy Cross, Anvik, Grayling and Shageluk, and they have an attitude now that they say they don't want to do this but this is what they're going to do now. You know, and most of the Board knows what happens down there, people are taking moose without using a harvest tag now because like you say, some of it back fires and they speak with two tongues.

19

20

So, you know, I don't blame you one bit at all but, you know, I think the Board here is going to kind of look into that law, too, because we are subsistence and you are subsistence, plus you are an elder, too, so, you know, thank you for bring it to our attention here.

26

27

CHAIRMAN SAM: Carl.

28

29

MR. MORGAN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Sam, were they charging you, not for shooting the moose, they were charging you for not turning in them little spikes?

33

34

MR. W. SAM: Yes. Not for turning in -- yeah, just the spikes. You know, most of those guys got their horns cut off but some of them misplaced it or something, it's like me, I did misplace mine someplace, just two little spikes, so they're charging me for that, you know. They're not charging me for shooting the moose, but they're charging me for the horns they wanted, I guess. But it's on my report that that moose had only two little spikes, you know.

43

44

MR. MORGAN: When you got your harvest ticket, did they give you, give you any kind of information that you have to turn in the horns or saw the horns off and turn them in?

48

49

MR. W. SAM: Yes. Yes, it's right on the ticket, yeah.

50

00062

1                   CHAIRMAN SAM: Yeah, thank you, Carl.  
2 For the information, I think Ray's getting confused here,  
3 because we have that permit system up here they get these  
4 tickets and then under the subsistence use they have to  
5 saw a portion of that palm, one.....

6  
7                   MR. COLLINS: Right. I understand now.  
8 It was part of that management plan up here. When you go  
9 through the check point or get your permit you have to  
10 declare whether you're subsistence or sport because  
11 people before were coming up here sporthunting for big  
12 animals but they'd shoot anything available. So they'd  
13 have to declare ahead of time because there were a number  
14 of permits in each area. But as I understand it the  
15 reason for cutting them off was to destroy the trophy  
16 value.

17  
18                   CHAIRMAN SAM: Yes.

19  
20                   MR. COLLINS: Well, there's no trophy  
21 value in a sport horn so I don't see it violating the  
22 intent of what that was in place for. It was to keep  
23 trophy hunters from switching, saying, oh, now I'm  
24 subsistence I'm going to take a little one, they had to  
25 declare ahead of time before they hunted and there were  
26 quotas about how many could be subsistence or sport in  
27 the permits.

28  
29                   But it seems to me like the law is being  
30 misapplied because it's not being used as it was  
31 intended. It was to keep people from switching their  
32 categories from, like from sport to subsistence. I don't  
33 know, and to destroy trophy value.

34  
35                   CHAIRMAN SAM: Yes, that was the biggest  
36 intent.

37  
38                   MR. REAKOFF: Mr. Chairman.

39  
40                   CHAIRMAN SAM: Jack.

41  
42                   MR. REAKOFF: You know, that's the  
43 problem Fairbanks hunters can hunt under subsistence  
44 regulations and if they come up here and shoot 65-inch  
45 moose and take the -- they just say I'm hunting  
46 subsistence and then there's a drawing hunt and then  
47 there's a subsistence hunt and that's where the  
48 destruction of trophy values comes in because otherwise  
49 we would have thousands of hunters up here and so the  
50 destruction of the trophy value was how to keep a

00063

1 subsistence -- keep the subsistence harvest down to the  
2 real subsistence users that are really meat hunting and  
3 stop the trophy hunters.

4

5                   But also this, you know, another  
6 component, because the antler stayed in the unit then  
7 that should not be looked down upon. The antlers aren't  
8 being sold, they weren't used as a trophy value so it's  
9 actually -- the judge is misinterpreting the intent of  
10 the regulation, that the subsistence hunt is used as a  
11 subsistence hunt. So if the antler stays in the unit, I  
12 don't feel that it should be prosecuted like that. I  
13 feel that the Department should have published that they  
14 could possibly come into the village and enforce or if it  
15 stays in the unit, that it should not be prosecuted to  
16 that extent, it's not like somebody's who's come in here  
17 to get a trophy moose and sneak back to Fairbanks and has  
18 a 65-inch moose in their backyard in tact. That's not  
19 the way this is.

20

21                   Under the Northwest Brown Bear Plan, you  
22 can kill a brown bear, you can harvest the meat and the  
23 hide, as long as the hide stays in the unit, the head and  
24 the paws can stay on the brown bear. If the brown bear  
25 leaves the unit then they destroy the trophy value by  
26 cutting the paws off and cutting the head off because  
27 it's a subsistence hunt, the brown bear area is a  
28 subsistence hunt. That probably should be applied to  
29 this subsistence hunt, if the antlers stay in the unit,  
30 they're not being sold, they're not being exported,  
31 they're not being used for a trophy, then it should be  
32 where you can keep them in tact.

33

34                   But that would be a regulatory change  
35 where you would have to go through the Board of Game, and  
36 that might take awhile. But I feel that this prosecution  
37 of a forked horn moose for a \$300 fine is exorbitant and  
38 not interpreting the intent of the regulation, which is  
39 to maintain a separation between sport and subsistence,  
40 and so I feel the judge is at fault here.

41

42                   CHAIRMAN SAM: Mickey.

43

44                   MR. STICKMAN: You know, did they even  
45 try to give you an opportunity to set the record straight  
46 or they just came and charged you? They didn't even give  
47 you an opportunity to say we want the horns or anything  
48 like that, they just came up and charged you?

49

50                   MR. W. SAM: Yeah. That's what the guy,

00064

1 he just came to my house and charged me, you know, and I  
2 thought that was pretty steep for the first offense, you  
3 know, usually -- you know, I was a VPSO myself before,  
4 too, and usually the first offense, you take it a little  
5 easy on the persons, you know, maybe you can let them off  
6 with a warning or something. But, boy, this one they  
7 just socked it to us, you know, at least that judge or  
8 magistrate down there, they checked him out of Nome  
9 account of doing things like that, so maybe our village  
10 has to start working on something like that. That's a  
11 little too rough, you know.

12

13 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yes, I can understand. I  
14 sure appreciate your testimony before us. Because I  
15 believe like you do, they should have at least given you  
16 a chance to a look for or find those antlers and then  
17 turned them in before they even charged you. I think  
18 that's what I would look at to changing to alleviate this  
19 situation, that's what I would be looking at.

20

21 Tommy.

22

23 MR. KRISKA: Yeah, Mr. Sam, did they ever  
24 -- when they brought you to court did they ever ask you  
25 if you wanted a lawyer or for them to get you a lawyer or  
26 anything like that?

27

28 MR. W. SAM: No, he didn't really. He  
29 didn't really say you could get a lawyer but he said a  
30 lawyer could be appointed for us but he didn't say -- the  
31 way he put it it sounded like we had no choice but to  
32 plead guilty or no contest. Because if we plea not  
33 guilty then it sounded like we don't have a chance, you  
34 know, the way he put it, you know.

35

36 MR. KRISKA: Yeah, from my understanding  
37 I think they're supposed to ask you three different ways  
38 or something like that before they ever prosecute you or  
39 anything like that.

40

41 CHAIRMAN SAM: Mickey.

42

43 MR. STICKMAN: Yeah, the only reason why  
44 I asked about, you know, if they gave you any kind of  
45 opportunity because, you know, I think they have a check  
46 station here, I think all they had to do was just tell  
47 you, you know, give you an opportunity to find those  
48 spikes and check it through the check station and that  
49 would have been the end of it.

50

00065

1 MR. W. SAM: Yeah. But they never gave  
2 us time, you know, he called me that day somewhere -- you  
3 know, I didn't know he was here in town, I thought he was  
4 calling me from Galena so all of a sudden that evening he  
5 came in. We were really surprised. He never called and  
6 said, Sam, I'm coming over to your house or something,  
7 all of a sudden he just came in, he was standing right  
8 there in the doorway. Both him and another woman. I  
9 didn't even know who was that woman, she was a Trooper,  
10 too, though.

11  
12 CHAIRMAN SAM: Again, I don't know how to  
13 deal with this, but as a Subsistence Council, I feel  
14 compelled that we should look into it and look for some  
15 kind of solution rather than a big fine like that.  
16 Because subsistence users, you usually don't have that  
17 kind of money to pay off fines. And if you plead not  
18 guilty and went through that whole court system it would  
19 probably cost you up in the thousands to get that not  
20 guilty case resolved, you know.

21  
22 MR. W. SAM: Uh-huh.

23  
24 CHAIRMAN SAM: That's money coming and  
25 going, that would be a little too much to get it resolved  
26 in court, I think.

27  
28 MR. W. SAM: Yeah, we don't have money to  
29 hire lawyers.

30  
31 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay. That's exactly what  
32 I was thinking about. Any further questions for --  
33 Tommy.

34  
35 MR. KRISKA: Now, that you're charged,  
36 you have a criminal record of, I heard your son tell me  
37 the other day that you have this \$600 fine and two years  
38 probation now?

39  
40 MR. W. SAM: Well, me, I got \$300 and my  
41 wife got \$300 fine, and on top of that we have to have  
42 our fingerprinted. And so far as I know the only time  
43 you get your finger printed is when they take you to  
44 jail. I know that part. I don't know what they want my  
45 fingerprints for, so we'll either have to have our  
46 fingerprinted locally or have to go to Galena or  
47 Fairbanks.

48  
49 MR. COLLINS: Another question, Mr.  
50 Chairman, I'm wondering what was your wife charged with

00066

1 because there was only one moose involved, why would she  
2 have been involved at all?

3

4 MR. W. SAM: Well, she got a moose, too.

5

6 MR. COLLINS: The same thing, a small one

7 like that, that.....

8

9 MR. W. SAM: No, hers was a big moose.

10

11 MR. COLLINS: And you didn't have the

12 horns for that either?

13

14 MR. W. SAM: No, we had it down there.

15

16 MR. COLLINS: Um.

17

18 MR. W. SAM: Any way, I'm not speaking

19 for my wife.

20

21 MR. COLLINS: Yeah, no, I understand.

22 Because they weren't cut off, is that it?

23

24 MR. W. SAM: Yeah.

25

26 MR. COLLINS: They could have sawed them

27 off.

28

29 CHAIRMAN SAM: Benedict.

30

31 MR. JONES: No, he answered my question.

32

33 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay.

34

35 MR. MORGAN: Mr. Chairman.

36

37 CHAIRMAN SAM: Carl.

38

39 MR. MORGAN: Yeah, I just -- for the

40 record, I did get a call from here last Friday and I

41 talked to Gabe, also from Orville, and I did talk to the

42 Commissioner in Juneau. I also talked to Howard Starboar

43 (ph) from Fairbanks and he did agree that this was a

44 little harsh, that they shouldn't have been charged as a

45 felony but they should have been charged as a

46 misdemeanor. And I got reassurance from him and with the

47 Commissioner, that they're going to go back and

48 reevaluate these cases and charge it -- and reduce these

49 charges to a misdemeanor. So I am working on it in your

50 behalf.

00067

1 MR. W. SAM: Okay, thank you.

2

3

CHAIRMAN SAM: That's quite good to hear  
4 there, Carl, but I still don't like the charging right  
5 off the bat without investigating and trying to resolve  
6 the issue before the charges were filed and that's what I  
7 want looked at. Because I still think that they should  
8 have given you every chance to resolve that issue without  
9 being charged.

10

11 MR. W. SAM: Uh-huh.

12

CHAIRMAN SAM: You know, like Jack said  
14 they should also have given you prior notice, say about  
15 30 to 60 days prior notice that they're looking into this  
16 matter, I think that would have resolved it in itself  
17 without being charged.

18

19 Again, I would like to thank you for your  
20 testimony and your appearance and your willingness to  
21 talk about this issue in front of the whole public.

22

23 MR. W. SAM: Thank you.

24

25 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you. One more  
26 question. Jack.

27

28 MR. REAKOFF: You know, then you don't  
29 file a harvest report, they send a reminder out to you  
30 first before they -- you know, they keep asking you, did  
31 you get, and the reminder -- does the Department send out  
32 reminders on this subsistence hunt here to the -- did you  
33 receive a reminder?

34

35 MR. W. SAM: No, we didn't receive no  
36 reminder. But the thing is he should have -- when he  
37 called he should have told me he's coming over, you know,  
38 then at least we'll expect it, you know, maybe we could  
39 look around to turn in, you know, he just came in in the  
40 evening and it was dark so we couldn't look around. So,  
41 you know, if he warned us that he was coming to our house  
42 then we'd be ready, you know.

43

44 CHAIRMAN SAM: Any further questions for  
45 Wilson Sam.

46

47 (No comments)

48

49 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, again, and  
50 thank you for being open with us.

00068

1 MR. W. SAM: Yes.

2

3 CHAIRMAN SAM: And, again, I feel  
4 compelled to look into this issue to try to resolve it  
5 one way or the other.

6

7 MR. W. SAM: Thank you, for listening.

8

9 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Wilson. You  
10 have another thing.

11

12 MR. W. SAM: Oh, another thing.

13

14 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay.

15

16 MR. W. SAM: You know, both my wife and I  
17 we never drank and smoked -- you know when we were young  
18 we used to but, you know, for the last 40 years we never  
19 drink and smoke and try to live a clean life and  
20 something happens like this to us, you know, sometimes  
21 you lay there in the bed and it really bothers you, you  
22 know, you know how when you're upset, you know, you can't  
23 go to sleep and it really -- I don't know I've been upset  
24 ever since that happened and it really bothers me to be  
25 in trouble like that.

26

27 Thank you.

28

29 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, again. Because  
30 I think that last statement says a lot, too. Like a lot  
31 of our local residents in all our small villages, they  
32 worry about everything. They worry about taxes, I know  
33 that because they keep calling me about taxes and stuff  
34 and you still try to live right but something comes up  
35 like this.

36

37 Vince, you have another name.

38

39 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, Jack Wholecheese.

40

41 MR. WHOLECHEESE: Mr. Chairman. Members  
42 of the Board. My name is Jack Wholecheese. I was born  
43 here in Dulbi Slough, that's about 30 miles down river  
44 from here. My mother and father is Peter and Julia  
45 Wholecheese, Wilson Sam is my uncle.

46

47 My concern is what really happened, you  
48 know, I think it's happening to the whole village on this  
49 moose harvest ticket. I heard what my uncle said, you  
50 know, once they bring out that moose harvest ticket we're

00069

1 going to be -- they're going to be judgmental to us.

2

3 What they did to my uncle was within due  
4 process -- not due process of the law.

5

6 What they actually did was just go in  
7 there and he was already convicted without  
8 representation, and that's not right among our people.  
9 Whatever happened to co-management on the Koyukuk River  
10 with the Fish and Game? That, I'd like answered.

11

12 (No comments)

13

14 MR. WHOLECHEESE: Through our traditional  
15 beliefs we go out and we harvest our moose to put away  
16 for the winter. And like my uncle said, we take every  
17 piece of meat that's on the moose. I don't know, maybe  
18 some people forget. We have so much on our minds in the  
19 fall time, putting things away, putting meat away,  
20 putting fish away, or trying to put fish away. And  
21 you're going to hear my other part tomorrow on fisheries.  
22 But people here, we're actually struggling. People have  
23 big families, me, I'm single, but I'm helping another  
24 family so that they could survive through the winter  
25 without buying beef and pork and chicken. Some people  
26 they eat hamburger and in another hour they're hungry  
27 again. But with moose meat and fish, it stays with you,  
28 seal oil, muk-tuk, it stays with you, it doesn't go away,  
29 because you're immune to it.

30

31 But, you know, them charging this \$300,  
32 that's outrageous. There's a lot of people in town that  
33 got the same thing, and where are we going to get \$300  
34 from? There's no economy in Huslia. We're subsistence  
35 users. We live by our wild animals.

36

37 And I'd like to see if the Western  
38 Interior Board could maybe make a proposal to the State  
39 or to the Federal government to do away with this antler  
40 thing.

41

42 Last fall there was some permit hunters  
43 that came in, and I know people down at the mouth of the  
44 Koyukuk River recorded how many people going to go  
45 hunting up Dakli River or up Huslia River. But me and my  
46 uncle we have a fish net down here, about 13 miles, 15  
47 miles, and one morning we were coming back and there were  
48 about three big bulls just zoomed right by us going back  
49 down river. We don't even know where they came from.  
50 And there's some people coming into town by airplane with

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1 rubber boats, rubber rafts, going up river, coming back  
2 with horns and no meat.

3

4 I mean if Fish and Game want to really  
5 lay down the law, why don't they lay down the law in the  
6 fall time, instead of coming here to Huslia and harassing  
7 the people. I mean that's the way I see it.

8

9 I'm not very intelligent but I'm  
10 intelligent enough to stand up for my people, the best I  
11 know how.

12

13 And tomorrow, I don't know if you're  
14 going to be talking about fisheries or not, but if I have  
15 an opportunity tomorrow I'll talk about the lack of fish  
16 that we've been getting on the Koyukuk River.

17

18 Thank you.

19

20 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Jack. Tommy.

21

22 MR. KRISKA: Yeah, Jack, you said that  
23 besides Wilson, was there a lot of other charges that  
24 people have been prosecuted by -- are there charges that  
25 we should know about?

26

27 MR. WHOLECHEESE: I think there's been  
28 some people in town that's been getting notices.

29

30 I'm not sure, I wish Orville was here  
31 to.....

32

33 MR. W. SAM: I think they said 17.

34

35 MR. WHOLECHEESE: Seventeen, something  
36 like that. But from what I heard he just pulled out  
37 harvest tickets out of the book and just took off with  
38 it.

