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WESTERN INTERIOR FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE
REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING

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VOLUME I

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March 10, 1999

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Old Community Hall, Galena, Alaska

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15 COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

16

17 Mr. Ronald Sam, Vice Chairman

18 Ms. Angela O. Demientieff, Secretary

19 Mr. Raymond L. Collins

20 Mr. Benedict Jones

21 Mr. Henry Deacon

22 Mr. Jack L. Reakoff

23 Mr. Michael Stickman

24 Mr. Sampson Henry

25

26 Mr. Vince Mathews, Coordinator

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P R O C E E D I N G S

(On record - 8:33 a.m.)

CHAIRMAN SAM: At this time I'd like to call
Western Interior Subsistence Regional Council to order.

Vince, will you talk roll.

MR. MATHEWS: Yes, Mr. Chair. Sampson Henry.

MR. HENRY: Here.

MR. MATHEWS: Michael Stickman.

MR. STICKMAN: Here.

MR. MATHEWS: Jack Reakoff.

MR. REAKOFF: Here.

MR. MATHEWS: Henry Deacon.

MR. DEACON: Here.

MR. MATHEWS: Benedict Jones.

MR. JONES: Here.

MR. MATHEWS: Ray Collins.

MR. COLLINS: Here.

MR. MATHEWS: Angela Demientieff.

MS. DEMIENTIEFF: Here.

MR. MATHEWS: Ron Sam.

CHAIRMAN SAM: Here.

MR. MATHEWS: And Carl Morgan is absent.

CHAIRMAN SAM: So we have eight out of nine
present, a quorum is established. And at this time, I know
it's early in the morning, but you just had roll call, so you
know who the Council members are at this time and as they
give their concerns and statements, we'll ask them to state
their name and where they're from when they state those
concerns.

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1 At this time I would like to ask that Vince Mathews
2 introduce staff from both Federal and State, if you could.

3
4 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, Mr. Chairman. Yes, I'm
5 Vince Mathews, the Regional Coordinator for Eastern Interior
6 and Western Interior. I'll go with the staff around the room
7 that I can recognize. Ida Hildebrand is here from Bureau of
8 Indian Affairs; next to here is Taylor Brelsford with the
9 Office of Subsistence Management out of Anchorage; Hollis
10 Twitchell is next, National Park Service, Denali National
11 Park; Randy Rogers with Alaska Department of Fish and Game;
12 Jeff Denton, BLM, Anchorage; Dave Yokel, BLM, Northern
13 District; and then Steve Ulvi with the National Park Service,
14 Gates of the Arctic.

15
16 MR. ULVI: Good morning.

17
18 MR. MATHEWS: Mike Spindler with the Koyukuk-
19 Nowitna Wildlife Refuge; and.....

20
21 MR. SPINDLER: Marge Attla.

22
23 MR. MATHEWS: Oh, Marge Attla; and Jim Good
24 is the is the Assistant Refuge Manager, is here; and I don't
25 know the other lady here.

26
27 MS. McCARTY: Mary Ann McCarty from Ruby.

28
29 MR. MATHEWS: Were you able to pick that up?

30
31 COURT REPORTER: Yeah.

32
33 MR. McCARTY: Mary Ann McCarty from Ruby.

34
35 MR. MATHEWS: Okay.

36
37 COURT REPORTER: Thank you.

38
39 CHAIRMAN SAM: And I'd also like to recognize
40 Darrell Vent, Huslia.

41
42 MR. VENT: Huslia Tribal Council.

43
44 MR. MATHEWS: Okay.

45
46 CHAIRMAN SAM: And again, I'd like to remind
47 everyone that if you want to address the Council, I'd like
48 you to come forward to one of these two open mikes on this
49 table, state your name and where you're from, who you're
50 representing.

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1 And there is one change to the agenda that came in
2 early this morning. That is on the Koyukuk River Moose Co-
3 management. Laurie Lolnitz just called about 15 minutes ago
4 and she asked that we hold it off until she come in sometime
5 this afternoon. So if that's fine with everyone, that's what
6 we will do.

7
8 We do have a Galena elder coming in to address us.
9 And at this time -- oh, right on cue. Ladies and gentlemen,
10 for your information Paddy Nollner just walked in and we're
11 opening comments from Galena. We would like to recognize
12 Paddy Nollner, Galena elder. Paddy, we would like to get
13 this on tape here.

14
15 MR. NOLLNER: Okay.

16
17 CHAIRMAN SAM: Uh-huh, thank you. Appreciate
18 it Paddy.

19
20 MR. NOLLNER: Yeah, this thing is on, right?

21
22 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay.

23
24 MR. NOLLNER: You know, just the other day I
25 was asked to come here and welcome the guests and that was
26 it. They told me 9:00 o'clock, so you know where I stand
27 now. If I had know, I was up since 7:30 or so to come over,
28 I seen one guy walking over and I thought well, it must be
29 9:00 o'clock, so here I am.

30
31 But at this time I would like to welcome all you
32 guests that came here to have this meeting and I hope you
33 accomplish something today and go forward with your meeting.
34 And I'd like to say thank you for all coming here and with
35 that, from the standpoint of Galena, I would like to say,
36 thank you for all coming here, for all you guests that are
37 here today. And I hope they all treat you nice today.

38
39 With that, I think that's it for me, huh?

40
41 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Paddy. That's
42 pretty good for a short notice.

43
44 MR. NOLLNER: Yeah.

45
46 CHAIRMAN SAM: For your information, for the
47 record, I'd just like to state that his name is Edgar
48 Nollner, Junior and, you know, (indiscernible) here recently.
49 We really thank you for coming in, Paddy, great.

50

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1 And, like I stated earlier, instead of introducing
2 the Council, I'd like the Council to introduce themselves and
3 state their concerns and what they would like to see
4 accomplished in this meeting. I'd like to start on my left
5 with Angela Demientieff.

6
7 MS. DEMIENTIEFF: Check with the elders
8 first, over there. Henry.

9
10 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay. Maybe we're going to
11 start. Henry, you want introduce yourself and state your
12 concerns for this meeting.

13
14 MR. DEACON: Henry Deacon from Grayling. I
15 have -- there were a lot of concerns here, but it's on all of
16 this agenda, so I'll be expressing my concern thought the
17 meeting.

18
19 MR. REAKOFF: I'm Jack Reakoff from Wiseman.
20 I have no concerns from our area, but I hope to make progress
21 on the discussion on this Lower Koyukuk moose and other
22 issues that will be addressed by the agenda.

23
24 MR. COLLINS: I'm Ray Collins from McGrath
25 and I don't have any concerns either that aren't in the
26 agenda there, I think the moose problem in the Koyukuk that's
27 been identified and also the one down in the Holy Cross area
28 are two of the main concerns that I have.

29
30 MR. HENRY: I'm Sam Henry from Allakaket. I
31 don't have any concerns. The only concerns I have is on the
32 agenda.

33
34 MR. JONES: I'm Benedict Jones from Koyukuk.
35 The only concern we have right now is the winter moose
36 opening in February, I'd like to see it delayed because of
37 the cold weather we had this last three years, that I'd like
38 to see that season opened from the 15th to the 25th of
39 February instead of 1st to the 10th, because the last three
40 years we had extreme cold temperature during those season
41 opening, so I'd like to have 10 days delay if possible.

42
43 MR. STICKMAN: Okay. My name is Michael
44 Stickman, I'm from Nulato. The only concern I had is
45 probably the staff analysis of my proposal, Proposal Number
46 44. And, like Benedict said, the moose hunting season from
47 the 1st to the 10th, it was a little bit too cold for the
48 people around here to be out hunting, so I would have to
49 agree with Ben's idea in delaying the moose winter hunt.

50

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1 MS. DEMIENTIEFF: Angela Demientieff from
2 Holy Cross, I don't have any concerns from Holy Cross and
3 everything, but I wanted listen or hear about these on the
4 agenda.

5
6 Thank you.

7
8 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yeah, again, I should make you
9 aware that our Chairman, Carl Morgan from Aniak is busy down
10 at Juneau and as Vice Chair I will attempt to chair this
11 meeting.

12
13 And I know that he does have some concerns about the
14 winter moose hunt down in his area, too. Is he coming in?

15
16 MR. MATHEWS: No, he's not coming in.

17
18 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay. But we will be
19 discussing their problems to some extent too.

20
21 My name is Ronald Sam, I'm from Alatna and -- but the
22 three main concerns were already discussed, the Koyukuk
23 Moose Management, the Proposal 44 that Mickey Stickman
24 introduced and the winter moose hunt that Aniak area is
25 trying -- I mean they stated their concerns about the winter
26 moose hunt and adding some villages to that hunting in that
27 area. Again, these will be discussed in some detail and just
28 bear with us and bear with me.

29
30 Item six, is there any further changes to the agenda?
31 We're pretty flexible and we try to be for all our villages
32 and villagers because they can't always be here throughout
33 the meeting, like we have to. Again, I'd like to state that
34 flexibility and the co-chair of the Koyukuk Moose Management
35 is not here, but she will be present later on this afternoon,
36 so that will be held off until she comes in.

37
38 Was there any other corrections or agenda change? As
39 I stated, we are pretty flexible, so at this time the Chair
40 will entertain a motion to approve the agenda.

41
42 MR. COLLINS: I so move.

43
44 MR. DEACON: Second.

45
46 CHAIRMAN SAM: There's a motion to approve,
47 with a second, the agenda. Any further discussion?

48
49 (No audible responses)

50

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1 CHAIRMAN SAM: If not, all those in favor of
2 the motion signify by say aye.

3
4 IN UNISON: Aye.

5
6 CHAIRMAN SAM: The reading and approval of
7 the October 6th and 7th Allakaket meeting. Do you want to
8 just go over it or do you want some one to read it out loud?

9
10 (No audible responses)

11
12 CHAIRMAN SAM: Just go over it. I'll give you
13 a few minutes to scan it.

14
15 COURT REPORTER: Is it alright if I go off
16 record until you're ready?

17
18 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yeah.

19
20 (Off record)

21
22 (On record)

23
24 CHAIRMAN SAM: Is there a motion?

25
26 MR. COLLINS: Yes, I move approval of the
27 minutes.

28
29 CHAIRMAN SAM: Is there a second?

30
31 MR. HENRY: Second.

32
33 CHAIRMAN SAM: There's a motion and a second
34 to approve the minutes of the Allakaket meeting. Any further
35 discussion or questions?

36
37 (No audible responses)

38
39 CHAIRMAN SAM: There's one concern, just
40 glancing though the minutes. You know, we elected our
41 officers at that meeting, as we do at every fall meeting, and
42 we don't know at this time whether Carl wants to remain
43 Chairman or not, so if you could.....

44
45 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, he made it clear
46 to me that he's resigning as officer, but wants to remain on
47 the Council, because of his duties in the State Legislature.

48
49 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay. We have different ways
50 to cover this and I think it is on the agenda, elections.

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1 MR. MATHEWS: The elections are not on the
2 agenda here, now.....

3
4 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay.

5
6 MR. MATHEWS:they're generally in the
7 fall, but we can elections now, since there's a -- but I
8 think you have a motion on the floor or did I miss the vote
9 on that?

10
11 CHAIRMAN SAM: There is a motion, but I was
12 just clarifying part of the minutes from the Allakaket
13 meeting. I think that since there are three seat opened,
14 before the fall meeting, it's my suggestion that we keep the
15 present officers as is and hold off on the officer elections
16 until we seat for the Board in the fall. Because this is the
17 only meeting that I will be chairing. And that's just
18 something that's covering the last meeting's minutes.

19
20 Is there any further discussion on the Allakaket
21 meeting minutes?

22
23 (No audible responses)

24
25 CHAIRMAN SAM: If not, all those in favor of
26 adoption of the minutes, signify by saying aye.

27
28 IN UNISON: Aye.

29
30 CHAIRMAN SAM: Opposed same sign.

31
32 (No opposing responses)

33
34 CHAIRMAN SAM: Motion carries.

35
36 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, I just need to
37 make an announcement so people know, because we -- we do have
38 hearing assistant devices for those that may need them. It's
39 a little box that you'd pick up probably from me or one of
40 the other staff up here and that way you'll be able to pick
41 up directly what the mike is picking up. So if you'd like to
42 use one of these, we have several of them here.

43
44 The agendas and all that are going to be out on the
45 public table back there for those that don't have a book or
46 don't have an agenda, so there's a lot of material back
47 there. If there's something missing or we discuss something
48 that you need to look at, grab one of the staff here, Pete,
49 George or I or other staff and we'll either share a copy or
50 find a copy for you. So, like Ron said earlier, we're real

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1 flexible at these meetings, just let us know if there's
2 something there or something we're discussing that you need
3 to look at, we'll work on it.

4
5 Also in front of you, Jack requested, at the meeting
6 before last, that there be copies of Title VIII of ANILCA,
7 the yellow sheets in front of you are copies of Title VIII of
8 ANILCA, I do have a full copy of ANILCA, Alaska National
9 Interest Lands Conservation Act, and you do have State and
10 Federal hunting season booklets in front of you. We do have
11 maps, also, for you, we'll just distribute those on breaks,
12 if needed. And there are overhead maps also, once we set up
13 the overhead, so what I'm trying to convey to people, both on
14 the Council and the public, if we need to clarify anything,
15 just let us know and we'll try to make it as clear as
16 possible, through maps, through discussions, through all
17 means to make sure we keep everybody clear on what we're
18 talking about.

19
20 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

21
22 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay. Thank you, Vince.

23
24 For your information, we do have a sign-in sheet in
25 the back. What was the purpose of that?

26
27 MR. MATHEWS: The sign-in sheet has two
28 purposes. The main purpose is to help the Court Recorder to
29 find out who was present here and to match names and
30 spellings. The other is to give us a record of who was here,
31 which becomes important and when you discuss other issues
32 down the road, someone will say, was there representation
33 from X village or X organization, we can always check the
34 sign-in to see if there was. So it's mainly to keep track of
35 who's here and to help the Court Recorder get correct
36 spellings and names associated with voices.

37
38 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you. At this time, I'd
39 like to recognize also Regine Pilots, who works over at the
40 Loudon Village. And we do have two more staff members here.

41
42 MR. DeMATTEO: I'm Pete DeMatteo, Fish and
43 Wildlife Service, Anchorage.

44
45 MR. SHERROD: I'm George Sherrod, Fish and
46 Wildlife Service, Fairbanks.

47
48 CHAIRMAN SAM: And we have in the audience
49 also Orville Huntington who worked at Nowitna with an office
50 here in Galena.

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1 We're going now to item eight, the Chair's report.

2

3 MR. MATHEWS: That's going to be a little
4 difficult to do. When you develop these agendas months in
5 advance there's things that are in there that don't always
6 apply at every meeting. This is just an opportunity if the
7 Chair did participate in other meetings. You Chair did not
8 participate in other meetings, that I'm aware of, and someone
9 correct me if not. For example, Eastern Interior had
10 different members involved in different subcommittees and
11 committees of the Board, so I don't know of any Chair's
12 report that is needed at this time.

13

14 The second part is other members reports, and for
15 those that have just come in, there been a request to put off
16 or delay discussions on the co-management planning efforts on
17 the Koyukuk until this afternoon, so representatives of
18 Koyukuk Tribal Council and the Koyukuk Co-management Moose
19 Group can be here.

20

21 So this would be a time for those that sit on other
22 committees, like State Advisory Committees or Tribal Council
23 meetings or Resource Commissions to share, if they feel need
24 to, with the Council issues or things that the Advisory
25 Committees or Tribal Councils or Subsistence Resource
26 Commissions are doing.

27

28 CHAIRMAN SAM: The only thing I was ready to
29 report on is the subsequent need that we had on the Koyukuk
30 Moose Management Team or establishment, but -- you know,
31 where we stand, but since we're going to be covering it in
32 detail when Laurie Lolnitz gets here, I'll hold off on that.

33

34 Do we have anyone from the State local Fish and Game
35 Advisory Committee? We know that Mickey Stickman is here.

36

37 MR. STICKMAN: Okay. The only thing that I
38 have to report is that at our last meeting we objected to be
39 a part of the new co-management moose that they're trying to
40 start because their scope of activities was too vague for the
41 Middle Yukon Advisory Council.

42

43 And the only other thing that I have to announce here
44 is probably that we didn't -- the Nulato Tribal Council did
45 get a letter asking for permission to -- from Dick McLane in
46 Fairbanks, he wants to start a fish guiding business on the
47 Kaiyuh Flats and the Nulato River, so he asked the Nulato
48 Tribal Council to give him some support or actually he wanted
49 permission, I guess. But at our last general meeting, the
50 whole tribe attends the general meeting and I put it before

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1 the tribe and let the tribe decide. It's not something that
2 I can decide or the Council itself can decide, we feel that
3 it's mainly something for the people to decide. I don't know
4 if he went before the Kaltag Tribal Council because we do
5 share the Kaiyuh Flats with Kaltag Tribe, so I don't have any
6 information on what he's doing with the Kaltag Tribe, but I
7 know he did come forward and ask the Nulato Tribal Councils
8 for support.

9
10 CHAIRMAN SAM: Ida.

11
12 MS. HILDEBRAND: Ida Hildebrand, BIA Staff
13 Committee member for the Federal Subsistence Board. Did the
14 Council or the Nulato Tribe vote on this his request?

15
16 MR. STICKMAN: No.

17
18 MS. HILDEBRAND: Is that coming up in the
19 future though, or what?

20
21 MR. STICKMAN: It's going to come up yet,
22 we're still giving people a chance to decide right now.

23
24 MS. HILDEBRAND: Okay.

25
26 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you.

27
28 At this time I'd like to introduce Glenn Stouts,
29 Alaska State Fish and Game. Glenn, No?

30
31 (No audible responses)

32
33 CHAIRMAN SAM: Jack, did you have anything to
34 add on the Koyukuk River Advisory Council?

35
36 MR. REAKOFF: There's a -- are you picking
37 this up?

38
39 COURT REPORTER: Yes, thank you.

40
41 MR. REAKOFF: There was a teleconference with
42 the Koyukuk River Advisory Committee, there was a lack of
43 funding for an actual meeting. And the main topic of
44 discussion was the State of Alaska's co-management planning
45 group that was developed during the winter, which was to be
46 comprised of other Advisory Committees and including the
47 Advisory Committee of the Middle Yukon and the Koyukuk River.
48 But since the Middle Yukon didn't feel confident in going
49 forward with that, it left the Koyukuk River also feeling a
50 little bit uneasy about going into that group without further

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1 discussion and so it was though that possibly at this
2 meeting, and Randy Rogers is here with Glenn Stout to bring
3 out some of the finer points of that planning group or maybe
4 a different avenue of planning for this moose problem that's
5 on the Lower Koyukuk here and the Kaiyuh Flats area.

6
7 So, basically, it was a consensus of the Koyukuk
8 River Advisory Committee to not enter into that planning
9 group at this time. And that was a very short
10 teleconference, we only had 45 minutes or something to deal
11 with this issue. And it was kind of a tough situation on
12 teleconference to be not enough -- really enough time to
13 discuss all the finer points. So that's what occurred there.

14
15 CHAIRMAN SAM: You have anything to add to
16 that, Sam?

17
18 MR. HENRY: No.

19
20 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay. At this time I would
21 like to also introduce a respected elder and a past State
22 Board of Game member, ladies and gentlemen, Sidney Huntington
23 who just came in.

24
25 MR. MATHEWS: Ron just introduced you, you
26 may want to.....

27
28 CHAIRMAN SAM: He can't hear very well.

29
30 (Off record discussion re: hearing devices)

31
32 MR. S. HUNTINGTON: This won't be good for a
33 little while. I didn't even know you had a Board meeting
34 going on. And I'd like to say, but it don't do no good to
35 say nothing no more, people don't listen.

36
37 MR. MATHEWS: Ron, do you want try speaking
38 and then maybe he can.....

39
40 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yeah, testing. Testing.

41
42 MR. S. HUNTINGTON: Yeah. Can I take this
43 with me?

44
45 (Laughter)

46
47 MR. MATHEWS: No.

48
49 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yeah, Sidney, can you hear me?

50

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1 MR. S. HUNTINGTON: Yeah.

2

3 CHAIRMAN SAM: Did you want to address the
4 Board in any way?

5

6 MR. S. HUNTINGTON: What's that now?

7

8 CHAIRMAN SAM: Did you want to address the
9 Board in any way?

10

11 MR. S. HUNTINGTON: Well, not really,
12 because, you know, you could address all day, but it really
13 wouldn't do you that much good, because, you know, you got it
14 pretty much set the way you want to go. And I've always
15 maintained that you can't draw subsistence interest or any
16 other interest to the media (indiscernible - away from
17 microphone and fan noise) just go to the Native people, these
18 same projects that they were going to do for years. And as
19 long as you had (indiscernible - away from microphone and fan
20 noise) gets elected because he's going to solve the
21 subsistence, that's bullshit because that'll never happen.
22 We seen that now for many, many years, they haven't solved
23 it.

24

25 I've always maintained that the subsistence issues
26 and those issues (indiscernible - away from microphone and
27 fan noise) were denied by the Federal government to start
28 with. They needed ANILCA to take control of fish and
29 wildlife. I said that over 20 years ago and they're not
30 going to solve subsistence issue as written, because too
31 controversial (indiscernible - away from microphone and fan
32 noise) people all over the United States trying to make
33 allocations and certain directives. People become
34 (indiscernible - away from microphone and fan noise) that's
35 exactly what you got now.

36

37 You got Indians up here that they use the wildlife
38 resources all their lives. If it weren't for the wildlife we
39 wouldn't be in here talking to you today. We got people the
40 come up from the Lower 48, they live in the United States of
41 America, say (indiscernible - away from microphone and fan
42 noise) regardless of whether they keep the horns or not,
43 that's mostly what they want. (indiscernible - away from
44 microphone and fan noise) Fish and Wildlife had to do for
45 many years, you're not going to change that format.

46

47 What I'm afraid of, is when the Federal government
48 takes over -- Federal government don't want to run the god-
49 damn thing. Then we'll have Friends of Animals in the Lower
50 48, the have complete control of (indiscernible - away from

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1 microphone and fan noise) congressman, (indiscernible)
2 President of the United States, those are the people that
3 pulled control from me. In less 30 years from now, we will
4 not be (indiscernible - away from microphone and fan noise)
5 and harvest wildlife resources to eat. I bet you
6 (indiscernible - away from microphone and fan noise) what you
7 have to do today, and that's what you're not going to change
8 that.

9
10 But people are (indiscernible - away from microphone
11 and fan noise) by not living the lifestyle, they're gradually
12 moving away from this place. We getting in a depression one
13 of these days, we'll go back to wildlife resources, which is
14 probably going to be the only way we're going to get them.
15 (Indiscernible - away from microphone and fan noise) if we
16 take care of the resources. I have never yet seen the
17 Federal government take care of wildlife resources where
18 they're supposed to be. They mostly go to the
19 environmentalist society side or Friends of Animals that
20 live, you know, (indiscernible - away from microphone and fan
21 noise) just feast or famine.

22
23 The State of Alaska has proven to me that over the
24 many years when there was no moose in all these areas of
25 Alaska, they protected the moose -- well, right now, you
26 can't go out and do certain things, that we had that much
27 game. There is not much small game and stuff like that
28 (indiscernible - away from microphone and fan noise) There's
29 not one person in this house (indiscernible - away from
30 microphone and fan noise) make a living off of this country.

31
32
33 (Indiscernible - away from microphone and fan noise)
34 there's no way none of us in this house can go out there and
35 say, we're going to live off of this country. We don't use
36 the resources and when you don't use the resource you lose
37 the resource. I read that many, many years ago, without
38 wildlife (indiscernible - away from microphone and fan noise)
39 through the Kaiyuh Flats and people used to go muskrat
40 hunting to make a living. There is no more muskrats
41 (indiscernible - away from microphone and fan noise) that if
42 you don't use it, you lose it.

43
44 Look at all the pike and stuff in the Kaiyuh Flats,
45 nobody harvest them, lots of them there, there's a fortune in
46 pike out there, but there's no more muskrat because people
47 didn't use them. They don't go back and even harvest the
48 pikes anymore that they used to for dogs and what not. Times
49 are changing. The Federal government will take over, there
50 goes out diet in my mind, because you can't stop the politics

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1 in Juneau or anywhere else by that Board, and so what they
2 (indiscernible).

3
4 You people that come up here work with the Federal
5 government of all employers, they're not go to last too long
6 without workers. (Indiscernible) you're not dedicated to the
7 resources as much as you are dedicated to your God and I say
8 that many, many times and I say it many, many times and I
9 mean every god-damn word of it, because there's no way -- we
10 are dedicated to the wildlife resource because we live with
11 it, we harvest it, we eat it, we use it. Look at me with the
12 (indiscernible) will come up and go out with you guys.
13 (Indiscernible) but we don't use it anymore.

14
15 (Indiscernible) whatever not is different by many,
16 many, many factors. (Indiscernible) steal your biologist
17 over there because I need some help from them.

18
19 (Indiscernible - laughter) right here, University of
20 Alaska tomorrow, so if you have any questions to ask me, come
21 over and ask me because I won't (indiscernible)

22
23 Thank you.

24
25 (Applause)

26
27 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Sidney.

28
29 MR. S. HUNTINGTON: I hope you're busy. I
30 appreciate you giving (indiscernible) that's the way I have
31 to do things. I speak from the heart. If you don't speak
32 from the heart you express yourself, you don't know what the
33 hell you're talking about, that's the problem with too many
34 of us.

35
36 CHAIRMAN SAM: And I'd like to reiterate that
37 during a State Board of Game meeting that I appeared and
38 testified before, we had only one vote and that was Sidney
39 Huntington, at times, and yet we got a good part of our
40 proposals through because of Sidney. And for that reason, I
41 just wanted to hear from him. Thank you again, Sidney.

42
43 Do we have anything more on the local Advisory
44 Committees?

45
46 (No audible responses)

47
48 CHAIRMAN SAM: If not we have -- I see we
49 have some Tribal Council members and if you have some
50 concerns we'd like to come to these two open mikes on the

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1 table in front. So it's open to Tribal Council members,
2 anybody.

3

4 MR. VENT: My name is Darrell Vent from the
5 Huslia Tribal Council. Some of our problems that we seem to
6 be discussing here is concerning co-management. I'm on the
7 board as the treasurer and I know Jack Reakoff is on there as
8 advisor. The reason why we're getting this process started
9 is because we had a lot of concerns that if the Federal or
10 State government, you know, who has control of things, I
11 guess it's more towards the Federal government and one of
12 them is learning to manage our own area because our concerns
13 is our area. I figure we have a better understanding of what
14 could happen if we start throwing this aside and letting
15 other people manage it, we seem to have too many complaints
16 when some other people manage it.

17

18 And some of our concerns was about the process of
19 guides getting guide permits. About the moose count for
20 antlers, 50-inches or bigger, how much is being taken out of
21 our area. And we also had Doyon send us a comment or a
22 letter stating that they wanted more information from us
23 about the legal use of our lands, our suggestions. So Doyon
24 is trying to get involved with our process, which hopefully
25 will help us understand what's going on with our area a
26 little better because we got, I guess you could say, a good
27 moose hunting population as of now.

28

29 Not compared to maybe 10 years down the road, we
30 don't, you know -- seems like whenever something is being
31 managed, like the fish was being managed, now they're having
32 a bad -- it was a bad year last year for them. That kind of
33 made us concerned because if they can have bad years, how is
34 this going affect us, if we don't learn management right now,
35 then later on down the road that could hurt us because we
36 didn't manage it. And the only way to do things, I think, is
37 because we see this year around, like Sidney was talking
38 about, how these people they come up here for five years at a
39 time and then somebody else comes in. They don't understand
40 the whole process, not as much as we do because we live on
41 that land.

42

43 So now is the time to start thinking ahead where we
44 can start learning to manage our own lands, where natural
45 resources -- right now we're just in kind of a small phase, I
46 hope, you know, depends on how we're looking at it, but
47 Laurie is the co-chair, so I'd wait for her comments before I
48 could make any comments on that.

49

50 And the help with the Fishing Disaster Program, I

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1 think we really appreciate it in our area because we were
2 pretty hard hit. It's been a bad year up there, water has
3 been too high, we couldn't catch no fish all summer. And I
4 brought this comment up at the YKRDA meeting down in Alatna.

5
6 All right. Thank you for your time.

7
8 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Darrell. Any other
9 village Council members' concerns?

10
11 (No audible responses)

12
13 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay, if you do come up with
14 some concerns later on, as I stated earlier -- okay.

15
16 MS. ATTLA: My name is Marty Attla and I'm
17 here on behalf of Tanana Chiefs and I'm also a Louden Tribal
18 Council member. My biggest concern is that wolf population.
19 And we have a cabin across the river in a slough. Every
20 summer we go there and the only things we see is just a few
21 moose with no calf. And last summer we found some moose
22 carcass that are the calves, so no the wolf population is
23 really high.

24
25 My husband went up to Huslia a couple of weeks ago
26 and he said there's a real -- where there's wolf, there a
27 regular hard trail to where it's just like we have our
28 Snow-go trails to our cabins, that's how high the wolf
29 population is. And with no hunting -- no hunting is allowed
30 on the wolves, it's getting -- it will be in the future that
31 we won't have very many moose around here.

32
33 And also they have a regular trail up where the
34 caribous are and so that is my biggest concern is the wolves.
35 And years ago, like Sidney was saying, we used to control it.
36 We used to control every spring camp or winter camp or
37 wherever we're camping during the winter. So we need to
38 start thinking more about the wolf population too. I know
39 that Friends of the Animals give us a bad time, but we just
40 have to keep working on it.

41
42 Thank you.

43
44 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Marge.

45
46 Anyone else at this time?

47
48 (No audible responses)

49
50 CHAIRMAN SAM: If not, you know, you see some

00018

1 outlying Council members please let us know and let them know
2 that they can address this Board at any time.

3

4 We're going to National Park Subsistence. Who do we
5 have on there, Jack?

6

7 MR. REAKOFF: Mr. Chairman, I'm on the Gates
8 of the Arctic Resource Commission, but our Commission hasn't
9 had a meeting for over a year now and we're planning,
10 hopefully, to have a meeting in April.

11

12 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay. Do we have any staff
13 members? Okay, Ray.

14

15 MR. COLLINS: Well, I'm on the Denali Park
16 Commission, we did have a meeting. I don't think we got any
17 concerns directly on any of the proposal that are before us
18 here.

19

20 Yes.

21

22 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, Ray, yes, Denali
23 did comment on Proposal 25. It's not in your book, it was an
24 oversight, but Proposal 25 is the Dan O'Connor.....

25

26 MR. COLLINS: Oh, right, yes.

27

28 MR. MATHEWS: And you guys did comment on
29 that last year, so we do have materials on that, so Denali
30 SRC did take action on a proposal that will be before this
31 group.

32

33 MR. COLLINS: Right, thank you.

34

35 CHAIRMAN SAM: Do we have any other reports?

36

37 (No audible responses)

38

39 CHAIRMAN SAM: If not, we'll go into item C,
40 compensation of Regional Council members. And you'll briefly
41 cover the correspondence.

42

43 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, Mr. Chairman, I need to
44 direct you to Tab U, as in Utopia, and Tab V, as in Venetie.
45 Under Tab V is the letter that you requested from your last
46 meeting be sent to Secretary Babbitt, to the Interior
47 Department, to reconsider his decision to reject or deny
48 Regional Council compensation. That was sent on December
49 9th, it's in front of you there, and it was sent to the
50 Chairs of all the Federal Regional Advisory Councils.

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1 If you turn back to Tab U, there is two letters
2 there, one from North Slope Regional Advisory Council, signed
3 by Fenton Rexford, the Chair, and the other by Willie
4 Goodwin, the Chair of Northwest Arctic Regional Advisory
5 Council in support of the letter and sending a letter of
6 support to the Secretary of the Interior.

7
8 As we stated at the fall meeting, there's -- the
9 decision was made, you have the letter there that you sent,
10 and there's been no additional discussions about revisiting
11 the issue of Regional Council compensation.

12
13 CHAIRMAN SAM: Did we get anything at all
14 from the Department of Interior?

15
16 MR. MATHEWS: Just the earlier correspondence
17 when the issue was brought up initially, but nothing since
18 then. And, I believe, in the letter -- I'm trying to find it
19 real quick here -- that you may want to discuss it with the
20 other Chairs at the Joint Chairs meeting in May. But there's
21 been no correspondence from the Secretary back on your
22 letter.

23
24 And if there's other staff here that knows different,
25 I encourage them to come up, but to my knowledge there has
26 not been a response.

27
28 CHAIRMAN SAM: Ida Hildebrand.

29
30 COURT REPORTER: Could you use this mike?
31 I'm sorry.

32
33 MS. HILDEBRAND: Ida Hildebrand, BIA Staff
34 Committee member. I'm not responding as to whether or not
35 there was a response, but in reference to your letter under
36 Tab V, after the second paragraph it may have strengthen your
37 request, and you may use it in your Chair Board meeting, that
38 this Council is required under Sections 801, 805 and 812 of
39 ANILCA. It isn't just some volunteer assembly, it
40 specifically requires knowledgeable people that have
41 knowledge of subsistence uses in the region and it is
42 required under those three sections.

43
44 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you for the
45 clarification, really appreciate that.

46
47 What are the feelings of Board Council members?

48
49 (No audible responses)

50

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1 CHAIRMAN SAM: Vince, what kind of action
2 were we looking for on this?

3
4 MR. MATHEWS: You were asking him to revisit
5 this based on the concerns that it wasn't just volunteering,
6 it was more than just volunteering. Right now I don't think
7 there's any action, since there has not been a response. The
8 best way would be at the Regional -- when you meet with all
9 the other Chairs in May, to ask for their assistance.
10 Possibly from there would be to ask the Board, but remember
11 the Secretary has the authority over that, so that would be
12 the steps you would have available. There would possibly be
13 time during, and if we take over -- not take over, expand
14 into fisheries management, it might be a discussion item at
15 that time.

16
17 I don't want to encourage you that there's any
18 movement to grant compensation, I'm just advising you of the
19 steps of maybe trying to get the Secretary to revisit that,
20 but right now the decision is no.

21
22 CHAIRMAN SAM: Is there -- can we draft a
23 letter backing up our -- I mean asking that this item be
24 placed on the agenda for Chairs meeting?

25
26 MR. MATHEWS: Sure you could go ahead -- yes,
27 you could. The Chairs agenda, I've never attended one,
28 basically you guys put that together, I believe, during the
29 time you're meeting or some may even draft up ideas. You
30 could do that. You could request that a letter be sent to
31 the Chairs that this be a discussion topic at your Joint
32 Chairs meeting.

33
34 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yes, I would like to direct
35 you to do that at this time.

36
37 Is there anything else from the Board?

38
39 (No audible responses)

40
41 CHAIRMAN SAM: If not, the other letters are
42 in your packet for your information.

43
44 At this time we're going to item nine, status report
45 on C&T use determination working group.

46
47 MR. SHERROD: Thank you, Mr. Chair. This is
48 covered under Tab Q in your book. However, this summary you
49 see in Tab Q is being rewritten, and I'll explain why. As
50 you know, C&T is a complex issue and the attempt to summarize

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1 it sometimes the summary is misleading, if not inaccurate.
2 The point here is in the recommendation at the bottom, while
3 it is true that nine of the 10 Council felt that there was a
4 role for C&T, somehow in the Federal system, this summary
5 sort of indicates that these Councils were happy with the way
6 things are being done now, and that surely is not the case.

7
8 I think that if anything that is evident in the C&T
9 Working Group was this existing lack of agreement or
10 consensus about what exactly C&T is supposed to do, and how
11 it fits into the Federal system. What is the intent of it in
12 providing a rural priority for subsistence users? I think
13 that, in fact, this lack of consensus or dissatisfaction with
14 the existing system is evident in some of the actions that
15 have taken place in previous meetings.

16
17 The Eastern Interior Council, which dealt with
18 Proposal 43, one that you're going to deal with, followed
19 your lead last year by saying if there's a black bear
20 determination -- if it's no determination and there's no need
21 to restrict, we're not going to restrict and they just
22 outright rejected the proposal. This was something the Board
23 sent back to them and will send back to you and you'll
24 revisit it again.

25
26 In part I think the Board's action was based on the
27 belief that this Working Group would somehow come to a
28 consensus and solve the problem. There would be clear
29 direction, which, obviously, did not happen. It's unclear
30 what the future of this Working Group is at this point, but I
31 do think that, as I say, the actions taken by this Council,
32 and actually the Delta took the same action on the black bear
33 proposal, too, in saying if there's no reason to restrict,
34 then we're going to vote the proposal down. We're not going
35 to make a determination and possibly run the risk of
36 excluding a qualified user.

37
38 So with that I would like to say that Ida sat on that
39 group and her memory, in many ways, is better than mind on
40 things, so she might have some information she'd like to add.

41
42 MS. HILDEBRAND: Ida Hildebrand, BIA Staff
43 Committee member. The Working Group was called by the Board
44 and Chair, Mitch Demientieff, he was one of the members.
45 Craig Fleener from Eastern Interior, Bill Thomas from
46 Southeast and Dan O'Hara from Bristol Bay and myself from the
47 BIA Staff Committee, Sandy Rabinowitch, Park Service Staff
48 Committee, and Ken Thompson, Forest Service Staff Committee,
49 were members.

50

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1 And the reflections or part of the problem with the
2 summary of the reflections of the Councils, all the Councils
3 did agree that they wanted some process for C&T, but they
4 disagreed with the eight factor process, with the exception
5 of one Regional Council did specifically vote to maintain
6 that process.

7
8 And in the discussion with the Working Group, it was
9 the same problem of the summaries weren't quite accurate
10 because they didn't go into the discussions of the Councils.
11 Most of the Councils supported Denali's SRC's modifications
12 and also supported the Council option. In other words, they
13 wanted a process that the Councils would determine the
14 factors and the weight of the factors was most of the
15 discussion.

16
17 And the Working Group was stymied by one of the group
18 making a motion and not wanting to be swayed in either
19 direction. And went so far as to say, if you don't like the
20 way I vote, replace me. And when you're assigned to
21 represent all the Councils, you have to keep taking into
22 consideration everyone's concerns. And then a lot of
23 discussion that went off on to tangents and, unfortunately,
24 Mitch, the Chairman of the Board, wasn't able to attend the
25 last meeting. However, he did express concern that he was
26 hoping that it would be resolved to some consensus prior to
27 fish, because we'd have to go into fish C&T or may have to go
28 into fish C&T, but it wasn't resolved.

29
30 So the question of C&T is still out there and I'm
31 sure that Mitch will either call for another group or request
32 some other discussion, further discussion. I don't think
33 it's over.

34
35 CHAIRMAN SAM: Any questions for Ida?

36
37 (No audible responses)

38
39 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay. Thank you.

40
41 Do we have anything else on C&T?

42
43 MR. SHERROD: That's it.

44
45 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay. If not, we're going to
46 proposals, review and recommendations, item 10.

47
48 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, could we take a
49 little bit of a break? For a couple of reasons. I'd like to
50 set up the overhead and get that ready, if we so need it, and

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1 all that. So I would need, like, five minutes to set that
2 up.

3

4 CHAIRMAN SAM: Is the coffee done?

5

6 UNIDENTIFIED: I think the coffee's ready,
7 I'm going to try to get a little more tea in here, so there
8 is a little tea in that other pot, there's hot water for tea.

9

10 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay. Ten-15 minute smoke
11 break, coffee break.

12

13 (Off record - 9:34 a.m.)

14

15 (On record - 9:56 a.m.)

16

17 CHAIRMAN SAM: We'll call this meeting back
18 to order. At this time we'll go into some discussion of our
19 proposals that are before us. I'd like to turn it over to
20 Vince Mathews.

21

22 MR. MATHEWS: All right, we got to get
23 through the technology here. For the public and others, if
24 this becomes a deterrent from you participating or seeing,
25 just let me now. I'm not real comfortable being at the
26 public table here with all this technology.

27

28 We talked during break that we were going to take up
29 Proposal 25, which is not in your book, it was an error, it
30 was not put in there. You've addressed this proposal last
31 year. Proposal 25 deals with individual C&T for moose in
32 Unit 13(E) and 20(C). And, Hollis Twitchell, from the
33 National Park Service will present it.

34

35 I did give you a handout. If you misplaced it or I
36 failed to give you one, just let me know. For the public
37 there's copies back on the public table.

38

39 Thank you.

40

41 MR. TWITCHELL: Good morning, Council.
42 Hollis Twitchell with Denali National Park. Proposal 25
43 replaces Proposal Number 38 which came before you last year
44 in 1998. These proposals were submitted by Dan O'Connor who
45 is requesting an individual customary and traditional use
46 determination for moose on Denali National Park lands within
47 Units 20(C) and 13(E).

48

49 Dan O'Connor holds a subsistence use permit from the
50 Park Service, but is not able to utilize moose on the Federal

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1 lands because of the community he live in doesn't have a
2 positive customary and traditional use.

3
4 Proposal 38 was presented in 1998 winter meetings to
5 Eastern, Western and Southcentral Regional Councils. The
6 three Regional Advisory Councils supported Proposal 38 with a
7 modification that individuals with Park Service subsistence
8 use permits be granted a positive individual C&T
9 determination for use on park lands. And that the individual
10 names not be listed in the Federal regulations.

11
12 The intent of these recommendations was to recognize
13 subsistence use permit holders as a group and not have
14 individual's names listed in the regulations. This was also
15 to reduce the burden on individuals having to go through
16 duplicating processes before being allowed to continue their
17 traditional subsistence uses on park lands.

18
19 The Councils also considered the administrative
20 workload to the Federal Program of having to deal with future
21 individual C&T requests.

22
23 Since we went through this proposal in detail last
24 year, I'll go ahead and move now to the recommendations. The
25 preliminary conclusions is to adopt Proposal 25, as modified
26 by the Eastern, Western and Southcentral Regional Advisory
27 Councils in 1998. The Councils recommendations to the
28 Federal Subsistence Board to adopt the policy that
29 individuals who have demonstrated their customary and
30 traditional use of park resources, and have received a
31 subsistence use permit from the park, should be granted a
32 positive individual C&T use determination. The determination
33 would be applicable on park lands and the individual
34 subsistence users permittee's name would not be listed in the
35 Federal regulations.

36
37 Again, the justification for that recommendation is
38 that the Regional Advisory Councils' recommendation would
39 allow a process for individuals who have already documented
40 their customary and traditional use of park resources through
41 a subsistence use permit, be granted an individual C&T for
42 the use of those park lands. It would allow individual
43 permittees to use -- continue to use park resources without
44 having to go through the additional duplicating process of
45 showing individual C&T to the Federal Subsistence Board.

46
47 This would also eliminate having individual's names
48 within the regulations and reduce the administrative workload
49 to the Councils and to the Board for future individual C&T
50 requests.

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1 Again, the testimony and written record provided by
2 Dan and Pat O'Connor provides adequate documentation that Dan
3 O'Connor has customarily and traditionally used moose
4 resources on park lands in 20(C) and 13(E). His families
5 rely on a wide variety and diversity of subsistence resources
6 since the 1940s, including and unerupted [sic] pattern of
7 moose hunting from '48 to 1998. And the O'Connor has
8 personally participated in moose hunting from 1971 to the
9 present and engages in hunting and trapping a wide variety of
10 other species. Records indicate that he has primarily used
11 Unit 20(C) for moose hunting and his family has a long
12 history of utilizing moose in Unit 13.

13
14 That concludes the justification. There were several
15 comments received on Proposal 25.

16
17 The Alaska Department of Fish and Game comments was
18 to oppose outside of the park lands, but to support any
19 qualified 1344 subsistence use permittees within the park.

20
21 There were written comments received, two comments,
22 coming in requesting that an expedited resolution to the
23 individual use C&T determination for park lands to occur.

24
25 The Eastern Interior Regional Advisory Council
26 supported Proposal 25 with a modification that all 1344
27 permittees would be granted a positive individual C&T
28 determination.

29
30 The Denali Subsistence Resource Commission reviewed
31 Proposal 25 on February 26th and they supported Proposal 25
32 as modified by the Eastern Interior, Western Interior and
33 Southcentral Regional Advisory Councils in their 1998
34 deliberations.

35
36 There is one other aspect that I didn't mention
37 earlier, is that the Federal Subsistence Board in deferring
38 Proposal 38 last year asked for a Solicitor's review of the
39 regulation that allows for individual C&T by the Solicitor.
40 We have not heard any formal response back from the Solicitor
41 yet on that request, so that is still pending at this time.

42
43 That concludes the presentation.

44
45 CHAIRMAN SAM: Any questions?

46
47 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, for those that
48 are in the public, this is a proposal that's come up before,
49 so we're not discouraging you from commenting, but there is
50 time to comment at any time on any proposal, but this is one

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1 that's been around several times, or at least once, before
2 this Council. And if you need copies of the letter from the
3 Denali Subsistence Resource Commission, I do have it here,
4 but if you desire a copy of their letter, on each of the
5 proposals they commented on.

6
7 Thank you.

8
9 MR. COLLINS: Mr. Chairman, I would move to
10 support this proposal.

11
12 CHAIRMAN SAM: Is there a second?

13
14 MR. REAKOFF: Second.

15
16 CHAIRMAN SAM: There's a motion before us to
17 support Proposal 25. Any further comments, discussion?

18
19 (No audible responses)

20
21 CHAIRMAN SAM: So this whole Proposal 25 is
22 covered under page two of your handout.

23
24 MR. COLLINS: Mr. Chairman, I just state
25 again, for the record, that I think that this is a critical
26 proposal because it's the first one that's come before the
27 Federal Board recognizing individual right to subsistence.
28 And the reason Dan was disqualified, I guess most of you know
29 the history of that, he was given a permit by the park
30 because he demonstrated a use of that, but then the State
31 Board, because he lived in an area along the highway, where
32 the population changed because of the lodges.

33
34 A lot of people moved in who were not subsistence,
35 they said the majority of the people there were no longer
36 subsistence so they denied anyone living along that area C&T
37 finding. And that left him with no C&T, even though he had a
38 permit and because he lived in an area where the rest of the
39 people were not. In the future that could happen in other
40 areas in rural Alaska, where the nature of the community
41 could change and the majority were no longer subsistence,
42 they could say, well, you don't have the right anymore,
43 unless they start recognizing individuals at some point.

44
45 And I think there was a mention in Allakaket, wasn't
46 it, over towards the highway some that could -- I can't
47 remember the context of what they were saying, but there's a
48 potential there, for example.

49
50 MR. REAKOFF: Yeah, there's one family down

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1 there by Old Man that they, under the caribou C&T, they're
2 not qualified to hunt caribou.

3
4 MR. COLLINS: Right.

5
6 MR. REAKOFF: Where they may possibly be able
7 to qualify under an individual permit.

8
9 MR. COLLINS: Yeah. That's why I moved to
10 support this, because I think it's critical that they
11 recognize individuals as subsistence users.

12
13 CHAIRMAN SAM: Vince.

14
15 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman. To Ray, your
16 motion would be to support the proposal or to support the
17 modification by the three Councils which.....

18
19 MR. COLLINS: The modification.

20
21 MR. MATHEWS: Okay. So the record should --
22 does the second agree with that?

23
24 MR. REAKOFF: Yeah.

25
26 MR. MATHEWS: Okay. Just so it's clear, so
27 we end up -- so it's modified as referenced in the -- your
28 earlier actions.

29
30 Thank you.

31
32 CHAIRMAN SAM: Any further discussion?

33
34 (No audible responses)

35
36 CHAIRMAN SAM: I'd like to see this taken
37 care of, too, for once and for all. I do foresee some
38 problems in the Gates of the Arctic because we did have some
39 proposals before the State Board of Game, went no where,
40 because of the general rules and feelings at that time.

41
42 Any further discussion?

43
44 (No audible responses)

45
46 CHAIRMAN SAM: If not, all those in favor of
47 supporting Proposal 25 as modified, signify by saying aye.

48
49 IN UNISON: Aye.

50

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1 CHAIRMAN SAM: Opposed?

2
3 (No opposing responses)

4
5 CHAIRMAN SAM: Motion carried.

6
7 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, that brings us
8 back into the book, the green, isn't it green? No, blue-
9 colored book. We're looking at under Tab R, as in Rampart,
10 and we're looking at Proposal 42A and 42B and.....

11
12 MR. SHERROD: (Inaudible - away from
13 microphone)

14
15 MR. MATHEWS: Oh, right. Mr. Chairman,
16 George was informing me this does need to be -- everyone
17 needs to understand what actions -- how you're going to
18 proceed with these proposals, not actions. As you discussed
19 with other staff, you're going to review these proposals and
20 analysis and not take final action and then you're going to
21 recess, at some point, at 1:00 o'clock, I believe. Before
22 lunch you'll recess and the after lunch you'll have a
23 teleconference with the Chair of the Yukon-Kuskokwim Regional
24 Advisory Council, so you can make a motion and second it, but
25 you won't be able to vote on any of these proposals until
26 after you hear -- the proposal we're talking about will be
27 42A and B, 43 and 45, so we'll remind you of which ones you
28 can't take action on until you hear from Y-K. Is that clear
29 to everyone?

30
31 MR. SHERROD: Why don't we just do 44,
32 because they can take action on that.

33
34 MR. MATHEWS: Okay, that's -- the other
35 option, if you want, is to just take up 44, which you can
36 take action on. I'm not sure if all the staff that -- well,
37 yes, all the staff is here for it, I believe, that we need.
38 So we have two options, one is to go through the proposals
39 that we're going to recess and hear comment on, or we can
40 take a proposal that doesn't require any teleconferencing and
41 that would be Proposal 44, to close the northern portion of
42 the Innoko Refuge. So it's your call, Mr. Chair, on how
43 you'd like to proceed.

44
45 CHAIRMAN SAM: Since we have to go into
46 teleconference, I think that we have no choice but to go into
47 detail on these proposals anyway, that way we'll cut down our
48 teleconference time and time away from the public meeting
49 that we're holding here. We will have to go through these
50 proposal line-by-line.

00029

1 At this time I would like to ask Mike if it's alright
2 if we just go ahead and deal with 44 right now?

3
4 MR. STICKMAN: Okay, yeah.

5
6 CHAIRMAN SAM: Proposal 44. The reason I
7 want to go through these in detail is that we can't get all
8 the answers on a teleconference, no matter what. I'm just
9 sorry that we have to go to a teleconference to take action
10 on the rest of these proposals.

11
12 So at this time, Vince, Proposal 44.

13
14 MR. MATHEWS: Okay. I think I'm going to
15 turn this over to Pete. The actual proposal, if you want to
16 look at the actual proposal, is on page 55 in your book and
17 then there's a handout, and I think Pete needs to -- we need
18 to make sure you have that particular handout in front of
19 you, then we'll proceed.

20
21 CHAIRMAN SAM: Do we need a motion to adopt
22 before we discuss it?

23
24 MR. HENRY: I don't know.

25
26 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay. Go ahead, Pete.

27
28 MR. DeMATTEO: Mr. Chair, I faxed you a copy
29 of the staff analysis and then I believe last night or this
30 morning you were handed a second version. Essentially the
31 two versions arrive at the same point. The biologist who
32 wrote the biologist section made a couple of small changes in
33 the biology section, but basically the two documents arrive
34 at the same point.

35
36 I'm going to go over the analysis and give you the
37 highlights of it. After that I believe Vince will read any
38 public comments that were submitted, then I think the State
39 will offer their position and then after that any staff who
40 have anything to add to clarify the analysis, they can jump
41 in at that point.

42
43 Okay. Proposal 44 was submitted by Michael Stickman
44 of Nulato. This proposal would close the northern unit of
45 the Innoko National Wildlife Refuge in Unit 21(D) to non-
46 federally qualified users for moose hunting in the Federal
47 September 1 to 25 and February 1 through 10 seasons.

48
49 This proposal is in response to concerns for
50 populations declines and displacement of local users by

00030

1 increased hunting pressure from non-local users. Mr. Chair,
2 if you focus on the map, which I believe you all have a copy
3 in front of you, there's also one on the far wall there, and
4 if you look, more or less, in the dead center of the map and
5 just slightly to the left you'll see Innoko National Wildlife
6 Refuge. The Federal lands here, the refuge lands, are
7 indicated as, I believe, pink or purple.

8
9 Vince will put it up on the overhead just so we all
10 understand where we're talking about. This is the area just,
11 more or less, southwest of here across the river.

12
13 The current Federal seasons for the proposal area is
14 one moose, September 1 through 25 and February 1 through 10.
15 The current State season for resident hunters is one bull,
16 September 5 through 20 and then any moose September 21
17 through 25 and then there's a winter season, February 1
18 through 10. The State season for non-resident hunters is one
19 bull, September 5 through 25.

20
21 This proposal, if adopted, would close a mosaic of
22 Federal land, with the majority of the closure lying in the
23 one-half of the northern unit of the Innoko National Wildlife
24 Refuge. The remainder of the refuge contains Federal, State
25 and Native lands. Rural residents of 21(D) and residents of
26 Huslia and Ruby have a customary and traditional use
27 determination for Unit 21(D).

28
29 Again, Mr. Chair, just talking about the mosaic of
30 land that's -- again, that's the pink area that's indicated
31 on your map, right where it says Innoko National Wildlife
32 Refuge.

33
34 Analysis of 15 years of State harvest data do not
35 reveal patterns of increased pressure by non-local hunters or
36 decline of harvests and/or displacement of local hunters
37 during the period of 1983 through 1987 -- or correction,
38 1997. Local harvest patterns include big game, waterfowl,
39 furbearers and resident fish species on the Kaiyuh Flats.

40
41 State harvest reports for the residents of Nulato and
42 Kaltag, who harvested moose within the boundaries of the
43 northern unit of the Innoko National Wildlife Refuge during
44 1983 through 1997 indicate average hunter success rates were
45 55 percent for Nulato and 63 percent for Kaltag during that
46 period. Success rates for all federally qualified, which is
47 the same thing as saying, all rural users, was 56 percent for
48 that same period. And non-federally qualified, which are all
49 the other hunters, was 72 percent. The overall success rate
50 for all hunter groups is 61 percent.

00031

1 This proposal would fail to directly address the
2 proponent's concerns because non-unit resident and non-
3 resident hunters may hunt during the fall season on State and
4 private lands and waters under State regulations. Moose
5 hunting in the central Kaiyuh Flats occurs along waterways,
6 below the ordinary high water mark, much of which is
7 presently under State jurisdiction.

8
9 Again, Federal jurisdiction applies to the areas
10 which are above the ordinary high water mark, which does not
11 include the main moose hunting areas on the Kaiyuh Flats.
12 Therefore, implementation of this proposal would not likely
13 alter the existing harvest patterns.

14
15 State harvest reports for moose harvested on the
16 northern unit of the Innoko National Wildlife Refuge do not
17 indicate any patterns of increased pressure by non-local
18 hunters, nor a decline in local harvest or a displacement of
19 local hunters during the period of 1983 through 1997.
20 Examination of State harvest data and results from research
21 conducted by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Division
22 of Subsistence, reveal moose harvest levels for Nulato and
23 Kaltag remain high. These level approach the maximum
24 sustained yield but do occur within sustainable harvest
25 limits for the Kaiyuh Flats at this time. Therefore, harvest
26 patterns and moose populations should be closely monitored.

27
28 Survey data indicate certain subareas of the Kaiyuh
29 Flats have exhibited population declines, while some areas
30 adjacent have shown slight increases in the past decade.

31
32 Mr. Chair, it is hoped at this time that maybe
33 additional testimony offered by the Council members or
34 members of the public will shed more light on the claims of
35 declining harvests for local people, declining opportunity
36 and maybe displacement from their normal hunting areas.

37
38 Thank you.

39
40 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay. Vince.

41
42 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, we did get quite
43 a few comments on this. I'm going to briefly cover Alaska
44 Department of Fish and Game's comments, but I believe in your
45 discussion they will further clarify their position.

46
47 The Alaska Department of Fish and Game opposes the
48 proposal. The Department is unaware of a biological need to
49 restrict moose hunting in the area in question. Data from
50 the past five years show that local hunter success is high

00032

1 and with local hunter participation increasing. The proposed
2 regulation is unlikely to achieve the desired objective or
3 reducing non-local hunting effort and may, in fact,
4 concentrate hunting within the corridor and have negative
5 impacts on hunter success rate.

6
7 Further, unless the affected lands are identified and
8 posted, and a concerted effort to made to inform the public
9 of such closures the proposed regulations would be difficult
10 to administer and enforce.

11
12 Other written comments received. Gana-A Yoo, Limited
13 of Galena support the proposal. We understand the moose
14 population in this area has decreased significantly.

15
16 Nulato Tribal Council submitted a written comment,
17 they support the proposal. We agree with the assessment of
18 the current fish and wildlife populations within the Kaiyuh
19 Flats and believe the proposal will have a positive impact on
20 subsistence users in the area. The subsistence users have
21 witnessed a gradual increase in activity in the area by non-
22 regional hunters arriving by boats, plane and landing on
23 Kaiyuh Slough. The local subsistence users must hunt far
24 outside the Kaiyuh Flats.

25
26 Middle Yukon Fish and Game Advisory Committee also
27 commented. They support the proposal. The Federal moose
28 survey information show a halving of the moose population in
29 the Kaiyuh Flats area. This area is particularly important
30 to Nulato and Kaltag.

31
32 Kaltag Tribal Council supports the proposal, the
33 Village of Kaltag has noticed an increase in hunting activity
34 in the Kaiyuh Flats and the Federal moose survey indicates a
35 decline in moose population. Therefore, we support the
36 proposal.

37
38 There was a petition submitted by residents of
39 Nulato, 67 individuals signed it. They support the proposal.
40 The people of Kaltag and Nulato will benefit from the
41 closure.

42
43 Also, I have copies of all this material if you want
44 to see the actual letters that were submitted in that.
45 They're not in your book, but we do have copies of the
46 petition and all the above comments.

47
48 With that, Mr. Chair, unless there's other comments
49 that have been received in my absence, that's I know on
50 Proposal 44.

00033

1 CHAIRMAN SAM: Do we have any more comments
2 from our staff?

3
4 MR. DeMATTEO: Mr. Chair, not from myself,
5 but if other refuge personnel might come forward at this time
6 and add any additional information.

7
8 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yes.

9
10 MR. GOOD: Yes, good morning, Mr. Chairman
11 and members of the Council. My name is Jim Good and I'm the
12 Deputy Refuge Manager at the Koyukuk-Nowitna Refuge and I
13 just have a few short comments here. Some of this you
14 already heard this morning, but I do want to let you know
15 what the stand is of the Koyukuk-Nowitna Wildlife Refuge. My
16 presentation will be short.

17
18 The Proposal Number 44 would close a mosaic of
19 Federal lands with the majority in the lower half of the
20 northern unit of the Innoko National Wildlife Refuge. This
21 proposal would fail to directly address the proponent's
22 concerns because non-unit resident and non-resident hunters
23 could hunt on State and private lands and waters under State
24 regulations. Most hunting in the central Kaiyuh Flats occurs
25 along the waterway, below the ordinary high water mark, much
26 of which is presently under State jurisdiction.

27
28 Moose harvest pressure by non-local hunters remains
29 low and static in the Kaiyuh Flats area. The Koyukuk-Nowitna
30 Refuge's position is that we oppose the proposal. The refuge
31 position is based on, first, one of the items is that Federal
32 jurisdiction applies to areas above the ordinary high water
33 mark, which does not include the main moose hunting area in
34 the Kaiyuh Flats. Therefore, implementation of this proposal
35 would not likely alter the existing harvest patterns.

36
37 The second situation is that biological information
38 indicates that moose numbers in the Kaiyuh Flats have
39 overall, probably, remained stable, with some decrease in
40 marginal habitats away from the river and increased in ideal
41 habitats along the river. And this is based on 1987 through
42 1997 trend counts comparisons, and through 1998 data.

43
44 The last item I wanted to mention here is I know
45 there has been some concern, I've heard, and I failed to
46 mention that Refuge Manager, Gene Williams would like to be
47 here, he's in a session -- I believe right now he's down in
48 Arizona and he'll be back, but he couldn't be here, that's
49 why I'm here. I forgot to mention that, so excuse me.

50

00034

1 The last item, I know there were local concerns about
2 transporters and air taxis on the northern unit of the
3 Innoko Refuge, and I'm the one that is responsible for
4 handling Special Use Permits and go through the process and
5 everything. Last year there was five Special Use Permits
6 issued. One transporter brought in five moose hunters --
7 this is from our records and that, which they are supposed to
8 let us know each year by the end of December. One of the
9 transporters brought in five moose hunters, three didn't come
10 into the refuge at all, but they did have permits to come in
11 there and one was -- he had a Special Use Permit for fishing
12 for pike, and he didn't fish on the Lower Innoko -- didn't
13 fish and the Innoko Refuge at all, he fished on the Nowitna
14 National Wildlife Refuge.

15
16 So, if you have any questions, I'll be glad to answer
17 them. I do have Mike Spindler, who is our pilot/biologist
18 and Orville Huntington, who is a wildlife biologist for the
19 refuge who, if you do have any questions on any of the
20 biological data and that, I would -- they're the ones who
21 have the expertise in that and who work with that all the
22 time and they'll be very glad to answer any questions you
23 have.

24
25 Yes, sir.

26
27 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yeah, I have one right now. I
28 know you're speaking of private -- when you speak of private,
29 are you speaking of corporate holdings, private land
30 holdings?

31
32 MR. GOOD: Yes, any of -- you know, any of
33 the other lands that are in there, yes, the corporate lands.
34 Corporate lands and there's private allotments in there that
35 -- you know, those lands. And then there are some -- there
36 are State lands in there also. That one -- the one map shows
37 the checkerboard patterns in there and there's so much of
38 that -- of so much of the land status within the refuge that
39 is not federally -- you know, is not federally managed.
40 We're not responsible for, those are the lands. And I don't
41 have a breakdown on the percentage, but it's real high.

42
43 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay. Any further questions?

44
45 MR. DEACON: Mr. Chairman, my concern for
46 that area is guides. I'd like to see that they got a price
47 of -- what I hear is they charge \$5-10,000 a moose some of
48 those guides for hunting those areas. And that's the public
49 -- the local people, you know, don't agree with that kind of
50 system to treat animals for sale like that, it's.....

00035

1 MR. GOOD: Yes.

2

3 MR. DEACON:not in our culture. And
4 I'd like to know more about it. The wildlife refuge in
5 Innoko, that was set aside for some -- for profit for the
6 rich people or just -- you know, I'd like to know more about
7 that. I'd like to see it equally treated. Local people
8 should have the privilege to, you know, local people should
9 have of that guiding business. That's one of the concerns we
10 should be working on for the next two-three years, to
11 eliminate this \$5-10,000 a moose head.

12

13 MR. GOOD: I didn't mention. Within that
14 area that's identified, we have guide areas on the refuges,
15 that area does not -- it's not an official guide/outfitter
16 area, there's no -- we have tried -- we kept that closed to
17 people, that was before I got here, I've been here just about
18 three years. And in a lot of the public meetings that were
19 held prior to having guide/outfitter areas on the refuge, on
20 the Koyukuk and the Complex, which is made up of actually
21 three units. That area has not been opened and it wasn't
22 opened this year, so there are -- I mean, if there's some
23 unofficial guiding that we didn't know about in there, that's
24 totally different, and they're not supposed to be doing it on
25 refuge lands. But we don't have a guide/outfitter in that
26 area, it's closed. And the people in Nulato, Kaltag, and I
27 believe Koyukuk, from the villages -- again, that was before
28 I got here, they had asked that that area not be opened for
29 guiding and outfitting, so we don't have any in there, in
30 that unit.

31

32 We do have some on the Nowitna and we do have some on
33 the Koyukuk Refuge, but not in the northern unit of the
34 Innoko. And that is because we were sensitive to the desires
35 of the people in the village there, that they wanted to keep
36 that area closed to guiding and outfitting. We do have the
37 Special Use Permits, though, for transporters flying in
38 there, flying clients in.

39

40 CHAIRMAN SAM: Ray.

41

42 MR. COLLINS: Yeah, I had a question about
43 the statistics of hunter success from the villages, was that
44 based on just the reports that were returned or were there
45 interviews in the village, does someone know? I mean, how
46 accurate is the harvest data from those villages? Is it --
47 was it supported by interviews or is it just the ones that
48 turned in tickets?

49

50 MR. DeMATTEO: Mr. Chair, to answer

00036

1 Mr. Collins' question there, what's in the analysis there,
2 when we talk about hunter success rate, that's strictly
3 compiled from the green harvest report card.

4
5 Now, the Alaska Department of Fish and Game is
6 currently conducting household surveys in those two
7 communities, along with eight others, so there's additional
8 information and I think Mr. Anderson is available to answer,
9 since he's the investigator concerning the household survey
10 that they're doing.

11
12 MR. COLLINS: So I guess the question remains
13 then, about how accurate it is, we can't really -- if we say
14 that there's no decline in harvest, based on those reports,
15 that's one thing, but that might not be the act -- reflecting
16 the actual situation.

17
18 MR. DeMATTEO: Correct. I guess there is
19 some question to the degree of accuracy of the harvest report
20 card, and I think Mr. Anderson is readily available to
21 address that.

22
23 MR. ANDERSON: Good morning, Mr. Chairman.
24 My name is Dave Anderson, I'm with the Department of Fish and
25 Game, Division of Subsistence. The last two years we've had
26 a harvest survey going on the Middle Yukon communities and
27 some of those harvest data were -- well, some of the
28 highlights of them are reported in the draft staff analysis.
29 But just as the discussion was going on, I went back to the
30 report and was pulling out some numbers to try and get at
31 harvest success for those two communities.