39

40 MR. KRISKA: Who?

41

42 MR. WHOLECHEESE: The warden from Galena.

43

44 MR. KRISKA: Then all these harvest  
45 tickets they pulled, all these people are charged with  
46 fines?

47

48 MR. WHOLECHEESE: Must be. I hope my  
49 name is on there because I didn't get a moose last fall.

50

00071

1 (Laughter)

2

3 MR. KRISKA: So these fines were up to  
4 300 bucks?

5

6 MR. WHOLECHEESE: Some of them. Well, I  
7 didn't turn in my harvest ticket because I didn't get a  
8 moose, and then I was approached -- I got a letter  
9 stating that I have to turn in my harvest tickets whether  
10 I got a moose or not or else face a \$50 penalty, and I  
11 think I did, I don't know. You know, there's so much  
12 going on in the winter -- well, I'm trying to raise dogs  
13 and cut wood and do everything at the same time.

14

15 CHAIRMAN SAM: Benedict.

16

17 MR. JONES: Yeah, if you don't catch a  
18 moose, I think as a State law you can keep that harvest  
19 ticket for a winter hunt, too, you don't have to turn it  
20 in until the winter season is over then you have an  
21 opportunity to hunt on the winter hunt if you don't catch  
22 one in the fall.

23

24 MR. WHOLECHEESE: Well, if I knew that I  
25 probably would have kept mine but they said they wanted  
26 it in November and our winter hunt is right now really.

27

28 CHAIRMAN SAM: Tommy.

29

30 MR. KRISKA: Yeah, Mr. Chairman, I think  
31 every ticket is -- like a 2003 ticket is only good for  
32 the 2003 and then after -- if the moose hunting season is  
33 after the 2004 you have to have a new license and  
34 everything, so I don't think you could keep that same  
35 one. If Orville was here he would probably have more  
36 input on that.

37

38 CHAIRMAN SAM: Glenn.

39

40 MR. STOUT: Thank you, Mr. Chair. The  
41 way actually we have this registration hunt and it's just  
42 a fall registration hunt that this antler cutting applies  
43 to. And so you're required to turn in that registration  
44 permit from the fall hunt. And then any winter hunts  
45 that take place out here that don't require antler  
46 cutting are reported on the green harvest ticket. And a  
47 green harvest ticket runs for the regulatory year which  
48 begins July 1st and ends on June 30th. So you could get  
49 one of those green harvest tickets last fall and at the  
50 same time you could get a registration permit. And if

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1 you got a green harvest ticket you could keep that until  
2 the winter hunts, if you didn't get a moose, and use it  
3 then. But the grey registration permit does have to be  
4 turned in within 10 days after the end of that September  
5 season.

6

7 CHAIRMAN SAM: So that green harvest  
8 ticket works under a different year, not the regular,  
9 January 1st to December 31st year?

10

11 MR. STOUT: The green harvest ticket  
12 works beginning July 1st through June 30th, so it would  
13 be for that whole regulatory year. So if you got it last  
14 fall, that's actually still good right now, the green  
15 harvest ticket, that's the general thing.

16

17 And it becomes confusing during that fall  
18 situation because around here, really, most people are  
19 just using the registration permit because they're right  
20 in the middle of a Controlled Use Area and not too many  
21 people are probably going outside the Controlled Use Area  
22 to hunt. So really the only permit they would need  
23 during the fall, unless they went quite a ways off the  
24 rivers out of the Controlled Use Area is that grey  
25 subsistence permit.

26

27 If you do go out that, and that's part of  
28 that whole proposal and the concern about bootlegging, is  
29 people were trying to use that green harvest ticket,  
30 shooting moose inside the area and then going out. But  
31 that's kind of a whole other issue.

32

33 But as far as this winter hunt, you would  
34 report all of your hunting activities on that green  
35 harvest ticket.

36

37 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Glenn.

38

39 MR. COLLINS: Mr. Chairman, I got a  
40 related question.

41

42 CHAIRMAN SAM: Go ahead.

43

44 MR. COLLINS: I think that's true, but I  
45 think it's confusing that you still then in January are  
46 supposed to go get another hunting license; is that  
47 right, or can you use the hunting license from the last  
48 year with that green tag?

49

50 MR. STOUT: Mr. Chair. The way that

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1 works is confusing. For instance, just like we know that  
2 the trapping license actually goes through the whole  
3 winter but you have to get a new hunting license  
4 beginning January 1st. And so I agree, there's a lot of  
5 different paperwork to keep up with, you know, as the  
6 year goes through, but there's three different time  
7 periods you do end up having to watch out for.

8

9 CHAIRMAN SAM: It could be confusing.  
10 Any more questions for Jack.

11

12 MR. MORGAN: Mr. Chairman.

13

14 CHAIRMAN SAM: Carl.

15

16 MR. MORGAN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.  
17 Hello Jack. I think I got this straight. It was the  
18 fall hunt and when were these people charged?

19

20 MR. WHOLECHEESE: Gee, it just started a  
21 couple of weeks ago. Everybody started getting these  
22 notices to appear in court, or they set a court date and  
23 all that so, yeah, it was just a couple of weeks ago.

24

25 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you. Any further  
26 questions for Jack Wholecheese.

27

28 (No comments)

29

30 CHAIRMAN SAM: If not, Jack, thank you  
31 for your testimony. And I do believe we have some extra  
32 agendas, the only ones I've seen so far is what we had in  
33 the book?

34

35 MR. MATHEWS: Right. Jack, tomorrow we  
36 will be getting into fisheries, assuming the proposals go  
37 well. So that would be a good time to stop by, you know,  
38 we can keep in touch with you but there is, on the  
39 agenda, a whole section on fisheries.

40

41 MR. WHOLECHEESE: Okay. Excuse me, Mr.  
42 Chairman, but I'm also on the Koyukuk River Advisory  
43 Committee. And too bad they pulled this out, you know,  
44 before the Board of Game meeting, you know, too bad they  
45 started all this before the Board of Game meeting because  
46 as a representative of Koyukuk River, I think we could  
47 have brought it up, maybe worked on the proposal and  
48 submitted it to the Board of Game.

49

50 I think this is bad timing.

00074

1 Thank you.

2

3 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yeah, thank you, Jack. I  
4 think that we can introduce some proposals even though  
5 they were meeting -- the Board of Game would be meeting  
6 down in Anchorage; isn't that correct?

7

8 MR. MATHEWS: No, they're meeting in  
9 Fairbanks now. They may be going out of session here, I  
10 don't know, but you cannot submit a proposal now because  
11 their cycle is closing out so there's no way to submit a  
12 proposal to the Board of Game at this time because  
13 they're in session on the Interior.

14

15 CHAIRMAN SAM: But I'm talking about  
16 sending a proposal for their next meeting, like an urgent  
17 or emergency proposal before their next meeting down in  
18 Anchorage, and I think you can introduce one like through  
19 that system, right?

20

21 MR. MATHEWS: Yeah, I'm not going to  
22 speak for the State on it. There are ways through  
23 petitions and agenda change requests, but I think we need  
24 to thoroughly discuss before you get into that whole  
25 arena on that, but, yes, that option is available for Mr.  
26 Wholecheese and others, but it's based on the merit. I  
27 don't know, the State can address more on that but it's  
28 not -- they're not taken up lightly, put it that way.  
29 There has to be a compelling reason for the Board to take  
30 up an issue out of cycle for the Interior.

31

32 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay, thanks for that  
33 clarification.

34

35 MR. COLLINS: Mr. Chair.

36

37 CHAIRMAN SAM: Ray.

38

39 MR. COLLINS: I don't know if this would  
40 work or not, but I think one of the things here is were  
41 any of these people violating the intent of the law and  
42 whether the Board could clarify what their intent was  
43 with that regulation they put in place, and that  
44 clarification went to enforcement. Because it sounds  
45 like, to me, the enforcement is working out of synch with  
46 what was really intended by the original antler law, to  
47 cut them off and so on, that was to keep people from  
48 misusing the subsistence hunt as a pretext for getting a  
49 trophy, which isn't a regulation change, but it's what  
50 was the intent and it looks to me like there's a mistake

00075

1 -- and maybe Carl can follow-up on that with the head of  
2 the Department or something because it looks like they're  
3 misusing the law from what it was intended by the Board  
4 to do.

5  
6 They were trying to go after trophy  
7 hunters that were misusing the subsistence season to go  
8 out and get a trophy, for instance.

9  
10 CHAIRMAN SAM: Anything further, any more  
11 questions for Jack.

12  
13 MR. REAKOFF: I have one.

14  
15 CHAIRMAN SAM: Mr. Reakoff.

16  
17 MR. REAKOFF: I'm pretty sad to see the  
18 way this was enforced. This has set back moose harvest  
19 reporting. We need moose harvest reporting to show the  
20 people are using the moose, otherwise they allocate those  
21 moose to the sporthunters. And I'm real sorry to hear  
22 that this was enforced in this way, sneaking into town.  
23 I think they should have come in and went to every  
24 individual and said, you didn't cut your horns, we're  
25 going to cut them now and give people a chance. This has  
26 set back moose harvest reporting astronomically in this  
27 unit. We've been fighting to maintain harvest reporting  
28 so that the subsistence use is documented and so that we  
29 can fight at the Game Board meetings and maintain amounts  
30 necessary for subsistence.

31  
32 Enforcement should have had more  
33 discretion as to how this was enforced, and I'm real  
34 sorry to hear that it went this way because we're trying  
35 to maintain subsistence and provide for subsistence  
36 users. We got all them guys coming out of urban areas  
37 that want to kill these big bulls and sneak in on the  
38 subsistence hunt, and they should have given people a  
39 chance. That's what they should have done, is they  
40 should have gave people a chance.

41  
42 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Jack.

43  
44 MR. WHOLECHEESE: Yes. People here in  
45 the community are pretty, you know, helpful in ways like  
46 that, I mean if he comes out and works with the  
47 community, works with the Tribal Council or works with  
48 the city or even works with Orville, I think the  
49 community would, you know, work with him without getting  
50 in an uproar.

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1 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you. Any more  
2 questions.

3

4 (No comments)

5

6 CHAIRMAN SAM: If not, thank you again.  
7 We should have some extra agendas out there, we will be  
8 discussing quite a few game proposals and some fish  
9 issues so you're more than welcome to come and testify  
10 when we get to that agenda item.

11

12 Tonight we're just opening up a forum,  
13 wide open discussion, wide open expression of concern  
14 from the local people and I thank you for appearing  
15 before us.

16

17 Thank you.

18

19 MR. WHOLECHEESE: Thank you, Mr.  
20 Chairman. Board members.

21

22 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you. Vince.

23

24 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, I believe it's Hudson  
25 Sam, Sr.

26

27 MR. H. SAM: Hi, my name is Hudson Sam,  
28 Sr. I live here in Huslia all my life, for the last 60  
29 years. Just a couple weeks ago, last month a lot of  
30 tension, and whatever you call it, my son-in-law, I just  
31 got out of the hospital the day before and there was a  
32 Trooper and a Game Warden and VPSO came up to my house,  
33 now, this I didn't know nothing about, I wasn't told yet  
34 at the time, they noticed I needed a moose, I need meat  
35 and I haven't been feeling good all winter, since last  
36 September, I knew that I was sick and I knew that I  
37 needed an operation but I never told nobody until finally  
38 it was getting bad so I talked to the doctor about it,  
39 and after I went through the operation I couldn't do  
40 nothing, I still couldn't do nothing, but, anyway, this  
41 -- my son-in-law got cited for killing a moose for me out  
42 of season.

43

44 And the Game Warden and the State Trooper  
45 came up, and I see the Game Warden is sitting here, and  
46 my question to the Board is why not Game Warden handle  
47 their problems without involving the State Trooper  
48 because the State Trooper -- there was no crime committed  
49 as far as she was concerned and the Game Warden didn't  
50 even ask the questions, didn't read the rights or

00077

1 nothing. And now he's being charged for -- well, they  
2 didn't read him his rights, and they came up to my  
3 smokehouse, I didn't even know nothing about that, I  
4 didn't even see the moose hanging in my smokehouse and  
5 they told me the meat is hanging in your smokehouse,  
6 which I didn't know, and they said -- the Trooper said,  
7 I'm going in there -- we're going in your smokehouse,  
8 we're going to look and I asked where's your search  
9 warrant and right there, the State Trooper said, she  
10 said, we don't need search warrants, the Fish and  
11 Wildlife don't need search warrants and I want to ask  
12 Mike, is that right?

13

Yeah, you were there.

14

15

CHAIRMAN SAM: Mike Spindler.

16

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And now he's being charged for -- well, they didn't read him his rights, and they came up to my smokehouse, I didn't even know nothing about that, I didn't even see the moose hanging in my smokehouse and they told me the meat is hanging in your smokehouse, which I didn't know, and they said -- the Trooper said, I'm going in there -- we're going in your smokehouse, we're going to look and I asked where's your search warrant and right there, the State Trooper said, she said, we don't need search warrants, the Fish and Wildlife don't need search warrants and I want to ask Mike, is that right?

Yeah, you were there.

CHAIRMAN SAM: Mike Spindler.

MR. SPINDLER: Mr. Chair. Mike Spindler. I'm the Refuge manager at Koyukuk Refuge.

The incident that Mr. Sam is speaking about is an incident in which State Troopers requested the assistance of Fish and Wildlife Service because their pilot, Warden, was not in town. So I flew up here to Huslia with the State Trooper.

And there was a report that someone working at the school shot a moose out of season. I was mainly cooperating with the State Troopers to help them conduct their investigation.

The complaint to them through the 1-800 wildlife safeguard number in Fairbanks was that an employee of the school shot a moose out of season. It seemed like a good enough reason for the Refuge to be involved so we decided to support the Troopers in that investigation.

We flew up to Huslia, we interviewed a teacher who was the alleged person who shot the moose, the teacher was not involved other than he was out getting firewood. The teacher then identified the person who did shoot the moose, who is also an employee of the school and resident of the village. The State Trooper then questioned the individual. My involvement was simply to stand there and act as a witness. The questioning was typical questioning, it was not unusual in any way. She asked a line of questions that pretty much indicated that the gentleman had shot the moose and he had shot it out of season.

00078

1 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Did you ask him why  
2 he shot it out of season?

3

4 MR. SPINDLER: HE said that he had a  
5 number of children to feed. And all I can say is that  
6 the State Troopers have their regulations, those  
7 regulations are in black and white, the moose season is  
8 December 1st through 10th and March 1st through 10th.  
9 And this occurrence, I believe, was in January or early  
10 February.

11

12 At that time she proceeded to seize the  
13 rifle and wanted to seize the moose meat.

14

15 MR. H. SAM: Excuse me, Mike, she didn't  
16 take the rifle. This is the -- the rifle was taken  
17 illegally. The VPSO took the rifle, which VPSO has no  
18 business -- a VPSO has got nothing to do with Fish and  
19 Wildlife.

20

21 MR. SPINDLER: Let me just clarify that.  
22 Again, I was asked by the State Troopers, State of Alaska  
23 Troopers to provide transportation and assist with the  
24 investigation.

25

26 The rifle was given to Trooper Sears and  
27 she then handed the rifle to the VPSO, who's a State  
28 employee. She wanted me to be involved in the seizure of  
29 the moose and the rifle and I said I don't have law  
30 enforcement credentials, I'm not a Game Warden, I'm  
31 helping you with the investigation. So I made it clear  
32 at that time that it was a State investigation and a  
33 State operation, but I was helping out.

34

35 I did observe the moose being removed  
36 from Mr. Sam's smokehouse, arrangements were made that  
37 that moose would be donated to the Elder Feeding Program  
38 here in Huslia. It was told to me at the time that once  
39 a moose has been identified as being taken illegally it  
40 is seized and it becomes State property, the State then  
41 looks for someone to donate it to. Mr. Pavelok, the VPSO  
42 made arrangements to donate it to the elders program in  
43 Huslia.

44

45 And once that investigation was complete,  
46 we flew back to Galena and Ms. Sears completed her  
47 investigation from the office and then I believe Trooper  
48 Sears, Jay Sears came up again to complete the  
49 investigation, and I understand that there were charges  
50 filed.

00079

1 MR. KRISKA: Excuse me, Mike, I think the  
2 question was did you have a search warrant?

3  
4 MR. SPINDLER: I'm not an expert at State  
5 law, Trooper Sears said that search warrants are not  
6 necessary in fish and wildlife cases. All I can say is  
7 what Trooper Sears said. Again, I'm not an expert in  
8 State law.

9  
10 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: We aren't either,  
11 you know, but we know you need a search warrant.

12  
13 MR. H. SAM: To get into my private  
14 property you have to have a search warrant regardless of  
15 who say, otherwise you're violating my Constitutional  
16 Rights.

17  
18 MR. SPINDLER: I'll be glad to  
19 investigate that further as a courtesy to the Council.  
20 But again, I want to emphasize Fish and Wildlife  
21 Service's involvement in the case was to provide  
22 cooperation with the State Troopers. And I'll also  
23 emphasize, we hear at meetings over and over again that  
24 people want enforcement. I'll also emphasize that I'd  
25 heard a complaint earlier that complaints were made about  
26 aircraft being used in support of guiding operations here  
27 near Huslia. I will assure you that our office has spent  
28 an extreme amount of time, effort, human resources and  
29 money investigating those cases.

30  
31 The proportion of amount of time and  
32 effort that we spend on the cases is way more in the  
33 guiding interest and sport hunt than it is on the  
34 subsistence hunt.