32
33 In 1998, Kaltag, according to our survey, took a
34 total of 40 moose, 17 of those came from the Kaiyuh Flats.
35 It turns out to be .64 moose per household. We've got
36 statistics on moose per household for all 10 of the
37 communities that we did, and that's right about average.
38 Forty-nine percent of all households in Kaltag went hunting
39 for moose and 49 percent got a moose.

40
41 Now, for Nulato, they took a total of 67 moose in
42 1998, 38 of those were from units on the Kaiyuh Flats. That
43 comes out to .78 moose per household in the community
44 overall, which is on the high end of normal. Not normal, but
45 the high end of the 10 communities we studied. In Nulato, 74
46 and a half percent of all households went out moose hunting
47 and 61.8 percent got a moose. Now, that 61.8 is the highest,
48 I guess, success rate of any of the 10 communities that we
49 studied, including Huslia.

50

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1 So, I guess, those are the data that we look at to
2 question whether or not there's really a problem with local
3 people getting moose. I would love to hear from any local
4 people here that are encountering problems getting moose. We
5 had a block on the survey form for general comments about
6 health of resources out in the area and problems that might
7 be getting, there was virtually no mention in the comment
8 section of the survey about problems people have in getting
9 big game animals.

10
11 Do you have any other questions about the study,
12 overall, or Kaltag and Nulato, I've got the data in front of
13 me.

14
15 CHAIRMAN SAM: Any questions for Dave
16 Anderson.

17
18 MR. STICKMAN: This is Michael Stickman. I
19 have a problem with your analysis. Under "Harvest" it says
20 "15 years of State harvest." The problem just began last
21 year, so I don't think the last 15 years can reflect on the
22 problem, so it doesn't have anything to do with the problem
23 now, the last 15 years. The non-local users are just moving
24 in and so the impact to the local subsistence hunters is just
25 beginning, so the last 15 years have no reflection on it, it
26 just began, so, you know, with your analysis it's wrong
27 because you're talking about the last 15 years, it just
28 began, you know. You can't have an analysis of something
29 that just began unless you go out and talk to the people
30 personally. And I haven't seen any of you guys in Nulato to
31 talk to the tribe or even in Kaltag.

32
33 MR. ANDERSON: I guess I'll let the Federal
34 staff who put the analysis together talk about the 15 year
35 data block that they decided use in the analysis. I was
36 simply reporting the data from the last two most recent years
37 that we done. I questioned the usefulness of going back 15
38 years on some of the harvest data, too, and I know that the
39 green card harvest ticket data is not really very reflective
40 of what's actually going on out there.

41
42 MR. STICKMAN: I mean, why go back 15 years
43 if you got no reflection?

44
45 MR. DeMATTEO: Mr. Chair, I guess I'll
46 address that. The answer to Mr. Stickman's question is that
47 when the staff writes this analysis, it's essentially what --
48 all that staff has available to use to analyze. This one
49 special case we had the results from Mr. Anderson's study to
50 incorporate in there, but other than that, generally, this is

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1 all we have to work from.

2

3 Now, Mr. Stickman said that this is a more recent
4 hunting pressure. True, the 15 year prior are not going to
5 reflect that. Hopefully -- and, Mr. Anderson, I think is
6 going to begin the third year of his analysis, hopefully some
7 of that will come out in the wash and also through harvest
8 ticket data, but for now this is all we have in front of us,
9 in addition to the testimony Mr. Stickman just gave.

10

11 CHAIRMAN SAM: Orville, I saw you stand up
12 earlier, did you want to add some information?

13

14 MR. O. HUNTINGTON: I thought there was going
15 to be a question about (indiscernible - away from
16 microphone).

17

18 CHAIRMAN SAM: Go ahead, Vince.

19

20 MR. MATHEWS: No.

21

22 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay.

23

24 MR. SPINDLER: Mr. Chairman, Council members,
25 my name is Mike Spindler, wildlife biologist. I've lived
26 here in Galena for nine years. I've been working closely on
27 this analysis with Pete DeMatteo and also with Glenn Stout,
28 the State biologist.

29

30 If I can call your attention to the revised staff
31 analysis, the one dated March 9th of 1999. Some recent data
32 just became available and was given to me by Glenn Stout, and
33 that was the summary of the 1998 harvest of the non-locals in
34 the area of concern. There was a total of 12 non-local
35 hunters that reported on the green cards in 1998 and that
36 pretty much matches the average of the last 15 years of the
37 green cards. And while I agree with many of the biologists
38 and Council members who have pointed out that the green cards
39 are inadequate in measuring overall harvest, especially as to
40 concerned to local harvest, I believe that probably the
41 compliance rate for the green cards is higher for the non-
42 locals, so that trend is probably more accurate. And that
43 indicates that there has been an average of about 12 non-
44 locals historically hunting in the Kaiyuh Flats and that last
45 year, 1998, had a similar number of non-locals. I might add
46 that was the total number of hunters, their harvest was seven
47 moose.

48

49 I would defer any other questions about harvest of
50 the locals and -- to Mr. Anderson because he has much more

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1 expertise in those household interviews. And I do agree with
2 most of the other biologists and Council members that I've
3 discussed this with, that the household interviews are much
4 more accurate than the green cards for the local residents.
5 For the non-locals we can't use household interview because
6 they come from all over the place, the green cards are the
7 best thing we have. If there are any other ideas on how to
8 get a handle on that, we'd like to consider those.

9
10 I do have one other comment as regards to this
11 population and the biological analysis that went into it, and
12 Orville can address this in more detail if you have more
13 questions. But the big picture is that there was not
14 statistically difference between '87 and '97, so we can
15 conclude that overall the population has been stable. In
16 taking a closer look, one of the items that raised concern by
17 the residents of Nulato in a draft report that Orville
18 circulated, and we do make attempts to get this information
19 out to the village as soon as we have it, and sometimes it's
20 not very refined. But in this case there was a subarea drop
21 in the Kaiyuh Slough area on that census that raised some
22 concern.

23
24 Unfortunately, the sample size in not adequate to say
25 for certain that that drop actually occurred, it may be a
26 sampling artifact or it may be real indication. But what
27 often happens in moose populations is that if it is starting
28 to decline or starting to stabilize you may see that
29 happening in marginal habitats, which is the spruce and the
30 scrub away from the rivers. And the trend areas that we do
31 every year, including up through 1998, they have shown
32 increasing, as, I believe, Mr. Stout will point out when he
33 gives his presentation. Those areas along the rivers have
34 been increasing.

35
36 So we have a mixed bag, the area away from the river
37 may be decreasing, there was no statistically significant
38 difference, so we can't say for sure. And, likewise, the
39 areas along the rivers have been increasing, so it's a mixed
40 bag in terms of what's going on there.

41
42 In analyzing the total number of moose harvested from
43 this area, the best estimate we can come up with is about 80
44 moose, that's a combination of the local harvest and the non-
45 local harvest. And then comparing that estimate to the
46 overall number of moose estimated in the '97 census, which
47 was 1,335 moose, we get a harvest rate of about 5.9 percent
48 of the population.

49
50 And I believe that we should all be aware, as

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1 stewards of this resource, that we are close to the
2 sustainable limits of harvests. And so I just caution
3 everybody here in discussing this proposal that we are close
4 to sustainable limits and we have not done any specific
5 modeling for this are, we hope to cooperating with Fish and
6 Game in the future to do modeling for this specific area
7 using the best data we can come up with.

8
9 So if there are any further additions, in terms of
10 local harvest data, that might make these estimates better,
11 we would sure like to see them before we get into this
12 modeling.

13
14 Are there any other questions specifically for -- on
15 biological analysis? Yes.

16
17 MR. REAKOFF: Mr. Chairman, I'm reading
18 Orville's February 26, '99 report here and I read that in '87
19 that there were 28 large bull:per 100 cows and now there
20 currently is four large bulls:per 100 cows. What's your
21 analysis of why that's occurring? Why are there so
22 considerably fewer large bulls in this Kaiyuh Flats
23 population?

24
25 MR. SPINDLER: In this case I would prefer to
26 defer to Orville, because he's the one who worked on those
27 numbers. Is that acceptable to the Council?

28
29 MR. REAKOFF: Okay.

30
31 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yes.

32
33 MR. DEACON: Mr. Chairman, maybe my question
34 is right to the point, you know, more about this village
35 count, subsistence counters, who reports on those to the
36 village? Those are -- that's future use for our subsistence
37 user for the future of this what we had here last year, you
38 know what I mean?

39
40 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yeah. Who did the door to
41 door survey -- his question would be, who does your door to
42 door survey?

43
44 MR. ANDERSON: Who was the individual?

45
46 MR. DEACON: That report to me is very
47 important for the villages for the future subsistence users
48 and.....

49
50 MR. ANDERSON: Yes, that information has

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1 turned out to be very useful the very last year or two.

2

3 MR. DEACON:who use that, you know, is
4 it -- how can we use it as village (indiscernible -
5 interrupted)

6

7 MR. ANDERSON: Well, I can give you a couple
8 of example where it was used by the Board of Game this year,
9 in fact, most recently just a month or so ago when Kaltag and
10 Nulato wanted to extend the February season because it had
11 been too cold for hunters to go out. We were asked to
12 produce information to show what percent of the annual
13 harvest was taking in the spring. They wanted to know how
14 important is that spring hunt, you know, how much of the
15 harvest is coming out of that spring hunt. And we had the
16 information from that survey to show that it was very
17 important. In some cases it was about a third of the annual
18 harvest was taking place in February. And so the Board
19 looked at that and they say, okay, we need to open this up
20 for the people and they got an extension for the spring hunt.

21

22 They also used the data last fall when the salmon
23 came in short and the people wanted an earlier season. The
24 Board of Game want to -- they were feeling uncomfortable
25 about opening it up earlier and wondering whether people
26 would hunt, and we were able to show from our harvest kill
27 locations exactly where the harvest would likely take place,
28 and so the Board felt better about it and opened it up early.

29

30 So these data are being used to the benefit of the
31 community in several cases. Now, the individuals that did
32 the survey, we worked with the Tribal Councils in both Nulato
33 and -- well, all the survey communities to have them choose
34 somebody to do the survey. And in Nulato it was Mr. Pat
35 Madros and in Kaltag it was JoAnn Pitka.

36

37 So, does that answer your question, Henry?

38

39 MR. DEACON: Yeah.

40

41 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yeah, I think the reason Henry
42 asked that question is because we're trying put the same
43 thing down in his area, that door to door survey. I know
44 we're finally using it up in the Koyukuk and it's very
45 important because a lot of decisions that the State Board of
46 Game makes is based on these surveys.

47

48 Anyway, back to Jack and his question. Jack.

49

50 MR. REAKOFF: Orville, I'm looking at your

00042

1 report here, I see that there was an estimate of 28 large
2 bulls:per 100 cows and currently there's four large bulls:per
3 100 cows and I was wondering what the reason for that was.
4 Was that from the '93 die-off and that's a lasting age
5 structure or.....

6
7 MR. O. HUNTINGTON: I can't speak to the '93
8 die-off, but I ran some statistical analysis you're not going
9 to find in the report that you and Mickey have. The bulls
10 declined significantly and the calves declined significantly.
11 It may be related to that die-off and plus higher predation
12 in that area, you know, moose might be moving out of there
13 and -- I'd like to back up and just talk about my report just
14 a little bit to kind of clarify because it's kind of
15 confusing.

16
17 What I did is I broke this down and to kind of
18 explain it a little bit, because the Kaiyuh Slough subarea is
19 just like a third of the whole census area, which is about
20 1,500 square miles. And the area of concern was 530 square
21 miles. The data from that, like Mike said, the sample size
22 wasn't large enough, but I talked it over with Eric Rickstad
23 (ph) of UAF and even though the sample size is too small to
24 do us any good, it does indicate that there's something wrong
25 there. We just can't say it statistically significant at
26 this time.

27
28 And if you look at what we do have good data for,
29 it's Kaiyuh Slough trend count area, which is 63 square
30 miles. And that represents 12 percent of that problem area
31 and four percent of the Kaiyuh Flats unit. If you look at
32 that map over there, you can see it says Kaiyuh Slough
33 subarea. Right along the river there, there's a little band
34 of good moose habitat where I looked at the data, and I've
35 been doing this for the past couple of weeks now, and we had
36 146 of our 221 moose in that little area right along the
37 river there, which is practically half, you know, or more
38 than half maybe.

39
40 And when I looked at all the trend count areas which
41 run along the river from Kaltag to Koyukuk on over to Galena,
42 on the south side of the river we had 622 moose in those
43 three trend count areas out of 1,035 moose, which is a lot of
44 moose just packed in one area. So, you know, the concern
45 that -- it probably represents why we're not seeing moose
46 there. There's a little bit of -- we don't know, we don't
47 have trend count data out in the Flats because the moose
48 habitat is not that good.

49
50 But that significant decline in bulls, I really can't

00043

1 say it's due to -- why it happened. All I know is that --
2 you know, I didn't have time to put it in the report because
3 the report was too complicated as it was, that's why I wanted
4 to simplify it a little bit and kind of point out that, you
5 know, these areas are different areas I looked at, like Pilot
6 Mountain Slough subarea was 500 square miles again, and then
7 if you look at the trend count area, Pilot Mountain
8 Slough/Squirrel Creek, you're only looking at about 19
9 percent of that area. But we have very good data for that
10 area. And it's along the river, you know, it makes sense.

11
12 And what I noticed looking at that other map was most
13 of these areas are either in Gana-A Yoo or Doyan land where,
14 you know, they have a say over what they can do on that land,
15 whereas we don't, you know. And that's where our trend count
16 areas run, it's not on that pink where you see, where our
17 lands are, refuge lands, it's in private property it looks
18 like and it looks like all accounting Gana-A Yoo and Doyan
19 land, that's what it looks like to me, as far as trend count
20 areas.

21
22 The census area covers that whole area, that block.
23 And in that area, the whole area, the 1,500 square mile area
24 the bulls declined and the cows didn't. I tested for cows
25 and cows were okay. So that's probably why it dropped. I
26 can't say for sure, you know, I'm not going to say sport
27 hunting caused it or anything caused it, because I don't
28 know.

29
30 All I know is that's the facts. And a little bit
31 more about -- like I said, the trend count areas total about
32 10 percent of the whole Kaiyuh Flats unit. We have good data
33 for that little area along the river.

34
35 And then just to break my census down a little bit
36 more I wanted to show what we sampled in there. And looking
37 -- I studied a lot about Gasaway, et al., that's the guys
38 that write the programs. And I looked at how much we're
39 sampling, and in '97 I really didn't give a good estimate of
40 low strata, we only looked at four out of 86 sample units,
41 but that was the way regression ran it, it only looked for
42 what it needed to.

43
44 Medium strata we covered good in '97, 57 percent
45 versus 37 in '87. And then high strata we covered really
46 good, too, 78 percent versus 66 percent in '87, but in the
47 low it really failed and 14 percent in '87, four percent --
48 or about five percent in 1997.

49
50 And then looking at the total area that we sampled in

00044

1 1997, we sampled about 25 percent and then in '87 they
2 sampled about 29 percent, which is not too bad. Then I also
3 looked at what was actually sampled versus the whole area and
4 about 29 percent of the whole area was surveyed in '87, which
5 is almost is that thing is and the 24 percent is what we
6 sampled in 1997, so we're not in too bad a shape there, but
7 looking at two different methods of -- my moose report was
8 too complicated for most people to read because it was
9 looking at a regression method and a moose paw census method,
10 and that's how come I didn't have those statistical analysis
11 for bulls and calves. And I just looked again this morning
12 and there was a significant decline in yearling bulls on the
13 Lower Koyukuk River. I didn't get a chance to talk to
14 someone like Benedict and asked what he thought, but I'd like
15 to talk with some of the Council members later on, see what
16 might have happened there. Might be pre -- well, I don't
17 want to say what might have happened, I don't know.

18
19 I also have some other data as far as -- I heard you
20 guy wanted to know about the Koyukuk, but I think I'll wait
21 until that part comes around.

22
23 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yeah, I'd kind of prefer that.

24
25 MR. O. HUNTINGTON: Yeah, it's just too much,
26 you know.

27
28 MR. STICKMAN: I have a question right now.
29 What -- I've heard various and many opinions on what the
30 desired cow:bull ratio, what do you think it is and what's
31 your.....

32
33 MR. O. HUNTINGTON: Well, we prefer to have
34 at least 15 bull:per 100 cows, and most of our areas have
35 that. I'll go over that later, but that 28 is actually
36 acceptable. I think it was 28.

37
38 (Indiscernible - simultaneous speech)

39
40 MR. O. HUNTINGTON: But it drop in Pilot
41 Mountain Slough in '97, it was down to 12 and I was concerned
42 at that time, but because right down river in Squirrel Creek
43 across from Koyukuk there was good bull:cow ratios in there.
44 And then right across the river in Koyukuk River mouth,
45 between Koyukuk and Bear Creek, there was good bulls in
46 there, so I wasn't too worried about it and I figured they'd
47 go in there, because in '97 there must have been too much
48 hunting pressure or something to cause the bull numbers to
49 drop below what I wanted and that was, you know, 12:per 100
50 cows is not good, but then it rebounded in '98, and I'll go

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1 over that later on, but the bulls did -- they moved back in
2 there, so it looks pretty good in there now.

3

4 CHAIRMAN SAM: Any other questions for
5 Orville?

6

7 MR. STICKMAN: Yeah, on page 37 on your
8 report for the Kaiyuh Flats unit for large bulls it has --
9 for 1987 it has 84 and for 1997 it has 22.

10

11 MR. O. HUNTINGTON: Which one was that?
12 Which one, Mickey?

13

14 MR. STICKMAN: Thirty-seven.

15

16 MR. O. HUNTINGTON: Oh, those are observation
17 of moose, yeah. So what, you're pointing out large bulls?

18

19 MR. STICKMAN: Yeah.

20

21 MR. O. HUNTINGTON: Oh, 84 to 22, oh, that's
22 what we saw, for some reason there was -- we didn't see very
23 many large bulls that showed up in the data. Total bulls
24 also, oh, I didn't have that on there, but I can get that for
25 you, I think it's on the next page.

26

27 MR. STICKMAN: I don't know, it seem like
28 even though there was a little bit of increase in moose
29 population there, it's the large bulls that are the ones that
30 are doing the breeding, so that's what I'm worried about.

31

32 MR. O. HUNTINGTON: Yeah, that's my concern,
33 too, the genetic stock in that population is pretty down. I
34 don't know what caused it, like I said, I'm not going to
35 speculate, but actually I think the population may have
36 declined, I'm not going to say it did. I can't prove it did.
37 The regression analysis looks like it might have went down.
38 Looking at it -- I've been out there for the past, you know,
39 four or five years, since I've been here, and seems like a
40 lot of moose are right along the river now, whereas, you
41 know, they used to be back around John's River Camp and
42 inside the Flats there, but you don't see them much in there
43 anymore.

44

45 MR. STICKMAN: Yeah, they seem pretty low, I
46 mean, that's -- I would be concerned.

47

48 MR. HENRY: Mr. Chairman. Orville, do you
49 know the average age of the bulls that's been taken?

50

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1 MR. O. HUNTINGTON: Not in the Kaiyuh Flats I
2 don't. I believe we have data from Fish and Game for the
3 Koyukuk River, but we haven't looked at that yet. Glenn
4 Stout will go over that, probably, for as far as age
5 structure of the moose that are harvested.

6
7 CHAIRMAN SAM: Any further questions for
8 Orville?

9
10 (No audible responses)

11
12 CHAIRMAN SAM: Glenn Stout, did you have
13 anything to add?

14
15 (No audible responses)

16
17 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay. Did you have something
18 more?

19
20 MR. O. HUNTINGTON: Oh, yeah, I was going to
21 say we're supporting Dave Anderson's efforts for that
22 subsistence survey. And where he's lacking data, we're
23 thinking about picking up for him and then also looking at
24 wolf harvest by local people because we figure we're not
25 getting accurate account of what's actually harvested. I
26 mean, you know, sometime memorial potlatches 10 wolves will
27 go in the freezer, we'll never see them. They never been
28 seen and they don't have to be, you know, but we'd like to
29 account for the people's hard work out there, somehow. And
30 Dave Anderson is helping us out with that and we're helping
31 him.

32
33 MR. STICKMAN: Thanks, Orville.

34
35 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Orville.

36
37 MR. STOUT: Mr. Chairman, Glenn Stout, Alaska
38 Department of Fish and Game here in Galena and I just kind of
39 reemphasize what Mike and Orville have said already and what
40 Dave has shared with us and I got a graph here of some of the
41 information as far as -- and this all comes off the harvest
42 ticket information and you'll see here on the local hunters
43 participation, it is low, lower than what we expected, lower
44 than the information that's coming from subsistence.

45
46 As far as the non-local, we do feel like it does
47 reflect hunter participation, and this is for the Kaiyuh
48 Flats area specifically. And we just got the 1998
49 preliminary results and for non-locals it was sitting about
50 14, which is right in there as far as the average and there

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1 was seven moose recorded harvested of that 14 people.

2

3 The information that we have 1998, as far as the
4 local participation, isn't complete because we're still in
5 the reporting period from that winter hunt that we just had,
6 so there could be cards coming in, but like Dave had
7 mentioned earlier, we are seeing, you know, maybe 30 to 40
8 percent of our green card ticket is what's reflected in his
9 door to door survey results, so that has to be taken for
10 that.

11

12 As far as the -- some of the other information that
13 Orville presented that -- I think it is pretty confusing with
14 several of the areas that we have with the subareas, the
15 Kaiyuh Flats units, total and then the trend count areas we
16 have. We basically have three different survey units that we
17 sample with any one of these survey methods.

18

19 And what I'm going to show is just the trend count
20 area. And these, as Mike told you, were the high density
21 areas, and they're right along the river. And this is part
22 of some of the confusion that, I think, is why even the
23 interpretation of the data is somewhat sketchy. Because,
24 let's see -- this is density of moose that have been counted
25 in the trend count areas, it's right along the river, some of
26 the highest density areas and it's ones that's been done
27 repeatedly since 1982.

28

29 And the densities have -- in those areas continue to
30 climb, which is typical of the trend count areas that we have
31 been doing. And as far as the specific parameters associated
32 with that, one thing that we have seen compared to some of
33 our other data is calf:cow ratio this past year, 1998 survey,
34 was down from some of the other highs that we have had, but
35 it's still relatively high. Calf:cow ratio is typically
36 pretty variable because of the different changes in winter
37 may have affect it pretty easily, predation affects it quite
38 rapidly as well.

39

40 As far as some of those bull:cow ratio that we're
41 seeing in there, we are seeing when we look at the bull:cow
42 ratio, we are seeing some declines in several of these units.
43 But the decline is -- the bull:cow ratio is reflected as far
44 as the number of bulls, but as well as the number of calves.
45 And for the Kaiyuh trend count area one of the reasons that
46 we're seeing a decline in the bull:cow ratio is because we're
47 seeing such an increase in the number of cows that are out
48 there, and so we're having a disproportionately larger
49 increase in the number of cows that we're seeing, compared to
50 the number of bulls.

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1 And, in fact, if we look at it, the actual number of
2 bulls that we're counting are actually higher, but is just
3 that disparance, the discrepancy between the two, it's
4 getting further apart and that's why we're seeing a
5 decreasing ratio. And so I think that's about the only thing
6 in there.

7
8 As far as what Orville presented as far as the
9 decline in bulls or calves there, that had to do with the
10 census information which is just, you know, is a larger area
11 and that's that one component of that and so -- that's why
12 there some confusion, I think, in what different data is
13 presented here and even the interpretation of the data
14 becomes pretty complicated.

15
16 That's all I had.

17
18 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Glenn. And I
19 appreciate your clarification. That explained a lot to me on
20 why that ratio is so different.

21
22 MR. REAKOFF: Mr. Chair.

23
24 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yeah.

25
26 MR. REAKOFF: I wonder, are you flying the
27 same trend count areas together with Orville then or you got
28 different -- slightly different or.....

29
30 MR. STOUT: Yeah. In fact, there -- like
31 I'll go up and I'll fly with -- like this year, I went up and
32 flew with Mike, but those are consistent over time and it's
33 shared information that we have.

34
35 MR. REAKOFF: Oh, okay.

36
37 CHAIRMAN SAM: Benedict.

38
39 MR. HENRY: I think under your habitat area,
40 Kaiyuh Flats, you will notice -- I don't know if you guys did
41 any studies why the moose move to the river areas, because
42 it's better habitat, and I think the Kaiyuh Flats, the lakes
43 are drying up, that's (indiscernible - fan noise) habitat is
44 not there for the moose and they moved to a better area.

45
46 MR. STOUT: And I think that goes right hand
47 in hand with what Mike had suggested earlier, that it's not
48 uncommon to see some of these marginal habitats. In a
49 declining population marginal habitats may begin to reflect a
50 decline first and that may, you know, explain exactly what

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1 we're seeing here. And it's something that we do have to
2 watch out. And, you know, I support what Mike has already
3 said, that this -- we're at that point where we have to watch
4 very closely what's going on to understand -- to make sure
5 that we have a good handle on it, that we don't overutilize
6 the resource.

7
8 CHAIRMAN SAM: Henry.

9
10 MR. DEACON: And when do you count the moose
11 and compare cow to bull?

12
13 MR. STOUT: These trend counts surveys are
14 typically done in October, November.

15
16 CHAIRMAN SAM: With your graph there, it
17 shows quite a few cows. Have you considered opening -- any
18 opening for harvesting of cows?

19
20 MR. STOUT: Those areas are opened for
21 antlerless moose hunts.

22
23 CHAIRMAN SAM: Any further questions for
24 Glenn? Marge.

25
26 MS. ATTLA: Are we able to get copies of the
27 graphs?

28
29 MR. STOUT: You bet.

30
31 MS. ATTLA: So that we can have a graph to
32 look at and know what the.....

33
34 MR. STOUT: You bet. You bet. I'll try to
35 make copies and have those on the table back here for this
36 afternoon.

37
38 MS. ATTLA: Thank you.

39
40 MR. VENT: In your counts, you say this is
41 October, November now. When the moose hunting season is on,
42 it's a significant change how the animals react to your
43 counting areas. Do you try to do it when there's the highest
44 population or medium population in the area?

45
46 MR. STOUT: What we try to get is a post-hunt
47 count, after the season is closed, and that's when the
48 majority of the harvest takes place in September, but we also
49 want to get sex information and so we need to get in there
50 before the bulls start dropping their antlers, and that

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1 starts happening early in December and through the mid part
2 of December, so we're trying to get in there and get an
3 estimation of that.

4
5 MR. VENT: Sometimes, you know, those areas
6 (indiscernible - away from microphone) pattern goes.
7 (Indiscernible) hunting season you hardly see any bulls.
8 They're not bothered over there, they move away. And you
9 count maybe the highest ratio when the bulls are in the area.

10
11 MR. SPINDLER: Mr. Chairman and members of
12 the public, we had done a radio collar study in the Koyukuk
13 River that extended from approximately 1984 to 1990 and what
14 that showed is that the distribution of moose in summer was
15 quite different than the moose hunting season in September
16 and in November. But the distribution of moose in September
17 was very similar to the distribution of moose in November
18 when we do the survey counts, so we believe, based on this
19 radio telemetry that we are getting a fairly accurate
20 representation of the hunting season distribution of moose by
21 doing the surveys in late October and through November, based
22 on radio collar data.

23
24 MR. VENT: This count, is that, you know, for
25 the whole cycle of the year? What I'm trying to find out is
26 that the high peak?

27
28 MR. BRELSFORD: Mike, let me ask you to
29 repeat the question on to the record?

30
31 MR. SPINDLER: Okay. The question was, are
32 we counting at the high peak? And as Mr. Stout pointed out,
33 the whole point of the moose surveys is to assess the
34 population after the hunting season has occurred and at a
35 time when you can get age composition of the bulls and sex
36 composition, bulls versus cows. And really the only
37 opportunity to do that is when there is snow cover and before
38 the antlers fall off in December, so really you're only look
39 at from -- at the earliest mid-October until very early
40 December, and that's the only opportunity we have to get an
41 accurate count of moose, because you do need snow cover, you
42 also antlers on the moose.

43
44 We do a survey in May, right after calving, it's
45 called the calf twin count survey, that's only done in the
46 highest density areas because it's extremely difficult to do
47 -- it's very hard to see moose from an airplane when there's
48 no snow cover and we probably surveyed the area three times
49 as hard in terms of sampling intensity in that May survey as
50 we do in November survey. So I believe that you could try

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1 and get it during the higher of the population cycle, but
2 your results wouldn't be as reliable because you don't have
3 snow cover.

4
5 MR. VENT: Okay. Another question I got is
6 on your moose the age -- on your survey it doesn't show the
7 age count of moose, whether it's older moose or younger
8 bulls. It showing a cow:bull ratio, but it doesn't say
9 anything about the age of the moose that you're counting.

10
11 MR. SPINDLER: The question was that our
12 surveys don't detect the age of the moose that we're
13 counting.

14
15 I've flown a lot of moose surveys, probably 20 years
16 worth. and if you look at moose a lot from an airplane you
17 can make a judgment call as to whether it's a young bull,
18 medium bull or an old bull. So we do record the composition
19 as being in those three categories. A yearling bull, because
20 of a spike or a small pom. A medium bull goes out to about
21 50-inches and then anything over 50 is a large bull.

22
23 Now, in presenting the information that Mr. Stout
24 presented we need to lump all bulls together because we're
25 looking at sex ratio. A separate analysis can be done just
26 for large bulls or medium bulls, yearling bulls. It has not
27 been done in this case because we didn't believe that the age
28 composition of the harvest was important to this specific
29 issue. It seemed to us that the specific issue was
30 jurisdiction and where this regulation would affect harvest
31 patterns or not. And if the Council does want us to pursue
32 that analysis that's something we can certainly do, if
33 there's interest in that. And we will work together with the
34 State on doing that.

35
36 MR. VENT: The reason why I mentioned that is
37 because we have young bulls breeding up with the cows, you
38 don't have a strong strain, like the older bulls they put a
39 strong strain in there, but what decreases predator hunting
40 on animals? Maybe that's one of the reasons, we don't know,
41 but it seems like they have concern on there, but they don't
42 have the coded input or information that should be provided.

43
44 MR. STOUT: Just to comment on that, we do
45 have some age information from our harvests in the Koyukuk
46 River, the moose that are being check through the check
47 station and I think it would give us a good idea on similar
48 processes taking place, but it is just for that area, that's
49 the only area that we do have information.

50

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1 If you were going to be here later on, I could sure
2 talk to you about it, but I was going to be presenting that
3 later on in the meeting.

4
5 MR. VENT: Yeah, that was some of my concerns
6 is. If you don't hear from your village -- you know, people
7 give me their concerns and they notice a higher kill of cows
8 or calves, you know, the moose starting to move into the
9 village area where they didn't have to a few years ago, but
10 now it's like the wolves are really coming in the areas, you
11 know. (Indiscernible - away from microphone)

12
13 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yeah, for the record, all the
14 questions are coming from Darrell Vent of Huslia. And this
15 will come out again, I'm sure.

16
17 Sampson.

18
19 MR. HENRY: Well, I was just going to mention
20 that I think we're getting away from 44.

21
22 CHAIRMAN SAM: Do we have any more staff
23 members to comment on Proposal 44?

24
25 MR. REAKOFF: Mr. Chairman.

26
27 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yeah.

28
29 MR. REAKOFF: I have one more question.

30
31 CHAIRMAN SAM: One more.

32
33 MR. REAKOFF: One more question for the guys
34 there. These non-local hunters, these 14 hunters, are they
35 taking moose within the area of the local people -- the
36 majority of the local people are hunting in?

37
38 MR. STOUT: Best information that we have is
39 we have delineated within that area what we call our UCUs,
40 our Universal Coding Units, and it's hard to really describe,
41 it's -- but it's pretty broad and so it's hard to know
42 exactly where they're taking them. And, you know, the data
43 just isn't that refined to be able to show that.

44
45 MR. SPINDLER: Very likely Pilot Mountain
46 Slough, it looks like.

47
48 MR. STOUT: Yeah.

49
50 MR. SPINDLER: Most likely the non-locals are

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1 tend to hit Pilot Mountain Slough and stop there before they
2 further down river, that's been the pattern we've observed
3 until this year.

4
5 CHAIRMAN SAM: Any further questions?

6
7 (No audible responses)

8
9 CHAIRMAN SAM: Do we have any further staff
10 to comment on Proposal 44?

11
12 (No audible responses)

13
14 CHAIRMAN SAM: No? Do we have any public
15 comments? I'd like to state that you're always welcome to
16 comment on any of our actions or whatever. All we do is ask
17 that you come up to the mike and state your name and where
18 you're from.

19
20 Do we have any more comments on Proposal 44?

21
22 (No audible responses)

23
24 CHAIRMAN SAM: It appears that we have two --
25 I mean we're pretty well split right down the middle, the
26 locals versus the agencies' recommendations, so at this time
27 I would like to -- the Chair would entertain a motion to
28 adopt Proposal 44.

29
30 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: I second the motion.

31
32 CHAIRMAN SAM: Is there a motion to adopt?

33
34 MR. STICKMAN: I make a motion to adopt
35 Proposal 44.

36
37 CHAIRMAN SAM: Is there a second?

38
39 MR. DEACON: Second.

40
41 CHAIRMAN SAM: Seconded by Henry Deacon.

42
43 I feel that we do have to take action, one way or the
44 other, it doesn't matter because this proposal will be coming
45 up time and time again if it fails. It should be coming up
46 before the State Board of Game which will meet next year,
47 March in Fairbanks, where we present all our proposals to the
48 State Board of Game. And action, one way or the other, I
49 think, is needed. This way we'll get on top of this issue
50 and stay on top of this issue, so we can come up with some

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1 good proposals before the State Board of Game next year.

2

3 Any further discussion on Proposal 44? We do have a
4 motion to adopt with a second.

5

6 MR. COLLINS: Mr. Chairman.

7

8 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yeah.

9

10 MR. REAKOFF: We have a similar type proposal
11 that we passed a few years ago on the Koyukuk, Harold
12 Huntington's proposal. That proposal was petitioned for
13 reconsideration to the Board and for the reasons that this
14 proposal doesn't address the problem is that this area --
15 there's a lot of land that's Native corporation land and
16 State land that the Federal closure really doesn't affect.
17 It doesn't have an affect on the problem because of the mean
18 high water mark issue and the non-local hunters can hunt in
19 the flood plain of the river. I don't -- this proposal
20 doesn't actually get to the heart of what -- you know, to the
21 issue. The non-local hunters will still be able to hunt
22 there. It doesn't really make an effect on stopping the non-
23 local hunters.

24

25 So we had this proposal and the Federal Board
26 eventually rescinded that. We adopted -- the Council adopted
27 it, the Federal Board inevitably rescinded their decision
28 under reconsideration because it didn't address what the
29 issue is. Under Native corporation lands, those lands could
30 be closed to non-local hunters. That would have way more
31 effect on this problem. But I don't -- you know, I think the
32 Federal Board would probably -- Ray was Chair at that time,
33 the Federal Board, you know, we had a similar proposal -- and
34 when it doesn't really hit to the heart of the issue, it
35 really doesn't really make an effect.

36

37 So I'm not sure that this proposal will make any
38 headway at the Federal Board level. You know, under co-
39 management regime where everybody gets together and decides
40 everybody is going to close their lands or -- but when the
41 State has an opening, it doesn't make a difference then.

42

43 CHAIRMAN SAM: Did you have a comment, Ray?

44

45 MR. COLLINS: Well, yes, in the -- it was the
46 same thing. It's that high water mark and since all the land
47 is opened up to the high water mark, that's where a majority
48 of a harvest is taken, as Jack said, that this will not stop
49 that harvest within the area that's causing the concern for
50 the local people. So probably data-wise the State Board will

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1 say the data doesn't support the proposal doing what it's
2 intended to do.

3
4 I'm having a problem with the statistics, too,
5 because it may be a growing concern -- I mean, it may be a
6 growing problem, like Mickey said, we may be catching it at
7 the beginning, but statistically, if we base our decision on
8 data, it does not seem that statistically there's a problem
9 there right now, unless there's some information that we
10 don't have, too. So I think I'm going to have to vote
11 against it personally.

12
13 CHAIRMAN SAM: Any further comments or
14 discussion?

15
16 MR. STICKMAN: I think for you to vote to
17 reject it just because of a past resolution is wrong. That's
18 not what we're here for, we're here for the subsistence users
19 out there and that's who we should reflect on when we make
20 decisions.

21
22 And as far as corporation land in the Kaiyuh Flats,
23 I'm pretty sure there's a -- Gana-A Yoo, Limited has a new
24 hunting policy on their lands. Maybe Dick Evans there, on
25 the Resource Committee, can maybe clarify that, maybe?

26
27 MR. EVANS: There's no hunting on Gana-A Yoo
28 land at all except, I think, with a permit, you have to get a
29 permit and it cost for the permit to hunt. And furthermore,
30 they're going to start posting their lands more. And also
31 Dave Robins is try to keep it more posted so there's no
32 trespassing, he'll be all over the place, so there's no
33 misunderstanding. I got this from Anchorage when I was in a
34 meeting down there.

35
36 As for enforcement, the State Trooper said they would
37 respond if we had it marked, but if anything you got to have
38 the land marked, prohibition and ordered. Dave Robins catch
39 somebody out there and he can ask them if they are
40 trespassing. If they don't listen, he can go get a State
41 Trooper and they will enforce it, it's their job.

42
43 CHAIRMAN SAM: So all the Gana-A Yoo lands
44 are patrolled to non-shareholders?

45
46 MR. EVANS: That's affirmative.

47
48 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay. Yeah.....

49
50 MR. EVANS: Except if they get a permit, they

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1 can buy a permit to hunt. (Indiscernible - away from
2 microphone) majority right now, have to check with Gana-A
3 Yoo.

4
5 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Dick. For the
6 record that was Dick Evans, Gana-A Yoo Resource Committee.

7
8 COURT REPORTER: Thank you.

9
10 CHAIRMAN SAM: Vince, would you.

11
12 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, I know that you
13 said that the Council needs to take action, but I'm hearing
14 that there may need to be some additional investigations into
15 the age structure of the moose and et cetera. Would the
16 Council be sympathetic to and an action to defer for further
17 information collection and understanding and then make it
18 clear to the Board that they see a growing concern in this
19 area? I don't want to quote from ANILCA on that, but the
20 requirements for your recommendations to be adopted by the
21 Board are pretty strong and there's also parameters that are
22 in effect to -- when you restrict non-subsistence uses, so I
23 would encourage you to think about deferral, which would keep
24 the issue alive as far as administratively or whatever you
25 want to call that. So that's an option. I just don't know
26 if that appeases the concerns that are expressed here, so I
27 just kind of felt to share that with you.

28
29 There's other parameters we can look at. I mean you
30 can put a time limit on the deferral, you can put in other
31 factors in there so it doesn't get lost, you know, and other
32 issues.

33
34 So that's all I wanted to say at this time. And if
35 you do go forward with the action that you have now, either
36 to reject or to adopt it, the record clearly needs to reflect
37 the justifications why you're doing it. We need to get that
38 clear on the record, an understanding, so your action will be
39 clear to the Board by your representation, and clear to all
40 involved, so I'd appreciate that, if you can do that.

41
42 Thank you.

43
44 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Vince. As you all
45 understand, we have three options. Number 1 is to adopt the
46 proposal, which would then go to the Federal Subsistence
47 Board that holds the meeting down at Anchorage in May. We
48 could vote it down, but then -- but all it does it just gives
49 Mickey or his group some more time to bring up another
50 proposal. I don't think this issue will die down. And, like

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1 Vince said, if we defer it will come back before this Council
2 because we have another meeting next fall, October, we don't
3 know where at this time, and then we have another meeting in
4 February and March of 2000, which comes before the State
5 Board of Game, which I'd like to target for this issue and
6 all the other issues that we have concerning moose. Because
7 everywhere we go one of our main problems -- main area of
8 concern are moose.

9
10 We do have a motion on the floor with a second and
11 that's why I wanted to clarify all three options before us.
12 And at this time, if there are no further discussions, I will
13 call for a roll call vote. Is there any further discussions?

14
15 MR. COLLINS: You're saying one of the
16 options is we could move to defer?

17
18 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yes. Can you clarify that
19 again? All it does is defer it until our October meeting.

20
21 MR. MATHEWS: Yes. And the advantage of a
22 deferral is the fact that you're not saying no to communities
23 that you're representing. The disadvantage of a deferral is
24 that the existing proposal carries forward if there's any
25 tinkering with that, then it could still be done, but the
26 same proposal goes forward. It shows the Board that you're
27 uncomfortable with making a firm decision on the proposal, so
28 that's an option that's out there. I was just trying to see
29 if there's -- you also have the option, as anyone does in the
30 state, to submit a proposal to the Board of Game and their
31 open season or open time for that is not now, but staff could
32 make mental notes to do that, if that's a desire there. And
33 I don't have time to figure out if there's any room in that
34 area to do something, but I was trying to look at the seasons
35 for the areas in question and it would take some more thought
36 to see if there was a proposal that could be written to
37 reduce the non-resident season with any effect on the
38 harvest. I don't have the ability to pull that off quick
39 enough here as an option, with another proposal for closure.
40 I mean, as many of you know, you have to give latitude to
41 your boards to act, unless it is a clear-cut case where you
42 need to take firm action.

43
44 So that's all the advice I can give at this time.
45 The State may have some proposals and things like that.

46
47 CHAIRMAN SAM: Is anyone here from the State
48 want to address this Council at this time?

49
50 (No audible responses)

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1 CHAIRMAN SAM: If I understand this
2 correctly, Mickey, you want to put this in place before this
3 coming fall's fall hunt and -- is that what you're trying to
4 do, to get it in place?

5
6 MR. STICKMAN: I want the proposal to go
7 before the Federal Board. Isn't it the Federal Board that
8 votes on the proposal? Well, that's who I want the proposal
9 to go to.

10
11 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay. If we defer it, that
12 would just leave us out of the picture, truly out of the
13 picture, wouldn't it?

14
15 MR. MATHEWS: No, it does not, because the
16 Staff Committee has to review your actions. The Staff
17 Committee has to go through -- again, the Staff Committee,
18 for the public, is staff that advises each of the Board
19 members of each of the agencies. Ida is a representative
20 here for Bureau of Indian Affairs. They have to review this,
21 they have to come up with a recommendation. They could come
22 up with a recommendation to adopt or reject, that goes
23 forward to the Board also.

24
25 So the proposal will be before the Board. The Board,
26 historically, has been sympathetic and responsive to Regional
27 Council recommendations. And the Staff Committee is here and
28 Ida may want to speak, she's waving her hand.

29
30 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yeah. Ida Hildebrand.

31
32 MS. HILDEBRAND: Ida Hildebrand, BIA Staff
33 Committee member. There's several points. One, there is a
34 process to submit the same type of proposal under State
35 regulations. I don't know why none of the State people have
36 responded to that question. I don't know what their time
37 frame is, but I could check it for you.

38
39 On deferral, it would go back to the Staff Committee,
40 the Staff Committee would look at the recommendation of this
41 Council and, based on that, make a recommendation to the
42 Board. Generally, if the Council voted to defer a proposal,
43 the Board would agree with that and expect you to bring it
44 back in the next round of proposals, the next cycle.

45
46 And your concern -- for the record, your concern and
47 statement that you challenge the analysis and the way it was
48 presented and the data was used, I agree with you, analysis
49 of problems 15 years ago is irrelevant to new problems. And
50 I disagree also that the proposal does not address local

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1 concerns, I think it does, it just doesn't do it in the way
2 that everybody favors. And perhaps it would be my
3 expeditiously handled if it was under a State proposal, but I
4 think it would address local concerns, they're the people
5 that are out there on the land, they're the people that are
6 out there on the Kaiyuh Slough and if somebody else is taking
7 seven moose away from them, it's still seven moose that are
8 taken away from them.

9
10 However, the concerns of this Council stating that
11 they would like more data and more clarification before they
12 go forward is -- not only in relation to this particular
13 proposal, but generally is in other moose-related proposals
14 that are of concern to this particular Council. And this
15 Council, in my experience with them, has never deferred just
16 because they don't think you're important or they don't think
17 you're issues are important. So I would suggest you consider
18 that also, but do not sway your vote just because of that.

19
20 The deferral process does impact people because it
21 means nothing is going to change during the next year.
22 However, in the process of developing a stronger proposal
23 that you think the Board would support also gives you a
24 greater respect with the Board that you've done your
25 homework. And it isn't just your homework, it's the homework
26 of all the people who have presented you with materials
27 today, which I feel is anti-subsistence in many ways or is
28 lacking in many ways.

29
30 But this Council votes however it wants and I cannot
31 change that and the Staff Committee cannot change that. We
32 can make recommendations based on it to the Board.

33
34 MR. STICKMAN: Thank you.

35
36 MR. REAKOFF: Mr. Chairman.

37
38 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yes.

39
40 MR. REAKOFF: I'm not saying that there's not
41 an issue with local people here, but I'm saying that this
42 proposal won't have any affect on what's happening.

43
44 Another avenue may be a different type of proposal, a
45 whole completely different proposal to be submitted to the
46 Federal and State Board to designate the Upper Innoko/Kaiyuh
47 Flats area as a subsistence only as in the -- you know, they
48 have a subsistence hunt on the Koyukuk River and there's a
49 subsistence permit and that any moose that are killed on that
50 refuge that are taken from out of the unit, the horns must be

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1 cut off of them. That would address the concern for the
2 local people.

3
4 This proposal under -- you know, I read all these
5 laws and stuff and that's what this ANILCA law that sets up
6 the Council and the whole Federal Board -- there's one part
7 here, under 815 of the ANILCA law, which is what the Federal
8 Board goes by. And number 3, under 815, it says "nothing in
9 this title shall be construed as under three authorizing a
10 restriction of taking of fish and wildlife for non-
11 subsistence uses on the public lands, other than national
12 parks and monuments, unless necessary for the conservation of
13 healthy populations of fish and wildlife for the reasons set
14 forth in 816."

15
16 And, you know, that's for the parks. So, you know,
17 we got a problem there with our data, the data is saying
18 there's enough moose around, that's what the problem what the
19 Federal Board is going to be. That's what they'd look at,
20 they're going to run this through this criteria straying in
21 -- what's that, Vince?

22
23 MR. MATHEWS: I'm not a lawyer, but what Jack
24 has brought up is Section 815, Number 3. If you continue to
25 read on further it says "to continue subsistence uses of such
26 populations." So you can't close non-subsistence uses unless
27 there's a conservation of concern or to continue subsistence
28 uses.

29
30 As an observer of this proposal, that is what, I
31 think, Mickey is driving at, is -- well, I shouldn't say
32 Mickey, the proposal is driving at, it to continue the
33 subsistence uses of those populations. If I'm not clear,
34 I'll just.....

35
36 MR. REAKOFF: This proposal is not closing
37 subsistence hunting.

38
39 MR. MATHEWS: No, but it says to close non-
40 subsistence uses.....

41
42 MR. REAKOFF: Oh, okay.

43
44 MR. MATHEWS:its conservation or to --
45 well, I don't want to put or in there, but to continue -- you
46 can close non-subsistence use for conservation concerns and
47 to continue subsistence uses of such population. And there's
48 others in here if I got the wrong interpretation on this, but
49 Jack made the same mistake I've done before is I stopped at
50 "set forth in Section 816" but there's another section that

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1 follows that.

2

3 But the conservation concern is what the Board is
4 charged to do, just as this Council is charged to do, is to
5 make sure that the conservation of the population is number 1
6 and -- but it also is charged to protect the subsistence
7 preference that is in the law. At that, I'll stop my
8 jailhouse lawyering.

9

10 MR. COLLINS: But the data we were showing,
11 that the harvest was only seven by non-subsistence, you can't
12 demonstrate that that harvest is causing a problem to the
13 subsistence harvests, that's what I'm saying. Statistically,
14 it's not supporting that that non-subsistence use is causing
15 a problem. With the data that we were given here. There's a
16 problem with the data, but.....

17

18 MR. MATHEWS: Ray is addressing that to me,
19 and I'm not going to respond to it.....

20

21 MR. COLLINS: Yeah.

22

23 MR. MATHEWS:because there's other
24 staff here that are more familiar with the data, but -- so I
25 can't respond to that.

26

27 MR. REAKOFF: Mr. Chairman.

28

29 MR. STICKMAN: I think I can answer Ray's
30 question. If Ray's question was about the subsistence
31 hunters being affected. It just started so the only way you
32 can gather that kind of information is by going to Nulato and
33 going house to house and speaking to each and every hunter in
34 Nulato and Kaltag, then you can come up with accurate
35 information on that. But I do believe that there's a problem
36 there. If you go to Nulato and Kaltag and you talk to the
37 people they'll tell you exactly the same thing.

38

39 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yeah, thank you, Mickey, that
40 -- you know, we have emergency closure procedures both from
41 the State side and the Federal side, they're always willing
42 to act and they close areas way quicker than they open them.
43 And we do have that protection device in place, but until the
44 data gather -- or the data shows that it's needed it's going
45 to pretty hard to act on.

46

47 Jack, were you.....

48

49 MR. REAKOFF: We got slapped down -- I was on
50 this Council since they made this Western Interior and we got

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1 slapped down on this before, that's why I'm gun-shy of that.
2 You know, we passed a proposal that did the same thing, they
3 rescinded it back and it made a -- there was a big furor
4 about that, that we were trying to grab all the game and
5 stuff. I'm reluctant to -- without solid biological data --
6 on the Koyukuk, I get -- you know, the biological data shows
7 that there's nine percent harvest, it's starting to cut in
8 real heavy. We got something to stand on there, but this
9 five percent and so few non-local hunters I just -- I'm
10 reluctant to go -- I can't really go for that, myself. I
11 mean, that's just the way I -- again, we got knocked down on
12 that one before. The Koyukuk, I think, we got something to
13 stand on up there.

14
15 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay. So what are the wishes
16 of the Board, do we -- I, mean, off the record, do we want to
17 defer it and revisit it later or do you want to vote on it
18 right now? We have a motion on the floor.

19
20 MR. STICKMAN: I'm pretty sure you have to
21 vote on the motion because it has a second.

22
23 CHAIRMAN SAM: Unless the second and motion
24 maker withdraw.

25
26 (No audible responses)

27
28 CHAIRMAN SAM: If not, we do have a motion on
29 the floor. Do we have any last effort discussion?

30
31 (No audible responses)

32
33 CHAIRMAN SAM: If not, the Chair would
34 request a roll call vote.

35
36 MR. MATHEWS: Okay. Mr. Chairman. Sampson
37 Henry.

38
39 MR. HENRY: Defer.

40
41 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chair, the motion on the
42 floor is to adopt the proposal.

43
44 CHAIRMAN SAM: To adopt the proposal.

45
46 MR. HENRY: Okay. Oppose.

47
48 MR. MATHEWS: Oppose. Michael Stickman.

49
50 MR. STICKMAN: Support the proposal.

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1 MR. MATHEWS: Jack Reakoff.

2
3 MR. REAKOFF: Oppose.

4
5 MR. MATHEWS: Henry Deacon.

6
7 MR. DEACON: Support.

8
9 MR. MATHEWS: Benedict Jones.

10
11 MR. JONES: Oppose.

12
13 MR. MATHEWS: Oppose. Ray Collins.

14
15 MR. COLLINS: Opposed.

16
17 MR. MATHEWS: Angela Demientieff.

18
19 MS. DEMIENTIEFF: Opposed.

20
21 MR. MATHEWS: Opposed?

22
23 (No audible responses)

24
25 MR. MATHEWS: Ron Sam.

26
27 CHAIRMAN SAM: Opposed.

28
29 MR. MATHEWS: Opposed. Six opposed, two
30 support.

31
32 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay. Motioned failed and
33 this issue will be back before us with more data. Again, I
34 would like to direct, both the State and the Federal agencies
35 to keep a close watch on this issue. And inform all Council
36 members of any correspondence that you received.

37
38 Okay.

39
40 MR. BRELSFORD: Mr. Chairman, excuse me.
41 Taylor Brelsford. Just very quickly, as a matter of
42 procedure, if there were members who supported a deferral, a
43 second motion now to defer on this proposal would be in order
44 if that would correspond to the wishes of the members.

45
46 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Taylor,
47 parliamentarian. So if we accept a motion to defer this
48 would keep the proposal alive?

49
50 (No audible responses)

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1 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay. The Chair will entertain
2 a motion to -- it doesn't sound right somehow.

3
4 MR. DEACON: Defer.

5
6 MR. COLLINS: I'll attempt that. I move to
7 recommend to the Federal Board that the proposal be deferred
8 for a gathering of additional information.

9
10 MR. STICKMAN: I second the motion.

11
12 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay, seconded by Mickey.
13 Okay, this, in effect, will keep the proposal alive. Thank
14 you.

15
16 Any further discussion?

17
18 (No audible responses)

19
20 CHAIRMAN SAM: All in favor signify by saying
21 aye.

22
23 IN UNISON: Aye.

24
25 CHAIRMAN SAM: Opposed same sign.

26
27 (No opposing responses)

28
29 CHAIRMAN SAM: Motion carries. Thank you.

30
31 Ida Hildebrand.

32
33 MS. HILDEBRAND: Ida Hildebrand, BIA Staff
34 Committee member. I was going to mention it before but I
35 didn't want to confuse the issue any more, but the concerns
36 that this Council was addressing about there is a beginning
37 of a possible decline is very much a part of the discussion
38 of the C&T task group. They were very concerned that they
39 didn't want any population of any species to go into a
40 decline where you'd go into an 804 closure and they're
41 searching for a process that would prevent some procedure to
42 reduce the hunt to prevent going into 804. And that's very
43 much a part of this discussion with the same kind of
44 discussion that was used at that group. And I'm just telling
45 you this for your information, so that when that comes back
46 up again you'll know that it is a concern for all Regional
47 Councils, not just this Council.

48
49 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay. And this would be
50 covered under the C&T work group?

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1 MS. HILDEBRAND: If the Chairman of the Board
2 calls that group back into order, that is one of the concerns
3 that group left on the table.

4
5 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay. And do we have to
6 submit any paperwork or could this be automatically.....

7
8 MS. HILDEBRAND: No, but if any of you are
9 appointed to a future work group, you have that knowledge
10 with you.

11
12 CHAIRMAN SAM: All right. Thank you.

13
14 We do have -- we went longer than I intended on
15 Proposal 44. We do have 42A, B, 43 and 45.

16
17 Mr. Taylor Brelsford, maybe you'll set up a
18 teleconference?

19
20 MR. BRELSFORD: Mr. Chairman, thank you.
21 Yes. What we would propose to you that following lunch that
22 the Council members reconvene in the conference room at the
23 refuge building, just down the bank here, to take testimony
24 or to exchange information with Harry Wilde, the Chairman of
25 the Yukon-Kuskokwim Regional Advisory Council. And he was
26 hoping to provide you information about that Council's views
27 on 42, 43 and 45, I believe. There were three proposals. I
28 believe that will be a very brief teleconference, it should
29 not take a long time, but I think we've all learned over the
30 years that when the Councils work together, kind of share
31 information in that fashion, we can solve problems. A lot of
32 times we come up with shared joint solutions.

33
34 So I apologize for the inconvenience, if we had a
35 phone jack here we would normally do this right in the
36 meeting place, but if you work with us, the alternative this
37 time is to reconvene at 1:00 o'clock in the conference room.
38 and we have called Mr. Wilde to confirm the teleconference
39 time for 1:00 p.m. this afternoon.

40
41 Thank you.

42
43 CHAIRMAN SAM: Do you have anything to add,
44 Vince?

45
46 MR. MATHEWS: No, other than it's probably a
47 good time for lunch.

48
49 CHAIRMAN SAM: The reason I wanted to cover
50 some of the issues concerning 42, 43, and 45 is that to

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1 shorten the teleconference as much as possible, because I
2 like the participation here, this is one of the biggest
3 participation from outside, the surrounding areas, and locals
4 that I've seen in a long time. And sorry to inconvenience
5 you, but we'll meet back here about 1:30-1:40, we'll try to
6 just pick up some information on these proposals that we'll
7 be discussing. So just for your information we'll.....

8
9 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, for the public,
10 we will summarize what the comments were from that
11 teleconference, so they're not going to be left out on what
12 transpired.

13
14 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yes. All right. And, again,
15 you're more than welcome back here, and I sure appreciate
16 your showing up, it gives us reason to continue.

17
18 At this time, if there is no objection, the Chair
19 will call a lunch break.

20
21 (Off record - 11:50 a.m.)

22
23 (On record - 1:33 p.m.)

24
25 CHAIRMAN SAM: I'll call the meeting back to
26 order, it is now 1:33 and for the public information we just
27 had a good short conversation with Harry Wilde, Chairman of
28 the Yukon-Kuskokwim Subsistence Council and to tell the
29 truth, I feel better about discussing these proposals and we
30 will go into these proposals in some detail.

31
32 Proposal 42, do we deal with this A and B or just go
33 ahead and.....

34
35 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, it would be
36 easier to go with 42A and then go through 42B. And I'll just
37 quickly summarize what happened at the teleconference so for
38 those that are tracking, if that's okay?

39
40 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yes.

41
42 MR. MATHEWS: Okay. I was with Harry Wilde,
43 the Chair of the Yukon-Kuskokwim Regional Advisory Council,
44 he was contacted at his home village of Mountain Village.
45 And he shared the actions of his Council, which for 42A, and
46 I'll only do this once, so when we go through proposals we
47 won't go through them again, unless needed. For 42A, they
48 supported 42A, the opposed 42B and they opposed Proposal 43
49 and they opposed Proposal 45.

50

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1 And as we get into the proposals it will be come
2 clear what these proposals meant, but that was the basic
3 sharing of information from Harry with an explanation of the
4 voting. And if need be, we can share that during the
5 discussion.

6
7 And that's pretty much it. Thank you.

8
9 CHAIRMAN SAM: To begin with, we'll go into
10 Proposal 42A. Do we have staff to address.....

11
12 MR. SHERROD: Yes, Mr. Chair. Proposal 42A
13 requests a positive C&T use determination for moose in a
14 portion of Unit 19 for residents of Eek and Quinhagak.

15
16 Vince, could you throw the map up there?

17
18 The portion we're talking about is that portion of
19 19(B) and it basically is only the Anvik River drainage.

20 This map does not show the Federal land. Do we got
21 the other one with the Federal land?

22
23 MR. MATHEWS: Yeah, I believe we got the big
24 one.

25
26 MR. ANDERSON: George, it the Aniak River not
27 the Anvik River.

28
29 MR. SHERROD: Oh, okay. Wrong part of the
30 state. Thank you, Dave. Okay, there we go.

31
32 And the Federal land involved in this proposal are
33 just those little blocks there on the border with Unit 18.
34 The communities of Eek and Quinhagak are basically rural
35 Alaska communities, have been recognized as having
36 subsistence use of resources, including moose, because of the
37 nature -- those are Unit 18 communities, so I'm not going to
38 go in depth on those points.

39
40 I think the question at hand here is whether of these
41 communities have used this portion of 19(B). As you see
42 there's a fair number of data, both presented in here, that
43 indicate that that is the case. Kasigluk, which is
44 considerably farther in land from the area in question, both
45 the river drainage and the Federal lands, was a Yup'ik
46 community at the turn of the century, which indicates a sense
47 of occupancy of the area. Reindeer herders from these
48 communities have used this area and they continued to do so
49 into the present.

50

00068

1 In the back of the analysis, which would follow page
2 12 are a couple of land use maps that reflect in that in '86
3 and '98 and they demonstrate that the use area of these
4 communities does include a portion of Unit 19(B) that's in
5 question in this proposal. So I think there's a fair amount
6 of evidence suggesting, in fact, this is a valid claim of
7 traditional use and occupancy area on the part of the
8 residents of these communities.

9
10 And if there aren't any specific questions, I'll end
11 my presentation here.

12
13 Oh, I guess I got to give the -- excuse me, one other
14 point. I should give the conclusion for 42A, and basically
15 the staff conclusion is to grant the customary and
16 traditional use determination for Eek and Quinhagak for moose
17 on Federal public lands in the Aniak River drainage in the
18 western portion of Unit 19(B)>

19
20 CHAIRMAN SAM: Any questions?

21
22 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, we did get some
23 written comments on this Proposal 42A. And then I'll try to
24 separate out 42B. Alaska Department of Fish and Game had no
25 comments on the C&T aspect of this proposal. We did -- do
26 get into 42B they do have comments about 42B.

27
28 Herman Morgan, who is the Chair, who used to be a
29 member of this Regional Council, called me on this and shared
30 his comments as an individual. And he didn't comment about
31 adding the two communities, but he did comment in opposition
32 on the additional season, so I'll share those more when we
33 get into it.

34
35 That's all the comments I have, other than
36 conversations with Carl Morgan on this, that he was
37 comfortable or felt that communities in the area were
38 comfortable adding those two communities on, of Eek and
39 Quinhagak, he felt that there was no conflict on adding the
40 two communities.

41
42 And that's all I have.

43
44 CHAIRMAN SAM: Was there -- so there had to
45 be positive C&T uses?

46
47 MR. MATHEWS: There has to be -- if they want
48 to take advantage of existing Federal seasons or any
49 additional Federal seasons they have to have a positive
50 determination.

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1 CHAIRMAN SAM: And, apparently, they already
2 have it?

3
4 MR. MATHEWS: No, Eek and Quinhagak does not
5 a positive C&T determination for the area 19(B).

6
7 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: They do for 18.

8
9 MR. MATHEWS: They do for 18, correct.

10
11 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay. Any further questions
12 on 42A? Go ahead.

13
14 MR. BRELSFORD: Mr. Chairman, if I could take
15 just a moment with you on the previous map.

16
17 Vince, the State lands map.

18
19 I'm afraid our map, the Federal map there for a
20 moment does not have the river drainages in it and so it's a
21 little more confusing to read, but I thought there was a
22 couple of points that would be important for you that might
23 make this more realistic to you all.

24
25 The portion of Unit 19(B) specified -- it says Unit
26 19(B) west of the KogrukluK River and the primary use of that
27 area is actually along the river, it's up the Holitna River
28 to the Village of Kasigluk and above. So many of the central
29 Kuskokwim River communities actually hunt well up into the
30 Holitna River drainage. The use pattern that's being
31 described to you here by the Unit 18 communities is actually
32 a mountain use pattern, the head lands of the Aniak River
33 drainage of the Kniktok (ph), of many of the rivers that
34 drain down into the Kuskokwim at Kwethluk, Akiak, Akiachak
35 and all the way down to Quinhagak and Eek. Those river rise
36 in the Kilbuck Mountains in the center and that would be just
37 about the area that's being described here.

38
39 So what's going on is the people from these
40 communities go up to the head lands, to the high regions for
41 fall camps, for winter camps, for spring camps. It's not the
42 same river pattern of going up the Kuskokwim River to
43 Sleetmute and then turning up into Holitna and covering this
44 tremendous distance up to the Kasigluk or up to Kasigluk and
45 beyond the KogrukluK. It's a land based, primarily winter,
46 seasonal pattern. And for some of you that know the
47 Kuskokwim River area I just thought it would be helpful to be
48 sure we realize which lands are involved and what the river
49 patterns and the seasonal use patterns look like.

50

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1 So again, it's Unit 19(B) west of the Kogruklu
2 River, that's actually in the Upper Holitna drainage and it's
3 part of a combined mountain, high elevation use pattern at
4 the head waters of the Aniak and the Kniktok (ph), a whole
5 series of rivers that head up there in the Kilbuck Mountains.

6
7 CHAIRMAN SAM: Do we have any more staff
8 comments?

9
10 MR. DENTON: My name is Jeff Denton, I'm with
11 the Anchorage field office of BLM. The subject Federal lands
12 that we're dealing with, with this proposal, are BLM lands.
13 There's about 47 square miles of BLM land. They are -- I
14 guess part of our concern here is to -- is why we're having
15 customary and traditional considerations on lands that
16 actually provide virtually no moose habitat and we're having
17 a C&T moose for those Federal lands.

18
19 This lands are high country, they're the very head of
20 these drainages, they're mostly alpine tundra and bare rock.
21 I'm very familiar with these areas, I spent a lot of time in
22 that country, with helicopters and on the ground, doing
23 several kinds of work. We had several major project there
24 over the last six years. And so we have a little bit of a
25 concern if we're trying to make regulations that are
26 basically hallow regulations, because they have no bearing on
27 the Federal public lands there.

28
29 The State lands, definitely is where the hunting --
30 the State administered as far a wildlife management lands on
31 the lower Salmon River, that Aniak drainage, these places do
32 have the moose habitat, that's where the moose habitat is.
33 And the country that's BLM up here is extremely steep and
34 it's basically alpine tundra. It's caribou country, we see
35 caribou in there, we never have seen a moose in there, except
36 on one spot where there's a pass that comes over from the Fog
37 River and basically the moose habitat in that 47 square miles
38 probably doesn't amount to more than 600 acres that would be
39 moose habitat that they could use. There's not a huntable
40 population of moose in there. You could probably count the
41 numbers of moose at probably the highest concentrations on
42 the fingers of one hand.

43
44 So we have a little bit of a concern of whether we're
45 making regulations for the sake of making regulations here,
46 instead of having a basis in real research -- resources that
47 are available and huntable populations on those Federal
48 public lands. And this is part of our concern as an agency
49 because we have to administer these laws and we get asked for
50 what's behind it. And so we ask you to consider that as well

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1 in your deliberations here.