35  
36 It is an unfortunate timing of events in  
37 that there were a number of cases involving harvest  
38 tickets here in Huslia, but I think it's good for the  
39 Council to hear the bad side of what can happen if a  
40 harvest ticket program goes awry, and so I think maybe I  
41 would urge the Council to act proactively to try and  
42 obtain some clarification from the Department and  
43 encourage them to provide clarification and also to all  
44 of the agencies to work together to perhaps educate the  
45 people in the field better as to the reasons for the  
46 harvest ticket reporting and the antler sawing, because I  
47 think there is a lot of misunderstanding.

48  
49 And I know in my own office, if it's a  
50 Federal enforcement case, we emphasize education,

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1 education, education, then as a last resource  
2 enforcement, and that's been my policy, I've worked in  
3 that office for 14 years. I'm now the manager, and that  
4 continues to be my policy. But I also cooperate with  
5 other agencies. If the State asks me for assistance, I'm  
6 obligated to provide them with assistance, likewise, if  
7 my Refuge officer, Greg McClellan, he's my Deputy Refuge  
8 manager, if he's out in the field and he needs  
9 assistance, it's a reciprocal agreement, I expect the  
10 State to provide him with assistance as soon as they can  
11 get there.

12

13 So we try and work together for  
14 enforcement.

15

16 And again, I'd like to emphasize we don't  
17 enforce selectively. When we hear a complaint, and when  
18 the State hears a complaint, the 1-800 wildlife safeguard  
19 they take it seriously and they investigate.

20

21 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you.

22

23 MR. KRISKA: Mr. Chairman.

24

25 CHAIRMAN SAM: Tommy.

26

27 MR. KRISKA: Mike, I was just kind of  
28 confused there. You said that there was an open season  
29 from December, what's those dates, 1st through the 10th?

30

31 MR. SPINDLER: This is in Unit 24,  
32 December 1st to 10th, March 1st to 10th. It's different  
33 in Unit 21.

34

35 MR. KRISKA: Okay. Well, who established  
36 both of these hunts in the same year for this, because  
37 this is confusing me. Because if there's a moose hunt in  
38 December and then one in March, in between that time, I  
39 mean anybody, you know, the subsistence users around  
40 here, and possibly me, would probably use that time to  
41 shoot a moose, any time from that date to that last date,  
42 I mean why is it like that? I don't see a -- whoever  
43 came up with that, I need a clarification in that.

44

45 MR. SPINDLER: That regulation, to my  
46 knowledge, has been published for a number of years. And  
47 someone who takes the regulation book and looks at the  
48 book and determines if there's a hunting season it's  
49 fairly clear that it's open December 1st and closes  
50 December 10th, it opens again March 1st and closes March

00081

1 10th.

2

3 I do appreciate that some people can get  
4 confused and think that it's open from December 1st to  
5 March 10th.

6

7 MR. KRISKA: Okay. And that applies for  
8 only up this way, for the two openings in here?

9

10 MR. SPINDLER: Unit 24, which is from  
11 basically Dulbi River mouth, up river. Unit 21, the  
12 season has been in February, as announced by the Fish and  
13 Game biologist and jointly by the Refuge manager.

14

15 MR. KRISKA: I think if I was in Unit 24  
16 I would figure it was open from December 1st through  
17 March, I mean even if you guys closed it. I mean, you  
18 know, anybody into 24, I think they'd be confused and  
19 even if it won't -- won't matter if they did it or not,  
20 it seems to me.

21

22 MR. SPINDLER: I could give you an  
23 example of where education has worked real well and  
24 that's what Glenn Stout has done at the check station  
25 when people are passing through Ella's Cabin, because he  
26 and his Staff have the ability to talk with those hunters  
27 as they get their harvest tickets and head up river.

28

29 It's quite a bit more difficult elsewhere  
30 because you don't have one central point of contract  
31 where the agency people can discuss things and clarify  
32 things and make sure that the folks understand the  
33 regulations before they head out hunting.

34

35 I will note that our Refuge has an  
36 employee here in Huslia, his name is Orville Huntington.  
37 He has obtained training in wildlife management and is a  
38 wildlife biologist but now his position is as a Refuge  
39 Information Technician, which is kind of a liaison  
40 position between the Fish and Wildlife Service and the  
41 villagers along the Koyukuk River. As a courtesy to the  
42 State of Alaska, and, again, in the spirit of  
43 cooperation, Orville has agreed to be the licensed vendor  
44 for the State here and he is the person who issues the  
45 harvest tickets in Huslia, to the hunters in Huslia.

46

47 We felt like that was a very good  
48 arrangements but there are definitely some problems with  
49 it and I would like to say that any opportunities that I  
50 see for better education is to the regulations and,

00082

1 again, stepping back further from that, the need for  
2 regulations. There's a real perception on the part of a  
3 lot of people I talk to and people in this village know  
4 me fairly well because I've been in and out of here for  
5 14 years, there's a perception in many areas that it's an  
6 authority thing where someone wants to exert their  
7 authority and makes a case as the examples have been  
8 presented to you in the last hour, but it all goes down  
9 to the reason the regulations are there, is to ensure  
10 sustained yield of the resource so that the resource  
11 doesn't disappear in the future. That connection, I  
12 find, in practice is not often made between the agencies  
13 and the hunting public, and it's a failure on the part of  
14 the agencies. All I can say is our Staff, an example is  
15 Orville sitting right there, has done quite a bit to  
16 foster that education, it's not enough, but we're doing  
17 the best we can with the funds that we have.

18

19 MR. H. SAM: What I don't understand,  
20 Mike, is under the State regulations, that State Trooper,  
21 how come she didn't turn it over to the Fish and  
22 Wildlife, the Fish and Game?

23

24 MR. SPINDLER: It was a State case.

25

26 MR. H. SAM: Why don't they handle their  
27 own problems instead of the State Trooper handling their  
28 problems for them?

29

30 MR. SPINDLER: A lot of people don't  
31 understand that in the last year there's been a big  
32 change within the State Troopers, the former State  
33 Division of Fish and Wildlife Protection, which was the  
34 brown shirts, they were blended into one agency and the  
35 Fish and Wildlife Enforcement people are called now, the  
36 Bureau of Wildlife Protection. The level of cooperation  
37 between the Troopers and the Fish and Wildlife people has  
38 increased as a result of that. But, also, the Fish and  
39 Wildlife Troopers are being put more on cases like  
40 domestic violence and murders and things like that. So  
41 they're actually -- there's a lot of confusion right now  
42 and so maybe what happened was a result of some of this  
43 confusion of the blending of the Fish and Wildlife.

44

45 I'm just speculating because I don't work  
46 for the agency but I do hear what their employees are  
47 saying.

48

49 I will say that we will do the best we  
50 can to help educate folks about the reasons for

00083

1 regulations and what the regulations are. The fact that  
2 we have an employee here living full-time, year-round in  
3 Huslia to do that job, I think, demonstrates our intent  
4 to go down that road. I wish I could put a person like  
5 Orville in every village around here, but, we plain and  
6 simple can't afford it and there aren't enough Orville's  
7 to go around.

8

9 As far as my understanding of the State  
10 law goes, I apologize, I'm not a State enforcement  
11 person. My involvement in Federal enforcement is pretty  
12 much to supervise it so I will research your question and  
13 I will get back to you.

14

MR. WALKER: Mr. Chairman.

16

CHAIRMAN SAM: Robert.

18

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

20 Mike, if I could ask you this question here, this is  
21 Federal Controlled Use Area, considered Federal land,  
22 correct?

23

24 MR. SPINDLER: Yes. But if you look at a  
25 map of the land status around the village.....

26

MR. WALKER: Okay.

28

MR. SPINDLER: .....of Huslia.....

30

31 MR. WALKER: Okay. Okay. Okay,

32 Mike.....

33

MR. SPINDLER: .....it's State land.....

35

MR. WALKER: Mike.

37

38 MR. SPINDLER: .....it's State  
39 jurisdiction around Huslia.

40

41 MR. WALKER: You answered my question  
42 when you said yes. My second question is, you know, I  
43 mean I know that brown shirts turned over to the State  
44 Troopers now, a lot of these Troopers have attitudes, not  
45 like the Fish and Game protection officers, that  
46 everybody is a criminal regardless of who they are or  
47 what or what, I mean when they come there to arrest  
48 somebody they have come in there to treat any individual,  
49 no matter how small the crime is, for instance a game  
50 violation which is a misdemeanor, treat them like a

00084

1 criminal, just like that other Mr. Sam here, and taking a  
2 fingerprint of him, I mean don't you think this is a  
3 little outrageous? I mean don't you think that you have  
4 to have a little talk with this Mrs. Sears here and say,  
5 hey, these people didn't commit a murder or didn't rob or  
6 this, that, just a game violation.

7

8 I mean I think you should sit down and  
9 have a talk with her the next time she gets here.

10

11 MR. SPINDLER: Your point is taken.

12

13 MR. WALKER: Thank you, very much.

14

15 MR. SPINDLER: I will clarify the land  
16 status, if you do look at this land status map here, the  
17 Refuge lands are in pink and around Huslia there's kind  
18 of a checkerboard of white, that indicates the land owned  
19 by Koyuklotsana (ph) Corporation, that's land that's  
20 private land, therefore, under State jurisdiction. It  
21 was a State case.

22

23 MR. WALKER: But still.....

24

25 MR. COLLINS: Mr. Chairman -- oh, okay.

26

27 MR. WALKER: Go ahead, Ray.

28

29 CHAIRMAN SAM: Ray.

30

31 MR. COLLINS: Hudson, this won't help in  
32 this case but I heard one of the things that led to this  
33 was the fact that you weren't able to hunt in the fall  
34 and your son-in-law was getting something for you. I  
35 found myself in that situation last fall, too, I went to  
36 the hospital just before I was going to go hunting, but  
37 there is a proxy program in place. That's what I wanted  
38 to mention. I don't know if you're aware of that or not,  
39 but you can fill out a paper and then they can, during a  
40 legal opening, take game for you, and I used it for the  
41 first time last fall. And I think people ought to be  
42 aware of that mechanism if they get in this kind of  
43 situation. So somebody can legally be out hunting for  
44 you whenever there's an open season.

45

46 But that doesn't change this situation.

47

48 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: There's a lot of  
49 times in 10 days it's pretty hard to get a moose in that  
50 amount of time, too.

00085

1 MR. COLLINS: Yeah.

2

3 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: It's not that easy  
4 to go out and try to run a moose down in 10 days.  
5 Sometimes it can take you up to a month and you still  
6 never get nothing, so it's not that easy.

7

8 MR. H. SAM: Mike, why wasn't my son-in-  
9 law read his rights, you guys didn't read his rights to  
10 him; I'd like to know? And there's another question I  
11 have on that one and that's the complaint, I asked for  
12 the complainant's name and the Trooper said that's  
13 confidential, why is it confidential? If they gave -- if  
14 they're going to have to go to court, it's going to come  
15 out anyway? They could have said it without all this  
16 conflict?

17

18 MR. SPINDLER: You probably won't like my  
19 answer, but, I'm not a State employee so I don't know  
20 exactly how their internal policies work. I was there to  
21 assist in the transportation and to act as a witness when  
22 the questioning occurred.

23

24 I can report the questioning was polite.  
25 It was directed at the issue involved.

26

27 MR. H. SAM: But there's no  
28 Constitutional rights.....

29

30 MR. SPINDLER: I -- there were no rights  
31 -- you are correct, there were no rights read. I don't --  
32 I can't comment as to whether at that point the Miranda  
33 Act applies because, again, I'm not an enforcement  
34 person, I'm not a legal person, I'm a wildlife biologist  
35 and Refuge manager. So I will research that question and  
36 I will get back to the Chair and he can -- or I can get  
37 back to Vince and he can get that information back out to  
38 you guys.

39

40 And you said you had another question  
41 after that?

42

43 MR. H. SAM: You got both of them.

44

45 MR. SPINDLER: Okay. I apologize for the  
46 confusion that this has created, but I also look at this  
47 as an opportunity, maybe, for everybody to work together  
48 to better educate the hunters about the reasons for the  
49 regulations and the reasons for the harvest tickets.

50

00086

1                   Because as Mr. Reakoff pointed out, if  
2 people don't report their harvest two bad things happen.

3

4                   1.       They're not on record as using  
5                   the resource for subsistence.  
6                   That resource can get allocated  
7                   elsewhere.

8

9                   2.       We, as biologist, strive to  
10                  calculate what the sustained  
11                  yield is and provide that yield  
12                  to the hunting public. If we  
13                  don't know what the harvest is  
14                  accurately we can't manage for a  
15                  sustained yield.

16

17                  So the bottom line is the harvest tickets  
18 are meant to help the resource so that there's resource  
19 in the future for everybody's children to hunt.

20

21                  MR. H. SAM: You keep saying you can't  
22 answer for the State, then how does the Federal and the  
23 State work together in your guy's department?

24

25                  MR. SPINDLER: If it's -- generally -- is  
26 this something the Chair would like to hear more about?

27

28                  CHAIRMAN SAM: We called this session to  
29 listen to the people here and their local concerns and  
30 everybody that's sitting over there that wants to testify  
31 can testify or ask questions and bringing it up before  
32 the mike's up here, so go ahead.

33

34                  MR. SPINDLER: I will just make it very  
35 brief then. I will say that if it's a Federal case, when  
36 it occurs on Federal Refuge lands, it's a State case when  
37 it occurs on any other lands. If it's inside the  
38 wildlife Refuge boundary, we are obligated to help the  
39 State if they ask for help. If we ask the State for  
40 help, we appreciate it when they can come and help us.  
41 There's not enough enforcement people to go around  
42 because there's a lot -- as you know, you hear a lot of  
43 complaints, there's a lot going on.

44

45                  CHAIRMAN SAM: Tommy.

46

47                  MR. KRISKA: Hudson, I just have one  
48 question, how many kids between you have in your house  
49 and does Ray have, total?

50

00087

1 MR. H. SAM: My son-in-law got six, eight  
2 total in their house plus I got one, two, three, four,  
3 five, six -- six in my house, and my daughter have two.  
4 And we all eat out of my house.

5  
6 Actually I don't know why but they like  
7 my cooking better than they do theirs.

8  
9 (Laughter)

10  
11 CHAIRMAN SAM: Any further questions for  
12 Hudson. Joslyn.

13  
14 MR. OLIN: Yeah, my name is Jose Olin and  
15 I live here in Huslia and my question to the State and  
16 the to the Feds is now that Huslia is put on the map,  
17 because of these two incidents, I'm wondering what's  
18 going to happen next fall, this looks like a witch hunt  
19 to me. So my question is, how are we going to be treated  
20 next fall as far as enforcing the law for subsistence  
21 hunting? Is it going to get worse or is this something  
22 just starting up? I would like the Board to study on  
23 that, what's the reason for this witch hunt kind of  
24 attitude? I don't want to be so blunt but it's looking  
25 like something's coming up and I don't want to -- I know  
26 it's easy to cut the horn out and fill out the paper and  
27 mail it but I don't want to make it harder for our people  
28 to go out and try to feed their kids.

29  
30 We don't have very many jobs here, here  
31 in Huslia. And I understand that wolves kill moose every  
32 four days, so we should spend a little more money on wolf  
33 control instead of trying to pick on the people that  
34 don't have very much money and jobs here in Huslia.

35  
36 Thanks for your time.

37  
38 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you. Stick around  
39 just in case there's questions. As far as I'm concerned,  
40 this witch hunt, as you call it, it shouldn't hurt this  
41 coming fall hunt whatsoever. I think that with some of  
42 the new actions that we've taken under the Koyukuk River  
43 Moose Working Group, we've cut the outside hunters down  
44 to 50 and as Jack pointed out, as long as you report your  
45 subsistence take, that number will just stay the same,  
46 you got the right, you got the first right as residents  
47 of this area for the subsistence hunt and I don't think  
48 it should bother it. Because if it does there's  
49 something wrong with this system.

50

00088

1                   Subsistence moose hunting as a priority  
2 over all the general hunts and the guiding outfits here.  
3 The ones that will be hurting are the guides because we  
4 cut down that permit system to 50 for the total out of  
5 state.

6

7                   MR. WALKER: Mr. Chairman.

8

9                   CHAIRMAN SAM: Robert.

10

11                   MR. WALKER: You know this 1-800  
12 safeguard also is a reward for people turning in other  
13 people to, what do they call, poaching or shooting moose  
14 out of season. Correct me here, Mike, am I right here,  
15 that there is a reward if you turn John Doe or Jane Doe  
16 in; I can't remember what it's called, but it's somewhere  
17 in the State regulations here that you will get rewarded  
18 if you turn somebody in. There's a \$1,000 reward. Am I  
19 correct here, Mike?

20

21                   MR. SPINDLER: I would have to defer to  
22 one of the State employees if they know the answer  
23 otherwise I'd be happy to research it and get back to  
24 you.

25

26                   CHAIRMAN SAM: Any further questions --  
27 or you had.....

28

29                   MR. OLIN: Yeah, I have a question, who  
30 is put up the thousand dollars, the Feds or the State?

31

32                   CHAIRMAN SAM: Randy Rogers.

33

34                   MR. ROGERS: Yes, Mr. Chairman, I don't  
35 necessarily have the answers to all the questions that  
36 have been raised here. But you know I feel a little  
37 guilty with Mike being put on the hot seat here. I  
38 personally know nothing about any of the specifics of the  
39 incidents that are being described here, but I'm very  
40 familiar with how some of these provisions got put  
41 together through the Koyukuk Moose Management Plan, and  
42 if it would be helpful, I'd be happy to explain some of  
43 the context with several of you Council folks who are  
44 very familiar with that, too.