2

3 CHAIRMAN SAM: Any questions? Ray.

4

5 MR. COLLINS: The geographic area their
6 describing though, the Kogrukluuk, goes outside of the Federal
7 lands you're talking about, is that right, Jeff?

8

9 MR. DENTON: Yes, if you will allow me, I can
10 go over to this map over here and show the relative sizes.
11 The Federal public lands in the area that they're proposing
12 amount to less than, what is it, two percent of the land
13 base, all the rest are the State administrative lands.

14

15 Excuse me, I'll try to talk loud. But the area we're
16 talking about in the proposal goes from the Kogrukluuk River,
17 which is over here in 19(B) and comes all around this red
18 line, across the -- this is a hydrographic divide here
19 between Salmon River drainage which flows into the Aniak,
20 along the divide along the rivers going off into the
21 Kuskokwim to the west and then back across here.

22

23 The BLM lands are these 47 square miles that are
24 stuck right up against the divide, they're out of the river
25 bottoms, or they're high enough in the river bottoms where
26 red (indiscernible - away from microphone) zones aren't even
27 there. I mean these above timber lines, they're above --
28 it's high country, extremely steep country. And, I guess,
29 when I first saw this proposals, I said, what -- I was bit
30 confused as to why this proposal was there.

31

32 The moose habitat is definitely over here in the
33 Aniak drainage and once you get down into this country here.
34 Most of the moose, the huntable moose population there is
35 greater than 20 miles from the Federal public lands in that
36 area.

37

38 Are there any questions?

39

40 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay. Where did this proposal
41 come from?

42

43 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, I believe this
44 comes from Joshua Cleveland, if I got that correct. I'm
45 drawing a blank on which villages he's from.

46

47 CHAIRMAN SAM: Quinhagak.

48

49 MR. MATHEWS: Village of Quinhagak.

50

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1 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay. Any more staff
2 comments?

3
4 MR. SHERROD: Mr. Chair.

5
6 CHAIRMAN SAM: Go ahead.

7
8 MR. SHERROD: I'm not sure this is going to
9 help your deliberation but the Board and the Regional
10 Councils have been inconsistent on considering the importance
11 of habitat or Federal lands on C&T determinations. We've
12 actually made C&T determinations for beavers on glacier
13 mountain tops, so it is a real checkered history. And it is
14 an important question that Jeff brings up, is the propagation
15 of regulations that really don't accomplish anything. I
16 think that on the part of the individual proposing this
17 regulation and reflected in the actions of the Yukon-
18 Kuskokwim Delta Regional Advisory Committee it's the belief
19 that C&T be acknowledgement of having used an area is
20 important and, somewhat, separate from the act of actually
21 harvesting the resources. I think it just another indication
22 of sort of the lack of consensus of what C&T is supposed to
23 accomplish in its role in this program.

24
25 And I'll leave it at that, but I think you should be
26 aware of sort of the checkered history and the different
27 views of what C&T is really all about.

28
29 CHAIRMAN SAM: Any further questions? Do you
30 have anything to add, Ida?

31
32 (No audible responses)

33
34 CHAIRMAN SAM: At this time the Chair will
35 entertain a motion to support Proposal 42A for further
36 discussion purposes.

37
38 (No audible responses)

39
40 CHAIRMAN SAM: If we take no action on this
41 proposal, where would it go?

42
43 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, if you took no
44 action Y-K's recommendation would carry -- obviously, it goes
45 forward to the Board either way. Their's would be the only
46 recommendation before the Board on it. The Board would
47 wonder why you took no action on it since it affects your
48 area. And we are talking about customary and traditional use
49 determination, so I caution you on species presence, habitat
50 and percentage of Federal lands. You're talking about a

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1 customary and traditional use determination. So we'll leave
2 it at that.

3
4 MR. COLLINS: Mr. Chairman.

5
6 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yeah.

7
8 MR. COLLINS: Carl definitely said that the
9 people in his area had no problem with this finding, is that
10 right? The people from Aniak?

11
12 MR. MATHEWS: Correct, I called him several
13 times on this because we had the -- we had a teleconference
14 between the regional teams and representatives of the various
15 groups -- Councils. And I had a dialogue with Carl before
16 that and I asked him, point blank. He said the two villages
17 we have no concerns with. On the winter season, he felt that
18 the villages in 19(A) would have a concern with the winter
19 season.

20
21 And I didn't ask Herman Morgan when he called on 42A,
22 on the villages qualifying, because he was quite concerned
23 about the winter season and there wasn't much room in the
24 conversation to ask him about the additional villages.

25
26 MR. COLLINS: Mr. Chairman.

27
28 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yeah.

29
30 MR. COLLINS: Move to support.

31
32 CHAIRMAN SAM: There's a motion to support
33 Proposal 42A, is there a second?

34
35 MR. STICKMAN: I second.

36
37 CHAIRMAN SAM: Any further discussion?

38
39 (No audible responses)

40
41 CHAIRMAN SAM: Just for your information, we
42 when though this with Eastern Interior on black bear in
43 establishing a positive C&T and it will come before us until
44 it is resolved, until the issue is resolved, so is there any
45 further discussion on supporting 42A?

46
47 (No audible responses)

48
49 CHAIRMAN SAM: If not, I think that if we
50 went ahead and voted positive on this issue that we'll

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1 establish more diplomatic and opened lines along with the
2 Yukon-Kuskokwim Subsistence Council.

3
4 Any further discussion?

5
6 (No audible responses)

7
8 MR. STICKMAN: Call for the question.

9
10 CHAIRMAN SAM: The question's been called
11 for. We're just voting on Proposal 42A, all those in favor
12 of supporting Proposal 42A signify by saying aye.

13
14 IN UNISON: Aye.

15
16 CHAIRMAN SAM: Opposed same sign.

17
18 (No opposing responses)

19
20 CHAIRMAN SAM: Motion carries.

21
22 Proposal 42B.

23
24 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, Mr. Chairman. Just for
25 the record, you voted in support of 42A based on the
26 information that indicates that there is a customary and
27 traditional use by villages of Eek and Quinhagak.....

28
29 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yes.

30
31 MR. MATHEWS:in the area, based on
32 comments received from fellow Council members?

33
34 CHAIRMAN SAM: Based on the comments provided
35 by Carl Morgan out of Aniak.

36
37 MR. MATHEWS: Right.

38
39 CHAIRMAN SAM: Put that on record.

40
41 MR. MATHEWS: Okay. The reason I'm doing
42 this is to prepare you when we deal with other proposals in
43 the future that we have to make it clear on the record the
44 reasonings behind your vote.

45
46 Thank you.

47
48 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yes, sir. As a matter of
49 fact, all we're doing is just deferring to the local people
50 that use of local areas that these proposals cover.

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1 Proposal 42B.

2

3

4 MR. DeMATTEO: Mr. Chair, Proposal 42B was
5 also submitted by Joshua Cleveland of Quinhagak. This
6 proposal requests the creation of a winter season in Unit
7 19(B) for moose in the same area that was described in the
8 former proposal, 42A. And this, again, would be for
9 residents of Eek and Quinhagak. And this would add a winter
10 season of 77 days for that area. The existing Federal moose
11 season for Unit 19(B) is September 1st through September 30
12 and the State season is September 1 through September 25.

12

13 Again, just to reiterate, the Federal public lands
14 here, this small area as you saw in the western most portion
15 of 19(B), and I think it's two percent of the total unit.
16 And you can see that on your map when I -- this colorful map
17 that I passed out if you want another reference. At the very
18 bottom of the map it's that yellow -- small yellow shaded
19 area in the very western part of 19(B).

20

21 The -- there is documented history of subsistence use
22 in 19(B), the area of consideration within that subunit. As
23 late as the late 1800s through modern times, traditionally
24 the residents of Eek and Quinhagak took multiple resources on
25 trips through this area. Mainly they harvested beaver,
26 otter, mink, wolverine and fox as the main harvest, but it's
27 also documented that after the 1950s moose were also
28 occasionally taken while en route through this area. Today
29 residents are more likely to use the route for subsistence
30 taking of wolves, wolverine and occasionally lynx, coyote,
31 moose and caribou.

32

33 The Alaska Department of Fish and Game harvest ticket
34 records indicate that Eek consistently has taken moose on
35 State land in Unit 19(B), between the years of 1987 and 1995,
36 at an average rate of two moose per year. Quinhagak is
37 recorded as having taken one moose on State land in 1981.

38

39 State harvest records indicate moose are heavily
40 hunted in Unit 19(B), and from working with the biologist in
41 that area, they indicate that the bulk of the harvest is the
42 area east of the Kogruklu River. However, the proposal area
43 of 19(B) has little hunting pressure, most likely because
44 moose densities are very low in both summer and also in the
45 winter due to the general lack of moose habitat.

46

47 Recent surveys conducted by the Alaska Department of
48 Fish and Game in 1997 and 1998 and areas adjacent to western
49 Unit 19(B) revealed very few moose present during the winter
50 during the border area of 19(A) and 19(B). Surveys indicate

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1 a drastic reduction in the number of moose observed in the
2 trend count areas surveyed near the 19(B) border. Based upon
3 the density estimate, the number of moose observed near the
4 Unit 19(A) and (B) border, the results of the 1997
5 reconnaissance flight -- pardon me, Alaska Department of Fish
6 and Game estimates that the winter moose population in the
7 proposal portion of 19(B) is very small.

8
9 The proposal area generally serves as a traditional
10 corridor for moose movement from the interior regions, let's
11 say Unit 19, the lower portion of it, to the Yukon Delta
12 Region. The biologist that work in that area they believe
13 that moose from the Interior are redistributing the
14 population onto the Yukon Delta Region they consider this as
15 a corridor for moose movements into that area.

16
17 Managers as well as residents of Yukon Delta Region
18 are working on increasing the resident moose population for
19 that area. Harvesting moose during winter in an area which
20 facilitate a gradual distribution of moose onto the Yukon
21 Delta is not consistent with current management objectives.

22
23 Another important consideration is the proposed
24 regulation change could have an adverse impact on the
25 existing cow, moose population in the proposal area since the
26 winter season, the bulk of the season, would mean that you
27 have shed bulls and inadvertently some cows would be
28 harvested.

29
30 Establishment of the proposed Federal winter season
31 for Unit 19(B) would adversely impact existing moose
32 populations since few moose are present in the area affected
33 by the proposed change and because few bulls will have
34 antlers during the winter making it possible for inadvertent
35 harvest of cows. Moose surveys in the vicinity during March
36 1997 indicate a low winter moose population and low densities
37 that cannot support winter harvest at this time.

38
39 The preliminary conclusion for this proposal was to
40 oppose the proposal, however, since this was written,
41 Mr. Cleveland has come forward and revised this proposal, or
42 should I say, submitted a second proposal, instead of having
43 the 77 day season, he proposed a February 1st through
44 February 15th season. And, again, from consultations with
45 biologists down in that area, they think that the current
46 biology is that they wouldn't support that season as well.

47
48 So, based on that, the preliminary conclusion for the
49 second proposal would be to oppose the proposal.

50

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1 CHAIRMAN SAM: On your revised request, I've
2 got a March 1 -- 1st through the 15th, is that.....

3
4 MR. DeMATTEO: Yes, Mr. Chair, that's an
5 error, it's actually February 1st through February 15th.

6
7 CHAIRMAN SAM: Do we have further staff
8 comments on this?

9
10 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, Mr. Chairman, Alaska
11 Department of Fish and Game did comment on it. They opposed
12 the extended season, the additional 77 day winter season
13 would result in unsustainable harvest.

14
15 Herman Morgan's comments, which I alluded to in the
16 earlier proposal, he, as an individual, who's the Chair of
17 the committee, but the committee had not met yet, is against
18 the winter season because snowmachines -- because with
19 snowmachines the moose would be too easy to catch. He feels
20 this season would put too much pressure on the moose
21 population.

22
23 He continued to say that he is committee closed the
24 State's antlerless season because of potential overharvest
25 and to protect future growth of the moose population. He
26 recommended no winter season be allowed -- no winter season
27 to allow the moose population to grow and to continue to move
28 into eastern portions of Unit 18.

29
30 He indicated that their committee might be meeting
31 after that, but I heard -- I've gotten no correspondence from
32 them, nor from their State coordinator, so I don't think they
33 pulled off a meeting.

34
35 So those are all the comments that I've received and,
36 again, the Yukon-Kuskokwim Regional Advisory Council voted to
37 oppose 42B, as you -- in your dialogue with Harry Wilde.

38
39 CHAIRMAN SAM: One question. Did the State
40 come up with any kind of deliberations on the February 1st
41 through 15th?

42
43 MR. MATHEWS: I can't answer. Pete would be
44 the one that would have to. The area biologist, unless he's
45 come in from that area, is not present. It would be Tony
46 Budro (ph). We would need to ask Pete on that, but I think
47 the indication -- well, let's see what he -- if he found out
48 that the State had any comments on the proposed season of the
49 1st through the 15th.

50

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1 MR. DeMATTEO: Mr. Chair, as I was mentioning
2 before that the State biologist and also the refuge biologist
3 of the Yukon Delta Regions. State biologist is from Mcgrath,
4 they both seem to feel that considering the low numbers of
5 moose and low densities in this are, in both summer and
6 winter, that the population would not support the winter
7 harvest, the second proposed winter harvest season of
8 February 1st through the 15th.

9
10 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you.

11
12 Do we have any further comments from staff?

13
14 MR. DENTON: Jeff Denton with the BLM out of
15 the Anchorage field office again. I would reiterate the same
16 comments I had on the previous -- on 42A and also add that
17 the Federal public lands that are -- that would be the use
18 area for this particular season, caring capacity for moose in
19 that area is extremely small and probably will not change in
20 the foreseeable future unless we have a massive climate
21 change or something like that. Like I said this is very high
22 elevation, the brush, willow and even alder patches are
23 practically absent in this area, it is alpine tundra, high
24 country, dry tundra and very steep slopes and rocks. There's
25 only one small -- there's a few small stringers of riparian
26 further down in it. Riparian type habitats in one pass area,
27 there's a small patch. And caring capacity-wise for 100
28 population will probably never exist in the foreseeable
29 future in that area, that is, Federal public lands.

30
31 CHAIRMAN SAM: Do we have any further
32 comments? Recommendations?

33
34 (No audible responses)

35
36 CHAIRMAN SAM: If not, the Chair will
37 entertain a motion to adopt 42B. The reason I say adopt is
38 because you cannot introduce a negative motion. I mean, I
39 stand to be corrected, but I -- yeah.

40
41 MR. REAKOFF: I make a motion to adopt
42 Proposal 42B.

43
44 CHAIRMAN SAM: Is there a second?

45
46 MR. DEACON: Second.

47
48 CHAIRMAN SAM: Seconded by Henry. Further
49 discussion?

50

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1 (No audible responses)

2

3 CHAIRMAN SAM: Public comments?

4

5 (No audible responses)

6

7 CHAIRMAN SAM: So if we go in line with Harry
8 Wilde's recommendation we would vote this proposal down and
9 go on record as opposing. So all those in favor of adopting
10 Proposal 42B, signify by saying aye.

11

12 (No positive responses)

13

14 CHAIRMAN SAM: All those opposed same sign.

15

16 IN UNISON: Aye.

17

18 CHAIRMAN SAM: Motion defeated. We can go on
19 record as supporting Harry Wilde's recommendation.

20

21 Proposal 43B.

22

23 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: 43.

24

25 CHAIRMAN SAM: 43. Oh, before we go into
26 that, I see the good fortune of our village and local
27 participation people back and, again, I'd like to welcome you
28 and state that, as locals we will recognize you at any time
29 that you have any concerns. And you'll notice that -- I know
30 that quite a few of you weren't available when we opened up
31 for the village and local Council concerns, so after we're
32 done with these proposals we'll probably take a break and
33 then if you have any comments or concerns we'll go ahead and
34 recognize any of you from all this area. And that's just for
35 the record.

36

37 Ray.

38

39 MR. COLLINS: Well, Mr. Chairman, I think
40 Vince was saying we need to put -- state reasons for
41 opposing.

42

43 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay.

44

45 MR. COLLINS: And if I heard right, it was
46 because there is not a sustainable moose population on the
47 Federal lands within that area at this time. Is that.....

48

49 CHAIRMAN SAM: And also we deferred to local
50 concerns.....

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1 MR. MATHEWS: Correct.

2

3 CHAIRMAN SAM:and recommendations of
4 that area.

5

6 MR. COLLINS: Yeah.

7

8 MR. MATHEWS: And I appreciate that and the
9 record appreciates that, if we just get in the habit. You
10 can also refer to the biological data that's submitted and
11 then it allows -- it's clear where you're coming from.

12

13 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Ray.

14

15 Proposal 43.

16

17 MR. SHERROD: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Proposal
18 43 is for black bear, it's a C&T determination in Unit 21.
19 This proposal was before you last year as Proposal 23.

20

21 As submitted, Proposal 21 is somewhat vague in that
22 it contains the phrase "others who have traditionally hunted
23 in Unit 21" as well as identifying specific communities. To
24 refresh your memory, last year when you dealt with this
25 proposal, you took the action of rejecting it, based on the
26 fact that there was no need to restrict potential users from
27 the area.

28

29 The Eastern Interior took a little bit different
30 twist last year, but basically went with units and
31 surrounding subunits. Both of these proposals -- both of
32 these approaches were somewhat problematic to the Board, and
33 again, I think they're returning them for your
34 reconsideration was, in part, conditioned by the thought that
35 the C&T Work Group might have made some changes or there
36 would be clear as to unifying the approach applied by
37 different communities. That wasn't the case, the working
38 group did not accomplish that task.

39

40 Eastern Interior previously met, and I'm getting into
41 a little bit of Vince's ground, in this case they dropped
42 their approach of last year, which was units and surrounding
43 subunits and adopted your approach, which was to say that
44 there was no justifiable reason for excluding other users.
45 And it's important to point out in Unit 21 there's no black
46 bear reporting requirement, so the likelihood, I would almost
47 say the certainty of not having individuals listed in the
48 recommendation who have harvested black bear in Unit 21 is
49 there.

50

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1 Based on some of the testimonies provided at last
2 year's meetings, some additional communities have been added
3 to the preliminary conclusion. There's been conversation
4 about the fact that if we don't resolved these, these will
5 come back. I think in this case this one will be revisited
6 because certainly there are communities that have not been
7 listed here that have a valid claim. So whatever action you
8 take today on C&T black bear determination for Unit 21, I
9 think that there's a good potential that you will be
10 revisiting it either to add communities that are not there
11 and for whom there is not contemporary or even sort of
12 historic harvest data for these communities. All of the
13 communities addressed in this analysis are communities that
14 have received a customary and traditional use determination
15 for some resource which basically, I don't want to say moot,
16 but leaves you somewhat free of, in detail, of dealing
17 whether they share, whether they transmit knowledge and so
18 on.

19
20 Again, if you will flip to page 41 in the preliminary
21 conclusions, the staff has listed a set of conclusions based
22 on subunit. The communities identified in each of these
23 subunits with a request for positive C&T is based on the fact
24 that there is some evidence indicating that they have
25 harvested black bear in these units, or they have an existing
26 C&T for moose or caribou or some other resource and, based on
27 the fact that black bear are often opportunistically taken
28 while pursuing other resource, because the justification for
29 putting them also under these C&Ts.

30
31 And if you like, I can read the preliminary
32 conclusion or I can let you read it. And I guess if there's
33 any other questions I'd be happy to answer them.

34
35 CHAIRMAN SAM: Any questions for George?

36
37 (No audible responses)

38
39 CHAIRMAN SAM: Vince.

40
41 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, Mr. Chairman, you do have
42 comments. I refer you to the overhead. George already
43 covered the Eastern Interior's action recently. The
44 Northwest Arctic supports the proposal dealing just with Unit
45 23 and that's out of respect to the other regions. So two
46 Councils have already put in their recommendations on this.

47
48 The Alaska Department of Fish and Game had comments.
49 Basically they pointed out that there's other -- that the
50 data they possess confirms black bear use by the unit

00082

1 residence and residence of other communities. And they were
2 concerned with the omission of Unit 24 in the blanket
3 inclusion of distant Unit 23 and the proposal requires some
4 kind of justification.

5
6 I'm a little uncomfortable doing this. I don't know
7 Dave Anderson wants to do this or not, but basically there
8 was concern about looking at other data sources, and they
9 list several technical papers as references to that.

10
11 The other written comment is from, and I probably
12 will get the pronunciation wrong, Kuigpagmiut, Incorporated
13 from Mountain Village. They -- the proposed wording of
14 "others who have traditionally hunted in Unit 21" is too
15 vague. The communities of Mountain Village, Pitkas Point,
16 St. Marys and Marshall should be added to the proposed
17 regulation. Currently our residents travel to Unit 21(E) to
18 hunt moose, and while hunting moose take black bear as they
19 encounter them. Chances are the "others" wording would
20 accommodate our residents, but any potential problems would
21 be avoided if our villages were included in the proposal.

22
23 That's all the comments that I've received.

24
25 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay. Dave Anderson, did you
26 have any comment?

27
28 MR. ANDERSON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, I
29 think Vince pretty much covered it. Our initial concerns
30 with the proposal as it read, we had information from our big
31 game survey that certainly Huslia was using Unit 21 to take
32 bears and we did not see the -- Huslia is in Unit 24 and we
33 thought, at a minimum, that community should be included in
34 the list.

35
36 Over the lunch break I gave all the Board members a
37 copy of -- a full copy of the report and on page 28 of that
38 it lists the harvest locations by uniform coding unit for the
39 10 study communities for black bear. And a quick reference,
40 just going across, these are summarized, you can see Unit 21
41 is being utilized by hunters from Galena, Huslia, Kaltag,
42 Nulato and Ruby. Tanana did not take any bears in Unit 21 in
43 '98, they did the previous year, which is not included in
44 this report.

45
46 But our other concern was, as Vince mentioned, the
47 blanket inclusion of Unit 23 which would given residents of
48 communities as distant as Kivalina C&T use of black bear in
49 Unit 21. And I guess we thought that was -- that needed to
50 be pared down a little bit and I see in the draft staff

00083

1 analysis that that has been done. It looks like information
2 they dug up is for the communities you would expect, Selawick
3 and Deering, Buckland, the ones that are closer to the Unit
4 21 boundary. So I think the staff have done a real good job
5 on analyzing this one and we're much more comfortable with
6 the analysis than -- and the direction it seems to be headed
7 than the original proposal.

8
9 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay. And -- okay, you lost
10 me someplace. So ADF&G would oppose this proposal? Is that
11 what it's doing?

12
13 MR. ANDERSON: Now you lost me, Ron. Are we
14 -- I guess we would oppose it as written.

15
16 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay.

17
18 MR. ANDERSON: We would oppose it as written
19 still.

20
21 CHAIRMAN SAM: All right. Vince, do you
22 remember what Harry Wilde said on this?

23
24 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, I did. Let me go back to
25 my notes on that.

26
27 CHAIRMAN SAM: He opposed it, right?

28
29 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, they opposed 43. You.....

30
31 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yeah, I think that where we're
32 at right now on many of these proposals, you'll see that
33 we're trying to establish positive C&T, but we're over
34 proposing and sometimes counter proposing what we really
35 want. When it comes to black bear and you're talking about
36 Unit 23 and other far-flung unit, they're more incidental
37 takes than anything else and they would be covered under
38 State game regulation, wouldn't they? Anyone?

39
40 MR. SHERROD: That's correct. Whatever
41 action you take on this proposal will not functionally change
42 an individual's.....

43
44 CHAIRMAN SAM: Right.

45
46 MR. SHERROD:ability to harvest three
47 black bear, year-round, in this unit.

48
49 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yeah.

50

00084

1 MR. SHERROD: One of the thing that
2 complicates this is because it is starting from ground zero,
3 we're going from no determination. And Unit 21 is a very
4 large unit and it is bordered by a number of other units. I
5 believe looking at just the individuals of positive C&T for
6 some resource in this unit, large resources, we're looking at
7 13,000 individuals. And I think that if the option is to
8 adopt this, then you do so with an understanding that it's a
9 building block and we will be back and we will be adding
10 other communities as more information is brought forward.

11
12 I think it's interesting that the action that the
13 Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta Council took was to amend this to
14 incorporate those communities that, based on their own
15 personal knowledge, did use the area. But then they opted to
16 vote it down. And part of that, if I recall the meeting
17 itself, part of that was based on the fact that, again, they
18 felt that there really wasn't a need to make a black bear
19 determination and they were aware that there was still a
20 possibility of excluding someone from their area, that the
21 collective knowledge of the Council probably didn't
22 incorporate all the villages and that there was a possibility
23 of excluding someone. And I think that's a certainty, I
24 don't think that's a possibility, I think it's a certainty.

25
26 But whatever action you take will not negatively
27 impact anyone's ability to harvest black bear, at least next
28 year, so.....

29
30 CHAIRMAN SAM: That's what I wanted to know.

31
32 Benedict.

33
34 MR. JONES: No, sir (indiscernible -
35 laughter)

36
37 CHAIRMAN SAM: Any further comments?

38
39 (No audible responses)

40
41 CHAIRMAN SAM: If not the Chair will
42 entertain a motion to adopt Proposal 43.

43
44 MS. DEMIENTIEFF: So moved.

45
46 CHAIRMAN SAM: Is there a second?

47
48 MR. STICKMAN: I second it.

49
50 CHAIRMAN SAM: Moved and seconded by Angela

00085

1 and Mickey to adopt Proposal 43. Again, we should have made
2 a motion before but we don't have a parliamentarian present.
3 We're getting the job done.

4
5 Any further discussion?

6
7 (No audible responses)

8
9 CHAIRMAN SAM: If not, all those in favor of
10 supporting Proposal 43, signify by saying aye.

11
12 (No positive responses)

13
14 CHAIRMAN SAM: Those opposing 43, signify by
15 saying aye.

16
17 IN UNISON: Aye.

18
19 CHAIRMAN SAM: Motion failed. And again,
20 what is that word, how do you justify it?

21
22 MR. COLLINS: Justification.

23
24 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yeah, following the lines of
25 others, following what lines, comments and wishes of the
26 surrounding areas, we do not want too many proposals. And a
27 lot of this, we understand, is incidental take. And, as
28 George Sherrod stated, we're already covered and allowed to
29 take up to three or four black bears per year under State
30 regulations, so we're pretty well covered.

31
32 Anything to add, Ray?

33
34 MR. SHERROD: Mr. Chair.

35
36 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yes.

37
38 MR. SHERROD: You could also tie this to your
39 past action last year.

40
41 CHAIRMAN SAM: Right.

42
43 MR. SHERROD: I mean, basically you're
44 sending back the same message to the Board that -- and beyond
45 just this proposal that perhaps you don't feel the necessity
46 to make C&T determinations if there's not a biological
47 necessity to do so. Or in the absence of complete data.

48
49 MR. COLLINS: Mr. Chair, I like that
50 justification that consistent with our action last year,

00086

1 there's no need for determination now, and better not to make
2 a determination when it not needed than to leave somebody out
3 who might be qualified.

4
5 CHAIRMAN SAM: Right.

6
7 MR. REAKOFF: Mr. Chairman.

8
9 CHAIRMAN SAM: Jack.

10
11 MR. REAKOFF: As I stated last year, I would
12 encourage black bear use by all rural residents. In the
13 survey on predation that they did in the Lower Koyukuk it was
14 42 percent calf mortality, moose calf mortality to black
15 bear. So I personally would like to see as many black bears
16 harvested as can be taken. And to exclude any users
17 arbitrarily at this time is not warranted.

18
19 CHAIRMAN SAM: Any further comments? Thank
20 you, Jack, Ray.

21
22 George.

23
24 MR. SHERROD: Yeah, Mr. Chair, if I could add
25 one more comment. I would like to first thank Mr. Reakoff
26 for reading through this and correcting some of the
27 population statistics in respect to Wiseman. And it's this
28 type of knowledge that you people bring to this program and
29 correcting these analysis -- I more than happy at any time to
30 deal with what appears to be erroneous data and sit down and
31 talk with people and have this clarified because you guys are
32 there and you know what's going on and we basically look at
33 reports and books too much of the time.

34
35 Thank you. Thank you, Jack.

36
37 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, George.

38
39 Anything else on 43?

40
41 (No audible responses)

42
43 CHAIRMAN SAM: If not, we're going to
44 Proposal 45.

45
46 MR. DeMATTEO: Mr. Chair, Proposal 45 was
47 submitted by Philip Demientieff from Holy Cross. This
48 proposal has two parts to it, and the first one is that to
49 propose a change in the existing fall Federal moose season in
50 Unit 21(E) from August 20 through September 25 to August 20

00087

1 through September 10. And the second part would be to
2 prohibit the harvest of moose on any of the islands of the
3 Innoko and Yukon Rivers within Unit 21(E) during the February
4 1 through 10 season.

5
6 The proposal was submitted in the response to concern
7 for a very rapid increase in non-local moose hunters in the
8 during the fall season in Unit 21(E). The proposed season
9 change would shorten the existing Federal season by 15 days.
10 The communities affected by the proposed change include
11 residents of Unit 21(E) and residents of Russian Mission.

12
13 Adoption of the proposed regulation change would
14 result in a 40 percent reduction in opportunity in the
15 Federal regulations for the fall moose season in Unit 21(E).
16 The proposal would fail, however, to address the proponent's
17 concerns because non-unit residents and non-resident hunters,
18 as well as Unit 21(E) residents may continue to hunt during
19 the September 11 through 25 under State regulation. The
20 current State resident and non-resident seasons are September
21 5 through 25.

22
23 Moose surveys conducted in 1993 through 1995 indicate
24 a healthy and highly productive moose population in Unit
25 21(E). State harvest reports for Unit 20(E) indicate a
26 relatively consistent success rate by rural residents. The
27 adoption of this proposal would not restrict non-local and
28 non-resident hunter from harvesting moose in Unit 21(E)
29 during the proposed reduced season, as non-local hunters may
30 hunt moose under State regulations during September 5 through
31 25. Therefore, the proposed regulation change would have no
32 affect on non-local hunting effort or harvest within this
33 unit.

34
35 The second part of the proposal, as I mentioned
36 before, would be to prohibit the harvest of moose on any of
37 the island in the Innoko and Yukon Rivers within Unit 21(E)
38 during the February season. Currently the Federal
39 regulations for this area already do restrict hunting within
40 one half mile of the river corridor for these rivers,
41 including the islands.

42
43 So no Board action is necessary, however, maybe staff
44 could state this more clearly in the regulations books to
45 avoid confusion in the future.

46
47 The preliminary conclusion is to oppose the proposal.

48
49 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Pete.
50

00088

1 George.

2
3 MR. SHERROD: No.

4
5 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay. Vince.

6
7 MR. MATHEWS: We only had one written comment
8 and you already know of the Yukon-Kuskokwim's action to
9 oppose the proposal.

10
11 The Alaska Department of Fish and Game opposed the
12 proposal, there's no biological reason to limit this hunting
13 in the are. The net affect would be a 40 percent reduction
14 in Federal season and State and Federal seasons would even be
15 more out of alignment. The passages of this proposal, the
16 effect would be increased confusion amongst hunters about
17 when and where they can legally hunt.

18
19 CHAIRMAN SAM: Any further staff comments?

20
21 (No audible responses)

22
23 CHAIRMAN SAM: Public?

24
25 (No audible responses)

26
27 CHAIRMAN SAM: If not, the Chair would
28 entertain a motion to adopt Proposal 45.

29
30 MR. DEACON: Mr. Chairman, could I comment on
31 it?

32
33 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yeah, Henry.

34
35 MR. DEACON: The reason for that shorten the
36 days was for the -- you know, moose start rutting any time
37 after the 15th and got to keep the moose population healthy.
38 I think we look into that area pretty closely, especially
39 biologists who know a lot of this stuff. That's the reason
40 that proposal was put in, to have somebody think like that,
41 you know, moose start rutting after the 15th. So, therefore,
42 the population of moose for the future is there. That's one
43 of the reasons, that's why that went in.

44
45 CHAIRMAN SAM: Any further comments?

46
47 MR. COLLINS: Mr. Chairman, I got a question.
48 Was this proposal submitted to the State, does anyone know?

49
50 CHAIRMAN SAM: Does anyone know?

00089

1 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, you're.....

2

3 MR. COLLINS: Because without action on the
4 State's part, it won't really limit that harvest, especially
5 by the non -- the people who don't live there. They're all
6 hunting under the State's regs, so this would have no effect
7 on them unless the State adopted it.

8

9 MR. MATHEWS: Well, they're open season, or
10 whatever you call it, opened for proposal is not up yet, so I
11 don't know and I -- maybe the State knows, but it's unlikely
12 that any of the proposals have been submitted yet.

13

14 MR. COLLINS: That's right, it's next year, I
15 think they.....

16

17 MR. MATHEWS: Correct, it should come up this
18 fall sometime and the Board will be meeting in 2000 in March,
19 a year from now.

20

21 CHAIRMAN SAM: Any further comments?

22

23 (No audible responses)

24

25 CHAIRMAN SAM: Again, the Chair will
26 entertain a motion to adopt Proposal 45.

27

28 MR. STICKMAN: I make a motion to adopt
29 Proposal 45.

30

31 CHAIRMAN SAM: Is there a second?

32

33 MR. HENRY: Second.

34

35 CHAIRMAN SAM: Second by Sam Henry.

36

37 Any further discussion? You have anything add,
38 Angela?

39

40 MS. DEMIENTIEFF: Yes, I do, Mr. Chair. Holy
41 Cross people are very concerned about the moose. Fish and
42 Game keep telling us, oh, you guys have lots of moose, but we
43 the people who live in the four villages travel back and
44 forth, we're always traveling from either Holy, Anvik, Holy,
45 Grayling, Holy, Shag or the other ways around. There used to
46 be a lot of moose, there is not a lot of moose, there is lots
47 of wolf now. So many wolves that as you're riding along the
48 trail you find moose with only a head. And that's not done
49 by hunters, it's done by moose [sic]. But wolf population
50 has increased and they're wiping out our moose right now.

00090

1 As long as we can remember moose do not come into
2 town. When moose come into your town that's a bad sign,
3 something bad is going to happen, and this has been proven.
4 Two years ago a moose came into our village and went to a
5 home in the village and three weeks later the daughter of
6 that family died an unexplained death, she just died. They
7 say aneurism or something, but it came to warn us.

8
9 This winter on one given day we had 20 moose in our
10 village because the wolves are scaring them, they're chasing
11 them into town, so people in town, in Holy Cross especially,
12 are talking about so many moose coming in, what's going to
13 happen next -- there's too many, they walk right down our
14 main roads. They kick dogs in the yards. One person had to
15 actually go out and shoot a young bull in her yard because it
16 was beating up on her dog, it was trying to kill her dog.
17 She tried firecrackers, that didn't work, she did this three
18 nights in a row and on the fourth night she called a Council
19 member, the Council member told her get rid of the moose.

20
21 So we have moose, but not as many as we used to have
22 and I can't understand why people say we have a lot when
23 there is not lots. If you fly from Holy Cross to Shageluk
24 you can count like 30 moose, used to count 30 moose. You fly
25 now and their right in front of the village, they're not out
26 in the open like they used to be. We used to -- the biggest
27 trick was get on the plane, who's going to count the most
28 moose. Okay, somebody's on the left, somebody's on the
29 right, when we land we compare how many. We're not counting
30 moose any more. We might see one or two, and to us that's
31 lots, that's one or two we saw, when we used to see like 12
32 on each side, or 14 on somebody's side.

33
34 So I don't understand how come Fish and Game can come
35 around and say you have healthy moose population when the
36 wolves have increased and they've knocked down our animals.
37 So I think Fish and Game should come out and count the dead
38 cows and dead calves in our region and then tell us about our
39 healthy moose population. Because I think our moose are
40 moving away from use, they're not there like they used to be
41 in the big numbers.

42
43 My brother flew over the Innoko, he said the Innoko
44 is dried up. The Innoko used to be a good place for moose.
45 He has his own airplane, so he flew up there to look around
46 how is the moose doing up there. There's nothing up there.
47 And he's been trapping up on the Mud River since the 1950s,
48 so he would know the country that he's been flying over and
49 where the moose used to be and where they're not anymore.

50

00091

1 So I really disagree with Fish and Game when they
2 come around and tell us, you got lots of moose when we really
3 don't. And this is coming from people in our village, the
4 older people talking from the guys going out riding and the
5 women riding out to help their husband or get water out to go
6 fishing. These are reports I've been getting before I came
7 up here.

8
9 Thank you.

10
11 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Angela.

12
13 We do have a motion to adopt Proposal 45 before us.
14 Any further discussion? Orville Huntington.

15
16 MR. O. HUNTINGTON: I just want to say that I
17 went down with Henry and they wanted me to go down to Anvik
18 for moose co-management meeting. So I went down there, they
19 had kind of like the same problem with us and they were
20 asking how to go about fixing it, and I said, well, the best
21 way to do it is see what your problem is and put a proposal
22 in. And it was a lot like it happened on the Kaiyuh where we
23 have good moose count there, but when you rely to heavily on
24 trend count data, you're looking the best moose habitat and a
25 lot of times it not going to show your decline, like what
26 Angela and them are seeing. Like Mike Spindler said earlier,
27 there's marginal habitat where those moose are not there any
28 more. And I know Fish and Game's budget has really been cut
29 so, you know, they're probably doing the best they can with
30 what little they have.

31
32 And when I said develop a proposal that would solve
33 the problem, you know, they probably need to put in a couple
34 of proposals to find out where they're at and what kind of
35 proposal is going to work for them because it's hard to make
36 the proposal work right from the start and if you don't have
37 support from staff that proposal is not going to go anywhere.
38 And just as up here, you know, for Henry and them, I said I'd
39 help them, but I didn't think this kind of proposal was going
40 to come out.

41
42 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Orville.

43
44 Any further discussion?

45
46 (No audible responses)

47
48 CHAIRMAN SAM: If not the Chair will call for
49 a vote. All those in favor of supporting Proposal 45,
50 signify by saying aye.

00092

1 VARIOUS MEMBERS: Aye.

2

3 CHAIRMAN SAM: Opposed same sign.

4

5 VARIOUS MEMBERS: Aye.

6

7 CHAIRMAN SAM: The Chair will call for a roll

8 call vote.

9

10 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, okay. Angela.

11

12 MS. DEMIENTIEFF: Support.

13

14 MR. MATHEWS: Mickey.

15

16 MR. STICKMAN: I support it.

17

18 MR. MATHEWS: Benedict.

19

20 MR. JONES: Opposed.

21

22 MR. MATHEWS: Ron.

23

24 CHAIRMAN SAM: Opposed.

25

26 MR. MATHEWS: Oppose?

27

28 CHAIRMAN SAM: Opposed.

29

30 MR. MATHEWS: Sam.

31

32 MR. HENRY: Opposed.

33

34 MR. MATHEWS: Ray.

35

36 MR. COLLINS: Oppose.

37

38 CHAIRMAN SAM: Jack.

39

40 MR. REAKOFF: Oppose.

41

42 MR. MATHEWS: That was support?

43

44 MR. REAKOFF: (No audible responses)

45

46 MR. DEACON: Support.

47

48 MR. MATHEWS: And then Henry support.

49

50 There was three support and five opposed, motion

00093

1 fails.

2

3 CHAIRMAN SAM: Motion fails. And I'm glad
4 that Orville is working with them. I would like to see more
5 effort shown to work with G.A.S.H. area because I know that
6 there will be more proposals before us.

7

8 And at this time I would like to recognize Laurie
9 Lolnitz. Would you stand up, please? Yeah, she wasn't here
10 this morning, there's quite a few other people that weren't
11 here this morning, so right after this -- right now we'll go
12 into about a 10 minute break and then -- oh, go ahead.

13

14 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, it's rare that
15 you guys have split votes, so think we need to get an idea of
16 the justifications behind those that supported and opposed
17 and, if need be, a minority opinion, because I think it's
18 justified by the vote. If that's okay.

19

20 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yes, if we have to. Oversight
21 to me.

22

23 Go ahead, Jack.

24

25 MR. REAKOFF: Mr. Chairman, I opposed that
26 proposal because it would give an unfair advantage to the
27 sport hunters with a longer season, whereas, the subsistence
28 hunters wouldn't have the same benefit. I would encourage a
29 proposal to be brought forward that would -- if, indeed, the
30 people want to reduce the bull harvest at the end of the
31 season, propose a reduction of a State and the Federal season
32 at the same time so that they both close at the same time and
33 nobody has the advantage then, but right now the sport
34 hunters would love it, then all those local people have to go
35 home, so I can't go along with that.

36

37 CHAIRMAN SAM: Ray, do you have anything?

38

39 MR. COLLINS: Yeah, basically the same, it
40 would have no impact on the harvest since the area is still
41 open under the State season. And actually under the State, I
42 guess, it would be open to everybody because every State
43 resident is a State subsistence user, so it would result in
44 no reduction in the harvest as long as the State season was
45 open.

46

47 CHAIRMAN SAM: So you have anything?

48

49 MR. HENRY: No, I don't have anything.

50

00094

1 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay. I oppose that for the
2 same reason, all this proposal would do at the present time
3 is just limit the subsistence users which we're trying to
4 cover under Federal rules. The State would still be open and
5 until you get a proposal passed through the State Board of
6 Game these proposals -- I mean these actions that we take
7 wouldn't do any good for our subsistence users. It's -- like
8 I said, the State season would still be open for all the
9 sport hunter fly-ins and whatever.

10
11 Anybody else have any comments?
12

13 MR. STICKMAN: Okay, the reason why I support
14 it was because I thought the idea behind this Council was to
15 -- was for the benefit of the subsistence users, so on that
16 line, that was my reason for supporting the proposal was I
17 thought there would be some benefit for the subsistence users
18 of the G.A.S.H. area.

19
20 Thank you.
21

22 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Mickey. Like I
23 said, all we could deal with and regulate are Federal lands
24 and we do not have much on there, too, especially along the
25 river corridor. And like I said again -- okay.

26
27 MR. COLLINS: Mr. Chairman, I wonder. We
28 heard a lot from the local people that they do not feel there
29 is a healthy population, that that population is declining,
30 maybe we should note that, so that it can be checked.
31 Because what the biologists are reporting is not the same as
32 what I'm hearing from the local people.

33
34 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Ray. Again, I
35 would like to reiterate the fact that we direct State
36 biologists to come up with some numbers for us before our
37 next meeting. You think so?

38
39 MR. COLLINS: Well, I would encourage them
40 to, but I don't know with the reduction in funding I guess
41 they're not able to do the counts.

42
43 CHAIRMAN SAM: Henry.

44
45 MR. DEACON: I support this proposal. I
46 don't understand as much as you guys, but what I understand
47 of this, they're sending their support, you know. We want
48 support from the villages and I really appreciate those
49 proposals and I'll support any proposal they put out, you
50 know.

00095

1 CHAIRMAN SAM: Uh-huh.

2

3 MR. DEACON: And that way we have more
4 support from the village, but this way, if we keep going we
5 discourage these people that don't understand, like I do, you
6 know, that's why I.....

7

8 CHAIRMAN SAM: If I understand the argument
9 correct, we're back -- maybe this is going into a deferral
10 again, like we did this morning, keep some part of this
11 proposal alive because we know it will be revisited. Do we
12 want to do that?

13

14 MS. DEMIENTIEFF: Yes.

15

16 MR. STICKMAN: So we have to make a motion?

17

18 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yes.

19

20 MR. STICKMAN: Okay. I make a motion that
21 Proposal 45 be deferred.

22

23 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay. Is there a second?

24

25 MS. DEMIENTIEFF: Second.

26

27 CHAIRMAN SAM: Any further discussion?

28

29 MR. STICKMAN: Call for the question.

30

31 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay. The question has been
32 called for, and if I understand this correctly, this issue
33 will be revisited in some way, form or manner. All those in
34 favor of the motion signify by saying aye.

35

36 IN UNISON: Aye.

37

38 CHAIRMAN SAM: Opposed?

39

40 (No opposing responses)

41

42 CHAIRMAN SAM: Motion carries.

43

44 MS. DEMIENTIEFF: Ray.

45

46 CHAIRMAN SAM: Go ahead, Ray. I mean, Vince.

47

48 MR. MATHEWS: The reason for -- justification
49 for deferring is per staff -- what was the justification for
50 deferring it?

00096

1 CHAIRMAN SAM: Analysis, plus rewriting of
2 the whole proposal.

3
4 MR. MATHEWS: And may I ask how this vote
5 relates to your earlier action? What do you carry before the
6 Board on this proposal in May?

7
8 CHAIRMAN SAM: That we will be revisiting,
9 rewriting and resubmitting. Is that understood?

10
11 Anything else?

12
13 MR. MATHEWS: Well, I'm still a little lost.
14 It sounds like you'd be going before the Board to defer it,
15 that another proposal will be submitted in the future and
16 that the Board should take no action on this proposal is what
17 you're saying.

18
19 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yes.

20
21 MR. MATHEWS: Okay.

22
23 CHAIRMAN SAM: Because I don't think we can
24 come up with any kind of on short notice.

25
26 MR. BRELSFORD: Mr. Chairman, if I may?

27
28 CHAIRMAN SAM: Taylor.

29
30 MR. BRELSFORD: This is Taylor. I think I
31 heard in the conversation among the Council members that you
32 recognized the concern of the local villages and you want to
33 see that concern carried forward through some further
34 biological analysis. That local people see one thing and so
35 far the biological study sees a different one. Ray, in
36 particular, said somehow we got to keep people looking at
37 this, see if we can get a common picture of it, so I believe
38 in the comments of members there are clear indications of
39 your expectation that this is a high concern to the local
40 villages and you want continuing action on it. I think
41 that's basically what you would be expressing to the Board as
42 the reasoning for your deferral a this time.

43
44 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yes, exactly, because I don't
45 think that we can solve a lot of our issues at this meeting
46 because of lack of data.

47
48 Jeff.

49
50 MR. DENTON: Yeah, Mr. Chairman, I think Fish

00097

1 and Game has recognized, you know, that they need to update
2 and get some more detailed data in there. The surveys that
3 were referred to before were surveys that I have done in '94
4 and '95, which were not density oriented surveys, they were
5 mostly relative density and distribution so we know where
6 they're at and why they're there during critical seasons and
7 this sort of thing.

8
9 Tony Budro and I have talked on several occasions.
10 Next fall, if the weather is willing, that's the biggest
11 problem in that country, we usually don't have snow at time
12 -- of sufficient amounts to do a good survey, a good
13 classification survey in there, but it is in the hopper,
14 we're both putting in for funding for it for next fall and,
15 apparently, Fish and Game has a new density technique that
16 they've been testing this year and it seems to be one that
17 may serve this area much better than the old Gasaway
18 techniques, so it is being planned and your deferment is
19 probably very proper because probably this meeting a year
20 from now we should have quite a bit of data that should
21 indicate, you know, what the population levels are, the
22 distribution composition, these sorts of things.

23
24 So it's not -- your pleas are not going unheard, it's
25 a matter of getting the bureaucracies and the financial
26 support to do these kinds of surveys. They're expensive and
27 these are a long ways from where staffing is available so we
28 got to organize some pretty large efforts to do this kind of
29 work.

30
31 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Jeff.

32
33 Any further comments?

34
35 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Over here.

36
37 MR. DeMATTEO: Mr. Chair, just so it's clear
38 in my mind, I'd just like to know is the BLM proposing that
39 where they're going to be resurveying, is that the area in
40 question where the concerns exists by Angela and also Henry?
41 Are we talking about the same areas?

42
43 CHAIRMAN SAM: Jeff.

44
45 MR. DENTON: Yes, I believe so. This area
46 was attempted and Fish and Game has actually their counting
47 Gasaway Unit set up and it goes -- there's actually three
48 different Gasaway type units in 21(E) that we deal with and
49 the area of concern is what they call the Paradise use area,
50 which goes from basically Holy Cross all the way up and also

00098

1 includes part of the Innoko Refuge. So it actually covers
2 everything from the mouth of the Innoko and along both sides
3 of the Yukon as well as the Innoko River all the way back up
4 to the refuge.

5
6 And we have another counting unit to the south of
7 that, the Paimiut Slough area is a separate unit, but it can
8 also be done, it's just a matter of cost, how much of that
9 you can do in one year, timing-wise, staff-wise, and so on.

10
11 CHAIRMAN SAM: Anything else?

12
13 (No audible responses)

14
15 CHAIRMAN SAM: If not, we'll take a 10 or 15
16 minute break. The nearest restroom is over in Fish and Game
17 building. There's better coffee over there in the lodge.

18
19 (Laughter)

20
21 (Off record - 2:50 p.m.)

22
23 (On record - 3:10 p.m.)

24
25 CHAIRMAN SAM: At this time I would like to
26 call this meeting back to order. It is now 3:10, we're back
27 to order and one correction I would like to make for Ida
28 Hildebrand. Ms. Andrews was present at the C&T Working Group
29 and she was representing ADF&G.

30
31 And I see a lot of new people and it's always been
32 our policy to recognize all the local concerns, local
33 villages from the surrounding areas, and I understand that we
34 have a few -- we had an open agenda for villages and Tribal
35 Councils this morning, so we know that they weren't here, so
36 at this time I would like to recognize Franklin Madros from
37 Kaltag, stating a few concerns. Franklin, could you come up
38 to the mike here.

39
40 MR. MADROS: I don't think I need mike. I
41 think my voice is going -- because for what reason? I don't
42 like to turn my back to people that I talk to. You hear me
43 all back there, yeah?

44
45 Okay. My name is Franklin Madros, and I get the
46 information, that's why I'm here today. I had to pay my way
47 up here because I thought it was different thing. If I know
48 you were working on proposals, that's important too, you
49 know, and if I knew you were working on that, I wouldn't be
50 here today.

00099

1 But I want to thank you for giving me the opportunity
2 to speak my grief on what's been happening here in Alaska.
3 You know, I got a -- when I was growing up, you know, because
4 we didn't hear nothing about subsistence. I grew up -- let
5 me get rid of this thing first. This thing is part of me.
6 It's alright to eat, kind of talk with it.

7
8 You know I grew up when time was tough, you know,
9 when you really have to depend on the country and it seems
10 like we never had no problem with the subsistence, and we
11 didn't. We start hearing about subsistence, the word itself,
12 when we became state. When we became state I guess the
13 Federal and State government had a little conflict there,
14 they don't know who to manage the fish and game.

15
16 We never know nothing about State land, we knew
17 little bit about the Federal land because we were only
18 territory and now we deal with the Federal government. So
19 when we became state we were -- many of us were confused,
20 like myself, because I don't have that much education. I was
21 confused, you know, and there's lot of change happen in my
22 lifetime. And some of the changes that's been made is hard
23 for me to adjust myself to the changes.

24
25 What I wanted to say was we're dealing with people
26 that don't know about our lifestyle in Alaska and they're
27 making the rules for us. If we -- if the Feds will take
28 over, then we'll have somebody from Washington, D.C. to write
29 up the rules that we have to live with. I say they don't
30 know our lifestyle because -- for example, I'll just say it
31 for example, that I just came back from -- I was down in the
32 Lower 48 last week and I just came back Saturday. And when I
33 was down there I made a presentation to the students like
34 this and they asked me -- the first thing, you know, the
35 teacher introduced me as and Eskimo from Alaska, you know. I
36 had to correct that one right away.

37
38 (Laughter)

39
40 Indians live in the Interior, I tell them, Eskimos
41 live on coast. So they opened the floor for questions from
42 the kids, you know. And the first thing they asked me, if we
43 ever have summer in Alaska. Oh, yeah, I said, we grow
44 vegetables up there in summertime and sometimes we get
45 degrees up to 90. And they wouldn't believe it, you know,
46 because it's not in the book, so -- but I tell them the
47 truth. They ask me if I kill seals, no, I said, the Eskimos
48 kill seals. They ask me of the animals of the Interior, so I
49 told them all about it and that's why I say that we are
50 dealing with people that don't know about out lifestyle

00100

1 there.

2

3 When we became state, even our little village became
4 a problem because there's still government there, too, the
5 City Council and Native Council. They also had a conflict of
6 interest the way it seems to me. When they started to get
7 that way I got out of it because I was trying to correct them
8 all the time because I have little education and they're high
9 school graduates they think they're right all the time, but
10 they never look at the history of my lifetime.

11

12 So it was no use for me to talk to them even though
13 if I was right, they wouldn't agree. And that's the way it
14 is it look like in all the villages. I speaking about my
15 village, the village that I know so well. And, you know,
16 we're talking about subsistence all the time, so when we got
17 the electricity in the village, sewer and water, I think the
18 subsistence issue is solved right there. Because when we got
19 our freezers and we put fish away, in Kaltag, we were the
20 first one to drift for subsistence because we asked for it
21 and they give us that opportunity to drift for king salmon in
22 springtime and silver salmon in falltime.

23

24 And people put this away, they just put it away in
25 the freezer and they didn't have to worry about fish. In
26 Kaltag we use fish net crossing the slough. Right now I see
27 about three or four fishes in there because the other people
28 don't need it, they got their fish already, but when fresh
29 fish I got there all the time, the school kids got net over
30 there, every time they look at it, I go over there so I can
31 get fresh fish. So that's a part of our subsistence there,
32 you know.

33

34 We have second season, moose open, because we asked
35 for it to from the State Fish and Game. Because in the
36 falltime we cannot go out early because if we get our moose
37 it will spoil, that was before we get our freezers. It go
38 spoiled before we even finish, we eat it, so we have to wait
39 late in September to go out hunting. Then by that time, you
40 know, that meat is not all that good either. Sometimes we
41 get them in October early, just to keep it frozen -- to keep
42 it frozen that we can use it.

43

44 Those are the things that is solve right now when I
45 say, when we got freezer we solved some of that problem then.
46 I had a note that I was going to refer to. I never -- I'm
47 met an old timer, you know, old timers long ago never take
48 paper out. I misplace my -- well, anyway, what I was going
49 to say. There was something else I was going to say, but I
50 don't want to step on anybody's foot when I say it. Now, I

00101

1 forget it, but I want to thank you people for giving me the
2 opportunity to speak to you.

3
4 Thank you very much.

5
6 Oh, in closing, you know, when I went down the States
7 first time in 1945 with the Army, I'm a veteran World War II,
8 so the same thing they keep telling me, Eskimo, there's no
9 Eskimo in Alaska they say and how cold it get and all that
10 thing, you know. And I never see an igloo, we never lived in
11 igloo, when I started (indiscernible) houses. So one day I
12 got tired of it, so I told my buddies, they got to be my
13 buddies, you know, because I talked lots, up there in Alaska,
14 if you stand 10 feet away from me you wouldn't hear me. He
15 says, why? Because the words freeze before it get to you.

16
17 (Laughter)

18
19 And in springtime when it started to thaw out, I
20 said, you're going to hear all kinds of noise. He said, why?
21 Well, all the words are thawing out. It gets so cold up
22 there when you yawn, icicles fall down.

23
24 Thank you very much.

25
26 (Laughter and applause)

27
28 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Franklin.

29
30 Is Tory Warner here?

31
32 MR. NOLLNER: He said he'd be back.

33
34 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yes, if he doesn't come back,
35 we do have an open session tomorrow for anyone that wants to
36 speak too, we do have the same format that we have.

37
38 Did you want to say anything Paddy?

39
40 MR. NOLLNER: Yeah. I think I'll take this
41 microphone, sit down and relax.

42
43 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Paddy.

44
45 COURT REPORTER: Thank you.

46
47 MR. NOLLNER: Once again I'd like to
48 apologize for this morning, being late. But, anyway, I'm
49 probably the only one born and raised here in Galena. Born
50 way back in the '30s, middle '30s. In fact, I learned lots

00102

1 from my dad, Edgar Nollner, Sr. who died last month, and then
2 from many other people that is gone now. But between that
3 time and now I have seen a lot of changes and there will be
4 more changes as time goes along.

5
6 And my dad and some of his friends in the early part
7 of September we went up to Ruby, so we -- from Ruby we had a
8 camp up there and then we went moose hunting, the season was
9 open then, so we went up to Ruby -- and then we got to Ruby
10 at the mouth and just a days from there we start seeing
11 moose. Moose was just about every bend. And in 1980 Emmet
12 Peters and I went up there and we did the same thing. The
13 first thing we got there it was late so we stayed overnight
14 at the mouth of the Ruby and then we went on up that morning.

15
16 What you see? You see a bunch of camps every bend,
17 pretty near, every banks or sandbar, whatever, and sometime
18 it was late and it was October 5th, we went up there just to
19 ride around and see what you could see. But you see that's
20 been changed and you can talk probably to another elderly
21 that's here who came from Minnesota or wherever he came from.
22 Harvey Strasbrook (ph), he was going up there in the early
23 '50s with his boat and came back with meat for the winter
24 with his friends.

25
26 But now when you go up there and it's -- now they're
27 picking on Koyukuk River. And probably the same thing is
28 going to happen there. And even last week some people are
29 calling from Outside or Anchorage or whatever, what would be
30 the cost of shipping moose meat from Galena to Anchorage.
31 And I used to work for Norton Air, but I'm still around
32 Norton Air when they come in five days a week. And I seen --
33 well, let me go back again to back in the '50s.

34
35 1956 a couple of residents from Koyukuk, we went up
36 the Koyukuk River only as far as Nikolai and we see a lot of
37 moose tracks, we heard them at nighttime, we see them during
38 morning and evening. Seems like if you go up there now you
39 don't see that many. And then -- because of all the moose
40 hunters going up there now and all the way up to Huslia to --
41 it's getting to be less and less. You see camps all over the
42 place right now.

43
44 And last year is the first time I spent eight days up
45 there with some of my family and my friends, Buckess (ph)
46 Camp they call it, at Three Day Slough. On the 5th we got up
47 there and then you -- we see one or two camps then by then,
48 the early ones. By the 10th you see a whole bunch of camps
49 across the Three Day Slough, at the (indiscernible) above
50 Three Day Slough and below and all the lower of Three Day

00103

1 Slough.

2

3 And then you go down to Three Day Slough in evening
4 time at the 10th, maybe. Well, first, let's say we went down
5 the 6th, going down Three Day Slough we don't see very many.
6 One place we -- one long stretch we see about 11 or 12 moose
7 come out in the evening time just like that, but then five
8 days later, the 11th, go down there again, but you don't see
9 nothing coming up, but you see a bunch of boats coming and
10 going up and down that Three Day Slough. Some are rubber
11 rafts, some are sitting on the bank. And before long you
12 know what's going to happen, just like the buffalo in the
13 United States. Some of the moose in the Upper Ruby area,
14 even up in Ukee (ph), 1950 it was good until just recently,
15 it's getting up in there too. You go in there and you
16 scratch around and look around for moose and hopefully they
17 swim across and you run into them in the evening time.

18

19 And one think maybe I'd like to see, later on time,
20 you know, because it's going to get worse up Koyukuk River
21 unless you do something about it. You should close off one
22 end of the Three Day Slough and the other end and leave that
23 Three Day Slough as a harvest. They can come out to the main
24 Koyukuk River. That's only my opinion, plus a few other
25 people I talk to.

26

27 But right now, the first time ever I went up in 1973,
28 just a couple days back I got a bull moose and that's still
29 hanging over at John Billings Terminal right now. But, you
30 know, that's where there was a lot of moose and it's going to
31 be declining, I'm pretty sure. Fish and Game probably say
32 no, but it's going to later on in time. You talk to Sidney,
33 he'll tell you.

34

35 And right now the moose population in this area seems
36 to be standing okay, but what's happening now is that -- like
37 the lady over here saying, it is getting to be a lot of
38 wolves and there's a pack, Bear Creek pack, there's Mutamon
39 (ph) pack, there's Killer Creek pack and there's Pilot Slough
40 pack, they're all about 10 or 15 of them, some of them have
41 got 10 of them or something like that, but that's nothing.
42 One female wolf probably lay nine more this spring.

43

44 But the moose hunters were pretty, pretty sick at
45 this February hunt. That's why on my own opinion I'd like to
46 say that I think a 10 day hunt in February is too long. You
47 know, there must be a way to work that. Somebody mentioned
48 that there should never be a February hunt, but only by going
49 to the Fish and Game and say they're going out for
50 subsistence because they got no meat or whatever. Because a

00104

1 lot of people are using that opening, just because it's
2 opened, and someone don't even renew their license on January
3 1st. I even made a mistake myself this year. But when I
4 came back I made sure I used my harvest ticket and cut it out
5 right like you're supposed to, but if I got caught, you know,
6 I would have been fined.

7
8 But, anyway, I know a couple of people mentioned that
9 when they got out cow, there was three that was in there, but
10 how many with one shot would we kill if we keep doing that
11 and how many wolves killed -- there was lot of moose --
12 wolves kills all along Bear Creek and across the Roan (ph)
13 Island, which people talk about, but never mention probably.
14 And the wolves and the human beings killing -- I have nothing
15 really, it's up to -- we're not starving, I'm pretty sure, I
16 think there's lot of Spam in the store to survive. Or we got
17 a lot of Federal way of getting money or whatever to survive,
18 but we're -- I'm pretty sure we're not starving. But there
19 must be a way to not kill off whatever little moose we have
20 in this area.

21
22 Right now, the other day, I was just going to -- just
23 before it opened, there was six moose at (indiscernible) and
24 when the moose season started, I'll tell you right now,
25 there's no more, there's only two more right around that
26 area. But I drive dogs too and sometimes they get out of my
27 way, but after the moose hunting season there are hardly any
28 more around on the trails like there used to be, but -- which
29 is good, too. But the other bad thing about it, the
30 February, is that all the moose hunters are going only where
31 all the snowmachines or dog user trails, just traffic,
32 traffic, you got to watch that.

33
34 And for the -- I noticed I was up toward Old Louden.
35 Old Louden was one of the best place the geese hunting and
36 ducks hunting springtime, which was probably illegal, that's
37 even today, but white geese and cranes and swans and
38 everything used to come through the Yukon, you don't see them
39 go through any more, like how this -- you don't even see
40 white geese around here no more. And every lake behind
41 Galena here, even, along the river where the old roads used
42 to be, used to be lots of ducks and geese used the land along
43 there, but now you rarely see them. I guess they're all
44 around Anchorage area where it's nice and warm.

45
46 And I just came back from Shageluk and they're saying
47 that's the same way over there, even the white geese, I asked
48 them about the white geese. They said there's very few that
49 go through there, you know. They must have found another
50 route going down along the coast. But I noticed in Shageluk

00105

1 the air field is -- well, five miles down or whatever it was,
2 but I come out to the river over there and they got a big
3 sign over there and ask one of those Hillarys there, what's
4 the sign over there for. He said, well, all the hunters that
5 come and hunt moose in the fall they're not allowed to go in
6 those little sloughs.

7
8 And I think that's a good idea because last year --
9 two years ago I went up -- for a change I went up to pick up
10 Bill, Junior and a couple of Ruby to hunt just above Ruby,
11 just to help them out, and spend a couple of night up in
12 there and there's a place where they call Deep Creek and
13 somebody found a big bull, but with the horns taken out of
14 the bull. The Fish and Game flew a few times, but you
15 couldn't catch the guy because probably guys from Fairbanks
16 or wherever that's coming from Outside, just went and took
17 the horns and kept on going.

18
19 And as for the bear, you were talking about bear
20 earlier, and in this community we manage to use the bear for
21 our funerals and potlatch, whatever, that's all we use it
22 for, we don't take no more. But last -- it seem like they
23 decline because of no berries before. You used to see them
24 down at the dump, now they moved the dump up towards Campion
25 (ph) and the fishing season was pretty bad and I hope that
26 improves. I notice somewhere in here, there's probably draft
27 analysis here, that's come up with -- if it's talking about
28 the same place I'm thinking about, Pilot Mountain Slough.
29 Yeah, there used to be a lot of moose in that area, but
30 that's also going to be hardly any moose in that area. A lot
31 of moose come out of there, every time, that's only 14-15
32 miles down here, but that's going to go down, I'm pretty sure
33 unless we do something about it.

34
35 And in the Kaiyuh Flats, some of these people don't
36 hardly go up there, you know, we go up Koyukuk River or along
37 this area and try to stay out of everybody's way because up
38 in the Koyukuk River it's just like a highway, every bend you
39 go and then you come around a bend there's a boat coming and
40 your rocking and rolling by the time you start to make camp
41 from waves.

42
43 And, let's see, the other thing I'd like to see
44 somewhere in the Fish and Game book, put a big notice in
45 there. If hunters don't know how to know the difference
46 between black bear and musk-ox then they shouldn't be out
47 hunting because we got to get some of the people do this.
48 The musk-ox came out over here and went on down river and
49 then before you know it, before the moose season is over,
50 that musk-oxen is dead. The saw it and they thought it was a

00106

1 bear, and that's not -- we'd like to see the musk-ox increase
2 because in the '20s or '30s that's how the moose came around
3 here is to increase, to -- and then it got even better. Like
4 up north, Shungnak area, there not used to be moose in that
5 area, but now they're all moving up that way because there's
6 a lot of willows, young willows, along the edge of the river.

7
8 But then I heard that -- through some of my friends,
9 they say, well, I like moose, but they're too big. I like
10 this caribou because, well, you can put three, four of them
11 in the sled, while the moose just fill them up one shot.

12
13 And I think that's about all for now from me for this
14 part because -- I have other things, but I kind of lost it
15 over on the chair. Thank you.

16
17 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Paddy.