45

46                   And I will help follow-up with any of the  
47 questions that come out here and we'll get the answers.  
48 So I just want to make it clear that I'm willing to help  
49 out in any way that I can in this discussion with the  
50 Council, but just don't know anything about the specifics

00089

1 of the incidents here.

2

3 CHAIRMAN SAM: So we know nothing about  
4 people turning in people at this time?

5

6 MR. WALKER: For rewards.

7

8 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yeah, for rewards.

9

10 MR. ROGERS: I don't believe that there  
11 is a standard reward of \$1,000 that you automatically get  
12 for turning anyone in. But, you know, Glenn was just  
13 looking at the Fish and Wildlife Safeguard advertisement  
14 on the back of the regulations, it doesn't say a reward,  
15 but I'll be happy to check into that and get an answer  
16 back to you and to any individual who needs that.

17

18 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yes, I would appreciate  
19 that and I think that all our villages would appreciate  
20 the answer, too, because I think these incidents are  
21 happening throughout, statewide, anyway.

22

23 Any further questions for Joslyn or.....

24

25 MR. WALKER: One, Mr. Chairman.

26

27 CHAIRMAN SAM: Go ahead.

28

29 MR. WALKER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.  
30 Mike, I'm not trying to put you on the hot spot, I'm just  
31 trying to ask questions to clarify it so we can  
32 understand here, too. I mean I know that there is some  
33 things that goes on that -- there's some things we're  
34 finding out, too, in the books here that we're learning,  
35 you know, this is something that kind of will likely take  
36 us back to where we can talk about this for awhile, so I  
37 know you're going to be doing the same thing, and these  
38 people here living in Huslia are going to be frustrated  
39 here for awhile until some kind of clarification does  
40 come out from this.

41

42 And I think, you know, maybe it's not 1-  
43 800 Safeguard, it might be the State's -- if I remember  
44 right, the State has a reward for that. So that's one of  
45 the things -- that's why I asked it, you know, you being  
46 here Randy, I thought maybe you could help us clarify  
47 this.

48

49 Because, you know, like Josh is saying,  
50 you know, there's going to be witch hunt -- maybe there's

00090

1 a witch hunt here in Huslia, I don't know.

2

3

Thank you.

4

5

CHAIRMAN SAM: Benedict.

6

7

MR. SPINDLER: Can I just comment to what  
8 you just said.

9

10

CHAIRMAN SAM: Go ahead.

11

12

MR. SPINDLER: I have to work closely  
13 with both Trooper Sears as co-workers in Galena, and I  
14 would say that I don't believe it's a witch hunt. I  
15 believe that when an enforcement person gets information  
16 in the form of a 1-800 Safeguard call, they have to act  
17 on it, otherwise the whole system breaks down. You can't  
18 just -- when you get a phone call from the village of  
19 Huslia complaining about a guide guiding illegally, the  
20 people of Huslia have the expectation that you will go  
21 out and investigate that and I will assure you we have  
22 done that. Likewise, if a call is made saying that an  
23 illegal moose has been taken near the village of Huslia,  
24 the Troopers have to respond to that. Their policies are  
25 -- their regulations and policies are in black and white,  
26 our Federal enforcement policies are in black and white,  
27 there's not a lot of room for saying, well, I'm going to  
28 take that one and not take that one. You have to do  
29 enforcement equally and fairly.

30

31

CHAIRMAN SAM: Benedict.

32

33

MR. JONES: Yeah, the question Mr. Olin  
34 asked is, where does this funding come from? Is it State  
35 Legislature approval or come out of sports license, where  
36 does the funding come from for this thousand dollar  
37 reward?

38

39

CHAIRMAN SAM: At this time I don't think  
40 we have an answer; is this correct?

41

42

MR. ROGERS: That's correct. But I do  
43 know that the Trooper's budget is separate from the  
44 budget of State Department of Fish and Game and it does  
45 not come from license, fees and tag receipts similar to a  
46 lot of the Department of Fish and Game budget.

47

48

So if there actually is a thousand dollar  
49 reward, I would assume that it comes out of their budget  
50 and it's a general appropriation item.



00092

1 do respect the law and want to thank all of you for  
2 making the law and it helps us in a way, too, to abide by  
3 the law. But with these incidents that came up here in  
4 Huslia, the attitude is when you go visit somebody, you  
5 kind of wonder are you the guy that turned me in, you  
6 know? We just want to give you guys what's going on in  
7 Huslia, that after these incidents happened, everybody's  
8 on edge a little bit.

9

10 Thanks for letting us speak our mind.

11

12 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Joslyn. Any  
13 more questions for Joslyn.

14

15 (No comments)

16

17 CHAIRMAN SAM: If not, thank you for  
18 coming before us and expressing that concern. I think  
19 that concern of people turning in people is statewide,  
20 too, so it's happening around home, too.

21

22 Vince.

23

24 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, Katherine Attla.

25

26 MS. ATTLA: Thank you, very much all you  
27 Chairmans and whoever is here for different agency --  
28 different agencies and everything.

29

30 I'm Katherine Attla from Huslia. I was  
31 born 1927 and live in the old village, was called Cutoff  
32 (ph) and we move in '49 to here, and that's the farthest  
33 I move in my whole life. My knowledge is from my  
34 grandparents because I was raised with them. And living  
35 in the old village, I know my grandparents and the  
36 others, they were always worried and there was hardly any  
37 laws like now days and the regulation. My mother just  
38 passed away in December, last December, she was 90, she  
39 almost reached 91 and she was afraid of things like this.  
40 People getting picked up, people being questioned, we did  
41 wrong, and she was still worried when she died.

42

43 Now I'm living with it all my life. But  
44 to go back to early 1940s, when I was trapping, the Game  
45 Wardens were so rough and mean to us. They didn't put us  
46 in jail, but I saw with my own eyes that they took some  
47 skins from the poor people. This man was crippled, his  
48 wife was trapping and they took his fur. That would  
49 never happen if I know sooner about things.

50

00093

1                   And seem like I'm living with the same  
2 feelings at my age. I'm going to be 77, but I like to  
3 stand up for my grandchildren and my people.

4  
5                   I remember Wilson when he was born. I  
6 remember Hudson when he was a baby. All those people  
7 that's talking now. And I give them credit for standing  
8 up for themselves.

9  
10                  You never study our village, how we live,  
11 what we eat, what we do for living. We're all one  
12 family. And I'm teaching the young people how to get  
13 along with one another as a brother and sister. And I  
14 been into a lot of things. I never seen a classroom, but  
15 my trade is from my grandparents, living with animal,  
16 living by animal, living by fish. So it really hurts,  
17 these two incidents that happened this fall, since this  
18 fall to now, one kill a moose. I know the family all my  
19 life, that's three households, that man had to take a  
20 chance. They never talk to us, but we understand. And  
21 so the whole village of Huslia is hurt, feeling sorry for  
22 each other, because we try to stand up as one family,  
23 that's the way our people taught us.

24  
25                  I used to her a story about Dulbi before  
26 it was a bit site. Then I grew up in a little village,  
27 you can count the people, no school, no church, no post  
28 office. So my knowledge happened to be my grandparent's  
29 knowledge from back in early 1800 or before that.  
30 Sometimes I just feel like I live in Igloo, I heard about  
31 it so much, what they eat and how they prepare the food,  
32 how they got their food before them. And some of you  
33 might heard about starvation, that had to be early 1800  
34 or even before. My grandparents didn't see it. And so I  
35 didn't see any classroom, but I spent a lot of time in  
36 different committees.

37  
38                  Sixteen years of local school board,  
39 that's because what I miss in my life. I know how to  
40 read and write, try to keep up with this world, try to  
41 help my people. I spent 14 years in Fish and Game  
42 Advisory Committee for Koyukuk River. Parent's Committee  
43 for 22 years. There's a lot more different things. I  
44 became a storyteller. Now, I'm into scientific, with how  
45 my grandparents tell the weather, what's going to happen,  
46 but that's ruined. I can tell you that's ruined.  
47 Because I don't see much of that sign anymore. There's  
48 sun dog it's going to get cold. We know when it's going  
49 to snow. We know when it's going to get windy. We know  
50 how long it's going to rain, if it rain into the night.

00094

1 But since they walk on the moon things is changing. And  
2 now our land is drying up, we're worried. We never catch  
3 fish as we did all these years. And some people still  
4 have dogs. When I have old fish left over I give it to  
5 them.

6

7 We try to take care of each other.

8

9 What's happening to the fish, they've  
10 been taking scales, weighing it, measure it, we never get  
11 no answer back; that's what I like to hear. Just like  
12 these people try to take care of their family. The  
13 little ones can't go out and get something to eat, the  
14 adults have to do it and they're the ones that get into  
15 trouble, now, what happens to the rest of their life.

16

17 My husband is almost 80, I think he's 80  
18 this year and he's just as worried -- worries as I do, we  
19 talk together lots. I bring back a message of what  
20 little I learn about Fish and Game, Fish and Wildlife. I  
21 know Mike for long time, ever since he got to Galena. So  
22 what I'd like to see is -- nobody study our village, how  
23 we live, what kind of food we eat. A lot of times we eat  
24 what you cannot eat, even our own people grow up with  
25 school and live in the city, they didn't see it. And  
26 the Inupiat, Yup'ik do the same thing. We eat what we  
27 got. We eat what was given to us by our parents or  
28 grandparents. So we know how to live with this.

29

30 I cook hamburger, I bought some because I  
31 had little money, my last trip to Fairbanks, before I was  
32 -- before I went to bed I was hungry. So today I cook  
33 beaver meat, it's going to stay with me for couple days,  
34 because that's the kind of nutrition our body is used to.

35

36 And I really don't like what happened in  
37 these two incidents. I don't know nothing about it. I  
38 can't witness it, you know, but they're in my heart, all  
39 of us. It really hurt people. Seemed like I'm living,  
40 not only me, I'm living with my head backwards, looking,  
41 what's going to be next. There's too much regulation.

42

43 And one time I talk to one of my friends  
44 that was working, studying those fish and things, and  
45 that person tells me, but that's only job I got. And I  
46 usually don't get mad because that's the way I was  
47 taught. Those people are your neighbors now grandpa used  
48 to say, you have to learn to understand them, to learn  
49 from them. Now, what did I learn, it's a very little,  
50 but it's the wrong thing, always law, always regulation,

00095

1 I didn't grow up like that and I'm not only one is hurt.

2

3                                 These two incidents really hurt this  
4 whole village, this is what I like to tell you.

5

6                                 Thank you.

7

8                                 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Katherine. Any  
9 questions for Katherine.

10

11                                 (No comments)

12

13                                 CHAIRMAN SAM: Katherine is one of our  
14 respected elders recognized also by AFN and Tanana Chiefs  
15 and I would like to thank you for coming up before us.

16

17                                 MS. ATTLA: Thank you.

18

19                                 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you. Vince.

20

21                                 MR. MATHEWS: I think it's La-ona  
22 DeWilde.

23

24                                 MS. DEWILDE: Hi. My name is La-ona  
25 DeWilde. I grew up on the north fork of the Huslia  
26 River, it's by the Purcell Mountains, in between here and  
27 Kobuk and Selawik area. And my parents are Lloyd and  
28 Amelia DeWilde. We were raised out there, there was 14  
29 of us children and there's 12 of us now and most of us  
30 were born out there too.

31

32                                 And the country around there is not quite  
33 as rich as the country around Huslia. There's not quite  
34 as many moose and like even this year there was lots of  
35 berries around Huslia but around our camp out there there  
36 wasn't -- we couldn't even find berries. I'm not really  
37 sure why they wanted to live out there in that case. But  
38 before we used to live in between that, our camp now and  
39 here, we used to live on the North Fork Slough, it's  
40 called, and the cabin burned down and that's why dad and  
41 them moved farther out.

42

43                                 Anyway, my parents, they're growing  
44 really old and they can't hunt anymore and cut wood  
45 anymore but they still want to live out there, they don't  
46 want to live anywhere else because that's their home and  
47 that's where they want to grow old. So the siblings,  
48 especially the younger ones, like me and my two younger  
49 brothers, Rico and Sterling and one of my brother,  
50 Vaughn, used to be, we don't have kids and stuff so we

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1 just kind of take turns going out there and getting them  
2 wood and getting them moose meat and putting it away in  
3 the fall time and just stocking the whole camp with food  
4 and wood and we even haul ice to the front of their house  
5 so all they have to do is bring blocks of ice in all  
6 winter for water. And we do that year after year.

7  
8                   One year we went out there, me and  
9 Sterling, to do this again and this has been going on for  
10 years before, too, though, that when we go out there  
11 there's these guide hunters and other people, I don't  
12 know if they're guide hunters or who they are but they  
13 are all camouflaged up and they have these super fast  
14 boats and big guns and you can't see anything of their  
15 body, they even like -- they're just totally covered up  
16 and they're sitting on a big stool in the middle of their  
17 boat and they just rip past us and you just hear them  
18 shoot, shoot and then we're just putting along with our  
19 nine horse kicker and there's no moose, we're just  
20 following behind them. And then when it comes evening  
21 and we're going to drive again because, you know, moose  
22 move around in the morning and then move around again in  
23 the evening, and once again they just fly by us again.  
24 So some falls we can't even get them a moose. But  
25 sometimes those hunters, those guide hunters, they stop  
26 and they give them moose meat, or they give them a couple  
27 legs or we'll ask them and they'll give us meat and we'll  
28 cut it up and dry it for them.

29  
30                   And one summer we were -- one fall, me  
31 and Sterling, went on hunt for five days like that and  
32 just nothing, it was really frustrating because there's  
33 this place we call Birch Hill and there's even old  
34 underground house on Birch Hill where, like our ancestors  
35 lived when they lived in underground houses, and so we  
36 always camp on Birch Hill when we're coming home or  
37 coming to Huslia and that's where we hunt from and now,  
38 like, that's where they've put their camp. They put  
39 their camp right there on Birch Hill, and then they put  
40 their camp also right on North Fork Slough, another place  
41 where we always hunt from. So we don't have a place to  
42 camp and hunt from. And you see them fly around with  
43 their airplane and they say you can't fly and spot a  
44 moose and shoot it the same day but I see -- I don't know  
45 why, but they're still flying around and either they fly  
46 for each other, like one will fly and then tell the other  
47 one and then his friend will fly for him until -- but I  
48 know they're flying around finding -- especially there's  
49 this big moose, this legendary moose that they're talking  
50 about and they even ask us about -- ask if we've seen it,

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1 and they're looking for it, and a lot of times when they  
2 do give us meat out there, when -- it's kind of bad  
3 because they shot it far off the river, but we'll just  
4 cut off the bad parts and try to make due with it.

5  
6                   Anyway, we stopped on Birch Hill one day  
7 because we couldn't get any moose for them and pretty  
8 soon we were running out of food and sometimes we even  
9 have to get air dropped food out there and we didn't have  
10 any food so we were driving down the river and we saw two  
11 ducks and I shot them and then we seen all these hunters  
12 on Birch Hill, there's about nine people up there, just  
13 big people with guns and camouflage and there's like  
14 three moose hanging over there across the river and boats  
15 and there's two float planes and this Birch Hill where we  
16 camped all our life and hunted from and it's just covered  
17 with people. But we were really hungry and all we got  
18 was two gee -- two ducks, and so we thought, well, we'll  
19 just ask them for meat and then drive back up and give it  
20 to dad and mom, and we landed and asked them for meat,  
21 they usually give us meat, and the guy that we asked, he  
22 said, no, we eat every bit of this meat that we shoot and  
23 we were laughing because we thought he was joking because  
24 you see them flying out of here after their hunt and  
25 there's no way on earth that they're taking all that meat  
26 out of there because you can't -- you could barely put a  
27 whole moose on the airplane anyway, but, still you see  
28 about four moose head and antlers put on that airplane  
29 and about two boxes of meat and that's their moose right  
30 there. And so we know they give the meat away, they try  
31 to give it away at least, and so we thought he was  
32 joking, you know, we were laughing, yeah, and Sterling  
33 was like, no, really, actually we kind of do need some  
34 meat and he was like, no, I came a long ways for this  
35 meat and I eat every bit of it and I fly it all back and  
36 we were kind of confused and here there was a State  
37 Trooper standing right there all uniform and everything  
38 and still just didn't even realize that and he asked us --  
39 he heard two shots and I said, oh, yeah, I shot two  
40 ducks, I said, well, at least we can eat two ducks and  
41 then he went and said he was taking our boat and our gun  
42 because we didn't have duck stamps, which I've never  
43 pretty much had in my life before.

44

45                   And have never.....

46

47                   (Pause)

48

49                   But he didn't take our boat. And we  
50 almost had a fight right there, Sterling, and I just hold

00098

1 my brother back because already I remember my brother  
2 Vaughn used to be -- that was how he got in trouble to  
3 begin with, he went to jail for shooting moose out of  
4 season and it's just really serious when young guys get  
5 thrown in jail like that, it really hurts them.

6

7                                 But I just paid him 85 bucks and then we  
8 drove back out.

9

10                                And just, you know, no food.

11

12                                And then we come back to Huslia and I  
13 seen those same hunters flying out and they had about  
14 one-eighth of the meat that we would have collected off  
15 the moose that they flew out with. Like I said, just two  
16 boxes of food, but if we harvest that moose, we would  
17 have had 10 boxes of food.