18
19 For your information, Tony Warner asked to speak and
20 we do have time for him tomorrow, if he missed it. We also
21 have a sign-up sheet in the back and we would like everyone
22 to sign in and show that you participated in this meeting.

23
24 Franklin.

25
26 MR. MADROS: Excuse me, Mr. Chairman, I
27 thought of that thing I was going to say. You know, since
28 you're working on a proposal, maybe the Board could draft a
29 proposal to outlaw the air boat or jet boat because that jet
30 boat does lot of damage from what I hear. They go into
31 creeks where a thicker boat wouldn't go and that's where they
32 do their -- take over there.

33
34 Thank you.

35
36 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you. You know, just to
37 address that issue, you know that Nenana/Minto area
38 successfully banned some of their area to air boats and we've
39 been throwing around Koyukuk River Advisory Committee and I
40 don't know if they're doing anything about it in the Middle
41 Yukon, but that is something that we should keep close watch
42 on because we cannot afford air boats, hovercraft or jet
43 boats.

44
45 And at this time I'd like to call Laurie. Are you
46 ready?

47
48 MS. LOLNITZ: I'd like to ask the Darrell
49 Vent, if he would like to come sit with me because he was
50 part of this management team that was created and I might

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1 miss something that he can add.

2

3 I'm not exactly sure what you want, but my name is
4 Laurie Lolnitz, I'm from Koyukuk, born and raised there. I'd
5 like to thank the Board for giving me this opportunity to
6 speak. I'd like to say that, you know, I'm not anywhere as
7 old as Franklin or Paddy, who put in some really good words,
8 but I can relate to what they're saying, what Paddy is saying
9 on the Koyukuk River, being a subsistence hunter of that
10 area, the Lower Koyukuk River.

11

12 In 1993 I went to work for the Tribal Council of
13 Koyukuk and was just kind of thrown into the issue of the
14 moose hunter problem. In '94 we reviewed and made changes to
15 a moose hunter survey -- moose harvest survey that Tanana
16 Chiefs was putting out and a lot of concerns came up during
17 that change. That was in '94.

18

19 '95 and '96 we started working -- trying to work with
20 the State biologist, who at that time was Tim Osborne, who
21 some of you might have known before he left. He did
22 something like -- he put in something like 15 years of moose
23 count, moose data for the Lower Koyukuk River, up to that
24 point in time, about '95.

25

26 Our concerns were that what we were seeing in the
27 Lower Koyukuk River and what he was putting on paper were two
28 different totals. There was a lack of concern from that
29 State office on the effects that were being taken by -- that
30 were being put upon by the subsistence hunter, the local
31 hunters in our areas. So we tried to work a strategy into a
32 proposal which passed, I think it was Proposal 44 or
33 something like that, to close the subsistence hunt -- I mean,
34 close the hunting season for first week prior to the opening
35 general hunt in the fall season. And we closed the Gisasa
36 River from Chips Cabin or something like New Progress maybe.
37 From the Gisasa River to Three Day Slough we had -- it was
38 either bull or cow. The lower part was totally closed, just
39 for the subsistence hunter, until, like, September 10th.
40 We did that and we also in that proposal created the
41 registration hunt. That didn't help it. The non-local
42 hunters increased twice. I mean there was a point where
43 there was 500, the count was at 500 just for that -- between
44 Huslia and Koyukuk.

45

46 In 1997 we had our first meeting with the State, the
47 Federal U.S. Fish and Wildlife, TCC, ourselves of Koyukuk and
48 we invited the Upper Koyukuk River villages. Some of them
49 made it, some of them didn't. And at -- that was in 1997.
50 And I think it was in 1996 when the moose hunt, the non-local

00108

1 hunters increased, like, up to 500. It's down now, but it
2 was when we first started telling them that, hey, you know,
3 the percentage over the years have gone down for the moose,
4 that's not what you're looking at and your data is not --
5 it's not -- we don't think it's correct. That was in '97.

6
7 Last year, in '98, in January, we decided, well,
8 we're having so much problems we're just going to invite the
9 whole Koyukuk River to meet. And we held a meeting in
10 Allakaket and then the problems were the same way up there,
11 in fact, they got a lot less moose than we do, but some of it
12 is based on the various terrain, too, but still they have
13 their problems. Boats being pulled over the road, launching
14 somewhere way up somewhere and coming down and it really
15 affects their hunting season, their fall hunting season.
16 Everything I'm basically saying is for the fall hunting
17 season.

18
19 So we met with them and we agreed that we should form
20 some sort of co-management group of our own. One of the
21 reasons why is the 26 years, I think, the Middle Yukon
22 Advisory -- or the Advisory Board has been created, a lot of
23 proposal submitted by these Advisory Boards to the State were
24 turned down, a lot of them were focused on, you know, the
25 non-local hunters coming up the Koyukuk River, those kinds of
26 proposals are turned away.

27
28 And so this year, in January, the Koyukuk River
29 villages met and formed a Koyukuk River Basin Co-management
30 Team. At this point we're newly formed, we're looking for
31 planning grants to get started and hopefully do our own
32 resource -- gather our own resource data, for one thing, get
33 a voice -- get our voice heard for another thing.

34
35 Some of the things that I've seen as a hunter in the
36 fall season. A guy came up to me and he was selling a moose
37 license, and he was guide hunter, and I questioned that, you
38 know, can you just go and apply anytime you want to be a
39 moose license vender? That was one thing I didn't like.
40 Another thing is we had a boat load of moose one time, a few
41 years back -- and I got a picture of this, too. This big
42 boat or three big boats way up Koyukuk River, like 70 miles
43 up, passed us right in a row and we're talking ocean waves,
44 you know, and we had a boat -- we got a 21 foot, five feet
45 high sides, and that's pretty big, but if you got your
46 family, you want go get your moose way up, you can, I mean
47 you should be able to. We damn near swamped. And these are
48 big boats, that's a problem up there, the big boats.

49
50 And the other thing, just last fall, which I'm not

00109

1 putting down the State on this one, but we had a young man at
2 the 50 mile check point who's been working there, I think it
3 was his fourth fall season being there, so I questioned the
4 accuracy of the hunters that go through there, are they all
5 being accounted for? We reported nine moose floating in or
6 around the sloughs last fall, dead. And that was never taken
7 care of. My husband, himself, saw three. He can say for
8 sure he saw three, him and some other guys. And things like
9 that, you know.

10
11 They're going to take your facts if you have valid
12 proof. We don't always have valid proof, even though we --
13 you know, we ask people, please take your camera or
14 something. Another incident at my mother-in-law's Native
15 allotment up around Gisasa River, below there, we landed
16 there, what the hell this one boat was doing there, and
17 there's no trespassing, there's nothing, no -- there are no
18 "no trespassing" signs on that Native allotments or any
19 lands, except for maybe Gana-A Yoo.

20
21 But these people, these non-Natives they killed a
22 moose on my mother-in-law's land and they were cleaning it by
23 the time we got there and we told them that, you know, you're
24 on private property, could you just clean up your mess and
25 leave. They did, and they were clean about it, but that's
26 not the point. The point is that there are so many private
27 property all over the Koyukuk River that's being utilized by
28 the non-local hunter. And that's a big concern of ours.

29
30 And if I missed anything, Darrell can cover that.

31
32 MR. VENT: There were some concerns from our
33 area where the people were starting to go further and further
34 up the sloughs, like the Dolbi Slough area. We had some
35 reports of people going past where the boundaries are and it
36 was getting more and more. And the campsites, when they come
37 it there, you know, they're supposed -- we always respect a
38 person's camp. When you go in there you leave it the same
39 way you saw it when you got there.

40
41 Now, we had a lot of complaints from our local
42 residents that there's -- these people are going in there and
43 just trashing the area and they're not cleaning up. And, you
44 know, they have pictures, we tell them take pictures and
45 write it down, so they're starting to get pictures and write
46 these things down. They're starting to show where they're
47 going further and further up the river when we see where
48 their campsites are.

49
50 And our problems are not being addressed, you know,

00110

1 we keep complaining over and over on it and if we're not
2 being recognized it's kind of hard for us to be working with
3 the State when it would be much easier if we start working
4 with the Federal government trying to develop our own plan.
5 Now, if they can't recognize us, I'm pretty sure we're going
6 to have to find other means to try to get recognized.

7
8 And these things are serious. If you guys, you know,
9 want to work with us, we're willing to work, but it's hard to
10 be working with someone when they don't recognize what we're
11 trying to do and we have to go to support our other means. We
12 have to get serious, there's no two ways about it, because
13 this problem is getting worse and worse. Like Paddy was
14 talking about, the people are coming up more and more. And
15 on this paper, there right now, and you can tell there's a
16 higher population of hunting people, non-local, and it's
17 going to be the same thing like around the Tanana area, all
18 the way down the river where the non-local hunters are coming
19 in and they're getting these permits and pretty soon, you
20 know, we're going to have no moose. It'll be too late to
21 complain.

22
23 Right now we have a chance to stop that and make them
24 regulate where this growth will come back, because we have to
25 see every area and they're only showing moose count trend
26 from one area where there's different things affected this
27 moose count all year long. We only see this one little part
28 and it would be better if we had more input from the local
29 residents compared to what these reports show. Because our
30 local input is important to use. And we see things and we're
31 not being recognized by that, I'm pretty sure we're going to
32 have to start looking for other ways to help our natural
33 resource.

34
35 MS. LOLNITZ: I'd just like to add that in my
36 short four [sic] years of life that I've seen more activity
37 in the past 10-15 years in the Lower Koyukuk River than
38 probably ever, ever in the moose hunting history of that
39 river and that's just a little while. Forty percent drop in
40 the moose population in the past 10 to 12 years, that's
41 outrageous and we know have a problem when you got that kind
42 of numbers.

43
44 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yes. Thank you. And that's
45 about what we have for all this update and we will have
46 status reports tomorrow again. Are you attending tomorrow?

47
48 MS. LOLNITZ: Thank you. No, I'm at another
49 meeting.

50

00111

1 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay.

2
3 MS. LOLNITZ: Thank you.

4
5 MR. VENT: I'll be here tomorrow.

6
7 CHAIRMAN SAM: Darrell will be here. Thank
8 you.

9
10 Is there anybody else from the public that would like
11 to state a few concerns or anything else? Randy, use the
12 mike.

13
14 MR. ROGERS: Yes, I'm Randy Rogers with
15 Department of Fish and Game and I'm scheduled to give a
16 little update on the Department of Fish and Game's proposal
17 to do management planning on the Koyukuk, and that would
18 likely take place tomorrow. And I just wanted to suggest
19 that some of the information I have I'd like to be able to be
20 sure and share with Laurie and so, if you guys wanted to hear
21 that report now in conjunction with Laurie's comments, I'd be
22 willing to do that, but if you prefer to wait until tomorrow,
23 that's fine too.

24
25 CHAIRMAN SAM: We have time at this time and
26 what's the wishes of the Board? I'd like to continue with
27 this. Jack.

28
29 MR. REAKOFF: Sounds like a good suggestion.

30
31 MR. COLLINS: Yeah.

32
33 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yeah. Randy, the floor is
34 yours.

35
36 MR. ROGERS: Yeah.

37
38 CHAIRMAN SAM: This is quite appropriate to
39 cover this since Laurie won't be here tomorrow, so go ahead,
40 Randy.

41
42 MR. ROGERS: Yeah. Obviously those two
43 topics are very closely interlinked and it's been our desire
44 all along to try to coordinate the efforts between the State
45 and the Koyukuk Co-management Group as closely as possible.
46 And I think we've had a very difficult time doing that so
47 far, so any communication we can share, I think, is better.

48
49 Anyhow, thank you, Mr. Chairman, I appreciate the
50 interest of the Western Interior Subsistence Council in

00112

1 Koyukuk River moose management planning and having the
2 opportunity to provide an update on the Department of Fish
3 and Game's efforts.

4
5 As the Department of Fish and Game Regional Wildlife
6 Management Planner, I came to this meeting more to listen to
7 the concerns and ideas of the Koyukuk residents, and this
8 Subsistence Council than to talk about my ideas about moose
9 management.

10
11 As most people here already know, the formation of
12 the Koyukuk Moose Hunters Working Group as been put on hold
13 to allow more time to discuss the planning approach with
14 local residents. If we can revise the process in a way that
15 gains the support of local residents, we'll proceed with the
16 planning effort. If that's not possible at this time, we may
17 have to postpone Koyukuk River moose management to a later
18 date.

19
20 Let me just go through a few points of how we got to
21 this situation where we are right now with the project on
22 hold. As you all know, and we just heard, residents of the
23 Koyukuk River area have expressed concerns about moose
24 management to Fish and Game, increasing pressure, hunting
25 pressure, all of these issues for many years. At the Koyukuk
26 River Moose Co-management Meeting held in Koyukuk last
27 October, I stated that Fish and Game supports co-management
28 in a manner consistent with the Alaska Board of Game's
29 resolution and announced our department's intention to
30 establish a Koyukuk Moose management planning process.

31
32 I suggested that we needed to coordinate our efforts
33 with the Koyukuk River Co-management Group, but I didn't make
34 the presumption that we could address everything the co-
35 management group might be seeking to accomplish. At that
36 time I also had to explain that for the planning process to
37 be effective and have broad support before the Board of Game
38 it would be necessary to include all the stakeholders.
39 Specifically we would have to ensure the involvement of
40 hunters from outside the local area or potentially we'd be
41 facing their opposition before the Board of Game.

42
43 Some persons at the meeting didn't like to hear that
44 we had to do that, while others acknowledged that maybe this
45 is necessary. In either case, involving all the stakeholders
46 in an issue like this is a reality of how Fish and Game has
47 to operate now. But there's a number of ways this can be
48 done and the way we proposed to that working group is not the
49 only way this can be done.

50

00113

1 After the meeting at Koyukuk we spent considerable
2 amount of time thinking about how we might best design a
3 management planning effort. And we decided that for the
4 planning process to be effective we really needed to focus on
5 basic moose management issues and try to avoid the larger
6 political and legal issues which are beyond the scope of what
7 we could deal with in a management plan.

8
9 We tried to base the process on the existing local
10 Advisory Committee system, involve Koyukuk River moose
11 hunters rather than advocacy organizations. We recognized
12 the need for involvement and interaction with the Western
13 Interior Regional Subsistence Council and Federal Subsistence
14 Board. And at the Koyukuk meeting last October it was
15 apparent that commercial guides need to be involved in this
16 process too.

17
18 In January we sent out letters asking for nominations
19 to the proposed Koyukuk Moose Hunters Working Group. We
20 discussed the project extensively with the Fairbanks Advisory
21 Council and presented the concept to the Alaska Outdoors
22 Council. I appreciated that Laurie Lolnitz from Koyukuk, a
23 representative of the Koyukuk Moose Co-management Group, she
24 attended the AOC meeting with us and learned more about their
25 perspective. I hope that wasn't too bad of an experience,
26 but it was important for her to understand the context of the
27 other interests that we, as Fish and Game, need to deal with
28 in this.

29
30 In these discussions, I've done my best to explain
31 that there's biological concerns out there and that local
32 residents have many legitimate concerns. I've suggested that
33 it's in the interest of all the Koyukuk moose hunters to work
34 together to incorporate traditional knowledge, evaluate
35 biological information and plan together wisely for the
36 future.

37
38 Eventually we received nominations to the working
39 group from Fairbanks, Matanuska Valley and Kenai. I have
40 spoken with the people who were nominated and I've been
41 impressed with their willingness to acknowledge the concerns
42 of local residents and their agreement of the need for a
43 sound management plan. I'll be quite honest with you, I was
44 quite nervous about the prospect of bringing some of the non-
45 locals into this and setting up a situation conducive to good
46 communication, but I thought we got very lucky with the
47 nominations we had from the non-locals and folks that really
48 understood the moose resource there and wanted to work with
49 others.

50

00114

1 Working with people like this in a collaborative
2 process really represents an opportunity, and alternatively,
3 as I said, if we don't involve hunters like that, from
4 outside the area, in a management planning process, those
5 views and possibly more extreme views are going to be
6 presented to the Board of Game when any proposals go forward.
7 So it's kind of a way, we got to figure out between us, what
8 is the best way to involve these other users. Is it up
9 front, during the process or would we rather involve them
10 later on because inevitably it's going to happen and we're
11 open to suggestions in revising that.

12
13 We recognize that we made a mistake at Fish and Game
14 in not discussing this proposed planning process further with
15 local residents. In February, when the Middle Yukon and
16 Koyukuk River Advisory Committees voted to not make
17 nominations to the working group, it was obvious that there
18 was not sufficient understanding or trust in the process that
19 we proposed. We really didn't intend to portray the process
20 as being dominated by Fish and Game. We wanted to take the
21 initiative to get it started, but we wanted to bring everyone
22 to the table equally in it, the co-management people, other
23 interested hunters, we wanted to involve all the affected
24 agencies.

25
26 But that's a bit of how we got to where we are right
27 now with the Koyukuk River Moose Management Planning Project
28 on hold.

29
30 In reviewing the situation at the Fish and Game
31 office in Fairbanks, following the Advisory Committee
32 teleconferences, we talked it over and identified a number of
33 factors that contributed to the difficulty in getting this
34 process underway. Some of these factors, and there's many of
35 them, and I'm sure you folks are, you know, aware of some of
36 these, too, but, you know, we're trying to do this in an
37 overall contentious atmosphere created by the statewide
38 subsistence controversy.

39
40 The Advisory Committees' objection to Fish and Game
41 lacking funds for basic Advisory Committee meetings, yet
42 having funds for this planning project. When Royce Perington
43 (ph) raised that concern, I could only agree with him.

44
45 Perhaps the State planning process was viewed a
46 threat to the Koyukuk River Co-management Group's efforts.
47 We didn't intend it to be that way and, again, we need to try
48 and coordinate this.

49
50 There's the possible perception that local residents

00115

1 might not maintain sufficient control in the process with
2 non-local hunting interests involved. And there's a concern
3 that the proposed working group might replace or erode the
4 authority of the existing Advisory Committee system.

5
6 But a lot of these things are things that we can
7 change. The question is, where are we all going to go from
8 here?

9
10 Despite all these factors that are working against
11 use, we really feel it's our job to do the best we can within
12 these constraints we have to work with the public and try to
13 achieve the best overall moose management for Koyukuk River.
14 And we really think that can be best done by involving all
15 the interests in a cooperative effort.

16
17 Ultimately, developing better understanding among all
18 Koyukuk River moose hunter might be just as important as a
19 quality management plan. But we're truly committed to trying
20 to be responsive to the concerns of local residents and
21 making needed improvements in Koyukuk River moose management
22 for the benefit of the moose resource and moose hunters.

23
24 So of the possible options -- I've been thinking of
25 different ways we might approach this planning effort and
26 there's a whole range of different ways we could go about it
27 and maybe be more responsive to what locals would like to
28 see.

29
30 We could do something, like, just having the local
31 Advisory Committees work on intensive management population
32 harvest objectives and recommendations to the Board of Game.
33 And that's the bare essential that really has to happen under
34 our legal requirements. But to do just that we don't have to
35 have a working group composed of a different -- a lot of
36 different interest, the Advisory Committees can do that.

37
38 We could look at doing something like having local
39 Advisory Committees and Village Councils set up meetings
40 where Fish and Game staff might go from village to village to
41 better understand the concerns of village residents and share
42 information on biological data, hunting trends, receive on
43 the traditional knowledge. We could go through a process
44 like that and then see what seems to make sense after that,
45 learn more, first, before we go off on some, you know, fairly
46 elaborate planning process.

47
48 Then we can have a collaborative effort involving
49 some kind of a stakeholder's group and we could modify what
50 was proposed as the Koyukuk Moose Hunters Working Group and

00116

1 do a number of things. We could use the group that was
2 proposed by Royce Perington (ph). Actually in their
3 teleconference, I acknowledged right away that the goal he
4 proposed for this working group was probably better than the
5 one I wrote. What I would hope is if the group got together
6 is that the group itself would set its own goal.

7
8 We could include in that process conducting
9 informational meetings in villages and we could change it so
10 that the final recommendations on the plan would go from the
11 Advisory Committees themselves, rather than this working
12 group, giving the Advisory Committees the final say before
13 it's passed on to the Board of Game.

14
15 But there's a whole range of different options,
16 that's only a few and, as I said I'm here mainly to listen to
17 the discussion, talk to folks and hear what you think would
18 work good and we'd appreciate any suggestions this Council
19 might have or individuals have on how we might go ahead an
20 proceed with this planning effort in a way that's supported
21 by local residents. And if we get to the point where we feel
22 that that's going to be a productive effort, we would like to
23 go forward with it, but we don't want to be pushing about it
24 either, so we'll be around following this meeting to discuss
25 this informally and we're always willing to talk about it
26 through our offices in Fairbanks, too, any opportunities that
27 come up.

28
29 So we'll just, you know, continue on hold for right
30 now and see what makes the best sense to meet the needs of
31 local residents and be responsive and thinking about how to
32 deal with this moose resource before problems get worse as
33 the concerns have been well laid out.

34
35 So thanks. I didn't mean to drag on so long, but I
36 figured it was really going to be my only chance to get a few
37 words in on this, so if there's any questions I'd be happy to
38 answer those. And, again, I'll be around to hear whatever
39 ideas folks have, and hopefully catch Laurie before she has
40 to leave.

41
42 CHAIRMAN SAM: I would appreciate that. Do
43 we have any questions for Randy Rogers?

44
45 (No audible responses)

46
47 CHAIRMAN SAM: If not, I appreciate your time
48 and effort and I would like to see this project get off the
49 ground. I know it's off the ground, but it's a matter of
50 time of finalizing and formalizing everything, so I'd like to

00117

1 thank, both, Laurie, Darrell and Randy and all the people
2 involved that have been working on this issue. I guess
3 everyone knows that it will probably get worse before it
4 get's better, but that we do have it on the table and one of
5 my main concerns and wishes was to go ahead and utilize the
6 funding that Randy could fine or what he has found, then
7 utilize it and all we can do is just say thumbs up or thumbs
8 down and then start over again.

9
10 Does anyone have any questions or comments? Yeah.

11
12 MS. LOLNITZ: I was just wondering if the
13 Western Interior Regional Council would like to a voting on
14 whether or not they want a stick a representative on this.
15 (Indiscernible - away from microphone) put on hold or are you
16 planning to discuss a this plan at some point and for the
17 benefit of the public information here, the last Outdoor
18 Council meeting that I did attend, most of the comments made
19 there were not very nice comments on the rural part. They
20 were not, I didn't even know the people there, but one
21 comment that came back (indiscernible - away from microphone)
22 pretty bright to go to that meeting, so I just wanted to
23 throw that in to the Federal (indiscernible - away from
24 microphone) attended.

25
26 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yeah, thank you. For the
27 record that was Laurie Lolnitz, Koyukuk Co-moose management
28 [sic] and I'll reiterate what they said. You got more guts
29 than I do. I testified against AOC a good many times --
30 yeah, just a minute -- and I did make a note somewhere on
31 here that I will call for an election of one person to sit on
32 this planning group and it will be probably at the end of the
33 meeting.

34
35 Was that your question?

36
37 MR. MATHEWS: No, I had another one, but
38 Randy has.....

39
40 MR. ROGERS: Well, I just wanted to point out
41 that, you know, as it has played out, we did have a fairly
42 difficult presentation before the Outdoor Council and they
43 gave me plenty of heat over it. I've had several rounds of
44 that. It's part of my job, that's okay. But at this point,
45 or as it had been developing, they've basically had agreed
46 that they didn't need to be at the table during this, so the
47 representation of non-local hunters was set up to be through
48 these folks from local Advisory Committees who are moose
49 hunters who are not on that more extreme end of views.

50

00118

1 And that's really one of the things that we were
2 really trying to shoot for in setting this thing up. And so,
3 you know, hopefully that it might play out that way, but
4 again, I would reiterate that at this point we really can't
5 go forward with this group without nominations from the
6 Middle Yukon and Koyukuk.

7
8 You know, if this Council wanted to nominate somebody
9 in the outside chance or hope that Middle Yukon and Koyukuk
10 would want to reconsider the that might be good, but right
11 now, until we figure out a way to pull the whole thing
12 together, you know, we really don't have it going right, it's
13 not happening now, it's truly on hold. But we do want to
14 consider, you know, if there are ways, and I'm sure that it's
15 possible to rearrange teleconferences of those committees or
16 you could pull representation from villages, not through the
17 Advisory Committee system. I mean, there's a number of
18 options, but, you know, we're waiting until following this
19 meeting to discuss what kind of input we hear, what kind of
20 concerns and whether people really do want to go forward with
21 it before we decide if we're going to at all.

22
23 And simultaneously we do have the folks on Yukon
24 Flats that are almost beating our door down trying to get us
25 to work on a planning effort there. And it's not going to be
26 any easier there either, I can tell you. There's different
27 groups, similar to the co-management group that have concerns
28 about their ability to have an equal voice in decision-making
29 with State and Federal agencies. And we want to do something
30 that represents progress towards that in bringing people
31 together in a common decision-making process. But
32 realistically within the laws of the state we can't do
33 everything in terms of co-management right away, but we
34 certainly like to, you know, chip away and make some progress
35 that makes sense within the authorities that we have.

36
37 If you guys actually do want to vote and make a
38 nomination to this, then I can't predict that may have with
39 other groups potentially involved, but, you know, my bosses
40 back at Fish and Game they really are greatly concerned that
41 we don't want to be perceived as being real pushy on this.
42 And again, I'll go back to it and I'll take the
43 responsibility for the mistake of not being able or not
44 taking the time to get out and talk to people so that by the
45 time that those Advisory Committees met, they really didn't
46 have a chance to really grill me with some intense questions
47 about why we set it up that way and make me give them the
48 response to, you know, develop a better understanding of it
49 and point out places where I could make changes in that
50 process. When we sent that out it was marked "draft" at the

00119

1 top in big bold letters and the letters that went to each
2 Advisory Committee specifically asked for suggestions for
3 changing the process, but we never really got an opportunity
4 for to happen until all of a sudden it came together and it
5 was a rather pressurized situation to come up with
6 nominations. People did not feel comfortable with it. I
7 can't blame the response that happened, but still, you know,
8 we have a common interest in the moose resource and need to
9 figure out how we best can proceed.

10
11 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yeah, is Dave Killinghouse
12 (ph) still leading AOC?

13
14 MR. ROGERS: He is -- I don't know what his
15 official position is there, but he's very involved with it.

16
17 CHAIRMAN SAM: And Dick Bishop is involved?

18
19 MR. ROGERS: Dick Bishop is involved, too,
20 and I don't know what position, you know, each of them have.

21
22 Again, going into this, we kind of recognized that if
23 we got groups like that -- you know, one approach would be to
24 have every interest group at the table and have a seat
25 specifically designated for co-management group and people
26 from the AOC side or the urban side are -- they're concerned
27 and afraid of the co-management in a certain way. They,
28 perhaps, don't understand it as well as they should. So
29 there's concerns from both sides of the issue there. But one
30 of the reasons -- I mean we thought that using Advisory
31 Committee representation and the Subsistence Council that
32 many of the same people that are on Advisory Committees are
33 involved or informed of the co-management group and that we
34 could bring the input of the co-management group into the
35 process without having the name that would attract potential
36 opposition or raise concerns from the other side.

37
38 So if we had the co-management group, then the
39 Outdoor Council would say, well, if they're there then we
40 have to be there. But if we kept in terms of Advisory
41 Committee representation, covering the interests of moose
42 hunters, then what we hoped to do was to be able to keep the
43 group focused on moose issues and working together to achieve
44 common ground. And there's going to be some places, you
45 know, most likely where there would be differing interests,
46 but if we could agree on what the common interests are and
47 look at where there's different interests it would be a
48 better situation to come up with ideas between everybody to
49 how to make the best management situation. That's the intent
50 of what we were trying to pull off and we would still hope to

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1 be able to do that.

2
3 CHAIRMAN SAM: Vince.

4
5 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, a couple of
6 things. One is I want to remind you that what your Annual
7 Report from last year, the Board responded when you requested
8 endorsement of cooperative management strategies, they
9 responded in kind and support efforts of staff to explore and
10 determine the level of commitment amongst interested parties
11 in the Koyukuk River drainage and to provide funding within
12 budget constraints for cooperative management meetings. So I
13 want to remind you of that and I feel compelled to ask Laurie
14 a question because I'm really excited about this whole
15 process.

16
17 Laurie, were you asking the Council to put forward a
18 nomination for the group as set up with the -- the way Randy
19 had set up earlier?

20
21 MS. LOLNITZ: No, I was asking what was their
22 intention on it, not if they were going to put up a
23 nomination or not, just how are they going to respond to the
24 (indiscernible - away from microphone) that's what I think.

25
26 MR. MATHEWS: Okay. Then I misunderstood,
27 I'm sorry.

28
29 MS. LOLNITZ: (Indiscernible - away from
30 microphone)

31
32 CHAIRMAN SAM: Dave. I mean, Randy.

33
34 MR. ROGERS: Yeah, I guess, I'd just like to
35 add that as Laurie was talking about some of the things that
36 the co-management group would like to accomplish and some of
37 that is -- we've talked a lot and a lot of these issues about
38 the scientific data and how complete is the scientific data
39 and it seems to be at odds with some of the gut feelings, the
40 traditional knowledge that some folks have. Well, a forum
41 like this would be an ideal place where we can bring up both
42 the biological information that scientists have and more
43 fully discuss and bring in traditional knowledge. And
44 there's a number of the points that she identified that I
45 would hope we could make some progress on in this planning
46 type group.

47
48 Now, again, I'm not going to presume that we could do
49 everything that the co-management group would like to
50 accomplish or go quite as far with it. And then maybe it's

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1 good that they operate and want to push things farther than
2 maybe we can in a State run process. A State overseeing
3 process because I really -- it would be my job to make sure
4 that it is not a State run process, it would be, maybe, State
5 sponsored. I would do everything I can to give all the
6 players their equal footing and equal power balance and how
7 it works out.

8
9 But, again, one thing I'd like to stress is that, you
10 know, if we don't get nominations or if we don't come up with
11 some different way of approaching this, we still need to
12 figure out more about what Laurie's group wants to accomplish
13 and how that meshes with what Fish and Game Management duties
14 are and what we can do to cooperate the best we can together
15 to accomplish moose management. I mean that needs to happen
16 regardless of this planning stuff. So -- I mean, I would
17 think our department will want to commit to learning more
18 about that co-management process and what they want to
19 achieve and how we might fit in with accomplishing that.
20 But, again, a lot of those issues will go into Federal
21 agencies and other things that are not in just our control.

22
23 CHAIRMAN SAM: Any questions? Orville.

24
25 MR. O. HUNTINGTON: I just want to say that
26 maybe the best place for this co-management thing is to look
27 at where -- what each group has to offer, like Alaska Outdoor
28 Council, you know, they represent a large hunting group from
29 all over, practically all over the world, they're going to
30 have a right to hunt on State lands no matter what, and
31 Federal public lands when it's available. But as far as the
32 Native people, you know, their part in this is, is they're
33 tribal members and they're members of their local village
34 corporation and their regional corporation and they work and
35 they answer a lot of questions from these corporations and
36 they want to know, you know, why can't they let the local
37 tribal governments manage resources, the fish and wildlife,
38 on their lands.

39
40 You know, if they exceed the State's methods, they
41 use the very methods the State Department of Fish and Game is
42 using, they exceed those, you know, there's no reason any
43 tribal government has ever had a problem managing on their
44 own land. I mean, they can say who goes on and off those
45 lands. The moose are free to come and go, but, you know, we
46 have to step back and say, okay, what does each pair have to
47 offer, you know. I don't remember all the groups Randy read
48 off, but there's going to be Federal lands, State lands and
49 Native owned lands. And the Native groups, like Koyukuk
50 Tribal Council, they're position of strength is their

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1 corporation land and their allotments. They have a right to
2 say who goes on and off those lands.

3
4 And, you know, if they have a problem going to Alaska
5 Outdoor Council and saying what they have to say, you know,
6 well, they have a right, you know, that's their land and they
7 have a right to say what goes on on their own lands. And
8 they have a right to manage on those lands, too. If they can
9 exceed the State -- they can't just say, we're going to go in
10 and just manage it just any old way, because that's never
11 going to be accepted. You know, there's tribal governments
12 that took over management on their own land, but they met the
13 State's standards, you know. It's not just political wind,
14 you have to meet those standards in order to get that kind of
15 management. And then you can say co-manage, but you're not
16 going to be managing on those State and Federal lands because
17 they're never going to give you jurisdiction over those
18 lands. But you can get joint jurisdiction over your own
19 lands.

20
21 So that's, you know. I don't want to beat this to
22 death, but it can be done, there's a way, you just got to,
23 you know, you got to do it the right way.

24
25 CHAIRMAN SAM: Any further questions for
26 Orville?

27
28 (No audible responses)

29
30 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chair.

31
32 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yes.