18

19                                It's just extremely frustrating for  
20 people, and I don't really have any ideas how -- I  
21 understand, I mean I have my Master's in biology and I  
22 understand about this whole regulation thing and keeping  
23 track of what we're shooting and predicting what's  
24 available, and I understand that, but when the State  
25 Trooper was talking to me and Sterling, we were  
26 criminals. He was just -- and he had a gun on him and  
27 Sterling was just -- he was ready to grab his gun and  
28 Sterling just jumped down and I just like pushed our gun  
29 out of the way, I mean it was like, you know, he just --  
30 the way he approached us and the way he freaked us out  
31 and the way he said he was going to take our dad's boat  
32 and his guns and everything, that's like the end of the  
33 world for us and for him, and so there's a lack of  
34 communication right there, the Trooper's approach. There  
35 have to be some kind of way to regulate these laws.

36

37                                And I don't agree with the laws around  
38 here anyway, I don't agree that there should be that many  
39 outside hunters and I don't think they should be on our  
40 ancestral hunting grounds and taking our sites where we  
41 hunt from, even our mom, remember as a child landing  
42 there and like I said, there's old underground houses  
43 where our late ancestors lived.

44

45                                And I remember one time finding an old  
46 tin cup and they said that was Grandpa Edwin's cup, and  
47 everybody remembered it, that was when it was -- that's  
48 years ago when they first had cups and stuff.

49

50                                That's all I have to say.

00099

1 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you. You look awful  
2 young to go through so much and I sure appreciate your  
3 testimony.

4  
5 MR. REAKOFF: Mr. Chairman.

6  
7 CHAIRMAN SAM: Jack Reakoff, you got a  
8 question.

9  
10 MR. REAKOFF: I was wondering when did  
11 you kill these ducks and when did this Trooper threaten  
12 you, was that this year?

13  
14 MS. DEWILDE: That was two years ago in  
15 2002.

16  
17 And then when the guide hunters first  
18 came to Huslia, I remember when this all -- years ago,  
19 maybe seven, 10 years ago, they -- you know, it was known  
20 that they weren't going to fly out with all that meat so  
21 back then they told us -- when this first started they  
22 said, Rico, La-ona, go down to the guide hunters boat and  
23 get the moose meat that they brought out and distribute  
24 it to elders and to your parents and your family because  
25 like we had a big family, and when we went down there to  
26 get it, more than half of it was rotten and we ended up  
27 giving it to someone who had a big dog team. And I don't  
28 know if that's still going on but that's what I witnessed  
29 that.

30  
31 None of the Natives who shoot their  
32 animals would ever do that, that's what I know.

33  
34 MR. REAKOFF: Another question on this  
35 moose meat, was that moose meat boned out that they flew  
36 out of here, you're indicating it was two boxes, when you  
37 were at that camp was that moose boned out or was that on  
38 the quarters, was it hanging?

39  
40 MS. DEWILDE: It was hanging. It was  
41 hanging, it wasn't boned out when I seen it in the  
42 smokehouse. But when they were flying out they had these  
43 big moose heads with antlers and, you know, gunny-sacs  
44 covering the antlers and each of them had a couple boxes  
45 of meat. And like, you know, you don't see any locals  
46 around here -- local Natives putting big moose heads on  
47 airplanes, you know, because they're not flying it out  
48 and they're not selling it, but those people, they sure,  
49 you know, make that moose head the number 1 priority and  
50 they don't even eat moosehead soup, they throw all the --

00100

1 they just boil the head and throw all that meat away off  
2 the head and just put that head up on their wall.

3

4 MR. REAKOFF: There's a regulation that  
5 the Koyukuk River Advisory Committee got passed in the  
6 '02 season and that's that the meat has to remain on the  
7 ribs and on the quarters until transported out of this  
8 unit so I would encourage local people if they see meat  
9 being boned out in the field and going out of here in  
10 boxes or bags or something, that's not legal and we  
11 discourage that boning of meat because there's lots of  
12 waste with that kind of handling of meat and so I want  
13 people to be aware that the Koyukuk River Advisory has  
14 worked hard to get that meat on the bone regulation, and  
15 that's an enforcement issue and that's how we want to  
16 curtail wanton waste.

17

18 Thank you for your testimony.

19

20 CHAIRMAN SAM: Any further questions for  
21 La-ona.

22

23 MR. WHOLECHEESE: Just Mike or maybe  
24 Glenn could answer this, but.....

25

26 CHAIRMAN SAM: Come up to the microphone.

27

28 MR. WHOLECHEESE: .....in the past we've  
29 been asking about how to mark our traditional land use  
30 area. We have a lot of traditional land use areas here  
31 that people from the village, like La-ona was saying,  
32 that camped for years and hunted from the same spot.  
33 There's some places up there that's owned by people that  
34 the guides were camping on.

35

36 I think I asked this a couple times, how  
37 do we mark our traditional land use areas or could we  
38 mark our traditional land use areas?

39

40 CHAIRMAN SAM: Anyone got some semblance  
41 of an answer?

42

43 MR. BIFELT: When ANCSA was passed there  
44 was a provision in ANCSA said that we did away with our  
45 aboriginal rights and that's what happened right there.

46

47 REPORTER: Ron.

48

49 CHAIRMAN SAM: Microphone.

50

00101

1 MR. BIFELT: Other than what's our  
2 corporation lands or our Native allotments, the land that  
3 we traditionally use for a long time is -- we signed it  
4 away when we passed ANCSA into law.

5  
6 CHAIRMAN SAM: Microphone.

7  
8 MR. BIFELT: We basically lost all those  
9 aboriginal rights when we agreed to do ANCSA. It's  
10 unfortunate but that's the way it is.

11  
12 That's the way it is in the books. Other  
13 than land that we own as a regional corporation or a  
14 village corporation or 160 acres or whatever we have as  
15 Native allotments, that's just about it. And whoever's --  
16 like most of this land around here is the National --  
17 it's Federal land, National Wildlife Refuge, so that's  
18 where it's at.

19  
20 Unfortunate but that's a fact.

21  
22 CHAIRMAN SAM: It seems that we have C&T  
23 use, these C&T determinations out there, customary and  
24 traditional use, doesn't that come up someplace in this  
25 issue? Polly.

26  
27 MS. WHEELER: It seems like all you guys  
28 are getting is more people saying, well, on Federal land  
29 you can do this and on State land you can do that, but  
30 unfortunately the C&T determinations are specific to --  
31 you know, the State C&T determinations are specific to  
32 State lands and, you know, community use patterns in  
33 areas and the same for the Federal ones, so there's not a  
34 tie to traditional -- or traditional ties to lands.

35  
36 I guess the one thing that I would say in  
37 response, and I'm not a lawyer or anything, but we had  
38 this discussion, I think every time there's a Koyukuk  
39 River Moose Management Meeting we'd have the discussion  
40 about this and, you know, it's posting of lands as  
41 private property and then patrolling and that always came  
42 up as the big issue is who is responsible for the  
43 patrolling and it's the land owner, so if it's  
44 corporation lands or an allotment it can be posted but  
45 then it has to be patrolled, but then, of course, you  
46 don't really have any enforcement capabilities as a  
47 private land holder so it's kind of a Catch-22.

48  
49 So I know that's not much help, but  
50 that's what I know there.

00102

1 CHAIRMAN SAM: Mickey.

2

3 MR. STICKMAN: You know, Fred's right  
4 about the Land Claims. But, you know, the Federal law,  
5 the ANILCA Act brought some of those -- tried to address  
6 some of those disparities when they signed away those  
7 aboriginal rights, but, you know, I thought La-ona's  
8 testimony would be -- this would be the right forum for  
9 her testimony because, you know, she's talking about a  
10 place where they traditionally harvested moose all their  
11 lives and, you know, she's a subsistence user that's  
12 being displaced by a commercial use operation.

13

14 So I thought this would be the right  
15 forum for her to voice her concern.

16

17 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Mickey.  
18 Benedict, do you have a question for Ms. DeWilde.

19

20 MR. JONES: Yeah, La-ona, are you aware  
21 if there was any mining activity in your -- because I  
22 heard from Virgil Umphenour that there's a stack of drums  
23 and fuel that's been left 40 miles from your camp.

24

25 MS. DEWILDE: Yeah, up river from our  
26 camp there's a site with about 50 drums, diesel and bar  
27 oil and other tractor equipment that's located along the  
28 river side, and then there's another site right on the  
29 ridge about three miles from our camp that's just out in  
30 the black spruce, on the ridge, just out in nowhere, and,  
31 yeah, there's other CAT trails cruising around out there  
32 but I don't think they ever mined in that area. They  
33 went and searched that area and they found nothing and  
34 dumped their operation is what I'm thinking because they  
35 left a lot.

36

37 MR. JONES: Do those barrels still  
38 contain oil?

39

40 MS. DEWILDE: Yeah.

41

42 MR. JONES: This would be under the  
43 Watershed's control, that's hazardous to the fish  
44 spawning and migratory birds.

45

46 MS. DEWILDE: Yeah, all those 50 drums  
47 had diesel in it and it leaked out all over the ground  
48 and now it's just this big huge, like larger than this  
49 hall, area, of thick muck that bears actually go down  
50 there and eat on it and stuff. Plus we did use it a lot,

00103

1 too, to preserve wood.

2

3

CHAIRMAN SAM: Orville.

4

5

MR. HUNTINGTON: Orville Huntington.  
6 Koyukuk Refuge. We're going to be cleaning up that site,  
7 I think there was over 100 barrels. Like she described,  
8 it's spread out all over, I guess they abandoned it. And  
9 this summer we're going to be getting a boat and we're  
10 going to be trying to get as much of it out of there as  
11 we can safely, and not get in the river and probably  
12 bring it here and then ship it out.

13

CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you. Any more  
15 questions for La-ona.

16

17

MR. SIAVELIS: Mr. Chairman.

18

19

CHAIRMAN SAM: George Siavelis.

20

21

MR. SIAVELIS: Thank you for your  
22 testimony. What is the land status of that traditional  
23 camp there, the ownership?

24

25

MS. DEWILDE: My parents are still  
26 squatters -- or, well, my mom passed away last year and  
27 my dad still lives up there with my sister and some of  
28 her kids.

29

30

MR. SIAVELIS: It's not corporation --  
31 it's not private property there, it's State or something?

32

33

MS. DEWILDE: I think it might be Federal  
34 Wildlife Refuge.

35

36

MR. SIAVELIS: Birch Hill.

37

38

MS. DEWILDE: Oh, Birch Hill, I thought  
39 you meant our camp.

40

41

MR. SIAVELIS: Where they were camped.

42

43

MS. DEWILDE: Oh, yeah.

44

45

MR. SIAVELIS: Where these outside  
46 hunters were camped.

47

48

MS. DEWILDE: See that's the other  
49 problem here, is that, most of us really don't know where  
50 the lines are drawn and what land is what. I mean all my

00104

1 life, it was, to me, I don't see any lines, you know, and  
2 I don't know who owns it.

3

4 MR. SIAVELIS: Is it two or three land  
5 owners -- I mean what are the possibilities that it could  
6 be?

7

8 MS. DEWILDE: It could be -- most likely  
9 Federal Wildlife Refuge.

10

11 MR. SIAVELIS: I see.

12

13 MS. DEWILDE: Because a lot of that land  
14 out there is, or, I don't think it's a Native allotment.  
15 It should be but.....

16

17 MR. SIAVELIS: Mr. Chairman, I'm a  
18 hunting guide and there's a lot of hunting guides that  
19 are very sensitive to these kind of things. In our area,  
20 what we did to help -- and I don't know how -- I'm not  
21 intimately involved in the Koyukuk Plan and how that  
22 works, but it seems like -- what we did was create  
23 corridor that closed it off. And I realize that these  
24 hunters might not be non-residents, but maybe the  
25 registration hunt, I don't know if that would be a  
26 possibility, but it would be nice if you could separate  
27 the local hunter with a registration hunt from the non-  
28 local hunters.

29

30 MS. DEWILDE: Uh-huh.

31

32 MR. SIAVELIS: And then it wouldn't be an  
33 issue on who owns what little piece of land or whatever,  
34 you know, and then the general harvest ticket hunters are  
35 hunting in different places.

36

37 MS. DEWILDE: Uh-huh.

38

39 MR. SIAVELIS: And figuring out where you  
40 traditionally hunt and separate those users.

41

42 MS. DEWILDE: Uh-huh.

43

44 MR. SIAVELIS: Thank you.

45

46 MS. DEWILDE: One thing I noticed this  
47 year that was good, was better at least, is that this  
48 year they opened the subsistence hunt like a week before  
49 they let the sport and guide hunters come in so that kind  
50 of helped out for the situation of getting a moose for

00105

1 dad because then we didn't have all that competition.

2

3 MR. SIAVELIS: It sounds like they  
4 weren't nice people either, that were hunting there,  
5 those other people.

6

7 MS. DEWILDE: Yeah, those people would  
8 have gave us that meat if that Trooper wasn't there.

9

10 MR. SIAVELIS: Uh-huh.

11

12 MS. DEWILDE: That's why there was the  
13 miscommunication there. That's why he was saying we eat  
14 every bit of it and that's why me and Sterling were  
15 laughing and thinking he was joking. We thought that he  
16 was just kidding around, but that's when we realized that  
17 something was odd about the situation. Because they  
18 weren't -- because we ended up, over the years talking a  
19 lot and we actually even stay in some of the guide  
20 hunting camps when we're traveling if it gets too dark  
21 because that's where we used to camp anyway. And so we  
22 ended up communicating with them a lot over the years and  
23 they always gave us meat.

24

25 But we didn't know it was illegal that  
26 they gave their meat away and that's when I found out --  
27 or I don't know why they were.....

28

29 MR. SIAVELIS: It shouldn't be illegal  
30 for them to give their meat away.

31

32 \*MR. WHOLECHEESE: That's an illegal  
33 guide operation that she's talking about.

34

35 MR. SIAVELIS: Ah, ha.

36

37 MR. WHOLECHEESE: Those are illegal  
38 guides that she's talking about.

39

40 MS. DEWILDE: Oh.

41

42 MR. WHOLECHEESE: I know who they are.

43

44 MS. DEWILDE: There's a lot of  
45 people.....

46

47 MR. BIFELT: In my testimony I'm going to  
48 speak to it.

49

50 MS. DEWILDE: .....that -- okay.

00106

1 MR. SIAVELIS: I have another question.  
2 Did you -- not that it's your responsibility to do that,  
3 did you make them aware of how important that spot was to  
4 you?

5  
6 MS. DEWILDE: Yeah. Yes. Me and  
7 Sterling did. We were like that, and he was like that,  
8 and the conversation, like I said was super-heated and  
9 lasted quite awhile and we told them that we were born  
10 there, that's where we lived, we told them that both of  
11 our parents were out there, we didn't have food, that's  
12 where we hunted from. We told them we'd done that since  
13 we were -- ever could remember.

14  
15 But we told them that they used our tent  
16 poles and our tent site and everything, but -- and we  
17 even told them where to go find that old underground  
18 house where our late ancestors were. But he was like --  
19 he didn't care, he was really like basically I have a  
20 gun, I have the Federal government behind me and you guys  
21 are just weak compared to me and I mean we were -- we  
22 just left just devastated.

23  
24 And then when I paid for it, I told them  
25 -- I argued why I shouldn't pay for it and they said,  
26 well, next time you guys need meat and stuff there's this  
27 general assistance program you can fill out for and  
28 people will donate and, you know, they just don't  
29 understand that that's not what we want to become. We  
30 don't want to become this Federal Welfare Act out there.  
31 I mean take away every piece of pride you could  
32 possibly.....

33  
34 MR. OLIN: Ron.

35  
36 CHAIRMAN SAM: Use the mike. And then  
37 Jack Reakoff. How many more we got?

38  
39 MR. OLIN: Yeah, I don't know if this  
40 will help La-ona's testimony any, but that Birch Hill  
41 that she's talking about was when La-ona was a little  
42 girl, Lloyd did have a cabin there, but it burned down  
43 with forest fire, that's how that ground became their  
44 hunting ground. There was a camp there and a cache and  
45 the kids grew up there, that was their first camp, the  
46 Huslia River, but it burned down with forest fire.

47  
48 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you. That does make  
49 a difference. Jack, you had a question.

50

00107

1 MR. REAKOFF: Mr. Chairman. La-ona, I  
2 don't understand quite what you're saying, they charged  
3 you \$85 for something, or who charged you money?

4  
5 MS. DEWILDE: The Trooper, he just  
6 said.....

7  
8 MR. REAKOFF: He gave you a fine on the  
9 spot?

10  
11 MS. DEWILDE: Right there, yeah.

12  
13 MR. REAKOFF: That's not legal.

14  
15 MS. DEWILDE: And I paid it. I mean I  
16 tried to argue it but I had to pay it.

17  
18 MR. REAKOFF: You gave him money right  
19 there?

20  
21 MS. DEWILDE: When I got back to town  
22 I.....

23  
24 MR. REAKOFF: Oh, okay.

25  
26 MS. DEWILDE: .....there's your ticket  
27 so.....

28  
29 MR. REAKOFF: So you paid the ticket  
30 here.

31  
32 MS. DEWILDE: .....I wrote out a check  
33 and put it in there and mailed it.

34  
35 MR. REAKOFF: Okay.

36  
37 MS. DEWILDE: Or, actually I ended up  
38 going to the office in Fairbanks and trying to argue the  
39 case and that's where he told us to fill out for general  
40 assistance.

41  
42 CHAIRMAN SAM: He was a lot of help. Any  
43 further questions.

44  
45 MR. KRISKA: Mr. Chairman.

46  
47 CHAIRMAN SAM: Tommy.

48  
49 MR. KRISKA: Yes. I guess, Mike, you're  
50 going to have more State Troopers or something to talk to

00108

1 here, I guess if this happened two years ago.

2

3

4 MR. SPINDLER: I recall an incident and  
5 part of the investigations that I was doing to award  
6 guide use areas in the Koyukuk, and I believe I'm  
7 familiar with that camp as being the camp being used by  
8 Mr. Umphenour and his outfit. And at the time I believe  
9 the State Trooper's name who was there was a temporary  
10 assignment out here because it was in between Trooper  
11 Gibbons and Trooper Sears. And I'd be happy to talk to  
12 La-ona and get some details and we can find out what  
13 happened.

13

14

15 And just a point of clarification, I am  
16 familiar with their family's base camp and it is on  
17 Federal Refuge lands, mainly surrounded by Federal Refuge  
18 lands and their cabin is permitted with the Refuge under  
19 a Special Use Permit.

19

20

MR. COLLINS: Mr. Chairman.

21

22

CHAIRMAN SAM: Ray.

23

24

25 MR. COLLINS: When you give out those  
26 permits, can you say yes or no about where they're going  
27 to camp out there, if there's a site like that where  
28 there's a historic house pit there and things like that,  
29 could you not allow them to camp there, if you determined  
30 that that had other uses or a higher priority for  
31 subsistence or something like that or not?

31

32

33 MR. SPINDLER: We certainly could. The  
34 guides are required to file an operations plan with the  
35 Refuge that we approve and the camp locations need to be  
36 identified and that. In that case, Mr. Umphenour had  
37 been using that camp, oh, since, I believe '94. He got  
38 moved over to there after the '94 high waters. And at  
39 the time I don't believe there was much controversy  
40 surrounding the location and use of that camp, we started  
41 hearing about it a few years later.

41

42

43 I would say if there was, you know, a  
44 clear documented conflict and someone was, for example,  
45 actively using it as a fishing or tent camping site or  
46 hunting site we would have to make him move. I don't  
47 know if that's the case now. You know, I would have to  
48 see what other uses there are.

48

49

Are there.....

50

00109

1 MR. COLLINS: Yeah, I was just thinking  
2 that that would be a way of trying to separate users so  
3 you avoid conflicts like that, and I was wondering if it  
4 was in your prerogative to do that.

5  
6 Thank you.

7  
8 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you. Jack.

9  
10 MR. REAKOFF: Yeah, one more question for  
11 Mr. Spindler. In '02 was the non-enforcement for  
12 subsistence take of waterfowl in effect in the fall like  
13 that for the lack of dump stamps and so forth?

14  
15 MR. SPINDLER: If it occurred after  
16 September 1st it's under the legal waterfowl season and  
17 therefore hunting license and duck stamp are required.  
18 The spring hunting of waterfowl under new Federal  
19 regulations went into effect this year.

20  
21 MS. DEWILDE: I just wanted to clarify  
22 something, that there's two areas along the river from  
23 our camp to here that we used to stop on, it used to take  
24 us three days to get here because we had so many people  
25 in the boat and such a small kicker. The one area is  
26 Birch Hill, that's where this incident happened, and  
27 that's the first area you'll run into when you're coming  
28 to Huslia from our camp. The next area is North Fork  
29 Slough and that's where the cabin burned down.

30  
31 And both areas are just swarming with  
32 outside hunters from what we've seen years and years now,  
33 and plus like I said they fly on by our camp, too, so  
34 they hunt the whole river. All the way to our camp and  
35 past our camp.

36  
37 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you. Any more  
38 questions.

39  
40 MR. H. SAM: I got a question for you,  
41 Mike, is that illegal, these airplanes?

42  
43 MR. SPINDLER: That's a very complicated  
44 question. I'll try and do the best I can to answer that.

45  
46 The Controlled Use Area is an area  
47 defined by an red line on that map over there and it's  
48 illegal to use an airplane to assist in any moose hunting  
49 activities inside that red line. It is not illegal, and  
50 I went through a lot of efforts to clarify this with the

00110

1 State officials, it is not illegal to land an airplane on  
2 foot outside of the Controlled Use Area and walk in and  
3 hunt moose. And so the proposal that the Board of Game  
4 passed, and we'll get to this tomorrow, addresses a lot  
5 of the issues that we've had on the boundary line of the  
6 controlled use area and one of those issues is the use of  
7 the airplanes.

8

9 And for the information of the Council,  
10 the use of the airplane was a very significant  
11 controversy brought to the attention of our office by the  
12 village of Huslia. Mr. Umphenour used that plane without  
13 authorization in his hunting plan. He was issued a  
14 letter of warning which did subtract from the points he  
15 gets to be reissued that guide use area. Moreover, we  
16 required him, in the future, that that airplane could not  
17 be based any closer than three miles from the Controlled  
18 Use Area. So this year we forced him to keep the  
19 airplane away from the Controlled Use Area, and I believe  
20 it succeeded.

21

22 MR. H. SAM: I think he's been landing  
23 that airplane here. He lands back there in the lake  
24 behind Wheeler's camp -- Wheeler's cabin.

25

26 MR. SPINDLER: I'd be glad to talk to you  
27 about it, I don't want to monopolize the time here of the  
28 Council. But, you know, if anyone has more specific  
29 information about the use of the airplane I'd be glad to  
30 talk to those individuals in the breaks and what not  
31 during this meeting.

32

33 MR. H. SAM: Yeah, well, I just want this  
34 group to know what's going on. Because he lands back  
35 there in the lake and that's when I called the Fish and  
36 Wildlife in Fairbanks and they said Galena will handle it  
37 so -- but he's still doing it, he was up there this fall,  
38 they were back there unloading meat.

39

40 Anyway, that's the question I had.

41

42 CHAIRMAN SAM: Any further questions for  
43 La-ona or Mike?

44

45 Benedict.

46

47 MR. H. SAM: Yeah, La-ona, they cited you  
48 for two ducks and they charged you for it?

49

50 MS. DEWILDE: Yeah, I paid it.

00111

1 MR. H. SAM: And one time you said you  
2 saw all that meat and I remember when your mom, your late  
3 mom, which was my sister-in-law came into town and she  
4 told us, you should go out there to that camp site and  
5 look at all those blue flies and those worms and all that  
6 meat laying down on the glass and you were cited for two  
7 ducks?

8  
9 MS. DEWILDE: Uh-huh. That's right, yes.

10  
11 MR. H. SAM: And why weren't these people  
12 cited for ruining all that meat? I don't know who would  
13 answer that, but this is something that they should look  
14 into. For a person that's hunting for subsistence and  
15 was barely getting enough to eat and them being cited for  
16 that amount, why let this game hunter -- big game sport  
17 fishers go -- big game hunters, why let them go with all  
18 that rotten meat? Some of it smells when it gets off the  
19 boat and that's not all of it.

20  
21 So I think this Board should look into  
22 that instead of citing somebody for two ducks that they  
23 barely get enough to eat on.

24  
25 Thank you.

26  
27 CHAIRMAN SAM: Any further questions.  
28 It's five minutes to 10:00, no break, or you want to keep  
29 going.

30  
31 MR. WALKER: Five minutes.

32  
33 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay, five minute break,  
34 smoke break, coffee break. How many more do we have,  
35 Vince?

36  
37 MR. MATHEWS: Two.

38  
39 CHAIRMAN SAM: Two more, okay.

40  
41 (Off record)

42  
43 (On record)

44  
45 CHAIRMAN SAM: How many more do we have?

46  
47 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, just two  
48 more.

49  
50 CHAIRMAN SAM: Two more. Let's find our

00112

1 way back to our seats.

2

3 (Pause)

4

5 CHAIRMAN SAM: Vince, who's the next  
6 public testimony.

7

8 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, Bill Derendoff.

9

10 CHAIRMAN SAM: Bill Derendoff.

11

12 MR. DERENDOFF: Thank you, Mr. Chairman  
13 for allowing me to be able to comment.

14

15 As you know what's happening this evening  
16 you're hearing a whole bunch of testimony and this is  
17 only coming from one village. And I threw this around  
18 with different agencies if the Federal Subsistence Board  
19 would be able to create some kind of an outreach to  
20 individual village, like the Koyukuk River consists of  
21 Alatna, Allakaket, Bettles, Wiseman all the way up,  
22 Huslia, and there are a lot of concerns in these villages  
23 but -- and a lot of these concerns never really come out  
24 and you heard it just tonight, the concerns of the  
25 village and the individual villages.

26

27 And I'm thinking if it'd be possible that  
28 the Board could look into creating a, I don't know what  
29 you want to call it, but maybe someone from each village  
30 -- just take the Koyukuk River, for instance, somebody to  
31 represent the subsistence from every one of these  
32 villages.

33

34 (Pause)

35

36 CHAIRMAN SAM: Did you have more.

37

38 MR. DERENDOFF: No, I just wanted to  
39 bring that up right now. And I sure would like to get  
40 some feedback on that because you just saw it right  
41 there, how much concerns there are, but if this meeting  
42 wasn't held here in Huslia, you wouldn't have heard it.

43

44 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay, thank you, Bill.  
45 One of the things that this Council has consistently done  
46 is communicated with tribal offices, Tribal Council, but  
47 even at my own village of Alatna we still get  
48 communication breakdown and everything that we act on is  
49 sent out to these local tribal offices for informational  
50 disbursal, call for proposals, but then it takes a little

00113

1 expertise to get going. And I can hear your concern, I  
2 have feeling for that because you know as a past member  
3 of the Western Interior Council that we don't always have  
4 evening sessions which we should make mandatory for the  
5 villages that we meet at, and, again I would like to  
6 thank you for that concern.

7

8 Any more questions for Bill.

9

10 (No comments)

11

12 CHAIRMAN SAM: I sure like your concern,  
13 though.

14

15 MR. DERENDOFF: Mr. Chair, could I add a  
16 little more to this then?

17

18 CHAIRMAN SAM: Go right ahead.

19

20 MR. DERENDOFF: I think about a year ago  
21 I thought about something like -- I'm not too much of a  
22 person to create committees, there's too much committee  
23 -- you know, there's a committee here, a committee there,  
24 but because of the load of the tribal council meetings,  
25 the agenda has so much in there for tribal council  
26 meetings, and something that important that comes up with  
27 our fish and game, okay, we come down to that part and  
28 then we kind of just zoom right through it and then we're  
29 right on down the agenda, and then that important issue  
30 there's hardly anything done on it. So I had an idea  
31 that perhaps this Board could lead me on a way where we  
32 could, the village itself could create a committee under  
33 the tribal council. Because if you had a committee like  
34 that, and the tribal council would have to answer to the  
35 committee, and this committee would be based on elder's  
36 knowledge, traditional knowledge, and these people could  
37 speak a lot easier than having to speak in the tribal  
38 council, something like that, even including the schools.

39

40 CHAIRMAN SAM: Robert.

41

42 MR. WALKER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.  
43 Bill, could you state your name and title please for Tina  
44 and the records.

45

46 MR. DERENDOFF: I'm Bill Derendoff,  
47 Huslia.

48

49 MR. WALKER: Are you the tribal chief  
50 here?

00114

1 MR. DERENDOFF: I'm the First Chief of  
2 Huslia.

3  
4 MR. WALKER: Okay, that's what I wanted.  
5 You know, just hearing what Mike had to say awhile ago  
6 when they did confiscate the moose that they turned over  
7 to the tribal, you know, for the elderly programs, so  
8 they say, but, you know, talking about Mr. Sam here, he  
9 has numerous grandchildren and kids who he does feed, my  
10 thought would be that since they turn it over to tribal  
11 for elder's nutrition, could you have just turned it  
12 right back to him, could you have done that also?

13  
14 MR. DERENDOFF: I didn't understand the  
15 last part you were saying.

16  
17 MR. WALKER: Excuse me, I'll try to  
18 clarify myself a little more. Mr. Sam had a moose  
19 confiscated, which was hanging in his cache here, and the  
20 Fish and Wildlife Protection officer, I think it was  
21 Officer Sears, that was mentioned by Mike here,  
22 confiscated the moose and also the rifle, the moose that  
23 was confiscated could have been taken to the tribal and  
24 also given back to him such he had such a large family to  
25 feed, I mean being appropriate and being considerate and  
26 all, you know, I think that would be appropriate, don't  
27 you think so?

28  
29 MR. DERENDOFF: Yeah, I would think  
30 something like that should have been done but, you know,  
31 with the power of a committee, under the tribe, I think  
32 issues like that could be dealt with a lot easier and  
33 without hassle. And, you know, we could get something  
34 out of the committee where the committee could make a --  
35 not a decision, but make a statement that if they could  
36 go ahead and return the meat to the family and then the  
37 committee could bring it to the Council, and the Council  
38 could go ahead and bring it out.

39  
40 But what I mean is kind of a -- I don't  
41 know how to start on something like this.

42  
43 But there's a lot of concerns that don't  
44 come out because, especially the elder or some heated  
45 issue. The people that want to say something -- we have  
46 a lot of people that don't want to go out and say  
47 something even though they could be -- I mean they're  
48 making a lot of sense.

49  
50 It's just something that I thought might

00115

1 -- if you could -- well, something to discuss or, you  
2 know, talk amongst yourself and see if it could be  
3 possible. Because Koyukuk River is only one river, and  
4 the Board represents a big region and I'm just talking  
5 about the Koyukuk River alone. And, you know, normally  
6 the meetings are -- we're very fortunate to have it here,  
7 but there's other places, you know, you'll get the same  
8 testimony we're getting from other places, too.

9  
10 So it's very important to try to create  
11 continuity, I mean communication between the people right  
12 at the village, subsistence people right at the village  
13 level, instead of hearing it, not secondhand, but a  
14 little farther, you know.

15  
16 I don't know if I'm explaining it right  
17 but I'm trying to get some kind of feedback on it.

18  
19 CHAIRMAN SAM: Joslyn and then Tommy.

20  
21 MR. OLIN: Yeah, I wanted to speak to  
22 this gentleman here, Robert. I'm on the Council, too,  
23 Huslia Council, and I think as Council member we should  
24 try to stay out of it until they resolve this case. We  
25 don't want to say what we're going to do with the meat,  
26 you know, I think it's up to if the Fish and Wildlife  
27 gave it away and just leave it at that and leave the  
28 Council out of it so we don't get headache over it, you  
29 know what I mean.

30  
31 MR. WHOLECHEESE: That's what the Council  
32 is here for, you're here to represent the people of  
33 Huslia.

34  
35 CHAIRMAN SAM: Tommy, and then Robert.

36  
37 MR. KRISKA: Okay, like Jack said, the  
38 Council is here to represent the people of Huslia and  
39 you're saying that you're looking for some sort of  
40 committee to give you some sort of information to do with  
41 this or to deal with it. There's Tribal Council and then  
42 I also understand there's tribal court, is that right?  
43 Mickey probably knows something about that, so I'm kind  
44 of thinking maybe you should look towards the tribal  
45 courts to sort of enforce or to do something about this  
46 or to bring it up to then and I'm pretty sure they'll  
47 have to deal with it.

48  
49 MR. OLIN: Yeah, I just want to let  
50 everybody know that Tribal Council, we get our money from

00116

1 the Federal government and if we step into it we might  
2 step into something we don't want to step into and if  
3 they pull the rug from under us then we'll be in trouble.  
4 That's just what I'm trying to say, so we got to be  
5 careful what we do. Maybe tribal court would be a better  
6 way to go.

7

8 CHAIRMAN SAM: Robert.

9

10 MR. WALKER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I  
11 didn't mean to put you both or your Tribal Council on the  
12 spot here, but in our community when Fish and Wildlife  
13 Protection officer comes and takes the meat away from  
14 somebody, they give it to the tribal government, we wait  
15 until they leave and then we just give it back to the  
16 person who did it and nothing is said about it.

17

18 I don't know, maybe I brought up  
19 something that maybe, you know, I don't know. The way we  
20 feel toward it is they need it, they can have it, you  
21 know, there's no questions asked. The Federal  
22 government, as far as we are concerned, we do the grant  
23 writing, we do it properly, we get the money and there's  
24 nothing they can say about it.

25

26 Thank you.

27

28 MR. DERENDOFF: I think we're getting a  
29 little bit thrown off onto the last issue we were talking  
30 about, that's not what I was really referring to. I was  
31 referring to different issues that could be discussed. I  
32 mean have closer communication between the Board and the  
33 people itself.

34

35 MR. BIFELT: Mr. Chairman, could I have a  
36 question.

37

38 CHAIRMAN SAM: Quickly, and then Mickey  
39 Stickman.

40

41 MR. BIFELT: Is there a provision that  
42 you can amend your agenda to put Bill on your agenda and  
43 discuss this as a business matter instead of just  
44 testimony? Because I think that's where your group can  
45 figure out what Bill is talking about and how you can  
46 arrive at that goal.

47

48 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Fred. Mickey.

49

50 MR. STICKMAN: I don't know, just so Bill

00117

1 would know, you know, all your testimony is being  
2 recorded so, you know, one of the reasons for having Tina  
3 here and having these things recorded is so that we can  
4 come back to it and not just us, as a Subsistence  
5 Council, but also the Staff, you know, the Staff will  
6 have to write it up and it will also become a part of our  
7 annual report.

8

9                   So you know, whatever you say here, any  
10 concerns that you bring up or any ideas that you bring up  
11 will be relooked at. You just don't come up and speak  
12 your mind and no one pays attention to it, that's the  
13 reason for having a recorder, Tina, is so that things  
14 that you say are on record so people can pay attention to  
15 it.