33
34 MR. MATHEWS: I think I failed to do
35 something for you, and I apologize for the Council members.
36 Many of the Council members know exactly what we're talking
37 about here and what the make up of this working group is, I
38 don't know if Angela, Ray and Henry have any idea what we're
39 talking about as far as the working group and its structure
40 and make up, so I don't want you to go backwards in your
41 discussion, but I don't know if they know -- can understand
42 what's being talked about here and what's being proposed. Or
43 maybe they are informed and I'm wrong. Of what the working
44 group was going to be made up of and its task and all of
45 that. We kind of may have left you guys in the dust on.....

46
47 CHAIRMAN SAM: I kind of doubt it.

48
49 MR. COLLINS: Yeah, I could comment that I
50 think I have a fair idea of what it is. And I'd like to say

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1 for Laurie and some of the others here is that actually this
2 group was pushing for this very thing to happen because our
3 frustration with proposals. Because a proposal that comes
4 forward to try to deal with this on State land, it's like the
5 one that gets turned down down below, it doesn't solve the
6 problem if the State isn't brought in, too, because of their
7 jurisdiction over everything up to the high water mark. And
8 I know we had problems trying to fix it on the Koyukuk. Our
9 recommendation to the Department of Interior was to get
10 together with the State on some kind of a cooperative effort
11 to work together on solving the problem. So I hope that this
12 can move forward, I hope it doesn't just get stopped.

13

14 MR. MATHEWS: Yeah.

15

16 CHAIRMAN SAM: All right. Nancy.

17

18 MS. PITKA: (Inaudible - away from
19 microphone)

20

21 COURT REPORTER: Ma'am, could you come to the
22 mike? Thank you very much.

23

24 MS. PITKA: Anyway, you know, just a few
25 years ago I started going up the Koyukuk River with my
26 husband and family and I thought I was going to enjoy that
27 trip and I didn't because every bend we turned in Three Day
28 Slough there was a hunter. So we came back and then he went
29 out and then he got a moose because it just wasn't fun.

30

31 But I really recommend that -- I don't know, Fish and
32 Wildlife or some that goes back to Northern Air Cargo when
33 these hunters come in and they leave their meat back there.
34 And I'm not sure how big Northern Air Cargo is or how big the
35 building is, but that meat, it sits back there for weeks and
36 it really stinks in there and I really recommend, maybe
37 myself, or somebody from Fish and Wildlife to go back there
38 with a video camera and video what is sitting back there and
39 how -- you can't smell it on video camera, but to video
40 what's sitting back there. There's a lot of moose meat that
41 sits back there for weeks and I know once it leave here they
42 just toss it.

43

44 You know, one, he was a health provider here a few
45 years ago and he had -- he was running dogs and he got a
46 moose and he grinded [sic] up the meat and fed it to his
47 dogs. And there was a lot of people really upset that.

48

49 But that's just what I wanted to mention, thank you.

50

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1 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you. Any more comments
2 on this? Just for your information, we will bring this -- I
3 will bring this back on the floor tomorrow for all those that
4 want to comment or state their views. We have it on the
5 agenda and I'd like the local people to know that if they
6 still have some more concerns we do have opening for Native
7 corporations, regional, village or anyone that has concerns,
8 you're welcome back here tomorrow sometime. I forgot -- I
9 don't know at this time when.

10
11 Paddy.

12
13 MR. NOLLNER: Yeah, what time would that be?
14 In case somebody wants to know, like Tony or other people?

15
16 CHAIRMAN SAM: We took off pretty fast this
17 morning and probably the reason that we went so fast is
18 because we didn't have anyone from the local or tribal
19 entities to -- speaking.

20
21 You think we can get to is some time in the morning?

22
23 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, Mr. Chairman. What I see
24 left on the agenda is -- and I have polled all the agencies
25 on agency reports, but my guess is there's a few items left,
26 but not -- no major ones. The fisheries item is just an
27 update, for those that are wondering, so I don't expect that
28 one to take long. The Annual Report you've had for drafts
29 and I can't think of other topics. Well, there is another
30 one, caribou seasons in Unit 24, but I don't think that's
31 going to take long.

32
33 MR. SPINDLER: And if the Council so please,
34 we can update them on the migratory bird issue.

35
36 MR. MATHEWS: Oh, right, right.

37
38 CHAIRMAN SAM: Is the migratory birds long?

39
40 MR. MATHEWS: No, they have a handout in
41 there, but it is an important issue, I don't want to down
42 play it.

43
44 CHAIRMAN SAM: Let's shoot for 11:00 o'clock
45 for public comment.

46
47 MR. MATHEWS: Sure, if that -- I suppose I'm
48 -- well, let me look at a watch. Well, that's probably
49 accurate if you're going to adjourn in an hour, hour and a
50 half. I mean not adjourn, recess. I don't know you have a

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1 couple of hours work tomorrow at the most.

2

3 CHAIRMAN SAM: Uh-huh.

4

5 MR. MATHEWS: Unless I'm missing something.
6 There's other staff here that can see the agenda as well as
7 I. We're on the downslope now, as far as items, unless I'm
8 missing something.

9

10 MR. BRELSFORD: I think 11:00 o'clock is a
11 good suggestion.

12

13 MR. MATHEWS: Okay. But what I'm concerned
14 with that is some wanted to fly out at 11:00, so that's why
15 I'm hedging here. If that's alright with them then we're
16 fine.

17

18 CHAIRMAN SAM: Jack.

19

20 MR. REAKOFF: I would like to hear from the
21 State sometime on what they propose to do and their
22 discretionary authority and some discussion about the moose
23 population at this point and what they plan doing this next
24 season in the Koyukuk.

25

26 CHAIRMAN SAM: Who did we work with up in
27 Allakaket, David James?

28

29 MR. REAKOFF: Yeah, David James.

30

31 CHAIRMAN SAM: Do you know if he's coming?

32

33 MR. STOUT: I'm prepared to talk on that in
34 the State's portion of that report.

35

36 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay. At our meeting in
37 Allakaket, you know, we're going through this registration
38 and permit system for the Lower Koyukuk and at that time we
39 asked David James to use his discretionary powers to cut down
40 the registration permits from 250 permits to 200 and keep
41 cutting down without State Board of Game action. And I want
42 to see where we stand on this issue tomorrow and Glenn Stout
43 will be bringing it out. Because as long as we're using this
44 registration or permit system, I think we can keep cutting it
45 down without going before the State Board of Game by issuing
46 less and less permits.

47

48 That satisfy you, Jack?

49

50 MR. REAKOFF: Uh-huh (affirmative).

00126

1 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay. Benedict.

2

3 MR. JONES: Yeah, I got a comment on that, on
4 our last Middle Yukon Advisory Board we proposed to the State
5 that we cut the permit down from 250 down to 200 for next
6 season, so it's up to the Game Board to make a decision on
7 that.

8

9 CHAIRMAN SAM: I think that David James can
10 handle it by himself, without going before the State Board of
11 Game. We can push that discretionary powers only so far, but
12 that's what we're trying to do without going before the State
13 Board of Game.

14

15 And any further comments?

16

17 MR. GOOD: I just wanted to say -- I'm Jim
18 Good, I talked Laurie Lolnitz and Darrell, I'm not sure I met
19 him. I do want to address a couple of things they talked
20 about. I'd like to do it tomorrow. I see you have that
21 session on migratory birds, I know there are some things here
22 that we wanted to tell the group. Am I just going to address
23 that tomorrow? We talked about it.

24

25 A couple of things, there are a number of things that
26 Laurie mentioned up on the Koyukuk Refuge that I want to talk
27 about specifically, so -- and she said she wasn't going to be
28 here. I see Darrell is it?

29

30 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yeah, Darrell.

31

32 MR. GOOD: Okay. He'll be here so -- but I
33 think it's important. I have talked about these things at
34 Allakaket, I talked about this one time at Huslia and so I
35 want to talk about it again a little bit.

36

37 CHAIRMAN SAM: That's tomorrow?

38

39 MR. GOOD: Yes, sir.

40

41 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay. Darrell.

42

43 MR. VENT: I had one question about obtaining
44 a guiding hunting permit. We had an incident where that we
45 heard that there was a guide hunting permit obtained without
46 local input, and it was concerning our area where they were
47 guiding in. I haven't heard anything back on that. I see
48 that you had it in your minutes. I was wondering if there
49 was anything that came of it.

50

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1 CHAIRMAN SAM: Vince, did we.....

2

3 MR. MATHEWS: No, there wouldn't be nothing
4 -- I received no responses from the minutes on that item. If
5 the issue with guides and guiding permits and all of that,
6 that's not within this program, that's a refuge program and
7 refuge issue. I mean the Council can discuss that, but it's
8 a refuge process, similar to the Park Service process on
9 permits, similar to other permitting processes.

10

11 MR. VENT: Who would I present this to if I
12 had to go challenging this issue how they obtained the
13 permit?

14

15 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: The State.

16

17 MR. VENT: The State?

18

19 MR. MATHEWS: No, I'm getting lost here.
20 I'll turn it over to Pete and Jim.

21

22 MR. DeMATTEO: Mr. Chair. Mr. Good is
23 probably more appropriate to address this, but simply to
24 answer Mr. Vent's question. When they file an application
25 for a guiding permit it goes to the refuge. So you may want
26 to get with Jim Good there and you guys can discuss this.

27

28 MR. GOOD: We just went through the process,
29 we just panels and the regional office where guides were
30 selected for available areas on the refuges. We just went
31 through that process. I do know that a couple of villages
32 knew. I mean that had been advertised and went through an
33 elaborate process with panels. We had panels, I was on one
34 of them. Is this the place to talk about it?

35

36 MR. MATHEWS: Well, I think I'm just going to
37 have to ask the Chair here. I think what is happening here
38 is the issue that we were discussing on the Koyukuk River
39 spins into other auxiliary issues and my suggestion would be
40 now to take it up instead of deferring until tomorrow because
41 we have the leadership of the different groups here. I know
42 Laurie is putting her coat on.....

43

44 MS. LOLNITZ: I'm just chilly.

45

46 MR. MATHEWS:but I might be able to
47 stop her at the door. But I don't normally do this,
48 Mr. Chair, but I'm kind of suggesting that maybe you ought to
49 take the opportunity while the staff is here and the issue is
50 warm to hot to take it now and bring the people up to the

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1 table and talk about the multifacets of this issue. Because
2 I think Laurie would like to hear if this is getting into the
3 guiding question, would like to hear that same information.
4 So it's up to you, Chair.

5
6 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yeah. What's your name again?

7
8 MR. GOOD: Jim Good.

9
10 CHAIRMAN SAM: Will you take the table, let's
11 get this.....

12
13 MR. GOOD: Okay, I'm not sure exactly where
14 to lead. My name is Jim Good, I'm the Deputy Refuge Manager
15 at Koyukuk-Nowitna. And I do feel because it's a totally
16 separate issue in that we had a process that we've gone
17 through to the regional office, it's gone through U.S. Fish
18 and Wildlife Service throughout the State. All refuges that
19 have available guide areas, we went through the process of
20 advertising. And that's where we are now. There have been
21 guides -- they have been selected on refuges. We have two
22 that have been selected for the Koyukuk Refuge as part of
23 that.

24
25 And I'm not sure what else to say, because I think if
26 I'm going to be discussing this with somebody or people then
27 I think it's probably a refuge issue or it may be an issue
28 with the regional office, it might involve them, and I think
29 that that's probably the way to handle it. We've gone
30 through, you know, through the selection process.

31
32 We had two panels that worked on the refuges in
33 Alaska. And we worked on the ones for Koyukuk. I was on a
34 panel then that worked with two other people for selecting
35 guides on the Alaska Peninsula Refuge and Becharof. There
36 was another group that worked on selecting guide/outfitters,
37 as was on the Koyukuk, for Kenai and Selawick, the Selawick
38 Refuge, and I can't remember I think there was another one.
39 That's the process.

40
41 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yes, I think it's quite
42 appropriate that we address this issue here and now because
43 that's going to be one of the main issues as far as the
44 Koyukuk Co-op Management Team will address. Whether -- whose
45 fault it is that these things are in place, we don't know,
46 but we will address them down the road. And I think some of
47 the biggest feedback from the people on the Koyukuk is that
48 we did not get any notice of any hearings or who filed for
49 these guiding permits or areas. I think that's one of the
50 things that bothers a lot of our people.

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1 Ida.

2

3 MS. HILDEBRAND: Ida Hildebrand, BIA Staff
4 Committee member. I think the question is what is the
5 process and are local people involved in that process? Is
6 there a notice to the local people? Has that notice been
7 given?

8

9 MR. GOOD: Yes, it was given. It was sent
10 out. They were -- I mean I don't know, it was in the
11 newspapers, it was in -- also we sent out information to all
12 the villages that we deal with for the Koyukuk and Nowitna
13 complex, so there was information sent to Huslia. If Koyukuk
14 -- are you in Huslia?

15

16 MR. VENT: Yes, I was (inaudible - away from
17 microphone & interrupted)

18

19 MR. GOOD: Then I don't know, I'm sure there
20 are other people in Huslia that didn't know either.

21

22 MR. VENT: Yeah.

23

24 MR. GOOD: We tried, we put it on KIYU, the
25 radio. We had it on the radio stations in Fairbanks. We
26 tried to put those notices in the -- as I recall, I can't
27 remember all the -- but I know that's what we did, I can't
28 remember all the steps, because we followed the steps. We
29 got in touch with Village Councils and let them know that
30 people could put in for that, could apply. Those that had
31 licenses as guides and met the requirements then they could
32 apply for the areas that were opened. There were two on the
33 refuge, the Kaiyuh Number 2 and Kaiyuh Number 3, up out of
34 Huslia.

35

36 MR. VENT: I think there was one more
37 information that I heard from the people, who signed off on
38 the permit? There was -- like the main person wasn't around
39 so somebody else had to sign for the permit; is that true?

40

41 MR. GOOD: I don't know what you mean. Who
42 signed off on the.....

43

44 MR. VENT: For a guide -- there was a guiding
45 permit that was issued for someone and they were wondering
46 who signed off on it, they ask the question on that.

47

48 MR. GOOD: You're going to have to be more
49 specific. I don't know who or what you're talking about.

50

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1 MR. VENT: (Indiscernible - simultaneous
2 speech away from microphone)

3
4 MR. GOOD: Who are you talking about?

5
6 MR. VENT: Virgil Umphenour got a permit, for
7 guide permit because we didn't hear about where the whole
8 village started complaining saying how come he didn't go
9 through the process of letting the village, the Native
10 corporation.

11
12 MR. GOOD: Okay. The situation with Virgil
13 Umphenour, let's see. Five years ago the process -- we went
14 through the same process for selecting guides/outfitters.
15 Vigil Umphenour out of -- he has three guiding areas up out
16 of Koyukuk, he had those for five years. If -- well, let me
17 go back here a little bit. They can apply -- let me explain
18 it to you. They can have -- to make it simple, they can have
19 an automatic renewal if they do not have -- for another five
20 years, if they do not have any violations or any other things
21 come up that we know about where they're in violation of any
22 game laws or anything. That's how he got the automatic
23 renewal. He has it for five more years.

24
25 There was one person who had a Special Use Permit as
26 a guide/outfitter up there, he lost his because he had
27 violations of game laws. We readvertised that. That was one
28 that went through the process, that was Kaiyuh Number 3 that
29 was readvertised, but Virgil Umphenour got it because as with
30 permittee is not only on Koyukuk, but on other areas that had
31 those, they can get an automatic -- the first time they have
32 a permit, after five years -- their permit for
33 guiding/outfitting is for five year, they can get an
34 automatic renewal for five more years.

35
36 After that, they have to then apply through the
37 process and then they have to throw their hat in the ring
38 with everybody else that's applying. That is what happened
39 with Virgil Umphenour.

40
41 MR. VENT: Would that be with local
42 involvement, Native corporations?

43
44 MR. GOOD: For the automatic renewal?

45
46 MR. VENT: For the automatic renewal. Would
47 they.....

48
49 MR. GOOD: It was -- that was okayed on all
50 refuges as far as I know, that was okayed on all refuges in

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1 Alaska that had guides, they were automatically renewed for
2 five more years. That's how Virgil, he has his automatic
3 renewal. On the Nowitna Refuge, Alex Tourni (ph) also got an
4 automatic renewal for five years. The one guide that was up
5 there, and I won't mention his name, he did lose his because
6 of violations.

7
8 MR. VENT: There was people complaining about
9 that, there was no way.....

10
11 MR. GOOD: Oh. Well, I'm sorry, you know, I
12 didn't.....

13
14 MR. VENT:people didn't have any
15 information on that, so they commenting to me and talking to
16 me to find out what kind of process that was to get your
17 license renewed.

18
19 MR. GOOD: That's the process. Now, the ones
20 that.....

21
22 MR. VENT: I think it would be -- discuss
23 that more and try to decide how you can involve the local
24 input on these renewals, maybe, you know, it would be to our
25 interests.....

26
27 MR. GOOD: Yeah.

28
29 MR. VENT:instead of just throwing us
30 aside saying, you know, this doesn't involve you. This is
31 your area, but it doesn't involve you.

32
33 MR. GOOD: Well, I know.....

34
35 MR. VENT: They were telling me, so, you
36 know, they were getting fed up, I was trying to get to them,
37 saying that it wasn't brought up to me.

38
39 MR. GOOD: Yes. I can ensure you there was
40 no intention of throwing people aside, that was not an
41 intention. I do know there were discussions, I do know that
42 people contacted Gene Williams, the Refuge Manager, there
43 were -- I don't know all the items, there were things brought
44 up with all the guides in those areas to him. But there were
45 no known, and we go by the regulations and by the rules,
46 there were no known game violations or fisheries violations
47 either through with us or Fish and Wildlife Service or Alaska
48 Department of Fish and Game, because we checked.

49
50 MR. VENT: No written, that's what you mean,

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1 no written.

2
3 MR. GOOD: Pardon me?

4
5 MR. VENT: No written.

6
7 MR. GOOD: Well, no written, that's right,
8 no.

9
10 MR. VENT: Yeah.

11
12 MR. GOOD: And that's what we have to go by
13 because people, if they are going to say -- it's just like
14 me, I have law enforcement authority, okay? I can issue a
15 citation for something I see, but if you tell me that Joe
16 Smucks out here somewhere, shot a moose that was, you know,
17 too young or something, or he didn't have big enough antlers
18 and you have to sign my ticket. We can go to court and I
19 will take that to court, but you have to come in and testify.
20 So there has to be more than just.....

21
22 CHAIRMAN SAM: For the record this exchange
23 is between Darrell Vent, Huslia, and Jim Good. And can we
24 take this up some more tomorrow?

25
26 MR. GOOD: Sure. I thought you want an
27 explanation of it, so this is what -- he has me questions, so
28 I'm trying to explain it to him because I don't want the
29 people in Huslia to feel that they were being bypassed
30 intentionally, there was no intention on the refuge part to
31 do that at all. We never intended to do that.

32
33 CHAIRMAN SAM: Ray Collins.

34
35 MR. COLLINS: I want to see if I'm hearing
36 right. So the way local people can get involved is if they
37 know that a guide is violating some laws, then they need to
38 move to get that -- to press a charge, in other words, and
39 that's the way.....

40
41 MR. GOOD: Yes.

42
43 MR. COLLINS:they can get into the
44 process. And then it would.....

45
46 MR. GOOD: Yes. And then we can then go
47 forward with it or the Wildlife Protection officers can go
48 forward with it.

49
50 CHAIRMAN SAM: Can we press charges from two

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1 years back?

2

3 MR. GOOD: I'm not really sure. It would
4 depend on the.....

5

6 CHAIRMAN SAM: Laurie.

7

8 MR. GOOD: I really so of doubt it. It would
9 depend, I think, on the violation.

10

11 CHAIRMAN SAM: Laurie Lolnitz.

12

13 MS. LOLNITZ: I just had a question on -- Ray
14 answered for me already. Violation part, you know, he's
15 explained a guide hunter violating or something
16 (indiscernible - away from microphone) do you monitor how far
17 back they go into the refuges? Do you know if they go into
18 the refuges? How -- is it State regulations they have to
19 violate? What is the violation process we can report to
20 whomever? And on the other side of it, if the guides
21 (indiscernible) local subsistence users, we very seldom hear
22 about guide hunters being reported for violations, but sure
23 we can get what's his name in Huslia or down (indiscernible -
24 away from microphone) I just need to know about this
25 violation process. How do you know if they're violating on
26 the refuge part or they're on State lands, how do you monitor
27 that for guides? I heard (indiscernible) for subsistence
28 users.

29

30 MR. GOOD: Well, let me just -- if I'm out
31 there in the boat and we're -- there are usually two of us
32 working together, these are Federal officers, okay? Refuge
33 officers, and I'm one of those, one of the three on the
34 refuge here. If we, you know, we go and we patrol the best
35 we can and we're spread awfully thin. I don't apologize for
36 that, that's just the way it is. If we hear of a violation,
37 if anybody tells us, we try to investigate it. If we know of
38 a violation because we encounter it, we investigate it, it
39 doesn't matter if it's a guide, it doesn't matter if it's one
40 of their clients, it doesn't matter if it's someone from
41 Koyukuk or Huslia or whatever, we will investigate it.

42

43 I can take the information, if it's below the high
44 water mark, I can take the information and give it to a
45 Wildlife Protection officer and then he can handle that,
46 based on my observation. If it's on the refuge, above the
47 high water mark, on some of the interior lakes or those kind
48 of things or if I happened to be flying with Mike, he flies
49 me out there and we think something is going on, we see it,
50 we can land and I can check that way. That's the way we do

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1 it. I mean it just -- that's part of our patrol efforts.

2

3 Or when Gregg Hamm was here, he came up and tried to
4 help us on a situation on the Kateel River where there was a
5 moose in there that was shot that we found, we never did find
6 out who had shot it and left it. I mean I have picture of
7 that, but we did try, we spent a lot of time. We had one of
8 the officers -- let's see Perry was working with me from
9 Kanuti, we spent a lot of time trying find out who did that,
10 so that's the way we do it. We do the best we can, we really
11 do try.

12

13 I was on the Nowitna most of last season, we did have
14 two officers up on the Koyukuk, but again we're spread thin,
15 but that's the way we do it. And we're not -- we don't -- I
16 mean when we're out there a lot of times, unless I might
17 recognize one of the guides or something that we know, but we
18 check them the same.

19

20 Does that answer your question?

21

22 MS. LOLNITZ: Uh-huh (affirmative)

23

24 MR. VENT: Your ratio of incidents of Native
25 versus non-local, do you have more incidents with Natives
26 than with non-local reports?

27

28 MR. GOOD: I've been here three years and
29 most of the violations I've known of are littering cases and
30 things and they're non-locals. More of them are from Outside
31 people, littering trash in places, things like that. I
32 haven't -- and maybe Mike can help -- Mike. You know, some
33 of the record in the past, Mike doesn't do law enforcement,
34 he might know, I don't -- I think most of our violations have
35 been non-local people, not locals from the villages.

36

37 MR. SPINDLER: I don't have a law enforcement
38 commission, but I fly around some of the people that do the
39 work and I've been working here for nine years. It seems to
40 me that most of the issues arise with the non-local hunters
41 and wanton waste and had to fly out and help gather evidence.
42 Actually right in back yard there, I flew Gregg Hamm up, we
43 investigated two wanton waste moose, one below Huslia and one
44 above Huslia. If we hear about it we try to get on it with
45 people as soon as we can, but, you know, we has, as Jim said,
46 three full-time enforcement people based here in Galena.
47 They're patrolling both the Nowitna and the Koyukuk Refuge
48 and then there's one State guy that covers the whole region.
49 So, we all try and work together. But in the nine years I've
50 been here it seems like two-thirds or so are issues with non-

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1 local hunters rather than with local hunters.

2

3 MR. VENT: And how about arrests and
4 convictions (indiscernible - away from microphone) I know
5 there was an incident up there around Huslia where some guy
6 got caught hunting wolves and they were brought to court on
7 it.

8

9 MR. SPINDLER: Yeah, I'm familiar with that
10 issue and you can't discriminate on who you see. If you see
11 a violation, the information goes forward, it goes to the
12 U.S. Attorney or the State Magistrate and they make the
13 decision based on the evidence in the case. And I can
14 guarantee you there's no discrimination there, we're not
15 looking to catch certain color of people and not looking to
16 catch another color of people, it's just a happen chance
17 thing, if you're out there and you see a violation, you have
18 no choice but to report it. You can't decide to look the
19 other way. I think the public would be pretty angry with us
20 if they found out we were looking the other way for certain
21 types of violations. If we see a violation, we report the
22 information.

23

24 MR. VENT: Conviction or arrests or -- how is
25 that, are there more Natives getting arrested and convicted
26 or more non-Natives?

27

28 MR. SPINDLER: I can't address that, I don't
29 have the information.

30

31 MR. GOOD: You know, on the refuge here, I
32 think, it's -- like I said, I've been here just about three
33 years, or through three hunting seasons, so most of the
34 violations and the things that I've heard and I've seen have
35 been non-locals, they've been non-Native people.

36

37 CHAIRMAN SAM: Any questions from Council
38 members? Benedict.

39

40 MR. GOOD: Yes, sir.

41

42 MR. JONES: Question for you. How many
43 guiding outfits are you required to -- say, Koyukuk River
44 moose management area? Outfitters?

45

46 MR. GOOD: How many guides and outfitters?

47

48 MR. JONES: Yeah.

49

50 MR. GOOD: Let's see, we have right now --

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1 well, it goes by area, so right now we have -- we'll have
2 three guide/outfitters. There's one person who has three
3 areas, that's Virgil Umphenour, so we have three on the
4 Koyukuk. We have one, two, three, four, five areas that are
5 available for guide/outfitters. The first year -- from what
6 I understand Virgil, Mr. Umphenour was the only one to --
7 and, Pete, maybe you know, put in for that area and he was
8 selected, so he got three areas. So there is the potential
9 for three, four, five on the Koyukuk Refuge.

10
11 MR. JONES: Well, my main concern is that I
12 don't like to see any increase for guiding moving into the
13 area. They'll be overhunting that small area.

14
15 MR. GOOD: Yes.

16
17 MR. JONES: I'd be satisfied with only one
18 guiding outfit for the whole Koyukuk River between here and
19 (indiscernible - lowers voice).

20
21 CHAIRMAN SAM: Any further comments or
22 questions? Henry.

23
24 MR. HENRY: Can you speak on Innoko River,
25 the refuge?

26
27 MR. GOOD: Innoko? Well, not the refuge
28 itself, the northern unit, the Kaiyuh Flats area, yes.

29
30 MR. DEACON: Wait for that.

31
32 MR. GOOD: Pardon me.

33
34 MR. DEACON: I'll wait for that in the
35 morning.

36
37 MR. GOOD: Okay. Yeah. And just so the
38 people know, and I think I mentioned here, on the break we
39 were talking there. There is no guide/outfitter on the
40 Innoko Kaiyuh Flats area.

41
42 CHAIRMAN SAM: Laurie Lolnitz.

43
44 MS. LOLNITZ: I was just wondering if you --
45 I don't know all of the rules and regulations I guess
46 (indiscernible - away from microphone) licensed guide hunter
47 or you're a guide hunter assistant, can you hire somebody and
48 say, hey, I need you to help me take this group of hunter
49 out, can that happen and the other person -- if they -- these
50 guide hunters want to rent a cabin on somebody's Native

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1 allotment, can that happen for (indiscernible) non-local
2 hunters or anything like that? I mean, I'm just not familiar
3 with that and since you're here, like I.....

4
5 MR. GOOD: I'm not sure on the first part. I
6 knew that -- you know, let me just -- they do hire assistant
7 guides, they have to be licensed by the State and if there is
8 someone in the local area that meets those requirements than
9 they can hire assistant guides. Does that answer your
10 question?

11
12 MS. LOLNITZ: Any assistant guide of the
13 guide hunters, say Virgil Umphenour's team.

14
15 MR. GOOD: He is an assistant.

16
17 MS. LOLNITZ: Okay. Say his assistant hires
18 someone to help him or -- can that happen?

19
20 MR. GOOD: I'm not really sure. I don't want
21 to say. He might be able to hire him as a cook or a.....

22
23 MS. LOLNITZ: No, as an actual hunting thing,
24 not cook, the second guide is the cook.

25
26 MR. GOOD: I'm not sure if the assistant can,
27 I'm really not sure.

28
29 MS. LOLNITZ: Well, who can answer that?

30
31 MR. GOOD: Well, I can look it up, I can find
32 out for you, I'm just not sure right now.

33
34 MS. LOLNITZ: Okay. Okay.

35
36 MR. GOOD: I don't know -- the guide can,
37 like Mr. Umphenour he's a master guide? Has a master guide's
38 license?

39
40 MS. LOLNITZ: Yeah, uh-huh.

41
42 MR. GOOD: They can hire assistants, but I
43 just don't know if the assistant then can hire an assistant,
44 that I don't know.

45
46 MS. LOLNITZ: Yeah.

47
48 MR. GOOD: I don't want to tell you wrong.

49
50 MS. LOLNITZ: All right.

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1 MR. GOOD: But I can check and find out for
2 you.

3
4 MS. LOLNITZ: Yeah, thank you.

5
6 MR. GOOD: Yeah, they're the one -- I don't
7 think there's any problem with the guides establishing, like,
8 a camp or whatever you'd like to call it, on, whether it
9 would be corporation lands or private allotment or something
10 like that on the refuge, they can do that.

11
12 MS. LOLNITZ: Okay.

13
14 MR. GOOD: They have to work that out with
15 the person.

16
17 CHAIRMAN SAM: Ida Hildebrand.

18
19 MS. HILDEBRAND: Ida Hildebrand, BIA Staff
20 Committee member. Laurie, in reference to your question on
21 allotments, if you want to challenge a guide's leasing or
22 renting an allotment, the procedure was if you lease an
23 allotment you have to have a sign-off by the Secretary, which
24 would be by the Area Director of the BIA. And if that wasn't
25 properly done a lease can be voided.

26
27 MS. LOLNITZ: Thank you. That answers my
28 question.

29
30 MR. GOOD: Okay. It is now 5:02. We covered
31 quite a bit of the Koyukuk Moose management questions and
32 issues. It is on the agenda for tomorrow.

33
34 What's the wishes of the Council members, do you want
35 to break for dinner or do you want to keep going?

36
37 MR. HENRY: Break for dinner.

38
39 CHAIRMAN SAM: Because we did cover quite a
40 bit of what we were supposed to cover tomorrow with Randy
41 Rogers and Jim Good. These people will be available for
42 questions. If you have any more questions I advise you to
43 see them and, at least, get their address and phone numbers
44 to follow-up on all further questions.

45
46 MR. GOOD: Good. And I'll be here tomorrow.
47 If anybody has any questions about the refuge or for me,
48 please call. And I think -- you know, we have the 800
49 number, 800-656-1231, please call me and ask, you know, if
50 you have questions, please do it, because I'm more than

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1 willing to talk with you. I'll make time or if I'm not there
2 I will get back to you. Sometimes I'm busy, might take --
3 but please do it, okay? I'm available and I'm more than
4 happy to talk with you if you have any questions about some
5 of these things, please give me a call.

6
7 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay. If there's no
8 objections I'd like to break for lunch [sic] at this time.

9
10 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Dinner.

11
12 CHAIRMAN SAM: Dinner. And before we go, do
13 we want to meet at 9:00 or 8:30?

14
15 MR. COLLINS: Are you going to try to get out
16 in the morning?

17
18 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yes.

19
20 MR. COLLINS: Then I would suggest we stick
21 with 8:30 if we're going to finish before noon; is that the
22 idea?

23
24 CHAIRMAN SAM: Sound like we only got two
25 hours to go anyway, right? Okay. 8:30 and then we'll take
26 local concerns up at 11:00 again. So if there's no objection
27 we are now in recess until 8:30 in the morning.

28
29 (Off record - 5:01 p.m.)

30
31 (MEETING RECESSED)

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C E R T I F I C A T E

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4
5
6

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA)
) ss.
STATE OF ALASKA)

7 I, Joseph P. Kolasinski, Notary Public in and for the
8 State of Alaska and Owner of Computer Matrix, do hereby
9 certify:

10
11 THAT the foregoing pages numbered 02 through 139
12 contain a full, true and correct Transcript of VOLUME I,
13 WESTERN INTERIOR FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE REGIONAL COUNCIL PUBLIC
14 MEETING, taken electronically by David Haynes on the 10th day
15 of March, 1999, beginning at the hour of 8:33 o'clock a.m. at
16 the Old Community Hall, Galena, Alaska;

17
18 THAT the transcript is a true and correct transcript
19 requested to be transcribed and thereafter transcribed by
20 under my direction to the best of my knowledge and ability;

21
22 THAT I am not an employee, attorney, or party
23 interested in any way in this action.

24
25 DATED at Anchorage, Alaska, this 20th day of March,
26 1999.

27
28
29
30
31 _____
32 Joseph P. Kolasinski
33 Notary Public in and for Alaska
My Commission Expires: 4/17/00