16

17                   CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Mickey.  
18 Wilson.

19

20                   MR. W. SAM: Yeah, I think like a long  
21 time ago there's a big family and then the chief has the  
22 power over the whole village, I remember those days. If  
23 one person is kind of low on food or meat or something  
24 then we used to walk around with sled and we collect food  
25 and we give it to that family. And, you know, it's still  
26 like that today around here if you watch it very close,  
27 if somebody's low on food then we get together and we  
28 give them, either White man food or Indian food, like a  
29 food box.

30

31                   But on that, I think Joslyn mentioned  
32 something about Federal stuff, you know, I think those  
33 are the things that kind of set us back, being afraid all  
34 the time. You know, when White man tell us something you  
35 better do this, then we're scared of that. They use that  
36 scare tactics or something they call it and then you know  
37 they scare us, like what happened to us in that hearing.  
38 So, you know, like if they say something then we'll have  
39 to do it, you know, because I give you that dollars and I  
40 want you to use it this way, you know, it's like we have  
41 no say on how to use it.

42

43                   So I think that those are the things that  
44 the Tribal Council really needs to look at itself. Just  
45 don't pay attention to nobody just do your tribal thing  
46 that needs to be done.

47

48                   Thank you.

49

50                   CHAIRMAN SAM: Mickey.

00118

1 MR. STICKMAN: Okay, Bill, you know,  
2 there's a section on the agenda here where you can -- you  
3 know, Fred talked about making it into an agenda item,  
4 you know, there's under agency reports on Thursday, they  
5 also have Tribal Councils, you know so you can bring it  
6 up again on Thursday as an agenda item.

7  
8 MR. DERENDOFF: Okay, that would be fine  
9 with me. Yeah, that would be fine. I'm just going to  
10 bring up what I brought up tonight though.

11  
12 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Bill. Any more  
13 questions for Bill.

14  
15 (No comments)

16  
17 CHAIRMAN SAM: If not, then sorry I  
18 didn't answer your question right off the bat, Fred, I  
19 just let it slide because I knew you were coming up here  
20 next.

21  
22 (Laughter)

23  
24 CHAIRMAN SAM: Sorry about that. Any  
25 more questions for Bill.

26  
27 (No comments)

28  
29 CHAIRMAN SAM: If not, Fred.

30  
31 MR. BIFELT: My name is Fred Bifelt.  
32 Life long resident of Huslia.

33  
34 I really want to thank you guys for  
35 having your meeting here in Huslia and listening to a lot  
36 of the concerns that our people have been bringing up.

37  
38 It's really unfortunate I think that  
39 things have progressed to the point that it has, but I  
40 think there's a cloud of misunderstanding on both sides  
41 of the table and a lot of the things that we've been  
42 talking about tonight.

43  
44 From my people's perspective, for one  
45 thing the incident with the young man getting the moose  
46 out of season, whether the State Game person likes it or  
47 not or whatever, we all know we've been doing this for a  
48 long time, and it probably shouldn't be said on record  
49 but it's a fact. Sometimes when people really need  
50 something they have to go out and get it and I think

00119

1 that's what happened here.

2

3

4 Probably the issue that my people here  
5 are struggling with the most and it hurt us right at  
6 heart is how the whole thing came about, one of our own  
7 turned in another one of our own, and that's something  
8 that we've always been really against. We hear about it  
9 happening in other areas, but as far as we know it never  
10 happened around here until it happened several weeks ago.  
11 That incident there, just that transaction there, more  
12 than anything, hit the core of the fabric of our lives.  
13 The incident with, I think State Game personnel or  
14 whoever, Troopers, I don't know what happened, I really  
15 don't know the specifics on -- I hear that maybe 17 or 18  
16 people were cited for not turning in that one half of  
17 their antler or whatever and not sending in their harvest  
18 ticket. That's when I speak to the cloud of  
19 misunderstanding, I think.

19

20

21 For one thing, I think the way that  
22 whoever handled it from the enforcement side should have  
23 used a little more discretion. Although it's their job  
24 they don't have to come in here rough-shod and try to run  
25 over our people like that. Maybe there could have been  
26 an educational process or whatever. We probably could  
27 have worked hand in hand on this instead of blowing it  
28 out of proportion like it was.

28

29

30 On the other hand my people got to  
31 understand that we have to abide by these laws because  
32 that's what's helping us. It's just not -- it's a two-  
33 way street. Things are not just going to come our way  
34 all the time and go against outsiders or whatever all the  
35 time. This is America, so we have to abide by this.  
36 That's the educational process we have to work on.

36

37

38 I think as far as our Tribal Council, I  
39 think it's probably our duty to help our people to  
40 fulfill these laws with the harvest ticket and reporting  
41 and what they're supposed to do with the antler or  
42 whatever. I think our Tribal Council can really help out  
43 there. But the whole thing about this, and this is how  
44 my people feel and sometimes this is how I feel, it seems  
45 like my people are -- we break the law here and there and  
46 every time the big hand of the law comes along and slams  
47 us with it, but we see commercial activity in our  
48 backyard and we know that there's laws being broken and  
49 we see nothing happening about it.

49

50

It's a fact, like that airplane usage out

00120

1 there. And I know Mike's been really trying hard to try  
2 to pin point some stuff there, but he can't, he don't  
3 have nothing to hang his hat on, because you can't make  
4 accusations and then hope like hell it's going to go, it  
5 has to stand up in court and that's where we're failing.

6

7                   But my people are getting nailed. Last  
8 year we had somebody who got convicted for 18 counts of  
9 wanton waste of pike, subsistence individual here in  
10 Huslia. Now, we had some more of these incidents here.  
11 My people are only trying to live and a lot of the times  
12 they don't really see the true importance of why we have  
13 to abide by these laws that's helping us, but, yet they  
14 turn around and they see all around them that these laws  
15 are being broken by these commercial activity and they  
16 say, where's the justice. So there is a problem there  
17 that we have to address.

18

19                   I really appreciate you guys being here  
20 and I appreciate a lot of this Staff personnel here. I  
21 work with Mike and I work with Glenn Stout, I know  
22 they're really trying to help around here, but it's not  
23 easy. A lot of these things that we see going on, we  
24 can't prove it so that's all it is, it's just hearsay.

25

26                   First and foremost I'm a subsistence  
27 hunter. I have always been that and I will always be  
28 that true at heart.

29

30                   1993 we were trying to start our own  
31 tourism group called Athabaskan Cultural Journeys, and it  
32 was a group of us here and Larry Schaeffer was kind of  
33 heading it up and I was kind of his protege or whatever,  
34 and through the course of us setting up that business I  
35 was reading some stuff, I don't know where it was it was  
36 on the desk or whatever, and I read up in there that they  
37 said they were going to provide commercial activity in  
38 the Koyukuk National Wildlife Refuge. It really -- I  
39 told our people about it, I told our Councils and it  
40 really hurt us to see this big game hunting coming into  
41 our back yard. We thought National Wildlife Refuge was  
42 going to help us, was going to save our animals and we  
43 could forever subsist there, and then we see that, well,  
44 maybe that's not the case. That the Federal land belongs  
45 to everybody. And in the National Wildlife Refuge you  
46 got to provide recreational opportunities to people in  
47 America. That's a Constitutional right.

48

49                   Immediately when Larry and I found out  
50 about this, I told Larry, well, we're going to have to

00121

1 try to fight it, we're going to sue the Federal  
2 government. We talked with Tanana Chiefs, Mike Walleri  
3 and his group there and he said, no, we can't back you up  
4 because we have co-management with the Federal  
5 government. We tried calling around and we couldn't get  
6 nobody to represent us.

7

8 (Pause)

9

10 I remember then the deep sense of hurt  
11 that I had because I knew what it meant. I knew we had  
12 no choice but to get involved in that ourselves. The one  
13 thing that our people hated the most was right at our  
14 doorstep and we had no choice but to get involved. I  
15 know that's the only way that I knew that we could  
16 monitor and manage this monster that came up upon us.

17

18 We had a choice of hiding our head in the  
19 sand and pretend it was not there or we got a choice of  
20 getting involved in trying to get those units and  
21 whatever and do it to our people's specifications and  
22 that's how I became a big game guide, I knew I had no  
23 choice, this was the only way that I could help my  
24 people. Because if I don't do it or whoever don't do it  
25 around here, where we've been born and raised, this is  
26 America and there's people all over the Lower 48 that  
27 know about these commercial activities and opportunities  
28 and they're going to come over here and they're going to  
29 run over this country and that's already happening and  
30 that's why we have such a low moose population right now.  
31 That's how I got involved.

32

33 A lot of this stuff that La-ona was  
34 speaking to tonight, I know a lot about that stuff  
35 because in 1994 is when we set up that camp in that area  
36 they call Altaltlan (ph), that's where Lloyd had that old  
37 cabin a long time ago or some other people. Reba was  
38 talking about Birch Hill, that's further up North Fork.  
39 That camp there is an illegal operation but it's hard to  
40 prove it. That's probably why they didn't want to give  
41 that meat away, they were scared. We've been trying to  
42 work on these things but it's just hard to get things  
43 done. Mike, he's helping out. A lot of these people  
44 really are our allies, whether we know it or not.

45

46 There's one thing our people here on the  
47 Koyukuk River have to understand, we have to use the  
48 printed word to our benefit. We can't continue to ignore  
49 how we have to use these laws, like that harvest ticket,  
50 we have to send it in, we have to send in that horn. We

00122

1 have to do these things that way, that's the only way the  
2 law is going to protect us. Because it's not only that  
3 law we're talking about but we're talking about other  
4 laws that's pointed towards big game guides like myself.  
5 Right now I'm virtually out of business but I'm happy  
6 about it.

7

8 In 2000 there was this drawing permit  
9 system that came upon us, and I was a big advocate of  
10 that because I knew that that's the only way we can limit  
11 the harvest of moose. Before that it was just wide open,  
12 we just use a harvest ticket and I, or anybody else,  
13 could line up 50 clients right now, boom, and they're out  
14 there in the back yard right there, and that's why the  
15 trophy bulls went down so much. Now we only got juvenile  
16 or medium size bulls, but the thing is we have to use  
17 these laws, that's the only way we can manage the  
18 problems that we see, and that drawing permit system  
19 really helped there. It started in the Controlled Use  
20 Area in 2000 and we could see where it's really helped.  
21 It put me out of business, basically. I couldn't get  
22 hunters with permits, they applied but just the odds are  
23 so great that it's tough. But I don't mind, I like it  
24 the way it is. That's the only way we're going to get  
25 our moose back.

26

27 And after the fall hunt, I seen, because  
28 we went out there for a month. I seen what's going on  
29 out there. And when I came home I called up Glenn Stout  
30 and I told him, Glenn, we got to do something. Kateel  
31 River, Huslia River, Dakli River and Hog River are  
32 outside of the Controlled Use Area and they're getting  
33 hammered and that's where La-ona's talking about, up the  
34 Huslia River, up the reaches of the Huslia River.

35

36 We talked about it and we know a lot  
37 about what's going on, bootlegging the moose, there's a  
38 lot of illegal activity going on. Dakli River, those  
39 illegal guides, this fall, that group up there in the  
40 Huslia River have been there, I don't know, how many  
41 years, that's illegal activity right there. There's a  
42 lot of it going on down around Three-Day Slough. But the  
43 thing is when that permit system came along, that pretty  
44 much knocked out that illegal activity within the  
45 Controlled Use Area, because there used to be a big group  
46 on Upper End Cutoff. As soon as that drawing permit came  
47 around those guys don't come back no more, they go up the  
48 Hog River, or they're going up Dakli or they're going up  
49 Huslia River, or they're going up Kateel.

50

00123

1                   So I came back and I come up with the  
2 idea and I wrote up some stuff, Proposal 193, and that's  
3 to expand the lottery, the drawing permit system up to  
4 those four rivers right there. Actually we wanted to go  
5 bigger, but it didn't go but some day it will.

6  
7                   So this coming fall, we're not going to  
8 be able to use the general harvest ticket for those areas  
9 which is good.

10  
11                   That's what I'm trying to do to try to  
12 help my people. That's why I had to go against my morale  
13 feelings to become a big game guide just to help our  
14 people. I was not going to sit down and just turn away  
15 and pretend the problem was not there, that's not going  
16 to help my children, that's not going to help nobody's  
17 children in our future generations.

18  
19                   We can't look away and ignore it and  
20 pretend it's not there, we have to face it straight up  
21 and deal with it. That's our only chance. And that's  
22 the same way with these laws, that's why we have to abide  
23 by these laws because it can work in our favor and it can  
24 work against us, either way. But most of the time our  
25 subsistence people are really on the right side, I mean  
26 they're true at heart and everything, so most of the  
27 times they're not outside the bounds of the law so we  
28 shouldn't be afraid of abiding by the law.

29  
30                   I like the way I see a lot of these  
31 Councils are working, like this Federal Subsistence  
32 Council here, and the way our Advisory Committee is  
33 working. We're lucky right now that we got a Game Board  
34 that's reasonably favorable to our sentiments. We got a  
35 lot of good things that got passed within the past week  
36 or so that's going to help people like us right here that  
37 live off the land. But we always got to remember, that  
38 can go away just like anything else. We can get a  
39 different kind of administration there like Tony Knowles'  
40 administration that was there for eight years, bird and  
41 bunny people driven primarily, and they didn't do a darn  
42 thing about predator control or any kind of resource  
43 management and that's why we run out of moose and wolves  
44 blown out of proportion, that's what happens when you  
45 don't manage resources.

46  
47                   Now, Murkowski's administration is trying  
48 to face up to these things and I applaud Mike Fleagle and  
49 that Game Board for standing up on principle. There was  
50 a boycott threatened and they said do it, we'll see if it

00124

1 happens or not but we're going to face the issues.

2

3

4 There's going to come a time when it's --  
5 our days are numbered for the way we live. We live off  
6 the land and all this and we're hunters and gatherers and  
7 fishermen. But if conventionism or common sense or  
8 whatever tells you it's not always going to be like that.  
9 Look at it from a global perspective and where the masses  
10 are and how these masses are the ones that's going to  
11 make the laws, Purcella Farrell and Paul Joslin and  
12 Gordon Haber and people like that, eventually they're  
13 going to get to the point where they have the power and  
14 they're going to put us out of business. It might not  
15 happen in 30 years or 40 years, but eventually that's  
16 where we're going to go. Look at our trapping and the  
17 industry that we used to so much depend on. There's  
18 nothing there now, we can't even go out and make a  
19 living. Those kind of things are only just the  
20 beginning.

20

21

22 Look at the fishing industry, like in the  
23 areas that Robert and them, they really depend on the  
24 commercial fishery, they're having a tough time there,  
25 too. And the guiding industry is going to be the same  
26 way, it's going to get to the point where we won't be  
27 able to do that no more and it might even get to the  
28 point some day where we won't even be able to do  
29 subsistence. Those kind of things are real and I know my  
30 elders are worried about it, I hear Sidney and Don Lowe  
31 and a lot of people talking like this, they know, they  
32 have the big picture kind of view.

32

33 That's why I think we all have to work  
34 together and I think we are.

35

36

37 I know my people are really hurt because  
38 of what happened here in recent times and then in the  
39 last several years, but we still have to keep trying, we  
40 have to work together. We have to work with State and  
41 Federal personnel, not work against them but work with  
42 them, that's the only way we can get things straightened  
43 out around here. There's a lot of illegal guiding going  
44 on around here, a lot of illegal activity, and it's  
45 obvious. I don't know how we can stop stuff like that.  
46 If I committed some kind of illegal activity with my  
47 guiding business, damn sure I'll get nailed right now.  
48 Because I'm not the kind of person that's going to lie  
49 about things, that's not the way I was raised and that's  
50 not the way a lot of my people are, we're true at heart.

50

00125

1                   You look at me right here and you see who  
2 I am. People of the land, that's how we all are.

3

4                   I appreciate you guys coming here and  
5 listening to us. We have a lot of work to do and we have  
6 to work together.

7

8                   I think as far as -- and I've been  
9 reading what the Koyukuk Moose Management Group's saying,  
10 I got their minutes, I didn't make their meeting, I was  
11 weathered in. But they were basically -- these sportsmen  
12 from urban areas, they're saying, well, we cut back on  
13 moose hunting on the Koyukuk River enough, but I don't  
14 think so, I think we could cut back more, we could limit  
15 our harvest more. So we have to focus on them, we have  
16 to keep trying.

17

18                   But there's another area that we have to  
19 get involved in and that's predator control. You can  
20 only limit one component of this whole thing so much, but  
21 then you got to start getting into other areas and  
22 predator control is one of them.

23

24                   I hear people saying there's too darn  
25 many wolves, there's too many bears, that's why our moose  
26 population is going down. Well, that's partly true but  
27 that's not all true. There ain't any more wolves around  
28 here than there was 30 or 40 years ago, it's basically  
29 about the -- it averages out, so we can't say that it's  
30 just all predators that kill everything off around here,  
31 we have to look at the human factor around here, too.  
32 And more than anything around here and the Koyukuk River,  
33 it's human pressure that's made the population of moose  
34 go down, bar-none. And it's partly me, it's partly  
35 subsistence people, it's all of us. It's because every  
36 place in other parts of the state have been cleaned up  
37 and so now they come around the Koyukuk River, and when  
38 they get done here they're going to go down to the Innoko  
39 because that's the other hot spot and people know these  
40 kinds of things. So we can't say it's all predators,  
41 it's us too. And that's why we're trying with these  
42 drawing permits and whatever laws we got, we're trying to  
43 do our best as far as the human side and now we got to  
44 focus on the predators.

45

46                   There's no way a man or woman or whoever  
47 can go out and just start shooting wolves or whatever,  
48 it's just not economically feasible. A lot of us really  
49 want to do it to the extent like we used to do it, but  
50 you can't even get no money for the wolves no more. It

00126

1 costs us a lot of gas, it costs us a lot of time and it  
2 tears up our snowmachines, for what, we don't get nothing  
3 for it. We can't even sell our wolves, so I give it away  
4 for \$5 for somebody to have potlatch with. And then I  
5 got big pile of bills sitting there and my kids, five  
6 kids to feed, common sense tells anybody that you can't  
7 be doing those kind of things and yet support a family so  
8 we quit doing it. Gilbert Huntington, Roger Huntington,  
9 there was a lot of good hunters around here that used to  
10 go after wolves and trap them and all that, they don't do  
11 it anymore because we can't afford to.

12

13 We have to try to figure out a way where  
14 we can help each other out on this. It's illegal to do a  
15 bounty system, but my council here, it just initiated  
16 some kind of an initiative to subsidize a trapper if he  
17 get a wolf so we give him \$50 per -- they don't have to  
18 give us the skin, we just give them \$50 for their gas or  
19 whatever, that's to try to help them out. These are the  
20 kind of things that we need to -- we don't want no hand  
21 out, we need some help though.

22

23 We need some more snaring clinics, we  
24 need some more trapping clinics and we need some kind of  
25 way to help out to pay for the gas. A lot of these  
26 hunters come up the Koyukuk River in the fall time, and  
27 these big guys with all these monies and these boats and  
28 everything, we ought to charge them for coming around  
29 here and hunting on our -- we're the ones that are  
30 keeping the population of wolves down and bears and all  
31 that, they ought to pay us for utilizing that moose  
32 resource.

33

34 This is the next area we're going to have  
35 to start working on and we have to do it together.

36

37 We can't be arguing with each other and  
38 things like this, it's got to be unity there.

39

40 Hopefully over the course of the next  
41 several years we will see some predator control, but we  
42 got to remember this, it's not going to be land and shoot  
43 or State program or put out some kind of a system where  
44 people can sign up and come in and shoot wolves, we can't  
45 depend on something like that, no matter -- I mean it's  
46 effective -- that's the most effective way to kill wolves  
47 and all that, but it's so volatile, I mean sometimes  
48 they're there and sometimes they're not. It all depends  
49 on the political climate.

50

00127

1 Murkowski or the Administration might be  
2 gone and, boom, somebody else comes in and they say no  
3 more of that aerial wolf hunting. What it really boils  
4 down to is we got to do it ourself. We got to make a  
5 habit of it, of going out there and trapping them wolves  
6 and snaring them, and do it every year, and not only  
7 several of us but all of us and we got to figure out a  
8 way to subsidize that activity somehow. And that wolf  
9 program, that's a good working program but we need help  
10 on it, Tommy and all of us.

11

12 So these are the concerns that I bring to  
13 you and I hope I broadened the perspective for it -- it  
14 kind of brings everything around so we can all see what's  
15 really happening around here.

16

17 I know this is America and we're not  
18 going to be able to kick everybody out of our backyard or  
19 this area where we've been born and raised and living  
20 here for thousands of years, ANCSA came around and  
21 changed all that, but we still feel like that's our land.  
22 That's where our parents grew up and everything, we still  
23 have that traditional tie whether it's legal or not. And  
24 my people still look at this land as our land, even  
25 though it's owned by people all over this United States,  
26 or people all over the state, that's why we have --  
27 that's why you hear my people getting up and speaking,  
28 like they're really hurting, they are. We're stuck in  
29 between a rock and hard place, and sometimes when we cry  
30 out and we see very little help coming to us when we  
31 really need it.

32

33 But yet we see lucrative operations right  
34 around us that's grossly negligent, just illegally  
35 operating and there ain't a damn thing that's being done  
36 about it and that's what really hurts my people. They  
37 feel like they're victimized and yet other people are let  
38 to do what they want to do and make 150, \$200,000 a year,  
39 and my people here make five, 10, 15,000. If they make  
40 15,000 that's a God-Damn good year. So that's why my  
41 people are speaking like this.

42

43 And with that, I want to thank you all  
44 for coming here and I hope you guys have a good meeting.

45

46 And the one thing we all got to remember,  
47 though, we're all in this together. We have to work  
48 together. Federal Subsistence Councils like this, State  
49 Advisory Committees and Doyon Limited Board, or Huslia  
50 Tribal Council, we all have to work together, that's the

00128

1 only way we're going to solve problems.

2

3

With that, I thank you guys.

4

5 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Fred. Any  
6 questions for Fred. George Siavelis.

7

8

9 MR. SIAVELIS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.  
I'm taken by your testimony, thank you.

10

11

I don't know how we're ever going to -- I  
12 don't know how to get at it but I like your idea that  
13 somehow if we could ever get to a cooperative program  
14 where a few outside hunters are allowed to come in, pay  
15 an extra conservation fee or a fee that goes to paying  
16 for local trappers to help raise the value of wolves and  
17 to pay for the programs, to teach trapping and to pay a  
18 bounty on wolves to help them. Bounties aren't illegal  
19 if done the right way. They do it in other places in the  
20 state, through the tribal council, and, you know, whether  
21 they get it from grant money or -- but I think it's even  
22 better to charge the outside hunter even more money to go  
23 help pay for the local trapper to catch wolves.

24

25

Thank you.

26

27

28 MR. BIFELT: I'm not going to talk about  
our bounty program, but there's another thing -- and I  
29 appreciate your comments there George. I wrote up a  
30 couple of resolutions and I sent it to Representative  
31 Carl Morgan's office and also to Georgianna Lincoln's  
32 office, hopefully that we can help around here in our  
33 area with predator control.

34

35

Like a lot of these horns that are being  
36 sold that come from here, we want that money to come back  
37 to this area so we can use that for aerial surveys and  
38 with these aerial surveys, what we want to do is we want  
39 -- hopefully we can get this passed where the State can  
40 fly around, or the Feds will fly around and find these  
41 moose kills and they can tell the local trappers where  
42 they're at, just to try to help us out that way. That's  
43 one of the resolutions that I sent into Representative  
44 Morgan.

45

46

MR. MORGAN: (Nods affirmatively)

47

48

49 MR. BIFELT: And maybe we could use some  
of that antler money to actually subsidize the trappers  
50 maybe. And there was some other resolutions we sent in,

00129

1 but that's what I mean we got to use the law to our  
2 benefits.

3

4 CHAIRMAN SAM: Ray.

5

6 MR. COLLINS: Yeah, Ron. Thank you,  
7 Fred. One of the frustrations for me over the years has  
8 been trying to get a handle on this wanton waste  
9 situation because we see the same thing in McGrath.  
10 We're a hub there, the air taxi's come in and we see all  
11 these horns going out without the meat. But the problem  
12 is to create a system that you can enforce. Because we  
13 went after the salvage, they have to salvage, but as long  
14 as it's brought back to the camp, they can pile it on the  
15 ground, they can put it in black plastic, they can do all  
16 kinds of stupid things that lead that to spoil and it's  
17 not wanton waste because they salvaged it.

18

19 I've had meat come off the plane and I  
20 see them heading over, we have one person that cuts it up  
21 there in town and I said, he's not going to take that  
22 meat, and that's right, they virtually checked it and had  
23 to go right to the dump and dump it because it was  
24 already spoiled. But that wasn't wanton waste because  
25 they salvaged it and brought it out of the field.

26

27 We did get at one part of it by requiring  
28 it to be on the bone because the local butcher reported  
29 that if it's on the bone usually the outside may start  
30 spoiling but you trim that off and the meat that's in by  
31 the bone is still sweet. And that was an attempt to get  
32 at that. But I don't know what we can do to write a  
33 wanton waste law that's enforceable that would really get  
34 at it because we know it's negligence that's leading to a  
35 lot of this or ignorance. But how we get at it, I wish  
36 we could work together to get something to work.

37

38 Because it is really frustrating for  
39 local people to see all that meat going to waste when  
40 they're used to using the whole animal.

41

42 Thank you for your comments.

43

44 MR. BIFELT: You're exactly right. Once  
45 that provision was passed where we had to leave the meat  
46 on the bone, that really improved the quality of meat.

47

48 MR. COLLINS: Yeah.

49

50 MR. BIFELT: But, yeah, law enforcement

00130

1 personnel know that a lot of this meat is going to waste  
2 but it's really hard to prove. Some of it just passing  
3 the check station and is being thrown in the river.  
4 Probably a lot of it, once it leaves this area and gets  
5 to Fairbanks and Anchorage, it's being thrown in the dump  
6 or given to the food bank.

7

8 MR. COLLINS: Yeah.

9

10 MR. BIFELT: We know this stuff is going  
11 on but it's awful hard to put a finger on it. You know,  
12 we could probably focus more on enforcement, but we all  
13 know that take money and that's pretty hard to come by.  
14 But, yeah, hopefully we could have more enforcement but I  
15 don't know.

16

17 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Fred. It's  
18 three minutes to 11:00. I want to start at about 8:00 or  
19 8:30 if we could. We have a lot of proposals, like  
20 Robert says, we might have to table a whole bunch of them  
21 if we can't get our people on line.

22

23 Wilson.

24

25 MR. \*: Yeah, I just want to thank Fred  
26 for -- he said he was going to take over Virgil's area  
27 and I was pretty happy about it because I know that Fred  
28 would work with us and I know that he would control it,  
29 control the hunters, you know, like instead of bringing  
30 in 40 he could bring in 10.

31

32 And I saw it in 1965, '66 and '67 in  
33 Bettles, I was working for Wein Airlines as a freight  
34 handler in there, and I saw Bill Pinnel was the guide up  
35 there and he brang in 75 hunters in the fall and Koonuk,  
36 Killy Koonuk or whatever they called him, I was working  
37 with him and he was a mechanic, Andy Anderson -- Andy  
38 Anderson was the pilot and he'd fly float plane, he fly  
39 wheel plane, I go down and load up his float plane with  
40 hunter stuff and just day in and day out, he sleeps three  
41 hours and he flies again. And that old guy, Koonuk, he  
42 said, Wilson you know what's going to happen, he said,  
43 between here, Allakaket and Anaktuvuk Pass there'll be no  
44 more moose in a few years, and look up there now. And I  
45 could see what Fred is talking about, that that's what's  
46 going to happen around here if we don't really try to  
47 control it.

48

49 Thank you.

50

00131

1 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Wilson. You'll  
2 have to pardon me Fred, is there any more questions for  
3 Fred Bifelt.

4  
5 MR. STICKMAN: No questions but I'd like  
6 to say something.

7  
8 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay, Mickey.

9  
10 MR. STICKMAN: Yeah, Fred, I just wanted  
11 to thank you for your words and, you know, at the last  
12 Koyukuk River -- the Moose Management meeting, the  
13 predator control issue, you know, Randy is here and he  
14 knows -- and Glenn was there, you know, I told them the  
15 exact same thing that you brought up, you know, we're  
16 just managing people. As long as we're counting the  
17 moose and we count the moose hunters we're just managing  
18 people. But I told them that, you know, I went on record  
19 that we had to at some point address the predator control  
20 issue.

21  
22 And also the other point that you brought  
23 up about the moose antlers that they collect at the check  
24 station, I thought, you know, that money should -- the  
25 money that they made from those antlers should be spent  
26 in this area instead of going into the general fund.

27  
28 Thank you.

29  
30 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Mickey.

31  
32 MR. WALKER: Mr. Chairman.

33  
34 CHAIRMAN SAM: Robert.

35  
36 MR. WALKER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.  
37 Thank you for your testimony, Fred. It really did some  
38 kind of an awakening for our area down in 21(E). When  
39 you go up in 21(A) up Innoko River, it's pretty much shot  
40 out now. We flew up there once, 20 miles, 30 miles and  
41 only seen one moose and so that area is already depleted.  
42 So we're just hanging on to our area, in 21(E) here,  
43 where we do have some moose left and we have to start  
44 sitting down our own selves there and try to figure out  
45 how we're going to maintain them without them being shot  
46 and just the horns being taken. That's what's been  
47 happening in our area, too.

48  
49 Thank you, again, Fred.

50

00132

1 CHAIRMAN SAM: Mr. Reakoff.

2

3 MR. REAKOFF: Thank you. Thanks a lot  
4 for your testimony, Fred, that was excellent.

5

6 And I've been writing a letter that I  
7 feel that our Council should write to the Federal  
8 Subsistence Board about this testimony that we've heard  
9 here in Huslia and the letter should go to the Federal  
10 Subsistence Board and the Koyukuk Refuge, and I would  
11 like to read that letter and I would like to find out  
12 what the Council's feeling on this letter would be.

13

14 CHAIRMAN SAM: Is this an action -- this  
15 would be an action item, right, Vince?

16

17 MR. MATHEWS: (Nods affirmatively)

18

19 CHAIRMAN SAM: And we are still in  
20 session, so go ahead.

21

22 MR. REAKOFF: This is just sort of a  
23 rough draft that I've been writing out while we've been  
24 sitting here.

25

26 And this letter would be primarily to the  
27 Koyukuk Refuge but through the Federal Subsistence Board  
28 because the Subsistence Board likes to hear what we have  
29 to say.

30

31 The Western Interior Regional Advisory  
32 Council recognizes from public  
33 impassioned testimony in Huslia that  
34 enforcement efforts have lacked  
35 discretion. There is a need for a  
36 stepped enforcement to lend more  
37 education to local people about how  
38 compliance and reporting is to be.  
39 Warnings to get people accustomed to new  
40 regulations. What penalties are for  
41 violations. Encouragement of reporting  
42 subsistence take and how proxies are used  
43 to accommodate large family's subsistence  
44 needs.

45

46 Refuge Staff should determine where  
47 subsistence users are being displaced  
48 from traditional camp sites from guiding  
49 permit holders. Aggrieved subsistence  
50 users should be encouraged to show their

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1 subsistence camp areas and commercial  
2 users relegated to alternate camp sites.

3

4 Local people are sitting ducks for  
5 enforcement and transient hunters are  
6 harder to hunt.

7

8 It's unethical enforcement to slam the  
9 true subsistence users that have not  
10 violated the intent of the destruction of  
11 trophy value. The antlers are not  
12 trophies. The meat is and was used for  
13 personal and family consumptions by rural  
14 residents.

15

16 And I feel the Federal Subsistence Board  
17 should understand that there was a problem here, how the  
18 State enforcement was being implemented and how education  
19 by Refuge Staff in this area can help local people try to  
20 comply with these regulations.

21

22 And that's my letter.

23

24 CHAIRMAN SAM: How many channels does  
25 this letter have to go through before it retains its  
26 original shape?

27

28 (Laughter)

29

30 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, I don't think  
31 there'll be too many problems with that letter because  
32 you're basically informing the Board of the testimony you  
33 heard here and you heard earlier from the Staff Committee  
34 that the Board does want the Regional Council to be  
35 informed and to work with others. So, yes, it will be  
36 reviewed but I don't think there's anything in there that  
37 would cause alarm to prevent the letter from going  
38 forward.

39

40 So it's just basically telling the Board  
41 that you've heard grave concerns here, basically. It  
42 could possibly be part of your annual report since that  
43 has got a cycle to it and then there needs to be a  
44 response to it, but I'll leave that up to you guys to  
45 decide if you want that part of your annual report.

46

47 CHAIRMAN SAM: I would like to see it in  
48 the annual report, but to expedite matters I would like  
49 to see it directed to the OSM as soon as possible.

50

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1 Is there any objections to this letter.

2

3 (Council Shakes Head Negatively)

4

5 CHAIRMAN SAM: If not, we'll go ahead and

6 print this up and edit it a little bit maybe, if we have

7 to and then shoot it off to OSM. Is that fine?

8

9 MR. MATHEWS: Yes. That's how we've done

10 it in the past. I'll work with Jack, he's passing it to

11 me now and then I'll work with Jack and Ron to make sure,

12 and then Ron it goes before you before I ship it to the

13 office for review.

14

15 CHAIRMAN SAM: If I'm still Chairman.

16

17 MR. MATHEWS: Okay, whoever's the

18 Chairman would be reviewing it.

19

20 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay, did we have anything

21 more, like I said it's after 11:00.

22

23 (No comments)

24

25 CHAIRMAN SAM: Can we leave all our stuff

26 here?

27

28 MR. MATHEWS: (Nods affirmatively)

29

30 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay. Recess until 8:30

31 in the morning. We'll try to get started as close to

32 8:30 in the morning.

33

34 MR. WALKER: Polly, you got to make the

35 fire in the morning.

36

37 (Laughter)

38

39 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you all for coming

40 here. I'd like to thank all the local residents for

41 testifying and presenting your views.

42

43 Thank you.

44

45 (PROCEEDINGS TO BE CONTINUED)

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C E R T I F I C A T E

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA )  
 )ss.  
STATE OF ALASKA )

I, Joseph P. Kolasinski, Notary Public in and for the state of Alaska and reporter for Computer Matrix Court Reporters, LLC do hereby certify:

THAT the foregoing pages numbered 02 through 134 contain a full, true and correct Transcript of the WESTERN INTERIOR FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING, VOLUME I taken electronically by Salena Hile on the 9th day of March 2004, beginning at the hour of 3:00 o'clock p.m. at Huslia, Alaska;

THAT the transcript is a true and correct transcript requested to be transcribed and thereafter transcribed by under my direction and reduced to print to the best of our knowledge and ability;

THAT I am not an employee, attorney, or party interested in any way in this action.

DATED at Anchorage, Alaska, this 25th day of March 2004.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Joseph P. Kolasinski  
Notary Public in and for Alaska  
My Commission Expires: 03/12/2008 \_